



PADS® Library Converter User's Guide

PADS 9.4

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Chapter 1

Converting Libraries

PADS Parts Library Conversion Program Dialog Box

Use this dialog box to convert previous version libraries to the current version required by the PADS software. This process doesn't overwrite your previous versions, but creates a second updated copy in the new format. You can archive your older versions.

Accessing

- **Start > Programs > Mentor Graphics SDD > [latest PADS release] > Library Converter**

Alternative: To start the library converter, double-click **libconv9.exe** in the `C:\MentorGraphics\<latest_release>PADS\SDD_HOME\Programs` folder.

Figure 1-1. PADS Parts Library Conversion Program Dialog Box

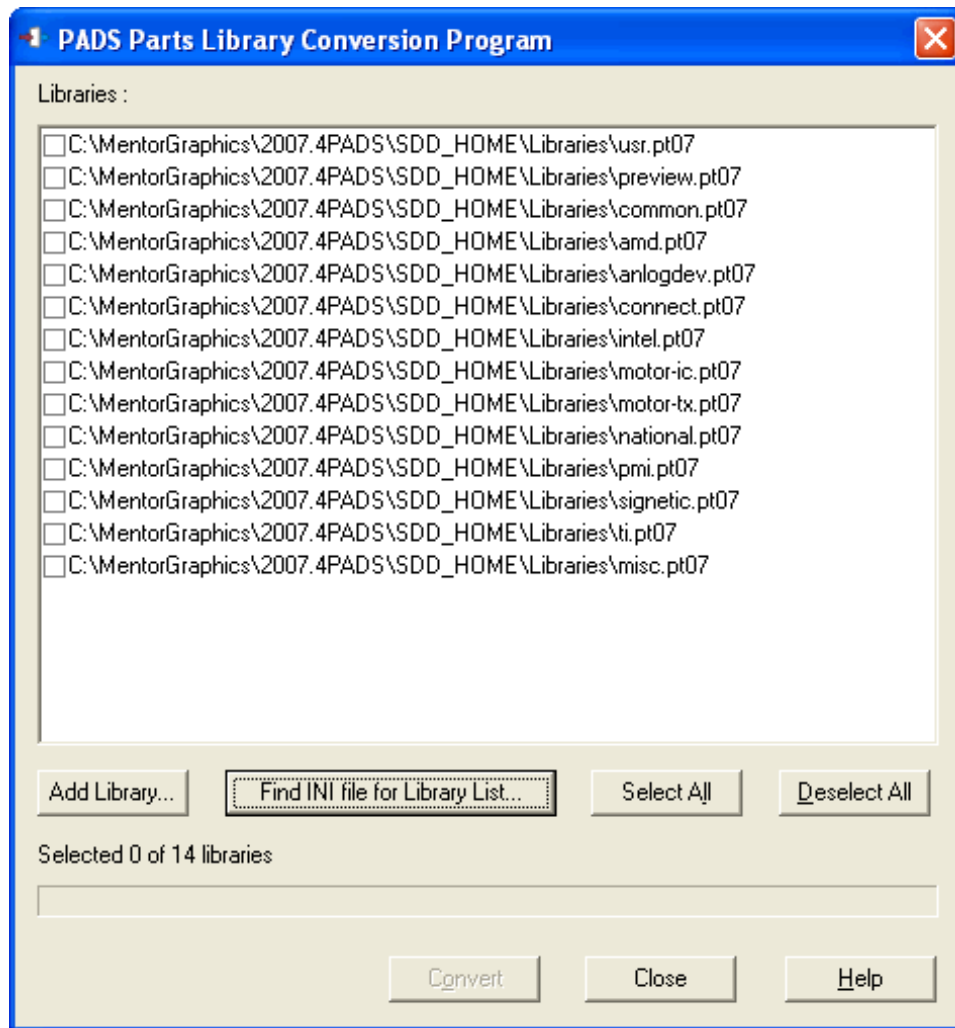


Table 1-1. Library Conversion Program Dialog Contents

Name	Description
Add Library	Click this button to load single libraries into the converter. You can load more than one library, by selecting multiple libraries in the file system browse window, or by clicking the Add Library button again.
Find INI file for Library List	Click this button to locate the .ini file for your previous version of Logic or Layout to load all those libraries into the converter. This is faster than using the Add Library button if you source libraries from different folders. Even after you load all the libraries as listed in your .ini file, you are still able to choose which libraries are converted.

