

Grouping parts in a parts list

This Tech Tip looks at how you can group certain parts in the parts list and then sort the features based on the new groups.

When you build an assembly, it evolves as you build your parts to place into it, but when you come to build your 2D parts list, you find that parts would read better if similar parts could be positioned together, rather than its position in the assembly (or sub-assembly). This article shows how you can group and order your parts based on type.

In this example, you will notice that the Panes (01-05) are not in the correct order and that the cut lengths on the tubes are not sorted.

We can obviously sort this by File Name and Cut Length, but this then places the panes at the bottom of the list and the requirement is for them to be placed at the top. What can we do?

Item Number	File Name (no extension)	Cut Length	Quantity
1	Pane 01		1
2	Pane 05		1
3	Handrail support		5
4	Pane 02		2
5	Pane 03		2
6	Pane 04		1
7	75 DIAM STAND-OFF		23
8	4.83x2.9 AL Tube	1973.768 mm	1
9	4.83x2.9 AL Tube	1194.726 mm	1
10	4.83x2.9 AL Tube	2639.894 mm	1
11	4.83x2.9 AL Tube	1061.930 mm	1
12	4.83x2.9 AL Tube	1085.700 mm	1
13	4.83x2.9 AL Tube	2284.431 mm	1
14	4.83x2.9 AL Tube	1027.575 mm	1
15	4.83x2.9 AL Tube	1237.280 mm	1
16	4.83x2.9 AL Tube	1788.061 mm	1
17	4.83x2.9 AL Tube	947.432 mm	1
18	4.83x2.9 AL Tube	11834.241 mm	2
19	4.83x2.9 AL Tube	1755.304 mm	1
20	M0326.4.8		34
21	4.83x2.9 AL Tube	709.85 mm	1
22	4.83x2.9 AL Tube	1807.975 mm	1

The way to group certain parts is to use the parts list group tab.

Step 1

In the Columns tab of the Parts List properties, click on the "User Defined" property and click Add Column.

Use the Move Up button to move the new column to the top of the list.

Under Column Header for the new column, enter Type.

Click the option shown below so the name is not repeated.

Step 2

Click on the data tab.

Type a value in the Type field that describes your group. Select the value and copy and paste it into the type field for other items that are classified under the same group.

24	Pane	1	Pane 01
25		4	Pane 02
26		5	Pane 03
27		6	Pane 04
28		2	Pane 05

You can use Shift+Click to select multiple sequential rows or Ctrl+Click to add individual rows to select multiple rows and paste into all at once.

Repeat this process for other group names.

Step 3

Click on the Groups tab of the Properties dialog box.

Enable the table groups option (see below) and ensure the "Group By" is set to your new column (Type in this example).

Enable table groups Group by: Type

Table groups _____

In the Table Groups panel, enter a name for your groups and type the value you typed into your data tab (step 2). In the subsequent rows, repeat for the other groups that were added.

Table groups _____

Name	Value	Sort group by	Ascending order	Group header
Panes	Pane		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rails	Rail		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Step 4 (optional)

In the options tab, click the Renumber items according to the sort order:

Renumber items/balloons according to sort order

Click OK to close the Properties dialog box.

Type	Item Number	File Name (no extension)	Cut Length	Quantity
Pane	1	Pane 01		1
	2	Pane 02		2
	3	Pane 03		2
	4	Pane 04		1
	5	Pane 05		1
Rail	6	483x2.9 Al Tube	(1834.241 mm)	2
	7	483x2.9 Al Tube	(783.061 mm)	1
	8	483x2.9 Al Tube	(807.975 mm)	1
	9	483x2.9 Al Tube	70.985 mm	1
	10	483x2.9 Al Tube	106.761 mm	1
	11	483x2.9 Al Tube	114.013 mm	1
	12	483x2.9 Al Tube	94.7432 mm	1
	13	483x2.9 Al Tube	102.7575 mm	1
	14	483x2.9 Al Tube	106.1930 mm	1
	15	483x2.9 Al Tube	1085.700 mm	1
	16	483x2.9 Al Tube	1194.726 mm	1
	17	483x2.9 Al Tube	1237.280 mm	1
	18	483x2.9 Al Tube	1755.304 mm	1
	19	483x2.9 Al Tube	1973.768 mm	1
	20	483x2.9 Al Tube	2055.774 mm	1
	21	483x2.9 Al Tube	2284.431 mm	1
	22	483x2.9 Al Tube	2419.134 mm	1
	23	483x2.9 Al Tube	2639.894 mm	1
	Handrail	24	Handrail support	
25		Handrail support - 48.5		15
Connector	26	75 DIAM STAND-OFF		23