

Release Notes GC-PowerPlace v14.4

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New Features

Center Part Centroids

This function allows Parts with datum points that are not set to the center of the part extents to be modified. Some input formats may contain part information where pin 1 or some other point has been set as the part datum point (the centroid). To modify the datum point to the center of the footprint extents previously required the part to be exploded and re-taught. For all selected parts, this function will reset the centroid to the footprint extents. Note: If only one part of many on the board is selected, all parts using the same unique package style will be modified also.

Virtual Copies to Real

This function converts virtual step and repeat patterns to real pad and trace data. The function works when in Layers (Panelize) mode and on layers containing selected data. All virtual panels will be converted.

GerberX2 drill updates

With the new GerberX2 specification, drill information can also be supplied as a Gerber layer of round pads. If this is the case, and it is possible to do so, drill layers are automatically created during the import process in the Holes/Routs section. This is particularly useful when dealing with blind and buried drill layers as the correct layer structure and drill stacks are created automatically. Drill layers will not be created if signal layers are missing or the information provided within the GerberX2 files is not explicit.

Layer Setup

The ability to rename layers using the Apply Layer Settings function has been added. Now, based on all or part of an incoming filename the Name, Layer Type, Side, Pad and Trace color and layer order can be set using customer specific INI files. See example.ini for further information. The file is located in the Examples directory of the installation directory.

Items Fixed since v14.3

This list is customer reported issues fixed for this release.

- #333 Fixed a small bug in the C pad construction algorithm.
- #332 Arcs with centerpoints outside the GraphiCode addressable space are now vectorized when supplied within a DXF or DWG file.
- #331 Missing layers within an RS-274X file. Problem caused by multiple zero length polygon segments being defined as the first polygons on the layer. Layers now display correctly.
- #330 Pin 1 centroids can now be reassigned to the center of the pad extents (see above).
- #329 Virtual step and repeat patterns can now be converted to true data (see above).
- #328 Contour handling of zero length polygon segments updated. The result of this issue was a sketched feature not being converted to a pad. Fixed.
- #327 RS-274X file without %MO*% format string now loads correctly when the now deprecated G71 command is present. The file is now longer legal Gerber but the intention is understood.
- #326 Implemented the updated description of blind and buried drill layers within the GerberX2 specification.
- #322 Fixed an issue where a sliver was not being detected in the dataset.
- #320 Moved some internal ini files so that the Export SRF function can now be run without be in Administrator mode in Windows 7 or Windows 8.
- #289 Added the ability for Reference Designators containing underscores to be loaded by the BOM Import process.