CAD Schroer

Plot Solutions

X-Off Plot

Version 2008-100

August 2008

Germany

CAD Schroer GmbH
Fritz-Peters-Str. 26-30
47447 Moers

Tel. +49 2841 91 84 - 0
Fax +49 2841 91 84 - 44
e-mail: info@cad-schroer.de
www.cad-schroer.de

France

CAD Schroer France SAS
3 bis Rue des Archives - Hall B
94000 Créteil

Tel. +33 1 41 94 51 40
Fax +33 1 43 77 17 68
e-mail: info@cad-schroer.fr
www.cad-schroer.fr

Italy

CAD Schroer Italia SRL
Piazza Della Resistenza 26
20021 Bollate MI

Tel. +39 348272 0246

e-mail: info@cad-schroer.it
www.cad-schroer.it

Switzerland

CAD Schroer AG
Bettlistr. 35
8600 Dübendorf

Tel. +41 44 802 89 - 80
Fax +41 44 802 89 - 88
e-mail: info@cad-schroer.ch
www.cad-schroer.ch

United Kingdom

CAD Schroer UK Ltd
39 Newnham Road
Cambridge
CB3 9EY
Tel. +44 1223 460 408
Fax +44 1223 460 409
e-mail: info@cad-schroer.co.uk
www.cad-schroer.co.uk

USA

CAD Schroer US, Inc.
34 Rand Place, Pittsford
NY 14534

Tel. +1 585 264 1409
Fax +1 781 623 1279
e-mail: info@cad-schroer.com
www.cad-schroer.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREFACE AND INSTALLATION

Introduction

X-Off Plot is a file browser which is used for arranging a list of MEDUSA sheets out of different directories. These sheets can be plotted either individually or as a collective list.

Furthermore the program provides the possibility of viewing the sheets in an integrated preview window.

This document describes the installation and configuration of the product X-Off Plot 2008-100 and introduces the user interface and operating of the program.

What‘s new

The new version of X-Off Plot needs JustView for displaying the drawings which shall be plotted. JustView is integrated as a view in the user interface of X-Off Plot. Because of this integration JustView had to be reengineered and will be delivered with X-Off Plot now. If you have not already installed JustView, the installation process of X-Off Plot also starts the installation of Justview. Please make sure that you have deinstalled an existing older version of JustView before you start the new installation. X-Off Plot uses JustView as a component in the application. It is the free version of JustView, no additional license is needed.

Mixed sheet formats (MEDUSA NG, STHENO, MEDUSA4) are no more supported.

License

The keyfile for the X-Off Plot product will be not delivered with the CD. With the order you apply for a keyfile request with the licenser. In return he will send you the keyfile.

For earlier versions of X-Off Plot an own license file was supplied. Since Version 2008-100 the keyfile is delivered with the MEDUSA license. The appropriate feature line for X-Off Plot is registered inside the license file *csglmd.lic*: `xoffplot_view`

The path to the MEDUSA-license has to be set in the *LOGIN.BAT* file of the *USER_PROJECT*.

If you want to use another license than those, which is set in the *USER_PROJECT*, you can set the system variable `MEDUSA_LICENSE_PATH` with the path to the desired license. If the system variable is set, the accordant path to the license will be used when starting the program.

Installation

For installing X-Off Plot do the following steps:

1. Start the installation with the file *XOffPlot_2008100.exe* which is on the installation CD in the directory *X_Off_Plot_2008100*.
   An InstallShield Wizard starts.
2. If you have not already installed the newest version of JustView, the installation process of X-Off Plot also starts the installation of Justview.
   X-Off Plot needs JustView for displaying the drawings which shall be plotted.
   Please make sure that you have deinstalled an existing older version of JustView before you start the new installation.
3. You are asked for the directory in which you want to install X-Off Plot.
   Example: *C:\Programs\X-OffPlot*
4. Next you have to define the path to your MEDUSA user project.
   Example: *D:\Medusa4\<userproject>*
5. Define the path to *medplot_winplot* which is inside the installation directory of MEDUSA.
6. Finally, run the installation process itself with the button Install.
   X-Off Plot is installed immediately.

