

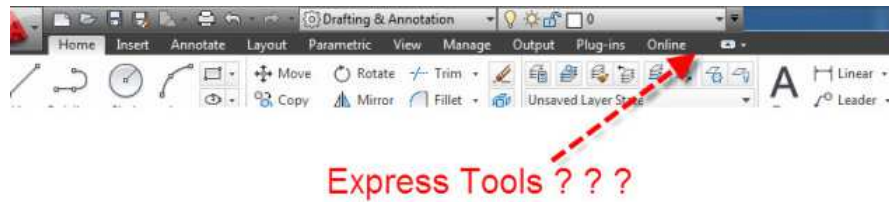
AutoCAD Tips

Load Express Tools for 2013

Posted on April 16, 2012

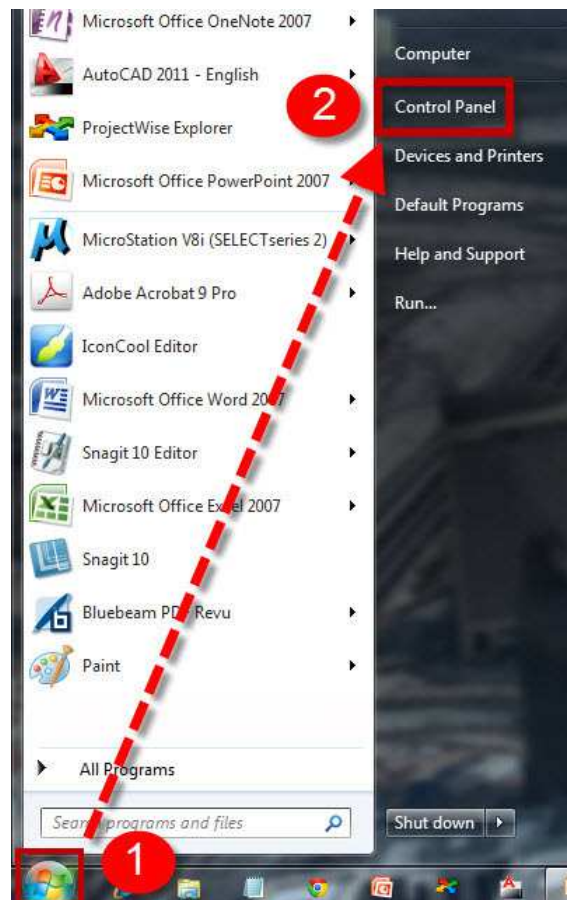
This post works the same for AutoCAD and AutoCAD Architecture.

Upon installing AutoCAD you may not have installed the Express Tools...



Here is how to load them:

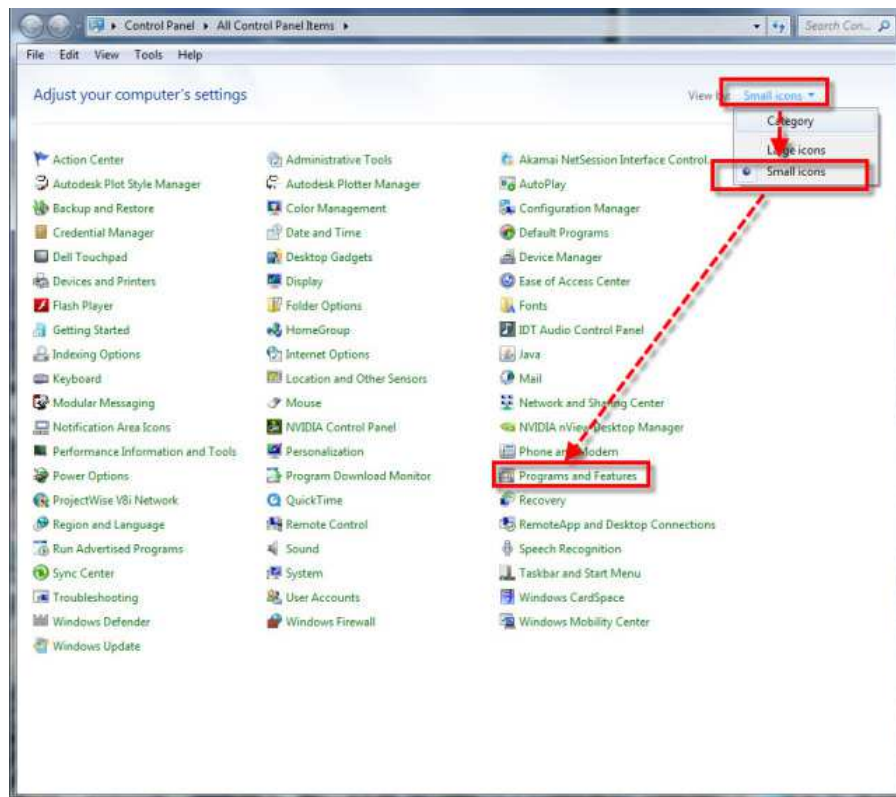
1. Click Start
2. Click "Control Panel"



