

Document Version v2026.09.11.0

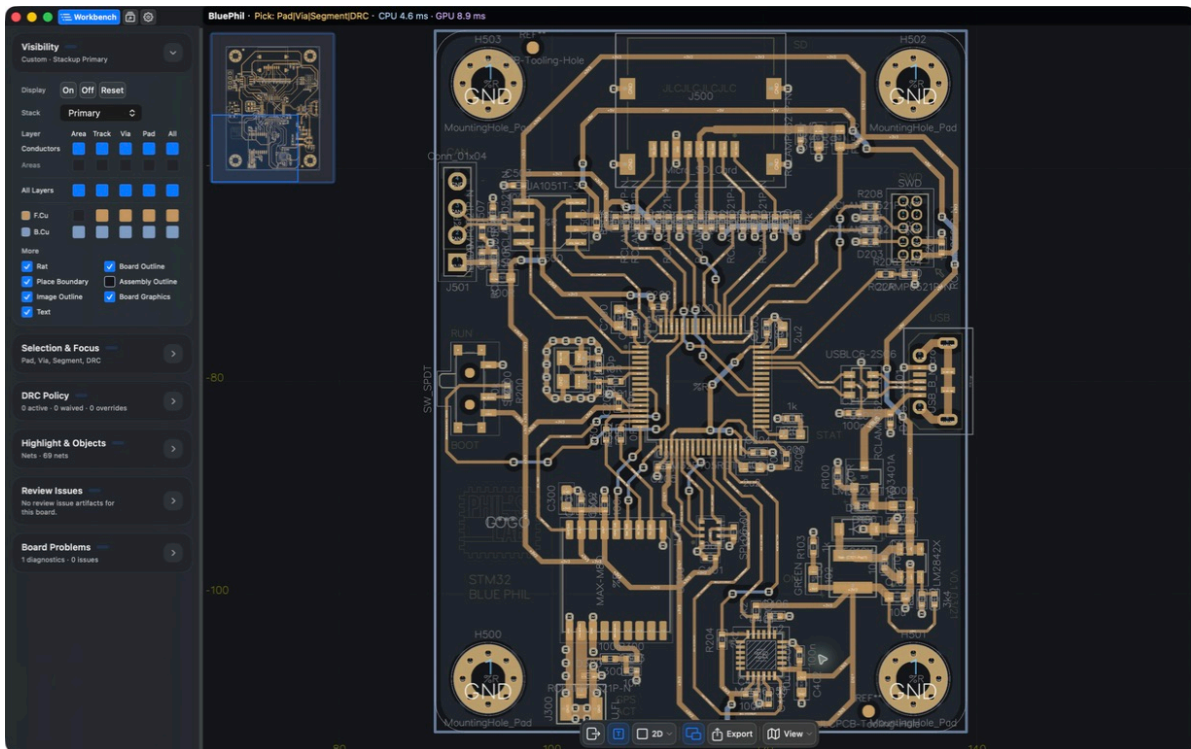
PCBAtlas User Handbook

Open a PCB or schematic from the library, inspect, search, and check objects in 2D, then switch to 3D, read Data, or export files as needed.

This handbook pass uses the **macOS 1.1.2 local build from 2026-09-11** as the operating baseline. Screenshots cover both the wide shell and the narrow shell, and keep English UI labels so you can match the buttons. The narrow shell is a window layout, not an iPhone device; iOS / iPadOS platform differences are called out separately, and the Android UI was not verified in this pass.

Where to start

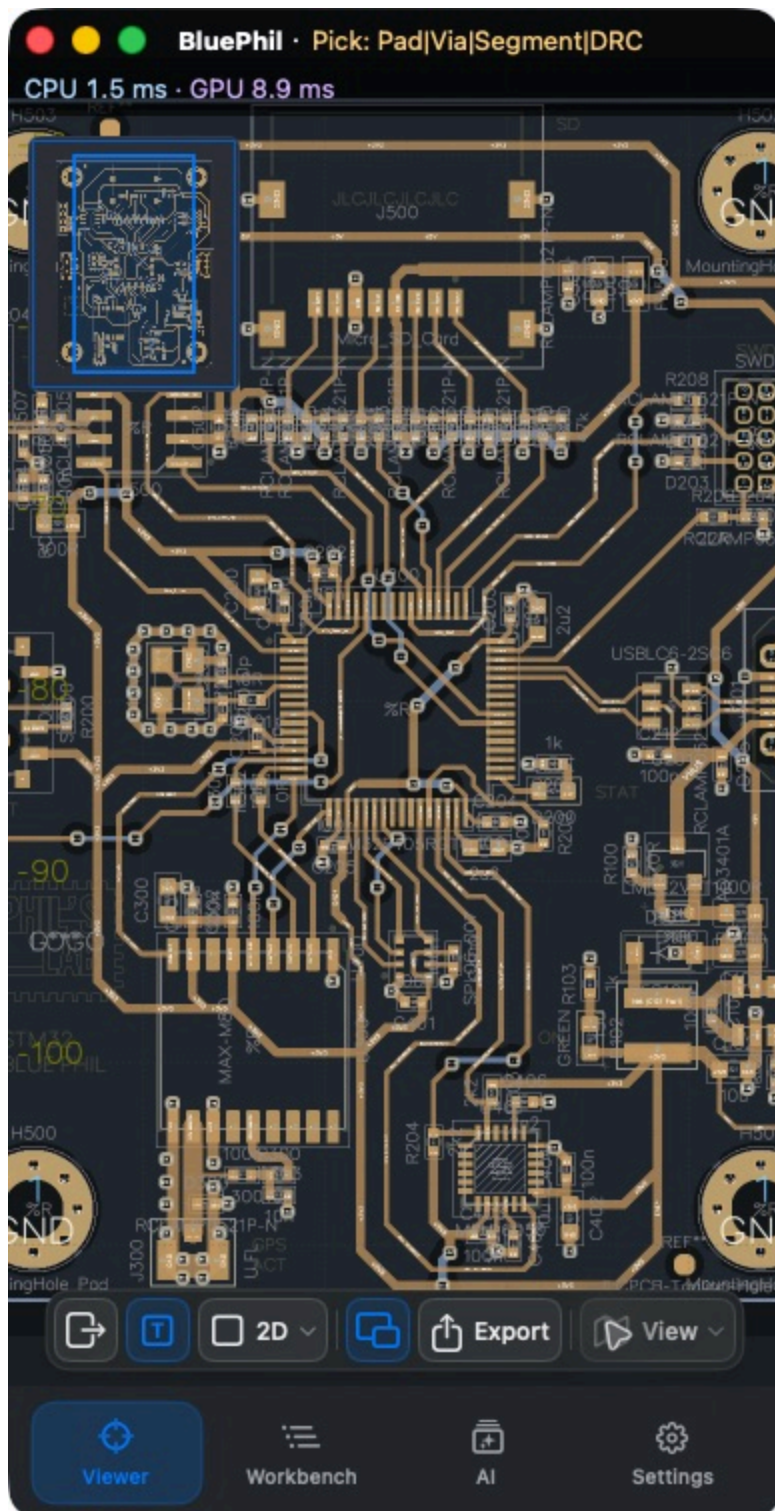
1. **Install and launch**: enter the library.
2. **First import and new project**: choose a file, project folder, or blank schematic.
3. **Five-minute tour**: complete viewing, search, and export.



Learn the two navigation layers first

Layer	Contents	Purpose
Workspace pages	Viewer, Project (project documents), Workbench, AI, Settings	Choose whether to view the canvas, inspect project files, or change settings
Viewer modes	2D, 3D, Data	Choose a planar, 3D, or data view

The wide shell switches work panels in the sidebar, with the canvas beside them. The narrow shell switches pages at the bottom; to find 2D / 3D / Data or Export, return to Viewer first.



Read by task

- [Library and revisions](#): manage versions and project files.
- [2D viewing and cross-probing](#): pick objects, open Info, use dual canvases, and inspect related objects.
- [Workbench](#): visibility, Selection & Focus, net search, and issues.
- [3D viewing](#): board body, camera, and model completeness.
- [Basic editing](#): small PCB edits and the schematic editing entry.
- [Revision comparison](#): compare Before / After.
- [Manufacturing estimate](#): read the local estimate assumptions.
- [Export and sharing](#): images, board files, and fabrication outputs.
- [Settings and AI](#): display, language, service setup, and purchases.

Scope of this verification pass

The following were actually exercised: library grid / list, Information, PCB object picking, net search and highlight, expanding Info in the narrow shell, 3D, Data, PNG export, project sheet switching, schematic search with PCB linkage, and creating a new schematic. Edit write-back, live AI responses, store purchases, every interchange format, Board Diff, and physical mobile devices are not counted as passed in this pass.

Each page's "Last verified" date distinguishes hands-on operation from document review; the [smoke path](#) records the verification scope, and [capability boundaries](#) describe known limits. Other locales were aligned to this Simplified Chinese structure.

Install and launch

Supported platforms

Apple builds: macOS 14+, iOS / iPadOS 17+. Screenshots in this page are from macOS. Narrow-shell screenshots show window layout, not an iPhone device.

Intended audience

People using PCBATlas for the first time.

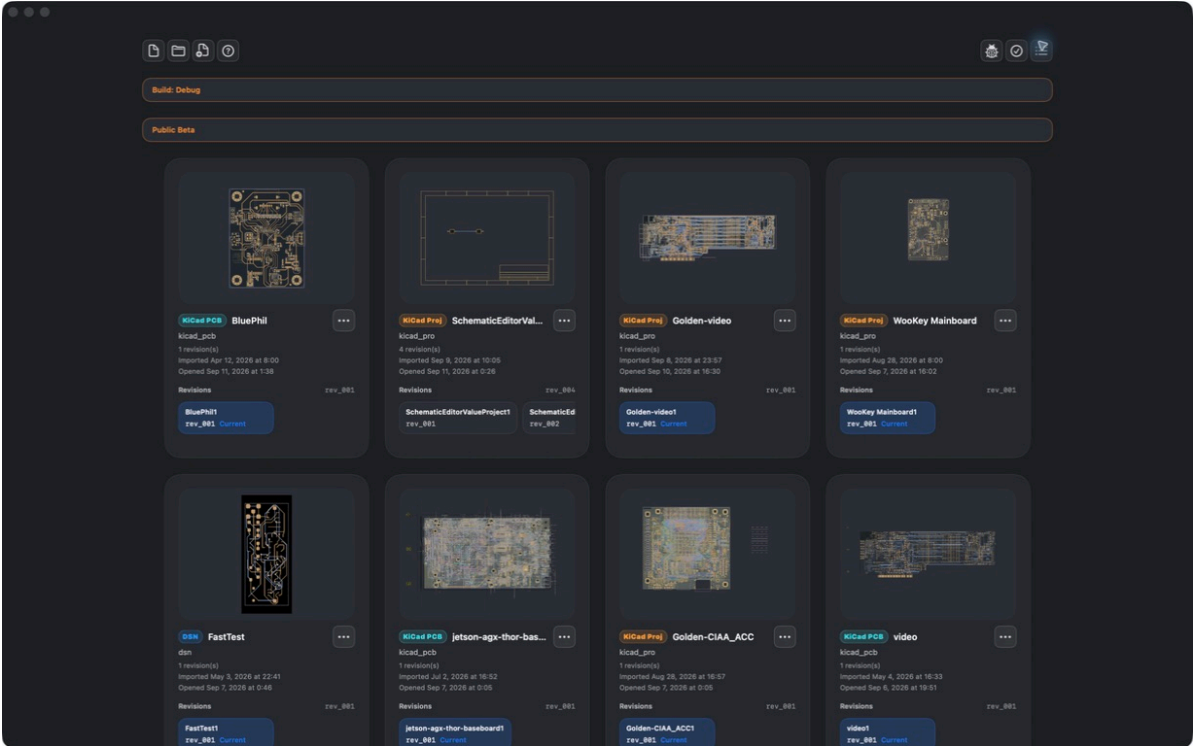
Prerequisites

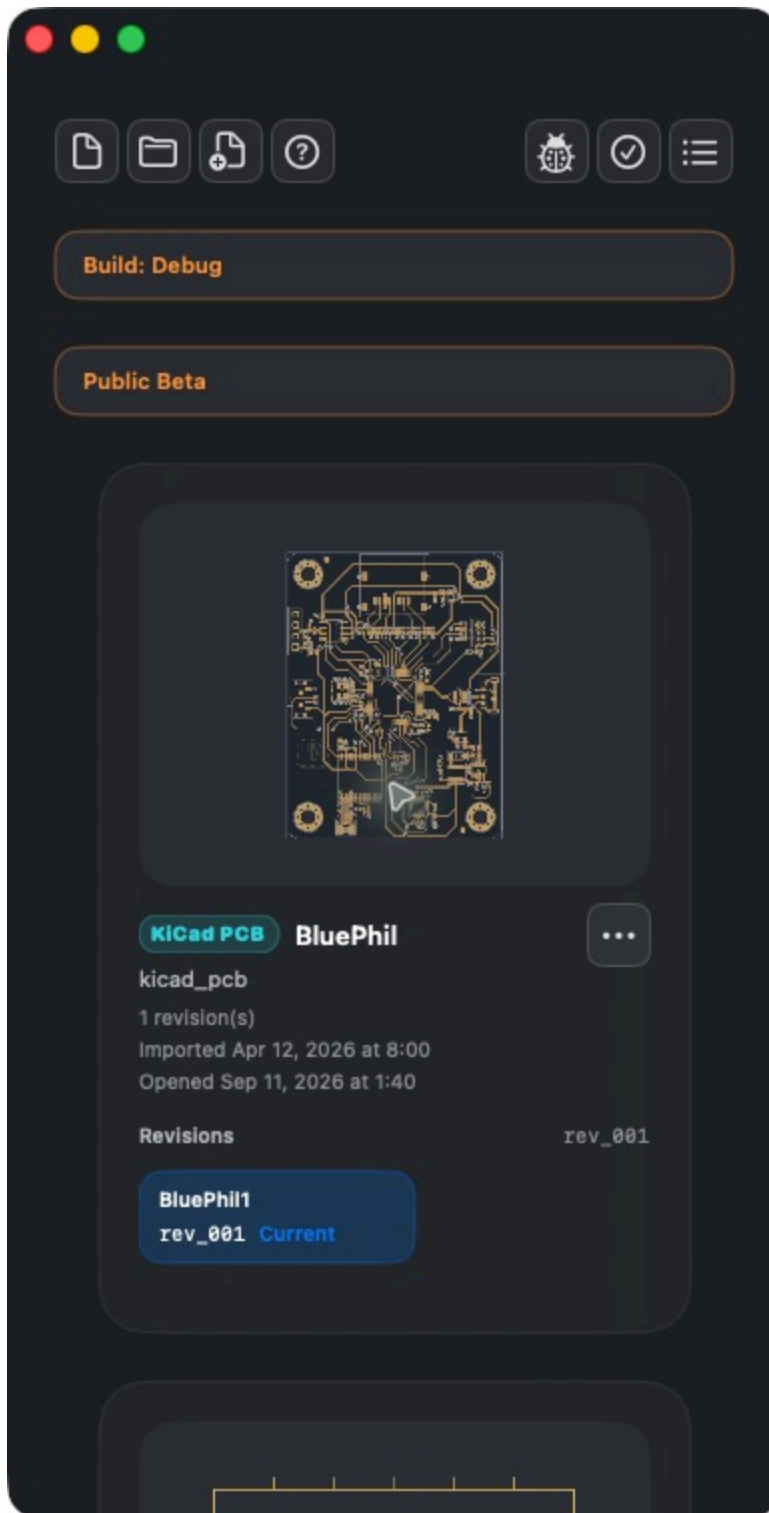
Install PCBATlas from the channel for your platform.

Steps

1. On Apple devices, use the [App Store](#). On Android, use [Google Play](#) or the [official APK](#).
2. Launch the app and enter the library. An existing library shows previously saved documents.
3. Use the grid / list button in the upper right to switch browsing layout; tap a document thumbnail to open it.
4. If nothing is available yet, import from the file buttons at the top. See [First import](#).