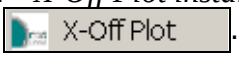
For running X-Off Plot ensure that the correct license path is used. You have to set the license path in the USER_PROJECT. For details see ”License”.

The language used in the user interface of X-Off Plot is defined inside the file *csgxoffplt.cfg*. For details see ”Configuration”, “Localization” on page 19.

Please Note: If others than the intended plotter drivers should be used with the installation, please contact our office - Tel. 0 28 41/91 84 15 - we then will be glad to help you.

PROGRAM OPERATING

Starting the Program

The program can be started with the command *<X-Off Plot install path>\bin\xoffplot.exe*, or by using the program symbol from the start menu 

.

X-Off Plot can be used with the following command line arguments:

`p [<directory>]`	The start directory, adjusted for browsing, can be replaced with `<directory>`.
`d [<“Filter;Ext“>]`	The filter, adjusted by default, can be replaced with `<“Filter;Ext“>`.

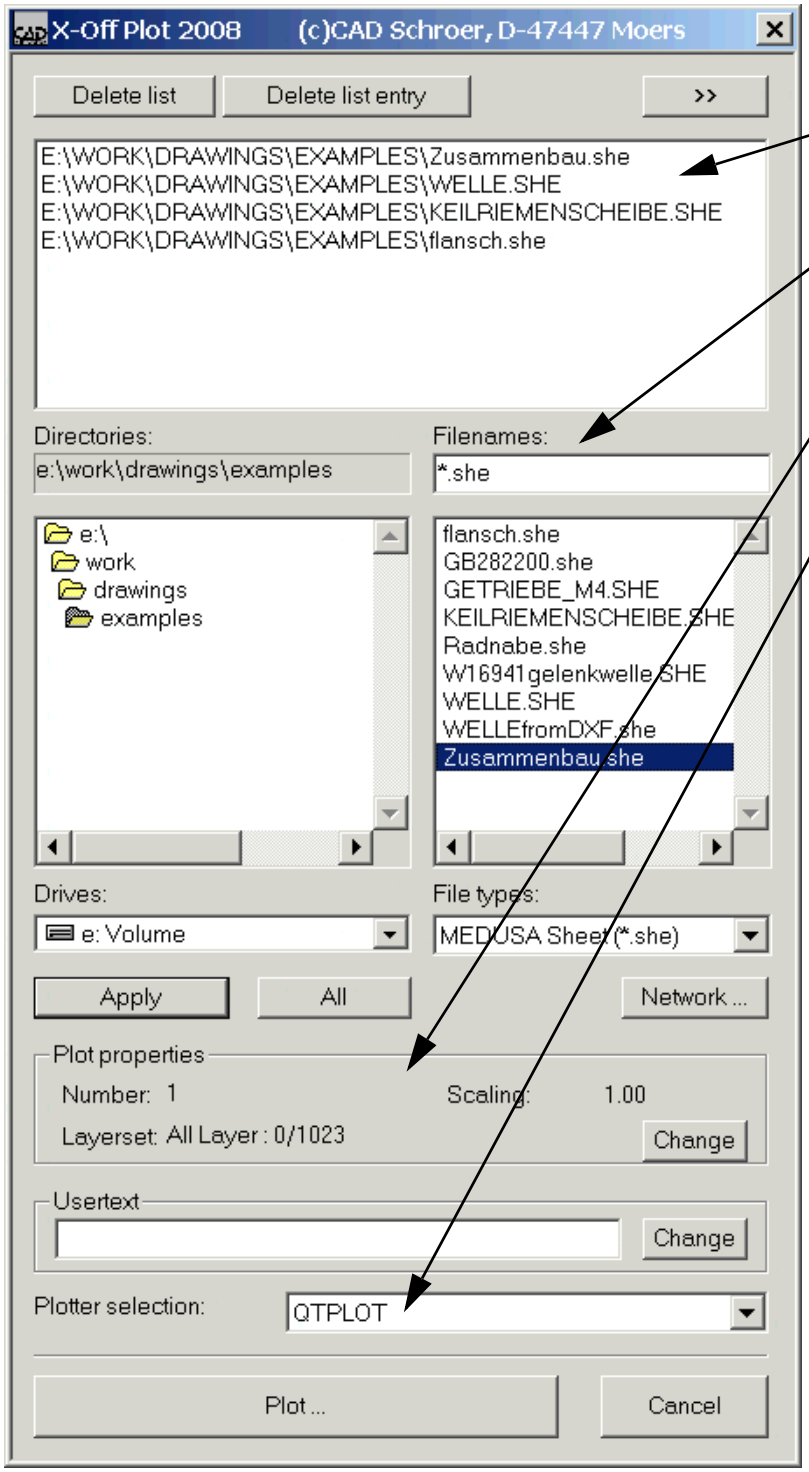
Example:

```
...\XOffplot.exe p E:\\Archiv d “All Files (*.*)|*.*||;*.*“
```