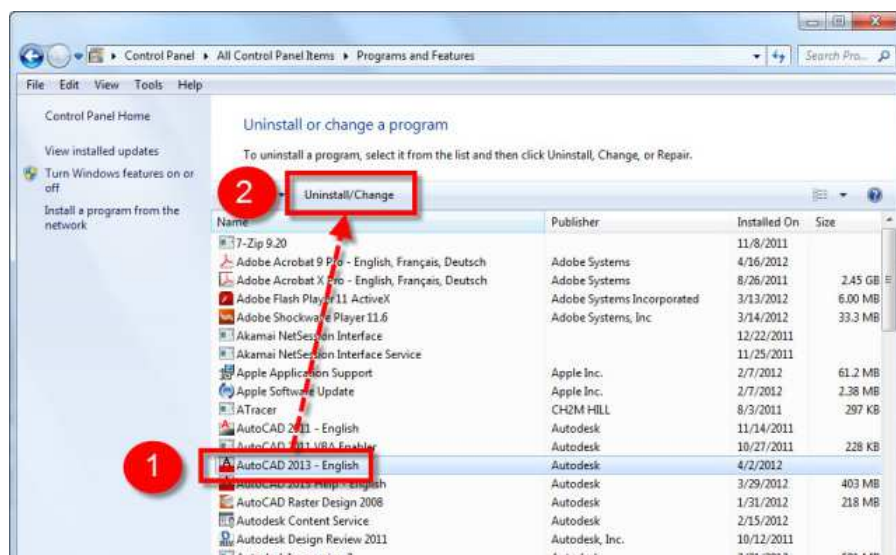
Click on "Programs and Features" Note: if you want to see this list as shown below set the icons to "small" (shown)



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1. Select your AutoCAD 2013 product from the list
2. Click “Uninstall/Change” Note: we will not be uninstalling but rather using the “Change” feature...



Click “Add or Remove Features”



