



Basic Manual Stair Design



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Limited Warranty

SEMA assumes no liability for errors and omissions in this document, the software or in the Instant Help. However, as every effort is made to provide accurate information, we would appreciate users calling our attention to any errors.

This manual is subject to changes without notice and specification of reasons. As every version of our software is reviewed and updated for your benefit, we would appreciate any ideas and suggestions from users. With constructive criticism you can help us to further improve and develop our programs and documentation.

Published by:

SEMA GmbH Computer, Software and Hardware-Vertrieb
Salzstraße 25
87499 Wildpoldsried at Kempten, Germany

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Brief Introduction with the Help of a Exemple

Target: Creation of a L-shaped Staircase

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Dear SEMA customer!

Welcome to your new SEMA program. You have chosen a state-of-the-art, innovative and comprehensive program system that will make your work a lot easier.

What's special about the new version, are its many functions and features in combination with a user-friendly and modern user interface and a clear program structure. Thanks to the complete integration into the Windows operating system, you will quickly get familiar with the way it works and appreciate its excellent performance.

Nevertheless, only „practice makes perfect“ so you need some training to get familiar with all the tricks and knacks and to be able to fully use this comprehensive system.

How to start

Insert the dongle into a free USB port on your computer. Connect to the internet and go to the following download page in your browser: www.sema-soft.com/version-en

After downloading, run the EXE-file. The SEMA installation program will start. The EXE-file is automatically saved in the Windows download folder.

You also find a detailed description of the installation of the SEMA programs in the SEMA basic manual, section 1-3.

SEMA Basic Manual

To make things easier for you, we created a simple basic manual. With this manual you can start immediately and create your first simple building project. In this introduction to the SEMA program, the first steps are described in a simple but detailed way.

We recommend to place the list of contents of this basic manual right next to you when you go through the first steps with our program. It is a kind of guideline that shows one step after the other. If you follow the instructions closely for your first project, (almost) nothing can go wrong.

SEMA Homepage

Always up-to-date and well maintained - our website is the place to go for everything around SEMA.

At www.sema-soft.com you can

- read the latest news
- update your SEMA software
- talk to other SEMA customers in our forum
- information on SEMA (including photos and a short description of almost all our staff – so you know who you are dealing with)
- ... and, and, and.

There is a lot to discover.

Take the time and take a look at our website - you will be surprised how much else there is.



Homepage of the SEMA website

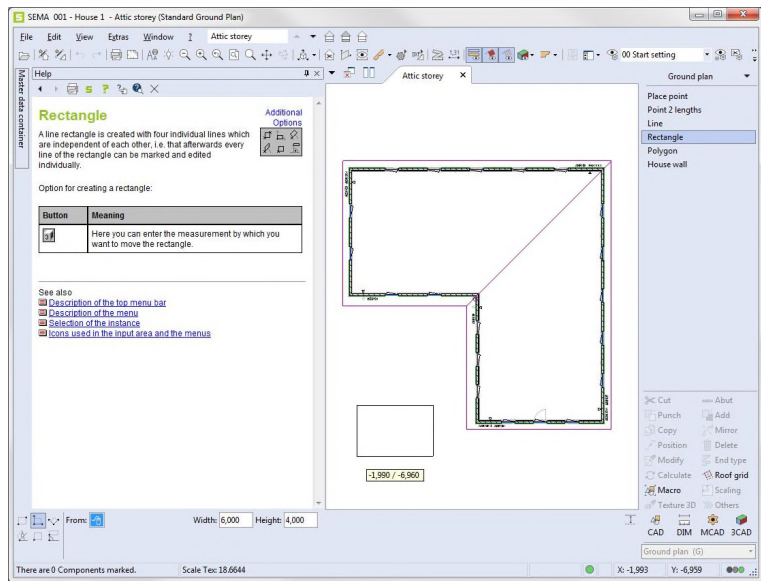
The Program's Help Function

To make sure that after the introduction to our program with the manual you can quickly move on, we integrated an extensive F1 Help function for our program.

The context-sensitive Help follows your movements, so to speak, and you will always find the necessary help and information for the currently active command or part of the program.

In addition to that, you can also go through the guided help topics function by function and read the information there.

That means you no longer have to study thick volumes of user manuals. Right after the Installation Guide of this basic manual, you find a detailed description of the integrated program Help.



context-sensitive Help in the program
(you can also click the links in the graphics/illustrations)

Seminars and Trade Fairs

But even the best descriptions for self-instruction cannot replace professional training courses.

With our qualified, professional instructors you will quickly learn to operate the program without losing endless time by try and error.

We have put together a comprehensive, varied training program for our customers, so that everybody will find the right course for her/his specific needs. It goes without saying that all our courses are held in small groups.

But what is most important: our instructors have practical experience and train you for your practical work!

And please: Do not hesitate to contact us if you have any problems. Let us know if there are any problems with your system's environment and also if you have specific suggestions and wishes. We need your feedback to perfect our programs. Thus we can show you that we are not a slow machinery but a spirited enterprise.

We wish you every success with your SEMA Software!



Alexander Neuss
Managing Director

P.S.:
Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our customer service:
E-Mail: support@sema-soft.com
Phone: +49 8304 - 939 140
Fax: +49 8304 - 939 245
If for once you cannot reach anybody in our office, please leave a message on our answering machine – we will call you back as soon as possible.

Installation Guide

General Information on Setting up



Before setting up, please close all other applications.

When you install SEMA, it does not affect old versions of our timber construction programs – these versions will neither be deleted nor altered in any way! The settings can be taken over from older versions.

The installation program sets up the SEMA programs on the hard disk of your computer. Please note that the installation forms the basis of your future work with the program. Please proceed very carefully!

Therefore, take your time and carry out the installation step by step as described in the installation guide. We can only guarantee the proper functioning of our programs if you install them using this installation program.

SEMA Installation

The installation of the SEMA program system under Windows is done via a separate installation program.

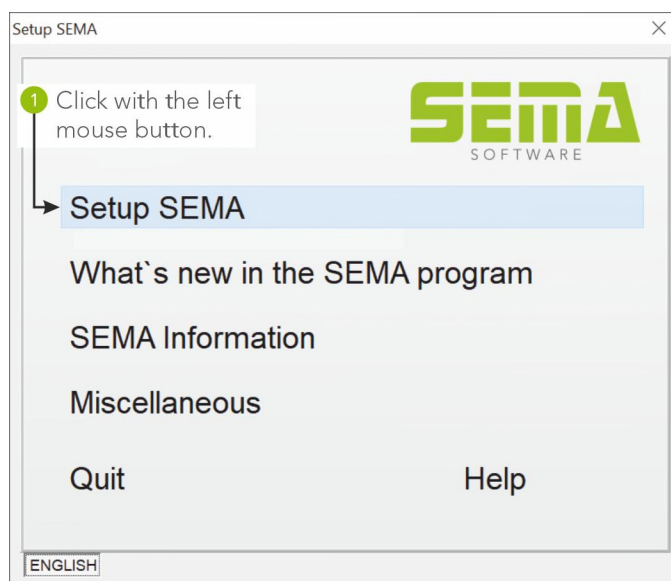


*.EXE

Starting the EXE-file under Windows:

After downloading, run the EXE-file. The SEMA installation program will start. The EXE-file is automatically saved in the Windows download folder.

Next Steps after the start:



The entry page of SEMA appears. Please select the desired language and type of installation:

Click with the left mouse button on the "Setup SEMA" box.

Installing the SEMA Programs



Please read the instructions on the screen very carefully before you take the next step or before you continue with the installation!

Please close all other programs under Windows before starting the installation. After having installed the SEMA program, we recommend to close Windows and to restart your computer!

In the following, we deal with the installation type most commonly used: the **complete local** installation of the SEMA on your computer.

Depending on whether and which type of program version is already set up on your computer, the installation program distinguishes three cases:

1. First Installation

If no SEMA program version has yet been installed on your computer, the installation program will automatically start under this option.

2. First Installation with SEMA already installed

If an older SEMA version has already been installed on your computer, a dialog box will appear after starting the installation. There you can decide whether or not to adopt the settings of this older version.

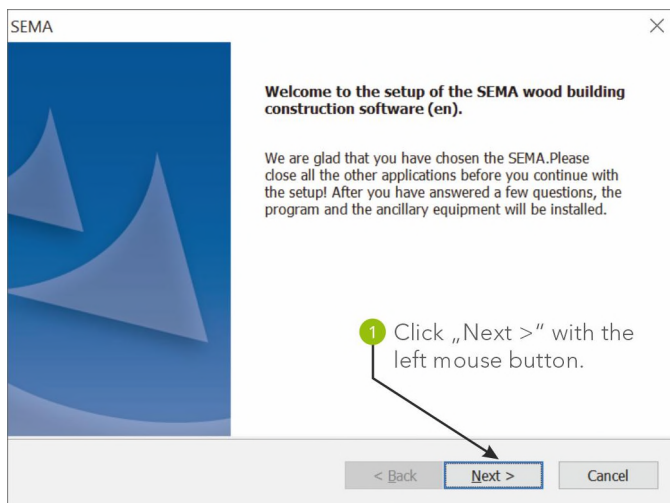
3. Change, Repair (Update Installation) or Remove (De-install Program) Program

If a SEMA program version has already been installed on your computer, you will be shown which BUILD No. has been installed.



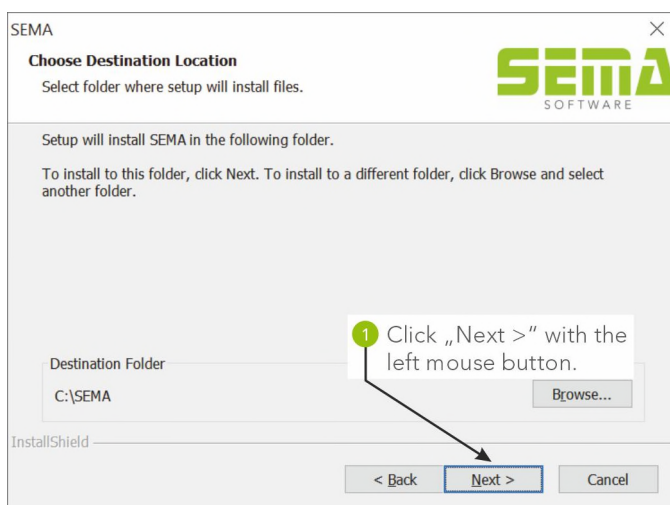
The installation of SEMA can here be changed, automatically updated or completely removed from your system!

1. First Installation



License Agreement

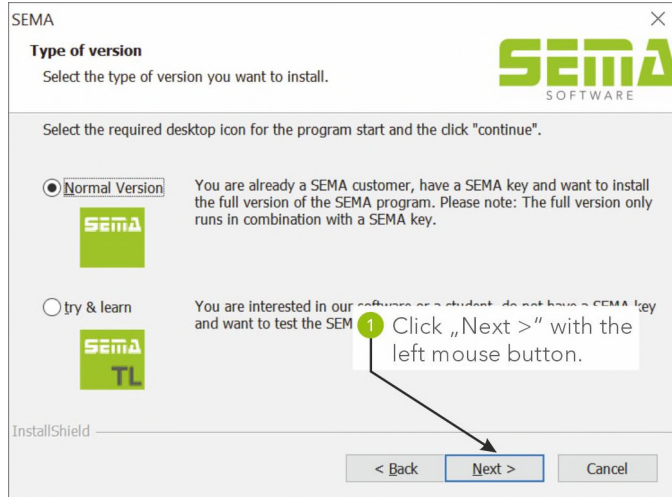
Please confirm the license agreement to continue with the setup.



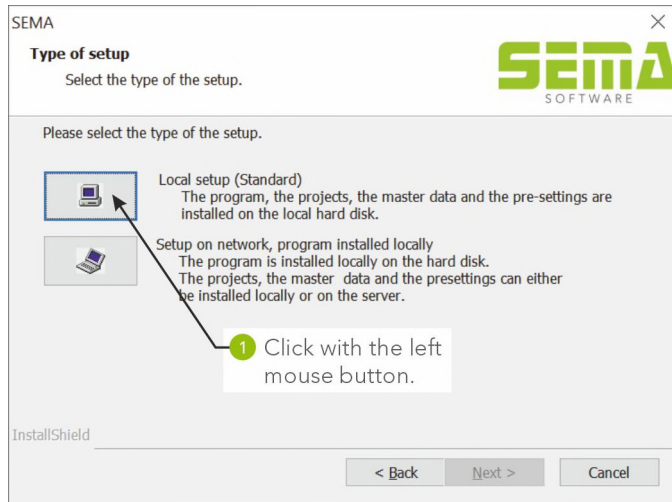
Select Target Path

As a standard, the program is filed under drive "C:" in the folder "SEMA".

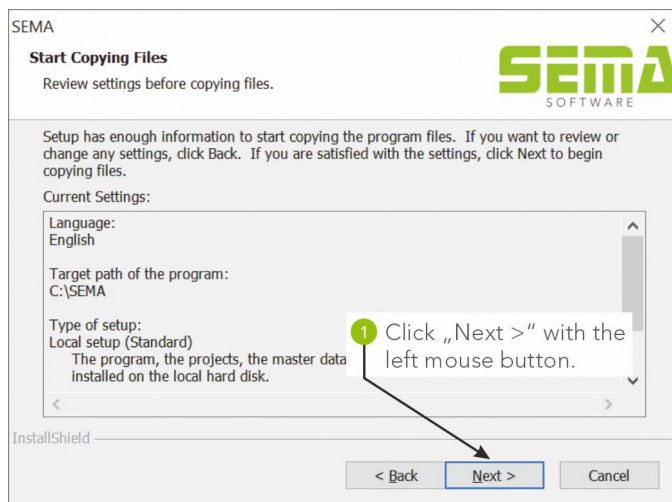
Select Type of Installation



Select Type of Setup



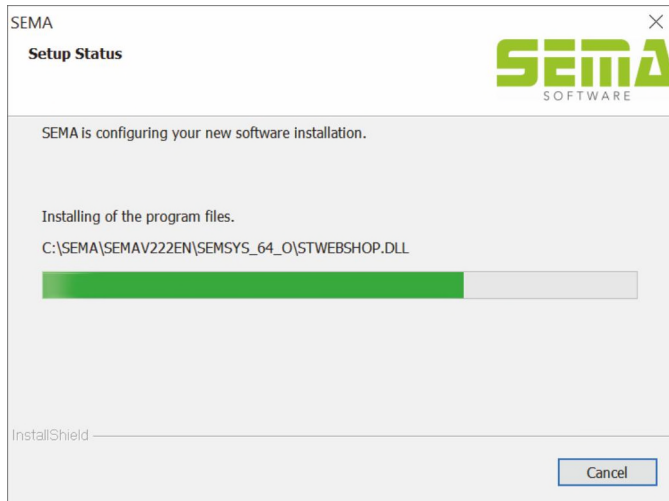
Display Installation Data



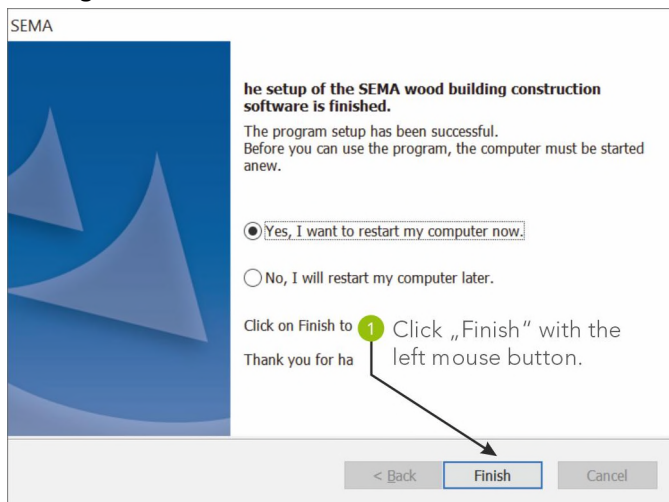
Copying the Programs

Here you can keep track of the the progress of the program installation. A diagram shows you how much of the program has already been installed.

In the background sample projects of the current version are introduced.

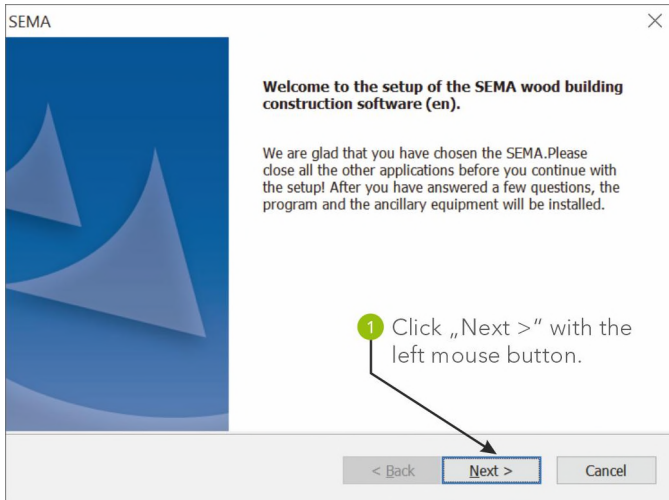


Ending the Installation Process

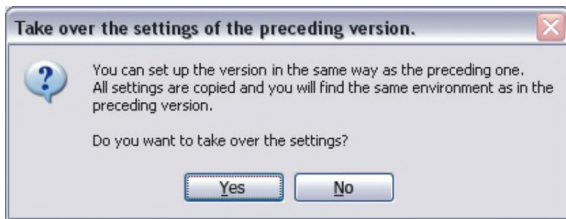


Please restart your computer after the installation of the SEMA programs. Leave **YES, I want to restart my computer now** selected and click **Finish!**

2. First Installation with SEMA already Installed



Adoption of Data of an Older Version.



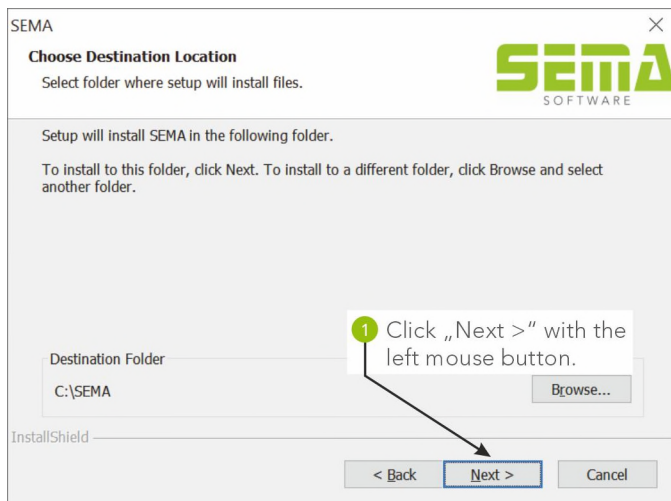
Here you can adopt the data from the older version, which has already been installed. Later on in the installation process you have to specify which data exactly you want to adopt.

If you confirm this query here with Yes, the selected installation path, type of installation and type of setup (e.g. standard) will be adopted.

If you do not want to adopt the data, please click **No**. The installation process will be continued as described under **FIRST INSTALLATION**.

Still, if you want to adopt the data later on after having already installed the SEMA program, you can do this via the **"Extras"** menu → **"Options"** → **"Data transfer from ..."**

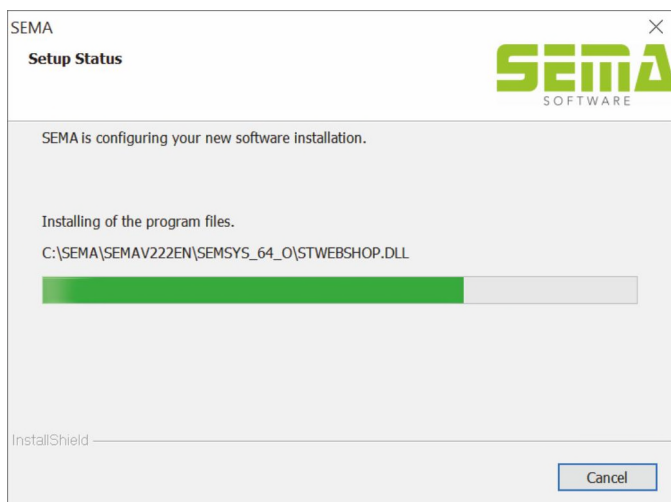
Display Installation Data



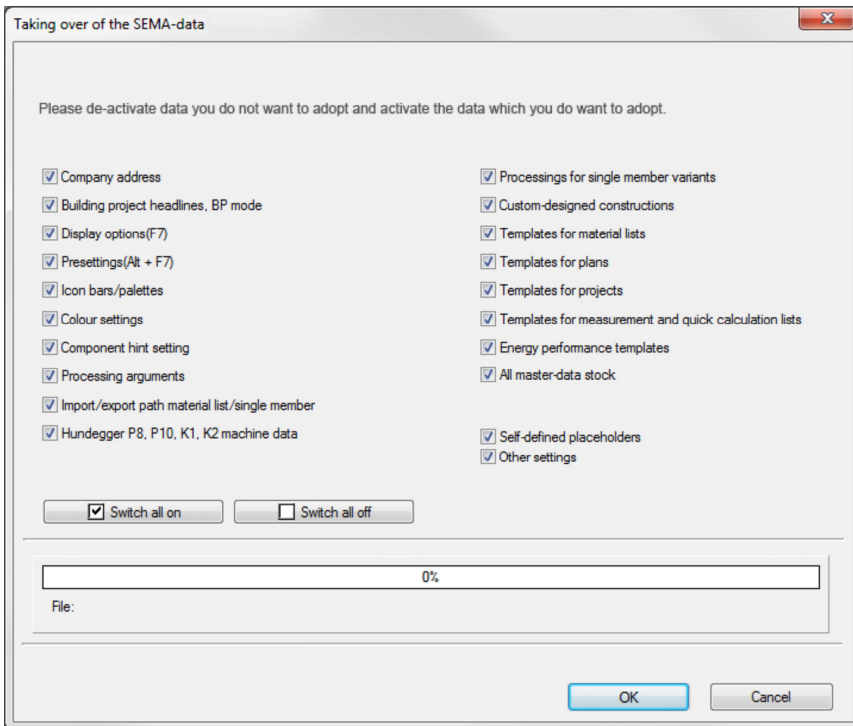
Copying the Programs

Here you can keep track of the progress of the program installation. A diagram shows you how much of the program has already been installed.

In the background sample projects of the current version are introduced.

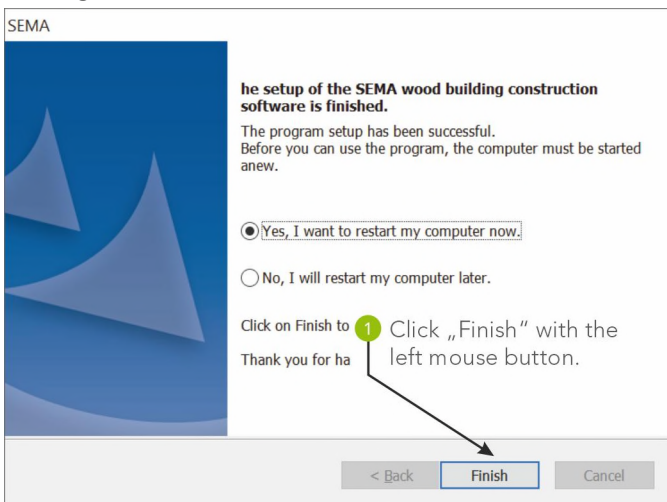


Query for Data Transfer from older version to new version



Please de-activate data you do not want to adopt and activate the data which you do want to adopt. Click on **OK** and the copying process is started.

