

Inventor 2014 – Merge Material Library From Previous Release

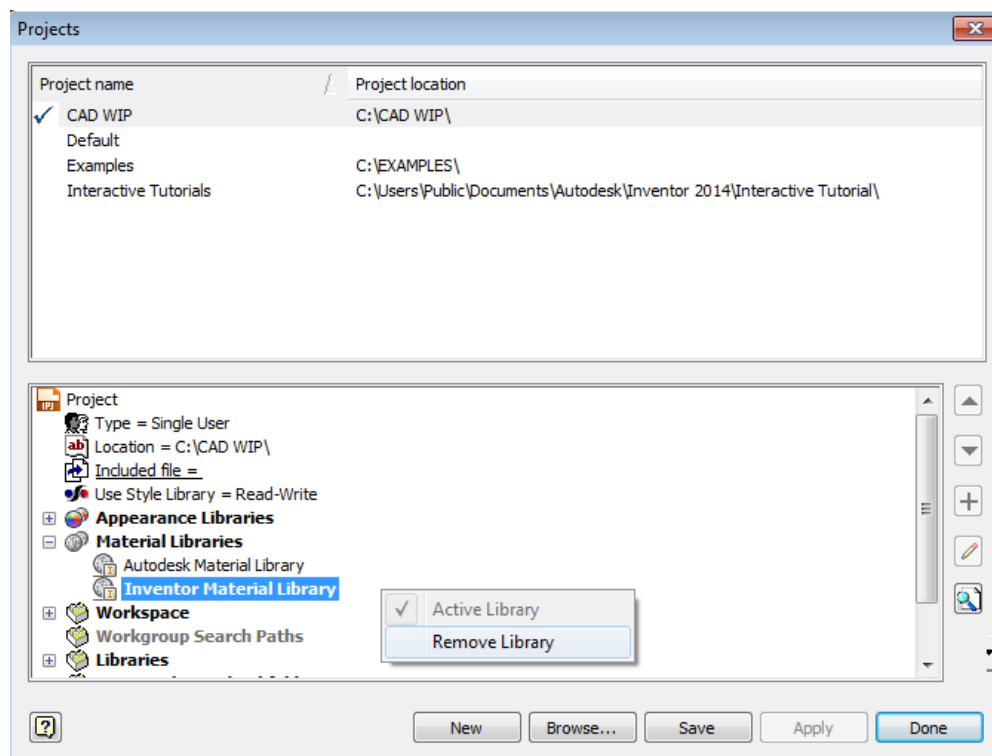
Inventor 2014 (onwards)

New releases of Inventor often contain new materials and appearances as part of the default installed library. With materials and appearances being contained in .adsklib library files since Inventor 2013, Inventor users need to decide whether to use the default installed InventorMaterialLibrary.adsklib file (to add their own materials to) or create their own company library (eg, CadlineMaterials.adsklib, and then they may wish to merge their current company library with the newly installed libraries for the new release (in order to benefit from any new materials that may be present). This White Paper details how to take an old .adsklib file and extract the custom materials into the newly installed Inventor Material Library. This technique can be varied depending on desired result but can be used as a working starting point.

