

MapInfo Pro / ArcGIS – Operational Reference

This document provides a reference of common MapInfo Professional operations and the ArcGIS equivalent. Not all operations are presented. In many cases additional approaches to perform similar tasks are available but not presented. This document is valid for MapInfo Version 12.0 and ArcGIS version 10.2.



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MapInfo Menu/Option/Term = ArcGIS Operation/Option/Term




Terminology

- **Workspace** = Map Document.
- **Table (generic MI term for map vectors, raster and other data)** = Feature Class (for vectors points, lines and polygons), Feature Dataset (group of related Feature Class's), Table (database data, may be MS Access, Dbase, Excel, etc.), Raster (image or gridded data).
- **Layer Control** = Table of Contents.
- **Map Window** = Data View.
- **Layout Window** = Layout View.
- **Browser Window** = Open Attribute Table (accessed via Right –Click layer in Table of Contents).

Menus

- **File>Open>Table** = File>Add Data>Add Data or Add Data Button . Used to open (Datasets, Layers and Results) which include shape files, stored in geodatabase, raster images, MS Access Tables, Excel files, etc. When opening MS Excel spreadsheet structure as you would for MapInfo (data in columns with 1st row field names), or “select” Cells in Ecel and reference via a “Name”. Opens as data file can then Geocode, Display X/Y data, Export, view, etc.
- **File>Open>Workspace** = File>Open or Open Button . A MapInfo Workspace (*.wor) is equivalent to an ArcGIS Map Document (*.mxd). General properties of a Map Document can be controlled via File>Map Document Properties.
- **File>Tile Server Maps>Add Bing...Map** = File>Add Data>Add Basemap. Can choose from multiple basemap themes available via ArcGIS online.
- **File>Close All** = File>New. Choose Blank Map.
- **File>Save Copy As...** = Right-click (or Dbl-click) layer in “Table of Contents” window and select Data>Export Data...
- **File>Print to PDF...** = File>Export Map... Supports georeferenced, layered and attributed .pdf documents. Export Map also supports other formats including georeferenced images.

- **Tools>Tool Manager...** = Customize>Toolbars to add desired tool bars, or Customize> Customize Mode to add toolbars or individual tools to an existing toolbar.
- **Objects Menu Options** = Many options provided via the “Editor” toolbar (load through Customize>Toolbars if not visible). Editor > Start Editing > Select Target Layer (using Edit tool ) and... perform task provided via the Editor menu or tool buttons.
- **Objects> Buffer** = Several options here. 1.). Editor > Start Editing > Select Target Layer (using Edit tool ) > and Editor>Buffer. 2. Geoprocessing>ArcToolBox>Analysis Tools>Proximity> Buffer (or Multi Ring Buffer). This approach creates a new feature class (shape file), and can read a field. It also can perform a “dissolve” thus merging overlapping buffers. Multi-ring buffers can differ in distance.
- **Query>Select>** = Selection><Select by Attributes> offers ability to “Get Unique Values”. Results can be worked with via options from the Selection Menu or via a Right click layer in “Table of Contents” window and selecting Selection.
- **Query>SQL Select** = This MapInfo options performs a variety of tasks. To select based on a spatial condition choose <Selection><Select by Location> to perform spatial related queries. To achieve the results of “joining” layers/tables, Right click layer in “Table of Contents” window and select Joins and Relates>Join... Other options include GeoProcessing>ArcToolBox>Analysis Tools>Overlay>Spatial Join.
- **Query>Find...** = Use Find Button  .
- **Table>Update Column...** = Various options. 1. Within Table view (see Window>New Browser Window..> discussed below) Right-Click on field and choose “Field Calculator” or “Calculate Geometry” or 2. GeoProcessing>ArcToolBox> Data Management> Fields> Calculate Field. (Can use VBA syntax such as Val(xxx), Right\$(xxx), etc.) Note: if you are NOT within an “Edit Session” you cannot revert the results however the process will complete faster. You must be within an “Edit” session inorder to undo the results of Calculate Field updates. The Field Calculator uses standard VBA syntax.
- **Table>Append Rows to Table...** = Use GeoProcessing>ArcToolBox> Data Management Tools>General> Append or Merge.
- **Table>Geocode...** = Use File>Geocoding or various tools in GeoProcessing>ArcToolBox>Geocoding Tools.
- **Table>Create Points...** = Use File>Add Data...>Add XY Data...
- **Table>Combine Objects Using Column...** = Right-click (or Dbl-click) layer in “Table of Contents” window and select Joins and Relates>Join...
- **Table>Export...** = Right-click (or Dbl-click) layer in “Table of Contents” window and select Data>Export Data...
- **Table>Maintenance>Table Structure...** = Various options. 1. Use ArcCatalog, Right-click on layer select properties and edit via “Fields” Tab. 2. GeoProcessing>ArcToolBox> Data Management> Fields> various options.