Ending the Installation Process



Please restart your computer after the installation of the SEMA programs. Leave **YES, I want to restart my computer now** selected and click **Finish!**

SEMA programm-icon und SEMA Presenter

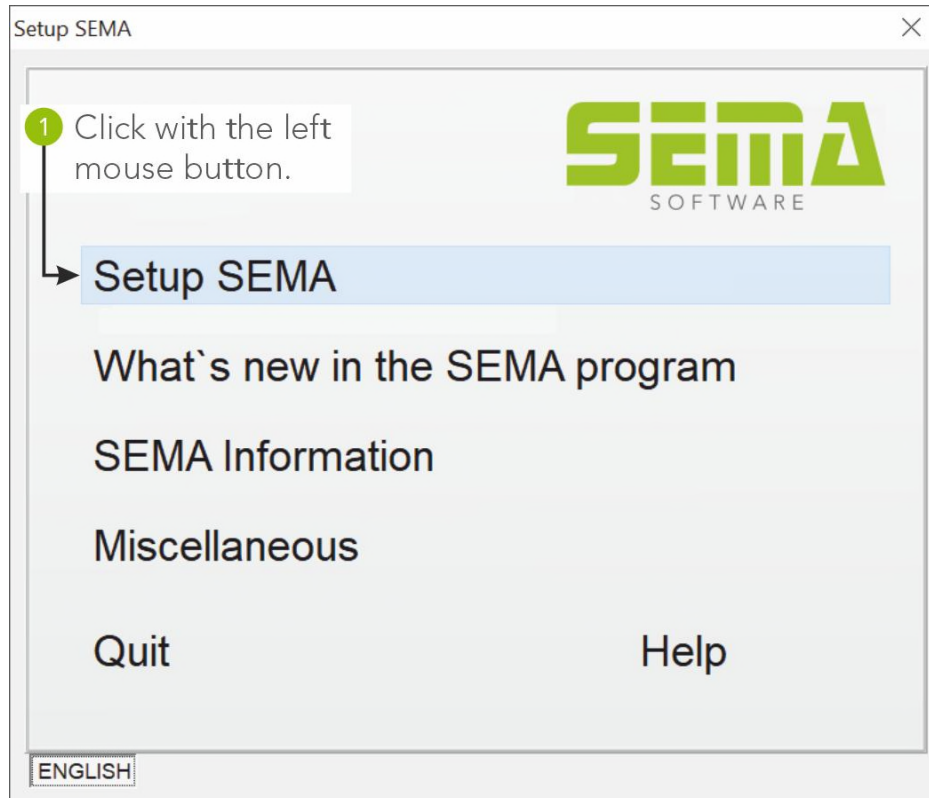


When installing the SEMA software you will find a SEMA program icon and a SEMA Presenter icon on your desktop. The SEMA Presenter is a module for the visualization of projects created with a full SEMA version. However, it's not possible to modify these projects by means of the SEMA Presenter.

3. Modify, Repair (Update Installation) or Remove (De-Install Program) Program

Here a installation can be changed, automatically updated or completely removed from your system.

If a SEMA program version has already been installed on your computer, you will be shown which BUILD No. has been installed. A submenu with two further options will appear after clicking the button.



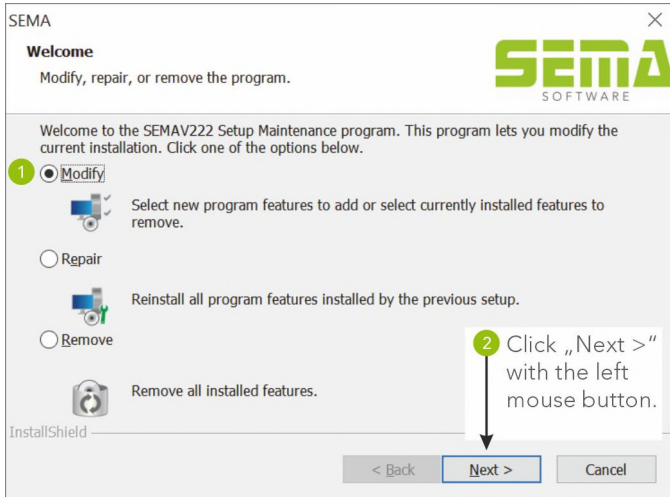
After clicking the installation button opens a drop-down menu with following options:

3.1 Modify Program

3.2 Repair Program

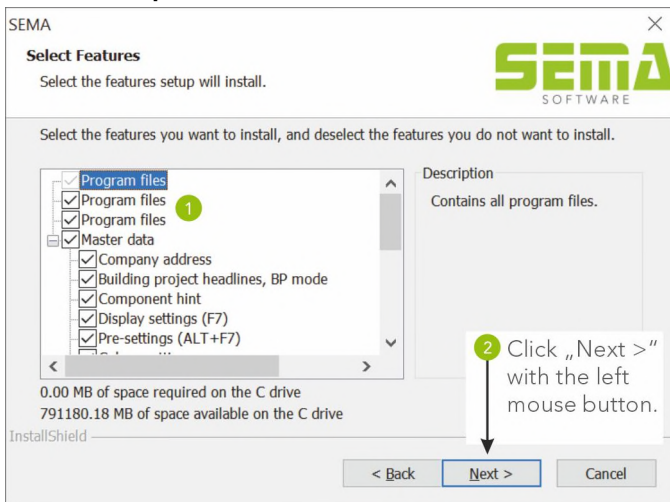
3.3 Remove Program

3.1 Modify the Program



Click the option **Modify** to

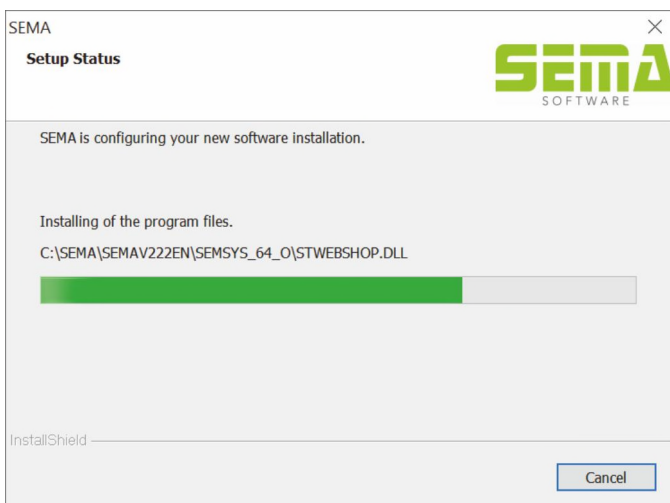
Select Components



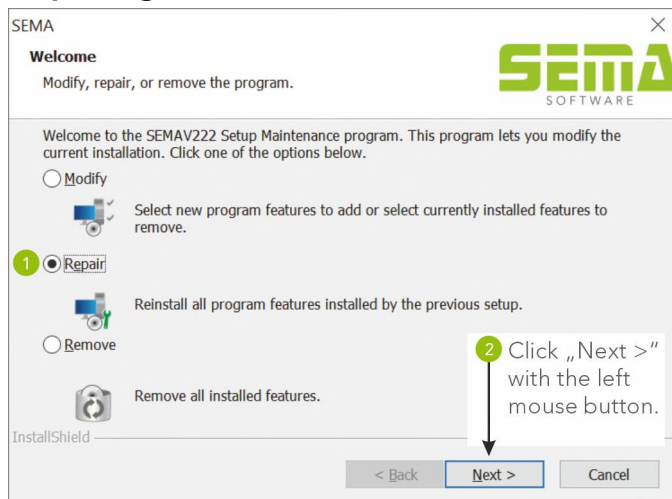
Select the components you want to install, and clear the components you do not want to install (e. g. company address or display settings).

Copying the Programs

Here you can keep track of the the progress of the program installation. A diagram shows you how much of the program has already been installed.



3.2 Repairing

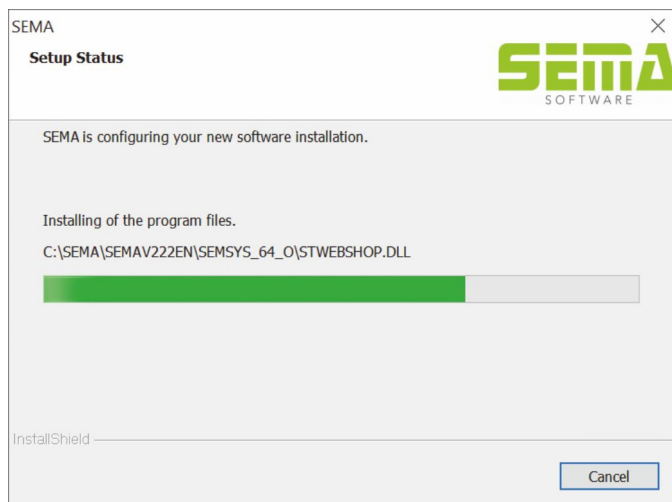


The setup option **Repair** installs all program data anew. In addition, all master data, the plan administration etc. are installed anew. Data which has been newly created or edited will not be affected.

Copying the Programs

Here you can keep track of the the progress of the program installation. A diagram shows you how much of the program has already been installed.


In the background sample projects of the current version are introduced.



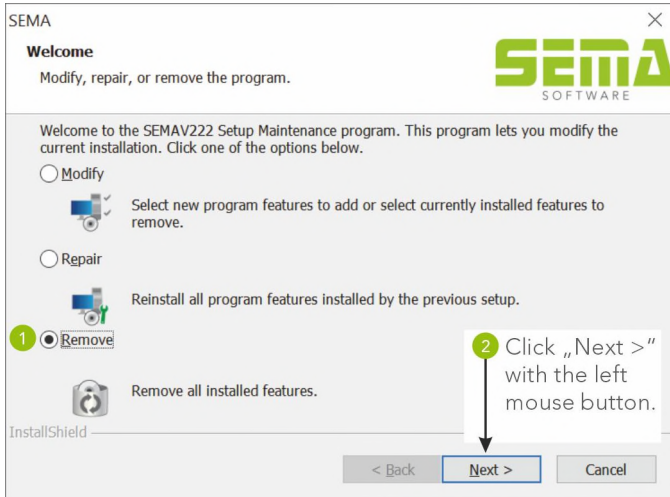
Ending the Update Installation



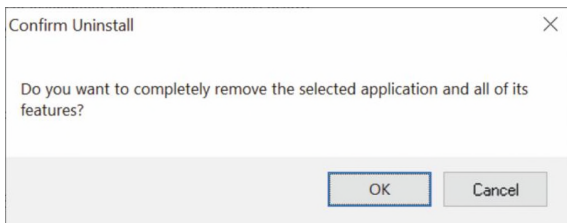
We recommend to restart your computer after the update installation.

Close all open programs under Windows and click  -> *Shut Down...* to end Windows and to restart your computer!

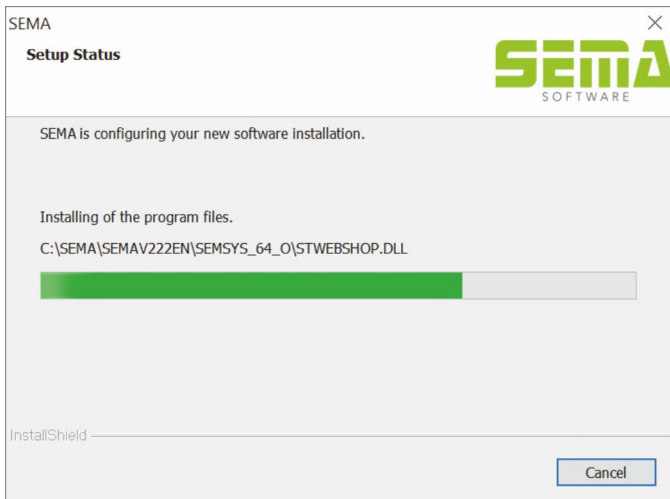
3.3 Removing (De-installation)



Click the option **Remove** to de-install the already installed program version.



Safety check to make sure you really want to de-install. This is your last chance to cancel the process. Once you confirmed with **OK**, the de-installation process starts.



Online Licensing of Software Modules

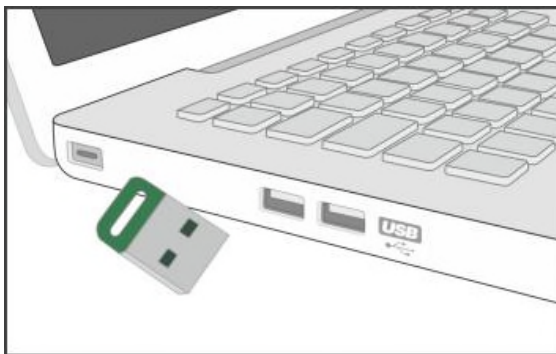
Activation of Software Modules

We provide your individual module combination of the SEMA program with all modules you have acquired online for activation. This means, you can either enable an already installed Try&Learn version to become a full SEMA version or activate later acquired modules for your SEMA program.

Automatic Online Licensing via Internet

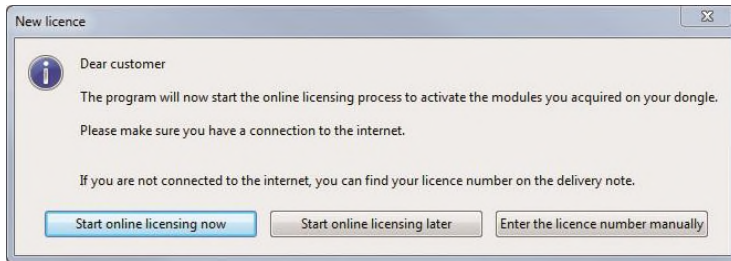


The automatic online activation only works if your computer is connected to the internet and the SEMA program or the SEMA Try&Learn version has been correctly installed on your computer.

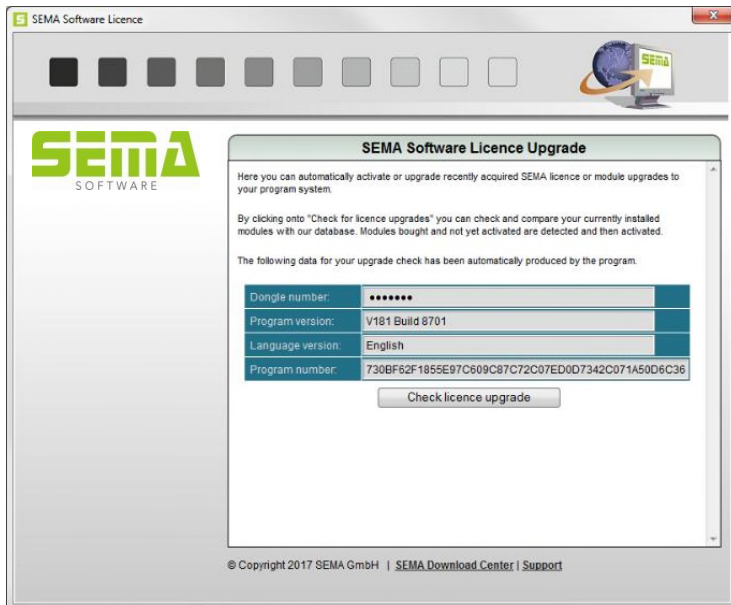


To start the online licensing process, insert the supplied key in a free USB port of your computer!

Now start the already installed SEMA program or SEMA Try&Learn version.

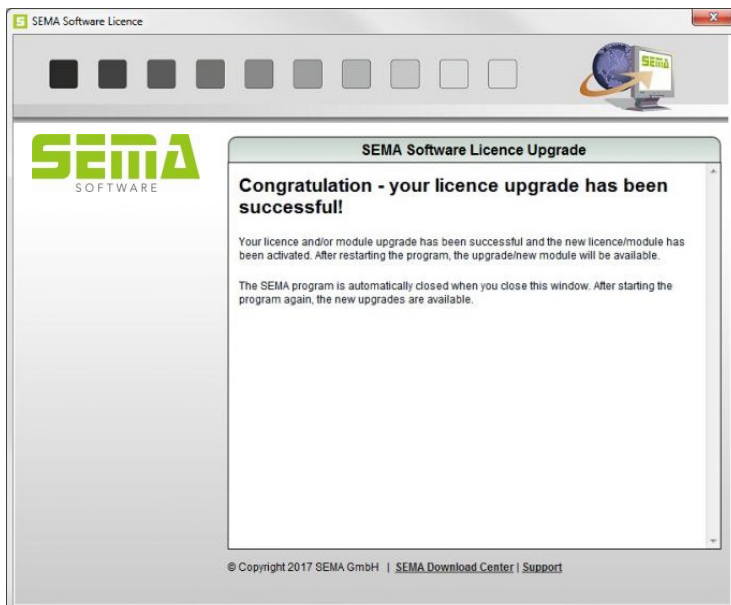


After starting the program, the "New license" window will open if you are connected to internet. Please confirm by the button "Start online licensing now"!



Click the "Check license update" button.

This triggers a check of your locally installed modules with your data filed at SEMA.



If your license has been successfully enabled or your modules updated, the corresponding message will appear.

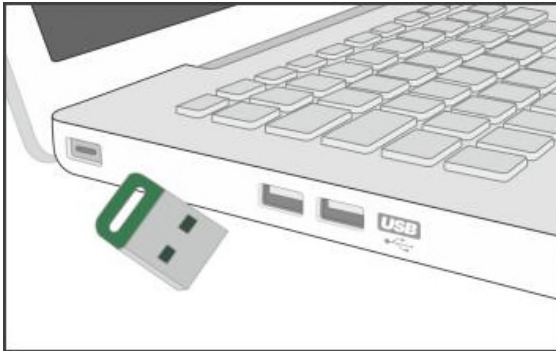
When you then close the window, the program is closed as well.

After restarting the program, you can use the SEMA program with all acquired modules.

Manual Offline Licensing without Internet Connection



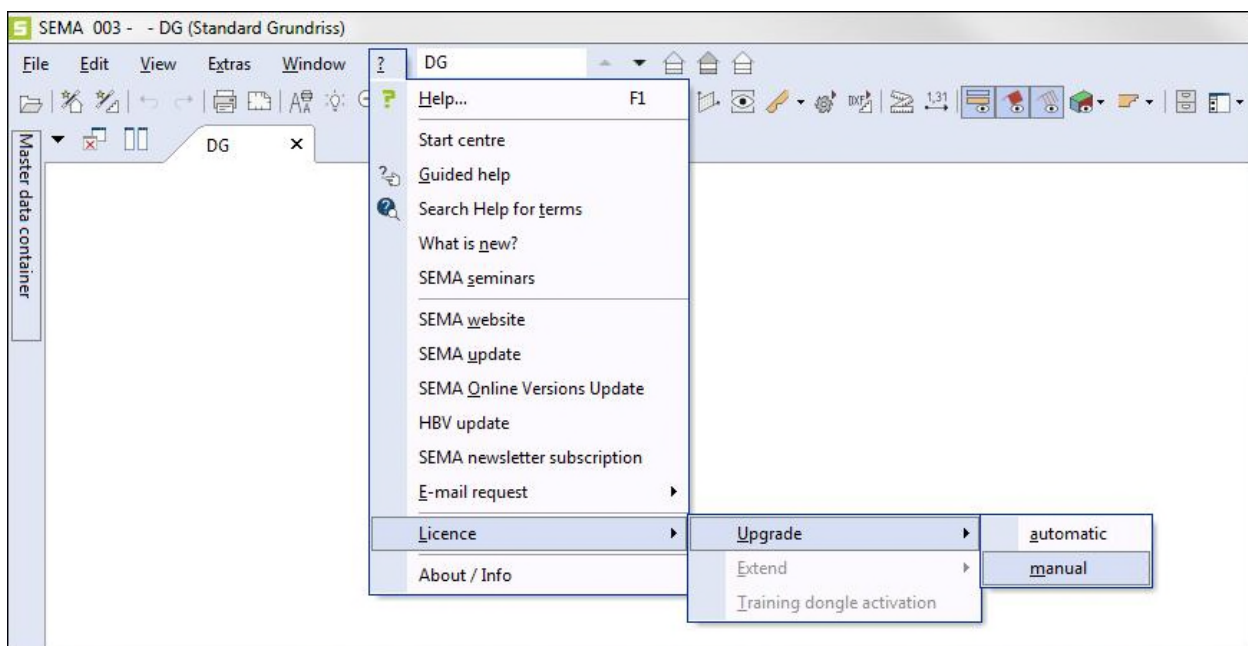
For manual licensing, the SEMA program or the SEMA Try&Learn version needs to be correctly installed on your computer.

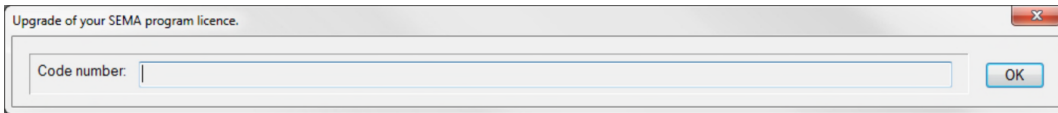


To start the manual offline licensing process, insert the supplied key in a free USB port of your computer.

Now start the already installed SEMA program or SEMA Try&Learn version.

After starting the SEMA program, go to “?” -> “Licensing” -> “Upgrade your current license” -> “manual”.



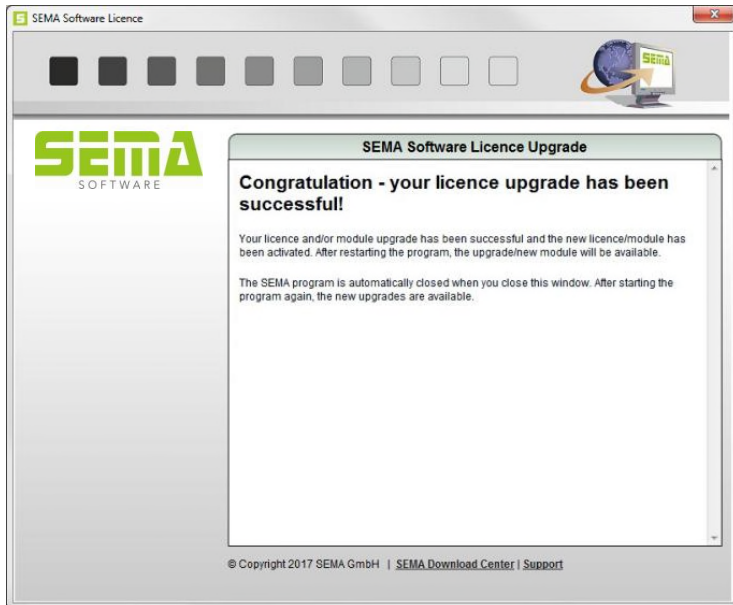


Upgrade your SEMA program licence.

Code number:

OK

Please insert manually the license code number which you can find on the delivery note and confirm by **OK**.



