

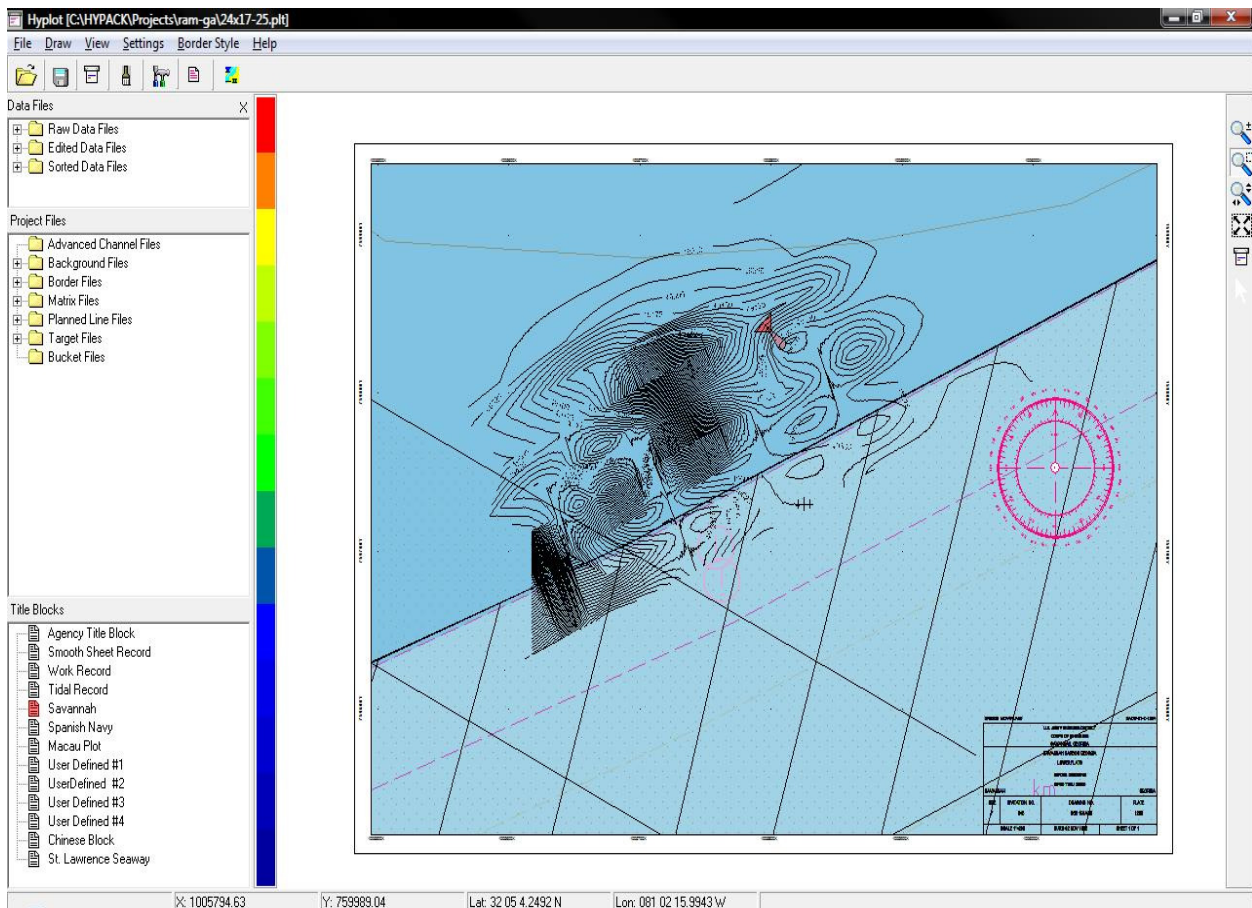
HYPLOT DXF Export Options in HYPACK® 2008

By John Lindberg

Many users have liked the DXF export features we added to HYPLOT a few years ago. It was easy to export grids, plot sheets, compass roses and other items to a format easily readable in most CAD programs. There were some limitations, though. For example, DXF files, DGN files and S57 files drawn in Hyplot could not be exported to DXF.

Well, it looks as though we have gotten past those limitations. Now, any vector format file that can be drawn in HYPACK® can be exported to DXF in HYPLOT!

