

# AutoCAD 2006: One Step at a Time

## Plot Style Setup Supplement\*

S2

### Plot Styles

Believe it or not, there will be times when you must ask yourself, "Do I want to print it the way I drew it or some other way – different lineweights, linetypes, colors, etc.?" Personally, I've always been a firm advocate of *WYSIWYG* technology (see the insert below), but there will be times when a change at plot time is necessary. (Some folks even prefer to set lineweights and linetypes at plot time!?) For example, my printer uses color. I like that, but I can't afford the cost of printer cartridges when I must print working drawings in full color. So I prefer to print in black-and-white until the final product is ready. With plot styles, I can do that without affecting the drawing. (Of course, for those of you who would rather wait until you create a plot to see what it looks like, you can always set weights and types using plot styles.)

**WYSIWYG** (pronounced "whiz-ee-wig") – literally, "What You See Is What You Get" – simply means that what appears on your screen is what will appear on your paper. This may seem obvious (and generally is for other types of documents). But some gurus prefer to assign (or change) such things as lineweights, linetypes, or colors at plot time rather than during the drawing setup.

Two types of plot styles exist from which you can build specific style tables of your own. (A *plot style table* is a style setup – this is where you'll tell AutoCAD what color, linetypes, etc. to use when you plot a drawing.) The types of styles are **Color Dependent Plot Style (CTB)** and **Named Plot Style (STB)**.

CTBs ensure that all objects drawn on a specific color plot the same way. You can't change CTBs for specific objects, but you can assign different styles to different plot layouts.

Use an STB to create your own plot style table. You can assign an STB to an object just as you can assign a layer, color, or linetype (Lesson 6).

If you don't assign a plot style during plotting, AutoCAD will plot using *WYSIWYG* procedures (what you see on your screen in terms of color, linetype, lineweight, etc. is what AutoCAD will plot).

The most important thing to remember about plot styles is timing. You must create the drawing with the correct plot style – you can't change the style once the drawing has been created. AutoCAD has an easy way to do this – it has provided many templates with predefined plot style setups from which to choose.




AutoCAD helps create and manage plot styles with the **Plot Style Table Wizard**. Let's set up an STB table for our *PID-21* drawing to see how it works. (Note: This drawing was created to use an STB.)

**Do This:**  
S2.1

#### Set Up a Plot Style

- I. Open the *pid-21.dwg* file. It's in the C:\Steps\Lesson21 folder.
- II. Zoom extents.
- III. Follow these steps.

\* From *AutoCAD 2004: One Step at a Time*

TOOLS	COMMAND SEQUENCE	STEPS
	<b>Command:</b> <i>stylesmanager</i>	1. Open the <b>Plot Style</b> window by typing <i>stylesmanager</i> at the command prompt or by selecting <b>Plot Style Manager ...</b> from the File pull-down menu. AutoCAD will open a Plot Styles window.
 Add-A-Plot Style Table Wizard		2. Start the <b>Add-A-Plot Style Table Wizard</b> by double-clicking on the shortcut indicated.
		3. Read the Add Plot Style Table dialog box that AutoCAD presents. Then pick the <b>Next &gt;</b> button to proceed.
		4. Notice the four choices in the Begin dialog box. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Start from scratch</b> allows you to start a fresh setup.</li> <li>• <b>Use an existing plot style table</b> allows you to create a new setup using the settings in an existing setup as a starting point.</li> <li>• The last two (<b>Use My R14 Plotter Configuration</b> and <b>Use a PCP or PC2 file</b>) allow you to convert plotter setups from earlier releases of AutoCAD.</li> </ul> We'll start from scratch (S2.001). Pick the <b>Next &gt;</b> button.

