

Plotter

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.