

The Design Explorer

The Ashlar-Vellum User Newsletter

Third Quarter, 2017



Announcing Graphite™ v11

The next version of Graphite, version 11, is in the works and anticipated to release in mid-November. This new release will be somewhat smaller than some of our version upgrades in the past, with a lower price to reflect it. In this upgrade will be:

- Support for the latest operating systems including Mac High Sierra.
- Support AutoCAD DXF/DWG 2018 import and export.
- Bug fixes and feature enhancements.

As usual, we're offering a special pre-release sales price which will increase upon release. Those who upgrade now to v11 will be eligible for our beta program with incremental features including immediate support for Mac OS 10.13 High Sierra.

	Now until Release	Upon Release
Graphite v10 to v11	US \$125	US \$145
Graphite v9 to v11	US \$320	US \$340
Graphite v8 to v11	US \$620	US \$640

Those on monthly or yearly subscription or who purchased a new or upgraded license to v10 on or after July 1st, 2017 will receive the upgrade at no charge. New license pricing remains the same. ❖



Announcing Cobalt™, Xenon™ & Argon™ v10

We're also preparing for the next versions of Cobalt, Xenon and Argon v10. Again, the release is expected in mid-November. Like Graphite, the new things in our 3D modeling software will include:

- Support for the latest operating systems including Mac High Sierra.
- Support AutoCAD DXF/DWG 2018 import and export.
- Bug fixes and feature enhancements.

We are also offering special pre-release pricing. Upgrading now to v10 makes you eligible for our beta program with immediate support for Mac OS 10.13 High Sierra.

	Now until Release	Upon Release
Cobalt, Xenon or Argon v9 to v10	US \$125	US \$145
Cobalt, Xenon or Argon v8 to v10	US \$320	US \$340

Subscription holders and those who purchased v10 on or after July 1st, 2017 are eligible for the upgrade at no charge. New license pricing remains the same. ❖

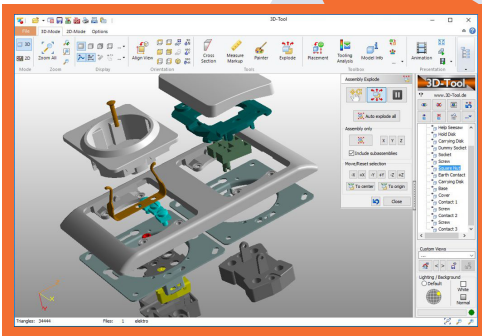
The Lows of High Sierra

On Monday, September 25th, Apple released their latest Mac operating system OS X 10.13 called High Sierra. Our developers and testers have worked diligently with Apple and we had high hopes that several issues in the new OS would be resolved before release. Alas that was not the case for us nor for a number of other software developers on Apple including MicroSoft Office for the Mac.

The High Sierra operating system specifically conflicts

with the DXF/DWG translation capabilities that are purchased by us and a number of other graphics developers from the Open Design Alliance.

Ashlar-Vellum technical support has a solution to mitigate this issue if you must upgrade to High Sierra immediately. You'll need to upgrade to Graphite v11 or Cobalt, Xenon or Argon v10 and receive the immediate beta release with support for DXF/DWG 2017 that works with High Sierra. ❖



3D-Tool for Low Cost File Translation

Need to import files from SolidWorks, Autodesk Inventor, Catia, Pro/E and Siemens Unigraphics? While Ashlar-Vellum 3D modeling products have extensive file import capabilities included, sometimes you need translations that are beyond our list. The 3D-Tool CAD viewer and converter supports an extended list of file formats, translating them to .SAT files that can easily be read by any of Ashlar-Vellum's 3D modeling programs.

3D-Tool runs on Windows 7, 8.1 and 10. It will also run on the Mac

under VMware Fusion, Parallels or Virtual Box. Single user licenses range from €150 to €600 and are available from 3D-Tool GmbH & Co. in Weinheim, Germany. [Click here to download a free 14-day trial.](#)

Ashlar-Vellum is continuing to test 3D-Tool under Crossover/WINE on the Mac, but have so far been unsuccessful. If we are successful, we intend to resell 3D-Tool in this configuration for our Mac customers, with an extra charge for installation and support. ❖

