

Create Your Own Symbols in the S52 Raster Editor

by Ivan Izaak

HYPACK® has two programs where you can use the cartographic point symbols such as DG2 EDITOR and TARGET EDITOR. These editors are quite handy to mark any points of interest for your survey area – for example, you want to mark an oceanographic station where you would take water samples. Let’s consider this case. In the TARGET EDITOR you may create a target and pick an existing symbol from the library as shown on Figure 1 below.

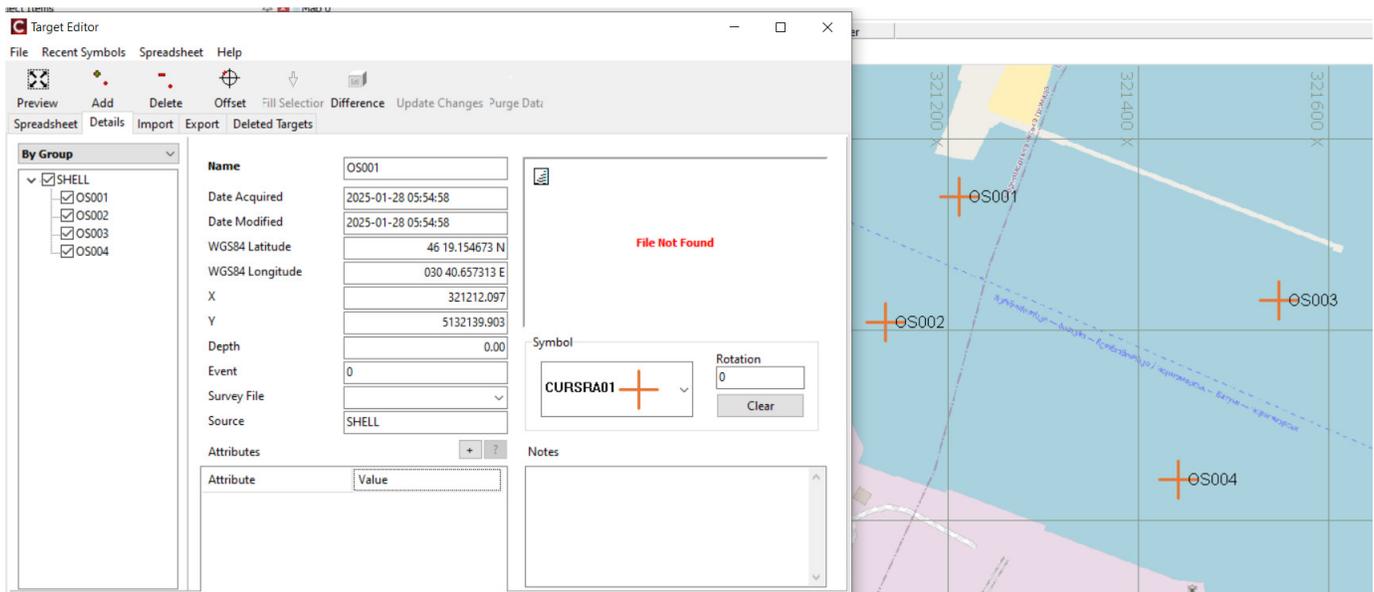


Figure 1: Assigning an existing symbol to a target in TARGET EDITOR

BTW, notice how close are the text entries in the targets (see Figure 1) – this can’t be changed. At least not now. That’s why I prefer using the DG2 EDITOR for such purpose (i.e. for marking my points of interest) where you can offset the text entry for a point feature as shown on Figure 2.

