

TinyCAD user manual

Version 2.80.00

<http://tinycad.sourceforge.net>

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Credits

TinyCAD has been supported by many people over the last few years, and here are just some of the people who have contributed:

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Welcome to TinyCAD!

TinyCAD is an open source schematic capture program. Use TinyCAD to draw your own circuit diagrams.

You can lay out circuit diagrams using the supplied libraries. Alternatively, there is a component library editor built into TinyCAD – so you can easily create your own symbols. You may also find more libraries on the Yahoo group that other users have drawn for you.

Once you have drawn your design, you can use the special functions to automatically add symbol references, check your design against rules of correctness and create a parts list. TinyCAD can also export a net lists for import into PCB layout programs.

Once you have your design you can copy and paste it into other packages such as Word (or better still OpenOffice). You may also print your design to any supported Windows printer. If your design is larger than a single page then it can be either scaled to fit on a single page or printed across many pages.

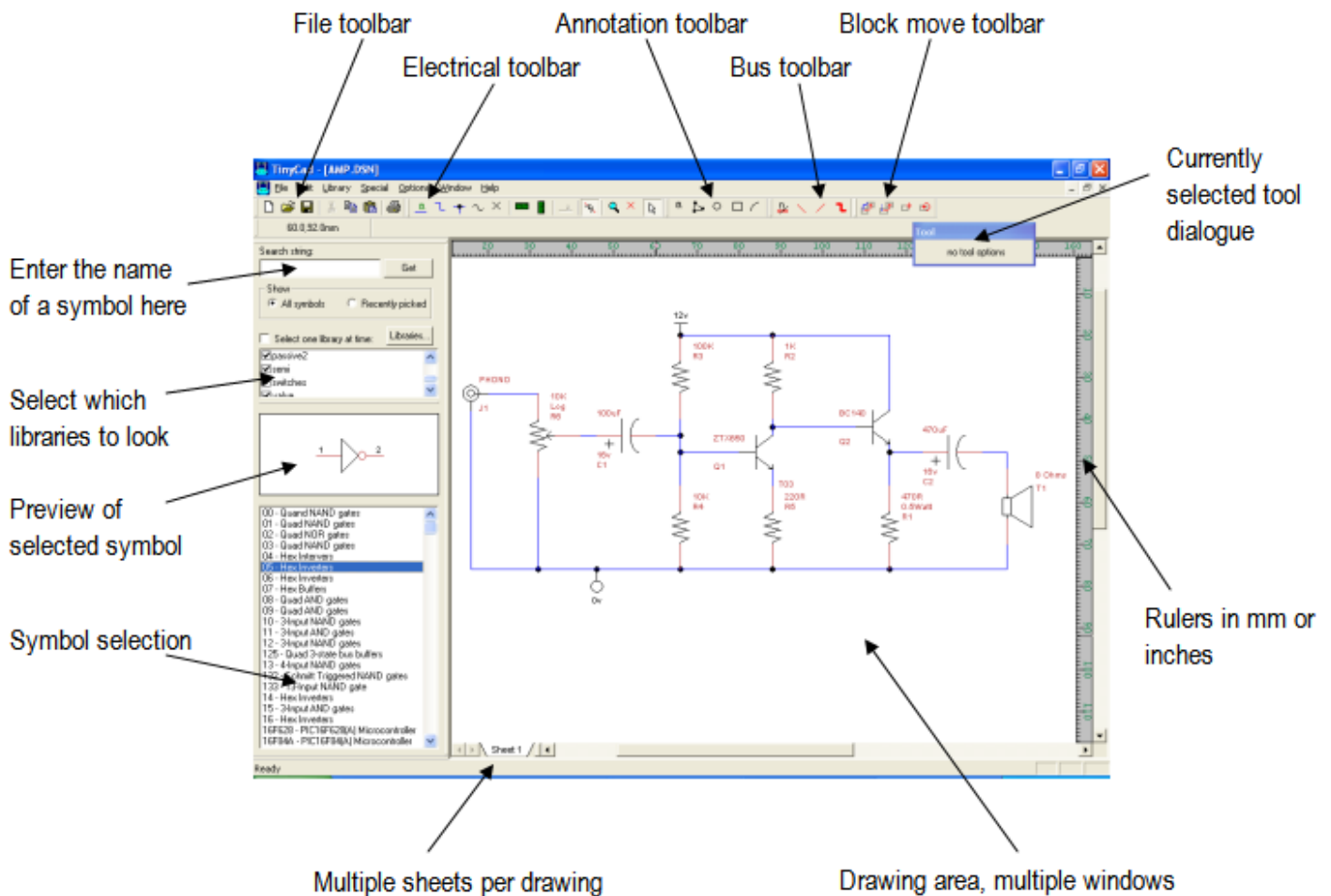
You can get the latest news, release and source code from the SourceForge site. Go to <http://tinycad.sourceforge.net>. The TinyCAD SVN source code and web site repository is located at <https://tinycad.svn.sourceforge.net/svnroot/tinycad>. If you are unfamiliar with SVN, you may find TortoiseSVN (www.tortoisetsvn.net) to be a good place to start.

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Overview of TinyCAD Features



The current cursor position in mm or inches.
Use the settings dialogue in the options menu to change the units.

The blue lines are wires.

They "snap" automatically to symbols and other wires - making it possible to draw without the grid.

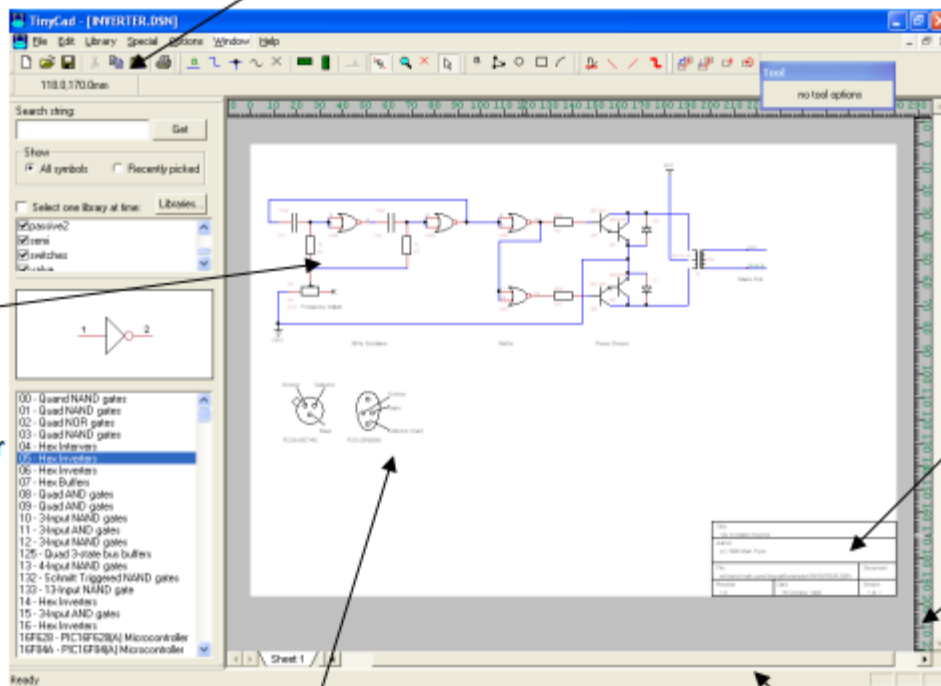
Junctions can be placed automatically for you.

Design details, use the "Design details" dialogue in the file menu to change

Outside of the page area. Use the "Page size" option in the file menu to change

Draw annotation with text, polygons, ellipses and lines

Scrollbars move drawing in real-time or use the middle mouse button to pan and zoom



Drawing a design

Designs are created from built-in objects such as wires, junctions, etc., and from imported component symbols, such as diodes, transistors, etc.

To place symbols in to your design

1. Use the Symbol picker on the left of the screen to browse and select the symbols that you need for your design.
2. If you don't know the name of the symbol you want then you can use the search facility on the dialogue. Enter a word describing the component. As you do so the list of components will be reduced to include just those that contain the text in either their name or description. If the symbol isn't present, then you will have to create a new one – this is described in the section on libraries.
3. Place the symbols on the design, by selecting them as the current tool. Do this by either double clicking on the name, selecting the “Get” button on the symbol picker or click on the preview of the symbol.
4. You place the symbol by clicking the location of where you wish to place the symbol. You can rotate the symbol by using the tool dialogue that normally sits at the top right of the drawing area. Select “Up”, “Down”, “Left” or “Right” to orientate the symbol.
5. Once you have finished placing symbols of that type, right click with the mouse to end.

Tip - You can move a symbol's text fields around. First select the symbol for editing, and then you can drag any of the symbol's fields with the mouse to a new position on the drawing.

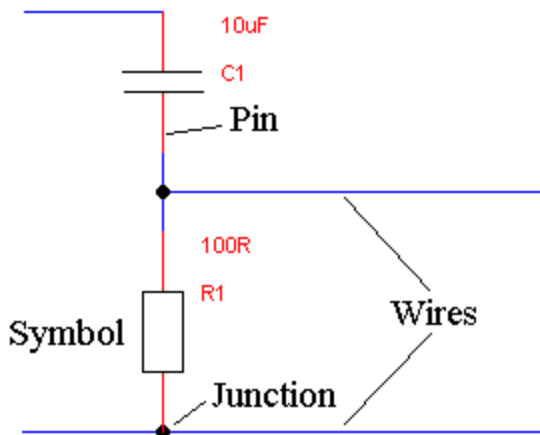
At any one time a certain number of symbol libraries are in use. The libraries to be searched are listed in the libraries option of the Library Menu. Before you can start using symbols at least one symbol library must be listed here. (See the Library Menu, in the menu reference for more help on adding a library to this list).

To wire up your design

1. Use the wire tool, which is the blue line on the toolbar.
2. Move the mouse over the start point of your wire, a small red circle will highlight any active points on a symbol or another wire that it is suitable to start wiring from.

3. Every time you click with the left mouse button you will place a corner in your wire.
4. Continue drawing the wire. To end, select another active point (which is shown with the red circle).
5. Notice how the wire tool is magnetic towards symbols' pins and other wires.
6. When you place a wire connecting to another wire a junction is placed for you automatically.

Tip - It is a common mistake to use polygon lines instead of wires to wire up components. This should be avoided because TinyCAD will not be able to use the special features for you. Wires automatically snap to symbols, and without wires you cannot export your circuit to a PCB design program.



Editing your drawing

Once a symbol has been placed you may want to change its properties. The edit tool in the drawing toolbar is used for editing already placed objects. Normally you don't have to select the edit tool as it is the default tool after you have finished with a different tool. To select it manually click on the white mouse arrow toolbar button.

Whilst drawing an object you may wish to move to another area of the design, so that you can move the object to a part of the design not currently shown. Do this by dragging with the middle mouse button (normally the scroll-wheel) to pan the drawing, or use the scroll-bars. You can also use the scroll-wheel to zoom in and out on your drawing.

Use the edit tool in the normal Windows' way – click on objects to select them, or select multiple objects using the Ctrl-key or dragging out an area. If you have just one item selected then its options dialogue will be shown to let you change the options of that object.

You can move objects in the normal Windows' way, which is to select the objects and then drag them. By default the connected wires come too, however, if you wish to unhook a symbol from its wires then drag with the Ctrl-key held down.

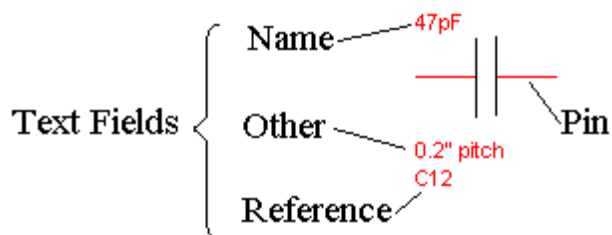
To delete selected objects use the delete option on the drawing toolbar (a red cross) or use the delete key. The normal cut, copy and paste options are also available to you. You can access these from the edit menu or use the right-mouse button to bring up the context menu.

If you prefer you don't have to use the new Windows' editing features of TinyCAD, still available to you are the block move, block drag, and duplicate block tools. These can be found in the block toolbar.

If you wish to rotate part of a design (by 90 degrees), then you have to use the block rotate object in the block toolbar. Outline the area you wish to rotate and then use the tool buttons to rotate the selected area.

There is a full undo/redo buffer built into TinyCAD. If you make a mistake you can undo your changes with the “Undo” command in the Edit menu.

Whilst you are editing your drawing it is saved automatically for you so you don't lose any work should TinyCAD crash. The default for Autosave is to save your drawing every 10 minutes. The backup drawing is saved in the same directory as the original but with an “autosave” extension.



Symbol attributes

Each symbol has at least two text attributes associated with it.

The Name attribute

This is the name or type of the component that the symbol represents. If the component has a value then insert the value here. For example, if it were a resistor then the name might be 330R or 4k7. If the symbol represents a phono connector then the name might be Phono.

The Reference attribute

This is an identifier that is unique to the whole design, typical values might be R1 or Q3 etc. There may be many resistors each with a Name field of 330R, however, each resistor must have a unique Reference. There should only be one symbol with reference R1 in a design.

This field can normally be left as it is, you can use the Special tools to set the references automatically. Either use the reference painter to “paint” each reference or use the add symbol references automatically.

The Package attribute

This is the attribute is used for PCB netlist export. The PCB layout program will use this attribute to determine which pad layout to use. There is no fixed naming convention for this attribute and it is entirely dependent on the footprint libraries supplied with your PCB layout program.

