DOT · APART

DOT APART QUOTE

Extended Installation & User Manual

VERSION 3.7.4 R2 - WINDOWS

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Contents

Windows client 3.7.4 R2: decimal pricing for new quotes, exact grouped totals and visible price adjustments; full-board manual items, consistent ink-inclusive internal views and independent duplicate quotes. Detailed/simplified customer Quotes and operator Job Sheets remain available. Separate ink is display-only for pricing; historical calculators and agreed amounts stay protected. Contents entries and PDF bookmarks link to each chapter.

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Install and upgrade

Before installing

Back up the database and close Quote before upgrading. Upgrade every workstation editing new decimal-price quotes to 3.7.4 R2 or newer. Older clients are prevented from overwriting those quotes with an incompatible calculation scheme. Existing saved/accepted quotes retain their own calculations and agreed amounts. Duplicate Quote copies the historical snapshot; explicitly create a new pricing revision to adopt the new calculator with another quote number.

Installer

Run the supplied Dot Apart Quote 3.7.4 R2 installer. Published installers are in Downloads in your registered My DotApart Account; local test builds are not there until approved and published. Accept the licence agreement and retain the existing destination when upgrading. Portable users must keep PrintFlow.exe and PrintFlowUpdater.exe together. These are complete replacements; intermediate releases are not required.

Your data

An upgrade preserves the existing database, local settings, activation, artwork, PDF design and saved quotes. The installer does not delete these when uninstalling. Test this release with a copy of the database before live use; accepting a job protects its financial snapshot.

Activation and support

Client Settings contains licence activation, checking and deactivation, Manuals and support details. Activate as the Windows user who will run Quote. The licence key is protected for that Windows account. A first activation requires connectivity; seven-day offline grace starts after a successful online check, not after a failed first activation.

Safe updates

Quote checks for updates at startup and manually. The separate updater verifies the download before replacement, keeps a backup and handles rollback and restart. Releases may be unsigned; only accept packages you expect from the supplier. Versions older than 3.2.3 need the latest full installer to repair their updater: choose No/Later in the old update prompt and install manually from your registered account. If an automatic update opens an empty PowerShell window or stalls, save your work, close Quote and use the full installer. Never manually overwrite a running EXE.

Closing a running copy

Save your work and close open item/settings dialogs before installing. Setup requests a normal application close. If it reports a background launcher with no application window, first confirm your work is saved, close the remaining Quote process in Task Manager, then retry. Do not terminate unrelated programs. Setup stops before replacing files when it cannot close Quote safely.

First-time configuration

Database and identity

Client Settings > Connection & Currency stores the username and database path locally on each PC. Choose a local SQLite database or an SMB/UNC file-server share reachable by every quoting workstation. Do not use Dropbox, OneDrive or another cloud-sync folder for a live shared SQLite database. Cloud-hosted service is not part of this release.

Units and currency

Choose metric or imperial display and the required currency. Dimensions and rates display in the selected units; internal geometry remains consistent. Currency selection changes labels, not exchange rates or numeric prices. Make sure purchase costs, hourly costs and selling rates are all entered in the same currency. Confirm the tax wording separately: the label is not a tax calculator or legal tax determination.

Compact and expanded views

Quote adapts continuously to available screen space, including movement between monitors. On smaller screens the main list takes priority and item editing uses a separate panel/window. Settings and production sections have scrollable bodies with action controls outside the scroll area. Drag a column separator to resize that column; widths are retained locally, not in the shared database.

Recommended setup order

For Quick Quote, create print materials with base selling prices and optional material minima; no equipment setup is needed. For Full production, create equipment, then printing materials and their machine-specific purchase/speed profiles, independent laminate stocks and Job Extra presets. Add companies and contacts, import artwork and review the selected pricing mode. Purchase costs and selling rates remain separate inputs.

Local quoting preference

Selecting Quick Quote or Full production saves that preference for this Windows user on this PC. The next startup, Clear / New Quote and a fresh editor after changing databases use it. Recalling a saved quote or recovery copy keeps that record's own mode and does not change your preference. Another PC can choose differently while using the same database.

Starter catalog on a first installation

When examples are installed

Only a genuinely fresh installed client with no local settings and no default local database receives the starter catalog. An upgrade, existing database (even empty), shared database, selected database, or later-created database is not populated automatically. No existing prices or equipment are changed.

What is included

Illustrative EUR examples cover a roll printer, UV flatbed, vinyl plotter, CNC router and laminator; White Vinyl, Poster Paper, Backlit Film, Forex and MDF; material-specific production speeds; laminate stocks/links; weeding/packing finishing presets; and design, installation, travel and mounting Job Extras. These are editable examples, not market recommendations. Currency selection does not convert monetary values.

