

## Company designs and produces Earth-friendly pallets with DraftSight

When Larry Sketo says pallets move the world, he's not kidding.

Pallets are flattish, rectangular shipping platforms that materials and packages are stacked on so they can be moved by forklifts and pallet jacks. Usually pallets are made of wood, but not always – more on that in a bit.

Imagine having to move 54 boxes of toilet paper by hand across the warehouse for shipping. Now imagine being able to put all 54 of those boxes on a pallet and whisking them across the factory floor with a forklift. Multiply that by 20 million, the estimated number of pallets used in the U.S. each year for *shipping toilet paper alone*.

Now you're getting an idea about the importance of pallets. Without them, very little would move, and almost everything would be more expensive.

Larry Sketo's role in this little-known but important world? It's big and growing. As manufacturers seek out more efficient and sustainable packaging, Sketo and his company are there to help.

Sketo designed, developed and now manufactures a new kind of pallet. They are made of paper, like corrugated boxes, rather than the usual wood. They are lighter, less expensive, machine assembled (which lowers costs) and more Earth-friendly. His company, Design Pallets, Inc., is based in Apopka, Florida.

Design Pallets uses DraftSight to create and modify .dwg/.dxf files used to manufacture its corrugated pallet line. Those files are fed into a Kongsberg XL44 sample table/cutter, which cuts short production runs and samples of new pallet designs.

"Having DraftSight is a great benefit to us due to its ease of use and ability to be customized to our needs," said Sketo. "I've been using SolidWorks since 1998 to produce my 3D mechanical design projects, and staying up to date with my subscription services has its advantages. It allows us to see, use, and be part of the products Dassault Systemes offers its customers."



180 pallets: Shows how compact the pallets are when broken down – a huge advantage over wood pallets



Wellstone – shows how much weight the paper pallets can take

Sketo said he decided to try the Beta version of DraftSight “ to see if it was what we needed to modify existing files and to produce new 2d .dwg/.dxf files quickly and efficiently. It re way to produce what we needed in a timely method.”

“DraftSight is the best alternative to AutoCAD 2D on the market today,” he said. “In addition to being a free product, as with all of Dassault Systemes products, DraftSight is a pleasure to work on and with.”



MVC-shows one of the pallets ready to get to work