

# AutoCAD 2014 – The Align Command (Ref: August 2013)

## AutoCAD 2014: Align, Rotate and Scale Objects Simultaneously

In my previous blog for the Cadline Community I outlined the functionality of the Align Command in AutoCAD. The following white paper gives a step by step guide on the versatility of the Align command. The illustrated example demonstrates how you can align, rotate and scale objects simultaneously.

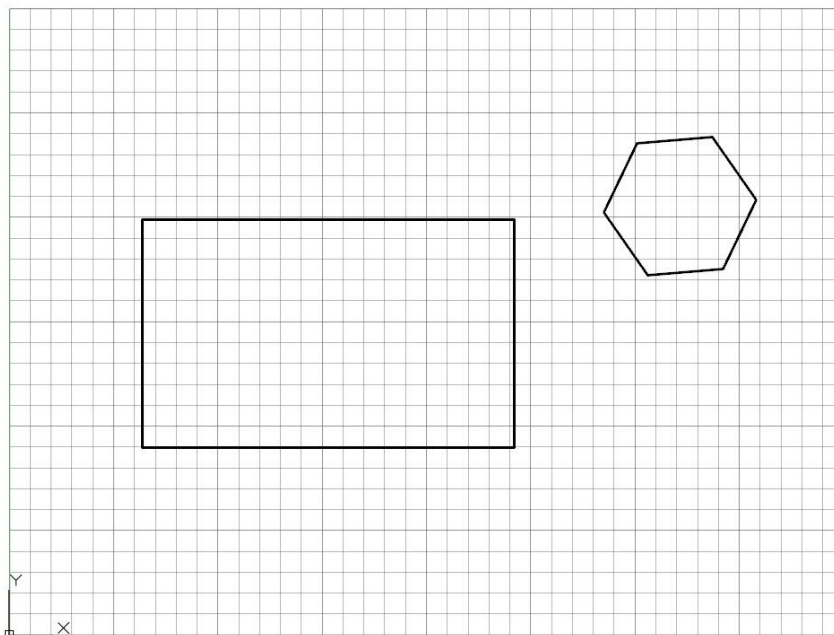
The AutoCAD Align tool is often overlooked as it is hidden away in the drop down menu on the Ribbon modify panel. This tool is very versatile as the following worked example will show. Locate the Align tool on your Quick Access Toolbar (QAT). Right click on the Align tool icon and select the Add to Quick Access Toolbar (QAT) option.

Let's get started:

Use AutoCAD's Align tool and Command Line prompts to Align and Scale objects simultaneously. In the following example we will Align and Scale a rectangle and a six sided polygon.

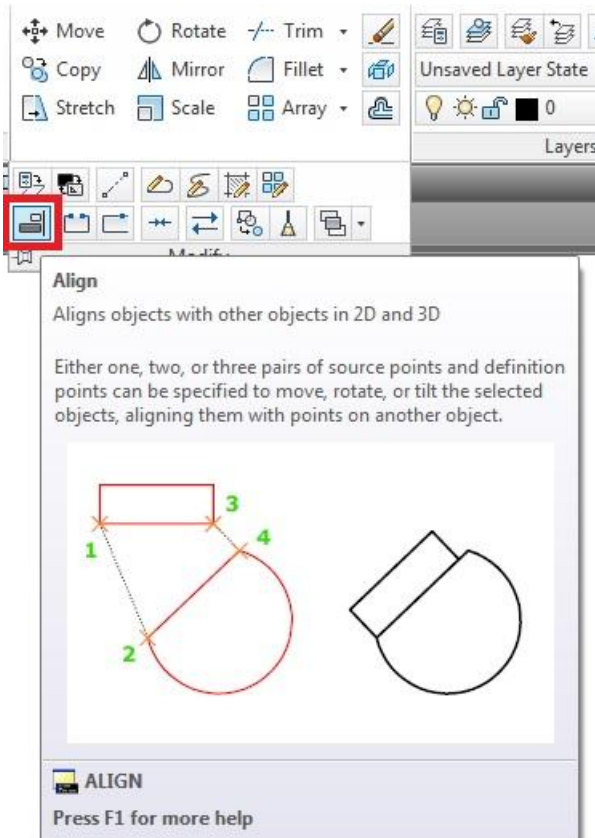
- In AutoCAD, draw a rectangle and a polygon as shown below (Fig 1).

