

phoenix

WOODWORKS

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN :

I OWN A CABINET AND MILLWORK SHOP IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA AND HAVE BEEN DOING HIGH END CABINETS AND MILLWORK IN SAN FRANCISCO AND THE BAY AREA FOR OVER 20 YEARS . I HAVE BEEN WATCHING THE DEVELOPMENT OF CABINET PROGRAMS SINCE THE EARLY 80'S WHEN I FIRST PURCHASED "CABINETWARE" FOR MY "STATE OF THE ART 286 COMPUTER" . THIS PURCHASE WAS A SUBSTANTIAL INVESTMENT FOR OUR SMALL SHOP AND I HAD VERY HIGH EXPECTATIONS . UNFORTUNATELY I FOUND THAT WHILE THE PROGRAM DID A GOOD JOB ON STANDARD CASEWORK ANYTHING DIFFERENT WAS EITHER NOT POSSIBLE OR WAS SO CUMBERSOME AND TIME CONSUMING THAT IT WASN'T WORTH IT . SINCE MOST OF OUR WORK IS HIGHLY CUSTOM AND CONSISTS OF EVERYTHING FROM CABINETS & FURNITURE TO STAIRCASES & paneled rooms WITHIN A COUPLE OF YEARS I STOPPED USING CABINETWARE . AT THIS POINT I STARTED DOING MY DRAWINGS ON CAD IN 2D AND DID MY PARTS LISTS ON EXCEL AND CONTINUED TO WAIT FOR "THE PERFECT PROGRAM" TO COME ALONG .

LAST YEAR I DECIDED TO SEARCH ONCE AGAIN AND RESEARCHED "PATTERN SYSTEMS" , "MICROVELLUM" , "ECABINETS" , "CABINET VISION" , "SPI WOOD" AND MOST OF THE OTHER CABINET PROGRAMS NOW ON THE MARKET .

WHILE SEARCHING THE INTERNET I CAME UPON MENTION OF SMARTLISTER IN ONE OF THE CAD BULLETIN BOARDS AND GOT AN EVALUATION COPY . WHAT ORIGINALLY IMPRESSED ME WITH THIS PROGRAM WAS THE FACT THAT INSTEAD OF RELYING ON FORMULAS AND PARAMETRICS , SMARTLISTER USES THE INFORMATION DIRECTLY FROM THE DRAWING TO PRODUCE A PARTS LIST . AS A PARTS LISTING PROGRAM SMARTLISTER IS INCREDIBLY EASY TO USE ESPECIALLY COMPARED TO THE OTHER PROGRAMS I'VE SEEN . THE HARDEST PART OF USING SMARTLISTER WAS LEARNING AUTOCAD 3D MODELING BUT WITH THE FUNCTIONS THAT SMARTLISTER ADDS TO AUTOCAD AND SOME HELP AND ADVICE FROM DAVID WISHENGARD THE DEVELOPER OF SMARTLISTER I WAS SURPRISED AT HOW FAST I WAS ABLE TO GET UP AND RUNNING . IN THE PAST I HAD PLAYED WITH AUTOCAD 3D MODELING BUT WAS FRUSTRATED OVER TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING IN A REASONABLE AMOUNT OF TIME AND ONCE I HAD DONE SOME MODELING AND WANTED TO MAKE A CHANGE THERE WAS NO EASY WAY TO STRETCH A GROUP OF SOLIDS LIKE A CABINET IN ORDER TO CHANGE THE SIZE . SMARTLISTER HAS SOLVED THIS PROBLEM WITH A BUILT-IN FUNCTION SIMILAR TO THE STRETCH FUNCTION IN 2D , YOU CAN SELECT A GROUP OF PARTS AND STRETCH THEM ALONG ANY AXIS AND ALL PARTS SIZES WILL UPDATE ALONG WITH THE DRAWING .

