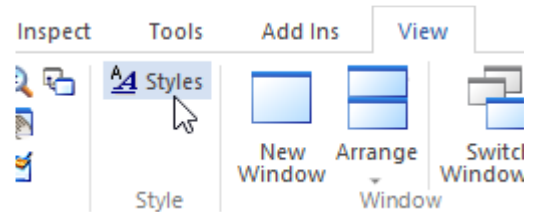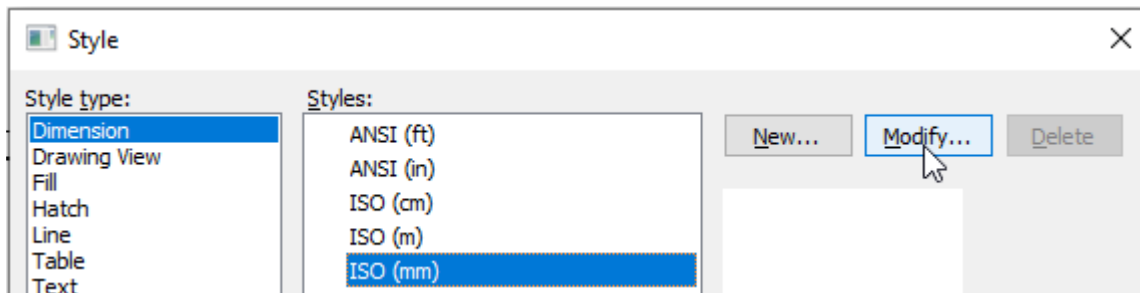# Getting the most from Callouts

This Tech Tip looks at how you can customise your template to have pre-defined hole callouts for the different types of holes you may commonly use, such as plain, threaded or counterbored holes.

Callouts are a great way to label holes, but having to open the properties box and reset it each time can be time consuming. There are tools within the settings that can help with this too.

The best way to get it all set up properly is to open the draft template file (so that it is available for all new drawings) to set it up from there. Once in the draft file, open the Styles option from the View tab to make sure that your settings are as you want them.
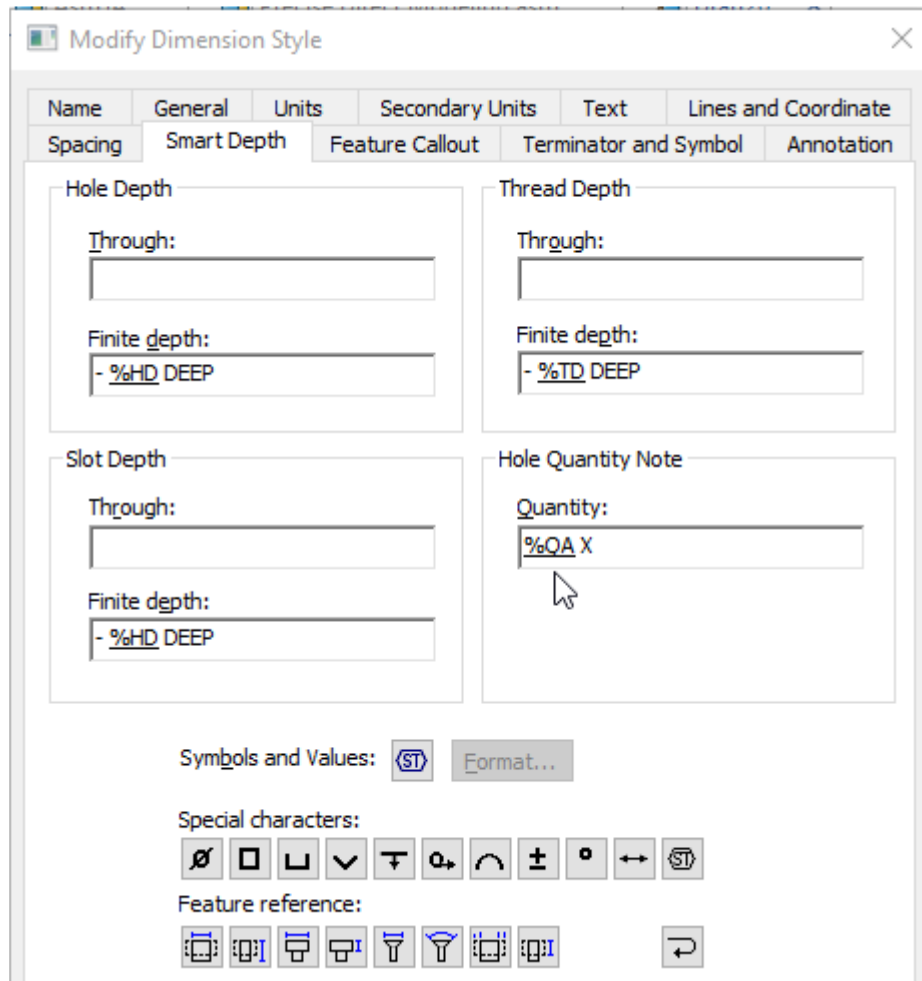
Select the Dimension Style Type on the left and Select the Style that you use most (ie ISO (mm)) and click the Modify button.