Tailor the catalog

Use Equipment for machines and independent Finishing presets, and Materials for stock costs and machine/material speeds. Review all purchase costs, hourly rates, speeds, lead-in and minima before using real customer prices. Duplicate/edit/delete records normally; deleted examples are not restored on restart.

Choose Quick Quote or Full production

Quick Quote - base price only

Choose this in the Pricing dropdown for a simple selling-price estimate. Select the material and use its existing base selling price per m²/ft², or a per-item price override. No printer, cutter, purchase cost or hourly operating cost is needed. The markup control is disabled. Production assignments, lamination and Job Extras are not charged in this mode.

Area includes copies

For ordinary artwork, total raw area = width × height × copies. Convert dimensions to metres before calculating m². Each line's total area is rounded UP to the next 0.1 m², then multiplied by the base selling rate. It is the total line area that is rounded, not each copy. Imperial display converts physical dimensions and rates; it does not apply another separate ft² rounding rule.

Material minimum

All lines of the same material are grouped. Their calculated selling amounts are added, and the material minimum applies once to that group, not once per copy. The higher of the group sum and material minimum is charged, plus any reviewed manual adjustment. A larger copy count will exceed the minimum when the area-based charge becomes greater than the floor.

Quick example

A 30 × 40 cm print at 40 copies has 0.30 × 0.40 × 40 = 4.8 m². At a base selling rate of 50/m², printing is 240.00; a 15.00 material minimum no longer changes it. At one copy the raw area is 0.12 m², rounded up to 0.2 m²: 10.00 becomes 15.00 after the material floor. Manual fileless items use their direct unit SELLING price × copies.

Full production - cost plus

Choose this for purchase/operating costs, printer/material time estimates, cutting, laminate stock and Job Extras. A base material SELLING rate is not the input to this calculator. Printing cost uses the assigned purchase rate plus printer operating cost; assigned finishing costs are added, then the quote markup is applied. Job Extras use quantity x cost rate and receive the same single quote markup. Historical saved quotes keep their original rules.

Switching an existing quote

Changing mode on a populated or saved quote asks to create an independent revision with another Q- number. The original saved or accepted quote remains unchanged. A Quick revision uses selling prices and excludes production operations and Job Extras; a Full revision needs its production costs assigned again. Cancel leaves the quote and saved local preference unchanged. Do not use a mode change as a way to hide missing costs in a production quote.

Decimal prices and historical quotes

New quotes calculate cost/rate products using decimal arithmetic and round money half up to cents. Full Production applies markup once and distributes its selling cents across the components. Quick Quote retains upward line-area rounding and material minima. Recalled historical quotes keep their original pricing rules, including their earlier rounding policy. Their pricing selector identifies them as historical; choosing a current mode creates an independent numbered revision, not an in-place reprice.

Companies and contacts

Company details

Companies stores Company Name, Address, Email and Phone Number. Add a company or edit the selected one. Keep the address on multiple lines if required. Stable identifiers link saved quotes to the company; a name or address change is reflected when the quote is recalled.

Company-specific contacts

A contact person belongs to one company. Select the company to show only its contacts, both in Companies and on the current quote. Changing the company clears an incompatible contact. A new typed company/contact can be saved during quoting. Empty contact fields are allowed.

Deletion and historical quotes

Deleting a directory entry does not erase saved quotes. Recall recreates missing company/contact entries from the saved reference. New quotes also keep a company-details snapshot for restoration after deletion; an existing, edited company remains authoritative. Historical departments are preserved for older records and are not converted into contacts.

PDF information

Company and contact information can appear in the exported document. If a contact/old department is blank, no empty department line is emitted. Review names, address, email and telephone before sending a quote to a customer.

Equipment, materials and costs

Equipment defines machines

Equipment contains printers, cutters and other equipment. Define a machine name, its hourly operating cost and default speed. Printer lead-in is a stock length in mm: for example 500 mm. Machine names/aliases can participate in filename recognition. Operating costs in this release form the new internal cost price; the internal values are not printed in customer PDFs.

Printing Materials tab

Materials owns print media and its equipment links. Edit Material has Material costs, Equipment links and Quick Quote rates tabs. Enter one material cost per m²/ft² and a stock width in Material costs. A printer link normally inherits that cost; an optional override replaces it, never adds another stock cost. Set each machine/material speed in Equipment links. Quick Quote direct selling rates are separate and are ignored by Full Production.

Laminating Materials tab

The adjacent catalog has Stock costs and Laminator links tabs. Enter one laminate cost per m²/ft² and a minimum. In Laminator links select a laminator from Equipment and set this stock/machine speed in m²/min or ft²/min. Save / Update Stock commits both tabs together. A duplicate copies stock settings and independent machine links. No printer, cutter or print-medium link is required. Cancel/Close does not commit a draft; switching databases clears the previous edit target.