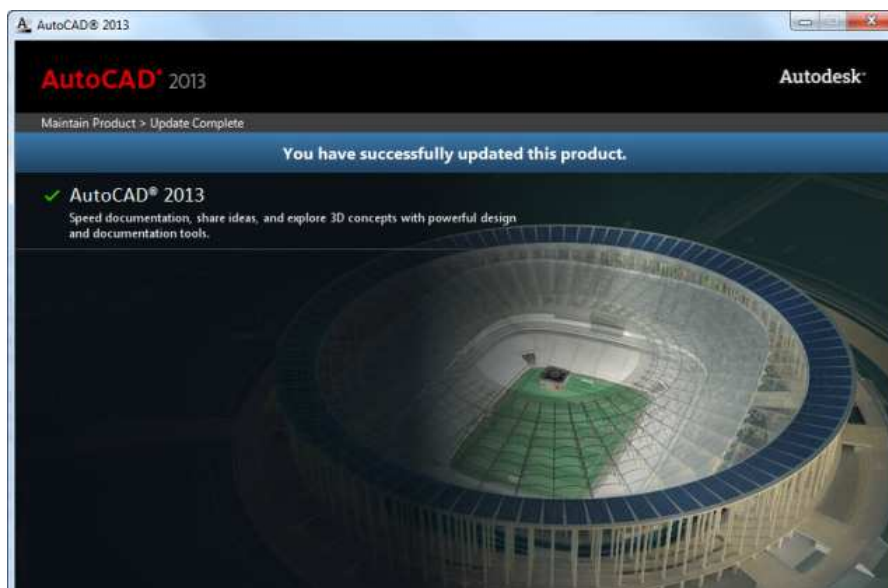
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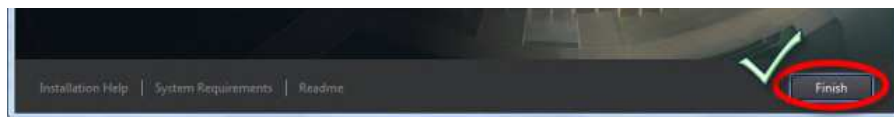
1. Check the checkbox next to “Express Tools”
2. Click “Update”



After the update finishes installing click “Finish”

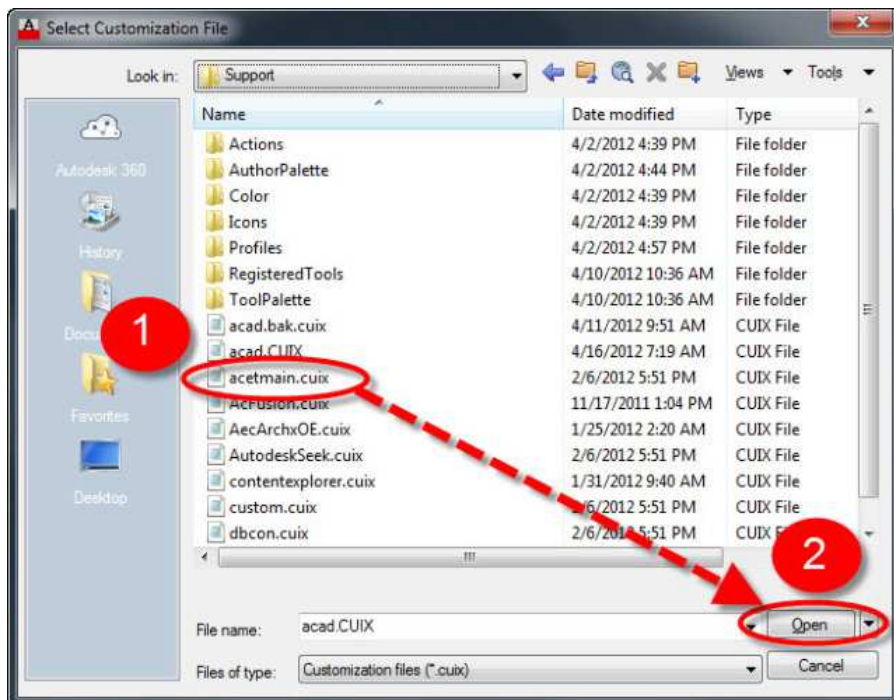


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Open AutoCAD and enter the command **MENULOAD**

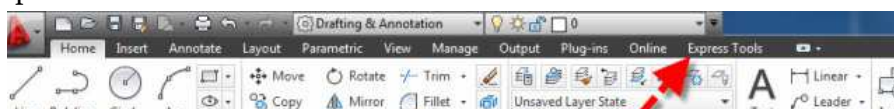
1. Select “acetmain.cuix” from the list Note: “acetmain” = “AutoCAD Express Tools Main”
2. Click Open