There are 2 tabs in here that allow you to set the formatting of your hole callout text – Smart Depth and Feature Control. Looking at the Feature control first, you will see that there are setting for each type of hole. At the bottom of the dialog box you will notice the icons that you can use to set your code formats for the display (if you hover over the icon, it will show the code that it uses). There is one abbreviation that is not displayed here and that is for the number of holes (%QN), which would need to be entered manually to the text box.

For example, the default formula for the simple hole is Diameter (%DI), Hole Size (%HS), and smart depth (%ZH – see below, which is defined in the Smart Depth tab). If you wish to specify a quantity, then prefix the list with %QN to give the following - %QN %DI %HS %ZH, which would display something like 2 x Ø8 – 12 DP.
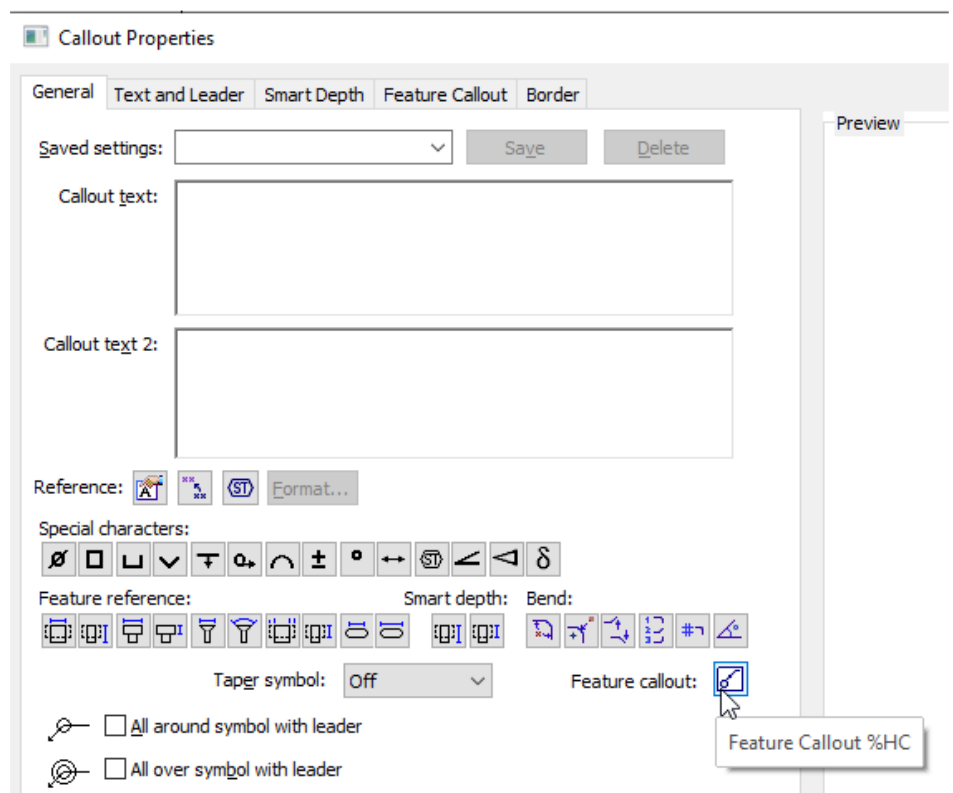
Once you have configured your formulae, click on the Smart Depth tab to specify values for how the depth will be displayed if you selected the Smart Depth (%ZH) from above and you can also set the Quantity. For the Quantity, use %QC for all holes of the same size that are coplanar with each other, %QP for all holes that are parallel with each (holes of the same size but not on the same plane – ie one on an higher face) or %QA for all holes of the same size and style..

Once you have set up all of these formulae, click OK and then close the styles dialog box.
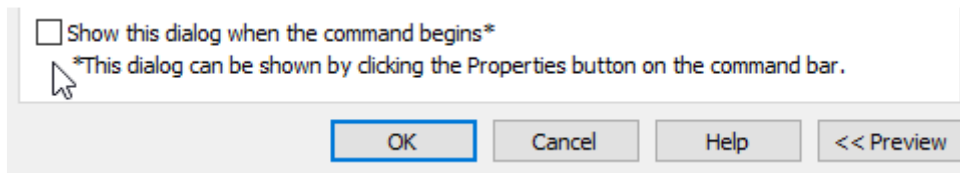
Now click on the Callout command and select properties if they don't automatically display. Click the Feature Callout button to display %HC in the Callout Text box.

Enter a name in the Saved Settings box (such as Hole Callout) and click save.

If you have other typical Callouts that you use, place the text you want in the callout box and enter a new name in the Saved Settings box and click save again.

At the bottom of the Callout Properties box, turn off the "show dialog when the command begins" option.

Click OK. Save and close the draft template.

Usage

For any new drawing, if you want to place a hole callout, click the Callout command (the properties will not now display) and click the properties drop down to set the Hole Callout option. This will work for any hole type.