

Thinking of upgrading from Vectorworks® Spotlight version 12? Want to know what you missed from versions 2008 & 2009? Check out this FAQ:

The difference between version 12 and 2010 is big—Parasolid® big. It's our new modeling engine, and it changes everything. Parasolid is the backbone for hundreds of computer-design, manufacturing, and engineering analysis (CAD/CAM/CAE) applications.

With Parasolid, you can tackle larger and more complex models and enjoy higher levels of modeling automation. You can spend less time verifying accuracy and completeness and more time designing. And, you can do it all at speeds that are 4-5 times faster than our previous versions. Together with Parasolid, Vectorworks Spotlight is the most reliable, scalable, and feature-rich design application available.

1. Do you work with Lightwright?

Definitely—We're partners. Not only do we work with Lightwright™ version 5, but now Vectorworks can completely synchronize your paperwork and your plot. Whether you change the plan in Vectorworks or the paperwork in Lightwright, they'll always be synced right up.

2. Do I need to number each channel one by one?

No. Thanks to the Number Instrument command, any of the data values for an instrument, like dimmer value, unit number, and channel number can be assigned automatically, so you can also change the increment value for the tool and do all the work at once.

3. What improvements have you made to working with PDF files?

Now you can snap to the lines and geometry in the imported PDF. So copying geometry from a PDF is, well, a snap.

4. Do I still need to assign the universe for each instrument manually?

Not anymore. Now lighting devices can automatically handle the assignment of the universe based on the channel that it's given. So if you're in channel 600, it gets assigned to Universe 2. That easy.

5. Can I show the light beam accurately?

Yes you can—we've greatly improved beam geometry so that you can increase your productivity with solid 2D and 3D drawing beams and shutter cuts. Now your plots and models will be more accurate because you can visualize the beam geometry better.

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6. In a complicated drawing, selecting the right object can be a challenge, is it any easier now?

It's a cinch. With the new pre-selection indication option, you'll highlight objects as you mouse over them. With a click, they're selected.

7. Can I stop my labels from rotating?

Yes. Now you have the option for non-rotating label legends. Get greater control and flexibility over the appearance of label legends by fixing them so that they do not rotate with the lighting device. This is very useful when dealing with congested areas of light information.

8. Does the position name update based on the location?

You bet. Now the lighting device automatically changes its position name when it is moved onto a new position. Lighting Device Position Awareness is fantastic when you're working on complex plans with many lights—it's just one less thing you'll need to keep track of.

9. What is the best way to scale an object?

With our new scale by distance, you can scale any object by setting a distance based on the drawing. Scaling objects by other geometry in the drawing is the most accurate method. Plus, you don't need to use a calculator. This also works well for imported PDF and image files.

10. Can I change a value on a worksheet and get it to change in the model?

Yes! With two way worksheets, when you change an object's data in a worksheet it will automatically reconfigure the object in the drawing. Now no matter where you change it—the schedule or the drawing—it's correct everywhere else.

If you didn't see your question here, give us a call at 888-646-4223. We're here to help.