**Fig 1:** Large Rectangle and Small Polygon



- From the drop-down menu of the modify panel on the Ribbon, select the Align tool (Fig 2) and then follow the command prompts to align and scale the two objects that you have just drawn.

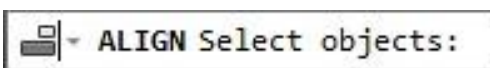
**Fig 2:** Align Tool location



**Tip:** Hover over the Align tool icon to access a tooltip. Hover a little longer for a roll-over tool tip as illustrated. For more help press F1 on your keyboard. This will filter the AutoCAD help files providing you with relevant information on the selected tool. Try this with several icons on the Ribbon that you are not sure about.

**Note:** You can click on the pin on the drop – down menu to keep it open.

The first prompt you see will read:



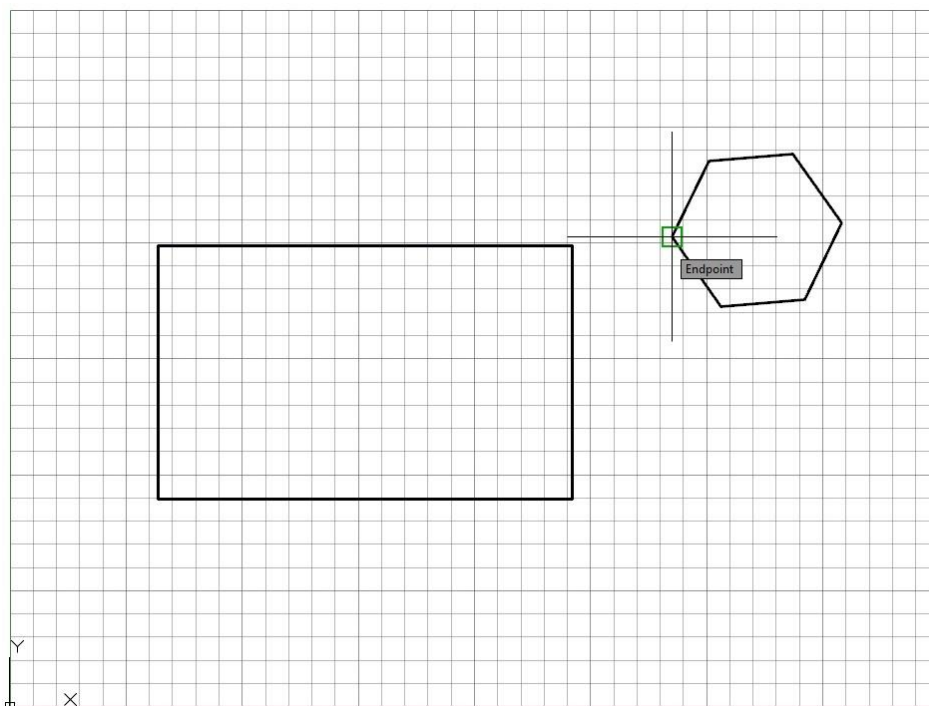
- Left click on the polygon to select it and then press enter to confirm your selection.

The second prompt you see will read:

 - ALIGN Specify first source point:

- Click on a corner of the polygon as illustrated (Fig 3).