Not all symbols have the package attribute by default. You must add it if you wish to export to a PCB program. To add it, simply click on the “Add” button, and then rename the new attribute to Package.

Other attributes

You may add additional attributes to a symbol from the symbol's tool dialogue. There is no real limit to the number of attributes you add. You may use these references for almost any purpose, for example you may wish to add PCB layout instructions here.

All of the the symbols in the supplied libraries have an “other” attribute already defined for you. However, you can add more if you wish. Either add them by default by editing the symbol in the library or add them individually to each symbol at placement time.

Automatic junction placement

Junctions are placed automatically for you, so normally you don't need to use the junction tool.

Where two wires cross they are not considered joined unless a junction is used at the crossing point. Junctions are also required when a pin is connected to the middle of a wire.

If you wish to place junctions manually, then switch automatic junction placement off, in the Options →

Settings dialogue, and then the junction tool will be available to you.

When automatic junction placement is on, you cannot select junctions.

Advanced drawing techniques

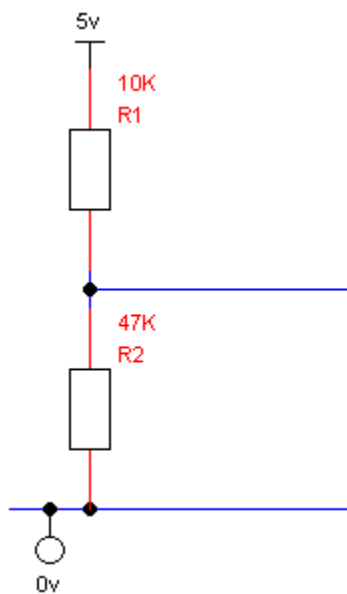
For the more advanced schematics, TinyCAD has more advanced features.

No Connects

Normally all of the pins on a symbol must be connected. There may be times when you wish to leave a pin unconnected but wish to show that you haven't forgotten the pin and it is intentionally left unconnected.

If you do not wish to connect to a certain pin then use the no-connect option on the Toolbar. Place a no-connect on every pin that is not to be connected to anything else.

Any unconnected pins can be found by using the the Design Rules Checker in the Special menu.



Adding power

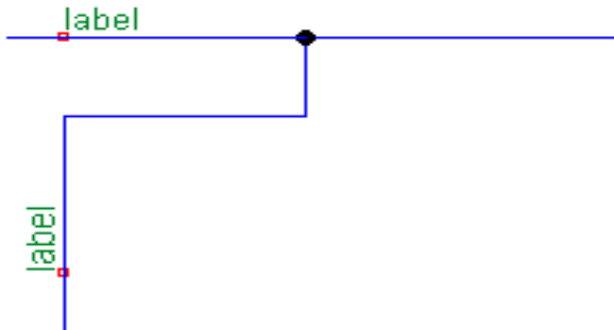
Power objects in your design show where power is connected into your circuit. Various shapes of power symbols are defined.

You must always make the connection to power at the end of the power object's pin. A junction may be necessary if the connection is to the center of a wire or where wires cross. If a junction is necessary it will be placed automatically for you.

The shape of the power object is ignored - it is the value of the power item which is important. All items connected to power objects of the same value are considered connected together.

Some component symbols, such as the 74 TTL library symbols, are automatically connected to power. To ensure the power is correctly connected, always use the same power names that are used in the library. For example, when using the 74 TTL library use the power names GND and VCC for 0v and 5v respectively.

Using labels

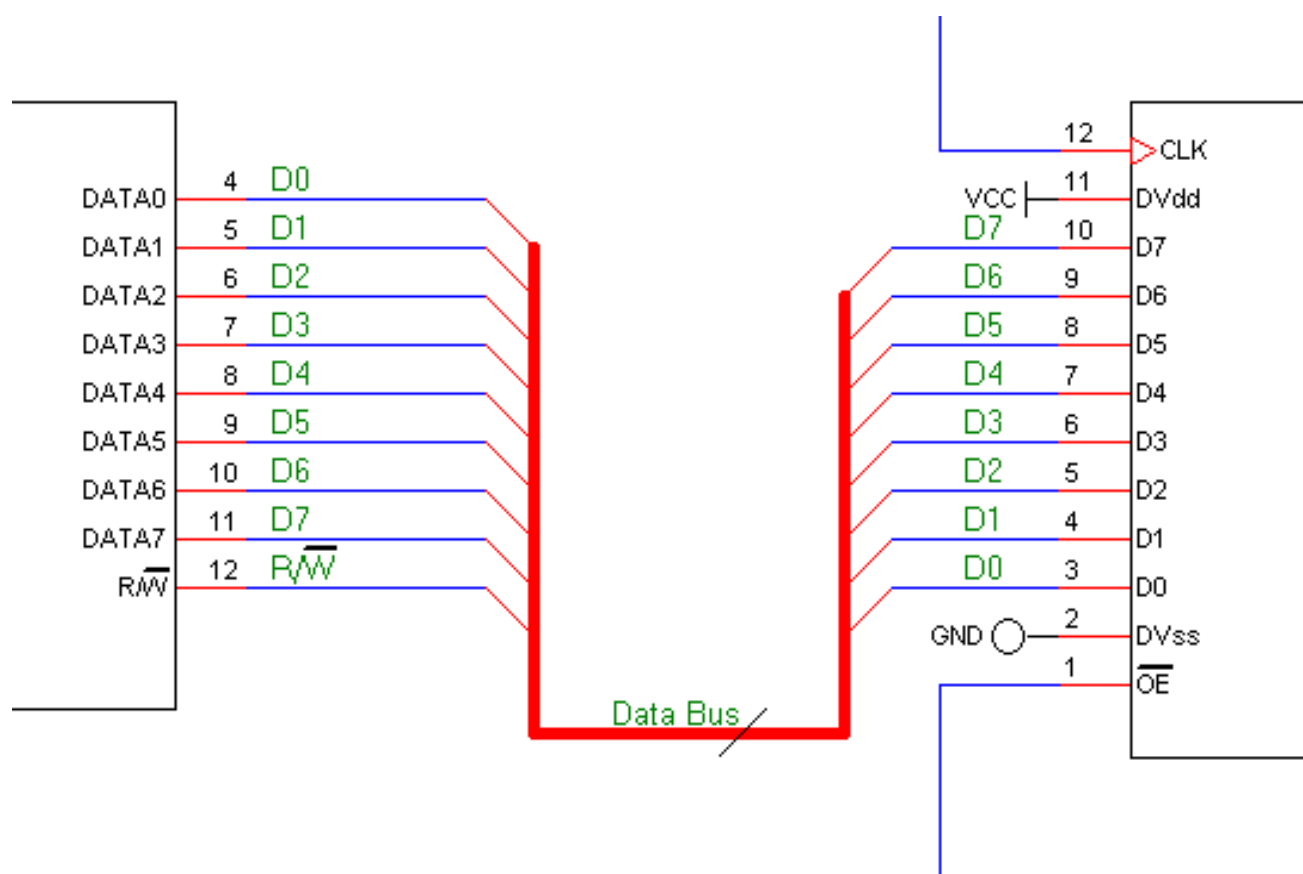


You may use the rotate left or right or flip shortcut keys while placing labels.

All wires with the same label name will be considered connected together. This way a connection between the wires is formed without you having to actually draw it.

Use labels to connect wires between sheets in the same files or to connect wires that are not fully drawn as connected on the same page due to schematic crowding or personal preference.

Adding buses



Buses can be used to indicate a large number of connections. To help you draw a bus the repeat options are present.

To create a bus, first draw the bus near where you wish to connect it. Now add a bus entry to the bus. Press 'R' (for repeat in the Edit Menu) to repeat this as necessary for the number of entries you wish to make.

Draw a wire from the bus entry to the connection point. Now press 'R' again, to complete all the wire connections.

Finally you must add the labels. Place the first label. Depending on your repeat options the label name will be updated automatically. Place a label over each wire.

Now the bus connection is complete!

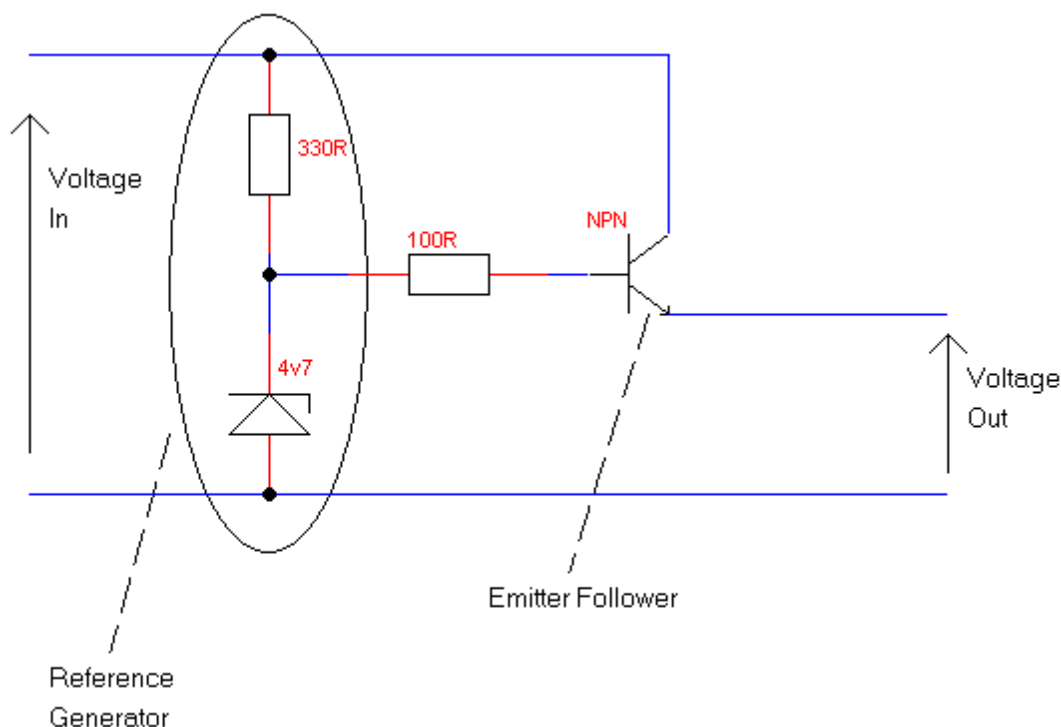
Use the same names for the bus entries on all connections to bus; however, the order of the names is unimportant. Buses do not require junctions anywhere on them.

Once a bus is in place, you may name the bus using the Bus Name tool. You may use this to place some text next to the bus. The name can indicate how many conductors the bus represents, by specifying just a single number, or it may qualify what the bus is for example by calling it "Data Bus" etc.

Adding text and annotations

You may add the following annotations: text, lines, rectangles, ellipses and arcs. All these objects will be ignored by the special tools.

Annotations may cross wires, symbols and junctions without affecting them. How these objects are used is completely up to you.



Drawing rectangles and ellipses

Rectangles and ellipses can be filled and TinyCAD now uses the Windows' default color selection dialogue which gives you access to all of the colors.

To draw a rectangle or ellipse, select the correct tool in the annotation toolbar, and then drag the outline of the shape with the left mouse button. When you release the mouse button the shape will be selected, ready for repositioning if required.

The shapes can be edited by selecting them, by clicking on them and then using the handles to move and resize the shape.

You may also select the styles of the lines and the fill color by using the tool dialogue, normally displayed in the top right hand corner of the drawing.

Drawing polygons & polylines

A polyline is a set of connected lines, all of which have to be the same width and color. A polygon is a closed set of connected lines, which is filled.

To draw either a polygon or polyline first select the tool in the annotation toolbar. Then draw the shape by clicking with the left mouse button to place each corner of the shape. When you have finished place the last corner by either double-clicking or by using the right-click context menu.

When finished, the shape will be selected ready for editing. You may select a fill for the shape and select the line style using the tool dialogue normally displayed in the top right hand corner of the drawing. When filling an open polyline, an additional line will be added, from the end point to the start point, closing the loop and creating a closed set of lines, a polygon.

You may add arc'ed segments to the outline of the shape by either using the tool dialogue, or by using the right-click context menu.

Editing Polygons and Polylines

Once placed the polygon or polyline can:

- Be resized as a complete shape
- have any of the corners moved
- have a new corner added
- have a corner deleted
- have a side changed from straight to arc'ed

Resize and move the polygon or polyline using the handles displayed once the shape is selected.

To add a corner, right click on the location you wish to add the corner and select new handle from the menu.

To remove a corner, right click on the handle of the corner you wish to remove and select delete handle.

To change a line from straight to arc'ed or back again, right click on the line you wish to change and select one of the arc options from the menu.

Changing the drawing order

If one of your annotations is obscured by another then right-click on it and use the “Z-Order” menu to bring it the top of the drawing order or send it back behind all other annotations.