If your license has been successfully enabled or your modules updated, the corresponding message will appear.

When you then close the window, the program is closed as well.

After restarting the program, you can use the SEMA program with all acquired modules.



If you encounter any technical problems or get error messages during the activation process, please contact SEMA customer support at +49 8304 - 939 140.

Short Description of the Program Help

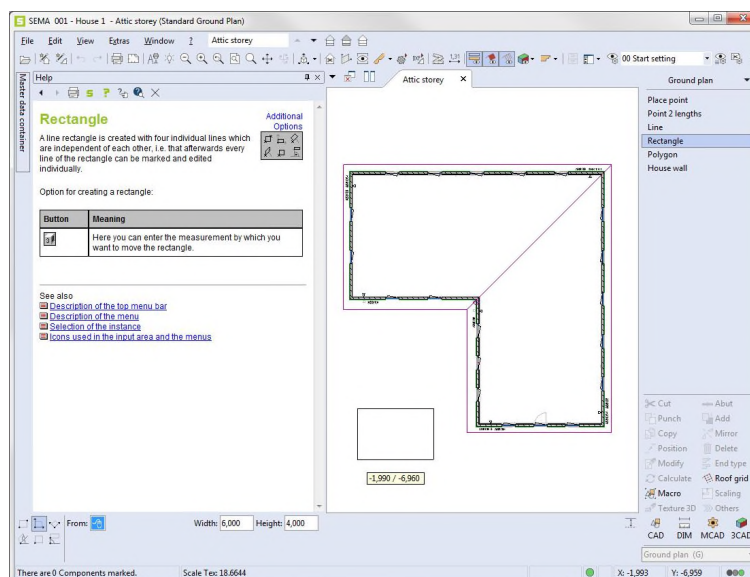
Introduction

To make things easier for you and to make sure you don't have to go through substantial manuals, we created a comprehensive Help function for our program.

It is completely integrated into the SEMA system and thus working with our programs becomes even easier and more efficient.

When we created this help feature, we focused on the most important points and illustrated them with practical examples – so that you can find everything you need at a glance.

This summary is to give you an overview of how the Instant Help works as well as to introduce you to the manifold possibilities this help tools offers.



Context-sensitive Help in the SEMA system - via F1

System Requirements

To be able to use the integrated Instant Help, you need to have an Internet Explorer for Windows, Version 4.x or higher.

Accessing Instant Help

So, if you don't know how to continue or have some kind of problem, simply press the **function key F1** and the relevant Help topic will appear.

Interesting Facts about Help

The Help function feature has been fully integrated into the SEMA program system, so you can work parallel on the project at any time.

Context-sensitive help means that always the relevant help topic for the active command is available, e.g. for the creation function "Place rafter" you automatically find the relevant information on placing rafters when you click the "?".

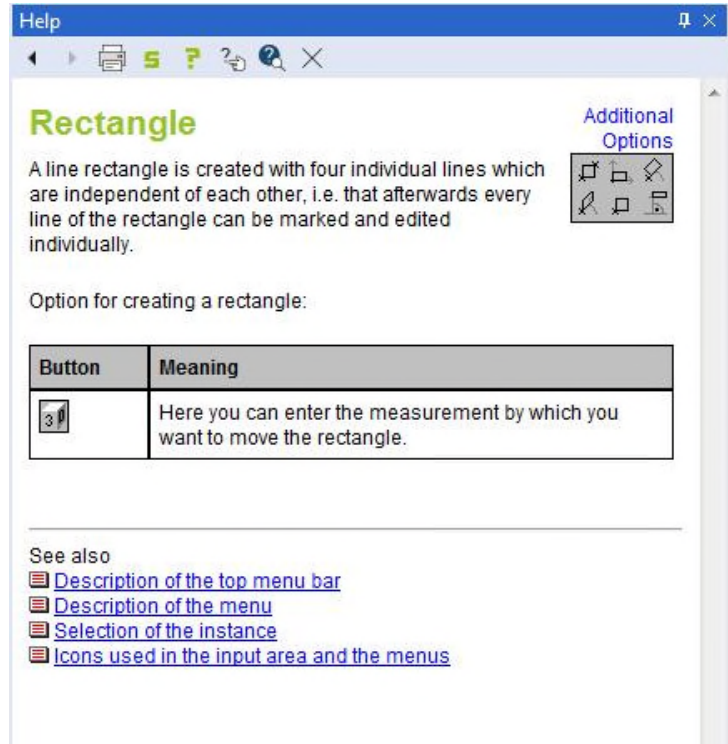
When you move on to another command, the Help function automatically "follows" and the help topic for this specific command is immediately displayed.

About Using Help

After you have clicked the "?", the drawing area will be divided into two sections and the help topic will be displayed on the left side of the screen in a separate window. And here you find further explanations for the command you are currently using.

In some cases (display options, pre-settings etc.) the Help topic is presented in a separate window to explain it better. Here you can switch between the Help topic and the SEMA program with the alt+tab key combination (= task change). Otherwise, everything works the same way as in the context-sensitive Help.

[Text underlined in blue](#) shows a link to further relevant topics. If you click on such a link, the program automatically goes to that help topic.



To keep the Instant Help fairly short and also to give it a clear layout, graphics (mainly buttons) have been linked as well. If you move with the mouse to such a linked graphic you will see that the mouse pointer changes into a hand. You find this feature for example for the graphical display of the additional options for the creation commands.

If there is no function or command active or if there is no help topic for it, some general information about the program is displayed.

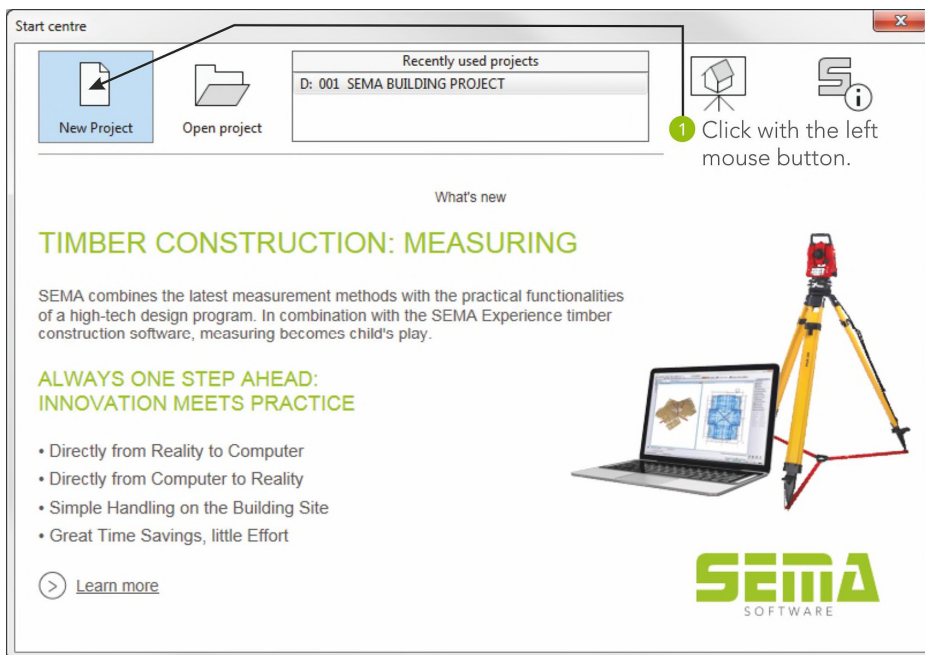


Icon Bar of the Integrated Help

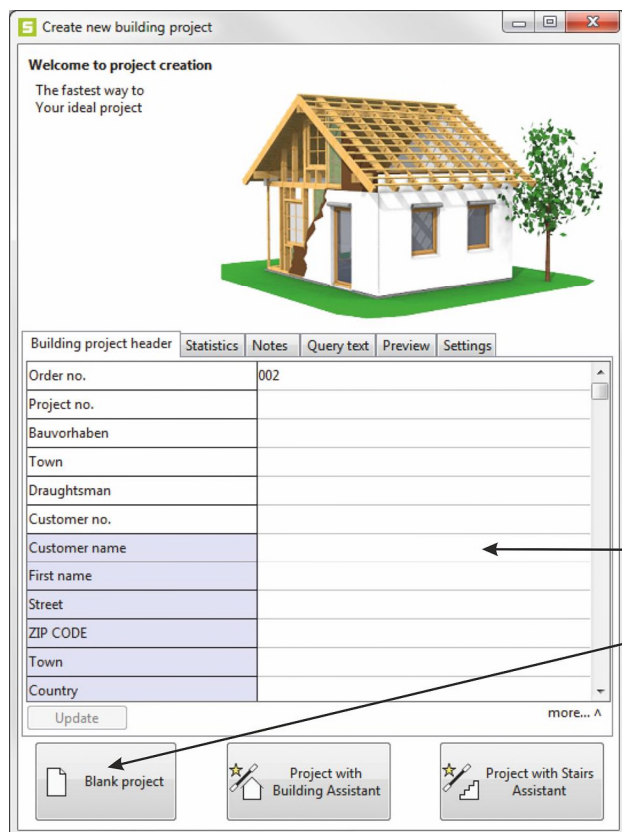
Button	Meaning
	To navigate through the context-sensitive Help. Goes back to the previous Help topic.
	To navigate through the context-sensitive Help. Goes to the next Help topic.
	To print out the active Help topic.
	To go to the Features + Release History of the current version.
	To open the general Help for the program. Here you can get a general overview of how to use the program.
	To open the context-sensitive Help for the program. Here you can get a general overview of the Help topics for all parts of the program.
	Search function of the context-sensitive Help.
	To close Help.

1. Creating a New Building Project

After the start of the SEMA program, the following Start Center will appear:



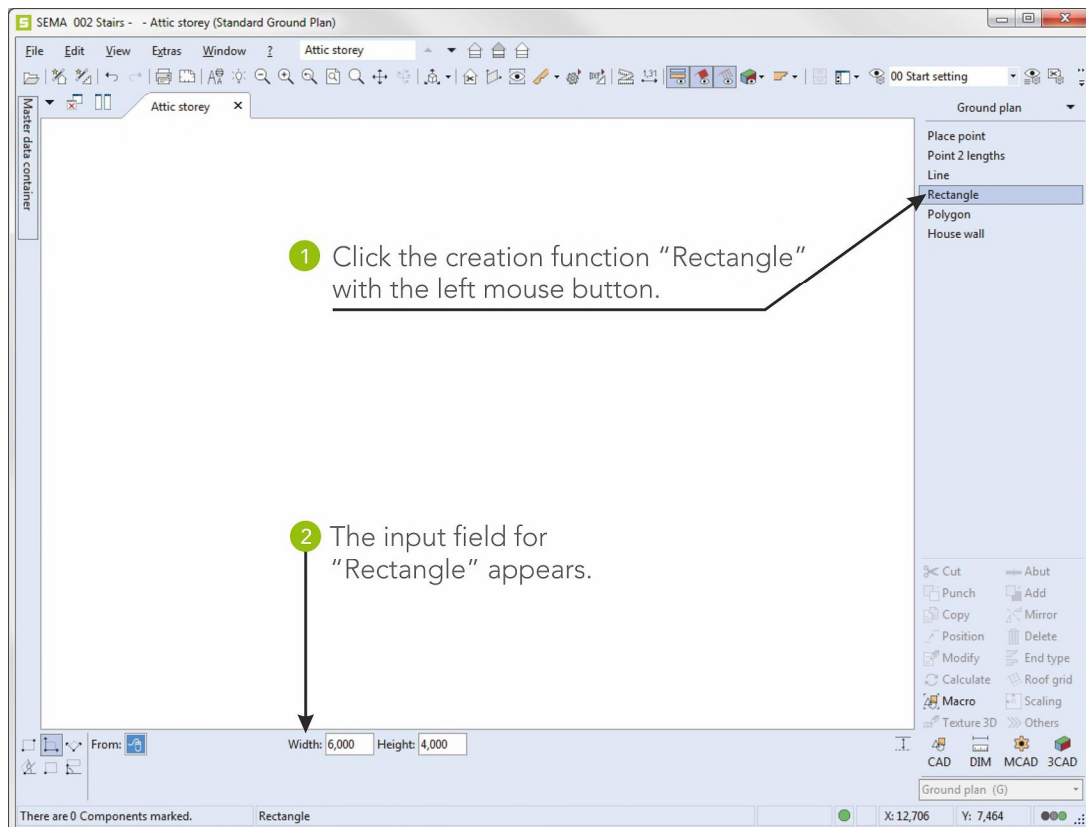
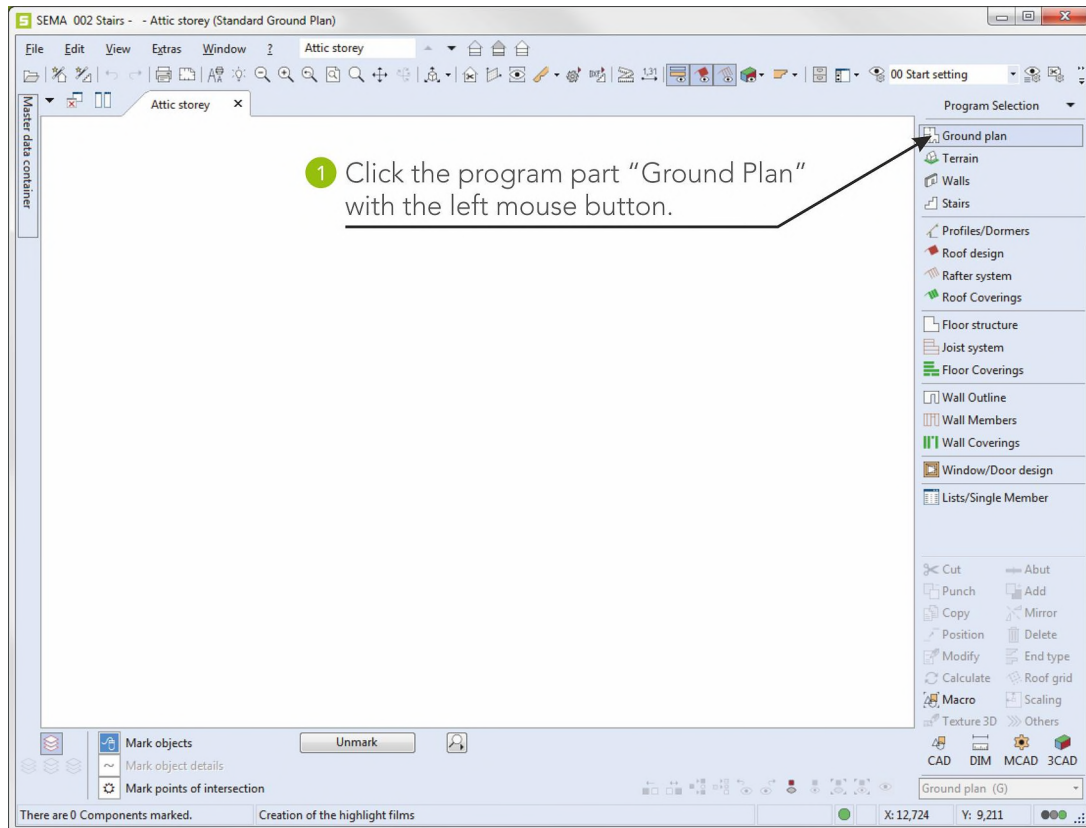
1.1 Filing a Building Project



The menu window is closed and the building project which you have created is opened in the drawing area.

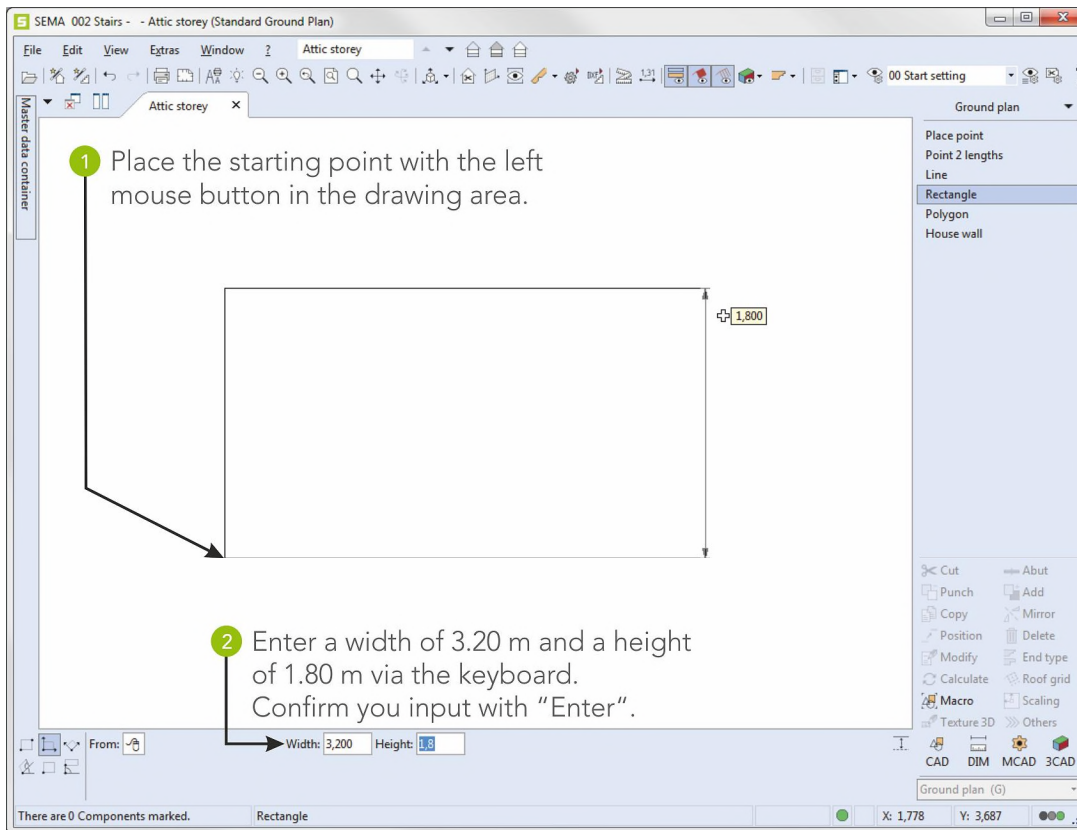
2. Creating the Ground Plan

Create the ground plan for the staircase with the dimensions 3.2 x 1.8 m with the program part "Ground Plan".



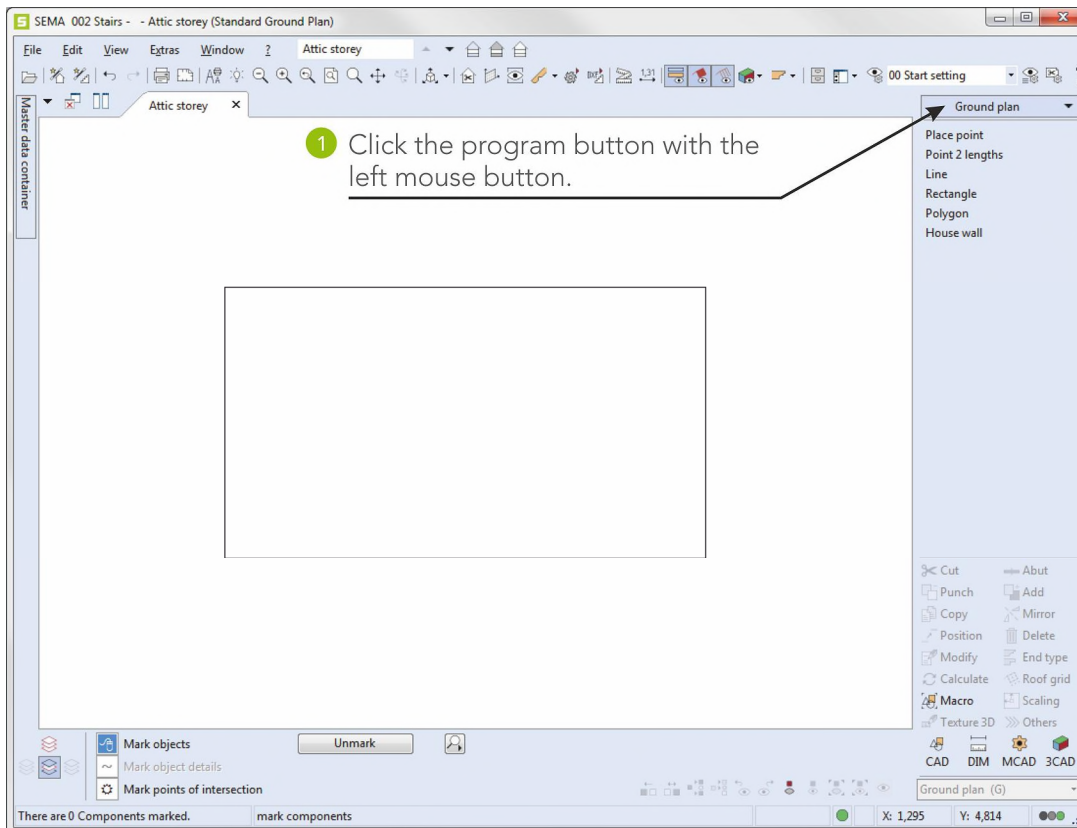
Brief Introduction

Creation of a L-shaped Staircase



Close the function with Esc (**ESC**).

