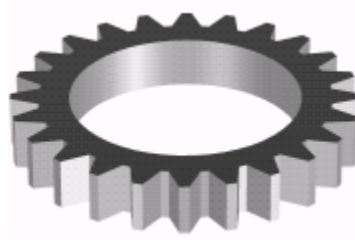


Starting INOVATE

To begin working with INOVATE as quickly as possible, follow the instructions in this chapter.



In this chapter:

- System requirements
- What you need to know to work with INOVATE
- Installation
- Starting INOVATE
- Navigating the system
- Exiting INOVATE
- Getting help and other information

System Requirements

To run INOVATE, you need the following:

- A Pentium® or faster CPU.
- Windows 2000, Windows 98, or Windows NT.
- 128 MB of RAM or higher preferred.
- 200 MB of hard disk space. (Typical installation will require 195 MB.)
- A 256 color VGA display. INOVATE works with display adapters that produce 24-bit color. OpenGL accelerator recommended.
- A CD-ROM drive.

What You Need to Know to Work with INOVATE

In the world of 3D design software, INOVATE is unusually clear and simple to operate. It isn't necessary to learn numerous abstract concepts or acquire diverse technical skills to work with INOVATE.

Of course, you need to be familiar with the graphic user interface for your version of Microsoft Windows. If you work with a word processor, spreadsheet or other mainstream application program, your knowledge of the user interface is probably sufficient to begin using INOVATE. However, if you're not accustomed to working with a mouse, windows, icons, and the other elements of a graphic environment, refer to the tutorial or reference manual for your operating system.

Installation

Installing INOVATE under Windows 2000, Windows 98, and Windows NT

Make sure no programs are running on your system. If you use an anti-virus program, disable (turn off or exit) it before beginning the INOVATE install process. You can re-enable the anti-virus and other programs after the INOVATE installation is complete.

Microsoft Windows NT 4.0 specific install notes:

1. You must have NT 4.0 Service Pack 3 or higher installed before installing INOVATE. Also, NT 4.0 service packs should be reinstalled after any application is installed, including INOVATE. NT 4.0 service packs are available at: <http://www.microsoft.com>.
2. You must login to Windows NT as Administrator to perform the INOVATE Installation.

Note

To conserve disk space, you can omit some catalogs from the installation process. Once you install INOVATE, you can access these catalogs directly from the CD-ROM.

To install INOVATE under Microsoft Windows 2000, Windows 98, and Windows NT:

1. Insert the INOVATE CD into your CD-ROM drive.

The InnovationSuite Setup dialog box is displayed automatically if your CD-ROM drive is set to auto-run. Select the icon for INOVATE, to begin the installation process.

If the Setup dialog box is not displayed, select the Start button on the Windows task bar and then select Run. In the Open field, enter the following command using the letter of your CD-ROM drive. For example: d:\ Initiator.exe.

2. Follow the installation instructions.

Starting INOVATE

As with installation, the procedure that you use for starting INOVATE is the same for Windows 2000, Windows 98, and Windows NT.

To start INOVATE under Windows 2000, Windows 98, and Windows NT:

1. On the Windows task bar, click the **Start** button.
2. On the task menu, select the **Programs** option.
3. On the Programs menu, select **InnovationSuite** to display a cascading menu.
4. From the cascading menu, select **INOVATE**.

The INOVATE opening screen appears.

After the INOVATE opening screen, a dialog box appears asking the user if they would like to register the product now. If the user decides not to register at this time, the product will run for 30 days after which time it will need to be registered to continue. If the user decides to register the product, a activation wizard will open to walk the user through the process of registering the product for the current machine. The serial number and codeword shipped with the product is used along with the users information to create a activation code that will be email back to the user. The registration process can be completed by sending information to IronCAD, LLC through the web or by fax.

INOVATE will start with a blue-grid scene, allowing the user to begin right away. If you wish to create a new scene, follow the instructions below.

To create a new scene:

1. Choose **Create a new Scene** to begin a new project.
2. Choose **OK**.

The **New** dialog box appears.

3. On the **New** dialog box, choose the scene tab that best fits the type of work you do, then select one of the scene templates.

If you're not sure which template type or scene template to choose, select the **Blank Scene** template from the **Workspace (English)** tab.

INOVATE displays a blank 3D scene. Now you're ready to begin working in INOVATE.

