

Low-Cost CAD: Five Professional Options		
	Bricscad v12 Pro	GstarCAD Professional 2012
Company	Bricsys	Suzhou Gstarsoft
Web site	www.bricsys.com	www.gstarcadsoft.com
Phone	603.882.5876	505.730.1651
MSRP (\$US)	\$505	\$520
Available discounts	10% discount for five-pack. High-volume licenses are negotiable.	3–4 seats 5% discount, 5–9 10%, 10–19 15%, 20+ 20%
Date of next release	October 2012	January 2013
Applications	General, or specialized using any of 260+ third-party applications.	General, or specialized with CAD plug-ins.
DWG compatibility	Reads/writes native DWG files compatible with AutoCAD R9–2012.	Fully DWG/DXF compatible through AutoCAD 2012.
Recommended system requirements	Intel Pentium III 1-Ghz processor or compatible; 1 GB RAM; 250 MB hard drive for program files, 1 GB disk space.	Intel Pentium (or faster) processor; more than 1 GB RAM; more than 1 GB hard drive..
OS support	Windows XP/Vista/7; and LINUX.	Windows XP/Vista/7.
LISP, VBA, ARX, .Net support	LISP, DCL, DIESEL, VBA, COM, BRX, TX, .NET.	LISP, VBA, ARX.
Plug-ins, companion apps, mobile apps	EBridge (connects Bricscad to Vondle for CAD collaboration), Chapoo (cloud-based viewer).	CadProfi, AutoXLSTable, Mech-q.
Notable features, 3D functionality	3D direct modeling in fully rendered mode, 2D and 3D constraint technology, design intent detection, dynamic 2D sections on 3D models, GIS functionality.	Fully AutoCAD compatible, includes familiar AutoCAD interface commands, 3D view/edit (Pro version only).
Technical support, Help, and available books and training	Technical support available online through Bricsys Meeting Point, user forums, and a support request system. 2,000+ pages of included technical support and developer reference. Three books available by author Ralph Grabowski.	One year technical support plus online forums available.
Trial version	30-day free trial, includes e-mail support.	30-day free trial.

IronCAD DRAFT 2012 vs. progeCAD 2011 Professional vs. TurboCAD LTE Pro v4		
IronCAD DRAFT 2012	progeCAD 2011 Professional	TurboCAD LTE Pro v4
IronCAD	progeCAD USA	IMSI/Design
www.ironcad.com	www.progecad.us	www.turbocad.com
800.339.7304	800.975.4223	800.833.8082
\$595	\$399	\$499.99
Contact reseller for details.	3+ seats 5% discount, 5+ 10%, 10+ 15%, 20+ 20%.	Reseller, distributor, educational, multiseat corporate.
September 2013 (tentative)	Summer 2012	September 2012
MCAD and general.	General, AEC, MCAD.	General, AEC, MCAD, civil engineering.
Import/export (save as) DWG for Release 12–2012.	DWG support for AutoCAD R2.5 through 2012.	DWG support through AutoCAD 2012.
Intel Pentium 4 or higher or current AMD processor; 2 GB to 8 GB RAM for very large 3D assembly work; CAD-recommended graphics card (mainly for 3D); 1 GB disk space.	Intel Pentium Dual Core 1.8 GHz or more powerful processor. 2–4 GB RAM for large drawings/3D. 1 GB free disk space.	1 GB RAM, 300 MB free disk space; Redway Redsdk supported GPU.
Windows 7 (32- and 64-bit supported). Windows Home Editions are not supported.	Windows XP/Vista/7 (32- and 64-bit).	Windows XP/Vista/7.
CRX (similar to ARX).	AutoLISP, VBA using progeCAD Object Model, SDS (similar to AutoCAD's ADS), Object ARX–type clone expected with version 2012.	.NET, VBA support via SDK; Ruby scripting support.
IRONCAD Translator Pack supports native import of 3D formats.	Line of Civil Survey, AEC Building Services, plus productivity utilities.	Companion apps: pdf2cad; TurboCalc.
Full production-level 2D with ability to use 3D data. Import and assemble 3D data and leverage in the 2D environment to detail or use as a reference. Fully associative to the 3D, where changes in 3D update in the 2D environment. 3D included for assembly, interrogation, measurement, rendering, animation, and design sharing (for reuse).	Google Earth import, PDF to DWG; import Adobe Acrobat PDF documents complete with drawing intelligence. ICADLib Block Manager complete with TraceParts block library of more than 1 million blocks. EasyArch automated 2D building tool plug-in for architects. Includes 3D, surface modeling, and solid modeling support.	Drafting palette (enables associative 2D cross-sections from 3D models); full set of intelligent architectural objects, all AutoCAD Architecture compatible; Parametric Parts Manager; CAD and graphics file compatibility (support for more than 20 file formats); geometric and dimensional constraints; PDF underlay support; Drawing Compare utility; integrated File Converter utility; Hatch Pattern Creator; familiar AutoCAD interface, menu structure and Command line.
“Getting Started Guide,” online Learning Center, and one-year comprehensive product support services (e-mail and phone support plus community web site access) included. Books and training available.	30 days of free help desk support plus downloadable user manuals and 2D/3D tutorial videos by daily e-mail. Free “Inside progeCAD” tutorial for new users, by Ralph Grabowski.	Integrated PDF and online Help systems; “Training for TurboCAD LTE & LTE Pro” downloadable PDF plus practice exercises (\$29.99).
30-day free trial.	30-day, fully functioning free trial.	Free trial.