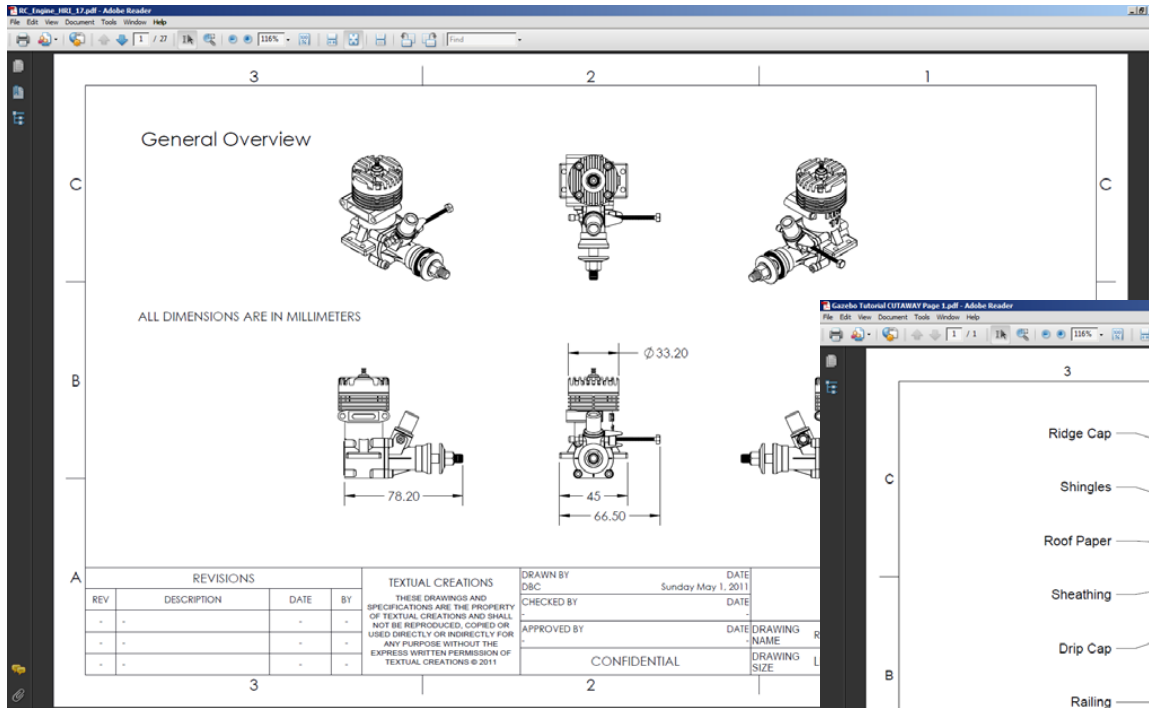
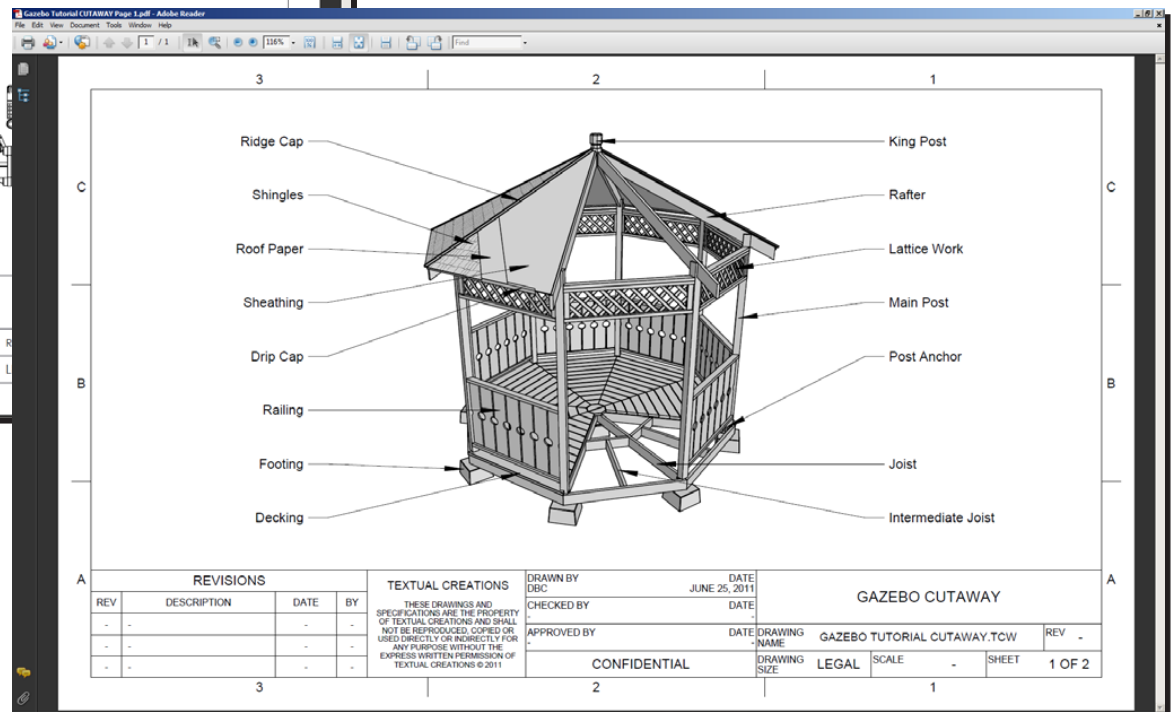


