

Working with Avery DesignPro

Overview

dRecipe® has been designed to produce compliant data for food labelling.

There are a number of methods of using the generated data to actually produce printed labels.

1. Cut and paste from the Nutrient panel screen or Ingredient panel screens to a word processor such as Microsoft Word (a very messy procedure involving setup of page templates and duplication of a label design over all labels (using a data table) for the printed page).
2. Where printed labels are not required, and the producer is selling over the counter within the premises in which the product has been manufactured, the inbuilt Specification Sheet is sufficient, as it can be displayed or handed to customers on request.
3. dRecipe® produces an export database that may be used by external programs to print labels. Two such programs are:
 - Seagull Scientific's Bartender (distributed in Australia by Dy-Mark Australia).
Bartender is ideal for large production runs, using rolls of either pre-printed colour stock, or blank labels for printing by dedicated label printers.
 - Avery's DesignPro (available free, as a limited edition from Avery's internet site).
DesignPro is more suited to small runs of product where labels can be printed on A4 pages by inkjet or laser printers. Various sizes of off the shelf self adhesive labels are available from Avery and a number of other manufacturers.
4. dRecipe® version 1.7.0 Pro supports both the above label printing systems.
 - Versions 1.7.0 Light (L) and 1.7.0 Light plus Backup (LB) do not support Bartender.

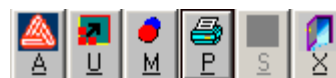
Both Bartender and DesignPro are able to make use of the ODBC standard method of database access, and dRecipe® 1.7.0 produces an export database (dRtoBT.mdb) which is available to them.

Generating and Updating the ODBC database

Each time a dRecipe® database is opened in a new location, the program creates a new blank export database called dRtoBT.mdb in that same location.

After a range of recipes has been added to the main database, the associated export database may be loaded from the Specification sheet setup screen. If the export database has previously been updated for Bartender, it must be re-updated for DesignPro, since subtle formatting variations must be included. If, when using DesignPro, an error message is displayed that indicates a record is unable to be accessed (clicking on the Details button with show that the current record has been truncated), then the export database has not been updated for DesignPro usage.

To update (or load) the export database in dRecipe®, select the **Mark** button. This will mark all recipes in the selection grid for updating. (If for some reason a generic recipe label is needed then the "**Include Generics**" checkbox should be first clicked. Once the required recipes have been marked, then click on the **Avery** button to update the entries for these products in the Export database.

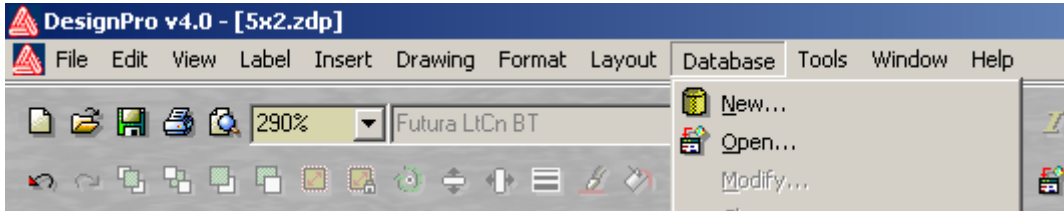


When the update has been completed, if not already set, go to the Control Panel on the computer screen (Start – Settings – Control Panel) and select Administrative Tools – ODBC setup. (Follow the complete discussion on this procedure in the dRecipe® manual).

After the ODBC settings have been completed, load DesignPro from the Utilities menu, or from either of the Ingredient or Nutrition panel screens. The next page discusses connecting to the ODBC database that has just been established.

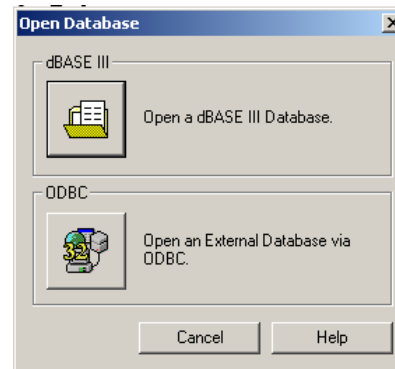
Connecting to the ODBC database from within DesignPro

After opening a suitable template (the page layout that matches the labels that you intend using), the ODBC database must be connected. Click on the Database menu item at the top of the screen.



The options “*New*” and “*Open*” will be offered. Select “*Open*”.

