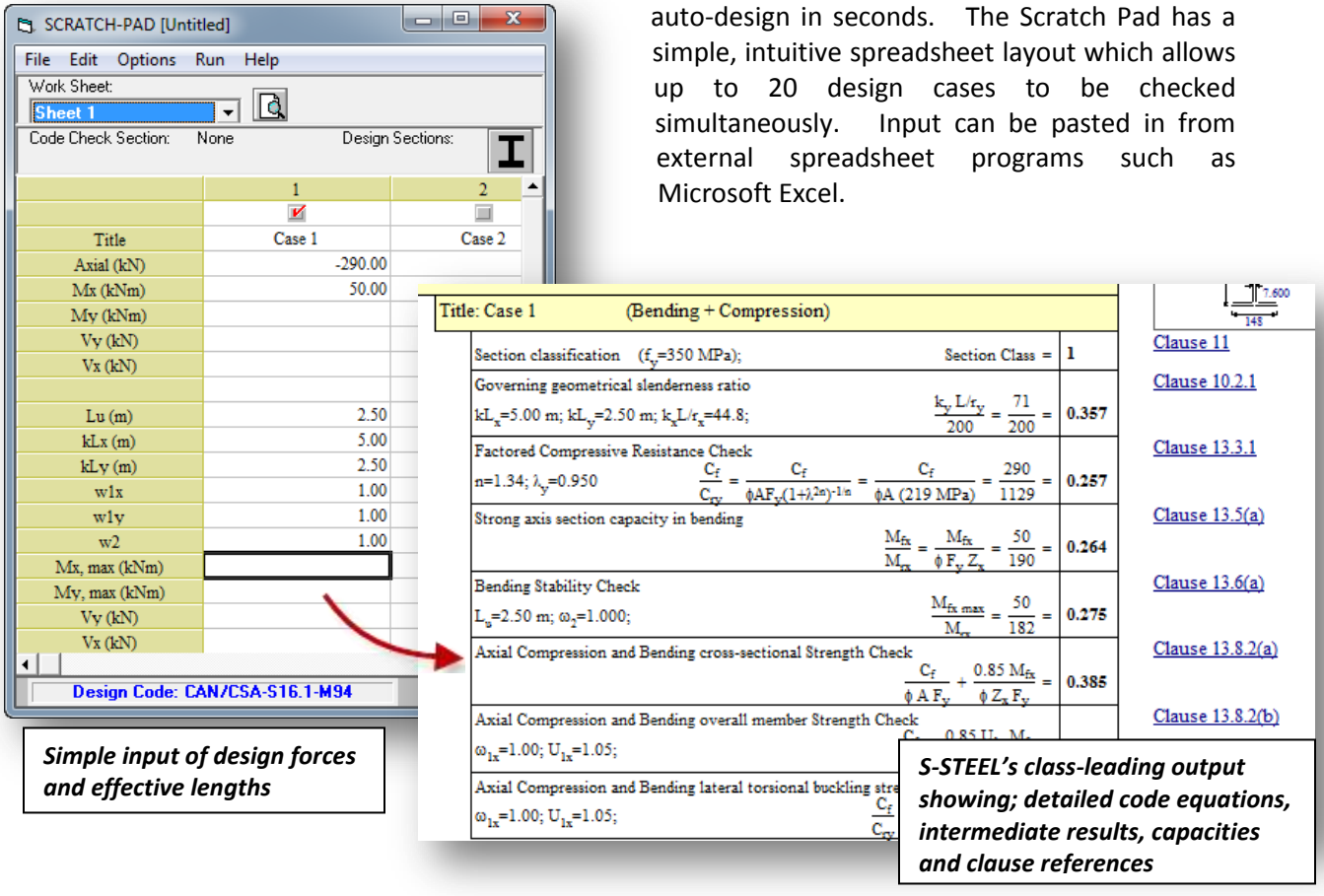
Tips & Tricks
Scratch Pad/S-PAD

Are you tired of using capacity look-up tables in this day and age? Do you need to quickly check a column or beam capacity but don't have time to build a complete detailed model, or you already have dimensions and forces? Do you wish you had a simple utility to run that check or, even better, an auto-design to identify an optimum section?

The **Scratch Pad** is such a utility. The Scratch Pad can be run in stand-alone mode, as well as inside **S-STEEL**. Thus it can be used entirely on its own (known as **S-PAD**) for rapid checking and design and also within S-STEEL (known as **Scratch Pad**) to allow the engineer full, interactive control of all design parameters. **S-PAD** and **Scratch Pad** refer to the same program and we'll use the two names interchangeably. What's more? If you have S-STEEL, then you already have the Scratch Pad! To view a video on the use of the Scratch-Pad, click here.

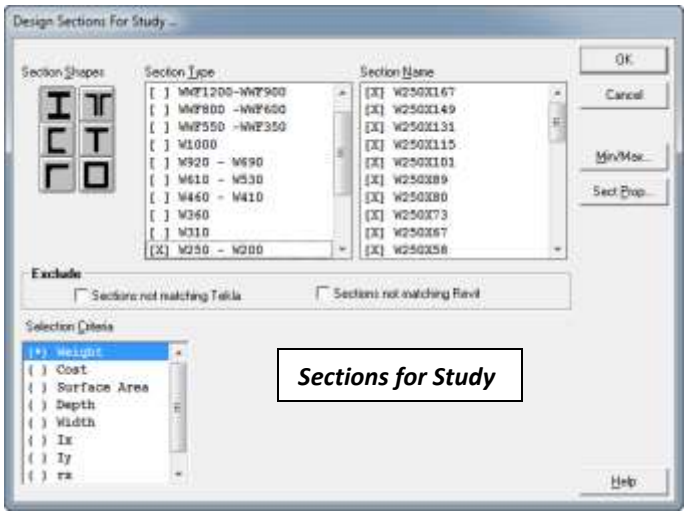
In stand-alone mode, simply input design loads and effective lengths of a steel element - be it beam, column or brace – then run that quick check or auto-design in seconds. The Scratch Pad has a simple, intuitive spreadsheet layout which allows up to 20 design cases to be checked simultaneously. Input can be pasted in from external spreadsheet programs such as Microsoft Excel.



Simple input of design forces and effective lengths

S-STEEL's class-leading output showing; detailed code equations, intermediate results, capacities and clause references

Within S-STEEL, S-PAD can be used to design any member individually, offering more control over effective lengths. S-STEEL will automatically transfer forces from analysis and user-inputted design constraints by simply right-clicking on a member, then choosing "Send to Scratch Pad."



The Scratch Pad features exactly the same superb output as S-STEEL, as well as the same comprehensive set of design constraints giving the engineer full control of **ALL** design parameters. Input files can be saved and can contain multiple worksheets. For auto-design, an automatically sorted list of adequate sections is produced to easily identify optimum sections from those within a user specified range or shape type. Admissible sections can be sorted based on weight, surface area, depth, width and more. Detailed design calculations can be viewed for all sections.