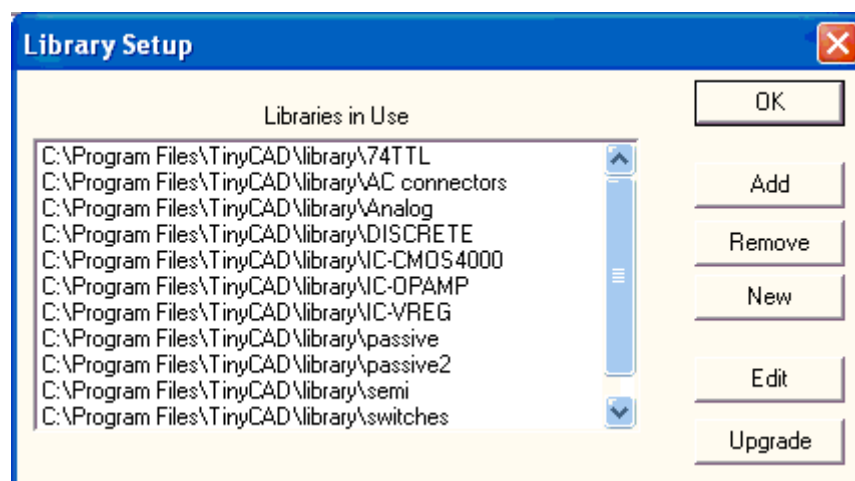
An introduction to libraries

Symbols form a very important part of laying out designs. Symbols are collected together in symbol libraries. You may edit and create your own new symbols and libraries.

It is unlikely that the symbol libraries provided could possibly cover all the symbols you might ever want. This program has been designed to allow you to create your own symbols very easily.

Selecting libraries

Before any symbols can be used from a library, the library must be selected as in use. This is done by using the Libraries option in the Library menu.



This dialogue displays a list of libraries in use. Before a library can be edited or before a symbol can be extracted from a library it must be listed here. Once the library is listed then you can extract symbols from it using the Get option on the Toolbar.

To add a library to this list click on the Add button. A file selection dialogue will appear. Select a library index file (with a .idx file extension) or database file (with .mdb extension). The selected library will be added to the list.

To remove a library from the list, click on the library in the list to select it and then click on the Remove button. This does not, in any way, delete the file and library is still available to others. To actually delete the library you must use Windows Explorer.

Libraries that do not exist can also be listed here. If the library does not exist, then you will be informed every time the library's index is read. This normally occurs when TinyCAD is first started and re-read libraries option in the Library menu is selected.

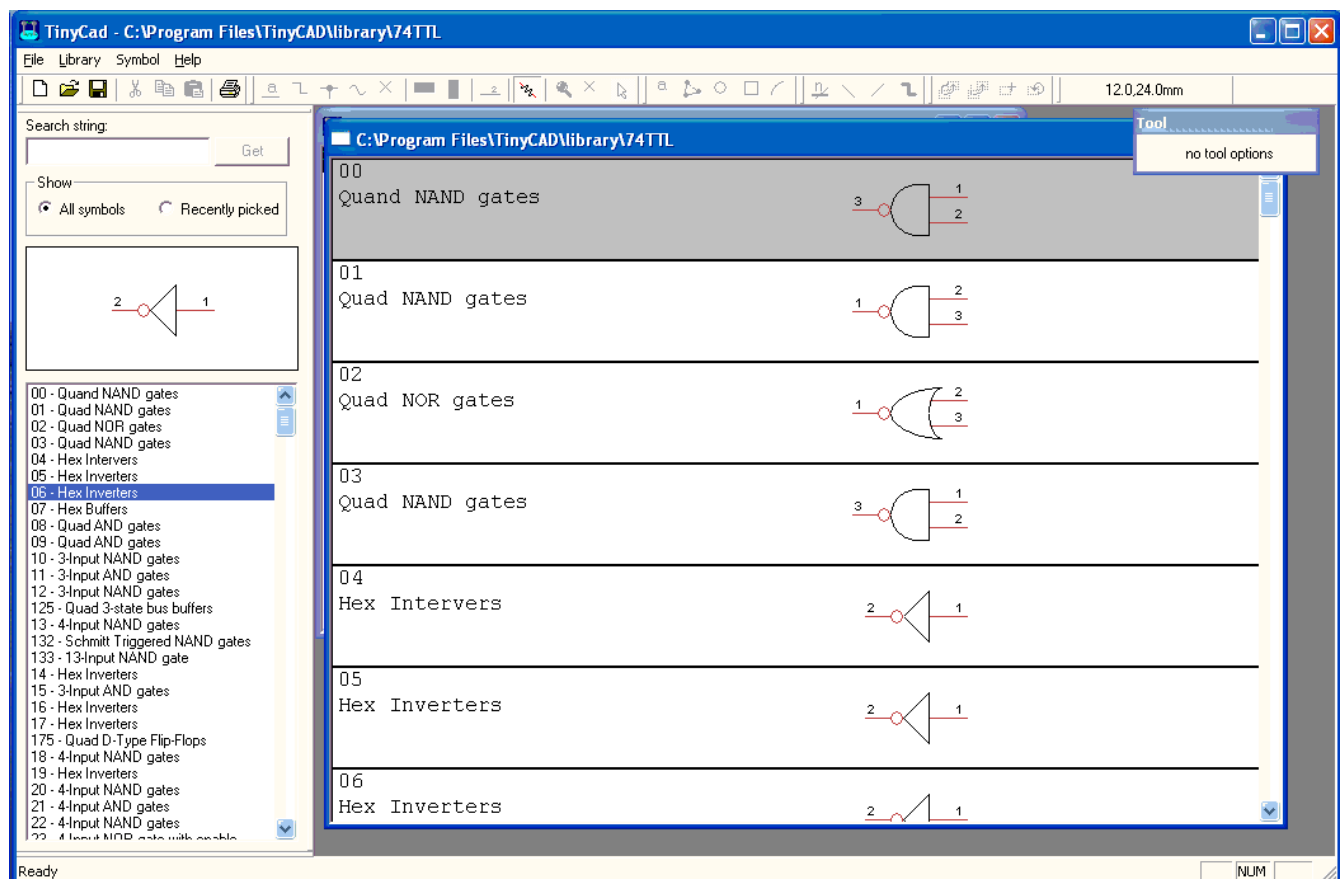
You can open the thumbnail view of the library by double clicking on the library name in the list box, or by selecting it and then clicking on the edit button.

Upgrading a library converts it from the old format to the new Microsoft Access database format. This format creates a slightly larger file, however, it will enable TinyCAD to have more features in the future.

As of TinyCAD 1.90.00, the “Tidy” option is no longer required for the new library format, and so has been removed from this dialogue.

Editing and Printing Libraries

Use the library dialogue to select the library to edit. Once selected you will see a new window with a thumbnail view of the library. If the library is a brand new library then the window will be blank.



Use the library editing window to:

- See all of the thumbnails of the symbols in the library
- Add new symbols to the library
- Delete and rename symbols in the library.
- Edit a symbols names and attributes

- Move symbols from one library to another
- Export symbols into an XML file
- Import an XML file of symbols into this library

You can select symbols in the library by clicking on them. Once selected you can use the “Symbol” menu to edit or delete the symbol. You may also right-click on thumbnails to bring up a context menu, which is a shortcut for going to the symbol menu.

Use the symbol menu or the context menu to add a new symbol to the library.

A shortcut to editing a symbol is to double-click on it.

Editing and adding symbols

Symbols are created from normal objects found on the Toolbar. They may contain any of these objects except other symbols.

If the symbol does contain any objects with special functions (such as a power item or a wire) then these object will be treated as though they were annotation. All their special functions are lost when used in a symbol.

To edit an existing symbol, first select the library you wish to edit in the Libraries option of the Library menu.

Next select the symbol to edit in the Library thumbnail view by clicking on it. A new symbol editing window will open with the symbol in it. The symbol may be edited in the same way that a normal design can be edited, with the exception no symbols may be inserted but pins may be added.

When you have finished use the Save option in the File menu or simply close the window. This will enable you to save the new symbol back to the library. The dialogue box automatically remembers the details of the symbol selected. If you enter a different name here then the symbol will be store under the new name, making a copy of the symbol. If you enter the name of an existing symbol then it will replace the old symbol in the library.

Symbol pins

Connections to a symbol is via the pins. It is important to correctly type each pin. This enables the Netlist generation and Check Design Rules in the Special menu to operate correctly. The pins also enable the part-per-package feature to work correctly.

The design rules determine the type of each pin and can work out if you have made a mistake in your design. For example it can check that there is no output driving an input. To do this you have to nominate the pins with the correct type.

Multiple parts per package

Some semiconductors have multiple parts per package. You can define a different set of pins per package and optionally outlines for each symbol. When you insert the symbol in to your design, you can select which package to use from the symbol.

There are two types of symbols with multiple parts per package these are homogeneous and heterogeneous symbols:

1. A homogeneous symbol has the same outline, but different pins for each part in the package.

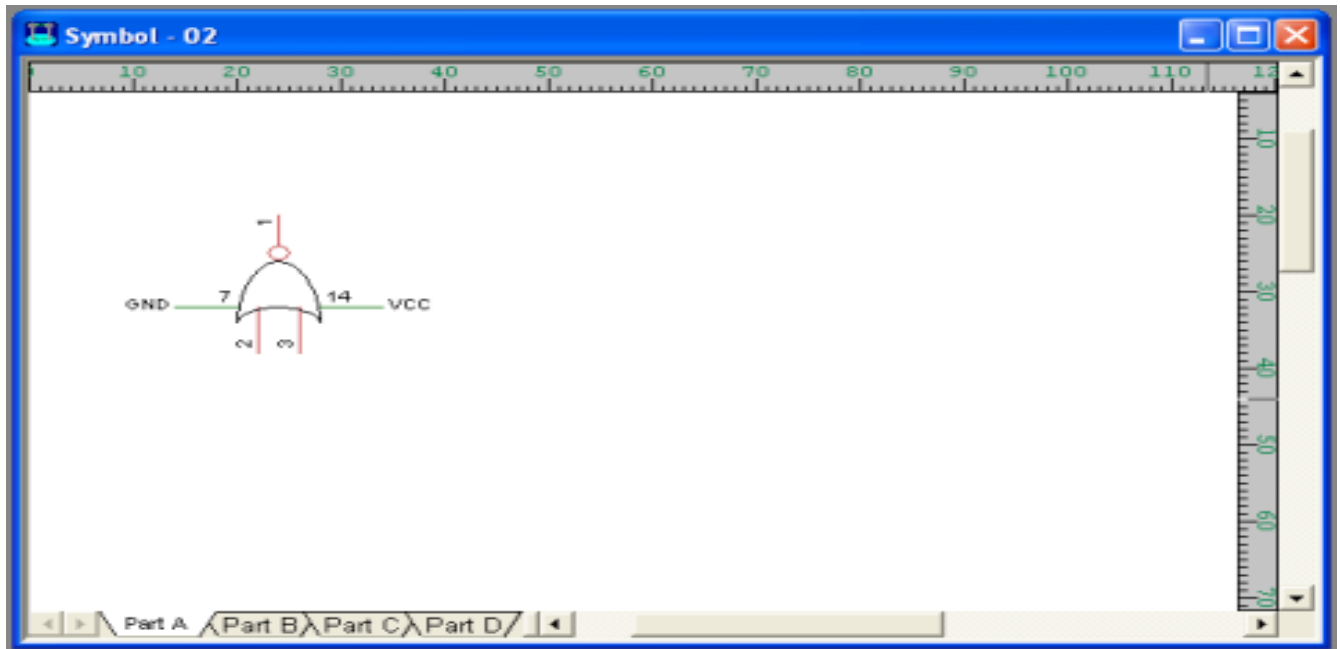
2. A heterogeneous symbol has a different outline and different pins for each of the parts in the package.

Use homogeneous symbols when the parts are interchangeable. Use heterogeneous symbols when the different parts represent different aspects of the symbol and therefore cannot be interchanged.

Before drawing your symbol decide which type it is to be and then use the “Homogeneous” or “Heterogeneous” option in the Library menu or right click on the tabs at the bottom of the view. These options will only work before you have set the number of parts per package.

Then use the “Set part per package” option in the Library menu or right click on the tabs at the bottom of the view. This option will enable to select the number of parts per package for the symbol. Use the tabs at the bottom of the symbol to select between editing the different parts.

For a homogeneous symbol, any edits to the outline will be for all parts. For a heterogeneous symbol you may have a different outline for each part.



