



Chapter 2

Drawing Sketches for Solid Models

Learning Objectives

After completing this chapter, you will be able to:

- *Understand the requirement of the sketching environment.*
- *Open a new part document.*
- *Understand various terms used in the sketching environment.*
- *Work with various sketching tools.*
- *Use the drawing display tools.*
- *Delete the sketched entities.*

THE SKETCHING ENVIRONMENT

Most of the products designed by using SolidWorks are a combination of sketched, placed, and derived features. The placed and derived features are created without drawing a sketch, but the sketched features require a sketch to be drawn first. Generally, the base feature of any design is a sketched feature and is created using a sketch. Therefore, while creating any design, the first and foremost point is to draw a sketch for the base feature. Once you have drawn the sketch, you can convert it into the base feature and then add the other sketched, placed, and derived features to complete the design. In this chapter, you will learn to create the sketch for the base feature using various sketching tools.

In general terms, a sketch is defined as the basic contour for the feature. For example, consider the solid model of a Spanner shown in Figure 2-1.



Figure 2-1 Solid model of a Spanner

This Spanner consists of a base feature, cut feature, mirror feature (cut on the back face), fillets, and an extruded text feature. The base feature of this spanner is shown in Figure 2-2. It is created using a single sketch drawn on the **Front Plane**, as shown in Figure 2-3. This sketch is drawn in the sketching environment using various sketching tools. Therefore, to draw the sketch of the base feature, you first need to invoke the sketching environment where you will draw the sketch.



Note

Once you are familiar with various options of SolidWorks, you can also use a derived feature or a derived part as the base feature.

The sketching environment of SolidWorks can be invoked at any time in the **Part** mode or the **Assembly** mode. You just have to specify that you want to draw the sketch of a feature and then select the plane on which you want to draw the sketch.



Note

You will learn how to invoke the sketching environment in SolidWorks 2009 later in this chapter.



Figure 2-2 Base feature of the Spanner

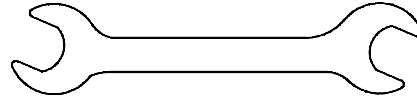


Figure 2-3 Sketch for the base feature of the Spanner

STARTING A NEW SESSION OF SolidWorks 2009

To start a new session of SolidWorks 2009, choose **Start > All Programs > SolidWorks 2009 SP0.0 > SolidWorks 2009 SP0.0** from the **Start** menu or double-click on the **SolidWorks 2009 SP0.0** icon on the desktop of your computer; the SolidWorks 2009 window will be displayed. If you are starting SolidWorks application for the first time after installing it, the **SolidWorks License Agreement** dialog box will be displayed. Choose **Accept** from this dialog box; the **Welcome to SolidWorks** dialog box will be displayed, as shown in Figure 2-4. This dialog box welcomes you to SolidWorks and helps you customize SolidWorks installation. The options in this dialog box are discussed next.

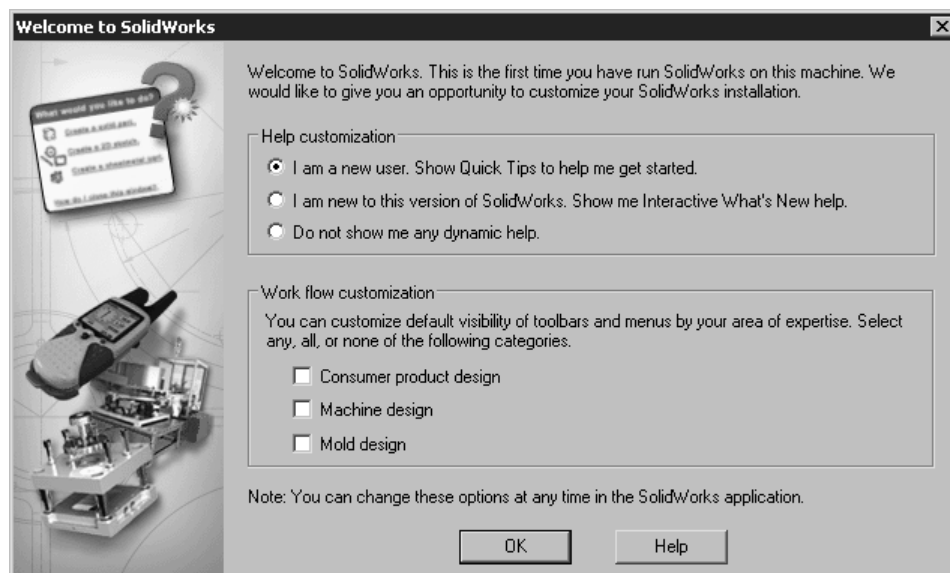


Figure 2-4 The Welcome to SolidWorks dialog box

Help customization Area

The options in this area are used to define the type of help you need to invoke while working with SolidWorks. By default, the **I am a new user. Show Quick Tips to help me get started** radio button is selected from this area. With this radio button selected, you are provided with quick tips that will guide you through the process of starting as a new user. Keep this radio button selected if you are a new user of SolidWorks.

If you are an existing user of SolidWorks, select the **I am new to this version of SolidWorks. Show me Interactive What's New help.** radio button. This ensures that the **Interactive What's New** help is displayed while you are working with the tools that are enhanced or introduced in this release of SolidWorks.

If you do not want to invoke any dynamic help topic, select the **Do not show me any dynamic help.** radio button.

Work flow customization Area

The options in the **Work flow customization** area of this dialog box are used to customize the visibility of toolbars and menu bars. The toolbars and the menu bars are customized on the basis of the area of your work such as product design, machine design, and mold design. Select the check box corresponding to the area of your work.

This textbook follows a beginner's point of view. Therefore, you need to keep the default radio button selected in the **Help customization** area and clear all check boxes in the **Work flow customization** area. Next, choose the **OK** button from the **Welcome to SolidWorks** dialog box; the **Welcome to SolidWorks** dialog will disappear and the SolidWorks 2009 window will be displayed, as shown in Figure 2-5.

TASK PANES

In SolidWorks 2009, the task panes are displayed on the right of the window. These task panes are provided with various options that are used to start a new file, open an existing file, browse the related links of SolidWorks, and so on. Various task panes in SolidWorks are discussed next.

SolidWorks Resources Task Pane



By default, the **SolidWorks Resources** task pane is displayed when you start the SolidWorks session. Different rollouts available in this task pane are discussed next.

Getting Started Rollout

The options in this rollout are used to start a new document, open an existing document, and invoke the interactive help topics.

Community Rollout

The options in this rollout are used to invoke various SolidWorks communities such as subscription services, discussion forum, user groups, and so on.

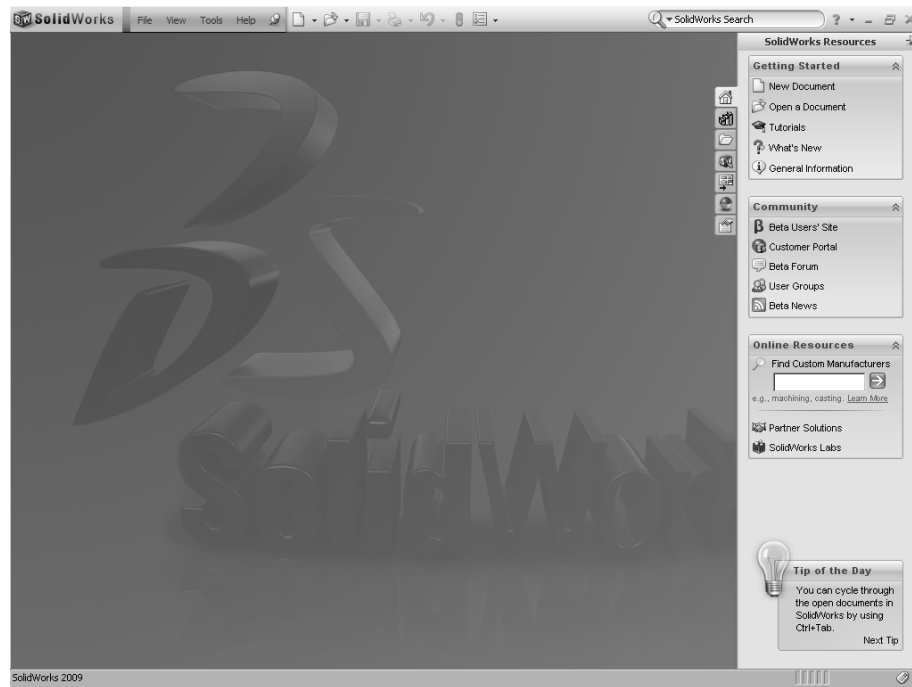


Figure 2-5 The SolidWorks window

Online Resources Rollout

The options in this rollout are used to invoke the discussion forum of SolidWorks, subscription services, partner solutions, manufacturing network, and print 3D websites. In SolidWorks, a search engine is provided in the **Online Resources** task pane. To find information about a particular topic, you need to enter the related term and then choose the **Start searching** button; you will be redirected to the website of customer search engine.

Tip of the Day Message Box

The **Tip of the Day** message box provides you with a useful tip that will help you make the full utilization of tools available in SolidWorks. Click on the **Next Tip** text provided at the lower right corner of the **Tip of the Day** message box to view the next tip.

Design Library Task Pane



The **Design Library** task pane is invoked by choosing the **Design Library** tab from the task pane. This task pane is used to browse the default **Design Library** available in SolidWorks or the toolbox components, and also to access the **3D ContentCentral** website. To access the toolbox components, **Toolbox Add-ins** needs to be installed in your computer. To add toolbox, choose **Tools > Add-ins** from the SolidWorks menus; the **Add-Ins** dialog box will be displayed. Select the **SolidWorks Toolbox Browser** check box and choose **OK**. To access the **3D ContentCentral** website, your computer needs to be connected to the Internet.

File Explorer Task Pane



The **File Explorer** task pane is used to explore the files and folders that are saved in the hard disk of your computer.

Search Task Pane



You can notice the **Search** task Pane at the upper right corner of the window. If you use this search option to search any SolidWorks file, document, and so on, the results will be displayed in the **Search** task pane.

View Palette Task Pane



The **View Palette** task pane is used to drag and drop the drawing views into a drawing sheet.

Appearance/Scenes Task Pane



The **Appearance/Scenes** task pane is used to change the appearance of the model or the display area. On choosing the **Appearance/Scenes** tab from the task pane, you will notice two nodes, **Appearance** and **Scenes** in the **Appearance/Scenes** task pane.

The **Appearances** node is used to change the appearance of the model and the **Scenes** node is used to change the background of the drawing area. To change the appearance of the model, expand the **Appearances** node and select a category; the preview of the different materials available for that category will be displayed. Drag and drop the material in the drawing area; the appearance of the model will be changed. If you drag and drop the material by pressing and holding the ALT key, the **Appearances PropertyManager** will be displayed. You can change the properties of the material added using this **PropertyManager** about which you will learn in the later chapters.

If you need to change the background of the drawing area, expand the **Scenes** node from the **Appearance/Scenes** task pane and select a category; the preview of the different backgrounds available for that category will be displayed. Drag and drop the background in the drawing area; the background of the drawing area will be changed. You can also choose the **Scenes** button in the **Heads-up View** toolbar which will be discussed in the later chapters.

Custom Properties Task Pane



The **Custom Properties** task pane is invoked by choosing the **Custom Properties** tab from the task pane. This task pane is used to view the properties of the files. If you do not have a property template for the files, then you can create it by choosing the **Create now** button from the **Custom Properties** task pane. On choosing this button, the **Property Tab Builder** window will be displayed. Set the properties in this window and save it. After saving, you can view these properties in the **Custom Properties** task pane. To do so, choose **Tools > Options** from the SolidWorks menus; the **System Options** dialog box will be displayed. Choose the **File Location** option from this dialog box. The options related to the **File Location** option will be displayed on the right of the dialog box. Select the **Custom Property Files** option from the **Show folders for** drop-down list. Next, browse the property template in the **Folders** area by choosing the **Add** button. Choose the **OK** button from the dialog box to exit from it. Now, you can view these properties in the **Custom Properties** task pane.

**Note**

In assemblies, you can assign properties to multiple parts at the same time.

STARTING A NEW DOCUMENT IN SolidWorks 2009

To start a new document in SolidWorks 2009, select the **New Document** option from the **Getting Started** rollout of the **SolidWorks Resources** task pane; the **New SolidWorks Document** dialog box will be displayed, as shown in Figure 2-6. You can also invoke this dialog box by choosing the **New** button from the Menu Bar. The options in this dialog box are discussed next.

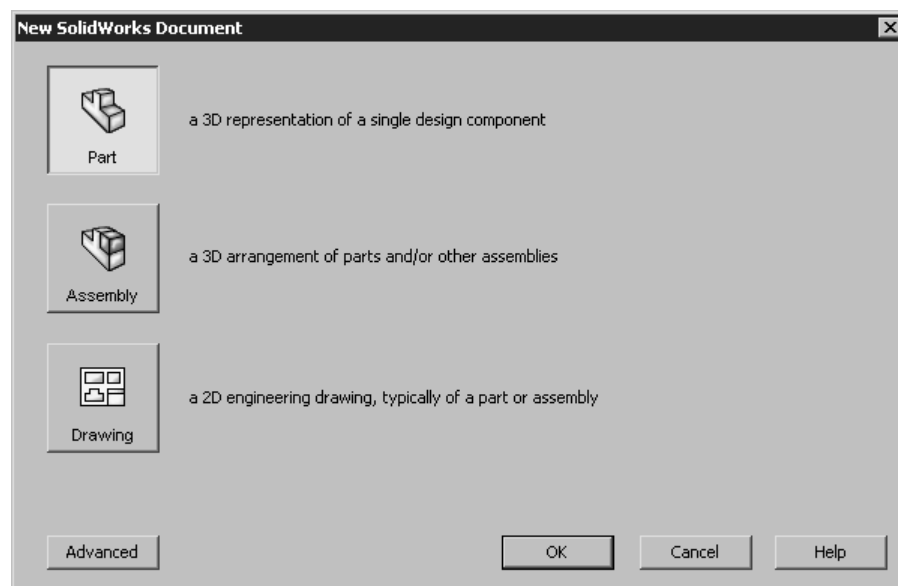


Figure 2-6 The New SolidWorks Document dialog box

Part

The **Part** button is chosen by default in the **New SolidWorks Document** dialog box. Choose the **OK** button to start a new part document to create solid models or sheet metal components. When you start a new part document, you will enter the **Part** mode.

Assembly

Choose the **Assembly** button and then the **OK** button from the **New SolidWorks Document** dialog box to start a new assembly document. In the assembly document, you can assemble the components created in the part documents. You can also create components in the assembly document.

Drawing

Choose the **Drawing** button and then the **OK** button from the **New SolidWorks Document**

dialog box to start a new drawing document. In a drawing document, you can generate or create the drawing views of the parts created in the part documents or the assemblies created in the assembly documents.



Note

When you start a new file in SolidWorks, the **What would you like to do?** window is displayed, which assists you in working with SolidWorks. To close this window, choose the **?** button available at the lower right corner of the **SolidWorks** window. You can choose this button to again display the **What would you like to do?** window.



Tip. If you invoke the **New SolidWorks Document** dialog box using the task pane and start a new document, the task pane will remain expanded even when the new document is started. If you invoke the **New SolidWorks Document** dialog box using the SolidWorks menus or the Menu Bar, the task pane will be collapsed and remain collapsed after starting the new document.

UNDERSTANDING THE SKETCHING ENVIRONMENT

Whenever you start a new part document, by default, you are in the part modeling environment. But you need to start the design by first creating the sketch of the base feature in the sketching environment. To invoke the sketching environment, choose the **Sketch** tab from the **CommandManager**. Next, choose the **Sketch** button from the **Sketch CommandManager**. For your convenience, you can add the **Sketch** button to the Menu Bar and invoke the sketching environment using this button. To do so, right-click on any toolbar and choose the **Customize** option from the shortcut menu; the **Customize** dialog box will be displayed. Choose the **Commands** tab and select the **Sketch** option from the **Categories** list box; all tools in the sketch categories will be displayed in the **Buttons** area. Press and hold the left mouse button on the **Sketch** tool and then drag it to the Menu Bar. Figure 2-7 shows the **Sketch** button added to the Menu Bar.

When you choose the **Sketch** button from the Menu Bar or invoke any tool from the **Sketch CommandManager**, the **Edit Sketch PropertyManager** will be displayed on the left of the drawing area and you are prompted to select the plane on which the sketch will be created. Also, the three default planes available in SolidWorks 2009 (**Front Plane**, **Right Plane**, and **Top Plane**) are temporarily displayed on the screen, as shown in Figure 2-8.

You can select any plane to draw the sketch of the base feature depending on the requirement of the design. The selected plane will automatically be oriented normal to the view, so that you can easily create the sketch. Also, the **CommandManager** now displays various sketching tools to draw the sketch.

The default screen appearance of a SolidWorks part document in the sketching environment is shown in Figure 2-9.



Tip. To expand the task pane at any stage of the design cycle, choose any one of the tabs provided on the task pane. Choose the **Auto Show** button to pin the task pane. To collapse the task pane, click anywhere in the drawing area when the **Auto Show** button is not chosen.