Note: Please, insert filter always between inverted commas.

Overview - User Interface

The following figure gives you an overview of the user interface, which is explained in detail in the following sections.



X-Off Plot consists of the following areas:

- List
- File browser
- Plot properties
- Plotter selection
- Preview window (a figureis given in the appropriate section)

Selecting a File

Files are chosen with the file browser which consists of following parts inside the user interface:

Directories	shows the currently selected file directory of the structure tree
Structure tree	resides below the field Directories and displays the directory structure to the currently selected path
Filenames	In this input field you can specify the files by using wildcards
File window	resides below the field Filenames and displays the files, which are selectable by using the filter File types
Drives	shows the current hard disk
File types	In this input field you can narrow the choice of the displayed files down by using file extensions.

For selecting a file do the following steps:

1. At first choose the desired path via the file browser.
   The default setting for the file type is **she*. The files according to this format are listed in the file window (see the figure in the section “Overview - User Interface” on page 9).
2. If you want to change the filter, you can either enter another file type in the File types entry field or open a list of file types via the arrow at the right and select one entry. You can also make a choice of files by entering wildcards into the Filenames field. For example, if you type a`*.she`, any file, which begins with an *a*, will be displayed.
3. Add the desired file to the plot list.
   There are different possibilities:
   - *Double click* on the requested file in the file window.
   - Select a file within the file window by *clicking the left mouse button* once and transfer the file to the plot list by pressing the Apply button.
   - If you wish to take any files which are displayed in the file window over into the list, press the All button.

Hinweis: For all three possibilities is valid:
A new file is always inserted at the beginning of the list.

Editing the List

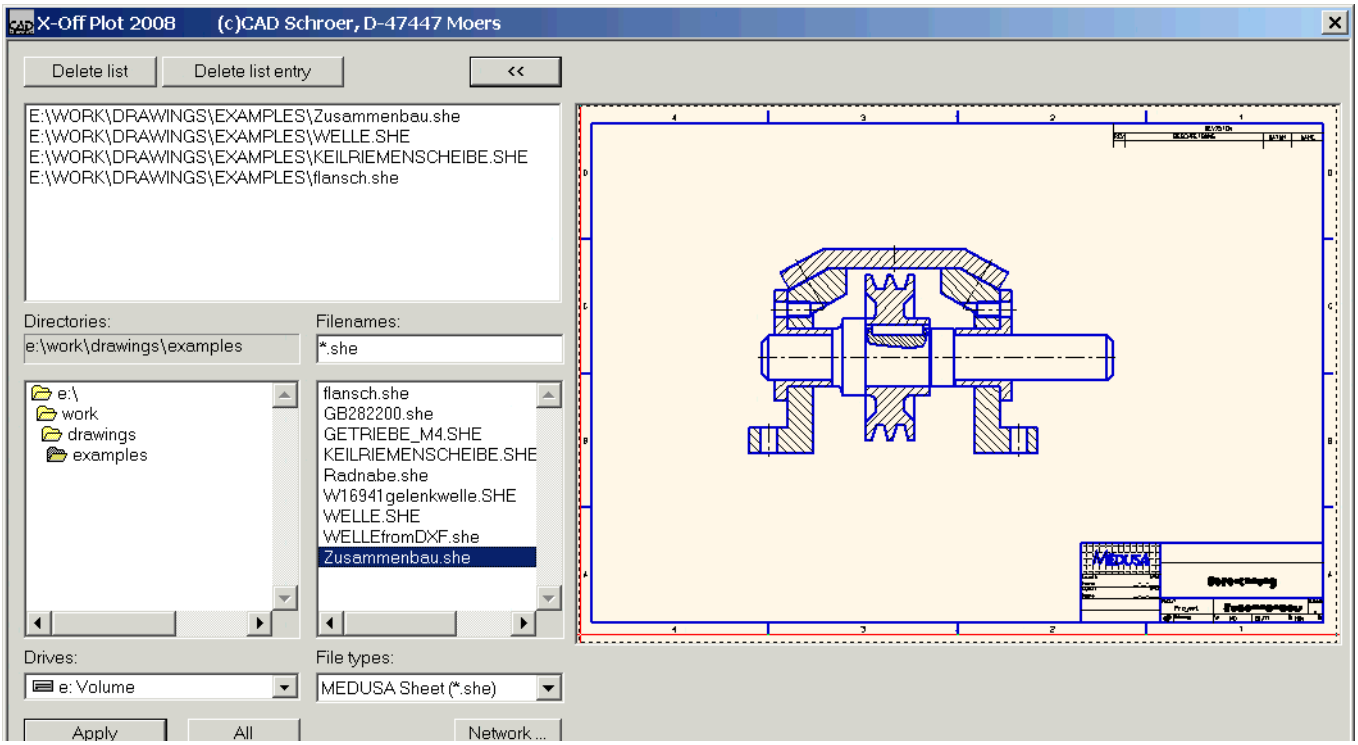
After finished adding files to the plot list, you can edit the list by using the following buttons:

Delete list	If the list has been processed or it is not useable anymore, you can delete the existing list and generate a new one.
Delete list entry	Using this command you can delete one or several files, which have been selected before with a mouse click, out of the list.

WARNUNG: **Deleting** the whole list or a list entry **cannot be canceled**.

Showing a Preview

The preview window can be opened with the button [>>]. Either the file, which has been selected in the list window or in the file browser, will be displayed in the preview window.



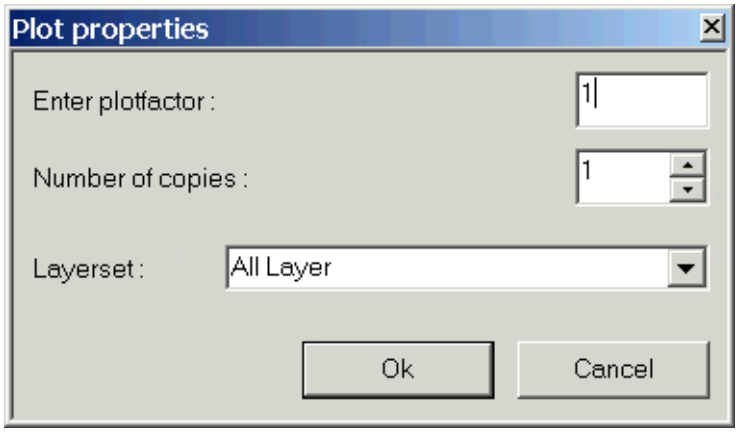
If you want to view the sheet, which is displayed in the preview window, in detail, you can do this by using the zoom function:

- Pressing the *left mouse button*, dragging the mouse and then releasing the *left mouse button* zooms into the preview according to the drawn rectangle by moving the mouse.
- Positioning the cursor at a certain place of the preview and pressing the *middle mouse button*, moves the preview. for example, placing the cursor in the bottom and pressing the *middle mouse button* moves the preview upwards.
- Pressing the *right mouse button* displays the whole sheet as preview again.

Plot Properties

This area displays information from the *csgxoffplot.cfg* configuration file. For editing this file please see chapter ”Configuration”, “Assignment of Sheet Size and Plotter” on page 22. Informations are displayed on the number of plots, on scaling and about the layer selection.

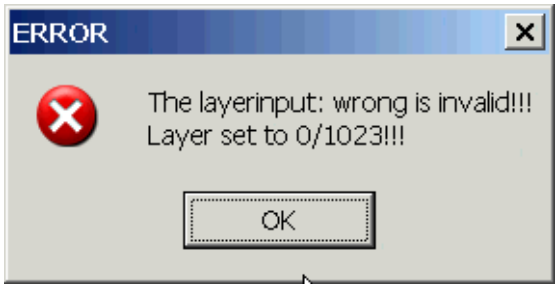
You can change the given plot properties in the Plot properties dialog which is displayed via the Change button.



