



CARVEWRIGHT™

WOODWORKING SYSTEM

TIPS & TRICKS

November 2008

Tips, Common Questions and Answers - Part 2

by Michael Tyler of www.CarveBuddy.com



Welcome to the continuation (Part 2) of last month's Tips & Tricks! I'll cover some more common questions and offer a few more tips in the process...

Common Questions...

Q: What is the Draft feature and what is it used for in Designer?

A: The Draft feature applies a sloped edge perimeter around text, a pattern or object. This can be used for purely cosmetic reasons or for reducing possible chip-out on thinner parts of text and objects. (Reducing chip-out on text elements was the primary reason the Draft feature was developed.)

By applying a "draft", it produces a gentle slope for the carving bit to follow, rather than encountering an abrupt change from a low spot to a high spot. It is this abrupt change that can contribute to chipping of thin or tall areas of an object or text. Draft can dramatically reduce chip-out. You can choose from the following draft types via the Carving Menu. (fig. 1)

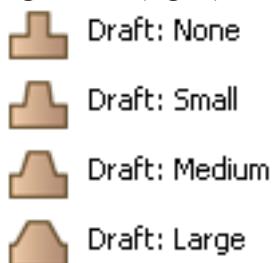


fig. 1

Q: What is the operating temperature range for my machine?

A: The operating temperature is between 60°F-100°F. Cold weather especially can have a notable effect on the machine's mechanical moving parts. For example, the head can become very difficult to lower if the machine is allowed to become too cold this time of year, such as in an unheated workshop or garage. The head/clutch will not allow it to roll downward properly due to contraction and/or the lubrication becoming ineffective in cold weather.

Trying to force the head down runs the risk of breaking the gears, but the clutch will generally start "clicking" before the head can be fully lowered anyway. The solution is to bring the machine up to its operational temperature before attempting to use it again.

Quote from Dec. 2007 Tips: "You should store and operate your machine in temperature environments that you yourself would be comfortable in. Remember that if you feel comfortable, so will your machine!"

A TIP from CarveWright Tech Support:

As the weather turns cold and humidity is down, there is a greater potential for static discharge to harm your machine and/or memory card. To avoid "zapping" them, just touch a light switch cover plate screw to discharge any static electricity from your body BEFORE touching your machine or memory card!

Please visit the manufacturer's website for more information about the CarveWright machines and see the new Pattern Depot at: www.carverwright.com

For Additional Patterns you can add to your Designer software library, please visit: www.carvebuddy.com

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Common Questions (cont.)

PATTERN ACTIVATION

Q: How do I enable the use of patterns I have purchased from the Pattern Depot?

A: After purchasing patterns from the Pattern Store/Pattern Depot, you need to download and then activate the patterns in order to use them.

The only way to download and activate the patterns is through direct access to the internet. It is not possible to activate the patterns by phone or get the patterns shipped on a disc.

After patterns have been purchased, two e-mails will be sent from orders@carvewright.com. The first e-mail will be an invoice stating what was purchased. The second e-mail will be the same e-mail as before with additional information for any features that require downloading or activating. Each pattern will be separated by the SKU number with a pattern download link as well as a pattern Serial Number.

To download the pattern, click the pattern download link. (If the link is not active or doing anything, consult your e-mail's options on handling links in an e-mail. Some e-mail handlers/programs automatically disable links to keep users from opening invalid links. It may be a good idea to add orders@carvewright.com to your e-mail's safelist). Depending on the internet browser being used, either a **Save** dialog box will appear or the file will be downloaded to your particular computer's default download location.

Choosing the **"Save"** button will allow you to choose where the pattern file (*.ptn) is saved on the computer. This is a good option when wanting to keep a backup copy of the pattern or when wanting to activating on multiple computers. Choosing the **"Run"** button will immediately open the CarveWright Designer Software. If opening the pattern file (*.ptn) from another location on the computer that was saved previously, then double-clicking the pattern will activate the CarveWright Designer Software.

When the CarveWright Designer Software opens, the Import Image dialog box will appear. If no changes are required, then click the **"Finish"** button. The **"Save Item"** dialog box will appear, prompting where to save the pattern in the software.

The default location is the **"Favorites"** folder in the Pattern Tool directory. Click the **"Save"** button to confirm import, and be taken back to the CarveWright Designer Software.