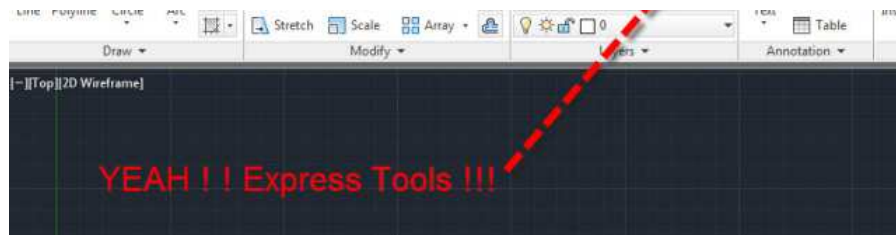
1. Click “Load” and then verify that the Express Tools menu loaded by checking the list of loaded menus
2. Click “Close”



Now enjoy your Express Tools...



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- Ron Howard on Project Imaginat10n <http://bit.ly/1aajMdr>



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About AutoCAD Tips

I work for a large engineering firm and perform various CAD Administration duties and. I enjoy teaching/tutoring people in AutoCAD and seeing them enjoy using the program as much as I do. I hope that you find this blog a useful tool.

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61 Responses to *Load Express Tools for 2013*



matt says:

April 16, 2012 at 9:12 AM

After the express tools have been installed you can also type EXPRESSTOOLS at the command line and it will load the menu for you.

[Reply](#)



Sajjad says:

November 19, 2012 at 10:15 PM

but when i type EXPRESSTOOLS in command line. it come unknown command

[Reply](#)



Jeoff says:

November 20, 2012 at 5:12 PM

Follow

That's because you are using an illegal version of Autocad Sajjad.



Sajjad says:

November 23, 2012 at 11:04 PM

no, its a license version



Jimi says:

April 16, 2012 at 11:10 AM

Hey thanks Matt. I did get my express tools. However, the txt2mtxt gets an error as an unknow command. I've googled this and not found much to help on this. Any suggestions?

[Reply](#)



lastroad says:

April 21, 2012 at 12:50 AM

Jimi

I have the same problem with TXT2MTXT and a few other Express Tools; I've reloaded 'til I'm blue-in-the-face...

Have you found a solution?

Last Road

[Reply](#)



AutoCAD Tips says:

April 21, 2012 at 10:43 PM

LastRoad,

One simple thing to check – If you right click anywhere on the ribbon and then select “Show Tabs” there is a list of tabs with check marks. Hopefully this could be the solution. Although, turning on/off the ribbon tab this way has no affect on typing the command in the at the command line...

If you feel comfortable doing so, you can partially load the Express.cuix through the CUI.
CUI

Expand the “Partial Customization Files” list and check to see if “EXPRESS” is showing.

If not, click the folder button that has a little green plus sign on it.

Then browse to your support folder (the AppData one) and then select the EXPRESS.cuix file

I hope that helps.

I should do a post about loading a fully-loaded and partially loaded CUI...

~Greg



Mohammed Hassaan says:

April 23, 2012 at 1:19 AM

Hey,

Thanks alot for these detailed explanations.

I followed these and Express Tools appeared but not all of its commands are activiated.

Some like Arc Aligned is working and some like Command Alliasies and Replace Block don't work.

[Reply](#)



AutoCAD Tips says:

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April 23, 2012 at 6:50 AM

This seems like a glitch with this release of AutoCAD. There seems to be people that have installed ACAD and everything is fine, while others are missing various tools...

My suggestion would be to re-install or contact Autodesk.

In the mean time, you can use lisp routines that perform these tasks.

Apparently, After years and years of simply adding new features to AutoCAD and noticing how bloated AutoCAD has gotten, with 2013 they decided to start from the ground up and try to build AutoCAD from a fresh starting point. Even though I totally agree with this, I think that they rushed this release out too early. There's seems to be a lot of issues that users are having that should have been dealt with during the beta testing...

