

GuidSIGN 4.4 Overview and Typical Workflow

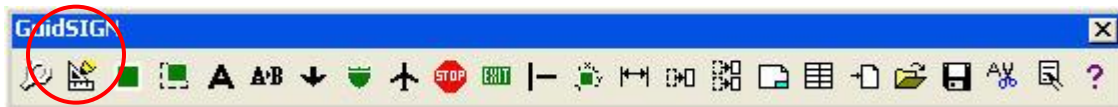
Toolbar Overview

The following is a review of all features available in the GuidSIGN 4.4 software.



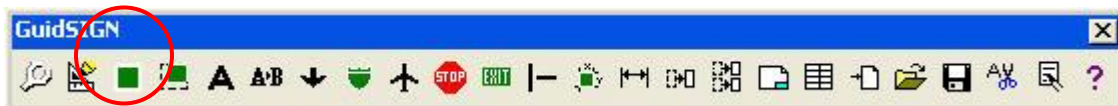
Set preferences

Sets various general preferences as well as providing functions for upgrading a license and for moving a program license between computers



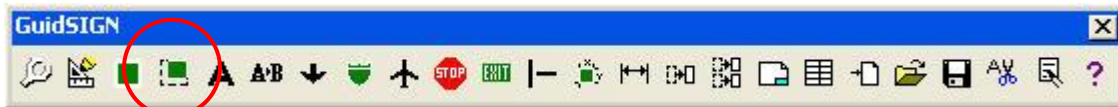
Set/ Create panel style

Panel Styles are sets of parameters that specify the characteristics of a sign. These include the sign's shape, color, border radius and thickness as well as the heights and fonts (letter series) of different types of text such as place names and cardinal directions.



Place new panel

Places a new panel either at default size or at a user locked size



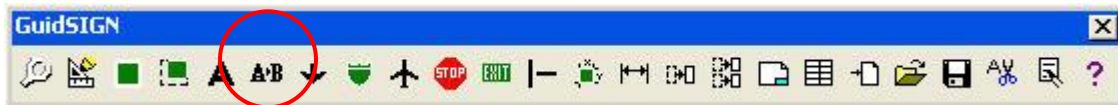
Update existing panel

Updates an existing panel



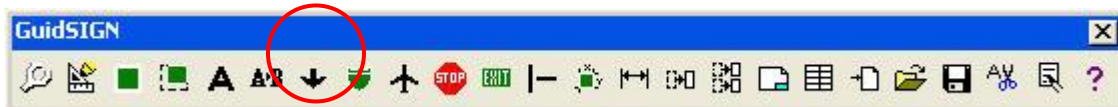
Place highway text

Places text strings such as destinations, distances, and cardinal directions



Edit highway text

Edits an existing highway text string



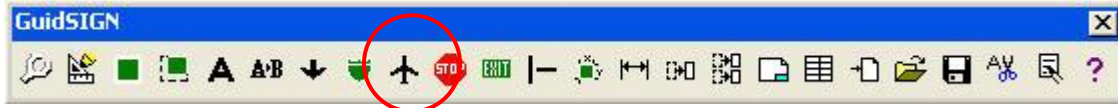
Place arrow

Places standard up, medium, long, and diagrammatic arrows



Place route shield

Places a interstate or state route shield in a sign panel



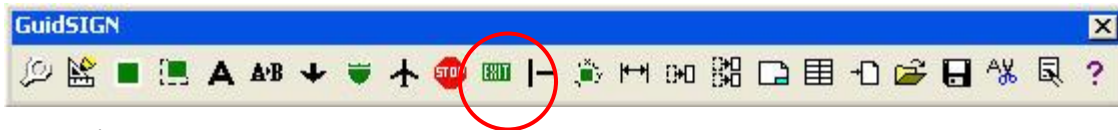
Place symbol

Places a symbol in a sign panel



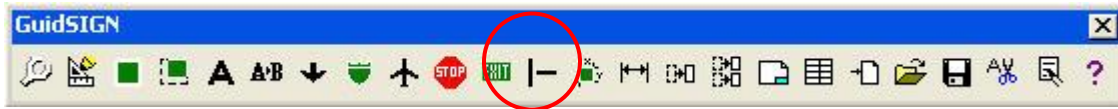
Place standard sign

Places a standard sign in a drawing



Place exit panel

Places an exit panel



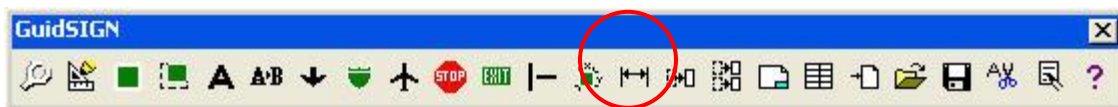
Place short line

Places a short line in a sign



Place dimensions

Places dimensions using the current AutoCAD or MicroStation text style



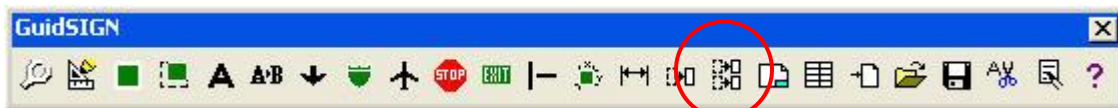
Place object dimensions

Places dimensions inside a sign panel using the current AutoCAD or MicroStation text style