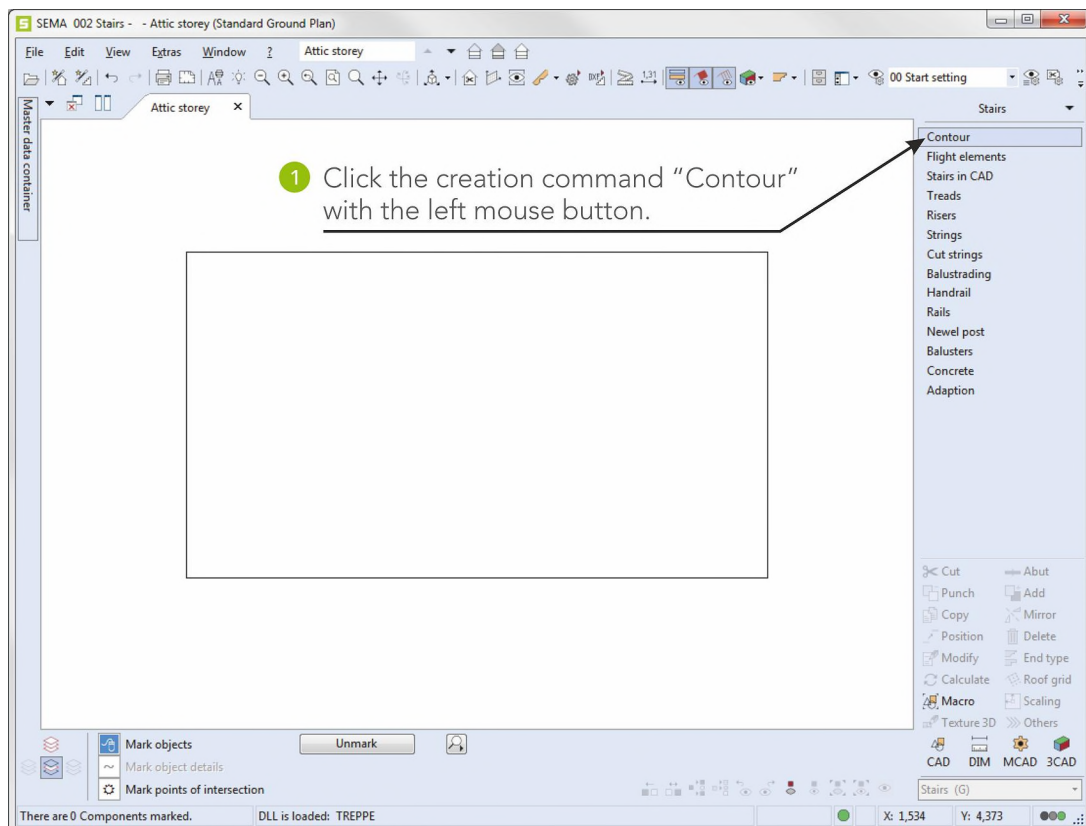
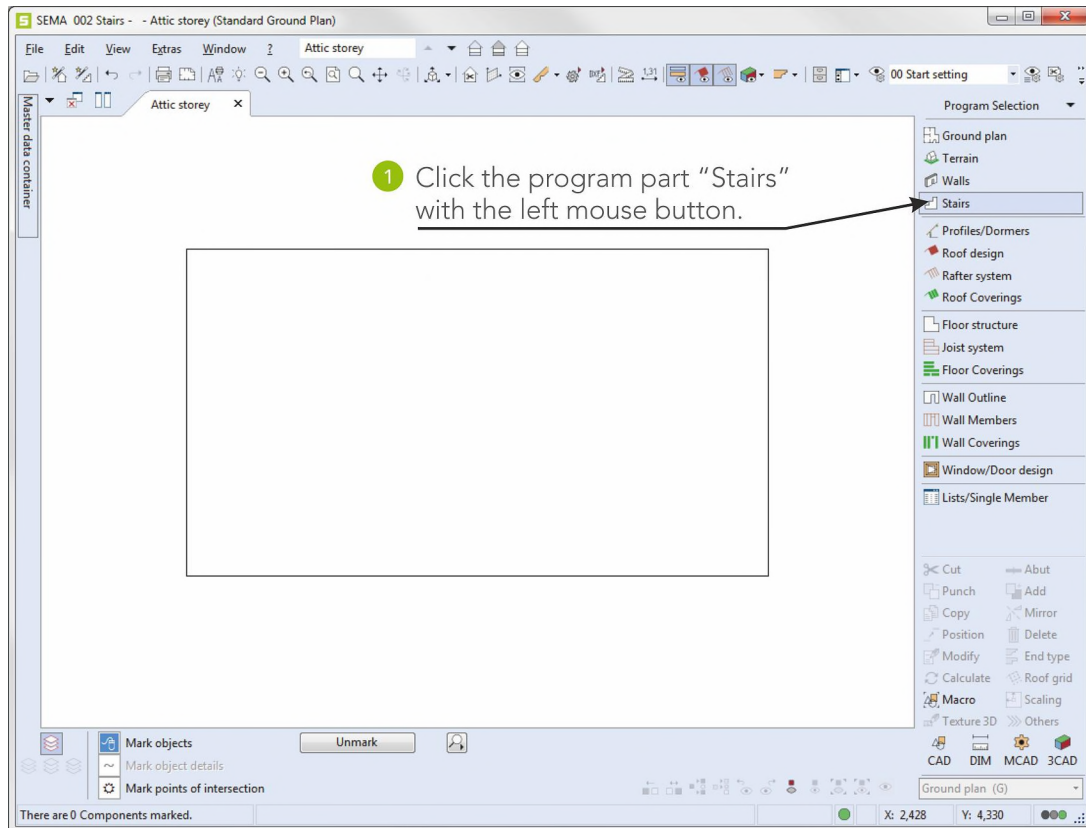
Now, the ground plan is finished.



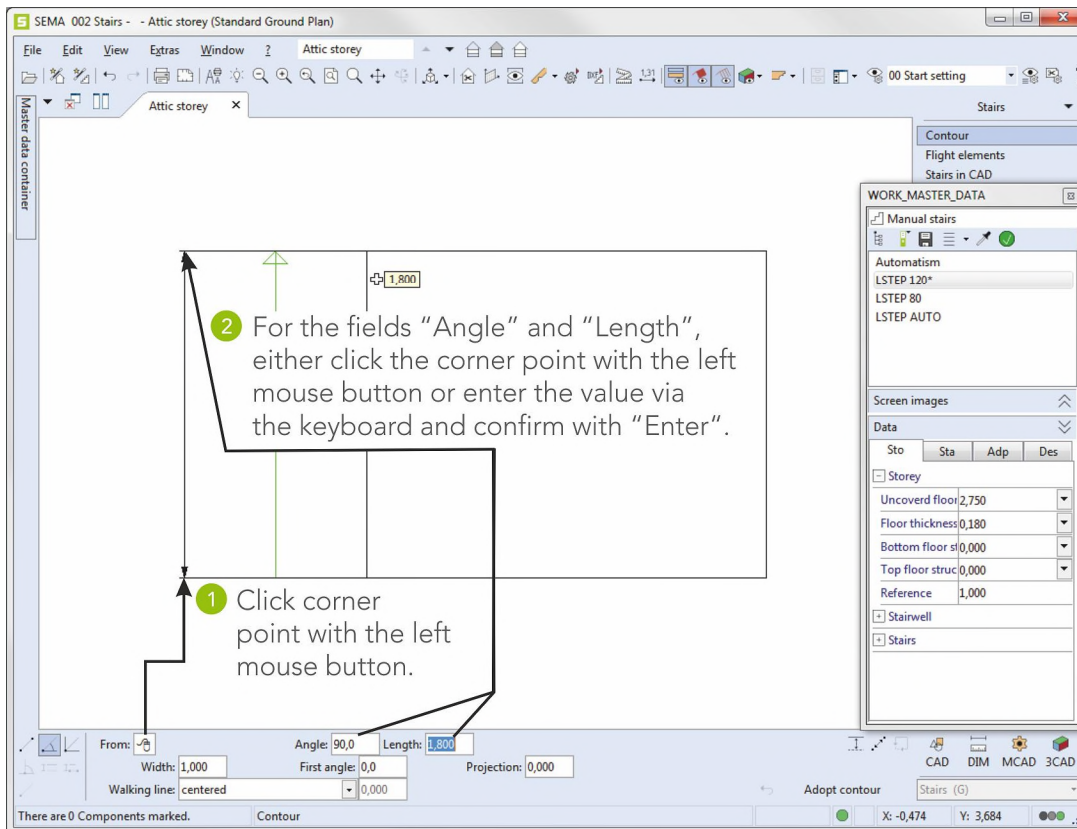
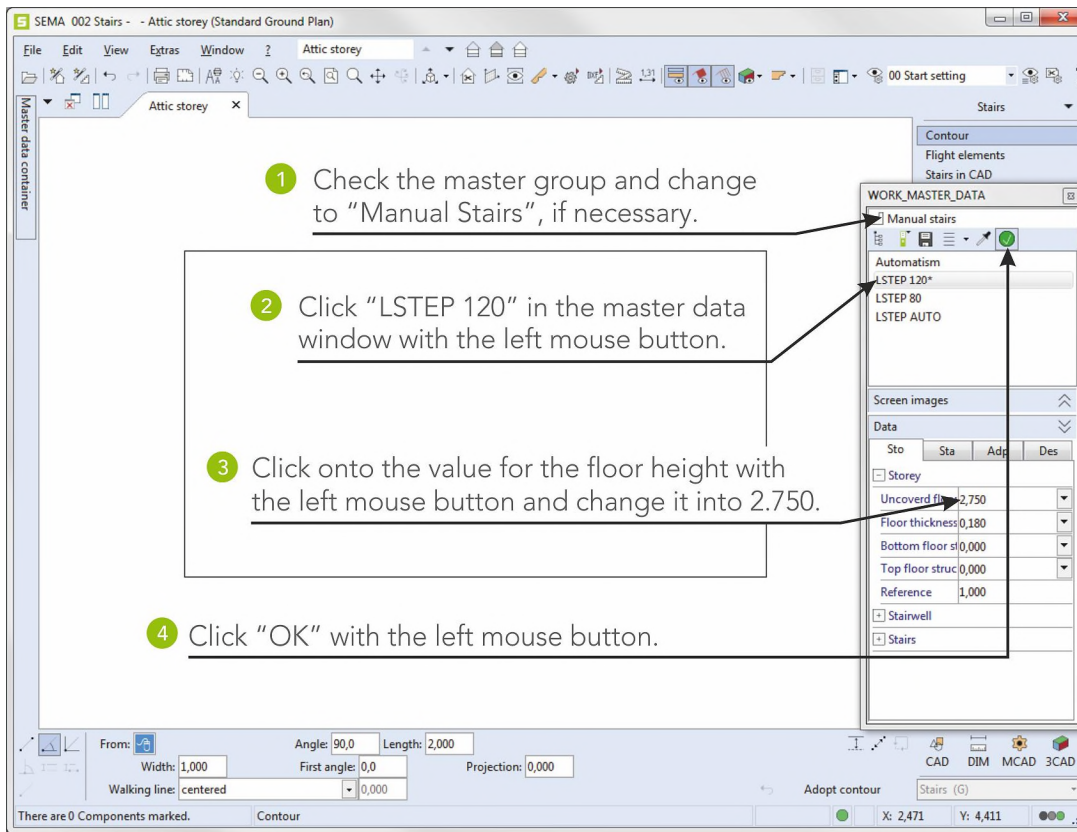
3. Creating the Stairs Contour

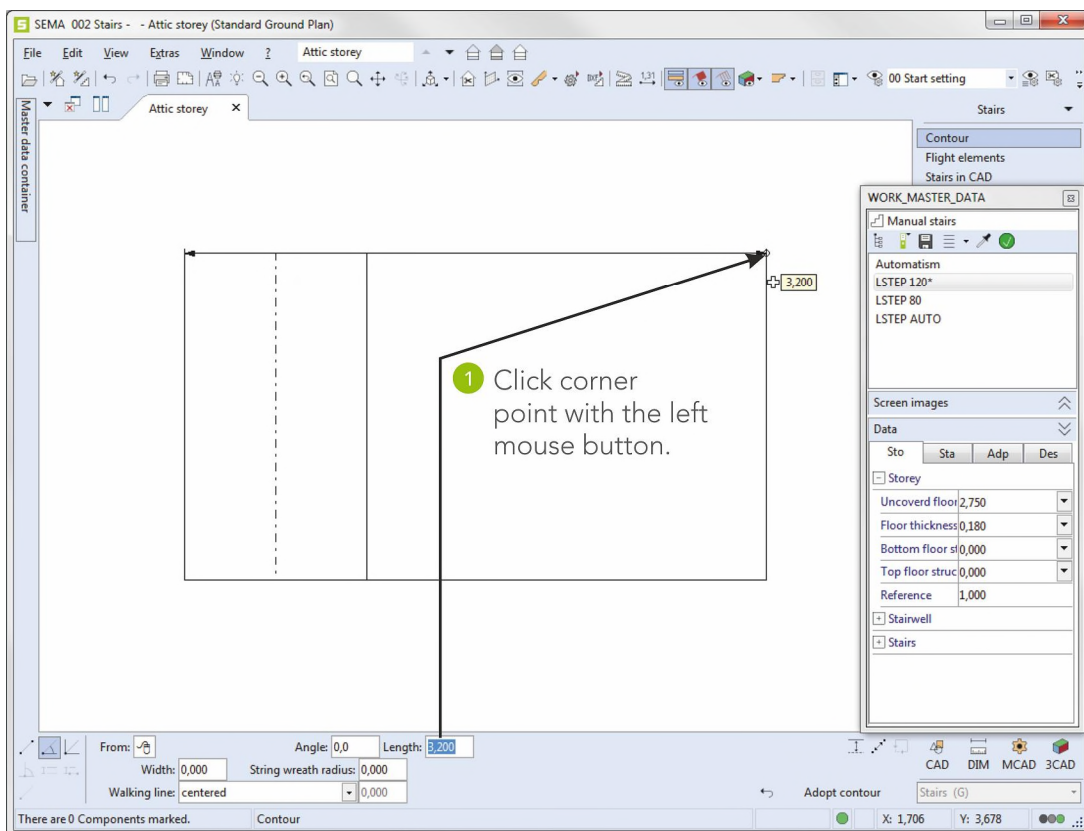
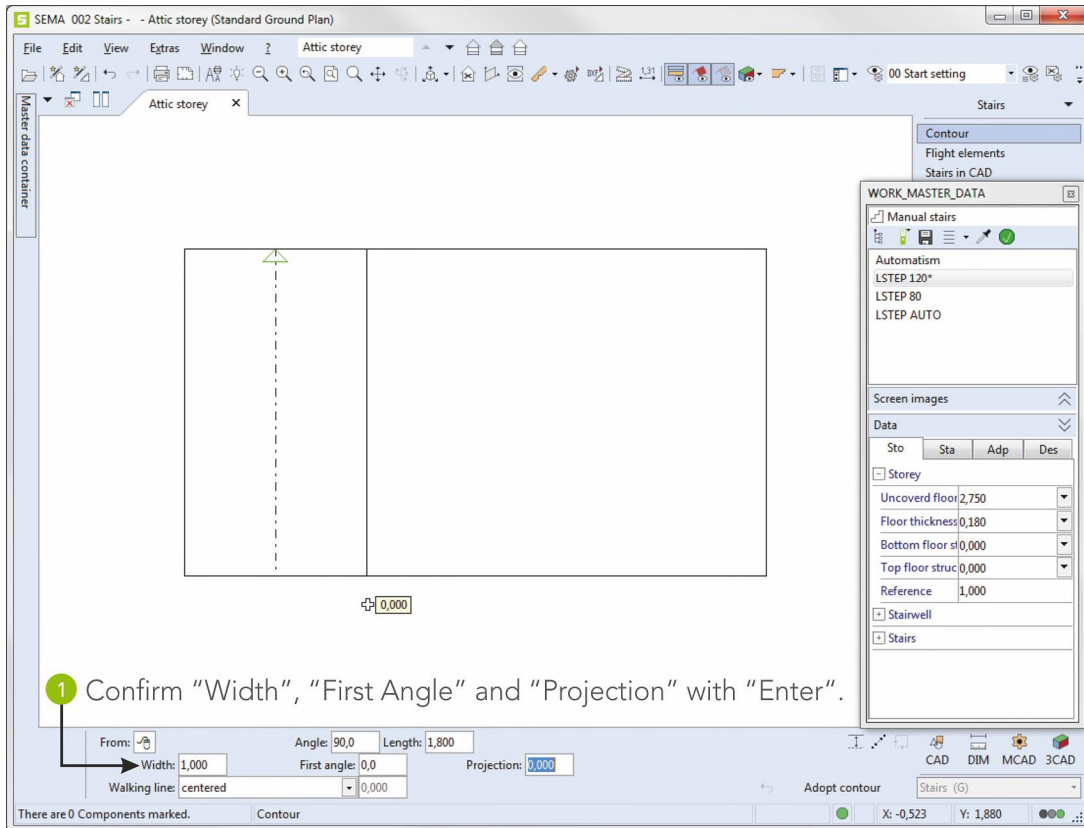
Here you can create the stairs contour on the lines of the ground plan created before.

Click "Stairs".



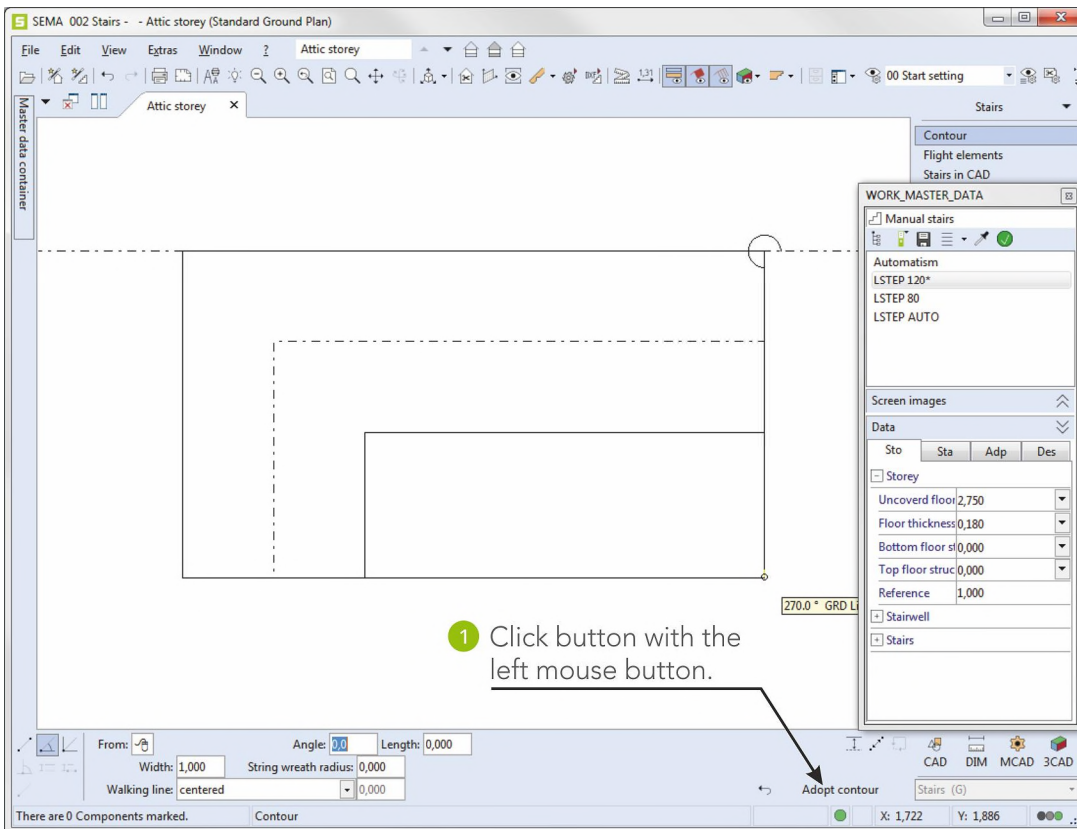
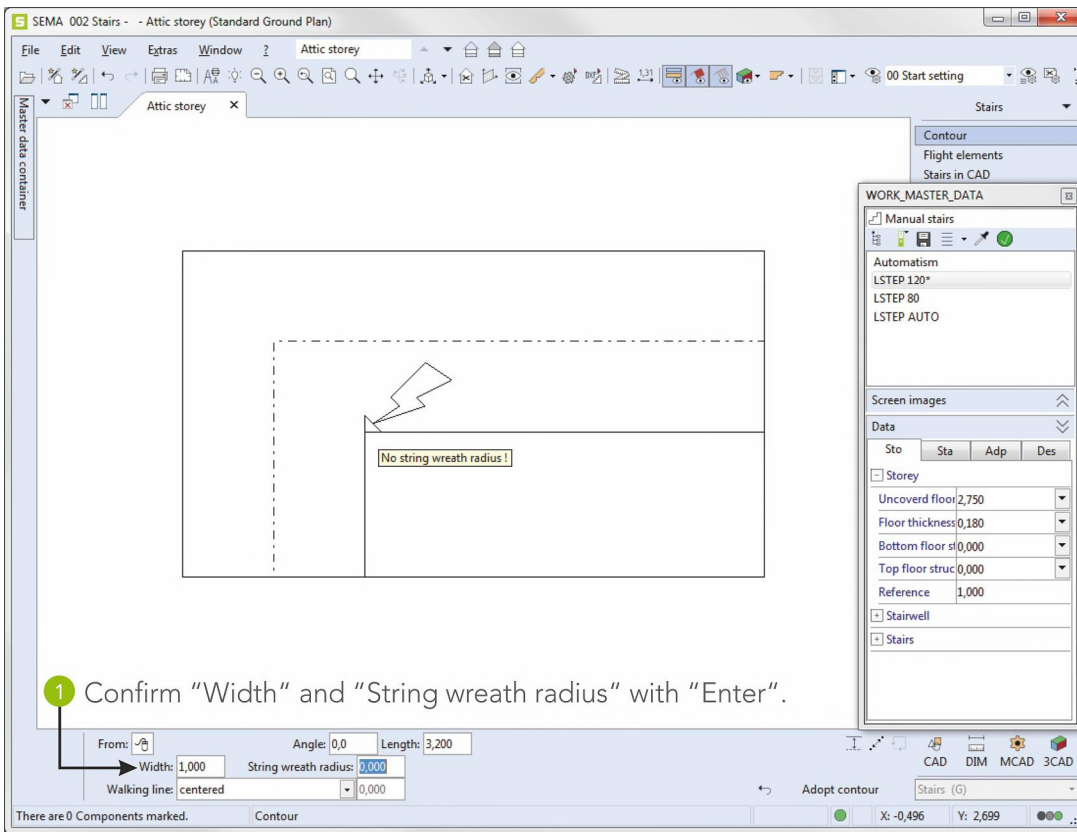
Brief Introduction Creation of a L-shaped Staircase

