

TIPS ON USING THE OLE FEATURE IN CCD

Object Linking and Embedding (OLE) is supported by CATIA-CADAM Drafting (CCD) on the Windows platform only. Files from most Windows applications can be either linked or embedded in a CCD drawing. Though, CCD has no object restrictions, some of the most practical applications to use in a mechanical drawing are MS Excel, MS Word and picture or movie files.

Picture files, such as JPEG or bitmap, can be embedded, but keep in mind that the CCD drawing file will grow by the size of the picture or any other file type you are embedding. MPEG and AVI movie files should only be inserted as links into the drawing. Be aware that when moving/copying a drawing file that contains a link to a file, the linked file must also follow the drawing file.

Except for movie files, if you need to share the drawing file with others outside your facility, it is best to use object embedding. This way you don't have to worry about extra files.

If you have no plans to move the file to another system, then it is best to use object linking. The main advantage to this method is that if the file you are linking to is an Excel spreadsheet, for example, and one or more drawings have a link to this spreadsheet, any changes made to the spreadsheet will be automatically reflected in the drawing as well.

All the OLE functions are available from the Edit pull-down menu of CCD. You'll have the option to:

- Insert a New Object

- Delete the Object

- Show the link path

- Edit the Object

- Plot the Object

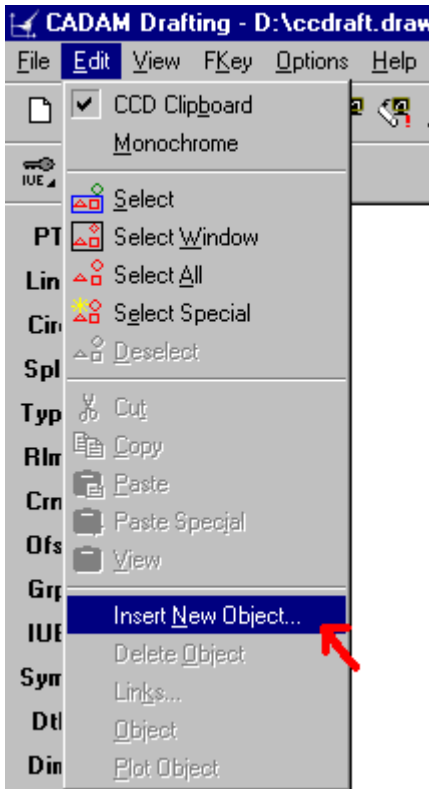
- In some cases convert the Object to another format, if available.

Plotting:

To plot embedded Windows objects you must use CCD's Windows Printer plotter option. These objects will not plot when using CCD's GPHIGS plotting method (CGM, HPGL, HPGL-2, PostScript).

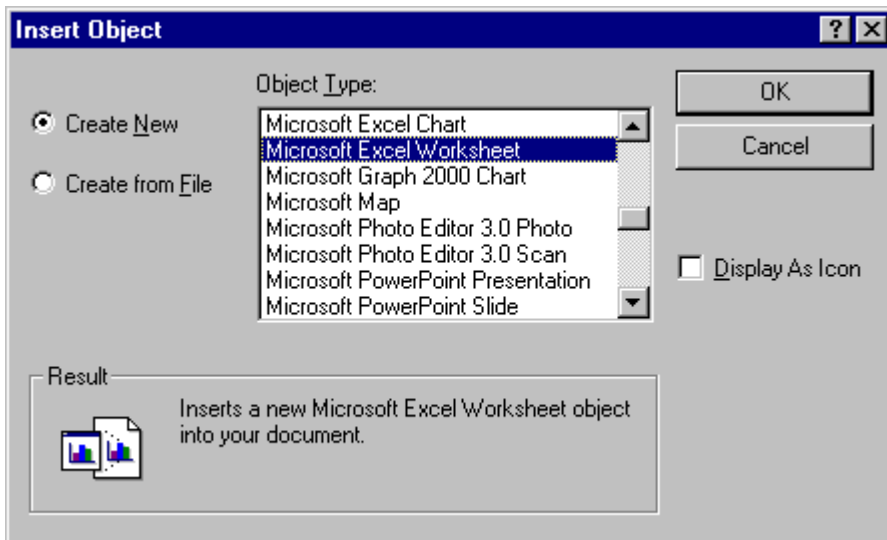
Start CCD and either start a new drawing or open an existing one. Objects are placed on PV only (placement on details or views other than PV is not supported). Since objects are scaled with window size, it is best to use a window size of 1 when displaying or editing objects from applications such as Word or Excel.