Here is an example. The image below shows the HYPLOT program drawing what you would normally see in HYPACK® – an S57 background chart, HYPACK® DIG format shoreline file (those are the black lines running along the channel), and DXF magnetometer contours generated from the TIN Model program. You will also notice the HYPLOT additions – plot border with coordinate labels, compass rose and a title block in the lower right-hand corner.

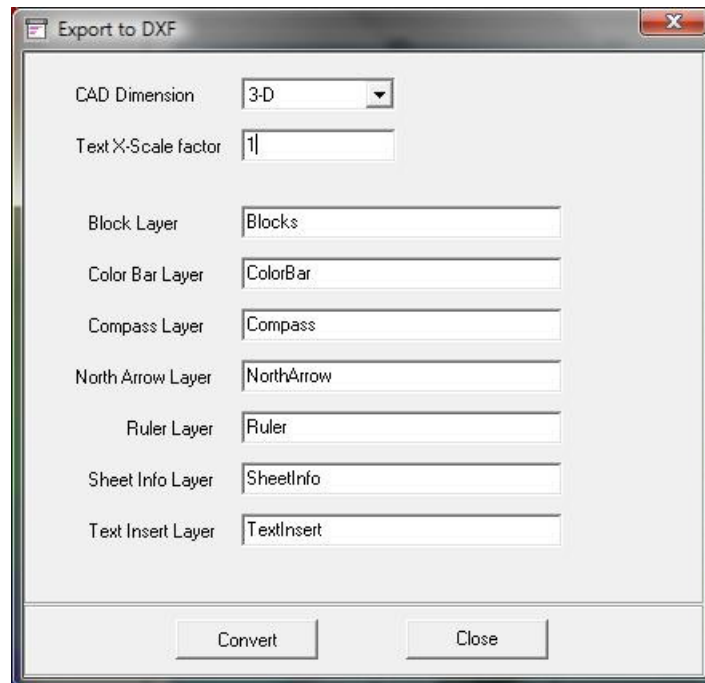
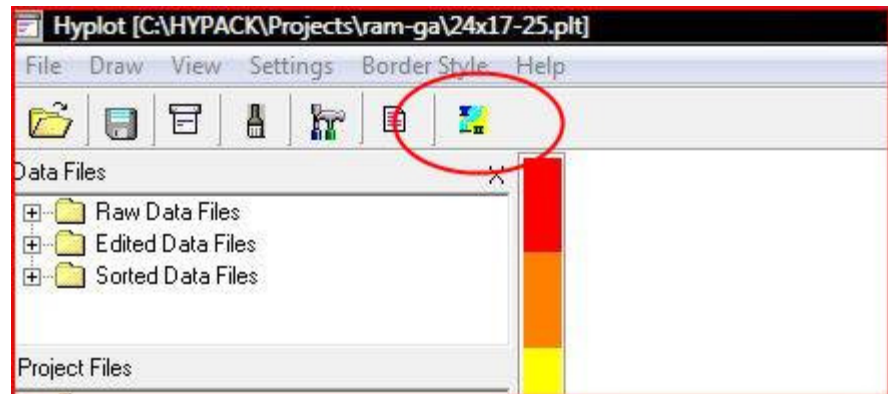


Sample HYPLOT Display

To export this to DXF simply click on the DXF export icon – the last icon on the Icon Bar of HYPLOT.