This handbook pass verified the Apple build. Android has a separate implementation; do not judge Android buttons or capabilities from macOS screenshots alone.





Result

You can open the library, switch browsing layout, and open a document.

FAQ

What does Debug / Public Beta in the screenshots mean?

That is the label of this local build. Store releases may not show it. It does not mean every user is in public beta, and it is not a way to judge store purchase entitlements.

What if there are no samples after launch?

First check whether the library already has records. Import your own files; do not clear the library just to restore samples.

Last verified

2026-09-11: hands-on on the macOS 1.1.2 local build; other platforms were not retested on device in this pass.

First import and new project

Supported platforms

Apple builds: macOS 14+, iOS / iPadOS 17+. Screenshots in this page are from macOS. Narrow-shell screenshots show window layout, not an iPhone device.

Intended audience

People preparing to open a PCB, schematic, or manufacturing package.

Prerequisites

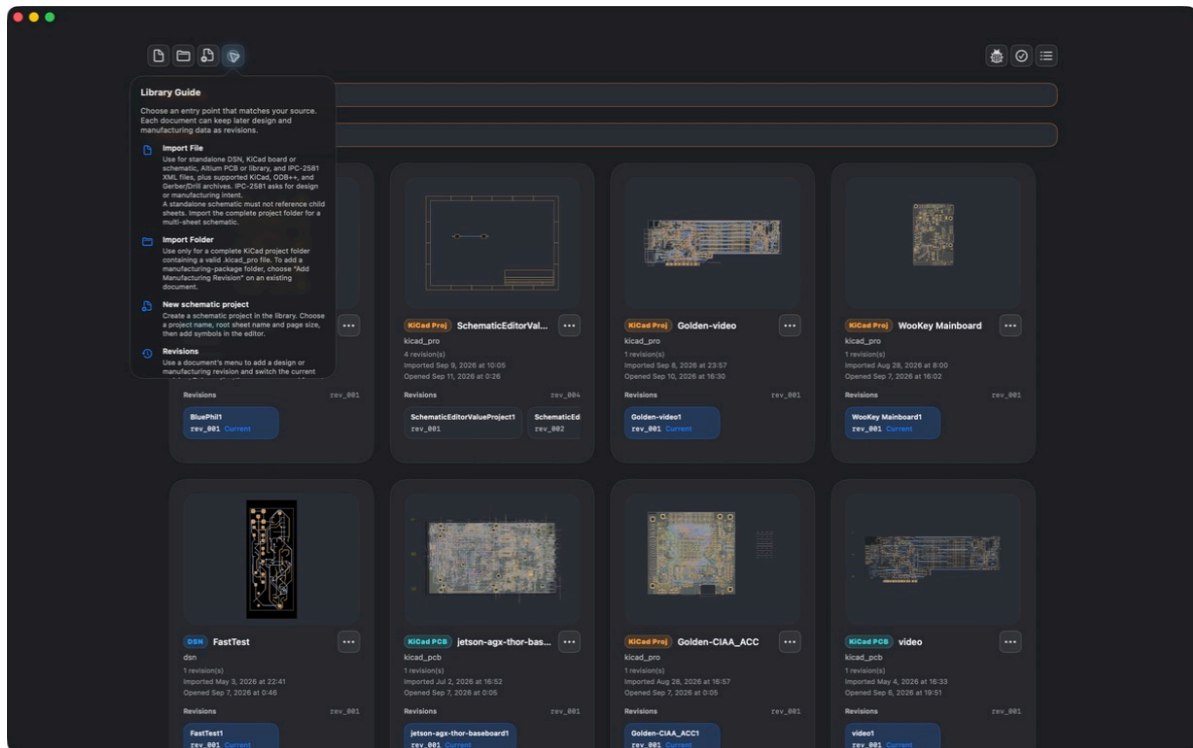
Keep the complete source files together. Project dependencies, child sheets, and models should be retained with the input.

Steps

1. At the top of the library, choose the file icon (`File...`) or the folder icon (`Folder...`). The question-mark button opens `Library Guide` , which you can read first for input notes.
2. Use **File** for a single file or a supported archive. Use **Folder** for a complete KiCad project directory that contains a valid `.kicad_pro` .
3. Pick the source in the system picker. IPC-2581 then asks whether to import as design or manufacturing data.
4. Wait for import and first-frame preparation. A project may run schematic and PCB as two steps; do not treat the loading page as a blank design before it finishes.
5. Open the result and check the source, canvas, and revision. A complete project can switch PCB and schematic from **Project** → **Source Documents**.

Source	Entry	Notes
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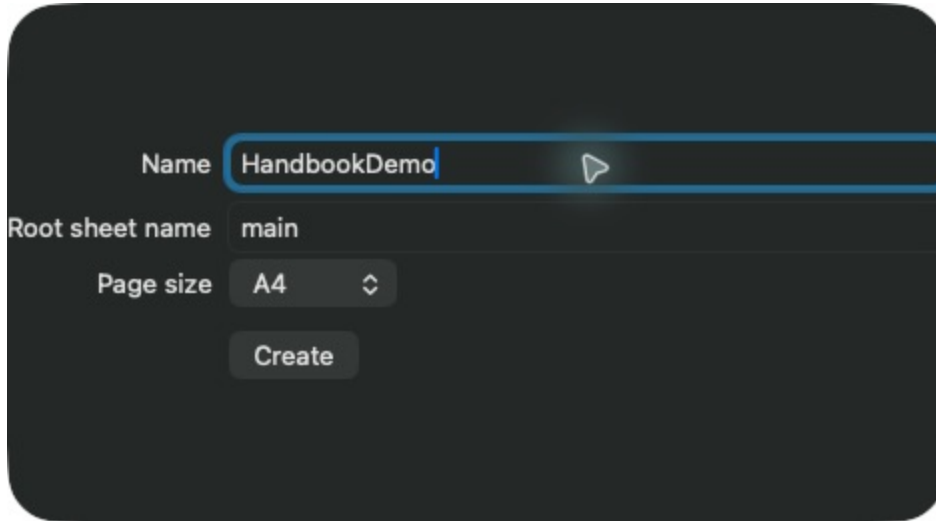
DSN, KiCad PCB, standalone KiCad schematic, Altium PCB / library, IPC-2581 XML	File	A standalone schematic cannot reference child sheets that were not included
Supported archives of KiCad, ODB++, or Gerber / Drill	File	Whether it opens depends on the package structure, not the extension alone
Complete KiCad project directory	Folder	Must contain a valid .kicad_pro; do not select only the project file itself
Manufacturing data directory	Add Manufacturing Revision, when available on an existing document	The library Folder create entry is not a generic manufacturing-directory importer



Start from a blank schematic

1. Click **New schematic project** at the top of the library (the file icon with a plus).

2. Fill in **Name** and **Root sheet name**, and choose **Page size**.
3. Click **Create**. After the new document opens, the root schematic appears in Project.
4. Enter schematic editing from **Edit** on the 2D toolbar; see [Basic editing](#) for usage and limits.



A dark-themed form with rounded corners. It contains three input fields and a button. The first field is labeled 'Name' and contains the text 'HandbookDemo'. The second field is labeled 'Root sheet name' and contains the text 'main'. The third field is labeled 'Page size' and has a dropdown menu showing 'A4'. Below these fields is a button labeled 'Create'.

Result

The source is in the library, and you can open the matching PCB or schematic workspace.

FAQ

Why did folder import fail?

Folder is for a valid KiCad project. If `.kicad_pro` is missing, dependencies are absent, or the contents cannot be read, fix the source or use the matching File entry.

Why did importing a same-named file not create a new card?

Same-name, same-format input is checked against the original bytes. Unchanged input is ignored; changed input can become a new revision of the same document. See [Library and revisions](#).

Last verified

2026-09-11: hands-on check of Library Guide, new schematic, opening an existing KiCad project, and sheet switching; formats were not re-imported one by one.

Five-minute tour: wide and narrow shells

Supported platforms

Apple builds: macOS 14+, iOS / iPadOS 17+. Screenshots in this page are from macOS. Narrow-shell screenshots show window layout, not an iPhone device.

Intended audience

Users who want to finish one pass of viewing, locating, and exporting quickly.

Prerequisites

The library has a PCB you can open; BluePhil is a good starting sample.

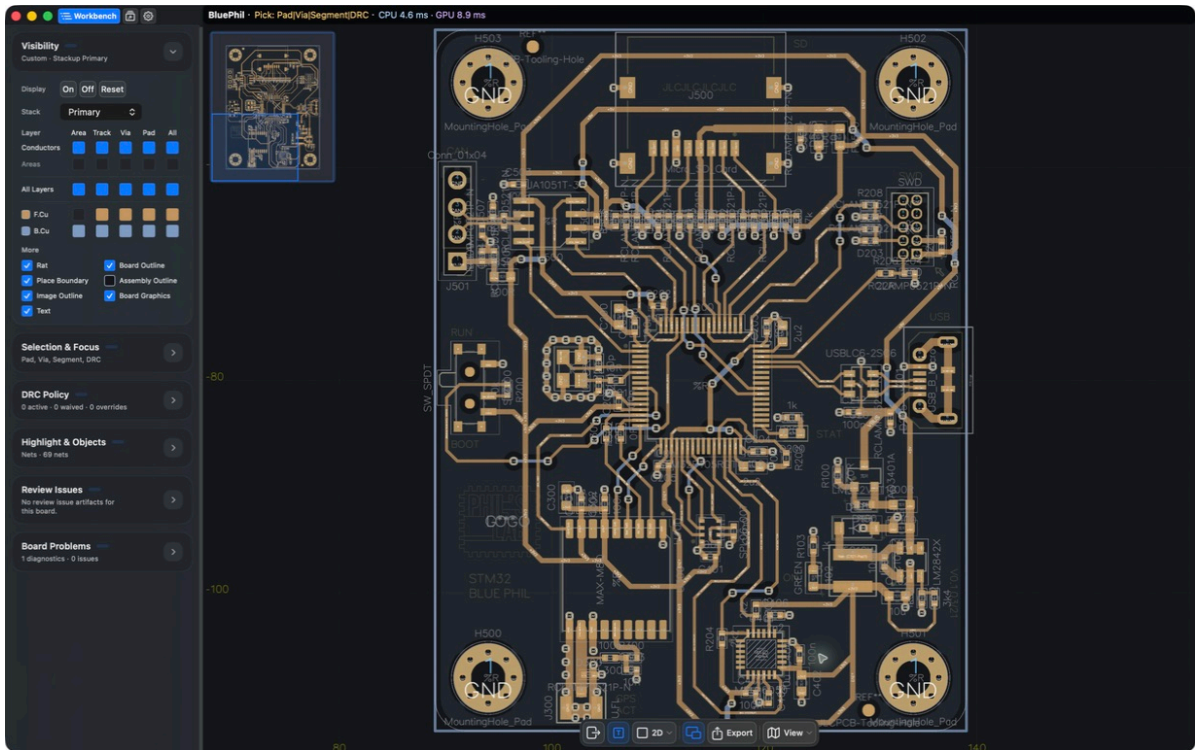
Steps

1. Open a PCB. In the wide shell, choose **Workbench** in the sidebar; in the narrow shell, choose **Viewer** at the bottom to see the canvas.
2. Pan, zoom, and click a pad or track. When **Info** appears, open the details. Narrow-shell details sit at the bottom and can expand; when the wide shell has enough space, they sit on the right.
3. Open **Workbench → Highlight & Objects**, choose **Nets**, and type `GND` in Filter. Click a result, then **Highlight**; use **Clear** to remove the highlight.
4. In the current-mode button at the bottom of Viewer, choose **3D** to inspect the board body; then switch to **Data** to read the current revision and Quick Estimate.
5. Return to **2D → Export**, choose PNG and Fit All, pick a save location, and export.
6. Tap the back-to-library icon; if a confirmation appears, choose **Back to Gallery**.

The same task in two layouts

Action	Wide shell	Narrow shell
View the canvas	Persistent canvas beside the sidebar	Bottom Viewer
Visibility and search	Sidebar Workbench, beside the canvas	Bottom Workbench; return to Viewer when done
Project files	Sidebar Project	Project appears as an extra bottom item on project documents
AI / Settings	Tabs at the top of the sidebar	Bottom AI / Settings
Object details	Right-hand inspector when there is enough space	Bottom panel that can expand and collapse
2D / 3D / Data	Mode menu at the bottom of the canvas	Mode menu inside Viewer, not in the main tab bar

Layout follows the window's available proportions. A Mac can enter the narrow shell, and a landscape device can show the wide shell. These are workspace layouts, not operating-system names.



FAQ

Cannot find Export in the narrow shell?

Tap Viewer first, then switch back to 2D. Do not look for the canvas toolbar on the Workbench page.

Is AI a required onboarding step?

No. Without an API key, the page shows Open AI Settings. Ordinary viewing and local export do not need an AI conversation.

Last verified

2026-09-11: hands-on on the macOS 1.1.2 local build; other platforms were not retested on device in this pass.

Library and revisions

Supported platforms

Apple builds: macOS 14+, iOS / iPadOS 17+. Screenshots in this page are from macOS. Narrow-shell screenshots show window layout, not an iPhone device.

Intended audience

Users who need to manage multiple versions of the same design.

Prerequisites

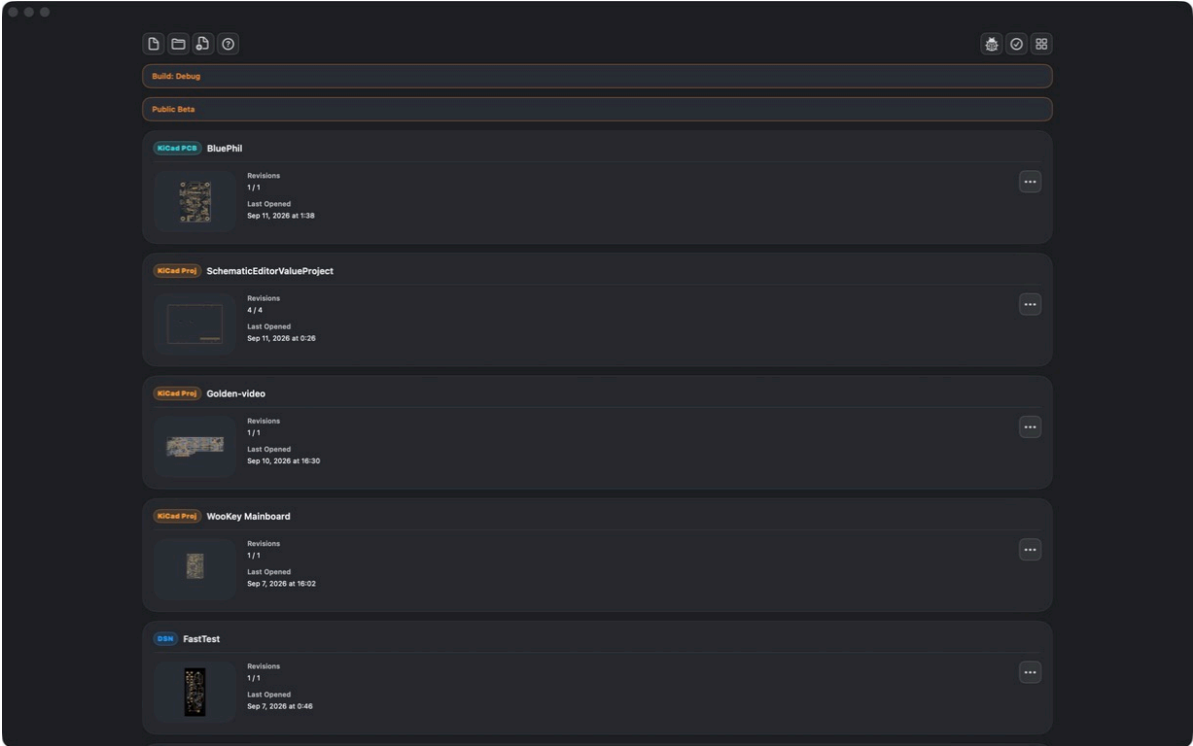
The library contains at least one document.

