

AViCAD – Plotting & Printing Guide

This handout concludes our mini CAD course. Plotting (or printing) is the process of converting your CAD work into a finished drawing. Let's focus on what you need to know when plotting from Model Space.

1. The Key Command

- PLOT → Opens the plot dialog box.
- Shortcut: Type PLOT at the command line and press Enter.

2. Printing from Model Space

When plotting directly from Model Space, you have four main options:

Display	Prints exactly what's visible on your screen.
Extents	Prints everything in your drawing.
Window	Lets you select a custom area.
Layout (Paper Space)	Prints a layout with title blocks, notes, and scaled viewports.

3. Special Note on Paper Space

- Model Space – where you draw at full size (1:1).
- Paper Space (Layout) – where you place title blocks, notes, and scaled viewports.
- Paper Space allows you to print at true drawing scales without redrawing.
- Viewport Scaling – each viewport in Paper Space can display Model Space at a set scale.
- Annotation Scaling – can be managed automatically (annotative) or manually by controlling DIMSCALE.
- Watch this video guide: How to Setup Text & Dim Styles in Model/Paper Space – <https://cadavenue.com/video/how-to-setup-text-dim-styles-model-paperspace-in-cad>

4. Color & Output

For clean black-and-white printing, select monochrome.ctb in the upper-right corner of the Plot dialog. This forces all colors to print in black while still respecting lineweights.

5. Homework – Try It!

- In Model Space, type PLOT.
- Experiment with Window vs Extents.
- Apply different scales and test the results.
- Compare Model Space vs [Paper Space](#) plotting.

Quick Reference

Command	Steps
PLOT	Opens the Plot dialog box.
Display	Prints exactly what's visible on screen.
Extents	Prints everything in the drawing.
Window	Lets you select a custom area.
Layout	Prints Paper Space layouts with viewports.
monochrome.ctb	Forces all colors to print in black while respecting lineweights.

More Learning with ShortcutCAD

If you'd like to build your CAD skills further, check out our ShortcutCAD training. It covers essential topics like xrefs, text styles, scaling, and more advanced plotting. Visit: <https://shortcutcad.com>

