

QAD / Quick Start Tutorial

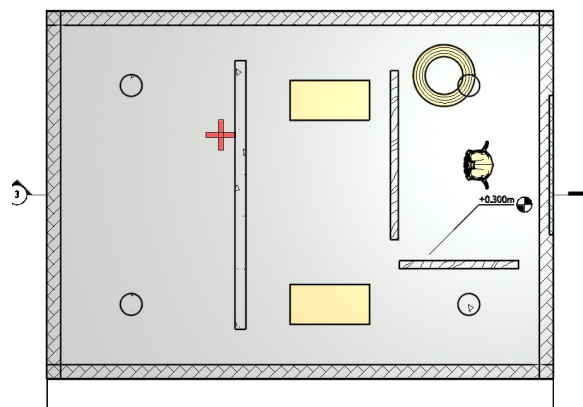
WORK IN PROGRESS | Development build 5.3.0. Features and interface may change. Reviewed 8 October 2026.

Make a plan and a simple PDF sheet

Allow around 15-25 minutes once installation is complete.

Before you start

Use a new Blender scene with a cube as a practice model. Save it as qad-practice.blend in a new folder. This short exercise uses a viewport view to avoid needing an architectural sample file.



Drawing example from the earlier Datum demonstration: plan, dimensions and section markers.

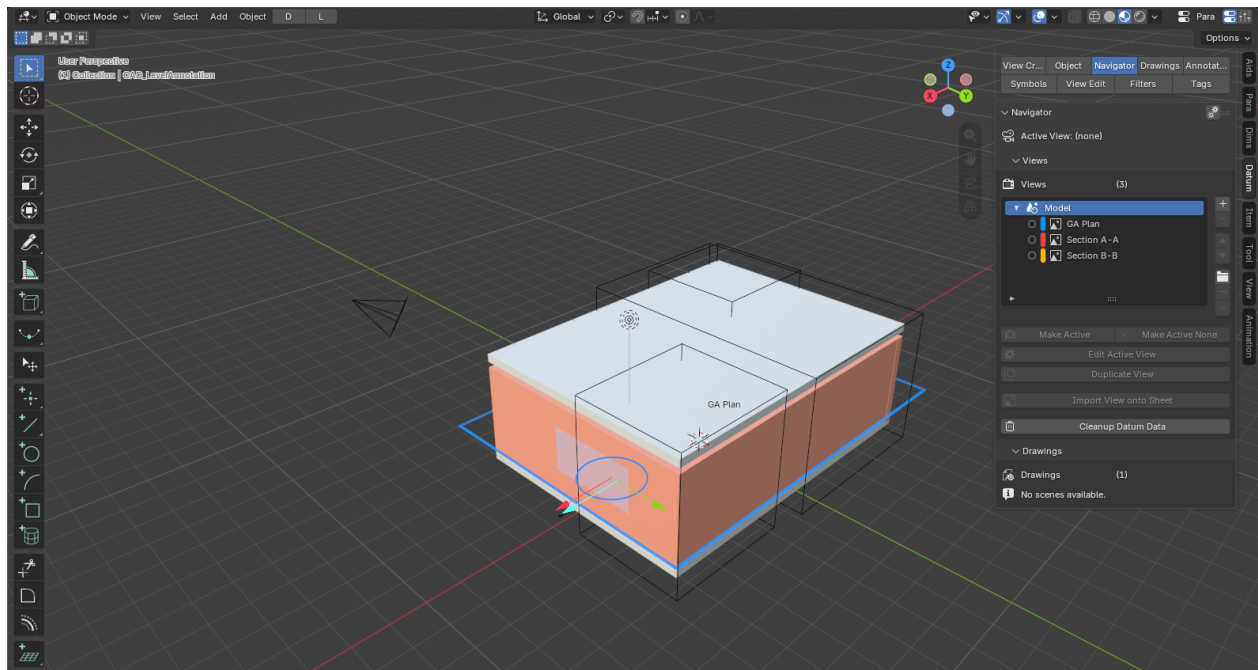
1 / Set up the model

Select the cube. Set an orthographic top view (Numpad 7), then frame the object. In QAD, choose Views and find the View Create controls.

2 / Create a named view

Choose Create View From Viewport. Name it Practice Plan, choose a scale such as 1:20, and confirm. Inspect the frame and use View Edit to include the complete cube.

Build and inspect



Earlier Datum demonstration: the source model and view frames.

3 / Generate the view image

Select Practice Plan in the Views list. Run Create View Image in the view controls. Confirm an image is generated and the cube is visible. Save the .blend again.

4 / Compose a sheet

Use Add Drawing in the Navigator to create a named Drawing scene. Under Sheets, choose a paper size and Set Camera & Resolution. Use Create Sheet Layout, then Place a View and choose Practice Plan. Keep Create View Title enabled. Move the placed view within the border.

Checkpoint

Inspect the result before continuing. If it differs from the expected operation, undo the last change and repeat with a simpler selection. Save a practice checkpoint once it looks correct.

Finish and verify

5 / Publish a PDF

With the Drawing scene active, open Publish and choose Publish This Drawing. Keep PDF enabled and choose a writable output location. Open the PDF and check the paper, title and that the view is not clipped.

6 / Check an update

Return to the model and change the cube. In Publish, use Update to refresh stale views. Open the Drawing again and Publish This Drawing. Confirm the new PDF shows the change, then save the .blend.

Your completion checklist

- A named source view exists in the Navigator.
- The sheet contains a view at its intended printed size.
- The exported PDF opens and reflects the latest model change.

If something is not right

Blank view

Check the view frame, clipping, hidden objects and active model scene; regenerate the image.

Cannot place a view

Make a Drawing scene active. Place a View can generate a missing view image; inspect any reported broken link.

Old drawing content

Use Publish > Update and inspect the status. Resolve missing or broken links before publishing again.

Guide scope: instructions were checked against the supplied source and documentation. This is not a certification that every exercise has been run on every build. Development images and earlier captures are labelled.