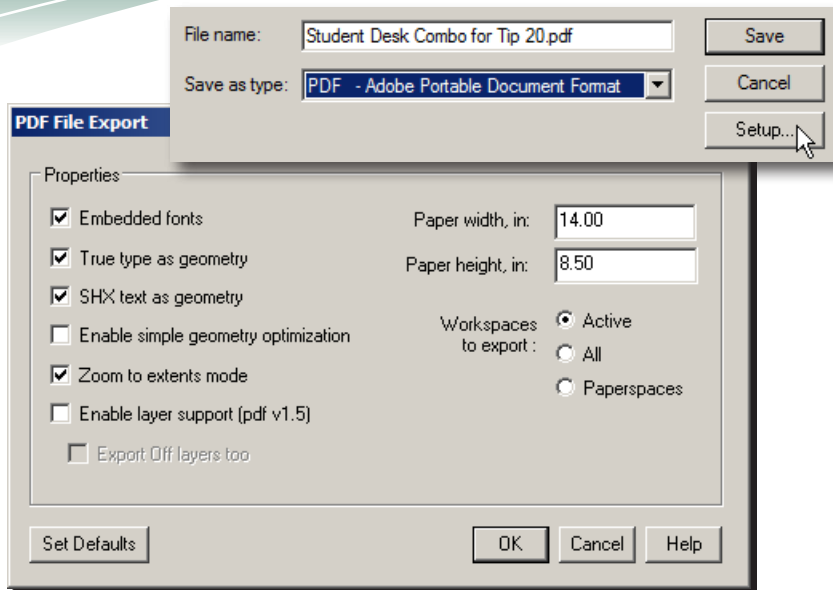
Being able to get drawings into a readily viewable electronic format is very important when it comes to collaboration and consulting with clients. Because almost everyone has Adobe Reader installed on their computer PDF is the ideal electronic format.



RC Engine with Suppress Hidden Line Renders



Gazebo with Quality Render

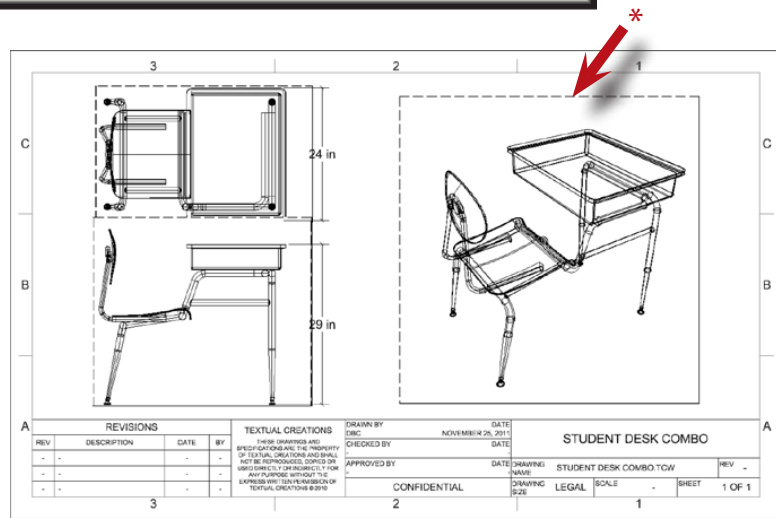


Currently TurboCAD does come with a PDF export filter, but this filter is primitive in a number of ways so it is not terribly useful. In actuality, most power users suggest that new users forgo its use.

