What’s New

Version 14.0

Released June 2020
New Features and Enhancements
The following enhancements are available in the ProNest 14.0 release:

CAD

LibreCAD for ProNest
A new Hypertherm-exclusive CAD program, LibreCAD for ProNest, is installed with ProNest. This dynamic CAD program allows you to easily create drawings and edit drawings before and after they are imported into ProNest for a streamlined workflow. LibreCAD for ProNest may be used as a standalone CAD program or it can be used for CAD cleanup in ProNest.

Once imported into ProNest, you can edit and dimension any file type in LibreCAD for ProNest, including:
- DWG
- DXF
- VSP
- Pipe
- Token
- DSTV
- 3D CAD files

As a standalone CAD editor, you can open DWG and DXF file types in LibreCAD for ProNest, but files must be saved as DXF.

Key features in LibreCAD for ProNest include:

Export to ProNest
Import a drawing from LibreCAD directly into the Part List in ProNest without having to use the Edit Part List window.

Edit Part List and nested parts
Edit an imported part from the ProNest Part List, the Edit Part List window, or the nest, even if the part is already nested.
Multi-Select editing
For an efficient workflow, multi-select nested parts and right-click to Edit in LibreCAD so that you can edit or dimension multiple parts in LibreCAD before returning to ProNest.

Automatic Layer Mapping
The LibreCAD for ProNest Layer List is automatically populated from your Importing Parts Settings in ProNest.

Trim Excess
Quickly trim away unwanted entities by clicking them in this mode.
Shape Text
Shape text around an entity to create signs and artwork.

Explode Text into Letters
Explode text strings into individual letters for fine-grain control when shaping text.

Font Support
Use standard ProNest, Microsoft, and AutoCAD fonts in your drawings.

LibreCAD for ProNest Fonts
Use default LibreCAD for ProNest fonts or create your own LibreCAD font file (LFF).

Circle in Diameter
Draw a circle by entering a diameter value.
What's New in ProNest® 2021 (v14.0)

Contour Selection
Select an entity and hold the Shift key while hovering the mouse over other intersecting entities to highlight and select a contour path.

Help system
Hover over areas in the application, and press F1 to get context-sensitive help.

Learn more about using LibreCAD for ProNest through training videos in the Knowledge Base.

CAD Editor Preference
A new CAD Editor page is available in ProNest Preferences. On this page, you can specify a CAD program to use when you need to modify drawings. LibreCAD for ProNest is the default CAD editor, but you can modify this preference to use AutoCAD or any other CAD program installed on your PC.

Once a default CAD editor is set, you can edit a part in that program after it is imported into ProNest. This can be done by right-clicking the part and selecting Edit in… from the Part List or on the nest.

Raster Image Improvements
The raster image import feature now creates smoother curves and provides better results overall. You can adjust the Color Threshold (helps create geometry based on differences in colors in the image) and Despeckle (removes noise or speckles in the image) options during part import.

SVG File Import
You can now import SVG (scalable vector graphics) files into ProNest. Find these files more quickly using the SVG option in the Files of type filter in the Edit Part List window.
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Reports

Part Report

A new Part Report is available, allowing you to print information about a part or multiple parts by right-clicking the selected part(s) on a nest or in the Part List, and selecting Part Report. The Part Report provides information about an individual part, including an image of the part with display information such as dimensions drawn on a CAD display layer, size, material, class, process, costing information, and so forth. Ensure your Display Only information is viewable in Report Options.

Advanced Edit

Interior Bridge Cutting

In Advanced Edit, you can create interior bridge cuts with this new feature. Designed with sign-makers and artistic crafters in mind, this allows you to create bridges to help minimize interior cutouts on parts for aesthetic purposes and to reduce tip-ups.

Machine

Enhanced multi-process support

In ProNest, class is used to apply specific cutting parameters based on the consumables that will be used to cut a part or nest. It is also used to apply performance applications (such as True Hole®) and other technologies to parts.

For machines capable of cutting with different processes (such as combination plasma/waterjet tables), you can now select a specific class for each individual machine process that is in use, with the class by process feature. For instance, suppose the exterior edges of a part are cut with waterjet and the interiors are cut with plasma.

When setting the material for that part, you can now select a waterjet class (which contains information about orifice size, abrasive, and so on) and a separate plasma class (which contains information about amperage, consumable set, and performance applications).

This feature offers greater control when setting cutting parameters for multi-process machines.

