

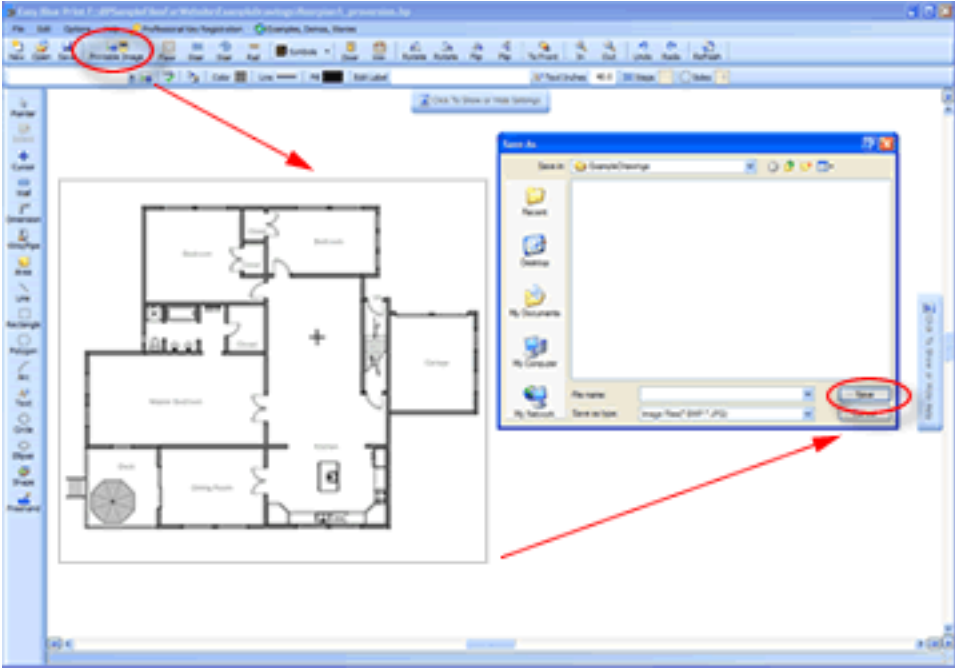
Exporting and Printing Floor Plans

From day one, your end goal has been to eventually get some floor plans (in some format) out of Easy Blue Print, which you can then use someplace else. Sure, Easy Blue Print is fun, but the whole purpose of using it is to eventually create something that other people can use too. You might want to type up a Word document, create a web page, or print out a precisely-scaled version of your drawing on paper. Easy Blue Print lets you do all of this easily, using a variety of tools. We'll start with the most versatile tool: the Printable Image tool.

Printable Image

There are scads of programs available that let you create nice-looking brochures, web pages or flyers. Easy Blue Print gives you a wonderful solution to working with any of these programs. With just a few simple clicks, you can create an image of any portion of your drawing, and either paste the image directly into one of these programs (by using the Edit|Paste button in one of these programs), or you could save an image file, which you could use at a later time.

To get started, you first need to find the **Printable Image** button on the top toolbar. Go ahead and click on it.



Next, “click and drag” your mouse. The means: click your mouse button down in the drawing area (and hold your mouse down – do not let the mouse button up) and **still**

holding your mouse down, drag your mouse (move the mouse). It is important that you don't click your mouse down and then let it come up before you finished creating your photograph rectangle. Just click the Printable Image tool, click your mouse down (and carefully hold it down), drag a rectangle, and then **lift up when you have your photo rectangle completed**.

As soon as you finish drawing your photo rectangle a dialog box appears asking you where you would like to store your "image."

With just a few clicks, you have created an "image," which is a snapshot of a small portion of your drawing, that you can now use IN ANY PROGRAM. It's that easy.

At this point, you could just email somebody the image you have created. All you would have to do is type in a name of a file, such as "mydrawing.jpg", click OK, and you're done. You'd have an image file that you could email to anybody or use in virtually any other Windows Program.

