Graphics Concepts with Pro/ENGINEER®



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Graphics Concepts with Pro/ENGINEER®



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About the Authors



o project could ever come to pass without a group of authors who have the vision and the courage to turn a stack of blank paper into a book. The authors in this series worked diligently to produce their books, provide the building blocks of the series.

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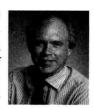


Nyhoff has taught at Calvin for the past 34 years—mathematics at first and computer science for the past several years. He has co-authored several computer science text-books since 1981 including titles on Fortran and C++, as well as a brand new title on Data Structures in C++.

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Contents

| | ABOUT ESOURCE v | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| | ABOUT THE AUTHORS ix | | | |
| | ENGINEERING GRAPHICS 1 | | | |
| | 1.1 1.2 1.3 1.4 | The Importance of Engineering Graphics 1 Engineering Graphics 3 CAD 6 Design and CAD 7 | | |
| 2 | 100 March 200 Co. | PROJECTIONS USED IN ENGINEERING GRAPHICS 11 | | |
| | 2.1 2.2 2.3 2.4 | Projections 11 3-D Projections 12 Multiview Projections 14 Working Drawings 17 | | |
| 3 | FREEHAND SKETCHING 23 | | | |
| J | 3.1 3.2 3.3 | Why Freehand Sketches? 23 Freehand Sketching Fundamentals 24 Basic Freehand Sketching 25 3.3.1 Oblique Sketching 26 3.3.2 Isometric Sketching 27 | | |
| | 3.4 | 3.3.2 Isometric Sketching 27 Advanced Freehand Sketching 28 3.4.1 Freehand Oblique Sketching 28 3.4.2 Isometric Sketching 30 3.4.3 Orthographic Sketching 32 | | |
| 4 | COMPUTER AIDED DESIGN AND DRAFTING 37 | | | |
| | 4.1 4.2 4.3 | CAD Models 37 CAD and Solids Modeling 40 The Nature of Solids Modeling 42 | | |
| 5 | STANDARD PRACTICE FOR ENGINEERING DRAWINGS 49 | | | |
| | 5.1 5.2 5.3 5.4 5.5 5.6 5.7 | Introduction to Drawing Standards 49 Sheet Layouts 50 Lines 51 Dimension Placement and Conventions 52 Section and Detail Views 56 Fasteners and Screw Threads 59 Assembly Drawings 61 | | |

| 4 | TOLERANCES 67 | | |
|--------|--|--|--|
| U | 6.1 6.2 6.3 6.4 6.5 | Why Tolerances? 67 Displaying Tolerances on Drawings 69 How to Determine Tolerances 70 Surface Finish 73 Geometric Dimensioning and Tolerancing 74 | |
| 7 | GETTING STARTED IN PRO/ENGINEER 85 | | |
| • | 7.1 7.2 7.3 7.4 7.5 | The Pizza Cutter 85 Pro/ENGINEER Background 86 Starting Pro/ENGINEER 87 Tutorial Conventions 88 Creating a Generic Part in Pro/ENGINEER 90 7.5.1 Creating a Generic Part 90 7.5.2 Environment 92 7.5.3 Creating Default Datum Planes 93 7.5.4 Creating a Default Coordinate System 94 7.5.5 Setting Up Units 96 7.5.6 Saving the Generic Part 97 | |
| | 7.6 7.7 7.8 7.9 | Modeling the Guard Base Feature 99 7.6.1 Opening a File 99 7.6.2 Creating a Protrusion 100 7.6.3 Sketching the Outline of the Guard 102 7.6.4 Extruding the Guard 114 Viewing the Part 116 Cutting a Circular Hole 117 Creating a Round at the Corners 123 | |
| Q | MODELING THE HANDLE 127 | | |
| O | 8.1 8.2 8.3 8.4 8.5 8.6 | Modeling the Handle Base Feature 127 Creating a Round 136 Creating a Cut 137 Cutting a Rectangular Slot 145 Cutting a Circular Hole 151 Creating Patterned Features 158 | |
| 0 | CREATING MORE PARTS 167 | | |
| 7 | 9.1 9.2 9.3 9.4 | Thin Extrude Features—The Arm 167 Solid Revolve Features with Arcs—The Rivet 179 Thin Revolve Features with the Intent Manager—The Cap 191 Mirroring to Model the Blade 197 | |
| \cap | MODELING AN ASSEMBLY 203 | | |
| J | 10.1 10.2 10.3 | Creating Assembly Datum Planes 203 Bringing the First Part into the Assembly 205 Adding Other Parts to the Assembly 211 10.3.1 Assembling the Cap 211 10.3.2 Adding the Guard 216 10.3.3 Adding the Arms 219 10.3.4 Adding the Blade 222 10.3.5 Adding the Rivet 223 | |