Duplicate for faster setup

Duplicate Selected is beside the printing-material edit/new/delete actions, not in a separate top toolbar. A printing-material duplicate copies rates, stock data, minima and local machine profiles with a new independent ID; its filename aliases start blank. A laminate duplicate also receives a new ID. Rename the copy, review prices and aliases, and save it before using it. Editing the copy does not change the original.

Speed units

Printer speed is m²/h or ft²/h, cutter speed mm/s or in/s, laminator speed m²/min or ft²/min. Time uses canonical converted speeds. The same machine can have a different speed for each printing material or laminate stock. Equipment stores its hourly operating cost. Assigning a profile copies rates into the quote; later catalog edits do not silently change saved assignments.

Cutter cost

Each cutter/material profile has its own speed and optional purchase cost per length. If a length cost is set, cut length × that cost is used. If it is blank, cutting cost is estimated from cut time × machine hourly cost. These alternatives are not added together. A zero entered cost is deliberately free; a missing required cost is not the same as zero.

Lead-in stock

Lead-in is charged once per printer/material group in the quote, not per artwork or copy. Consumed blank stock area = stock width × lead-in length. It increases purchased stock, not printed machine time. Enter the real stock width; Quote flags a lead-in with missing or inconsistent widths instead of inventing one.

Optional internal ink estimates

Printer setup

Open Equipment > Printers, select a printer, choose Edit Machine and select the Ink tab beside Machine. Optional Ink - Internal Estimate Only contains Average ink and Ink purchase price. Save Machine commits both tabs; Cancel discards edits. Metric uses ml/m² and the selected currency per litre. Imperial explicitly uses US fl oz/ft² and currency per US gallon, not UK imperial liquid measures. The stored physical rate stays consistent when measurement units change; currency changes labels, not exchange rates.

Optional means optional

Leave BOTH fields blank when ink is already included in the printer hourly operating cost or stock purchase cost. Complete both to enable separate estimates; a half-completed pair cannot be saved. An explicit zero is valid for a deliberately zero rate. No ink setting is required to quote, export or accept a job. Setup fields remain available for editing even when disabled; estimate columns/totals are hidden when there is no configured assignment.

Assign the rates to a line

In Full production use Production Sections > Printing > Assign / Refresh Printing to copy the printer's current ink rates into its assignment. Filename-recognized printer assignments also copy configured ink rates. Later Equipment edits do not silently update saved/accepted assignments; explicit refresh adopts them. Clearing both setup fields disables future assignments, while old snapshots remain until refreshed or revised. Quick Quote/manual fileless lines have no printer ink estimate.

Calculation basis

Estimated volume = assigned print area × average ink consumption. Metric cost = volume in ml / 1,000 × ink price per litre. Area includes copies; it is actual assigned/processed area, not the upward-rounded chargeable area. Blank printer lead-in is excluded. Combined Nest rows use the sum of their constituent quantities, or an explicit processed-area total if assigned. This is an average-coverage estimate, not artwork colour/coverage analysis.

Example

Two 1 m × 1 m copies at 12 ml/m² use an estimated 24 ml. At 100/L, ink estimate is 2.40 in the selected currency. Forty copies use 480 ml and 48.00. Switching to US units converts the volume, consumption and price physically; it does not multiply the estimate again or reinterpret the currency.

Where estimates appear

Configured print lines show Ink volume and Ink cost (internal). Their displayed ink cents are summed for the job estimate. In Quote Summary, Ink internal is separate from the pricing cost base, followed by Total internal cost incl. ink, or Known internal cost incl. ink for a partial estimate. The main footer, summary popup and Production Sections use that same ink-inclusive internal total. Printing shows Cost before ink; its note shows the selected line known cost including ink. No configured assignment means no ink rows or extra cost labels.

No customer-price effect

Separate ink is read-only information. The pricing cost base still excludes it, and the quote markup, minima, Job Extras, customer selling prices and stored pricing/profit snapshots are unchanged. The internal total including ink is not another customer charge or a new markup input. Customer Quotes display the ink estimate only when explicitly enabled; the grand total is unchanged. Job Sheets do not display ink costs. Leave separate ink fields blank when ink is already included in another entered purchase/operating rate, to avoid counting it twice internally.

Build a quote and import artwork

Start a numbered draft

Clear / New Quote starts a draft in your locally remembered pricing mode and allocates a new Q- number through autosave. Full production begins with 75% markup; Quick Quote has no markup. Fill Company, Contact person and Brief. Quote numbers stay unchanged while editing/reopening; Save As New or Duplicate Quote assigns another number. Deleted/unused drafts can leave number gaps; this is not a guaranteed gapless invoice sequence.

Add Files

Add PDF, TIFF/TIF, PNG and JPG/JPEG. Multi-select is supported and repeated imports append; an exact path duplicate is skipped. PDF pages are inspected and grouped by distinct oriented size. Filenames can supply product, material, dimensions and copy multiplier. Image physical size uses usable DPI when no reliable filename size is present. Always review imported values and status.