**Fig 3:** Use OSNAPS (Endpoint) to select a corner of the Polygon

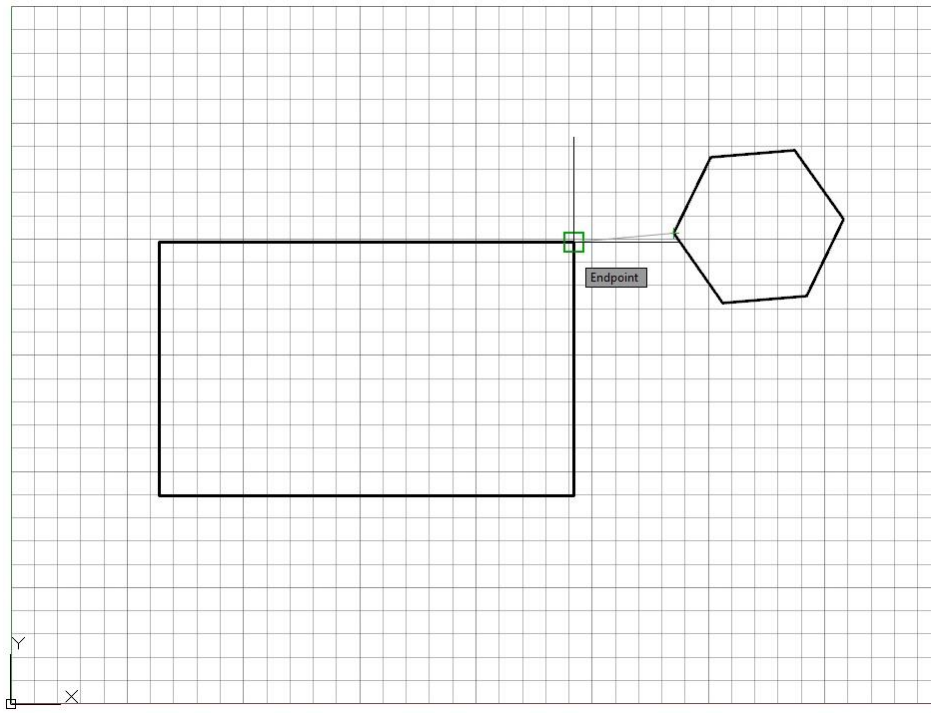


The third prompt you see will read:


 - ALIGN Specify first destination point:

- Click on a corner of the rectangle as illustrated (Fig 4).

**Fig 4:** Use OSNAPS to select a corner of the Rectangle

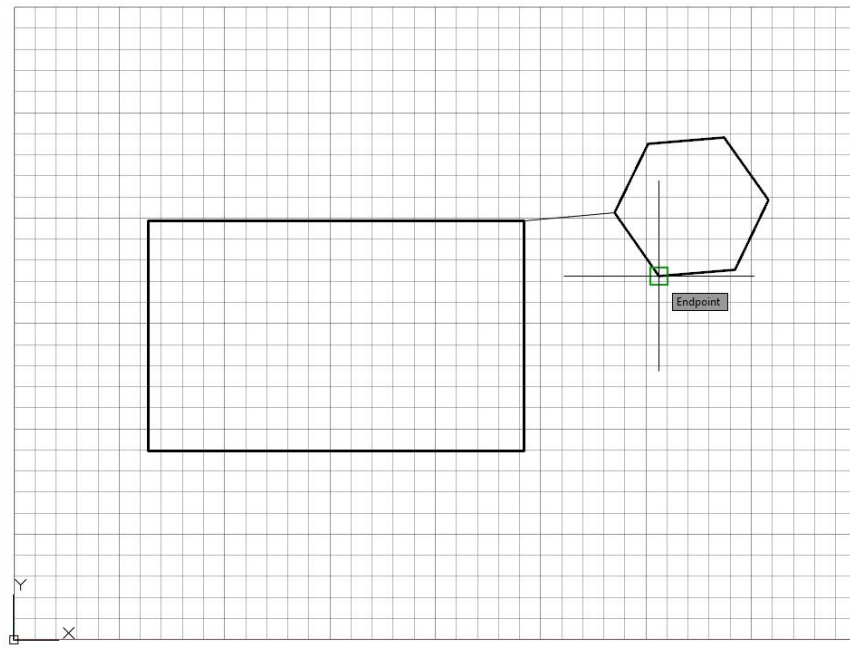


The fourth prompt you see will read:

 - ALIGN Specify second source point:

- Click on another corner of the polygon as illustrated (Fig 5).

