

White Paper Series

Design & Drawing Automation using 3D CAD – Powerful, affordable and easy



Evolution thro' Knowledge

EGS Computers India Private Limited
Chennai * Coimbatore * Trichy
Web: www.egs.co.in * www.egsindia.com

Engineers have always had a passion for writing programs (since the advent of Fortran) that would perform calculations based on design parameters provided, to arrive at sizing dimensions. Be they calculations involving Heat Transfer, Fluid Flow, Strength or Deflection, engineering community has evolved many standards including TEMA, EJMA, ASME, API or Material Handling codes, for specific engineering requirements.

Going a step ahead, let us pose some questions for the benefit of organisations:

1. How to ensure that knowledge possessed by the Engineering Team is always available and put to effective re-use for Benefit of the company?
2. How can error-free drawings be produced there-by eliminating re-work and revisions while reducing time?
3. How to increase the productivity of a Designer, who generates Drawings, without compromising on accuracy?
4. Can lead time required to produce drawings, even at RFQ Stage, be reduced so that the product development cycle time can be compressed?

Effectively, the answers to these questions lead directly to the profitability, efficiency and IPR of the organisation. Essentially all of the above relate to design engineering functions, either directly or indirectly.

Rule Based Engineering Design:

Knowledge, when put to re-use, with automated decision making, results in higher productivity and reduced errors. Rule based engineering design created within a framework of knowledge driven design process helps in developing fool-proof designs of products that could have variants as well.

Benefits of this approach is manifold:

1. Knowledge available with various members, across different levels, in an organisation is given a form for effective re-use
2. Decisions made are logical and driven by finite set of parameters
3. Specification of a product design gets refined and well-defined
4. Range and limitations of the knowledge, ability to re-use and the Company's IPR gets documented

Modern day 3D CAD Systems, such as SolidWorks, have built-in/ add-on products functionalities that help capture knowledge based on rules defined by users as shown in Fig. 1. Part features and their dimensions are captured to create rules with facility for decision making.