Line editing and selection

A plain click replaces the existing selection, including after Select All. Ctrl-click toggles rows; Shift-click selects a range from the anchor. Ctrl+A / Select All selects the list. The editor supports bulk product/material, dimensions, copies, prices and notes. Notes persist and print below the item name. Remove Selected/Delete removes quote rows without deleting artwork. Drag a selected block to reorder it; that gesture keeps the block selected. Clicking a row does not clear the filename filter.

Manual items

Add Manual Item opens a name-first dialog. Enter a name before adding; Cancel or an empty name does not create a line. For a normal manual item/service, quantity is a whole copy count. Dimensions and the unit purchase cost can be entered now or supplied later. In Full production, a manual cost is a purchase cost before the one quote markup; Quick Quote instead asks for a direct selling price. Explicit zero is allowed; a blank purchase cost remains incomplete rather than silently becoming free.

Right-click and production sections

Right-click a line or multi-selection for Edit item details and the available Printing, Cutting, Lamination and Job Extras actions. In Full production, double-click opens the production sections; Quick Quote uses item editing and disables production assignment actions. Apply commits a dialog's draft changes; Cancel discards them. A multi-selection applies a line operation to all selected lines. The preview includes the whole quote so group lead-in is allocated consistently.

Material only - no artwork

In Add Manual Item choose Material only. Select a catalog material, enter a name and choose Area or Per unit. No file, printer, cutter or production profile is required. Use Edit item details to reopen this dedicated material editor; the item name is also visible in the main list. Adding a line clears a temporary filename filter so it is not inserted invisibly.

Area or sheet examples

Area uses width x height x quantity, with dimensions describing ONE sheet/piece. For one Forex sheet enter its width and height, quantity1 and the material purchase cost per m²/ft². Two1x2m sheets at cost10/m² cost40; at75% markup the selling amount is70 before any applicable material minimum. Dimensions display in mm or inches according to Settings. Full production uses actual physical area; Quick Quote retains its usual upward area rounding.

Metres and other units

Per unit accepts a user-defined unit such as sheet, m, ft or box and a decimal quantity. At20.5m and purchase cost2/m, cost is41 and a75% markup gives71.75. Optional dimensions describe ONE unit; if recording a metre of roll stock, enter its width and a1m length, not the entire order length again. Unit names and per-unit rates are explicit; changing display units does not reinterpret a custom m/ft/unit rate.

Costs, minima and records

In Full production, purchase cost x quantity/area enters the existing cost base and receives the quote markup once. Configured material minima remain applicable once per material group. Quick Quote uses its explicitly labelled selling rate without markup. Material-only costs, dimensions and fractional quantities are saved with the quote, not inferred from a printer or silently refreshed from the catalog. Upgrade sharing clients to3.7.2 for the new editor and quantity/document presentation.

Manufacturing a fileless item

For print/cut work choose a normal manual item, enter finished dimensions and assign a material/profile in Production Sections. Assign Printing now uses the selected material/printer instead of trying to parse an empty manual-cost field. Missing dimensions or costs give specific guidance. Assign Cutting can create cutting-only work without a printer; a reviewed Manual Total may be used with customer-supplied stock when no area is known. Job Extras remain job-level charges. A material-only supply line is not a manufacturing line; create a normal manual line for print/cut work.

Manual lines in the summary

Manual item/service and material-only supply lines appear by their entered names and quantities in the main Quote Summary and its popup. In Full production their base cost and selling share are split out of Stock / Printing; any assigned finishing stays in Print Finishing. Quick Quote also names the manual/supply lines rather than hiding them inside the selected material group. A shared material minimum or adjustment is allocated for display, not charged again per line. Summary rows still add to the same saved grand total.

Full boards and sheets

In Add Manual Item select Full board / sheet. Enter a name, select an existing material or type a one-off material name, and enter the board count, dimensions and amount per board. No artwork or machine is required, and a one-off board does not add or change catalog materials. Every value remains editable by reopening Edit item details. Board counts are whole numbers. The price is multiplied by the count, not by the dimensions or square metres.

Board dimensions and price example

Dimension units can be mm, cm, in or ft in the board editor. Switching units converts the entered size physically and does not change the per-board amount. For Forex 3mm at 156 x 305 cm, enter 156 and 305 with cm selected. In Full Production a 45 purchase cost per board at 75% quote markup sells for 78.75 before an applicable material minimum; two boards cost 90 and sell for 157.50. Quick Quote instead uses a 45 direct selling price, so two boards sell for 90. Dimensions and board counts remain on the customer Quote and operator Job Sheet.