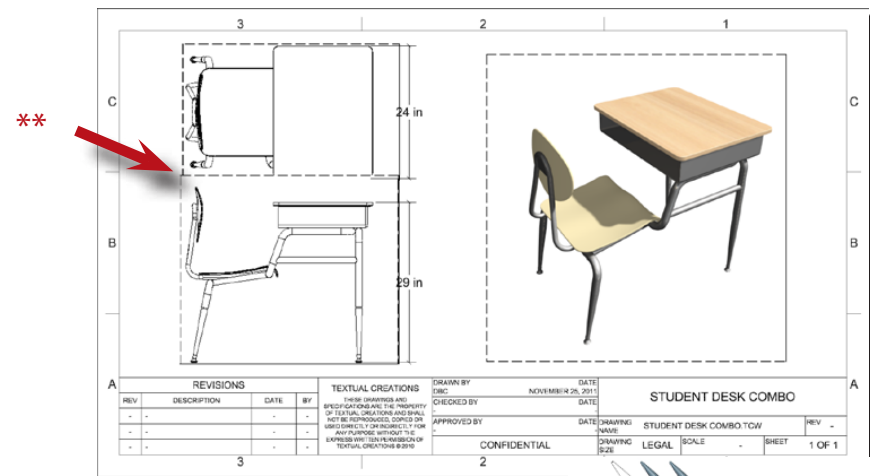
*Part of the problem is that one must be sure to render viewports in the drawing before saving or they will save in wireframe format. Note that working with rendered viewports is not the best practice as they require a good deal of time to rerender each time a change is made.

**Boundaries are visible even when parameters have been set to turn them off and they will cover those viewports that may be partially under the upper one.

Additionally, there is no way to establish a desired resolution to be saved at and resolution is an important factor for some projects.



Rendered before saving to PDF



So how does one get good PDF output, you may ask? The good news is that a number of free and low cost PDF printers do exist and they work great. Three of the most often recommended free utilities are PDF995, CutePDF and PrimoPDF.

PDF995 comes with a nag pop-up that can be eliminated if a users pays a small fee. (<http://www.pdf995.com/>).



CutePDF has a free version (<http://www.cutepdf.com/Products/CutePDF/writer.asp>).

CutePDF™ ideas for PDF

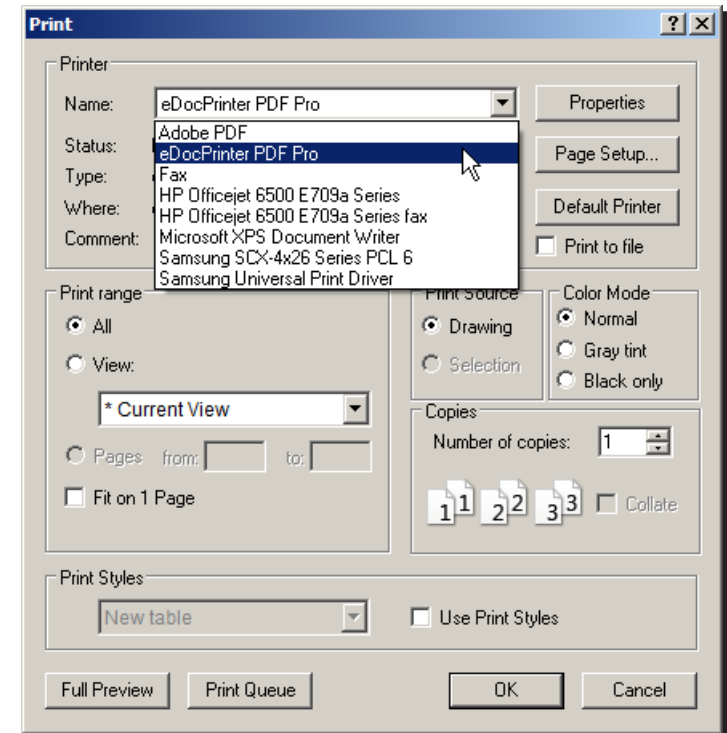
As does PrimoPDF (<http://www.primopdf.com/>).