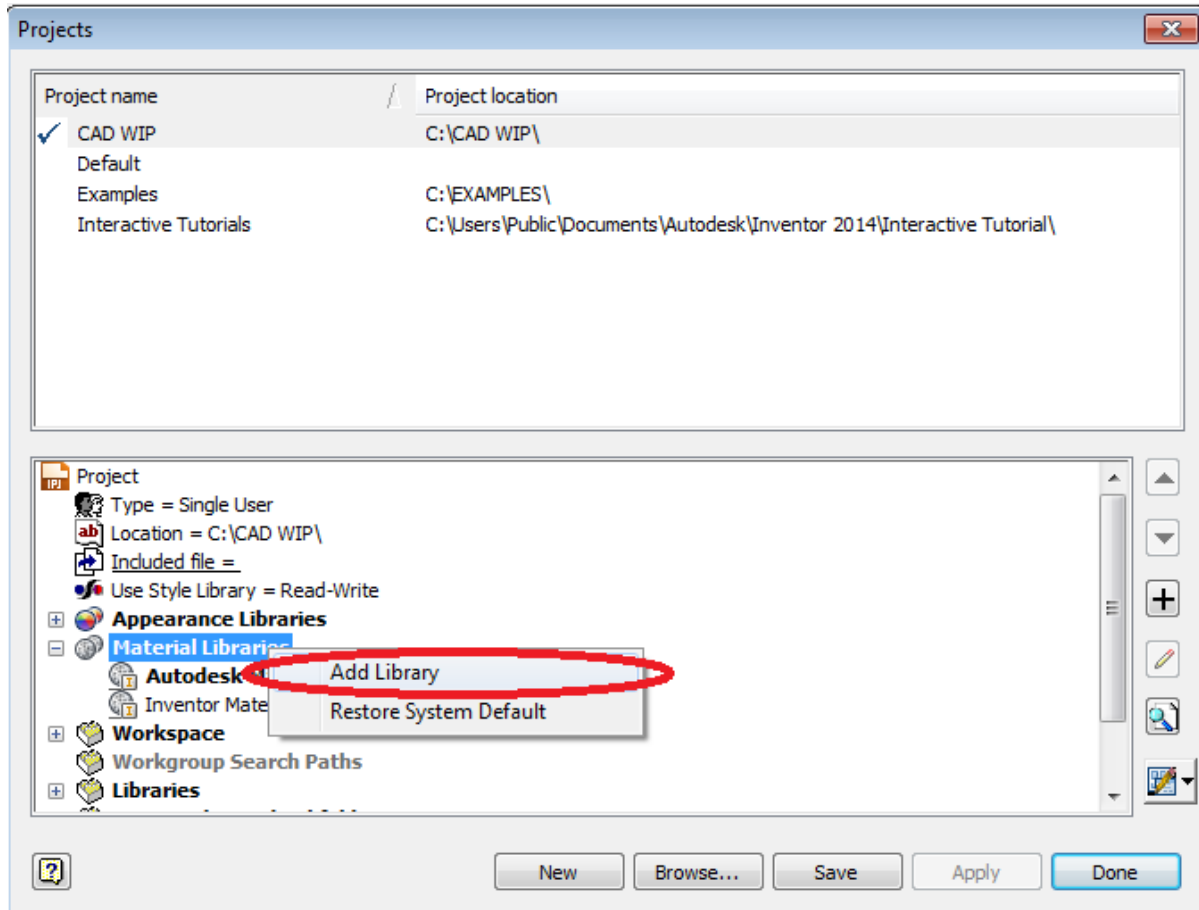
Note: This White Paper only covers materials but appearances can be merged using a similar technique.

Process:

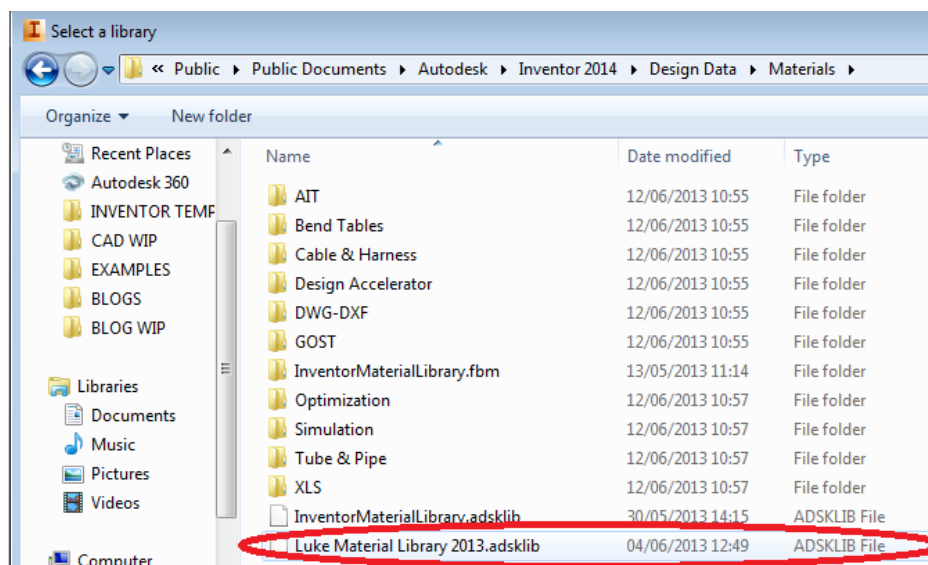
- 1) Take a copy of your 2013 adsklib file. Rename it and put it in your 2014 Design data\Materials folder. NOTE: I have found it best to not use spaces in the name of the adsklib file.
- 2) In the Inventor projects dialogue box, right click on the Inventor Material Library and remove it.



