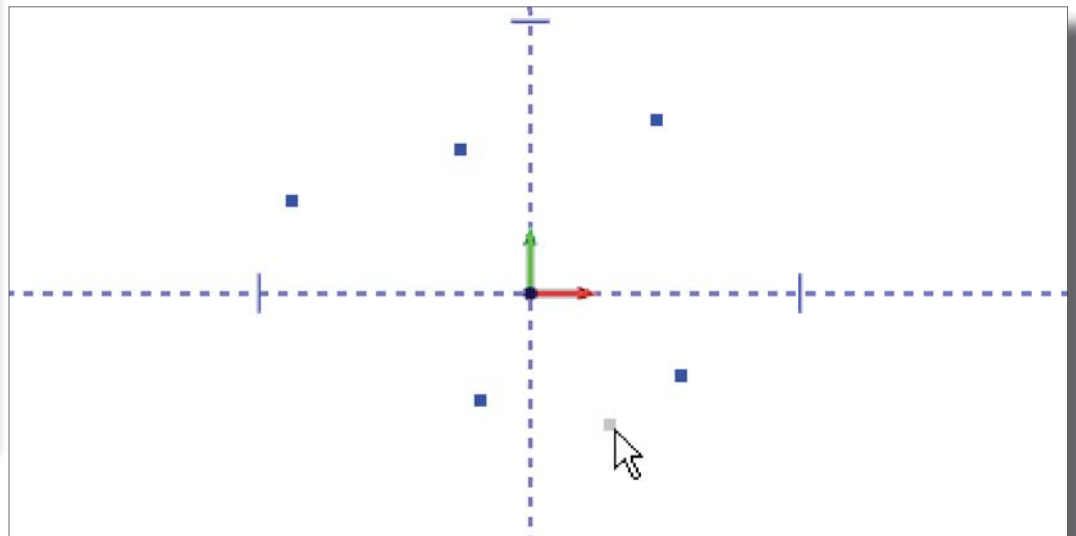
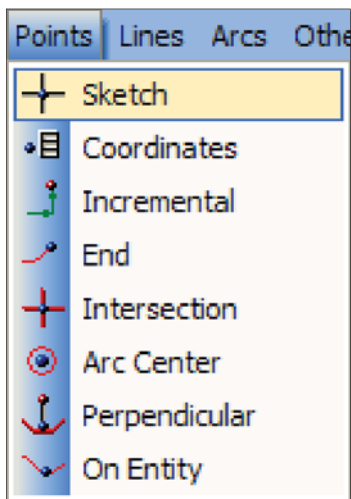



FAQ #9: How do I make a point pattern?

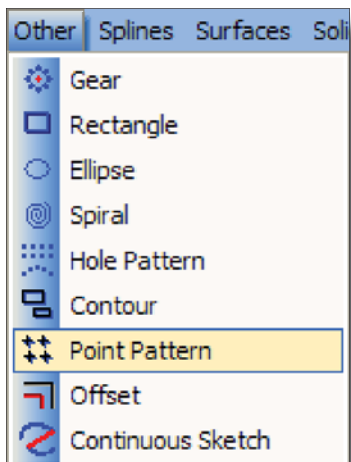
Point patterns can make selecting large numbers of drill positions much easier. When it comes time to set up a drilling feature in the CAM tree, the geometry selection may consist of a single mouse click rather than possibly chasing points down in a complicated drawing. Also, if the pattern needs to be moved, only the pattern itself need be selected rather than each individual point.

To create a point pattern, follow these simple steps. If there are already points on the screen, skip to **Step 2**.

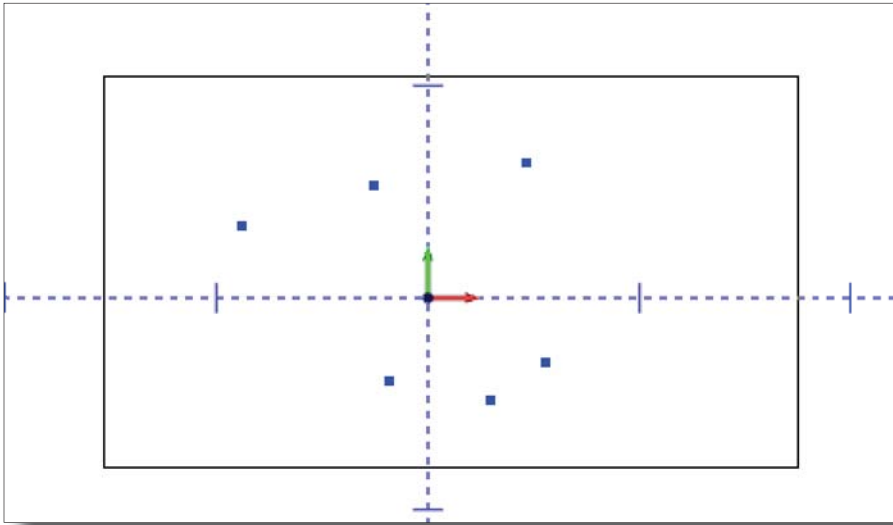
Step 1. Click on **Points** in the main menu, then on **Sketch**. Click a few times in the **Workspace** to get some points drawn.



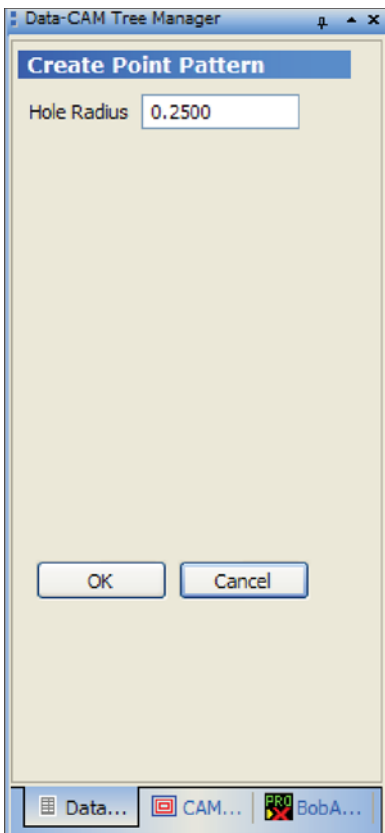
Step 2. Click on the **Point Pattern** icon  on the toolbar, or click on **Other** in the main menu and choose **Point Pattern**.



Highlight the required points in the drawing by dragging a box around them as in this example or by holding the Shift key down and selecting them individually. For large numbers of points interspersed throughout a drawing, it may be wise to set the **Selection Mask** (as in **FAQ #1**) so that they can easily be selected all at once.



In the **Data-CAM Tree Manager** to the left, the dialog for **Create Point Pattern** will be displayed. In it is only one parameter, **Hole Radius**. The **Point Pattern** function will draw a circle around each point in the pattern with this radius. This is for display purposes only; it's not a real circle that can be selected, but it can help determine if all of the required points are included in the pattern or if there are extras. It also helps if the radius of the circles are the same as the radius of any holes that may be drilled so that if the circles overlap, the points can be shown to be too close together to drill. For this example it was left at 0.2500 to show a .5" diameter circle around each point.



Step 3. To finish the function, right-click in the **Workspace** and choose **OK**. The pattern will be created and the circles drawn around each point. Click **Cancel** in the dialog to quit.

