



Knowledge Base Topic:

Preparing Plotter PC3

Software: AutoCAD Civil 3D

Civil 3D uses the Autodesk plotting engine and utilizes the PC3 file to control where plots will be placed. A standard FDOTPDF.PC3 has been provided in the templates and State Kit.

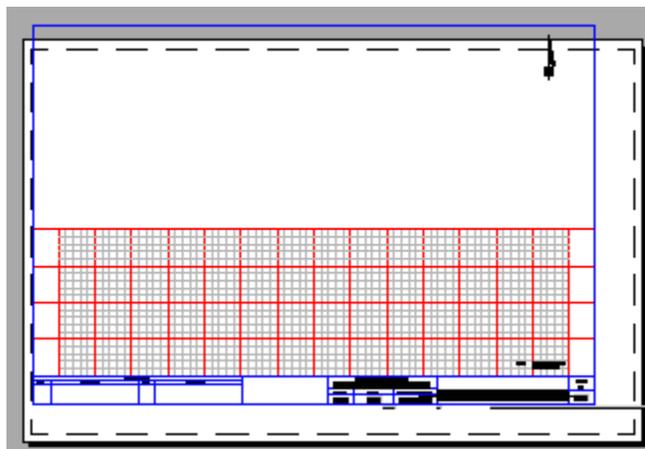
The origin is the bottom left corner of the paper. In some cases, margins have been specified by your hardware drivers or defined by some other means which usually leads to the sheets being offset incorrectly. In this case, you will need to create a new PC3 file to properly plot the FDOT sheets in the same location.

By setting up your plotters with the origin at the bottom of the paper any user receiving the drawing will be able to get the same results as the original user.

NOTE: Do not move the border around to address offset origin issues!

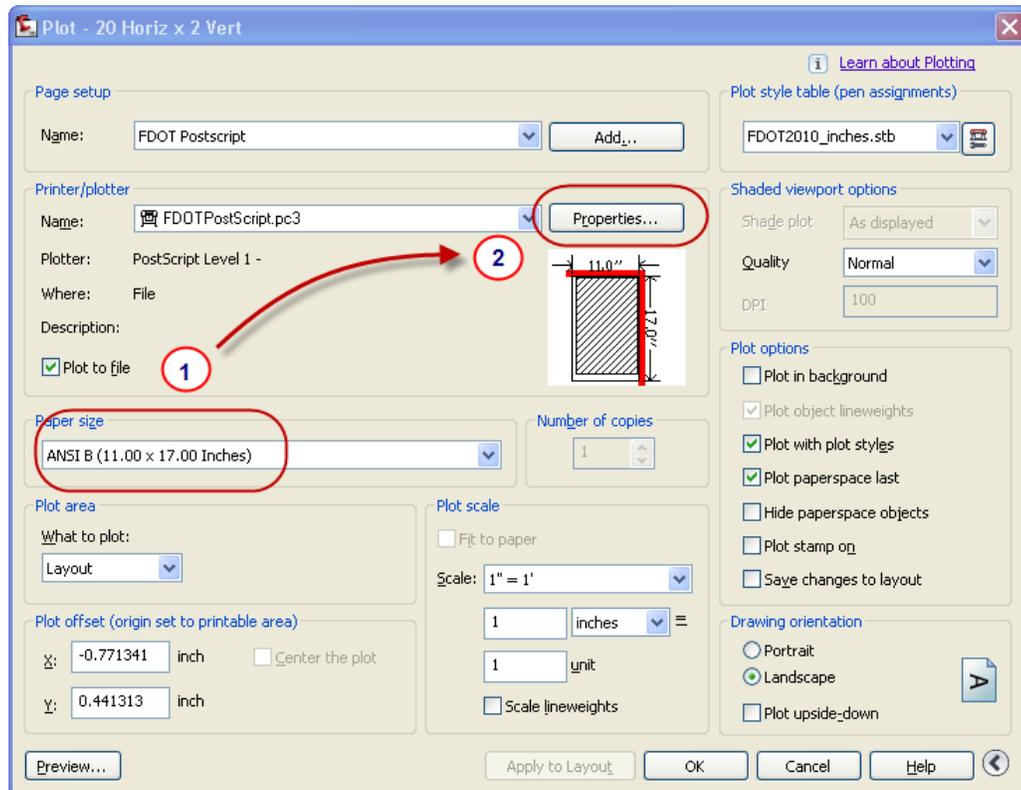
So the procedures for setting up the plotters are the following:

1.	Open the SHTPLAN.DWT	Located in x:\fdot201X.c3d\Data\Templates\Sheets\Roadway\SHTPLAN.dwt
2.	In any Layout tab, check to Identify which offset needs adjusting, if any.	If you see that the layout is incorrect then the issue is in the margins for the printable area and the Page Setup. If the issue is only in the plot preview, then the issue is with the Page Setup origin.
3.	Set the origin of the bottom left corner to be the bottom left corner of the paper.	The sum of the page setup origin offset and the printable area margin (for the lower left hand corner) needs be 0,0

