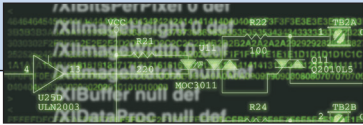


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## Learning Resources



# Education on Video

Grab the microwave popcorn and soda, sit back, and prepare to be educated. Maybe even entertained. *Autodesk® Land Desktop R3 in a Nutshell – The Movie* has come to a computer near you



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age CAD Applications, Albany, New York, and Electric Pelican Ink, Salisbury, New Hampshire,

have teamed up to bring video training to users of Autodesk Land Desktop R3 and Autodesk Civil Design R3. Available in videocassette, CD, and DVD formats, *Autodesk® Land Desktop R3 in a Nutshell – The Movie* and *Autodesk® Civil Design R3 in a Nutshell – The Movie* are a good accompaniment to more formal classroom

training or as a self-study resource, according to several users.

One such user is Terry Leedham, professor, architectural engineering technology at New Hampshire Technical Institute. The past year has been significant for New Hampshire Technical Institute with regard to its civil engineering course offerings,

according to Leedham. Autodesk Land Desktop has been adopted for use in the Institute's surveying courses, which have expanded to include a highway design course this year as well as a course called Civil CAD. Within that Civil CAD course, students will have the opportunity to learn about Autodesk Land Desktop software.



# Autodesk® Land Desktop R3 in a Nutshell – The Movie

## **DVD, Disc 1**

- Introduction
- The Software
- The Theory
- The Files
- The Startup
- Project Management
- Drawing Setups
- Guided Tour
- The Point Database
- Import Points
- Point Settings

## **DVD, Disc 2**

- Point Display Properties
- Description Keys
- Point Labels
- Point Groups
- Lines & Curves
- Line & Curve Labels
- Tags, Labels
- Terrain Modeling Intro

## **DVD, Disc 3**

- Building Surfaces
- Surface Breaklines
- Surface Boundaries
- Surface Editing
- Surface Borders & Sections
- Contours
- Watersheds & Slope Analysis
- Elevation Ranges
- 3D Visualization & Object Projection
- Wrap Up

Calling himself a novice user so far as Autodesk Land Desktop is concerned, Leedham is learning the software via a diverse array of materials: the software's manual, various workbooks and texts, and *Autodesk® Land Desktop R3 in a Nutshell – The Movie* on DVD.

Leedham offers praise for the DVD product. "On a one-to-ten scale, I'd give it a nine and a half," he says. "For someone trying to learn the software who doesn't have the benefit of a course being taught by an instructor, this is something to have. It's that good." For the record, Leedham isn't knocking time-tested print resources, noting that they, in concert with the DVD, provide comprehensive instruction: "If I add the workbooks, manuals, and the DVD together, I find that I'm able to use the [Autodesk] software."

In particular, Leedham likes the DVD's "messenger." Gary Rosen, president of Electric Pelican Ink. and a long-time Autodesk software user, consultant, and speaker at such events as Autodesk University, is the on-camera instructor for this video training series. "The real benefit you get from the DVD is that Gary Rosen gives you the insights and applications that often times you can't get out of a manual," says Leedham. "He presents the information in a relaxed manner, which is a good way to receive this information if you're just beginning."

Helene Brennan, senior at Northwestern University, is another user benefiting from the use of the Land Desktop DVD. This is a self-study course for Brennan, who discovered the products through Dan Hogan, a research engineer at Northwestern. Brennan, who is certified on AutoCAD 2000, is finding her introduction to Autodesk Land Desktop assisted by this training product.

"There's no one here to teach me how to use [the Land Desktop software]. This is a self-study," explains Brennan. And her method is working. "Without knowing anything about land development or civil design, I was able to make profiles and cross-sections and alignments," she says.

Brennan's approach to using the training DVD—one she recommends to other students—was to watch the entire presentation, then to revisit portions that contained concepts she needed to more thoroughly understand. The DVDs are arranged in chapters (see inset left) so users can go directly to a particular lesson if more review is necessary.



Norman Garrick, Ph.D., Associate Professor at the University of Connecticut, also sees value in the ability to go directly to various points in the lesson. "It's definitely a good feature. The steps are all very clear, so you can go back exactly to what you're missing." Garrick used *Autodesk® Land Desktop R3 in a Nutshell – The Movie* in addition to other forms of training to prepare for a class he's teaching.

Overall, these three users are quite satisfied with the Sage CAD/Electric Pelican training videos. They commend instructor Gary Rosen for his clear, step-by-step approach to training. Of course, the inevitable downside to products of this type is that there is no opportunity for interaction between student and instructor, but users should know that going in. That aside, all of these users noted that the training presented is comprehensive and they all felt comfortable with the amount of training they received from the product.

Like anything else in school, business, or life for that matter, users will get out of this what they put into it. "Users should realize that they're going to have to invest some time if they want to get the most out of the training," concludes Leedham. "But if you're in a civil engineering firm and you need to be able to meet production demands with the [Autodesk Land Desktop] software, you're going to have to spend that kind of time anyway. And this might cut out some of the more difficult ways of learning to use the software."

Okay, so maybe the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences will overlook it at Oscar time, but for eager students, *Autodesk® Land Desktop R3 in a Nutshell – The Movie* is a clear winner.

For more information about this series of videos, visit [www.landnut.com](http://www.landnut.com).

Marilyn Law is managing editor of Augiworld.