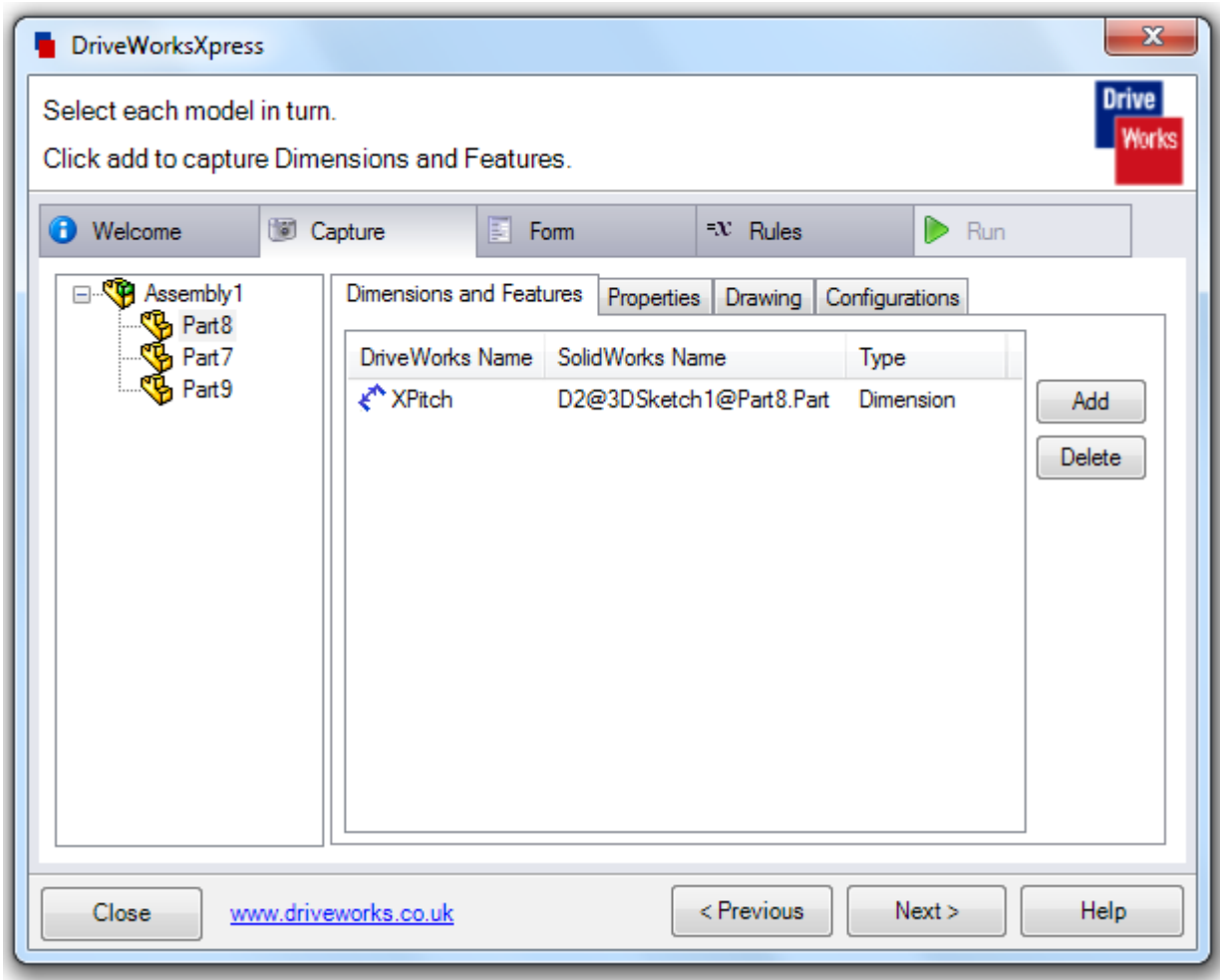


Fig. 1: DriveWorksXpress inside SolidWorks helps automate designs faster & easier

Additionally, spreadsheet calculations driven dimensional mapping enables design engineers to develop 3D models of their designs faster. Microsoft Excel driven Design Table, as shown in Fig.2 enhances the power of design engineers to embed their calculations to drive design dimensions.

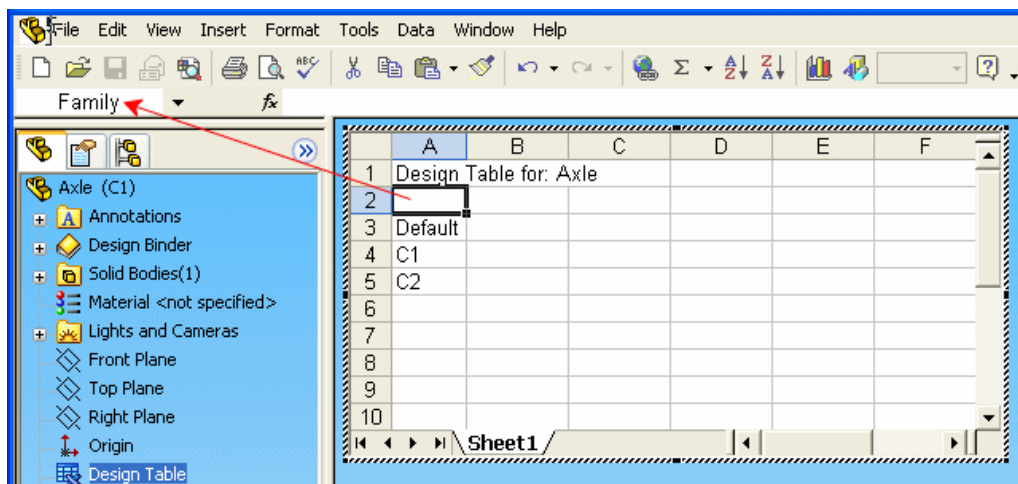
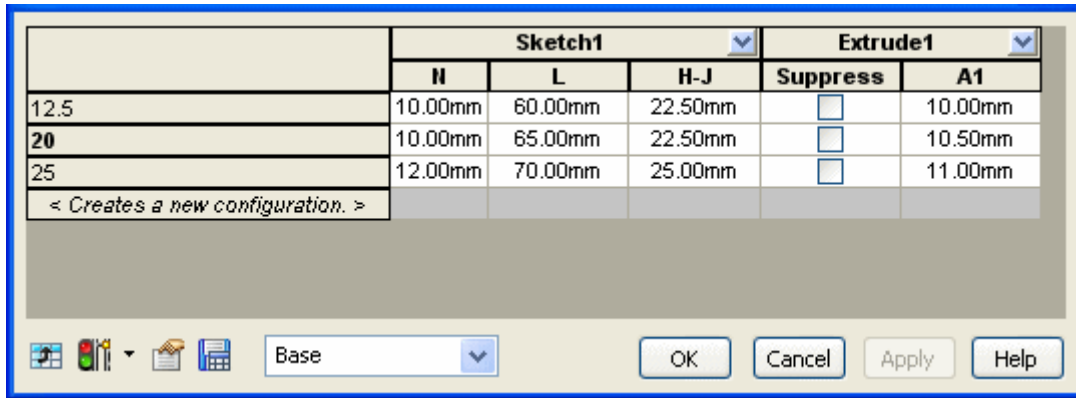


Fig. 2: Embedding Design Table inside SolidWorks with Microsoft Excel

In these approaches, not a single line of programming code needs to be written to develop designs ! Integrating such spreadsheet based calculations with configuration of parts/ assemblies (product variants) gives powerful alternatives to designers for automating designs.