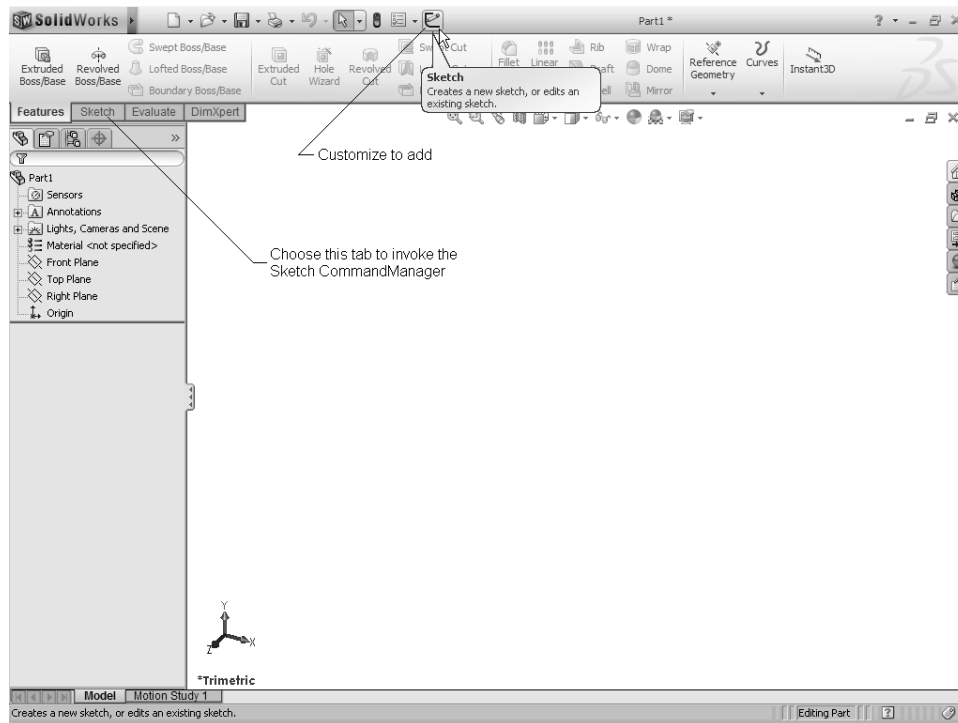


Figure 2-7 Different methods of invoking the sketching environment in SolidWorks 2009

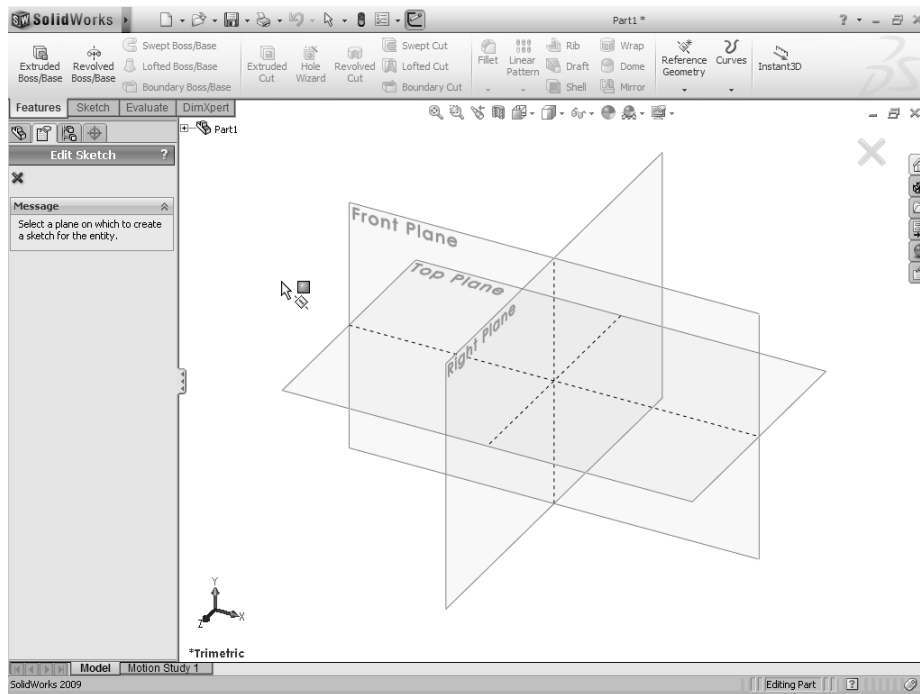


Figure 2-8 The three default planes displayed on the screen

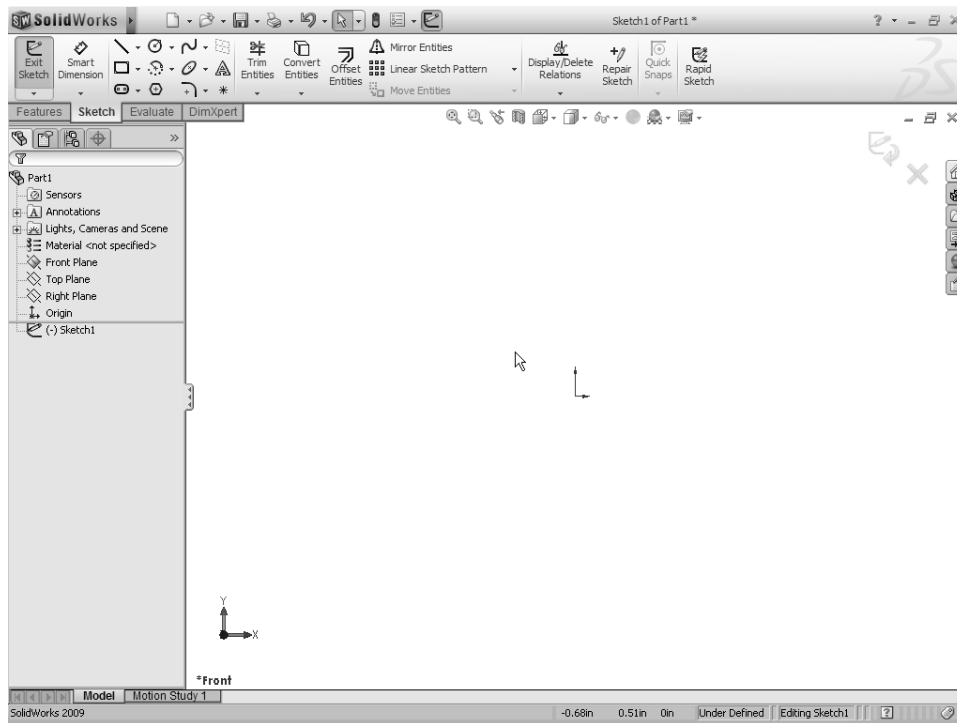


Figure 2-9 Default screen display of a part document in the sketching environment

SETTING THE DOCUMENT OPTIONS

When you install SolidWorks on your computer, you will be prompted to specify the dimensioning standards and units for measuring linear distances. The settings specified at that time are the default settings and whenever you start a new SolidWorks document, it will use these settings. However, if you want to modify these settings for a particular document, you can easily do it using the **Document Properties** dialog box. To invoke this dialog box, choose the **Options** button from the Menu Bar; the **System Options - General** dialog box will be displayed, as shown in Figure 2-10. Alternatively, choose **Tools > Options** from the SolidWorks menus to invoke the **System Options - General** dialog box. In this dialog box, choose the **Document Properties** tab; the name of this dialog box will be changed to the **Document Properties - Drafting Standard** dialog box. Setting the options for the current document using this dialog box is discussed next.

Modifying the Drafting Standards

To modify the **Drafting** standards, invoke the **System Options** dialog box and then choose the **Document Properties** tab. You will notice that the **Drafting Standard** option is selected by default in the area that is available on the left of the dialog box to display the drafting options.

The default drafting standard that was selected while installing SolidWorks will be displayed in the drop-down list in the **Overall drafting standard** area. You can select the required

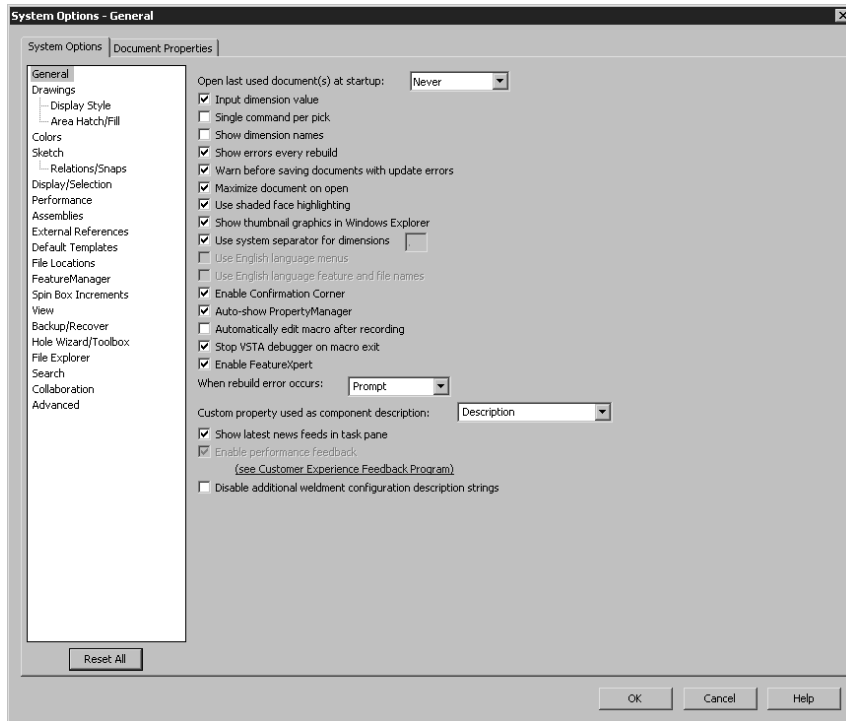


Figure 2-10 The System Options - General dialog box

drafting standard from this drop-down list. The standards that are available in this drop-down list are ANSI, ISO, DIN, JIS, BSI, GOST, and GB. You can select any one of these drafting standards for the current document.

Modifying the Linear and Angular Units

To modify the linear and angular units, invoke the **System Options** dialog box and then choose the **Document Properties** tab. In this tab, select the **Units** option from the area that is available on the left of the dialog box to display the options related to linear and angular units, as shown in Figure 2-11. The default option that was selected for measuring the linear distances while installing SolidWorks will be available in the **Length** field and the **Unit** column. You can set the units to be used for the current document from the options in the **Unit system** area. To specify the units other than the standard unit system in this area, select the **Custom** radio button; the options in the tabulation will be enabled. Select the cell corresponding to **Length** and **Unit**; a drop-down list will be displayed. Set the units from the drop-down list. The units that can be selected for **Length** are angstroms, nanometers, microns, millimeters, centimeters, meters, microinches, mils, inches, feet, and feet & inches. To change the units for angular dimensions, select the cell corresponding to **Angle** and **Unit**; a drop-down list will be displayed. The angular units that can be selected from this drop-down list are degrees, deg/min, deg/min/sec, and radians. Set the number of decimal places in the corresponding field under the **Decimals** column.

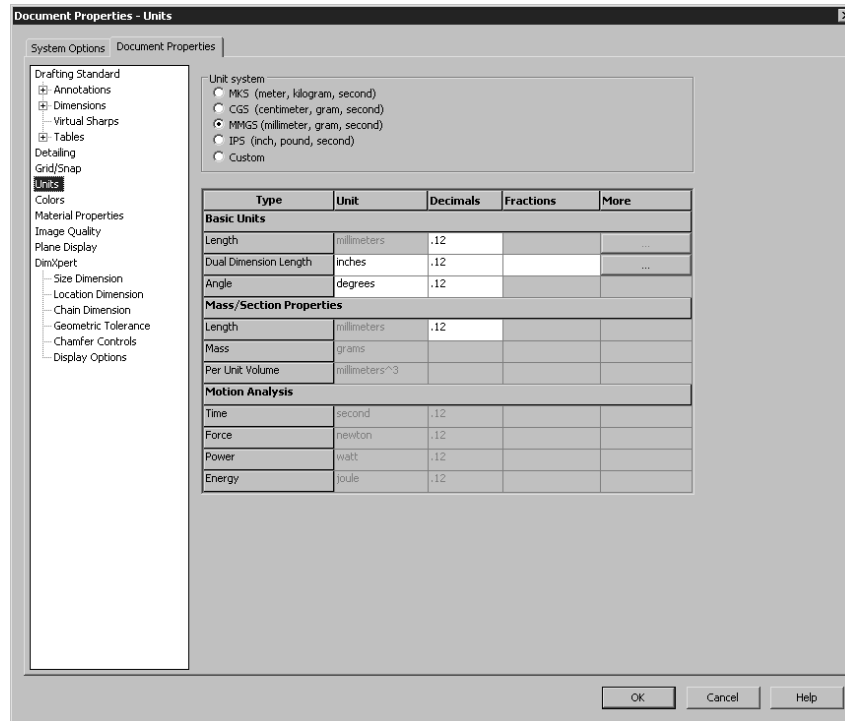


Figure 2-11 Setting the dimensioning standards

Modifying the Snap and Grid Settings

In the sketching environment of SolidWorks, you can make the cursor jump through a specified distance while creating the sketch. Therefore, if you draw a sketched entity, its length will change in the specified increment. For example, while drawing a line, if you make the cursor jump through a distance of 10 mm, the length of the line will be incremented by a distance of 10 mm. To do so, choose **Options** button from the Menu Bar to display the **System Options** dialog box. To ensure that the cursor jumps through the specified distance, you need to invoke the snap option. Select the **Relations/Snaps** branch of the **Sketch** option to display the related options. From the options available on the right, select the **Grid** check box. Next, clear the **Snap only when grid is displayed** check box, if it is selected. If this check box is selected, then the cursor will snap the sketched entities only when the grid is displayed.

Now, choose the **Go To Document Grid Settings** button to invoke the **Document Properties - Grid/Snap** dialog box, as shown in Figure 2-12. The distance through which the cursor jumps is dependent on the ratio between the values in the **Major grid spacing** and **Minor-lines per major** spinners available in the **Grid** area. For example, if you want the coordinates should be incremented by 10 mm, you will have to make the ratio of the major and minor lines to 10. This can be done by setting the value of the **Major grid spacing** spinner to **100** and that of the **Minor-lines per major** spinner to **10**. Similarly, to make the cursor jump through a distance of 5 mm, set the value of the **Major grid spacing** spinner to **50** and that of the **Minor-lines per major** spinner to **10**.

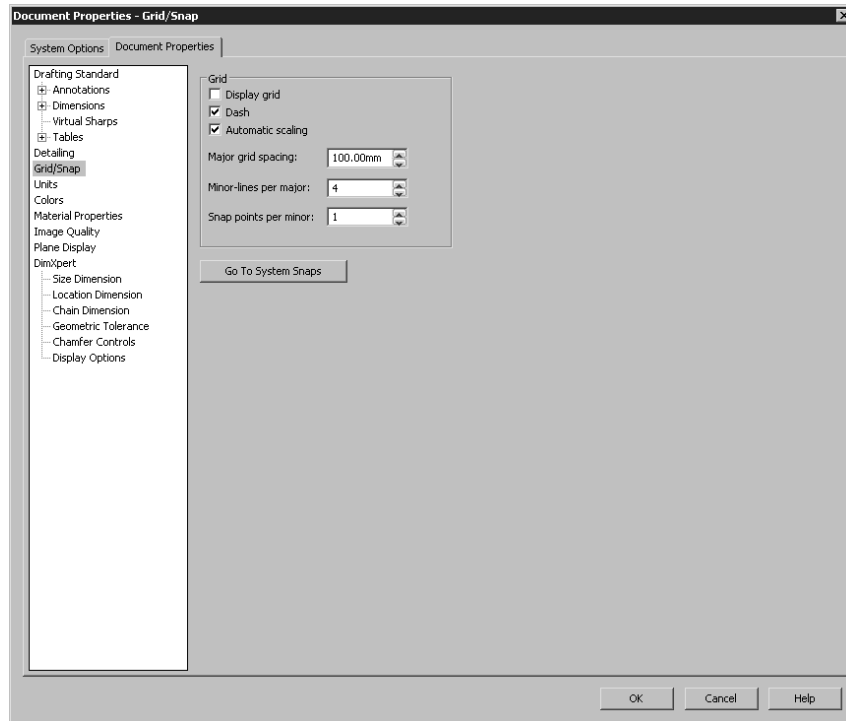


Figure 2-12 The Document Properties - Grid/Snap dialog box



Note

Remember that these settings will be only for the current documents. When you open a new document, it will have the settings that were defined while installing SolidWorks.



Tip. If you want to display the grid in the sketching environment, select the **Display grid** check box from the **Grid** area of the **Document Properties - Grid/Snap** dialog box. Alternatively, choose **Hide/Show Items > View Grid** from the **Heads-up View** toolbar.

While drawing a sketched entity by snapping through grips, the grips symbol will be displayed below the cursor on the right.



LEARNING SKETCHER TERMS

Before you learn about various sketching tools, it is important to understand some terms that are used in the sketching environment. These tools and terms are discussed next.

Origin

The origin is represented by a red colored point displayed at the center of the sketching environment screen. By default, there are two arrows at the origin displaying the X and Y axes directions of the current sketching plane. The point of intersection of these two axes is

the origin point and the coordinates of this point are 0,0. To display or hide the origin, choose **Hide/Show Items > View Origins** from the **Heads-up View** toolbar.

Inferencing Lines

The inferencing lines are the temporary lines that are used to track a particular point on the screen. These lines are the dashed lines and are automatically displayed when you select a sketching tool in the sketching environment. These lines are created from the endpoints or the midpoint of a sketched entity or from the origin. For example, if you want to draw a line from the point where two imaginary lines intersect, you can use the inferencing lines to locate the point and then draw the line from that point. Figure 2-13 shows the use of inferencing lines to locate the point of intersection of two imaginary lines. Figure 2-14 shows the use of inferencing lines to locate the center of a circle. Notice that the inferencing lines are created from the endpoint of the line and also from the origin.

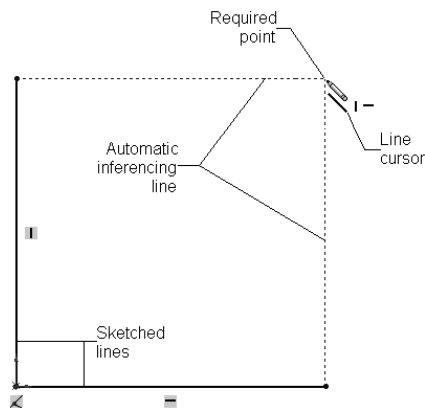


Figure 2-13 Using inferencing lines to locate a point

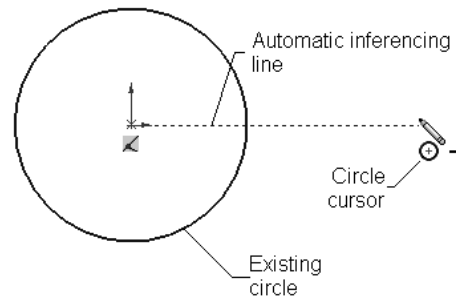


Figure 2-14 Using inferencing lines to locate the center of a circle



Note

The inferencing lines that are displayed on the screen will be either blue or yellow. The blue inferencing lines suggest that the relations are not added to the sketched entity and the yellow inferencing lines suggest that the relations are added to the sketched entity. You will learn about various relations in the later chapters.

Inferencing lines will be displayed only when a sketching tool is active.



Tip. You can disable the inferencing line temporarily by pressing the CTRL key.

Select Tool

SolidWorks menus: Tools > Select



The **Select** tool is used to select a sketched entity or exit any sketching tool that is active. You can select the sketched entities by selecting them one by one using the left mouse button. You can also hold the left mouse button and drag the cursor around the multiple sketched entities to define a box and select the multiple entities. There are two methods of selection, box selection and cross selection. You can also select multiple entities by pressing the SHIFT and CTRL keys. These selection methods are discussed next.



Note

*When a sketching tool is active, you can invoke the **Select** tool or press the ESC key to exit the sketching tool. You can also right-click and choose the **Select** option from the shortcut menu to exit the tool.*

Selecting Entities Using the Box Selection

A box is a window that is created by pressing the left mouse button and dragging the cursor from left to right in the drawing area. The selection box will be displayed by continuous lines. When you create a box, the entities that lie completely inside it will be selected. The selected entities will be displayed in light blue and a pop-up toolbar will be displayed near the cursor.

Selecting Entities Using the Cross Selection

When you press the left mouse button and drag the cursor from right to left in the drawing area, a box of dashed lines is drawn. The entities that lie completely or partially inside this box or the entities that touch the dashed lines of the box will be selected. The selected entities will be displayed in light blue and a pop-up toolbar will be displayed near the cursor. This method of selection is known as cross selection.

