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GerbView

January 13, 2018

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Reference manual

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Contributors

The KiCad Team.

Feedback

Please direct any bug reports, suggestions or new versions to here:

- About KiCad document: <https://github.com/KiCad/kicad-doc/issues>
- About KiCad software: <https://bugs.launchpad.net/kicad>
- About KiCad software i18n: <https://github.com/KiCad/kicad-i18n/issues>

Publication date and software version

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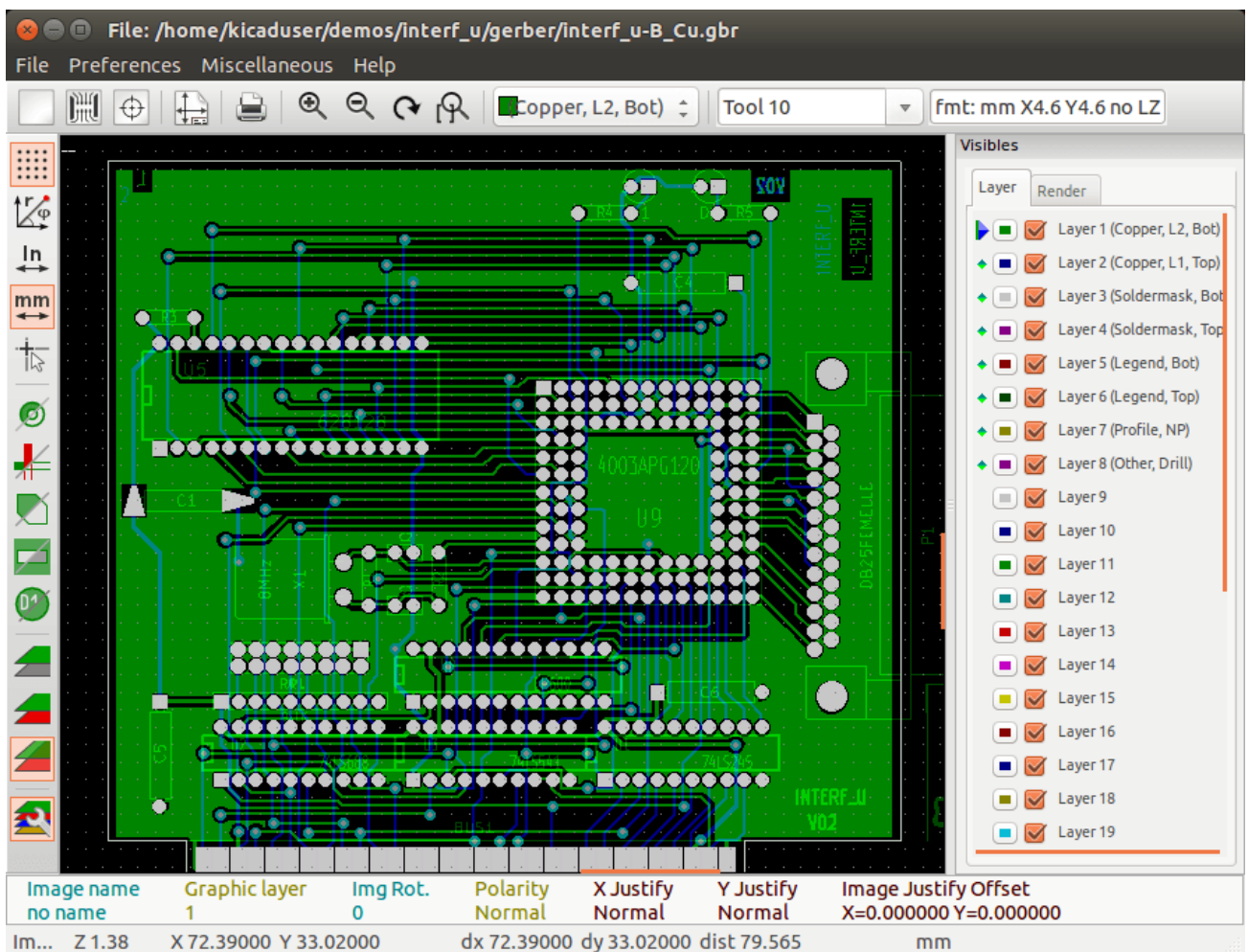
1 Introduction to GerbView

GerbView is a Gerber file (RS-274X format) and Excellon drill file viewer. Up to 32 files can be displayed at once.

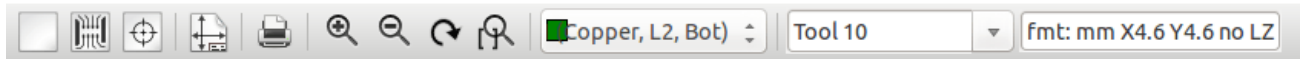
For more information about the Gerber file format please read [the Gerber File Format Specification](#). Details about drill file format can be found at [the Excellon format description](#).