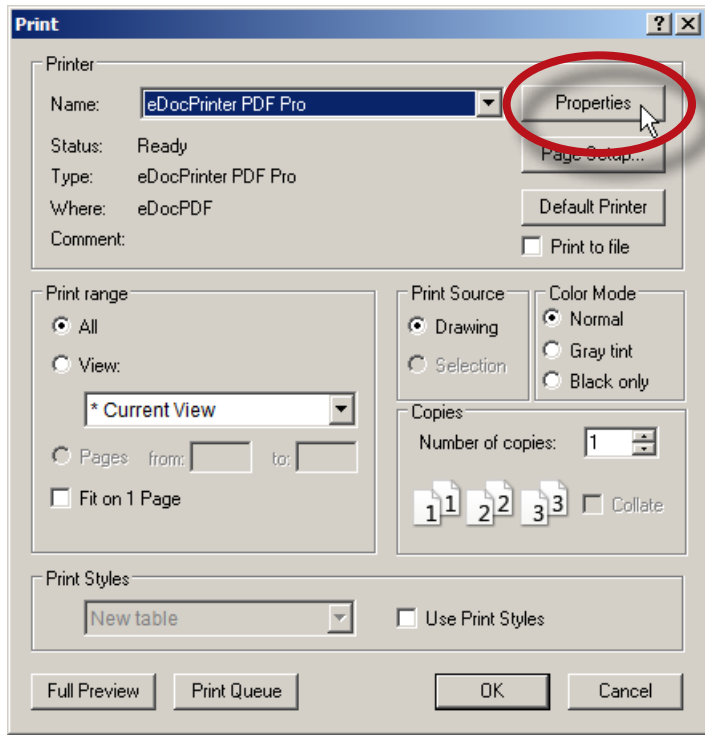
Don Cheke uses a low cost PDF printer called eDocPrinter PDF Pro (<http://uk.iteksoft.com/index.php>). It was chosen because it has great book marking functions which comes in handy when writing TurboCAD tutorials. Don also has Adobe PDF, but it is expensive.



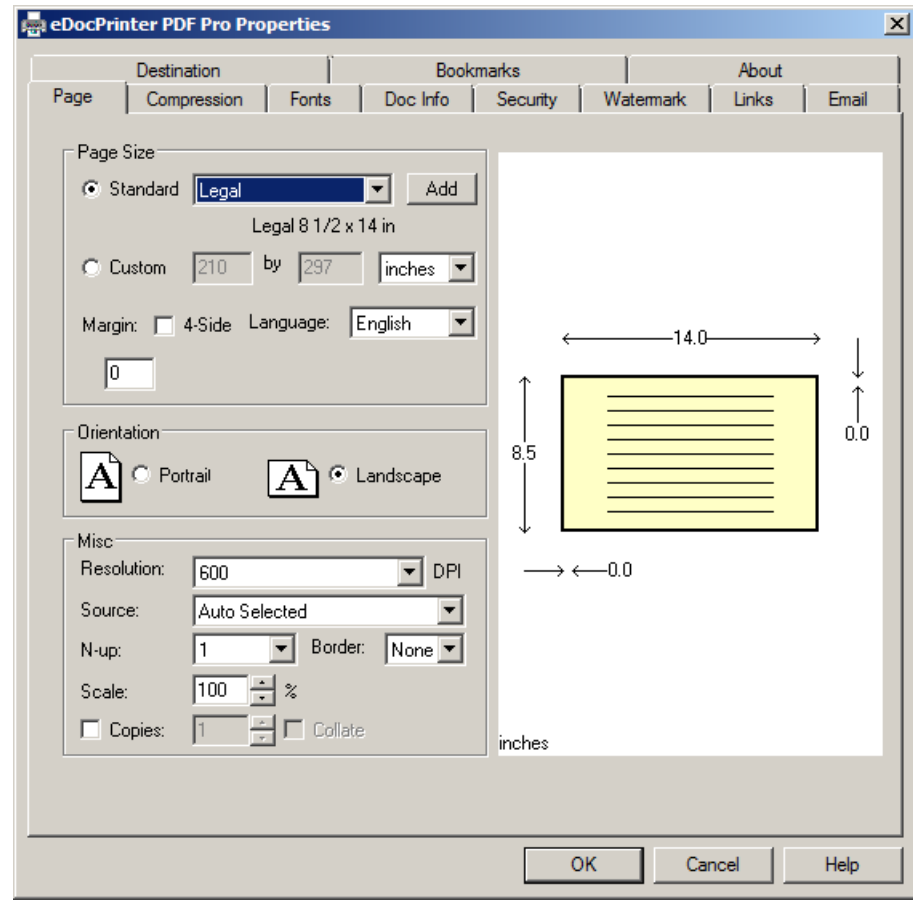
All of the 3rd party PDF printers are installed as any executable program is and then they are found under the print functions of all programs, including TurboCAD. Installation of these programs should be done while TurboCAD is shut down so it will be available from the printer list when it is fired up.



