Release Notes GC-PowerPlace v6.4

Table of Contents

New Features

Microns added as a standard unit

Microns have been added to all products as a standard unit throughout the job. The addition allows for the importing of certain DXF and DWG files that were designed in microns as well as providing direct measurements in microns throughout the application.

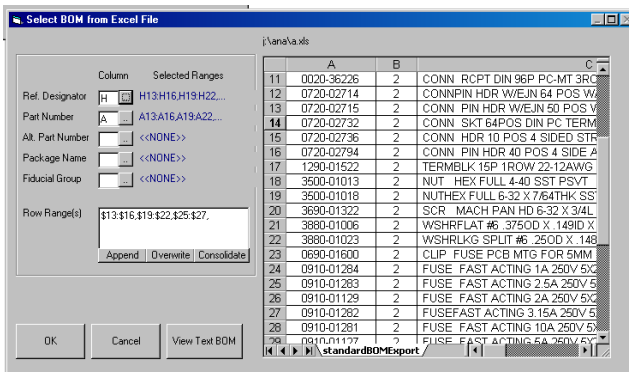
Increased the maximum number of allowed layers

The maximum number of allowable data layers has been increased to 1024 from 256. While most users come nowhere near this upper limit, occasionally certain imported files are written in such a way that they previously overflowed the upper bounds of the software layer count.

Enhanced Features

Import BOM files from Excel – now accepts multiple ranges

This release improves the loading of Excel BOMs to allow multiple ranges to be accepted.



To define the columns manually enter the column letters or select any cell on the desired column and click the button next to the column edit box; only one column selection is allowed

To define the rows select the desired row range(s) and click the “Append” or “Overwrite” button; multiple selections are allowed. Clicking “Consolidate” with eliminate any duplicate range(s) and rewrite the range(s) defined in the edit box in the simplest format

Static descriptions of the chosen ranges are displayed Row Range(s) text box for information purposes. Note, if a column is defined with no row range, the default rows will be all those that contain data.

Filter Selection

The Shape field in the Filter selection dialog now allows the selection of Chamfered Rectangles, Diamonds and other formula custom apertures.

GC-Basic functionality

Improvements to the Copperless Drill function have been added.

Added new global GCB function GetRunningScriptName( ) to determine the name and path of a script.

On Line Help

As always the On Line Help has been updated to include these new and enhanced functions.

Items Fixed since v6.3.2

This list is customer reported issues fixed for this release.

#3734 Enhancement to contour engine algorithm fixes a Netlist Extract crash.

#3732 Enhancement to contour engine algorithm fixes a Netlist Extract crash. Problem was caused by offsetting holes in isolated oblong pads.

#3726 Corrected an issue regarding the mitering of traces in an AutCAD DXF output. Previously, certain traces were incorrectly mitered and caused an incorrect image.

#3725 Isolation failure due to incorrectly calculated contour has been corrected.

#3724 Added a new build configuration in order to allow the release of all GraphiCode products using Simplified Chinese characters.

#3722 Renamed a copy of the original Excel file to be imported to distinguish it from any saved versions resulting in the modification of the Excel file during BOM loading.

#3719 Eliminated an unnecessary Cancel message associated with the Check Reference Designators function.

#3718 As a side effect of contour algorithm work The application no longer crashes during the Solder Bridging check on this dataset.

#3715 Netlist Extraction no longer crashes the application on this dataset. The fix is due to enhancements to the contour calculation.

#3713 The informational message that informed the user that a different font was being used for DXF or DWG text (when the specified font was not available0 now only appears once. Previously it was appearing for every text string specified.

#3709 Netlist Extraction no longer fails to connect the selected pad and trace in the dataset. The fix is due to enhancements to the contour calculation.

#3708 A small utility program has been created and added to the website for verifying that a dongle is still correctly stamped with a key number. This utility can be used to verify if a Superpro dongle has failed in the field. Customers with a current Annual Support Plan will of course have faulty dongles swapped at no charge.

