

DesignSpark Mechanical modules FAQs

What is DesignSpark Mechanical?

DesignSpark Mechanical is a revolutionary free 3D CAD modeling software suite, unrivalled when it comes to engineering innovation and turning ideas into prototypes via 3D printing. Unlike traditional 3D CAD, DesignSpark Mechanical is easy to learn and allows unlimited and frequent design changes.

Take a look at the [software homepage](#) for more information.

How can the DesignSpark Mechanical add-on modules help me?

While the FREE software itself is sufficient for most common design needs, the optional paid for add-on modules extend the base functionality with an array of powerful and advanced features.

Exchange Module:

- Enables seamless integration into existing design workflows though full STEP format import
- Edit & export and full IGES format files

Drawing Module:

- Create or View 2D drawings with support annotations and full GD&T
- Thread tool – create standard & custom threads
- Custom drawing sheets
- Create and insert barcodes into drawings
- Create and modify perspective views on 2D drawings from 3D object

Bundle Add-on Modules:

For users wanting it all, an economically priced bundle, including Exchange + Drawing is offered.

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Functional Benefits of DesignSpark Mechanical Add-On Modules	DesignSpark Mechanical Free version	Exchange add-on 852-3012	Drawing add-on 852-3015	Add-on Bundle 852-3019
Create new geometry using sketch/Pull/Move	✓	✓	✓	✓
3D Modelling on Touch based Windows tablets or PCs	✓	✓	✓	✓
Open and modify 3D PCBs from ECAD exported IDFs	✓	✓	✓	✓
Download RS parts from Traceparts in DesignSpark Mechanical format	✓	✓	✓	✓
Generate online quotes for purchasing RS parts	✓	✓	✓	✓
Import geometry from popular 3D formats	✓	✓	✓	✓
Edit imported STEP, IGES file geometry	—	✓	—	✓
Export geometry to STEP and IGES formats	—	✓	—	✓
Create or view 2D drawings with support annotations and full GD&T	—	—	✓	✓
Thread tool - create standard & custom threads	—	—	✓	✓
Customize Drawing sheets	—	—	✓	✓
Create and insert barcodes into drawings	—	—	✓	✓
Create and modify perspective views on 2D drawings from 3D object	—	—	✓	✓

If you're ready to buy, go ahead and check out the [detailed upgrade guide](#) now.

Where can I find more information on DesignSpark Mechanical and the add-on modules?

Visit the [DesignSpark software homepage](#) for more information on features, system requirements, help/support, etc.

What functionality does the Exchange add-on module give me?

- Freely import, modify and export the industry standard STEP and IGES file formats, exchange design data with CAD tools such as SolidWorks, CATIA, PTC Creo (Pro/ENGINEER), AutoCAD, etc.
- A low cost 3D design solution ideal for companies wanting to create product concepts, without having to invest in 3D CAD licenses & training
- Reduce reliance on contractors for final design creation and manufacturing.

What functionality does the Drawing add-on module give me?

- This module adds SpaceClaim's Associative Drawing environment to DesignSpark Mechanical
- Change designs, as well as create and modify geometry, within drawing views, ideal for those accustomed to working in 2D
- Drawings module support annotations (with various font customizations), including GD&T, notes and leaders, to JIS, ISO, and ANSI® standards
- Create cosmetic threads (including ISO, UNC, UNEF and other standards & sizes) at the click of a button

How do I get support when using the extended functionality?

DesignSpark is a tightly knit community of highly knowledgeable users and the forums remain the best place to seek help. Make sure to search with your particular query before launching a new thread.

You can get directly in touch with our support team by logging in with your DesignSpark account and submitting a ticket here: <https://designspark.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/requests/new>

Please provide sufficient details of the issue along with screenshots (where applicable).

I had bought & installed the Exchange (or, Drawing) add-on and would now like to setup the Drawing (or, Exchange) add-on on the same computer. Is that possible?

NO. If you would like the features of both the main modules on the same PC, you should get the bundle.

Does the license for the add-on modules expire?

There is NO expiration date for any of the licenses (Exchange, Drawing or the bundle) you have purchased.

Which versions of DesignSpark Mechanical are the add-on modules compatible with?

This add-on modules are compatible with DesignSpark Mechanical v2.0 and newer versions. Please ensure you have the latest version of the software installed before commencing installation of your new add-on modules.

Will the add-on modules work with future versions of DesignSpark Mechanical?

YES, the add-on modules are designed to work with all future updates/releases of the software.

What are the system requirements?

[They are the same as DesignSpark Mechanical.](#)

Can I use the add-on modules license on more than one machine?

NO, a single licence key is meant to be used on only ONE machine (node-locked licence) at a time. Simultaneous use or activation of the same licence key on more than 1 PC isn't allowed.

I got a new computer. Can I migrate/move my activated license from the old machine?