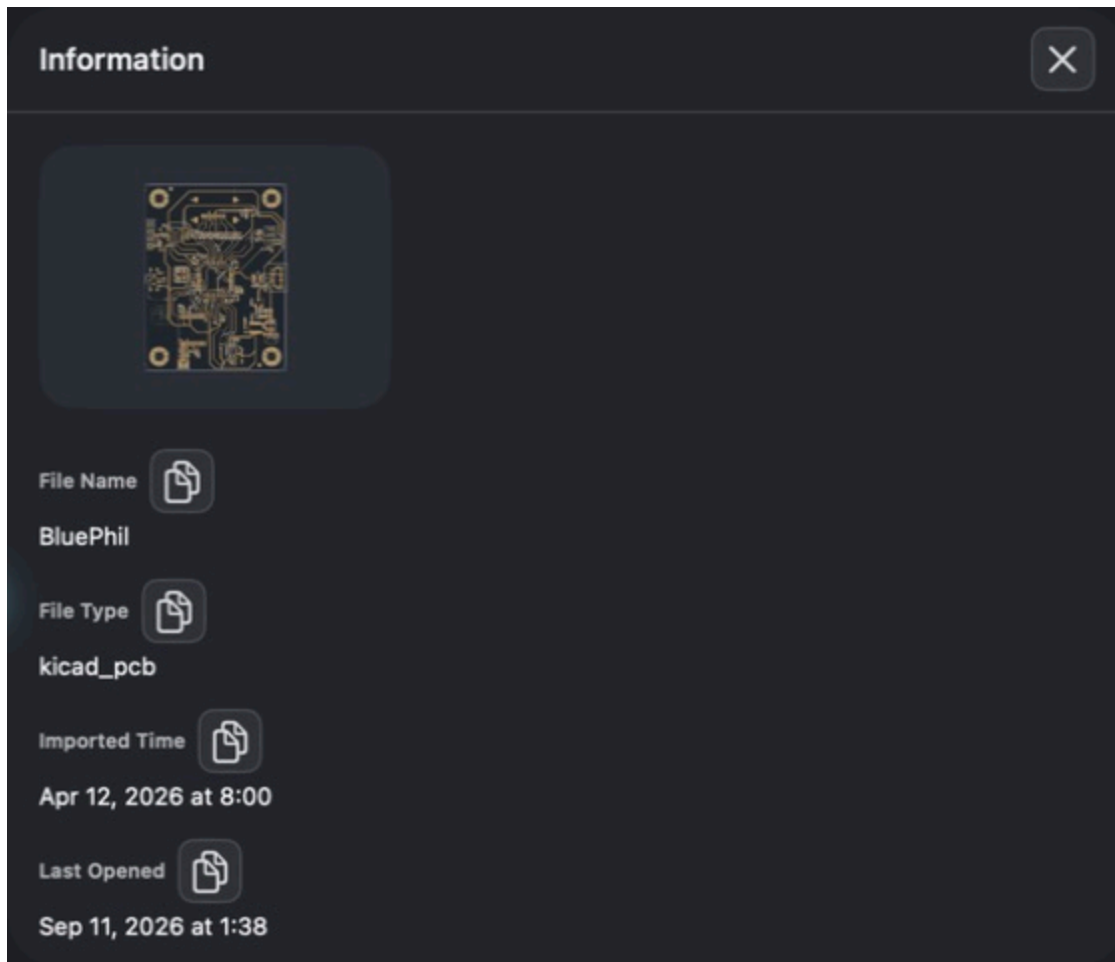
Steps

1. Use the upper-right button to choose grid or list layout. Narrow windows support both layouts; list is usually easier for continuous browsing.
2. Click ... on a card or list row to open **Document Actions**. The menu shows actions available for the current document: append a design revision, rename, duplicate, Information, Share, Pin, Remove, and similar items. The manufacturing-revision entry depends on document context.
3. Choose **Information** to read type, import time, last-opened time, and revisions. The copy button beside a field copies that value.
4. To keep the next version, use **Add Design Revision** and pick a source as prompted. Use revision labels to switch the current version.
5. When at least two applicable revisions exist, you can use **Compare Revisions....** See [Revision comparison](#).

A **document** is the project entry in the library; a **revision** is one version of its content; the **current revision** decides which version opens next. Duplicating a document is for an independent

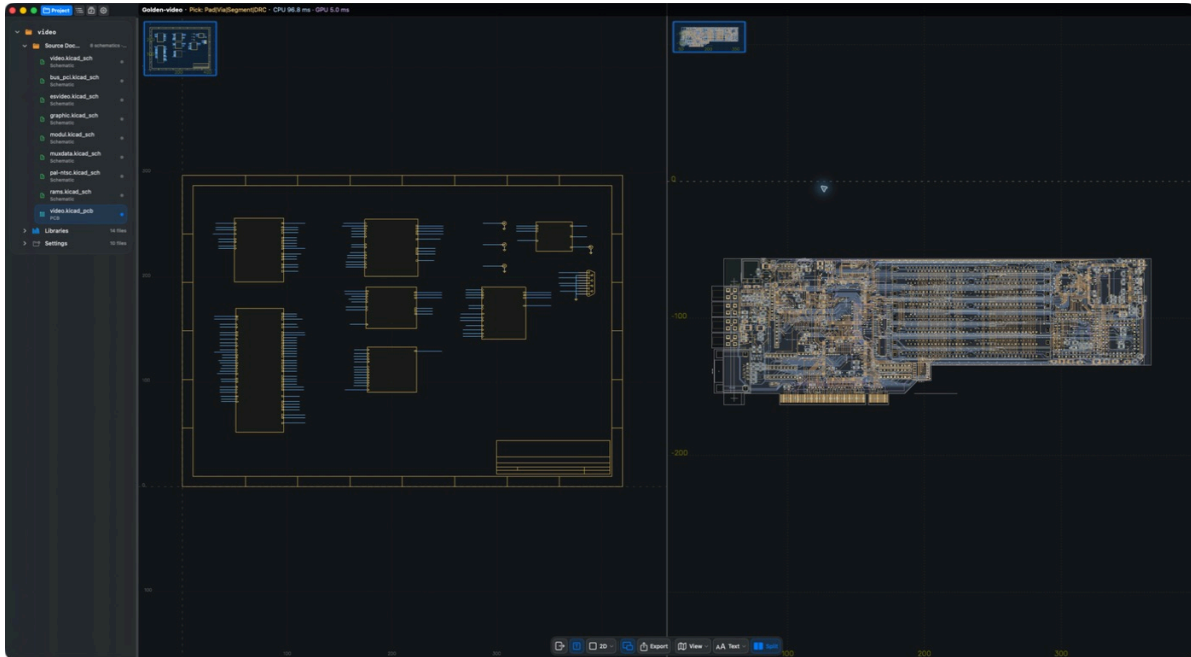
experiment copy; appending a revision is for maintaining the evolution of the same project.





Where are project files stored?

KiCad projects are grouped in **Project** as **Source Documents** / **Libraries** / **Settings**. Choose a schematic file to switch sheets, or a PCB file to switch board context. The wide shell uses the sidebar; the narrow shell taps bottom Project, then returns to Viewer.



Result

You can find the current revision and choose whether to append a revision, duplicate independently, or compare.

FAQ

Is Remove appropriate for cleaning test data?

Confirm whether the document and revisions still need to be kept, and read the app's delete confirmation. Do not empty the library to fix display or permission problems.

How do Share and Export differ?

Share sends document materials from the library. Export generates or delivers output in the workspace for the chosen format. Do not treat them as the same action.

Last verified

2026-09-11: hands-on on the macOS 1.1.2 local build; other platforms were not retested on device in this pass.

Basic PCB and schematic editing

Supported platforms

Apple builds: macOS 14+, iOS / iPadOS 17+. Screenshots in this page are from macOS. Narrow-shell screenshots show window layout, not an iPhone device.

Intended audience

Users who need small edits during review.

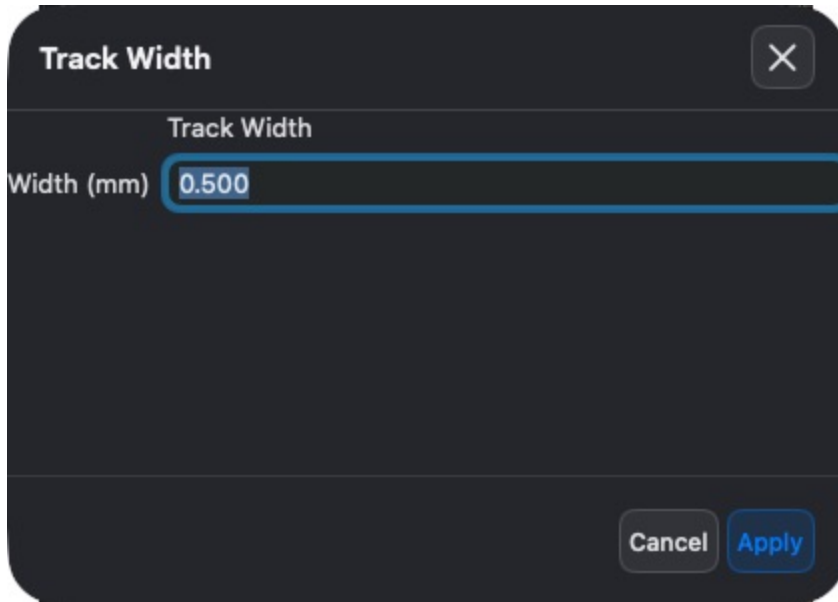
Prerequisites

Work on a copy you can modify, and keep important originals. An available editing entry does not mean every object is writable.

Steps

PCB: select first, then edit

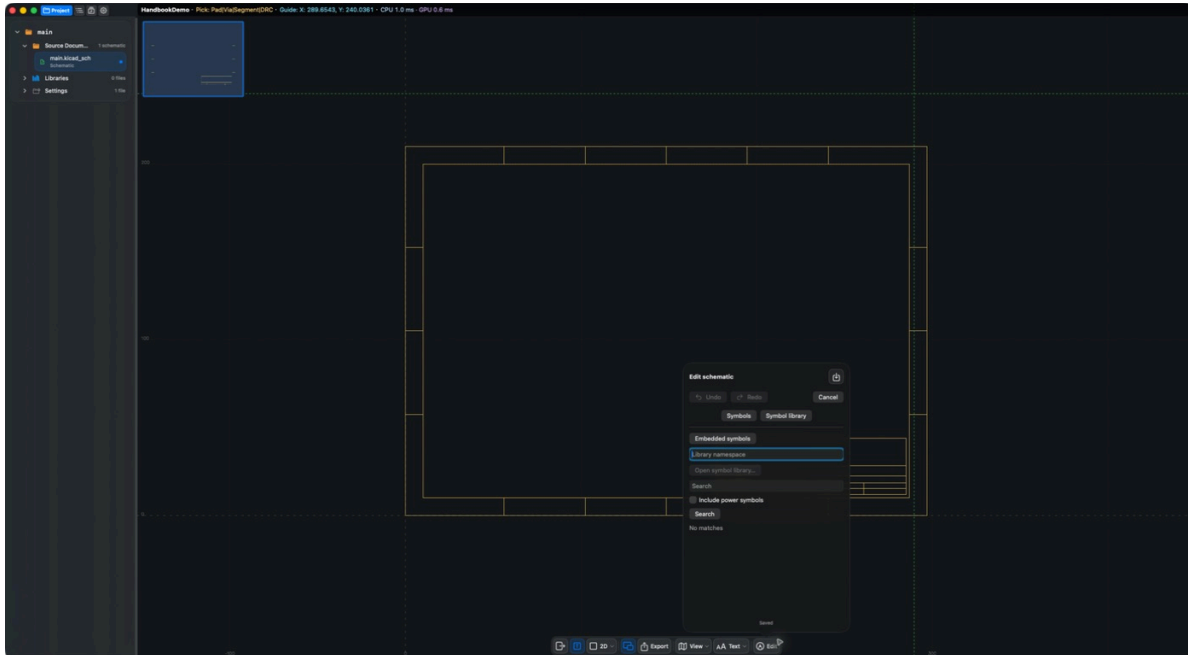
1. Open an editable KiCad PCB and stay in **2D**.
2. In **Selection & Focus**, allow the types you need, such as Pad, Via, and Segment; pick the target.
3. The current track segment may show **Slide / Width / Delete**; a via may show matching move or delete actions. Buttons change with the selection and whether it is editable.
4. **Width** opens **Track Width**. Enter a millimeter value, review it, then Apply; use Cancel if you are not changing it.
5. When a drag-style action shows a preview, check position and grid, then confirm or cancel. Use available Undo to reverse; when finished, Save, and reopen the revision to check the result.



Moving a via does not automatically reroute adjacent tracks for you. Deleting a whole Track is not the same as deleting one geometric segment; check the action name and preview before you proceed. Objects that cannot be identified precisely, are fixed, or are unsupported should be handled as the prompt says.

Schematic: create and edit entry

1. In the library, click **New schematic project**, fill in the name, root sheet, and page size, then Create.
2. Click **Edit** on the 2D toolbar to open **Edit schematic**.
3. Use **Symbols** to inspect the selection; use **Symbol library** to inspect embedded symbols, or enter a Library namespace and use **Open symbol library....** Search and Include power symbols filter library contents.
4. While editing, watch Saved / unsaved status plus Undo and Redo. Follow the app's Save check before saving. If editing is refused, record the error and keep the original.



Schematic now has create and edit entries, so it can no longer be summarized as “entirely read-only.” This pass only created a blank project and inspected the edit panel and library entry. It did not verify placing symbols or saving changes end to end, so do not treat that as proof that every KiCad schematic is editable.

Layout differences and known issues

PCB editing actions live on the Viewer toolbar; the narrow shell may wrap them onto multiple rows. In this pass, the schematic Edit sheet overflowed on the left in macOS narrow-shell screenshots. Enlarge the window when you need to read the full configuration. Some sources are rejected by the edit check. An existing project in this pass showed a source ordering error, and the narrow-shell error text was truncated; do not skip the check and force a write-back.

Result

You know the PCB editing actions and the schematic editing entry, and you can confirm current capability and save state before changing anything.

FAQ

Why can I open details but not edit?

Viewing and write-back have different requirements. Editing also needs a precise object and a savable source.

What are Cancel and Save for?

Cancel abandons the current operation or closes the matching flow. Save stores the edit result. Check unsaved prompts before leaving; closing a sheet is not a substitute for save confirmation.

Last verified

2026-09-11: hands-on check of PCB Width then cancel, new schematic, and the Edit panel; no writes were made to existing boards.

Compare two board revisions (Board Diff)

This pass only verified the library **Compare Revisions...** entry. The comparison flow below was not re-operated on 2026-09-11. Do not treat this page as a complete Diff acceptance record for the current build.

Page goal

Help you start Board Diff from library revisions, understand the **Before** / **After** direction, inspect object-by-object changes, and export reviewable JSON or PNG.

Supported platforms

- **macOS 14 or later:** the primary wide-screen experience and first acceptance platform for Board Diff today.
- **iOS / iPadOS 17.0 or later:** the entry is provided with the app. Prefer landscape or a wider window; dedicated narrow-screen optimization is still follow-up work.

Intended audience

- Design, manufacturing, or review staff who need to compare two revisions of the same PCB
- Testers who need to accept Diff by direction, layer, object, and risk hints

Prerequisites

Choose a pair of boards whose contents differ but whose actually parsed formats are the same:

Input	Current status
DSN	Supported

Single-board KiCad <code>.kicad_pcb</code>	Supported
Gerber + Excellon folder or archive	Supported
SES	Supported only when both sides can be verified and point at the same base design
ODB++, IPC-2581, Altium PCB / library, complete KiCad Project	Explicitly not supported for Board Diff today

`Before` and `After` are directional:

- `Added` : exists only in `After` .
- `Removed` : exists only in `Before` .
- `Modified` : objects on both sides can be paired, but attributes or geometry differ.
- `Unchanged` : the same on both sides, shown only as context.

The same file extension does not guarantee the same format. PCBAtlas parses each side separately, then decides whether comparison is possible.