To insert an object, click on **Edit** and select **Insert New Object**.

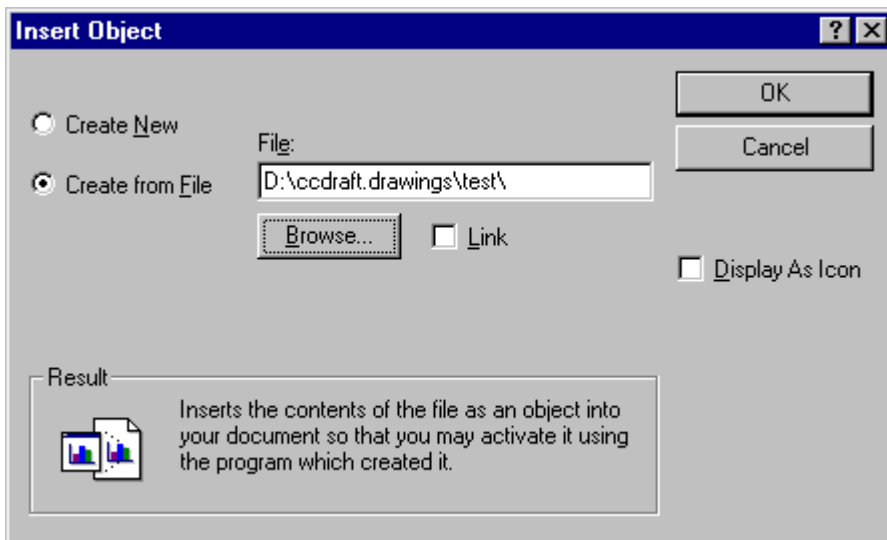


Note: If your CCD drawing has a black background, you may have to change it to a different color in order to view the document being inserted.

The next window will be displayed giving you the option to create a new object or insert from an existing file (Create from File). If you select to Create New, select the Object Type and click OK. A copy of the default template of the object type you selected will be displayed and placed on the current drawing view. At this point you can click and drag the object anywhere on the drawing and use the editing tools available with that particular application to create the desired results.

