Polyboard 6

new features
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Polyboard 6 new functionality

Polyboard 6 is the new version of Polyboard that has been under development now for the last couple of years.

This new version is an extension of version 5 and includes a list of frequently requested functionality.

Each new feature has been put under extensive live testing by our team of Beta testers and we now consider this version stable for use in real life situations.

However, the list of new functionality is not yet complete and we are adding new features all the time.

For this reason we are releasing version 6 as a non complete version that will be updated regularly as we add new elements.

As usual, intermediate updates will be free for all Polyboard 6 clients.

Here is a non exhaustive list of some of the new functionality in Polyboard 6.

Please go to WoodDesigner.org for further information.
DXF import

When setting up Projects and free form cabinets it’s possible to import a polyline made in other CAD software like AutoCAD, DraftSight, SketchUp etc.

This makes it easy to import floor plans, curved walls, and irregular shaped cabinets. Here we have the example of a curved reception desk fitted against a curved wall.

The curved front is set up with an inclined curve on the front and the Wood Designer logo applied as an inner tooling. This is easy to set up with the Polyboard DXF import and Free Form functions.
Note that DXF import will convert any arcs into segments.
3D accessories

You can now import and create 3D accessories in Polyboard. This allows you to add hardware like handles, furniture legs, taps, sinks and hangars, even a coffee maker on a table, to enhance your 3D presentations to clients.

You can import your own accessory models drawn with CAD software, use those on supplier websites, build directly in Polyboard or use our ready made collection within Polyboard’s Quick Design Libraries.

[Click to view Video Tutorial]
Face frames
In the past it has always been a bit tricky to create face frames in Polyboard.

Now our latest version of Polyboard’s Quick Design Libraries (compatible with Polyboard 6) allow you to create them very fast and very easily, with the cut list and plans generated automatically as usual. Please note, some hardware elements between frames and façades are not applied.
**Drawers with inclined sides**

With Polyboard 6 it’s possible to insert drawers into cabinets with sloping sides.

The drawers will themselves be calculated with sloping sides.

If the side of an existing cabinet containing drawers is sloped the drawers will be updated.
Part numbering

Polyboard 6 automatically adds a number to each part. This number is displayed in the exploded view.

Easier to organise your cutting lists, panel processing and assembly.

Click to view Video Tutorial
The same number is added as a reference to the cutting lists.
It’s now also possible to explode more or less each part using the exploded view cursor in the Properties menu.
Sliding doors

In v6 sliding doors can be set up as exterior or applied doors.

This makes it possible to include doors that are hung in front of a cabinet.
Move hardware

In Polybord 5 hardware positions are defined by the rule that it’s placed with and you have to change the rule to change the position of any element.

In Polyboard 6 it’s now possible to edit independently each hardware position regardless of the rule used to apply it.

Click to view Video Tutorial
Hardware distribution by fixed distances

In v5 hardware rules could only set up elements by dividing a board into equal distances. These distances would therefore vary according to the board widths.

New v6 rule options now allow a fixed distance parameter that will be distribute hardware across the board with always the same distance between elements.
The last Offset distance is now considered a minimum distance and the distance between the last hardware element and the board edge is now variable.
Unlimited part names and types
With Polyboard 6 it’s now possible to create an unlimited number of part types and also to change the part names.

This command is accessible from the:
Tool > Preferences menu

This option can be used to set up specific types of parts containing specific properties that can automatically simulate hardware, virtual divisions, special parameters, etc.
Hardware for single panels applied using 2 distribution rules

Polyboard 6 can apply ‘Single Panel Fittings’ (hardware) using distribution rules both horizontally and vertically. This makes it possible to create a matrix of tooled elements, useful for things like acoustic panel manufacturing as well as a whole range of other applications.
Tooling as hardware

When setting up hardware, as well as holes and grooves, it’s now possible to apply an element of the DXF library as an inner tooling or pocket. Perfect for specialist hardware management.

Using the Scale, Height, Width, Turn Around and Orientation parameters it’s possible to adjust the size and shape of the element.
Partial project mode 3D display

Polyboard 5 displays automatically all the elements of a project in the 3D view. With Polyboard 6 it’s now possible to select elements and display only those selected.

To use this function, select the different elements using a Ctrl + click and right click to display the mouse menu. In the menu select ‘Selection 3D view’.

Equal door sizes

If you set up a cabinet with several vertical separations dividing the inside of a cabinet into equal volumes and add doors, the doors will be slightly different in size due to the different overlaps on the inner partitions and the sides. Simpler cutting lists and easier manufacture of your parts.
A new command ‘Equalize Doors and Drawers Size’ will adjust the positions of the partitions and make all the door or drawer facade components the same size.

This command requires that you select several doors by pressing Ctrl when you click the mouse.
Note that the command will work even when vertical separations have been set to specific distances and they are nowhere near equi-distant.
Edit inner volumes

With Polyboard 6 it’s now possible to change the global size of a cabinet by modifying the inner volume.

To do this just select the inner volume and it’s possible to change the sizes directly from the Properties menu.
Useful if your design requirements are based on inner dimensions, for example storage units or crates.
Hardware between split panels

Polyboard 6 contains a new option that can apply hardware fittings between boards created using the ‘Surface split’ command.
Note that the hardware must be set up specially to be machined into the correct faces or edges as in the example below.
Free form angle define

When adding extra non orthogonal points to a Free Form cabinet, Polyboard 6 allows you to define 4 different types of panel assembly modes between the angled panels.

Points that have adjustable assembly modes are indicated with a dotted tail.

To access these modes select a point and right click the mouse.
3D hide doors

In Polyboard 6 clicking on the ‘Open or Close Doors and Drawers’ button in the 3D menu will switch the display to 3 different modes.
The first click will open the doors and drawers.

The second click will make door and drawer facades invisible.
**Drawer calculation using façades**

In Polyboard 5 drawer sizes are calculated from the inner volume of the cabinet.

This optimises the size of the drawers but in the case when all the drawers have equal façades the top and bottom drawer inner parts are a different size from the others.

With Polyboard 6, it’s now possible to calculate the drawer size directly from the size of the drawer façade. This means that the drawer inners will follow the size of the drawer fronts. If all the fronts are equal all the drawer inners are the same.

This option can be selected when adding the drawers:
Or as a specific Sub-Method:

When the drawer fronts (façades) are equal, this parameter creates all the inner drawer parts equal sizes and not only makes for a less confusing and more streamlined work process but in the case of drawer slider drilling onto both cabinet and draw side, also allows the drilling to be applied using the same rule on the façade/cabinet rule as on the façade/drawer side rule.
Folders for organising hardware and rules

A new function of Polyboard 6 allows you to organise hardware and rules into folders.

Clicking on the mini + button will create a new folder or sub folder and you can drag and drop elements to reorganise.
And here showing rules ordered into folder:
What Next?

This list of new features is non exhaustive. The development team is currently working on new functionality which will be added to in the coming months.

Please check WoodDesigner.org for more news and updates on Polyboard 6.

Happy woodworking to you all from,

Wood Designer

and the development team at Boole & Partners