Steps

Compare two revisions in the library

1. In the library, find a document with at least two revisions.
2. Open the more-actions menu on the document card.
3. Click `Compare Revisions...`
4. In `Before` and `After` , choose two different revisions of the same format.
5. Click `Compare` .

If the current revision has a parent, the page prefers parent as `Before` and current as `After` . You can still change either side manually.

A completed hosted comparison saves a validated artifact. The next time you enter the comparison page for the same document, you can use `Reopen Saved Comparison` .

Confirm ambiguous layer pairing

If PcbCore finds multiple compatible candidates, comparison pauses at `Layer pairing needs confirmation`:

1. For each `Before` layer, check name, role, order, and object count.
2. On the right, choose the correct `After layer`.
3. Confirm that every item has a selection.
4. Click `Confirm and Compare` to run again.

PCBATlas does not guess a layer when the pairing is ambiguous, and it does not force two boards into alignment with automatic translate / rotate. Whole-board translation or rotation is kept as a real change.

Wait for or cancel comparison

Comparison shows progress through input validation, importing Before / After, layer pairing, snapshot, geometric matching, risk analysis, Diff scene, and persistence.

After you click `Cancel`, wait until `Cancelling comparison...` finishes. The page allows a safe retry only after both native sessions and temporary staging data are released.

Read the comparison workspace

Display modes

- `Overlay`: superimpose changes in one exact composite scene; `Context` controls the strength of unchanged context.
- `Split`: `Before` on the left, `After` on the right; `Sync Camera` is on by default, and turning it off lets you inspect each side separately.
- `Blink`: automatically switch Before / After with the same camera, useful for small displacements.
- `Fit`: refit the current scene to the visible area.

Layers and changes

- Left `Layer Pairs` shows pairing results and the change count for each pair.
- Choose `All layers` for the whole board, or one layer pair to narrow the scope.

- Right **Changes** can toggle **Added / Removed / Modified** and filter by object type and Net.
- Clicking a change row locates and highlights the object; picking in Viewer also looks up the matching change.
- **Previous / Next** walk the current filtered results; macOS shortcuts are **⌘[** and **⌘]**.
- The **Risks** panel filters directional hints by risk level. Risk hints are for review location, not a substitute for DRC or manufacturing sign-off.

Swap direction, export, and reopen

- **Swap** creates a reversed request and recalculates; original **Added / Removed**, statistics, risks, and details reverse with the direction.
- **JSON** exports a stable, versioned semantic result; iOS hands the file to other apps.
- **PNG** exports a screenshot of the current Diff view; iOS saves it directly to Photos, while macOS continues to use the system file-delivery UI.
- After a hosted revision comparison completes, reopen the validated result from **Reopen Saved Comparison**.
- If revision content, format, policy, or layer pairing has changed, the old artifact is treated as invalid instead of silently showing a stale result.

Wide shell and narrow shell

Both layouts enter comparison from the document action menu in the library. Do not use ordinary Viewer Split as a substitute for Board Diff. Ordinary project Split is a PCB and schematic dual canvas; Diff Split is Before and After. If comparison settings or result panels are crowded in a narrow window, enlarge the window to read them. This pass did not verify the narrow-shell Diff layout.

Acceptance checklist

- ✓ A document with only one revision does not enable **Compare Revisions...**.
- ✓ Two same-format library revisions can run, and can reopen from **Reopen Saved Comparison**.
- ✓ Same input, different formats, unsupported formats, or inconsistent SES bases block **Compare** with a clear reason.
- ✓ Ambiguous layers must finish manual pairing before continuing.
- ✓ Camera position stays consistent when switching **Overlay / Split / Blink**.

- ✓ Split `Sync Camera` on / off behaves correctly, and `Fit` restores a full-board view.
- ✓ Added / Removed / Modified, object type, Net, and risk filters all narrow the results.
- ✓ List clicks, Viewer pick, and `Previous / Next` can locate the same change in both directions.
- ✓ After `Swap`, direction, colors, statistics, details, and risks reverse correctly.
- ✓ After cancelling a large-board comparison mid-run, the page waits for cleanup and can compare again.
- ✓ JSON and PNG both export, and hosted artifacts are not reused incorrectly after inputs change.

Current explicit boundaries

- Only same-format inputs are compared; cross-format comparison is not supported.
- ODB++, IPC-2581, Altium PCB / library, complete KiCad Project, schematic Diff, and 3D Diff are not supported.
- There is no automatic merge, accept-change, or reverse modification of source files.
- There is no automatic alignment; whole-board translation and rotation remain visible differences.
- Image pixels, bbox, or file text are not used as a fallback for exact geometric Diff.

FAQ

Why is the `Compare` button unavailable?

Check that both sides are selected, that the contents differ, and that they parse as the same supported format. For Gerber / Excellon, give each side the complete package folder or archive; two arbitrary single-layer files cannot stand in for a complete board.

Why does the same extension still report a format mismatch?

Format is decided by actual parse results, not the filename alone. Directories, archives, SES base designs, and the actual board entry all take part in validation.

Why can I not compare again immediately after cancelling?

The page waits for PcbCore to release both Before / After sessions and temporary data, so a new task does not occupy resources at the same time as an old one. Retry after `Cancelling comparison...` disappears.

Why did change counts or risks also change after Swap?

Added / Removed and risk hints are directional. Swap does not just exchange display labels; it recalculates with reversed Before / After.

Result

After comparison, you can locate exact changes on both sides in the same workspace, check directional risks, and export JSON / PNG. Library revision comparisons can also be saved and reopened after validation.

Last verified

2026-07-30 (original flow record); 2026-09-11 verified the library entry and did not rerun comparison.

2D viewing, object details, and cross-probing

Supported platforms

Apple builds: macOS 14+, iOS / iPadOS 17+. Screenshots in this page are from macOS. Narrow-shell screenshots show window layout, not an iPhone device.

Intended audience

Users who need to locate issues in a PCB or schematic.

Prerequisites

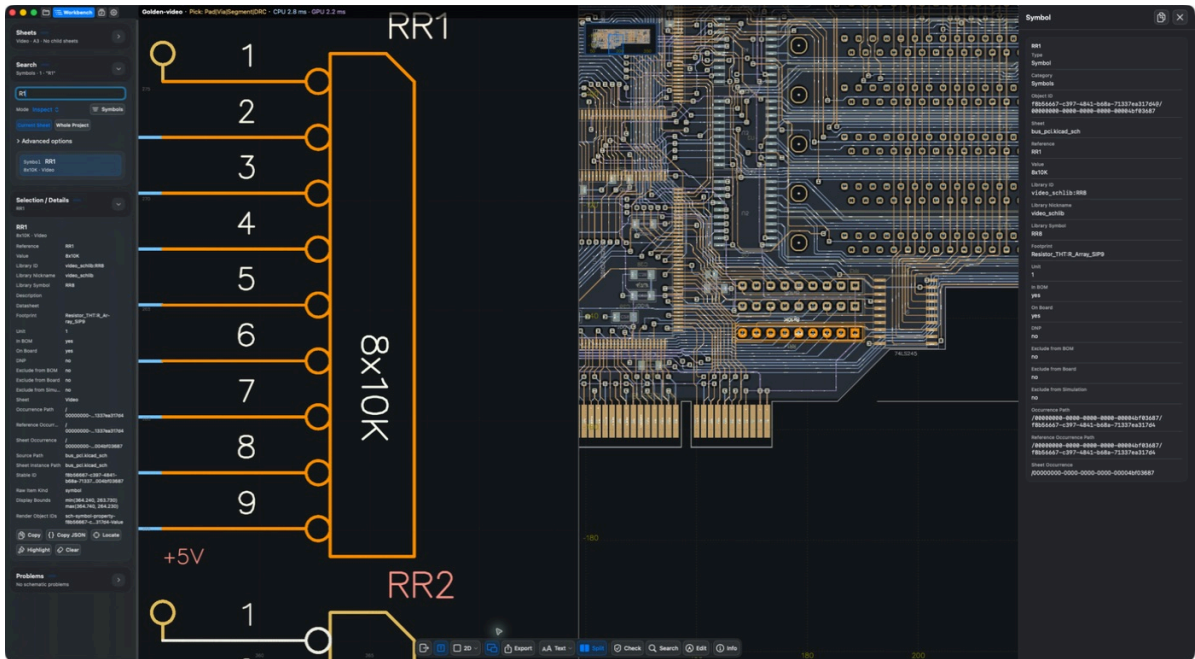
Open a document and wait until the canvas is ready.

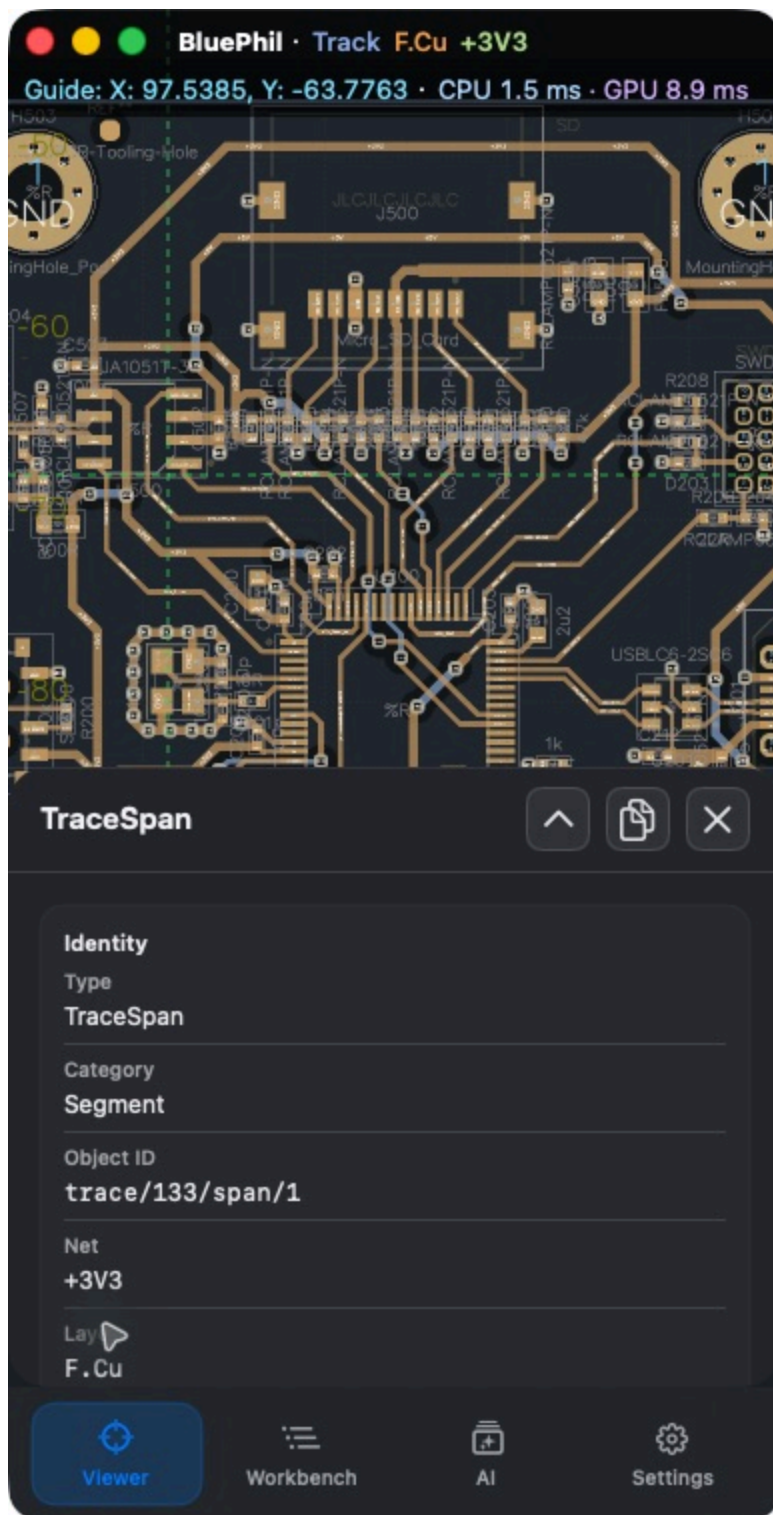
Steps

1. Choose **2D** from the mode menu at the bottom of Viewer. The main canvas is for zoom, pan, and picking.
2. To reset framing, open bottom **View → Fit All**. The same menu also contains Toggle Axis, Regenerate Thumbnail, and Scene info.
3. Click the target object. The toolbar shows **Info** and applicable edit actions for the current selection. Do not look for the old View Info item in a right-click menu.
4. Open **Info** and check object type, net, layer, or schematic properties. The copy button copies the details; **x** closes them.
5. If you cannot pick the target, check type filtering in **Workbench → Selection & Focus**. Overlapping positions can show Pick Candidates. Visibility and type filtering are two separate controls.

Where details appear in wide and narrow shells

When the wide shell has enough space, Info is a full-height inspector on the right. The narrow shell shows a details panel at the bottom; the up arrow expands it and the down arrow collapses it. After expanding details, you can still use the close button to return to the canvas.