You can insert a new scale factor in the Enter plotfactor field.

The number of copies can be set directly by entering a number or via the arrow buttons.

The layer settings from the configuration file are displayed in the Layerset pulldown menu (see also chapter ”Configuration”, “Layer set” on page 23). You can also enter layers here. Incorrect layers will be marked by a note and altered.



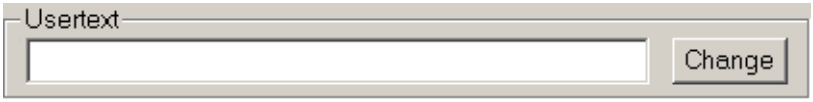
You also can edit the properties in the *csgxoffplot.cfg* configuration file. Values which are defined there are automatically displayed in X-Off Plot, whereby always the first entry of the configuration file is inscribed in the Layerset field.

Hinweis: Already when starting X-Off Plot you are advised whether an error is with the layers in the *csgxoffplot.cfg* configuration file. If you should take over these settings for all that, errors will occur during the plot process.

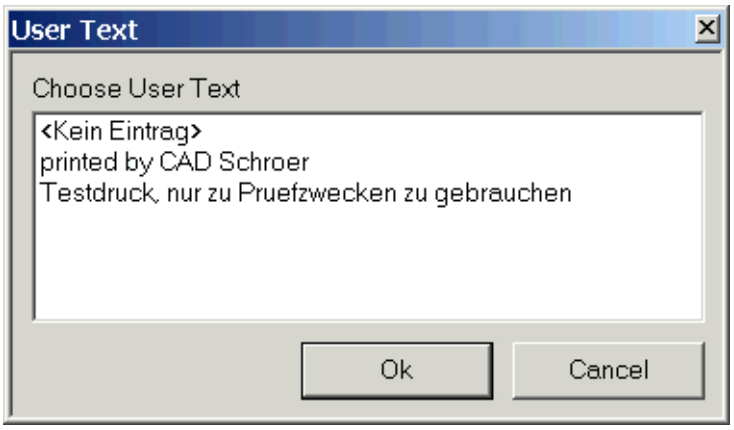
Selecting Usertext

With the Usertext function you can print a text with the plot. Thereby the original sheet will not be modified.

For using this function, a file named *usertext.cfg* has to exist in the directory *<X-Off Plot install path>\cfg*. If the file is available, the X-Off Plot user interface extends by a field.



Click on Change by using the *left mouse button* to open the following dialog.



Click on one entry to select the accordant text and confirm it by using the OK button.

`<Kein Eintrag>` (german words for no entry) means, that no text will be printed because this entry was defined with the keyword `NOTEXT` in the configuration file.

All other entries will plotted with the sheet in the left bottom corner.

Details on defining texts in the configuration file are given in ”Configuration”, “Usertext” on page 28.

Choosing a Plotter

For selecting a plotter you can open a menu on which the available plotters are listed. A plotter is selected by clicking with the *left mouse button* on the required entry..

In the first place of the Plotter pulldown menu the first plotter name defined in the configuration file is given, e.g. QTPLOT. The pulldown list displays all the plotters defined in the *cfg*-file.

X-Off Plot provides the function AutoPlot. On the basis of its sheet size any MEDUSA file will be assigned to the according plotter, when using the Plot button (for details see ”Configuration”, “AutoPlot” on page 26). By default AutoPlot is not defined in the configuration file.

Hinweis: If the choice is user-defined, the sheet may be possibly incorrect plotted on your plotter.

Plotting

If all settings for plotting were made, e.g. sheets selected and plotter adjusted, then the Plot button is enabled.

Using this button the plot program is called up with a number of **parameters** and some specifications are set by **environment variables**.

The following **parameters** will be passed to the plot program:

- **1. Parameter: Plotter command**
  This is the value, which is adjusted in the configuration file for this plotter.
  (see „Configuration”, „Plotter Command” on page 21).
- **2. Parameter: File List**
  The file list which has been created in X-Off Plot is stored in a temporary file. This file name is transferred with the second parameter.
  The file is a standard ASCII file, in which the complete path to a MEDUSA sheet is inscribed in any line.
  This file may not be deleted, as long as the plotter driver is active.

