

Hint #6 – Adding a Custom Style

Some people have called Crate Pro a 'Job Folder on Steroids!' and that's probably a good analogy. Crate Pro is designed to help you keep everything easy to store and easy to find. Since custom crating is just that... custom, we know Crate Pro can't do everything. We try to make it do as much as possible but there will be times when you have a crate style or other wood product that Crate Pro can't design.

This is why we have a Custom style. Custom styles can be used in the following situations:

- 1) You're just starting with Crate Pro and don't want to recreate designs just to add them to the database.
- 2) You have a unique product such as a cable spool or something else that you sell.
- 3) You have a unique design that Crate Pro cannot create.
- 4) You're provided with a finished and complex design from a customer and don't need Crate Pro to design it.

In these situations you can select Custom from the Style Selection List. This is where you would select a style if you were designing a Crate Pro crate. This Custom style will create a (nearly) blank design record that can be tracked just like any other design. You can also make a Custom design part of a job.

If this is a custom item you are making, you can use the Other Packing Items list to manually build a material list. This will calculate the material costs for you and make a pretty good guess at cutting times but you'll likely have to adjust the final time associated with this item.

If you have any CAD drawings, spreadsheets or any other type of documents on this item you can use the Attachments tab to attach them to this design number. This is where Crate Pro works just like a job folder. What's better than a job folder though is you can open these attached documents right from Crate Pro, make changes to them in their parent application then close them and the changes are all automatically updated in this record.

If you have any digital photos of the item, you can add them under the Pictures tab. This works similarly to the Attachments feature but it allows you to view and print the photos (either one or four photos to a page) on a sheet that includes the critical data for the record.

Using this Custom design assures you can store, find, duplicate and calculate everything involved in your crating business. Once you get used to using it, you'll see Crate Pro is even a more powerful business tool than you thought before.