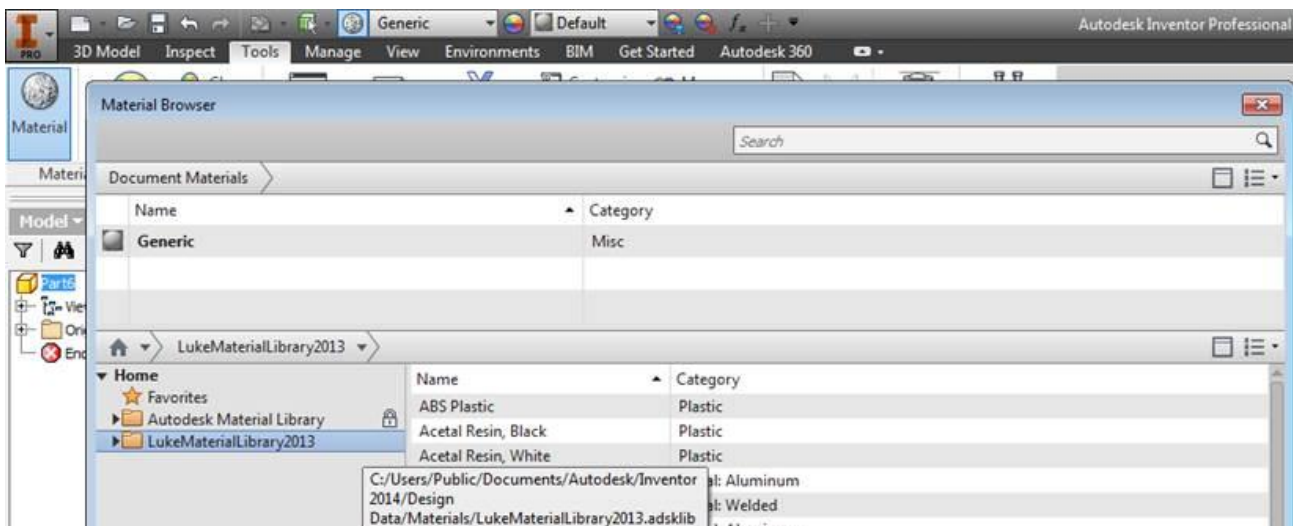
- 3) In the Inventor projects dialogue box, right click on Material Libraries for your company project file and hit 'Add Library'



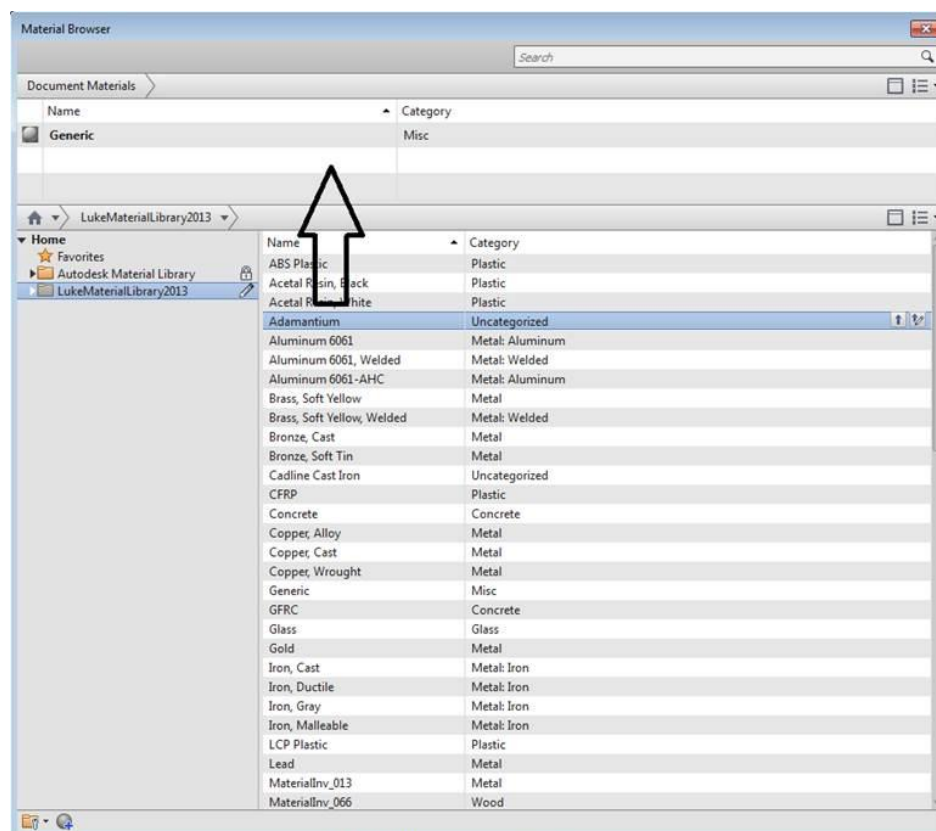
- 4) Find your 2013 library adsklib file and add it.