Navigating the System

Since you're familiar with Microsoft Windows, you already know how to use most elements of the INOVATE interface. Much of your work in INOVATE involves standard Windows techniques in its scene environment:

- **Drag-and-drop object placement.** Use this technique to build a part by choosing items from catalogs. You also can edit the components of a part or drawing view using the drag-and-drop method.
- **Pop-up menus.** Most elements of the INOVATE environment include pop-up menus of unique options. To display the pop-up menu for an item, right-click the item -- that is, click it once with the right mouse button.
- **Properties sheets.** Like pop-up menus, nearly all items in INOVATE have properties sheets. These dialog boxes facilitate such operations as customizing the features of a part in INOVATE. The properties sheet for an item is accessed through its pop-up menu.

The remainder of this section introduces the unique features of the INOVATE interface. Once you're familiar with the basic concepts and techniques in this section, you can move on to the next chapter and learn how to build a part.

The INOVATE Window

When you open an INOVATE scene, you see its associated main window and those components listed below that are associated with the scene environment:

- **3D Scene.** This is the workspace for 3D part design in the scene environment.
- **Menus.** INOVATE's default main menu bars provide access to most of the scene commands in INOVATE. INOVATE's menus are, however, fully customizable.
- **Toolbars.** INOVATE's default scene toolbars provide options for working with files, 2D and 3D graphics, drawing tools, and other important features of INOVATE. Like menus, INOVATE's toolbars can be customized, as desired.
- **Catalog.** Catalogs are available in the scene environment and are groups of related resources such as parts and surface finishes. To use catalog items in your part design projects, simply drag and drop their icons into the scene.
- **Scroll bar and navigation buttons.** Use the scroll bar to move through catalogs or to browse their contents.
- **Tabs.** To display a particular catalog, select its tab.
- **Status bar.** Use this space at the bottom of the window to view informative messages and tips about INOVATE. The right side of the status bar shows the current unit of measurement and the time.

Menus

Most of the default main menus follow conventions widely used in desktop software. For example, if you have more than one scene open, you can switch between them using the Window menu.

You can access detailed descriptions of all menu options in the **INOVATE On-line Help** system.

Note

The convention of right-clicking is used throughout INOVATE. In addition to revealing pop-up menus, you can use right-clicks to position or copy a part.

In addition to the main menu bar, many elements of INOVATE have **pop-up menus**. **Right-click** on the element to display a pop-up menu with commands related to the selected element.

Toolbars

The toolbars available in the INOVATE scene environment are:

- Standard• 3D Dimensions
- Selection• 2D Technical Drawing
- Text Format• 2D Constraints
- Camera• 2D Editing
- IntelliShape Creation• 2D Construction
- SmartPaint• Face/Edge Edit
- SmartMotions• Assembly
- Camera Picker• TEAMVAULT

You can choose the toolbars that appear in the INOVATE display.

To display a toolbar:

1. Choose **Toolbars** from the **View** menu or **right-click** on any currently displayed toolbar.
2. On the **Toolbars** dialog box or the drop-down menu, **check the box** beside the name of the toolbar you want to display.

To hide a toolbar, **clear its checked box**.

3. Choose **Close** in the dialog box.

Here are two of the toolbars in INOVATE: **IntelliShape Creation** and **Camera**.



IntelliShape Creation toolbar (Scene)



Camera toolbar (Scene)

INOVATE's toolbars will help you implement many scene functions easily and quickly.

Moving and Resizing a Toolbar

When you first start INOVATE, the toolbars may appear across the top, down the left side, and across the bottom of the workspace. They don't have to remain in these default locations, however. You can position them anywhere in the INOVATE window.

To move a toolbar, use the mouse to drag it to a new location.

Drag a toolbar by left-clicking its background between the available options and moving it to a new location. If you drop it near an edge of the INOVATE window, it appears as a horizontal or vertical strip. If you drop it over a sheet or scene, it appears as a palette that "floats" over the workspace.

To resize a floating toolbar, drag one of its corners.

Click and drag the corner to display an outline of the toolbar's new shape. Drop the toolbar when the desired shape is displayed.

Note

Move a toolbar anywhere in the INOVATE window.