Selecting Entities Using the SHIFT and CTRL Keys

You can also use the SHIFT and CTRL keys to manage the selection procedure. To select multiple entities, press and hold the SHIFT key and select the entities. After selecting some entities, if you need to select more entities using the windows or cross selection, press and hold the SHIFT key. Now, create a window or a cross selection; all the entities that touch the crossing or are inside the window will be selected.

If you need to remove a particular entity from a group of selected entities, press the CTRL key and select the entity. You can also invert the current selection using the CTRL key. To do so, select the entities that you do not want to be included in the selection set. Next, press the CTRL key and create a window or a cross selection.



Note

In SolidWorks 2009, when you select an entity, a pop-up tool bar will be displayed with options to edit the sketch. You will learn about these options in the later chapters.

Invert Selection Tool

SolidWorks menus: Tools > Invert Selection

This tool will be active only when an entity is selected and is used to invert the selection set. This tool is used to remove the entities from the current selection set and select all the other entities that are not in the current selection set. To invert the selection, select the entities that you do not want to be included in the final selection set and then choose **Tools > Invert Selection** from the SolidWorks menus. You can also invoke the **Invert Selection** tool from the shortcut menu. All entities that were not selected earlier are now selected and the entities that were in the selection set earlier are now removed from the selection set.

Now, you are familiar with the important sketching terms. Next, you will learn about the sketching tools available in SolidWorks.

DRAWING LINES

CommandManager: Sketch > Line
SolidWorks menus: Tools > Sketch Entities > Line
Toolbar: Sketch > Line



Lines are one of the basic sketching entities available in SolidWorks. In general terms, a line is defined as the shortest distance between two points. As mentioned earlier, SolidWorks is a parametric solid modeling tool. This property allows you to draw a line of any length and at any angle so that it can be forced to the desired length and angle. To draw a line in the sketching environment of SolidWorks, invoke the **Line** tool from the **Sketch CommandManager**; the **Insert Line PropertyManager** will be displayed, as shown in Figure 2-15. You will notice that the cursor, which was an arrow, is replaced by the line cursor. The line cursor is actually a pencil-like cursor with a small inclined line below the pencil. You can also invoke the **Line** tool by pressing the L key.

The **Message** rollout of the **Insert Line PropertyManager** informs you to edit the settings of the next line or sketch a new line. The options in this **PropertyManager** can be used to set the orientation and other sketching options to draw a line. All these options are discussed next.

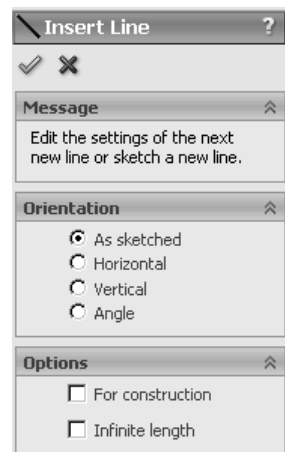


Figure 2-15 The *Insert Line PropertyManager*

Orientation Rollout

The **Orientation** rollout is used to define the orientation of the line to be drawn. By default, the **As sketched** radio button is selected, so you can draw the line in any orientation. If you need to draw only horizontal lines, select the **Horizontal** radio button. On selecting this radio button, the **Parameters** rollout will be displayed and you can specify the length of the line in the **Length** spinner provided in this rollout. You will learn more about dimensioning

in the later chapters. After specifying the parameters, choose the start point and the endpoints in succession to create the horizontal line. Choose **OK** twice to exit the **Line** tool.

Similarly, to draw a vertical line, select the **Vertical** radio button, specify the parameters in the **Parameters** rollout, and then choose the start point and the endpoints in succession.

**Note**

*If the value 0 is set in the **Length** spinner of the **Parameters** rollout, you can draw horizontal/vertical line of any length. Make sure that the corresponding radio button is chosen in the **Orientation** rollout of the **Insert Line PropertyManager**.*

The **Angle** radio button is selected to draw lines at a specified angle. When you select this radio button, the **Parameters** rollout will be displayed, where you can set the values of the length of the line and the angle or the orientation.

Options Rollout

The **For construction** check box available in this rollout is used to draw a construction line. You will learn more about the construction lines later in this chapter. The **Infinite length** check box is used to draw a line of infinite length.

On selecting the **As sketched** radio button in the **Orientation** rollout, you can draw lines by using two methods. The first method is to draw continuous lines and the second method is to draw individual lines. Both these methods are discussed next.

Drawing a Chain of Continuous Lines

This is the default method of drawing lines. In this method, you have to specify the start point and the endpoint of the line using the left mouse button. As soon as you specify the start point of the line, the **Line Properties PropertyManager** will be displayed. The options in the **Line Properties PropertyManager** will not be available at this stage.

After specifying the start point, move the cursor away from it and specify the endpoint of the line using the left mouse button. A line will be drawn between the two points. You will also notice that the line has filled rectangles at the two ends. The line will be displayed in light blue color because it is still selected.

Move the cursor away from the endpoint of the line and you will notice that another line is attached to the cursor. The start point of this line is the endpoint of the last line and the length of this line can be increased or decreased by moving the cursor. This line is called a rubber-band line as this line stretches like a rubber-band when you move the cursor. The point that you specify next on the screen will be taken as the endpoint of the new line and a line will be drawn such that the endpoint of the first line is taken as the start point of the new line and the point you specify is taken as the endpoint of the new line. Now, a new rubber-band line is displayed starting from the endpoint of the last line. This is a continuous process and you can draw a chain of as many continuous lines as needed by specifying the points on the screen using the left mouse button.

You can exit the continuous line drawing process by pressing the ESC key, by double-clicking on the screen, or by invoking the **Select** tool from the Menu Bar. You can also right-click to display the shortcut menu and choose the **End chain** or **Select** option to exit the **Line** tool.

Figure 2-16 shows a sketch drawn using the continuous lines. This sketch is started from the lower left corner and the horizontal line is drawn first. Draw the other lines and to close the loop, move the cursor attached to the last line close to the start point of the first line; you will notice that a orange colored circle will be displayed at the start point. If you specify the endpoint of the line at this stage, the loop will be closed and no rubber-band line will be displayed now. This is because the loop is already closed and you may not need another continuous line now. However, the **Line** tool is still active and you can draw other lines.

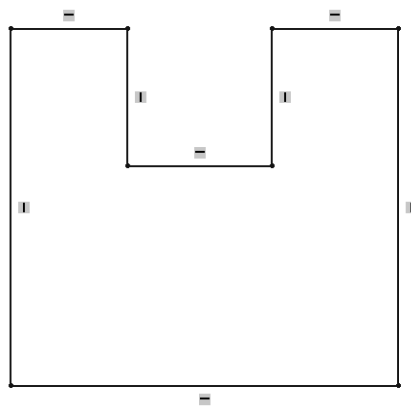


Figure 2-16 Sketch drawn using the continuous lines



Note

When you terminate the line drawing process by double-clicking on the screen or by choosing **End chain** from the shortcut menu, the current chain is ended but the **Line** tool is still active. So, you can draw other lines. However, you can exit the **Line** tool by choosing **Select** from the shortcut menu.

Drawing Individual Lines

This is the second method of drawing lines. This method is used to draw individual lines and the start point of the new line will not necessarily be the endpoint of the previous line. To draw individual lines, you need to press and hold the left mouse button to specify the start point, drag the cursor without releasing the mouse button. Once you have dragged the cursor to the endpoint, release the left mouse button; a line will be drawn between the two points.

To make the sketching process easy in SolidWorks, you are provided with the **PropertyManager**. The **PropertyManager** is a table that will be displayed on the left of the screen as soon as you select the first point of any sketched entity. The **PropertyManager** has all parameters related to the sketched entity such as the start point, endpoint, angle, length, and so on. You will notice that as you start dragging the mouse, the **Line Properties PropertyManager** is displayed on

the left of the drawing area. All options in the **Line Properties PropertyManager** will be available when you release the left mouse button. Figure 2-17 shows a partial view of the **Line Properties PropertyManager**.

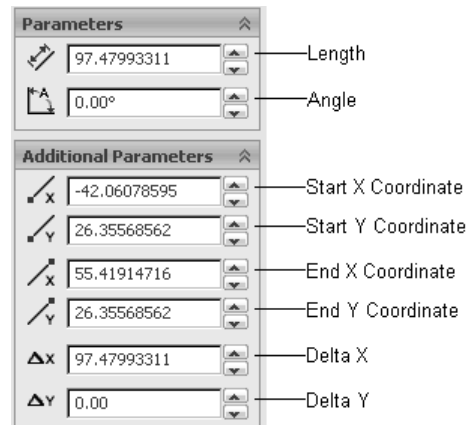


Figure 2-17 Partial view of the **Line Properties PropertyManager**



Note

The **Line Properties PropertyManager** will also display additional options about relations. You will learn more about relations in the later chapters.

After you have drawn the line, modify the parameters in the **Line Properties PropertyManager** to make the line to the desired length and angle. You can also modify the line dynamically by holding its endpoints and dragging them.

Line Cursor Parameters

When you draw lines in the sketching environment of SolidWorks, you will notice that a numeric value is displayed above the line cursor; see Figure 2-18. This numeric value indicates the length of the line you draw. This value is the same as that in the **Length** spinner of the **Line Properties PropertyManager**. The only difference is that in the **Line Properties PropertyManager**, the value will be displayed with more precision.

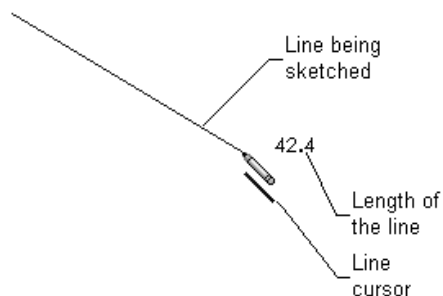




Figure 2-18 The length of the line displayed on the screen while drawing the line

The other thing that you will notice while sketching is that a  or  symbol is displayed below the line cursor, when you are drawing horizontal or vertical lines. These are the symbols of the **Vertical** and **Horizontal** relations. SolidWorks applies these relations automatically to the lines. These relations ensure that the lines you draw are vertical or horizontal and not inclined. Figure 2-19 shows the symbol of the **Vertical** relation on a line and Figure 2-20 shows the symbol of the **Horizontal** relation on a line.

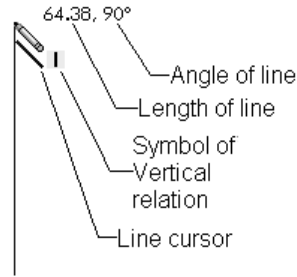


Figure 2-19 Symbol of the **Vertical** relation

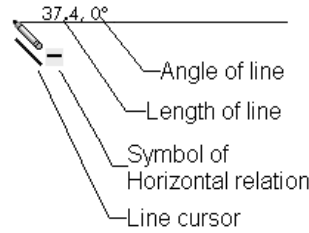


Figure 2-20 Symbol of the **Horizontal** relation



Note

*In addition to the **Horizontal** and **Vertical** relations, you can apply a number of other relations such as **Tangent**, **Concentric**, **Perpendicular**, **Parallel**, and so on. You will learn about all these relations and other options in the **Line Properties PropertyManager** in the later chapters.*

Drawing Tangent or Normal Arcs Using the Line Tool

SolidWorks allows you to draw tangent or normal arcs originating from the endpoint of the line while drawing continuous lines. Note that these arcs can be drawn only if you have drawn at least one line, arc, or spline. To draw such arcs, draw a line by specifying the start point and the endpoint. Move the cursor away from the endpoint of the last line to display the rubber-band line. Now, when you move the cursor back to the endpoint of the last line, the arc mode will be invoked. The angle and the radius of the arc will be displayed above the arc cursor. You can also invoke the arc mode by right-clicking and choosing **Switch to arc** from the shortcut menu or pressing the A key on the keyboard.

To draw a tangent arc, invoke the arc mode by moving the cursor back to the endpoint of the last line. Now, move the cursor through a small distance along the tangent direction of the line; a dotted line will be drawn. Next, move the cursor in the direction in which the arc should be drawn. You will notice that a tangent arc is drawn. Specify the endpoint of the tangent arc using the left mouse button. Figure 2-21 shows an arc tangent to an existing line.

To draw a normal arc, invoke the arc mode. Now, move the cursor through a small distance in the direction normal to the line and then move it in the direction of the endpoint of the arc; the normal arc will be drawn, as shown in Figure 2-22.

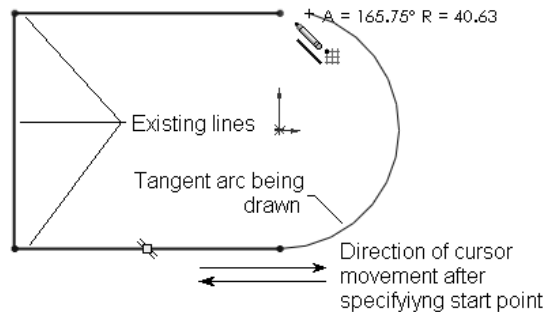


Figure 2-21 Drawing a tangent arc using the **Line** tool

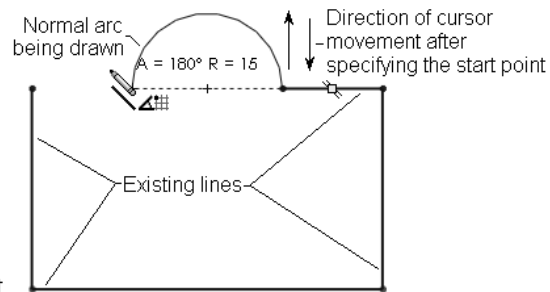


Figure 2-22 Drawing a normal arc using the **Line** tool

As soon as the endpoint of the tangent or the normal arc is defined, the line mode will be invoked again. You can continue drawing lines using the line mode or move the cursor back to the endpoint of the arc to invoke the arc mode.



Note

If the arc mode is invoked by mistake while drawing lines, you can cancel the arc mode and invoke the line mode again by pressing the **A** key. Alternatively, you can right-click and choose **Switch to Line** from the shortcut menu or move the cursor back to the endpoint and press the left mouse button to invoke the line mode.

Drawing Construction Lines or Centerlines

CommandManager:	Sketch > Line > Centerline
SolidWorks menus:	Tools > Sketch Entities > Centerline
Toolbar:	Sketch > Line > Centerline



The construction lines or the centerlines are ones that are drawn only for the aid of sketching. These lines are not considered while converting the sketches into features.

You can draw a construction line similar to the sketched line by using the **Centerline** tool. You will notice that when you draw a construction line, the **For construction** check box in the **Options** rollout of the **Line Properties PropertyManager** is selected. You can also draw a construction line using the **Line** tool. To do so, invoke the **Insert Line PropertyManager**, select the **For construction** check box in the **Options** rollout, and draw the line.

Drawing the Lines of Infinite Length

SolidWorks allows you to draw lines of infinite length. Note that these lines can be drawn only if the **Line** or **Centerline** tool is invoked. To draw lines of infinite length, invoke the **Insert Line PropertyManager** and then select the **Infinite length** check box available in the **Options** rollout of this **PropertyManager**. Next, specify two points in the drawing area. A line of infinite length will be drawn.

To convert the solid infinite length line to a construction infinite length line, you need to select the **For construction** check box in the **Options** rollout of the **Line Properties PropertyManager**. You can also set the angle value for infinite lines in the **Angle** spinner available in the **Parameters** rollout of this **PropertyManager**.

DRAWING CIRCLES

In SolidWorks, there are two methods of drawing circles. The first method is by specifying the center point of a circle and then defining its radius. The second method is drawing a circle by defining three points that lie on its periphery. The tools for drawing a circle are grouped together in the **Sketch CommandManager**. To draw a circle, select the down arrow on the **Circle** tool; a flyout with both the tools will be displayed. Invoke a tool from this flyout; the **Circle PropertyManager** will be displayed, as shown in Figure 2-23. Alternatively, right-click and choose the **Circle** option from the shortcut menu to display the **Circle PropertyManager**.

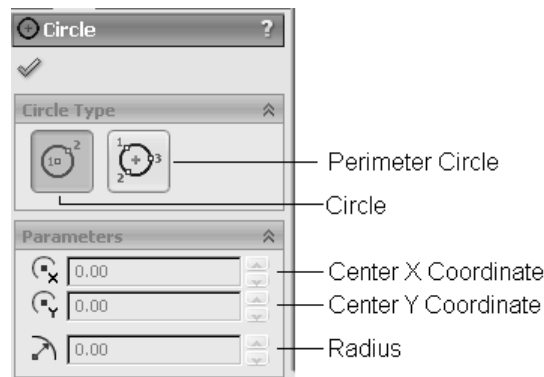


Figure 2-23 The Circle PropertyManager

Select the appropriate method from the **Circle Type** rollout to draw the circle. Both the methods to draw the circles are discussed next.

Drawing Circles by Defining Their Center Points

CommandManager: Sketch > Circle
SolidWorks menus: Tools > Sketch Entities > Circle
Toolbar: Sketch > Circle



When you invoke the **Circle PropertyManager**, the **Circle** button is chosen by default in the **Circle Type** rollout. This button is chosen to draw a circle by specifying its center. You will notice that the arrow cursor is replaced by the circle cursor. The circle cursor consists of a pencil and a circle below the pencil. Specify the center point of the circle and then move the cursor to define its radius. The current radius of the circle will be displayed above the circle cursor. This radius will change as you move the cursor. Click on a point to define the radius. This radius can be modified by using the **Circle PropertyManager**. Also, the coordinates of the center point of the circle can be modified. Figure 2-24 shows a circle being drawn using the **Circle** tool by specifying the center point and dragging the cursor.

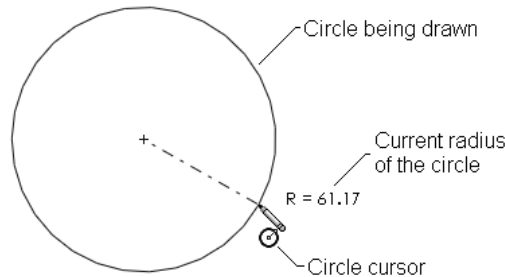


Figure 2-24 Drawing a circle by specifying the centerpoint

Drawing Circles by Defining Three Points

CommandManager: Sketch > Circle > Perimeter Circle
SolidWorks menus: Tools > Sketch Entities > Perimeter Circle
Toolbar: Sketch > Circle > Perimeter Circle



The **Perimeter Circle** tool is used to draw a circle by defining three points that lie on the periphery of a circle. To draw a circle using this tool, click on the down arrow on the right of the **Circle** button; a flyout will be displayed. Choose the **Perimeter Circle** tool. Alternatively, invoke the **Circle PropertyManager** and choose the **Perimeter Circle** button from the **Circle Type** rollout; the select cursor will be replaced by a three-point circle cursor. Specify the first point of the circle in the drawing area. Now, specify the other two points of the circle. The resulting circle will be highlighted in light blue and you can modify the circle by setting its parameters in the **Circle PropertyManager**.

Figure 2-25 shows a circle being drawn by specifying three points.

