



Creating a Block to a File and Inserting it from a File:

Here are the steps to follow to create a Block which will be saved as a file. This is done by using the Wblock command (write block). Once this block is saved you will be able to insert it in other drawings.

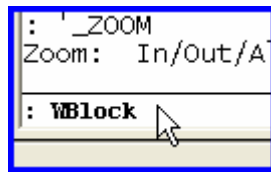
Saving a Block to a File:

In this case we will copy and save a border that was created for a 17x22 (.432mx.559m) piece of paper. The edge of the page is shown in white in the image below. This block can be easily re-used to create a border with any metric scaled drawing on 17x22 paper. You can add other frequently occurring items to your border, such as a company logo or compass rose (North Arrow.)

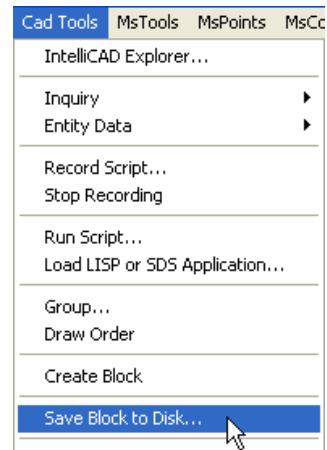


NOTE – any DWG file on the hard drive can be used in the same way as a wblock that you create here.

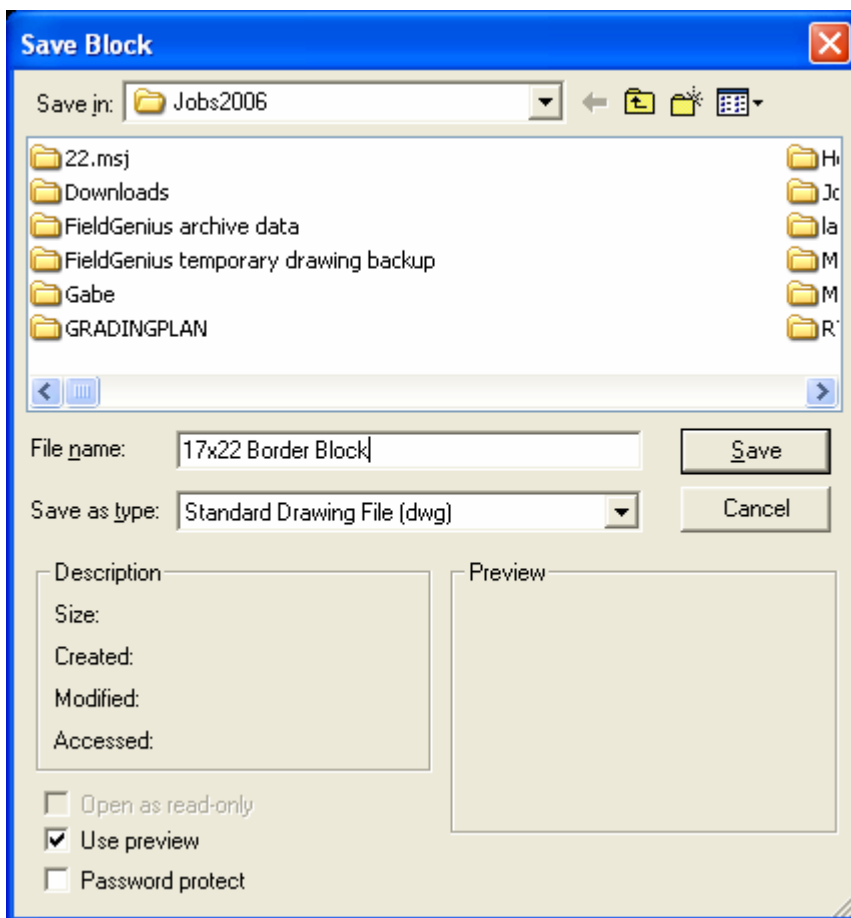
Type: Wblock in the Command Line:



Or Select the command from the menu:

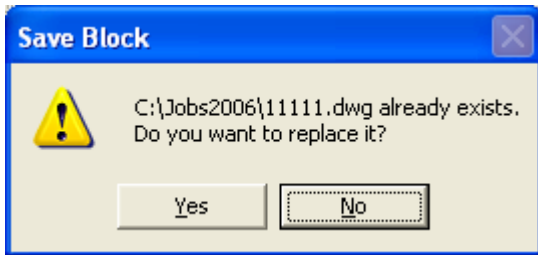


Tell MSCAD where you want to save the new block. It may be handy to keep them in your Jobs2006 folder if you like them to be grouped with your active drawings. You could also create a folder under our SYMBOLS folder so that the Symbol Librarian command can also make use of the symbols. Example: C:\Program Files\MicroSurvey\MSCAD2005\symbols\glen