Additional benefits include:
• Default class can be specified for any process (not just limited to the primary cut process).
• Plasma setups with cut and mark processes can now have different classes set by process for a part.
• Part Library stores process-specific class information for library parts added from the Edit Part List.
• Class by process parts can be chained, bridged, or common line cut together if the exterior profile classes and processes are the same.
• Easily change the class for a process on a part from the Edit Part List window or Part Properties.
• Modified versions of the Nest Plot, Single Head, and Multi Head reports are available, allowing space to list multiple classes in use.

Please contact Technical Support if you’d like to use this feature.

Manual Nesting

Maximum Part Orientations to Try

This new setting allows you to try orientations of 90°, 45°, 30°, 15°, 5°, and 1° when manually nesting a part by pressing Enter or double-clicking in the part list. The Automatic Nesting module is required to use this feature.

Disable Anchor Part to Cursor after Duplicate

A new preference is available to disable anchoring parts to the cursor after selecting Duplicate. This new preference can be found here:

• File tab > Preferences > General tab > When duplicating parts, do not anchor to cursor.

When enabled, selecting Duplicate will place a copy of the selected part(s) slightly offset from the original on the nest.

Work Orders

Part Library matching

• When Part Library Matching is enabled in Work Orders Preferences, you can now right-click a part in the part list and select Add to Work Orders. This is needed when reusing nests for different work orders (using job templates).
• When Part Library Matching is enabled in Work Orders Preferences, work orders that aren’t linked to library parts can still be added to the part list. In Preferences, you can set ProNest to display a warning in this case, which will not prevent the work order from being added to the part list.
Costing

Allocated Costing

In the Allocated Part Detail report, the Material Cost is now more accurate for parts that are nested inside the rectangular region of a larger part, but outside its exterior profile.

For the purposes of allocated costing, a part within the rectangular region of a larger part but outside its exterior is no longer considered to be contained by the larger part.

Bevel Machine Interface

Bevel smoothing improvement

The Smooth Compensated Profiles setting creates a better fit-up, especially for thick material.

Disable Process Compensation on interiors

A new setting can be added to the CFG, allowing you to not apply bevel process compensation to interior profiles.

Drill Machine Interface

Hole recognition

ProNest can now recognize drill geometry in CAD files where a hole is drawn as two arcs instead of a circle entity.

Production Kiosk

Refresh interval

Refresh interval has been added to Production Kiosk, to help resolve issues with slow refreshing of data.

Cut number of times

Production Kiosk now fully supports nests that are cut more than once.
Plate Inventory

Plate Inventory quantity
Plate inventory quantity fields have been expanded to include more information, including
- Allocated quantity See how many plates are used by different jobs.
- Cut quantity Total number of plates that have been cut.
- Received quantity Total quantity of plates that have ever been added.

Production Manager

Cut number of times
Production Manager now fully supports nests that are cut more than once.

Prompt when changing nest status
When manually changing a nest status from Complete to Pending, the user is warned that cutting information for the nest will be removed.

Database

Data architecture
The ProNest database has been redesigned for improved accessibility, security, and data integrity.
- New browser-based interface to interact with database.
- Migrate data, even from a remote database on the network.
- Backup data from any local or network PC, then download the backup file (BAK) as needed.

Users and Permissions
The Users and Permissions feature has been completely redesigned to be seamless and easier to use for both administrators and normal users.
With the feature on:
- User accounts can be set up by an administrator.
- Permission levels for various database-related operations can be set for each user.
- ProNest will remember user login credentials. You don't have to enter a username and password every time you start ProNest.
• Log out at any time, if needed, to allow another user to log in (useful for multi-user PCs).
• All changes made by users (editing inventory, nesting, etc.) are tracked in the database.

Additionally, with the feature off:
• ProNest still automatically logs user data, based on the Windows user name. No login required.
• All changes made by users are tracked in the database.

Tracking and auditing

All changes in the database are tagged with Modified By and Date Modified information. For instance, you can view all changes to nests made by a specific user in a specific date range.

Assemblies

Revision is supported for an assembly, to help better organize assemblies that are similar to one another.

3D CAD

Creo Plug-in now available

This is a stand-alone product, licensed separately from ProNest, which works alongside Creo Parametric (v4, 5, or 6) to create flat pattern DXF files from solid or sheet metal parts, for 2D cutting.

Operating System

32-bit support ending

ProNest is now available only as a 64-bit application. This means that it will only run on 64-bit operating systems.