Computer Hardware and Software Requirements

OMEGA 3.0 is compatible with Microsoft Windows® XP SP2 or Vista®. OMEGA 3.0 will ***NOT LOAD*** on Windows 2000, Windows 98 or Windows *ME.*

Windows XP and XP Professional SP2 required, 32-bit strongly recommended[1]	Windows Vista 32-bit and 64-bit[2]
OMEGA CP, LS, or PS = Pentium IV™, with 1 GB RAM minimum, 2 GB highly recommended 2 GB of available hard disk space minimum, 20+ GB highly recommended **OMEGA CS** = Pentium III, with 256 MB minimum, 512 MB highly recommended. 1 GB of available hard disk space minimum, 10 GB highly recommended *These are the recommended minimums. Stronger processors and more memory (2x minimum or more), and additional hard disk space will improve performance, especially when working in data intensive operations such as scanning, working with images and import/export. The available hard disk space requirements do not reflect the actual hard disk size, which may be anywhere from 10 GB to 80 GB or more.* *1. GSP has successfully installed OMEGA on Windows XP 64-bit, but some customers report issues with installation and output. We continue to gather data, but strongly recommend using Windows XP 32-bit.*	1 GHz 32-bit (x86) or 64-bit (x64) processor[3] 1 GB of system memory Support for DirectX 9 graphics with a WDDM driver, 128 MB of graphics memory (min.)[4], Pixel Shader 2.0 and 32 bits per pixel 40 GB of hard disk capacity with 15 GB free space Audio output capability Internet access capability *2. At this time, Windows Vista 64-bit does not support OMEGA parallel port usage due to lack of third-party 64-bit drivers and availability of cables. See the Windows operating system compatibility chart on the page 8.* *3. Processor speed is specified as the nominal operational processor frequency for the device. Some processors have power management which allows the processor to run at lower rate to save power.* *4. If the GPU uses shared memory, then no additional graphics memory is required beyond the 1 GB system memory requirement. If the GPU uses dedicated memory then 128 MB is required.*

- DVD-ROM drive: **Required** *(may be external – not built into the system.)*
- CDRW or DVDRW drive: **highly recommended,** for back up and storage of files
- 3.5" – 1.44 MB floppy drive: (optional, for use with legacy options, fonts, etc.)
- Ethernet network support: (for use with the GERBER EDGE FX™ and network connection)
- 2 USB Ports (OMEGA security key requires 1 USB Port)
- Serial Port (9-pin): (for connecting plotters and/or routers) - **2 highly recommended**
- ECP Parallel Port (25-pin): Required for use with GERBER EDGE® 2 (unless you purchase the USB-to-Parallel option)
- Parallel Port (25-pin): Required for use with GERBER EDGE and/or paper printers)
- SVGA color monitor: with minimum resolution of 1024 x 728 and 16 million colors
- Microsoft-compatible PS/2 style mouse

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Note: ***Using OMEGA with Intel®-based Macintosh® Computers:*** *Based upon minimal GSP testing and end-user reports, OMEGA will run on Intel-based Macintosh systems that are running the Windows XP operating system. There has been minimal testing of outputting to GSP devices using this configuration. Output to the GERBER EDGE must occur via a GSP or off-the-shelf USB-to-parallel cable. Output to plotters must occur via certain specific USB-to-serial cables. Output to the EDGE 2 must occur using a special GSP USB-to-parallel cable option. This is not an endorsement of this configuration, but is an alert as to the status. Gerber Service cannot support any Macintosh OSX related issues.*

Windows operating systems compatibility

At this time, Windows XP 64-bit and Vista 64-bit does not support OMEGA parallel port usage. Therefore you cannot communicate with a GERBER EDGE or EDGE 2 printer via a parallel port when using 64-bit operating systems. Gerber recommends that you use XP 32-bit or Vista 32-bit, or upgrade your thermal printer to a GERBER EDGE FX which communicates via an Ethernet cable. Alternately, you can render on a 64-bit system and output to a GERBER EDGE or EDGE 2 using a separate OMEGA Plot Station installed on a Windows 32-bit computer. The following chart details compatibility.

	Windows XP 32	Windows XP 64[1]	Windows Vista 32	Windows Vista 64
Design				
Composer and other design functions. Create and save PLT files.	OK	OK	OK	OK
Rendering				
GSPPlot rendering of SPL files.	OK	OK	OK	OK
Output				
EDGE via parallel cable	OK	NO [2]	OK	NO [2]
EDGE via off-the-shelf USB-to-Parallel cable	OK	OK	OK	NO [2]
EDGE 2 via parallel cable	OK	NO [2]	OK	NO [2]
EDGE via GSP *custom* USB-to-Parallel cable	OK	OK	OK	NO [2]
EDGE FX (Ethernet only)	OK	OK	OK	OK
Plotters via serial port	OK	OK	OK	OK
Plotters via Radio Shack® 26-949 USB to Serial Cable	OK	Not Tested	Not Tested	Not Tested
Plotters via Sewell SW-1301 USB to Serial Cable	Customers report success; use at your own risk.	Customers report success; use at your own risk.	Customers report success; use at your own risk.	Not Tested

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2. GSP suggests you use a separate Plot Station on a system NOT using Windows XP 64-bit or Vista 64-bit.