**nt** CADCAM **SOLIDWORKS**
ELITE RESELLER

> " *SOLIDWORKS Composer has completely changed the way we can create our user guides. I am working more efficiently and accurately now and with the added benefits of animations and interactive PDF creation, we are looking to advance our user guides in the future. At the moment we only scratch the surface with what the software can offer us, but so far it has proved invaluable.* "
>
> **Katy Haylor, graphic co-ordinator, Bowers & Wilkins**

# SOLIDWORKS Composer hits the right note for Bowers & Wilkins

## Bowers & Wilkins

**Bowers & Wilkins is an award-winning British company producing high quality hi-fi equipment such as wireless music systems, loudspeakers and portable audio products. Based in Worthing, West Sussex, their range of speakers is often found in top-end studios such as Abbey Road, London and Skywalker Sound, California.**

The graphic design team at Bowers & Wilkins had no way of manipulating 3D CAD data to produce their customer manuals and quick start guides. Their design workflow was restricted by the drawing office's availability that traditionally had to re-enter the documentation to create 2D formats of each requested 3D drawing. The graphic design team would then use these 2D drawings to create technical assembly manuals for their products, including their wall and ceiling mounted speakers. But if they needed further images, each request would add delays to both teams.

Bowers & Wilkins wanted a way to speed up access to the engineering data, reduce the dependency of the design team on the drawing office and accelerate products' time-to-market.

**The Solution**

SOLIDWORKS Composer allows users to work directly from 3D engneering CAD data to make high quality illustrations and photorealistic images.

Although Bowers & Wilkins use NXD files, graphic co-ordinator Katy Haylor was able to import them as 3D Step files into SOLIDWORKS Composer and work from the entire range of drawings, to get the exact images and angles she wanted.

"Before we started using SOLIDWORKS Composer, time was a big issue," says Katy. "I would have to start months before the work was needed, just to get the drawings together for the user guides. Instead of being briefed, then briefing someone else and waiting for them to get back to me to create the artwork - I could take control of the whole process from start to finish.

## The Challenge

**The graphic design team at Bowers & Wilkins had no way of manipulating 3D CAD data to produce their customer manuals and quick start guides. They needed a way to speed up access to the engineering data, reduce the dependency of the design team on the drawing office and accelerate products' time-to-market..**

"As soon as the drawing office has made the step files, I can import them into SOLIDWORKS Composer and have those files in hours rather than wait days. It's a huge time-saving for me."

### Improved Design

With the 3D files at her fingertips, Katy says the easy-to-use functionality within SOLIDWORKS Composer means she can manipulate the data exactly how she wants it. "Our customer instructions can be very involved. They need to be clear and have every step covered, so that anybody can install our speakers themselves. Having access to the technical CAD images helps me visualise the product better and create clearer instructions.

"SOLIDWORKS Composer lets me do things I've never been able to do before. We can spin the whole physical speaker around, save different angles or images, do exploded views, highlight screws, change the colour of them, pull them out or hide them away. The manipulation of the 3D data is brilliant. All I have to do next is save the designs as an EPS file and import them into Illustrator to create our manual templates.

"Sometimes if the drawing files aren't exactly what I wanted or there has been a revision, it would mean going back to the drawing team each time. My hands were tied until someone got back to me and they would also have to halt their workload in order to help me. With SOLIDWORKS Composer I can manage this myself and I am in complete control of the work required. Our workflow is much smoother and we are meeting our deadlines without the late nights and extra stress."

### Design Changes Made Easy

Beyond graphic content, SOLIDWORKS Composer also creates associative 2D and 3D deliverables that automatically stay up-to-date with the latest design changes. For Katy and her team, in the past incorporating any design changes into a user manual would mean up to a week's delay. Now any such changes can be revised in a day.

### NT CADCAM: Support And Training

NT CADCAM arranged for a three-day training course at Bowers & Wilkins' London offices and Katy was up and running with the software straight away. "NT CADCAM has been very helpful. The training was good and the subsequent support has been great," says Katy. "No matter how small or tiny the issue - NT CADCAM would always come back to me with a working solution. They are always coming to us to arrange training sessions with more hints and tips. There is so much you can do with the software. Only recently some of the lines I was exporting as a circle would come out as a hexagon. Playing around with the import settings, I found one called Curve, which I imported and got perfect circles instantly. It's the tiny details like this that completely improve the look of our user guides."

## Benefits:

- Production of user guides up to 80 per cent faster
- Improved design
- Improved workflows
- More effective time management

## Industry:

- Electronics/Consumer Products

## Product Used:

- SOLIDWORKS Composer

**Call now to book a demo or to obtain further information**

# 0800 018 6957
# www.ntcadcam.co.uk

## 'Better by Design'