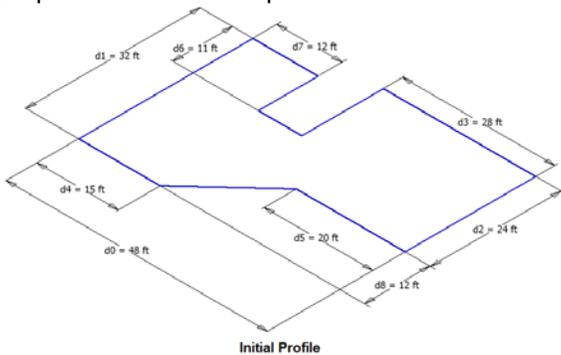

Autodesk Products Tip & Tricks

Product: AutoCAD Inventor 2010
Topic: Simplify 3D Sketches
Written by: Hal Carruthers, Sr. Technical Engineer
Date: June 30, 2009

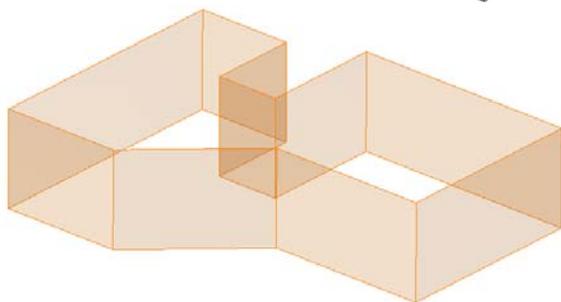
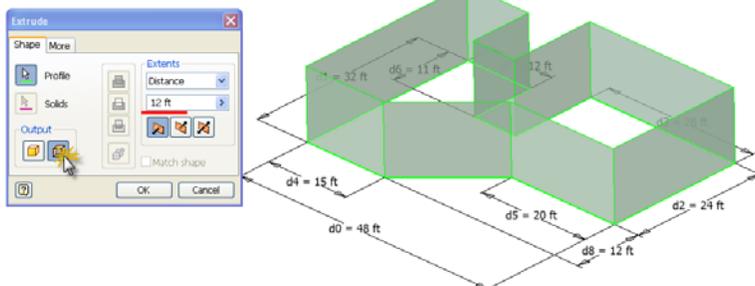
Using the 3D sketch tools inside Inventor can sometimes become a complex process. To simplify the process of creating 3D sketches, consider starting by creating a 2D profile of the overall design envelop and extruding it as a surface. The edges of the extruded envelop can be easily brought into the 3D sketch and be used to locate additional geometry.

Step 1. Establish a 2D profile to locate and orientate your future sketch planes. (Plan view orientation)



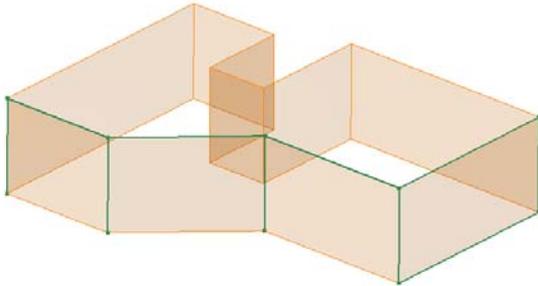
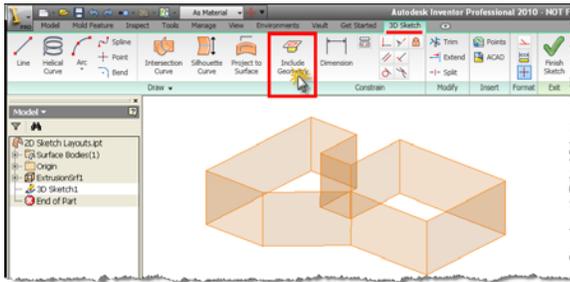
Step 2. Extrude profile as a surface to the top elevation.

1. Set the Output to "Surface."
2. Select the profile geometry.
3. Enter the Distance.
4. Click Ok.

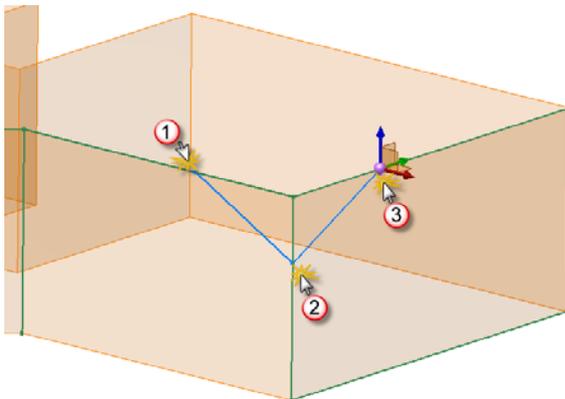


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Step 3. Start the 3D Sketch tool and Select “Include Geometry” bring the edges into the sketch.

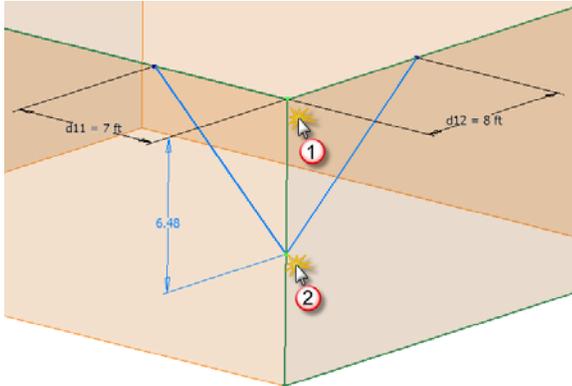


Start the Line tool and select on the projected edges. By selecting the edges, you will not have to enter ordinate data to locate the start and end points of lines, nor spend time orientating to planes.



Start the Dimension tool and select the end points of the lines created.

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Repeat the process until all geometry is in place.

Now that you created your 3D sketch, you're ready to start using the data with tools like the Frame Generator or other Skeleton modeling techniques.