AS I MENTIONED ABOVE THIS PROGRAM AMAZES ME WITH IT'S SIMPLICITY, VERSATILITY AND FUNCTIONALITY . I STARTED USING AUTOCAD 3D MODELING AND SMARTLISTER ABOUT 6 MONTHS AGO AND WITHIN 2 MONTHS I WAS PRODUCING COMPLETE 3D MODELS, SHOP DRAWINGS (INCLUDING PERSPECTIVES)

AND COMPLETE PARTS LISTS FOR SOME FAIRLY COMPLICATED PROJECTS SUCH AS FULLY paneled rooms with multiple trims, ceiling paneling, doors, windows, cabinets, etc. .

ANOTHER BENEFIT OF WORKING WITH 3D SOLID MODELING IS THE ABILITY TO VIEW AND UNDERSTAND RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN PARTS IN THE DESIGN PROCESS TO ELIMINATE ERRORS .

UNLIKE THE OTHER PROGRAMS I HAVE LOOKED AT SMARTLISTER IS NOT A "CABINET PROGRAM" ONLY BUT IS ABLE TO BE USED TO PART LIST ANYTHING YOU CAN MODEL IN AUTOCAD (FRAMING FOR A HOUSE, A STAIRCASE, A CHAIR, ETC.) . ALSO UNLIKE OTHER PROGRAMS, SMARTLISTER ALLOWS YOU TO CUSTOMISE YOUR DRAWINGS AND PARTS LISTS JUST ABOUT ANY WAY YOU WANT WITH EASE .

AS YOU CAN TELL I AM VERY EXCITED ABOUT THIS PROGRAM AND HOPE IT MEETS WITH GREAT SUCCESS IN THE MARKET . I DO NOT HESITATE TO RECOMMEND IT VERY HIGHLY . WHEN I WAS RESEARCHING SOFTWARE LAST YEAR I WROTE DOWN THE QUALITIES I WANTED TO SEE IN THE PERFECT CABINET PROGRAM AS FOLLOWS :

PRODUCE SHOP DRAWINGS IN 2D & 3D AND BE ABLE TO SHARE DRAWINGS WITH ARCHITECTS AND IMPORT DRAWINGS FROM ARCHITECTS TO FORM BASIS OF SHOP DRAWINGS .

HAVE THE ABILITY TO DRAW A PART OR GROUP OF PARTS OF ANY KIND AND BE ABLE TO GET THE INFORMATION DIRECTLY FROM THE DRAWING WITHOUT HAVING TO GO TO FORMULA BASED SPREADSHEETS AND PARAMETER FILES .

HAVE THE ABILITY TO CHANGE SIZES OF PARTS AND GROUPS OF PARTS EASILY AND HAVE PARTS INFORMATION UPDATE .

HAVE THE ABILITY TO ORGANIZE AND FORMAT DRAWINGS TO ANY STANDARD .

HAVE THE ABILITY TO GROUP AND ORGANIZE PARTS LIST AS DESIRED .

BE ABLE TO PRODUCE RENDERED PRESENTAION DRAWINGS IF NEEDED .

BE ABLE TO OPTIMIZE PARTS .

BE ABLE TO EXPORT INFORMATION TO CNC .

OF THE ABOVE ITEMS THE EXPORT TO CNC IS THE ONLY ONE NOT AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME BUT SINCE I DONT HAVE A CNC YET I WILL SAY THAT THE SMARTLISTER PROGRAM IS THE "PERFECT PROGRAM" FOR US AND PROBABLY FOR THOUSANDS OF OTHER SHOPS . ADD TO THIS A PRICE OF JUST OVER \$1000.00 AND GREAT SUPPORT AND ADVISE FROM DAVID I BELIEVE HE HAS REALLY PRODUCED A WINNER .

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE KIND OF WORK WE DO PLEASE CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE AT PHOENIXWOODWORKS.COM .

SINCERELY
KEVIN WOODMAN