

BOM Explorer

The best solution for neutralizing complex BOM files

D A T A S H E E T

The screenshot displays the BOM Explorer interface with a spreadsheet-style view of a Bill of Materials. The table has columns for Part Number, Ref Name, Qty, Desc, and various attributes. The data is color-coded by attribute, with different colors used for different parts and quantities. The interface includes a menu bar at the top and a status bar at the bottom.

Figure 1: Shows how the unformatted data can be highlighted with a different color depending on what the data represents. Commonly used attributes are already available such as part number and reference designator.

Major product benefits:

- Proven reduction in BOM data entry time of over 90%
- Eliminate data entry mistakes
- Validated BOM content
- Create correct, verified BOM data for all manufacturing business processes
- Ensures correct CAD to BOM
- Eliminate duplicate BOM management tasks
- Fast time to productivity with simple user interface
- Integral component of the CAMCAD Manufacturing flow

Introduction

Every product that is manufactured has a Bill of Material (BOM). Effectively managing BOM data is critical to the overall profitability of a PCB manufacturer. The problem is that they come in a wide variety of formats with little or no standardization. BOMs may be text, spreadsheets or HTML tables. Some are formatted and many are not. Turning these BOM files in to usable data is a monumental challenge. Often, it is only accomplished after long hours of manually manipulating the data. This process is tedious, error-prone and non-repeatable where mistakes can cost thousands of dollars. Even though commercial utilities are available that provide basic data mining from unformatted reports, most fail to take in to consideration the unique obstacles inherent in the preparation and validation of BOM data.

CAMCAD Manufacturing's BOM Explorer is the industry leading solution for turning BOM files into usable information; from the simplest to the most complex.

SmartBOM

BOM Explorer provides an arsenal of functionality to attack any BOM file that comes your way. Irrespective of the type of BOM file received, BOM Explorer has the functionality to correctly extract the content, validate it and prepare it for any subsequent manufacturing processes.

SmartBOM is the cornerstone of this functionality. Templates are easily created for any formatted BOM file you receive. These templates are automatically applied upon import. Parsed data is confirmed, verified and made available for export. Even the most complex BOMs can be processed in less than five mouse clicks.

When BOM data is unformatted, SmartMark and AutoMark provide the ability to rapidly and correctly import these BOMs. Similar to using a highlighter, SmartMark allows you to select, mark-up and assign specific attributes to all matching occurrences in the BOM data automatically. AutoMark allows you to record these steps taken in SmartMark to create a reusable macro.

Verifying Data

BOM Explorer offers two levels of data verification; first is internal verification of the BOM data and the second is validation of the BOM to the CAD. Internal BOM integrity checks are made for duplicate reference designators, quantity mismatches and duplicate part numbers. Any issues are precisely identified and reported for immediate correction. Once the BOM's integrity has been established with itself, the CAMCAD Manufacturing flow provides an additional layer of validation between the BOM data and the corresponding CAD file. This final check ensures BOM errors are eliminated from the manufacturing process.

BOM Explorer quickly adapts to your environment. Laborious and error prone manual data entry is completely eliminated. BOM Explorer is the simple solution for complex BOM problems.

Important Features

- SmartBOM – User definable templates for automatic reading of formatted BOM structures
- SmartMark – User driven mark-up of unformatted BOMs
- AutoMark – Automatic data identification using customized macros
- Expansion – Automatic handling of Reference Designator sequences such as R1-5, 7, 9-12
- Inheritance – Automatically pass part numbers, values, tolerances, etc. on to each applicable Reference Designator
- Export multiple data formats
- Multi-color highlighting attributes
- Eliminate duplicate part numbers
- Eliminate duplicate reference designators
- Detect quantity mismatches

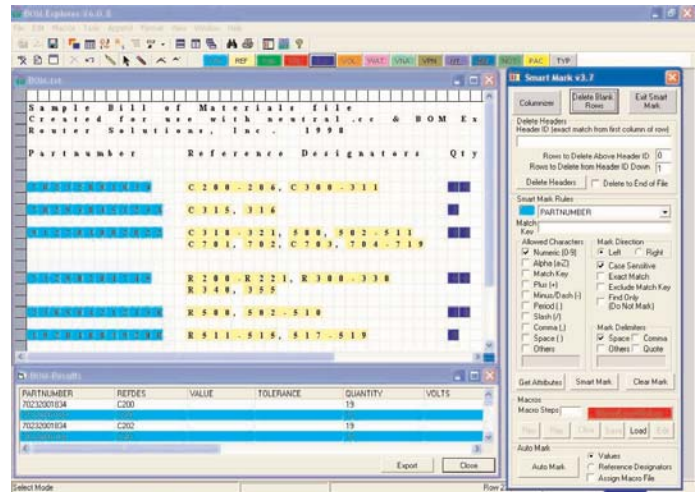


Figure 2: The illustration above shows SmartMark being used to intelligently gather data from the BOM file with the resultant information being displayed in the lower results window.

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