

Harnessing AutoCAD 2000

Chapter ONE – Getting Started

Synopsis: The key phrase for AutoCAD 2000 is Heads-Up. Heads-Up design means that your design/drafting work can proceed smoothly with a minimum of looking away from the screen. New features and improvements of AutoCAD 2000 included in this chapter:

- Drawing Wizards
- Drawing Templates
- Quick and Advanced drawing setup
- Model Tab/Layout Tabs
- Dialog boxes, toolbars and shortcut menu
- Working with Multiple Drawings

Objectives: After reviewing and examining this chapter, each student should be able to perform the following:

- Start an AutoCAD 2000 drawing using one of the four available methods
- Identify the various elements of the AutoCAD user interface
- Input AutoCAD 2000 commands using one of the various methods
- Use the AutoCAD 2000 “Get Help” feature
- Set and change a drawing’s working units
- Save a drawing in AutoCAD 2000
- Quit and Exit AutoCAD 2000

Teaching Hints:

- Explore the new drawing setup wizard and the template files. Making full use of the wizard will allow the student new to AutoCAD 2000 to begin a new drawing immediately and set many of the basic parameters needed to be productive.
- Once the user has Started AutoCAD 2000, review the user interface. Being able to quickly recognize and locate features such as pull-down menus, dialog boxes, toolbars, the Command prompt and status bar will greatly improve an individual’s performance.
- Make a student aware of the different ways to input commands. Although pull-down menus and icons may be faster in some cases than typing the command name at the Command prompt, the ability to write command aliases, scripts and Visual LISP routines depends on a student’s understanding of how AutoCAD 2000 responds to user input and how the user must, in turn, respond to AutoCAD.