- **<Table><Maintenance><Rename Table>** = ArcCatalog > Right-click of file>rename.
- **Table>Raster>Adjust Image Styles...>** = Right click layer in “Table of Contents” window and from Properties Tabs use Symbology and/or Display.
- **Options>Toolbars...** = Customize>Toolbars.
- **Options>Preferences...>** = Customize>ArcMap Options.
- **Map>Layer Control** = Window>Table of Contents or  . Right-Click on layer, select properties to define display, label, and other properties.
- **Map>Create Thematic Map** = Right-Click (or Dbl-click) layer in Table of Contents and use Properties>Symbology Tab.
- **Map> View Entire Layer/All Layers** = Right-Click (or Dbl-click) layer in Table of Contents and “Zoom to Layer” or use View Extent Button  to view “All Layers.”
- **Map>Options...** = Right-Click (or Dbl-click) “Layers” (top level listed by Source) to control Data Frame Properties.
- **Window>New Browser Window...** = Right Click on layer in Table of Contents and Open Attribute Table. Can arrange fields in Layer Properties of Table of Contents.
- **Window<New Map Window = Insert>Data Frame<**. Switch between frames via Table of Contents.
- **Window>New Layout Window...** = View>Layout View. Only one Layout View per Map Document. Layout windows are “Active” and can be controlled just like the Data View (Map Window). To change default template use “Change Layout”  Button from Layout Toolbar. Custom templates can be created by starting with an empty Map Document, modify Layout view adding text and desired layout components. Save Map Document in C:\Users\...\Documents\ArcGIS\ProjectTemplates. Open document to use template.


Common Tools and Tasks

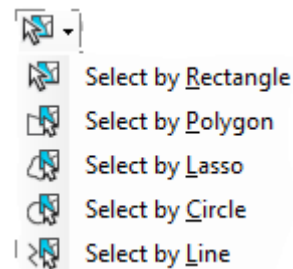
- **Cosmetic Layer** = “Graphics” layer. Add objects via “Draw” tool bar. Also used to manage Annotations. Object styles are controlled via the Drawing>Default Symbol Properties... option.



- **Select Tools**  = Feature Class tools:

ArcGIS does not provide a “Boundary Select” tool. To emulate draw a region on Graphics Layer. Select it and Selection>Select by Graphic> or use Selection>Select by Location...

Select non-feature class objects (such as graphics)

using: 



- **Add Frame to Layout Window** = Drag & Drop map from Table of Contents.
- **File>Save Copy As... >Selection...**= Select objects using any method. = Right-Click layer in Table of Contents>Data>Export Data> Selected Features.
- **Register Raster Image** = Use Georeferencing Toolbar (Customize>Toolbars). Image registration is much more comprehensive (and thus more complex) than tools offered with MapInfo.
- **Display Area or Length of an object** = Use interactive capabilities of “Measure” tool . Or in Data View (Browser), add new field, and Calculate Geometry.
- **Labels** = By default uses first attribute titled “Name” or first character field. Right-Click layer in Table of Contents and adjust settings via “Labels” Tab. Data frame >Reference Scale>Set Reference Scale to have Labels Scalable and act as Annotation. Reference Scale sets the scale where the font size is at its defined size. Can change this scale for saved annotation. Can also be placed with the Label Tool . Additional control and options via Customize>Toolbars>Labeling.
- **To Add a Tool to the tool bar** (such as Label tool), Do: Customize>Tool Bars> to expose all available Tool Bars, or for individual tools, do Customize Customize>Customize Mode, using “Commands” Tab, Find the desired Category (i.e. “Label”), then Drag and Drop desired tools to any Toolbar.

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