

Digital CAD Tools Which May Be Used in EE 2310

Students frequently ask about freeware packages which might be used in EE 2310 in lieu of LogicWorks™, due to the cost of the LogicWorks book and CD. Several students have offered suggestions about available freeware (see bottom of page), and I have investigated a few myself. The best are shown here, along with the download sites. Any of these would do an acceptable design job on your semester project or logic circuit homework.

Note: I am always interested in new CAD freeware to evaluate.

Digital Works:

(<http://www.electronics-lab.com/downloads/schematic/002/index.html>) A good, basic CAD tool, though the circuit library seems a bit small. Download and installation was easy for the previous release, and I assume it still is.

TinyCad: (<http://tinycad.sourceforge.net>) Another solid freeware package. I prefer it over Digital Works, as it “feels” a little more like LogicWorks. Installation is easy. Again, the circuit library is not perfect.

DesignWorks Express or LogicWorks Free Download: Capilano Systems, maker of LogicWorks, used to offer a version of their more expensive design software, DesignWorksExpress. It is apparently no longer offered, nor is the free (for 6 weeks) download of LogicWorks. There are some file sharing services that offer “free” shareware of LogicWorks, but I am not totally comfortable in recommending them (i.e., I am not sure that they are completely “legal”).

Logic Sim: (http://www.tetzl.de/java_logic_simulator.html) This is a bit more primitive package, and the use of non-standard icons for Boolean functions like AND and OR makes me crazy, but it apparently does an acceptable design job (and simulates also). Installation is also easy. My thanks to Eric Ramirez, Andres Fernandez, Thomas Williams, and several other students for helpful recommendations or comments on one or more of the above design packages.