



## Software Tools for Fluid Power Reflect Usability

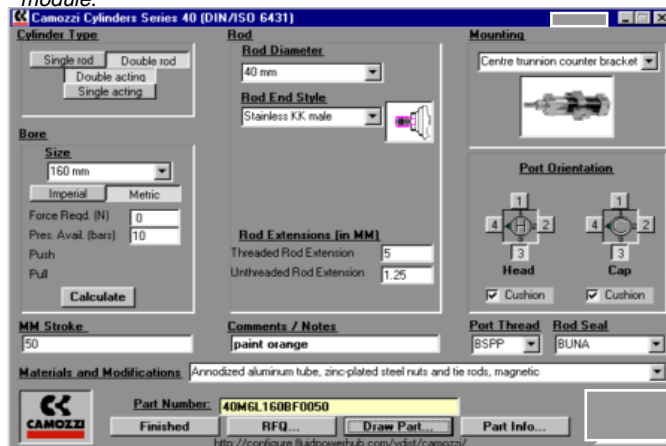
Software products for fluid power component specification, sizing, selection and geometry generation continue to evolve. In reviewing the present software offerings from fluid power product manufacturers. True software tools have little to no sales and marketing fluff and permit the end user to get directly into solving their problem. Be it the ability to create a system schematic or establish the correct component for an application by having the ability to generate the appropriate components model number. The software's ability to retrieve or generate a selected components geometry is vital for many design engineers.

For general categories of software are available. **Schematic** layout and generation for fluid power systems. **Application** software which aides the user in selecting the correct product for specific application conditions. **Configuration** software for developing the part number. **Geometry** retrieving or generation software which enables the end user to retrieve from static CAD files or parametrically generate the required components geometry. Within these categories the range of quality and usability greatly vary in presently offered software. With the emergence and popularity of CD ROM and higher capacity hard disk drives information storage has greatly increased. Utilizing this storage capacity, many companies have repackaged old technology. Static .dwg or .dxf files are placed onto CD ROM's and distributed directly or made available via an Internet download. PartSpec leads the way with the largest volume of static CAD files collected from varied manufacturers and covering a wide variety of products. This information is cumbersome to access and use. Static .dwg or .dxf files for fluid power products like cylinders or linear actuators or many other products still require the end user to stretch the drawing to a required stroke length. Mounting and rod end options then have to be accessed separately then merged and assembled onto the designer's drawing. Port and cushion locations have to be determined and added to the drawing. These are only a few of the problems associated with static drawing files. With faster PC's, WINDOWS operating system and efficient parametric software design, the repackaging of static drawing files for many products is more meaningful to a companies marketing and less meaningful to the designers and engineers trying to use this information in an efficient manner.

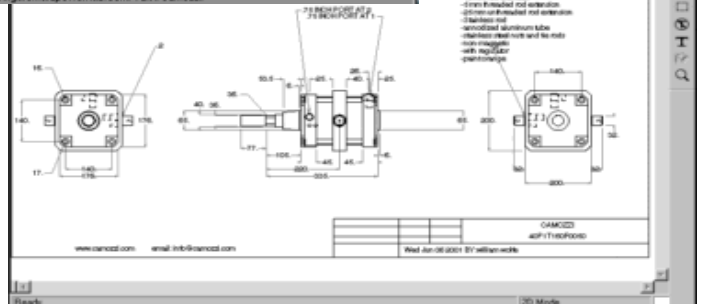
New parametric fluid power software, designed to operate in real-time on the Internet and the WINDOWS operating system at less than 4 megs offers the most functionality. TechnAMENU GUI, screens are designed to the specific product. Behind the scenes calculations and rules prevent the user from building a model number which is incorrect. Based on a selected series and size, a standard product configured model number is offered as a reference. The user then selects the required configuration for his application. This creates the complete model number including any options, accessories, mounting's or other possible configurations. The ability to port this information to other WINDOWS operating programs or in some cases fluid power software designers have collaborated to design fluid power software packages that work together. This makes it easier for fluid power systems designers, mechanical design engineers and the fluid power product manufacturer to generate and utilize information in a seamless environment.



*Solid Model views of the selected product are quickly created by the parametric TechnADRAW module.*



*TechnAMENU can be enabled to run real time on the Internet from a web site. Once a products model number is created a comprehensive attribute string is generated. This information is used for bill of materials generation and pricing.*



The Internet version is TechnASales Virtual Distributor. This adds an electronic link to the product manufacturers and distributors of the specified product. This enables users to select a product. Configure to the exact product model number. Generate a dimensioned product drawing printout. Generate a 2D, 3D, or Solid Model CAD file. The RFQ feature links electronic request for quotes directly to the proper distributor and manufacturer. Users have received back, price, availability and delivery information within 15 minutes. These Virtual Distributor site's have greatly increased the productivity of engineers and purchasing agents requiring engineer configured products.

Distributors and manufacturers have turned their web sites into productive e-commerce systems servicing their customers with product information, drawings, CAD files and quotes 24/7.

EATON Hydraulics [www.eatonhydraulics.com](http://www.eatonhydraulics.com)  
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 Milwaukee Cylinder  
 Hydraquip [www.hydraquip.com](http://www.hydraquip.com)

*Virtual Distributor sites presently available.*

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*The TechnADRAW, CAD module parametrically creates the selected products 2-D, 3-D, solid model scaled geometry. The products geometry can be ported to any CAD program in a variety of 2D, 3D and Solid Model. formats.*