



BluePrint-PCB®

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Introduction

There is often uncertainty created about what is meant by terms such as “IMPORT”, “EMBED” and “INSERT” because these terms are used so interchangeably. For example, the terms INSERT and EMBED often are used interchangeably for describing the “bringing in” or “insertion” of a file of one format in its native mode into another file of a different format (e.g., an excel spreadsheet inserted into a word document). But EMBED is also a term used to describe a different capability – Object linking and EMBEDDING (OLE).

The purpose of this document is to define these terms for purposes of properly understanding what BluePrint’s full capabilities are. This document also describes which of these capabilities are included in each BluePrint configuration

IMPORTING

In BluePrint, this means bringing in a file of a format that is different than BluePrint, and converting it to BluePrint format so that it can be used as a drawing element. For example, if one were to IMPORT a DXF file, then it gets converted to a BluePrint element and can be used on a drawing. The same is true when importing a PDF file. This definition would not be complete without also defining the opposite of IMPORT, which would be EXPORT. In BluePrint this means simply to convert BluePrint drawing sheets to another file format. For example, if one were to EXPORT a BluePrint Assembly drawing sheet as DXF, the BluePrint format will get converted to DXF. Note that in BluePrint, when one IMPORTs a Gerber, DXF or PDF file, it will appear in the LOWER part of the TASK PANE window. Anything in the lower part of the TASK PANE window can be dragged and dropped onto a drawing sheet. When one IMPORTs ODB++, XML, or PADS ASCII, the CAD Design database gets created/updated.

INSERTING

In BluePrint, this means to place a file in its NATIVE MODE that is different than BluePrint into BluePrint (it’s actually not physically “in” BluePrint, but alongside it). For example, one could INSERT a word document into BluePrint, and create

Hyperlinks to it. It is also common to refer to FILE INSERTING as EMBEDDING. But EMBEDDING also is a term that is correctly used for OLE functions, which is outlined next. When one INSERTS a file into BluePrint, the file will appear in the TOP part of the TASK PANE window. This is how files relevant to a PCB design are ARCHIVED in BluePrint. Any files in this portion of the TASK PANE are in native mode and cannot be placed on a drawing sheet. These files can be used with Hyperlinks and can also be EXTRACTED into a local directory for manipulation, editing etc. Also note that INSERTED files in BluePrint can be OPENED from within BluePrint and executed with the associated application (for example, PADS Logic). The associated application must be locally installed in order to do so. NOTE AN EXCEPTION – When one INSERTs Multi-media files formats such as JPEG, BITMAP or GIF, they come into BluePrint in NATIVE MODE. However, these file formats will appear in the lower portion of the Task Pane, and they can be dragged and dropped onto a drawing sheet.

OBJECT LINKING AND EMBEDDING (OLE)

In BluePrint, this is referred to as **INSERTING AN OBJECT**, and means the ability to EMBED in BluePrint a file in its native mode that is linked to its underlying application. For example, EMBEDDING a MS Word document in BluePrint using INSERT AN OBJECT will insert the word document into BluePrint, and allow you to edit the WORD document from within BluePrint. This is true for ANY OLE compliant application (e.g., PowerLogic, PowerPCB, Adobe, etc.). You can also create files within BluePrint for any OLE compliant applications.

WHERE TO FIND THESE CAPABILITIES IN BLUEPRINT?

1. IMPORT and EXPORT can be found under the BluePrint pull-down FILE Menu and as ICONS on the STANDARD TOOLBAR.
2. INSERT can be found under the BluePrint pull-down INSERT Menu and as ICONS on the STANDARD TOOLBAR.
3. INSERT OBJECT (Object Linking and Embedding (OLE) functionality) can be found under the BluePrint pull-down INSERT Menu.

WHICH OF THE IMPORT/EXPORT FORMATS ARE INCLUDED IN WHICH BLUEPRINT CONFIGURATION?

1. The **DXF Import/Export** function of BluePrint is **STANDARD** in the BluePrint-PCB Full configuration and is **OPTIONAL** in the BluePrint-PCB Foundations and BP-4-XXX configurations.
2. The **PDF Import/Export** function of BluePrint is **OPTIONAL** in BluePrint-PCB Full and BluePrint-PCB Foundations configurations. The **PDF Import/Export** function is not available in BluePrint-4-XXX configurations.
3. All BluePrint configurations include a **CAD System Import** format which either the user selects at purchase, or as with BP-4-XXX configurations is predefined.
4. **GERBER IMPORT** is **STANDARD** in the BluePrint-PCB Full configuration and is **OPTIONAL** in the BluePrint-PCB Foundations and BP-4-XXX configurations.
5. **INSERT** Pictures or Documents is **STANDARD** in the BluePrint-PCB FULL, BluePrint-PCB Foundation, and BP-4-XXX configurations.
6. **INSERT AN OBJECT** (OLE) is **STANDARD** in the BluePrint-PCB FULL, BluePrint-PCB Foundation, and BP-4-XXX configurations.