Move single object

Moves a single object or sign panel (with contents)



Move multiple objects

Moves a group of one or more objects relative to another group of one or more objects



Place drawing sheet

Places a drawing sheet for one or more signs



Place report

Places a report for the selected sign panel



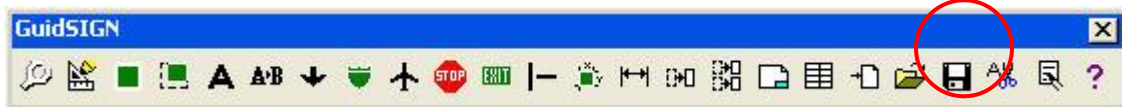
Export sign data

Exports sign data to a text file



Open exchange file

Opens a sign in GuidSIGN Exchange Format



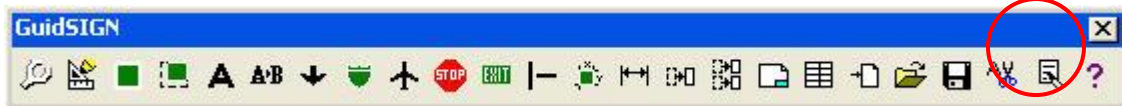
Save to exchange file

Saves a sign to GuidSIGN Exchange Format



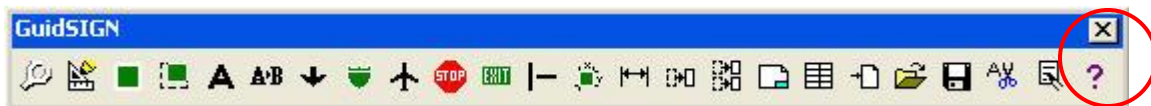
Export sign for cutter

The Export Sign for Cutter tool allows the user to select objects and format their output for cutting



Tutorials

Take the user through exercises with a series of step-by-step on-screen instructions



Help

Provides in-depth information on features as well as step-by-step instructions for specific features and tasks

GuidSIGN 4.4 Standard Workflow:

1. Determine the type of panel application

- Location and use, type of mounting
- Replacement - fixed size for existing mount
- New corridor signage – dynamic sizing based on rules in the panel style

2. Pick correct panel style from the National MUTCD standards

- Create new style by copying an MUTCD style if modifications are needed to adapt to state standards
- Panel Styles contain all of the rules for the panel; panel shape, feature sizing, object spacing, Fonts and font sizing for different types of messaging

3. Place the panel

- Complete attributes for naming, stationing, and type of mounting; they will be listed in reports if present
- Dynamic sizing (no locks) - Confirm panel rounding values make sense for sign shop fabrication requirements (ie\ H = 12” for extruded aluminum assemblies)
- Fixed size – lock height and width

4. Place Largest to smallest objects

- Arrows, shields, word strings, etc
- Work left to right across the panel
- Then work top to bottom

NOTE: Unlocked panels shrink or grow to meet the minimum margin sizing based on the rules in the panel style; objects will continue to re-center themselves in the available margin space for fixed panels; if Auto Update dimensions in enabled dimensions will be placed and updated as each object is placed or moved within the panel

5. Check for correct snap positions

- 3 logical positions on each side of object with spacing based on the rules in the panel style
- Manual Spacing will allow an override of the horizontal or vertical spacing values of the rules in the panel style for specific placement of objects in relation to another object or feature

NOTE: The compliment of CAD tools are still at your disposal for moving objects; turn off Auto-Update panel for specific final placement of objects without having their position affected by an automatic panel update

6. Place Drawing Sheet

- Choose the desired type of report from the list
- Set a suitable scale and plotted text size for the sheet

NOTE: Drawing sheets do not contain any information, but they do contain specific placeholders for the attribute information that will be inserted from reports

7. Place Report

- Choose the same report layout as Drawing Sheet
- Choose the desired format for reported information

8. Save to Exchange File

- Useful for consultants to allow them to convert completed designs into native GuidSIGN objects in DGN format if the design was created in an alternate CAD or Windows based version of GuidSIGN
- Useful for D.O.T. designers to provide a file for electronic transfer to the Sign Shop to open in GuidSIGN 4.4 for Windows (if applicable)

9. Export Sign for Cutter

- Useful for consultants or D.O.T. designers to output GuidSIGN content as closed vector shapes in a DXF format that can be separated into color specific files to suit material widths and desired reduction of inter-character spacing to reduce material waste
- DXF format files are the common exchange format for CAD vector based information between applications and can be imported into most common cutting applications

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Michael Frost, M. Tech

Product Manager

Transoft Solutions Inc.