

Customizing the output of the "Make Truss Tape" command.

If you don't want to have to read and try and figure out the following documentation, send me an email, and we will set up a Zoom meeting to walk you through using and customizing your AP Truss Tapes. If you want to test your luck, just give me call.

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The AP Truss Tapes display is controlled by 2 files, the tab delimited text file "AP Tape Label Fields.txt" and Vectorworks file "AP Truss Tape Labels.vwx". During installation, these files are placed in the following folder:

\\2020\\Plug-Ins\\APS_Plug-Ins\\APSpotlight_Data\\Tape Label Folder\
("2020" can be replaced with any later VW version year.)

Each symbol in the "AP Truss Tape Labels.vwx" file is attached to a record called "AP Tape Label Record", and this record has 12 fields:

Field One

Field 2

Field 3

Field 4

Field 5

Field 6

Field 7

Field 8

Field 9

Field 10

Use Symbol

Dist

Each of the first 10 fields can be linked to text field in the symbol. See the Vectorworks command, "Link Text to Record..." under the "Modify" menu.

When an object is selected for display on a truss tape, the record that is attached to the object is identified and the value of selected record fields are copied into the fields of the "asdfasdf" record and those values are displayed in the linked fields. Which fields from the object are copied into which fields of the truss tape symbol is controlled by the 2 commands:

"Edit Truss Tape Assign WKS" and "Save Truss Tape Assign WKS".

Edit Truss Tape Assign WKS

This command will read the "AP Tape Label Fields.txt" text file and present you with the following editable worksheet.

contain any of the values listed in column C, then the object will use the values listed after the “-” value in that row.

Columns B & C

In the example above, it would be possible for “Device Type” to be replaced with “Instrument Type” and the values in column C contain the values in the “Instrument Type” field. This would result in different symbols and field values being placed for each type of instrument. If you wanted to use a different symbol for each of the different instrument type values you would need a symbol for each of those instrument types. See the explanation of the “AP Truss Tape Labels.vwx” file below.

Column D: “USE SYMBOL”

This column contains the name of the symbol that will be placed on the truss tape. All of the provided symbols start with “Label –”, but they can have any name you want as long as they meet the following requirements:

1. They are of a size that will fit on a 3 inch (7.62cm) wide receipt tape when printed at a scale of 1:1 or smaller (typically 1:0.989).
2. Are connected to a record named “AP Tape Label Record”.
3. The must end in “ US”, “ DS”, “ C”. Yes there is a space in front of each. The endings determine which cord for which the symbol is used. This will be discussed in the description of the “AP Truss Tape Labels.vwx” file.

Column E: “USE CTR ONLY”

This field instructs the command to always the symbol that ends in “ C” for objects that meet the requirements of that row. Symbols that end in “ C” are typically larger and placed in the middle of the truss.

Column F through O: “ASSIGN TO TAG FIELD #”

These columns hold the names of the fields or parameters connected to the selected object that are to be displayed on the truss tape. The table above will cause all the objects that are:

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Column P: “FILTER BY”

Ignore this column for now; it is reserved for future use.

Saving your worksheet changes.

The changes you make to the worksheet will have **no effect** until you save them with the “Save Truss Tape Assign WKS”. Use this command to save your changes to the “Truss Tape Label Fields” worksheet. When you use this command it will save your changes to a user file in your user folder:

“Plug-Ins/User Cable Folder/Tape Label Folder/User Tape Label Fields.txt”

After you save changes for the first time all the commands will use the files in the “Plug-Ins/User Cable Folder/Tape Label Folder/...” from then on. This will prevent your changes from being overwritten when you install AutoPlot updates.

Save Truss Tape Assign WKS

As described above, this command will save the changes to the “User Tape Label Fields.txt” file that will be used to pick what is displayed on the truss tape.

The main reason these commands are provided is so that the user does not have to worry about what are VW “Names” and what are “Alternate Names” in the plug-in manager. Field names can be copied from what is displayed in the Object Info Palette, and the commands will change all the “Alternate Names” to VW “Names” in the “User Tape Label Fields.txt” file.

Using your own symbols on AP Truss Tapes, the *AP Truss Tape Lables.vwx*

In the following, instructions “2020” can be replaced with any later version year.

When the commands look for symbols to use, they look for a file named “AP Truss Tape Labels.vwx”. First, they look in the following folder:

2020/Plug-ins/User Cable Folder/Tape Label Folder

If it does not find the file in that folder it will look in the following folder that gets populated with the AutoPlot installation.

2020/Plug-ins/APS_Plug-Ins/APSpotlight_Data/Tape Label Folder

If you do not want your customization changes to be overwritten every time you install an AutoPlot update copy the ***AP Truss Tape Lables.vwx*** file from the

APS_Plug-Ins/APSpotlight_Data/Tape Label Folder

to the

2020/Plug-ins/User Cable Folder/Tape Label Folder

and make all your changes in that copied file.