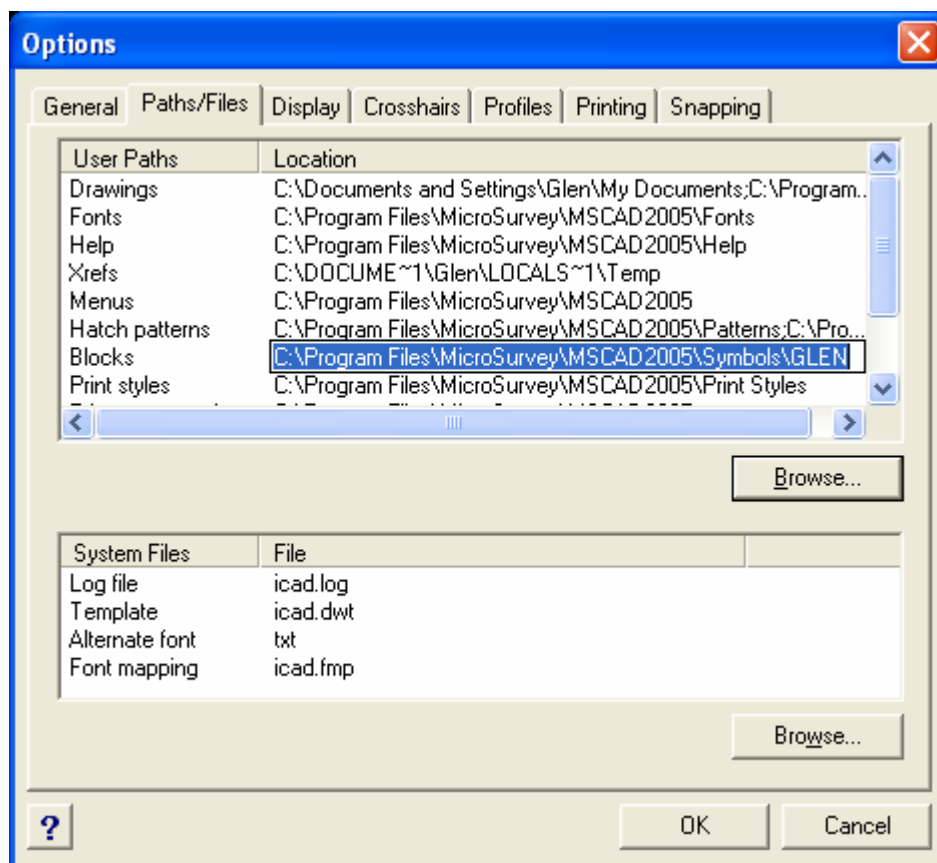


Creating a Block to a File and Inserting it.doc

If you happen to use a file name that is already on the hard drive, then you will be warned and asked if you wish to place it with the one you are creating now.



NOTE: The default save location that the wblock dialog uses is controlled by the path set in the program for blocks. To set this, type in OPTIONS or go to the CADTools menu and pick on Options. Enter in the path to your desired default location for your blocks.



On the command line you will be asked the following:

ENTER to select entities/& to include multiple blocks/* for all entities/ <Block to save as WBlock>:



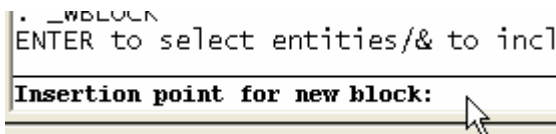
Tell MSCAD you are going to select entities by clicking on them by either hitting "enter" or:

By choosing the option from the floating menu:



The other options on the command line will not be discussed in this technical note.