An example of the 7402 IC which has 4 parts per package

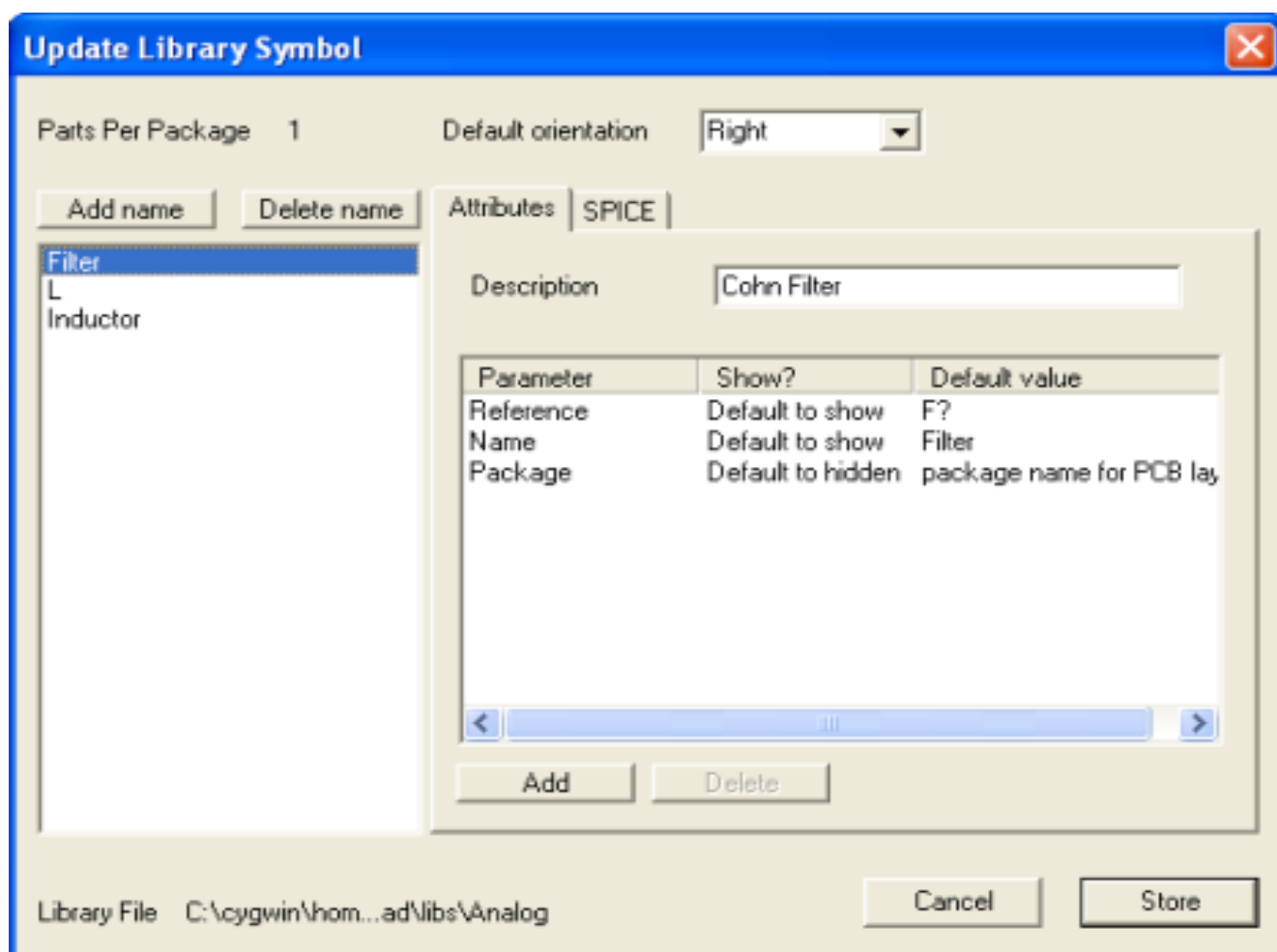
For example, the 7402 has 4 parts per package. These parts are label A, B, C and D. This is a homogeneous symbol and so the only difference between each part is the pin numbers.

Creating a new symbol library

Creating a new library is easy. Use the “New” button on the library editing dialogue. A blank library will be created with the name that you specify.

Double click on the library to edit it. You may now add your first new symbol.

Symbol Properties



This dialogue is used to edit the symbol's names and default attributes. As of version 2.00.00 of TinyCAD you can now give the symbol more than one name. Associated with each name of the symbol can be as many different default attributes as required. There is no restriction on the symbol name, you may use upper or lower case and the name may include spaces.

You can access this dialogue in two ways. Either right click on the symbol in the thumbnail view and select “Symbol Properties”, or it is displayed after you edit a symbol when you close or save the window.

If you wish the symbol to have more than one name in the library then use the “Add name” option. Each name has it's own set of default attributes and description. You can use additional names to give different attributes to the same basic symbol. For example you may wish to have a different name for a capacitor for each of the different PCB packages (footprint) that you use in your PCB program.

You can also add any number of extra parameters to the symbol. Use the “Add” and “Delete” buttons to add new parameters to the symbol. You cannot delete the name or the reference, as these are always required by a symbol.

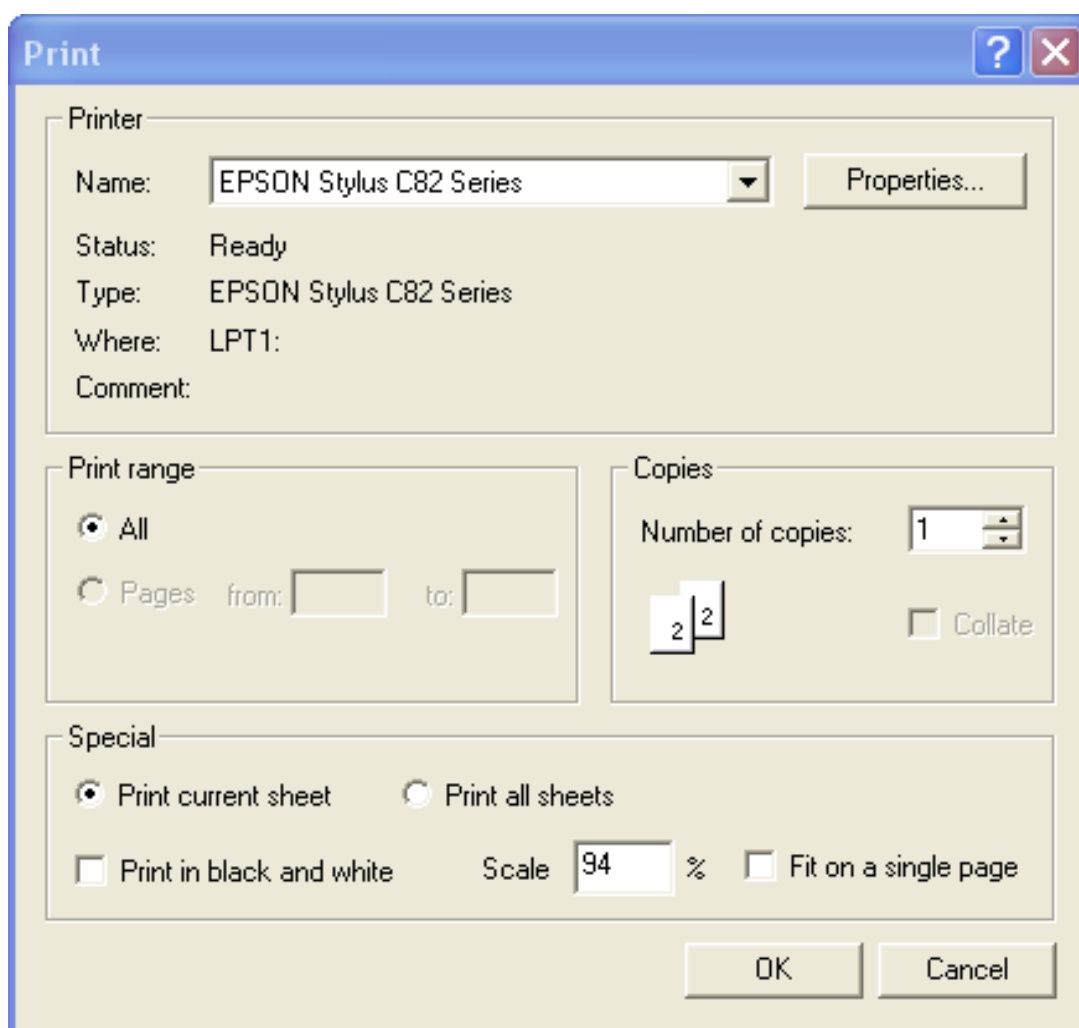
You must enter the default reference for the symbol.. This is the text that appears in the reference field of the symbol when it is first extracted from the library using the Get command. Remember that the reference should normally be a single letter followed by a ?. For example: U?

These extra parameters can be used to store any information you like. For example, PCB layout information or SPICE information. This information is show to the user when the symbol is placed into the design. The parameters are also written out in the netlist (see the Special menu).

Click the OK button to store the symbol, or the Cancel button to exit without changing the symbol.

Printing a design

Once your design is drawn it can be printed to any Windows-supported printer.



The printing options available are outlined in the Print option in the File Menu, detailed in the Menu Reference guide.

If the design will not reasonably fit on a single page then it can be 'tiled' across many pages. That is, each page will contain a different section of the design. Once all the pages have been printed, the pages can be stuck

together to form the whole design.

You may also select for the design to fit to a single page. If you select this option, then the scaling is automatically selected for you that will ensure your design will fit on one piece of paper.

For the best results when drawing a small design, use the Printer Setup option in the Page Setup dialogue. This will ensure the design's dimensions will have the same dimensions as the printer's output, making scaling unnecessary.

Use the print in black and white option for best results when using a black and white printer.

Exporting to PCB programs

TinyCAD has the ability to create a netlist for import into a PCB layout program. However, for this to work to it's best potential you have to use TinyCAD in the correct way:

1. Use wires and symbols correctly
2. Add the “Package” attribute to symbols
3. Export the netlist in a format compatible with your PCB layout program

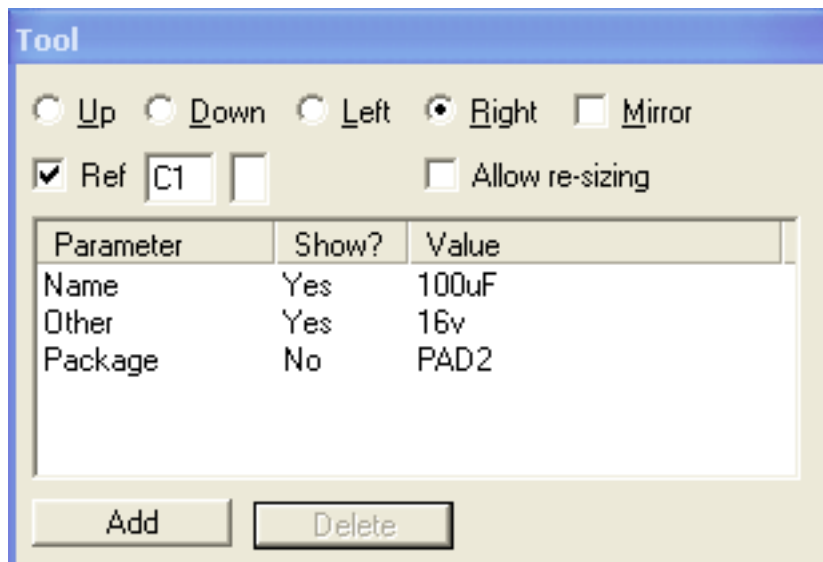
Use wires and symbols correctly

For TinyCAD to understand the circuit diagram, you must use the “wires” tool to wire up your circuits. If you were to use the polygon lines, then TinyCAD does not know this is a connection and will not export the connection to the netlist. To check that your circuit is wired correctly use the “Check Design Rules” option in the Special menu, before exporting the PCB netlist.

You must connect a wire to a symbol pin at the tip of the pin. This is normally done automatically for you. As you move a wire close to the symbol a red-circle is show indicating that the wire will be connected to an active point on the symbol. If you do not connect at this point, the wire will not be recognized as connected in the PCB netlist export.

Add the “package” attribute to all symbols

When the netlist is exported this attribute is written out with the netlist so that the PCB program will know which footprint to use with the symbol. Remember the footprint can often be different for the same symbol in different places. For example a capacitor symbol in one part of your circuit may have a different footprint to a capacitor in a different part of the circuit.

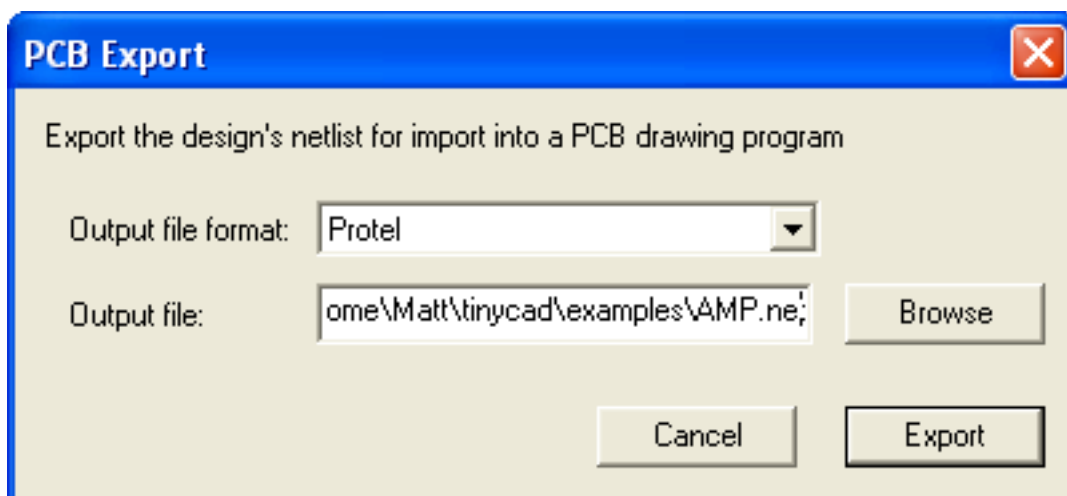


You can edit the symbol libraries so that each symbol has a default “Package” attribute.

The example design “amp.dsn” has the “Package” attribute for each of the symbols that are used.

Export the netlist in a format compatible with your PCB layout program

From the Special menu select the “Create netlist for PCB program” option.



Use this dialogue to select the netlist output type and the filename you wish to use for the export. Currently TinyCAD has a limited select of file formats, however, you may well find that this format is recognized by your PCB program.

All of the output file formats are text based, so if you wish to see the result of the export, try loading the exported file into notepad or another text editor.



