

IMPORT OF CAMERA MODELS TO VIDEOCAD USING MS EXCEL

Version 1.0. Edition for VideoCAD 9

A method of importing large number of camera models at once and creating a file with parameters of these models is described. The obtained file can be placed on a website for downloading by VideoCAD users to work with imported camera models.

This method can be useful for manufacturers and distributors who want to make convenient for VideoCAD users to choose cameras manufactured or promoted by them.

WORKING WITH CAMERA MODEL PARAMETERS IN VideoCAD

VideoCAD supports a database of camera models, which can contain more than a hundred parameters. However, in most cases this amount is redundant. For working with limited parameter sets, VideoCAD uses **Views**.

*A **View** is the set, position and size of the visible columns of the Table of camera models. Each column displays a parameter. The missing parameters in the View are not visible in the Table. Parameters with empty values are ignored when assigning a model to cameras in the project.*

VideoCAD has 3 **Views** by default: **SHORT**, **NORMAL** and **EXTENDED**

SHORT – A short set of parameters displayed entirely without scrolling for quick selection of a camera model during design.

NORMAL – a set of basic parameters available in the specifications of most manufacturers.

*Manufacturers are advised to fill in the parameters included in the **NORMAL** View. Missing in the database parameters can be left blank. In addition you can add parameters not included in the **NORMAL** View.*

EXTENDED – these are parameters from the **NORMAL** View supplemented with parameters that VideoCAD can model, but the values of these parameters are missing in the manufacturer's specifications or these values are unreliable. These are the parameters of light sensitivity, real resolution in lines for picture height, lens resolution, power and IR illumination angle, etc. If in the future some of manufacturers include these parameters in the specifications, VideoCAD will be able to simulate cameras of these manufacturers more accurately. To simulate other cameras, users have to independently measure values of these parameters.

In the **Table of camera models**, many parameters remain are not included in the default **Views**. If you need these parameters, you can add them to existing Views or create new Views with them.

See details how to work with the Table of Camera models:


http://www.cctvcad.com/videocad_help/index.html?cammodels.htm

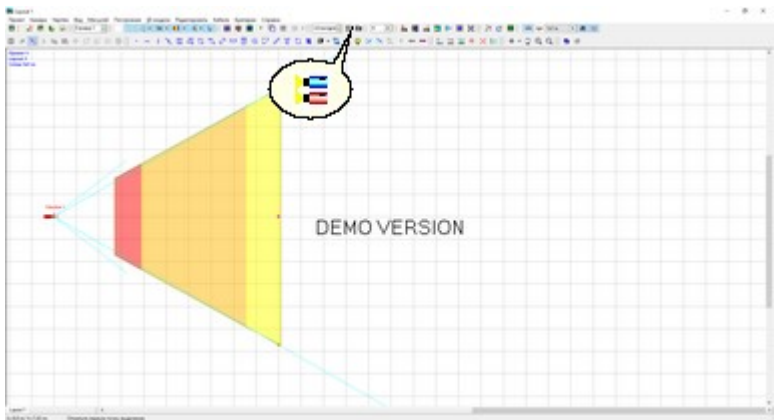
HOW TO CREATE A FILE OF CAMERA MODEL PARAMETERS

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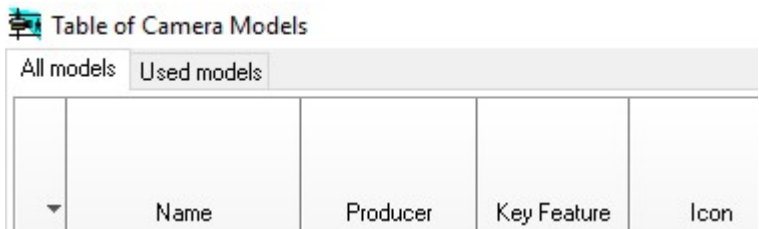
1. CREATING A PATTERN OF CAMERA PARAMETERS FOR EXCEL

1.1 Launch **VideoCAD 9**. Demo version is enough, you can download it <http://www.cctvcad.com/Files/VideoCADdemo.zip> (203 MB)

1.2 Open the **Table of Camera Models** window by the  button in the middle of the top row of the Toolbar.



1.3 Switch to the **All models** tab. The tab selector is located in the upper left corner of the table.



1.4 On the **Views** panel in the lower right corner of the Table, select the **NORMAL** view in the list.



1.5 If your Table already contains camera models, then, if necessary, save the existing database of camera models to a * **.cdz** file by clicking the **Save** button in the **Data** panel at the bottom of the Table.