You will next be prompted for the insertion point:



You will now want to configure your snap settings so that you can choose a convenient place to "grab" the block when you are inserting it later:

I have chosen to snap to the end of a line:



Next I'll indicate where my insertion point is:



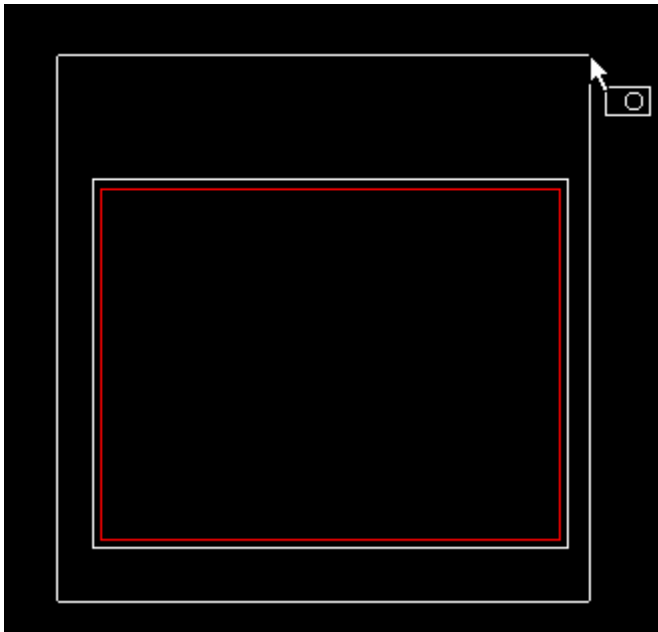


Then I am prompted to select entities to include in this block:

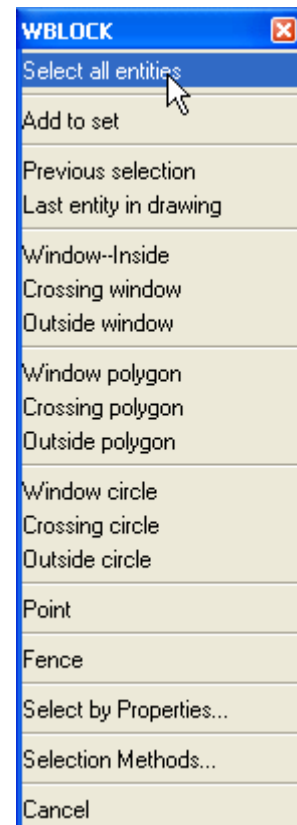
```
Select entities for wblock:
Entities in set: 1
```

```
Select entities for wblock: ↓
Ready
```

I can window in the drawing or portion of the drawing that I wish to create the block with ...



Or select appropriately from the floating menu:



Selecting or typing in ALL will grab everything in the drawing.

And hit "Enter" to complete the operation.

NOTE: *The entities that make up the block have been removed from the original drawing and saved in the location you assigned for storing the block.*

If you want them back you can

- 1) *close the drawing without saving the changes and then reopen the drawing*
- 2) *use the "undo" or U command (the shortcut is ctrl Z.)*
- 3) *run the OOPS command*



NOTE: If the current drawing has an internal block in it with the same name as the wblock you are creating, you will have problems attempting to insert it later. Please ensure that the wblock name you use is unique and is not the same as any blocks contained in the wblock.

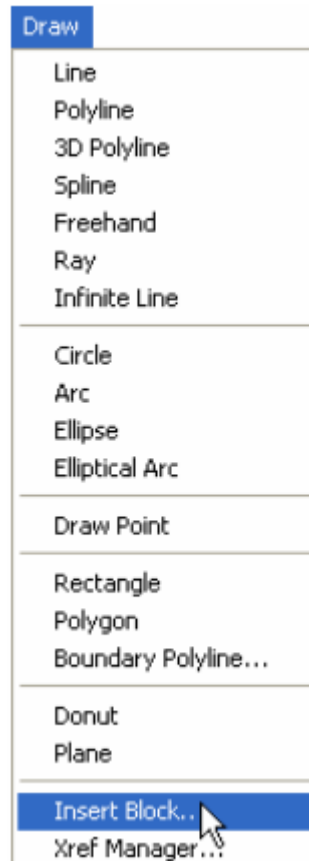
Inserting a Block that has been saved in a File:

In this example I will insert the border that was created above.