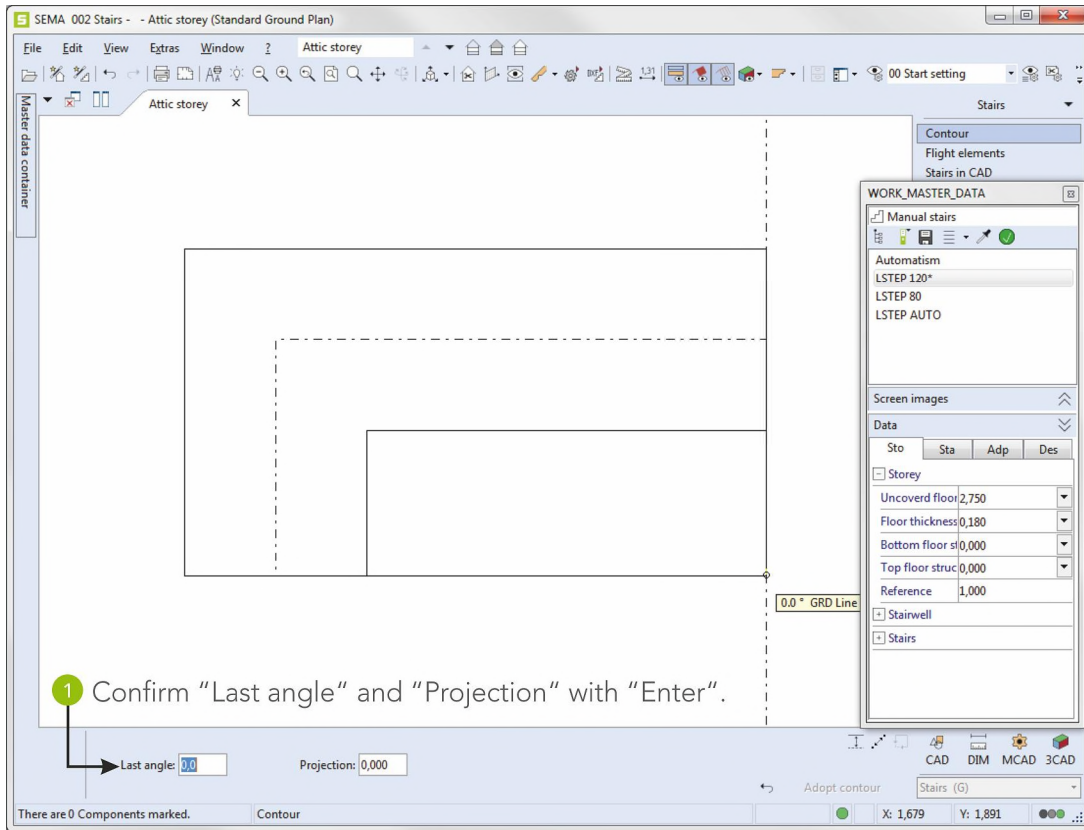




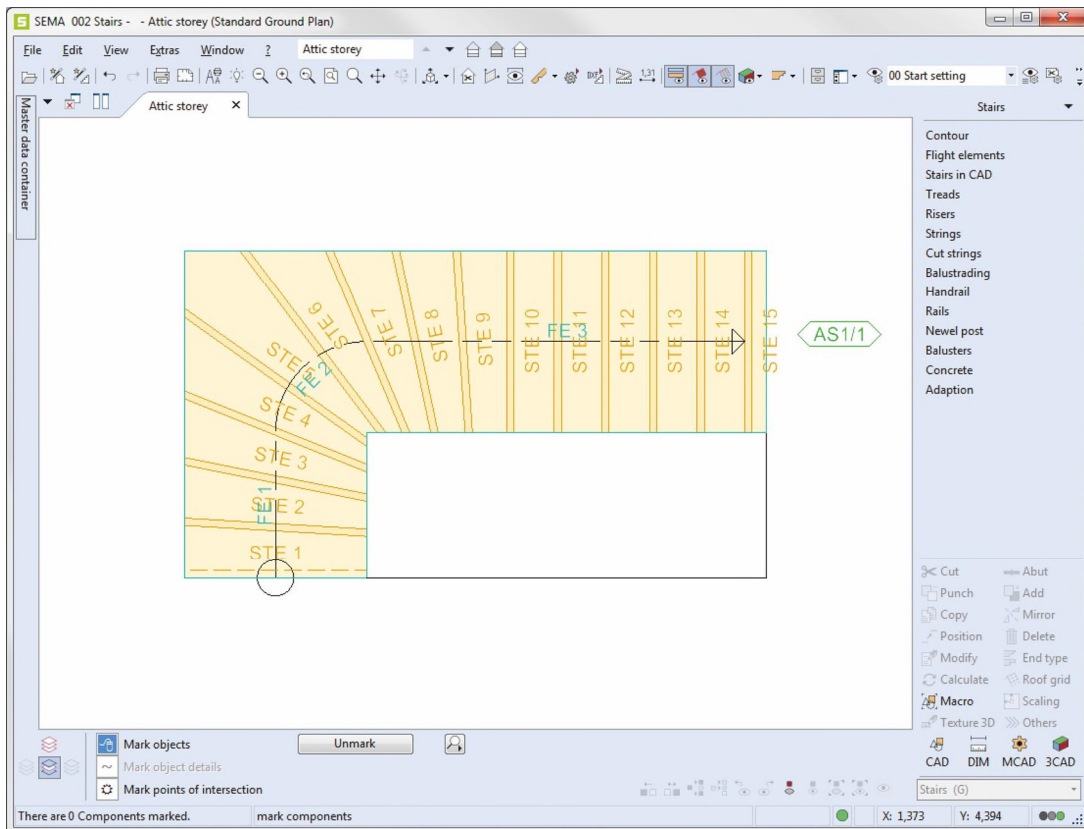
Brief Introduction

Creation of a L-shaped Staircase



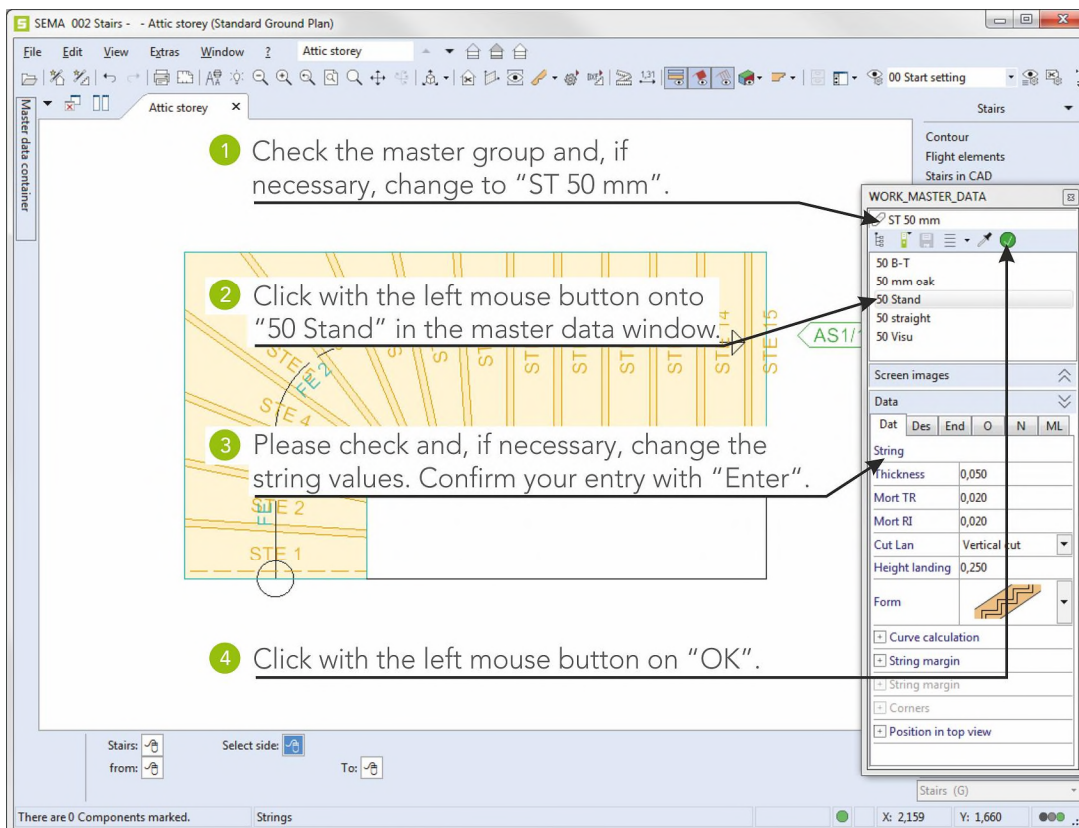
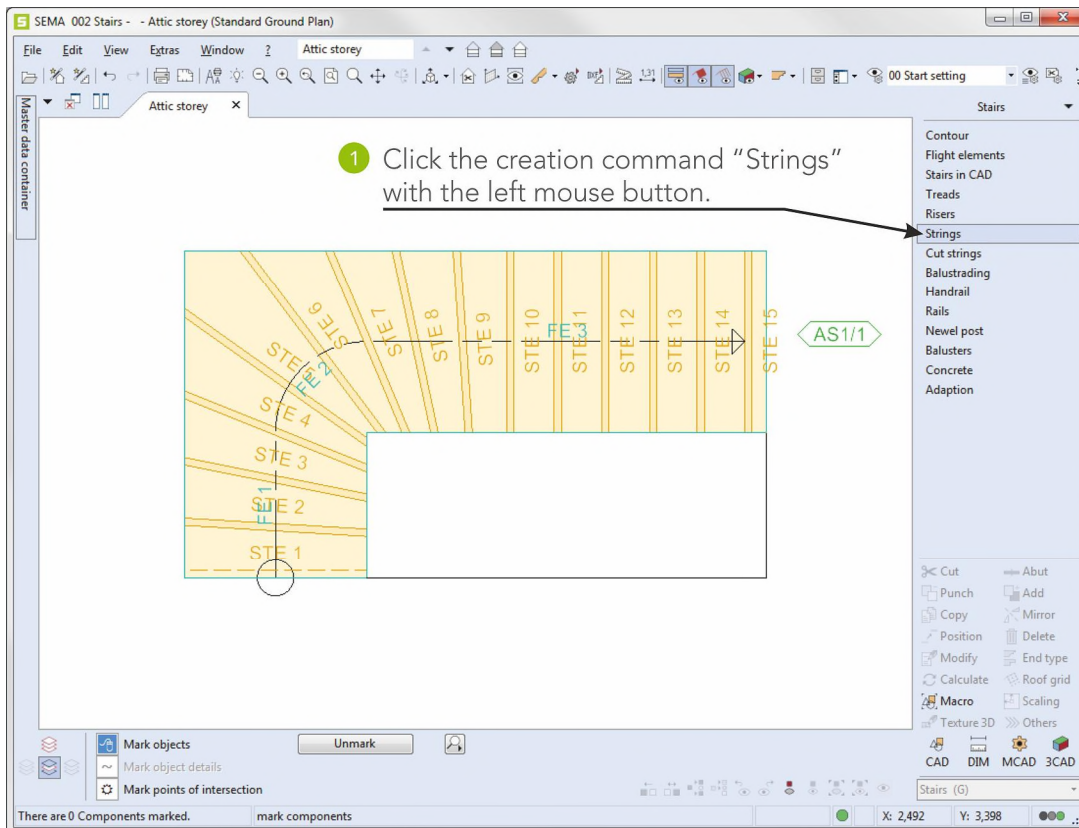


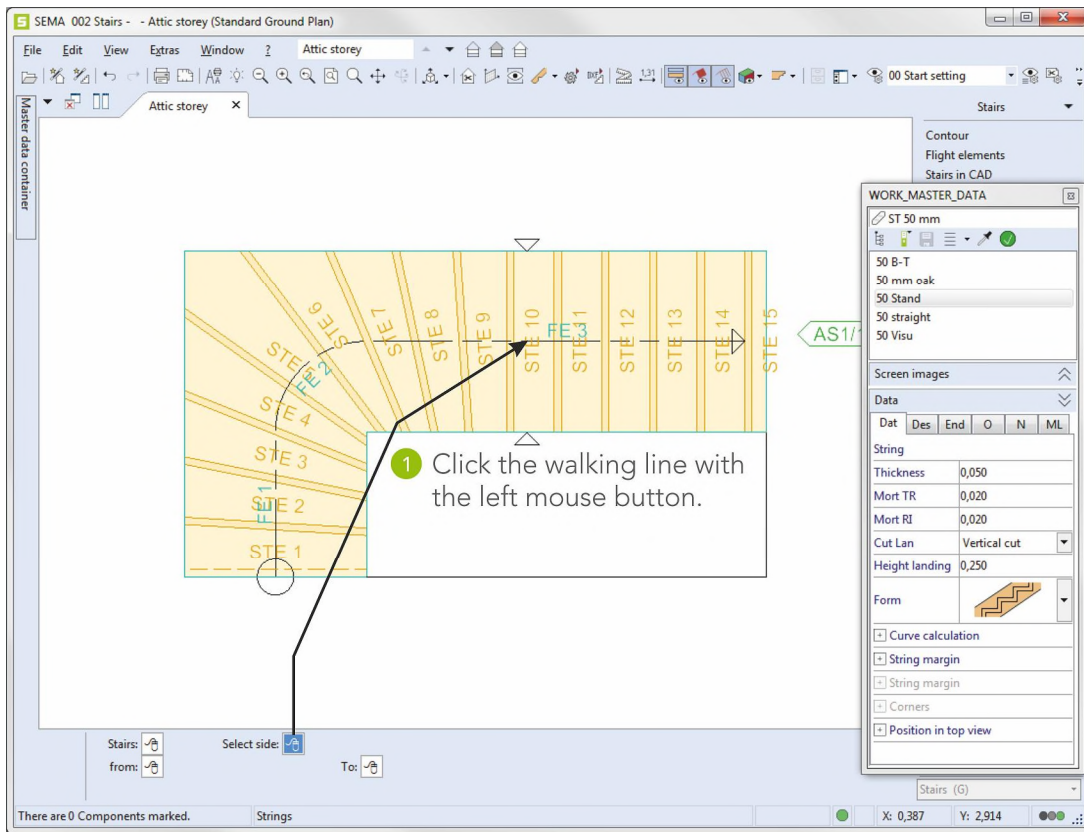
Now you see the finished outline of the stairs.



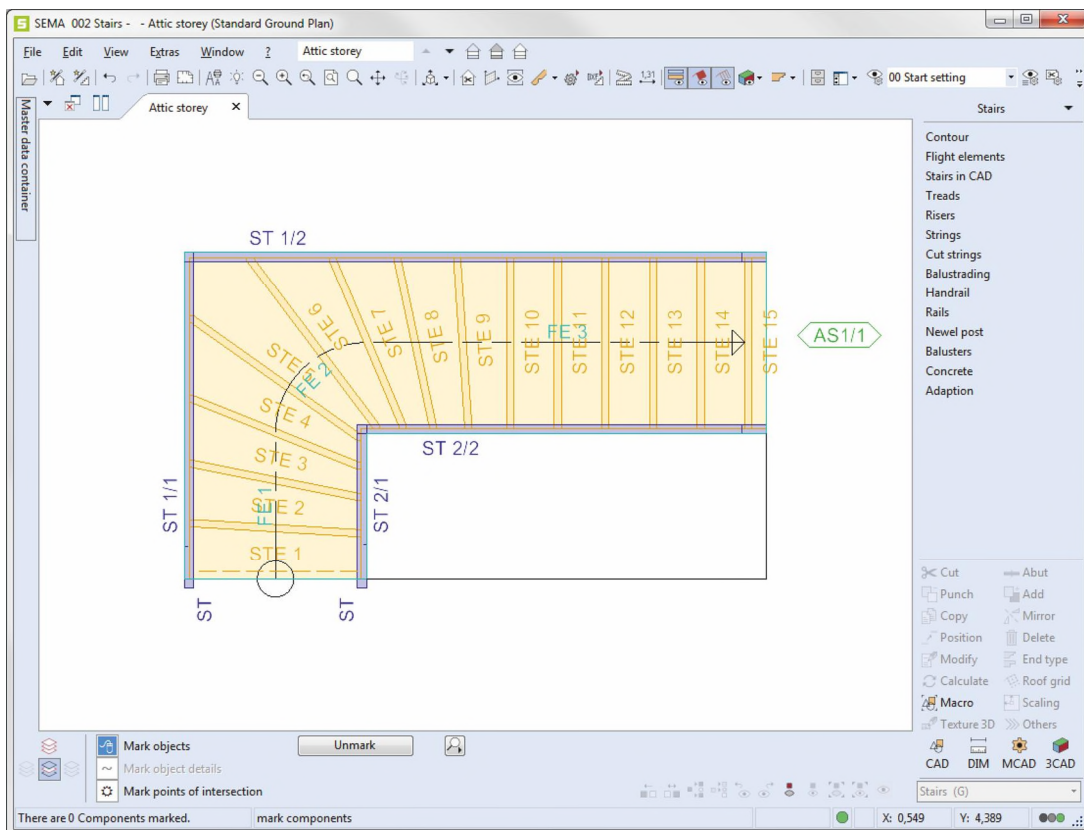
4. Creating the Strings

Insert the strings into the stairs contour created before.

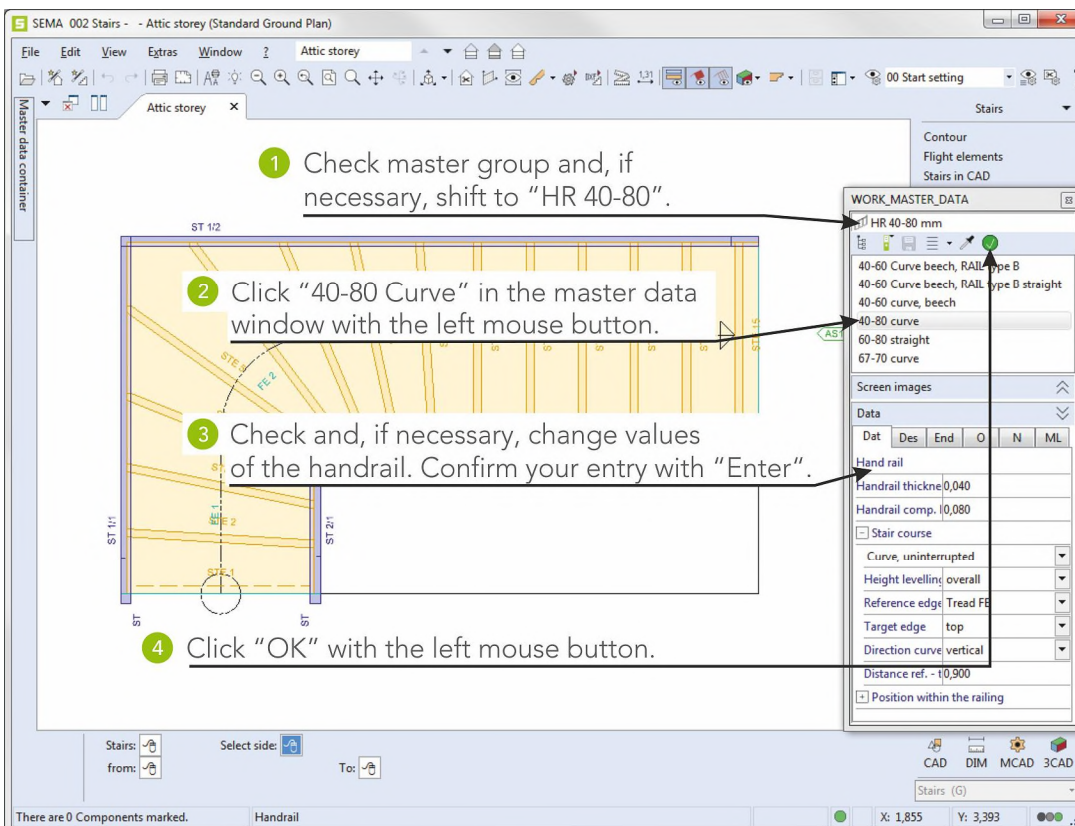
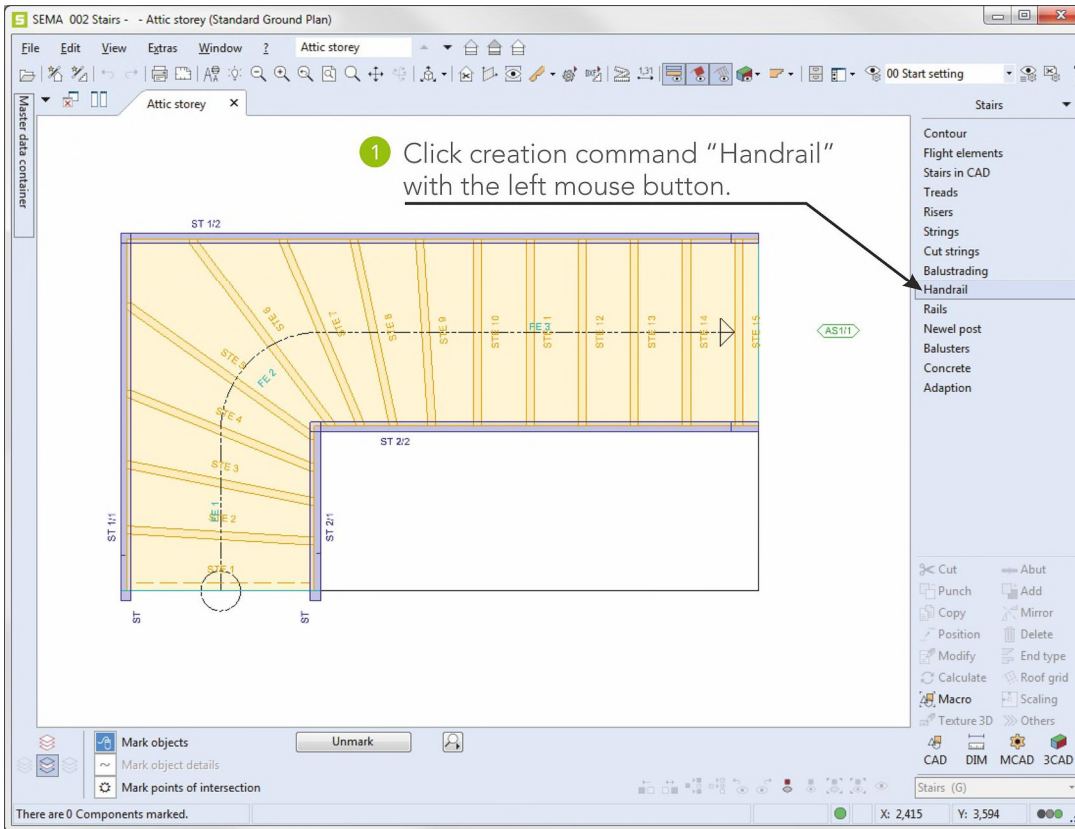


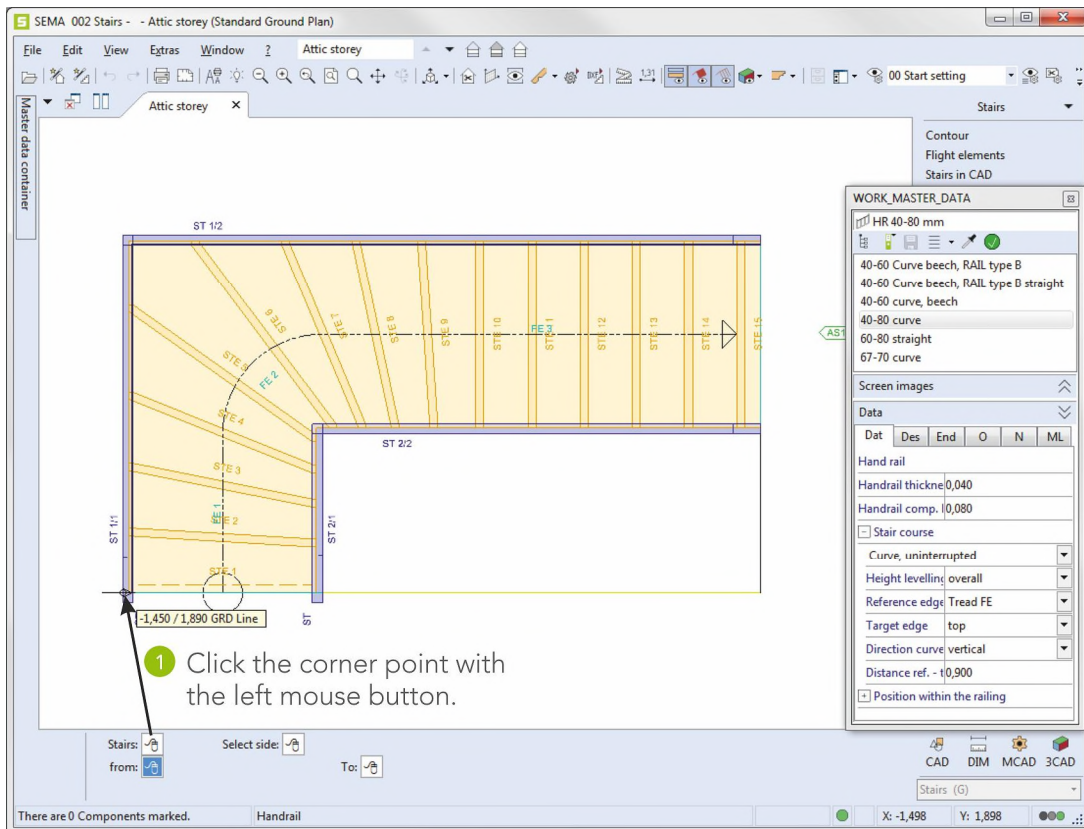
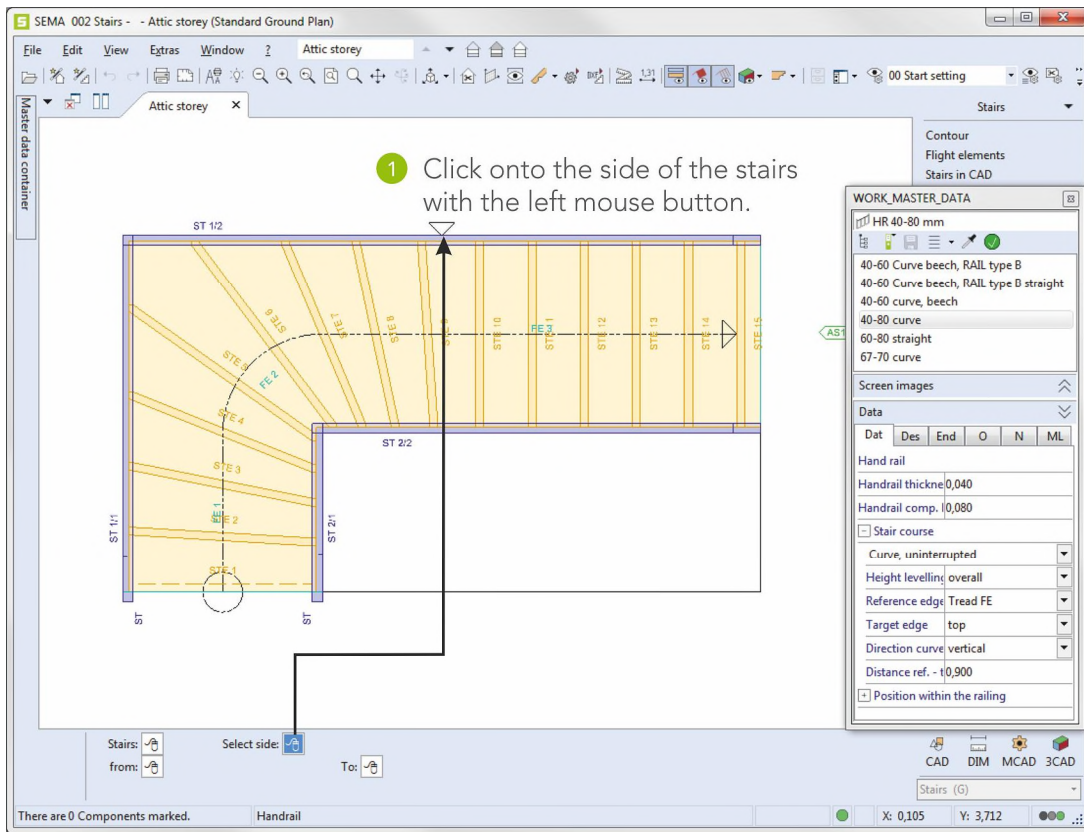


Now you can see the strings in the drawing.



