

STL Export for AutoCAD

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STL Export for AutoCAD Help

Welcome to *STL Export for AutoCAD* Help!

This help file provides all the information you need to understand and use *STL Export for AutoCAD*. Click the links below or use the Contents tab on the left to browse help topics. You can also scroll the topics on the above right hand pane.

The *STL Export for AutoCAD* help file is divided into the following sections:

- [Introduction](#) - Introduction to *STL Export for AutoCAD*.
- [Command Reference](#) - Quick reference of all the commands added by *STL Export for AutoCAD*.
- [Tutorial](#) - Tutorial to get you started in the shortest possible time.

If you need any additional information please [contact](#) SYCODE.

Note:

- Please refer to the section "Loading Instructions" in the [ReadMe](#) file to load *STL Export for AutoCAD* plug-in file into the AutoCAD environment.
- Please read the [License Agreement](#) before using the software.

Introduction

STL Export for AutoCAD is a Stereolithography (.stl) file export plug-in for AutoCAD®. This plug-in gives AutoCAD the ability to export geometric data from AutoCAD to ASCII and Binary STL files.

AutoCAD already has a STLOUT command which exports a STL file. The STLOUT command is limited to 3D Solids which lie in positive space only (i.e. positive x, y and z). *STL Export for AutoCAD* extracts facet data from 3D Solids as well as 3D Face, Polygon Mesh and PolyFace Mesh objects in the active AutoCAD drawing and exports it to a STL file. These objects can lie anywhere in space. Quad faces are broken down into triangular faces and 3D Solids are tessellated into triangular faces. The level of tessellation can be controlled by adjusting the resolution slider in the *STL Export for AutoCAD* options dialog box. A lower resolution will yield coarse meshes (lesser faces), whereas a higher resolution will result in finer meshes (more faces).

STL Export for AutoCAD is designed to work with the following versions of AutoCAD:

- AutoCAD 2011 (32 & 64 Bit)
- AutoCAD 2010 (32 & 64 Bit)
- AutoCAD 2009 (32 & 64 Bit)
- AutoCAD 2008 (32 & 64 Bit)
- AutoCAD 2007
- AutoCAD 2006
- AutoCAD 2005
- AutoCAD 2004
- AutoCAD 2002
- AutoCAD 2000i
- AutoCAD 2000

STL Export for AutoCAD is very easy to use. Once installed, it must be loaded into the AutoCAD environment. There are simple instructions for this in the [ReadMe](#) file. Once loaded it adds new commands to AutoCAD's existing commands and a new submenu called "STLExport" to the AutoCAD menu containing these newly added commands.

STL Export for AutoCAD comes with detailed documentation as well as a [tutorial](#) to get you started in the shortest possible time.

If you need any additional information please [contact](#) SYCODE.

The STL File Format

The STL file format is the Rapid Prototyping industry's standard data transmission format and is the format required to interact with stereolithography machines. Stereolithography

files contain solids which are made up of 3 sided facets. STL files may be ASCII or binary data, although binary is far more common due to the resulting size of the CAD data when saved to the ASCII format. A STL file describes a raw unstructured triangulated surface by the unit normal and vertices (ordered by the right-hand rule) of the triangles using a three-dimensional Cartesian coordinate system. Many CAD systems are able to output the STL file format among their other formats, but very few have the ability to import STL files.

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8.6 Language. The English language version of this Agreement is legally binding in case of any inconsistencies between the English version and any translations.

This is the *STL Export for AutoCAD* ReadMe file.

Thank you for installing STL Export for AutoCAD.

Please read this ReadMe document carefully and completely. It contains important information which is vital to the proper working of STL Export for AutoCAD.

Loading Instructions:

=====

Since STL Export for AutoCAD is a plug-in for AutoCAD, it has to be loaded into the AutoCAD environment before it can be used. Loading is a one time process. STL Export for AutoCAD will automatically load itself into AutoCAD the next time you run AutoCAD.

The STL Export for AutoCAD plug-in files are installed into the STL Export for AutoCAD installation folder (typically "C:\Program Files\SYCODE\STL Export for AutoCAD\"). The plug-in files have an extension of ".arx".

