

That CAD Girl

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Determining Autocad Text Size

Standard Text Styles should be developed based on the desired "plotted" height of the text on a plan sheet. For instance, a company's Drafting Standard might state that proposed road names are to be 0.20" high (L200 - see below) when plotted and all other text on the drawing is to be 0.10" high (L100). The majority of text in a typical Autocad drawing with decimal-based units should have a plotted height of 0.08" (L80) or 0.10" (L100).

Engineering and surveying disciplines assign special names to text styles according to their plotted height. The name of these text styles is based on the old hand-lettering method called Leroy. Leroy typically uses a Simplex or RomanS Autocad font.

Standard Leroy text styles are listed below:

Plotted Height	Leroy Text Style Name
0.040"	L40
0.050"	L50
0.060"	L60
0.080"	L80
0.100"	L100
0.120"	L120
0.140"	L140
0.175"	L175
0.200"	L200
0.240"	L240
0.290"	L290
0.350"	L350
0.425"	L425
0.500"	L500

The difficulty arises in that, prior to Autocad® 2008, Autocad does not recognize the plotted height of text as a drawing setting. Autocad text styles must be manually assigned a text height that is relative to the scale of a drawing. To calculate the Autocad text height, you must first know the desired plotted text height AND the plot scale of a drawing.

Plotted Height X Plot Scale = Autocad Text Height

Plotted height	X	Plot Scale	=	Autocad Text Height
0.10"	X	40	=	4.0
0.10"	X	50	=	5.0

Therefore, the text height assigned to a text style depends entirely on the plot scale of the drawing as shown below:

Text Style	Plot Scale		Autocad text height
L100	40	→	4.0
L100	50	→	5.0
L100	100	→	10.0

If the plot scale of the drawing changes, the text heights must be manually changed based on the new plot scale but the text style name will remain the same. Changing the text height assigned to a text style will only apply to text inserted into the drawing after the change has taken place and will not automatically update the height of text already in the drawing.