Table 1-1. Library Conversion Program Dialog Contents

Name	Description
Select All/Deselect All	Use these buttons to quickly select or deselect all the check boxes for the libraries loaded into the converter. Tip: By selecting a check box, you indicate that you want to convert the library. Clearing the check boxes prevents the library from getting converted.
Convert	Click this button to create a converted copy of all the libraries loaded into the converter which have a selected check box. If you do not select the check box of a library loaded into the converter, it is skipped. Tip: Converted library copies are listed alongside the previous versions in the same folder.

Related Topics

[Converting Older PADS Libraries](#)

Converting Older PADS Libraries

Use the Library Converter to update libraries created with versions prior to PADS 9.0 (version 4.x, 5.x, 2004.x, 2005.x, 2007.x). You can use only version 9 libraries with PADS Logic (9.x) and PADS Layout (9.x). These products will not read libraries from previous versions of the software. If you have library versions 1 or 2, use the library converter from version 3.x to update to version 3. If you have library version 3, use the library converter from version 4.x through 2005.x or later to update to version 4.

In this topic:

- [Converting Your Libraries](#)
- [Alphanumerics in the Conversion Process](#)
- [Stopping Library Conversion](#)
- [Sharing Libraries Between PADS Logic and PADS Layout](#)

Converting Your Libraries

1. In the PADS Parts Library Conversion Program dialog box, use either the **Add Library** button or the **Find INI file for Library List** button to load libraries into the converter.
2. In the **Libraries** list, select the check box beside libraries for conversion.

Tips:

- Click the Select All or Deselect All buttons to select or clear all library check boxes.

- Library extensions indicate what version software created the library. Version 1 libraries have a .pt extension; version 2 libraries have a .pt2 extension; version 3 libraries have a .pt3 extension; and version 4 libraries have a .pt4 extension.
 - This Library Converter converts only .pt4 and .pt07 libraries.
3. Click **Convert** to create a converted copy of all the selected libraries.

Result: Libraries are copied, updated, and renamed with a .pt9 extension. The updated libraries exist in the same folder as the original libraries. The original libraries remain intact with their original .pt07 or .pt4 file extension.

When the library conversion process is complete, any errors or warnings appear in a report in the default text editor. The report includes reasons why libraries were not converted and conversion failures. The report file, libconv.rep, is created in the C:\MentorGraphics\<latest_release>PADS\SDD_HOME\Libraries folder.

Alphanumerics in the Conversion Process

Prior to PADS2007, alphanumeric pin numbers could not be used in the PCB decal. Alphanumeric pin numbers could be overlaid onto the pin numbers in PCB decal, but were only stored in the Part Type. The logical CAE decal was assigned alphanumeric pin numbers once they were added to the Alphanumerics Pins tab in the Part Type, but the physical PCB decal required numerics.

In PADS2007 alphanumerics are legal pin numbers in the PCB decal.

Although a library conversion takes place, your current part types with alphanumerics will continue to use a mapping of logical alphanumerics to physical (PCB decal) numerics. The new Pins tab contains the pins list instead of the Gate tab. The pins list accepts direct input of alphanumerics, which can be mapped to numeric PCB decal pin numbers using the Pin Mapping tab in the Part Type.

The conversion converts part types with alphanumeric pin mapping and produces the Libconv.rep report file listing all the part types converted which contain pin mapping. Part types which convert without errors, can be made fully alphanumeric by transferring the alphanumeric pin numbers from the part type to the decal.

Stopping Library Conversion

Once the conversion process begins, the Convert button changes to Stop.

Click **Stop** to end the conversion process. Any files converted before you stop the conversion process remain. You can delete these files if you do not want them.

Tip: Updated libraries are generated, new libraries. Your old libraries remain untouched.

Sharing Libraries Between PADS Logic and PADS Layout

If you want to use the same set of libraries for PADS Layout and PADS Logic, install your libraries to the default folder,

C:\MentorGraphics\<<latest_version>PADS\SDD_HOME\Libraries. If you did not install the libraries to the default, set the path to the libraries using the Library Manager.

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