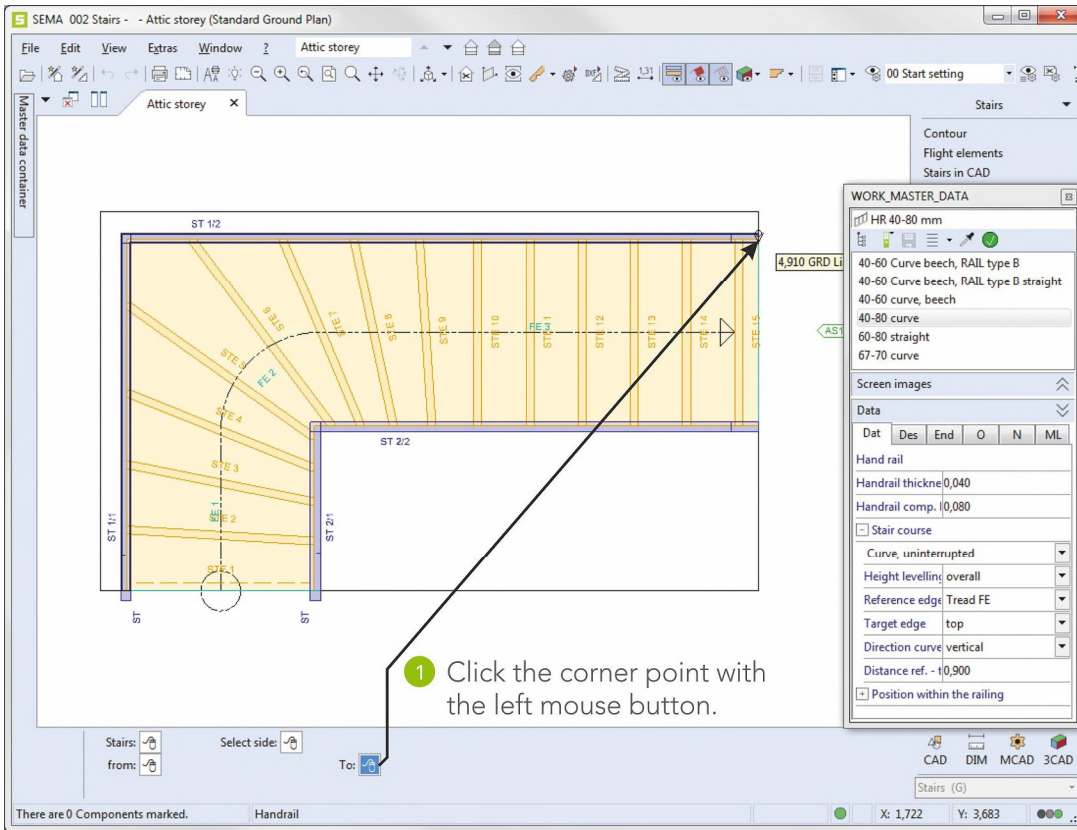
5. Creating the Handrail



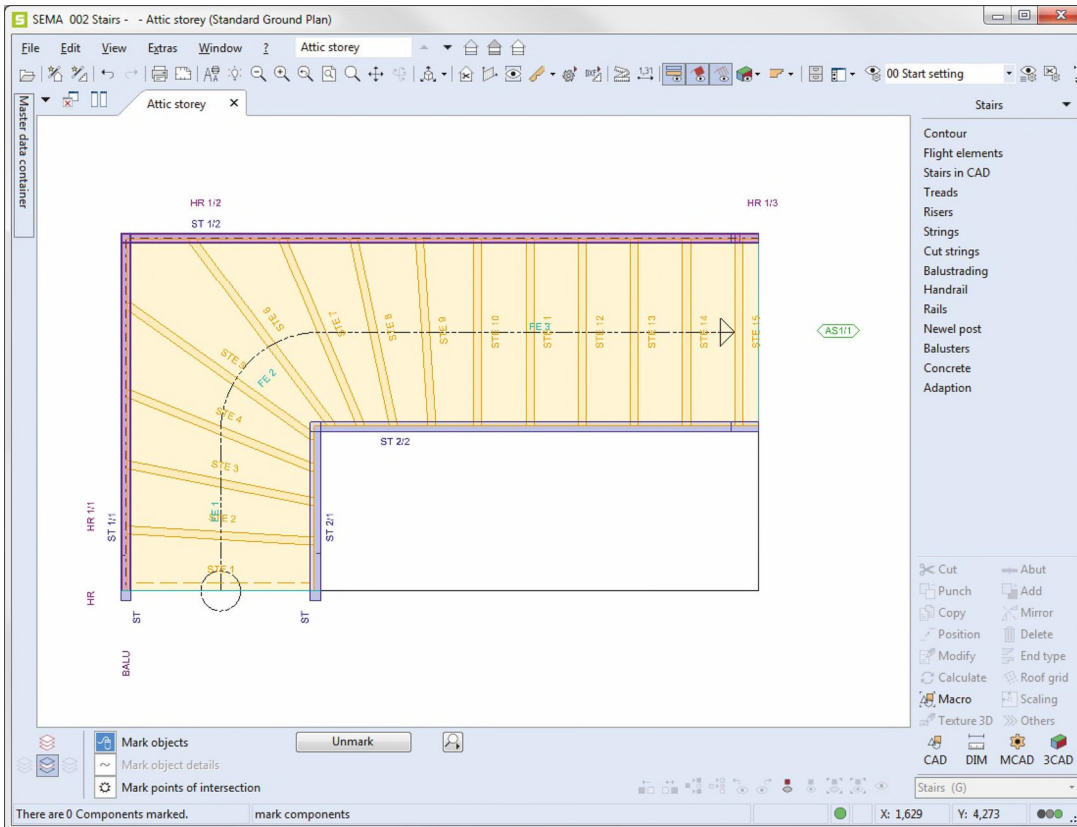


Brief Introduction

Creation of a L-shaped Staircase

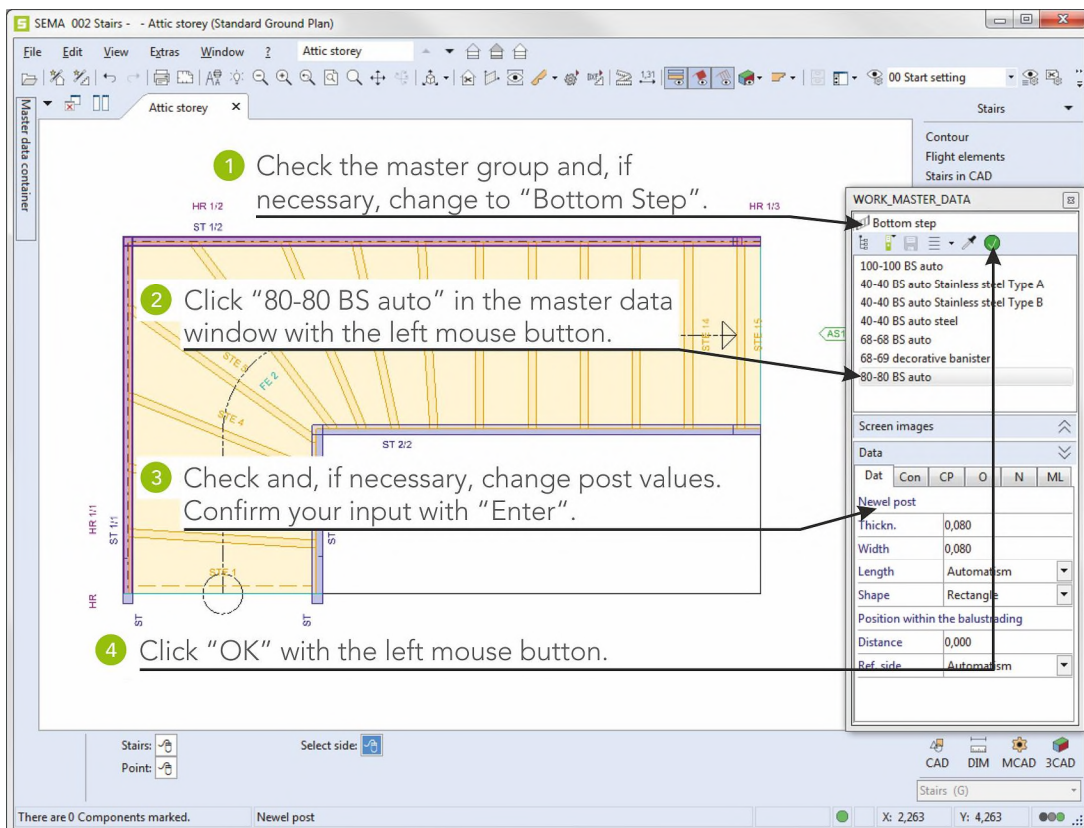
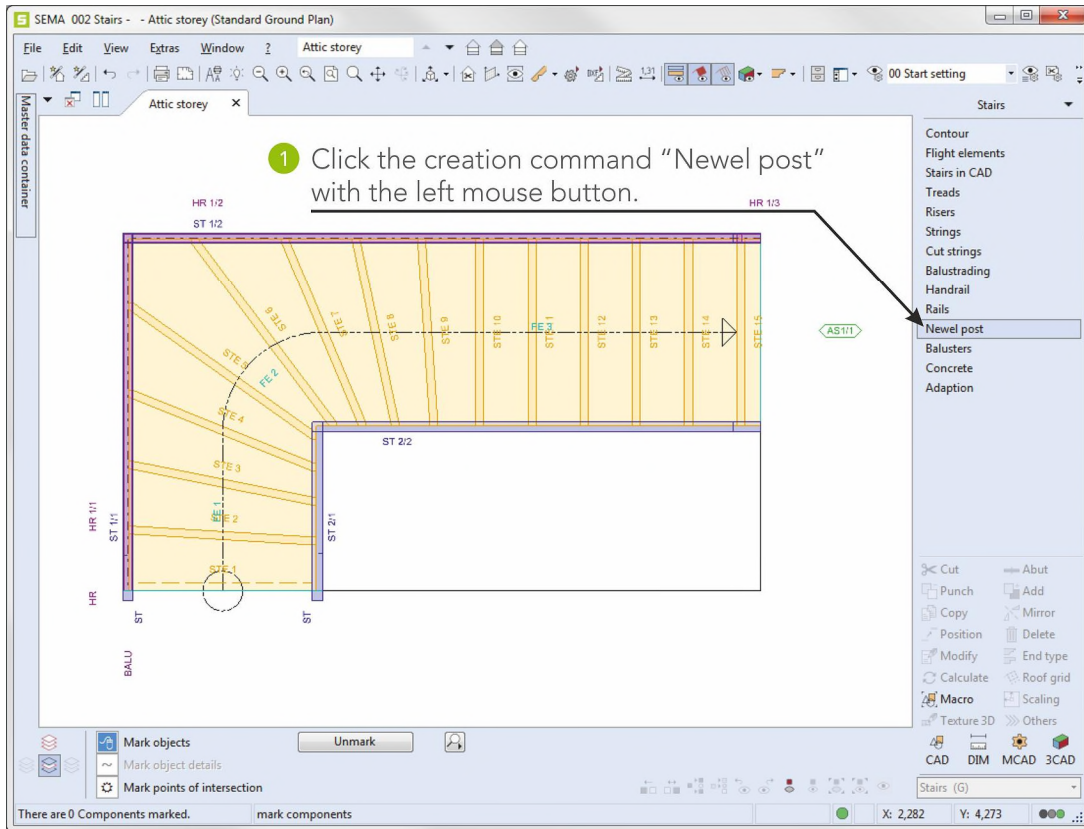


The handrail is finished.



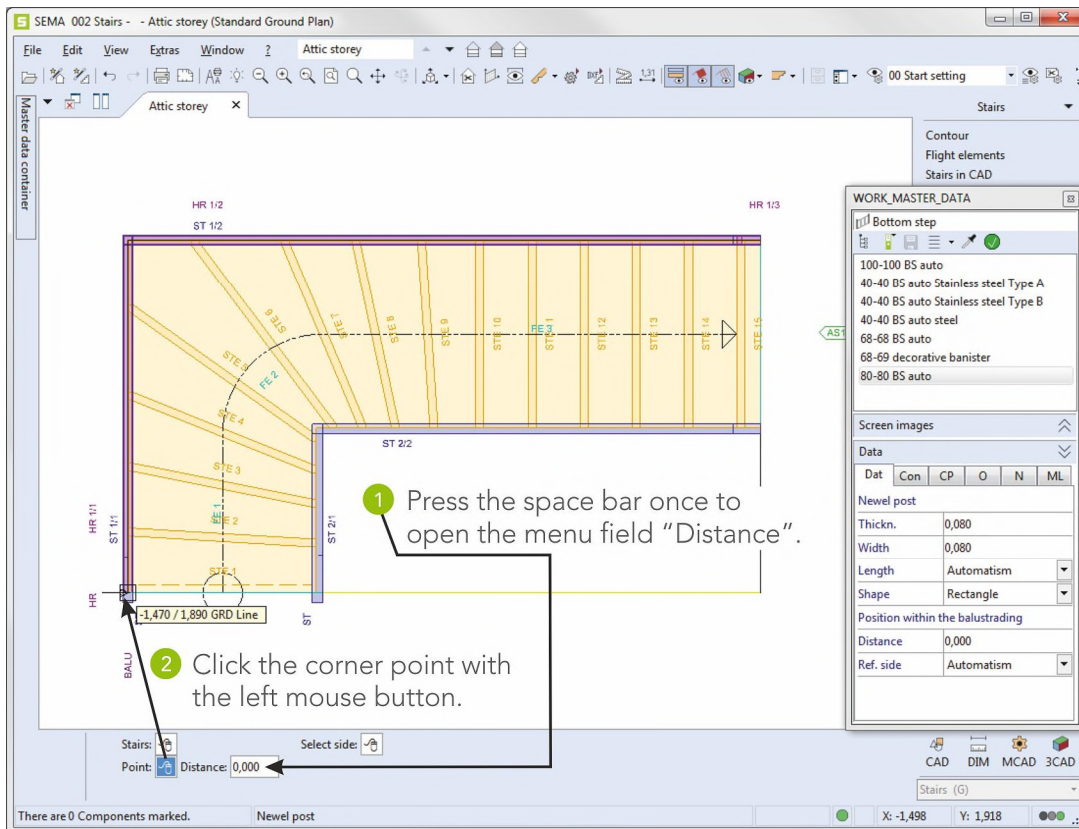
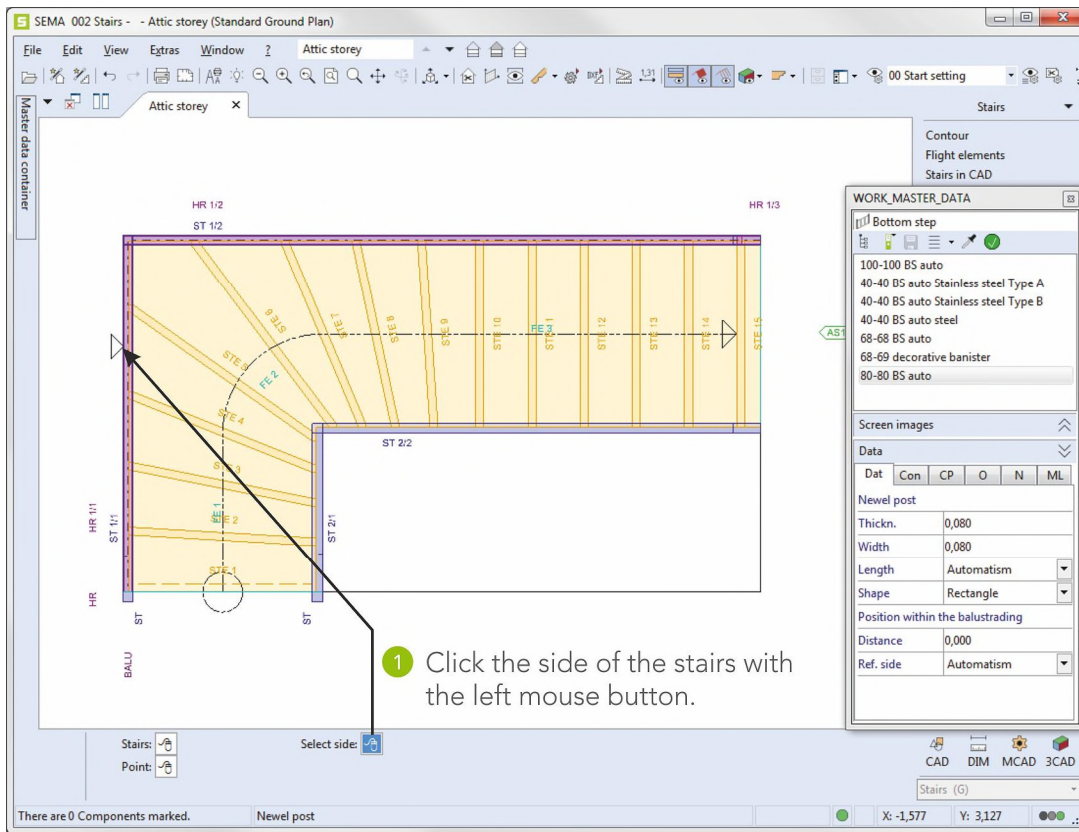
Creating the Handrail