#3704 Now populating the "Package Alias" field of part instances created during ODB++ import with the component package name so that the names will appear in the Package field of the Part property page immediately after import.

#3703 Updated the HP3070 output to output all non-plated holes into the boardxy file.

#3699 Added a field to allow for a user-definable path for the output of Image files from the Export menu. The filed is contained in the Tools>Customize>File Locations dialog.

#3698 The setting for retaining File Extension name when importing layers is now stored in he registry rather than in the GWK.

#3694 Added new global GCB function GetRunningScriptName( ) to retrieve the currently running script.

#3693 Removed rogue Registry key and value name from the string table. This had been causing weird behavior in the Japanese version.

#3687 ODB++ file now correctly loads rounded rectangles that are at non-orthogonal angles.

#3684 Updated the error message text that appeared when no Part Layers were visible on screen prior to generating an HP3070 output.

#3683 One particular custom aperture instance is not been transferred to the SRFF output. Fixed.

#3679 Updated the contour engine to handle the isolation of a custom aperture constructed with a slit.

#3676 Allow filter selection to select more shapes (see Enhanced Features section).

#3675 HP3070 export dialog now correctly picks up the part layer and not the Footprint layer by default.

#3674 Eliminated the superfluous “Diode is a 3 pin package” warning when two pin diodes are output.

#3673 The Diode description now appears in the boardxy.txt file for the HP3070 output.

#3667 Non ASCII characters are now handled in the Export dialog. Previously when outputting RS-274X files that contained an Umlaut in their filename were not output.

#3663 Added ability to select all part numbers or package styles when running the Assembly Report. Report

#3660 An option has been added to the Tools > Customize > Settings dialog to display the full filename and path in the application window.

#3658 Added a warning during Import RS-274X to flag the presence of zero dimension apertures.

#3657 Isolation failure due to incorrectly calculated contour has been corrected.

#3656 Internal Error message no longer occurs after closing a minimized application.

#3653 Modified Allegro drill header recognition code to recognize the slight change in format for the newer version (old version still recognized as well).

#3640 Fixed a minor issue where focus was not being updated correctly when Enter was used within the New Aperture size dialog.

#3639 Removed the redundant 'Smart R90' entry in the Rotate dialog.

#3633 Modified code designed to ignore whitespace characters within aperture macros; code was overstepping its bounds in ignoring these characters within the name field.

#3626 Updated the Reorder Polygon function to ignore polygon constructions with the Void Fill attribute assigned.

#3625 Added a field to define the location to save CAP files created when using the Advanced Scan and Replace function.

#3621 Clear Part Numbers function can now either clear the BOM or simply clear the current Part Number entry. This allows for multiple revisions of the same board to be more easily handled.

#3619 Correctly recognize Sieb and Meyer rout file by ignoring characters that were previously being considered.

#3618 Save Setup Tab Settings in RS274X Output Dialog

#3614 Fixed a nasty release only bug concerning the fill function applied with outline replacement and Edge Adjust.

#3611 The following updates have been made to the IPC-D-356 output

- skip iterating pads from composite layers

- skip iterating pads from inner layers

- remove buried drilled pads from output

- remove the pad from buried end of blind drills from output

#3609 Updated the Arc to Vector algorithm to retain polygon ordering following completion.

#3604 Disabled panelization checking code in RS274x and MDA Fire outputs. We now no longer produce a message questioning the step and repeats of the data layers compared to the drill layer.

#3591 Pressing Enter button no longer kicks user out of Footprint Library Explorer

#3589 Allow for usage of S letter when ordering with Alpha/Numeric. This allows certain components to be created with pin number S1, S2 etc when necessary.

#3575 Increased the maximum number of data layers allowed in the application (see above)

#3517 Import of this particular DWG file no longer hangs the application.

#3402 Import BOM Information - Excel OLH (see above)

#2492 Netlist Extraction no longer crashes the application on this dataset. The fix is due to enhancements to the contour calculation.

#634 Add Microns as an option for units (see above)