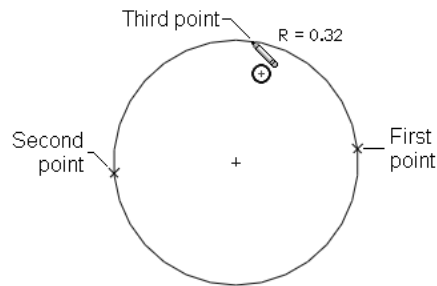


Figure 2-25 Drawing a circle by specifying three points

Drawing Construction Circles

If you want to sketch a construction circle, draw a circle using the **Circle** tool and then select the **For construction** check box in the **Options** rollout of the **Circle PropertyManager**.



Tip. To convert a construction entity back to the sketched entity, invoke the **Select** tool and then select the construction entity; the **PropertyManager** will be displayed. Clear the **For construction** check box; the construction entity will be changed into a sketched entity and it will be displayed with a continuous line.

DRAWING ARCS

In SolidWorks, you can draw arcs using three tools: **Centerpoint Arc**, **Tangent Arc**, and **3 Point Arc**. All these tools are grouped together and they can be invoked separately from the flyout displayed by choosing the down arrow on the right of the **Centerpoint Arc** tool from the **Sketch CommandManager**. These methods are discussed next.

Drawing Tangent/Normal Arcs

CommandManager:	Sketch > Centerpoint Arc > Tangent Arc
SolidWorks menus:	Tools > Sketch Entities > Tangent Arc
Toolbar:	Sketch > Centerpoint Arc > Tangent Arc



The tangent arcs are the ones that are drawn tangent to an existing sketched entity. The existing sketched entities include the sketched and construction lines, arcs, and splines. The normal arcs are the ones that are drawn normal to an existing entity. You can draw tangent and normal arcs using the **Tangent Arc** tool.

To draw a tangent arc, invoke the **Tangent Arc** tool; the arrow cursor will be replaced by the tangent arc cursor. Move the arc cursor close to the endpoint of the entity that you want to select as the tangent entity. You will notice that an orange colored dot is displayed at the endpoint. Also, a yellow symbol displaying two concentric circles appears below the pencil. Now, press the left mouse button once and move the cursor along the tangent direction through a small distance and then move the cursor to size the arc. The arc will start from the endpoint of the tangent entity and its size will change as you move the cursor. Note that the angle and the radius of the tangent arc are displayed above the cursor, see Figure 2-26.

To draw a normal arc, invoke the **Tangent Arc** tool. Move the cursor close to the endpoint of the entity that you want to select as the normal entity; an orange colored dot will be displayed at the endpoint. Also, a yellow symbol displaying two concentric circles appear below the pencil. Now, press the left mouse button once and move the cursor along the normal direction through a small distance and then move the cursor to size the arc, refer to Figure 2-27.

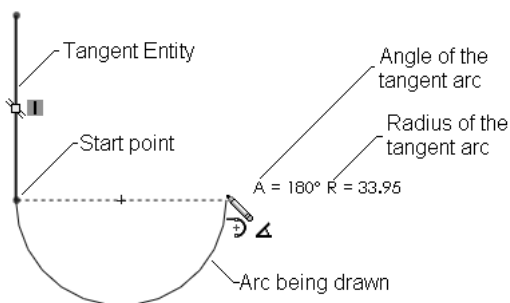


Figure 2-26 Drawing a tangent arc

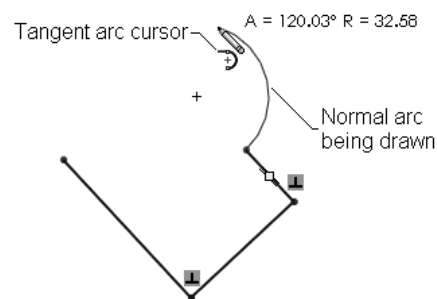


Figure 2-27 Drawing a normal arc

On invoking the **Tangent Arc** tool, the **Arc PropertyManager** will be displayed. However, the options in the **Arc PropertyManager** will not be enabled at this stage. These options will be enabled only after you have completed drawing the tangent or the normal arc.

You can draw an arbitrary arc and then modify its value using the **Arc PropertyManager**. Figure 2-28 shows the partial view of the **Arc PropertyManager**.

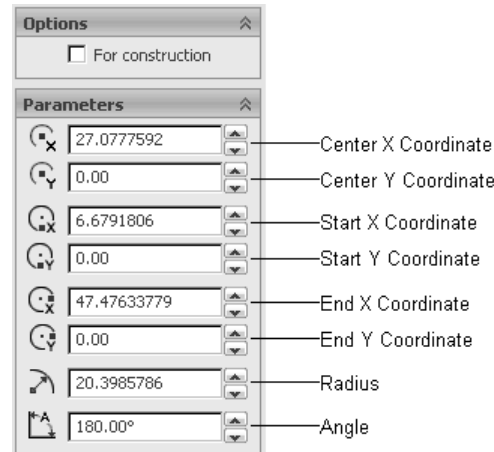


Figure 2-28 Partial view of the **Arc PropertyManager**



Note

When you select a tangent entity to draw a tangent arc, the **Tangent** relation is applied between the start point of the arc and the tangent entity. Therefore, if you change the coordinates of the start point of the arc, the tangent entity will also be modified accordingly.

Drawing Centerpoint Arcs

CommandManager:	Sketch > Centerpoint Arc
SolidWorks menus:	Tools > Sketch Entity > Centerpoint Arc
Toolbar:	Sketch > Centerpoint Arc



The centerpoint arcs are the ones that are drawn by defining the centerpoint, start point, and endpoint of the arc. When you invoke this tool, the arrow cursor is replaced by the arc cursor. An arc cursor consists of a pencil and a centerpoint arc below the pencil.

To draw a centerpoint arc, invoke the **Centerpoint Arc** tool and then move the arc cursor to the point that you want to specify as the centerpoint of the arc. Press the left mouse button once at the location of the centerpoint and then move the cursor to the point from where you want to start the arc. You will notice that a dotted circle is displayed on the screen. The size of this circle will modify as you move the mouse. This circle is drawn for your reference and the centerpoint of this circle lies at the point that you specified as the center of the arc. Press the left mouse button once at the point that you want to select as the start point of the arc. Next,

move the cursor to specify the endpoint of the arc. You will notice that the reference circle is no longer displayed and an arc is being drawn with the start point as the point that you specified after specifying the centerpoint. Also, the **Arc PropertyManager**, similar to the one that is shown in the tangent arc, is displayed on the left of the drawing area. Note that the options in the **Arc PropertyManager** will not be available at this stage.

If you move the cursor in the clockwise direction, the resulting arc will be drawn in the clockwise direction. However, if you move the cursor in the counterclockwise direction, the resulting arc will be drawn in the counterclockwise direction. Specify the endpoint of the arc using the left mouse button. Figure 2-29 shows the reference circle displayed when you move the mouse button after specifying the centerpoint of the arc and Figure 2-30 shows the resulting centerpoint arc.

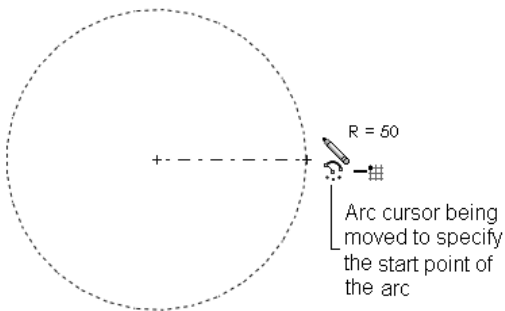


Figure 2-29 Specifying the centerpoint and the start point of the centerpoint arc

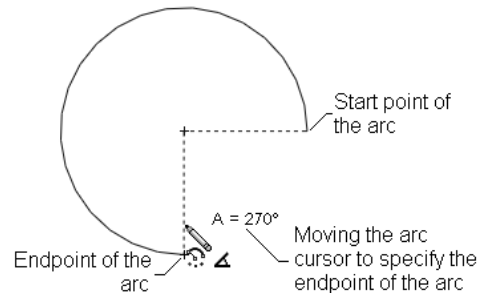


Figure 2-30 Moving the cursor to specify the start point and the endpoint of the arc

Drawing 3 Point Arcs

CommandManager:	Sketch > Centerpoint Arc > 3 Point Arc
SolidWorks menus:	Tools > Sketch Entities > 3 Point Arc
Toolbar:	Sketch > Centerpoint Arc > 3 Point Arc



The three point arcs are the ones that are drawn by defining the start point and the endpoint of the arc, and a point on the circumference or the periphery of the arc. When you invoke this tool, the arrow cursor is replaced by the three-point arc cursor.

To draw a 3 point arc, invoke the **3 Point Arc** tool and then move the three-point arc cursor to the point that you want to specify as the start point of the arc. Press the left mouse button once at the location of the start point and then move the cursor to the point that you want to specify as the endpoint of the arc. As soon as you invoke the **3 Point Arc** tool, the **Arc PropertyManager** will be displayed. Note that when you start moving the cursor after specifying the start point, a reference arc will be displayed. However, the options in the **Arc PropertyManager** will not be available at this stage.

Specify the endpoint of the arc using the left mouse button. You will notice that the reference

arc is no longer displayed. Instead, a solid arc is displayed and the cursor is attached to it. As you move the cursor, the arc will also be modified dynamically. Using the left mouse button, specify a point on the screen to create the arc. The last point that you specify will determine the direction of the arc. The options in the **Arc PropertyManager** will be displayed once you draw the arc. You can modify the properties of the arc using the **Arc PropertyManager**. Figure 2-31 shows the reference arc that is drawn by specifying the start point and the endpoint of the arc and Figure 2-32 shows specifying the third point for drawing the arc.

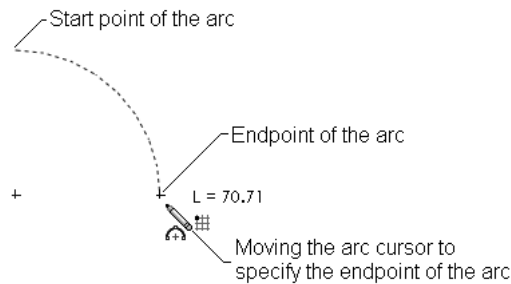


Figure 2-31 Specifying the start point and the endpoint of the arc

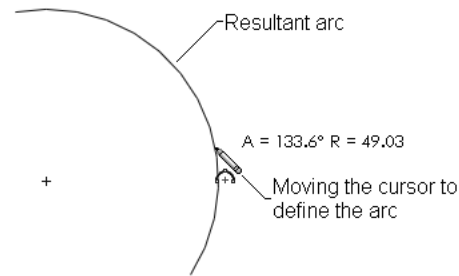


Figure 2-32 Specifying the third point for drawing the arc

DRAWING RECTANGLES

In SolidWorks 2009, the tools that are used to draw rectangles are grouped together. On invoking the **Rectangle** tool from the **Sketch CommandManager**, the **Rectangle PropertyManager** will be displayed. Select an appropriate method to draw a rectangle from the **Rectangle Type** rollout. Alternatively, right-click and choose the **Corner Rectangle** option from the shortcut menu to display the **Rectangle PropertyManager**. The various methods to create a rectangle are discussed next.

Drawing Rectangles by Specifying Their Corners

CommandManager:	Sketch > Corner Rectangle
SolidWorks menus:	Tools > Sketch Entities > Rectangle
Toolbar:	Sketch > Corner Rectangle



To draw a rectangle by specifying the two diagonally opposite corners, choose the **Corner Rectangle** button from the **Rectangle Type** rollout in the **Rectangle PropertyManager**, if it is not chosen by default. Next, move the cursor to the point that you want to specify as the first corner of the rectangle. Press the left mouse button once at the first corner and then move the cursor and specify the other corner of the rectangle using the left mouse button. You will notice that the length and width of the rectangle are displayed above the rectangle cursor. The length is measured along the X-axis and the width is measured along the Y-axis. Figure 2-33 shows a rectangle being drawn by specifying two diagonally opposite corners.

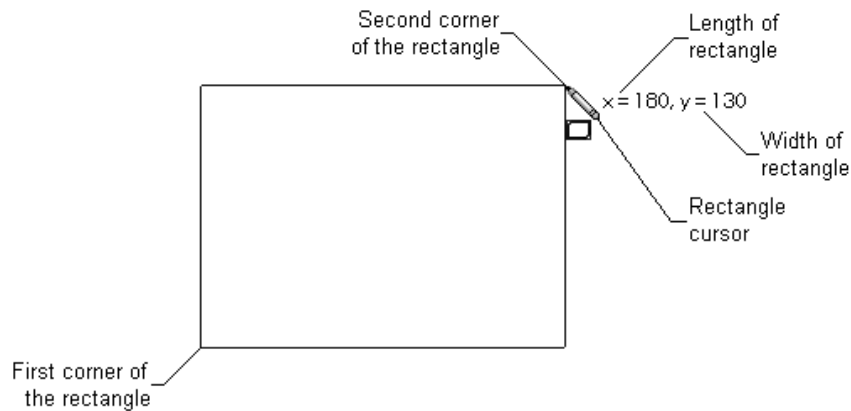


Figure 2-33 Drawing a rectangle by specifying two diagonally opposite corners

Drawing Rectangles by Specifying the Center and a Corner

CommandManager: Sketch > Corner Rectangle > Center Rectangle
SolidWorks menus: Tools > Sketch Entities > Center Rectangle
Toolbar: Sketch > Corner Rectangle > Center Rectangle



To draw a rectangle by specifying the center and one of the corners, choose the **Center Rectangle** button from the **Rectangle Type** rollout in the **Rectangle PropertyManager**. Next, move the cursor to the point that you want to specify as the center of the rectangle and press the left mouse button. Then, move the cursor and specify one of the corner of the rectangle using the left mouse button. You will notice that the length and width of the rectangle are displayed above the rectangle cursor. The length is measured along the X-axis and the width is measured along the Y-axis. Figure 2-34 shows a rectangle being drawn by specifying its center and one of the corners.

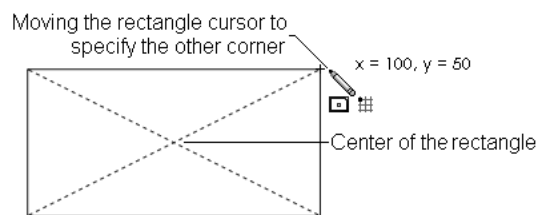


Figure 2-34 Drawing a rectangle by specifying the center and one of the corners

Drawing Rectangles at an Angle

CommandManager: Sketch > Corner Rectangle > 3 Point Corner Rectangle
SolidWorks menus: Tools > Sketch Entities > 3 Point Corner Rectangle
Toolbar: Sketch > Rectangle > 3 Point Corner Rectangle



To draw a rectangle at an angle, choose the **3 Point Corner Rectangle** button from the **Rectangle Type** rollout in the **Rectangle PropertyManager**. Move the cursor to the point that you want to specify as the start point of one of the edges of the rectangle. Press the left mouse button at this point and move the cursor to size the edge. You will notice that a reference line is being drawn. Depending on the current position of the cursor, the reference line will be horizontal, vertical, or inclined. The current length of the edge and its angle will be displayed above the rectangle cursor. Specify the second point as the endpoint of the edge such that the reference line is at an angle.

Next, move the cursor to specify the width of the rectangle. You will notice that a reference rectangle is drawn at an angle. Also, irrespective of the current position of the cursor, the width will be specified normal to the first edge, either above or below. Specify the third point using the left mouse button to define the width of the rectangle, as shown in Figure 2-35; the reference rectangle will be converted into a sketched rectangle.

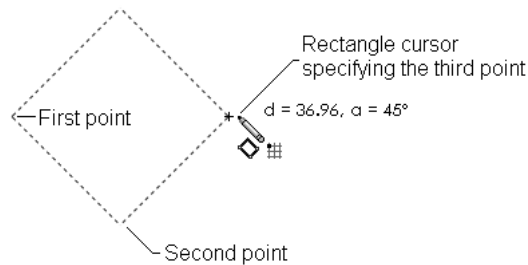


Figure 2-35 Drawing a rectangle at an angle

Drawing Centerpoint Rectangles at an Angle

CommandManager: Sketch > Corner Rectangle > 3 Point Center Rectangle
SolidWorks menus: Tools > Sketch Entities > 3 Point Center Rectangle
Toolbar: Sketch > Corner Rectangle > 3 Point Center Rectangle



To draw a centerpoint rectangle at an angle, choose the **3 Point Center Rectangle** button from the **Rectangle Type** rollout in the **Rectangle PropertyManager**. Next, move the cursor to the point that you want to specify as the centerpoint of the rectangle. Press the left mouse button once at this point and move the cursor to a distance that is equal to half the length of the rectangle to be drawn. You will notice that a reference line is being drawn. Depending on the current position of the cursor, the reference line can be horizontal, vertical, or inclined. The current length of the edge and its angle will be displayed above the rectangle cursor. Specify the second point using the left mouse button. Next, specify the third point to define the width of the rectangle, as shown in Figure 2-36.

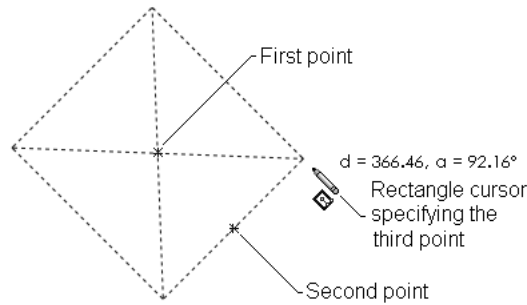


Figure 2-36 Drawing a centerpoint rectangle at an angle

Drawing Parallelograms

CommandManager: Sketch > Corner Rectangle > Parallelogram
SolidWorks menus: Tools > Sketch Entities > Parallelogram
Toolbar: Sketch > Corner Rectangle > Parallelogram



To draw a parallelogram, choose the **Parallelogram** button from the **Rectangle Type** rollout of the **Rectangle PropertyManager**. Specify two points on the screen to define one edge in the parallelogram. Next, move the mouse to define the width of the parallelogram. As you move the mouse, a reference parallelogram will be drawn. The size and shape of the reference parallelogram will depend on the current location of the cursor.

Specify a point on the screen to define the parallelogram. Figure 2-37 shows the parallelogram cursor specifying the third point to draw a parallelogram.

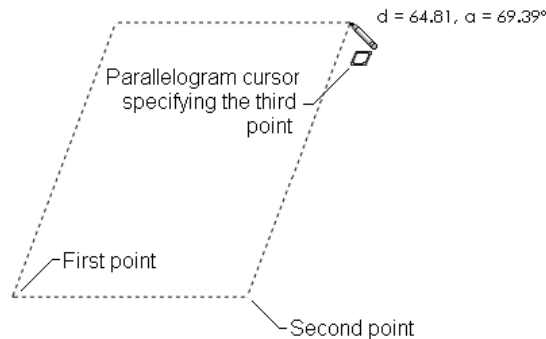


Figure 2-37 Drawing a parallelogram



Tip. In SolidWorks 2009, when you are in the sketching environment, press the **S** key to invoke the shortcut bar that contains the tools for sketching.