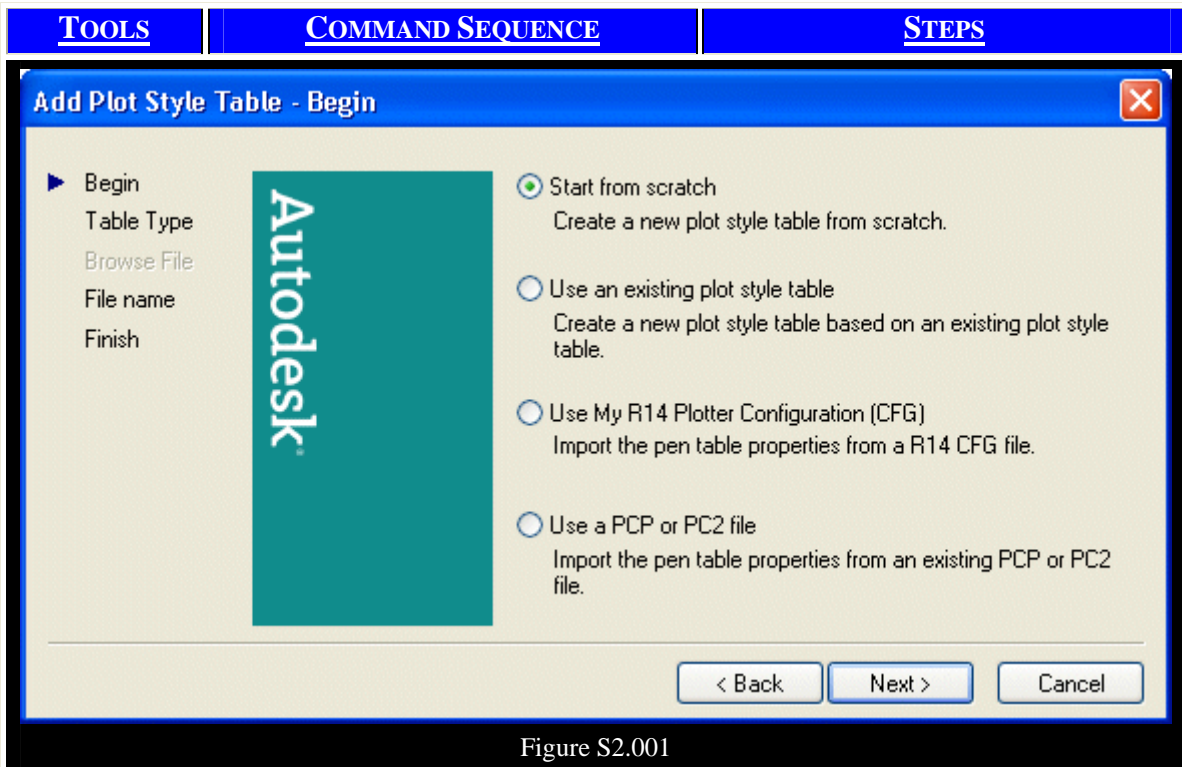


Figure S2.001

		<p>5. Now AutoCAD asks for the type of style you'll create. Let's opt for the <b>Named Plot Style Table</b> (Figure S2.002) where we can create our own styles.</p> <p>Pick the <b>Next &gt;</b> button to continue.</p>
<p>Next &gt;</p>		