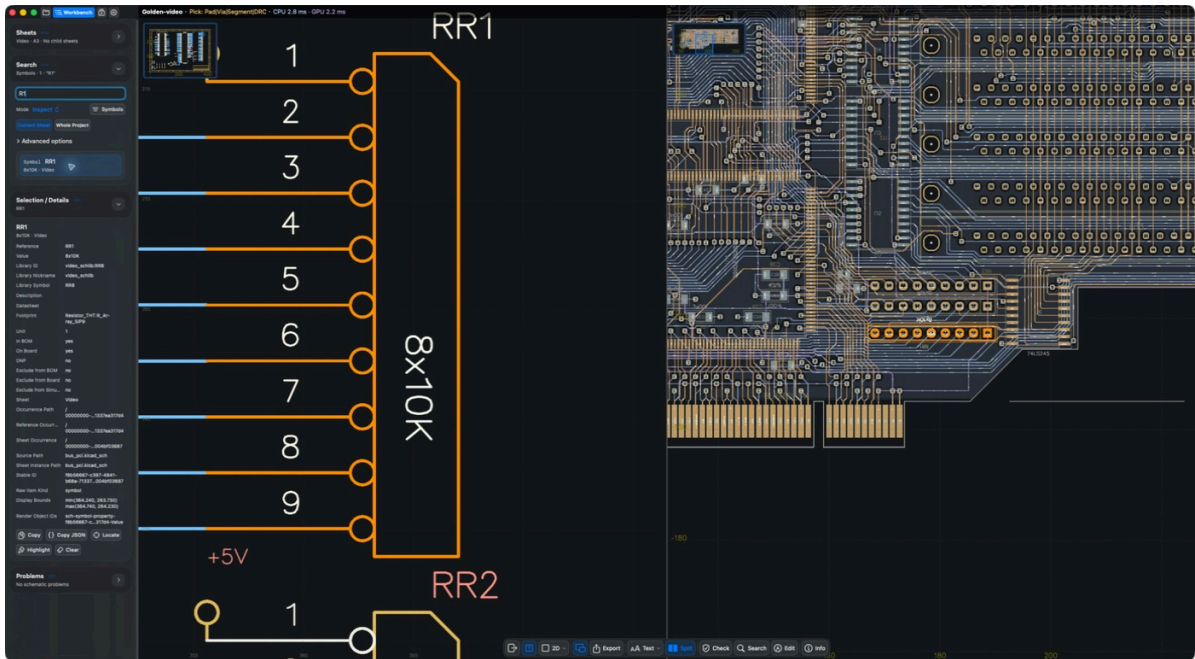
Mini view and status bar

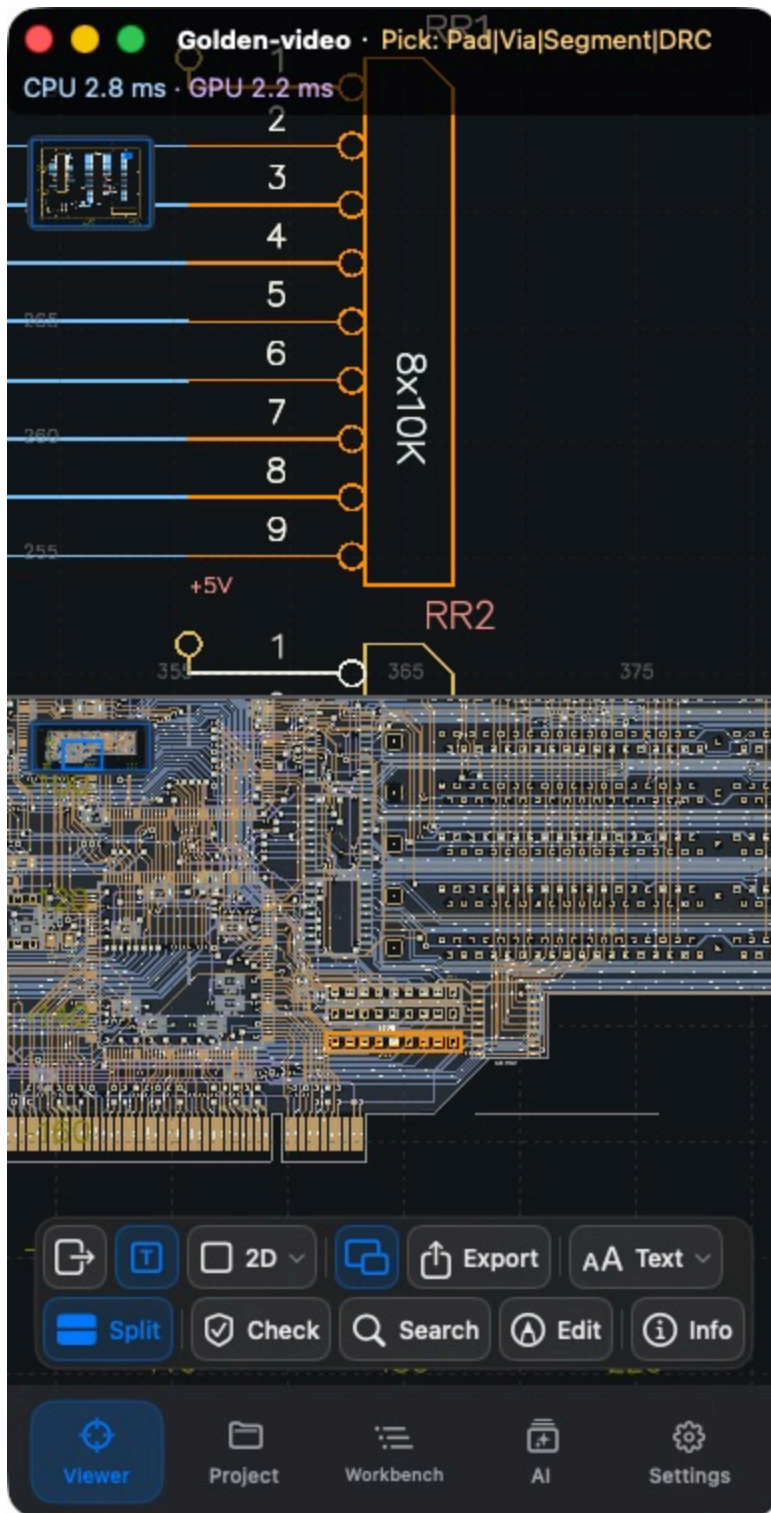
The mini view shows the overall extents and the current viewport. Use the mini-view button on the toolbar to show or hide it. When Info is open, the matching mini view may hide temporarily. The status bar shows the current document, selection, and configured coordinate or performance information. Those numbers describe the current state; they are not a general performance benchmark.

Scene info inspects scene and camera information; the Camera page can apply compatible camera text. Before using a shared camera position, confirm both people opened the same design and revision.

PCB and schematic linkage

1. Open a KiCad project that contains both PCB and schematic.
2. In **Project**, choose the target sheet; in schematic **Workbench** → **Search**, enter a reference, then choose a result.
3. Precisely related symbols / pins locate and highlight the PCB footprint / pad. In this hands-on pass, searching **R1** and choosing **RR1** located the part on both canvases.
4. Use **Split** to switch between single and dual canvases. Dual canvases in a tall, narrow window can stack vertically; a wide window can place them side by side.





Cross-probing depends on precise relationships in the project. Objects with no board entity, missing links, or ambiguous relationships are not guessed by name. Net linkage also does not mean that clicking any PCB track automatically jumps to a schematic label of the same name.

Result

You can identify the current object, read its details, and check PCB against schematic in a project with precise links.

FAQ

Why did framing change after the window became narrower?

The available canvas size changed. Keeping the camera is not the same as keeping the previous screenshot bounds. Use Fit All again when you need an overall view.

Why are there no edit buttons?

Buttons change with the object and editing capability. Readable details do not mean the object is editable. See [Basic editing](#).

Last verified

2026-09-11: hands-on on the macOS 1.1.2 local build; other platforms were not retested on device in this pass.

3D viewing

Supported platforms

Apple builds: macOS 14+, iOS / iPadOS 17+. Screenshots in this page are from macOS. Narrow-shell screenshots show window layout, not an iPhone device.

Intended audience

Users who need to check board shape and spatial relationships.

Prerequisites

Open a document that has board-level geometry. A schematic by itself does not provide board-level 3D.

Steps

1. Choose **3D** from the mode menu at the bottom of Viewer and wait for the scene to finish preparing.
2. Use bottom **View** to choose a camera, and **Projection** to choose the projection. **Fit** restores an overall framing.
3. Use **Info** to read camera information. To adjust board-surface or model display, open the applicable Visibility options in Workbench.
4. After spatial inspection, switch back to **2D** for object checking or export.



In the wide shell, Workbench sits beside 3D. In the narrow shell, adjust Workbench first, then return to Viewer to see the result. Both layouts return to 2D through the mode button inside Viewer.

3D completeness depends on the imported board structure and model assets. A renderable model, a simplified body, and a missing model are not the same thing. The sample screenshot shows `declared stackup missing`, meaning the source did not fully declare a stackup. Do not infer the real manufacturing stackup from the rendered appearance.

Result

You can inspect board-level spatial structure and recognize display limits caused by missing source data.

FAQ

Why are there no component solid models?

Check whether the source included models, whether paths resolve, and whether model display options are on. A successful board body does not mean every component model exists.

Can I export from 3D?

In this pass, 3D has no Export. Return to 2D to choose an output.

Last verified

2026-09-11: hands-on on the macOS 1.1.2 local build; other platforms were not retested on device in this pass.

Workbench: visibility, filtering, and search

Supported platforms

Apple builds: macOS 14+, iOS / iPadOS 17+. Screenshots in this page are from macOS. Narrow-shell screenshots show window layout, not an iPhone device.

Intended audience

Users who need less visual clutter, or who need to find nets or sheet objects.

Prerequisites

A PCB or schematic document is already open.

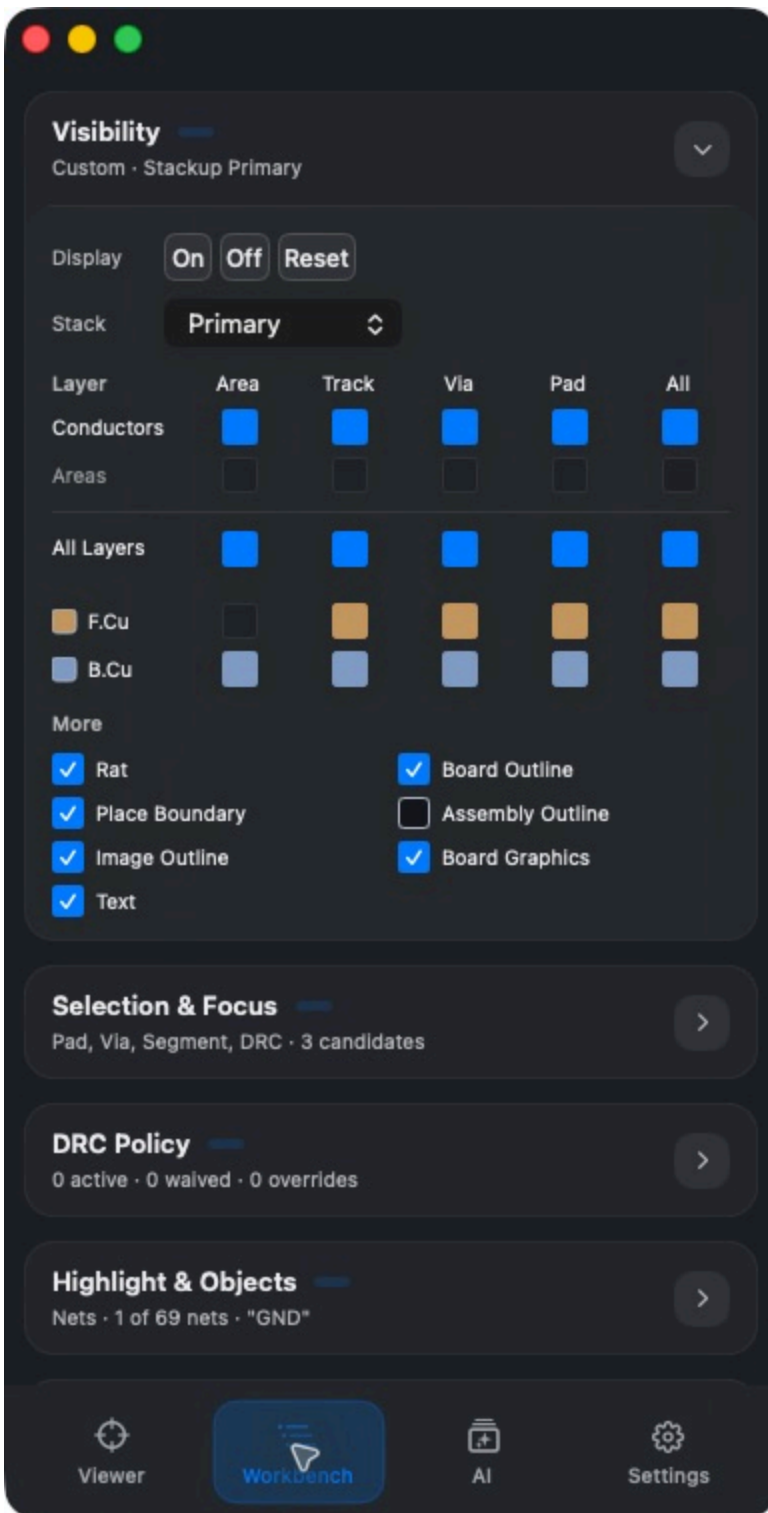
Steps

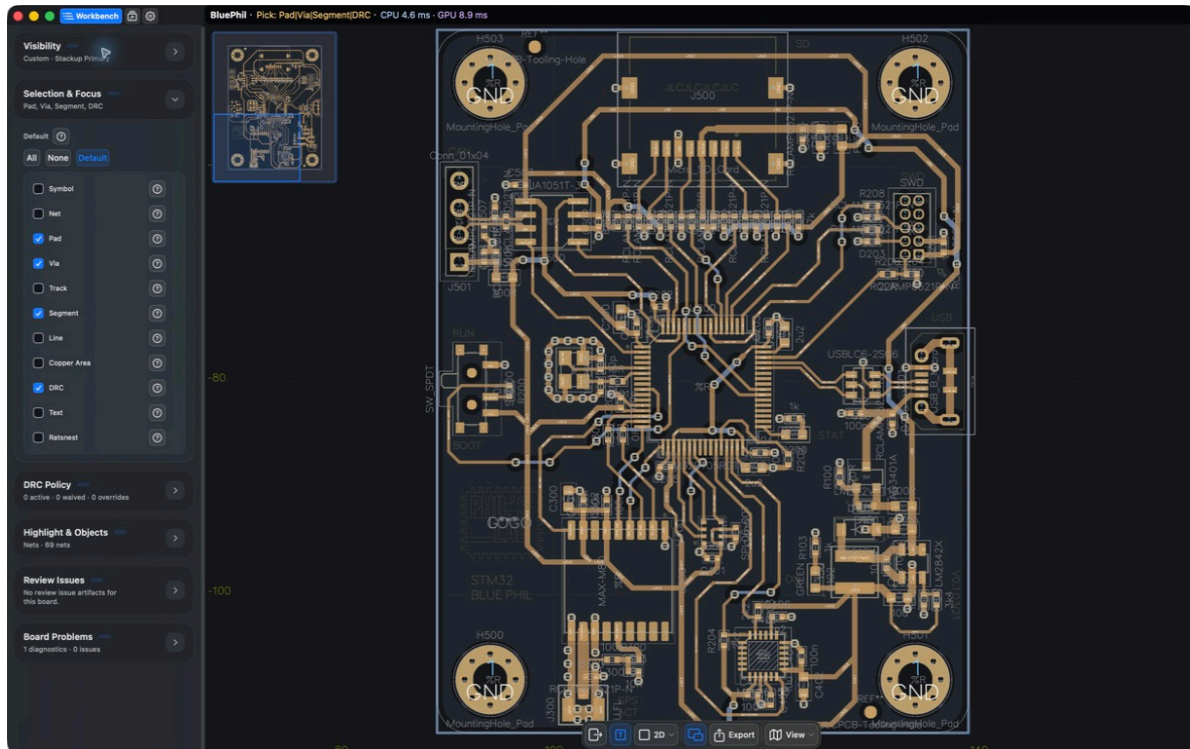
1. In the wide shell, click sidebar **Workbench**; in the narrow shell, click bottom **Workbench**.
2. Click a section title to expand or collapse it. Finish visibility first, then set selectable object types, then search for the target.
3. After changing settings in the narrow shell, tap **Viewer** to inspect the result. The wide shell can watch the adjacent canvas directly.

PCB sections

Section	Purpose
Visibility	Show or hide overall, conductors, copper, layers, and object classes; Stack chooses the stackup

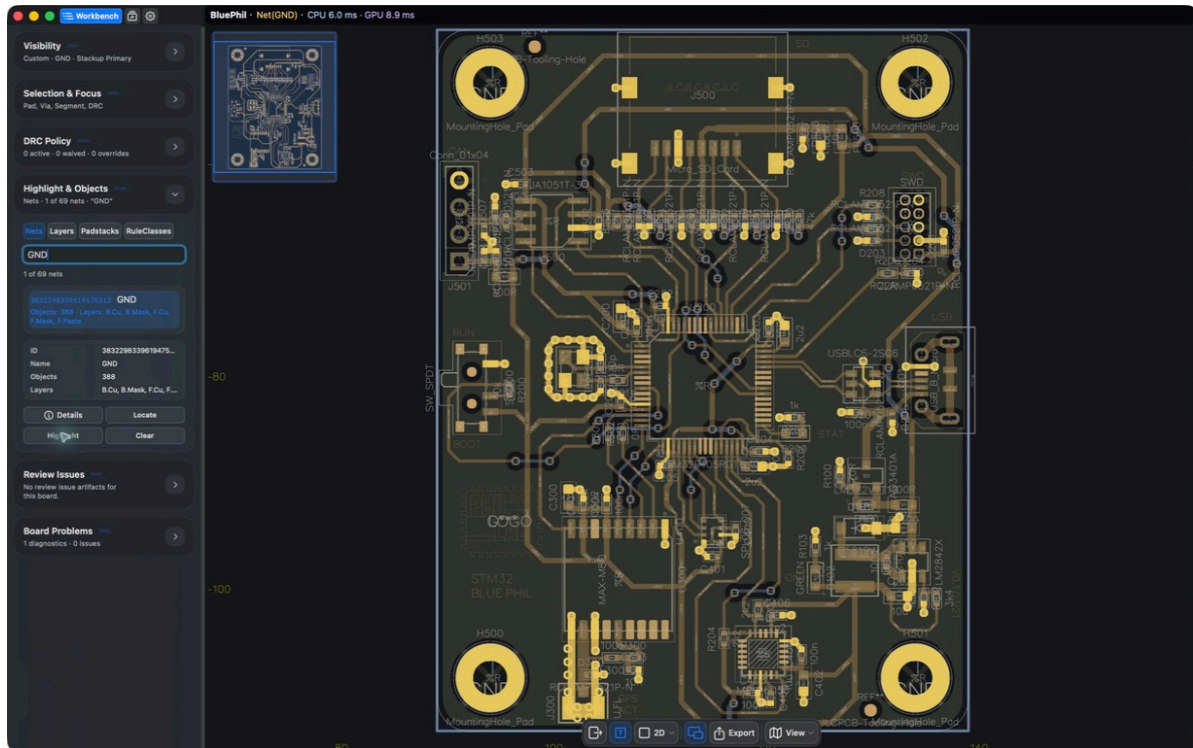
Selection & Focus	Choose pickable types, with All / None / Default, type help, and Pick Candidates
DRC Policy	Inspect rule policy, exemptions, and override state; zero entries does not mean the board passed every rule check
Highlight & Objects	Search Nets / Layers / Padstacks / RuleClasses and run object actions
Review Issues	Inspect existing review issues; the list can be empty when no report has been generated
Board Problems	Inspect import diagnostics and issues