**Fig 5:** Use OSNAPS to select another corner of the Polygon

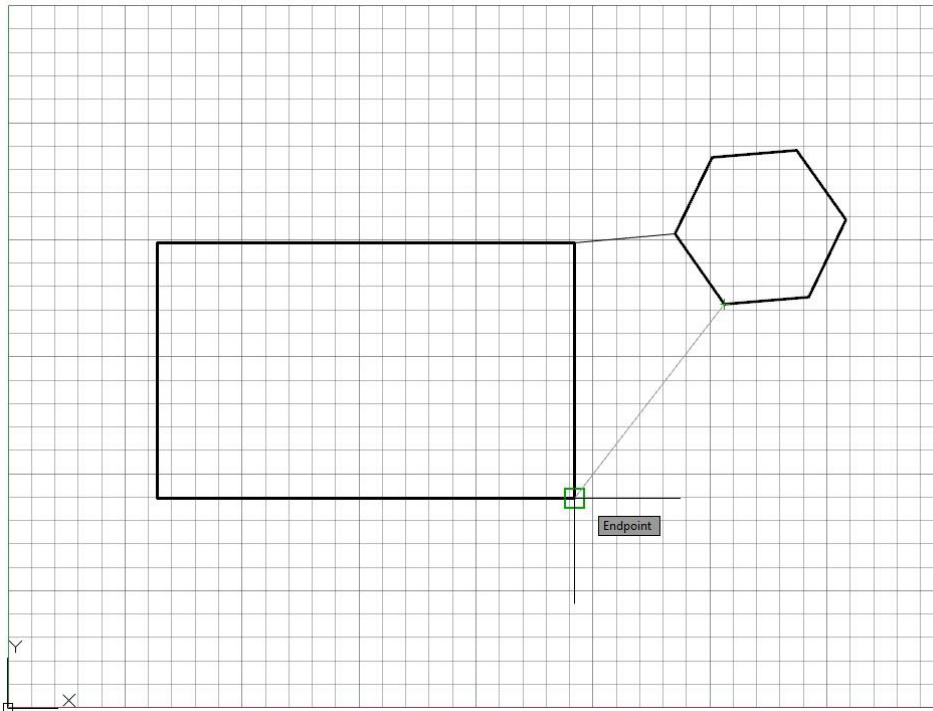


The fifth prompt you see will read:

 ALIGN Specify second destination point:

- Click on another corner of the polygon as illustrated (Fig 6).

**Fig 6:** Use OSNAPS to select another corner of the Rectangle



The sixth prompt you see will read:

```
ALIGN Specify third source point or <continue>:
```

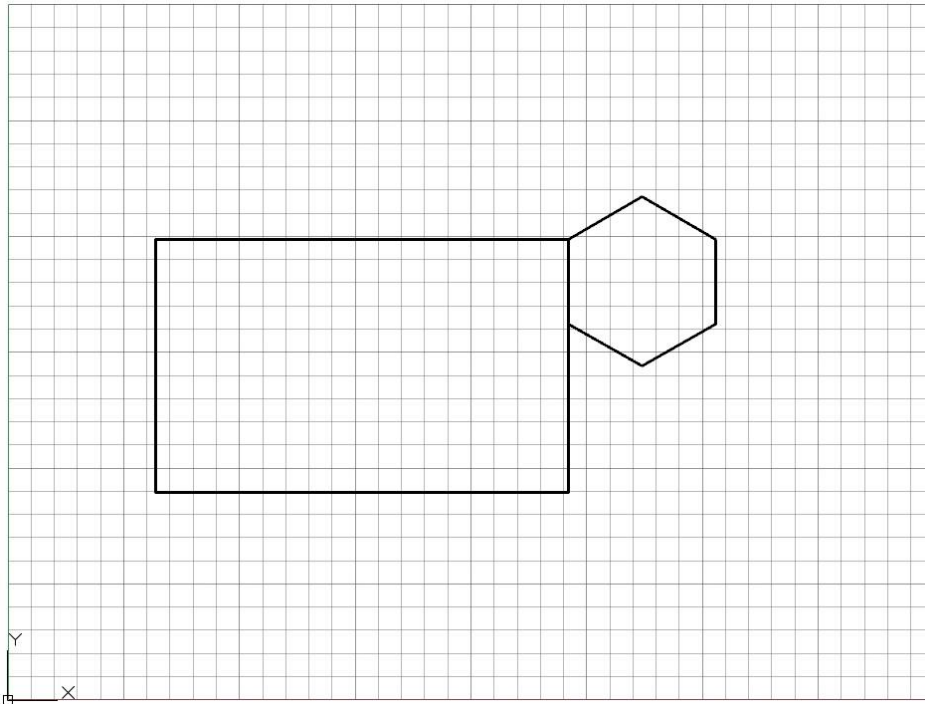
- Press enter to continue.

