

Installing The Trotec Job Manager with AutoCAD

(originally written for Job Manager 7.4.3, Windows XP, and Driver 8.052, but this process should work for subsequent versions)

- Install AutoCAD 200X, Job Control 7.4.3 and the Trotec Driver v8.0.5.2
- Go to Control Panel and then double-click on Printers & Faxes
- Right-click on the Trotec Driver v8.0.5.2 and then select Printing Preferences
- Check the box that says Take from Application and then click on Wrench button under Size Settings
- Define some common page sizes that you would use in the machine. You will design within these page sizes in AutoCAD. When you exit the Printing Preferences window, be sure to press OK.
- Open AutoCAD and make a white box that is the same size as one of the pages you created in the driver to orient your objects to.
- Once you are done designing, click File->Plot
- Under the Plot Device tab, change the plotter to Trotec Engraver v8.0.5.2
- Click Properties and then go to the Device & Document Settings tab
- Go to Modify Standard Paper Sizes, choose the page size you are using and click Modify
- Change each of the border numbers here to 0 and click Next and then Finish. You should only have to do this the first time you use each page size although some earlier versions of ACAD don't save this correctly in the PC3 file
- Click OK and then click YES to save the settings as a .PC3 file
- Go to the Plot Settings tab and change the page size to the size you designed in
- Click on the Window < button under Plot Area and then select the top left and bottom right corners of your bounding box.
- Select Portrait under Drawing Orientation.
- Verify that the Plot Scale is correct; If you are working in millimeters, it should be 1 inches = 25.4 drawing units, otherwise it should be 1 =1 for inches.
- You are now finally ready to send the job to Job Control. Click OK and name the job as you normally would.
- From now on, always make sure you choose Trotec Engraver v8.0.5.2.pc3 as the plot driver. This has all of the settings saved into it so you should not have to go through this whole process with every job.

Optional Steps

Automatic cut line thickness:

- To make for less design work, you can define each color's line thickness in a plotter profile so they will always be recognized as cut lines by the Trotec driver.
- To do this, click File->Plot Style Manager and double-click on acad.ctb.
- Go to the Form View tab and change the Lineweight to 0.0000 for each color that you use for cutting.

Alternate Engraving Color:

- Since most AutoCAD users use the black background, it is impossible to effectively use black as the engraving color. We can get around this by changing the output color of one of the AutoCAD colors to black.
- Choose a color that you don't normally use and change the color from "Use object color" to black.
- Now you can use that color for your engraving and it will print as black into Job Control.