What's New in CabWriter 4.0?

What's New in CabWriter 4 - Part 1 Video Timeline

Time	Feature
0:57	Upgrading Your Model & Defaults
7:05	Changes to CabWriter Production Documentation
21:05	Stiles & Rails Report
29:30	Native CabWriter Sheet Optimization

What's New in CabWriter 4 - Part 2 Video Timeline

Time	Feature
0:57	New Construction Options
7:32	Edge Banding Modeling for Door and Drawer Fronts
12:26	Five Drawer Styles for Drawing Drawer Front Parts

Upgrading Your Model & Defaults

Entity Info Component Re-Naming Restrictions Removed

In previous versions of CabWriter and CutList Bridge, the user was restricted from re-naming components using the Entity Info dialog box. This was due to the loss of attributes that resulted. CabWriter and CutList Bridge now saves attributes such that this is no longer a problem. So now the user can change a component name using the Entity Info dialog box or the Make Unique tool. HOWEVER: The user must still adhere to strict CabWriter component naming and attribute assignment conventions afforded by the Make CabWriter Component tool. So, when the user first creates a component and names it, it should be done using the Make CabWriter Component tool as in the past.

Update Model Dialog Box

To accommodate this removal of the re-naming restriction, anytime the user opens a model that was created in a version of CabWriter older than the official release (this includes beta versions) and attempts to use a CabWriter tool, a dialog box will open asking if the user wants to update their model and defaults files. The user must eventually make these updates, but should choose to answer No until a back-up file has been generated. Once the model and defaults files have been updated the model is then one that can be modified with CabWriter 4.

Changes to Production Documentation

Production Documentation Setup Dialog Box

The old message warning about how long creation production documentation can take has been replaced with one that makes the same warning, but give the user and opportunity to change they type of units used in the production documentation.

Production Documentation Dialog Box

A Stiles & Rails Report has been added requiring the user to assign a scene to it. This dialog box is also used to compose six Avery labels: three each of Avery 5160 and Avery 5163. These labels are used in the Stiles & Rails, Cut List and DXF reports. The Stiles & Rails report labels are also printed from this dialog box.

New Label Printing Options

CabWriter now supports two label formats: Avery 5160 label with five selectable attribute lines; Avery 5163 label with ten selectable attribute lines. Both formats can be used to print labels for the Stiles & Rails Report, Table & Panel Saw Sheet Good Optimization (Cut List Report) and the CNC Sheet Good Optimization (DXF Report). For both optimization reports, labels are printed in the order that instances are placed on sheets so it is easy to find the correct label as milling progresses.

Faster Production Documentation Generation

Generating the production documentation required for a large project can take minutes; time a busy cabinetmaker might find annoying. In CabWriter 4 we have improved the performance time by 35%. We will continue to look for performance improvements as well as more efficient and useful features, because we want CabWriter to be *The Cabinetmaker's Design, Documentation and Fabrication Tool!*

Stiles & Rails Report

CabWriter Production Documentation now includes a new report file: stiles_and_rails_schedule.csv. The Stiles & Rails Report includes a RIP and Cross-Cut schedule. Only CabWriter parts with the words Stile or Rail in its component name are included in this report.

The RIP schedule lists the material Type - Name (e.g. Rough Lumber - Maple) sorted by Thickness x Width, from largest dimension to smallest, and the total linear feet required for that Thickness x Width combination. In addition, the RIP report provides a board-feet calculation for each material name by quarter thickness (e.g. 5/4).

The Cross-Cut schedule lists the material Type - Name sorted by Thickness x Width x Length, from largest dimension to smallest, and the quantity of each Thickness x Width x Length combination needed.

Labels can also be printed for each milled part included in the Cross-Cut schedule. Like other CabWriter reports, the parts to be included are chosen from a specified scene. CabWriter creates a Stiles - Rails scene automatically generated by File > CabWriter > Create Basic Scene Set. The user can modify its contents to include only those layers and/or component instances to be included in the report.

Lastly, CSV file format output allows for export to automatic material positioning systems such as Tigerstop or Razorgage (PRO Only).

Native CabWriter Sheet Optimization

Native Sheet Good Optimization for Table & Panel Saw Milling

Our customers have always had to purchase a third-party application to perform sheet optimization. NO MORE! CabWriter 4 now has native sheet good optimization; AND optimized sheet diagram print-out capability. You can also include the cut list in the print out, eliminating the need for a spreadsheet application. Labels can be printed on Avery 5160 or 5163 labels with five to ten selectable attribute lines

of information, including the sheet number and project name the milled parts belong to. Labels are printed in the order that instances are placed on sheets so it is easy to find the correct label as milling progresses.

Native Sheet Good Optimization for CNC Milling (Pro+CNC Only)

Just like Table & Panel Saw Sheet Optimization, CabWriter 4 now has native sheet good optimization; AND optimized sheet diagram print-out capability. You can also include the cut list in the print out, eliminating the need for a spreadsheet application. Labels can be printed on Avery 5160 or 5163 labels with five to ten selectable attribute lines of information, including the sheet number and project name the milled parts belong to. Labels are printed in the order that instances are placed on sheets so it is easy to find the correct label as milling progresses. CabWriter 4 produces a DXF file for each optimized sheet, with file names and DXF layer names that support automated tool pathing on some models of CNC machines.

Advanced DXF Layer Naming (Pro+CNC Only)

We have made a number of changes to the CNC Setup tab to enhance CabWriter's ability to provide more control over the layer names in the DXF file, allowing you to encode information in the layer names to enable automatic tool path creation in a number of CAM software packages. Changes include: expanding the Drill layer into two layers called Drill Partial and Drill Through; adding three defaults that permit the user to name the Substrate layer which can include material thickness; and providing a Measurements Multiplier default to convert decimal dimensions to integers.

New Construction Options

Many new options including: sink cabinets with or without rear stretcher and the option of a vertical front stretcher; upper cabinets with inset top, vertically extended sides or both (useful for crown molding or track lighting); door and drawer front gaps that are consistent even between two cabinets.

Edge Banding Modeling for Door and Drawer Fronts

Edge banding, or edge trimming, is used to conceal the layered edges of sheet good slab door and drawer fronts. Now you can specify the thickness of that banding and it will actually be drawn and can be included on the cut list (PRO Only). This means that the cabinetmaker can now CNC mill slab doors and drawers correctly sized to accept the banding or trim (PRO+CNC Only).

Five Drawer Styles for Drawing Drawer Front Parts

CabWriter 3 created simple 3D boxes to represent five-part drawer boxes. This was sufficient for those cabinetmakers who purchased drawer boxes from a third-party, but was not particularly helpful to those who milled the five drawer box parts on a CNC machine. CabWriter 4 now provides five drawer box styles that can replace the simple 3D boxes with five drawer box parts. The parts may be included on the cut list (PRO Only), or be included in the DXF file for milling on a CNC (PRO+CNC Only). As we gather more customer feedback, we will include additional styles in future releases.