The command prompt now presents you with Yes / No options in brackets.

```
ALIGN Scale objects based on alignment points? [Yes No] <N>: |
```

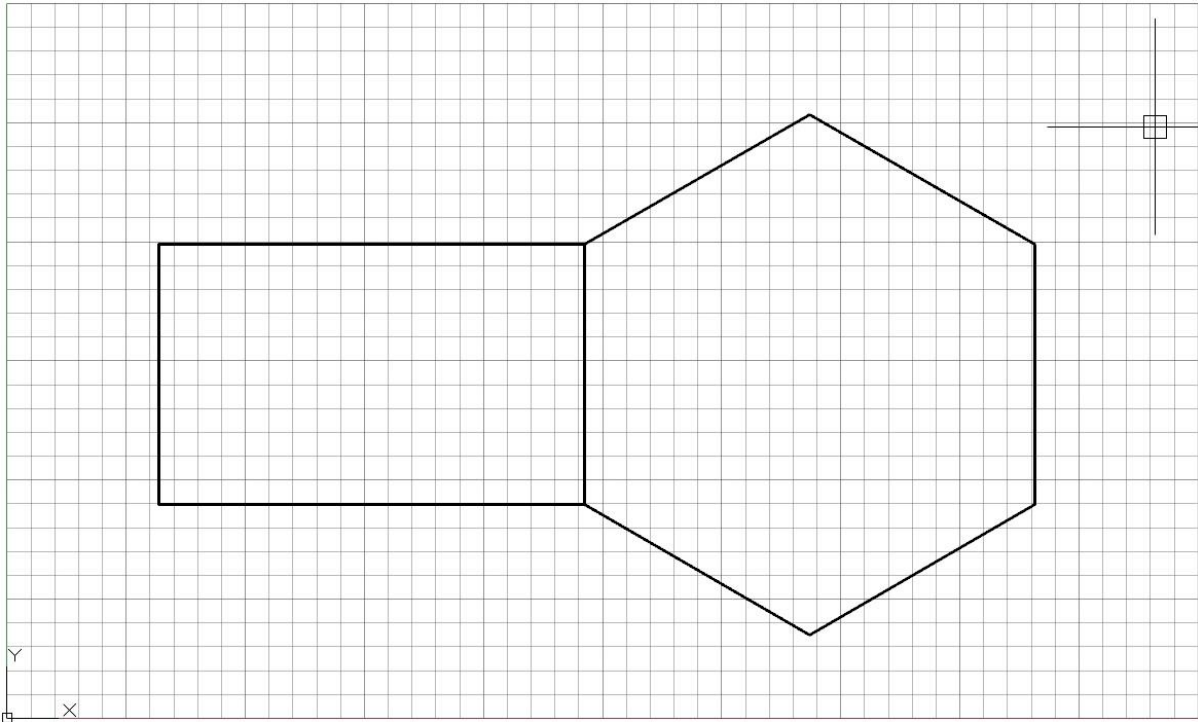
If you press enter and accept the default <N> option, the polygon will simply align to the rectangle as illustrated (Fig 7) without being scaled.

**Fig 7:** Polygon Aligned to Rectangle – No to Scaling



Alternatively, if you type Y for the Yes option and press enter, the polygon will align and scale up to the side of the rectangle as illustrated in Fig 8 below.

**Fig 8:** Polygon Aligned to Rectangle – Yes to Scaling



Working with the command line can be a lot of fun. Try experimenting with other draughting and modify tools. Watch the command prompts and don't be afraid to try out the options in brackets. Remember in AutoCAD 2014 you can select options from the command bar by simply clicking on them.

For more Blogs, White Papers and FAQs, visit the **Cadline Community**: [www.cadlinecommunity.co.uk](http://www.cadlinecommunity.co.uk) (it's free).

**Date:** August 2013