

Layers

MillWrite provides each drawing with 243 layers. Each layer can have its own color, and each can be turned on or off. When a layer is off, you neither see it nor will MillWrite create NC code for it. The colors are useful to identify items. You can also specify a **line type** for each layer. For example, you can specify a layer to draw in dotted lines.

The layers are numbered by MillWrite from zero to 243, but you can give any of the layers a descriptive name. For example, in Figure 8-1, layer 4 has been described as *Fixture*. But even with this descriptive name, MillWrite will still refer to that layer as layer 4. In other words, the descriptive names are for *your* use to identify the layers and to make it easy for you to find them in the layer list, but MillWrite will refer to layers by their number.

Why use BOTH layer numbers AND descriptions?

The advantage to having numbers for layers is when you want to make changes to your drawing but you want to restrict the changes to certain layers. Some of MillWrite's editing features let you process **from** a certain layer **to** a certain layer. The layers have to be numerical for this to make sense. Referring to Figure 8-1 to explain examples:

- If you specified all items from layer 3 to layer 32 be set as drawing aids rather than be machinable, everything on the Fixture layer would be set to drawing aids.
- If you specified that all text items from layer 2 to layer 7 be engraved at a depth of 0.08 inches, any text on the Islands and Fixture layer would be affected, but text on the Bolt Holes layer would be ignored.
- If you specified that all rectangles from layer 0 to layer 3 use tool #3, then any rectangles on the Bolt Holes layer or the Islands layer would be set to use a tool # 3, but rectangles on the Fixture layer would be ignored.

The Layer List

At the top of the drawing page is a button with the letter **L** in it. The **L** stands for the word **Layer**. Next to the letter L is the number of the current layer. Only one layer can be the current layer. When you draw a new object, it will be placed on whatever layer is the current layer.

When you click the layer button at the top of the screen, the layer list appears (Figure 8-1). This window has four columns.

CHECK BOX COLUMN

The first column has check boxes. If this box has a check in it, then everything on the layer will be seen on the drawing page and MillWrite will create NC code for everything on that layer.