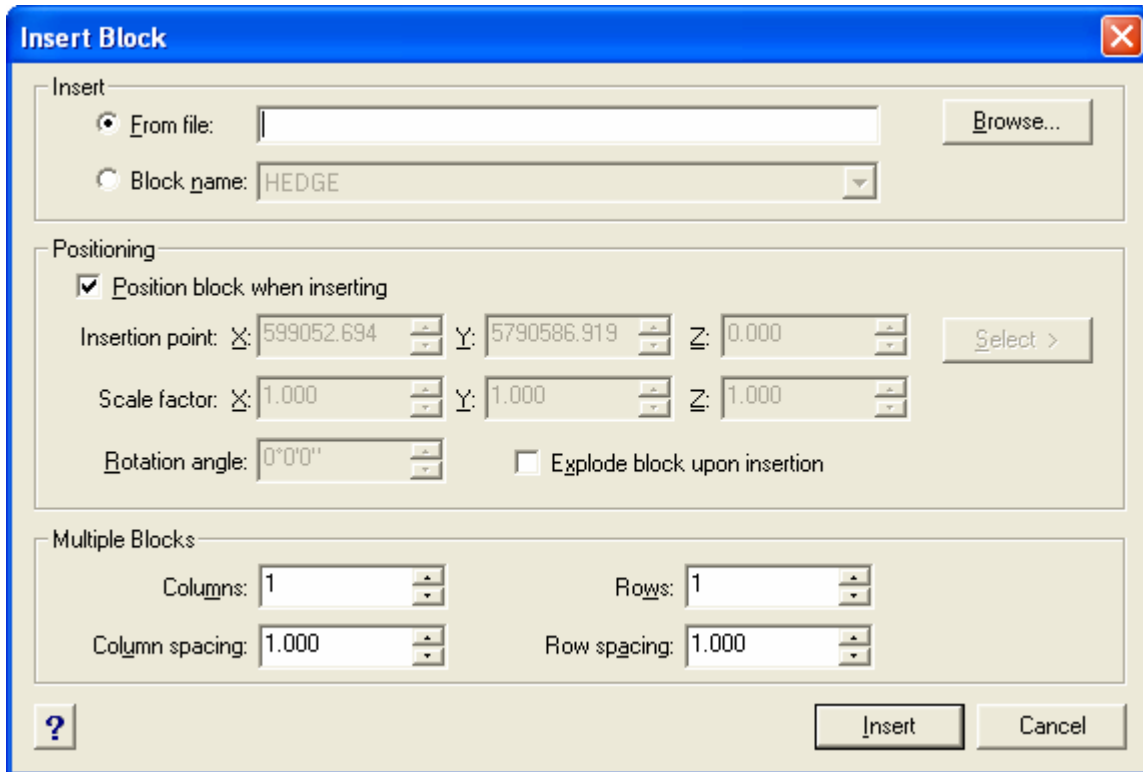
Type the command DDINSERT:



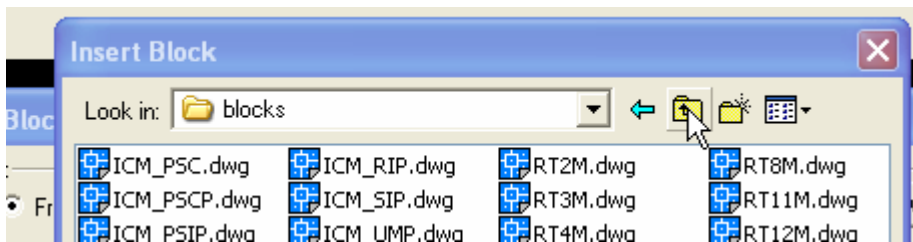
Or choose the command from the menu:



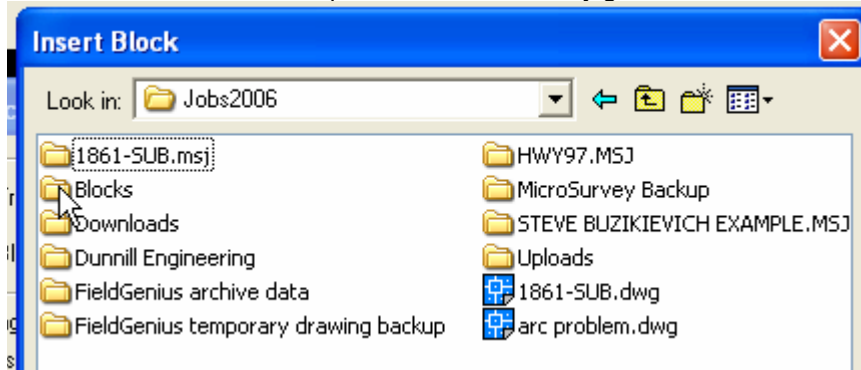
Configure the dialogue box to select a block from a file and click on "Browse" to find the file:

