

Change the linetype attribute of a layer

ThanCad supports line types such as continuous, dashed, dash-dotted etc. ThanCad has an advanced concept about the length of the dashes in a non-continuous line. The length is measured in one of two distinct units: either mm (10^{-3} meters) or user data units (which are usually meters in Europe). When a drawing is plotted on paper, the length of the dashes is affected by the plot-scale of the plot, if the length is measured in user data units.

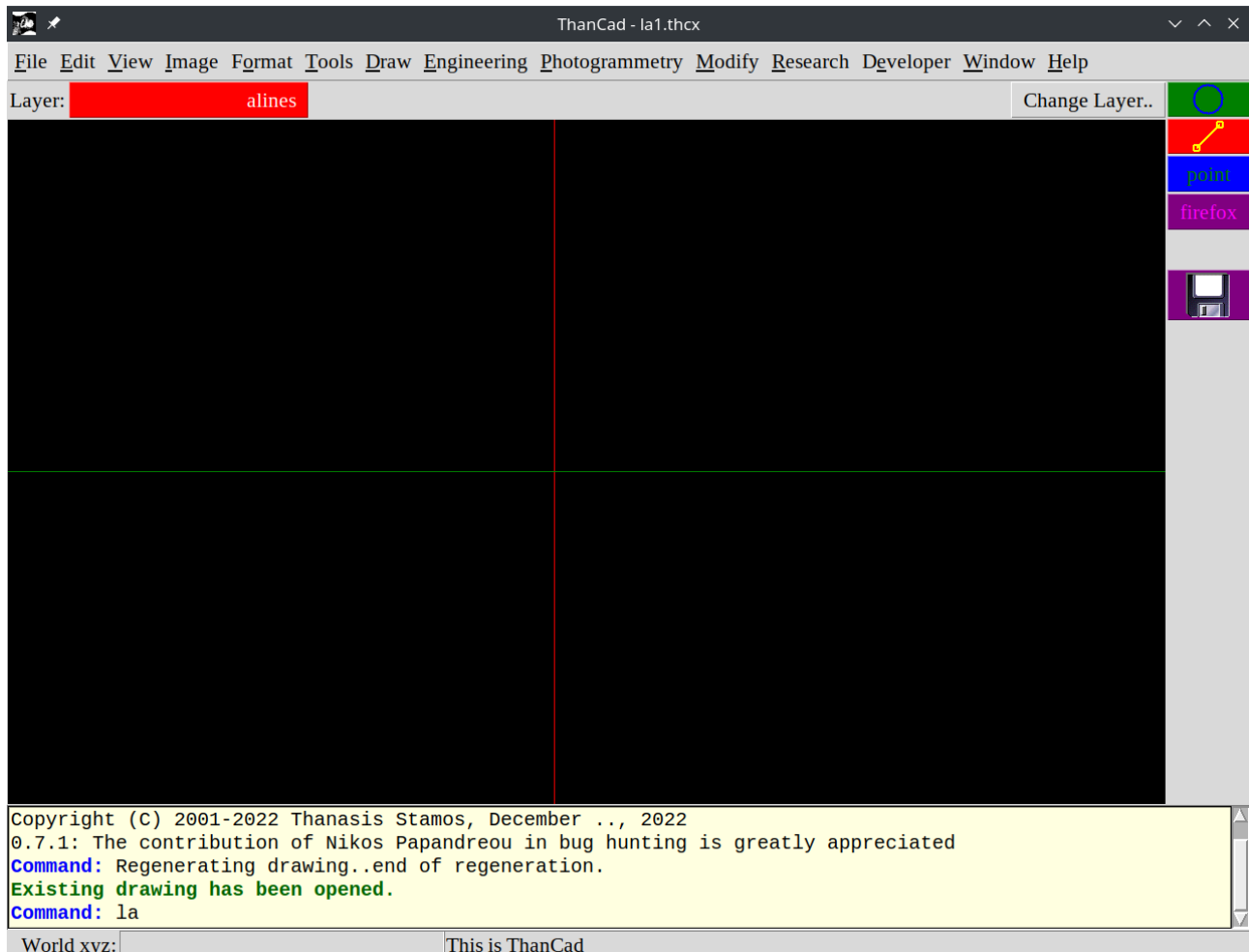
However if the length is measured in mm, then the length of the dashes is always the same; it is completely independent to the plot-scale. This is a major advantage as you don't have to calculate the length of the dashes, so that it is plotted with the desired length when plotted on a specific scale.

