# Reviews

## GstarCAD

### Reason for Selection

I selected the Standard version of GstarCAD because it seemed to be the best option for using Lisp, command aliases, and included some form of Lisp debugging. If you don’t need these features, perhaps one of the other options would work better. I also didn’t explore every option. It is possible some of the others incorporate these features but don’t advertise them well enough.

### Review

###### The Good

* If you are looking for a drop in AutoCAD replacement, this is a good option. Everything looks and acts just like AutoCAD.
* Works well and has about every features you could hope for in a standalone drafting program.

###### The Bad

* It is a little buggy. It will occasionally crash.
* Plot by Name Plot Styles does not seem to work. This one was the nail in the coffin. Without this working, it was impossible to choose GstarCAD.
* Uninstaller did not seem to work. Or quit working after AutoCAD was installed.
* After installing AutoCAD, it would no longer open.
* It seems this software was developed overseas. Some of the menus have spelling and grammar errors.
* Almost no documentation. Although, this is really a non-issue. Just google how to do it in AutoCAD and you can do it the same way in GstarCAD.
* Does not properly debug lisp files that include a dialog (dcl) box.

###### Final Word

After a promising start, deeper interrogation of the software find too many issues. This software is not recommended. There are just too many bugs, unincorporated features, and stability issues.

## ZWSoft ZWCAD

### Reason for Selection

I selected the Professional version. This was required to get VBA and ARX use. Otherwise, the Standard version seems to have nearly everything. As with GstarCAD, the 3D features of the professional version were not really needed.

### Review

###### The Good

* If you are looking for a drop in AutoCAD replacement, this is a good option. Everything looks and acts just like AutoCAD.
* Works well and has about every features you could hope for in a standalone drafting program.

###### The Bad

* Missing the commands DIMHORIZONTAL and DIMVERTICAL commands. The newer replacement command DIMLINEAR.
* Missing the command TEXTEDIT. Use DDEDIT instead.
* Does not honor the value of “expert” “5” system variable.

# Summary of Available Options

## Ares Commander

<https://www.graebert.com/cad-software/ares-commander/>

* 950, perpetual, an account with a login and password, up to 2 simultaneous logins
* LISP
* Lisp debugging? Seems like a bug (<https://help.graebert.com/en/articles/3057017-debugging-of-lisp-functions-in-ares>)

## GstarCAD

<https://www.gstarcad.net/>

* 600, one computer or USB dongle, standard, perpetual
* lisp debugger
* professional has 3D features which are not needed
* LISP vl-, vlr-, vla- and vlax
* Debugging with Visual Studio extension: <https://marketplace.visualstudio.com/items?itemName=GraebertGmbH.flisp>
* command line
* pgp/alias
* <https://www.gstarcad.gr/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/GstarCAD-2022-Complete-Features-Guide.pdf>

## CMS IntelliCAD

<https://www.intellicadms.com/>

* 300 (PE Plus) single user, perpetual standalone license allowing 2 activations
* 500 (PE Easy Run), perpetual license, lifetime updates, internet connection required
* Flexible self-service license transfer. No limits on transfers.
* LISP
* AutoCAD software menu (.mnu) and script (.scr) files
* No debugger
* Does not support (vl-, vla- or vlax-)
* express tools
* command line support

## progeCAD

<https://progecad.us/>

* 400, perpetual, 2 computers
* express tools

## ZWSoft

<https://www.zwsoft.com/>

* 1200, professional, perpetual, only 1 license active at a time
* express tools
* Lisp debugger (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AXOf23xGPyQ>)
* vlax, dcl, VBA (professional)
* command line
* MNU, MNS