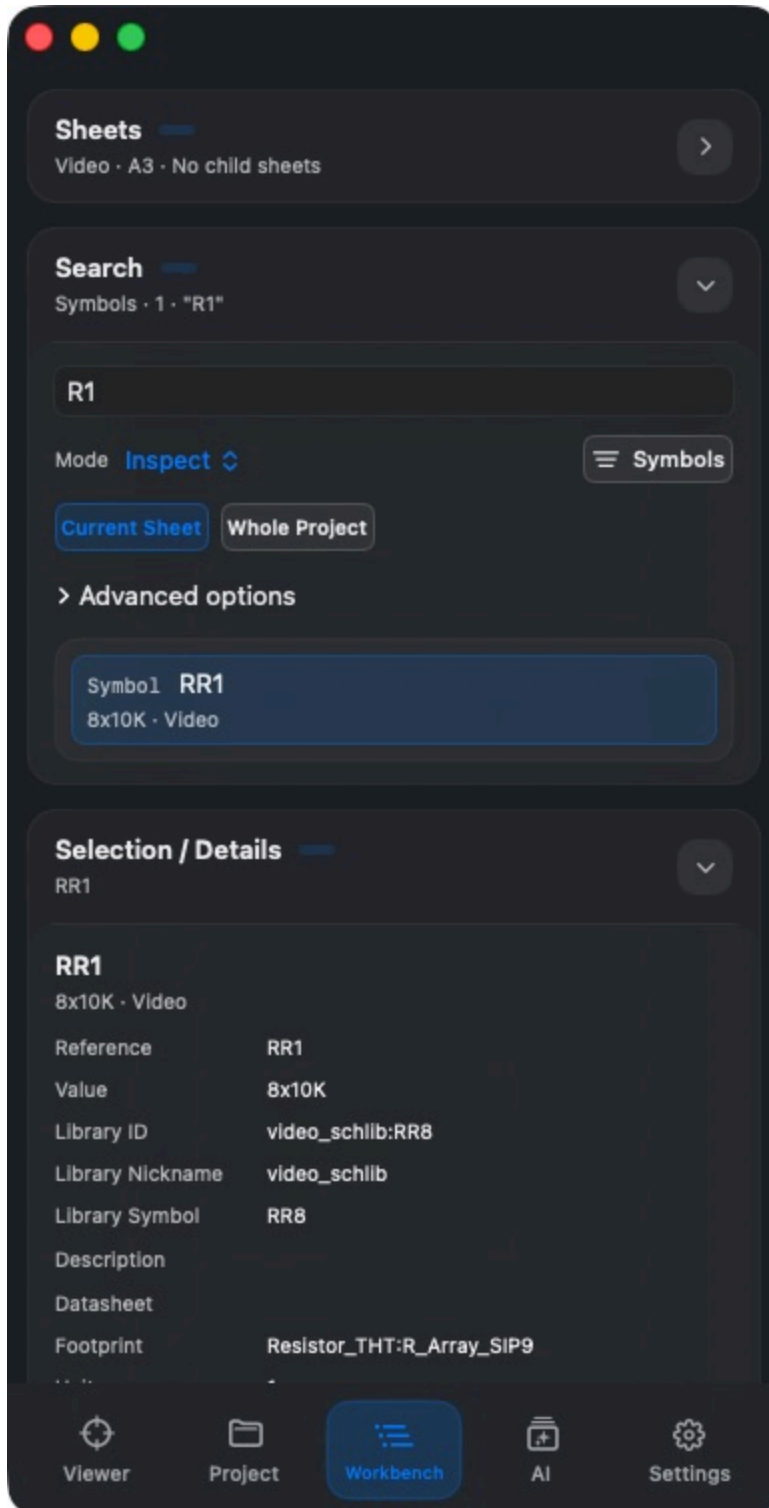
Find and highlight a net

1. Expand **Highlight & Objects** and choose **Nets**.
2. Type a net name in **Filter**, for example **GND**.
3. Click a result and check object count and layers.
4. **Locate** frames it, **Highlight** highlights it, and **Clear** clears selection / highlight. **Details** opens more information when available; actions there follow the actual object capability.



Schematic sections

Schematic uses **Sheets / Search / Selection / Details / Problems**. Search offers **Current Sheet** and **Whole Project** scopes, plus object classes and advanced options. Results can show reference, value, and sheet; clicking a result updates details and locates the object.



Result

You finished visibility, type filtering, and object search, and you can inspect locate results in Viewer.

FAQ

I can see an object but cannot select it?

Check whether Selection & Focus allows that type, and whether overlapping candidates were hit. Visibility only decides whether something is drawn, not whether it can be selected.

Where did Objects / Selection Filter from older handbooks go?

On the current PCB page, the matching sections are Highlight & Objects / Selection & Focus.

Why did Workbench content change suddenly?

It follows the current editor context. PCB and schematic sections differ. In a dual canvas, first confirm which drawing you are operating on.

Last verified

2026-09-11: hands-on on the macOS 1.1.2 local build; other platforms were not retested on device in this pass.

Manufacturing estimate / Quick Estimate

Supported platforms

Apple builds: macOS 14+, iOS / iPadOS 17+. Screenshots in this page are from macOS. Narrow-shell screenshots show window layout, not an iPhone device.

Intended audience

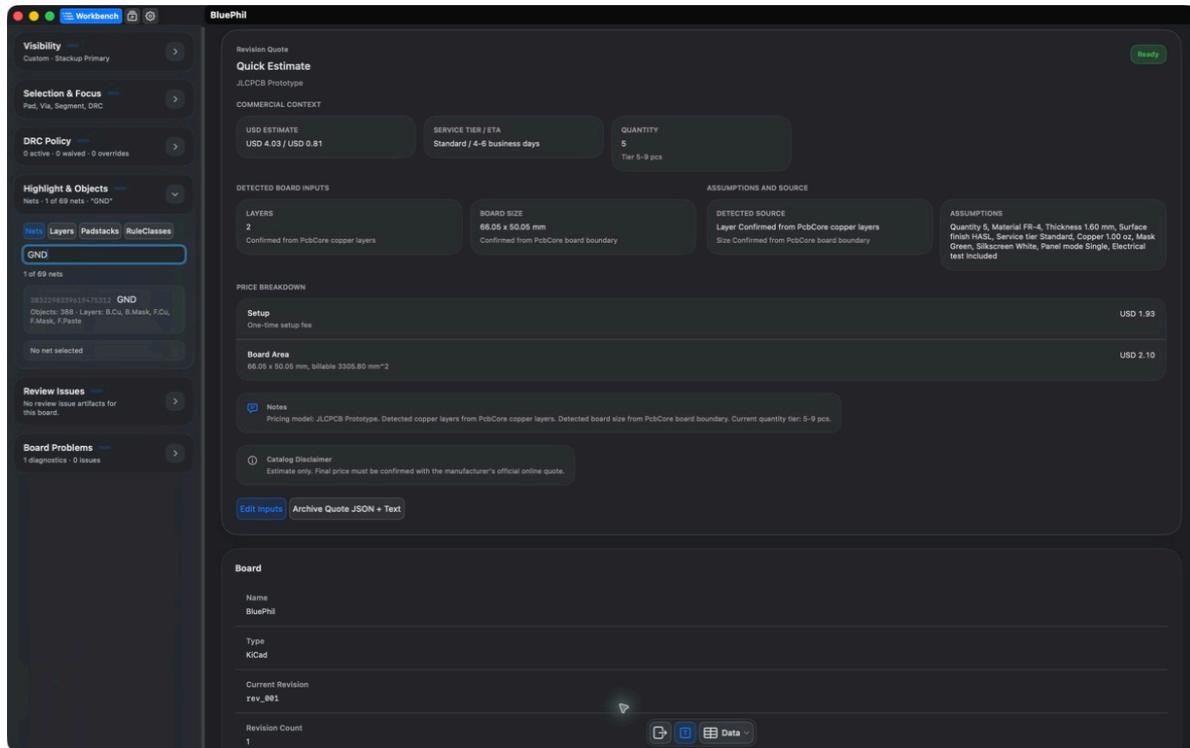
Users who need to record manufacturing assumptions during review.

Prerequisites

Open a board document and switch Viewer to Data mode.

Steps

1. Read the status of the **Revision Quote / Quick Estimate** card.
2. Check layer count, board size, and **Detected Source**. Distinguish actually detected values from assumed values.
3. Review **Assumptions**, quantity, process, price breakdown, and lead time.
4. Click **Edit Inputs** to change inputs that need confirmation.
5. To keep this estimate's context, use **Archive Quote JSON + Text**.



In the narrow shell, tap Viewer first, then choose Data from the mode menu and scroll down to read. The wide shell shows Data beside the sidebar. Below the estimate card you can also inspect Board, Revision, source, and diagnostics.

This feature uses a local catalog and rules and shows an estimate. Prices in the screenshot belong only to that sample and those inputs. They are not live vendor prices, final lead times, or a purchasing commitment.

Result

You can explain the inputs used by the estimate and save an estimate record when needed.

FAQ

What if the numbers are clearly wrong?

Confirm the current revision, board size, and copper layer count first, then check quantity and process assumptions. Do not only edit the quoted result.

Does archiving place an order with a fabricator?

No. Archiving saves estimate context; it does not submit an order.

Last verified

2026-09-11: hands-on inspection of the Data card and entries; this pass did not submit input changes or an archive.

Export and sharing

Supported platforms

Apple builds: macOS 14+, iOS / iPadOS 17+. Screenshots in this page are from macOS. Narrow-shell screenshots show window layout, not an iPhone device.

Intended audience

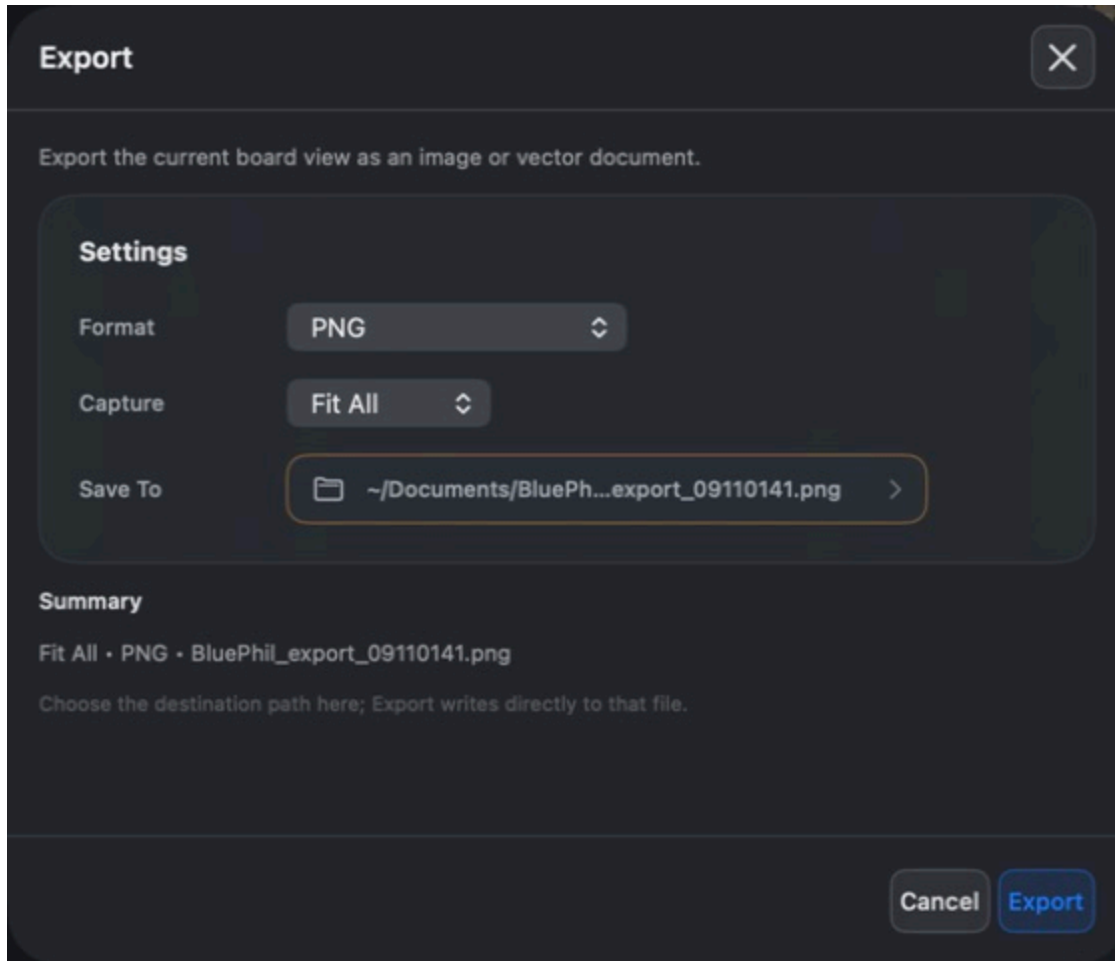
Users who need to deliver board images, design files, or manufacturing data.

Prerequisites

Open the board in 2D. The matching export entitlement must be available, and the destination must be writable.

Steps

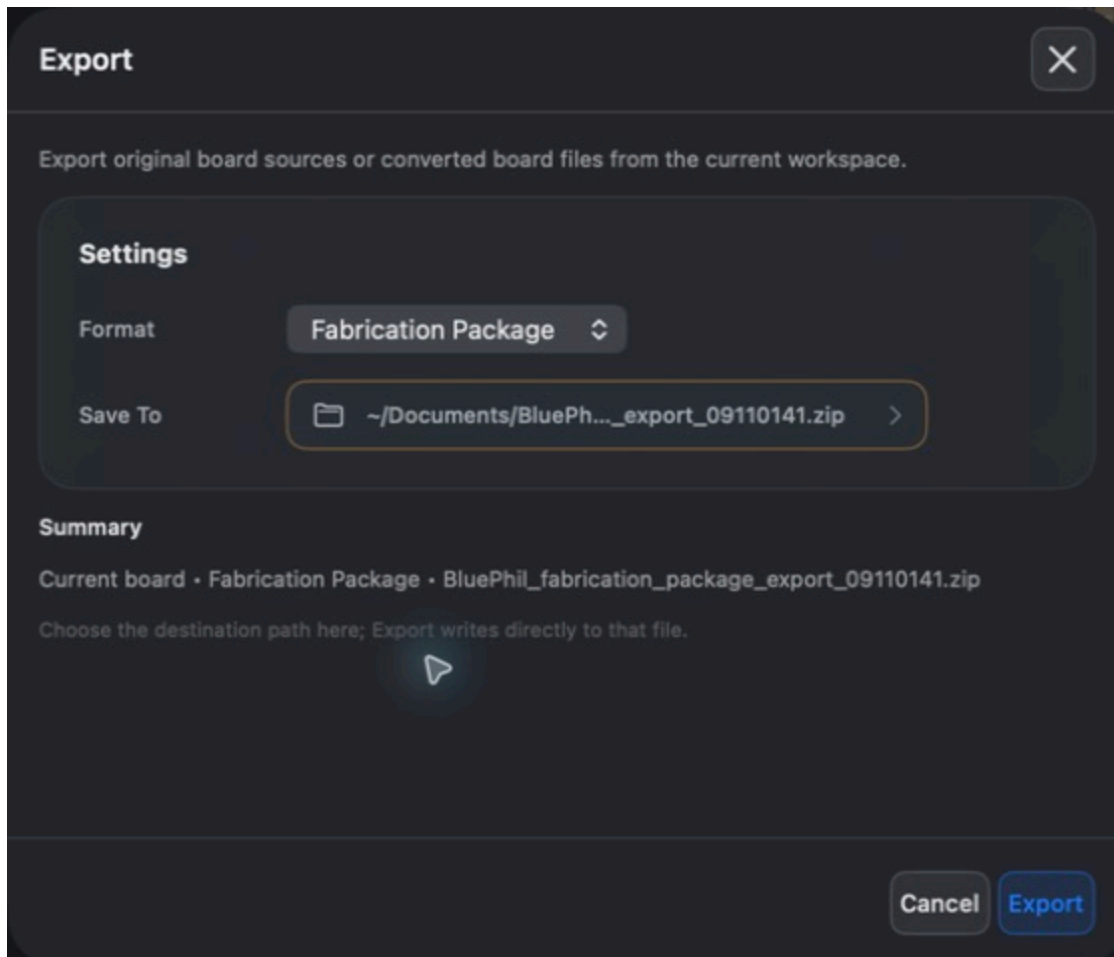
1. In the wide shell, click **Export** at the bottom of the canvas. In the narrow shell, tap **Viewer → 2D → Export** first.
2. Choose **Format**. Options depend on the current source and can differ across documents.
3. For PNG / PDF, choose **Capture → Viewport** (current viewport) or **Fit All** (whole board). Board files and fabrication outputs are processed for the current board and have no partial-viewport range.
4. On macOS, click **Save To** to choose a directory and filename, then **Export**. If no authorized location was chosen in advance, confirming export can still show a system save panel; after you pick a location, file generation continues.
5. After the completion prompt, open the file and check content, range, and filename. Do not treat the configuration page appearing as a successful export.