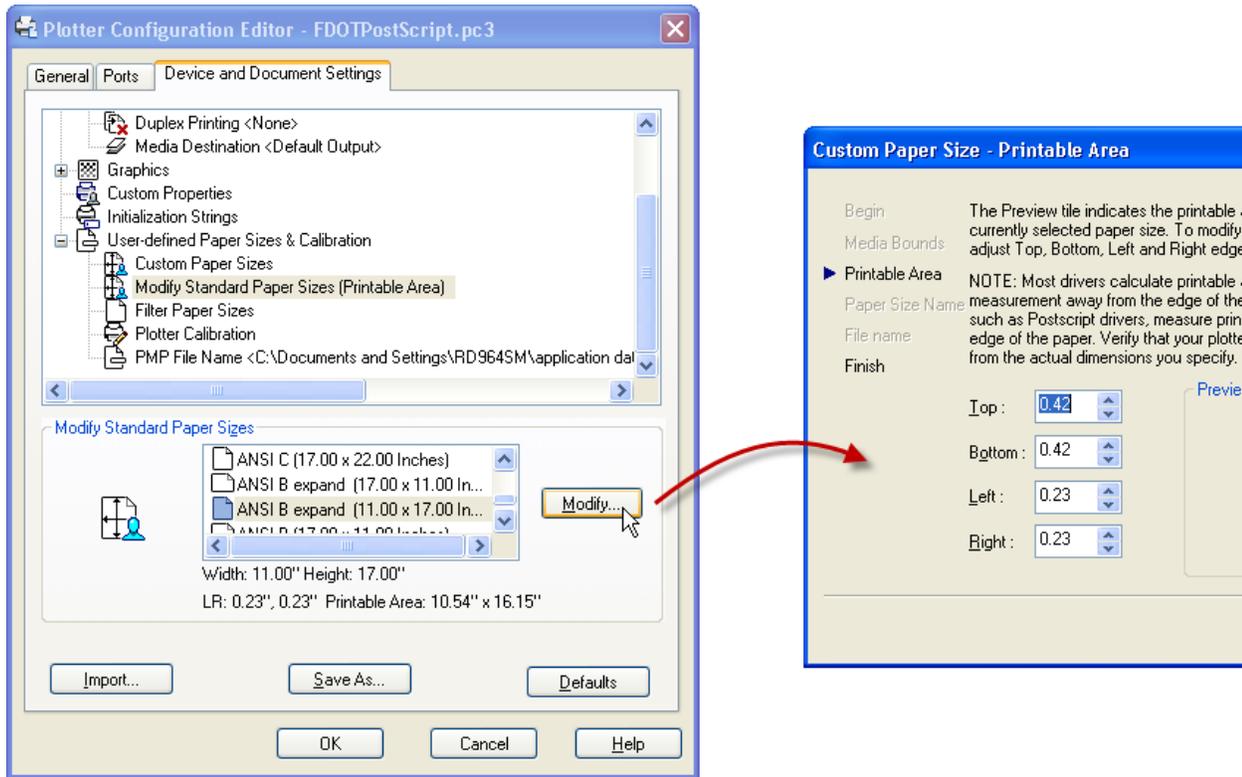


What the layout tab might look like if the page setup and margins are incorrectly set.

4.	Setup or locate the printable area margins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • File > Plot • Choose an 11x17 sheet of paper and note the exact name. • Click on the Printer Name's Properties button.
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5.	<p>Modify the paper size so that the margins are set to zero or you write down the margins specified. Remember the sum is what matters.</p>	<p>The default precision is to the hundredths but internally its kept further out. My preference is to set the margins to 0. The PC3 file is specific to this version of Civil 3D for the current user.</p> <p>Press the Save As button to save the PC3 file if it hasn't been saved.</p>
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6.	<p>Modify the plot offset origin to have the insertion point of the boundary be placed on the bottom left corner of the paper.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you had set the margins to zero then the X and Y offsets can be set to zero as well. • If you had kept the values in the margins then you will need to put in values that will force the sum to be 0 for X and Y. The trick is to be sure that you take into consideration that the sheet is in landscape and that X might be the top or bottom margin. It can get confusing at this point which is why I like setting it to zero. • Another thing to worry about that may cause problems is that the margins are rounded to the nearest 0.01 when displayed but is tracked with much more accuracy than that.
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Notes:

- 1) The PC3 file is modified locally by the user. That file only affects the current user.
- 2) Page setups are part of the DWG/DWT. Changes made in that file can be imported through the sheet set manager as a Page Setup Override. Replace or add the PageSetup to your Sheets Templates.
- 3) Replace the page setups located in the files in this folder x:\fdot201x.c3d\Support\Plot\
- 4) The insertion point of the FDOT border needs to be at the bottom left hand corner of the 11x17 landscape piece of paper.