**Note**

Though the **Rectangle PropertyManager** is displayed while creating a rectangle, a rectangle is considered as the combination of four individual lines. Therefore, after drawing the rectangle, if you select one of the lines of the rectangle, the **Line Properties PropertyManager** will be displayed. You can modify the parameters of the selected line using the **Line Properties PropertyManager**.

Remember that because the relations are applied to all four corners of the rectangle, if you modify the parameters of one of the lines using the **Line Properties PropertyManager**, the other three lines will also be modified accordingly.

You can convert a rectangle into a construction rectangle by selecting all lines together using a window and then selecting the **For construction** check box from the **PropertyManager**.



Tip. You can invoke the list of recently used tools by right-clicking in the drawing area. Choose the **Recent Command** option from the shortcut menu; a cascading menu will be displayed with the eight most recently used tools.

DRAWING POLYGONS

CommandManager:	Sketch > Polygon
SolidWorks menus:	Tools > Sketch Entities > Polygon
Toolbar:	Sketch > Polygon



A regular polygon is defined as a multisided geometric figure in which the length of all sides and the angle between them are the same. In SolidWorks, you can draw a regular polygon with the number of sides ranging from 3 to 40. The dimensions of a polygon are controlled using the diameter of a construction circle that is inscribed inside the polygon or circumscribed outside the polygon. If the construction circle is inscribed inside the polygon, the diameter of the construction circle will be taken from the edges of the polygon. If the construction circle is circumscribed about the polygon, the diameter of the construction circle will be taken from the vertices of the polygon.

To draw a polygon, invoke the **Polygon** tool; the **Polygon PropertyManager** will be displayed, as shown in Figure 2-38.

Set the parameters such as the number of sides, inscribed or circumscribed circle, and so on, in the **Polygon PropertyManager**. You can also modify these parameters after drawing the polygon. When you invoke this tool, the arrow cursor will be replaced by the polygon cursor. Press the left mouse button at the point that you want to specify as the centerpoint of the polygon and then move the cursor to size the polygon. The length of each side and the rotation angle of the polygon will be displayed above the polygon cursor as you drag it. Using the left mouse button, specify a point on the screen after you get the desired length and rotation angle of the polygon. You will notice that based on whether you selected the **Inscribed circle** or the **Circumscribed circle** radio button in the **Polygon PropertyManager**, a construction circle will be drawn inside or outside the polygon. After you have drawn the polygon, you can modify the parameters such as the centerpoint of the polygon, the diameter of the construction circle, the angle of rotation, and so on using the **Polygon PropertyManager**.

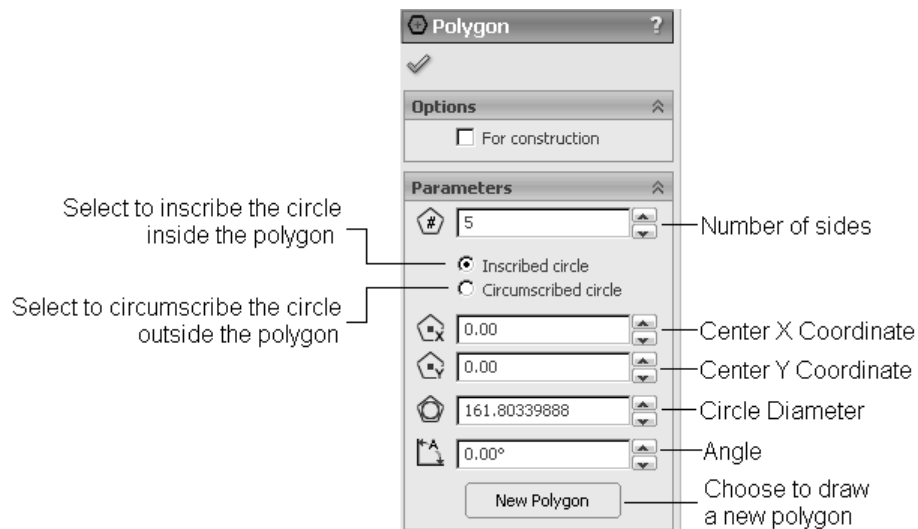


Figure 2-38 The *Polygon PropertyManager*

If you want to draw another polygon, choose the **New Polygon** button provided below the **Angle** spinner in the **Polygon PropertyManager**.

Figure 2-39 shows a six-sided polygon with the construction circle inscribed inside the polygon and Figure 2-40 shows a five-sided polygon with the construction circle circumscribed about the polygon. Note that the reference circle is retained with the polygon. Remember that this circle will not be considered while converting the polygon into a feature.

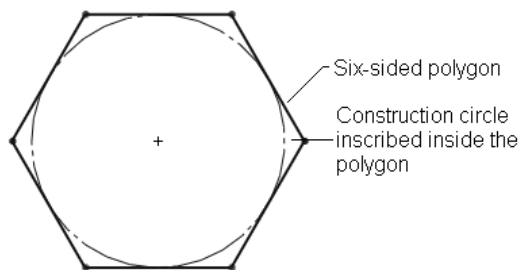


Figure 2-39 Six-sided polygon with the construction circle inscribed inside it

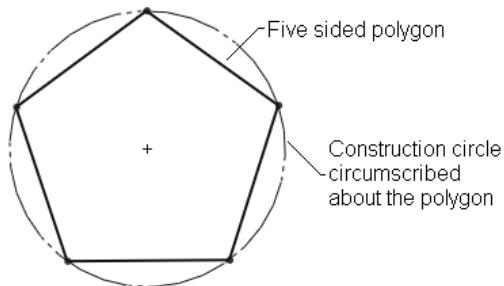


Figure 2-40 Five-sided polygon with the construction circle circumscribed about it



Tip. You can also invoke the tools to draw lines, arcs, circles, or rectangles using the shortcut menu that is displayed when you right-click in the drawing area.

DRAWING SPLINES

CommandManager:	Sketch > Spline
SolidWorks menus:	Tools > Sketch Entities > Spline
Toolbar:	Sketch > Spline



In SolidWorks, you can draw a spline using the left mouse button by continuously specifying the points through which the spline will pass. This method of drawing splines is similar to that of drawing continuous lines. After specifying all points of the spline, right-click to invoke the shortcut menu. If you need to exit the current spline and draw another spline, choose the **End Spline** option. Now, you can draw a new spline. If you need to exit the **Spline** tool, choose the **Select** option. Figure 2-41 shows a spline drawn with its start point at the origin.



Note

When you select a spline using the **Select** tool, handles are displayed on the points. These handles are used to edit a spline. You will learn more about these handles in the later chapters while editing splines.

Similar to individual line, you can also create individual spline segments by specifying the start point and then dragging the mouse to specify the endpoint.

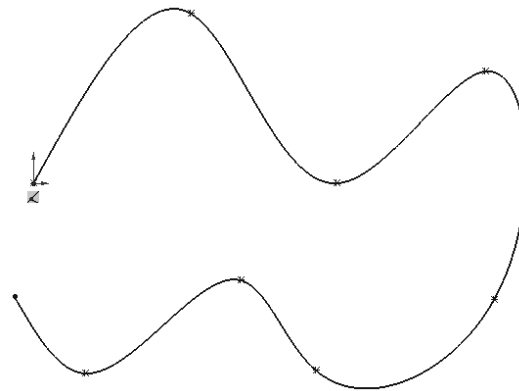


Figure 2-41 Sketched spline with its start point at the origin



Tip. After creating the spline, when you select it using the **Select** tool, the **Spline PropertyManager** will be displayed. The current control point will be displayed with a green filled square and its number and the corresponding X and Y coordinates will be displayed in the **Spline PropertyManager**. You can modify these coordinates to modify the position of the selected control point. A double-sided arrow will also be displayed along with the handle. You will learn more about this in the later chapters.

DRAWING SLOTS

In SolidWorks 2009, the tools that are used to draw slots are grouped together. To draw a slot, invoke the **Slot PropertyManager** by choosing the **Straight Slot** button from the **Sketch CommandManager** and select the appropriate method to draw a slot from the **Slot Type** rollout. Alternatively, right-click and choose the appropriate option from the shortcut menu to draw a slot. Various methods to create a slot are discussed next.

Creating a Straight Slot

CommandManager:	Sketch > Straight Slot
SolidWorks menus:	Tools > Sketch Entities > Straight Slot
Toolbar:	Sketch > Straight Slot



To create a straight slot, choose the **Straight Slot** button from the **Sketch CommandManager**; the **Slot PropertyManager** will be displayed. Next, move the cursor where you want to specify the first end point of the straight slot. Press the left mouse button once at the first end point, then move the cursor and specify the second end point of the straight slot; a preview of the slot will be attached to the cursor. The options in the **Slot PropertyManager** will not be enabled at this stage. Move the cursor and specify the width of the straight slot, as shown in Figure 2-42. The options in the **Slot PropertyManager** will be enabled once you draw the straight slot. You can modify the properties of the straight slot using the options available in the **Slot PropertyManager**.

Creating a Centerpoint Straight Slot

CommandManager:	Sketch > Straight Slot > Centerpoint Straight Slot
SolidWorks menus:	Tools > Sketch Entities > Centerpoint Straight Slot
Toolbar:	Sketch > Straight Slot > Centerpoint Straight Slot



To draw a centerpoint straight slot, choose **Straight Slot > Centerpoint Straight Slot** from the **Sketch CommandManager**; the **Slot PropertyManager** will be displayed. Specify the center point of the slot by using the left mouse button. Next, move the cursor and specify the end point of the slot; a preview of the slot will be attached to the cursor. The options in the **Slot PropertyManager** will not be enabled at this stage. Move the cursor and specify the width of the centerpoint straight slot, as shown in Figure 2-43. The options in the **Slot PropertyManager** will be enabled once you draw the centerpoint straight slot. You can modify the properties of the centerpoint straight slot using the options available in the **Slot PropertyManager**.

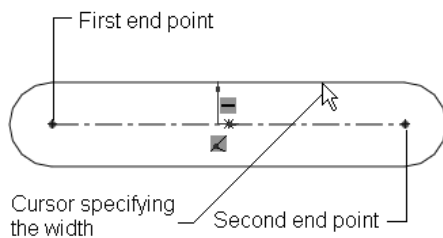


Figure 2-42 Specifying points to create a straight slot

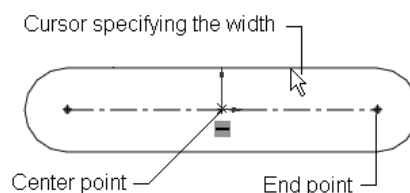


Figure 2-43 Specifying points to create a centerpoint straight slot

Creating a 3 Point Arc Slot

CommandManager: Sketch > Straight Slot > 3 Point Arc Slot
SolidWorks menus: Tools > Sketch Entities > 3 Point Arc Slot
Toolbar: Sketch > Straight Slot > 3 Point Arc Slot



To create a 3 point arc slot, choose **Straight Slot > 3 Point Arc Slot** from the **Sketch CommandManager**; the **Slot PropertyManager** will be displayed. You need to specify three points in the drawing area to create a 3 point arc slot. Move the cursor to the point where you want to specify the start point of the slot and then specify the start point of the slot by using the left mouse button. Note that as soon as you specify the start point, a reference arc will be attached to the cursor. Move the cursor to the location where you want to specify the second point of the slot and then specify the second point of the slot. Next, specify the third point of the slot; a preview of the 3 point arc slot will be attached to the cursor. The options in the **Slot PropertyManager** will not be enabled at this stage. Move the cursor and specify the width of the 3 point arc slot, as shown in Figure 2-44. The options in the **Slot PropertyManager** will be enabled once you draw the 3 point arc slot. You can modify the properties of the 3 point arc slot using the options available in the **Slot PropertyManager**.

Creating a Centerpoint Arc Slot

CommandManager: Sketch > Straight Slot > Centerpoint Arc Slot
SolidWorks menus: Tools > Sketch Entities > Centerpoint Arc Slot
Toolbar: Sketch > Straight Slot > Centerpoint Arc Slot



To create a centerpoint arc slot, choose **Straight Slot > Centerpoint Arc Slot** from the **Sketch CommandManager**; the **Slot PropertyManager** will be displayed. Specify the center point of the slot; a reference circle will be attached to the cursor. Move the cursor and specify the start point of the slot. Next, specify the end point of the slot using the left mouse button; a preview of the centerpoint arc slot will be attached to the cursor. Move the cursor and specify the point to create the centerpoint arc slot, as shown in Figure 2-45.

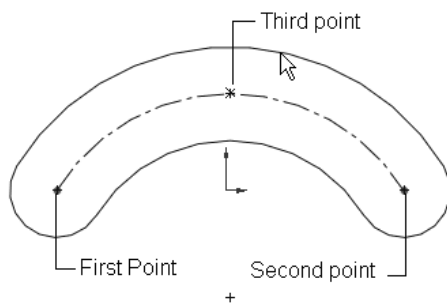


Figure 2-44 Specifying points to create a 3 point arc slot

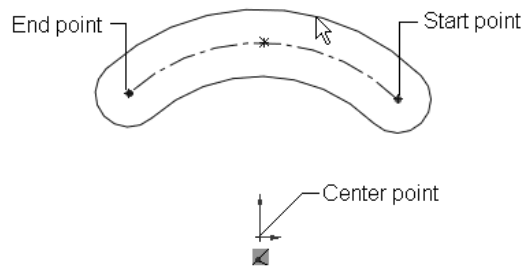


Figure 2-45 Specifying points to create a centerpoint arc slot

PLACING SKETCHED POINTS

CommandManager: Sketch > Point
SolidWorks menus: Tools > Sketch Entities > Point
Toolbar: Sketch > Point



To place a sketched point, choose the **Point** button from the **Sketch CommandManager** and then specify the point on the screen where you want to place it; the **Point PropertyManager** will be displayed with the X and Y coordinates of the current point. You can change/shift the location of the point by modifying its X and Y coordinates in the **Point PropertyManager**.

DRAWING ELLIPSES

CommandManager: Sketch > Ellipse > Ellipse
SolidWorks menus: Tools > Sketch Entities > Ellipse
Toolbar: Sketch > Ellipse > Ellipse



In SolidWorks, an ellipse is drawn by specifying its centerpoint and then specifying the two ellipse axes by moving the mouse. To draw an ellipse, invoke the **Ellipse** tool from the **Sketch CommandManager**; the arrow cursor will be replaced by the ellipse cursor. Move the cursor to the point that you want to specify as the centerpoint of the ellipse. Press the left mouse button once at that point and then move the cursor to specify one of the ellipse axes. You will notice that a reference circle is drawn and two values are displayed above the ellipse cursor, see Figure 2-46. The first value that shows $R = *$ is the radius of the first axis that you are defining and the second value that shows $r = *$ is the radius of the other axis. While defining the first axis, the second axis is taken equal to the first axis. This is the reason why a reference circle is drawn and not a reference ellipse.

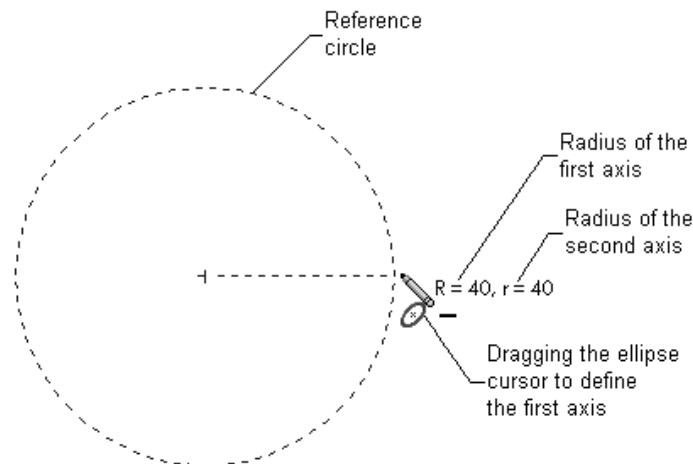


Figure 2-46 Dragging the cursor to define the ellipse axis

Specify a point on the screen to define the first axis. Next, move the cursor to size the other ellipse axis. As you move the cursor, the second value above the ellipse cursor that shows $r = *$

and the value in the **Radius 2** spinner in the **Ellipse PropertyManager** will change dynamically. Specify a point in the drawing area to define the second axis of the ellipse, refer to Figure 2-47.

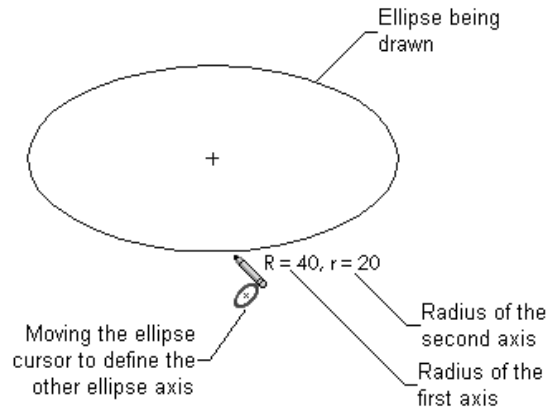


Figure 2-47 Defining the second axis of the ellipse

DRAWING ELLIPTICAL ARCS

CommandManager: Sketch > Ellipse > Partial Ellipse
SolidWorks menus: Tools > Sketch Entities > Partial Ellipse
Toolbar: Sketch > Ellipse > Partial Ellipse



In SolidWorks, the process of drawing an elliptical arc is similar to that of drawing an ellipse. You will follow the same process of defining the ellipse first. The point that you specify on the screen to define the second axis of the ellipse is taken as the start point of the elliptical arc. You can define the endpoint of the elliptical arc by specifying a point on the screen, as shown in Figure 2-48.

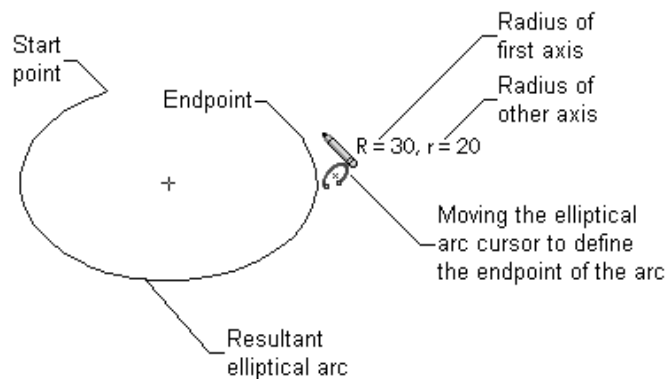


Figure 2-48 Drawing an elliptical arc

After drawing the elliptical arc, you can also modify its parameters in the **Ellipse PropertyManager**, as shown in Figure 2-49.