Formats currently visible on the board

Format	Purpose
PNG / PDF	Current 2D image or document output
KiCad / DSN	Original source or converted board files, depending on the current revision and source
PCB Binary	PCBAtlas binary board file
Gerber / Excellon	Fabrication layers and drill output

Fabrication Package	Fabrication package
ODB++ / IPC-2581	Matching manufacturing-data output



The **KiCad** item in the menu should no longer be written as two fixed buttons, KiCad and KiCad 8, from the old UI. Original-source delivery and conversion are still different: the former comes from the source stored with the current hosted revision, the latter generates a target format. Do not assume any menu item can losslessly express every input characteristic. Fabrication output is also no longer limited to returning the original manufacturing package.

Platform and layout

- Both the macOS wide shell and narrow shell deliver to files. The system save panel in the narrow shell can be wider than the main window.

- iOS / iPadOS: PNG uses Photos; other files use the Other Apps system share flow. This is a platform rule, not a wide-shell / narrow-shell choice.
- Store builds may check purchase entitlements for specific export capabilities. Being allowed to view configuration is not the same as already unlocked. A successful export on this Debug / Public Beta build cannot replace store purchase verification.

Library **Share** is for sharing document materials. Workspace **Export** is for choosing this output. Check the actual attachment before sharing, rather than relying on the button name alone.

Result

A target file is generated and its content is checked. In this pass, BluePhil PNG was exported successfully through the UI.

FAQ

No Export?

Return to Viewer's 2D mode, wait until opening finishes, and confirm that another export is not already running.

Why did a purchase page appear?

That output capability is not unlocked yet. Read the purchase-center details; users who already purchased can restore purchases.

What if conversion fails?

Keep the full error and the input format. Choose another supported format and inspect the result. Do not hand a failed output to downstream work as a complete design.

Last verified

2026-09-11: wide-shell PNG actually exported successfully; narrow-shell configuration could be opened. Other formats were checked against the menu and source routing, not generated one by one.

Settings and AI

Supported platforms

Apple builds: macOS 14+, iOS / iPadOS 17+. Screenshots in this page are from macOS. Narrow-shell screenshots show window layout, not an iPhone device.

Intended audience

Users who need to adjust display, language, or AI configuration.

Prerequisites

A workspace is already open.

Steps

1. In the wide shell, choose sidebar **Settings**; in the narrow shell, choose bottom **Settings**.
2. Enter a category, or use search at the top.

Category	Contents
General	Appearance, language notes, terminology preferences, and general options
Viewer	2D / 3D display, camera, rendering, and appearance
PCB Display	Layer colors, object styles, labels, and interaction
AI	AI service, API key, and model configuration

In app purchase	Purchase and restore entries
About & Reset	Version and reset tools

Settings

General

Viewer

PCB Display

AI

In app purchase

About & Reset

BluePhil

Revision Quote

Quick Estimate

JLPCB Prototype

COMMERCIAL CONTEXT

USD ESTIMATE

USD 4.03 / USD 0.81

SERVICE TIER / ETA

Standard / 4-8 business days

QUANTITY

5

Tier: 5-9 pcs

DETECTED BOARD INPUTS

LAYERS

2

Confirmed from PcbCore copper layers

BOARD SIZE

66.05 x 50.05 mm

Confirmed from PcbCore board boundary

DETECTED SOURCE

Layer: Confirmed from PcbCore copper layers

Size: Confirmed from PcbCore board boundary

ASSUMPTIONS

Quantity: 5, Material: FR-4, Thickness: 1.60 mm, Surface Finish: HASL, Service tier: Standard, Copper: 1.50 oz, Mask: Green, Silkscreen: White, Panel mode: Single, Electrical text included

PRICE BREAKDOWN

Setup

One-time setup fee

USD 1.93

Board Area

66.05 x 50.05 mm, billable: 3306.80 mm²

USD 2.10

Notes

Pricing model: JLPCB Prototype. Detected copper layers from PcbCore copper layers. Detected board size from PcbCore board boundary. Current quantity tier: 5-9 pcs.

Catalog Disclaimer

Estimate only. Final price must be confirmed with the manufacturer's official online quote.

Edit Inputs

Archive Quote JSON + Text

Board

Name

BluePhil

Type

KiCad

Current Revision

rev_001

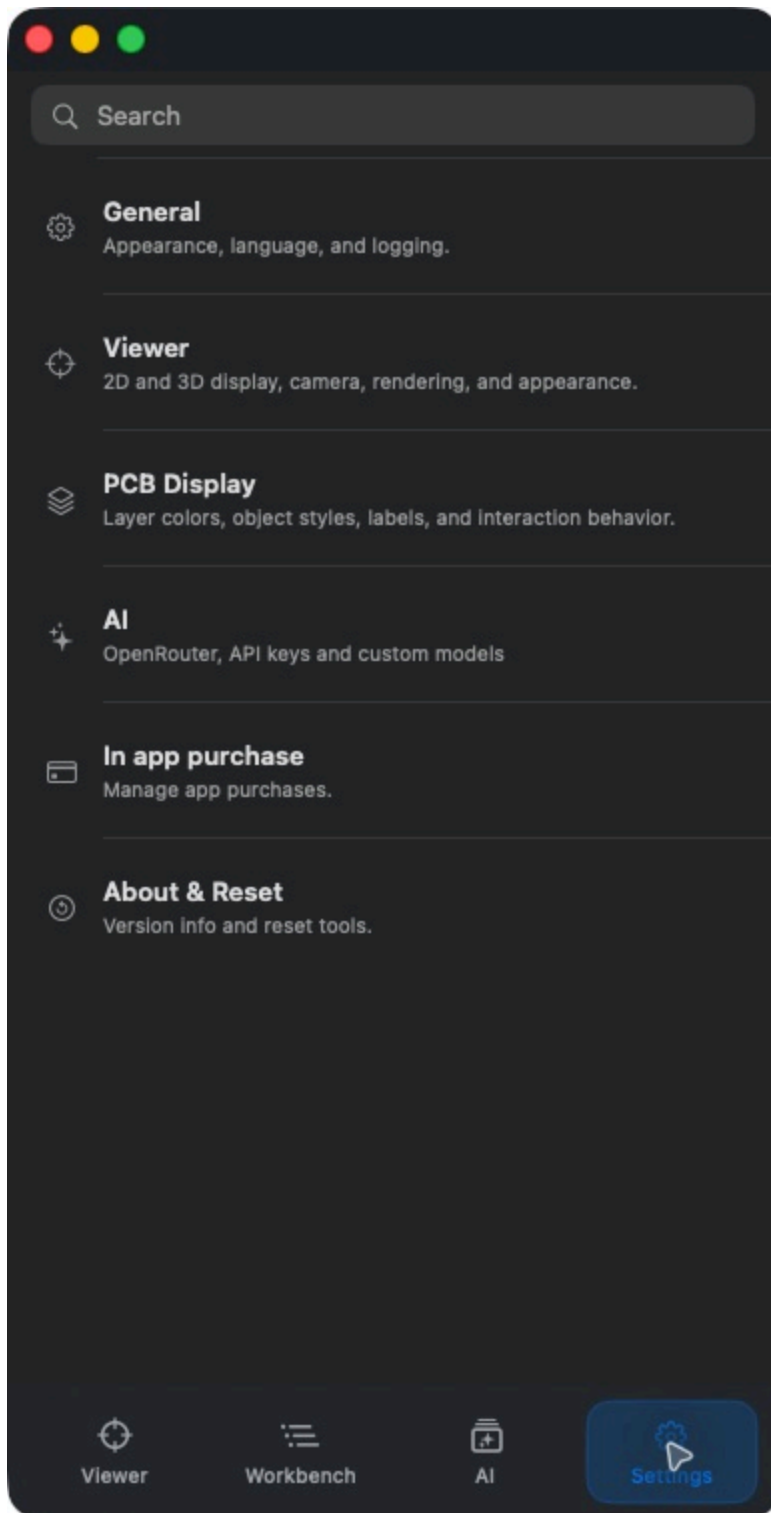
Revision Count

1

Copy

Print

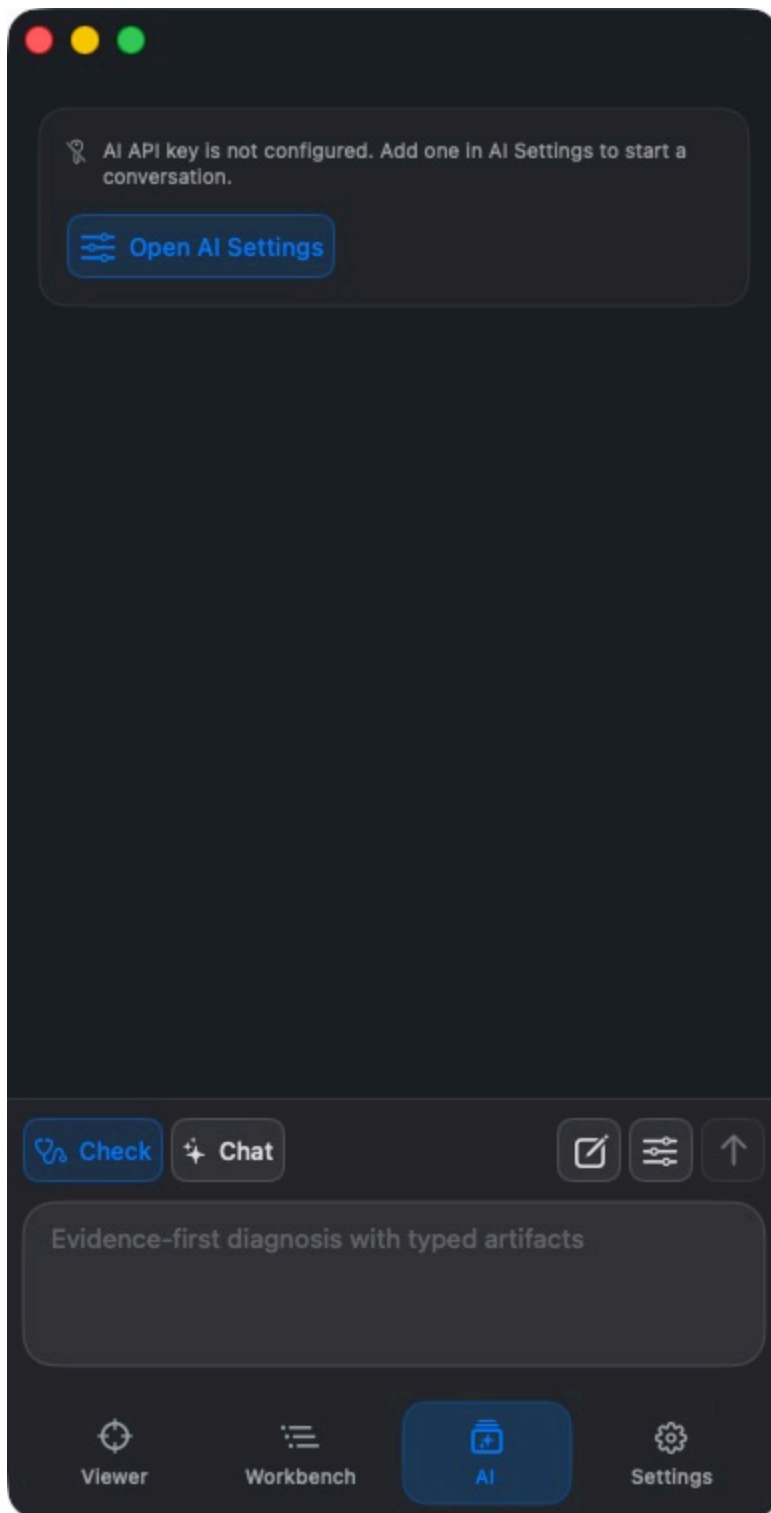
Data



Before using AI

1. Tap the **AI** tab. Without credentials, it shows **Open AI Settings**.

2. In AI settings, configure the service, model, and API key you use.
3. Return to the AI page, choose **Check** or **Chat** for the task, review the current selection and input, then send.



This pass did not configure credentials or send design data to an AI service, so only the unconfigured state was verified. The empty conversation area in the screenshot is not an example of “diagnosis completed.”

Language follows the system language or a language set for the app. General’s Language provides notes; it is not a button that instantly translates the whole app. Terminology preferences affect wording only and do not change design data.

Result

You can find the current settings categories and understand the prompt when AI is not configured.

FAQ

After opening Settings in the narrow shell, the board disappeared?

Settings is shown as the current page. Tap Viewer to return. The wide shell can usually show the settings sidebar and the canvas at the same time.

Does unconfigured AI affect ordinary viewing?

It does not block local viewing and search. AI requests need separate configuration and network conditions.

Last verified

2026-09-11: hands-on on the macOS 1.1.2 local build; other platforms were not retested on device in this pass.

Import failures

Supported platforms and audience

Apple-build users; use this page to distinguish source errors, mismatched paths, and open failures.

Prerequisites

Keep the original input, extension, entry used, and error text.

Steps

1. Confirm whether you used **File** or **Folder**. Folder create requires a valid KiCad project and cannot import an arbitrary manufacturing directory.
2. Multi-sheet schematics should supply a complete project. A single `.kicad_sch` does not automatically fill in external child sheets.
3. Let cloud drive or a file provider download the source locally before you choose the file / directory.
4. For IPC-2581, choose design or manufacturing intent according to the actual use.
5. If the app reports no change, check whether you re-imported the same name, format, and byte content. That can be normal deduplication.
6. Record whether failure happened at file selection, library ingest, or Viewer first-frame preparation. Wait for an in-progress import to finish before trying again.

Symptom	Next step
The file picker cannot select the source	Check the entry, extension, and format coverage

The directory is missing a project file	Provide a complete <code>.kicad_pro</code> project, or use File to import a single board
The document already appears in the library, but opening fails	Keep the document and record the Viewer stage and error
2D opens, but 3D assets are missing	Check models and project dependencies; do not classify this as a total import failure
The canvas is missing key geometry	Record the missing range and sample. Opening successfully is not the same as being complete and correct

Result

The problem is located to source, entry, reading, parsing, or display, which makes reproduction easier.

FAQ

Can changing the extension fix it?

No. Parsing depends on actual content and project structure.