~Greg

[Reply](#)



lastroad says:

April 23, 2012 at 1:46 PM

Greg,

I loaded the Express tools in a partial on 2012 and I see it but many tools don't work hence the jump to 2013; FYI Update – I have reloaded and repaired 2013 several times with Trend Micro turned off, &c. since my first post and get different results each time. One time the textmask works & txt2mtxt does not, after a repair the txt2mtxt works but the textmask doesn't; just the "Unknown Command" message. I've given up and decided to stay on 2011 for now...



AutoCAD Tips says:

April 23, 2012 at 4:50 PM

I'm sorry to hear about your frustrations. I can totally relate and understand reverting back to an earlier stable build of AutoCAD. At work, we use 2011 and upgrade every 3 years. And when when we do upgrade, we wait until a release has been out for a year before we roll it out so that most of the bugs have been worked out and service packs are available...

I think that tends to be too much of a rush to push these releases out the door. I wonder if instead of a yearly release if it would be better to have a new release every other year.

~Greg



Tom says:

August 24, 2012 at 1:49 PM

I have the same problem with txt2mtxt. Anyone have new insights? I also get "Unknown Command"



Todd says:

October 30, 2012 at 6:51 PM

Had similar issue with "Flatten" command not working. Solution was to add a path in Options>>Files>>Working Support File Search Path. My path was C:\program files\autodesk\autocad architecture 2012\express. Yours may vary depending on installation. It should be an existing folder you can Browse to, rather than typing the path.

[Reply](#)



Lingua says:

November 7, 2012 at 5:42 AM

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Perfect, this solution also helped me in 2013.
many Thanks



Gordon Case says:

August 27, 2013 at 1:36 PM

After all the searching I did this was the ONLY solution I found that worked. Thank you so much for taking the time to share this tip. Massive time saver for me.



AutoCAD Tips says:

August 27, 2013 at 7:06 PM

Cool – that is good to hear. Thanks for visiting the blog



Keith Parker says:

May 8, 2012 at 1:45 PM

You are the man! you example works great!
thanks,
Keith

[Reply](#)



Brad says:

June 8, 2012 at 6:59 AM

Had the same issue with 2013, the burst command was not working even though EXPRESS was showing up in the Ribbon and MENULOAD. I found the following method and it worked. I don't know if it would work for any other commands but here it is: Use the command APPLOAD and load the two files in the Express folder called "acetest.fas" and "acetutil.fas". It started working after that.

[Reply](#)



AutoCAD Tips says:

June 8, 2012 at 12:12 PM

Cool tip. Thanks for sharing

[Reply](#)



josh says:

June 27, 2012 at 2:07 PM

worked like a charm for me, thanks!!

[Reply](#)



Erika says:

July 5, 2012 at 8:49 AM

This worked for me with Block Replace...Thank you so much!!

[Reply](#)



AutoCAD Tips says:

July 5, 2012 at 5:16 PM

[Follow](#)

that's awesome!!
~Greg



Mr. DW says:

August 3, 2012 at 11:11 PM

THANKS.....!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!:):):):)

[Reply](#)



CadTastic says:

November 28, 2012 at 2:00 PM

That worked for me as well... Thanks for the tip..

[Reply](#)



Юрий Иванов says:

January 16, 2013 at 3:11 AM

MANY THANKS ... that worked for me ...

[Reply](#)



chopan says:

April 26, 2013 at 6:33 AM

THANKS!!! work for my acad 2013

[Reply](#)



Arif says:

July 22, 2012 at 9:10 AM

Hi, I'm using AutoCAD Architecture 2013 . . .
as a new user I am certainly curious about many things . . .
I try to collapse-expand the menu bar, move it to the left side of screen . . .
Then I forget till I lost my menu bar . . .
here is the screen shoot (<http://goo.gl/HDrRP>)
Please, can you help me to make my menu bar appear again?
Sorry, if it's not related to your post, about express tools . . .