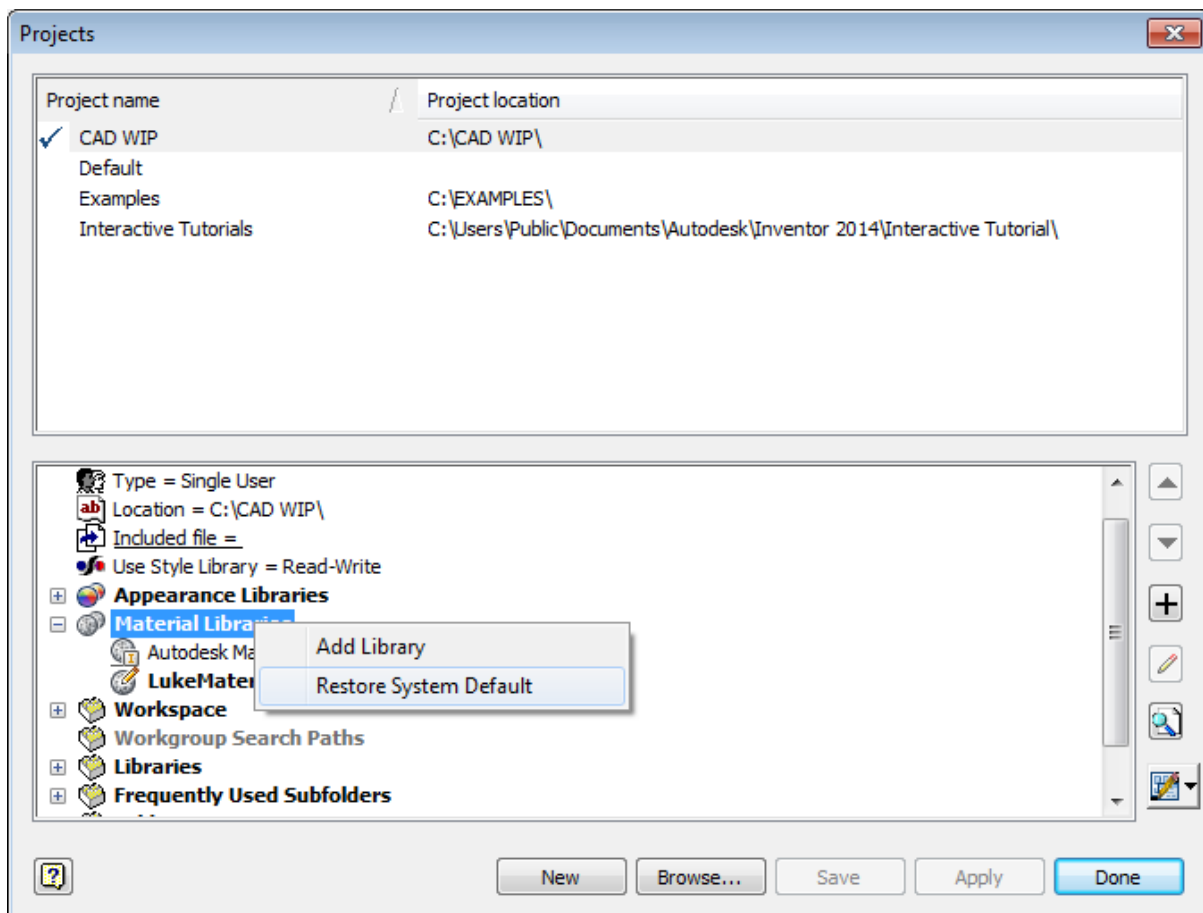
- 5) Now make your material library the default library in the project file by double clicking on it
- 6) Save and close the project file and create a new part in Inventor.
- 7) Open the material browser and confirm that your copied material library is present



