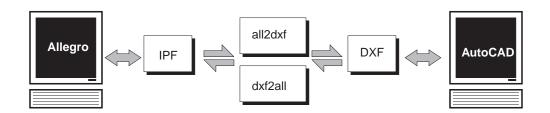# Introduction

## ALL2DXF/DXF2ALL    Allegro to DXF Translator



## Description

ASM 1950A, all2dxf reads Cadence Allegro's IPF format and converts it to AutoCAD's DXF file format. ASM 1950B, dxf2all, reads AutoCAD's DXF file format and and translates it into Cadence's Allegro's intermediate plot file format (ipf).

The DXF file is a defacto standard in the mechanical drafting world. AutoCAD and almost every other mechanical CAD program can read and write DXF. Allegro's intermediate plot file format is a proprietary format that is read and written by Allegro.

A major advantage of using Allegro's ipf format is that you can read write this format directly; there is no need to purchase costly mechanical translators costing thousands of dollars.

We wrote this translator with the intention of aiding Allegro designers who need to import template layout information from AutoCAD or other mechanical programs. A typical application would be where the mechanical group has designed a package that constrains the PC board layout - connectors and mounting holes must be in a certain location, the board outline is irregular, there are some keep away areas where components may not be mounted. All of this information could be manually re-entered into Allegro based on examination of a print, but it is much quicker to import the CAD data and use this to start the design layout process.

IPF is a very rich format including entities such as:

- lines (width)

- arcs

- colors

- circles

- special symbols

- text

# Features

## Scaling and Rotation

ASM 1950 supports scaling and rotation as these transformations are quite useful - the basic Allegro plot file unit is the mil (1/1000 inch) and most drafting departments work in inches or millimeters.

## Text Support

Support of text alone is well worth investing in this translator. If you primary purpose is to create assembly drawing documentation passing the text strings from Allegro to AutoCAD keeps file size to a minimum. Anyone who has tried moving board data to AutoCAD via HPGL knows the agony of getting all the text into AutoCAD as thousands of tiny strokes.
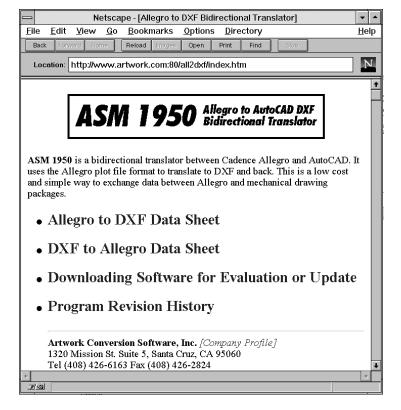
## DXF Compatibility

The DXF file we create is compatible with AutoCAD Release 9,10, 11, 12 and 13 as well as other programs that read DXF such as Microstation, Generic CADD, CADkey, VersaCAD, Vellum, Claris CAD and various low cost AutoCAD "view/plot" utilities running on PCs and workstations.

Our dxf2all supports DXF files from AutoCAD release 9 through 13 and is updated regularly to add support for later versions of AutoCAD.

# Support

ASM 1950 is fully supported via Artwork's WEB site. Customers can send us problem files and our programmers will determine whether the problem is software related or "pilot error."

We also have an update page available and the latest version of the translators available for download to customer's under software support.