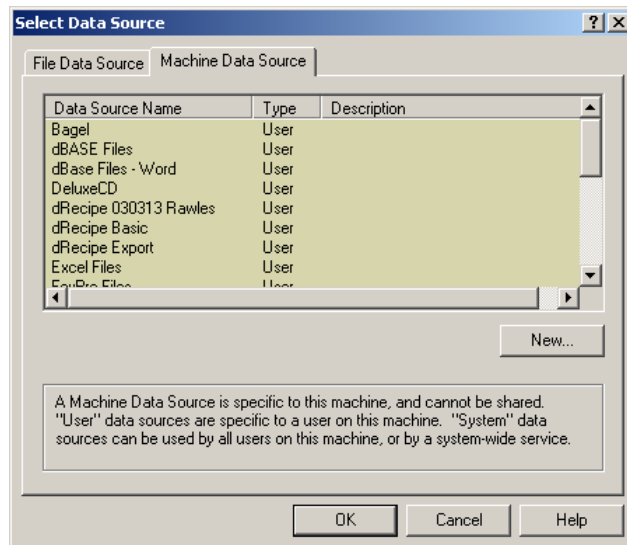
The open database prompt will be displayed. Select ODBC.



The graphic to the right shows a number of ODBC data source names that are available. Select the one that you’ve set up and then click on OK.



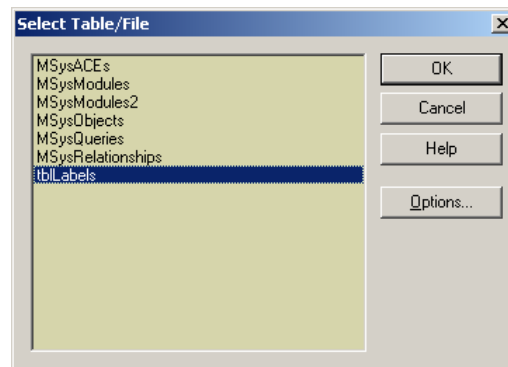
If there are problems connecting to the database with an existing label template, they can normally be overcome by **de-activating** the ODBC connection (from the Database menu), then opening the connection again.



Normally a number of tables of data will be available to the user. In this case only one table is available. All the others are system files. Display of these can be turned off via the options button, however the default setting is to display them.

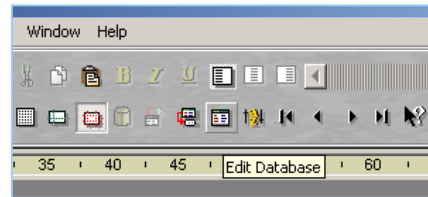
The data fields that we need are stored in the table called tblLabels.

Select this item, then click on OK.



Selecting Records to Print

Once connected, the “Edit Database icon can be selected and the database records inspected. (The raised icon just above the “E” in Edit of the “tool tip” that is currently being displayed over the horizontal ruler.) We don’t recommend actually editing the data in this database, as not only is there a danger of altering already correct data, but any changes that are made will be over-written next time the export database is updated.

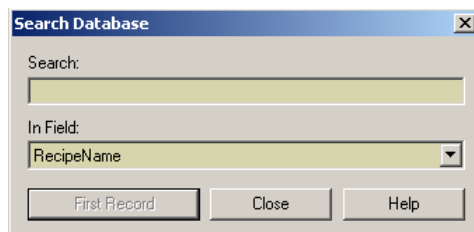


In our situation, the database editor is most useful in determining the recipeId for a particular recipe. If we were to display on screen a label for a particular recipe, then select “Print Preview”, we would see that we were about to print one copy of everything in the export database. This is not a commonly required activity! To overcome this situation, we need to apply a filter to the database. We would normally filter to allow a particular recipe name or recipe number to be displayed (or a label printed for it). Since it’s easier to type in a short number (without errors), then we need to find out what the required product RecipeId is. There are a couple of ways to do this:-

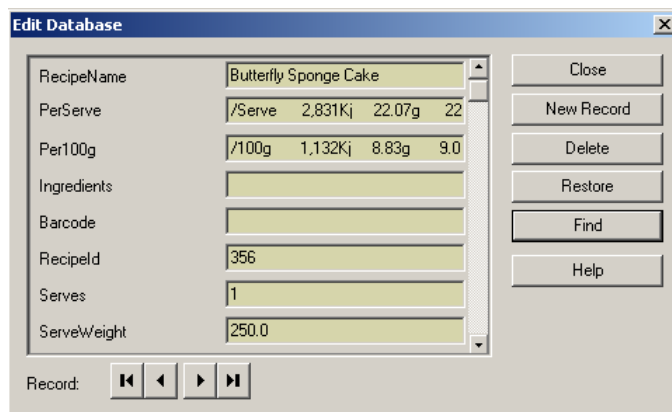
- Go back to dRecipe® into the main recipe screen, and search for the required product. When selected, the RecipeID is displayed near the top left of the display grid.
- Issue a “Find” command in the DesignPro database editor.

The first method is probably the easiest, particularly if dRecipe® is still running. If it is, then hold down the Alt key and tap the Tab key to switch between applications. (You should experiment with this technique, as it can save a lot of time). Each time that the Tab key is pressed, an icon representing one of a list of currently loaded applications is displayed. When the correct icon is displayed, release the Alt key.