Some settings put on in X-Off Plot are stored via the **environment variables**.

- CSG_LAYERSET
  The settings to the layers, which shall be printed with the plot.
  (see ”Configuration”, “Layer set” on page 23)
- CSG_PLOTCOUNT
  The number of the plots
  (see ”Configuration”, “Number of Copies” on page 23).
- CSG_PLOTFAC
  The plot factor, all sheets are charged with this factor
  (see ”Configuration”, “Scale factor” on page 23).
- CSG_USERTEXT
  The usertext is passed with this variable.
  (see ”Configuration”, “Usertext” on page 28).

CONFIGURATION

This chapter gives you some information about making settings within the configuration files to customize X-Off Plot to the local system requirements.

General Notes

In X-Off Plot any settings are made using configuration files. These provides plenty of possibilities for the user to customize X-Off Plot to the local system requirements.

The general configuration file for X-Off Plot is *<X-Off Plot install path>\cfg\csgxoffplot.cfg*.

Basically a configuration assignment has following syntax:

```
<keyword> = <assignment>
```

Comment lines are marked by two hyphens (`--`) at the first two places of a line.

Example:

```
-- This is a comment
XO_PLOTTER_NAME_1 = QTPLOT
```

In the following the single sections of the *csgxoffplot.cfg* are explained.

Localization

X-Off Plot is available in German, French and English language.

The setting for the required language takes place in the *csgxoffplt.cfg* file as follows:

- German:
  `LANGUAGE = ger`
- French:
  `LANGUAGE = fr`
- English:
  `LANGUAGE = gb`

Plotter Selection

In this section the names of the plotter will be assigned. These names are not the physical names, which are used to start the plot process (these are defined in “Plotter Command” on page 21), but they appear in the Plotter selection pulldown menu in the user interface.

Syntax:

```
XO_PLOTTER_NAME_<no> = <name>
```

The number <*no*> at the end of the keyword has to be handled as serial number.

<*name*> describes the plotter.

Please Note: The `AutoPlot` entry is the only entry, which is assigned as a fixed name.

Example:

```
XO_PLOTTER_NAME_1 = QTPLOT
XO_PLOTTER_NAME_2 = WINPLOT
```

Plotter Command

In this section the physical names (identification character) of the plotter will be assigned. With these names the plotter drivers will be identified and the description file (*.*des*) are defined.

Syntax:

```
XO_PLOTTER_CMD_<no> = <driver_identification>
```

The number <*no*> at the end of the keyword has to be handled as serial number.

<*driver_identification*> is the plotter product name in the MEDUSA installation path. The default identification of any MEDUSA plotter driver is `MEDPLOT_<type>` , where <*type*> is for example `winplot` or `qtplot`. Separated by an underline _ an unambiguous name has to follow.

This syntax configuration of the plotter command makes it possible to transfer a lot of information to the program flow using only one entry. As previously mentioned, thereby the responsible plotter driver is specified. At the same time the complete identification accords to the name of the appropriated description file (without *.*des* extension).

Please Note: For the installation of plotter driver consider the note on page 6.

Example:

```
XO_PLOTTER_CMD_1 = MEDPLOT_QTPLOT_DEMO
XO_PLOTTER_CMD_2 = MEDPLOT_WINPLOT_DEMO
```

Assignment of Sheet Size and Plotter

The specification of this section is required so that the AutoPlot function can execute the correct assignment of size and plotter.

Syntax:

```
XO_PLOTTER_PROP_<no> = <x>;<y>
```

The number <*no*> at the end of the keyword has to be handled as serial number.

<*x*> and <*y*> define the size. It is not allowed to change the order of the values, otherwise wrong values would be assigned to the plotter.

Example:

```
XO_PLOTTER_PROP_1 = 297;210
XO_PLOTTER_PROP_2 = 1189;841
```

Please Note: If the umbers are interchanged, a wrong dimension is assigned to the plotter and the Plot function probably gives an incorrect command to your plotter.

Only for `AutoPlot` itself no entry must entered for `XO_PLOTTER_PROP` (siehe Beispiel in “AutoPlot” on page 26).