	Sketch1			Extrude1	
	H	L	H-J	Suppress	A1
12.5	10.00mm	60.00mm	22.50mm	<input type="checkbox"/>	10.00mm
20	10.00mm	65.00mm	22.50mm	<input type="checkbox"/>	10.50mm
25	12.00mm	70.00mm	25.00mm	<input type="checkbox"/>	11.00mm
< Creates a new configuration. >					

Fig. 3: SolidWorks Configuration manager exploiting Microsoft Excel for Family of Parts and Assemblies to create product variants

For example, the automobile brake rotor model shown in Fig. 4 facilitates design and drawing automation for a family of rotors at a fraction of the time required to produce the same manually. Configuration Manager ensures that the casting and machining drawings come out of one integrated design database, thereby reducing time, errors and increasing productivity.

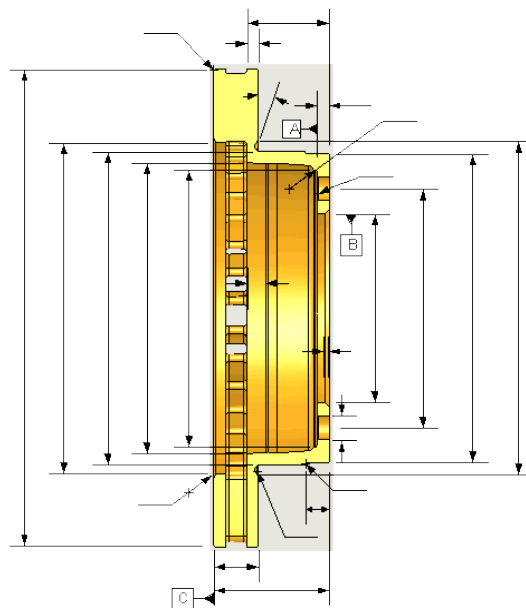


Fig. 4: Automating Designs and Drawings with Rule Based approach

Drawing Automation – Recipe for higher productivity

Customer: _____
 Enquiry Ref: _____
 Project: _____

Expansion Joint Selection
 Expansion Joint Type: Single Unrestrained
 Restrainted:

Bellow Data
 Part No.: 100 | 1000 | 12
 Material Type: 304
 No. of Piles: 1 mm
 Thickness: 0.7 mm
 Overall Length: Catalogue leng | 134 mm

Design Condition
 Design Pressure: _____ MPa
 Design Temperature: _____ °C
 Axial Compression: _____ mm
 Axial Extension: _____ mm
 Lateral Offset: _____ mm
 Angular Deflection: _____ deg
 Annual Test: NO
 Media:

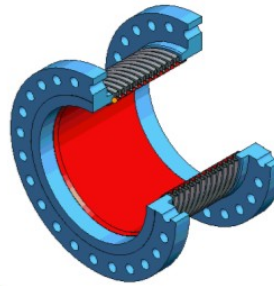
Quality Control and Reports
 Information: A-Approval | C-Customer X-Applicable

Accessories
 End Connection: Flanged Ends
 Flange Standard: _____
 Flange Material: B16.5 ANSI 125G SOFF
 Pipe Schedule: B16.5 ANSI 150R WNRFB
 Pipe Material: B16.5 ANSI 300R SOFF
 Flow Liner: JIS B2220 JIS 5K FF
 Flow Liner Material: B16.5 ANSI 150R WNRFB
 External Cover: BS4504 PN10 FF
 External Cover Material: _____
 Shipping Bars: _____
 Hardware Material: _____

Custom Properties
 Quantity: _____
 Quotation No.: _____
 Ion No.: _____
 Checked: _____
 Approved: _____
 Drawn: _____
 Drawing No.: _____
 Revision: _____

Outputs
 exe: _____
 exc: _____
 Psc: _____
 Psi: _____
 Pt: _____
 S2: _____
 S3+S4: _____
 Fatigue Life: _____
 S1: _____
 S1': _____

Buttons: Pressure Converter | Temperature Converter | Special Instruction | Calculate



With design automation enabled, drawing generation is the next step that extends the benefits further. Visual Basic, .NET Framework and Macros (enabling VBA) are common programming approaches adopted by CAD Design Automation experts to create user-input forms (Fig. 5), manipulation of design data and update of template-based 3D CAD Geometries resulting in picture-perfect drawings (Fig. 6). Intrinsicly the design knowledge, product representation, adherence to standards, if any, are automatically complied with, resulting in gains for the organisation. Fig. 5: Sample Input Form that drives 3D Design and associated 2D Drawing

DESIGN DATA	
Code/Standard	EJMA
Design Pressure	2058 bar
Test Pressure	3102 bar
Design Temperature	°C
Axial Compression	mm
Axial Extension	mm
Lateral	mm
Angular	mm
Medium	mm