In DesignPro first select “Database” – “Filter” and delete any existing filter. Then select the database editor



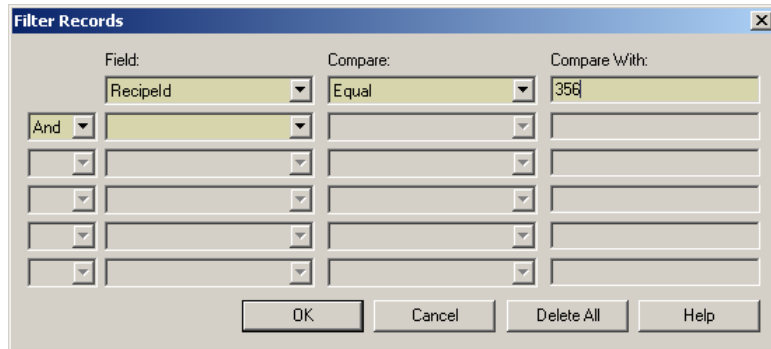
The “Find” command in the DesignPro editor relies on starting from the beginning of the file, so make sure the first record is selected before you start. The left icon in the set of tape recorder control buttons in the bottom left of the editor will cause the first record to be selected.



Type a word that is included in the recipe name that you need to locate. Unlike most search routines of this type, this search is case sensitive, so if the word (Sponge) for instance begins with a capital, then you need to enter the search requirement that way.

We found a number of Sponge records, and selected the third one. Closed the search screen, and were presented with a record that said we were looking at RecipeID number 356. Now we close the editor, and open the Database – Filter screen, and enter as follows.

Close the filter screen, and open the print preview screen. We will have a single completed label in the top left of a page of 9 blank labels. If we click on “Print”, and then change the number of labels to 10, and select “Print Preview”, we will then see a full page of 10 labels that are identical.



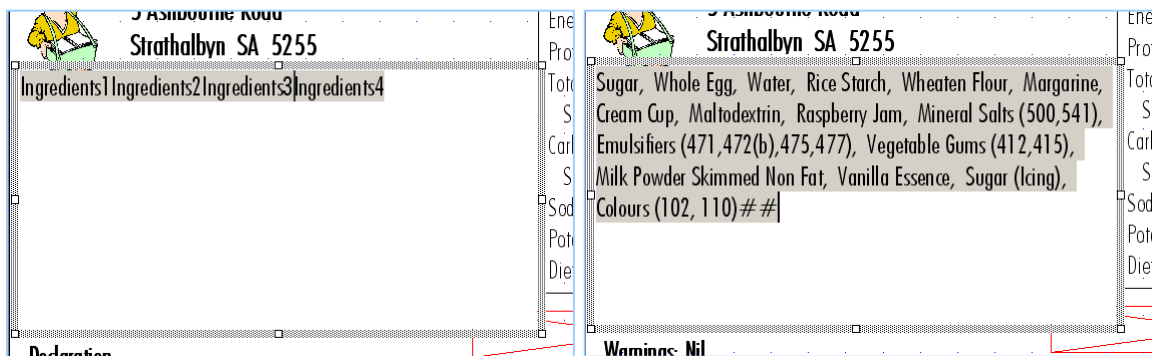
If we want 100 labels for this product, then we change 10 to 100, and if we print this we will use 10 pages of labels.

Special Setup for Ingredients field

DesignPro has a design limitation which prevents it from accepting data from an ODBC database where the data from an individual field is greater than 255 characters.

Unfortunately, we have found that there are many instances where considerably more than this is required for the Ingredient text. To overcome this limitation, we have provided 4 individual fields, each of 255 characters for the ingredient text. When we do an export update, dRecipe® automatically splits the Ingredient text into blocks of 255 characters and loads the blocks into the 4 fields.

When we place this data on the label, we need to insert these four fields as a group with no spaces between them. When we view the data in the Ingredient field, we will probably see hash (#) characters at the end of the text. These indicate where some of the blocks are empty. The hash characters will not print on the label.



Last minute checks before printing

The database to which DesignPro is connected is not “Live”. If any changes have been made to your dRecipe® data, no matter how small, please make sure that the export database (dRtoBT.mdb) is updated from the Specification screen. Mark all products, and click on the Avery button. This will make sure that new products and changes to existing products are included in any labels printed.



If there are any problems with the database connection, or where data is not updating correctly, even though the dRecipe® export has been performed correctly, then we suggest that you select from the main DesignPro menu – **Database – Deactivate**. This will disconnect DesignPro from the selected ODBC database. Then re-select **Database** from the main menu, but this time then select **Open** etc. to re-connect. This will usually reset the data and clear any problems.