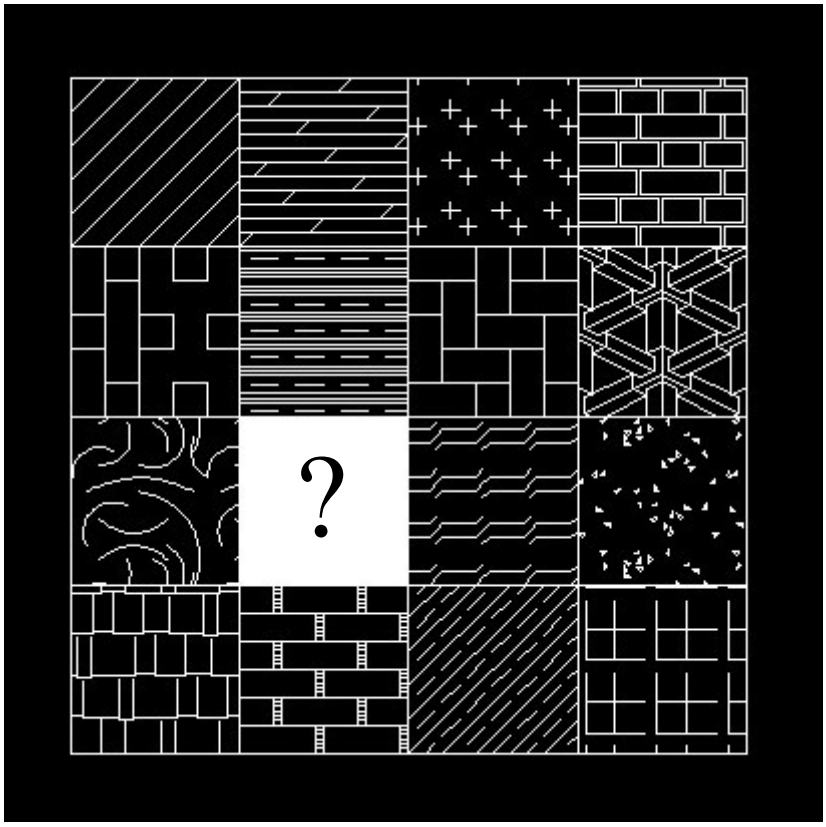
TUTORIAL

Creating customized hatches using LibreCAD



Tutorial by Claudio Guarnieri

Introduction

Hi everyone, in this SHORT tutorial I'll try to explain how to increase the number of hatches we have on Librecad. In this tutorial I used the version 2 beta5 of LibreCAD.

Well, I hope this tutorial will be easy to understand and – most important – that it will be helpful.

...so... stay tuned and have fun!

