

WORKING WITH POWERDRAFT

This document provides information on the significant differences between the full version of MicroStation and the stripped-down PowerDraft version in relation to the instruction in Micro-Press's MicroStation training manuals. Items marked "n/a" means not available in PowerDraft. Other tools and functions may also be missing.

Our 2D training manuals work extremely well with PowerDraft and minimal adjustment is necessary from the full version instruction. However, our 3D Level 3 manual has limited functionality as discussed below.

While the *software* Help files are useful, there are often considerable differences between the information given and the actual PowerDraft software. This is particularly so for tool locations and tool box contents. In many cases the help information from full MicroStation has not been changed.

LEVEL 1 MANUAL

Opening a File - Microstation Manager	<p>PowerDraft opens in a <i>new blank file</i> and existing saved files must be opened through <i>File/Open</i>, at which point the MicroStation Manager window displays.</p>
Main Tool Palette	<p>The <i>Main</i> tool palette is displayed in a single-column vertical arrangement. If the palette is not visible on the screen, go to Tools/Main/Main to open it. Some functionality is different or not available (n/a), as described below:</p> <p>The basic <i>Place Line</i> tool normally located on the <i>Linear Elements</i> tool box is n/a. See more information below.</p> <p><i>Fence</i> tools are now on the <i>Element Selection</i> tool box and the <i>Common</i> tool box.</p> <p>The <i>Points</i> tool box is n/a, but the basic <i>Place Active Point</i> tool is located on the <i>Linear Elements</i> tool box.</p> <p>The <i>Arcs</i> tool box is n/a, but the <i>Place Arc</i> tool is located on the <i>Ellipses</i> tool box (MicroStation sees circles and arcs as ellipses). Only full ellipses are available. The three arc editing tools are n/a.</p> <p>The <i>Text</i> tool box is missing the <i>Match Text Attributes</i> tool. Since <i>SmartMatch</i> is also missing, existing text cannot be matched.</p> <p>The <i>Tags</i> tool box is n/a (Level 2).</p> <p>The <i>Cells</i> tool box is missing some additional cell tools (Level 2).</p> <p>The <i>Change Attributes</i> tool box is missing some tools.</p> <p>On the <i>Modify</i> tool box, the <i>Extend</i> and the basic <i>Trim Element</i> tools are missing. The <i>Extend</i> tool is easily replaced with the <i>Modify Element</i> tool used with the "A" shortcut. The <i>IntelliTrim</i> tool must be used for trim operations.</p>

Additional Tool Box	PowerDraft has an additional tool box called <i>Common Tools</i> , located under the <i>Attributes</i> box, that contains a selection of commonly used tools.
Additional Items	The <i>Match</i> tool box is n/a.
Place Line and SmartLine	<p>As mentioned above, the basic <i>Place Line</i> tool is n/a and the intention is use <i>SmartLine</i> for all lines. In this case, to avoid editing problems, turn <i>Join Elements</i> OFF in <i>SmartLine</i> unless you need a line string. <i>SmartLine</i> is discussed in Module 11 of Level 1.</p> <p>While the <i>Place Line</i> tool is n/a, you can still place basic lines by two methods:</p> <p><i>Function Key.</i> Go to <i>Workspace/Function Keys</i> and select the <i>F2</i> key (currently unused). Edit that key and enter the text string “place line constrained”. Pressing <i>F2</i> will now start the <i>Place Line</i> tool.</p> <p><i>AccuDraw Shortcut Key.</i> Go to <i>Setting/AccuDraw/Display/Shortcut Key-ins</i>. Click on <i>New</i> and enter “H” for the <i>Shortcut</i>, “Place Line Tool” for the <i>Description</i>, and “place line constrained” for the <i>Command</i>. Pressing <i>H</i> when <i>AccuDraw</i> is active will start the <i>Place Line</i> tool.</p>

LEVEL 2 MANUAL

Annotation	Text Nodes n/a. Data fields n/a.
B-Splines	N/a. PowerDraft will display B-splines and Bezier curves created on other MicroStation versions.
Points	N/a.

LEVEL 3 MANUAL

3D General	<p>In general, there is very little functionality for 3D work. None of the typical 3D tools including primitives, surfaces, editing, lighting, and rendering tools are available.</p> <p>While existing 3D files created in other versions of MicroStation can be opened, very little useful 3D work can be achieved in PowerDraft.</p>
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