Block Express Tools

The Block and Draw panels of the Express Tools ribbon tab include additional commands related to blocks. This document briefly explains the most useful express tools related to blocks. Later chapters in the textbook describe express tools that apply to blocks and external references. This document does not describe block express tools that are outdated or perform operations that you can accomplish more easily using standard commands, including Import Attributes (ATTIN) and Export Attributes (ATTOUT).

Exploding Attributes

The BURST command offers the ability to explode a block containing an attribute and explode the attribute to a text object at the same time. The alternative is to explode the block using the EXPLODE command, and then use the TXT2MTXT express tool to convert the attribute to a multiline text object. Access the BURST command and pick a block with attributes to explode.

Replacing Blocks

The BLOCKREPLACE command allows you to replace all references of a block with a different block, with the option to purge the block being replaced. Access the BLOCKREPLACE command to display the first prompt of the BLOCKREPLACE dialog box. See Figure ET27-1A. Select the name of the block from the list box, or choose the Pick>> button to select a visible block from the drawing. Then pick the OK button to display the second prompt of the BLOCKREPLACE dialog box. See Figure ET27-1B. Select the name of the replacement block, different from the first selection, or choose the Pick>> button to select a visible block from the drawing. When you pick the OK button, AutoCAD asks if you want to purge the replaced block from the file. Accept the default Y, or Yes, option to purge the block or type N to keep the block.
Figure ET27-1.
A—Choose the block to replace all references with a different block. B—Choose the replacement block.