- 10.4 Checking Interference in the Assembly 224
- 10.5 Fixing Errors in Parts 227
- 10.6 Assembly After Correcting Part Errors 229

CREATING WORKING DRAWINGS 237

- 11.1 Detail Drawings in Pro/ENGINEER 237
- 11.2 Opening a Drawing 238
- 11.3 Placing Views in a Drawing 240
- 11.4 Dimensioning a Drawing 245
- 11.5 Creating Notes 250
- 11.6 Creating a Title Block 252
- 11.7 Creating an Assembly Drawing 258
- 11.8 Creating a Section View 260
- 11.9 Creating a Detail View 262
- 11.10 Cleaning Up the Views and Labeling Parts 265

INDEX 273

Engineering Graphics

OVERVIEW

Engineering designs start as images in the mind's eye of an engineer. Engineering graphics has evolved to communicate and record these ideas on paper both two- and three-dimensionally. In the past few decades, the computer has made it possible to automate the creation of engineering graphics. Today engineering design and engineering graphics are inextricably connected. Engineering design is communicated visually using engineering graphics.

1.1 THE IMPORTANCE OF ENGINEERING GRAPHICS

"Visualizing" a picture or image in your mind is a familiar experience. The image can be visualized at many different levels of abstraction. Think about light and you might see the image of a light bulb in your "mind's eye." Alternatively, you might think about light versus dark. Or you might visualize a flashlight or table lamp. Such visual thinking is necessary in engineering and science. Albert Einstein said that he rarely thought in words. Instead, he laboriously translated his visual images into verbal and mathematical terms.

Visual thinking is a foundation of engineering. Walter P. Chrysler, founder of the automobile company, recounted his experience as an apprentice machinist where he built a model locomotive that existed "within my mind so real, so complete, that it seemed to have three dimensions there."

SECTIONS

- 1.1 The Importance of Engineering Graphics
- 1.2 Engineering Graphics
- •1.3 CAD
- 1.4 Design and CAD

OBJECTIVES

After reading this chapter, you should be able to:

- Describe visual thinking
- Differentiate perspective, isometric, and orthographic projections
- Understand the basis of CAD
- Understand the relationship between design and CAD

1

Yet, the complexity of today's technology rarely permits a single person to build a device from his own visual image. The images must be conveyed to other engineers and designers. In addition, those images must be constructed in such a way that they are in a readily recognizable, consistent, and readable format. This assuress that the visual ideas are clearly and unambiguously conveyed to others. *Engineering graphics* is a highly stylized way of presenting images of parts or assemblies.

A major portion of engineering information is recorded and transmitted using engineering graphics. In fact, 92 percent of the design process is graphically based. Written and verbal communications along with mathematics account for the remaining eight percent. To demonstrate the effectiveness of engineering graphics compared to a written description try to visualize an ice scraper based on this word description:

An ice scraper is generally in the shape of a $140 \times 80 \times 10$ mm rectangular prism. One end is beveled from zero thickness to the maximum thickness in a length of 40 mm to form a sharp edge. The opposite end is semicircular. A 20 mm diameter hole is positioned so the center of the hole is 40 mm from the semicircular end and 40 mm from either side of the scraper.

It is evident immediately that the shape of the ice scraper is much more easily visualized from the graphical representation shown in Figure 1.1 than from the word description. Humans grasp information much more quickly when that information is presented in a graphical or visual form rather than as a word description.

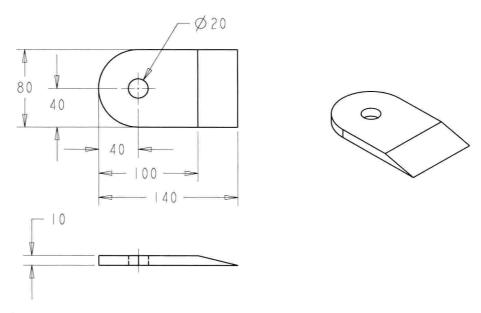


Figure 1.1.

Engineering drawings, whether done using a pencil and paper or a computer, start with a blank page or screen. The engineer's mind's eye image must be transferred to the paper or computer screen. The creative nature of this activity is similar to that of an artist. Perhaps the greatest example of this is Leonardo da Vinci, who had exceptional engineering creativity devising items such as parachutes and ball bearings, shown in Figure 1.2, hundreds of years before they were re-invented. He also had exceptional artistic talent, creating some of the most famous pictures ever painted such as *Mona Lisa* and *The Last Supper*.