

# Memo

To: All Engineering and Survey CAD Users  
From: Tom Hanley  
Date: 10/11/2004  
Re: Mtext Background Mask

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## Mtext Background Mask

Following the upgrade to Land Desktop 2005, we have seen several problems when using the Express Tools **Textmask** command on mtext. It appears that AutoDesk is not going to issue a patch for that. Express tools have always been experimental or bonus tools unsupported by AutoDesk. There is, however, a new improved version of text masking in this release. No snickering please...It is actually a good thing! Now you can attach a background mask to mtext and it acts like a single object. To add a background mask, you can use your right click mouse button in the text editing area to get a pop up menu and select background mask option to open the settings dialog box or you can simply enable default background masking from the properties dialog box when a mtext object is selected (See attached screen shots). You can use your quick selection tools to select all mtext in your drawing and enable background masking in one shot.

### Settings for the Background Mask should be:

#### **1.25 border Offset Factor and use background fill color**

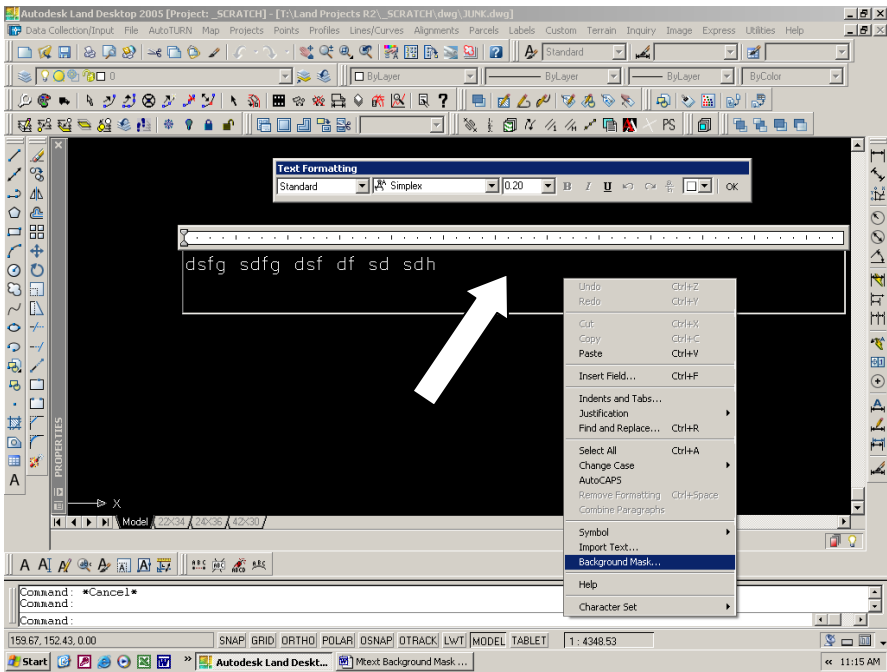
In this release there is an option to mask dimension text when using dimension styles the same way. I have setup the standard Lanc & Tully dimstyles in the drawing templates to use masking.

Once the masking is in place all you have to do is type "**Texttfront**" at the command line and then type "**B**" for both when it asks you which objects to bring to front and all the text in the layout will be on top. Well...almost...nothing is as easy as it seems. There are reports of occasional plotting problems using background masking but I believe this is something that will be fixed in subsequent patches.

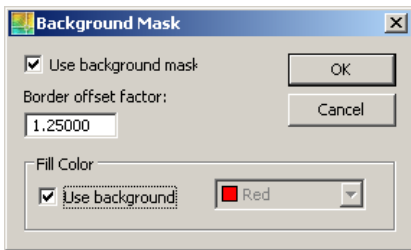
We still have a lot of plain text in our drawings. This masking option is not available for those objects. Even though there is an express tool to convert plain text to mtext, it is a laborious task that probably can't be efficiently automated. We are stuck with using the express tools **Textmask** command for plain text. I imagine that AutoDesk is hoping we just stop using plain text and just use mtext on everything. I think that is a good idea but it will take a very long time to phase out regular text and I doubt we will ever see that happen. We can minimize our regular text usage on new drawings though.

Thank You,

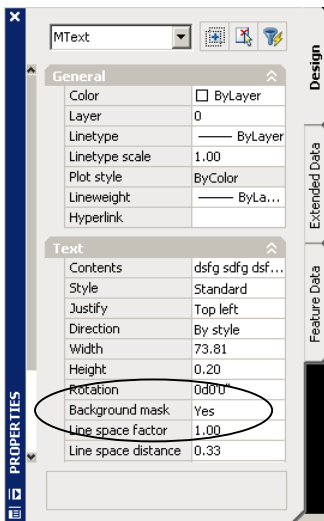
Tom Hanley



Opening the "Right Click" menu from the mtext editor



The Background Mask Dialog Box



Enabling Background Mask from the properties box