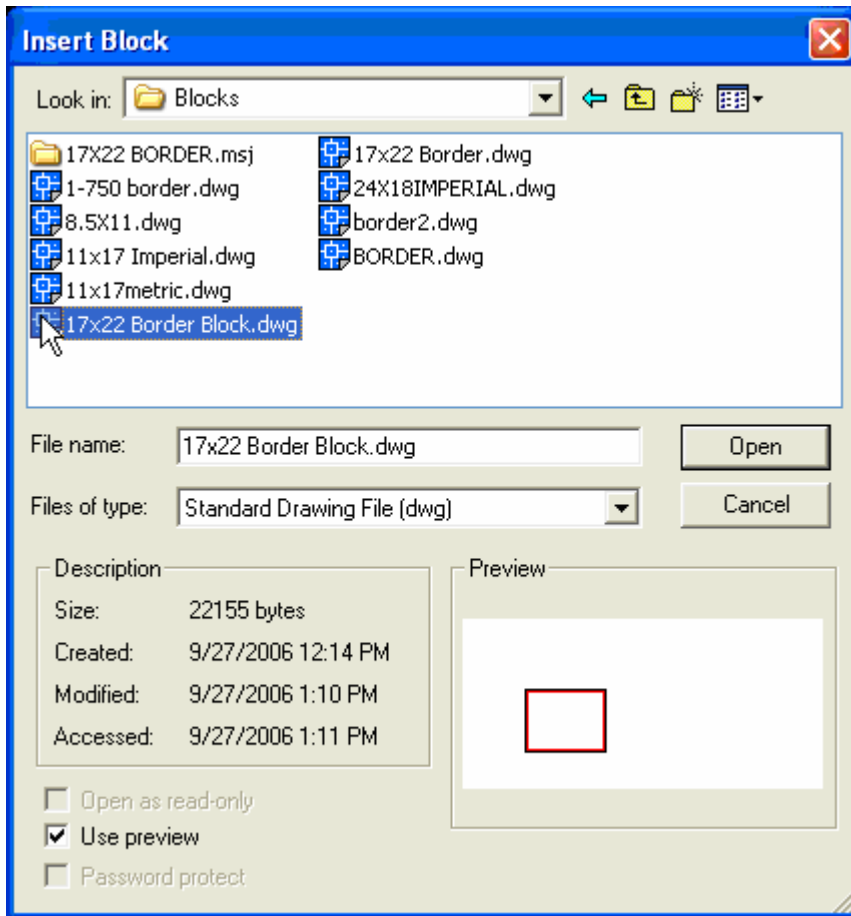


Find your saved block in the appropriate directory. *If you saved the block in your Jobs 2006 folder like I did above you will need to navigate to the Blocks directory in that folder. You may need to click on the "Up a Level" button to navigate to the proper Blocks directory.*

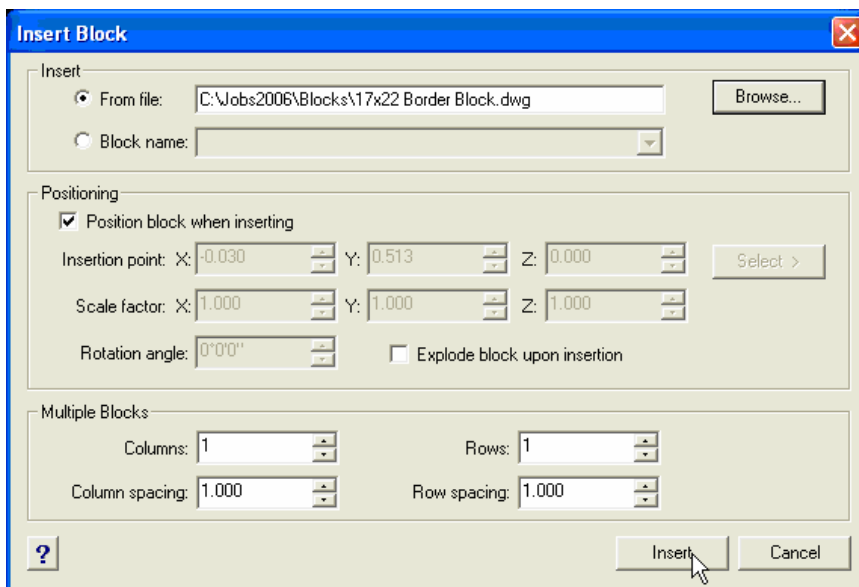


NOTE: If you have set your default block location in the options dialog to the correct location, then the default for the browse option will automatically go to this folder.