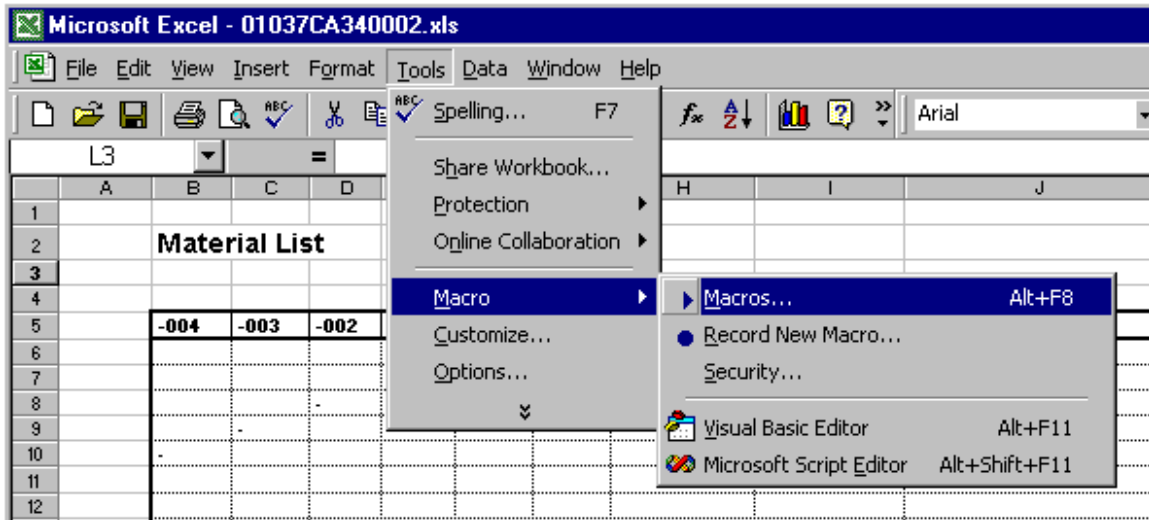


If you decide to insert an existing file (Create from File), notice that you have two options, **Link** or **Display As Icon**. Select **Link** if you don't plan to embed the object into your drawing and simply want a link to it. A link, though, still displays the contents of the object on your drawing giving you also the option to plot it. **Select Display As Icon**, if you do not want the contents of the object to be displayed, unless you click on the icon.



Invoking CCD from a Windows application with macro capabilities.

Run CCD from an Excel spreadsheet by defining a simple macro.



Sample Excel Macro syntax in Visual Basic language to start CCD:

Note that CCD gives you the option to start with a drawing name (-m). This allows you to connect the Excel spreadsheet with a specific drawing. Also note that the logic in this macro will not automatically start another session of CCD unless an OK is given.

Two sample scenarios follow. In the first, the macro reads the drawing name from an Excel cell, called InputCell in the example. The second method displays a dialog box for the user to type the file name. In either case, the complete file name must be given for example: d:\ccdraft\samples\instal\test_car.cdd

Sample 1:

```
Option Base 1
Sub StartCCD()
Dim CCDId
Dim FileName As String

    On Error GoTo 102
    AppActivate "CADAM Drafting"
    AppActivate "Microsoft Excel"
    If MsgBox("CCD already running. Launch another one?", vbYesNo) = vbNo Then Exit Sub

103 Range("InputCell").Select
    FileName = ActiveCell
    If FileName = "" Then Exit Sub
    On Error GoTo 101
    CCDId = Shell("d:\ccdraft\bin\ccdraft -m " & Chr(34) & FileName & Chr(34), bMaximizedFocus)
    ' Note that the file name is passed on to CCD enclosed with quotation marks, Chr(34).
    ' Quotation marks are required if there are spaces in the path or file name.

    On Error GoTo 100

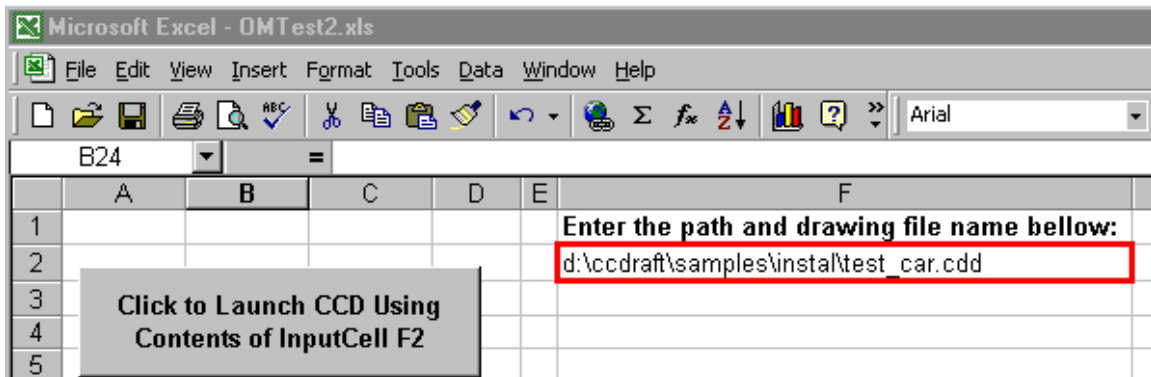
Exit Sub

100 MsgBox "Error " & Err & " has occurred. (" & Err.Description & ".)"
Exit Sub

101 MsgBox "CCD launch unsuccessful."
Exit Sub

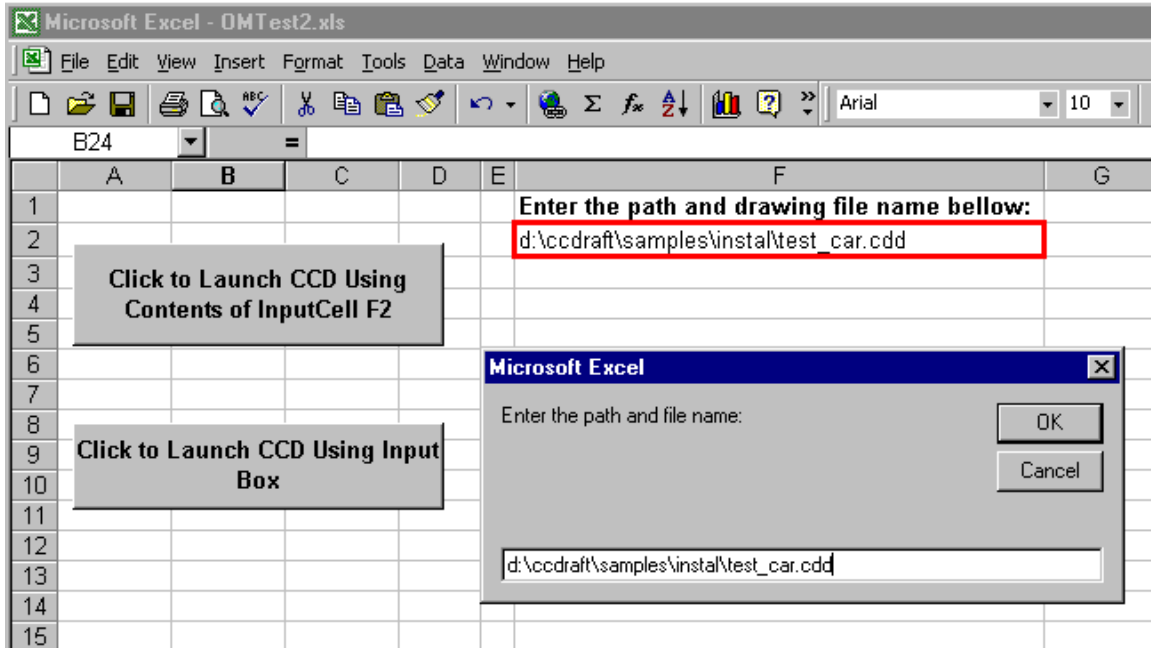
102 Resume 103

End Sub
```