Using multiple sheet schematics

There are two ways that you can spread a complex schematic over more than one sheet in TinyCAD:

1. You may use multiple sheets (much like Excel sheets)
2. You may use hierarchical drawings (that is insert one file into another drawing)

The two different techniques can be used in the same drawings.

Using multiple sheets

To add another sheet to a drawing, you need only right-click on the “Sheet 1” sheet selection layout at the bottom of the screen and select “Insert Sheet”. This will create a new blank sheet in the same drawing for you.

All of the sheets in the same drawing must have the same page size, however, each one may have its own design details. When the design is saved all of the sheets are saved in to the same file. This is the simplest way to create multiple sheet schematics and is very effective for smaller circuit diagrams.

When a netlist is generated for a PCB program the sheets are linked together. Any labels with the same names are considered connected between the sheets. Use the labels to make connections across sheets.

You may of course, remove and rename sheets by right clicking on the sheet name at the bottom of the screen. If you delete a sheet this cannot be undone, so do so with care!

Using hierarchical designs

You can use the Hierarchical drawing system to embed one design into another sheet. The embedded sheet has a symbol associated with it, much like a part from a library.

First you must add a symbol to the file you wish to embed, by using the “Special->Add Hierarchical Symbol” menu option. This will add a new special sheet to your drawing. In this special sheet draw the symbol for the design. If you wish to make connections from the parent design to this design, you must place pins on the symbol. These pins are almost identical to library symbol pins except they may not have pin numbers, just pin names.

To link between the pins on the symbol and the schematic on the other sheets, use labels. Any labels with the same names as the pins will be considered connected to the pins when the netlist is generated.

Once you have your hierarchical symbol added to your design, you may embed it into other drawings. Do this by selecting the “Special->Insert Another design as a Symbol” menu option. This will allow you to select a previously saved drawing that has a symbol associated with it.

The embedded drawing acts much like a library symbol and can be placed, rotated have connections made to it. The difference is that when the netlist is generated from the top-level design the lower designs will be included and linked using the pins.

Using both hierarchical designs and multiple sheets

There are no special requirements for using both techniques for really complex designs. You may have many sheets in each of the files, and include as many drawings as you need to create your design.



Using SPICE with TinyCAD

TinyCAD now has built-in SPICE file generation system. Currently there are **no** libraries supplied with TinyCAD for use with SPICE, you will have to create your own.

You must understand the SPICE file format in order to understand how to use TinyCAD with SPICE. There are many good explanations of SPICE on the web, and if you are interested in electrical simulation I suggest you start with one of the many free SPICE engines, and hand-craft a few SPICE files before trying to create your own SPICE libraries in TinyCAD.

Tip - Remember there is always help!

The creation of SPICE simulation circuits is not trivial, but it should be straightforward if you already know something about SPICE. If you get stuck, then use the TinyCAD web-site to get some support.

The TinyCAD SPICE system

TinyCAD generates SPICE files by using a string template system. A SPICE enabled symbol has 3 parts to it:

1. The “model” template – this is the string that is inserted into the SPICE file for every instance of the component in the circuit.
2. The “prolog” template – this is the string that is inserted into the top of the SPICE file. It is only inserted once per component type.
3. The “epilog” template – this is the string that is inserted into bottom of the SPICE file. It is only inserted once per component type.

These three templates can be found on the new “SPICE” tab that is on the symbol properties. Right click on the symbol in the library thumbnail view and select “Symbol Properties”.

The SPICE circuit diagram itself requires 3 parts:

1. The circuit must be constructed using only SPICE enabled symbols
2. The circuit must have a special “RUN” symbol (which will need to be created by you).
3. The circuit must have a special “0” node, which is a requirement of a SPICE circuit.

Once all of these requirements have been met, you can use the new option in the "Special" menu to generate

the SPICE file.

The SPICE template strings

This is written into the output spice file whenever this symbol appears in the net. This line is a template string of what should be written.

For example, for the resistor we would have:

```
R$(refnum) %(1) %(2) $(NAME)
```

This means output this line into the SPICE file, however, substitute %() with the net for those pins and substitute \$() with attributes with those names. For example if the resistor was connecting nets 7 and 9 together and has a name of 10K then TinyCAD would output:

```
R3 7 9 10K
```

Notice how each of the \$() and %() parts of the line have been replaced by the net information.

NOTE: The observant will spot there is a subtlety in the way it generated the “refnum”. This is the symbols reference, which would normally be something like “R3”, however, we have included the “R” in the template. What has happened is that the “refnum” template string is treated specially; the preceding reference character (in this case the “R”) has been stripped. This is so that the spice model character is always an “R”. If the resistor had a reference of “Q3”, then TinyCAD would still output “R3”, enforcing the correct SPICE model. If the reference were “MyRef”, then TinyCAD would output “RMyRef”.

The Spice Prologue and Epilogue

The SPICE Prologues and Epilogues for each symbol have identical syntax to the model template strings, except that you cannot use the pin numbers (the %() syntax) and may only use the attribute expansions (the \$() syntax).

Prologues and epilogues will only be included if they are not identical to any other, so you can include the symbol multiple times in your design but only get one prologue and one epilogue for each one.

You can set the order in which the prologues and epilogues are included in the file by using the priorities. These are the numbers at the side the template strings in the Symbol properties dialogue.

For the prologue, anything with a priority of zero will be put into the file first, and then everything with a priority of 1 and so on up to 9.

For the epilogue, anything with a priority of zero will be put into the file last, and just before it anything with a priority of 1 and so on up to 9.

The default priority for the prologue and epilogues is 5 (i.e. the middle).

The SPICE RUN node

Normally a spice file contains not only the circuit but also commands to tell the SPICE simulator what to do with it.

You can insert these special commands at the head and end of a file by using a special SPICE symbol called the “Run” node. As no SPICE symbols are included with TinyCAD you will have to create the Run node yourself.

The RUN node is a normal TinyCAD symbol, except it has no pins and has no SPICE model. It does have a SPICE prologue and epilogue template.

You must set a priority of 0 for both the prologue and epilogue. This means its prologue will always go first (assuming no other run nodes) and its epilogue will always go last.

This special symbol will then expand into your run-time parameters and place the correct epilogue for the SPICE file.

If you want to add your special line at the head of the file, simply add it to the run node's prologue - remember it will expand any \$(attributes) you put in.

You must place one RUN node on every SPICE simulation circuit, and this will add the correct SPICE lines to for the SPICE engine.

In your library you may have more than one type of Run node, each one instructing SPICE to perform slightly different operations, however, you should not place more than one Run node on each circuit.

The “0” net

Every SPICE circuit requires a “0” node. This is the ground for the circuit. You must make sure one of your connections is nominated as the ground.

This is done in TinyCAD by using the facility to name net. You can do this in one of two ways:

1. Use a label. Any connections with a label will use the label's name in the SPICE net
2. Use a power symbol (which look like ~ on the toolbar). Any connections with a power connection will use it's value as the name of the SPICE net.

So to create the special “0” net, simply place a power symbol with a value of 0 on the ground connection.

Generation of the SPICE file

Once you have met all of the requirements for SPICE file generation, it is a simple matter to create the SPICE output. Go to the “Special” menu and select the “Create SPICE file” option.

There are no options in the SPICE file creation dialogue, because you should use the special “Run” node to for this purpose. This gives you maximum flexibility for the SPICE file generation.

Advanced SPICE file generation with conditional statements

For really sophisticated uses of TinyCAD's SPICE engine, you may use conditional statements in your templates. There are three basic types of conditional statement, these are:

1. Test to see if an attribute is defined on the symbol
2. Test to see if an attribute is an empty string on the symbol
3. Test to see if a pin of the symbol is connected

For each conditional statement, you may specify a “true string” and a “false string”. If the condition is true then the macro will evaluate to the “true string”, and the entire macro will be replaced by the “true string”, otherwise the entire macro will be replaced by the “false string”.

You can embed one conditional macro statement inside another one, there is no special syntax required for this.

The syntax for the conditional statements is:

```
?( defined( attributename ), true string, false string )
?( not_defined( attributename ), true string, false string )
?( empty( attributename ), true string, false string )
?( not_empty( attributename ), true string, false string )
?( connected( pinnumber ), true string, false string )
?( not_connected( pinnumber ), true string, false string )
```

If you wish to place a question mark (“?”) into your template, then you can escape it by placing the a “\” in front of it.

Menu reference

File menu

New

This gets rid of the current design. All drawings in the current design are removed. If the current design has not been saved then you are asked to confirm before the design is lost.

Open

This option opens a previously saved design for editing or printing. If there is already a design being edited it will be lost. If the current design has not been saved then you will be asked to confirm before continuing.

Close

Close the current window. This option will prompt you save any changes if you have made any.

Save

This option saves the current design, its page set up and the design details are all saved in a single file. If the design has already a file name associated with it then it will be saved using this file name without prompting. If the design has never been saved then you will be prompted for a new file name before it is saved.

Save As

This option is similar to the Save menu option; however, you will always be prompted for a file name. Using this option you can save the current design using a new file name or place it into a different directory.

Design Details

Design Details

File

D:\Cad\DESIGNS\Amp.dsn

OK

Title

Transistor Amplifier

Cancel

Author

(c) 1995 Matt Pyne

Organisation

Revision

1.0

Document

Number of Sheets

1 of 1

☒ Display Details

Each design has details of its full title, the author, *etc.* This option allows you to change these details. When the design is next saved, these details are saved with the design.

If the Display Details box is checked then these details will be displayed and printed in the bottom right hand corner of your design.

Import

Using this option you can place into the current design another previously saved or exported design.

When selected you will be prompted to enter the file name of a saved design. This design will be loaded and displayed. You can move the positioning of the imported design with the mouse. Place the design using the left mouse button or cancel the operation using the right mouse button.

Save as bitmap

Using this option you can save a copy of the design as a PNG file for sharing with people who do not have TinyCAD installed on their computers. If you have an area of the design selected then just that area will be saved into the PNG file. If nothing is selected on the design then the entire design, including the design details and design rulers will be written into the bitmap.

Print

Use this option print to any installed the windows printer.

If the drawing is larger than the paper size of the printer, then it is split up over as many pages as it takes to print the design in tiles.

Print Preview

This option is to show you how the design would be printed on your printer. You can use this option to see if it will be printed the way you want before you actually print on paper.

Page Setup

Set Page Size

Page Size

☐ A4

☐ Portrait

☐ A3

☒ Landscape

☐ A2

☐ Printer Setup

☐ A1

Size

Width

281

mm

Height

197

mm

OK

Cancel

Printer Setup

This option allows you to select the total size of the design.

Some commonly used values are given. If you prefer you can enter your own size in millimeters of the page. Selecting Portrait will ensure the design is taller than it is

wide; selecting Landscape will ensure the design is wider than it is tall.

The printer setup option is used with the printer setup button. Click on the printer setup button and select the printer and the type of paper you will use. Now when you return to the Set Page Size dialogue the width and height of the design will be set to match exactly the printable area of the printer.

The page size is saved with the current design when it is saved. The last page size entered here will be remembered for the next new design you start.

Exit

This option will exit the program and remove it from memory.

Edit menu

Undo

This option undoes the last action or sequence of actions performed on the design. For example, you can Undo the last drawing operation or undo the last deletion.

You may select this option repeatedly. This will cause the design to return to even more distant versions.

The opposite of this option is Redo.

Redo

This option is the opposite of the Undo option. If you select Undo then the last operation of the design will be undone. If you then change you mind about the Undo, selecting Redo will reverse the action of Undo.

Repeat

If the last object placed in the design was repeatable, this option creates another copy of it in a new location (depending on the repeat direction).

Only wires, line, dashed lines, buses and bus entries can be repeated.

They are repeated above, below, to the left of, or to the right of, the last placed object. This can be selected by the Up, Down, Left, Right option in the repeat directions menu.

Cut

This option enables you to move parts of the design which have been selected to the clipboard. Once it has been moved to the clipboard you may use paste to re-insert them into a different part of the design, and may paste again and again to duplicate a part of the design.

To select objects in the design use the edit item option on the toolbar.

You may also paste into other Windows applications such as Microsoft Word.

Paste

This option takes a previously copied or cut part of a design and enable you to place it into the current design.

Once this option has been selected the pasted design will be displayed at the mouse pointer. To paste it in click with the left mouse button, to cancel click with the right mouse button.

Copy

This option enables you to copy parts of the design which have been selected to the clipboard. Once it has been copied to the clipboard you may use paste to re-insert them into a different part of the design, and may

paste again and again to duplicate a part of the design.

To select objects in the design use the edit item option on the toolbar.

You may also paste into other Windows applications such as Microsoft Word.

Copy to...

Using this option you can save just part of the current design. This part can be loaded as a design in its own right, or imported into another design.

Only the current selection will be written into the output file. A dialogue box will prompt you to enter the file name to save the export design. Remember, this dialogue can be moved out of the way to see which parts of the design have been selected.

Find

This options can be used to find specific uses of text in the design. The user enters the text to be found. This text is then searched for in the design. Each occurrence of the string is has a marker placed on it and all the occurrences are placed in the design marker dialog.

The markers are removed from the design when the dialog box is close. Clicking on the text in the dialog box moves the associated marker to the center of the design window.

Tag

This option prompts you to name the selected area, and adds the tag to the design. When the tag is re-selected using the Tags option, this same area of the design is displayed in the design window.

Set Tag

This option prompts you to name the selected area, and adds the tag to the design. When the tag is re-selected using the Tags option, this same area of the design is displayed in the design window.