But that's not all. Whether or not you chose to type in a name for your image, or if you just clicked the "cancel" button in the first file save dialog the program will **automatically copy your image to the clipboard**.

As soon as you hit the OK or Cancel button on the first file dialog, **another dialog will automatically appear**. This dialog will ask you to hit an "OK" button to start the copy process. **As soon as you click the OK button**, Easy Blue Print will **copy** your image to the "Windows Clipboard." The Clipboard is the thing that lets you copy and paste things between your Microsoft Windows programs.

As soon as you hit the OK button on the **second** dialog, you could then directly use the "Edit | Paste" menu in your brochure-design program, and **paste your drawing** directly into your brochure you are creating.

Print to Scale

If you want to create a traditional floor plan drawing, something that can be sent to your printer and that is drawn to a precise scale, then you do that with Easy Blue Print -- with as much precision as you desire.

Let's say you wanted to print out your entire drawing to your printer...**and you wanted to print it to scale**. In other words, you wanted to print out exactly what you saw on your computer screen, and you wanted to be able to say "One inch on Paper equals 20 feet in the Real World." How could you do this in Easy Blue Print?

First, let's get past the basics. You probably noticed the "Print" Button in the Scaling & Printing tab on the large toolbar. To print your drawing, all you have to do is click this button. A dialog allowing you to change your print options will appear. By clicking OK, your whole drawing, as it appears on your screen, will immediately start printing.

Now, chances are, you're going to want to try to make your drawing appear bigger or smaller on the screen before you do this. If you want your drawing to appear bigger you'll first want to "zoom in." If you want it to appear smaller, you'll want to first "zoom out."

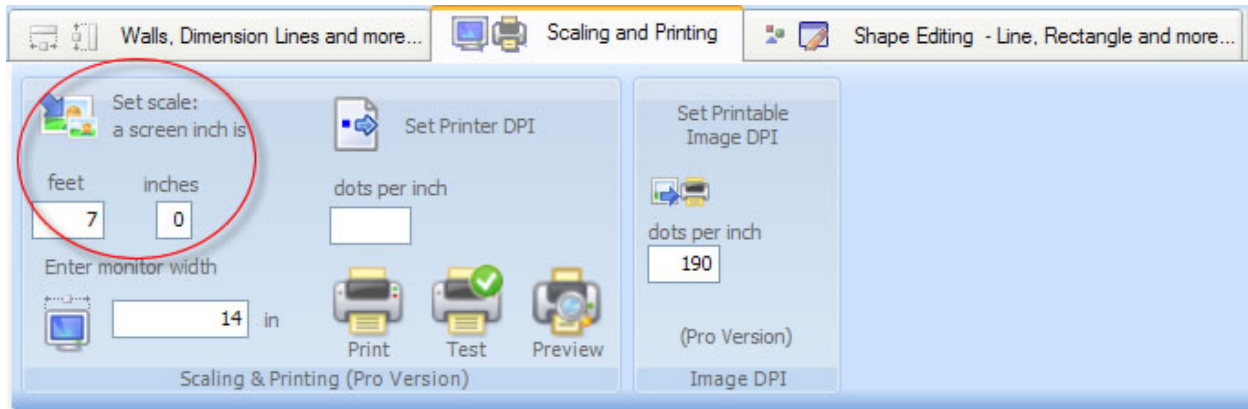
To Zoom In on a drawing, you can click on the "Zoom In tool" on the top bar. This will let you get "closer" to the drawing so that small things appear larger. By clicking on the Zoom out button, you can "fit" more objects of your drawing on the screen.



Now, let's delve into a little mathematics and think carefully about what we are **really doing** when we decide to "zoom in" or "zoom out" of a drawing. If you think about it, all you are doing is changing the **scale** of your drawing. The **scale** is the number of feet/inches that **one inch on your computer monitor or your printer represents in "the real world."**

If you say, "I want 1 inch on my computer monitor / printer to translate into 10 feet", you are basically describing the precise **scale** that you want for drawing to appear on your monitor/printer.