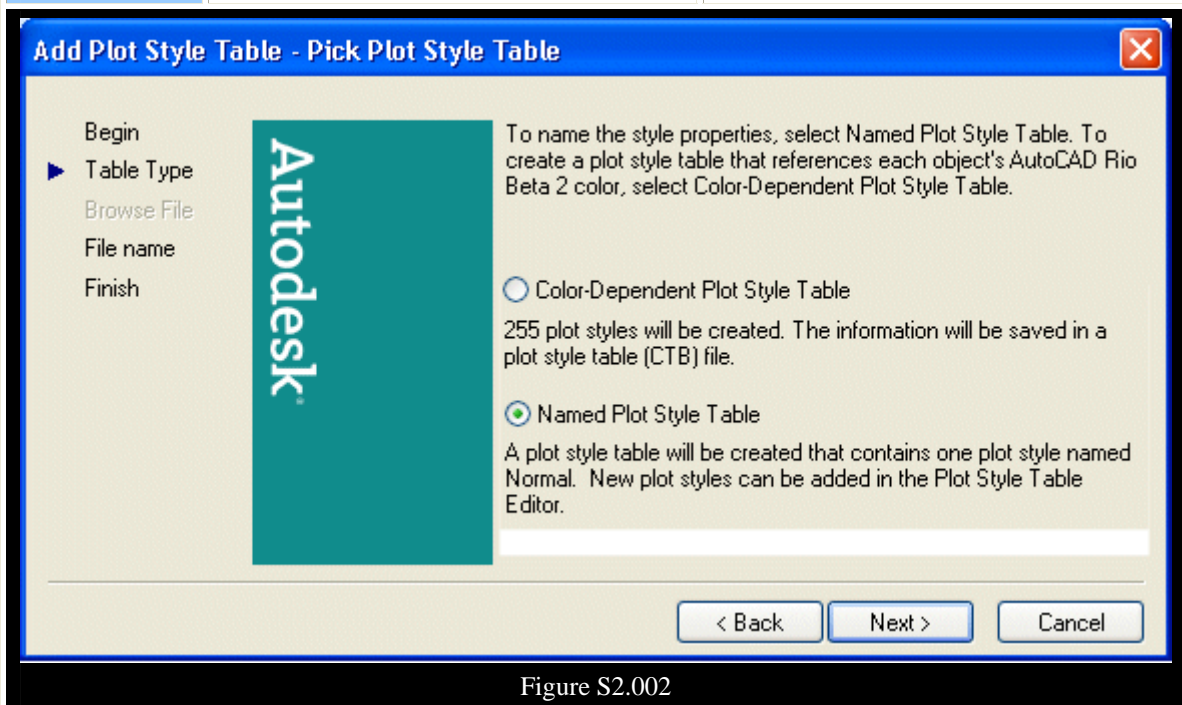


Figure S2.002

TOOLS	COMMAND SEQUENCE	STEPS
<p>File name :</p> <p>My First Table</p>		<p>6. Name your new table (Figure S2.003).</p> <p>Pick the <b>Next &gt;</b> button to continue.</p>
<p>Plot Style Table Editor ...</p>		<p>7. AutoCAD tells you that your Plot Style Table has been created. But now you must set up your table using the Plot Style Table Editor. Pick that button.</p>
		<p>8. AutoCAD presents the Plot Style Table Editor (Figure S2.004). Notice the three tabs available to assist you.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On the <b>General</b> tab, you can add a written description of the table being edited or change the linetype global scale factor (Lesson 6).</li> <li>• The <b>Table View</b> and <b>Form View</b> tabs offer different formats for doing the same thing – editing the style settings. We'll use the columns format on the Table View tab shown.</li> </ul> <p>Pick the <b>Add Style</b> button.</p>