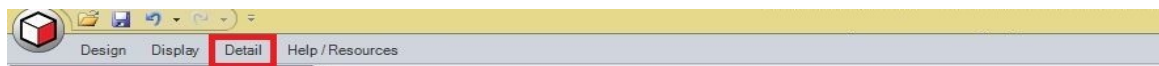
YES. Please [consult this article for the steps to migrate.](#)

Where can I find the new features of the Drawing and Exchange add-ons?

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Export 3D designs as PDF Document	✓	✓	✓	✓
Edit imported STEP, IGES file geometry	—	✓	—	✓
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Create or view 2D drawings with support annotations and full GD&T	—	—	✓	✓
Thread tool - create standard & custom threads	—	—	✓	✓
Customize Drawing sheets	—	—	✓	✓
Create and insert barcodes into drawings	—	—	✓	✓
Create and modify perspective views on 2D drawings from 3D object	—	—	✓	✓

All of the new features have been added together under a separate tab called “Detail”.

You will notice the difference in the tab layout right after you install the Drawing module licence.



Once the Exchange add-on is installed, you will notice the changes only when importing or exporting a design. New STEP and IGES file formats (with full open and edit options) will be added in the ‘save’ window.

What kind of customisation is available for my drawing sheet?

You can change the drawing sheet format, size, orientation and scale. If standard paper sizes do not match your needs, you can also enter a custom size (width x height). A variety of diagram size scaling options are available. Head into **File-> DesignSpark options -> Detailing -> Size and Format** to customise.

I want to add special notes to my drawings and designs. How can I customise them?

With the drawing add-on a plethora of text editing options have been added (find them under the ‘Detail’ tab). You can change font type, size (height and width), weight, alignment, etc. Re-sizing the text box also helps alter font size automatically.

Can I import the BOM (Bill of Materials) from my original design into the drawing sheet?

Yes, you can. All parts information and design structure hierarchy are carried over to your drawing sheet. The BOM will be instantly created at the press of a button and you can submit your order through the RS/Allied country website with the BOM quote button (in ‘Design’ tab).

Interesting fact: All 3D CAD models imported via the FREE DesignSpark Mechanical library will carry all part information (including RS stock numbers) to save time in BOM creation!

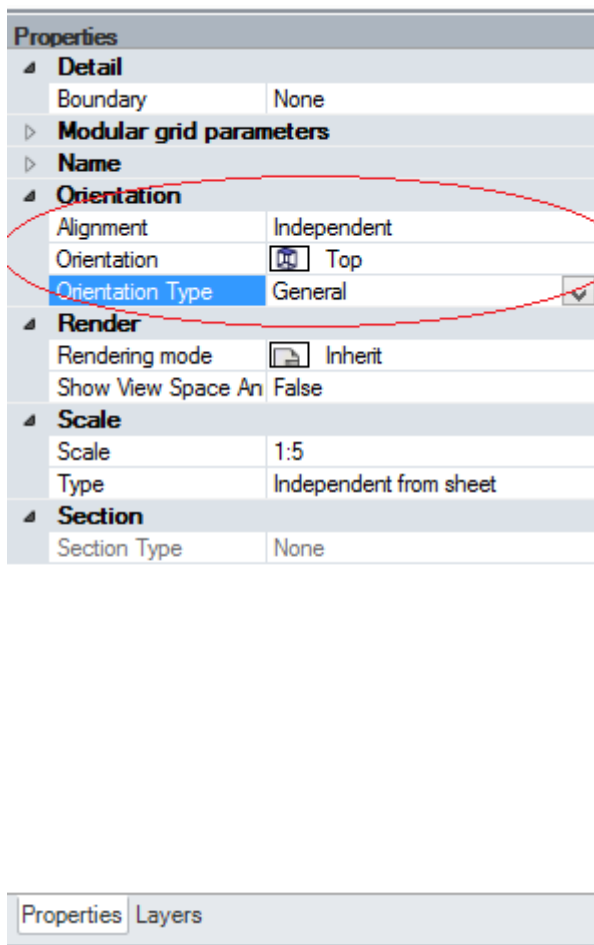


How do I adjust sizes of individual views on a drawing sheet?

By default, the views are tied to each other by the scale/size ratio. To change that:

1. Click on a viewport and head over to the left hand properties pane.
2. Go to the 'orientation' option, set **alignment** to 'Independent' and **type** to 'General' or other perspective.
3. Change the 'Scale' numerical ratio of the view to your choice. Press the enter key to see the changes take effect.

You should now be able to change the size of one view without affecting the others.



Why aren't the DesignSpark Mechanical add-on modules free? Why do I have to pay?

DesignSpark Mechanical add-on modules are a result of the feedback from our user base of the DesignSpark Mechanical 3D design software. Across the tens of thousands of users there is a distinct group who have adopted 3D design in their design workflows and want to take it to the next level beyond Concept Design & 3D printing – these users require a 'premium' functionality that allows final design manufacturing. Whilst we are not able to offer this functionality free of charge, we have worked with our customers and ANSYS SpaceClaim to establish the right level of premium features at affordable price. DesignSpark Mechanical add-on modules are ideal for those who require fully featured manufacturing-ready 3D design solution but are not willing to pay premium for traditional 3D CAD software packages.