Sample 2:

```
Sub StartCCD()  
Dim CCDId  
Dim FileName As String  
  
    On Error GoTo 102  
    AppActivate "CADAM Drafting"  
    AppActivate "Microsoft Excel"  
    If MsgBox("CCD already running. Launch another one?", vbYesNo) = vbNo Then Exit Sub  
  
103 FileName = InputBox("Enter the path and file name:")  
    If FileName = "" Then Exit Sub  
    On Error GoTo 101  
    CCDId = Shell("d:\ccdraft\bin\ccdraft -m " & Chr(34) & FileName & Chr(34), bMaximizedFocus)  
    ' Note that the file name is passed on to CCD enclosed with quotation marks, Chr(34).  
    ' Quotation marks are required if there are spaces in the path or file name.  
  
    On Error GoTo 100  
  
    Exit Sub  
  
100 MsgBox "Error " & Err & " has occurred. (" & Err.Description & ".)"  
    Exit Sub  
  
101 MsgBox "CCD launch unsuccessful."  
    Exit Sub  
  
102 Resume 103  
  
End Sub
```



Add a button and assign it to appropriate macro. Excel gives you many pictures to choose from. Select Insert/Picture to add the desired button picture. Once you size and choose a location for the button add meaningful text to it. Then, right-click on the new button and assign it to the macro.

Of course, the PC you are running Excel on must also be able to run CCD and have access to the drawing referenced by the spreadsheet.

Note: In some cases, CCD may not start on top every time. Check the task bar if you don't see it come up. Of course, if you try to start CCD again and it is already running, the message "CCD already running. Launch another one?" will be displayed. See the macro code above.