Printing and cutting sections

Printing without a prerequisite

Select print material and its printer directly in Printing; there is no need to first choose material in Edit Selected Items. Assign / Refresh Printing snapshots purchase cost, printer/material speed, hourly operating cost and lead-in. Printing cost = purchased stock cost + estimated printer time × hourly operating cost. Print time = processed area ÷ printer/material speed.

Refresh is explicit

Changing an Equipment/Materials setting does not silently change a saved quote. Assign / Refresh explicitly adopts current values. The Cutting section displays both the current catalog speed and the assigned snapshot: a saved 5 mm/s remains 5 until refreshed even if the catalog was changed to 50 mm/s.

Cut-path measurement

Choose a cutter/material profile separately. When a supported PDF has a recognized CutContour or configured cut-line spot, Quote measures the scaled path length. Without a suitable path, the rectangle perimeter is the fallback. Total cut length includes copies. Inspect the measurement source and any error; unsupported/raster artwork cannot supply a vector spot path.

Manual lengths and returning to automatic

For one selected line enter a Manual Total length including all copies to override measurement. Recheck it when artwork size or copies change; it is an intentional total, not a per-copy length. Clearing the Manual Total and applying restores automatic vector measurement or rectangle-perimeter calculation rather than reusing the removed override. Refreshing a cutter profile retains a deliberate manual total until you clear it.

Customer presentation

Each artwork retains its title, dimensions, copies, material and printing/cutting selling amount. Lamination and other finishing operations appear as related task rows with their selling prices; Job Extras follow the item list. The customer can see what is included without seeing internal operating costs or profit. The operator Job Sheet instead presents specifications and production settings in numbered item blocks.

Independent finishing and cutting-only work

Finishing presets

Equipment > Finishing appears before Extras. Add, edit, duplicate or delete presets such as detailed weeding. There is no machine or material link. The name, quantity basis, unit label, productivity and hourly cost are editable. Area uses m²/hour or ft²/hour; length uses m/hour or ft/hour. Copies, manual units, hours and fixed-job bases are also available.

Per-line work

Right-click one or more lines > Finishing work, or open Production Sections > Finishing (before Job Extras). Choose a preset or enter a custom task. All values can be overridden: task name, basis, unit, productivity, hourly cost and optional quantity override. Blank quantity uses the selected line's area/cut length/copies. Manual basis requires a quantity. Add / Update Task changes only the dialog draft; Apply commits it and Cancel discards it.

Calculation

Time = quantity divided by productivity. Internal cost = time multiplied by hourly cost; this joins the full job cost before the one quote markup. For 2 m² at 1.5 m²/hour and 30/hour, estimated time is 1.333 hours and cost is 40.00. Copies are already included. Several tasks/layers can be added. Double-click an applied task to edit its saved snapshot; Remove Selected removes the matching task from selected lines. Later catalog edits do not silently reprice saved tasks.

Cutting only

In Production Sections > Cutting, select the cutting material and tick Cutting-only job (no printing). Select and Assign / Refresh the cutter/material profile. No printer, printer operating cost or printer lead-in is required. Vector cut-path length or the rectangle perimeter (including copies) drives the cutting calculation; a reviewed manual total can override it.

Stock and minimums

Include material stock uses its purchase area cost. Untick it for customer-supplied stock. The selected cutter's selling minimum still applies; printing-material minima do not apply to purely cutting-only work. Finishing and Job Extras can be added normally. This workflow requires Full Production; Quick Quote remains its separate direct base-price workflow.

Lamination and Job Extras

Stock and laminator

Set a laminate stock cost and link its machines in Materials > Laminating Materials > Laminator links. Define the hourly operating cost in Equipment > Laminators. In Production Sections > Lamination select the stock, then a linked laminator, and add the task. Time = processed area / stock-machine speed. Task cost = stock area cost + time × hourly operating cost. The quote markup is applied once. Manual / stock only remains an explicit option; its machine time is not estimated.

Layers and PDF rows

Several laminate layers/stocks and finishing tasks can be added. The customer Quote shows the corresponding operations as separate linked rows, each with its selling price. The structured operator Job Sheet shows their production sequence, settings, quantities and estimated times without internal costs or rates.

Preset Job Extras

In Equipment > Extras & Cut Paths enter one COST rate for labour, mounting, design, travel or fixed tasks. In Production Sections > Job Extras select the preset, check the cost rate and enter quantity in hours, km or its displayed unit. Add to Job adds quantity × cost rate to the single job cost price, once per job, not per selected artwork. The quote markup then applies once. Historical quotes retain their original selling-rate rules; cost-only presets require a new cost-first quote.

Other equipment

Misc equipment profiles can be added as job-level area-based operations. The customer Quote uses their public operation label and selling price. The structured operator Job Sheet shows the production task, settings and time without financial rates. Internal costs remain available only to the quoter. Choose an all-materials profile for a mixed-material job; Remove Selected edits the draft and Apply commits it.

