

Operating System

MegaCAD is compatible with **Windows 11** and is available only in a 64-bit version.

Note regarding Windows 10: Standard support for Windows 10 ended on October 14, 2025. We therefore no longer recommend Windows 10 for production use. Running MegaCAD on Windows 10 (version 22H2) remains possible in individual cases, provided that valid Extended Security Updates (ESU) from Microsoft are in place for the device. The corporate ESU program operates on a per-device basis and runs until October 2028 at the latest; costs increase annually. Without ESU coverage, the system no longer receives security updates—in this case, we do not support its use. Please contact us if you require such a transitional solution.

Installation and Licensing

A persistent online connection is required to install and use MegaCAD single-user licenses. If the internet connection fails, you can continue working in the current MegaCAD session and save your work for up to 8 hours. Online licenses can be „checked out“ for 14 days to allow work without an active internet connection. License requests cannot be routed through a proxy server cache; an exception must be defined for the license server’s URL.

We do not have access to your data.

We do not have access to your data during the installation of MegaCAD or when connecting to the license server. Communication with the license server consists solely of a simple query; no other data exchange takes place.

Processors, RAM, and Graphics Cards

	Basic Configuration	Standard Configuration	Advanced Configuration
Processor*	AMD Ryzen 5 8600G Intel Core i5-13400 / i5-14400	AMD Ryzen 7 7700 / 8700G Intel Core i5-14600K / Core Ultra 5 245K	AMD Ryzen 7 9700X / Ryzen 9 7900X Intel Core i7-14700K / Core Ultra 7 265K
RAM	8 GB RAM (16 GB recommended)	16 GB RAM	32 GB RAM or larger
Mass storage**	256 GB SSD or larger (512 GB recommended)	512 GB NVMe-SSD or larger	1 TB NVMe-SSD (PCIe 4.0) or larger, optional additional data drive
Graphics	Integrated graphics on current processors sufficient (optional NVIDIA RTX A400, 4 GB)	NVIDIA RTX A1000 (8 GB) AMD Radeon Pro W7500 (8 GB)	NVIDIA RTX 2000 Ada (16 GB) AMD Radeon Pro W7700 (16 GB)

As PC components change rapidly, the suggested components serve as reference examples rather than specific purchasing recommendations. The listed components reflect the market standard as of approximately 2024 and are readily available—including as used or refurbished units.

* High single-core performance is crucial for smooth, interactive workflows, as many CAD processing steps are sequential and cannot simply be parallelized. In MegaCAD, a CPU with fewer but faster cores often provides a better user experience than a model with many slower-clocked cores. MegaCAD 3D benefits from multiple cores where it makes technical sense—such as during rendering and when calculating 2D views for 2D worksheets. In practice, 6 to 8 cores are sufficient.

** Note: Even if MegaCAD is to be installed on a different partition, at least 2 GB of disk space must be available on drive C:.

Graphics: Integrated graphics are sufficient for getting started

The assumption that CAD necessarily requires a high-end graphics card is outdated. Integrated graphics units have evolved significantly over the last decade. For getting started with MegaCAD and for the majority of typical projects—ranging from metal construction and machinery/plant design to technical drawings—the onboard graphics found in modern processors are perfectly adequate. This is especially true for devices purchased new during the transition to Windows 11.

A solid CPU, sufficient RAM, and a fast SSD are more important than an expensive graphics card.

With desktop PCs, you can upgrade the graphics card at any time. So, don't invest prematurely in hardware you might never need: start with integrated graphics and upgrade specifically if the need actually arises. When buying the computer, simply ensure there is an available PCIe x16 slot, sufficient case depth, and an appropriately rated power supply.

When a dedicated graphics card is worthwhile: for very large assemblies, complex visualizations, and specialized 3D renderings. Practical indicators include file sizes of around 100 MB or more, or noticeably longer loading times due to drawing complexity.

What to look for when buying a graphics card: at least 4 GB of dedicated graphics memory. MegaCAD uses OpenGL, a standard supported by virtually all graphics cards. However, experience shows that professional cards (NVIDIA RTX A-Series / Ada Generation, AMD Radeon Pro) offer significantly better OpenGL driver quality than consumer cards.

If you want to start without a separate graphics card, look for an AMD „G-series“ model (e.g., Ryzen 5 8600G, Ryzen 7 8700G)—only these feature powerful integrated graphics. With Intel, all models without an „F“ in their name offer suitable integrated graphics.

Notebooks

Graphics cards in notebooks cannot be upgraded later; therefore, this decision should be made at the time of purchase. For 2D design and getting started with 3D, the modern integrated graphics found in current mobile processors (e.g., Intel Arc Graphics in Core Ultra, AMD Radeon 780M/880M) are sufficient. Older notebooks with basic onboard graphics from previous generations are not suitable for use with MegaCAD. If you anticipate regularly working with large assemblies or visualizations, choose a model with a discrete graphics card and at least 4 GB of dedicated memory—such as the NVIDIA RTX 500, RTX 1000, or RTX 2000 Ada Generation Laptop GPU.

OpenGL

MegaCAD 3D utilizes some of the advanced OpenGL features found in mid-range and high-end graphics cards. Certain (optional) functions—such as texture structuring (bump mapping), „real“ transparency, and dynamic shadows—require graphics drivers that support at least the OpenGL 4.3 standard. These advanced OpenGL functions are not strictly necessary for designing with MegaCAD 3D. In general, however, it is important to use the most up-to-date graphics card driver possible.

Monitors

We recommend (two) matte (anti-glare) 24- or 27-inch displays with a resolution of 1920 × 1080 pixels (16:9) or 1920 × 1200 pixels (16:10). We currently consider 27-inch monitors with a resolution of 2560 × 1440 pixels to be the standard benchmark. Under Windows 11, MegaCAD can also be used on 4K panels with 3840 × 2160 pixels. Thanks to „High DPI Awareness,“ the user benefits from a razor-sharp display. A minimum resolution of 1280 × 1024 pixels is required for the effective use of MegaCAD.

Input devices

Using MegaCAD requires a 102-key keyboard and a 3-button (laser) mouse with a scroll wheel, or a trackball.

Windows Remote Desktop

Windows Remote Desktop is not suitable for using MegaCAD.

As of: August 31, 2026