By naming different parts of the design, a large design can still be navigated using these tags.

Zoom In

Increase the size of the drawing to show more detail. You can also zoom in using the mouse scroll-wheel or by using the zoom tool from the drawing toolbar.

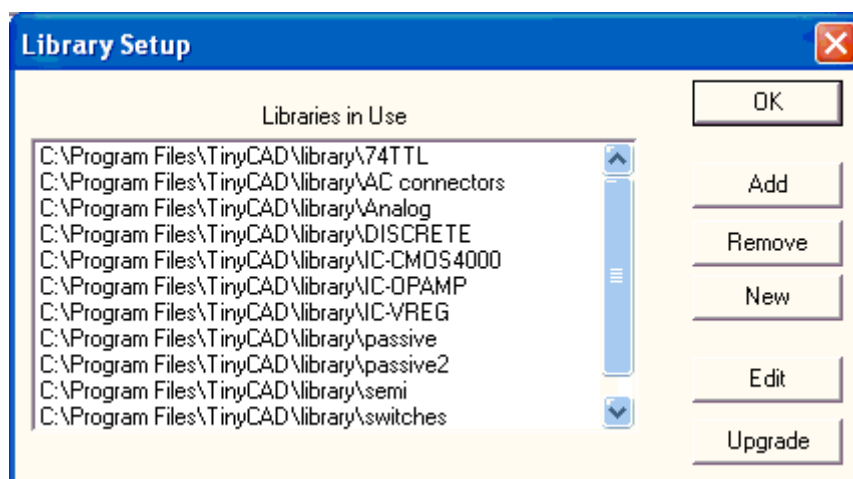
Zoom Out

Increase the size of the drawing to show more of the drawing. You can also zoom out using the mouse scroll-wheel or by using the zoom tool from the drawing toolbar.

Library menu

Libraries

This option brings up the dialogue box which allows the setting up and editing of libraries.



The list in the dialogue box is a list of libraries searched when the Get option (in the Library menu) is used. You may add or remove these libraries from this list using the buttons at the side of the list.

The Add button in the dialogue allows a library not currently being searched to entered into the search list. When this option is selected a file selection dialogue appears. Select the index file (those files with .idx extensions), which belongs to the library you wish to use. The library is then added to the list box.

The Remove button removes a library from the search list. It does not delete it! Select the library you wish to remove by clicking on it in the list box, then click on the remove button.

The Edit button allows you to:

- View & Print thumbnails of the symbols
- Add new symbols to this library
- Edit existing symbols in the library

The Tidy button causes a library to be tidied up. Select a library to tidy by clicking on it in the list, then click on the Tidy button. When the library has been tidied a message box will appear informing you of this.

Libraries will need tidying after they have been extensively edited. Tidying the library will make it smaller by removing the unwanted old (now deleted) symbols in the library.

Refresh symbols from libraries

Normally symbols are saved with the design, so any changes to the libraries do not effect your design straight away.

This option causes all the libraries currently in use to be re-read, and any changes displayed in the current design. This only effects the design in the current window.

Part in Package

This option can only be used when you are editing a library symbol.

When a symbol has more than one part per package, this option allows you to edit each part individually.

Each part in the package must have the same symbol outline, but with different pins. Therefore this option only effects the pins in the symbol.

When you select a new part per package, which has not yet been defined, you will be given the option to copy over the pins in the current part into the new part. Select Yes, if you wish to have the pins in the same layout for each part in the package. This is highly recommended. Once the pins have been copied, you can edit their pin numbers using the Edit Item option in the Edit menu.

Add Pin

This option can only be selected when you are editing a library symbol.

Pins are used to show where the connections to each symbol are.

Pins of various shapes are provided, however, these shapes are for cosmetic purposes only. They do not effect how each pin is considered to be connected.

There are various types of pin. These type govern how the electrical rules checker operates. The electrical rules checker checks which pins of what type are connected together and determines whether or not this will produce a correct circuit.

All pins must have a pin number. If the device is not one that has pins numbers (such a capacitor), then what the numbers are is arbitrary - but they must all be different. Pin numbers can also include letters. This is so the pins of a Pin Grid Array device can be correctly labeled.

Pins can optionally have a name. This is not necessary however.

The pin number and name can be shown or hidden. To hide the text click on the check box next to the text in the dialogue box.

Pins of type power are special. Although they are shown when editing a symbol, when the symbol is placed in a design these pins are hidden. Once the symbol is placed in a design pins are automatically connected to the power of the same value as their name. Therefore these pins must have a name. This can be used in conjunction with the parts per package option to allow the placing of, for example, logic gates, without need to show the power connection explicitly. A power pin cannot be connected to normally, all connections to this pin will be done automatically.

A pin of type hidden will be shown when editing a symbol, as with power pins, and hidden when the symbol is placed into a design. However, the normal connections are expected to be made to this pin, even though it is unseen. The symbol design must indicate where these pins are to allow easy connection.

Each pin is associated with a part per package. A single symbol may have more than one part per package. For example a 7400, consists of 4 NAND gates. Each part has different pin numbers on each pin. To select which part per package the pin you are placing belongs to use the Part in Package option in the Library menu.

To place a pin click with the left mouse button in the design window. When a pin has been placed, the pin number in the dialogue box will automatically be advanced for you.

Placing can be canceled by clicking with the right mouse button.

Once a pin is placed the pin number is either incremented or decremented, automatically for you. The Pin Increment/Pin Decrement options in the repeat directions menu (in the Edit menu) select which way the pin number is changed.

Also if the pin name has a number at then end of it then it too is also incremented or decremented. The Name

Increment/Name Decrement options in the repeat directions menu (in the Edit menu) select which way the pin name is changed.

Pins can be edited. To edit them select the Edit Item option in the Edit menu, then click on the end of the pin (the same end as you placed, and would connect a wire to).

Pins can also be moved or deleted.

Symbol menu

Tip - This menu is only visible when you are viewing symbol thumbnails in a library editing window.

New symbol

Add a new symbol to this library. A symbol editing window will open and you can start designing your symbol in it. Use the “file save” menu option to save the new symbol back to the library.

You can use any of the drawing tools to create your new symbol. The circuit drawing items lose their special significance in a symbol and all of the drawn objects are treated as annotations. For example, if you place a wire in the symbol then it is not treated as a wire in when the symbol is placed into a design. The only drawing objects that have any significance in a symbol are pins.

Use the “Add Pin” option in the library menu to place a pin into a symbol.

The new symbol will not appear in the library until the symbol has been saved.

Edit Symbol

Select a symbol thumbnail in the library edit window and then use this option to edit it. The symbol is loaded into a symbol edit window so that you may alter it. See the “New Symbol” option for more information about editing symbols.

You can also use this option to copy symbols. Edit the symbol and then save it under a different name.

Rename symbol

Select a symbol thumbnail in the library edit window and then use this option to rename it. If you wish to make a copy of the symbol under a different name use the “Edit Symbol”.

Delete

Select a symbol thumbnail in the library edit window and then use this option to delete it. Once it has been delete it is not immediately possible to undo the change, however, you have the option not to save the changes when you close the library editing window.

Special menu

Create Net List for PCB Programs

A net list is a file which contains a list of all the connections made in a circuit diagram. All objects which are connected together are in a single list, called a net. For symbols each objects pin is considered a different object. Each net is given a different name.

Net lists are useful for programs such a PCB layout tools which can check you layout to see if it matches the layout of the circuit diagram, or even suggest a PCB layout from the net list. These more advanced features will be better supported by this program in future releases.

As of version 1.95.15, there are multiple netlist formats supported. The original TinyCAD format is still there, along with PADS-PCB, Protel and Eagle SCR output format.

PCB programs require the footprint to be specified. Do this by adding an attribute to the symbol that has a name "Package", and the value is the value name of the footprint in the PCB program.

Check Design Rules

This option will cause the current design to be checked against a list of rules it must obey.

The rules test for gross errors in the design. For example, they will tell you if two outputs are connected together. They do not tell you if the design will work or not. However, if the design has errors in it picked up by this tool, then it is properly incorrectly drawn.

Once selected a dialogue box will appear. Each rule that is checked can be turned on or off before the test is done in this dialogue box.

Once the OK is selected the design is checked. Any errors are circled by a red ring. A list of errors is displayed at the side of the design. Clicking on any item in the list will cause that error to be moved to the center of the design window.

Selecting Edit Item in the Edit menu, then clicking on an error will cause it to be highlighted and also cause the error name in the error list to be highlighted.

If the Done button in the list is selected all the errors will be removed from the design.

If no errors are found then a list will appear stating so. This list can be removed by selecting the Done button.

Error circles can edited, moved or deleted. Error circles will not be saved with the design.

Generate Symbol References

This option changes the symbol references in your design. It relieves you of the task of ensuring each symbol has its own unique reference.

One this option has been selected a dialogue box will allow several options to be changed. You can either add or remove the current references. Removing references can be useful if you wish to integrate this design into another.

You can apply the changes to all references, that is the entire design will have potentially all of it references changed. Use this option if you do have not yet built the design, or have not issued any copies of the design to others.

You can apply the changes to only un-numbered references. This will ensure only new symbols with references

with a ? in them will be changed. Use this option if you are modifying an existing design, and wish to leave existing components with their original references.

You can apply the changes to only references matching a give reference. This will apply to all references matching the one entered, even if the symbol has already been assigned a reference. Use this option, for example, to renumber all the capacitors without renumbering any other symbol.

If you wish you can allow this tool to determine what the correct symbol reference for the symbols is. Alternatively you can enter your own.

When you select the OK button the options will be applied to the design. Each symbol specified will be given a new reference. If you select remove references then each symbol will have its references changed back to one with a ? instead of a value.

You may select Cancel to not apply the reference generator.

Create Parts List

This option creates a list of all the parts used in the design. This list is sorted by symbol reference, and all parts of the same type are listed together.

Essentially this is a list of parts that need to be purchased to make the design.

The parts list is store in a simple text file, which can be edited and printed using notepad.

Tidy Design

This option improves the way the design is stored without effecting the way it looks.

In this release it does this by removing unseen object from the design.

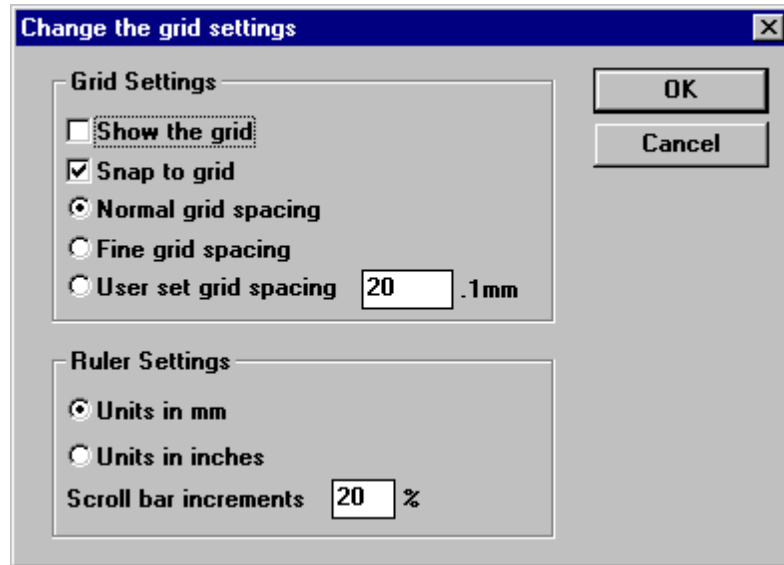
This includes:

- Wires, buses, arcs and lines with zero length.
- Labels and text with no text in them.
- Rectangles and ellipses with no area.

This option removes errors than can creep in during editing which are difficult to remove yourself because they are unseen.

Options menu

Settings



Show Grid

This causes the grid to be displayed. If the grid is too fine to show at the current zoom then it will not be displayed. To see the grid zoom in. If the fine grid is enabled then the points which lie on the normal grid as well are shown as crosses.

Snap to Grid

This option should under normal conditions be selected. This option makes any mouse position snap to the nearest point on a grid. This allows the easy alignment of objects. It also ensures when you attempt to connect a wire to a symbol that the connection is made correctly. For this reason snap to grid should always be on.

If the snap to grid feature is turned off then when you attempt to connect a wire to a symbol it is very difficult to ensure both the end of the wire and symbols connection point are on the same point. With snap to grid this is made easy. If they are not on the same point, not only does it look untidy when printed but it will also be considered unconnected by the special tools.

Normal, Fine, User grid spacing

In most cases you will wish to use normal grid spacing. A fine grid has twice as many points to a normal grid and is especially useful for annotating a design and drawing symbols. If you wish you may specify your own grid spacing by entering the spacing in the dialog box. You may enter the units in inches or mm, depending on the Units setting (as described below).

Units in mm or units in inches

This defines which units are used by the whole program inches or mm. The ruler and show position dialog will reflect the changes.

Scroll bar increments

This determines by how much the design will be scrolled when the arrows at the side of each scroll bar is clicked.

Colors

This option will cause a dialogue box to be displayed with the current colors in use by the current design. If you wish to change any of the colors for the objects shown, simply click on the color and then select a new one. This will change the color for that object in the entire design. Currently you may change the colors of: wires, junctions, no-connects, buses, pins and power elements.

If you wish to return the colors to the TinyCAD default, select the “defaults” button in the dialogue.

Show Position

This option will cause a dialogue box to be displayed with the current co-ordinates of the mouse pointer in the design.