Missing fields

Resolve required missing costs, dimensions and selected-machine speeds before exporting or accepting a job. Diagnostics name the affected line/task and exact field. An explicit zero cost is valid when deliberately free; blank is not a confirmed zero. A historical selling rate is not used as a purchase cost. Quick Quote does not provide a cost or profit estimate.

Cost-plus pricing and markup

Markup, not margin

The dropdown starts at 75% and allows other non-negative percentages. Selling price = cost × (1 + markup / 100). A cost of 100 at 75% becomes 175; this is not a 75% gross margin. Line Printing and Extras show whole-line selling amounts; copies are already included. The total rate column is the total line amount divided by its displayed chargeable area.

One cost price

New Full Production quotes total actual purchased stock, printing operating time, cutting, lamination stock and selected laminator time, other production and Job Extra costs. One quote markup applies to that cost total. The summary separates Cost price, Markup, Minimum-charge uplift and Manual adjustment. The derived selling amounts are not another set of prices to enter. Optional ink remains a separate internal estimate and does not enter this cost base.

Worked example

Two 1 m × 1 m copies: stock cost 10/m², stock width 1.5 m and lead-in 0.5 m give purchased area 2.75 m² and stock cost 27.50. Printer speed 10 m²/h at 50/h costs 10.00, so printing costs 37.50. Laminate stock at 3/m² costs 6.00; a 60 m²/h laminator at 30/h takes 0.0333 h and costs 1.00. Two design hours at COST rate 40/h add 80.00. Total cost = 124.50; one 75% markup gives selling price 217.88, before minimum/adjustment changes. No separate design selling price is entered.

Equipment and stock minimums

A minimum is a SELLING-price floor after markup, not a fee added on top. Printer/cutter/other-equipment minima apply once per equipment/material group; laminator machine minima apply once per laminator/stock group, then a laminate stock minimum floors the stock total once across the job. The floors are not added together. Printing-material minima separately floor printing. Any uplift is shown separately from the selected markup.

Area and money rounding

Displayed chargeable area still rounds upward per line to 0.1 m². Full Production costs actual processed area and purchased stock; Quick Quote prices the rounded area. Cost components use two-decimal money amounts. Full Production applies markup once to the total cost and allocates exact selling pennies across tasks, rather than rounding several independent markups. Minima or a reviewed adjustment can change the effective markup.

Historical records

Saved quotes retain their existing calculator and snapshots. Historical Full Production may still show its original separate selling-rate fields. Choose Full production in Pricing, or right-click > Create cost-first revision, to make an independent quote under the new rules. The original is unchanged. Known cost snapshots are retained; missing purchase costs must be reviewed. Save As New alone retains the original pricing rules, including on accepted jobs.

Customer Quote text and operator Job Sheets

Brief

Brief is a larger multiline editor on Current Quote, top-aligned with Company and Contact person and using the same input font, border and padding. For new quotes, it supplies the customer-facing Description; line breaks are preserved. Use its first line as the short project title. Saved records retain the complete Brief, while filenames and references use a bounded first-line title. Older saved Description text remains in use until Brief or the presentation controls are deliberately edited.

Shared defaults

Client Settings > PDF > Quote Text Defaults stores the shared greeting, Delivery, Notes, Terms and initial presentation defaults. Choosing Simplified Quote or Show total ink estimate remembers both on this PC, including when switched off. These local choices take precedence for new quotes after restart, Clear / New Quote or database changes. Recalling a saved quote restores its own snapshot without changing your local defaults. Shared edits do not rewrite saved quotes. Placeholders include {contact}, {company}, {brief} and {reference}; main Brief text remains literal.

Text for one quote

Right-click the list > Quote text / delivery / terms, or use Quote Text in the summary popup. The Quote layout tab has Simplified Quote and the independent ink-estimate switch. Edit Greeting, Delivery, Notes and Terms here; edit Description in the main Brief editor. Workshop notes appear only on the operator Job Sheet. Save commits the dialog draft; Cancel discards it. Both choices are saved with each quote, including export autosave and recall.

Privacy boundary

Detailed customer Quotes list titles, operations, materials, dimensions, copies and selling prices. Simplified Quotes omit that list and show the multiline Brief as Description plus the unchanged grand total. Header, footer, greeting, company/contact/reference and Delivery/Notes/Terms remain. Only an explicitly enabled ink estimate may disclose that single internal estimate; other purchase/hourly costs, margin and profit remain private. The operator Job Sheet stays structured and detailed in both cases, with total selling price but no internal costs or ink estimate.

Header and pages

The existing header/logo design, font choices, header spacing/content margin and footer remain in use. The header appears on the first page; the footer appears on all pages. Long descriptions, terms or production jobs continue across pages.

