

Installing VW 2021 is exactly the same as described for VW2020 below; just replace 2020 with 2023, or the appropriate version year, everywhere you see it.

NEW INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

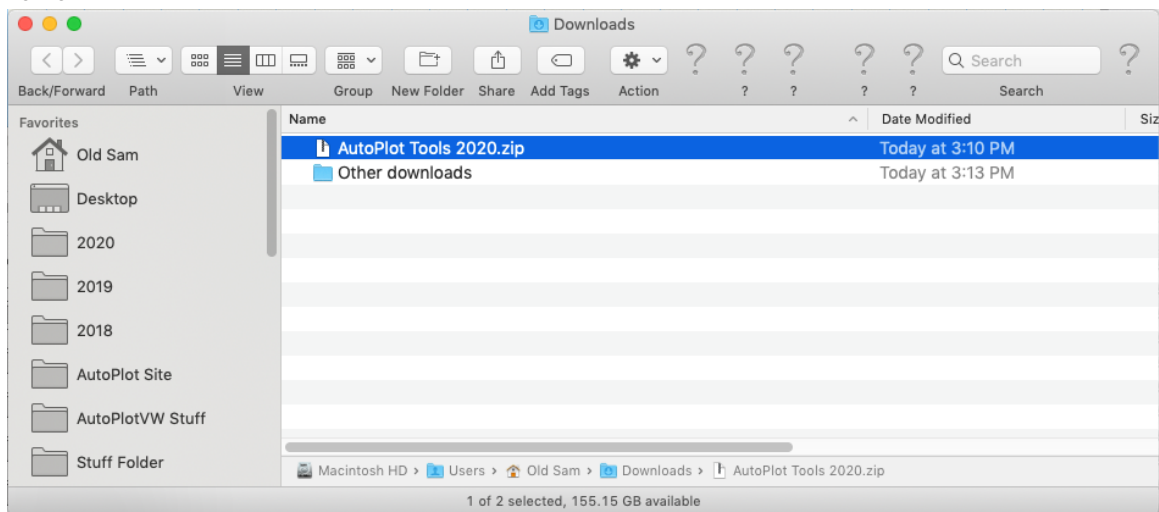
Starting with AutoPlot Tools for Spotlight, version 2020.35, installing AutoPlot Tools will utilize the “Install” button in the “Plug-In Manager.” I have made this change to simplify the installation for first time users, and to provide an installation workflow that will preserve user modified inventories and cable symbols.

Important!

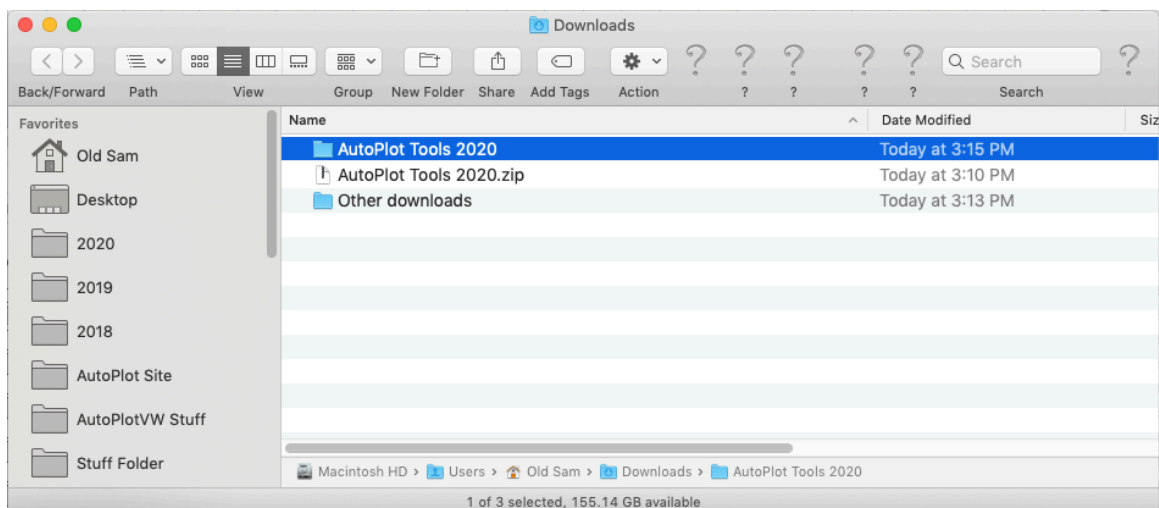
Users who are upgrading it is important that you follow the instructions under “Installation for Upgrading Users” so that you can preserve and secure any user files that you might have. *If you just want to call me and avoid reading the instructions below, feel free.*

Installing AutoPlot Tools for Spotlight for the First Time

Since you are reading this document it is assumed that you have downloaded the tools from www.autoplotvw.com. In you download folder, you will see a zip file called “AutoPlot Tools 2020”