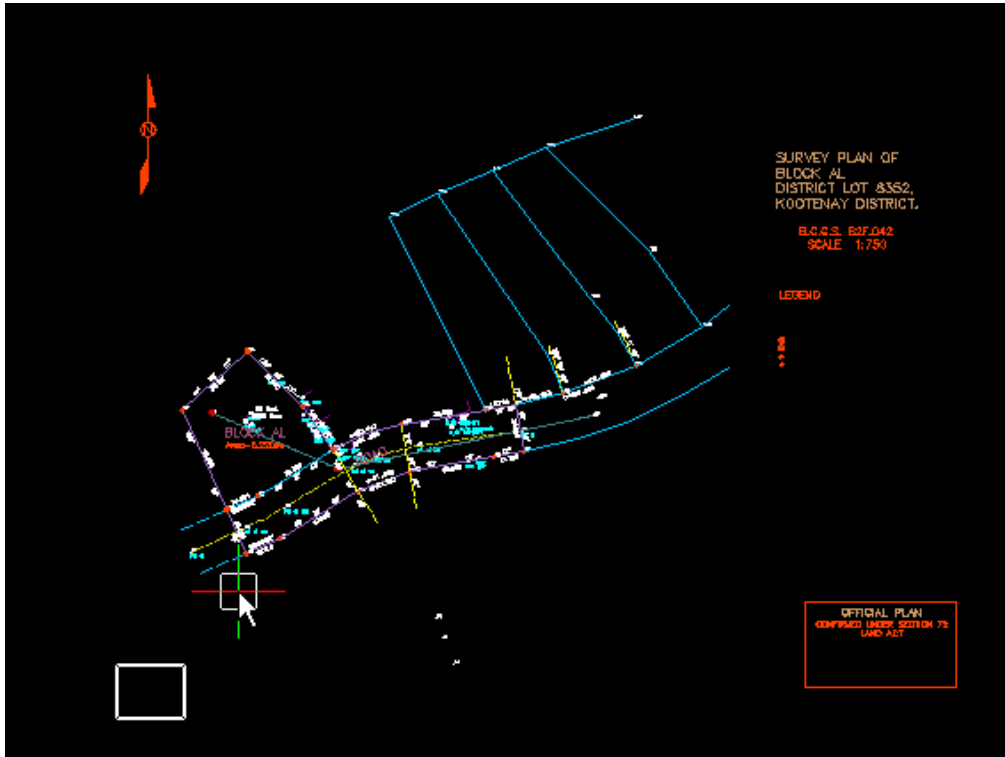


Pick on the block file name and pick open to continue:

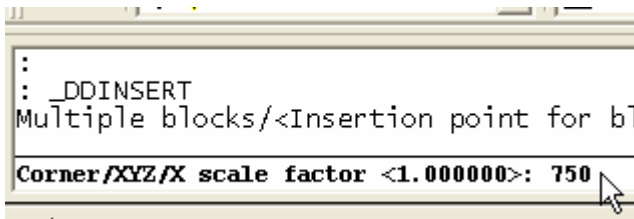


Pick on Insert to continue:

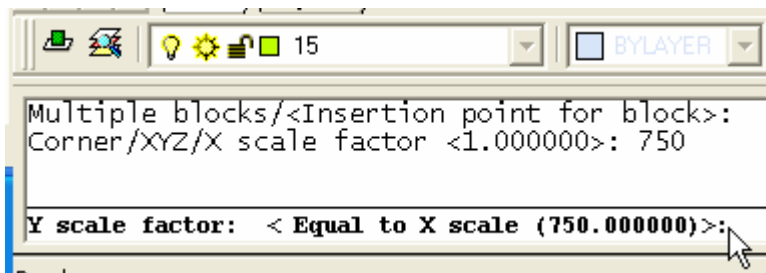
And choose the location to insert the block. In this case I'm clicking at the bottom left of the drawing. The border is very small right now because I haven't applied the new scale.



Next you will be prompted to input the X scale factor for the block. Because this is a metric drawing scaled to 1:750 I will enter 750:



Then you will be prompted for the Y Scale factor. I will hit "Enter" to choose 750 again:





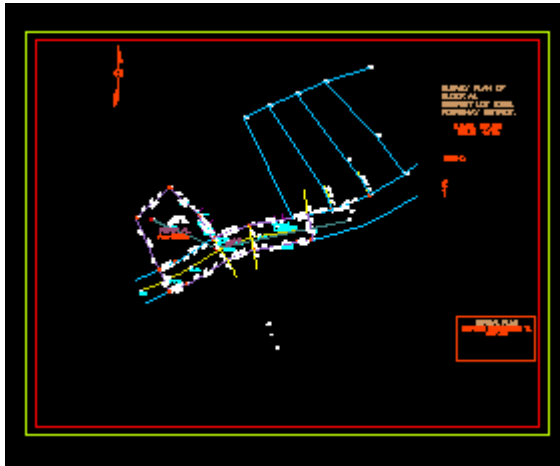
Next you will be prompted for a rotation factor. I will hit "Enter" to choose 90.

