Prospector Part Data File Format Quick Reference

The table below lists the different file format types you can import into Prospector for machining.

File Format	File Extension	Comments
IGES	*.igs	IGES is an ASCII (text) file format that conforms to an internationally agreed to standard for the representation of design data. Many 3D CAD systems as well as some 2D CAD systems can export data in IGES format. The quality of the IGES data output varies depending on the CAD system writing the data. For this reason, IGES should be a fall-back route to import design data if other more direct formats are available such as Parasolid *.x_t / *.x_b.
Parasolid Transmit	.x_t & .x_b	Transmit files are output by the Parasolid® solid modeling kernel. Popular solid modeling applications such as SolidWorks, NX, SolidEdge, Visi, and many more use the Parasolid kernel. All Parasolid-based CAD systems store math data in Parasolid format. Therefore the exchange of data between the CAD system and Prospector cannot possibly cause geometry to be misinterpreted, distorted or lost because the same Parasolid software that created the CAD data is receiving it in Prospector. This format is the preferred way to import 3D design data into Prospector.
AutoCAD	*.dxf & *.dwg	AutoCAD is a 2D design and drafting application from Autodesk. The .dwg format is the native format written by AutoCAD and is a binary file. .dxf is an alternate ASCII format that AutoCAD can publish. Either format can be imported into Prospector to create 2D projects.
ExpertCAD	*.ddd	ExpertCAD is a 2D design, detailing and drafting application from AMT Software. The .ddd format is a proprietary binary file format. Files are imported directly into Prospector without the aid of a translator program to create 2D projects.
ExpertCAD 3D	*.pdb	ExpertCAD 3D is a 3D mold design application from AMT Software. This format is a proprietary binary file format. Files are imported directly into Prospector without the aid of a translator program to create 2D or 3D projects.
VDA	*.vda	VDA-FS is an ASCII file format for the exchange of surface data. This 3D data exchange was popular in the Germany but has been since fallen out of favor in lieu of direct data exchange.