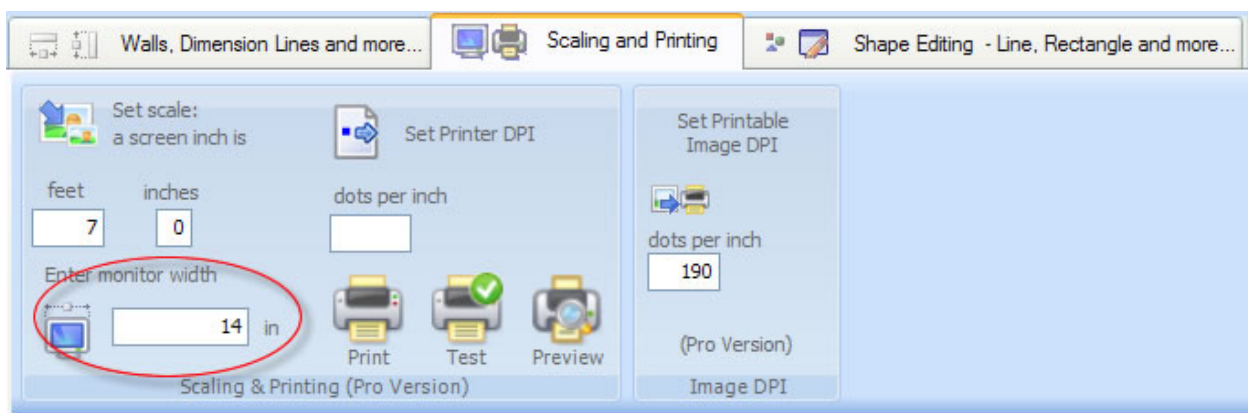
You actually can, in fact, **zoom to a precise scale**, if you want to. Just go to the scale buttons on your edit toolbar, and **type in the exact** scale you want. This has the exact same effect as clicking on the zoom buttons on the top toolbar.



A word of caution is due here: Easy Blue Print does not know the **actual size** of your computer monitor. So, even if you type in a precise scale, Easy Blue Print will still be off by a little, because it is making assumptions about your monitor size. It is only making a guess (a good guess, usually, but it is still a guess).

What if you really wanted to be able to hold up a ruler to your monitor and know the exact “real world” distance that one inch on computer monitor represented? Well, that’s easy. First, get a ruler. Then, measure the width of your computer monitor (in inches). Then, go to the box that says, “Enter monitor width.” Type in the width of your monitor, measured in whole inches (no fractions or decimal points...). At this point, no guessing is being done by Easy Blue Print at all.

Simply by reading off the values in the Scale feet and inches boxes, you could now hold up a ruler to your monitor, and know precisely how many real world feet and inches that one inch on your ruler represented.