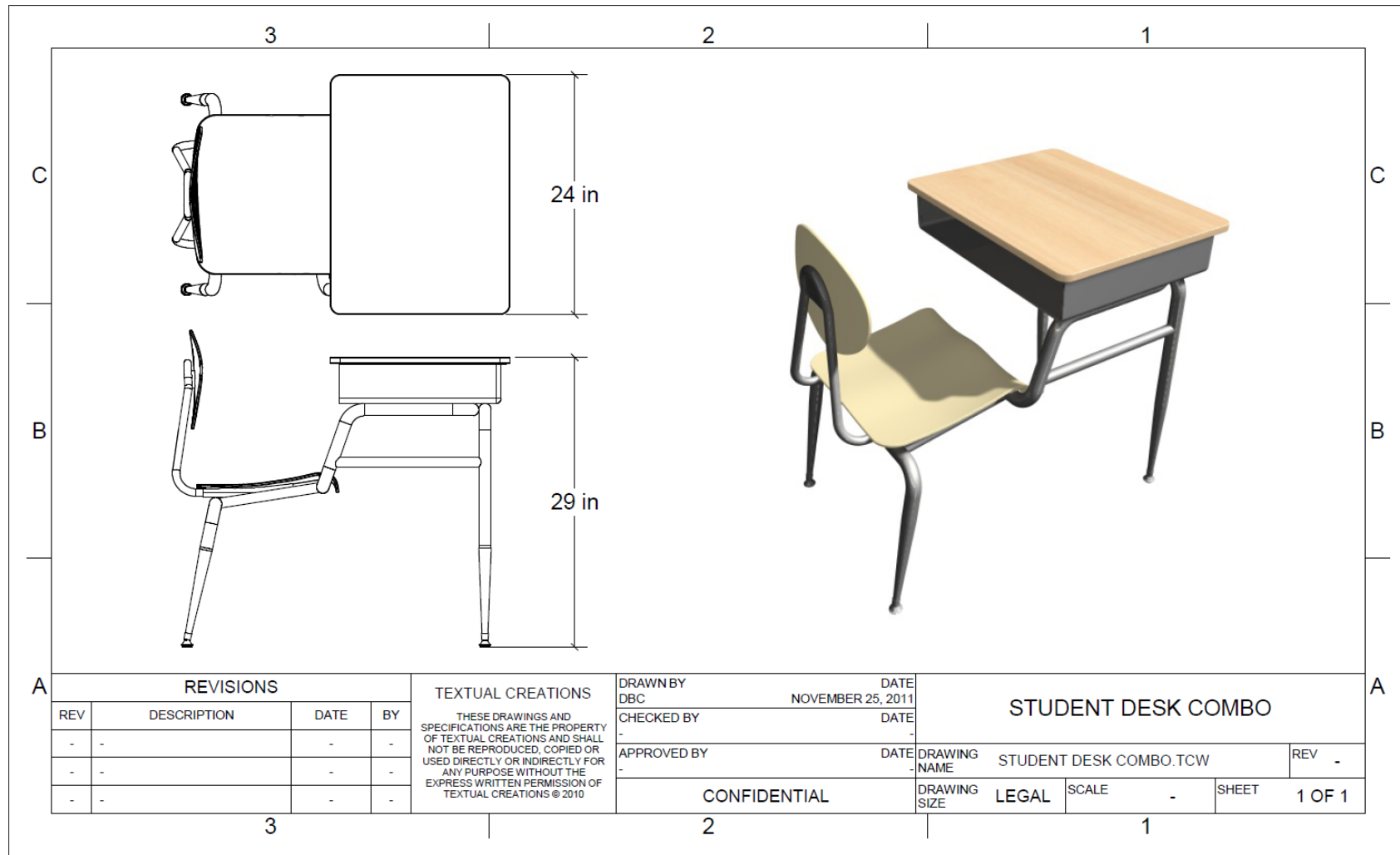
Properties can be established for each PDF printer before printing is initiated. Access and the number of parameters may vary for each specific PDF printer. Below is what some of the options look like in eDocPrinter PDF Pro. Note the numerous tabs.