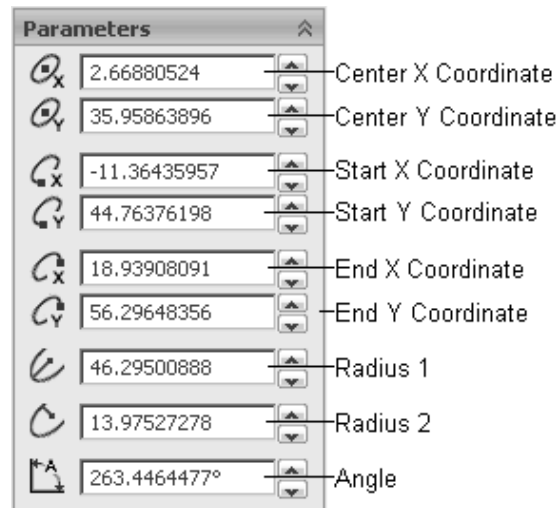


Figure 2-49 Partial view of the **Ellipse PropertyManager**

DRAWING PARABOLIC CURVES

CommandManager: Sketch > Ellipse > Parabola
SolidWorks menus: Tools > Sketch Entities > Parabola
Toolbar: Sketch > Ellipse > Parabola



In SolidWorks, you can draw a parabolic curve by specifying the focus point, apex point, and then two endpoints of the parabolic curve. To draw a parabolic curve, choose **Ellipse > Parabola** from the **Sketch CommandManager**; the cursor will be replaced by the parabola cursor. Move the cursor to the point that you want to specify as the focal point of the parabola. Press the left mouse button once at that point. You will notice that a reference parabolic arc is displayed. Then move the cursor to define the apex point and to size the parabola. As you move the cursor away from the focal point, the parabola will be flattened. After you get the basic shape of the parabolic curve, specify a point using the left mouse button. This point is taken as the apex of the parabolic curve. Next, specify two points with respect to the reference parabola to define the guide of the parabolic curve, see Figure 2-50.

As you move the mouse after specifying the focal point of the parabola, the **Parabola PropertyManager** will be displayed. But the options in the **Parabola PropertyManager** will not be available. These options will be available only after you have drawn the parabola. Figure 2-51 shows a partial view of the **Parabola PropertyManager**.



Tip. To dislodge the task pane, choose the **Auto Show** button and double-click on the gray bar at the top where its name is displayed. Now, you can move it at the desired location. To place it back on its original position, again double-click on the gray bar or choose the **Dock Task Pane** button provided on the top right corner of the task pane.

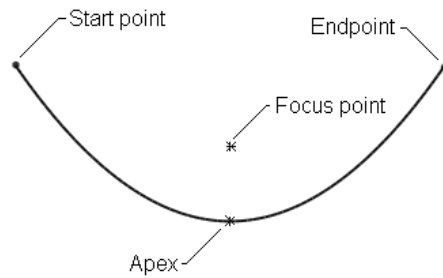


Figure 2-50 Parabola and its parameters

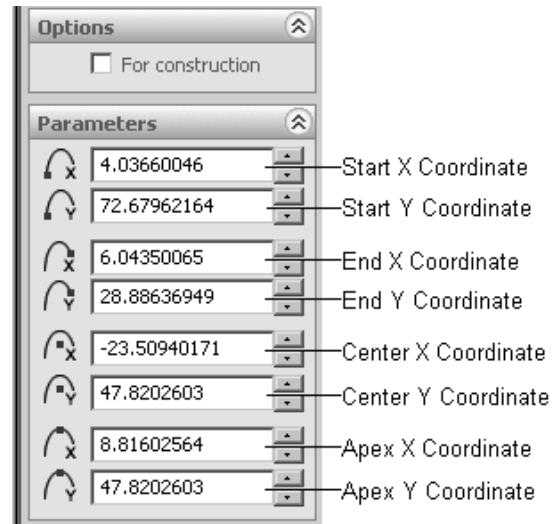


Figure 2-51 Partial view of the **Parabola PropertyManager**

DRAWING DISPLAY TOOLS

The drawing display tools are one of the most important tools provided in any of the solid modeling software. These tools allow you to modify the display of a drawing by zooming or panning it. In SolidWorks 2009, some of these tools are displayed in the drawing area in the **Heads-up View** toolbar. Some of the drawing display tools available in SolidWorks are discussed in this chapter. The remaining tools will be discussed in the later chapters.

Zoom to Fit

Heads-up View: View > Modify > Zoom to Fit



You can find this tool in the drawing area. Choose the **Zoom to Fit** button to increase or decrease the drawing display area so that all sketched entities or dimensions are fitted inside the current view. You can also press the F key to invoke this tool. Alternatively, you can double-click on the middle mouse button in the drawing area to invoke this tool.

Zoom to Area

Heads-up View: View > Modify > Zoom to Area



You can find this tool in the drawing area. The **Zoom to Area** button is used to magnify a specified area so that the part of the drawing inside the magnified area can be viewed in the current window. The area is defined inside a window that is created by dragging the cursor. When you choose this button, the cursor is replaced by a magnifying glass cursor. Press and hold the left mouse button and drag the cursor to specify the opposite corners of the window. The area enclosed inside the window will be magnified.

Zoom In/Out

SolidWorks menus: View > Modify > Zoom In/Out



The **Zoom In/Out** tool is used to dynamically zoom in or out of the drawing. When you invoke this tool, the cursor will be replaced by the zoom cursor. To zoom out of a drawing, press and hold the left mouse button and drag the cursor in the downward direction. Similarly, to zoom in a drawing, press and hold the left mouse button and drag the cursor in the upward direction. As you drag the cursor, the drawing display will be modified dynamically. After you get the desired view, exit this tool by choosing the **Select** tool from the **Sketch** toolbar. You can also exit this tool by right-clicking and choosing **Select** from the shortcut menu or by pressing the ESC key. If you have a mouse with scroll wheel, then scroll the wheel to zoom in/out. You can also press the Z key to zoom out of a drawing and press the SHIFT+Z keys to zoom in the drawing.

Zoom to Selection

SolidWorks menus: View > Modify > Zoom to Selection



The **Zoom to Selection** tool is used to modify the drawing display area such that the selected entity is fitted inside the current display. After selecting the entity, choose the **Zoom to Selection** button. The drawing display area will be modified such that the selected entity fits inside the current view. Press and hold the CTRL key while selecting multiple entities. In SolidWorks 2009, if you select an entity a pop-up toolbar will be displayed and you can invoke the **Zoom to Selection** tool from it.

Pan

SolidWorks menus: View > Modify > Pan



The **Pan** tool is used to drag the view in the current display. You can also press the CTRL key and the middle mouse button and then drag the cursor to move the entities.



Tip. You can also invoke the **Pan** tool using the CTRL key and the arrow keys on the keyboard. For example, to pan toward the right, press the CTRL key and then press the right arrow key. Similarly, to pan upward, press the CTRL key and then press the up arrow key.

Previous View

SolidWorks menus: View > Previous View



This tool is used to display the last view of the model and can be useful if you have zoomed the model at many levels. You can view the last ten views using this tool. You can invoke this tool from the drawing area or press the CTRL+Z keys.



Tip. You can also invoke some of the drawing display tools from the shortcut menu. To do so, right-click and choose **Zoom/Pan/Rotate**; a flyout will be displayed with the display tools.

Redraw

SolidWorks menus:

View > Redraw

The **Redraw** tool is used to refresh the screen. Sometimes when you draw a sketched entity, some unwanted elements remain on the screen. To remove these unwanted elements from the screen, use this tool. The screen will be refreshed and all the unwanted elements will be removed. You can invoke this tool by pressing the CTRL+R keys.

DELETING SKETCHED ENTITIES

You can delete the sketched entities by selecting them using the **Select** tool and then pressing the DELETE key on the keyboard. You can select the entities individually or select more than one entity by defining a window or crossing around the entities. When you select the entities, they turn light blue. When they turn light blue, press the DELETE key. You can also delete the sketched entities by selecting them and choosing the **Delete** option from the shortcut menu that is displayed on right-clicking.

TUTORIALS

Tutorial 1

In this tutorial, you will draw the basic sketch of the revolved solid model shown in Figure 2-52. The sketch of the revolved solid model is shown in Figure 2-53. Do not dimension the sketch. The solid model and dimensions are given only for your reference.

(Expected time: 30 min)

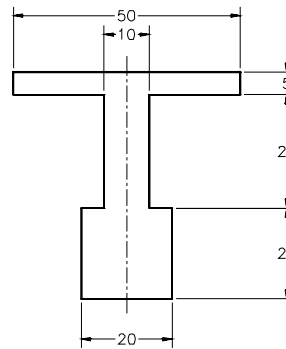
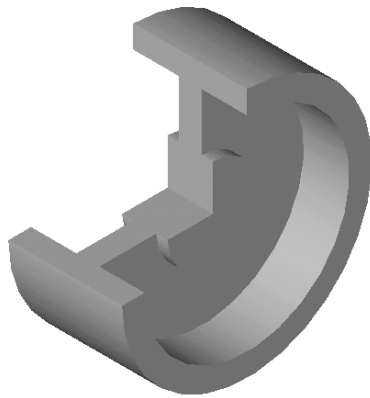


Figure 2-52 Revolved solid model for Tutorial 1 **Figure 2-53** Sketch for the revolved solid model

The following steps are required to complete this tutorial:

- Start a new part document.
- Switch to the sketching environment.
- Modify the settings of the snap and grid so that the cursor jumps through a distance of 5 mm instead of 10 mm.
- Draw the sketch of the model using the **Line** tool.
- Save the sketch and then close the document.

Starting SolidWorks and Starting a New Part Document

- Start SolidWorks by choosing **Start > All Programs > SolidWorks 2009 > SolidWorks 2009** or by double-clicking on the shortcut icon of SolidWorks 2009 available on the desktop of your computer; the **SolidWorks 2009** window is displayed along with the **SolidWorks Resources** task pane on its right. The **Getting Started Community**, **Online Resources**, and **Tip of the Day** are displayed in this task pane.



Tip. If the shortcut icon of SolidWorks is not created automatically on the desktop of your computer when you install SolidWorks, you can create it manually. To do so, choose **Start > All Programs > SolidWorks 2009** to display the SolidWorks cascading menu. Right-click on **SolidWorks 2009** in the cascading menu and then choose **Send To > Desktop (create shortcut)** from the shortcut menu.

You can get many valuable tips from the **Tip of the Day** message box. These tips are helpful in making the full utilization of this CAD package.

2. Choose the **New Document** option from the **Getting Started** rollout of the **SolidWorks Resources** task pane; the **New SolidWorks Document** dialog box is displayed, as shown in Figure 2-54.

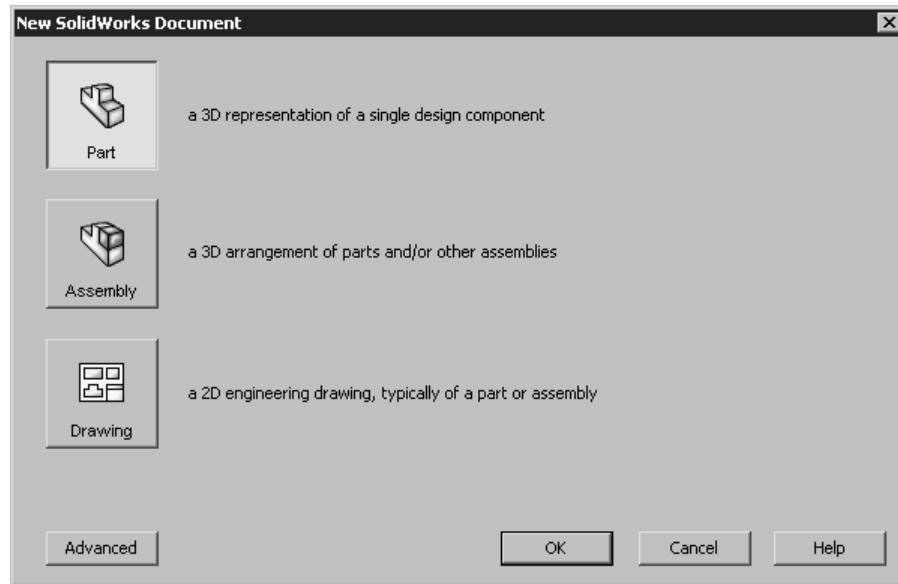


Figure 2-54 The New SolidWorks Document dialog box

3. The **Part** button is chosen by default. Choose the **OK** button from the **New SolidWorks Document** dialog box; a new SolidWorks part document is started. Also, the part modeling environment is active by default.

You need to invoke the sketching environment to draw the sketch.

4. Choose the **Sketch** tab from the **CommandManager** and then choose the **Sketch** button in the **Sketch CommandManager**; the **Edit Sketch PropertyManager** is displayed and you are prompted to select a plane on which you want to draw the sketch.
5. Select **Front Plane** from the drawing area; the sketching environment is invoked and the plane is oriented normal to the view. You will notice that a red colored arrow is displayed at the center of the screen indicating that you are in the sketching environment. Also, the confirmation corner is displayed with the **Exit Sketch** and **Delete Sketch** options on the upper right corner in the drawing area. The screen display in the sketching environment of SolidWorks is shown in Figure 2-55.



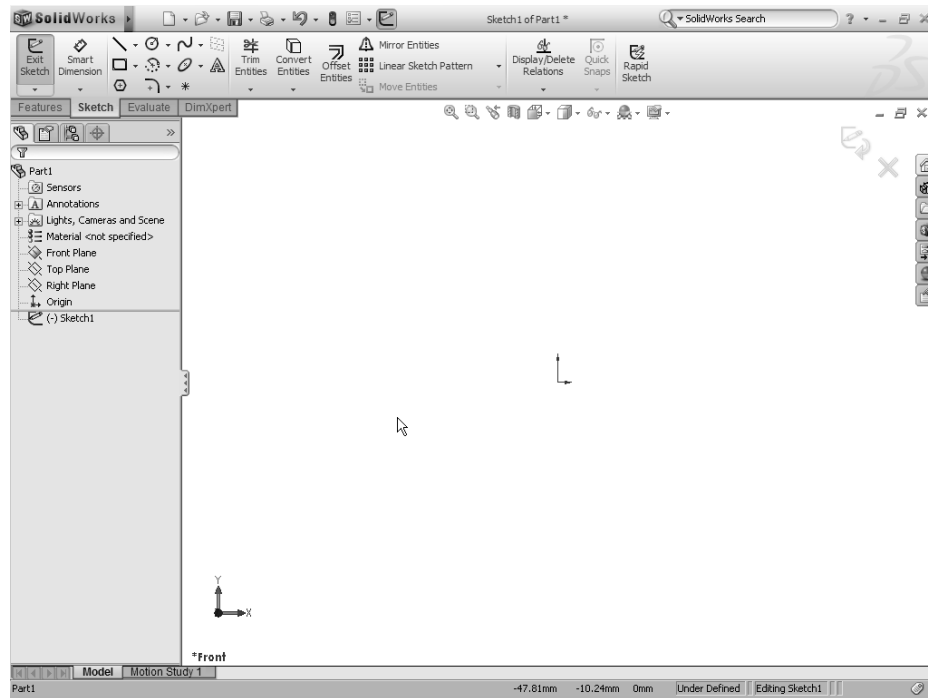


Figure 2-55 Screen display in the sketching environment

Modifying the Snap and Grid Settings and the Dimensioning Units

It is assumed that while installing SolidWorks, you have selected the **MMGS (millimeters, gram, second)** option for measuring the length. So, the length of an entity will be measured in millimeters in the current file. But if you have selected some other unit while installation, you need to make some initial settings to change the linear and angular units before drawing the sketch. For this tutorial, you need to modify the grid and snap settings so that the cursor jumps through a distance of 5 mm.



Note

If you had selected millimeters as the unit while installing SolidWorks, skip the first four points in this section.

1. Choose the **Options** button from the Menu Bar; **System Options - General** dialog box is displayed.
2. Choose the **Document Properties** tab; the name of the dialog box is changed to **Document Properties - Drafting Standard**.
3. Select the **Units** option from the area on the left to display the options related to the linear and angular units.
4. Select the **MMGS (millimeter, gram, second)** radio button in the **Unit system** area. Also, select the **degrees** option from the **Angle** area in the **Units** column.


As evident in Figure 2-53, the dimensions in the sketch are multiples of 5. Therefore, you need to modify the grid and snap settings so that the cursor jumps through a distance of 5 mm instead of 10 mm.

5. Select the **Grid/Snap** option from the area on the left to display the options related to grids. Set the value in the **Major grid spacing** spinner to **50**. Set the value in the **Minor-lines per major** spinner to **10**.
6. Select the **Display grid** check box, if it is cleared. Now, choose the **Go To System Snaps** button; the system options related to relations and snaps are displayed.
7. Select the **Grid** check box from the **Sketch snaps** area and clear the **Snap only when grid is displayed** check box. Choose **OK** to exit the dialog box.

Note that in the sketching environment, the lower right corner of the drawing area displays information about, editing sketch, status of the sketch, and location of the cursor in the X, Y, and Z coordinates. You will use the coordinates display to draw the sketch of the model. These coordinates will be modified as you move the cursor around the drawing area. When you move the cursor after the initial settings, the coordinates will show an increment of 5 mm instead of the default increment of 10 mm.

Drawing the Sketch

As evident from Figure 2-53, the sketch will be drawn using the **Line** tool. You will start drawing the sketch from the lower left corner of the sketch.

1. Choose the **Line** button from the **Sketch CommandManager**; the arrow cursor is replaced by the line cursor. 
2. Move the line cursor to a location whose coordinates are 40 mm, 0 mm, 0 mm.
3. Press the left mouse button at this point and move the cursor horizontally toward the right. You will notice that the symbol of the **Horizontal** relation is displayed below the line cursor and the length and angle of the line is displayed above the line cursor.
4. Press the left mouse button again when the length of the line above the line cursor shows the value 20.

The first horizontal line is drawn. As you are drawing continuous lines, the endpoint of the line drawn is automatically selected as the start point of the next line.

5. Move the line cursor vertically upward. The symbol of the **Vertical** relation is displayed on the left of the line cursor and the length of the line is displayed above the line cursor. Press the left mouse button when the length of the line on the line cursor displays the value 20.
6. Move the cursor horizontally toward the left and press the left mouse button when the length of the line on the line cursor displays the value 5.

7. Move the line cursor vertically upward and press the left mouse button when the length of the line on the line cursor displays the value 25.
8. Move the line cursor horizontally toward the right and press the left mouse button when the length of the line on the line cursor displays the value 20.
9. Move the line cursor vertically upward and press the left mouse button when the length of the line on the line cursor displays the value 5.
10. Press F from the keyboard to fit the sketch on the screen.
11. Move the line cursor horizontally toward the left and press the left mouse button when the length of the line on the line cursor displays the value 50.
12. Move the line cursor vertically downward and press the left mouse button when the length of the line on the line cursor displays the value 5.
13. Move the line cursor horizontally toward the right and press the left mouse button when the length of the line on the line cursor displays the value 20.
14. Move the line cursor vertically downward and press the left mouse button when the length of the line on the line cursor displays the value 25.
15. Move the line cursor horizontally toward the left and press the left mouse button when the length of the line on the line cursor displays the value 5.
16. Move the line cursor vertically downward to the start point of the first line. Press the left mouse button when the red circle is displayed. The final sketch for Tutorial 1 is created, as shown in Figure 2-56. In this figure, the display of the grid is turned off for clarity.