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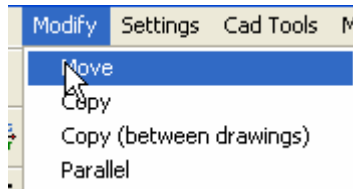
N: _DDINSERT
Multiple blocks/<Insertion point for
Corner/XYZ/X scale factor <1.000000>
Rotation angle for block <90°0'0">:

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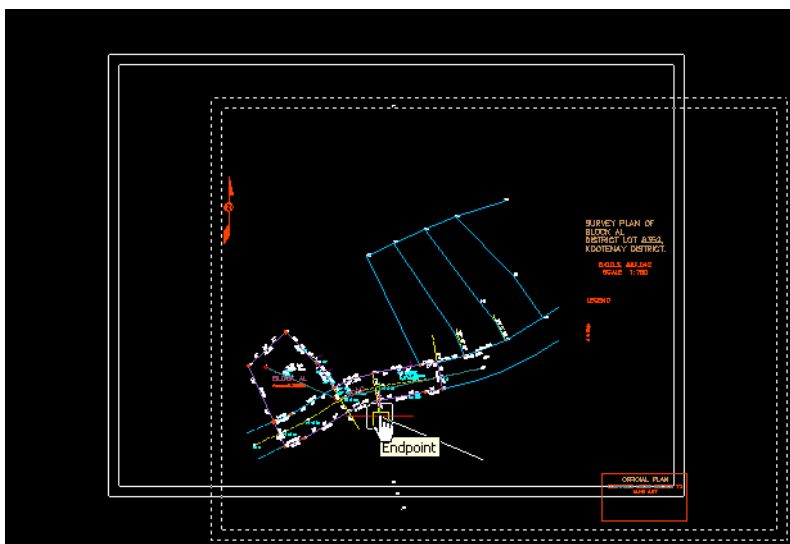
The Block has been inserted into the drawing:



If your picture isn't nicely centered you can pick the "Move" command from the Modify Menu:

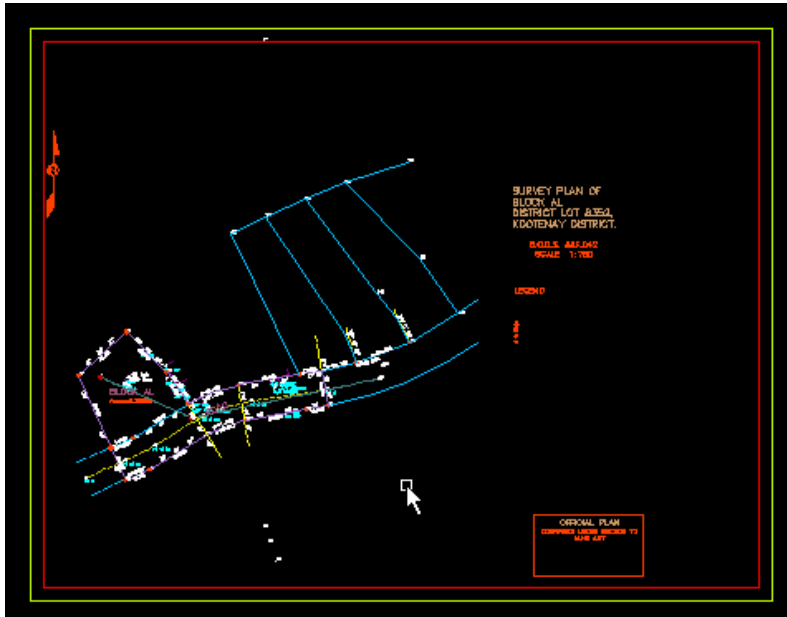


and then pick on any part of the new block. It will move as a single entity. Hit enter when you are happy with the location.