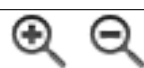


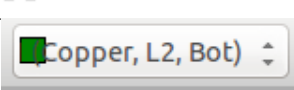
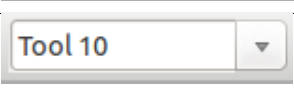
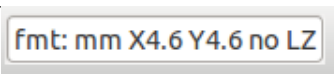
2 Interface

2.1 Main window






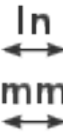


















2.2 Top toolbar

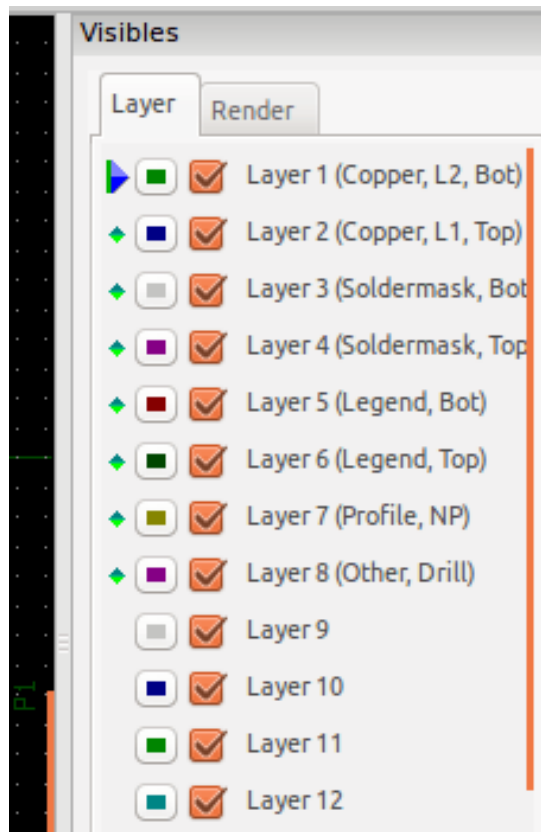


	Clear all layers
	Load Gerber files
	Load Excellon drill files
	Set page size
	Print
	Zoom in or out
	Redraw view
	Zoom auto (zoom fit)
	Select active layer
	Highlight items of selected D Code on the active layer
	Display info about active layer

2.3 Left toolbar

		Toggle grid visibility
		Toggle polar coordinates display
		Select inch or millimeter units
		Toggle full-screen cursor
		Display flashed items in sketch (outline) mode
		Display lines in sketch (outline) mode
		Display polygons in sketch (outline) mode
		Show negative objects in ghost color
		Show/hide D Codes
		Select raw/stacked/transparency display mode
		Show/hide layers manager toolbar

2.4 Layers Manager



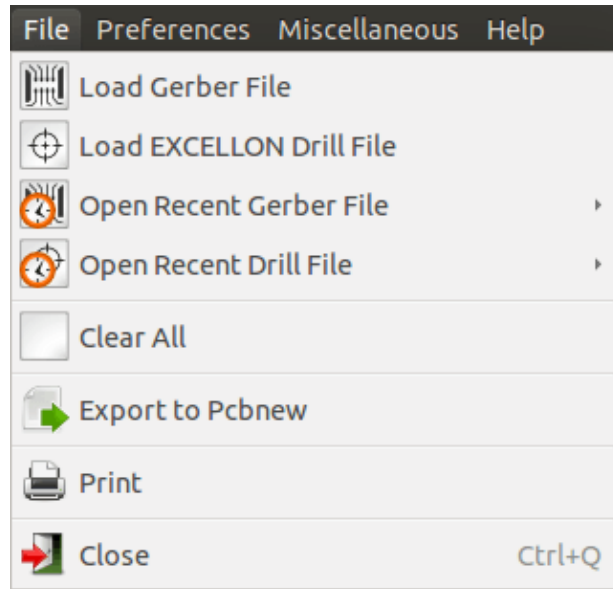
The Layers Manager controls and displays visibility of all layers. An arrow indicates the active layer, and each layer can be shown or hidden with the checkboxes.