The list of plug-in files along with the version of AutoCAD is shown below. Please be sure to use the plug-in file that corresponds to your version of AutoCAD.

```
STLExport_VC60.arx    -> AutoCAD 2000, 2000i, 2002
STLExport_VC70.arx    -> AutoCAD 2004, 2005, 2006
STLExport_VC80.arx    -> AutoCAD 2007, 2008 (32 Bit), 2009 (32 Bit)
STLExport_VC80x64.arx -> AutoCAD 2008 (64 Bit), 2009 (64 Bit)
STLExport_VC90.arx    -> AutoCAD 2010 (32 Bit)
STLExport_VC90x64.arx -> AutoCAD 2010 (64 Bit)
STLExport_VC90.arx    -> AutoCAD 2011 (32 Bit)
STLExport_VC90x64.arx -> AutoCAD 2011 (64 Bit)
```

To load STL Export for AutoCAD into AutoCAD please follow the steps listed below:

- (1) Select "Load Application..." from "Tools" menu or enter the "_APpload" command.
- (2) Click the "Contents" button in "Startup Suite"
- (3) Click the "Add" button.
- (4) Browse for the plug-in file for your version of AutoCAD (see list above).
- (5) Click the "Add" button on the Add File to Startup Suite dialog box.
- (6) Click the "Close" button to close the Startup Suite dialog box.
- (7) Click the "Close" button to close the Load/Unload Applications dialog box.

Now STL Export for AutoCAD is completely installed and ready for use.

Usage:

=====

STL Export for AutoCAD adds new commands to AutoCAD. The commands added are:

- 1) STLExport - Exports a STL file

STL Export for AutoCAD

- 2) STLEXPorthelp - Displays the STL Export for AutoCAD help file
- 3) STLEXPorthelp - Registers your copy of STL Export for AutoCAD
- 4) STLEXPorthelp - Displays the STL Export for AutoCAD about box

Sample Files:

=====

Sample files are copied into the Samples folder which is located in the STL Export for AutoCAD installation folder (typically "C:\Program Files\SYCODE\STL Export for AutoCAD\"). You can try STL Export for AutoCAD using these sample files.

Support:

=====

For support, please E-Mail support@sycode.com

Contact

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Fax	+91 832 2416615
E-Mail	info@sycode.com
Web Site	http://www.sycode.com

Command Reference

STL Export for AutoCAD adds new commands to AutoCAD and a submenu called *STLExport* which houses them. The new commands are:

STLExport	Exports a STL file
STLExportHelp	Displays the <i>STL Export for AutoCAD</i> help file
STLExportRegister	Registers your copy of <i>STL Export for AutoCAD</i>
STLExportAbout	Displays the <i>STL Export for AutoCAD</i> about box

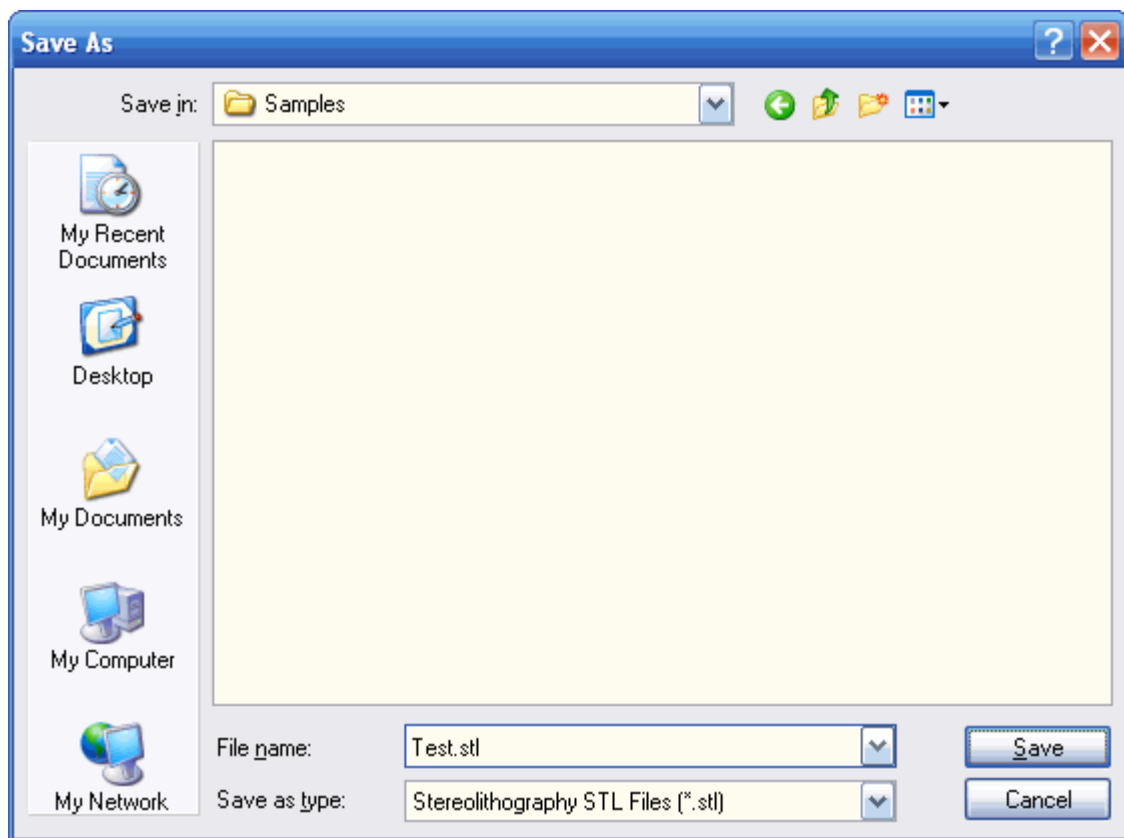
STLExport

Menu Button	STLExport > Export
Command	STLExport

This command exports geometric data from AutoCAD to ASCII and Binary STL files.