To activate the pattern, Select **"Manage Licenses..."** from the **"Help"** menu. The **"Your Licenses"** dialog box will appear which will show all the installed feature/pattern licenses currently installed on the computer. Click the **"Activate License"** button to display the **"Registration"** dialog box.

If the computer is connected to the internet, select the option to "License online now". Use the **Online Method** outlined below. If the computer is *not* connected to the internet, select the *"License at www.carvewright.com from another computer"* option, and skip to the instructions **License using Another Computer Connected to the Internet**.

Online Method:

The online method for activating pattern(s) will require the Serial number provided on the Pattern Purchase E-mail (Figure 12.4) as well as the username and password for the customer account. If at any time, the option was chosen to remember the login, then the username and password will already be filled in. Before continuing, the following information should be verified:

- Letters and numbers are correctly entered
- The letters are capitalized
- The dots (periods) are in place
- There are no spaces or symbols

Once all information on the screen has been verified, click the "Next" button to initiate the activation process to the account referenced. When successfully activated for the customer account and computer, a confirmation will display on the screen stating the Additional software licensing was successful. If unsuccessful, you will be prompted to correct any erroneous information.

License using Another Computer Connected to the Internet:

For computers not connected to the internet, a display will provide information on how to activate using another computer. This process still requires an internet connection to activate the license, but you then transfer

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Common Questions- *Pattern Activation* (cont.)

a license file to the computer where your software is installed. To license additional software using another computer, use a web browser to log in to the customer account at: <http://register.carvewright.com>
or
<http://www.carvewright.com/register>

Click the field below the label “**Enter Activation ID or Serial Number Here**” and Enter the Serial number provided on the Pattern Purchase E-mail.

When Licensing is complete, scroll down to the link “**Download License File**” to download a license file. The default file name will be **license.mpl** and you will need to save this file to a removable media device. Then take and insert the removable media to the computer that is not connected to the internet and click the **Import License File** button. Navigate to the location of your License file and click “Ok”. The software will display a successful screen if the process went through alright, or you will be prompted for additional information if you were unsuccessful.

PROJECT ACTIVATION

Q: How do I enable the use of projects when I receive an announcement from the Monthly Project Subscription service?

A: Open your internet browser and go to
<http://www.carvewright.com/register>

Type in your username and password to access your Carvewright Customer Account.

When your account comes up, there is a box asking for the subscription serial number. It is on the right-hand side of your screen. Type in the number and it will be added to the CarveWright project database.

You will then receive another email within about 24 hours with the project for that current month.

Q: What are the file formats for the CarveWright software and what do the file extensions mean?

A: File extensions are the file names that are associated with the CarveWright software. When the software is first loaded, the computer registry is updated so when a file extension is activated, the CarveWright Designer Software opens and initiates the assigned process for that file type. The file extensions associated with the CarveWright Designer Software are the following:

MPC (*.mpc)

File extension for projects/board layouts created in the CarveWright Designer Program.

MPL (*.mpl)

File extension associated with licenses that can activate software on any computer where the Activation ID Number has been added to an account.

PTN (*.ptn)

File extension associated with patterns that can be imported into the software or manipulated with the Pattern Editor provided the computer used is recognized as the original one used when the pattern was created.

MPW (*.mpw)

MPW files are the file type that the Scanning Probe creates, and are sometimes referred to as “raw” artwork files. MPW files can be edited, then saved as PTN files for addition into a Pattern Library. MPW files can also be used as a backup for patterns you create yourself. MPW files can be transferred to another computer, and edited with the Pattern Editor software on that computer. The MPW can then be re-saved as a PTN file on the new computer, and will be recognized the same way as it was on the original computer.

MPN (*.mpn)

The file extension associated with Pattern Libraries, which contain the individual patterns that are accessible through the software from the Pattern List.

MWM (*.mwm)

This file extension interacts with the memory card. The MWM file type contains the information needed to run the machine or firmware.

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Common Questions (cont.)

Q: How do I find the Depth and/or Position on a board in Designer?

A: This can be done by moving the mouse to the desired point on the board and looking at the position readout found at lower left hand corner of the main window. This readout indicates board face, X position (length), Y position (width), and Z (depth) in that order. The X and Y readings are always taken from the upper right hand corner of the board.

Q: What do the colored dots mean on drawn elements?

A: All elements placed on a board may be manipulated through the use of Control Points which appear as small color-coded dots. The color-coding denotes the type and function of the Control Point. The Control Points may be left-clicked and dragged to manipulate the shape of the drawing element (fig. 2). Right clicking on a Control Point opens a menu of options relating to that Control Point.

