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Plotter

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A **plotter** is a computer hardware device much like a printer that is used for printing [vector graphics](#). Instead of [toner](#), plotters use a pen, pencil, marker, or another writing tool to draw multiple, continuous lines onto paper rather than a series of dots like a traditional printer. Though once widely used for [computer-aided design](#), these devices have more or less been phased out by wide-format printers. Plotters produce a [hard copy](#) of schematics and other similar applications.



Advantages of plotters

- Plotters can work on very large sheets of paper while maintaining high resolution.
- They can print on a wide variety of flat materials including plywood, aluminum, sheet steel, cardboard, and plastic.
- Plotters allow the same pattern to be drawn thousands of times without any image degradation.

Disadvantages of plotters

- Plotters are quite large compared to a traditional printer.
- Plotters are also much more expensive than a traditional printer.

When was the first plotter invented?

The first plotter was invented in [1953](#) by Remington-Rand. It was used in conjunction with the [UNIVAC](#) computer to created technical drawings.

Related pages

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Also see: [Flatbed plotter](#), [HPGL](#), [Plot](#), [Printer](#), [Printing terms](#), [Resolution](#)

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