

## Re: PCB design software for Mac?

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- *From:* "no-spam2@xxxxxxxx" <no-spam2@xxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* 3 Oct 2006 04:08:14 -0700
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DJ Delorie wrote:

zwsdotcom@xxxxxxxx writes:

IMHO, working with drawing packages and the open-source offerings to hand is merely wasting effort that would be better spent learning how to do the basics in a real CAD package.

Er, gEDA's PCB is open source, and produces perfectly valid gerber files as output.

Please don't disparage "open source" en masse. If you have complaints about specific packages, fine, but lumping them all in a "broken" category does a disservice to us all.

I've had a look at a few more software packages now, and the open source ones may be fine, but to the average Mac user, delving into compiling, command-line installations and such is a bit off-putting to say the least. I believe most Mac users (and Windows users as well of course), are spoiled by software that is as simple to install as download it, then double-click to install. All self-explanatory.

CADsoft Eagle light: a little cumbersome to install, but by following the instructions I managed to install it and give it a try. However, as JeffM mentions, people usually mention its counter-intuitive user interface, which is what comes to mind here. It's very Mac-unlike and seems a tad user-unfriendly.

kiCAD: this one is a puzzle!

I've downloaded and installed it here, but can't figure out how to run it. There's the usual myriad of folders within folders (typical UNIX/Linux style), but having found a folder named "MacOSX" I did find several icons which looked like applications, one of them being named "kicad" which I double-clicked resulting in MacOS classic starting, but then nothing!

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There's no information about the Mac version at the kiCAD site ([http://www.lis.inpg.fr/realise\\_au\\_lis/kicad/index.html](http://www.lis.inpg.fr/realise_au_lis/kicad/index.html)), although Google helped me locate a Mac download here: <http://www.japina.eu/> Alas, no instructions to be found, so I think this one is a timewaster for the Mac platform at least.