BELLOW DATA	
Size	500
No. of Bellows	1
No. of Convolutions	12
No. of Piles x Thickness	2 ply x 1.2 mm

CALCULATED DATA	
Axial Spring Rate	0.0000 N/mm ²
Lateral Spring Rate	0.0000 N/mm ²
Angular Spring Rate	0.0000 N/mm ²
Axial Spring Force	0.0000 mm
Lateral Spring Force	0.0000 mm
Angular Spring Force	0.0000 mm
Effective Area	0.0000 mm ²
Pressure Thrust	0.0000 mm
Fatigue Life Cycle (min.)	1000
Max. Allowable Pressure	18 bar
Squirm Pressure	0 bar

MATERIAL LIST	
Bellow	304
Flange Ends	304

ACCESSORIES	
Liner	
Cover	
Shipping Bars	...

QUALITY CONTROL AND REPORTS			
Information	A-Approval	C-Customer	I-Application
Drawing	Long Bellow	Seam X-ray	
Calculation			
Quality Plan	Long W.E	Seam X-ray	
PQR-WPQ			
WPS	Heat Treatment		
Material Cert.	Pressure Test		
Test Cert.	Sand Blasting		
Cert. of Origin	Std. Paint		

ASSEMBLY WEIGHT	
Estimated Weight	314.53 kg

Special Instructions

Description: Single Restrained

Part No.: TFF 500 - 2000 - 12	Quantity:
Customer:	Scale: 1:20
Quote No.:	Date: 8/27/2008
Sheet 1 of	

Drawing No. : SC **Rev.:**

Note: For overall length refer catalog book 3

Fig. 6: Sample Drawing Output using SolidWorks API

With Open architecture and user-friendly programming approach offered by

mid-range 3D CAD software such as SolidWorks, high level Design and Drawing Automation is now within the reach of Engineering Organisation at a fraction of the cost of investment in 'high-end' CAD software of yore.

Summary:

Customers, for example, in the power sector, have derived huge benefits in time savings and cost savings by employing design automation, even at the RFQ Stage. Boiler assemblies, Pressure parts, pressure vessels, steel structural supports, plant engineering functions, material handling equipment design are some of the areas that have already witnessed rapid deployment of design automation as a framework for reducing development cycle time.

Imagine a Crane manufacturer getting the customer requirement via Web, and then triggering the automation process of assembling the crane in 3D, developing the General Arrange Drawing of the assembly and individual part drawings of required components, exporting the Bill of Materials for cost estimation and providing a proposal to the customer in a few minutes! Add to that, the manufacturing process drawing automation, running weld length estimation and stage wise drawings provided to the manufacturing team, once the order is obtained, and we have a winning combination of higher productivity, error-free process and above all capturing all essential data available across the organisation for better re-use.

3D CAD has matured with high levels of technology integration, enabling engineering corporations to adopt a risk free approach to product development in the fastest manner possible. Only the challenges of assimilating the knowledge and securing the same remain. 3D CAD Design and Drawing Automation has come of age for large-scale adoption for higher productivity. It comes with no strings attached !

About EGS India:

EGS Computers India Private Limited, since 1993, has been providing Design Engineering Services for customers world-wide. 3D CAD Customization Services, Design and Drawing automation services using SolidWorks 3D CAD has been provided by EGS India to customers in varied segments of applications, including Automotive, Material Handling, Power, Process, Foundry and Sheet-Metal Stamping Industries.

EGS India is the Authorised Reseller for SolidWorks CAD Software, DriveWorks Automation Framework, SigmundWorks Tolerance Stack Up Analysis Software, ElecWorks for Electrical Mechanical Design Integration, Camnetics Suite of

Gear and CAM modelling products to customers in India.

ACADEMIX, training division of EGS India, provides Real-World practical training on the use of SolidWorks, FEA, GD & T, and Tolerance Stack Up Analysis.

Visit: www.egs.co.in * www.egsindia.com

Recent Design Automation Projects Done by EGS India:

1. Generation of Drawings for Heating Coil in Power & Process Applications
2. Automation of Design and Drawing Development for Sheet Metal Die Assemblies
3. Expansion Joint Design and Drawing Development – Automation incorporating EJMA Standards
4. Automated Design and Drawing Development for Centrifugal Pumps
5. Drawing Automation for Automotive Brake Rotors
6. Battery Stack Generator – Drawing Generation for Higher Productivity
7. Automation of Leaf Spring Design & Drawing Development
8. Drawing Automation for Pressure Vessel Applications in Process Industry
9. Stress Computations in Nozzles using FEA – Automated approach
10. Excel driven Automation of Chain Design and Drawing development

Contact info@egs.co.in for more information on how Engineering Services from EGS India can benefit your Organization.