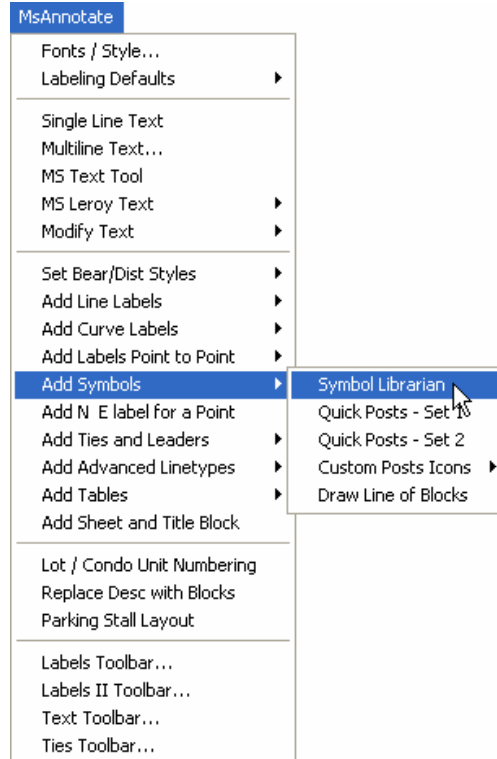


Finished result.

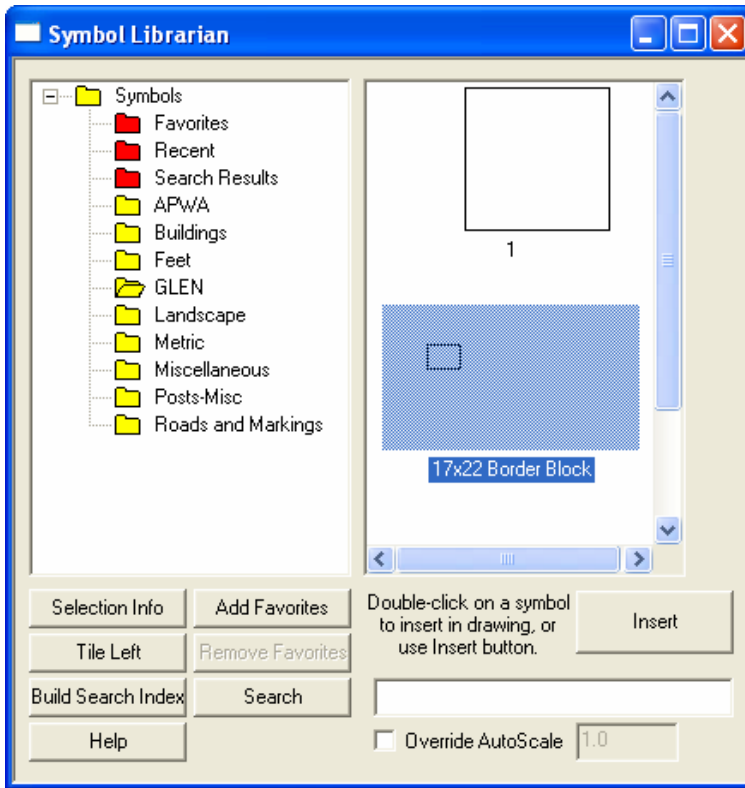


Using the Symbol Librarian to insert the same symbol:

You can run the Symbol Librarian by either typing in the command INSYM or by going to the menu:



The following floating dialog will come up on screen.



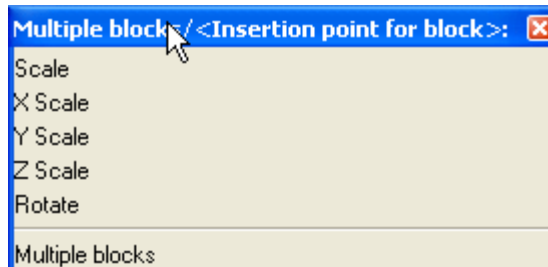
Pick the folder you saved the wblock to. (This is assuming you chose to save it to the C:\Program Files\MicroSurvey\MSCAD2005\symbols\glen folder [where "glen" is the folder name you used])

You will see a preview of the symbols in this folder. Pick the one you wish to use and then pick the INSERT button – or simply double click on the preview.

On the command line you will be asked to pick the insertion point in the drawing (similar to the dinsert command above)

Multiple blocks / <Insertion point for block>:

There will be a floating menu that you can make use of, if appropriate, other wise just pick the insertion point and ignore the menu.



Next you will be asked for the rotation angle – just press enter to use the default of 90 degrees.

Rotation angle for block <0° 0' 0" >:

Your block will now be on screen and automatically scaled for you. If you need to move or scale it further, then use the appropriate command under the Modify menu.



Finished result.