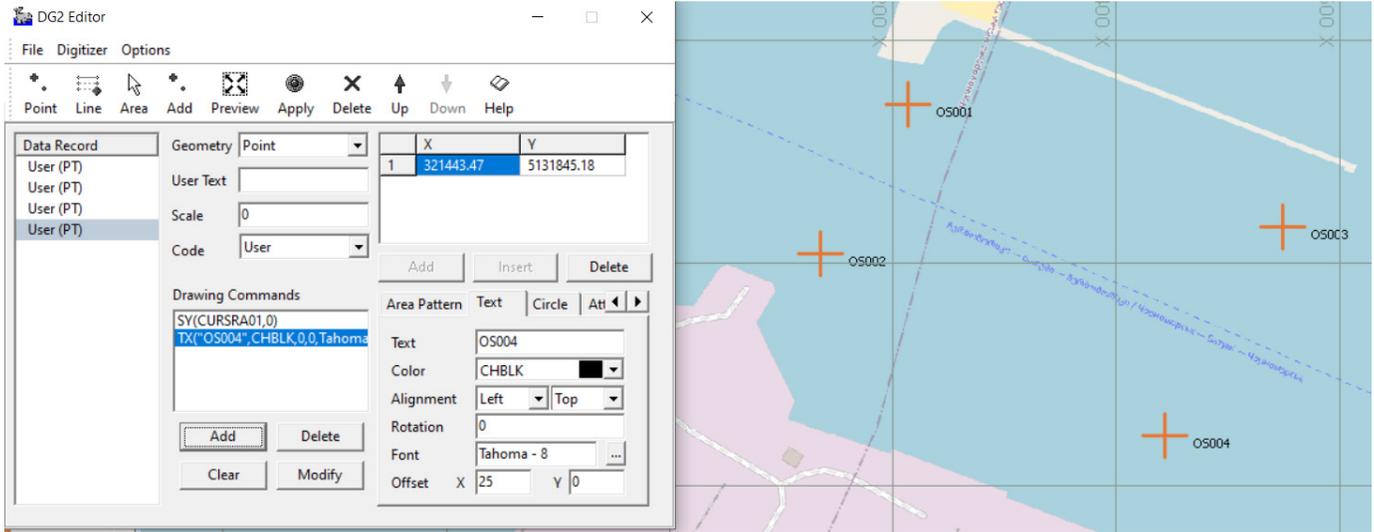


Figure 2: Assigning existing symbols to a point feature in DG2 EDITOR

Now, I can't find any symbol in existing library that would feat my needs there. OK, time to check the S52 EDITOR. Remember to use our most recent HYPACK 2025 Q1 Release.

The S52 RASTER EDITOR is located under the PREPARATION-EDITOR menu in the SHELL.

When you run it, first thing to do is to name the new symbol (1 on Fig 3) – please, use six letters (I prefer using the traditional capital ones) and two numbers. Optionally you may describe the symbol.

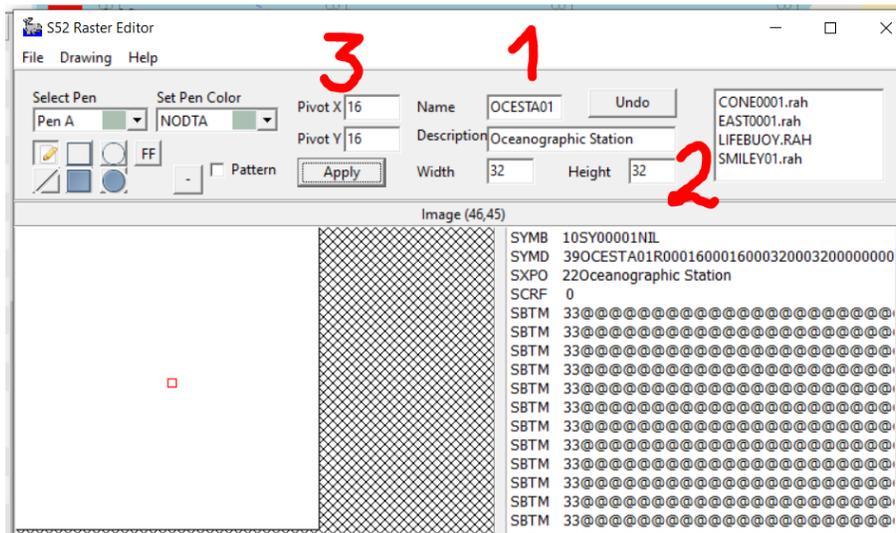


Figure 3: DG2 EDITOR, First Steps

Next set the size of a future symbol (p.2 on Fig. 3) – we do it in pixels while IHO requires millimeters... well...

Then set the pivot point for it (p.3 on Fig. 3). I keep pivot point at the middle of the of the bounding box although there are two options for most of existing point features i.e. outside of the box or in the middle of it. Again, these are in pixels. This point is used to place the symbol on the chart and it will be rotated around it if needed.

Now it is time to draw the symbol you like! This requires some efforts to do! Our symbol editor is not a Photoshop or CAD so there are not many tools for you. Use the pen color options to select what color of a drawing you need then use available drawing tools (free pan, circle, rectangle or line). You can either make a hollow or filled rectangles or circles.