ThanCad also supports different line type scale for every layer. The scale is simply a coefficient which multiplies the length of the dashes.

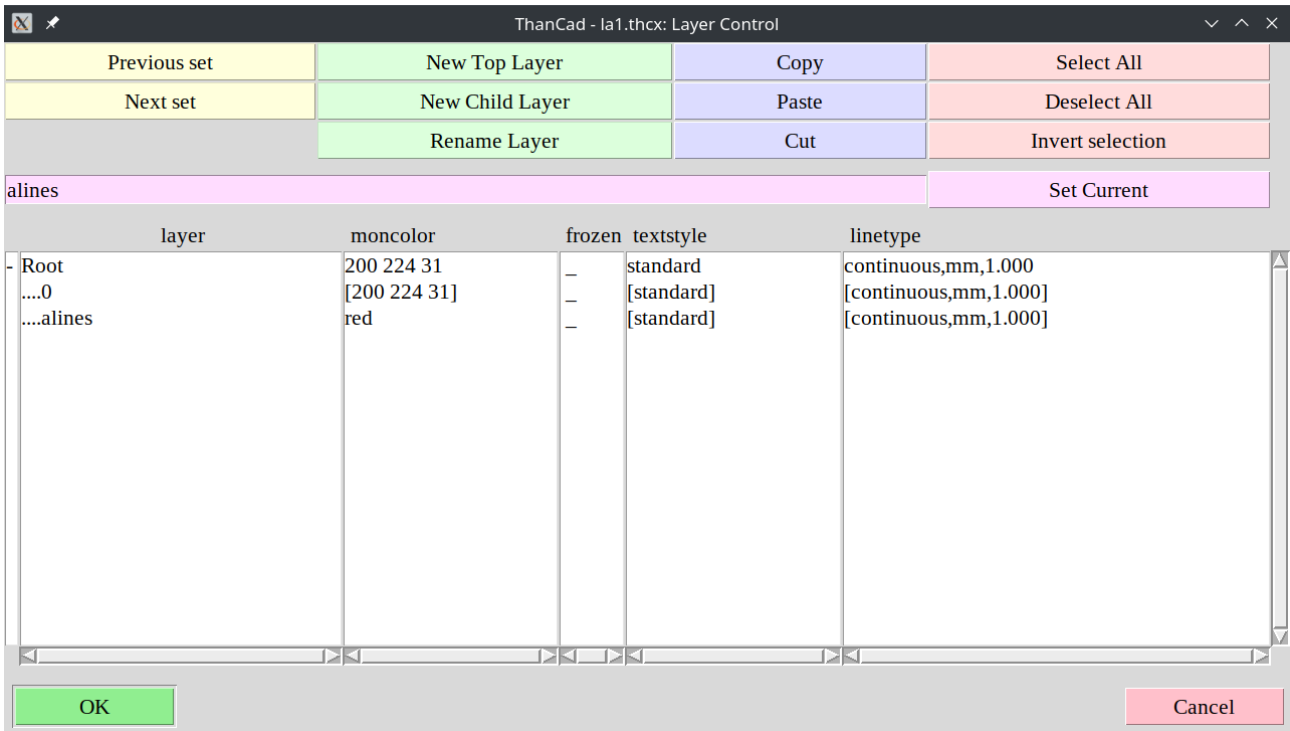
ThanCad has currently some predefined lines types which correspond to international standards.

Line types are attributes of layers. A layer has a linetype which is inherited by all the elements that belong to it.