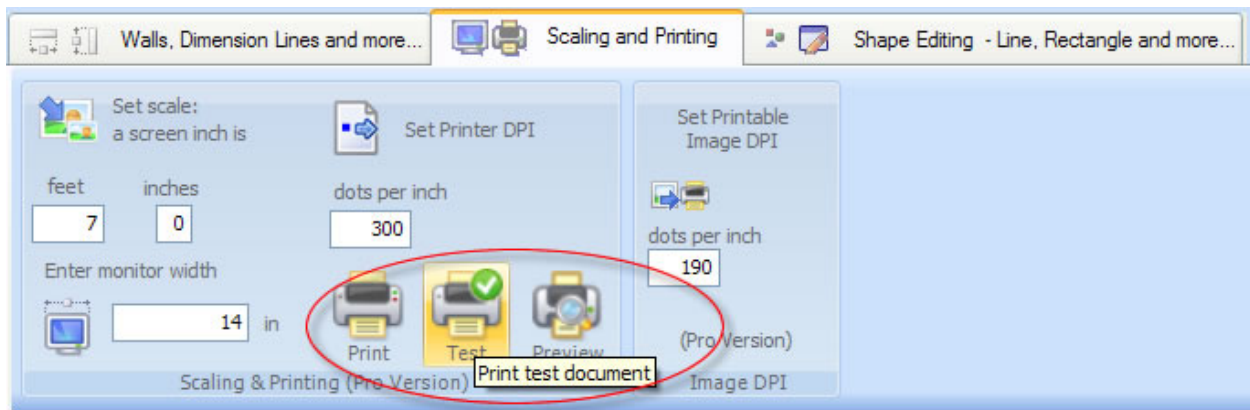


The same concept applies to printers. If you adjusted the **scale** of your drawing so that “one inch on the screen represents 10 feet” and hit the “Print” button, then you can be assured that **one inch on your paper** would represent exactly 10 feet in the “real world.”

So, the same “scale” boxes that you used to adjust the scale of your monitor will also adjust the scale used for your printer. In other words, the scale you use for your screen is the same scale that will be used for printing.

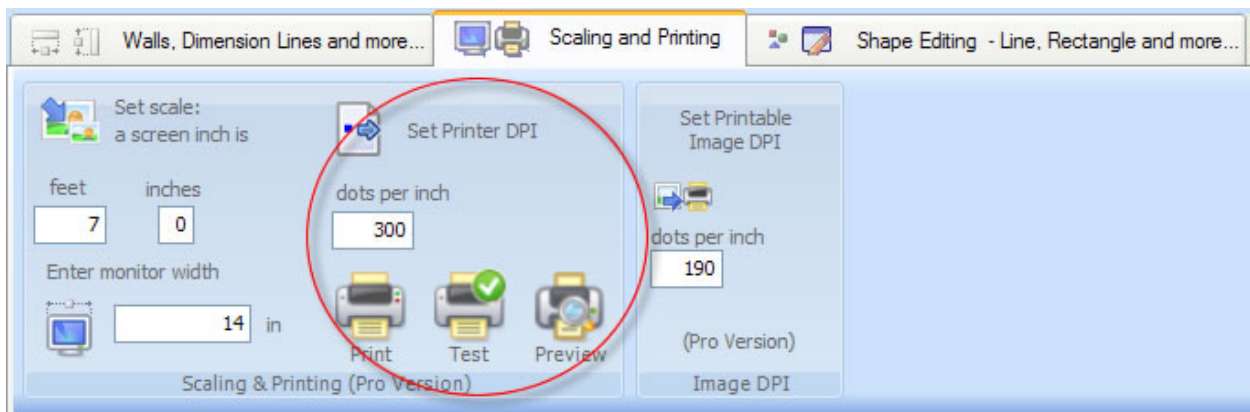
Again, Easy Blue Print will need a little help to get **precise** measurements for your printer. Otherwise, the distance on your printed documents will be off by a little. Easy Blue Print is just making guesses about your printer. So, in order for you to get really precise print-to-scale drawings, you’ll need to get out your ruler again and start making some measurements, just like we did for your computer monitor. Instead of measuring the width of your monitor, however, we will be measuring some lines created by your printer after it creates a **test page**.

So, we will first want to **print the test page**. To print a test page, click the Test Print button and wait for your printer to print the test page.



The test page will have some instructions on it. It will also have a line that is **approximately** one inch long drawn on it.

Measure the actual distance of the line with the ruler. If the line is **less** than an inch, you will want to **increase** the “dots per inch” in the **Printer DPI** box (see below).



If the line is actually **greater** than an inch, then you will want to **decrease** the “dots per inch” in the **Printer DPI** box. For example, let us say that the line was actually only **half an inch**. In that case, we would probably want to **double** the size of the “dots per inch” in the Printer DPI box.

After a few test pages, you should be able to exactly match up the line drawn on the test page with **one inch** on your ruler. You are now ready to print your drawing to scale. Again, just type in the precise **scale** for your drawing, and hit the “Print” button. In just a few moments, your drawing, printed to a precise scale, will be sent to your printer.