Plot Properties

This area contains settings for the number of plots, the scaling and the layers. It defines the settings in the Plot Properties dialog (see ”Program Operating”, “Plot Properties” on page 13).

Number of Copies

`XO_CNT_COPY = <no>`

<*no*> defines the number of copies. The appropriate field in the Plot Properties dialog is preallocated with this value. Example: `XO_CNT_COPY = 3`

Maximum Number of Copies

`XO_MAX_COPY = <no>`

<*no*> defines the maximum number of copies. Example: `XO_MAX_COPY = 20`

Scale factor

`XO_PLOT_FAC = <fac>`

With it the scale factor <*fac*> for the plot of a sheet is preset. Example: `XO_PLOT_FAC = 5`

Layer set

Here the combination of the layers, which shall be plotted, is entered.

`XO_LAYER_SET_<no> = <name> | <layer set>`

<*no*> is a consecutive number defining the succession of the layer settings in the pulldown menu of the dialog Plot Properties.

<*name*> describes the defined layer definitions and will be displayed in the dialog Plot Properties. The names can be defined in any way.

| is the delimiter between name and layer settings. If no name is defined and the delimiter is left out, in the dialog Plot Properties the defined layer setting is displayed.

<*layer set*> defines the layers which shall be plotted. Several layer settings are separated by a space. The following types of layer settings are supported:

`999`	Only layer 999 is plotted
`0/1023`	All layers are plotted
`0/*`	All layers are plotted
`45/888`	All layers between 45 and 888 are plotted
`66/*`	All layers from 66 upward are plotted
`8 76 345`	Layers 8, 76 and 345 are plotted.

`8/76 88 560/720`	Layers 8 to 76, layer 88 and layer 560 to 720 are plotted
`6/* 66/77 8/* 789/999`	Layer 6 upward will be plotted, the rest of the line is redundant

Incorrect Entries may be:

`fff oder 7a`	Alphabetic characters where entered
`-1 oder 1024`	The valid layer range from 1/1023 was left.
`56/21`	This is an invalid range. The second number has to be higher than the first number.
`6/*99`	By the use of the entry `/*` all layers from layer 6 upward will be plotted, entry 99 is redundant.
`77 88 23 77/* 99 66`	all layers from 77 upward will be plotted. Any other entry is redundant.

The following entries are given as default in the *cfg* file:

```
XO_LAYER_SET_000 = All Layer   | 0/1023
XO_LAYER_SET_001 = Error Layer | 99
```

Plot Program

The plot program (e.g. a script), which is started for plotting, is associated with the keyword XO_PLOT_PRG..

```
XO_PLOT_PRG = csgplotter.bat
```

AutoPlot

If the AutoPlot function is activated, X-Off Plot identifies the sheet sizes of the files which shall be plotted and assigns it automatically to the corresponding configured plotter. For example, `AutoPlot` plots all A3 formats on an inkjet printer and A0 formats on an electrostatic printer without having made a choice before.

AutoPlot is activated by defining its name and command in the configuration file.

Syntax:

```
XO_PLOTTER_NAME_1 = AutoPlot
XO_PLOTTER_CMD_1 = AutoPlot
```

Example:

```
-- Plotter
XO_PLOTTER_NAME_1 = AutoPlot
XO_PLOTTER_NAME_2 = A0 Plotter
XO_PLOTTER_NAME_3 = A3 Laser
-- Plotter Commands
XO_PLOTTER_CMD_1 = AutoPlot
XO_PLOTTER_CMD_2 = MEDPLOT_WINPLOT_DESIGNJET
XO_PLOTTER_CMD_3 = MEDPLOT_QTPLOT_HP5000
-- Sizes
XO_PLOTTER_PROP_2 =841;1189
XO_PLOTTER_PROP_3 =420;594
```

Explanation:

In this example the AutoPlot function distributes the plots according to the specified dimensions. For example an A0 sheet would be printed on the DesignJet as the A0 dimensions are assigned to the plotter with the identification number 2.

If you wish to plot an oversized sheet, a dialog will be called up, where you can assign manually a plotter.

Please Note: If one of the entries should be invalid, AutoPlot will not be activated. Furthermore there is the risk of causing an error because of an incorrect configuration.