Catalogs

The INOVATE scene environment includes the following default catalogs installed on your hard drive:

- **Shapes.** This catalog contains IntelliShapes, the building blocks for parts. Some IntelliShapes are basic 3D solids, such as blocks and spheres and some are holes for removing portions of solids.
- **Advanced Shapes.** This catalog contains IntelliShape primitives that allow the user to customize a shape's appearance by editing a set of variables.
- **Tools.** This catalog contains a set of parameterized IntelliShapes created using the OLE automation capabilities within INOVATE. They present the user with an input dialog for customization.
- **Animation.** This catalog contains motion effects to use to animate your parts.
- **Surfaces.** Obsidian, Rubber, and Shiny Blue are a few of the items in this catalog that can be dragged and dropped onto parts and shapes in the scene.
- **Textures.** Use a variety of textures, such as Marble, Chrome, or Wood to add realism to part surfaces or interest to the scene background.
- **Bumps.** The items in this catalog are used to add bump textures to surfaces of shapes or parts.
- **Colors.** This catalog provides surface colors to be added to shapes or parts.
- **Metals.** Use the items in this catalog to add metallic surfaces to shapes or parts.
- **Patterns.** The contents of this catalog are used to add patterns to the surface of shapes or parts.
- **Stone.** Add a stone finish to the surfaces of shapes and parts with items from this catalog.
- **Wood.** From this catalog you can add a wood finish to the surface of shapes and parts.
- **Fabric.** This catalog provides fabric surface finishes for shapes and parts.
- **Decals.** Use the items from this catalog to add decal images to part or shape surfaces.

Many other catalogs, including specialty catalogs, are available on the InnovationSuite CD-ROM.

You can work with the default catalogs installed on your hard drive or any supplementary catalogs available on the CD-ROM. The advantage of working with catalogs on the CD is that it saves hard disk space. Of course, when you want to access a catalog on the CD, the CD must be in your drive. If you work with a particular catalog frequently, you may want to copy its contents to your hard disk. You can reserve the CD for rarely-used items and experimentation.

Saving Your Work

When you're finished working in INOVATE, or ready to move on to another project, save your work. INOVATE stores all the scene components and all their associated properties in a single file.

To save new work in a file:

1. From the **File** menu, choose **Save As**.
INOVATE prompts you for the **name of a file**.
2. **Select the directory** where you want to save the file, if different from the directory that is displayed.

3. Enter a **descriptive title** for the file name and choose **Save**.

INOVATE saves your work in a file with this title. Unless you specify a different extension, INOVATE appends the extension **.ics** to a scene file.

The next time you save your work, choose **Save** from the **File** menu instead of **Save As**. INOVATE uses the existing name for the file. The only time you would use the **Save As** option with an existing file is to make a copy with a different name.

Exiting INOVATE

When you're finished working with INOVATE and have saved your work in a file, close the program and return to **Windows**.

To exit INOVATE, choose Exit from the File menu.

You will return to **Microsoft Windows**.

Getting Help and Other Information

When you have a question regarding INOVATE, there are a number of resources available for answers. Read the remainder of the **Getting Started Guide** for examples that introduce some of the most important features of INOVATE. In addition, the **INOVATE On-line Help** system contains thorough, task-oriented descriptions of nearly every INOVATE feature.

Note

Use Tooltips to view the label for a button on a toolbar.

Tooltips

In addition to the manuals, INOVATE itself offers on-line help in several forms. For instance, if you aren't sure about the functionality of a toolbar option, you can find out very quickly.

To display the name of a particular tool, point to it.

INOVATE displays a **Tooltip**, a small box with the name of the tool. If you'd rather not display Tooltips, it's easy to disable them.

To disable Tooltips display:

1. From the **View** Menu, select **Toolbars**.
2. On the Toolbars dialog box, clear the **Show Tooltips** box, then choose **OK**.

The Help Tool

It's easy to get information about other elements of the INOVATE environment, as well.

To display information about a feature in the INOVATE window, click the Help tool, then click the feature.

INOVATE opens its on-line help system and displays the requested information.

Browsing the Help System

For information on INOVATE concepts and tasks, refer to the **On-line Help** system.

To view a list of Help topics, select INOVATE Help from the Help menu.

INOVATE displays a tri-pane window with **Contents**, **Index**, and **Search** tabs for its Help system displayed on the left and the INOVATE **Welcome** screen on the right. **Click** on the icon to the left of a topic on the **Welcome** screen or on a topic in the **Contents** for information on it.



If you don't see the topic you want in the **Contents** or on the **Welcome** screen, look for it by name by clicking the **Index** tab to display a complete listing of topics and subtopics. Or click the **Search** tab to define search criteria for locating a topic.

INOVATE Technical Support

For questions about technical support options, please contact your authorized your authorized Channel Partner or IRONCAD, LLC.

INOVATE Web Site

Visit INOVATE's web site at **www.ironcad.com** for up-to-the-minute information about INOVATE. Our web site is frequently updated with the latest product and support information.