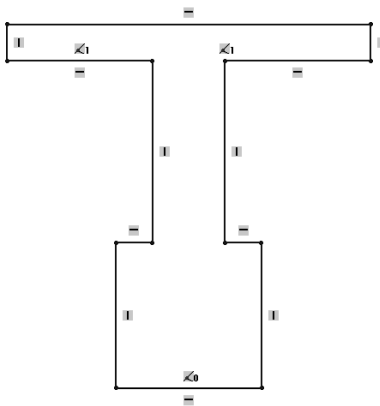


Figure 2-56 Final sketch for Tutorial 1


17. Right-click and choose **Select** from the shortcut menu to exit the **Line** tool.



Tip. To turn off the grid display, right-click in the drawing area to display the shortcut menu. The **Display grid** option has a check mark on its left, indicating that this option is chosen. Choose the option again.

Saving the Sketch

It is recommended that you create a separate folder for saving the tutorial files of this book. When you invoke the option to save a document, the default folder *My Documents* will be displayed. You will create a folder with the name *SolidWorks* in the *My Documents* folder and then create the folder of each chapter inside the *SolidWorks* folder. As a result, you can save the tutorials of a chapter in the folder of that chapter.

1. Choose the **Save** button from the Menu Bar to invoke the **Save As** dialog box. Create the *SolidWorks* folder inside the *My Documents* folder and then create the *c02* folder inside the *SolidWorks* folder. 
2. Enter the name of the document as *c02tut1* in the **File name** edit box and choose the **Save** button. The document will be saved in the *My Documents\SolidWorks\c02* folder.
3. Close the document by choosing **File > Close** from the SolidWorks menus.

Tutorial 2

In this tutorial, you will draw the sketch of the solid model shown in Figure 2-57. The sketch of the model is shown in Figure 2-58. Do not dimension the sketch. The dimensions and the solid model are given for your reference only. **(Expected time: 30 min)**

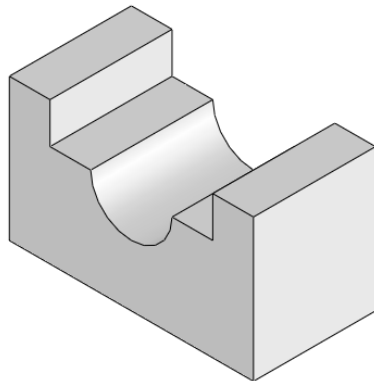


Figure 2-57 Solid model for Tutorial 2

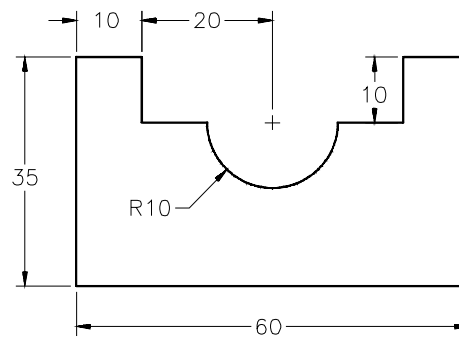



Figure 2-58 Sketch for Tutorial 2

The following steps are required to complete this tutorial:


- a. Start SolidWorks and then start a new part document.
- b. Invoke the sketching environment.
- c. Modify the settings of the snap and grid so that the cursor jumps through a distance of 5 mm instead of 10 mm.

- d. Draw the sketch using the **Line** tool, refer to Figure 2-59.
- e. Save the sketch and then close the file.

Opening a New File

1. Choose the **New** button from the Menu Bar to invoke the **New SolidWorks Document** dialog box. 
2. The **Part** button is chosen by default in the **New SolidWorks Document** dialog box. Now, choose the **OK** button.

Invoke the sketching environment, as you need to draw the sketch of the model first.

3. Choose the **Sketch** button from the **Sketch CommandManager** and select the **Front Plane** to invoke the sketching environment. 

Modifying the Snap and Grid Settings and Dimensioning Units

As evident in Figure 2-58, the dimensions in the sketch are multiples of 5. Therefore, you need to modify the grid and snap settings so that the cursor jumps through a distance of 5 mm instead of 10 mm.

1. Choose **Options** from the Menu Bar to invoke the **System Options - General** dialog box. Choose the **Document Properties** tab.
2. Select the **Grid/Snap** option from the area on the left to display the options related to linear and angular units. Set the value in the **Major grid spacing** spinner to **50** and value in the **Minor-lines per major** spinner to **10**.
3. Make sure the **Grid** check box is selected in the **System Options - Relations/Snaps** dialog box. Choose **OK** to close the dialog box.

When you move the cursor, the coordinates displayed close to the lower right corner of the drawing area show an increment of 5 mm.

Drawing the Sketch

The sketch will be drawn using the **Line** tool. The arc in the sketch will also be drawn using the same tool. You will start drawing from the lower left corner of the sketch.

1. Invoke the **Line** tool by pressing the L key; the arrow cursor is replaced by the line cursor.
2. Move the line cursor to a point whose coordinates are 30 mm, 0 mm, 0 mm.
3. Press the left mouse button at this point and move the cursor horizontally toward the right. Press the left mouse button again when the length of the line above the line cursor shows the value 60; the bottom horizontal line of 60 mm length is drawn.

4. Move the line cursor vertically upward and press the left mouse button when the length of the line displayed above the line cursor shows the value 35.
5. Choose the **Zoom to Fit** button from the **Heads-up View** toolbar to fit the sketch on the screen.



As mentioned earlier, you can also invoke the drawing display tools while some other tool is active. After modifying the drawing display, the tool that was active before invoking the drawing display tool will be restored and you can continue using that tool. Therefore, after the drawing display area is modified, the **Line** tool will be restored and you can continue drawing lines.

6. Move the line cursor horizontally toward the left and press the left mouse button when the length of the line above the line cursor shows the value 10.
7. Move the line cursor vertically downward and press the left mouse button when the length of the line above the line cursor shows the value 10.
8. Move the line cursor horizontally toward the left and press the left mouse button when the length of the line above the line cursor shows a value of 10.

Next, you need to draw the arc that is normal to the last line. As mentioned earlier, you can draw an arc using the **Line** tool also. Drawing arcs using the **Line** tool is a recommended method when you need to draw a sketch that is a combination of lines and arcs. This increases the productivity by reducing the time taken in invoking the tools for drawing an arc and then invoking the **Line** tool to draw lines.

9. Move the line cursor away from the endpoint of the last line and then move it back close to the endpoint; the arc mode is invoked.
10. Move the arc cursor vertically downward up to the next grid point.
11. Move the arc cursor toward the left.

You will notice that a normal arc is being drawn and the angle and radius of the arc is displayed above the line cursor.

12. Move the cursor to left and press the left mouse button when the angle value on the arc cursor is 180 and the radius value is 10. An arc normal to the last line is drawn and the line mode is activated.
13. Move the line cursor horizontally toward the left and press the left mouse button when the length of the line on the line cursor shows a value of 10.
14. Move the line cursor vertically upward and press the left mouse button when the length of the line on the line cursor shows a value of 10.

15. Move the line cursor horizontally toward the left and press the left mouse button when the length of the line on the line cursor shows the value 10.
16. Move the line cursor to the start point of the first line and press the left mouse button when the orange circle is displayed.
17. Press the ESC key to exit the **Line** tool.

This completes the sketch. However, you need to modify the drawing display area such that the sketch fits the screen.

18. Press the F key to modify the drawing display area. The final sketch for Tutorial 2, without the grid display, is shown in Figure 2-59.

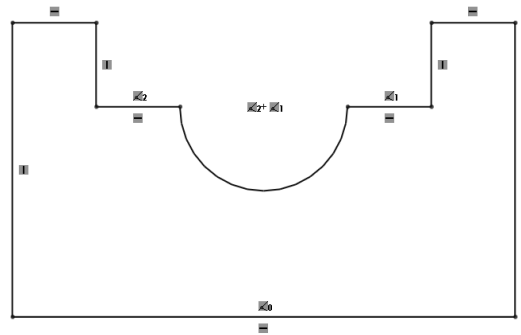



Figure 2-59 Final sketch for Tutorial 2

Saving the Sketch

1. Choose the **Save** button from the Menu Bar to invoke the **Save As** dialog box. 
2. Enter the name of the document as *c02tut2* in the **File name** edit box and choose the **Save** button.
3. Close the document by choosing **File > Close** from the SolidWorks menus.

Tutorial 3

In this tutorial, you will draw the basic sketch of the model shown in Figure 2-60. The sketch to be drawn is shown in Figure 2-61. Do not dimension the sketch; the solid model and dimensions are given for your reference only. **(Expected time: 30 min)**

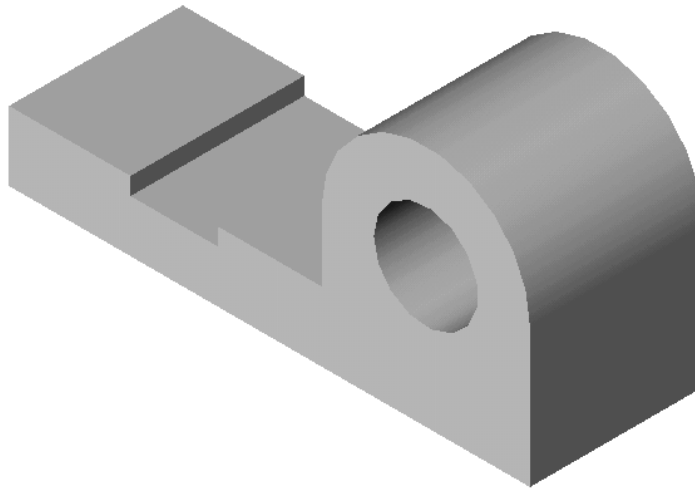


Figure 2-60 Solid model for Tutorial 3

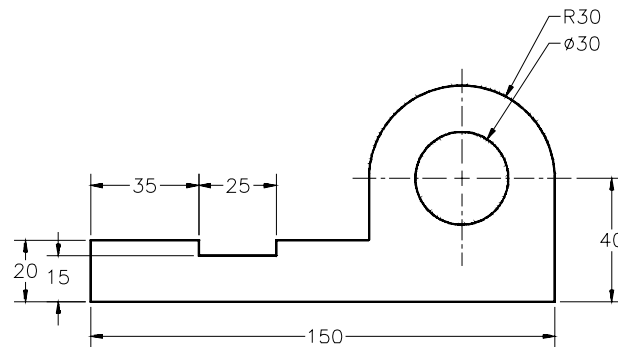


Figure 2-61 Sketch for Tutorial 3

The following steps are required to complete this tutorial:

- Start SolidWorks and then start a new part file.
- Switch to the sketching environment.
- Modify the settings of the snap and grid so that the cursor jumps through a distance of 5 mm instead of 10 mm.
- Draw the outer loop of the sketch using the **Line** tool.
- Draw the inner circle using the **Circle** tool, refer to Figure 2-63.
- Save the sketch and then close the file.

Starting a New File

- Choose the **New** button from the Menu Bar to invoke the **New SolidWorks Document** dialog box.



- The **Part** button is chosen by default in the **New SolidWorks Document** dialog box. Choose the **OK** button.

A new SolidWorks part document is started. To draw the sketch of the model, you need to invoke the sketching environment.

- Choose the **Sketch** button from the **Sketch CommandManager**; the **Edit Sketch PropertyManager** is displayed. Select **Front Plane** from the drawing area.



The sketching environment is displayed with the confirmation corner with the **Exit Sketch** and **Delete Sketch** options on the upper right corner of the drawing area.

Modifying the Snap and Grid Settings and Dimensioning Units

As the dimensions in the sketch are multiples of 5, you need to modify the grid and snap settings so that you can make the cursor jump through a distance of 5 mm.

- Choose **Options** from the Menu Bar to invoke the **System Options - General** dialog box. Choose the **Document Properties** tab.
- Select the **Grid/Snap** option from the area on the left to display the options related to linear and angular units. Set the value of the **Major grid spacing** spinner to **50** and set the value of the **Minor-lines per major** spinner is **10**.
- Make sure the **Grid** check box is selected in the **System Options - Relations/Snaps** dialog box. Choose **OK** to close the dialog box.

Drawing the Outer Loop

As evident from Figure 2-61, the sketch consists of an outer loop and an inner circle. Therefore, this sketch will be drawn using the **Line** and **Circle** tools. You will start drawing from the lower left corner of the sketch. As the length of the lower horizontal line is 150 mm, you need to modify the drawing display area such that the drawing area in the first quadrant is increased. This can be done using the **Pan** tool.

- Press the CTRL key and the middle mouse button and drag the cursor toward the bottom left corner of the screen.

You will notice that the origin also moves toward the bottom left corner of the screen, thus increasing the drawing area in the first quadrant.

- After dragging the origin close to the lower left corner, release the left mouse button.
- Choose the **Line** button from the **Sketch CommandManager**.
- Move the line cursor to a location whose coordinates are 40 mm, 0 mm, 0 mm.



5. Press the left mouse button at this point and move the cursor horizontally toward the right. Press the left mouse button again when the length of the line above the line cursor shows a value of 150.
6. Move the line cursor vertically upward and press the left mouse button when the length of the line on the line cursor displays the value 40.

The next entity that has to be drawn is a tangent arc. This arc will be drawn by invoking the **Arc** tool from the **Line** tool

7. Move the line cursor away from the endpoint of the last line and then move it back to the endpoint.

The arc mode is invoked and the line cursor is replaced by the arc cursor.

8. Move the arc cursor vertically upward to a small distance.
9. When the dotted line is displayed, move the cursor toward the left.

You will notice that a tangent arc is being drawn. The angle of the tangent arc and its radius are displayed above the arc cursor.

10. Press the left mouse button when the angle value above the arc cursor shows 180 and the radius shows a value of 30 to complete the arc.

The required tangent arc is drawn. As mentioned earlier, the line mode is automatically invoked after you have drawn the arc using the **Line** tool.

11. Move the line cursor vertically downward and press the left mouse button when the length of the line on the line cursor displays the value 20.
12. Move the line cursor horizontally toward the left and press the left mouse button when the length of the line on the line cursor displays the value 30.
13. Move the line cursor vertically downward and press the left mouse button when the length of the line on the line cursor displays the value 5.
14. Move the line cursor horizontally toward the left and press the left mouse button when the length of the line on the line cursor displays the value 25.
15. Move the line cursor vertically upward and press the left mouse button when the length of the line on the line cursor displays the value 5.



Tip. While drawing the lines, if the arc mode is invoked by mistake, press the **A** key; the line mode will be invoked again.

16. Move the line cursor horizontally toward the left and press the left mouse button when the length of the line on the line cursor displays the value 35.
17. Move the line cursor to the start point of the first line. Press the left mouse button when the orange circle is displayed.

The length of the line at this point will be 20 mm.

18. Right-click and choose **Select** from the shortcut menu to exit the **Line** tool.
19. Choose the **Zoom to Fit** button to fit the sketch on the screen. This completes the outer loop of the sketch. The sketch, after drawing the outer loop, is shown in Figure 2-62.

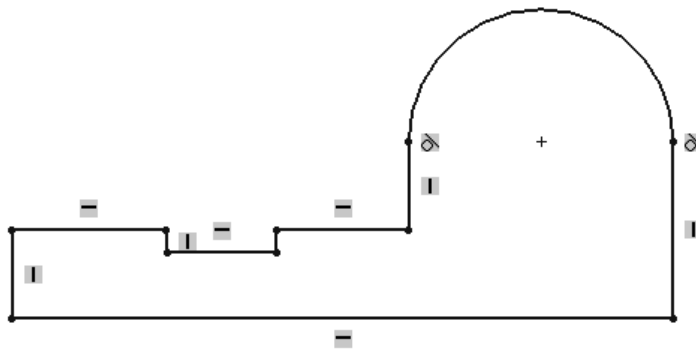



Figure 2-62 Sketch after drawing the outer loop

Drawing the Circle

The circle in the sketch will be drawn using the **Circle** tool. The centerpoint of the circle will be the centerpoint of the arc, which will be displayed by a plus sign. This plus sign is automatically drawn when you draw the arc. You can select this centerpoint to draw the circle.

1. Choose the **Circle** button from the **Sketch CommandManager** to invoke the **Circle PropertyManager**. Choose the **Circle** button from the **Circle Type** rollout, if it is not chosen already. 
2. Move the circle cursor close to the centerpoint of the arc and press the left mouse button when the orange circle is displayed.
3. Move the cursor toward the left and when the radius of the circle above the circle cursor shows a value of 15, press the left mouse button. A circle of 15 mm radius is drawn.



Tip. You will notice that the bottom horizontal line in the sketch is black and the remaining lines are blue. In the next chapter, you will learn about the reason why some entities in the sketch have a different color.

4. This completes the sketch for Tutorial 3. Right-click and choose the **Select** option from the shortcut menu to exit the **Circle** tool.

The final sketch for Tutorial 3 is shown in Figure 2-63.

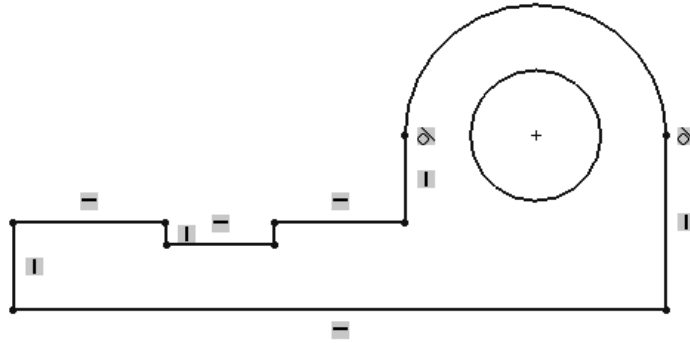


Figure 2-63 Final sketch for Tutorial 3

Saving the Sketch

1. Choose the **Save** button from the Menu Bar to invoke the **Save As** dialog box.
2. Enter the name of the document as *c02tut3* in the **File name** edit box and choose the **Save** button.
3. Close the document by choosing **File > Close** from the SolidWorks menus.



Tutorial 4

In this tutorial, you will draw the sketch of the model shown in Figure 2-64. The sketch of the model is shown in Figure 2-65. You will not dimension the sketch. The solid model and the dimensions are given for your reference only. **(Expected time: 30 min)**

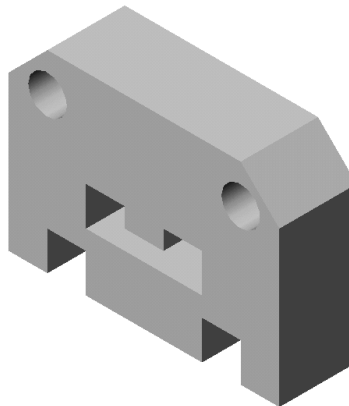


Figure 2-64 Solid model for Tutorial 4

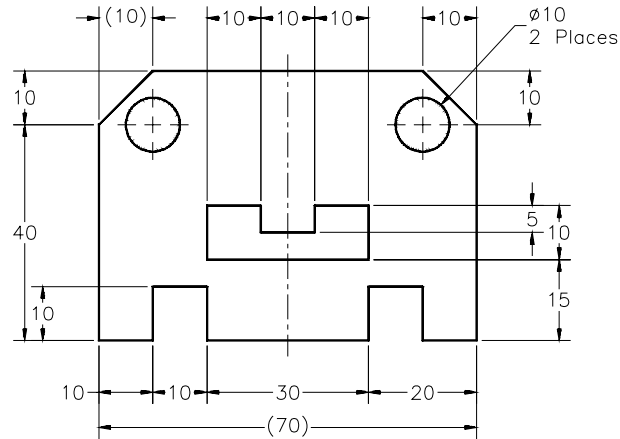


Figure 2-65 Sketch of the model for tutorial 4

The following steps are required to complete this tutorial:

- Start SolidWorks and then start a new part document.
- Switch to the sketching environment.
- Draw the sketch of the model using the **Line** and **Circle** tools, refer to Figures 2-66 through 2-70.
- Save the sketch and then close the document.