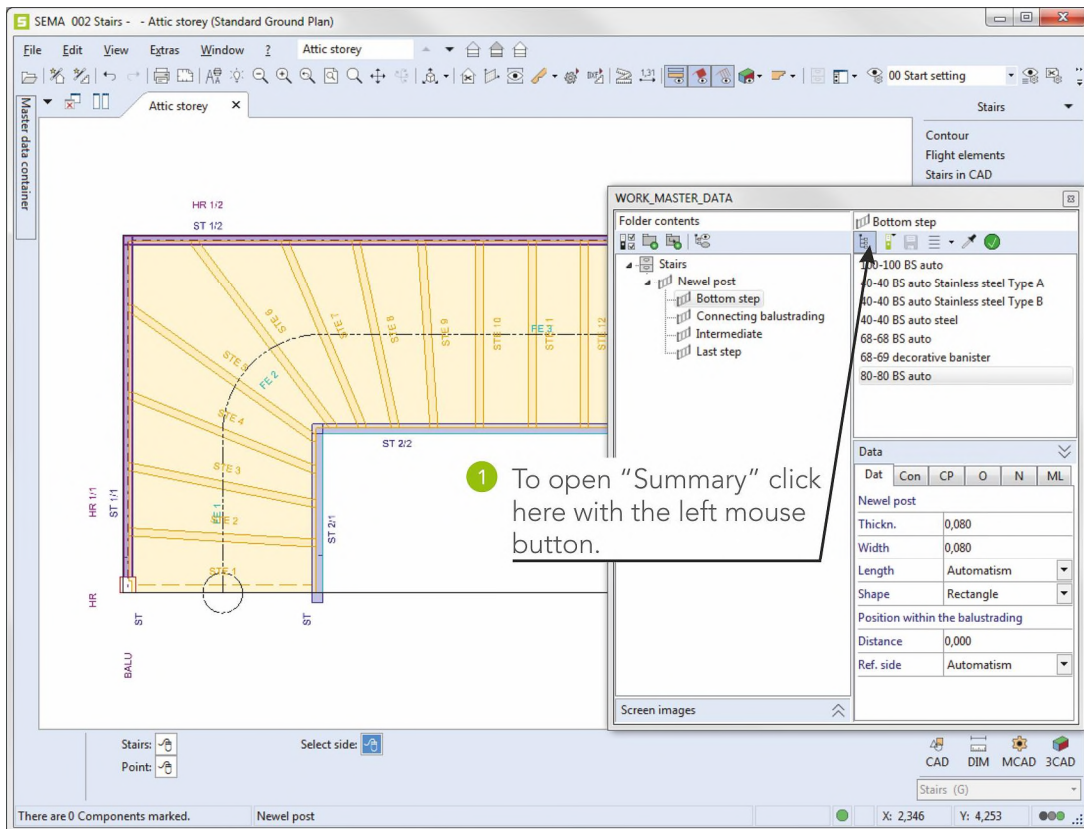
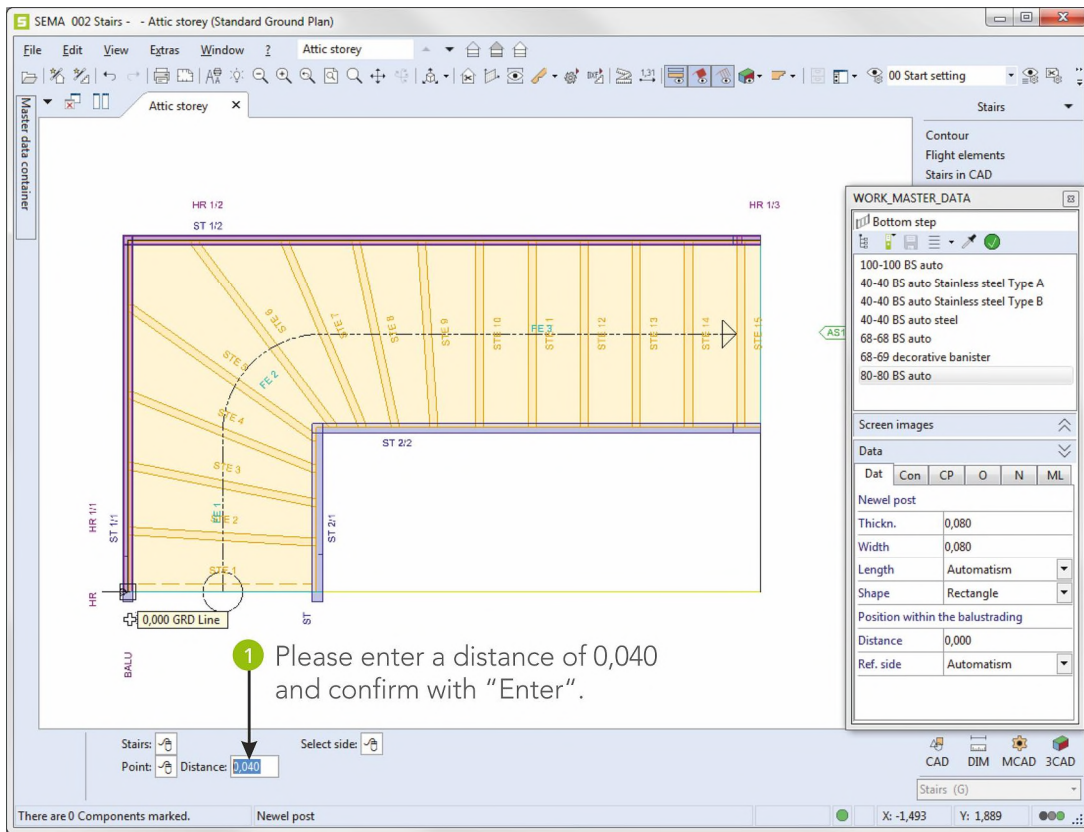
6. Creating Newel post



Brief Introduction

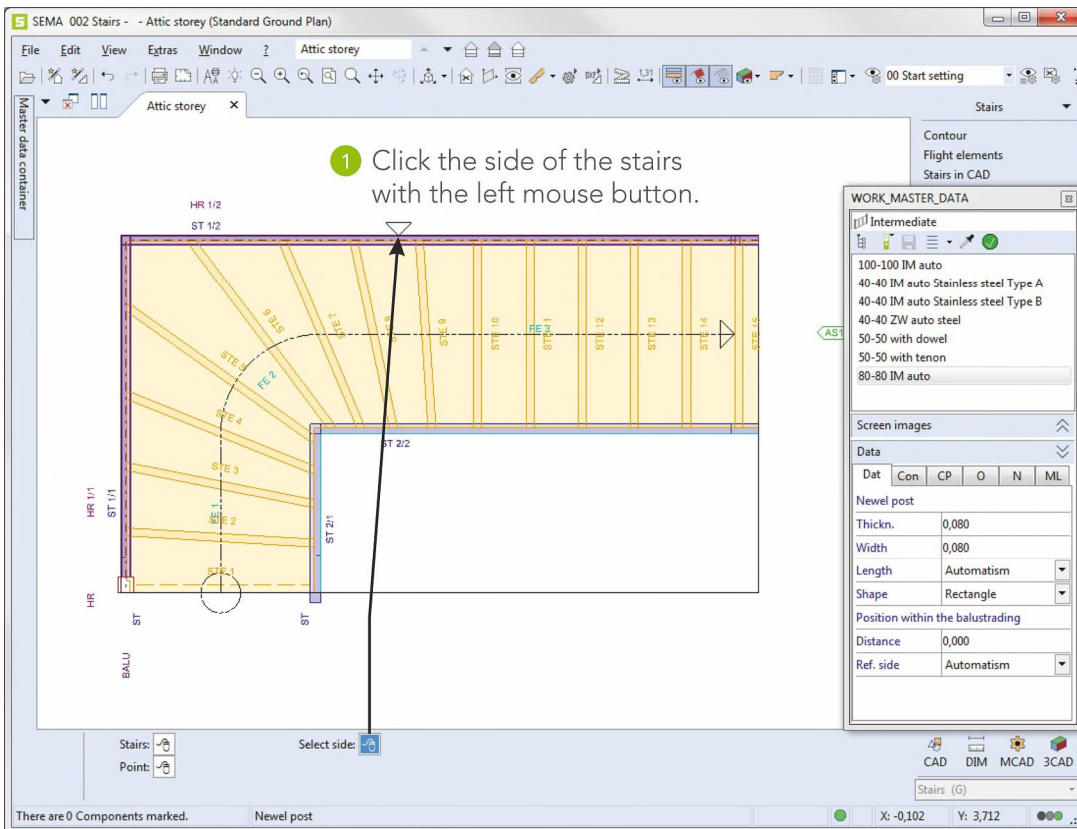
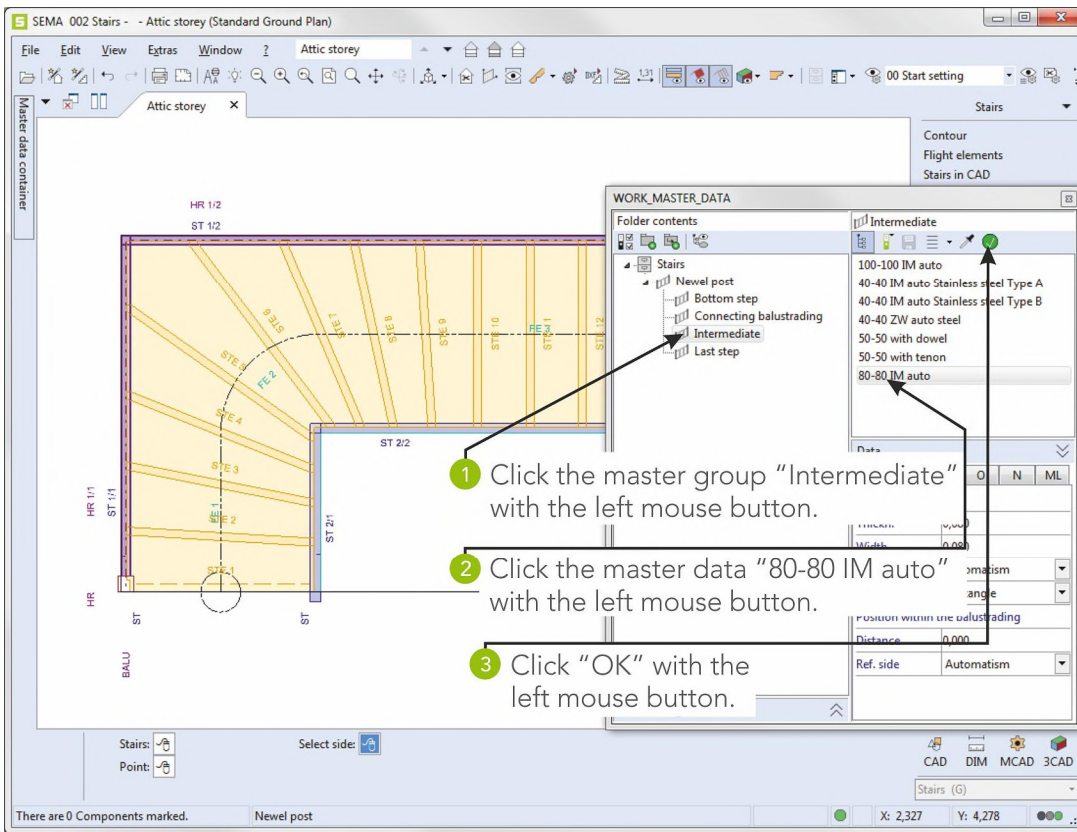
Creation of a L-shaped Staircase

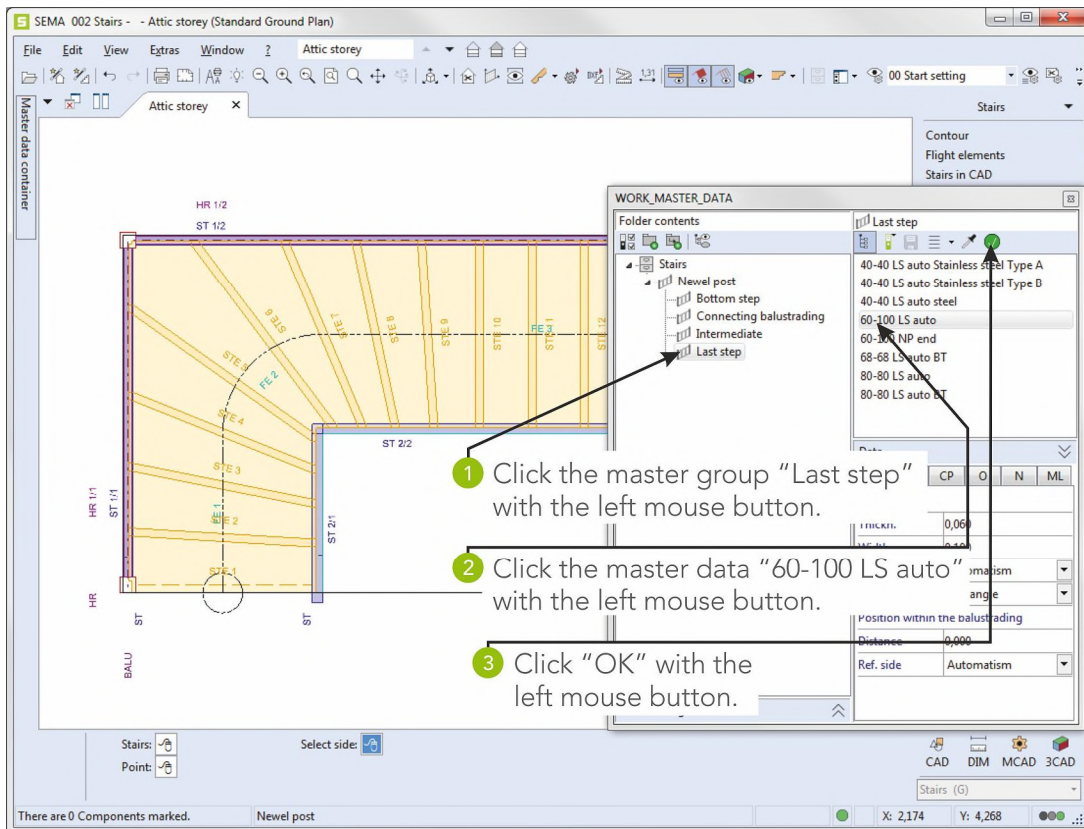
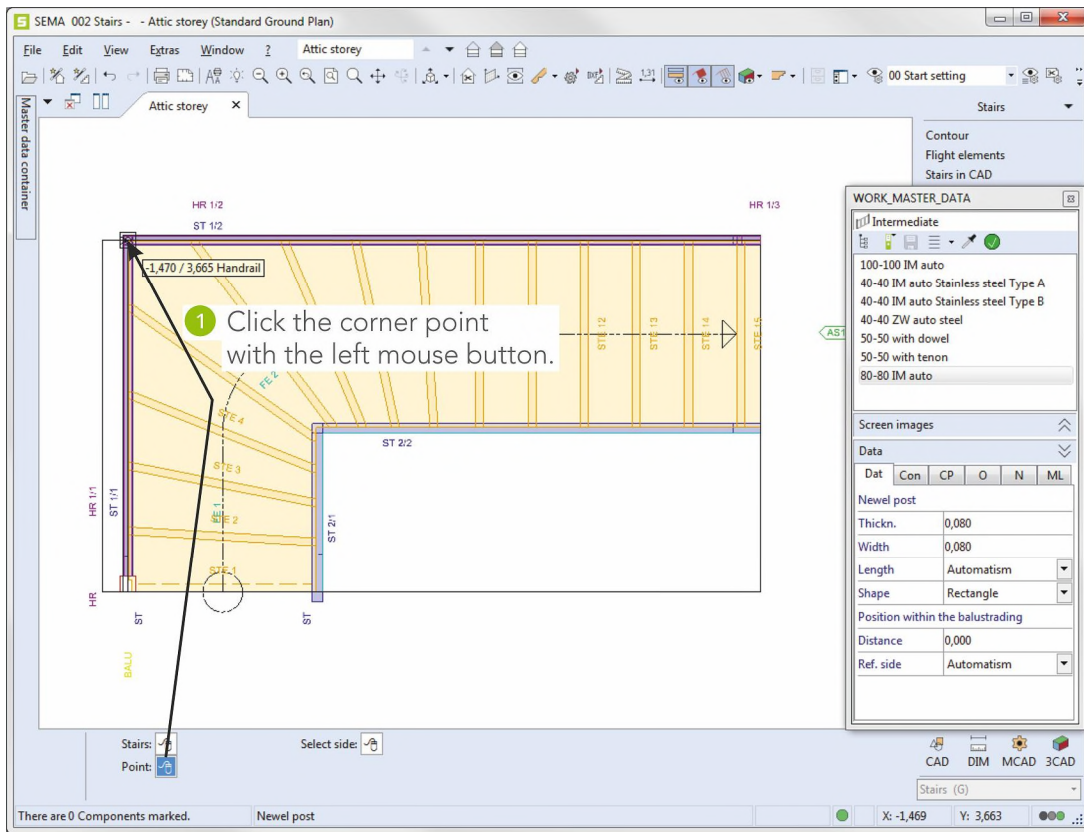




Brief Introduction

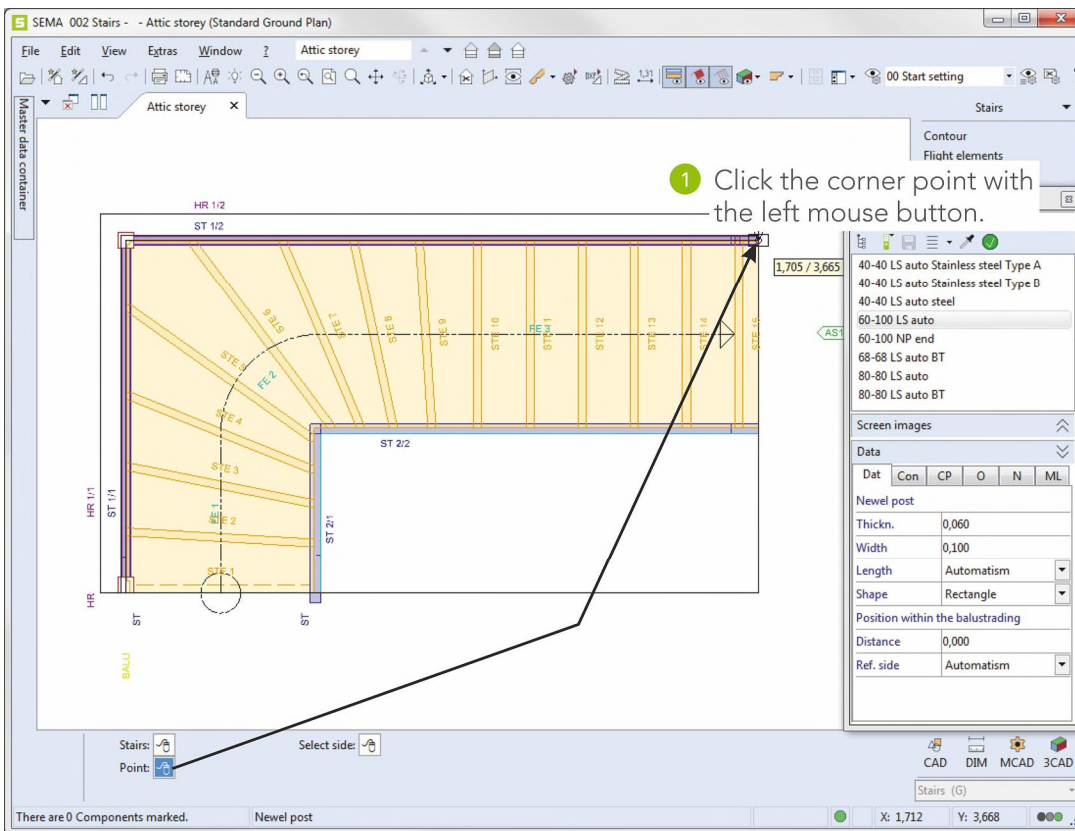
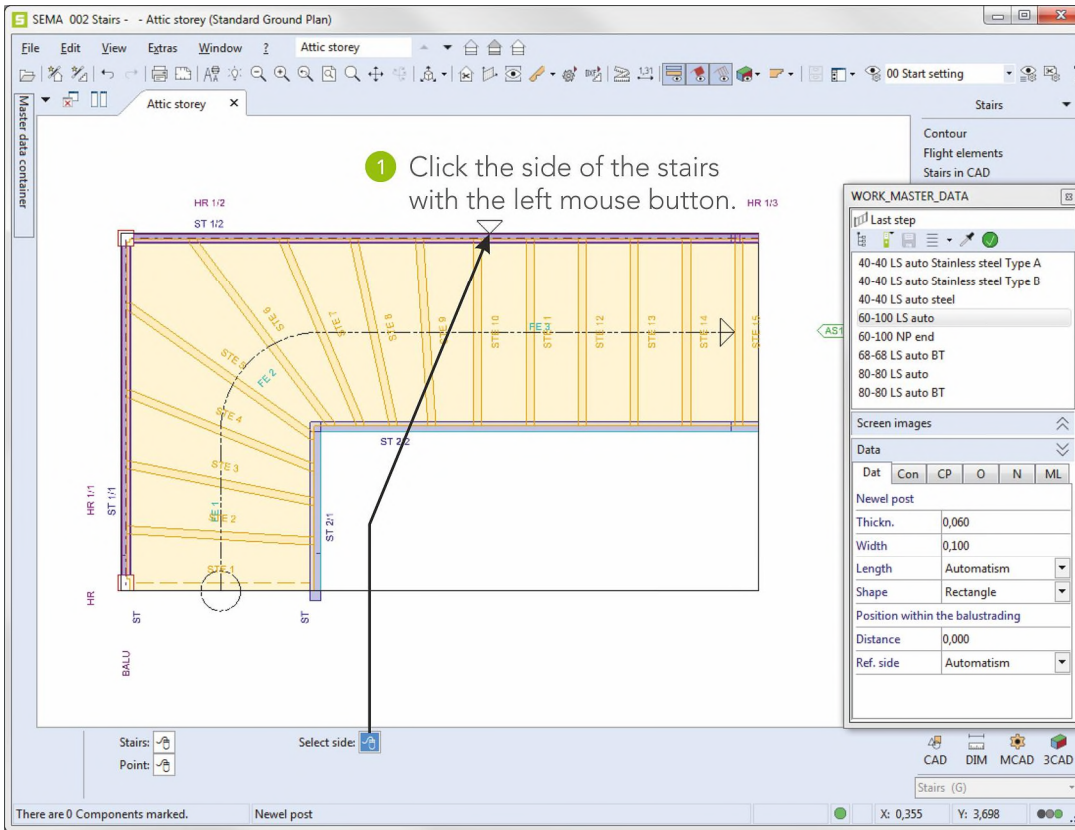
Creation of a L-shaped Staircase





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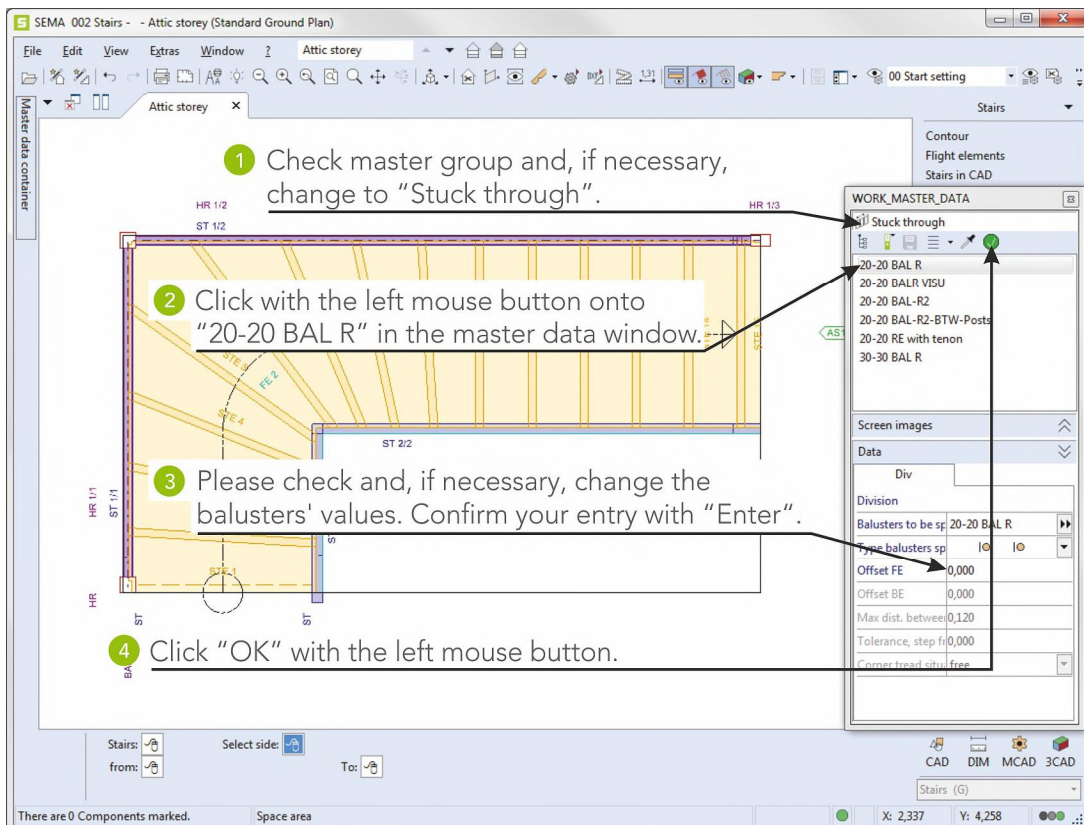
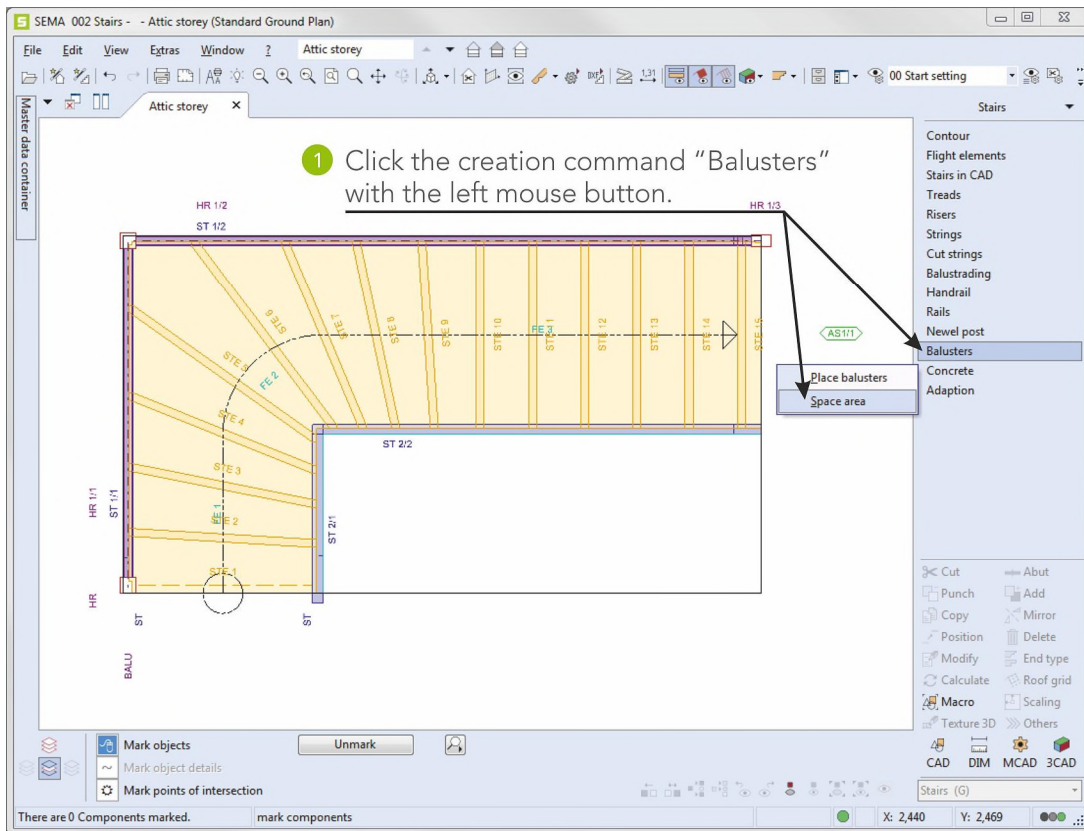


Close the function with Esc (**ESC**).