Should intermittent failures be recorded?

Yes. Record the first failure and any retry difference. Do not let one later success overwrite the original error.

Last verified

2026-09-11: checked against the current Library Guide, project hands-on, and source rules. Manufactured error inputs were not created one by one.

Permissions and file access

Supported platforms and audience

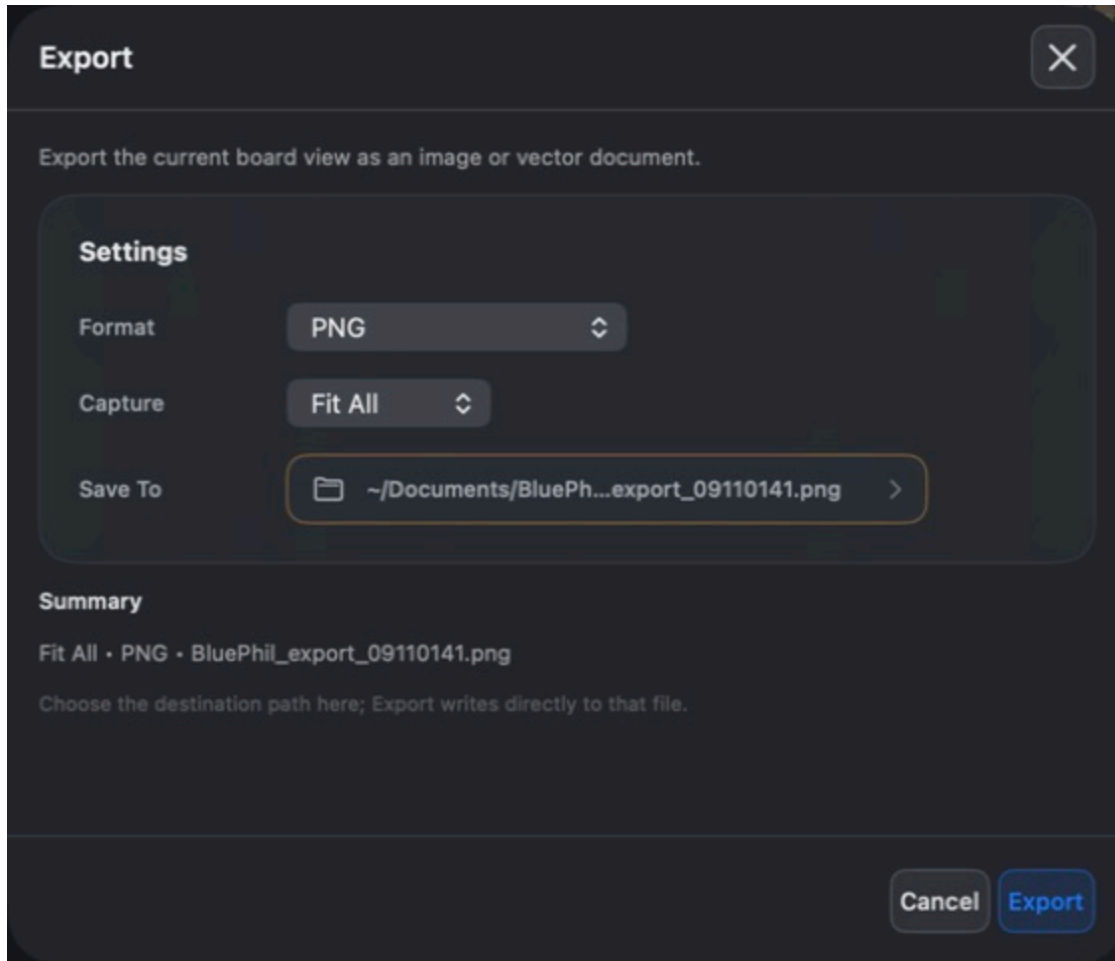
Apple-build users; use this page to debug file picking, export, and photo-save failures.

Prerequisites

Know the failing step, the source or destination directory, and whether a system prompt appeared.

Steps

1. Confirm the input is downloaded, locally readable, and that the project directory includes required dependencies.
2. Re-select the source through the app's system file picker. Do not only type a path the app has no permission to access.
3. For macOS export, choose a writable directory in **Save To**. Even if the configuration page already shows a default path, the first write can still present a system save panel.
4. On iOS / iPadOS, distinguish **PNG → Photos** from **Other Apps** sharing for other files. Photo-add permission is not the same as file-directory permission.
5. On failure, record the original error and try another location that is clearly writable.



The wide shell and narrow shell use the same macOS file-delivery method. Do not mistake the narrow shell for iOS and look for a Photos destination.

Result

You can distinguish a permission problem, an intentional cancel, and an actual export failure.

FAQ

The default path is already shown. Why do I still have to choose a directory?

A suggested path is not the same as the system already granting write permission. Continue after choosing a location in the save panel.

Does cancelling the save panel mean something is broken?

No. Cancel means that file delivery was not completed. You can choose again after returning.

Last verified

2026-09-11: actually chose a directory through the macOS save panel and completed PNG export.
iOS routing was checked in source and not retested on device.

Loading waits and display issues

Supported platforms and audience

Apple-build users; use this page to record stalls while opening, switching, or rendering.

Prerequisites

Keep the app version, device, input size, current layout, and stage text.

Steps

1. Observe whether the stall is importing the source, preparing the first frame, or building 3D. A complete project may process schematic first, then PCB.
2. Watch whether the stage and elapsed time keep updating, and whether cancel responds. Do not use a fixed number of seconds to decide that every board should have finished loading.
3. If loading finished but you cannot find the drawing, return to 2D, use **View → Fit All**, and check Visibility.
4. If panel occlusion or toolbar wrapping appears only in the narrow shell, enlarge the window and compare. Screenshot both layouts; do not record this as an import failure.
5. For a stable stop on the same step, a crash, or missing key geometry, record the smallest reproduction steps and the exact input.

Result

You can distinguish a normal wait, missing source, framing / visibility issues, and a true stall.

FAQ

Can status-bar CPU / GPU numbers be used as a performance conclusion?

No. They are observations of the current frame. Different inputs, proportions, and operations cannot be compared directly.

What if objects are clipped after changing window size?

Use Fit All first. When canvas size changes, the camera's retained view and screenshot bounds change. If buttons or text themselves are occluded, record it as a layout issue.

What does a 3D missing-stackup warning mean?

It means the source stackup information is insufficient, not that loading is stuck. Check the source files and the display warning. Do not treat an approximate board body as real manufacturing parameters.

Last verified

2026-09-11: actually observed project first-frame preparation, 3D, and wide / narrow shell switching. No performance benchmark was run.

Glossary

UI term	Meaning
Gallery / Library	Library home
Document / Revision	A document and one revision under it
Current	Current revision
Wide shell / narrow shell	Choose a side-by-side sidebar or bottom page navigation from the available window layout
Viewer	Workspace page for viewing the canvas or data
2D / 3D / Data	Planar, 3D, and data modes inside Viewer
Project	Project file tree, including source files, libraries, and settings
Workbench	Visibility, filtering, search, and issue panels for the current design context
Visibility	Controls which layers and objects are shown
Selection & Focus	Controls pickable types and overlapping candidates
Highlight & Objects	Browse objects and run locate / highlight
Locate / Highlight / Clear	Locate / highlight / clear

DRC Policy	Design-rule-check policy information
Review Issues / Board Problems	Review issues / import and board-level issues
Split	Dual-canvas layout of PCB and schematic
Cross-probe	Linked locate between precisely related PCB and schematic objects
Quick Estimate	Manufacturing estimate from local rules and input assumptions
Viewport / Fit All	Current viewport / overall extents
Fabrication Package	Fabrication output package
Save check	Check entry before schematic edit / save

Do not treat names such as Selection Filter, Objects, or View Info from older screenshots as the current button path. Look up the matching entry on the current pages.

Last reviewed

2026-09-11.

Smoke path and this pass's record

Supported platforms and audience

For Apple-build manual acceptance. Run it in both the wide shell and the narrow shell. Record device, OS, app version, and sample. A narrow Mac window does not replace a physical mobile device.

Prerequisites

Prepare a KiCad PCB, a project that contains PCB / schematic, and a writable output directory. Use an independent copy for write-back tests.

Steps

1. Switch the library between grid / list, open Information, then open a document.
2. In 2D, zoom, pan, and pick; use Info to read details. In the narrow shell, check expand / collapse and close.
3. In Workbench, check Visibility, Selection & Focus, and Highlight & Objects. Search GND, then Highlight and Clear.
4. Switch to 3D and wait for the board body; switch to Data and check the current revision and estimate.
5. Return to 2D, export PNG, and confirm the file is readable.
6. Open a complete project, switch sheets in Project, search a reference, and check schematic and PCB linked highlighting.
7. Create a demo schematic, open Edit and Symbol library. Full write-back needs a dedicated sample.
8. Repeat navigation while switching wide and narrow shells. Record panel overflow, occlusion, or lost operations.

Result of this pass: 2026-09-11

Item	Result
Native macOS build	Succeeded; 1.1.2, local source c3f7078c7
Library layout, Information	Exercised
PCB picking, Info, net search and highlight	Exercised
Wide-shell / narrow-shell navigation	Exercised; display issues found, see capability boundaries
3D, Data	Opened; BluePhil 3D showed a missing-stackup warning
PNG	Actually exported and the file was checked
Project sheet switching, RR1 search, and cross-probing	Exercised
New schematic	Created HandbookDemo and opened the edit panel
PCB / schematic edit-save closed loop	Not completed; this pass did not rewrite an existing design
Full formats, Board Diff, store purchase, live AI responses	Not verified
iOS / iPadOS / Android devices	Not verified

FAQ

Can unverified items still be called an overall pass?

No. Write passed paths and unverified scope separately. A visible page is not the same as every feature passing.

Result

You get a manual operation record with an explicit scope, instead of checking every box by default.

Last verified

2026-09-11.

Format and feature coverage

Import entries

Source	Entry	Notes
DSN, KiCad PCB	File	Design files
Standalone KiCad schematic	File	Does not reference missing child sheets
Altium PCB or library	File	This pass verified that Library Guide lists this source; files were not tested one by one
IPC-2581 XML	File	Requires choosing design / manufacturing intent
KiCad, ODB++, Gerber / Drill archives	File	Depends on internal structure and package completeness
KiCad project directory	Folder	Needs a valid <code>.kicad_pro</code>
Manufacturing data directory	Manufacturing-revision entry when applicable on an existing document	Do not mix this with Folder create for a KiCad project
SES	No regular library import entry	Do not infer an import button from older Diff material

Output and platforms

Current option	Category	macOS	iOS / iPadOS
PNG	2D image	Files	Photos
PDF	2D document	Files	Other Apps
KiCad / DSN	Original source or conversion	Files	Other Apps
PCB Binary	Binary board file	Files	Other Apps
Gerber / Excellon / Fabrication Package	Fabrication output	Files	Other Apps
ODB++ / IPC-2581	Fabrication output or the matching original-source entry	Files	Other Apps

Options change with source and session capability. Range rules for board files, fabrication outputs, and screenshots differ; see [Export and sharing](#). A format listed in the menu does not guarantee that every input can convert completely.

Workspace coverage

- **PCB:** 2D, Workbench, Data, and 3D when the required geometry is present.
- **Schematic:** 2D, Sheets, Search, Selection / Details, Problems; supported sources can enter Edit.
- **Complete project:** Project source tree, PCB / schematic dual canvases, and precise linked jumps.
- **Wide shell / narrow shell:** change page placement and canvas arrangement, not the output platform.

Last verified

2026-09-11: hands-on verification of opening KiCad PCB / project and PNG output. Remaining import items come from the current app Library Guide; output items come from menu and source-routing review. A full import / export matrix was not completed.

Regression checklist

This is the next-pass acceptance list. Unchecked items are not defects, and they do not mean this pass already passed them.

Layout

- ✓ Wide shell: Project / Workbench / AI / Settings can be used beside the canvas.
- ✓ Narrow shell: bottom Viewer and other pages can switch, and project documents show Project.
- ✓ After resizing the window, selection, current sheet, and unsaved state are not lost unexpectedly.
- ✓ Info is readable in right-hand, bottom, and full-height modes, and the title does not overlap window buttons.
- ✓ After the toolbar wraps, buttons, error text, and sheets are not clipped.

Data and viewing

- ✓ File, Folder, and new schematic work according to input type.
- ✓ Repeat import can distinguish no change from a new revision.
- ✓ Grid, list, Information, copy, and revision switching work.
- ✓ PCB Visibility and Selection & Focus each take effect.
- ✓ Highlight & Objects search, locate, highlight, and clear are correct.
- ✓ Project sheet switching, Search scope, object details, and cross-probing are correct.
- ✓ 3D board body and model-issue notes are consistent, and Data matches the current revision.

Editing and delivery

- ✓ On a copy, verify PCB edit preview, confirm, cancel, Undo, Save, and reopen.

- ✓ Accept schematic create, symbol library, edit, save check, save, and reopen item by item.
- ✓ Uneditable sources give a complete, readable reason and do not leave a half-saved state.
- ✓ PNG / PDF Viewport and Fit All output are correct.
- ✓ Verify original-source, converted, and fabrication outputs by source, then reopen and inspect.
- ✓ Verify macOS Files and iOS Photos / Other Apps separately.
- ✓ Accept purchase / restore paths separately when a store build lacks entitlement.
- ✓ Accept Board Diff direction, layer pairing, filters, reopen, and output separately.
- ✓ Accept the unconfigured AI state and a real service response separately.

Record template

Version / source, device / OS, wide or narrow shell, input sample, steps, expected, actual, screenshots, whether it reproduces, whether the design was modified, items not yet verified.

Last reviewed

2026-09-11: the list was compiled from this pass's UI and source; it does not mean every item was executed.

Capability boundaries and known issues

Current boundaries

- **Platform and build:** screenshots in this pass are macOS 1.1.2 Debug / Public Beta. They cannot prove store purchase state, Android UI, or iPhone device behavior.
- **Export:** start from Viewer's 2D. Opening configuration is not the same as successful format conversion or an already-unlocked entitlement.
- **3D:** depends on board-level data and model assets. A visible board body does not mean models and stackup are fully real. Watch missing-source warnings.
- **Schematic editing:** create-project and Edit entries exist. Supported range is constrained by the current source and save check. Not every viewable schematic is editable.
- **Cross-probing:** needs precise project relationships. If there is no unique target, names are not guessed by similarity.
- **Estimate:** a local estimate, not a live vendor quote or an order.
- **AI:** needs a service, model, credentials, and network. This pass did not send a real AI request.
- **Language:** follows system or app language settings and may require a restart.
- **Revision comparison:** a separate feature. Being able to import a format does not mean that format can be Diffed.

macOS narrow-shell issues found in this pass

Symptom	Current advice
When Info expands to full height, the left title overlaps window buttons	Collapse to the bottom panel, or enlarge the window
The new-schematic Edit sheet overflowed on the left in narrow-window screenshots	Use the edit panel in the wide shell; still confirm screen-edge behavior manually

After some schematic edits are refused, the source ordering error is truncated on the toolbar

Enlarge the window and record the error; do not skip the save check

These are display or interaction issues observed in this pass. Do not package them as normal product features. A readable wide-shell state also does not mean the issue is fixed.

Last verified

2026-09-11. The issues above were not reproduced on mobile devices; do not infer that iOS / Android have the same defects.

Handbook changelog

v2026.09.11.1

- Re-operated the macOS 1.1.2 local build and captured wide-shell and narrow-shell screenshots.
- Rewrote Quick Start, Viewer, Workbench, editing, export, settings, and troubleshooting against the live UI.
- Updated Selection & Focus, Highlight & Objects, schematic create / edit, cross-probing, and fabrication export entries.
- Clarified the source of narrow-shell screenshots, the unconfigured AI state, and unverified capabilities so that a screenshot or menu item is not treated as full validation.
- Recorded display issues for narrow-shell Info, the schematic edit sheet, and error text.

This is a handbook revision, not an app release announcement. Other locales were aligned to this Simplified Chinese structure.

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Added Android installation channels, plus Google Play, official APK, and App Store download entries.