To export a STL file

1. Select *Export* from the "STLExport" menu or type *STLExport* at the AutoCAD command prompt and press *Enter*.
2. At the AutoCAD "Select objects" prompt, select the objects that you wish to export. Press *Enter* when done.
3. The AutoCAD "Save As" dialog box is displayed. Enter the output file name of an STL file and click *Save*.



4. The "STL Export for AutoCAD Options" dialog box is displayed. Set the options as required and click *OK*.

STLExportHelp

Menu Button	STLExport > Help
Command	STLExportHelp

This command displays the help file. The [Welcome](#) page is a good place to start.

STLExportRegister

Menu Button	STLExport > Register
Command	STLExportRegister

This command is used to register your copy of *STL Export for AutoCAD*.

You need a license key to start using the software. A license key can be of two types: Trial or Permanent. A trial key is issued to you instantly and completely free of cost so that you may try the software before you purchase a license. A permanent key is issued after you have purchased a license.

The screenshot shows a window titled "SYCODE License Server". It contains the following fields and buttons:

- Product Name:** STL Export for AutoCAD 2010 version 1.0
- Host ID:** 00-1D-7D-FD-AD-1D
- License Key:** vWPCEMleui675.mdncv2AT941K0B02hD00204RLB40AA2gFm B0DKDN80z91B703Y05SvB0C79D4E5AFC070A1401EtBAYic E59rfC414E560qp7BAHw8ZYLSJUw/kdo2309
- Buttons:** Buy Online, Request Key, Update Key, How do I get a license key?, Close
- License Key Parameters:**
 - Key type: Trial
 - Expires: 17-Aug-2009
 - Runs remaining: 10

How do I get a Trial Key?

Simply click the 'Request Key' button and select 'TRIAL KEY' as the type of key being requested. Fill the form and submit it. A trial key will be immediately sent to you by email.

How do I get a Permanent Key?

To get a permanent key you need to have already purchased a license. If you have not yet purchased a license you can do so by clicking the 'Buy Online' button. After you place your order click the 'Request Key' button and select 'PERMANENT KEY' as the type of key being requested. Fill the form and submit it. Your order will be verified and a permanent key will be sent to you by email within one business day.

IMPORTANT:

(1) Please ensure that your computer is connected to the internet before you request for a key.

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- (2) Please be sure to enter a valid email address as the key will be sent to you by email.
- (3) To avoid disruption in your work-flow we urge you to place your order before the trial period ends.

If you need anything else please send an email to register@sycode.com

STLExportAbout

Menu Button	STLExport > About
Command	STLExportAbout

This command displays the *STL Export for AutoCAD* About box. The About box lists the software and its version.



Tutorial

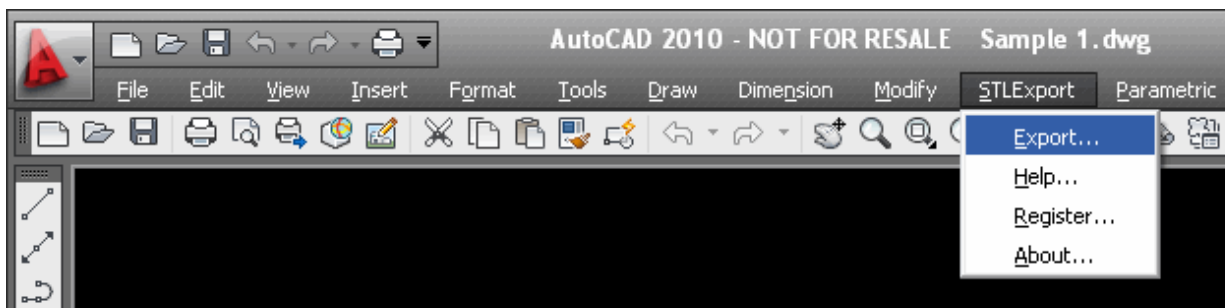
Tutorial

This tutorial provides the necessary information and hands-on experience to help you get started with *STL Export for AutoCAD*.

Step 1: Start AutoCAD.