The position is displayed in either inches or mm depending which units are selected by the Grid Settings option in the Options menu.

To remove the dialogue box select this option again.

Snap to Grid

Turn the snap to grid on or off. This is a short-cut for the same option in the Grid Settings dialogue.

Repeat Directions

This option is a sub-menu with options for the repeat command, and options for use when placing labels, text and placing pins.

The Up, Down, Left, Right options specify where an object is placed when it is repeated.

The Name Increment/Name Decrement options specify how label names, text or pin names are altered after they are placed.

The Pin Increment/Pin Decrement options specify how the pin numbers are altered after placing a pin. Note that you can only place pins when editing a library symbol.

Toolbar reference

Annotation toolbar

Arc segment

The only arcs which can be drawn are the arcs which represent one quarter of an ellipse. Arcs are for annotating your designs only, they are ignored by all the special tools.

Arc segments are now part of the polyline tool. See the section on “Adding Text and Annotations” for full details.

To draw an arc select the starting point with the left mouse button. Then move or drag to the ending point and click again with the left mouse button. If the arc bows the wrong way, then draw the arc in the other direction or select the other arc type (either arc in or arc out) from the toolbar menu or context menu.

You may change the width of the line the arc is drawn with or the color of the fill of the arc by using the tool dialogue normally displayed in the top right hand corner of the drawing.

Arcs can be edited as part of a polygon or polyline.

Ellipse

Ellipses are only used to annotate designs. They are ignored by all the Special tools.

The only ellipses that can be drawn are those which can be enclosed by a rectangle with its edges parallel to the edges of the design.

To draw an ellipse you must start by moving to one corner of the rectangle that will enclose the ellipse (this rectangle is not actually displayed). Click with the left mouse button. Now as you move or drag the mouse the ellipse will be shown. Once the ellipse is in the correct position click again with the left mouse button.

You may change the width of the line the arc is drawn with or the color of the fill of the arc by using the tool dialogue normally displayed in the top right hand corner of the drawing.

Polyline and polygons

Polylines and polygons are provided to annotate your diagrams only. For the most part, they are ignored by all the special tools.

These tools are new to TinyCAD version 1.80.00, and are described fully in the “Adding Text and Annotations” section.

Rectangle

Rectangles are only used to annotate designs. They are ignored by all the Special tools.

To draw rectangles, select the tool on the Toolbar. Then go to the position for one of the corners of the rectangle. Click with the left mouse button. Now as you move or drag the mouse the rectangle will be shown. Once the Rectangle is in the correct position click again with the left mouse button. You may change the width of the line the arc is drawn with or the color of the fill of the arc by using the tool dialogue normally displayed in the top right hand corner of the drawing.

Text

Text is used only to annotate designs, it is ignored by the special tools. Do not confuse the text tool with the label tool, which produces electrically active net names.

It is often required to have bars over the letters in the text. This can be done by placing the ` character before each letter that needs a bar over it. If a whole word needs to have a bar placed over it then each letter in that word must have a ` before it.

Type the text you wish to add in the dialogue box. As you enter text a rectangle will appear next to the mouse, indicating the size and position of the text.

Move this rectangle with the mouse to where you wish to place it and click with the left hand button.

You can cancel entering text by clicking with the right mouse button.

Text can be edited once placed. To do so select Edit Item on the Toolbar. Then click with the left mouse button on the text to be edited. A window will appear with the original text in it. You can now alter it as necessary. When finished either click with the left mouse button on something else to edit, or click with the right mouse button.

Text can be re-sized once placed by using the handles displayed around the item or by using the tool dialogue normally displayed in the top right hand corner of the drawing.

Drawing toolbar

Bus

Click with the left mouse button in the place you wish to start the line. Move to where you wish the line to end and click with the left hand button again. A bus segment will be placed and a new bus segment is now started from this point.

To stop drawing click with the right mouse button, and you may start a new bus from a different point. Clicking with the right mouse button again will select the Edit Item option in the edit menu.

Normally the bus is locked to 90 degree positions. In this mode two line segments are displayed at once. However, only one segment is placed at a time when you click with the left mouse button. You must click once more to place both the bus segments.

You may also lock to 45 degree angles only, or have no locking at all. This can be selected from the edit window. When these options are used, only one bus segment at a time is displayed.

If you find when you try and place two bus segments in rapid succession and find that only one is placed, then the cause is properly due to the double click speed of the mouse being setup so that it is too slow. Go to the Control Panel and alter the double click speed faster. (See the Window's Manuals for more details).

Buses cannot be edited, but they can be moved, dragged or deleted.

Buses can be repeated.

Bus Entry

Bus entries are used to show the connection of a wire to a bus. There are two types of bus entry, allowing for connection into the bus from any possible direction.

To place bus entries, select this option in the menu, then move the bus entry to the point you wish to place it. Place it by clicking with the left mouse button.

When you have finished placing, either select a new tool or click with the right mouse button. This will select the Edit Item in the Edit menu for you.

Bus Entries cannot be edited, but they can be moved or deleted.

Bus Entries can be repeated.

Bus Name

A Bus Name placed across a Bus to indicate the nature of the Bus. This could be the number of conductors in the bus or the name of the Bus.

It is often required to have bars over the letters in a Bus Name. This can be done by placing the ` character before each letter that needs a bar over it. If a whole word needs to have a bar placed over it then each letter in that word must have a ` before it.

Type the name of the bus in the dialogue box. As you enter text a rectangle will appear next to the mouse, indicating the size and position of the text.

Move this rectangle with the mouse to where you wish to place it and click with the left hand button.

You can cancel entering text by clicking with the right mouse button.

Bus Names can be edited once placed. To do so select Edit Item on the Toolbar. Then click with the left mouse button on the text to be edited. A window will appear with the original text in it. You can now alter it as necessary. When finished either click with the left mouse button on something else to edit, or click with the right mouse button.

Block toolbar

Move Block

This option allows you to move parts of the design around. The connections by wires are not preserved when this option is used. If you wish to keep the connections use the drag block option.

Select the area you wish to move by drawing a rectangle around it. Start the rectangle by clicking with the left mouse button. Click again with the left mouse button again when the rectangle covers the area you wish to move.

The area selected will be highlighted. You can now move this area around the design. Place it by using the left mouse button.

You can cancel the move by clicking with the right mouse button.

Drag Block

This option allows you to move parts of the design, keeping the connections made by wires. All wires and buses that pass into the selected area to be moved will keep their ends outside the selected area fixed in place. All connections to symbols by wires will also be preserved.

This allows for objects to be moved around the design without affecting how they are connected.

Select the area you wish to drag by drawing a rectangle around it. Start the rectangle by clicking with the left mouse button. Click again with the left mouse button again when the rectangle covers the area you wish to drag.

The area selected will be highlighted. You can now drag this area around the design. Place it by using the left mouse button.

You can cancel the drag by clicking with the right mouse button.

Duplicate Block

This option allows you to make another copy of part of the design to be placed somewhere else in the design.

Select the area you wish to duplicate by drawing a rectangle around it. Start the rectangle by clicking with the left mouse button. Click again with the left mouse button again when the rectangle covers the area you wish to copy.

The area selected will be highlighted. When you move the mouse you will find that the original copy remains and you have a duplicate copy that can be placed anywhere in the design. Place this copy by using the left mouse button.

You can cancel the duplication by clicking with the right mouse button.

Rotate Block

This option allows you to rotate and mirror (flip) a selected area of the design. This makes it very easy to correct the mistake of placing a component the wrong way round, as it and all its connections can be rotated.

Select the area you wish to rotate by drawing a rectangle around it. Start the rectangle by clicking with the left mouse button. Click again with the left mouse button again when the rectangle covers the area you wish to delete.

The area selected will be highlighted.

A dialogue box will now give you options to rotate the block clockwise or anti-clockwise, by clicking on the <<< and >>> buttons. You can also select the flip button which will mirror the block.

Once you have finished rotating the block click with either the left hand or right mouse button.

Drawing toolbar

Delete Item

This option allow you to delete objects in the design.

To delete an item first select the Edit Item tool. Select the item to delete by clicking on it with the left mouse button. The object will turn gray to indicate it has been selected. You may instead of selecting a single item with the edit tool select a group of items. These too may be deleted.

Now select this option on the toolbar menu to delete the item.

You may undo the deletion by using the undo option in the edit menu.

Edit Item

This option enables editing of objects already placed in the design. You may also use this tool to move objects in your design and to delete objects in your design.

Once this option has been selected then clicking with the left mouse button on an object in the design will select that object. To show it has been selected it will be shown in light gray.

If there is more than one editable object under the mouse pointer, then clicking again with the left mouse button in the same place will cause a different object to be selected. Keep clicking with the left mouse button until the object you wish to edit is selected.

If the object is editable, then a dialogue box associated with the object will be shown enabling you to change it. For example, if you click on a text object then a dialogue box will appear with the text in it. You may then change the text in the dialogue box.

End editing an object by clicking with the right mouse button in the design window, or by selecting a new object to edit using the left mouse button.

You may also move objects that are selected. To do this hold down the left mouse button on a selected object. Now move the mouse, with the left mouse button held down. The object will be moved with the mouse. To finish release the left mouse button.

You may delete any selected object by using the delete item option on the toolbar.

You may copy any selected object to the clipboard by selecting the Copy or Cut options in the edit menu. Once a selection has been copied to the clipboard it may be pasted into another application (such as Microsoft Word), or pasted back into the design.

To select groups of objects you may drag a rectangle around the objects to be selected. Any object within the rectangle will be selected. Once it has been selected you may delete, move, copy or cut the object. To drag the rectangle, place the pointer in an area of the design where there is no object. Hold down the left mouse button and move the mouse. The rectangle will be created. Release the left mouse button to select the objects within the rectangle.

Junction

Junctions are normally automatically placed for you. You do not need to use this tool.

When two wires meet, a junction indicates that they are electrically joined. This information is used by the special tools to generate net lists and check the electrical rules. When two wires meet or cross it is assumed they are not joined unless a junction is placed at the crossing point.

To place a junction select this option, then move the junction to the location in the design where you wish to place it and then click with the left mouse button. When you have finished placing, either select a new tool or click with the right mouse button. This will select the Edit Item in the Edit menu for you.

Junctions cannot be edited, but they can be moved or deleted.

Label

Labels indicate a connection to the wire which runs beneath them. Any two wires with the same label name above them are considered to be connected.

This can be useful when two parts of a circuit need to be connected but are a long way apart on the diagram, or one point needs to be connected to a large number of others.

It is often required to have bars over the letters in the label. This can be done by placing the ` character before each letter that needs a bar over it. If a whole word needs to have a bar placed over it then each letter in that word must have a ` before it.

Type the text you wish to add in the dialogue box. As you enter text a rectangle will appear next to the mouse, indicating the size and position of the text.

Move this rectangle with the mouse to where you wish to place it and click with the left hand button.

After placing a label, if the text has a number on the end of it, it is automatically incremented or decremented depending on the Name Increment or Name Decrement option selected in the Repeat Directions menu (in the Edit menu).

You can cancel entering text by clicking with the right mouse button.

Labels can be edited once placed. To do so select Edit Item on the Toolbar. Then click with the left mouse button on the text to be edited. A window will appear with the original text in it. You can now alter it as necessary. When finished either click with the left mouse button on something else to edit, or click with the right mouse button.

Labels can be re-sized once placed by using the handles displayed around the item or by using the tool dialogue normally displayed in the top right hand corner of the drawing.

No Connect

No connects indicate that the symbol, wire or power item is not connected to anything else, and should not be connected to anything else. The electrical rules checker will indicate an error if an input is unconnected unless it has a no connect joined to it. Place no connects on any unused input or output to avoid this error and indicate that it is intentionally left unconnected.

To place a no connect select this option, then move the cross to the location in the design you where wish to place it and then click with the left mouse button. When you have finished placing, either select a new tool or click with the right mouse button. This will select the Edit Item in the Edit menu for you.

No connects cannot be edited, but they can be moved or deleted.

Power

Power objects are used to show where power is connected to the design. All power objects should have a value, which is the value of the power it provides (such as 5V, GND, 0V etc.). All power objects with the same value are considered connected to one another; even if they have different shapes.

You should connect wires to the power items at the end of their pins, otherwise they will not be considered to be connected.

Certain symbols are automatically connected to power without the connection being shown (for example the 7400, although no power pins are shown, it is automatically connected to VCC and GND). When using these symbols, you should make sure you use the same power supply names as the symbols otherwise the symbol will not be correctly connected to the power supply.

To place power items in to your designs select power from the Toolbar. Then in the dialogue box select the orientation of the power item, its shape and its name. Place the power item by clicking with the left mouse button.

A range of shapes is provided, and you may use any name. Bars may be added over letters in names in the same manner bars can be added to text and labels, that is by placing ` before each letter which requires a bar over it.

Once you have finished placing power items click with the right mouse button or select a new tool.

Power items can be edited. To do so select Edit Item in the Edit menu. Click with the left mouse button on the end of the power item's pin. You can now change its name, orientation and shape. When finished either click with the left mouse button on something else to edit, or click with the right mouse button.

Power items can also be moved and deleted.

Wire

Wires are used to indicate connections on the circuit diagram. If you wish to use features such as the electrical rules checker or net list generation then you must use wires for this purpose. If you use lines instead of wires to join up points on a diagram then these tools will not work!

Click with the left mouse button in the place you wish to start the wire. Move to where you wish the wire to end and click with the left hand button again. A wire segment will be placed and a new wire segment is now started from this point.