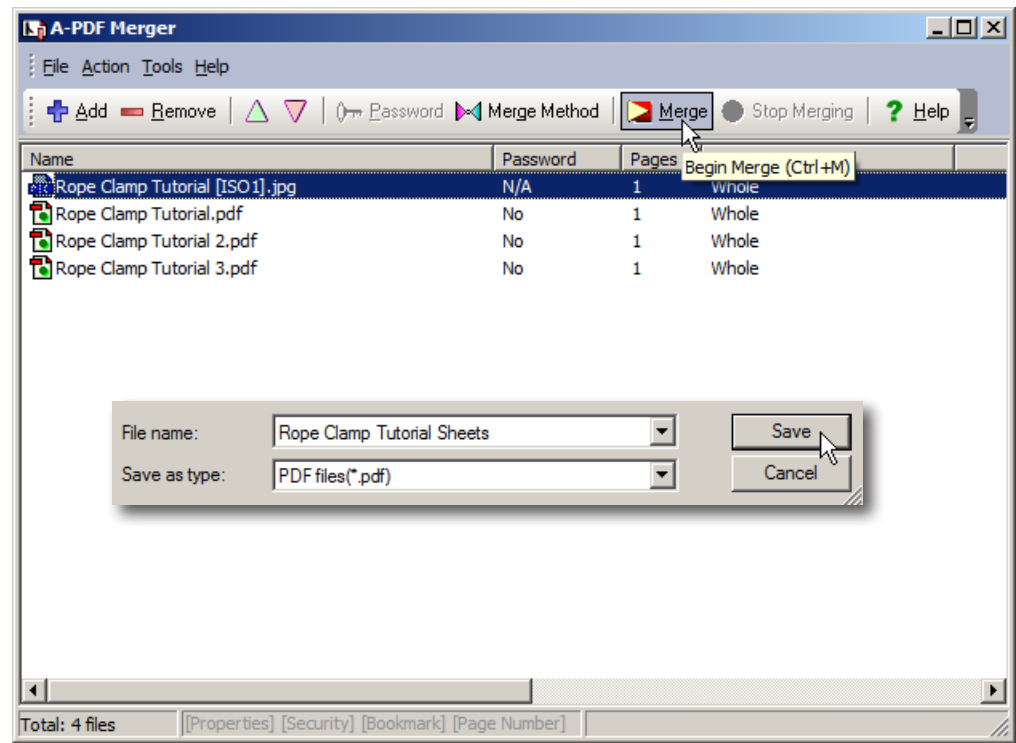
Print dialogue in TurboCAD



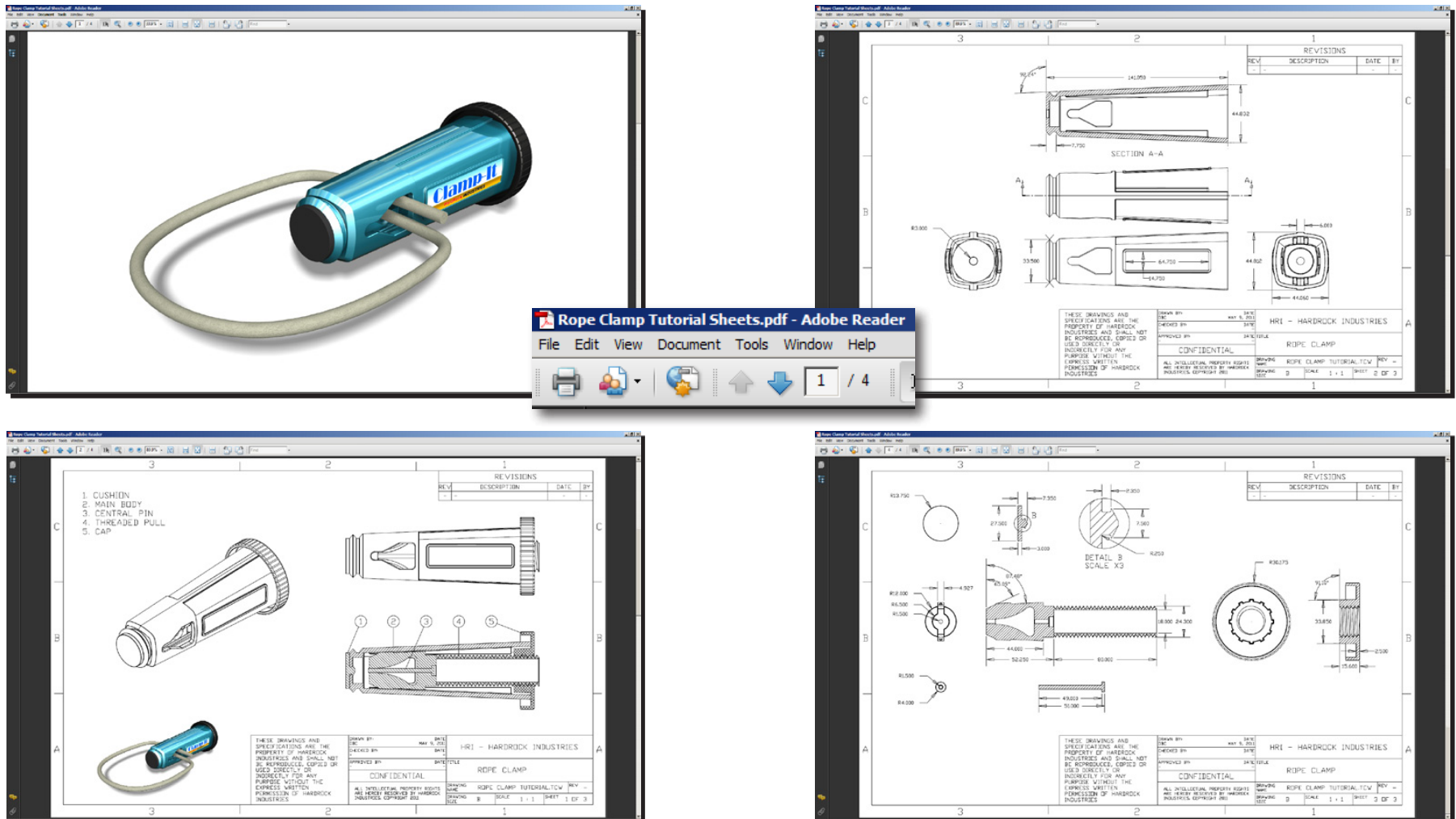
Printing to PDF from the 3rd party PDF printers is painless and the output is as expected, as illustrated below from eDocPrinter PDF Pro.