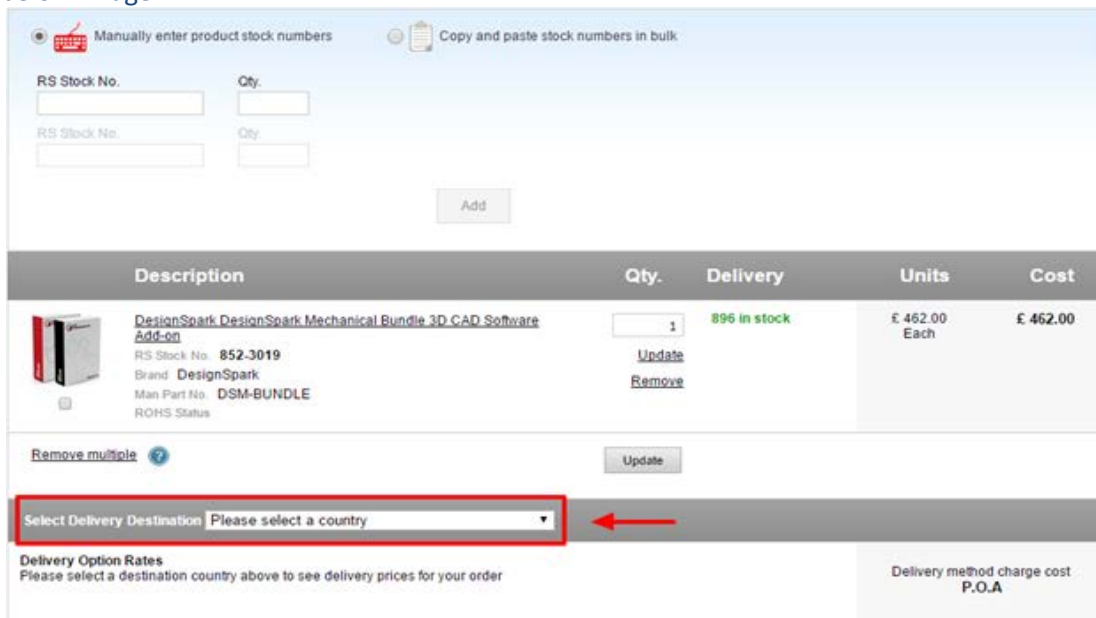
Where do I buy the DSM add-ons if I am based in the Americas or any of the markets RS Components does not serve directly?

Head over to the RS Export website (<http://export.rsdelivers.com>) to purchase. Make sure to choose your currency (US Dollars, EUROS, GB Pounds) and preferred language (English/Spanish). Note that the licence key with instructions are sent by email to your RS Components registered email address. No physical delivery by post occurs.


How do I avoid a shipping charge from being added when buying from the RS Export website?

What if a VAT number is not applicable to me? (ONLY applicable to DesignSpark add-ons)

Once the product is added to basket, select your country from the dropdown as highlighted in the below image.



The screenshot shows the RS Export website basket interface. At the top, there are two options: "Manually enter product stock numbers" (selected) and "Copy and paste stock numbers in bulk". Below this are two input fields for "RS Stock No." and "Qty.", followed by an "Add" button. The main basket area is a table with the following columns: "Description", "Qty.", "Delivery", "Units", and "Cost".

Description	Qty.	Delivery	Units	Cost
 DesignSpark Mechanical Bundle 3D CAD Software Add-on RS Stock No: 852-3019 Brand: DesignSpark Man Part No: DSM-BUNDLE ROHS Status: Remove multiple Update	1 Update Remove	896 in stock	£ 462.00 Each	£ 462.00

Below the table, there is a "Select Delivery Destination" dropdown menu with the text "Please select a country". A red box highlights this dropdown, and a red arrow points to it from the right. Below the dropdown, there is a "Delivery Option Rates" section with the text "Please select a destination country above to see delivery prices for your order". To the right of this section, there is a "Delivery method charge cost" field with the value "P.O.A".

Once selected, this brings up the delivery options. As this is software, select **Ex Works Collection**. This is to ensure that we don't charge delivery. Image below.

Select Delivery Destination United States	
<input type="radio"/> DHL* (Freight costs are shown as estimates and will be finalised at the point of despatch)	£ 18.69
<input type="radio"/> Channel Islands free delivery (Available within the British Islands only. Charges will still apply outside of this area)	P.O.A
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Ex Works Collection (Own carrier - we will contact you for your courier account details)	P.O.A

Delivery method charge cost
P.O.A

If asked for a VAT number which is not applicable to the country you currently reside in, enter a ‘.’ in the field to bypass.