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# **PROGRESSIVE WOOD WORKS INC.**

Cabinetry & Furniture  
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To Whom It May Concern,

I own and operate a custom high end cabinetry and furniture shop in New York and would like to thank MillLister Inc. for putting together a software package that is easy to use and intuitive. I have been using AutoCAD for many years and was always frustrated with the lack of 3d capabilities. The major drawback has been the inability to stretch multiple 3d objects simultaneously, until now. In addition to being able to manipulate the 3d objects, all objects are linked to a database, which automatically determines the size of the object and allows up to six additional user information fields. This information follows the object regardless of which drawing it is stored in, so parts and assemblies are easily reused by copying and pasting from one drawing to another in AutoCAD 2002. One of the nice features of the program is that all of the AutoCAD functions can be used like move, copy, array, mirror, erase, etc. and the SmartLister database is automatically updated. It is also easy to select a portion of the job and send it to production. There is a complete sorting and filtering portion of the program, so one can send a collated list of solid door parts for example to the mill area of the shop without having to modify a complete cut list. If modification is necessary, it is easily done in either Excel or Access. I also have an optimizer program and the export options portion of the program makes the formatting of the columns compatible with my optimizer.

This program sits on top of AutoCAD so anyone who has been using that program over the years should be able to easily operate this program. In addition to the length and width of the object being stretched, when the thickness of the material is stretched, it is automatically updated in the database in a special column available for export. This is especially helpful if a door or face frame that was originally designed at 3/4" thick and has since been changed to 1" thick. This ability to automatically change material thickness on the fly means that one is not locked into a pre-designated material thickness variable in the "original drawing set up". What you see is what you get. There are no substituted images that are a "graphical representation" of a specific part.

About a week after I purchased the program, a regular client of mine called and stated that he wanted a slat top teak vanity with solid legs for one of the new bowl type sinks. Within 15 minutes I was able to design the vanity in 3d using AutoCAD, rotate the drawing see how it looked and then redesign it to make more pleasing to the eye. The solid modeling stretch command and feature manipulation tools available in the SmartModeling package makes 3d as easy to use as 2d. In addition, when I was finished designing I had a complete accurate cut list.

The way I prefer to design a job is to open up AutoCAD, start drawing room constraints and then work from there. With many other programs one needs to pre-layout the room before anything can be done, because cabinets are cumbersome to resize. With SmartModeling, one can select the cabinets and stretch as necessary. All the sizes are automatically recalculated in the database. There have been so many times job conditions have changed and the elevations have needed to be redone. In 2d no problem except, oops, I forgot to change the plan view or the section, or the elevation and then I took my numbers off the wrong part of the drawing. The 2d drawings are fine, but the part take off is a chore and frequently prone to expensive errors. With SmartLister all part dimensions are taken for you.

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One of the features I don't like about most software products is that your company becomes totally dependent on the in house configuration of that software. There is no master database for SmartLister because the individual objects carry the additional information. When one brings over the part or cabinet, all the data associated with that part or cabinet is brought over also. Drawings can be as detailed as necessary. They can include just the overall sizes, or part with features such as line drilling holes, or include all dowels, shelf rest supports, hinges, slides, etc.

Custom molding extrusions are a breeze with the new 2002 Express toolbox multiple edit feature. One can take a supplier's profile of the molding, create a piece of it and stretch, miter and apply as necessary. The moulding can then be copied and modified on the fly. The database lengths are automatically updated, and a copied piece takes along with it all the SmartLister information from the original piece so no additional information needs to be added in the database.

I was hesitant at first believing the claims of the programs operation, but after downloading the demo and viewing the extensive online movies I was convinced. One feature this program does not have is the ability to export information to a CNC. I do not have a CNC at this point in time so I am unaffected by this. In addition, with the improvements in feature recognition software, I suspect this will not remain a problem indefinitely. At a cost of \$1,195.00, this program will easily pay for itself in a job or two by not having any parts omissions, or take off errors. The structure of the program, while conducive to cabinetmaking, is not limited solely to the cabinetry profession. So if your company ever gets involved in custom engineered projects, this is the software to have. Even if you are currently using a cabinet design program, SmartLister is an excellent way to supplement your existing software allowing you to do any sort of custom work that may be necessary.

Sincerely,

James R. Falk

President  
Progressive Wood Works Inc.