

Importing DXFs from Vectorworks

When preparing a Vectorworks drawing for import into MAPP, it is best to copy the pertinent portions of the drawing to a new file so that they are all on one layer and to avoid creating a DXF with any extra data. Rotate or flip the drawing if necessary, and set the origin (Tools>Set Origin) to the downstage center point in the drawing.

Because MAPP can only handle DXF files up to 4 MB in size, it is crucial that the user delete *all* objects in a drawing that are not relevant to the system design, particularly those beyond the plane with which the user is concerned.

Note about deleting: If a drawing has all of its objects divided into several classes, setting all classes except the selected to gray (View>Class Options>Gray Others) and subsequently selecting each individual class and checking its contents may save the user time if whole classes can be deleted. Remember to change the class view back to “Show/Snap/Modify Others” when finished.

Intricate objects made of many small lines, such as seats, contribute to large file sizes; when possible, replace these symbols with simpler alternatives.

Note about seats: When using Vectorworks’ Seat Layout tool, the symbol used for each seat can be edited in the Object Info palette, or, alternatively, the user can click “Draw Layout Lines Only” to display a single line for each row in plan view.

Converting to Lines

To ensure that they will be displayed properly, all objects imported into MAPP must be lines. The user can ensure this by first selecting all objects in a drawing and using the “Ungroup” command (Modify>Ungroup), which may be necessary multiple times if there are groups within other groups. If a dialog box appears asking if you would like to ungroup objects with record or class information, click yes. At this point, it can be advantageous to make all lines 60% gray so that they will not be obscured by MAPP predictions; with all objects selected, the user can change this with the Attributes palette. Finally, convert all objects to lines (Modify>Convert>Convert to Lines). If asked what type of rendering to use, select “Hidden Line Rendering.”

Exporting

With all objects selected, from the File>Export menu select “Export DXF/DWG...” For format, select “DXF (Text),” and for Version, select the earliest DXF version possible to reduce file size (in Vectorworks 2010, this is 12). In the “Class/Layer Conversions” panel, choose to export classes as DXF layers, and do not export invisible classes. Make sure all boxes on the right-hand side are unchecked. Click OK and save the file. Check that the exported file is less than 4 MB before attempting to open in MAPP.