



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

The difference between version 2008 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 vector based 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.

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5. 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.

6. How do you create an object like one you've already created?

It's as easy as saying "ditto." Use the new similar object tool to create any object just like the one already created. With a simple click, the right tool, mode, attributes, and parameters are automatically set to match the source object.

7. Can I draw vertical booms correctly?

Yes! Finally, you can draw a vertical lighting position or truss correctly in both the model and the plot views. The Create Plot and Model View command lets the position be modeled vertically, but also rotated on the plot to show the positions.

8. Have you added any new libraries?

Where do we start? Check out Color Kinetics®, James Thomas™, Atlas Sound, EAW© audio, D & B Audiotechnik®, and Meyer Sound. And we've added new symbols to the following existing libraries: Clay Paky, Coemar, High End Systems, Martin®, Strand Selecon®, and Vari*Lite®. These are just small of the new libraries added over the last two versions.

9. How can I work better with someone's messy files?

You know, the drawing where you don't know what the layer or class name is but you just want to turn objects in the drawing *off*? You can use the visibility tool. Click to turn off any class or layer—and tell your colleague to keep it cleaner next time.

10. Can I drag files in to open them?

Absolutely! Not only will Vectorworks files open this way, but DWG, EPSF, 3DS, PDF, image, and SketchUp files will too. So drag away.

If you didn't see your question here, give us a call at 410-290-5114. We're great at answering questions, especially when they're about us.

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