



Stack your Sections

Tips for Building Section Sheets Efficiently

Steve Boon AScT

Civil Design Technologist

McElhanney Consulting Services Ltd.

Class summary

- Civil3d provides tools for creating Section Views and laying them out in preparation for printing. These tools and options work fairly well for people who work in the flatter parts of the world. For those of us who design in more rugged terrain – not so much.

In this session we will discuss Section View styles, Section View Band Styles, Group Plot styles and how they interact. I will also demonstrate a method which allows you to create stacks of variable height section views so that the page space is used efficiently.

Key learning objectives

At the end of this class, you will be able to:

- Work with Section View styles
- Work with Group Plot styles
- Create a custom paper size and page setup
- Bring all of the pieces together to create section sheets which use the paper efficiently.



Section View styles and Band styles

Key Points:

- The Datum point of each Section view is always at the bottom, and at the intersection of two major grid lines.
- The default height and width of each view can be controlled by the options you pick in the wizard, but this is also influenced by the grid padding settings in the view style.
- Most users use bands to expand the extents of their section views so that there is space for labels.

Gridded Sections for Printing

Key Points:

- The group plot styles use sheet objects to organize the layout of section grids. The dimensions of each sheet are based on the viewport and the layout of the template drawing used to create them.
- Similar to above, each section view is placed on the sheet at the intersection of two major grid lines. There must also be grid lines between adjacent section views.
- You can change the layout of the section views by editing the grid spacing of the sheet, in the group plot style settings.

Stacks of Section Views

Key Points:

- Civil 3D always positions each row of sections on a sheet to accommodate the tallest one in the row below. The workaround for this issue is to make a sheet that is just wide enough for one section, so that you produce a stack of them.
- The sheet you need for this purpose is tied to the dimensions of a viewport and a layout in your template drawing. The dimensions of that layout are tied to a paper size, normally specified in your printer setup.
- You can create a custom paper size, then use that to create a page setup and layout that suits the section views you're planning to display.



AUTODESK®