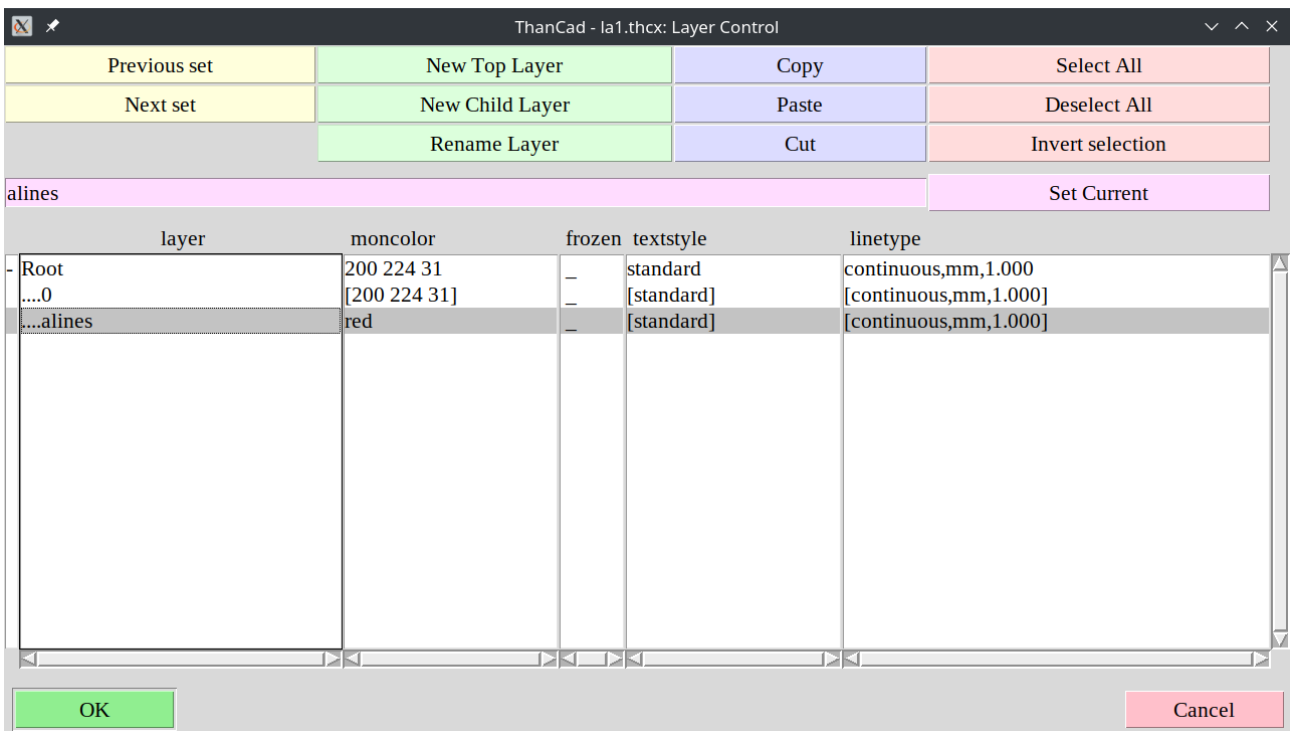
In order to change the line type of a layer (or any other of its attributes) type "layer" at the command prompt (it can be abbreviated to "la") and press enter, or click "layer" in the "Format" menu.



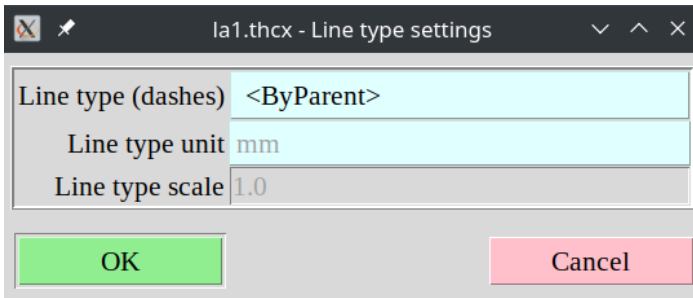
The main Layer window appears:



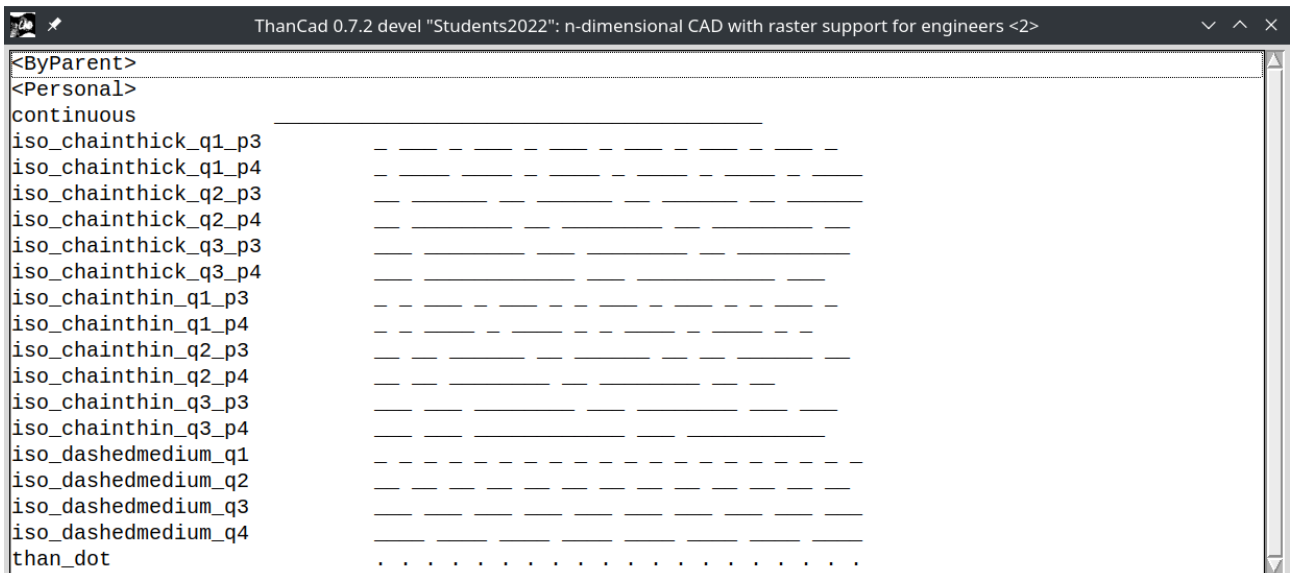
To change the line type of a layer, select the layer (here "alines") by clicking on the name of the layer:



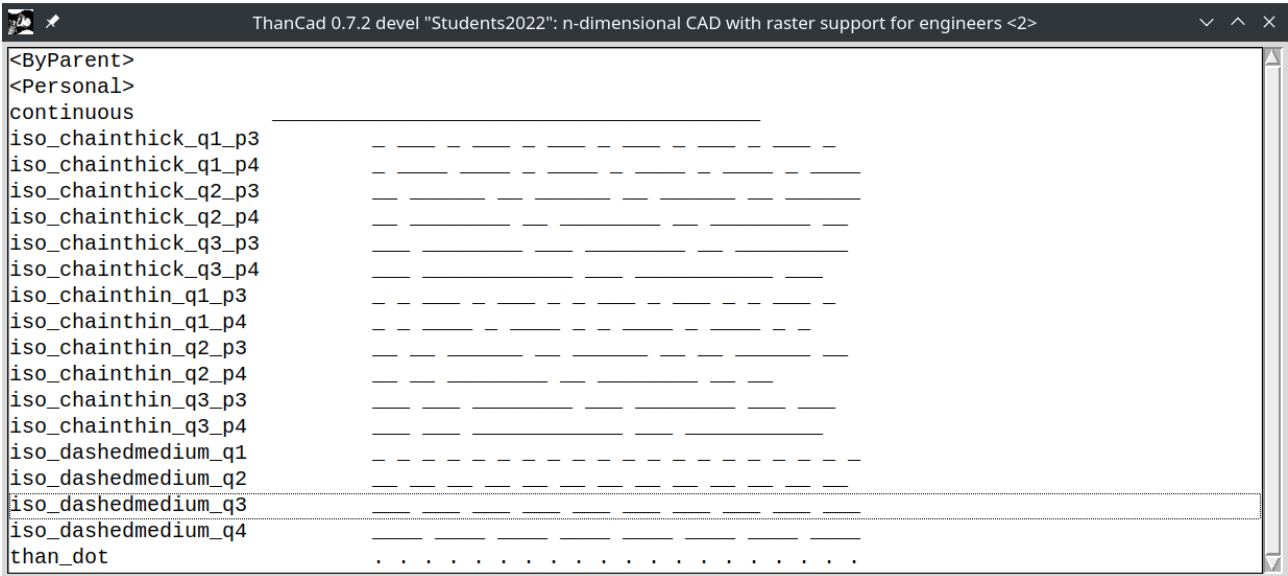
The current line type of layer "alines" is "continuous,mm,1.000" which means continuous line, the unit is mm, and the line type scale is 1. Click on the line type "continuous,mm,1.000" to change the line type of the layer. A dialog window is displayed:



