

Vectorworks Spotlight FAQ

1. Who uses Vectorworks Spotlight?

Just about every lighting designer out there uses it. Vectorworks® Spotlight is the gold standard for CAD software in the entertainment industry, which includes lighting design, set design, exhibition design, event planning, and audio/visual design.

2. Is Vectorworks Spotlight a full CAD software?

You bet. With Vectorworks Spotlight you have all of the power of modern CAD software, plus tools made specifically for the entertainment industry. Therefore, you're not limited to light plots or scenic construction plans; you can design anything you need.

3. Can I design a 3D model in Vectorworks Spotlight?

Yes. Our 3D modeling is based on the leading Parasolid technology to provide best-in-class modeling. You'll see many 3D objects such as lights, trusses, curtains, furniture, walls, and stairs. Additionally, Vectorworks Spotlight offers a set of sophisticated tools that facilitate true, free-form modeling.

4. Can I draw light plots directly in Vectorworks Spotlight?

Yes. In Vectorworks Spotlight you can draw the light plots directly. The program shows different layers, so different parts of the drawing can be arranged for light plots, scenic designs, sketches, elevations, details, sections, and schedules.

5. Can I create renderings, videos, and path animations with Vectorworks Spotlight?

Yes. With Vectorworks Spotlight you have the ability to create videos of path and solar animations. With the Renderworks add-on, you'll have the ability to create high-quality photorealistic and non-photorealistic rendered models that you can use to produce stunning images and animations.

6. Can I make event room layouts?

Yes. Vectorworks Spotlight offers a robust suite that creates event room layouts. This tool offers you the flexibility to create and customize the room, stage, steps, lectern, video screen, and seating. It works well for all types and configurations of event rooms.

7. What graphics options does Vectorworks Spotlight offer?

Vectorworks Spotlight offers you the freedom to design your way, and we're known for our graphics capabilities—we have tons of options: colored fills, gradients, 2D tiles, hatches, unlimited colors, variable line weights, and many other tools to help you realize your exact vision.

8. How quickly can I learn Vectorworks Spotlight?

Vectorworks Spotlight is known for its intuitive user interface and workflow. Getting you up and running quickly is our goal. Typically, after a two-day training course you'll understand the basics of Vectorworks Spotlight and you'll be able to start designing. We also have a number of self-training options available, so you can learn at your own pace. We offer tutorials with illustrated, step-by-step instructions and sample designs. See our [Training page](#) for a list of tutorials.

9. Is there a student version of Vectorworks?

Yes. Students around the world use Vectorworks Designer with Renderworks, which combines all the functionality of Vectorworks Landmark, Architect, and Spotlight into a single application. For more information, visit our [Student Portal](#).

10. Which schools are using Vectorworks Spotlight?

Many institutions of higher education and other schools throughout the world have already discovered Vectorworks Spotlight. To effectively prepare your students for a successful career in lighting, scenic, event, or exhibit design please visit our [academic website](#) to contact our educational team.

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11. After the original purchase of Vectorworks Spotlight, are there further costs?

You are not obligated to upgrade at any time. If you choose to upgrade, you may do so for only a fraction of the original cost of a new license. Nemetschek Vectorworks offers a variety of services (many of them free) to help users succeed with Vectorworks products. Take advantage of free options like service pack updates, Getting Started Guides, technical support, the knowledgebase, the eDispatch online newsletter, the Community Board, and tech tips. Or, for more personalized training, you can purchase workbooks, training CDs, online training options, Vectorworks Service Select, and group or individual training courses. Check out the many resources on our [Training page](#).

12. What types of files can I import or export from within Vectorworks Spotlight?

Vectorworks Spotlight handles a large variety of import and export formats. You can import or export your plan in a DXF/DWG format, which will allow you to seamlessly and accurately send files back and forth between Vectorworks and the application being used by your colleague. You can also exchange data in real-time with Lightwright® to synchronize your paperwork and your design. With Spotlight, you can export the entire model to ESP Vision for complete, real time lighting visualization. You can create PDFs, JPGs, TIFs, and MOVs of your visualizations and designs to help your clients see your vision. Many other formats (Parasolid X_T, SAT, 3DS, EPS, PICT, STL, SKP, C4D, and IGS, among others) allow you to exchange data freely with almost every application.

13. Can I install my licensed software on either a Macintosh or a PC?

Yes. Your license is cross platform so you can choose to install your software on either a Macintosh or PC. Please refer to the [end user license agreement](#) (EULA) for further details on additional restrictions or limitations of different licenses and protection methods.

14. Are object libraries included in the purchase price?

Yes. There are no extra charges for the extra objects you'll get—symbols for single source lighting, LED lighting, moving light instruments from manufacturer catalogs, audio speakers, human figures, furnishings, designer furniture, Gobos, light accessories, details, and scenic elements. We update all libraries constantly, and this content is completely customizable—you can even add your own object libraries.

15. Can I pre-visualize my show with Vectorworks Spotlight?

Yes. You can draw your show in Vectorworks Spotlight and then transfer it to our partner product, ESP Vision, for pre-visualization to see how your lights will work in the context of the environment. And when you're done, you can save your pre-cued show and load it to your console to run the event.

16. Who can get the free Vectorworks Viewer?

You, your colleagues, your clients—anyone who wants to open, view, or print Vectorworks documents can get the free Viewer. The Viewer helps the plot service or printer who needs to work with Vectorworks files. Owners and clients can use the Viewer to see the documents without the need for a full version of Vectorworks. The files cannot be changed; only revision control tools are available. With the Viewer, you can open drawings from all Vectorworks products. Download it from [our website](#), free of charge.

17. What are the system recommendations for Vectorworks Spotlight?

Windows: 4GB RAM, Pentium 2 GHz or better processor, Windows XP SP3, Vista SP2, Windows 7
Macintosh: 4GB RAM, Intel Core 2 GHz or better processor, Mac OS X 10.5.7 or higher
For the most current and update information, please visit our [Knowledge base](#).