Optional customer ink estimate

Show total ink estimate is initially off and independent of Detailed/Simplified; your last explicit choice is remembered on this PC. It displays the sum of available saved printer ink estimates without an extra explanatory sentence on the PDF. It never adds a charge, changes markup or changes the grand total. Partial estimates are labelled with estimated/eligible print item counts. No usable ink settings means no row, not an invented zero; deliberately configured zero rates can show zero. Manual and cutting-only items are excluded. The Job Sheet never shows this internal estimate.

Visible price reconciliation

Detailed customer Quotes show a Minimum charge adjustment when a material minimum raises its line sum, plus a Price adjustment for an effective manual increase/discount. A clamped discount shows only the amount actually used. These are selling amounts, never internal costs. With grouping, the adjustments and subtotals are allocated in exact cents so the displayed groups plus Job Extras add to the grand total. Simplified Quotes keep their description and unchanged total without the item list.

Import Dot Apart Nest information

Keep the export unchanged

Add Nest Info reads the established Quote interchange JSON. Quote owns the import choice: separate artwork lines, or one combined line per imported nest. No new Nest exporter is required. Multiple distinct nests can be appended to one job.

Separate lines

Each item retains its finished scaled dimensions and actual placement quantity. Deliberate duplicate imports in the Nest job remain separate where the contract identifies them. Review material/printer/cutting choices in Quote; the import does not provide your purchase cost catalog.

Combined line

Combined Nest lines retain all original parts internally, without an invented outer width/height. Their customer item size stays blank while area, quantity and selling price are preserved. The structured Job Sheet has a Nested Parts section with constituent dimensions and copies. Separate imports keep their ordinary artwork dimensions.

Allow for stock waste

The interchange does not always provide exact consumed sheet/roll area. In Printing, Actual processed / stock area can override the combined total when the real nest includes waste. Enter a total including all sheets and placements in the selected area unit. Blank uses the finished-parts sum. Do not calculate sheet area from unrelated maximum width and length values.

Duplicate protection

An unchanged job/layout has the same nest.id and is not silently imported twice. A different layout has a different ID and can be appended. Re-export timestamp alone does not make it a different nest. Choose the intended import mode before reviewing costs.

Autosave, recall and accepted jobs

Autosaved drafts

New Full production and Quick Quote drafts save after a short pause and receive a stable quote number. Save Quote provides an immediate save, and PDF export saves first. Legacy quotes retain explicit saving. The local status must confirm a save before you rely on the shared record. The pricing preference is local; the quote's own pricing mode is saved with that quote.

Shared editing conflicts

Each client uses a username audit trail and optimistic edit detection. A stale editor is not allowed to overwrite another client. SQLite waits up to 30 seconds for a lock; it is not a database server. Avoid opening the same quote for editing on multiple PCs simultaneously.

Local recovery

If shared autosave fails, the editor remains open and a recovery copy is saved locally when possible. The status reports a paused save. Use the right-click Recover Draft action to load the latest local recovery as a new numbered quote into the currently selected database; it never follows an old server path or overwrites the original quote. Protect recovery files as customer business data.

Recall and rework

Saved Quotes supports search and company/contact filters. Select a saved quote or accepted job and choose Duplicate Quote to make an independent editable Draft with a newly allocated Q- number. Its saved items, order, purchase/selling snapshots, markup, extras, minima, adjustments and document options are copied without catalog repricing. The original and its acceptance remain unchanged. The new copy is selected; choose Open for Editing to work on it. Your current editor stays open. This copies the saved record, not unsaved edits; save first if you want those included. A stale or deleted source asks for Refresh rather than creating a partial copy. Save As New remains available for the current editor.

Convert to Job

Convert to Job explicitly marks the recalled/current quote Accepted and creates its Job Sheet, retaining its number and financial snapshot. Accepted items/prices are read-only; Save As New is the rework path. Export Job Sheet is also available on a draft and does not change acceptance. Job Sheets always use the complete saved record, not temporary filters or unsaved edits.

PDFs, filtering, grouping and design

PDF export and default viewer

Choose Simplified Quote beside the export controls, or in Quote Text > Quote layout. Detailed is the default. Export Quote saves the draft and opens the PDF in the default viewer. Simplified requires a non-empty Brief and removes its separate Brief metadata row to avoid repetition. Grouping is relevant only to Detailed. Export Job Sheet ignores these customer-layout choices and uses the full saved job. Convert to Job is the separate acceptance action; accepted snapshots require a new revision for changes.

Customer-visible information

The customer Quote retains the configured header and footer, greeting and job Description. Its item table shows each title, operations, material, dimensions, copies and selling prices, followed by a grand total and Delivery, Notes and Terms. Printing and cutting stay with the artwork row; lamination and other finishing tasks have their own linked selling-price rows. Internal purchase costs, machine hourly rates, margins and workshop-only notes are not printed.