Claudio Guarnieri

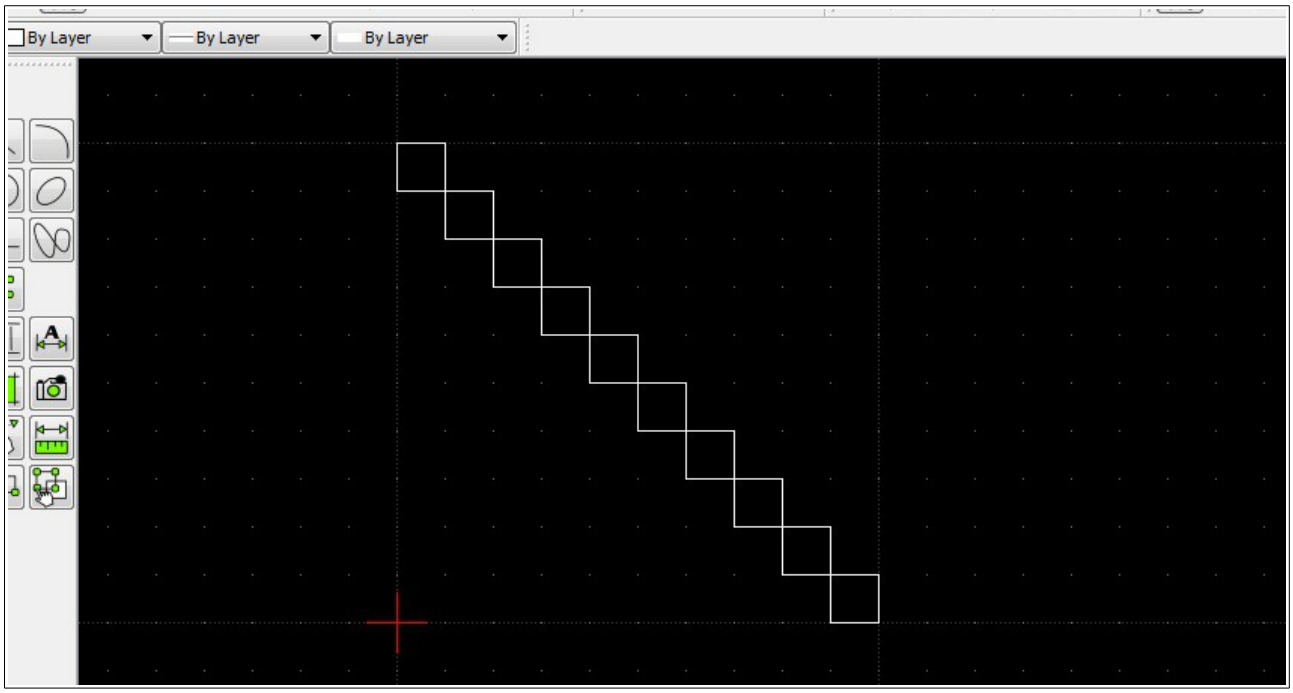
Getting started

Well, first, please allow me to spend some words about hatches. Hatches are drawings made in order to fill borders and contours. In many other programs they are in my opinion really difficult to be created. Sometimes to create new hatches we need to install software made purposely to create hatches, or you need to compile some strange text files, if you don't believe me take a look on the internet... Using LibreCAD instead, allow us to solve the problem, because the format file of the hatches is the same format of the drawings, the DXF format! So all we need is a clear idea of the kind of hatch we are about to create, we do not need anything else!
Now, the first thing we have to do is turn on the computer and to run LibreCAD. Fine, at this point we are now already close to the end of tutorial!
First we have to consider that:

- We do not need to set layer colors;
- We do not need to set layer thickness;
- We just need to know the hatches location folder;
- Fantasy beside LibreCAD is the only thing we need!

Let's take a look around

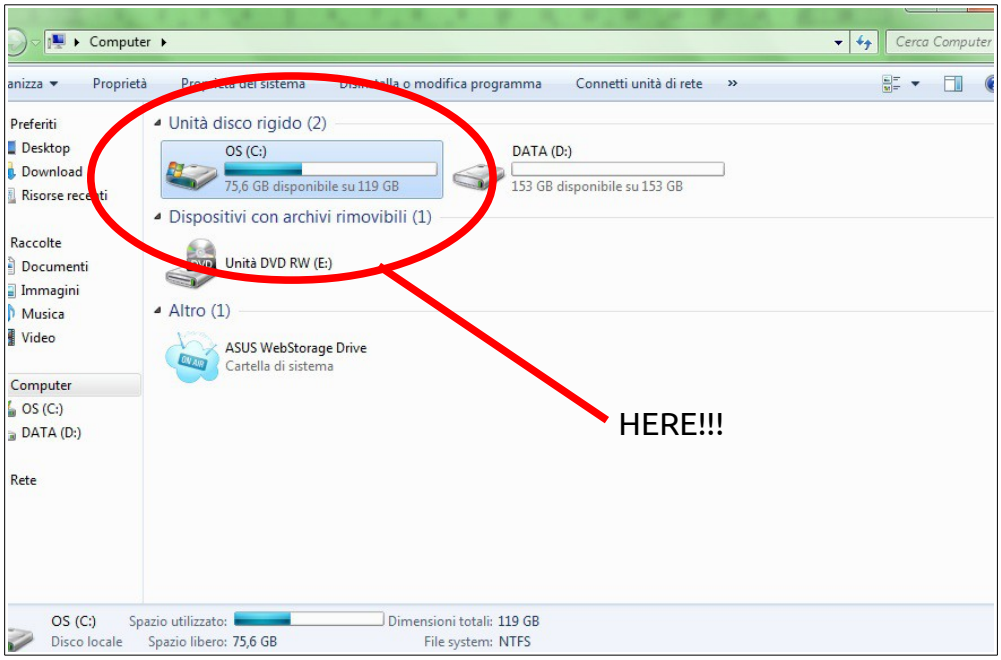
Well friends, finally we can start... Ready? Then... Go! Let's suppose we have already an Idea, look down:



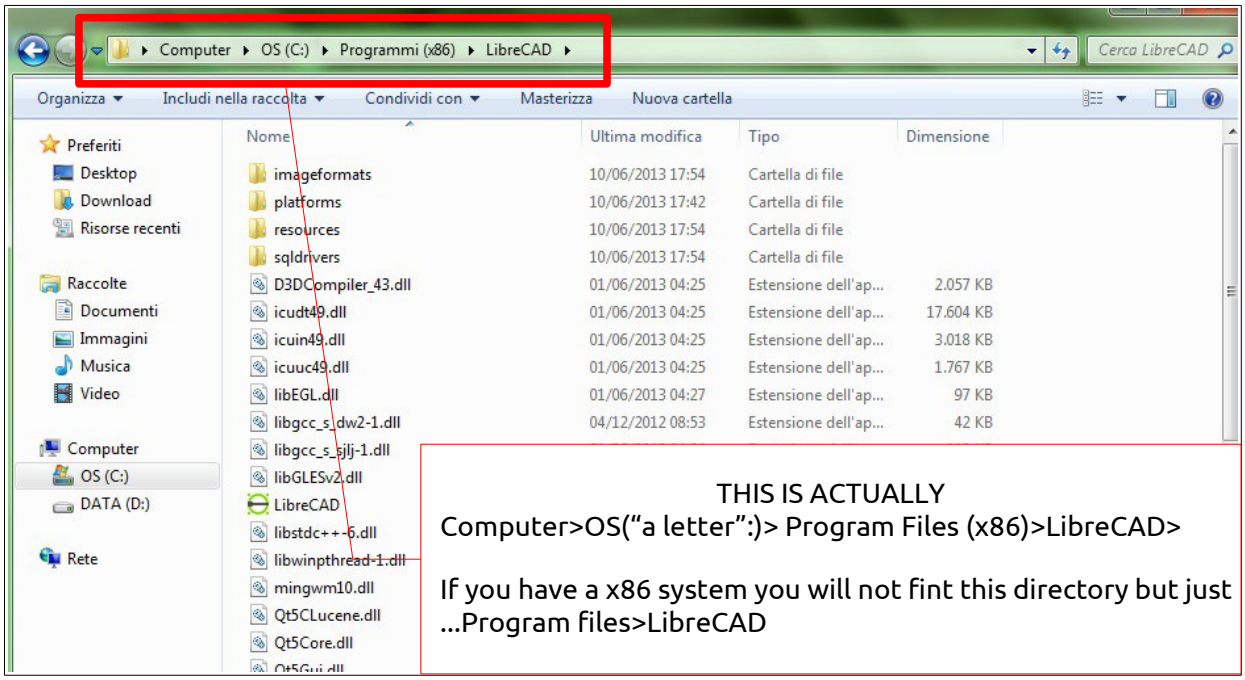
This hatch is made creating 10 units squares and connect the bottom down point of one square to the top left point of the next square.
I am running under Windows 7 (64bit), then after I created this hatch, I saved it with the

name “odd.dxf” into the desktop, then I close Librecad.
Now, depending on your system, you have to browse your hard drive and find the LibreCAD folder.
One of the many LibreCAD's upside is that is a software that runs under many Operating Systems, so if you are using an open source O.S. probably you have already understood; but If you are operating under windows and you do not know exactly where this directory is, then follow those instructions:

1. click on your HD icon (in the picture is C: but you might have another letter)

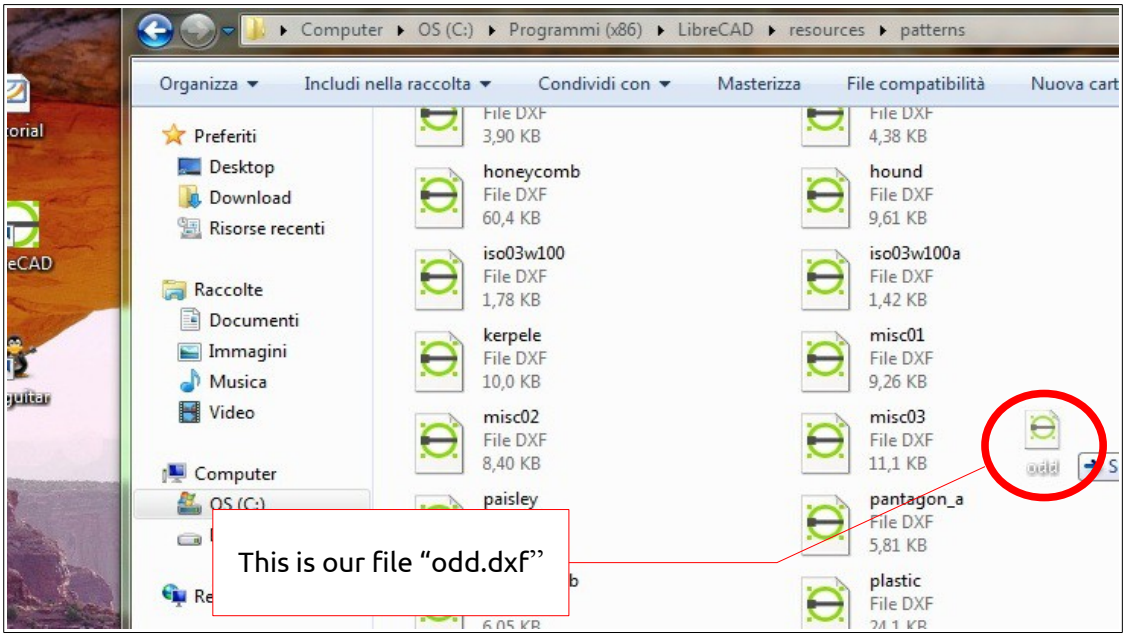


2. Then you need to go here:

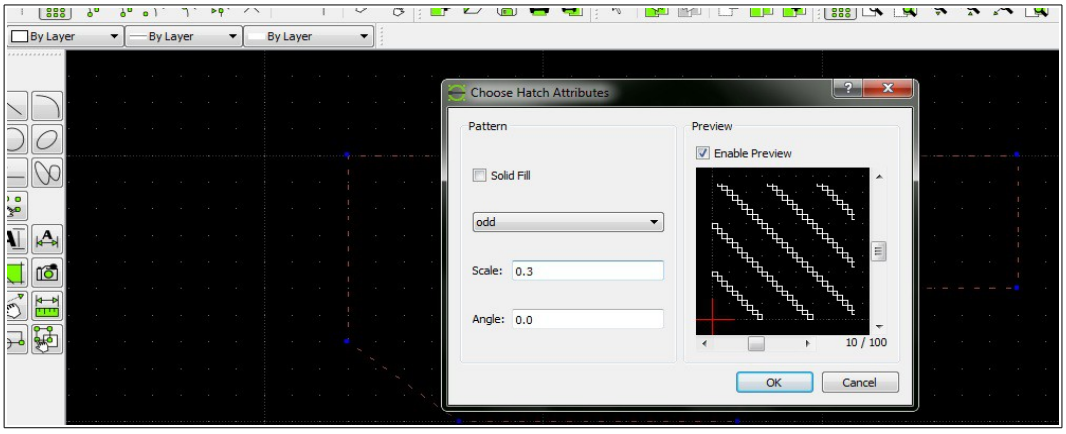


3. Now here you need to move into the folder “resources>patterns” because here we are going to put our file odd.dxf!

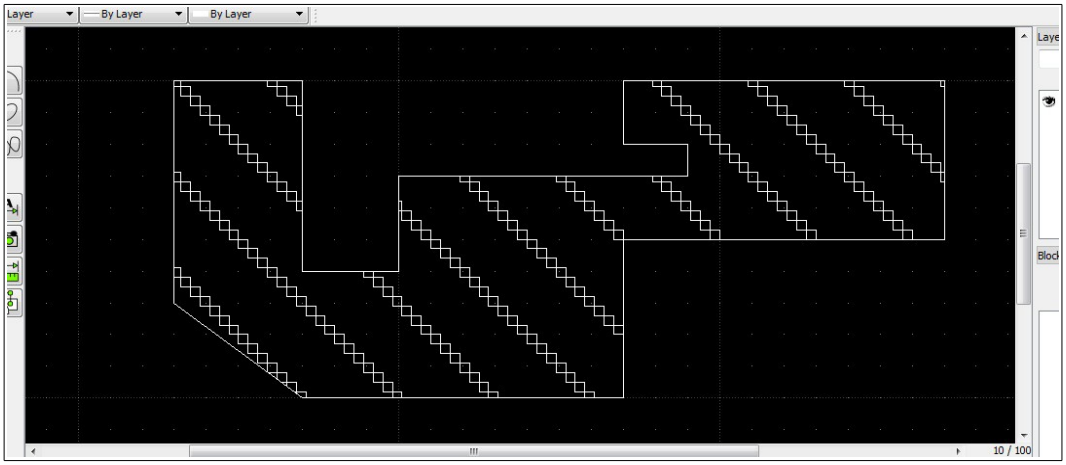
4. Now move the file “odd.dxf” into the pattern folder



5. Finally just run Librecad, and verify if the hatch is working



6. And here the final result!



...so we have added a new hatch to our nice program!!!

Updatings

As you know, LibreCAD is a software mantained by a community, and I have been Informed by the forum user ***cantcode*** about something. Here the updatings:

1. on linux O.S. you should copy your hatch to: /usr/share/librecad/patterns/ but in order to do that you have to be superuser, so on Ubuntu you should operate from the Terminal. Open the terminal pressing ctrl+alt+t; then you could use a command like this (you have to change the path of your self-made hatch): sudo cp /pathToYourSelfMadeHatch/myhatch.dxf /usr/share/librecad/patterns/ and you could copy the hatch that you created!

2. If you cannot see the hatch be sure that "Draft mode" is disabled like told here: http://forum.librecad.org/No-Hatch-tp4738032p4738765.html by R. van Twisk

3. If your hatch does not show up, try to change the "Scale" in the "Choose Hatch Attributes" window.
   "There is a fix limit in LC to avoid huge memory and time consumption.
   This limit is 100 in both directions. That means your pattern fits in Y direction more than 100 times and is therefore abandoned. " As told by LordOfBikes
   http://forum.librecad.org/bugs-problems-when-using-selfmade-hatches-tp5708894p5708911.html

Conclusions

Through this tutorial you'll be able to create new hatches for LibreCAD, in order to cope with unexpected situations that require particular hatches that may not be present by default, in this way you will also be able to customize your works.
You probably will have try more than once before get results during the creation and moving phases, but at the end the work rewards back!
And finally for this updated version I would like to say thanks to cantcode, R. van Twisk and LordOfBikes.
Bye!!!
Claudio

"If you have an apple and I have an apple and we exchange these apples then you and I will still each have one apple. But if you have an idea and I have an idea and we exchange these ideas, then each of us will have two ideas."
George Bernard Shaw