[Reply](#)



AutoCAD Tips says:

July 22, 2012 at 8:10 PM

Try typing RIBBON into the command line.
Also, if you want the old style menus to show above the ribbon, this is also available in the command line, simply type MENUBAR into the command line and then set it to 1.
~Greg

[Reply](#)



Arif says:

July 23, 2012 at 4:07 AM

wow, it's back :D (#lol)
thanks a lot :)

Follow

**Kudlaty/Shaggy** says:

July 23, 2012 at 3:33 AM

I was looking for loading express tools for 2 weeks, and I finally find instuction which ended on updating in control panel. I made basic mistake: I was looking only in Polish language. Now i see that that is so easy! Thanks a lot!!!

[Reply](#)**ralpski** says:

August 23, 2012 at 7:42 PM

thank you for this detailed instruction, please continue to share some info..like this..thanks a lot!!!!

[Reply](#)**anantharaman .murugaiyan** says:

August 23, 2012 at 11:30 PM

thanks ... am got more information about cad. .but am want latest simple short cut keys for commands ..pls

[Reply](#)**AutoCAD Tips** says:

August 27, 2012 at 7:08 AM

To see a list of the default alias already defined use the ALIASEDIT command and browse to see what is available. It is within this dialog box where you can easily customize your aliases as well. See this link to learn how to create your own aliases <http://autocadtips.wordpress.com/2010/11/07/command-alias-select-similar/>

~Greg

[Reply](#)**Mat** says:

September 5, 2012 at 10:51 PM

Greg,

Can you migrate EXPRESSTOOLS from say AutoCAD 2012 to LT 2013?

[Reply](#)**AutoCAD Tips** says:

September 6, 2012 at 7:16 AM

unfortunately AutoCAD LT cant run Express Tools by default.

There is this add on that claims to be able to run lisp routines and be able to use 3D with LT.

I think that there are other packages as add-ons for LT there as well.

<http://www.cadinternational.com/cadinternational/brand.php?id=DRC-A>

Instead of using an add-on that may or may not work, I would seriously suggest looking into one of the other “CAD clones” on the market. They mimic AutoCAD in look and functionality and are really affordable.

Here is a link to a review of some CAD clones that cost around \$500.

<http://www.cadalyst.com/general-software/low-cost-cad-can-a-500-product-go-distance-14618>

~Greg

[Reply](#)

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**Peterson says:**

November 13, 2012 at 5:18 AM

Cadsta Max should do the job.

<http://www.cadsta.com/cadstamax.html>

**Adam says:**

September 10, 2012 at 2:08 PM

I am trying to install Express tools in AutoCAD Architecture 2013, when I go to "Add/Remove Features" I only see language packs. No Express tools or any other addons like you have pictured above. Any ideas?

[Reply](#)

**AutoCAD Tips says:**

September 11, 2012 at 8:24 AM

My only thoughts as to why they are not available at all is that they were not included in the initial install.

Unfortunately, I think that a complete, uninstall and re-installing the software from the original disk or thumb drive (or download) might be the best bet to make sure that the express tools get at least copied to the computer.

[Reply](#)

**Tisha says:**

October 26, 2012 at 2:13 PM

Thanks Brad!!! Those specific files didnt make it work but I simply started going down the list loading them all and now it works!

[Reply](#)

**Bruce says:**

October 30, 2012 at 9:04 AM

I have acad mep 2013 and had a very hard time getting any of it to work until the suggestion of going to appload and loading the .fas files. I don't know what they are or wath they do, but that seemed to work... now I have access to Burst again.... sweet!

[Reply](#)

**AutoCAD Tips says:**

October 30, 2012 at 12:37 PM

Awesome!!

[Reply](#)

**Faqr Muhammad says:**

December 8, 2012 at 6:15 AM

I have successfully loaded express tools as you described above and would like to say thanks.

Thanks

[Reply](#)

**AutoCAD Tips says:**

Follow

December 8, 2012 at 7:17 PM

Awesome!! Glad it helped
~Greg

[Reply](#)



sewingwick says:

December 19, 2012 at 12:05 PM

I have the ribbon but many of the commands don't work. Where are all the support files to run the expresstools?