Example of a Configuration File

An example of a configuration file is shown in the following:

```
-- general configuration for X-Off Plot
-- gb or ger or fr
LANGUAGE = gb

-- Plotter
XO_PLOTTER_NAME_1 = QTPLOT
XO_PLOTTER_NAME_2 = WINPLOT
-- XO_PLOTTER_NAME_3 = AutoPlot
-- XO_PLOTTER_NAME_4 = A0 Plotter
-- XO_PLOTTER_NAME_5 = A1 Plotter
-- XO_PLOTTER_NAME_6 = A2 Plotter
-- XO_PLOTTER_NAME_7 = A3 Plotter
-- XO_PLOTTER_NAME_8 = A4 Landscape
-- XO_PLOTTER_NAME_9 = A4 Portrait
-- Plotter Commands
XO_PLOTTER_CMD_1 = MEDPLOT_QTPLOT_DEMO
XO_PLOTTER_CMD_2 = MEDPLOT_WINPLOT_DEMO
-- XO_PLOTTER_CMD_3 = AutoPlot
-- XO_PLOTTER_CMD_4 = A0_PLOTTER
-- XO_PLOTTER_CMD_5 = A1_PLOTTER
-- XO_PLOTTER_CMD_6 = A2_PLOTTER
-- XO_PLOTTER_CMD_7 = A3_PLOTTER
-- XO_PLOTTER_CMD_8 = A4_L_PLOTTER
-- XO_PLOTTER_CMD_9 = A4_P_PLOTTER
-- Sizes
-- XO_PLOTTER_PROP_4 =841;1189
-- XO_PLOTTER_PROP_5 =594;841
-- XO_PLOTTER_PROP_6 =420;594
-- XO_PLOTTER_PROP_7 =297;420
-- XO_PLOTTER_PROP_8 =210;297
-- XO_PLOTTER_PROP_9 =297;210

-- Plot Factor
XO_PLOT_FAC = 1
-- Plot Copies
XO_CNT_COPY = 1
XO_MAX_COPY = 10
-- Layer
XO_LAYER_SET_000 = All Layer   | 0/1023
XO_LAYER_SET_001 = Error Layer | 99

-- Plot Program
XO_PLOT_PRG = csgplotter.bat
```

Usertext

With the Usertext function you can print a text with the plot. Thereby the original sheet will not be modified.

In order to insert texts into the dialog User Text (see ”Program Operating”, “Selecting Usertext” on page 14) you have to edit the file *<X-Off Plot install path>\cfg\usertext.cfg* with an editor. If the file is not available, create one.

In the default file you find these entries as an example of a configuration:

```
NOTEXT = <no entry>
TEXT   = printed by CAD Schroer GmbH
TEXT   = preliminary, use only for test purpose
```

There are two **keywords**:

- `NOTEXT =`
  No text will be plotted, the entry behind the equal sign = can be arbitrary.
- `TEXT =`
  A text is printed with the plotter. The entry behind the equal sign = will be plotted.
  Please type in the text, which should be printed with the sheet.
  It is limited on 256 characters.

ERROR MESSAGES

`Error`
`failure registration for product`

Inside the Registry the following entry must exist:
`[HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\CADSchroer\X-Off Plot\2008.100]`
The message above appears, if the entry is not correct, e.g.:
`[HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\CADSchroer\X-Off Plot\2008.1]`.

`MedusaUserPrj path not found in registry`

Inside the Registry the path `MedusaUserPrj` is missing or wrong.

`MedusaUserPrj path: ... not found`

Inside the Registry the path `MedusaUserPrj` is missing or wrong.

`Fatal Error`
`X-OffPlot Config file was not found`

The *csgxoffplot.cfg* file in the directory *<x-off_plot install path>/conf* does not exist. Such a file is described in detail in chapter „Configuration", „Example of a Configuration File" on page 27.

`Error`
`Registry product path: ... does not exist`

Inside the Registry the path `ProductPath` is missing.

`undefined error in license file`

This message is for all cases that the X-Off Plot license cannot be found. Either the entry inside the keyfile does not exist or the path to the keyfile is set wrong. For details see chapter "Preface and Installation", "License" on page 6.

INDEX

W

X