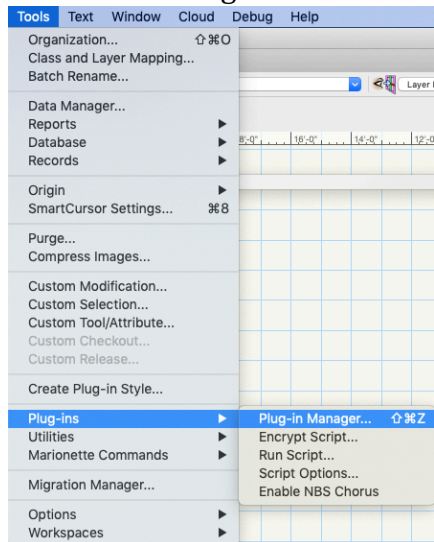
OR, if your browser automatically expands downloaded zip files you will see the zip file and a folder with the same name, “AutoPlot Tools 2020”



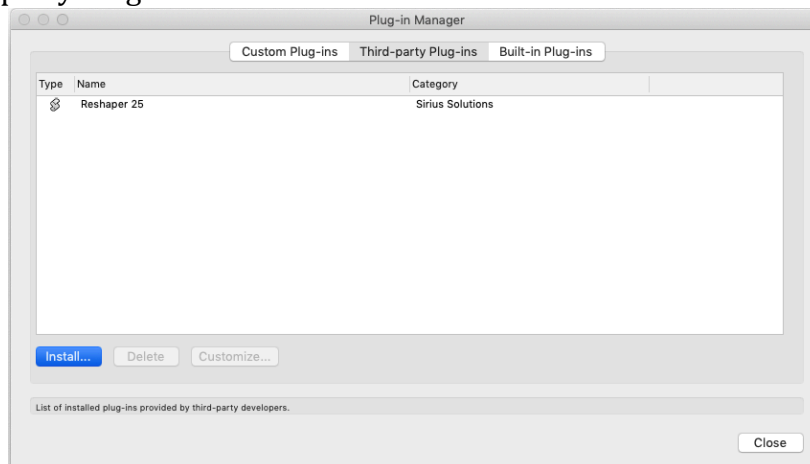
If you do not see the uncompressed folder, double click on the zip file so that you see the uncompressed “AutoPlot Tools 2020” folder shown above.

Now start Vectorworks, or if it is already running, make it active.

Once it is active go to the “Tools” menu and select the “Plug-in Manager”

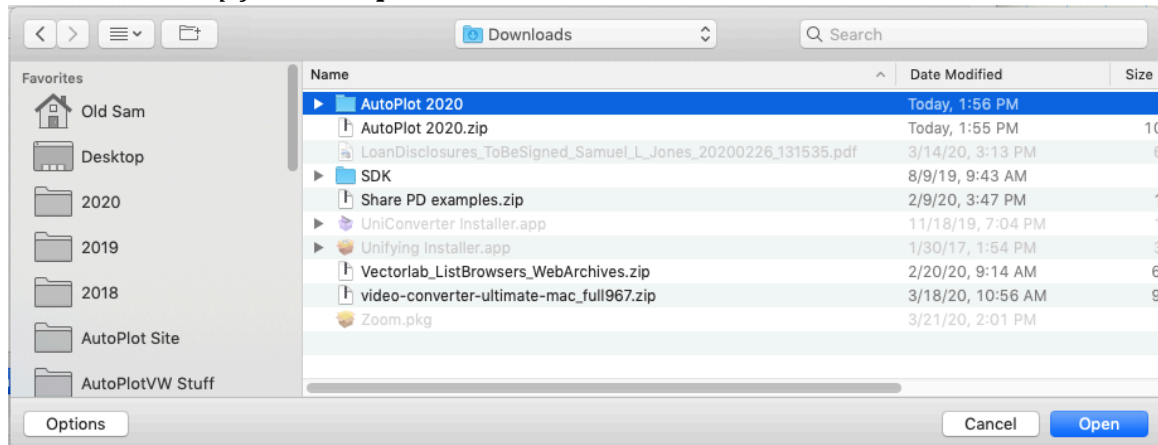


Once the Plug-in Manager dialog opens, select the middle tab at the top that is called “Third-party Plug-ins”

