Four Time-Saving Tips to Create and Organize I-Joists for Takeoffs
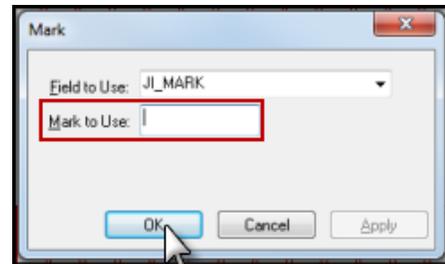
Creating a floor system utilizing I-Joists is easily accomplished with the tools contained in iModel and iDesign. While some component manufacturers complete the analysis of I-Joists using IntelliVIEW, others simply want to create a takeoff without having to design the I-Joists. In this article, we offer some tips about working with I-Joists to generate the information needed for a takeoff.

Tip 1: Creating a Simple List of I-Joints:

Once the I-Joists have been added to the layout, the Truss List can be populated using Mark Truss, which is found on the Job Designer toolbar.

1. Select Mark Truss from the toolbar.
2. Select the I-Joists to be marked and press the Enter key on your keyboard.
3. Input Mark to Use and click OK to apply the changes and close the dialog. (Note: In this instance, the Mark to Use field can be left blank)

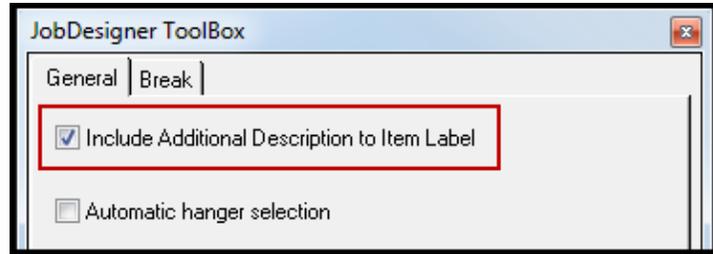The selected I-Joists are then added to the Truss List.

N ext, move to the database screen and using the information provided in the item grid, complete the I-Joist order. See Tip 4 for details about sorting the I-Joist list further.

Remember that all we have done is create the span and quantity information for the I-Joists. The listed I-Joists have not been analyzed to determine if they actually work.

Tip 2: Add Additional Information to the I-Joist Description:

Span and product information can be added to the I-Joist description. Simply select the Include Additional Description to Item Label option located in the Job Designer Settings and follow the steps listed in Tip 1.
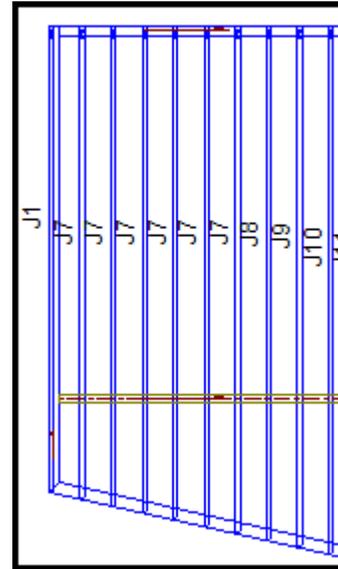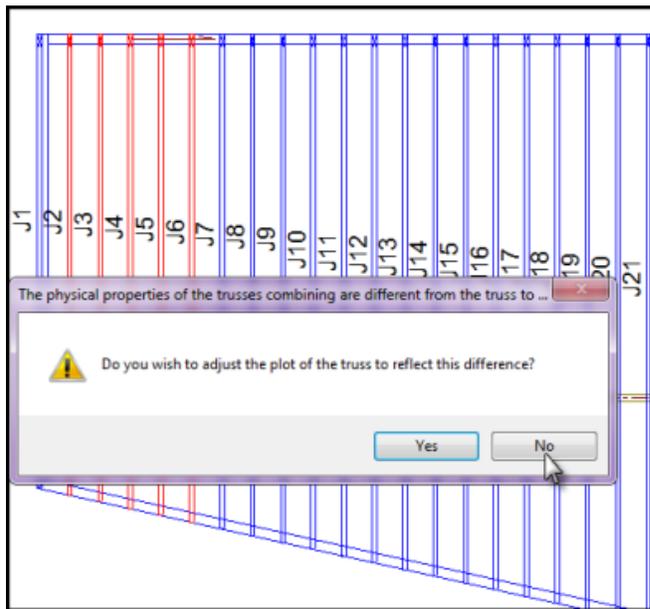

I-Joists are displayed in the truss list, including each individual span, along with manufacturer and product information.

The list can be sorted further by span using the item grid in the database. See Tip 4 for details.

Tip 3: Combine I-Joists into Standard Lengths:

Some component plants do not cut each I-Joist to its specific finished length, but instead ship nominal length I-Joists to the jobsite, where they are trimmed to their finished length. Nominal I-Joist lengths increase 2 ft. at a time. To group the I-Joists together into nominal lengths, select Combine Truss located on the iModel Truss toolbar.

1. Start by determining how the I-Joists should be grouped into nominal lengths. For example, I-Joists with lengths between 20 ft. 1 in. and 21 ft. 11 in. may be grouped into the same 22-ft. nominal length.
2. Select Combine Truss from the Truss tool bar. Select the I-Joists to be changed and press the Enter key. In this example, I-Joists J2-J6 are being combined with I-Joist J7 in the image below. J7 was chosen because it was the longest span in the nominal length group.
3. Select the I-Joist to match. A dialog box appears asking if you would like to adjust the plot to reflect the changes. It is critical to select NO so the plot is unchanged, even though the I-Joists will be combined.
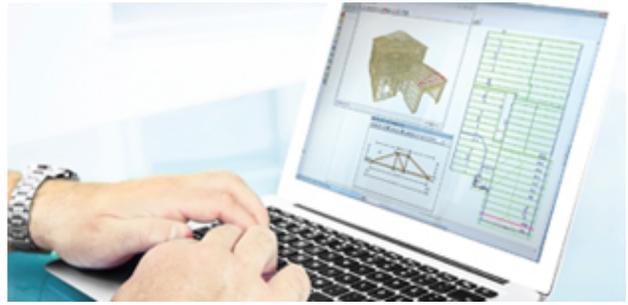
Tip 4: Sorting I-Joists by Lengths in the Database:

Whether your company uses iCommand or HomeBASE, the I-Joist list can be sorted by length in Item Grid. In order to sort by length, you may need to add the span column to the grid. For information about adding columns to the item grid, consult the help menus and check with your immediate supervisor before making any changes to the database desktop.

1. To sort the grid based on a column, use your cursor and click the left mouse button on that column's header.
2. To save the sort order:

- iCommand - Click the right mouse button on a column header and select Save Sort Order from the popup menu.
- HomeBASE - Click the small lock icon located at the top left-hand corner of the column headers.

Do you know a handy shortcut or have a useful tip or trick to share? Please email us at training@alpineitw.com.

For technical assistance, please call the Alpine Help Desk at (866) 237-2878.

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