[Reply](#)



[AutoCAD Tips](#) says:

December 21, 2012 at 7:17 AM

The below needs to be in the support file search path:

(these examples are from my work machine that uses 2011...

C:\progams files\autodesk\autocad 2011\express

and of coarse the general support path:

C:\Users\username\AppData\Roaming\Autodesk\Autocad 2011\R18.1\enu\support

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PhelpZ says:

January 2, 2013 at 2:11 PM

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Jeanie says:

January 3, 2013 at 6:43 AM

Prior to finding this post I was able to get the ribbon to load with the EXPRESS. However, the commands never worked until I copied the "EXPRESS" directory from the installation disk to my hardrive. That was the only way I was able to get them going. SIMPLE but ridiculous.

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aditya sampat says:

January 18, 2013 at 7:40 AM

hi,

i have a licensed version of autocad lt 2012... plz guide me to install express tools in lt '12 version.

thanks

aditya sampat

[Reply](#)



AutoCAD Tips says:

January 18, 2013 at 1:41 PM

The following link shows how to load express tools for AutoCAD Architecture 2012 but involve the same steps for regular AutoCAD.

Also note the comments on the bottom of the post. There are some helpful tips there as well.

<http://autocadtips.wordpress.com/2011/04/26/express-tools-for-autocad-architecture-2012/>

[Reply](#)



joanna says:

March 26, 2013 at 6:29 AM

How about express tools in CAD 2013 for mac? any solutions?

[Reply](#)



AutoCAD Tips says:

March 26, 2013 at 5:08 PM

Unfortunately, the express tools are not available for AutoCAD for MAC.

The best bet for some of the tools found in the Express Tool is finding an AutoLISP version of a needed Express Tool from a help forum. AutoCAD for Mac can use AutoLISP but not Visual LISP.

~Greg

[Reply](#)



William says:

April 15, 2013 at 5:52 PM

Mil gracias. Funcionó perfecto. Un saludo.

[Reply](#)



Charles says:

May 24, 2013 at 11:05 AM

For everyone who has express tools loaded but still can't use txt2mtxt among other things, this video shows how to fix it.

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[Reply](#)**jools182** says:

May 28, 2013 at 6:05 AM

this thread has helped a lot, many thanks
autodesk seem to make everything as difficult as possible

[Reply](#)**Kamran javaid** says:

August 15, 2013 at 12:39 AM

i want to about modal and lay out tabs command in autocad 2009
switch between mpdal and layout via command
thanks

[Reply](#)

AutoCAD Tips says:

November 13, 2013 at 2:51 PM

Try the +LAYOUT command (with the plus sign + at the front of the command)

[Reply](#)**Alessia** says:

September 27, 2013 at 2:01 AM

Grazie! Fantastico funziona tutto!!! Bravissimo!

[Reply](#)

AutoCAD Tips says:

September 27, 2013 at 5:50 AM

Translated "Thank you! Everything works great! Bravissimo"

Cool!!!

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I Happy it helped

~Greg

[Reply](#)



Imran Mugad says:

November 11, 2013 at 8:01 AM

This Article is very helpful and the express tools are very useful. By this i article i have loaded express tools successfully

[Reply](#)



Daniel says:

November 12, 2013 at 4:59 PM

I'm working in ADT 2014

The design tools has under "Design" the commands: Wall-Roof-Door-Windows, etc. but

I can't see the styles of every one of them, like it happened in ADT 2012

Where are them located, and how to load them in the Design Tools in an specific palette for every one ?

Daniel

[Reply](#)



Daniel says:

November 12, 2013 at 5:02 PM

In ADT 2014 the Autodesk Seek has under Electrical services only "Fluorescent, Luminaires"

Under Site : Only "Humans and Trees"

Where are the other tools as: Electrical Outlets, Panels, Incandescent, ands where are the Parking tools, Cars, etc.

Daniel

[Reply](#)