Mouse button assignments:

- Left click: select the active layer
- Right click: show/hide/sort layers options
- Middle click (on color swatch): select the layer color

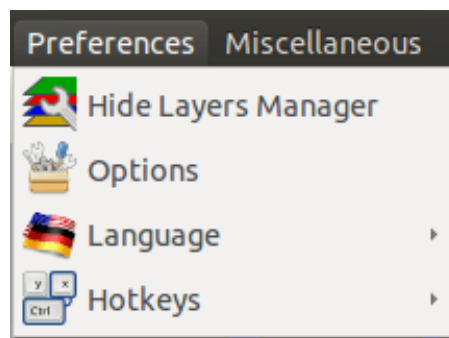
3 Commands in menu bar

3.1 File menu

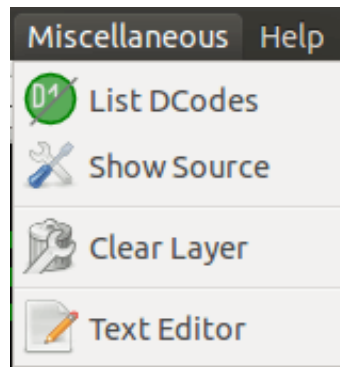


- **Export to Pcbnew** is a limited capability to export Gerber files into Pcbnew. The final result depends on what features of the RS-274X format are used in the original Gerber files: rasterized items cannot be converted (typically negative objects), flashed items are converted to vias, lines are converted to track segments (or graphic lines for non-copper layers).

3.2 Preferences menu



3.3 Miscellaneous menu



- **List DCodes** shows the D Code information for all layers.
- **Show Source** displays the Gerber file contents of the active layer in a text editor.
- **Clear Layer** erases the contents of the active layer.


4 Display modes

GerbView has three display modes which are useful for different situations or requirements.

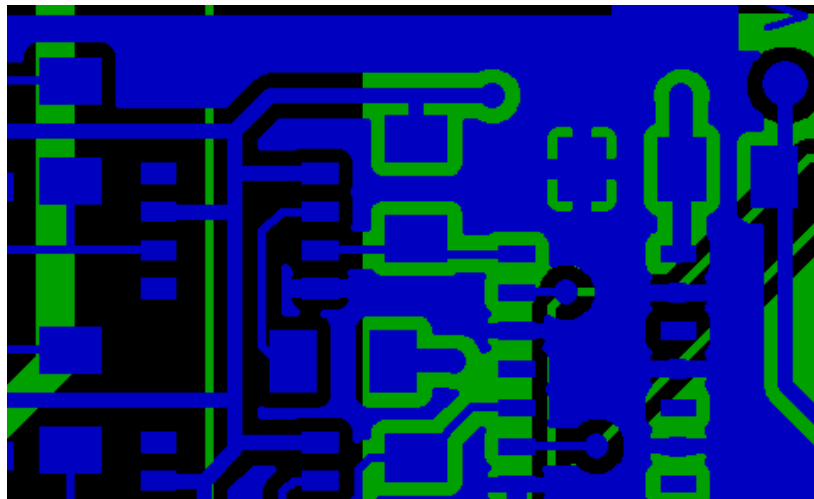
Note

Stacked mode and Transparency mode provide a better graphical experience, but may be slower than Raw mode on some computers.


4.1 Raw mode

This mode is selected by . Each file and each item in the file are drawn in the order files are loaded. However, the active layer is drawn last.

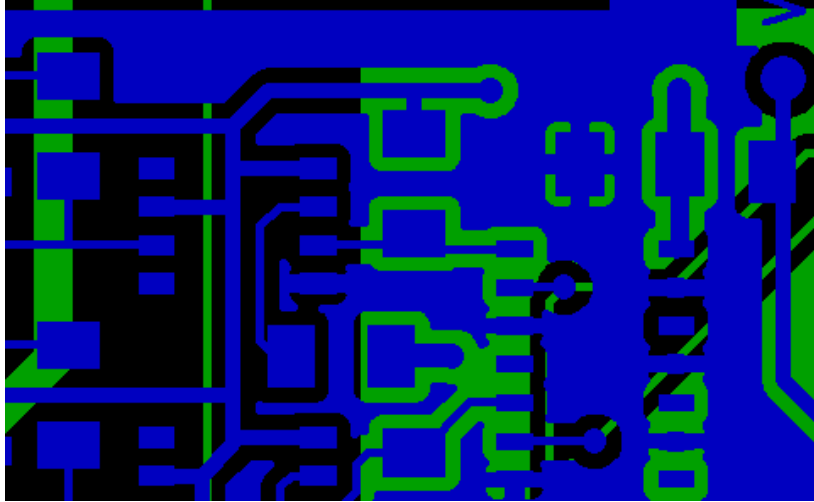
When Gerber files have negative items (drawn in black), artifacts may be visible on already-drawn layers.