If you prefer you can drag wires instead of using the clicking and then moving. Simply drag with the left mouse button from the starting point to the ending point. If the ending point is a symbol, another wire or a power item then the wire will automatically snap to it and terminate at that point.

A wire will automatically snap to a placed symbol or another wire when moved close to it. If you click with the left mouse button now, the wire will end at the snapped point. You can turn this off by using the settings dialogue in the Options menu.

When placing wires junctions will automatically be added when required.

To stop drawing click with the right mouse button, and you may start a new wire from a different point. Clicking with the right mouse button again will select the Edit Item option in the edit menu.

Normally the wire is locked to 90 degree positions. In this mode two line segments are displayed at once. However, only one segment is placed at a time when you click with the left mouse button. You must click once more to place both the bus segments.

You may also lock to 45 degree angles only, or have no locking at all. This can be selected from the edit window. When these options are used, only one wire segment at a time is displayed.

If you find when you try and place two wire segments in rapid succession and find that only one is placed, then the cause is properly due to the double click speed of the mouse being setup so that it is too slow. Go to the

Control Panel and alter the double click speed faster. (See the Window's Manuals for more details).

Wires cannot be edited, but they can be moved, dragged or deleted.

Wires can be repeated.

Zoom

The zoom tool enables you to easily enlarge the view of the design. Once selected you may enlarge the view by clicking with the left mouse button, and reduce the view by clicking with the right mouse button.

The position of the mouse pointer, when you zoom in, is moved to the center of the window.

Tip - You may also use the scroll-wheel to zoom.

File toolbar

New

This gets rid of the current design. All drawings in the current design are removed. If the current design has not been saved then you are asked to confirm before the design is lost.

Open

This option opens a previously saved design for editing or printing. If there is already a design being edited it will be lost. If the current design has not been saved then you will be asked to confirm before continuing.

Save

This option saves the current design, its page set up and the design details are all saved in a single file. If the design has already a file name associated with it then it will be saved using this file name without prompting. If the design has never been saved then you will be prompted for a new file name before it is saved.

Cut

This option enables you to move parts of the design which have been selected to the clipboard. Once it has been moved to the clipboard you may use paste to re-insert them into a different part of the design, and may paste again and again to duplicate a part of the design.

To select objects in the design use the edit item option on the toolbar.

You may also paste into other Windows applications such as Microsoft Word.

Paste

This option takes a previously copied or cut part of a design and enable you to place it into the current design.

Once this option has been selected the pasted design will be displayed at the mouse pointer. To paste it in click with the left mouse button, to cancel click with the right mouse button.

Copy

This option enables you to copy parts of the design which have been selected to the clipboard. Once it has been copied to the clipboard you may use paste to re-insert them into a different part of the design, and may paste again and again to duplicate a part of the design.

To select objects in the design use the edit item option on the toolbar.

You may also paste into other Windows applications such as Microsoft Word.

Print

Use this option print to any installed the windows printer.

If the drawing is larger than the paper size of the printer, then it is split up over as many pages as it takes to print the design in tiles.

Change log

Changes since version 2.70.03

- Feature Requests #2722995 implemented. Message now says that "This file was not created in TinyCAD."
- Feature Requests #3015178 implemented. Now all menu items that open a dialog box end with "..." as is customary in Windows and other modern GUT's.
- Feature Requests #3015564,2794990,2798597 implemented. The library panel is now tree based and clearly displays the name of every library and symbol in an outline format. It is no longer necessary to select showing one library at a time or all of them (flattened). All libraries are always shown plus a recent selections virtual library. Click on the '+' sign in front of the library name to view and select the contents of the library.
- Bug Fix #xxxxxxx implemented. Crashes no longer occur when accessing members of the most frequently used library symbol list. Now if an entry becomes obsolete, it is removed from the list so that it can't be selected.
- Bug Fix #2782974,2633697 implemented. Corrected the misspelling of the word "Annotate" across all files.
- Bug Fix #xxxxxxx implemented. Corrected the misspelling of the word "Hierarchical" across all files. As a consequence of this type fix, new TinyCAD design files that contain hierarchical symbols cannot be read by older versions of TinyCAD, but newer versions of TinyCAD will still be able to read older design files.
- Bug Fix #??????? implemented. Extended the design rule checker to include tests for non-case distinct net names, unassigned reference designators, and nets with multiple names.
- Feature Addition: The ERC list box now pans the selected ERC marker into the middle of the currently open editing window. In addition, all ERC messages now list pertinent information about the object in question such as reference designator, XY coordinate, pin number, net name, etc.
- Bug Fix #??????? implemented. ERC markers will now always appear highlighted when selected. Previously, if several ERC markers were present on the same object, only the marker on top would highlight, making it very difficult to tell where some ERC markers were located.
- Bug Fix #3058944, 2887870 implemented. The MSVC runtime library is now installed by the installer.

- Bug Fix #2870991 implemented. This change fixes the netlist problem that caused it to not generate the correct netlist when multiple labels were attached to the same net AND the net extended across multiple pages with different names on different pages.
- Bug Fix #2370118 implemented. This fix removes the limit on the the number of characters allowed in the sum of all library names from 2048 to the maximum permitted by Windows. This new number will vary depending on the native language selected for use on Windows. The most common Unicode languages use 16 bit wide characters while some Asian languages require 32 bit wide characters. While TinyCAD will still "forget" all of the library names if this new limit is exceeded, it is now large enough to include more than 100 libraries in the default location in the longest of Unicode character sets, so this problem is effectively behind us. Technically, Windows XP and newer (Vista, Windows 7) have a length limitation for the value of a registry key limited only by available memory while Windows 98 is lower, somewhere around 16K bytes. For 16 bit wide characters, this means that Windows 98 will limit to 8K characters while newer versions are effectively only limited by available memory/2.
- Bug Fix #??????? implemented. The No-Connect marker is now disabled when editing a symbol.
- Bug Fix #3067069 implemented. For power objects and labels, the accelerator keys now delete, cut, copy , and paste the object right after selecting it.
- Feature Addition: A "Re-Check" button has been added to the ERC message box to permit rechecking the design after changes have been made without having to go through the dialog again.
- Feature Addition: ERC "not connected" warnings have been eliminated for pins of type "not-connected".

Changes since version 2.70.00 Build 248 Beta

New features

- Added .TCLib (SQLite3) format libraries to the installer.
- Added a very large number of libraries that have been organized and cleaned up by Stephen Friederichs. Many of these new symbols include footprint references suitable for FreePCB.
- Added XML format netlist capability. This is an advanced method of identifying the information in a parts list and netlist that makes it easier to write your own custom formatter or use the data in another program more easily.
- Added improved pin name and number auto-increment capability to provide better support for alpha-numeric pin names and numbers. Thanks Thomas Peterson!
- Added improved reference designator assignment so that designators are labeled according to the order of their XY coordinates. When auto-assigning reference designators, designators are now assigned to the sorted XY coordinates so that symbols located to the upper left of the schematic are assigned lower numbers than symbols located to the lower right of the schematic. Thanks Oleg Skydan!
- Added new PDF format user's manual. Thanks Greg Endler!
- Fixed the long broken help file pictures and re-enabled the text search function.

Changes since version 2.60.01

This release contains an internal upgrade to make TinyCAD compatible with the Visual Studio 2003/2005/2008 development environment. Previously, it was only compatible with VS2003. The major improvements changes to the user interface to improve productivity and a large number of bug fixes. Here is a quick summary of what has changed in this release:

New features

- Modified the TinyCAD source to support Visual Studio 2003, 2005, or 2008 to be more convenient to developers who have newer or older versions of Visual Studio.
- Improved the readability of the XML outputs by adding tabs in front of tags to indicate nesting level and also added additional newlines in between tags when nesting in or out. No functional changes, only changes in the visual appearance of any of the XML output files when opened in a text editor. If you have reason to edit the XML files from time to time, you will find that the open source program Notepad++ available from SourceForge.net is an excellent light weight XML editor.
- Extensive changes to macros that opened files and macros that manipulated zero terminated strings to convert to the new secure versions (i.e., the ones that now have "_s" appended to them). This change does not affect the behavior of TinyCAD, it only enhances the safety of the program against buffer overruns.
- Updated dao360.dll to a newer build that includes the version information (necessary for newer version of NSIS installer). Note that this is only a newer build, not a new version as this was already the most recent version.
- Extensive changes to "for (int i=xxx" type statements to comply with newer ANSI C++ standards that changed the scope of index variables declared within for loops.
- Changed one iterator style for loop that no longer complied with the newer ANSI C++ standards.
- Modified code that received warnings due to mixing signed and unsigned variables by adding casts where necessary and type changes where appropriate so that no warnings are now produced when compiling with warnings level #3.
- Added the complements of the 3 existing Spice conditional macros so that both the normal and the "not" versions are available now.

Bug fixes

- Fixed crash that resulted when you attempt to backspace over the line thickness field when editing a schematic line.
- Fixed inconsistent line endings problem with the Spice netlist file and the XML file outputs.

Known Bugs

All known bugs are tracked at the TinyCAD Bug Tracker on SourceForge.net.

Changes since version 2.50.00

New features

- Homogeneous and Heterogeneous symbol support.
- Show power pins on a symbol.
- New pin shape with the name above instead of at the end of the line.

Bug fixes

- Improved handling of delete so it should crash less!
- Internally switched to a Unicode application for better handling of international character sets.
- Better placement of symbols so that they should remain in the same place after saving and reloading.



Changes and/or corrections

This program is open-source and so is all of the documentation. You can download the source HTML from the [sourceforge](#) web-site. The source and documentation is stored in a Subversion (SVN) repository. You can use a free program called TortoiseSVN if you wish to check out a copy of the source or documentation from the repository. Only registered TinyCAD developers can commit changes to the repository, but you can also email your changed files to [Don dot Lucas at OrikonSolutions dot com](#) with a short explanation of your changes and Don will integrate your changes into the trunk of TinyCAD. You should identify which revision of the repository that you started with, or at least the date that you checked your working copy out so that Don can determine what changes you made. If you wish to do a translation or wish to correct any errors then please do so!

How to build TinyCAD

If you wish to make changes to your copy of TinyCAD and then build a new executable image, please read the documentation stored in the TinyCAD SVN repository under the directory name “How_To_Build_TinyCAD”. Complete descriptions of the required software tools and build procedure is contained in several documents in this directory.

FAQ - Frequently Asked Questions – FAQ

1. **Q.** I have created my drawing and tried to create a Net List, but I did not know about Package Attributes. The manual does not explain how to add these attributes to the symbols on the drawing I have made. It says click ADD, but in what? The package attributes would be different for each component you place on the drawing but I can't see how you add these attributes.

A. After the symbol is placed on the schematic select it and a 'xxx Tool Options' window opens. In this there is a list of the current parameters and their values. If a 'Package' parameter is not present click the 'Add' button at the bottom. This will put a line in which reads 'Other Yes ...'.

Change 'Other' to 'Package' and '...' to the name of the footprint for that symbol to use in the layout. You also have the option whether to display it or not.

The process is similar for library symbols:

In the Library editor you can edit the 'Symbol Properties' to change or insert a package definition. If you have the correct 'Package' definition in the library symbol it will carry over to the schematic automatically.

The same 'Package' definition may be used for several different symbols and there may also be similar symbols with different 'Package' definitions. You have to decide what package you will use for the symbol. Of course you can change your mind at any stage so long as what you end up with works.

Bear in mind that the TinyCAD pin numbers used must match the pin numbers in the footprint referenced by the 'Package' parameter. That is how things are connected.

Please read the User's Manual section 'Help/Get more from TinyCAD/Exporting to PCB programs'.

2. **Q.** How do I enter a pin name or other text if I want a bar over the text to signify the NOT function?

A. For each letter of the text string that you want to be shown with a bar over it, enter the non-shifted version of the tilde character (``) before the letter that you want to have an overbar appearance. This little used character is also known as the grave accent, from the Latin word “gravis”, meaning heavy. By requiring a special character for each overbar character, you gain the possibility of specifying mixed names such as “UP/DOWN”. For this particular name, you would enter “UP/`D`O`W`N”. This special character, on English language keyboards, is usually located near the upper left hand corner of a full keyboard, underneath the ESC key. It is also usually on the same key as the tilde character (~). On European keyboards, it will most likely be in a different location or not present on a key directly at all. You must use the <Alt> numeric keypad method (<Alt> 096). If any user wants to email us and let us know where it is located in other languages, we will add it to this answer for the convenience of all of our users.

3. **Q.** When I create a new symbol and I want to save it to my Lib it does not allow me to change the name when I'm clicking on add name. How do I give it the name that I want?

A. At some point you should see the 'Update Library Symbol' window. In this window there is a 'Name' parameter. (Right hand panel). If you change the 'New Symbol' text to be the name of your new symbol it will get saved in the selected library under that name when you click '[Store]'. You can add a 'Name' parameter with the '[Add]' button but you can't use that, it has to be the default one.

If you edit a symbol and change its 'Name' parameter it does not create a copy when you '[Store]' it, just the symbol name changes.

If you want to add a modified version of symbol XXX, select the symbol in the library list, <right click> and use 'Duplicate' to create a 'Copy of XXX'. Select that and edit the 'Name' parameter text in it.

The 'Add Name' button creates an alias for the current symbol which can then have a different set of properties but the same graphic. Select the symbol name in the left column to access its properties in the right panel. Both alias names will show in the schematic selection list.