Scripts Solve Issues in Graphite

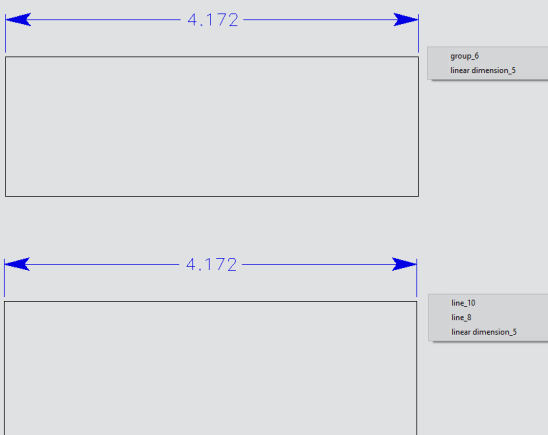
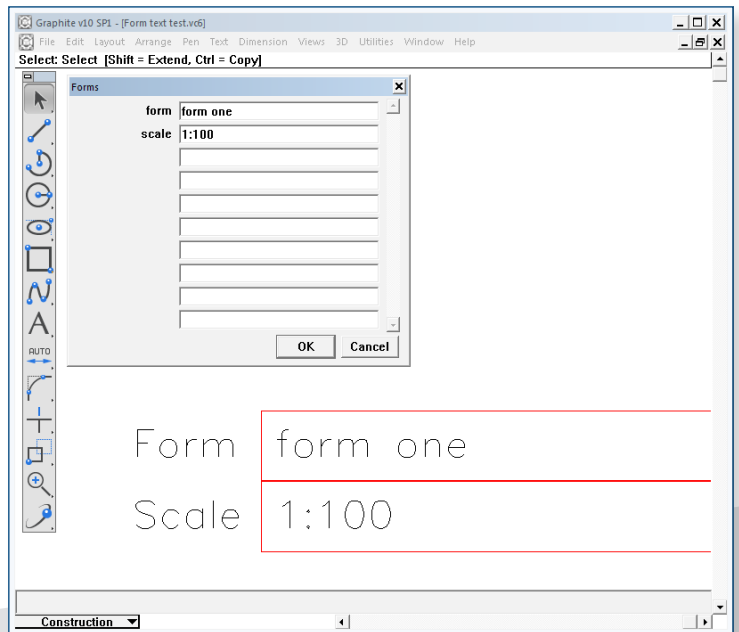
A number of new scripts have been added to Support Suite by our technical team that solve particular issues or provide a function that is needed by a small set of customers.

Opening Read-Only Files

This script allows you to open files that are in a read-only directory. Users must remember that they cannot then save these files again into that read-only directory. Any changes must be saved under a new file name in a directory with read/write permissions. [Click here to download the Open Read-Only Files script.](#)

Text Form Width

The Forms window in Graphite does not automatically resize like other windows do, making it inconvenient for longer lines of characters. Use this script to increase the width of the window from 280 pixels to 380 pixels. [Click here for the Text Form Width script.](#)



Disable Zoom on Mouse Scroll

Several users have requested a way to turn off the zoom feature on the mouse's scroll wheel as it seems awkward for them to use. To disable the zoom in and out function on the mouse's scroll download and install the [script found here.](#)

Ungroup without Dimensions

Use this script to ungroup deeply nested groups without breaking apart dimension entities. Use Graphite's regular Explode tool when dimensions need to be broken into entities. [Click here to download the Ungroup without Dimensions script.](#) ❖



Simplicity Pays Off

Andy Marshall's focus on simplicity has led THD Electronics to award-winning recognition in the field of guitar amplification. THD amplifiers have attained a level of flexibility and quality no other manufacturer can reproduce. Cobalt™ 3D modeling software has significantly helped Andy as he designs with his musician customers in mind.

The THD line of amplifiers have drawn a world-wide fan base which includes well known musicians Eric Clapton, Peter Buck, Bob Dylan, Mark Knopfler, Jimmy Page, Ben Harper, and Eric Johnson, just to name a few.

For over 19 years, Andy's work has built a reputation for quality that enabled THD to initiate the American "boutique" amplifier market. As a result of his efforts in this market, Andy hears daily from guitarists who are pleased with the consistent quality in the 3- and 4-channel guitar amplifiers. All channels provide a distinctive sound—extremely important for recording artists and sound aficionados.

« *As our products grow more complex, Cobalt's ability to show me what a product and its component parts will look like helps me to completely visualize the product and 'turn it over in my hands' before we ever stamp a piece of metal or machine a piece of plastic or wood.* »

With current projects in mind, Andy looks to Ashlar-Vellum's Cobalt CAD and 3D modeling software to provide ease of use in design. Andy states that Cobalt has enabled him to catch errors early in the design phase.

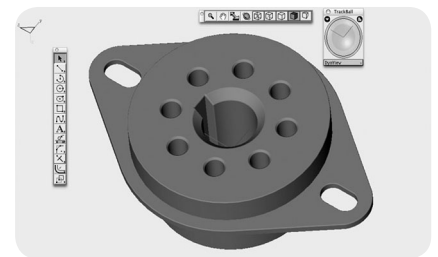
Because of his years of experience in the music world, Andy designs with an artist's ear and touch. His amplifiers have a distinctive sound, yet an uncommon ease of use. Andy can't imagine "ever designing another product without Cobalt." His experience with Cobalt has proven that this 3D modeling software substantially shortens his time-to-market. Overall he credits Ashlar-Vellum Cobalt with saving him "a stunning amount of time, money, and general grief." Ashlar-Vellum is happy to be part of the THD success story and we look forward to being a part of THD's growth in the future. 



Providing a distinctive sound for their customers as well as an uncommon ease of use is something Andy has achieved through years of experience in the music industry. Now he has turned to Cobalt 3D modeling software to provide him with the same ease of use for his current design needs.



These Yellow Jacket converters allow for the use of different types of tubes within the same amplifier, one of many design innovations from THD.



This Cobalt screen capture from THD Electronics, shows a 3D model of a phenolic octal relay socket that is essentially a copy of the old Amphenol tube socket from the '50s.

Background/Contact

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