Modifying Unit and Grid Settings

You need to make some initial settings to change the linear and angular units before drawing the sketch.

1. Choose the **Options** button from the Menu Bar to invoke the **System Options - General** dialog box.
2. Choose the **Document Properties** tab; the name of the dialog box is changed to **Document Properties - Drafting Standard**.
3. Select the **Units** option from the area on the left to display the options related to the linear and angular units.
4. Select the **MMGS (millimeter, gram, second)** radio button from the **Unit system** area, if it is not selected by default. Also, select the **degrees** option from the **Angle** area, if it is not selected by default.



Note

*If you had selected **Millimeters** as the unit while installing SolidWorks, skip the points discussed earlier in this section.*

5. Select **Grid/Snap** from the area on the left and select the **Display Grid** check box, if it is cleared.
6. Set the value of the **Major grid spacing** spinner to **100** and the value of the **Minor-lines per major** spinner to **20**. Now, choose the **Go To System Snaps** button; the system options related to relations and snap are displayed.
7. Select the **Grid** check box from the **Sketch snaps** area, if it is cleared. Make sure that you clear the **Snap only when grid is displayed** check box, if it is selected. Choose **OK** to exit the dialog box.




Tip. If the grid is displayed on the screen when you invoke the sketching environment for the first time, then you can set the option to turn off the grid display. Right-click in the drawing area to display the shortcut menu. The **Display Grid** option has a check mark on its left, indicating that this option is chosen. Select this option again to turn the grids off.

Drawing the Outer Loop of the Sketch

The sketch of the model consists of an outer loop, which has two circles and a cavity inside it. You will first draw the outer loop and then the inner entities. Therefore, the sketch will be drawn using the **Line** and **Circle** tools.

The outer loop will be drawn using the continuous lines. You will start drawing the sketch from the lower left corner of the sketch.

1. Choose the **Line** button from the **Sketch CommandManager** to invoke the **Line** tool; the arrow cursor is replaced by the line cursor. 
2. Move the cursor in the first quadrant close to the origin; the coordinates of the point are displayed close to the lower left corner of the screen.
3. Press the left mouse button at the point whose coordinates are 10 mm, 10 mm, 0 mm and then move the cursor horizontally toward the right.
4. Press the left mouse button when the length of the line displayed above the line cursor shows a value of 10. Horizontal line is created. Refer to Line 1 in Figure 2-66.
5. Move the line cursor vertically upward. The symbol of the **Vertical** relation is displayed below the line cursor and the length of the line is displayed above the line cursor.
6. Press the left mouse button when the length of the line displayed above the line cursor shows a value of 10. Vertical line is created. Refer to Line 2 in Figure 2-66.
7. Move the line cursor horizontally toward the right. Press the left mouse button when the length of the line above the line cursor shows a value of 10; the next horizontal line of 10 mm length is drawn. Refer to Line 3 in Figure 2-66.

8. Move the line cursor vertically downward and press the left mouse button when the length of the line on the line cursor shows the value 10. Refer to Line 4 in Figure 2-66.
9. Move the line cursor horizontally toward the right and press the left mouse button when the length of the line on the line cursor shows the value 30. Refer to Line 5 in Figure 2-66.
10. Move the line cursor vertically upward and press the left mouse button when the length of the line on the line cursor shows the value 10. Refer to Line 6 in Figure 2-66.
11. Move the line cursor horizontally toward the right and press the left mouse button when the length of the line on the line cursor shows the value 10. Refer to Line 7 in Figure 2-66.
12. Move the line cursor vertically downward and press the left mouse button when the length of the line on the line cursor shows the value 10. Refer to Line 8 in Figure 2-66.
13. Move the line cursor horizontally toward the right and press the left mouse button when the length of the line on the line cursor shows the value 10. Refer to Line 9 in Figure 2-66.
14. Move the line cursor vertically upward and press the left mouse button when the length of the line on the line cursor displays the value 40. Refer to Line 10 in Figure 2-66.

The next line that you need to draw is an inclined line that makes an angle of 135-degree. To draw this line, you need to move the cursor in a direction that makes an angle of 135-degree.

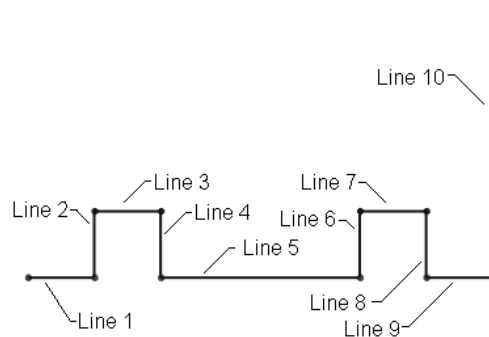


Figure 2-66 Partial outer loop of the sketch

15. Move the line cursor such that the line is drawn at an angle of 135-degree and the length of the line displays the value 14.14 above the cursor. The angle can be checked from the **Angle** spinner in the **Parameters** rollout of the **Line PropertyManager**.
16. Press the left mouse button at this location to specify the endpoint of the inclined line.

17. Move the line cursor horizontally toward the left and press the left mouse button when the length of the line on the line cursor displays the value 50.

You will notice that some yellow inferencing lines are displayed when you move the cursor.

18. Move the line cursor in the direction diagonally downward where the value of the angle displays a value of 135-degree and the length of the lines displays the value 14.14.

19. Press the left mouse button at this location.

20. Move the cursor vertically downward to the start point of the first line.

You will notice that when you move the cursor close to the start point of the first line, a red circle is displayed. Symbols of the **Vertical** and **Coincident** relations are displayed on the right of the cursor. The length of the line shows the value 40.

21. Press the left mouse button when the red circle is displayed. Right-click to display the shortcut menu and choose the **Select** option to exit the **Line** tool.

This completes the sketch of the outer loop. Note that the display of the sketch is small. Therefore, you need to modify the drawing display area such that the sketch fits the screen. This is done using the **Zoom to Fit** tool.

22. Choose the **Zoom to Fit** button from the **Heads-up View** toolbar to fit the current sketch on the screen. The outer loop of the sketch is completed and is shown in Figure 2-67. Note that in this figure, the display of the grid is temporarily turned off for a better visibility. This can be done by right-clicking in the drawing area and choosing the **Display grid** option from the shortcut menu.

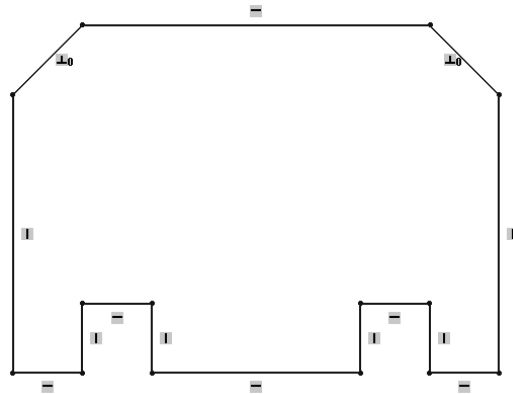


Figure 2-67 Outer loop of the sketch

Drawing Circles

The circles will be drawn using the **Circle** tool. You will use the inferencing lines originating from the start points and endpoints of the inclined lines to specify the centerpoint of the

circles. At a given time, you can snap to grid or use inferencing lines to draw the sketches. Therefore, you need to turn off the snapping to grid.

1. Right-click in the drawing area and choose the **Relations/Snaps Options** option from the shortcut menu; the **System Options - Relations/Snaps** dialog box is displayed with the **Relations/Snaps** option selected. Clear the **Grid** check box and choose the **OK** button from this dialog box.
2. Choose the **Circle** button from the **Sketch CommandManager** to invoke the **Circle PropertyManager**. Choose the **Circle** button from the **Circle Type** rollout, if it is not chosen already.

When you invoke the **Circle** tool, the arrow cursor will be replaced by the circle cursor.

3. Move the circle cursor close to the lower endpoint of the right inclined line and then move it toward the left. Remember that you will not press the left mouse button at this moment. An inferencing line is displayed originating from the lower endpoint of the right inclined line. On moving the cursor toward the left, you will notice that at the point where the cursor is vertically in line with the upper endpoint of the right inclined line, another inferencing line originates from the upper endpoint of the right inclined line. This inferencing line will intersect the inferencing line generated from the lower endpoint of the inclined line, as shown in Figure 2-68.

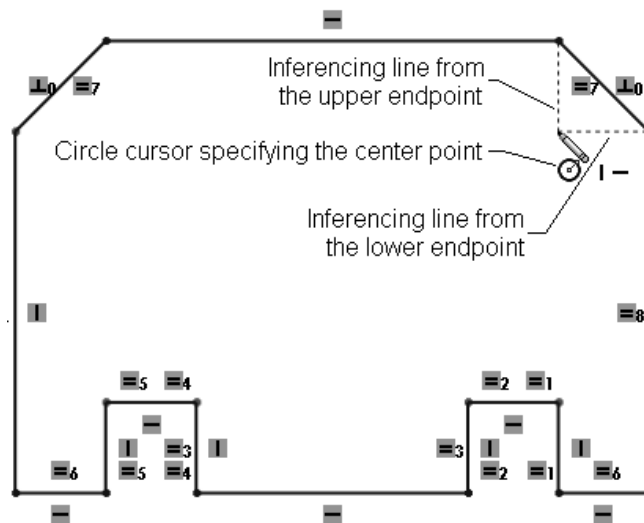


Figure 2-68 Drawing a circle with the help of inferencing lines

4. Press the left mouse button at the point where the inferencing lines from both the endpoints of the inclined lines intersect. Now, move the circle cursor toward the left to define a circle.
5. Press the left mouse button when the radius of the circle displayed above the circle cursor shows a value close to 5.

6. Now, the options in the **Circle PropertyManager** are activated. Set the value in the **Radius** spinner to **5** in the **Parameters** rollout of the **PropertyManager** and press **ENTER**.
7. Similarly, draw the circle on the left using the inferencing lines generating from the endpoints of the left inclined line. The sketch, after drawing the two circles inside the outer loop, is shown in Figure 2-69.

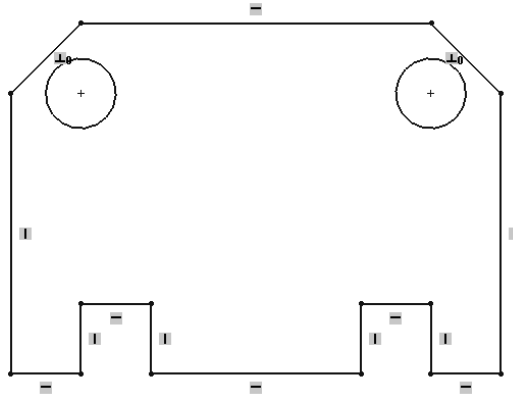


Figure 2-69 Sketch after drawing the two inner circles

8. Right-click in the drawing area and choose **Select** to exit the **Circle** tool.

Drawing the Sketch of the Inner Cavity

Next, you will draw the sketch of the inner cavity. You will start drawing with the lower horizontal line. Before proceeding further, you need to invoke the snap to grid option.

1. Select the **Grid** check box in the **System Options - Relations/Snaps** dialog box. Now, invoke the **Line** tool by pressing the L key; the arrow cursor is replaced by the line cursor.
2. Move the line cursor to a location whose coordinates are 30 mm, 25 mm, 0 mm.
3. Press the left mouse button at this point and move the cursor horizontally toward the right. Press the left mouse button when the length of the line above the line cursor displaying the value of 30.
4. Move the line cursor vertically upward and press the left mouse button when the length of the line on the line cursor displays the value 10.
5. Move the line cursor horizontally toward the left and press the left mouse button when the length of the line on the line cursor displays the value 10.
6. Move the line cursor vertically downward and press the left mouse button when the length of the line on the line cursor displays the value 5.

7. Move the line cursor horizontally toward the left and press the left mouse button when the length of the line on the line cursor displays the value 10.
8. Move the line cursor vertically upward and press the left mouse button when the length of the line on the line cursor displays the value 5.
9. Move the line horizontally toward the left and press the left mouse button when the length of the line on the line cursor displays the value 10.
10. Move the line cursor vertically downward to the start point of the first line. Press the left mouse button when the red circle is displayed. The length of the line at this point will show the value 10.
11. Right-click and choose **Select** from the shortcut menu. This completes the sketch for Tutorial 4.
12. Choose the **Zoom to Fit** button from the **Heads-up View** toolbar to fit the display of the sketch on the screen. The final sketch for Tutorial 4 is shown in Figure 2-70.

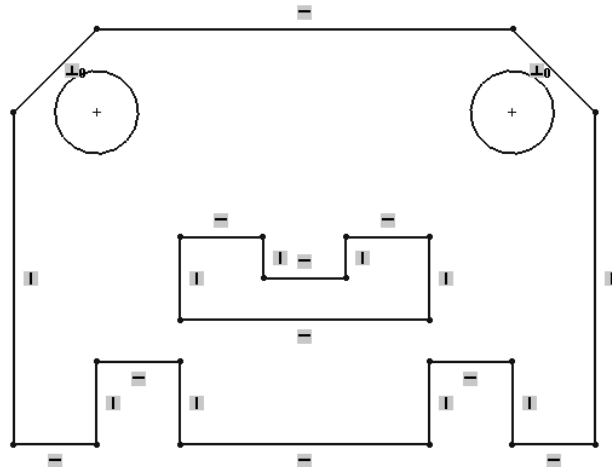


Figure 2-70 Final sketch for Tutorial 4

Saving the Sketch

It is recommended that you create a separate folder for saving the tutorial files of this book. When you invoke the option to save a document, the default folder *My Documents* will be displayed. You will create a folder with the name *SolidWorks* in the *My Documents* folder and then create the folder of each chapter inside the *SolidWorks* folder. As a result, you can save the tutorials of a chapter in the folder of that chapter.

1. Choose the **Save** button from the Menu Bar to invoke the **Save As** dialog box.



2. Enter the name of the document as *c02tut4* in the **File name** edit box and choose the **Save** button. The document will be saved in the *\My Documents\SolidWorks\c02* folder.
3. Close the document by choosing **File > Close** from the SolidWorks menus.

SELF-EVALUATION TEST

Answer the following questions and then compare them to those given at the end of this chapter:

1. The base feature of any design is a sketched feature and is created by drawing the sketch. (T/F)
2. You can also invoke the **3Point Arc** tool using the **Line** tool. (T/F)
3. By default, the cursor jumps through a distance of 5 mm. (T/F)
4. If you save a file in the sketching environment, it is opened in the part modeling environment when you open it the next time. (T/F)
5. You can convert a sketched entity into a construction entity by selecting the _____ check box provided in the **PropertyManager**.
6. To draw a rectangle at an angle, you need to use the _____ tool.
7. The _____ are the temporary lines that are used to track a particular point on the screen.
8. You can also invoke the _____ tool or press the ESC key to exit the sketching tool.
9. When you select a tangent entity to draw a tangent arc, the _____ relation is applied between the start point of the arc and the tangent entity.
10. In SolidWorks, a rectangle is considered as a combination of individual _____.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions:

1. The three point arcs are drawn by defining the start and endpoints of the arc and a point on the arc. (T/F)
2. You can also delete the sketched entities by selecting them and choosing the **Delete** option from the shortcut menu, which is displayed on right-clicking. (T/F)
3. The origin is a blue icon that is displayed in the middle of the sketcher screen. (T/F)

4. In SolidWorks, circles are drawn by specifying the centerpoint of the circle and then entering the radius of the circle in the dialog box that is displayed. (T/F)
5. When you open a new SolidWorks document, it is not maximized in the SolidWorks window. (T/F)
6. In SolidWorks, a polygon is considered as a combination of which of the following entities?
- | | |
|-------------|----------|
| (a) Lines | (b) Arcs |
| (c) Splines | (d) None |
7. Which one of the following options is not displayed in the **New SolidWorks Document** dialog box?
- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| (a) Part | (b) Assembly |
| (c) Drawing | (d) Sketch |
8. Which one of the following entities is not considered while converting a sketch into a feature?
- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| (a) Sketched circles | (b) Sketched lines |
| (c) Construction lines | (d) None |
9. When you select a line of the rectangle, which of the following **PropertyManagers** will be displayed?
- | | |
|--|---|
| (a) Line Properties PropertyManager | (b) Line/Rectangle PropertyManager |
| (c) Rectangle PropertyManager | (d) None |
10. While drawing an elliptical arc, which of the following **PropertyManagers** will be displayed?
- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| (a) Arc PropertyManager | (b) Ellipse PropertyManager |
| (c) Elliptical Arc PropertyManager | (d) None |

EXERCISES

Exercise 1

Draw the sketch of the model shown in Figure 2-71. The sketch to be drawn is shown in Figure 2-72. Do not dimension the sketch. The solid model and dimensions are given for your reference only. **(Expected time: 30 min)**

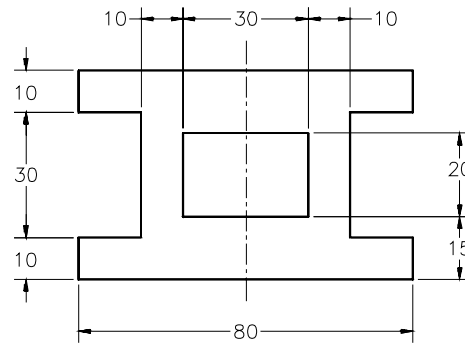


Figure 2-72 Sketch for Exercise 1

Draw the sketch of the model shown in Figure 2-73. The sketch to be drawn is shown in Figure 2-74. Do not dimension the sketch. The solid model and dimensions are given for your reference only. **(Expected time: 30 min)**

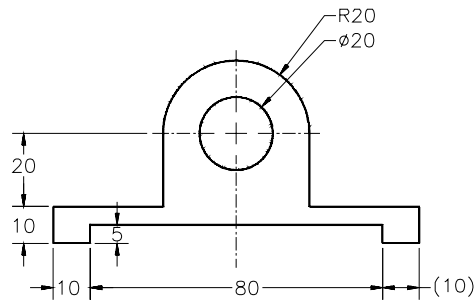


Figure 2-74 Sketch for Exercise 2

Answers to Self-Evaluation Test

1. T, 2. F, 3. F, 4. F, 5. For construction, 6. 3 Point Corner Rectangle, 7. inferencing lines,
8. Select, 9. Tangent, 10. lines