All desired posts have been created.

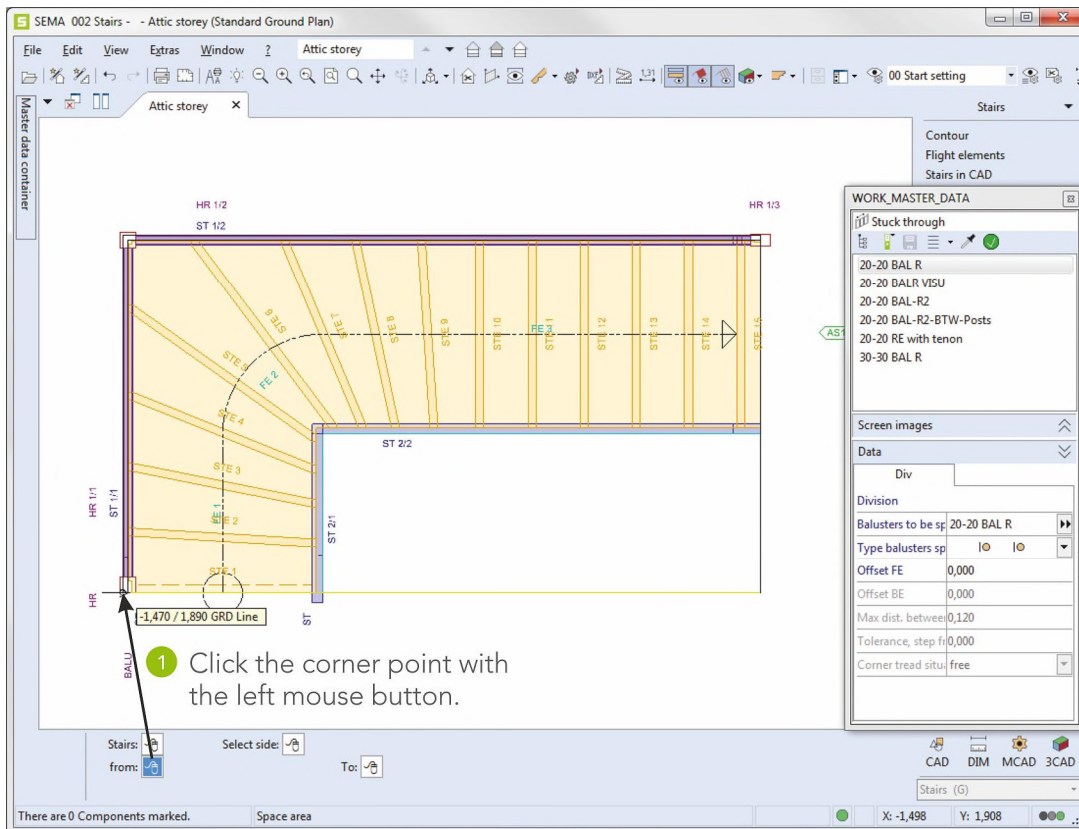
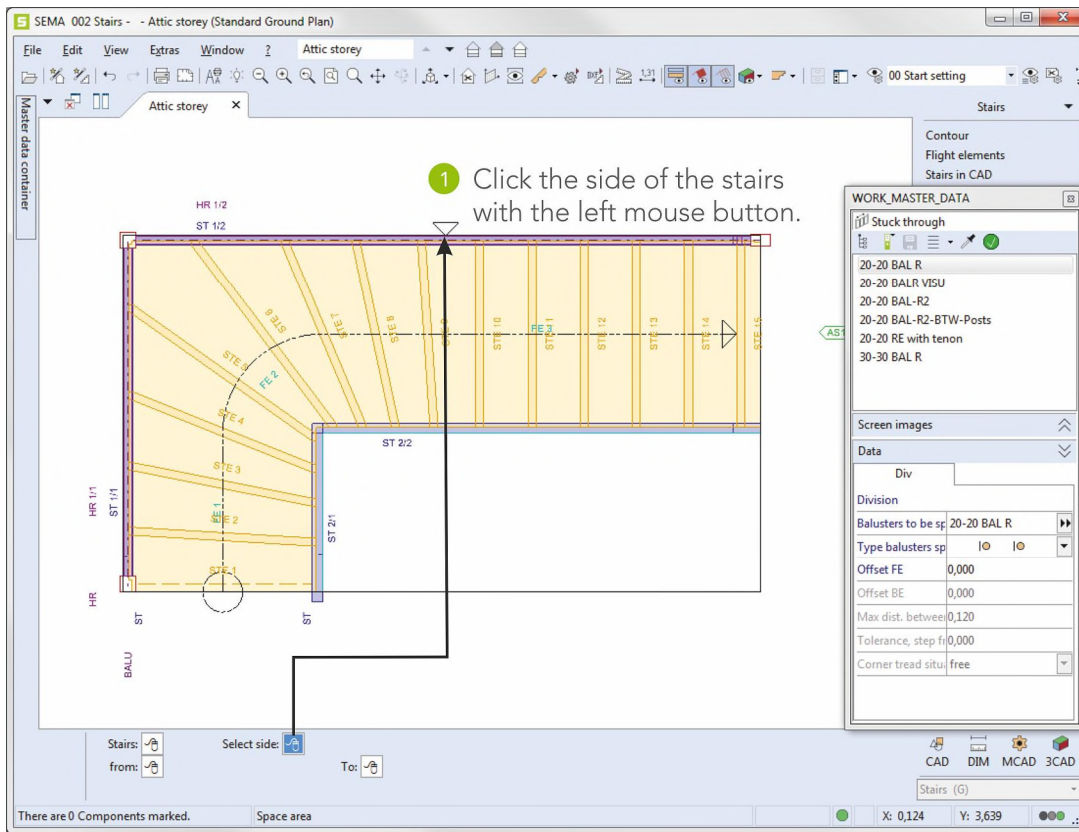
Creating Posts

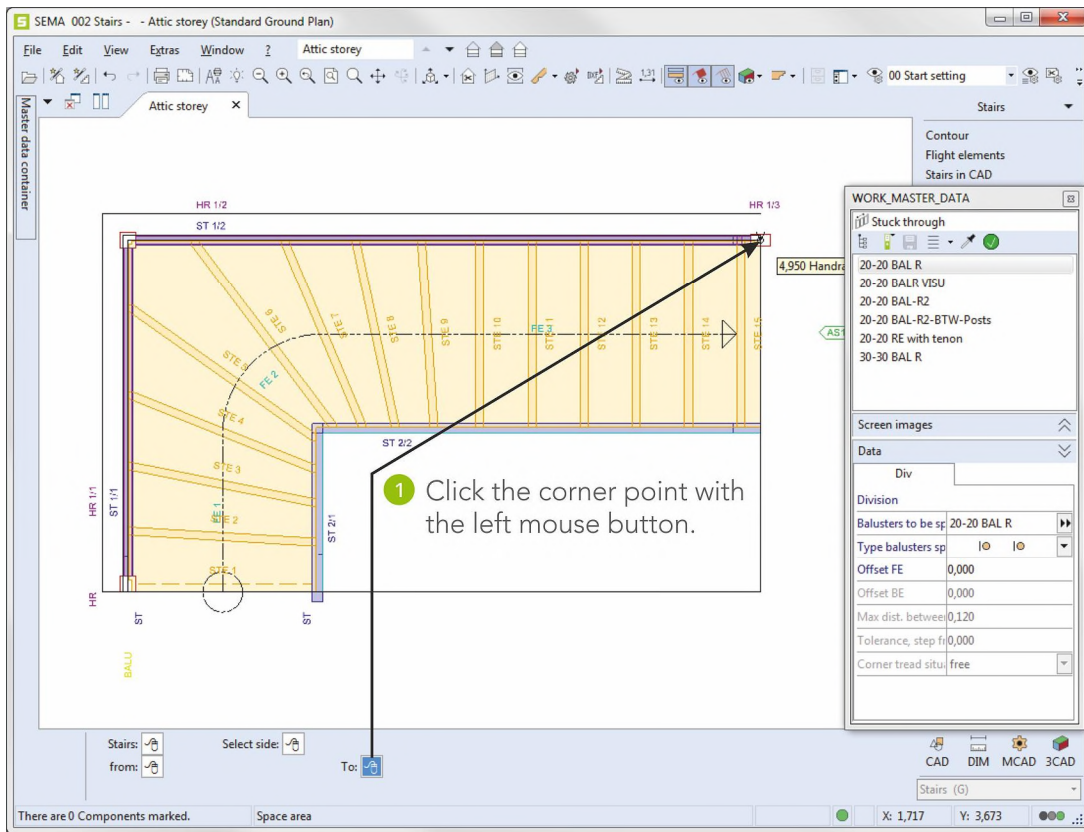
7. Creating Balusters



Brief Introduction

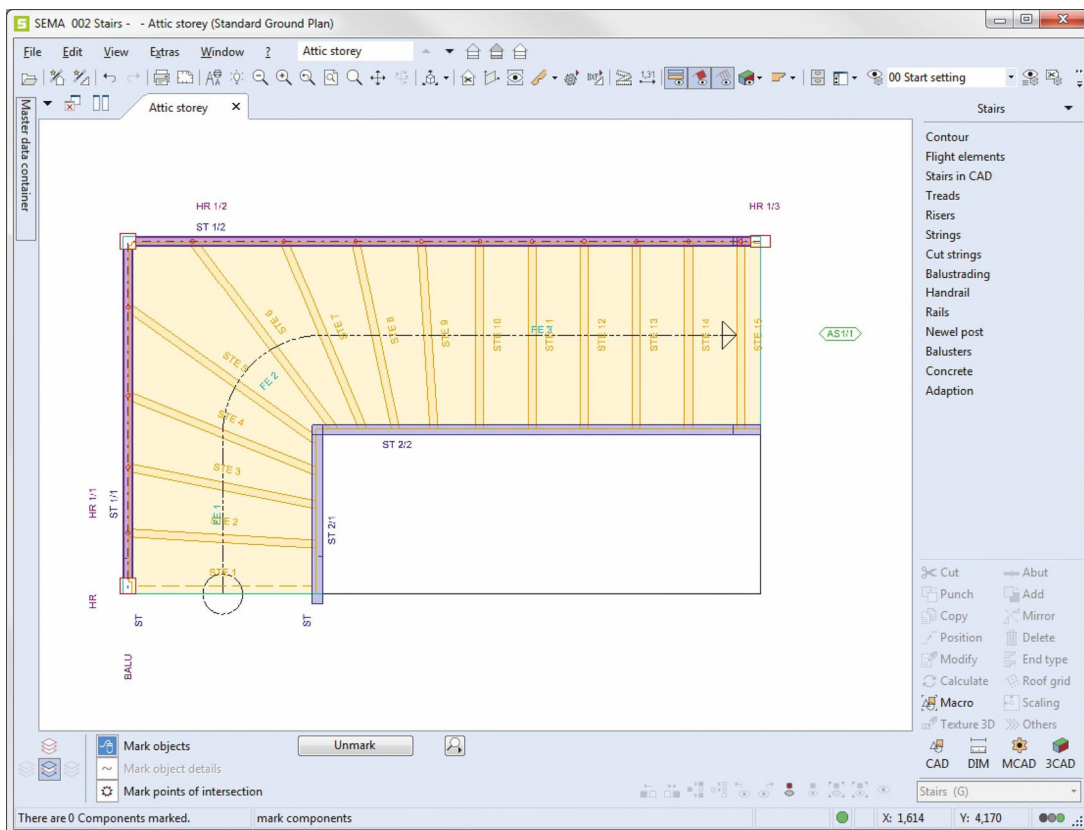
Creation of a L-shaped Staircase





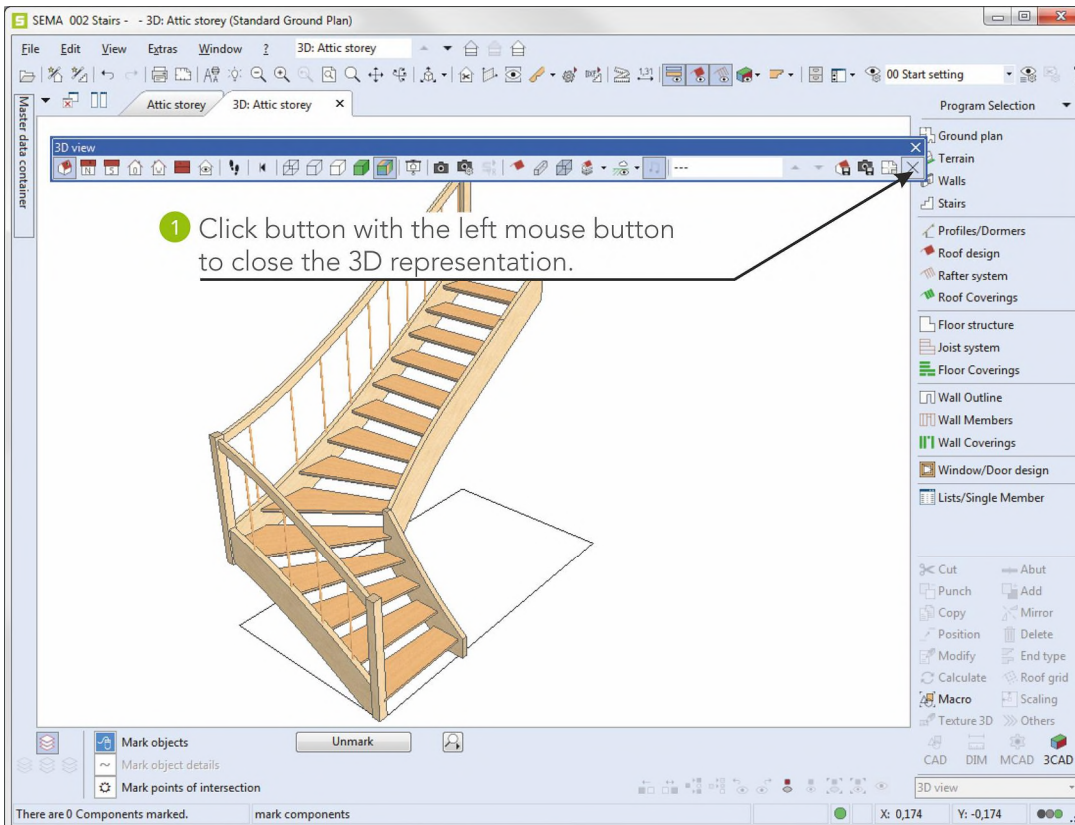
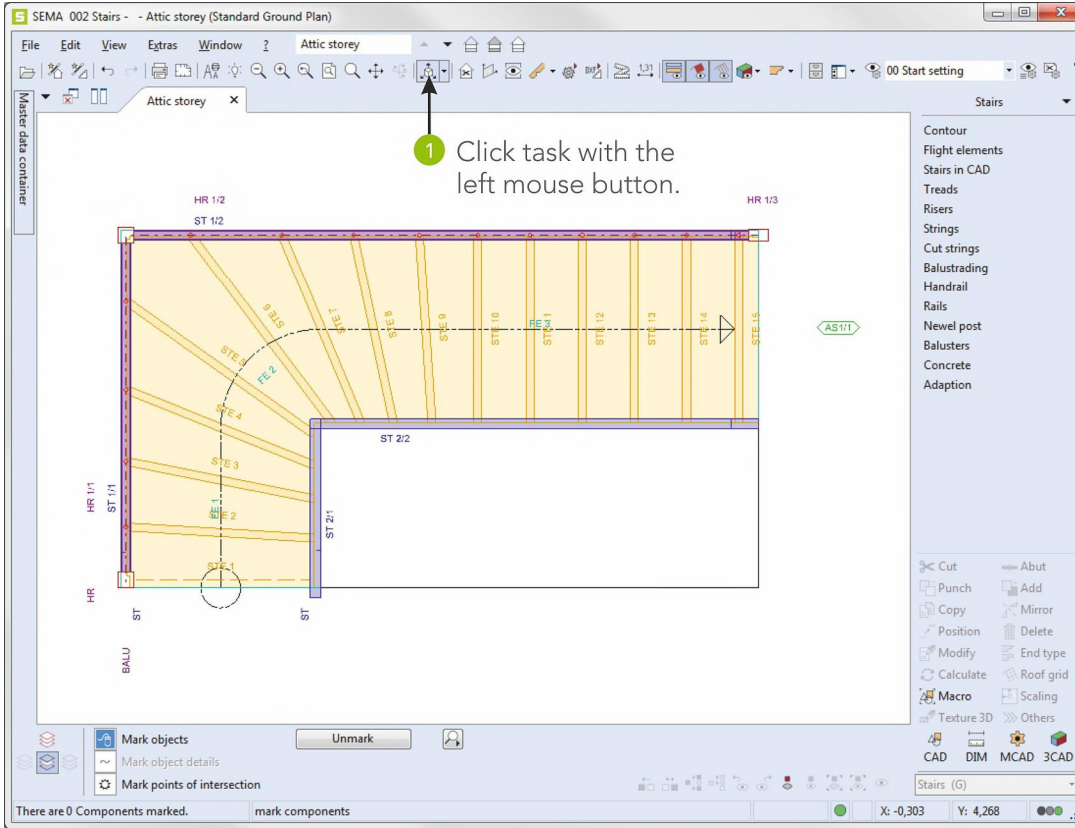
Close the function with Esc (**ESC**).

The balusters are finished.



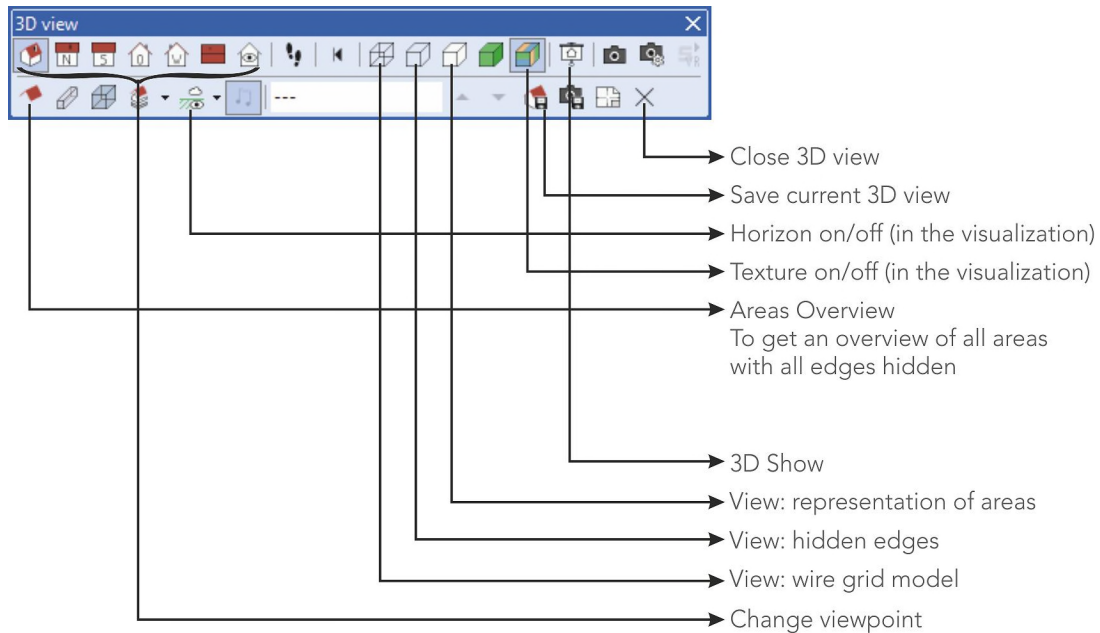
8. 3D View

Now you can display the stairs three-dimensionally.



Note:

In the tool bar of the 3D view you can access the following functions by clicking the symbols with the left mouse button:



We have arrived at the end of our brief introduction. As you could see for yourself, working with the SEMA program is simple and efficient. Nevertheless, it takes some training and exercise to get to know all the many different functions and all the ins and outs of the program.

The developed Instant Help is a powerful tool that will make your work a lot easier and enjoyable. And whenever you are stuck in the program, simply push the function key F1 (**F1**) and you will find the appropriate help topic.

We wish you every success with your first own projects.

P.S.: Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our customer service:

E-Mail: support@sema-soft.com
Phone: +49 8304 - 939 140

If you call outside our normal office hours, please leave a message on our answering machine – we will call you back as soon as possible.

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