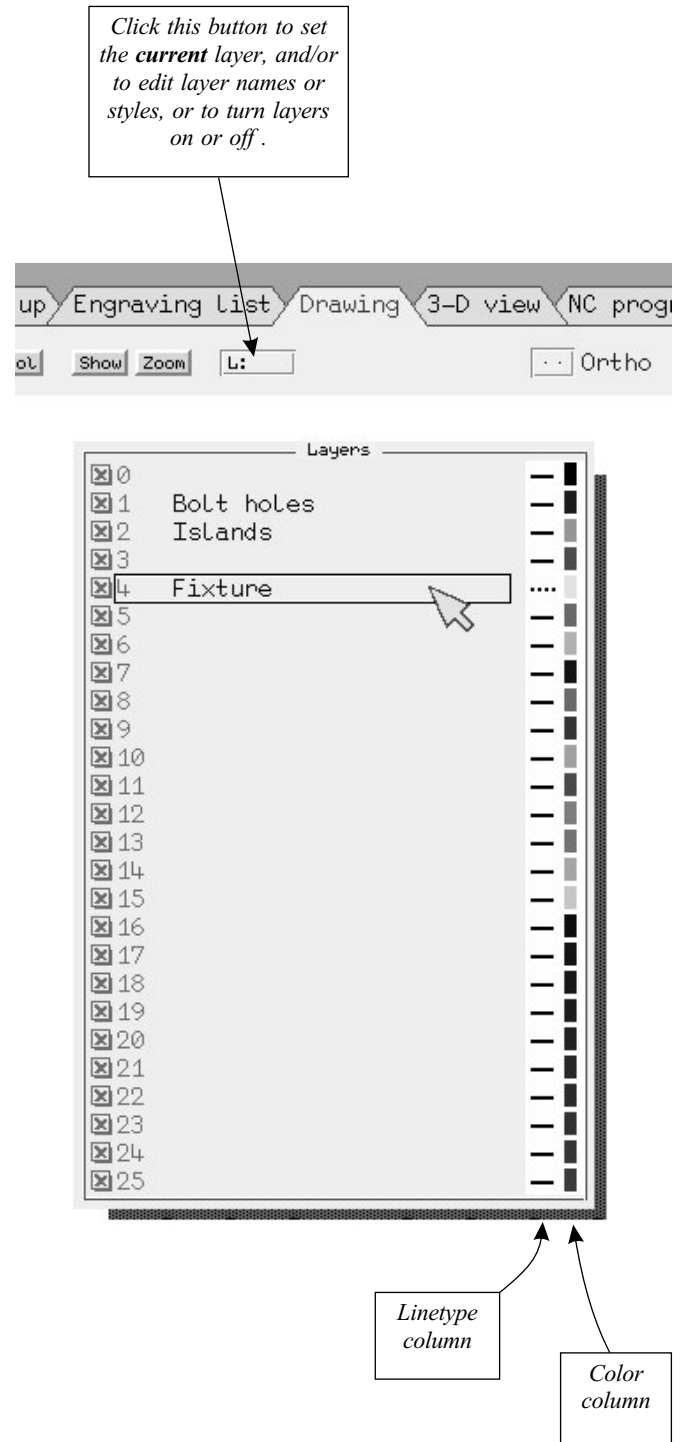


Figure 8-1

The layer list has four columns.

LAYER NUMBER AND DESCRIPTION

The next column has the layer number and the descriptive name you've given the layer. If you want to create a descriptive name for a layer, just put the cursor into this column and **start typing**. You do not have to first click any buttons to let MillWrite know that you want to create a descriptive name.

If you want to wipe out and **replace** a descriptive name with a new name, just start typing the new name. If you want to **edit** the descriptive name of a layer that you already created, press any of the text editing keys such as the BACKSPACE key or the **F6** through **F10** keys.

LAYER LINE Type

To the right of the descriptive name is a horizontal line which shows the line style that the layer is drawn in. This line may be dotted, dashed, or solid to indicate that everything on the layer will be drawn in dotted, dashed, or solid lines.

If you want to change the line type of a layer, put the cursor on to the the line type area and click the left mouse button or press the enter key. As seen in Figure 8-2, there are five line types that you can choose from.

Important

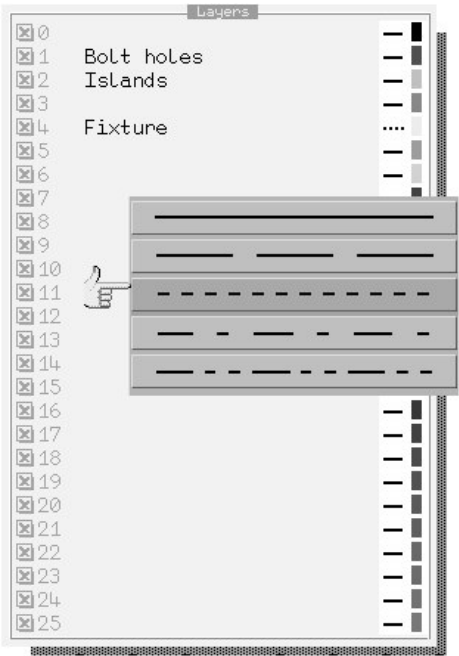


Figure 8-2

*The are five styles of lines. These styles are only for viewing on the computer; MillWrite will **not** engrave items as dotted or dashed lines.*

These line types are only for the drawing, **not** for the NC program. For example, if you put a circle on layer 26, and if you set layer 26 to draw as dashed lines, then the circle will show as dashed lines on the drawing page. But when MillWrite creates NC code for that circle, it will create a continuous tool path for the circle rather than lowering and lifting tool over and over in order to cut a dashed circle. There is no way with this version of MillWrite to create NC program in which a line engraves as a dashed line unless you actually draw a bunch of short line segments.

LAYER Color

The fourth column has a colored square. This shows that the color that everything on the layer will be drawn in. To change the color of a layer, just click the little colored square.

RESETTING LAYERS TO THEIR DEFAULTS

If, after you change the layer names, colors, or line types, you decide you want to reset the layers to their default condition, click the layer **Reset** button on the **Job Setup** page. This will set all line types to solid, clear all the layer names, turn all layers on, and reset the colors.

IMPORTING LAYERS

If you want a drawing to have the same layer names, colors, and line types as another drawing, you can click the layers **Import** button at the **Job Setup** page. MillWrite will then ask you to pick the drawing that has the layers you want to use.

*The layer **Import** and **Reset** buttons are on the Job Setup page*

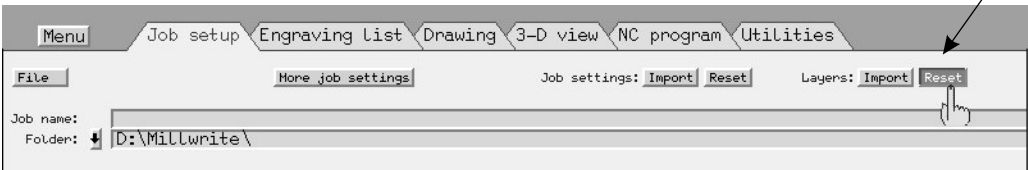


Figure 8-3