1.6 If there are no camera models in the Table, then create one empty camera model by clicking the + **New** button on the **Camera model** panel at the bottom of the Table. Click **OK** in the window that appears.



1.7 Select any row in the table by clicking on the leftmost cell with the row number. Then right-click on the highlighted row, select **Copy selection** in the pop-up menu.

1	0		752
2	12		
3	13		

1.8 Launch **MS Excel**. Create a new Sheet if necessary. Right click on the top left empty cell of the table, select **Paste** in the pop-up menu.

	A1		
	A	B	C
1			
2			

You will obtain a copy of the NORMAL View along with the headers in Excel. The camera models that you copied remain as an example for filling. The obtained file can be used as a **pattern** for filling the camera model database in Excel for VideoCAD.

2. FILLING THE PATTERN BY PARAMETERS OF CAMERAS IN EXCEL

2.1 Fill the pattern in Excel by parameters from database of your cameras using any convenient way.

- Before filling, read description of the parameters that you filling in VideoCAD help system to avoid discrepancies. http://www.cctvcad.com/videocad_help/index.html?cammodeltableparameters.htm
- Leave blank unknown parameters and unnecessary parameters for your cameras.
- Data types in the cells (numbers or letters) must match the data types in the sample.
- Some fields may contain numeric values or texts. Some fields can only contain values from fixed lists. See the description of the parameters in the help system and try to open the drop-down lists of the fields in the Table of camera models to see the possible values.
- Fields can have different, but limited lengths. Too long text will be cropped.

3. IMPORT OF THE FILLED PATTERN IN VideoCAD

3.1 In **Excel**, select only the rows with parameters of your camera models (without headers) and copy them.

3.2 Go to VideoCAD, open the **Table of camera models** window , switch to the **All models** tab. Select the **NORMAL** View.

The visibility and order of the columns during the pasting must match the visibility and order of the columns when copying the pattern in step 1.7.

3.3 Using the mouse, select the remaining camera models in the table, if they exist. Click on them with the right button, in the context menu select **Delete selection**. Agree in the confirmation box.

3.4 Right-click on the top left empty cell in the table. Select **Paste** in the pop-up menu.

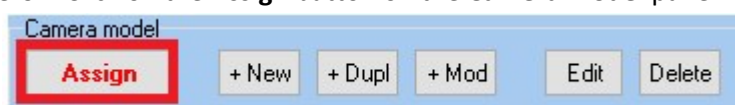


3.5 Check correctness of the import.

3.6 Try assigning the models of your cameras to the active camera in VideoCAD and check correctness of the simulation. To assign a model from the Table to the Active camera:

3.6.1 Select a row with the camera model by clicking.

3.6.2 Click on the **Assign** button on the **Camera model** panel.




If any parameter is modeled, in your opinion, incorrectly, then refer to the description description of the parameter. http://www.cctvcad.com/videocad_help/index.html?cammodeltableparameters.htm In case of difficulties, contact support@cctvcad.com.

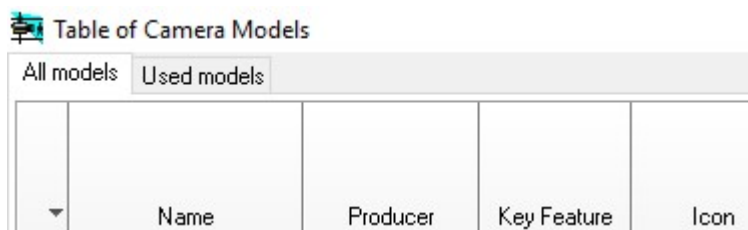
4. SAVING IMPORTED MODELS TO FILE

4.1 Click the **Save** button on the **Data** panel at the bottom of the Table of Camera Models. Enter the file name, select the directory and save the file in * **.cdb** format.