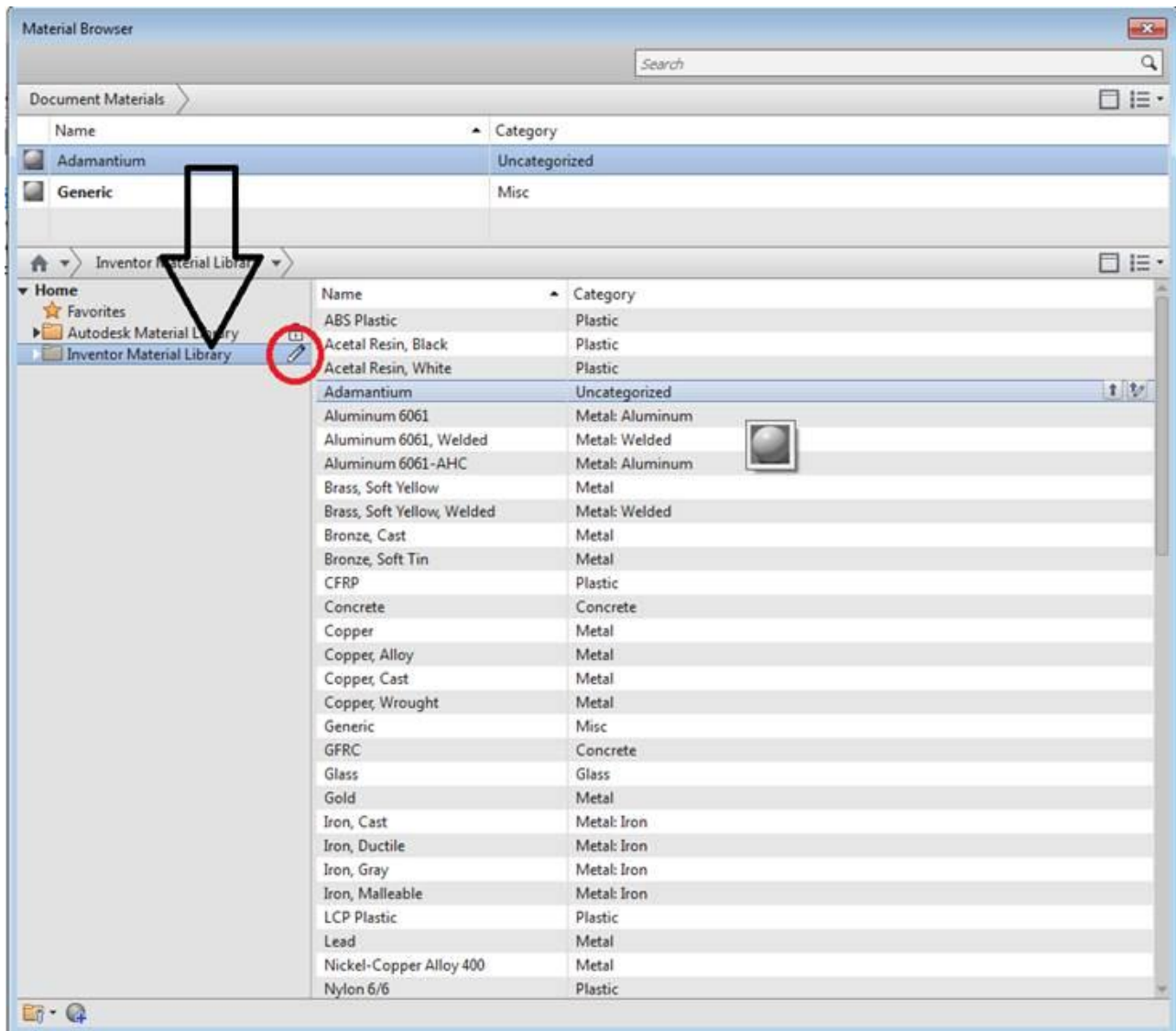
- 8) Then drag and drop any materials you want into the document materials section



- 9) Save the document (with the materials still in it) – call it ‘My Materials.ipt’ if you like.
- 10) Then close the document. Open the projects dialogue and restore system default libraries. Then right click and also remove your old library, and save and close the project file.



- 11) Close and restart Inventor (This shouldn't be required, but you may receive an error with the Inventor Material Library if you do not restart Inventor at this point).
- 12) Open your ‘My Materials.ipt’ file.
- 13) Copy the materials by dragging and dropping out of the Document Materials into the Inventor Material Library. **MAKE SURE** you right click on it to ‘release’ it after you have made the changes. (The pencil symbol shows until the library is released).



Hopefully this works fine for you. However, for future releases you may wish to consider setting up a separate company material library in order to ease the process of material migration!

Note: As an alternative to this method you can add your chosen materials into the 'Favorites' library.

Also Note: Error messages such as this should be avoided by using this method. If you still receive a message like this note that you cannot point to any .adsklib file and a copy of that file at the same time with the project file. Remove one library, restart Inventor and reopen the Material Browser.