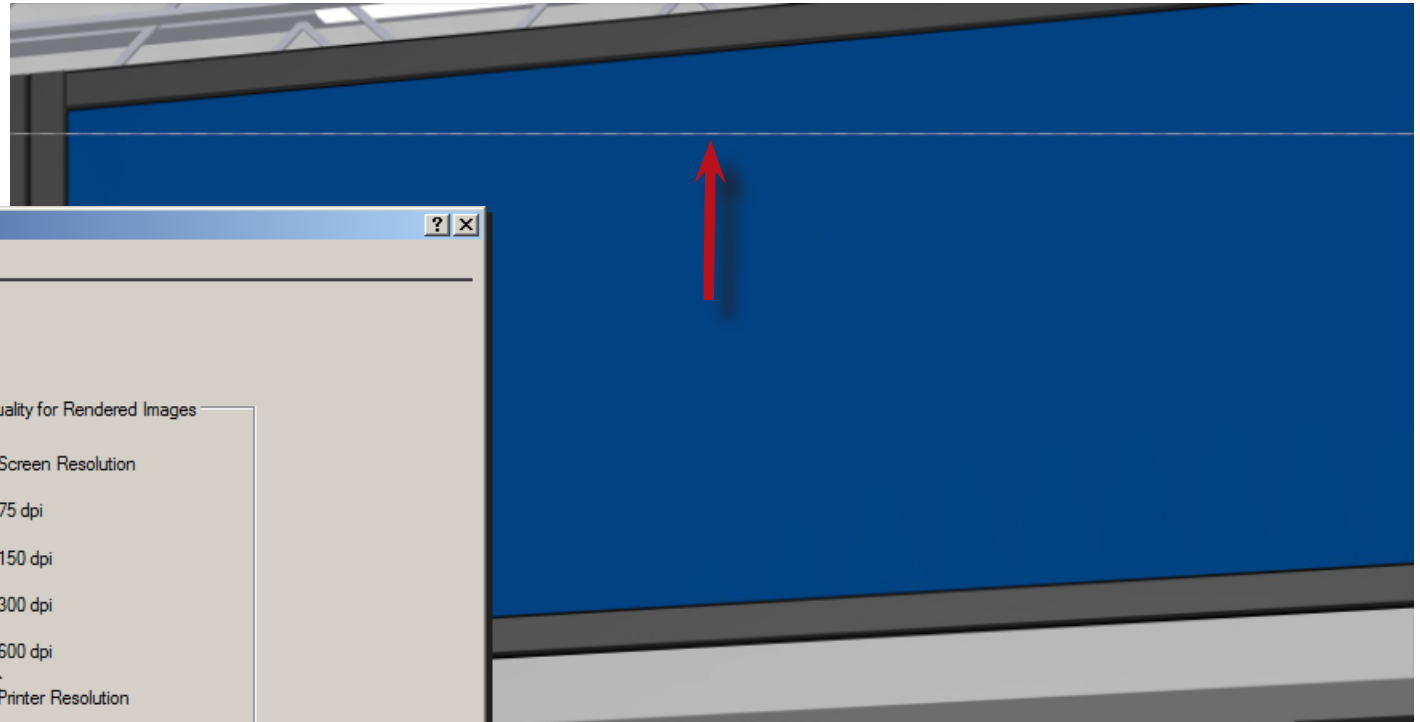
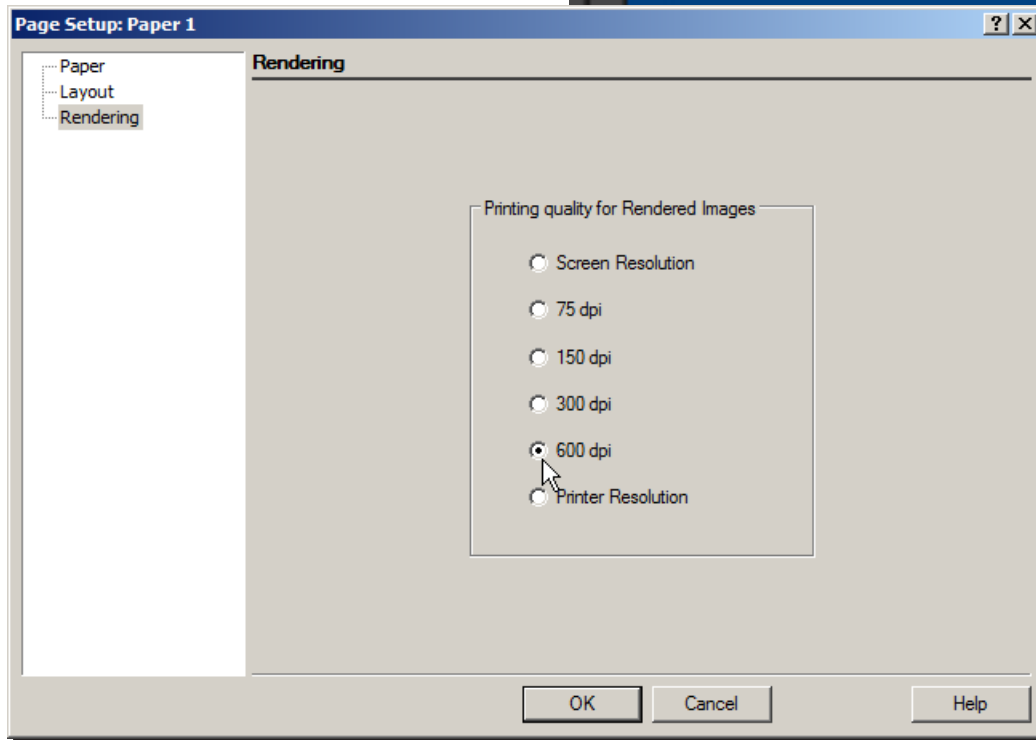


