Chapter 12
Layers, Linetypes, Colors
AutoCAD 2D Tutorial

Introduction to Layers and Layer Dialog Box 12.1

   
2. Type LAYER at the command prompt.
   
   Command: LAYER (or LA)

3. Pick the layers icon from the Layer Control box on the object properties toolbar.

![Layer Properties Manager dialog box]

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?- Lists layers, with states, colors and linetypes.
Make- Creates a new layer and makes it current.
Set- Sets current layer.
New- Creates new layers.
ON- Turns on specified layers.
OFF- Turns off specified layers.
Color- Assigns color to specified layers.
Ltype- Assigns linetype to specified layers.
Freeze- Completely ignores layers during regeneration.
Thaw- Unfreezes specified layers Ltype.
Lock- Makes a layer read only preventing entities from being edited but available visual reference and osnap functions.
Unlock- Places a layer in read write mode and available for edits.
Plot- Turns a Layer On for Plotting
No Plot- Turns a Layer Off for Plotting
LWeight- Controls the line weight for each layer

TIP:
Layers can be set using the command line prompts for layers. To use this, type –LAYER or -LA at the command prompt

1. Type Command: -LAYER or LA
2. Type One of the following layer options

/?/Make/Set/New/ON/OFF/Color/Ltype/Freeze/Thaw:
Layer Shortcuts 12.2

Changing the Layer of an Object

1. **Click** Once on the object to change.
2. **Select** the desired layer from the Layer Control Box dropdown.

AutoCAD will move the object to the new layer.
Making a Layer Current

1. **Click** once on the Make Object’s Layer Current icon.
2. **Select** object whose layer will become current:

Match Properties

1. **Choose** Modify, Match Properties.
   
   **or**

2. **Click** the Match Properties Icon from the Standard toolbar.
   
   **or**

3. **Type** Command: MATCHPROP or MA

4. **Select** the object whose properties you want to copy (1).

5. **Select** the objects to which you want to apply the properties (2).
1. **Open** an AutoCAD drawing with layers.

2. **Turn** layers on/off.

3. **Zoom** or perform any AutoCAD Command.

4. **Type** LAYERP at the command prompt.

   Command: LAYERP

   or

5. **Click** the Layer Previous icon.
Layer States 12.4

1. **Choose** the layer icon.
2. **Select** various layers to be ON, OFF, FROZEN, LOCKED, etc.
3. **Choose** the Save State button.
4. **Choose** Restore State to restore the layer settings.
Color Command 12.5

1. **Choose** Format, Color.
   
   or

2. **Type** DDCOLOR at the command prompt.
   
   Command: **DDCOLOR or COL**
   
   or

3. **Choose** Color on the Object Properties toolbar and then select a color from the list or select Other to display the Select Color dialog box.

**TIP:**

These settings ignore the current layer settings for color.

**By Layer**

If you enter bylayer, new objects assume the color of the layer upon which they are drawn.

**By Block**

If you enter byblock, AutoCAD draws new objects in the default color (white or black, depending on your configuration) until they are grouped into a block. When the block is inserted in the drawing, the objects in the block inherit the current setting of the COLOR command.
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Linetypes 12.6

Loading and Changing Linetypes

1. Choose Format, Linetype...

   or

2. Type DDLTYPE at the command prompt.

   Command: DDLTYPE or LT

3. Choose Load... to see a list of available linetypes.

4. Choose the desired linetype to assign.

5. Click OK.
Lineweights 12.7

Loading and Changing Lineweights

1. **Choose** Format, Lineweight...

   or

2. **Type** LINEWEIGHT at the command prompt.

   Command: LINEWEIGHT or LWEIGHT

   or

4. **Pick** a lineweight to make current from the Object Properties menu.

   ![Lineweight Settings](image)

   **TIPS:**

   - Lineweights can also be assigned to layers.
   - The Display Lineweights feature can be turned on/off on the status bar to show or not show lineweights in the drawing, thus making regenerations faster.

   ![Snap Grid Ortho Polar Osnap Otrack Dyn Lwt Model](image)

   - Lineweights are displayed using a pixel width in proportion to the real-world unit value at which they plot. If you are using a high-resolution monitor, you can adjust the lineweight display scale to better display different lineweight widths.
Object Properties 12.8

1. **Choose** Modify, Properties.
   or
2. **Click** the Properties icon.
   or
3. **Type** DDCHPROP or DDMODIFY at the command prompt.
   Command: **DDCHPROP** (CH) or **DDMODIFY** (MO)
4. **Pick** Objects whose properties you want to change
   Pick a window for DDCHPROP, single object for DDMODIFY.
   Select objects: (select)
5. **Press** ENTER to accept objects.
   Select objects: (press enter)
6. **Choose** One of the following properties to change.