

Key Stage 1 Jitterbugs

Earlier this year, KS1 pupils from Douglas Road Infant School, Colwyn Bay designed and assembled TEP Jitterbugs

Headteacher Maureen Muraca explained that, "with a pack of just 25 Jitterbugs, we spent two consecutive sessions of an hour and a quarter designing the caricature-like features and completely assembling and working the completed models."

The project incorporated a range of key skills:

- Shape work Colouring
- Adhesives
- Manipulating nuts and bolts
- Handling motors
- Understanding balance and vibration
- Scaling drawings
- Use of scissors
- Use of double-sided tape

- Managing basic circuits
- Connection of batteries

Mrs Muraca commented that, "The enthusiasm was very evident throughout with the more-able supporting the less-able when the need arose. The level of co-operation shown and confidence gained, culminating in the production of an end result, was very evident."

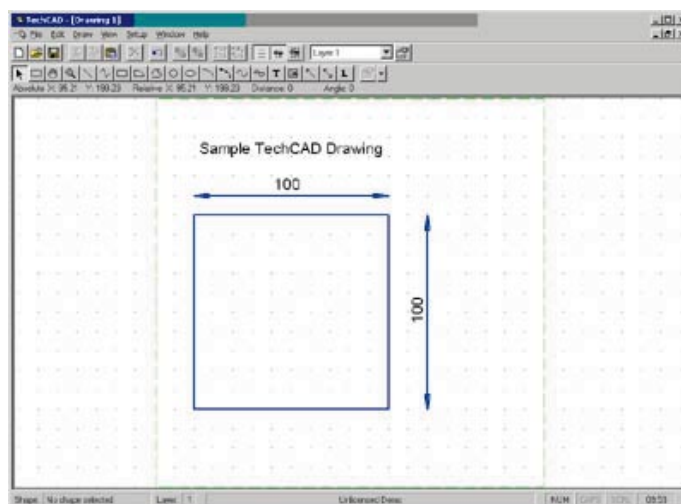
TechCAD

TechCAD is a new vector based CAD drawing package, specifically designed for the educational market. The easy to use software can be used to create drawings and designs that can be plotted, engraved or milled with a CAM plotting device such as XY plotter or CNC machine. If desired the drawing can also be printed on a standard printer. A low-cost site license is available to educational institutions, and registered institutions may purchase bulk CDs to distribute to students so they can use the software at home.

FEATURES:

DRAWING TOOLS

All shapes can be individually customised for line/fill colour, thickness, fill, shading etc. etc. Drawings can be constructed on multiple layers.



Line - line, polyline, freehand, arc, 3 point arc, spline
Shape - rectangle, polygon, circle, ellipse, closed spline
Text - stick fonts for plotting
Dimensions - single or double arrow
Labels - any true type font
Picture - for adding bitmaps for tracing / packaging designs

FILE TYPES

Imports DXF files from other vector drawing packages.

Exports DXF, EMF, BMP and GIF images for publishing on the Internet.

Output Devices Supported

Note that TechCAD includes custom driver applications that allow the design software to be used at the same time that a plot is being carried out. Connection can be made via the serial (recommended) or printer port. (USB and PC Card also supported for specific devices).

All printers that operate under the Windows operating system.
TEP CNC Machine
All XY plotters
Roland CAMM-1, CAMM-2, CAMM-3 machines
Roland Modela and Stika cutters
Many other CNC millers and engravers (drivers under development)

TechCAD is supplied free with the TEP CNC machine tool.