

Working with Annotative Text

What is "Annotative Text"?

Text is one type of annotation in AutoCAD whose size, by default, is not automatically updated or otherwise associated with the plot scale of the drawing. Linetypes and Dimension Objects, by comparison, will automatically adjust size and spacing if the corresponding LTSCALE or DIMSCALE (of the DimStyle) is changed.

When creating Annotative Text Styles, you assign text height based on the desired plotted height of the text. Then, by changing the Annotative Scale of the drawing or creating Paper Space viewports at scale, you have the ability to display a single piece of text at multiple scales and sizes.

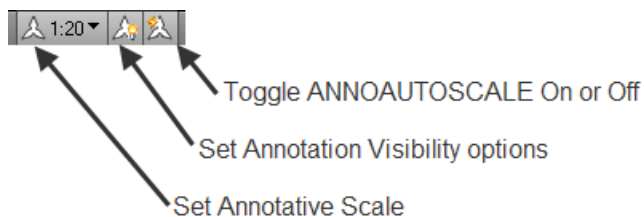
How do you create "Annotative Text Styles"?

Annotative Text Styles are defined in the Text Style dialog box.

To make a Text Style Annotative, simply place a check in the box next to "Annotative" and make sure to specify the "Height" as the desired plotted height of text instead of the model space height. A text height of 0.1 corresponds to a plotted height of 0.1".

How do you place and manage Annotative Text?

The global settings affecting Annotative Text are managed from these controls found on the status bar:

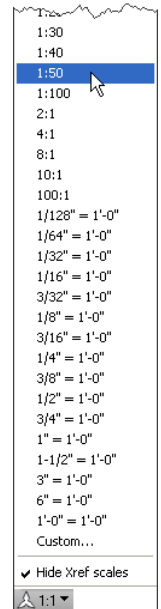


Set Annotative Scale: This control sets the current Annotative Scale for the drawing. Any new Annotative Text will automatically be visible in viewports set to this scale.


Set Annotation Visibility Options: This control can be changed independently in Model Space and Paper Space. This control determines whether Annotative Text in the drawing is visible for all Annotative Scales or only the Current Annotative Scale.

Toggle ANNOAUTOSCALE: If this option is toggled On, setting a new Annotative Scale will add that scale to Annotative Text currently in the drawing. The default setting is Off. Note that there are several options available for this setting. See AutoCAD Help for more.

Before placing Annotative Text in your drawing, select the desired scale from the list of Annotative Scales as shown to the right, then use the DText (Single Line) or MText (Multi-Line) commands to add text to your drawing.

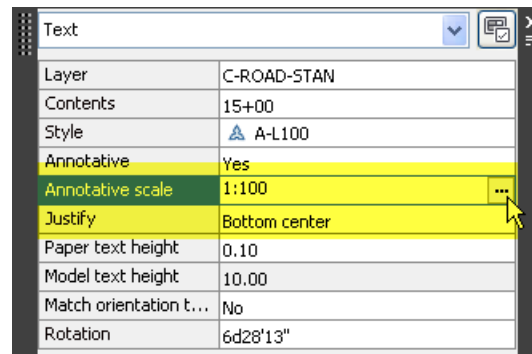


If you need this text to also be visible at additional scales, you have a couple of options.

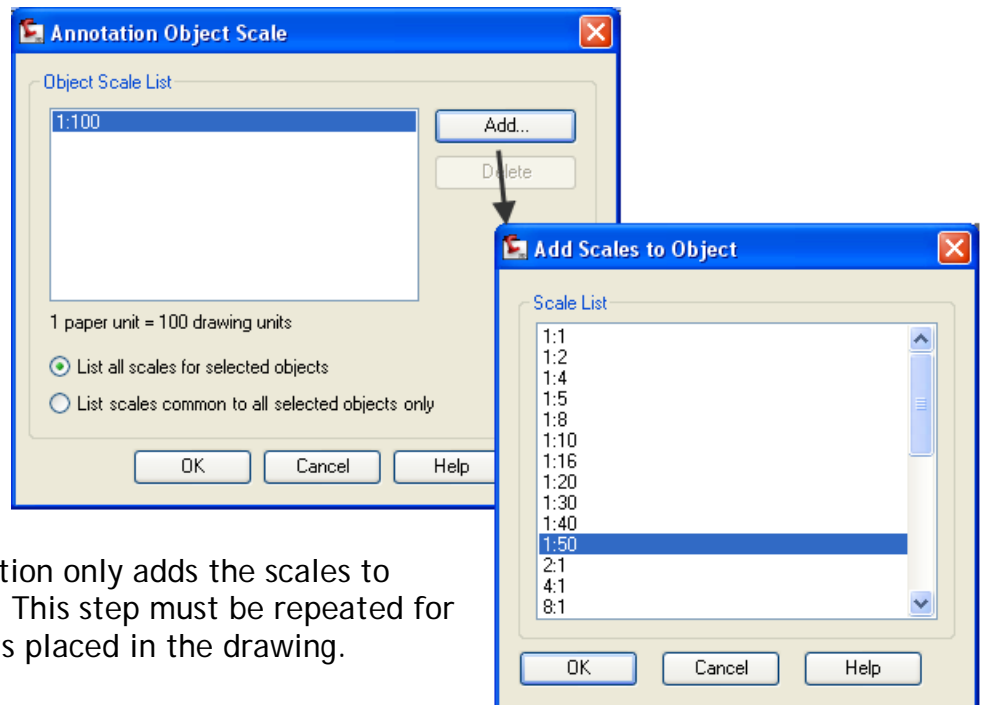
1. Toggle the ANNOAUTOSCALE button  to On.
2. Change the Current Annotation Scale to the additional scale.
3. This scale has now been added to all Annotative Text currently in the drawing.
4. To add more scales, simply change the Current Annotation Scale and that Scale will be added to new or previously created entities.