4.2 Stacked mode

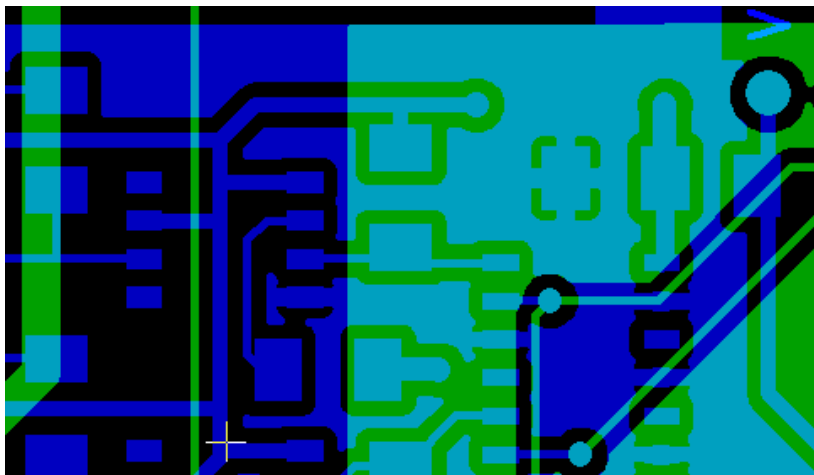
Invoked by , each file is drawn in the order files are loaded. Again, the active layer is drawn last.

When Gerber files have negative items (drawn in black) there are no artifacts on already-drawn layers because this mode draws each file in a local buffer before it is shown on screen.



4.3 Transparency mode

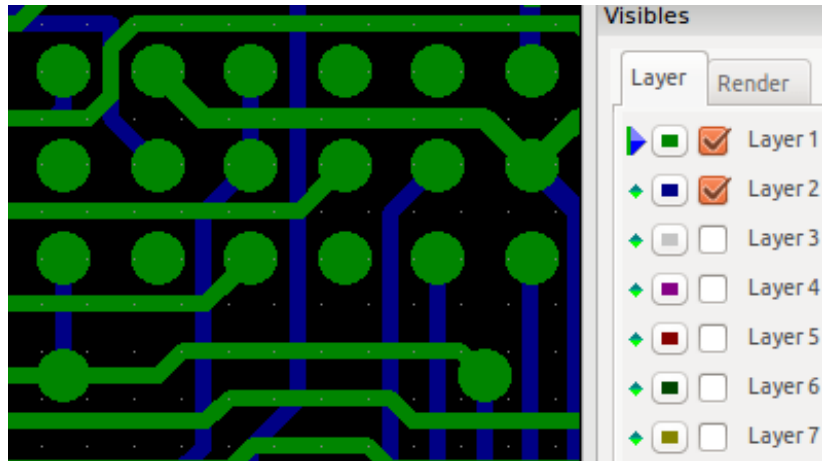
Use  to display in this mode, where no artifacts are present and layers are blended together with the active layer on top.



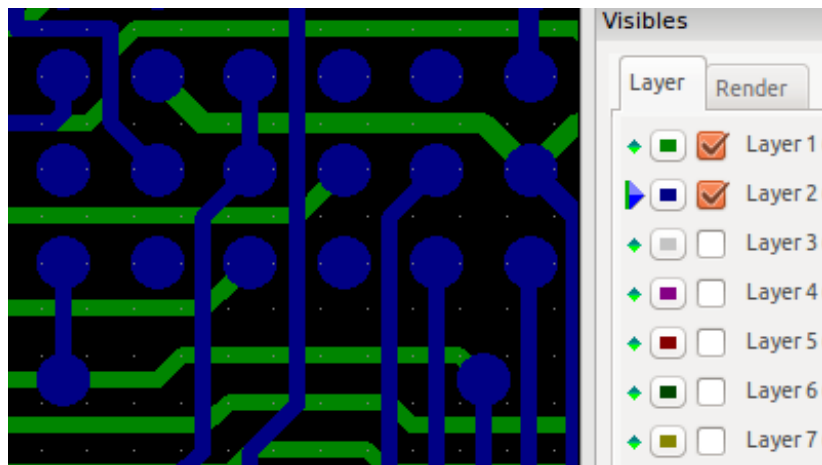
4.4 Layer occlusion

In raw or stacked mode, the active layer will be on top of other layers and hide items below it.

Here, layer 1 (green) is the active layer (note the triangle next to it) and so it is drawn on top of layer 2 (blue):



Making layer 2 (blue) the active layer brings it to the top:



5 Moving items


Items may be selected by holding down the left mouse button and drawing a rectangle. Releasing the button picks up the items. A click of the left mouse button places the items.

6 Printing

To print layers, use the  icon or the **File** → **Print** menu.

Caution



Be sure items are inside the printable area. Use  to select a suitable page format.

Note that many photoplotters support a large plottable area, much bigger than the page sizes used by most printers. Moving the entire layer set may be required.