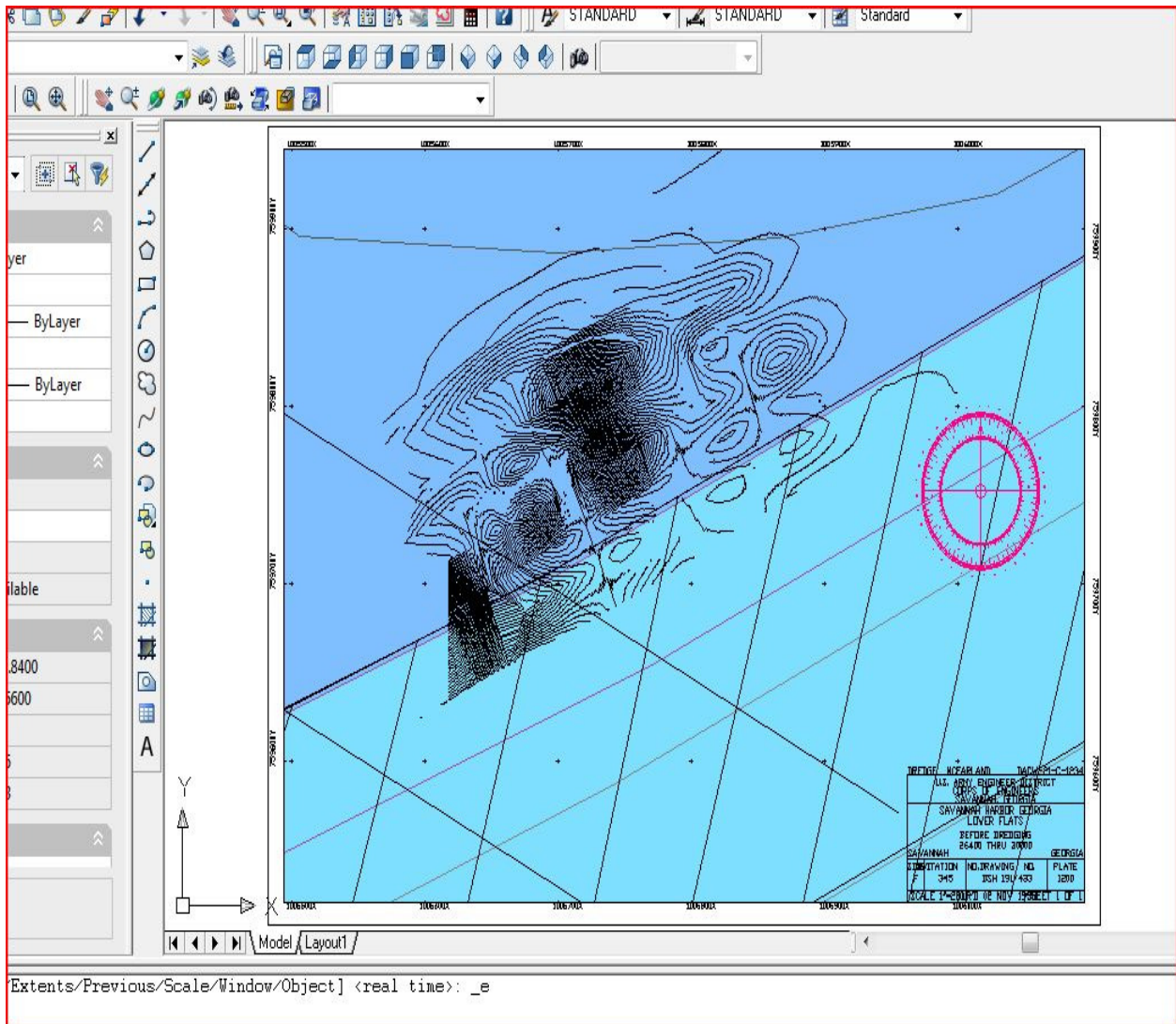
Once you click on the icon you will get the Export to DXF dialog.

Export to DXF dialog



You can select your CAD Dimension (2D or 3D), Text X-Scale factor and various layer names. Currently, it is limited to those layers and everything else is sent to the “0” layer. (Future plans are to expand the layer options.) Once you have this all set (or ignore it!), just click on the CONVERT button and name your DXF file.

A DXF file will be generated from any vector data and saved by default to your HYPACK® Project.



Resulting DXF file loaded into AutoCAD

Everything drawn to the HYPLOT screen has been exported to DXF. The only difference you will notice is some possible color mismatching with some of the chart fill areas. This is because the DXF color palette is somewhat limited. HYPLOT tries to match to the closest DXF color.

As mentioned earlier, HYPLOT can only convert vector files. It cannot convert raster charts, like BSB, ARCS or ortho photos. If you want to import these files into CAD, use the CREATE TIF OUTPUT function in HYPACK®. This saves anything drawn to the HYPACK® screen into a TIF format along with a TFW world file. Most CAD programs have the ability to import these files.