Or

1. Select the Annotative Text entity and open the Properties palette.
2. Next to Annotative Scale, pick the "..." button.



3. This will open up the Annotation Object Scale dialog box. Use the Add button to Add Scales to the text entity.




4. Note that this option only adds the scales to selected objects. This step must be repeated for other text objects placed in the drawing.

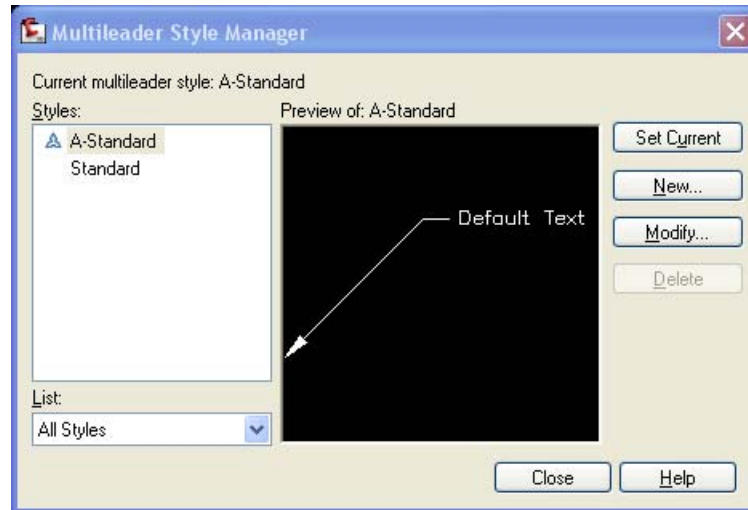
Working with Multi-Leaders

Multi-Leaders are a robust drawing feature introduced in recent versions of AutoCAD. Like Text and Dimension Styles, Multi-Leader Styles can be defined as either Annotative or Non-Annotative.

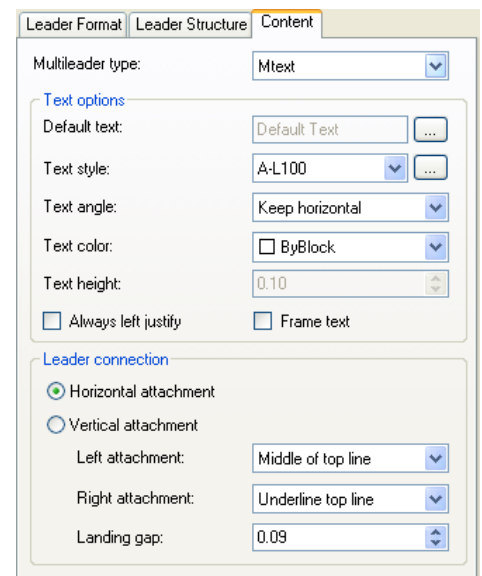
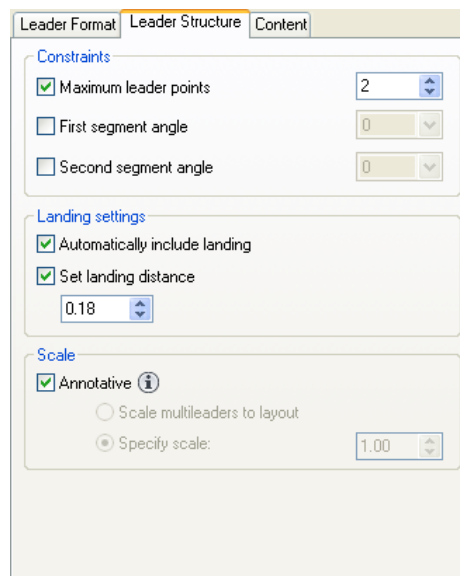
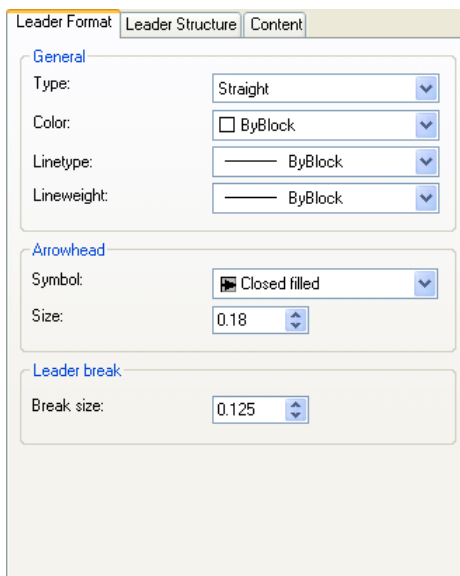
Multi-Leaders are most easily managed using the Multi-Leaders toolbar.




You can create a new Multi-Leader Style using the Multi-Leader Styles dialog box. Open it by picking this icon: 



Styles are modified by picking the Modify button. The Modify button provides 3 tabs allowing you to change the Leader Format, Leader Structure and Content.




After creating and setting a Multi-Leader Style current, use the “Multi-Leader” icon  to create a new Multi-Leader.

The command line prompts allow you to either pick the leader arrowhead OR the content first:

Command: `_mleader`

Specify leader arrowhead location or [leader Landing first/Content first/Options] <Options>:

After adding Multi-Leaders to your drawing, you can use these icons  to either add or remove leaders to a Multi-Leader entity.

Once Multi-Leaders have been added to your drawing, you can use grips to move the content (blocks, text or mtext) or leaders without losing the associativity between the leaders and the content.