5. OPENING THE FILE WITH CAMERA MODELS BY A USER

5.1 Run **VideoCAD 9**. A demo version is enough. Open the **Table of Camera Models** window by the  button in the middle of the top row of the Toolbar. Switch to the **All Models** tab. The selection of tabs is in the upper left corner of the Table.



5.2 If there are camera models in your database, then, if necessary, save the existing database of camera models to a * **.cdz** file by clicking the **Save** button in the **Data** panel at the bottom of the Table.



5.3 To replace the existing camera models by models from the file, click on the **Load** button and select the created file with camera model parameters.



Or to add camera models from the file to existing camera models, click on the **Add** button.



The existing database of camera models will be replaced or supplemented with models from the file.

6. ADDITIONAL FEATURES

6.1 Using a special set of camera model parameters

You can create an individual set of parameters that are available in the specifications of your models, different from the set of parameters in the NORMAL View. For this you need:

6.1.1 Show required columns and hide unnecessary ones;

See details: Visibility of columns

http://www.cctvcad.com/videocad_help/index.html?cammodeltabledop.htm

6.1.2 save the set of visible columns to a special **View** different from **NORMAL**;

See details: Views http://www.cctvcad.com/videocad_help/index.html?cammodeltablepi.htm

6.1.3 make a pattern for Excel based on the created **View** (1.1 .. 1.8);

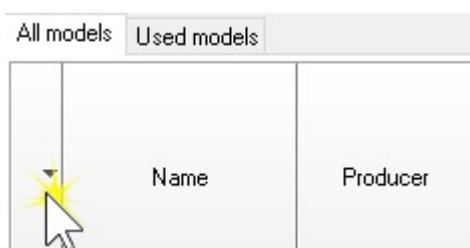
6.1.4 fill the pattern by camera models in Excel (2.);

6.1.5 import the filled pattern with the special view selected (3.1 .. 3.5).

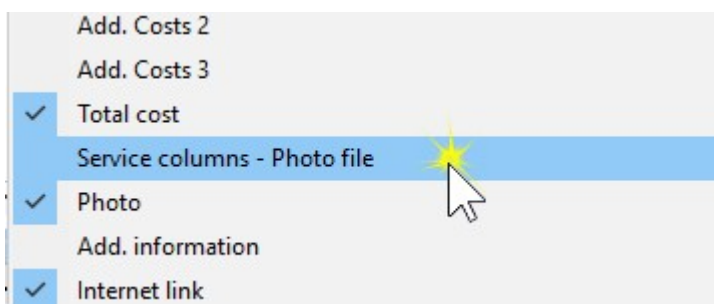
6.2 Inclusion of photos of camera models in the database

In order to include photos to the file of camera model parameters, the following changes are needed in the order of work:

6.2.1 In p. 1.4 after selecting the **View**, click on the triangle icon in the upper left corner of the Table of Camera Model.



6.2.2 Choose **Visible columns**. Shift the list of all columns down and mark (make visible) the **Service columns > Photo file** column.



6.2.3 When filling the pattern in Excel (p. 2), enter the names of files with photos of the corresponding camera models to the Photo file column. Supported formats are *.bmp, *.jpg, *.png, *.gif, *.tiff. To prevent slowdown when redrawing large tables, use low-resolution files. The recommended resolution of photos is 200 * 200 pixels.

6.2.4 In p. 3.2, after selecting the **View**, make the Service **Columns> Photo file** column visible as in p. 6.2.2.

6.2.5 In p. 5.3 before opening the camera models ***.cdb** file, place the camera model photo files themselves in the same directory as the ***.cdb** file being opened.

6.2.6 After the photos are uploaded and you see them, save the database with photos to a ***.cdz** file by clicking the **Save** button in the **Data** panel at the bottom of the Table.



*The ***.cdz** format includes tables and photos, the ***.cdb** format includes only tables.*

Files of the ***.cdb** (without photos) and ***.cdz** (with photos) formats can be distributed among VideoCAD users. Users can upload these files to use the camera models contained in them (p. 5.1 ..5.3).

You can send us these files with parameters of your cameras for placing on our web site and included in the distribution kit.

In case of any questions, please write to **support@cctvcad.com**