

Comparing Cobalt™ to Pro/E



Intended Use

Cobalt is created especially for product and industrial designers going to traditional manufacturing processes. It is specifically for design engineers requiring a high degree of stylization, efficient design variation, and precision engineering.

Pro/E is aimed at mechanical engineers, machine designers, sheet metal fabricators, and those doing large industrial equipment. None of these demand a great deal of stylization. With an investment in additional modules, Pro/E provides limited stylization functionality.

Cobalt's Advantages in a Nutshell

Cobalt takes you from initial concept and visualization, through rapid prototyping, to precision engineering, into marketing presentations, and finally to precision output for CAM. It has the ability to create any shape imaginable and the power to precisely manufacture it. The natural workflow of Ashlar-Vellum's award winning interface gives you all the power to design without the software impeding the creative process. Not only does Cobalt provide an interactive hybrid of surface and solid modeling, on-demand dimensional constraints, drafting, rendering and animation, all in one package, but it does so on both Mac and Windows. Cobalt brings real productivity with the power to create what you want, in the manner you wish to work, through an interface that works the way you think.

Why would anyone Buy Pro/E?

While Cobalt excels in concept and complex 3D modeling, Pro/E Wildfire is currently stronger in handling large assemblies. If you do mechanical assemblies with parts or subassemblies in auxiliary files, SolidWorks, Inventor, CATIA or Solid Edge are also worth considering. If you are just now growing into using large assemblies, Cobalt is quickly catching up with these functions.

Cobalt's Benefits

- Cobalt allows you to think through an idea in 3D, not just document an idea that's already developed. Cobalt makes creating multiple concept ideas an extremely easy task because its dimensional constraints are used on-demand. Pro/E's constraints are required at all times, slowing the initial stages of an idea.
- Cobalt is so easy to learn and use that it is accessible to everyone needing 3D surface and solid modeling. Unlike Pro/E, once learned, Cobalt's intuitive interface offers excellent productivity to those who use it only occasionally. This makes any investment in Cobalt training pay off at a higher rate and over a longer period than Pro/E.
- Cobalt accommodates multi-part assemblies in one file, unlike Pro/E, where each part must be parametrically defined in separate files from conception.
- Cobalt runs on both Mac and PC, providing cross-platform compatibility. Pro/E is limited to the PC.
- Cobalt provides true interactive hybrid surface and solid modeling for seamless use of one tool and then another. Pro/E requires additional models to do this at a higher price with less ease of use.
- Cobalt offers an excellent value. Pro/E's base price is moderate but requires a number of additional modules to facilitate the design of highly stylized objects.
- Cobalt contains everything needed from concept development and visualization, through rapid prototyping and marketing presentations, to precision drawings and CAM output. Pro/E requires several add-on packages to be comparable.

Comparison at the 40,000 Foot Level

This chart represents a broad-brush comparison of Cobalt to Pro/E. The dots represent a full complement of those features available across all 3D modeling and CAD products on the market. The filled dots represent the percentage of that category's features covered by that product. This is a subjective analysis not a scientific survey, but if you add the feature scores for each product and then compare the price, you'll find the superior value of Cobalt.

Feature	\$\$\$	Unified Design Environment	Integrated Solids	Integrated Surfaces	Integrated Wireframe Creation	2D Drafting from 3D Model	2D Drafting NOT from Model	Rendering/ Animation	Think thru Problem in 3D	Repurpose Geometry	Easy Learning Curve
Cobalt v7	\$3995 complete	●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●○	●●●●●	●●●●○	●●●●●	●●●●○	●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●
Pro/E Wildfire	\$4995	○●●●○	●●●●●	○●●●○	○●●●○	●●●●●	○●●●○	○●●●○	●○●●○	●○●●○	●○●●○

The Concept to Manufacture Continuum

Another way to compare Cobalt and Pro/E is to see how strong each one is at certain steps along the path from product concept, through visualization, clear to final manufacturing.

