New USB Security Devices & StencilCAD

Diagraph is now able to offer USB (Universal Serial Bus) dongles for the StencilCAD product. Since these dongles are from Alladin Knowledge Systems (makers of the HASP) and use the same HASP driver as is found in 5.0 Rev 5 or above, they can be used as is (with a matching password for the new dongle, of course.)
For those who aren't exactly sure what USB is or does, here are some details;

1. USB is likely going to become the replacement port for keyboard ports, parallel ports, serial ports, scanner ports, etc. In the near future motherboards may not even have serial or parallel ports so a security device that plugs into the USB ports becomes critical- although to be fair, of all the plotter manufacturers we contacted, only one said that a USB port on their plotter was coming soon. For printer manufacturers, we can all see that USB connections are becoming more and more prevalent in desktop printers.

2. USB is a "Plug and Play" technology which means it will NOT WORK IN WINDOWS NT- there is no way to work around this so if you remember only one thing from this document, remember that USB and NT do NOT work together. It WILL work with Windows 95 (OSR2 only), Windows 98 and Windows 2000.

3. USB is not a 'pass through' technology like the parallel dongles were- there should be enough USB ports on a given machine to support all the peripherals a user has, if not, USB expansion hubs are available for a small cost. The good thing about this is that we'll never have to worry about interference from devices plugged into the back of the dongle.

4. If you're not sure if you have USB ports on your own computer, check the back and look for a couple of small connectors that are usually right next to the keyboard port. The USB devices are not "pin to pin" like serial and parallel cables so there is only one way for the dongle to fit in a USB port.
   If your computer was manufactured before 1999, it is unlikely that you have USB ports.
   If anyone wants more general details, check out the USB web site at www.usb.org.

Specific details on our HASP USB dongles and how they work with StencilCAD:

1. Physical description: the HASP USB dongles are VERY small, less than 2 inches long by 1/2 inch wide. The ones in use at Diagraph have a metal connector area that plugs into the USB port while the body of the dongle is made of a translucent purple plastic (the color Diagraph stocks might change).

2. When plugged into a running computer, an indicator light in the back of the dongle lights up to show that a proper connection is made. If the light doesn't show up, either the USB ports on the computer you have don't work, the Hasp driver is not installed (or not compatible with the OS, or the dongle is defective (this last item is not likely).

3. Once in, the USB subsystem in the computer will pop up a plug and play message that the dongle is installed and make all the necessary system adjustments. No user interaction is required (although the StencilCAD product must have properly installed the HASP device driver as usual).

4. At this time it is not known if a parallel HASP dongle or UK grey dongle will cause problems if they are still on the parallel port when using these USB dongles- since there are two dongles, the program may not understand which one it should use. There is a method of configuring the Hinstall program so that it enables the USB support only. To see the instructions for using this method, locate the Hinstall.exe program and run it (double-click on it). An instruction sheet will appear which will contain all the "switches" that the program accepts. If a user-friendly version of the Hasp installer is required, you can contact Tech Support at support@diagraphms.com and one can be emailed to you. If that fails, or if you do not need the other dongles on the computer, remove all dongles from the back of the computer, except for the USB dongle.