



Referencing Files in V8

Manipulating:

Move, Copy, Scale, Rotate, and Mirror reference tools are now continual. This allows the user to make more than one change when modifying reference files. The command will not end until you reset. Plus you can temporarily interrupt these commands to use view controls.

Tool Settings Dialog Box:

Take a look at the *Tool Settings Dialog Box* when manipulating references. There is a new option when working with references now, '*Use References Dialog List*'. When this is checked it looks to see what references in the Dialog list are highlighted. If it is unchecked you can select the reference file on the screen without knowing the file name and manipulate the file.

New Reference File Keyins:

There are two new keyins for reference files, REFERENCE GROUP ADD and REFERENCE GROUP DROP. Think of these as graphic groups for reference files.

1. In the reference file dialog box select multiple files you want to group together. Use the Ctrl and Shift keys to accomplish this.
2. In the Key-in dialog box enter REFERENCE GROUP ADD.
3. Select OK when asked to group these files together.
4. Make sure your graphic group lock is on.
5. From the Reference file dialog box Tools>Move
6. In the Tool Settings Dialog Box turn off Use Reference Dialog List.
7. Now you can move the files as a group.

Clip Boundaries: This one is COOL!

Take a reference file and clip it using the method of *element* from the Tool Settings drop down. With element clipping, the reference boundary is dynamic. Don't delete the element, not yet...

1. Move the clipping element.
2. Modify a vertex of the clipping element.
3. Insert a new vertex into the clipping element. Go ahead and add 200 more, the limit is now 5,000 vertices!
4. Delete a vertex of the clipping element.
5. OK, now you can delete the clipping element.

[Robert Mecham](#) is a partner with the firm [The Envision Group](#) in Madison, WI. The firm specializes in MicroStation and the Inroads Suite of products. In addition to providing training for MicroStation & Inroads, they offer visualization services and consulting for clients throughout the world.