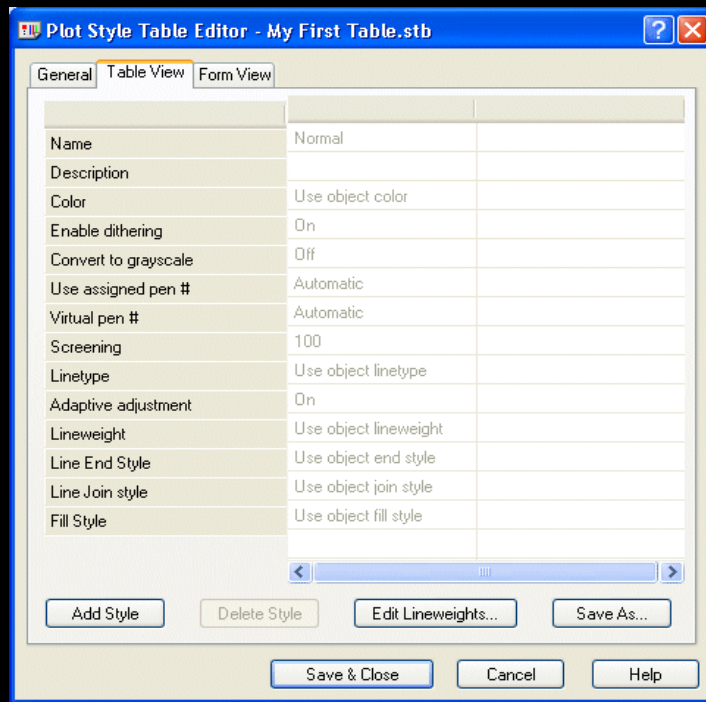


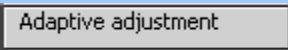

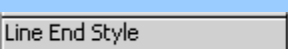


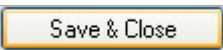



Figure S2.004

TOOLS	COMMAND SEQUENCE	STEPS
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">My Style</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-top: 2px;">Use object color</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-top: 2px;">On</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-top: 2px;">On</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-top: 2px;">Automatic</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-top: 2px;">Automatic</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-top: 2px;">100</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-top: 2px;">Use object linetype</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-top: 2px;">On</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-top: 2px;">Use object lineweight</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-top: 2px;">Use object end style</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-top: 2px;">Use object join style</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-top: 2px;">Use object fill style</div>		<p>9. Notice that AutoCAD adds a new style next to the <b>Normal</b> style. We'll edit the new style. (AutoCAD won't allow you to change or delete the <b>Normal</b> style.) Let's look at each of our options (refer to the figure at left). (Note: We'll discuss each variable in more detail over the course of our text; but for now, please leave all settings at their defaults unless instructed otherwise.)</p>

ROW	DEFAULT SETTING	EXPLANATION
<input type="text" value="Name"/>	<b>Style 1</b>	a. This is the default name – rename it to <i>MyStyle</i> .
<input type="text" value="Description"/>	[blank]	b. You can enter a description of the style if desired.
<input type="text" value="Color"/>	<b>Use object color</b>	c. Each object has an assigned color (Lesson 6). You can override the color assignment here.
<input type="text" value="Enable dithering"/>	<b>On</b>	d. Dithering is a printer's (plotter's) way of approximating colors by combining the Red/Green/Blue inks in its cartridges. It's best to leave this enabled ( <b>On</b> ).
<input type="text" value="Convert to grayscale"/>	<b>Off</b>	e. We'll enable this one by selecting <b>On</b> from the drop down list box (pick in the box to see the selections). This way, AutoCAD will send grayscale information (colors interpreted in levels of black and white) to the printer.
<input type="text" value="Use assigned pen #"/>	<b>Automatic</b>	f. Here you can assign colors to specific pens on multi-pen plotters. When left at its default ( <b>Automatic</b> ), AutoCAD assigns the drawing color to the pen that most nearly approximates it.
<input type="text" value="Virtual pen #"/>	<b>Automatic</b>	g. This is identical to the previous setting, but it's used for non-pen plotters that use virtual settings to mimic pens. See your plotter manual if you're not sure what you're using.

<u>TOOLS</u>	<u>COMMAND SEQUENCE</u>	<u>STEPS</u>
	<b>100</b>	h. Sets color intensity (how much ink to use when printing). A setting of 100 is most intense;; a setting of 0 will reduce the color to white.
	<b>Use object linetype</b>	i. You can set linetypes (Lesson 6) when plotting. This will override linetype settings made in the drawing.
	<b>On</b>	j. You can insist that linetype patterns (lesson 6) be completed regardless of drawing settings using this box. It's best to leave this enabled.
	<b>Use object lineweight</b>	k. You can set lineweights (Lesson 6) when plotting. This will override lineweight settings made in the drawing.
	<b>Use object end style</b>	l. You can set line end styles when plotting. This will override end style settings made in the drawing.
	<b>Use object join style</b>	m. You can set line join styles when plotting. This will override join style settings made in the drawing.
	<b>Use object fill style</b>	n. You can set the fill style when plotting. This will override fill style settings made in the drawing.
		10. The new style should now look like the figure in Step 9. Pick the <b>Save &amp; Close</b> button.
		11. You're back in the <b>Add Plot Style Table Wizard</b> again. Pick the <b>Finish</b> button to complete the procedure.

You've now used two methods for setting up black-and-white plotting – the Plot Style Wizard just shown and the Add a Plotter Wizard discussed in the Plotter Settings supplement. It might fortify you a bit to remember that the procedures in these two supplements need only be done as setup procedures – *not* every time you need to print a drawing. And remember - *you need only concern yourself with plot styles if you don't want WYSIWYG plotting!*