

## Re: Orcad import .bom file into database

**Source:** <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/General/comp.arch.embedded/2004-12/1133.html>

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**From:** Steve at fivetrees ([steve\\_at\\_NOSPAMTAfivetrees.com](mailto:steve_at_NOSPAMTAfivetrees.com))

**Date:** 12/21/04

Date: Tue, 21 Dec 2004 12:00:09 -0000

"Dan" <[dan.costin@gmail.com](mailto:dan.costin@gmail.com)> wrote in message  
news:f4e089e0.0412210336.5b1f9123@posting.google.com...  
> *I have a design in Orcad. I generated the Annotate..., then Bil of*  
> *Materials...*  
>  
> *I need to make a microsoft Acces database with components for my*  
> *design. I make a Databse.mdb database for my project with Contol*  
> *Panel/ODBC settings...*

I do exactly this (albeit with MySQL, rather than [spit] Access) – however I do it manually. The Orcad .bom file format is not easily parsed – it's columnar with line-breaks in strange (to a parser) places. It'll also depend on the structure of your database, which Orcad has no knowledge of. I use the manual database entry phase as a sanity check. Even with complex boards, it doesn't take long (assuming a decent database entry system).

My structure is:

- part type (resistor, capacitor, IC etc)
- part (keyed to part type: e.g. 10k resistor)
- assembly (i.e. the board the parts are used in)
- part instance (keyed to part and assembly: e.g. R1)
- part source (keyed to part: supplier and price)

A tip: within the part instance record, allow yourself a part ID (e.g. R43) and an old part ID. This comes in handy at back-annotation time. Copy all the part IDs to the old part ID fields, and then use the old part IDs to assign the new reference to the new part ID. If it all goes pear-shaped, you can back out by copying all the old part IDs back to the part ID fields. (I've automated the back-annotation phase with a PHP script which reads the diff file.)

HTH,

Steve

<http://www.fivetrees.com>