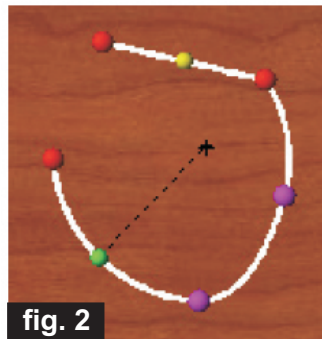


fig. 2

Red Control Point: Red Control Points appear at the endpoints of line segments, arcs, and on all closed drawing elements. To stretch or extend a line segment or closed drawing element, left click and drag on a Red Control Point.

Purple Control Point: Purple Control Points appear only on Splines. To manipulate a spline, left click and drag on a Purple Control Point.

Yellow Control Point: Yellow Control Points indicate the midpoint of a line segments. These points are provided as a convenience for attaching a segment's center.

Green Control Point: Green Control Points denote the midpoint of arcs. To change the radius of an arc, left click and drag on a Green Control Point.

Common Questions (cont.)

Q: What do the blue and green numbers indicate on lines and shapes drawn in Designer?

A: When any drawing element is active, **Blue** numbers will appear indicating the dimensions of the radii of arcs and lengths of lines. With line segments, **Green** numbers will appear next to a green arc indicating the angle of the line segment or the angle between two line segments. (fig. 3)

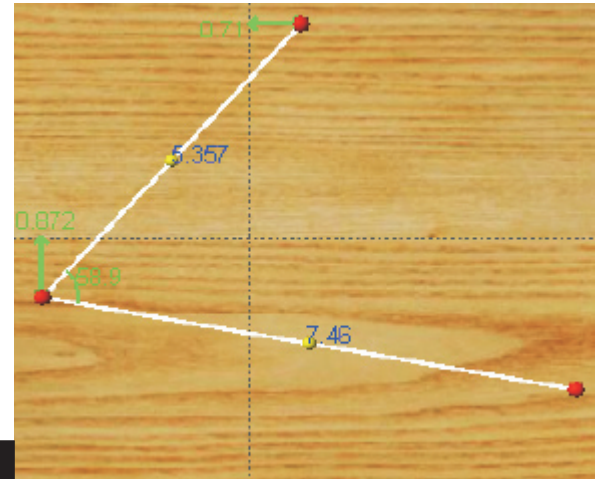


fig. 3

If a single drawing element is active on the board its dimensions can be changed through the "Input Tool Bar". The input boxes in this tool bar will change depending on the type of drawing element that is active.

When more than one element is active, it is not possible to enter values through "Input Tool Bar". To change a dimension, left click on the numbers to open a pop-up box, enter the desired value and press "Enter".

If the dimension is left clicked by accident press "Esc" to close the pop-up without entering a value.

Dimensions can also be changed through the context menu, by right clicking the numbers and selecting "Edit Length (or Edit Angle)". Once a dimension has been set, the numbers will turn YELLOW and become locked or fixed. The dimension will remain fixed until a new value has been entered or it is unlocked. To unlock a dimension, left click on it and select "Remove Angle/Length Constraint" from the context menu.

Additional Resources

CONCLUSION

This concludes “Part 2” of the Common Questions, and I hope you have found this helpful! If you haven’t already, please sign up on the [CarveWright Homepage](#) to have the newsletters automatically delivered to your email address each month. You’ll see a “Join Our Mailing List” section. Just fill in the form and you’ll be all set!

Michael

Special thanks to
Michael Tyler of
www.CarveBuddy.com
for providing
the content for this issue of
CarveWright TiPS and TRiCKS.

RESOURCES...

There are numerous resources for the CarveWright/CompuCarve owner to make their experience with these machines much more enjoyable.

Every owner should join the [CarveWright User Forum](#) where fellow users share their experiences and knowledge with these machines on a daily basis. It is a FREE service that you will surely appreciate. A handy Search Feature helps you find answers to any questions you may have.

Patterns [CLICK HERE](#)
Shop through the largest collection of patterns on the web!

Collections [CLICK HERE](#)
Look through top quality collections which allow you to purchase many patterns at one time for an even lower price!

Projects [CLICK HERE](#)
Purchase complete project patterns with instructions to build immediatly!

NEW! Project Newsletter Subscription
Projects Created by Michael Tyler
12 PROJECTS FOR ONE LOW PRICE

picture of June's Project