

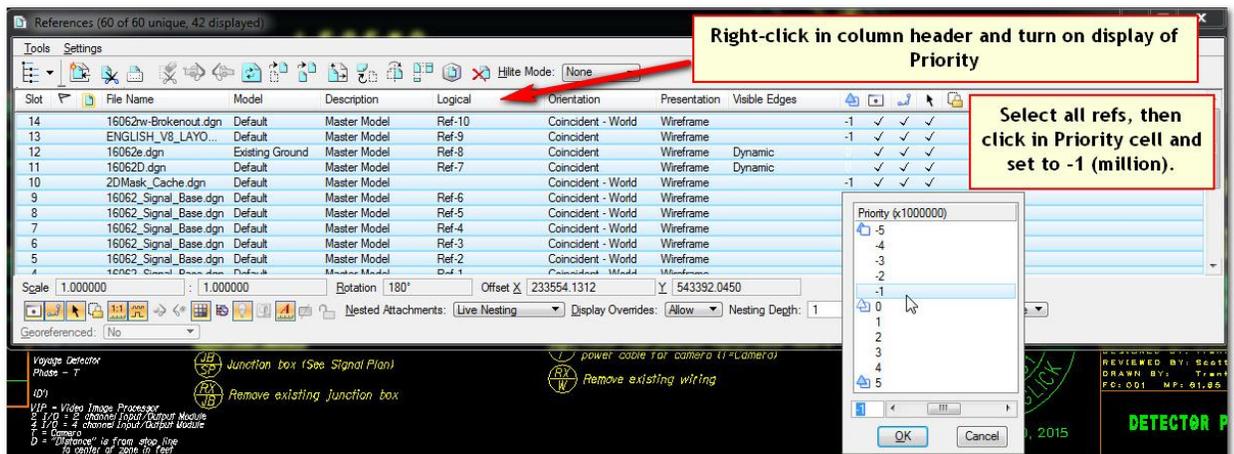
Procedure to Apply a Background Mask between Elements in the Active File and Referenced Elements

Applying the mask in the active file has several benefits over just the use of a pen table. The masking element can be applied around any type of element and any shape of cell; the masking effect is visible in the active design file without waiting for a PDF or print to be produced; and the procedure does not require the placement of fences or executing a command from the Reference dialog.

Procedure Overview: Background masking is performed by placing a shape with particular attributes around the area to be masked. So that the masking shape may be visually located by the designer, the shapes are outlined in a dark cyan color. The masking elements have an element priority of -100, which will place them beneath other graphics in the active design file with priority set to 0. 2D reference file graphics will have a priority of -1000000 and will be obscured by the masking element. A section has been added to the plans.tbl pen table to change the outline color to the background color so it does not print.

Set up

1. **Work in a 2D file (model)** – this procedure uses Priority and does not function in 3D models. You may reference in graphics from 2D or 3D drawings.
2. The Reference **Priority** must be set to -1 for all displayed 2D reference attachments in the References dialog.



3. Set the Reference **Settings>Update Sequence...** so that the Active Design File is at the bottom of the list.
4. Save the design file settings; **File>Save Settings.**
5. Attach 2DMask_cache.dgn from the ...odot_space\V8i\standards\ref\ folder using the Standard>Top orientation and locate it near the plan sheets.

Working With the Masking Elements

Copy a masking shape from the cache file and place around your elements drawn in the active 2D model. You will see the masking occur in the view window; elements drawn in the active 2D model will be seen and elements in reference files beneath the masking element will not be seen.

MicroStation commands such as Copy, Modify, Rotate, or Insert Vertex may be used to modify the area that is masked.

When printing or creating PDFs, **use the plans.tbl pen table or a "Plans" print style** to cause the masking element outline to be drawn with the background color and not appear.