Be aware that when printing multi page drawings from TurboCAD a user may find a need to name each page as they are saved. Pages are not combined automatically into one single PDF document. As such, a user may find it necessary to purchase another low cost tool that Don Cheke finds invaluable. It is a program called A-PDF Merger (<http://www.a-pdf.com/merger/>). It is easy to use and so quick to get results. One can combine, not only PDF pages but many other files, like images, required for presentation in one single PDF. Simply drag the files to the opened window in the desired order (or sort as needed afterward) and save with a new name.



The result is a single merged PDF document.





One of the great things about using the PDF printer is the ability to set the resolution of the PDF. Note that 300 dpi may be the best one can achieve when printing complex rendered models from TurboCAD. Occasionally, when too complex, the PDF will not fully print and resolution will need to be dialed back a bit. Or, occasionally the PDF may contain horizontal blank lines when reopened and viewed in a photo editor such as Photoshop. Don has found that there are by far fewer issues in this regard using TurboCAD Pro v18.2.

Sadly, one of the things missing from both the save as PDF function and the print to PDF functions in TurboCAD is the ability to create 3D PDF files.

3D PDF files are one of the best ways to allow a viewer to get an up close and personal look at the model(s) in question. That, coupled with a set of drawings, can answer most questions a client is likely to have.

As it is with regular 2D PDF files, Adobe Reader (v8 and up) is all that is required on the part of the viewer.

Don has made a point of requesting this feature on a regular basis and suggests that the reader do the same if they feel this function would be a great addition to TurboCAD.

IMSI/Design, LLC
25 Leveroni Ct
Novato, CA 94949
Tel: 415.483.8000
Fax: 415.884.9023
CustomerSupport@imsidesign.com

If you found this TurboCAD tip helpful, please consider purchasing a full Textual Creations TurboCAD project tutorial that will lead you through an entire project, keystroke by keystroke. You won't be disappointed! Visit the [Textual Creations Shopping Page](#)

