

1 Usage

1.1 Execution

A TommySoftware® file converter can be started either directly or from within a TommySoftware® application. The usage is equal in both cases.

The program does not require any parameter, but optionally, a path can be supplied, that will be used as the standard setting in the file selector boxes. The TommySoftware® applications automatically pass the current standard path for drawings (e.g. "C:\WINCAD2\DRAWING").

To be able to call the converter from within a TommySoftware® application, it has to be copied into a specific directory. This is, depending on the application, the directory "SYSTEM\CONVERT" oder "CONVERT" inside the applications's directory. You can call the convert afterwards using the CONVERT DRAWING command in the FILE menu of the application.

Otherwise, you can start the program from within the File Manager or the Program Manager of Windows.

1.2 Handling

To convert a single file, select the CONVERT FILE command in the FILE menu or press the key F2. First a file selector box appears, where you have to enter the name of the TVG file to be converted. Then another file selector box appears, where you must enter the name that the produced T2G file shall receive.

After the file name input, the conversion starts. In the lower right corner of the window, the number of converted lines of the TVG file is displayed. A short beep sounds when the conversion is finished.

To convert a complete directory, select the CONVERT DIRECTORY command in the FILE menu or press the key F3. First a file selector box appears, where you have to select the directory that contains the TVG files to be converted. Then another file selector box appears, where you must select the directory into which the produced T2G files shall be stored.

ATTENTION! When converting a complete directory, files within the target directory might be overwritten without warning! In order to avoid trouble, create a new directory to be used as the target directory.

After the directory name input, the conversion starts. In the lower right corner of the window, the number of converted files and, separated by a slash, the number of converted lines of each TVG file is displayed. A short beep sounds when the conversion is finished.

2 Conversion features

All TVG files can be converted without relevant data loss. The only limitation is the fact that the T2G format does not know groups, so all concerning information in the TVG file will be ignored.

For each of the 256 layers available in the TVG file format, a layer with the name "Layer x" will be defined, where x is the number of the layer in the TVG file.

Some line patterns will be defined in order to support the previously used line patterns. The definition of the line patterns "Dotted line, narrow" and "Dotted line, wide" differs a bit from the definition used in the TVG file. This was necessary to improve the display of these line patterns.

Pens and coordinate systems will not be defined, the sheet size is set to "DIN A4 Portrait".

3 Important file formats

The TommySoftware® conversion programs can handle several different file formats, that can normally be distinguished by their file name extension. Following a short description of the most

important file extensions:

- DXF** The DXF-Format was initially used by the CAD-System AutoCAD® (registered trademark of AutoDesk Inc.). It became a standard and can be read and/or written by most of the CAD and graphic applications.
DXF files cannot handle filled area that are more complex than quadrangles. Due to this reason, most applications do not export any fillings, or they have to "emulate" complex areas using triangles and quadrangles.
The DXF file format is frequently changing, because each new release of the CAD system stated above results in more or less extensive changes in the file format. Although this change is necessary for progress, it makes it nearly impossible to be up-to-date.
- MPG** The format MPG 1.0 is used by all graphical applications of TommySoftware®. It is compact and easy to read. Complex filled areas can be described using lines and Bézier curves. The only restriction is the lack of block definitions.
- TVG** The format TVG 1.0 is used by TommySoftware® WINCAD Release 1. It is mainly equivalent to the MPG format, so both can be converted to each other without any loss of information.
- TVL** The format TVL 1.0 is used by most of TommySoftware®'s applications for storing libraries. Its internal structure is similar to MPG and TVG.
- T2G** The format TVG 2.0 is used by TommySoftware® WINCAD Release 2. It is the successor of the TVG format and was extended by block definitions and external references.
Furthermore, filled areas can now also be described using circular arcs in addition to lines and Bézier curves.
T2G files are more compact than TVG files. Having the same information content, T2G files use only 70% of the storage in average.
- T2L** The format TVL 2.0 is also used by TommySoftware® WINCAD Release 2. It is used to store libraries. Its internal structure is similar to T2G.
- VEK** The format VEK 1.0 is used by the vector graphic program MegaPaint® ST since Version 2.3 on the Atari ST. It features complex areas and groups similar to the MPG format.

We wish you success using our applications and this conversion program!

Your TommySoftware® Team.

February 1994