Filename filter

The case-insensitive filter matches filenames only, not materials or notes. It hides unmatched rows and exports only the remaining rows. The saved quote remains complete; the filter is temporary and is not stored as a saved-quote property. Filtered pricing is recalculated for the visible subset; Full production Job Extras remain attached to that export. Accepted-quote/Job Sheet export uses the full saved accepted snapshot, not the temporary filter.

Grouping after filtering

The customer item table groups the remaining filenames using the selected character positions. Each group retains its item and operation rows, a group subtotal and two empty spacer rows before the next group. The grand total follows. The temporary filename filter is not stored in the quote. Operator Job Sheets use the full saved job rather than the temporary filter.

Header and footer editor

Client Settings > PDF Design stores the shared design and logo in the database. Title, logo, header information and fonts are customizable. Information appears below the logo, right aligned; content moves dynamically below the full header. Adjust header spacing and content margin in mm. The preview supports multiline information and logo positioning.

Design and pages

The current interface and new export labels are English; changing currency does not change language. English PDF design is the fallback when an applicable localized design is empty. Header/title/logo appear only on the first page; footer appears on every page. Footer fields can insert date, quote reference and page numbers. Save Design commits, Refresh updates the preview and Cancel discards the draft.

Review and production estimates

Exact missing-field report

If export or job acceptance is blocked, Missing quote information lists every affected line or Job Extra and its missing/invalid field. Select a row to see repair instructions, then choose Review Selected (or double-click it) to open the appropriate item details or production section. The report includes hidden lines; reviewing one can clear the filename filter so the affected row becomes visible.

Quick Quote checks

Review positive artwork dimensions, a valid quantity, a print material and base selling rate. A fileless manual line needs a name and direct unit selling price. Zero is permitted for an intentionally free rate. Combined Nest lines use their stored finished parts rather than requiring an invented width/height. You do not need machine profiles or purchase fields in this mode.

Full production checks

Common missing inputs are material purchase cost, printer/material selection and speed, stock width needed for lead-in, cutter/material speed, a valid cut measurement or laminate stock purchase rate. The report names the affected machine/stock where possible. Fix the master catalog, then Assign / Refresh (or remove and re-add a laminate stock) so the quote adopts the corrected snapshot. Merely editing the catalog does not change a saved assignment.

Production Summary

Right-click the quote list and choose Internal operating-cost summary. Current Full production quotes show grouped machine usage, estimated hours and actual hourly operating cost for printers, cutters and other equipment. It is machine-hours, not an end-to-end delivery promise: queues, staffing and overlapping operations are not scheduled. The summary is read-only and private; it does not add another customer charge.

Unavailable estimates

Missing speeds/hourly rates display as unavailable, not a confirmed zero; unassigned print lines are identified. Lead-in stock, purchases, markup and selling minima are not machine operating costs. Stock-only lamination has no machine-time estimate. Quick Quote explains that it has no machine estimates; historical records may require a separate cost-plus revision to assign current production profiles.

Troubleshooting and release checks

Unexpected price or a minimum that stays

First check Pricing. Quick Quote uses base SELLING price; Full production uses PURCHASE/operating costs and markup, not that base selling rate. Area includes copies. A minimum correctly stays when the calculated group charge is still below it. Use the 30 × 40 cm example in the pricing-mode chapter to check copies, units and rate. Check deliberate per-item rate/stock-area overrides before assuming an import error.

Unexpected 5 mm/s or cut total

Check the assigned profile snapshot, not only current Equipment settings. Use Assign / Refresh to adopt new speed/cost values. An explicit cutter length cost replaces machine-time cost rather than adding to it. Clear and apply a Manual Total to return to automatic measurement. A kept manual length is a TOTAL including copies and does not rescale itself when copies change.

Blank or incomplete import

Review the filename, PDF page sizes, image DPI and copy multiplier. For combined Nest rows verify the stored constituents and optional actual stock-area override. A raster file does not contain a measurable vector spot path. Do not export a Review item as if its cost were complete.

Lost connection or busy database

Do not close a failed draft without checking the local recovery status. Restore connectivity, recall the latest shared quote, and save the local revision as a new number when resolving a conflict. Keep database backups and use a real SMB server; file-sync services can corrupt shared SQLite workflows.

Before live adoption

Test with a database copy. Verify Quick Quote, new Full Production, historical quote recall, finishing work, cutting-only stock/customer-supplied stock, Nest parts, quantity/unit changes, customer Quote and accepted operator Job Sheet. Use 3.7.0 or newer on all clients writing or reviewing the new production workflow.

Find the latest guide

The client's Manuals button opens the guide bundled with that particular installed build. The latest independently published guide is available with the manuals/downloads in My DotApart Account. A documentation-only update does not rewrite an already released installer or the PDF embedded in an installed executable; check the cover version when consulting an older bundled copy.

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