There is an undo in the editor, or you can clear all drawing (Drawing-Clear menu). Also, save your progress as often as you like.

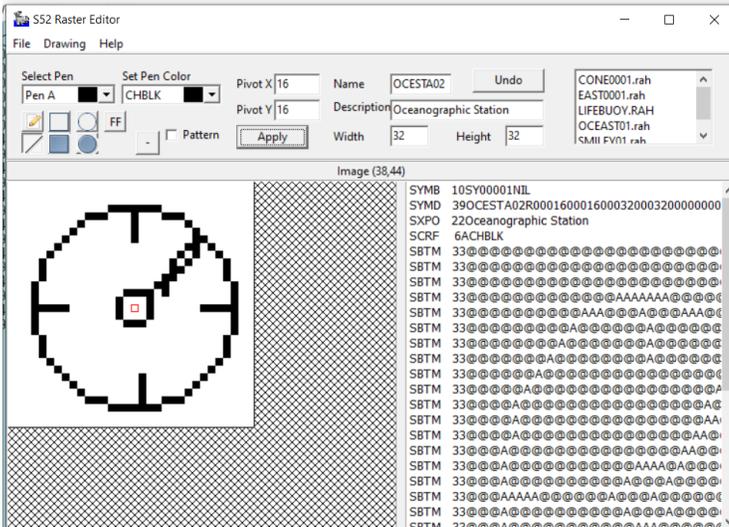


Figure 4: Drawing a symbol in S52 RASTER EDITOR

When you're done with the Picasso stuff, please, save the new symbol as an RAH file into the C:\HYPACK 2024\Bin\Symbols folder. This is where HYPACK® will take it for TARGET and DG2 editors later.

Now let's open DG2 EDITOR again with the existing DG2 File. We can pick the new RAH symbol for each point feature in DG2 as shown on Figure 5 below:

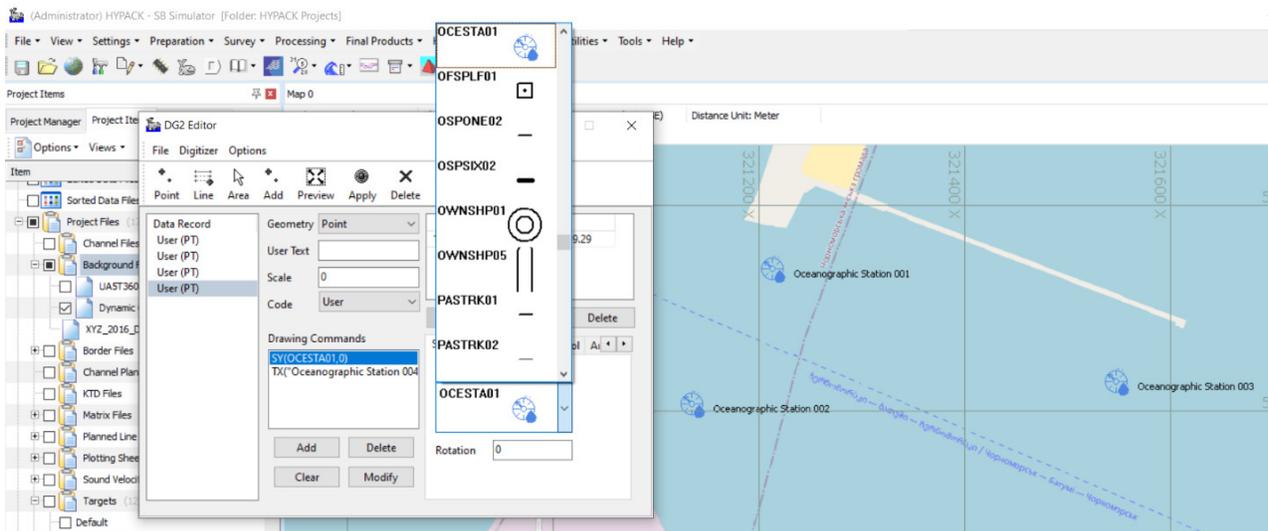


Figure 5: Assigning New Symbol for the Point Feature in DG2 EDITOR

Remember, if you do change an existing feature attribute, click Modify under Drawing Commands section and then click [Apply] radio button above it.

Again, what I like in DG2 Editor instead of Target Editor is that you can set the text attribute for each feature, and it is not scaled.