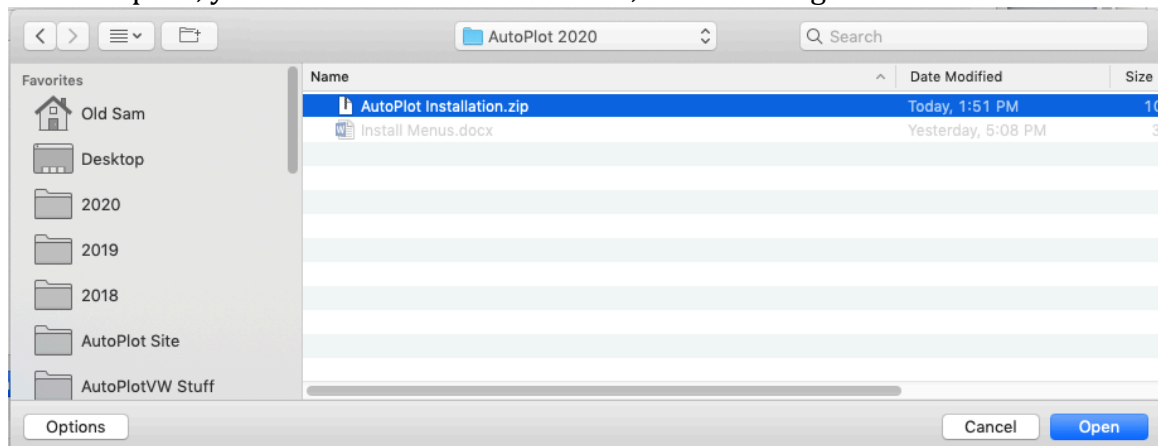


Then click on the “Install...” button

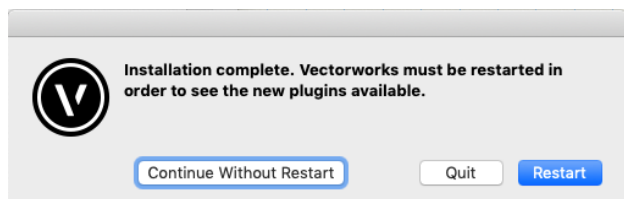
A folder navigation window will open and you need to find the downloaded AutoPlot 2020 folder, not the zip file, and **open** it.



When it opens, you will see the window below, or something similar for Windows users.



Double click on the “AutoPlot Installation” zip file. Once you have done that, you will see the alert box below and you are finished with your installation. (Unless you are an upgrading user with user inventory and symbol files to install



Installation for Upgrading Users

You will follow the same steps as first time users. IF you have created any of your own inventory files or you have customized any Break Out Labels, Multi Head symbols, or Truss Labels, you need to follow the steps below in addition.

Before installing version 2020.35 and later, do the following steps

1. Remove any user inventories you want to preserve from the following folders and put them some place that you will remember and can find easily.
2. Remove any of *your modified* files in the “AP Cable Inventories” and “AP Cable Tools Symbols “ Folders
 - a. Plug-ins\AP Cable Inventories\AP Breakin Inventory Files folder
 - b. Plug-ins\AP Cable Inventories\AP Breakout Inventory Files folder
 - c. Plug-ins\AP Cable Inventories\AP Data Inventory Files folder
 - d. Plug-ins\AP Cable Inventories\AP Feeder Inventory Files folder
 - e. Plug-ins\AP Cable Inventories\AP Jumper Inventory Files folder
 - f. Plug-ins\AP Cable Inventories\AP Multicable Inventory Files folder
 - g. Plug-ins\AP Cable Tools Symbols\Break Out Labels folder
 - h. Plug-ins\AP Cable Tools Symbols\Multi Head Symbols folder
 - i. Plug-ins\AP Cable Tools Symbols\Truss Label Symbols folder
 - j. Place the above files some place that you will remember and can find easily.

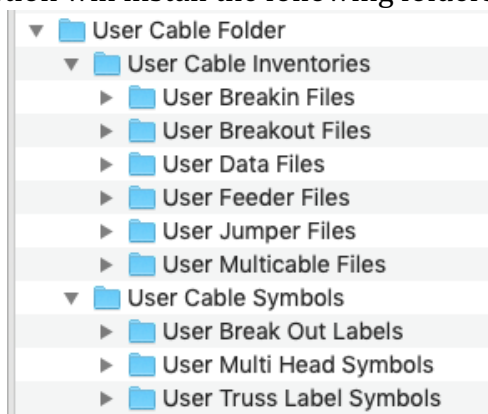
Now follow all the steps above for **Installing AutoPlot Tools for Spotlight for the First Time**

You are not done. *You now have to put the files you saved earlier into the correct places, but those places do not exist yet.*

Start Vectorworks.

Draw an AP Multicable of any length, any where.

That action will install the following folders in the Plug-Ins folder of your VW user folder.



Place the files you have saved into appropriate folders shown above. You will not have to do this again for later installations, because these files will no longer be overwritten.

IMPORTANT.

None of your file names may begin with the 3 characters “AP “ (APspace). Inventory and symbol files whose names begin with “AP “ (APspace) are considered AutoPlot files and will be over written with later installations. **If it is running, close and restart Vectorworks.**