

TC01

LEARNING TO USE TURBOCAD

TurboCAD 2017 for Windows

APPLICABLE TO VERSIONS OF TURBOCAD 2017 -

- DESIGNER (2D ONLY)
- EXPERT FORMERLY CALLED DELUXE: (2D & VERY LIMITED 3D),
- PROFESSIONAL (2D & FULL 3D)
- PLATINUM (PRO + MECHANICAL & ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES)

With notes on variations in pre-2017 editions

A step-by-step learning guide to everything you need to know for the efficient use of TurboCAD and to do all types of 2D drafting. For people entirely new to CAD, and also for those familiar with AutoCAD.

This TC01 module is a prerequisite to any of our TurboCAD 3D modules.

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Introduction

This book applies to TurboCAD Expert (or Deluxe) and Professional version 2017 for Windows. It includes notes in context on variations from earlier versions where relevant. There are some topics covered in the latter part of this manual that are only found in TurboCAD Professional, and they are noted in the chapter headings. TurboCAD Platinum is Professional plus Architectural and Mechanical add-ons.

These notes also apply to learning TurboCAD 2D Designer, the very low-cost version. That version has all 3D facilities absent, so all references here to 3D matters such as selection modes and UCS icons (even though this book is essentially about 2D work only) can to be ignored for TurboCAD 2D Designer.

These notes do not apply except in the most general sense to TurboCAD for Macintosh as that version has substantial differences, being really a different product.

This course explains the basic concepts and techniques for operating TurboCAD and for doing 2D line drawings, how to overcome the initial hurdles and how to set up the system for productive use. It does not deal at all with 3D techniques, but does cover the use of raster images, a facility that is in all versions.

Chapters 1 to 13 cover the essential basics. Chapter 14 onwards deals with more advanced or less basic topics including some rarely used facilities, and facilities only available in the Professional and Platinum editions of TurboCAD.

TurboCAD Expert (or Deluxe) differs from Pro mainly in not having the 3D solid modelling sub-system and 3D photo-realistic rendering. Expert/Deluxe does have 3D wireframe and surface modelling, but that is not usually enough for practical usage of 3D design techniques.

The most important thing about getting started with TurboCAD and using it in a productive way is to **set up your own template** that will then be used as the basis for all new drawings. Otherwise each new drawing will have the default settings which are basically for American users, even though metric. These notes include a detailed explanation of creating your own template. But because that task requires knowledge of the basic topics, it is covered in a later chapter.

This course was created for use in metric countries, which really means everywhere except USA. Most other training books are written in America and hence use feet-&-inches and American standards and drawing conventions, which are very substantially different from those used everywhere else in the world, even apart from the metric/inches issue.

These notes are intended to supplement the **TurboCAD User Manual** rather than duplicate or replace it. The TurboCAD User Manual is provided as a PDF file – tcw24.pdf – a 70Mb file, and it is installed together with the program and linked on the Help menu as “off-line help”. But that manual is more a detailed reference text to refer to when not sure of particular operations after having become familiar with TurboCAD generally. It does not present the topics in a way suitable for learning. That is the role of this book. This book also explains some tricky topics and things the manual glosses over and gives suggestions as to the most effective way where there are choices. Things that the manual covers well are not gone into deeply here. To gain a complete understanding of TurboCAD you need to read through the manual after getting used to the system.

NEW FEATURES IN TURBOCAD 2017

The new features in TC2017 that are relevant to this introductory and 2D drafting course are listed below.

- Image Management Palette (Chap 22)
- Table editing & use with Excel (Chap16)
- Timestamp in ‘Save Summary Information’ (Chap 2)
- New ePack facility (Chap 2)
- New Block options (Chap14)
- Changes to Multi-text (Chap 5)
- New Centre Mark dimension facility. (Chap 11)

There are many new features in TC 2017 but most are in the 3D areas of work. TC 2017 is supplied either as a 32-bit program or a 64-bit Windows program. If you have 64-bit Windows on the computer, it is preferable to install the 64-bit version of TurboCAD. The main advantage is much greater memory usage capability. 32-bit Windows limits you to 4Gb RAM. If you use TurboCAD for 3D and realistic 3D rendering, 3D components assembly or interactive walk-throughs, 8Gb or more of RAM is advisable, as well as an advanced type of graphic display board. For 2D line work, 32-bit, 4Gb RAM and the basic Intel motherboard graphics is quite adequate.

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