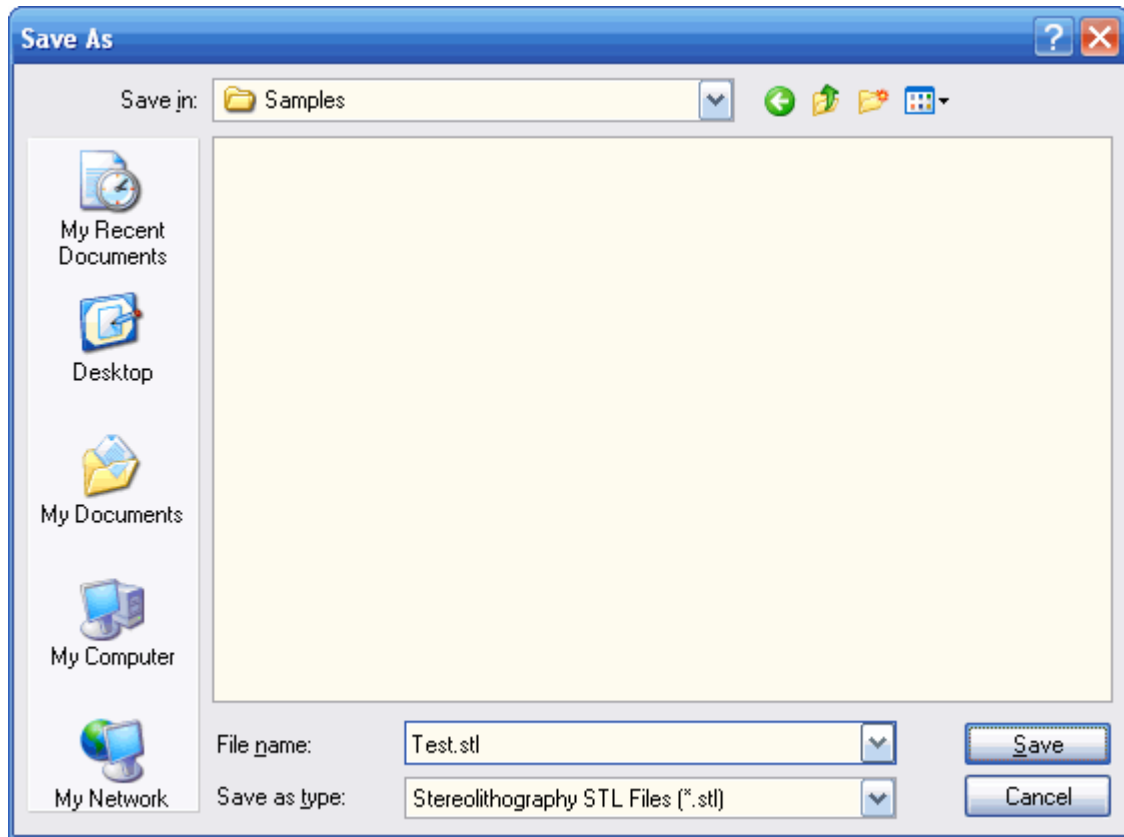
Step 2: Select "Open" from the AutoCAD file menu. The "Select File" dialog box is displayed. Browse for the file typically located at "C:\Program Files\SYCODE\STL Export for AutoCAD\Samples\Sample 1.dwg" and click *Open*.

Step 3: Select *Export* from the "STLExport" menu or type *STLExport* at the AutoCAD command prompt and press *Enter*.

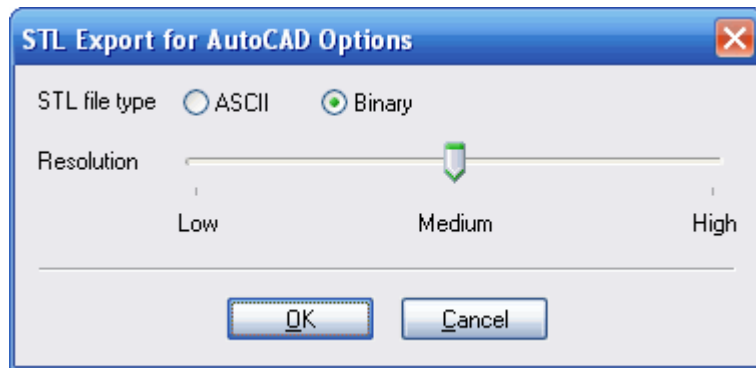


Step 4: At the AutoCAD "Select objects" prompt, select the objects you wish to export. Press *Enter* when done.

Step 5: The AutoCAD "Save As" dialog box is displayed. Enter the output file name of an STL file and click *Save*.



Step 6: The "STL Export for AutoCAD Options" dialog box is displayed. Set the options as required and click *OK*.



The model will be exported to the STL file you specified.