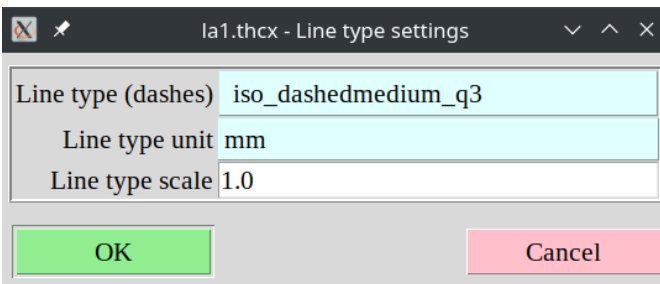
Now click on the button right to the "linetype (dashes)". A line type selection windows appears. On the left is the name of each line type and on the right a rough representation of the line type appearance:



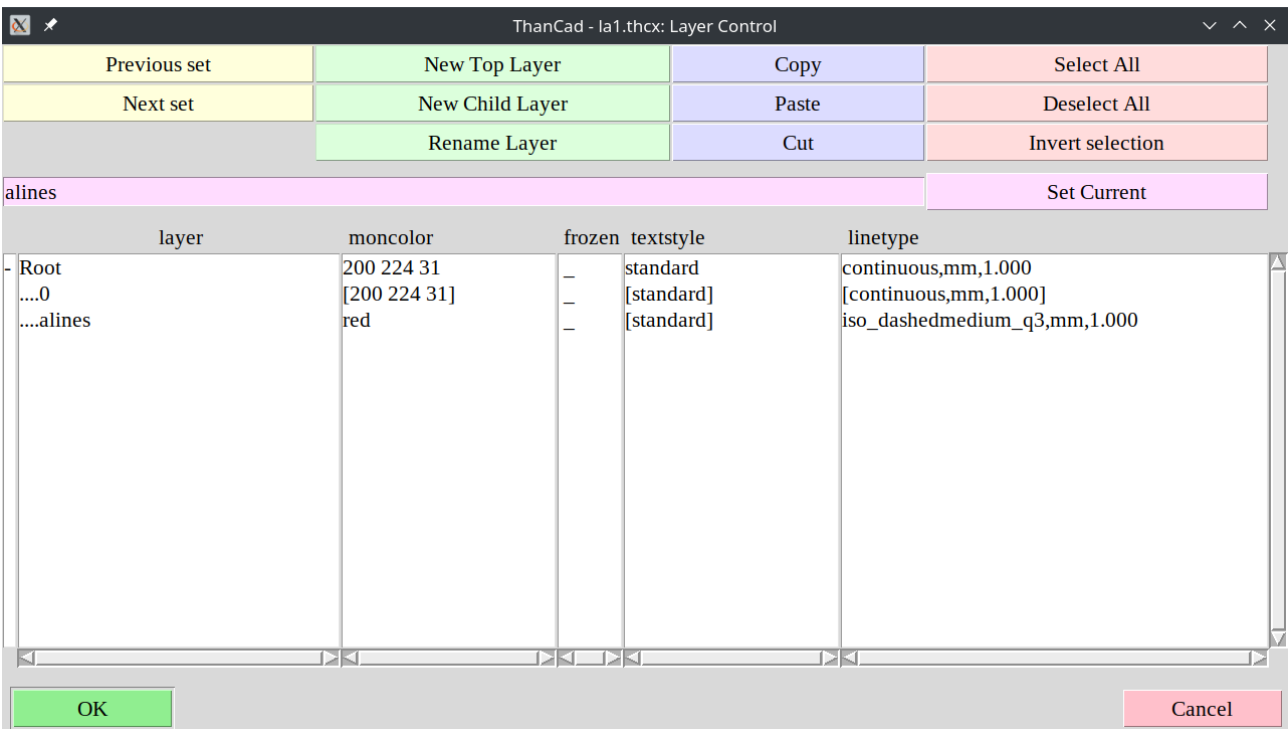
Click on "iso_dashedmedium_q3" to select this line type:



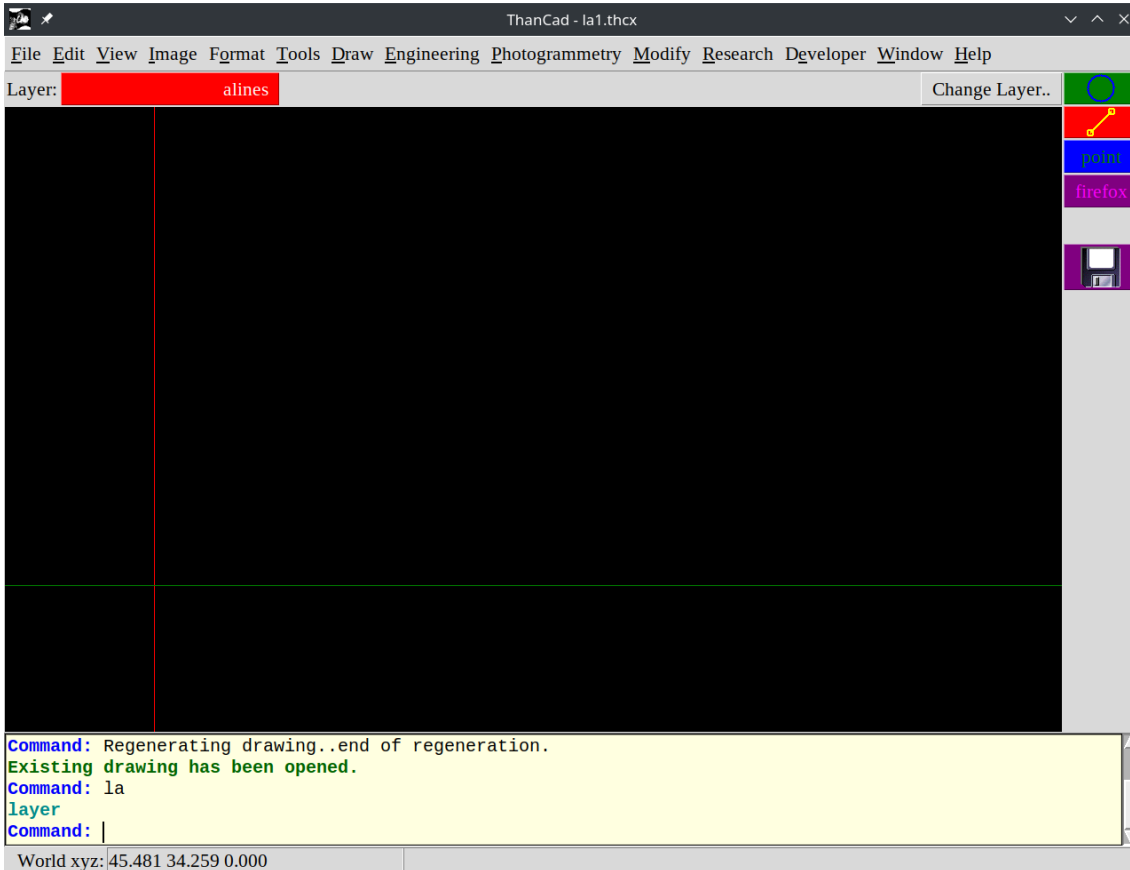
The dialog window is displayed again. Now you may change the line type scale or the unit if desirable.



Click on OK and the main Layer window appears. Notice that layer "alines" has the line type you selected:



Click on "OK" to save the changes, and return to the drawing:



Draw a line to see that it is dashed. If the length of the dashes seems small, please change the line type scale from 1 to 2 (or a bigger number).

