

Chartool for Excel XY Scatter Charts

Here's what Chartool does for Excel's xy scatter charts:

- Zoom & Pan With the Mouse or keyboard
- Versatile Cursor Readout using the Mouse
- Copy/Paste for Points and Axis Scales
- Label points with values & digitize point values to worksheet cells
- Edit Chart Series Formats for All Series in One or More Charts 
- Square up x and y axes (i.e. so a circle looks like a circle)

Once you become aware of what Chartool can do, using it should be intuitive.

Installation & Removal

Put Chartool.xla anywhere on your hard drive and open it. The Chartool toolbar will appear. Close Excel. In Excel 2007/2010 the toolbar is on the Add-Ins Ribbon.

Every time you open Excel, the Chartool toolbar should be there, ready for use. However, the Chartool addin won't actually be opened by Excel until you click one of its buttons.

If you ever move or rename the Chartool.xla file, just open it again manually to reinstall it.

To remove Chartool completely, delete the file, open Excel and delete the toolbar (Tools/Customize/Toolbars, select Chartool, press the Delete button), close Excel.



Chartool Cursor Mode

...is either "on" or "off".

To start cursor mode, first select a chart, then do either of the following:

- a) Click the Initialize button  on the Chartool toolbar, or
- b) Use a right mouse click on either the ChartArea or PlotArea, and select the Chartool command (Excel 2003 only. No right click menu in Excel 2007/2010).

The toolbar button becomes "pressed" when cursor mode is active, and the status bar shows xy coordinates.

To stop cursor mode, do any of the following:

- a) Repeat action a) or b) from above, or
- b) Press Escape until the status bar display returns to normal, or
- c) Deselect the chart, for example by clicking anywhere outside the chart.

The toolbar button becomes "unpressed" when cursor mode exits.

Using Cursor mode

When editing a chart in Excel, it is possible to have nothing selected inside the chart, or select one chart series, or select one point on a chart series.

Cursor Readout in the Status Bar.

- a) **Free Mode** - If neither a Series nor single data point is selected, read out the location of the mouse pointer in chart units (see note below about precision errors).

- b) **Series Mode** - With a Series selected, readout the coordinates of a tracking crosshair cursor that stays on the series. This feature works with both straight lines between points and Excel's smooth curve option.
- c) **Point Mode** - With a single data point selected, readout the xy values of the data point.

You can also use the keyboard to move from point to point along the selected series. Pressing one of the following keys will do this, and will switch from **Series Mode** to **Point Mode** if necessary.

Left/Right arrow keys	move one point at a time.
Shift+Left/Right	moves 3 points at a time
Shift+Control+Left/Right	moves 10 points at a time
Shift+Alt+Left/Right	moves 30 points at a time
Home/End	moves to the first/last points of the series
Control+Left/Right	moves to the next peak

Zoom/Pan Scale Control

- a) **Zoom** – Click the mouse with Control held down to start drawing a "Zoom" rectangle, release the control key, click again when done sizing (in Excel 2007 only, press the Escape key to stop resizing the rectangle). Click on the rectangle with the left mouse button to show a popup menu with zoom commands, or press escape to cancel. To move or resize the rectangle after it is drawn, first right-click on it, then left-click on it.
- b) **Pan** - Click the mouse once with Alt held down to start panning mode with the mouse. Click again to accept the pan, or press escape to cancel the pan. Panning can also be done using the combination Control-arrow keys (Control plus up/down/left/right arrow keys).
- c) **Control-A** will autoscale either one or both axes, depending on what's selected.
- d) **Control-Z** will undo the last zoom or pan scale operation.
- e) **Z** and **z** will zoom in an out 50%, centered at the mouse pointer.

Copy/Paste

Copy (Control-C)

- a) xy coordinates which are currently displayed in the statusbar (copied as text, x tab y).
- b) All scale properties of the currently selected axis.
- c) All scale properties of both axes whenever the PlotArea is selected.

Paste (Control-V)

- a) paste xy coordinates as text in standard clipboard fashion.
- b) when a single axis is selected and a single axis is on the clipboard, paste it.
- c) when a single axis is selected but both x and y axes are on the clipboard, paste whichever matches the selection.
- d) when the PlotArea is selected and a single axis is on the clipboard, paste it onto both axes.
- e) when the PlotArea is selected and both x and y axes are on the clipboard, paste both (x to x, y to y).

Note: Axis properties consist of values for max & min for major & minor, and their autoscale settings.

Note: Chartool uses the windows clipboard for points, but it's own internal clipboard for axis scales.

Note: You can use the Copy/Paste feature to copy axis scales from one chart to another chart.

Labeling or Digitizing Chart Points

- a) **Control-L** for labeling or digitizing points.
Point Mode - this hotkey will label the point first with its y value, then its x value, and then both x,y values (i.e. like a toggle)
Free Mode - the x,y coordinates of the mouse will be placed in worksheet cells at the cell location indicated in the statusbar. The starting cell will be whatever worksheet cell was selected prior to entering Chartool.

Series Mode - the x,y coordinates of the crosshair will be placed in worksheet cells at the cell location indicated in the statusbar.

b) **Control-D** will clear the cell contents of the last digitized point.

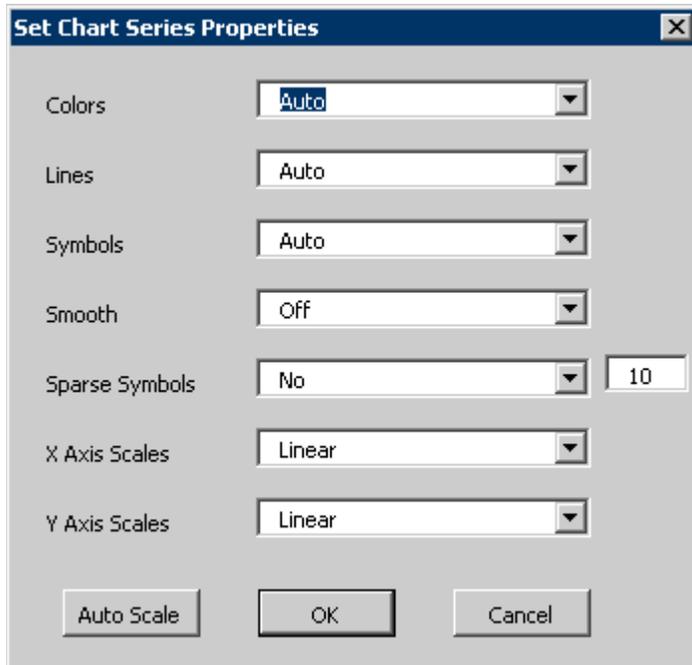
Note about precision errors in mouse cursor coordinate readouts. Mouse resolution is always limited to the number of pixels used to display the chart. This places a limit on precision. Also, as strange as it may seem, Chartool is not always able to determine at exactly which pixels the chart axes are displayed. Most of the time it does, but being 1 pixel off is not uncommon, and being off by more than one pixel can also happen. This is due to limitations in Excel. Check the accuracy of the mouse cursor by positioning the mouse over each of the axes, and inspect the values displayed in the statusbar.



Set Chart Series Properties

This button displays a dialog for changing several chart formatting properties for one or more selected charts.

In addition, if the Shift key is held down when the  button is clicked, the scaling properties of the Y axis are adjusted to make the X and Y axes have equal scales (so circle looks like a circle). This is done separately for each chart which is selected, and no dialog box is displayed.



We'd like your feedback, suggestions and comments about this utility. Please send us an email at support@xlrotor.com.

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