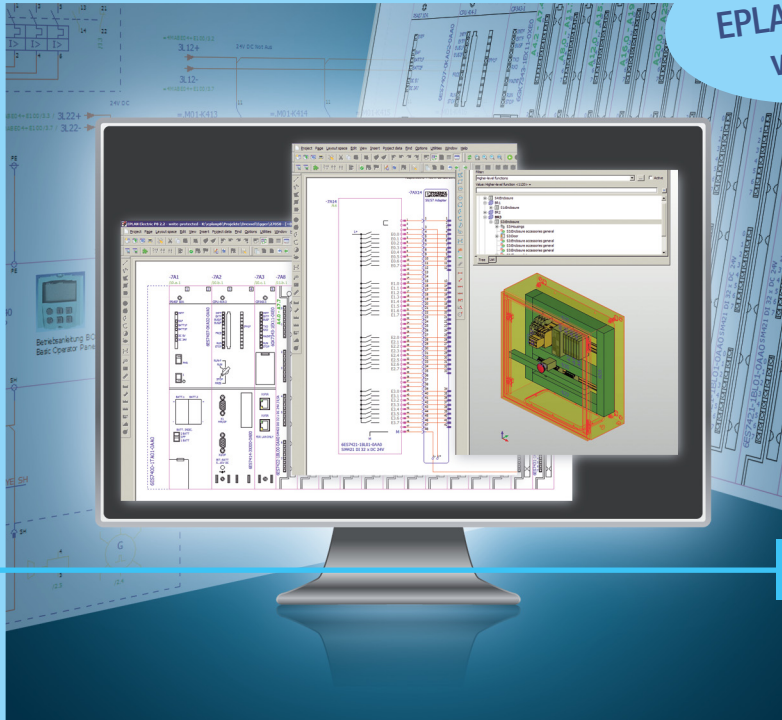


Bernd Gischel

# EPLAN Electric P8 Reference Handbook

Based on  
EPLAN Electric P8  
version 2.2



3<sup>rd</sup> edition, revised

HANSER

Bernd Gischel

# **EPLAN Electric P8 Reference Handbook**



Bernd Gischel

# EPLAN Electric P8 Reference Handbook

3rd edition, revised



HANSER

The Author: Dipl.-Ing. Bernd Gischel, Lünen, Germany  
Translated by Lindsey Translations, Deisenhofen, Germany

Distributed in North and South America by Hanser Publications  
6915 Valley Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45244-3029, USA  
Fax: (513) 527-8801  
Phone: (513) 527-8977  
[www.hanserpublications.com](http://www.hanserpublications.com)

Distributed in all other countries by Carl Hanser Verlag  
Postfach 86 04 20, 81631 Munich, Germany  
Fax: +49 (89) 98 48 09  
[www.hanser-fachbuch.de](http://www.hanser-fachbuch.de)

The use of general descriptive names, trademarks, etc., in this publication, even if the former are not especially identified, is not to be taken as a sign that such names, as understood by the Trade Marks and Merchandise Marks Act, may accordingly be used freely by anyone.

While the advice and information in this book are believed to be true and accurate at the date of going to press, neither the authors nor the editors nor the publisher can accept any legal responsibility for any errors or omissions that may be made. The publisher makes no warranty, express or implied, with respect to the material contained herein.

Cataloging-in-Publication Data is on file with the Library of Congress.

Bibliografische Information der deutschen Bibliothek:  
Die Deutsche Bibliothek verzeichnet diese Publikation in der Deutschen Nationalbibliografie; detaillierte bibliografische Daten sind im Internet über <http://dnb.d-nb.de> abrufbar.

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher.

© Carl Hanser Verlag, Munich 2013  
Production Management: Andrea Stolz  
Coverconcept: Marc Müller-Bremer, [www.rebranding.de](http://www.rebranding.de), Munich  
Coverdesign: Stephan Rönigk  
Typeset, printed and bound by Kösel, Krugzell  
Printed in Germany  
ISBN 978-1-56990-476-3  
E-Book ISBN 978-1-56990-477-0

# Contents

<b>Foreword</b> .....	XIII
<b>1 Installing EPLAN Electric P8</b> .....	1
1.1 Hardware .....	1
1.2 Installation .....	2
1.3 Note for users of previous versions .....	10
1.3.1 Parallel operation with previous versions .....	10
<b>2 The basics of the system</b> .....	11
2.1 Five principles for working with EPLAN Electric P8 .....	11
2.2 Directory structure, storage locations .....	13
2.3 Settings – General .....	15
2.3.1 Settings – Project .....	16
2.3.2 Settings – User .....	28
2.3.3 Settings – Station .....	35
2.3.4 Settings – Company .....	35
2.4 EPLAN and multiple starts? .....	37
2.5 Properties .....	37
2.5.1 Project properties .....	38
2.5.2 Page properties .....	40
2.5.3 Symbol properties (components) .....	41
2.5.4 Form properties .....	41
2.5.5 Plot frame properties .....	42
2.6 Buttons and popup menus .....	42
2.6.1 Device dialog buttons .....	42
2.6.2 Buttons in dialogs (configuring) .....	43
2.6.3 Buttons in dialogs such as filter schemes .....	44
2.6.4 Small blue triangular button .....	44
2.6.5 Property arrangements (components) .....	45

2.6.6	Format properties .....	46
2.6.7	Buttons (small black triangles) .....	47
2.6.8	Dialogs for schemes .....	48
<b>2.7</b>	<b>Master data</b> .....	48
<b>2.8</b>	<b>Operation</b> .....	49
2.8.1	Using the keyboard .....	50
2.8.2	Using the mouse .....	51
<b>2.9</b>	<b>The user interface – more useful information</b> .....	51
2.9.1	Using workspaces .....	51
2.9.2	Dialog display .....	52
<b>3</b>	<b>Projects</b> .....	57
<b>3.1</b>	<b>Project types</b> .....	58
3.1.1	Project types in EPLAN .....	59
3.1.2	Project templates and basic projects .....	60
<b>3.2</b>	<b>Creating a new project</b> .....	62
3.2.1	New project (from a basic project) .....	63
3.2.2	New project (with a project creation wizard) .....	65
<b>4</b>	<b>The graphical editor (GED)</b> .....	75
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Page navigator</b> .....	75
4.1.1	Page types .....	77
4.1.2	The popup menu in the page navigator .....	78
4.1.3	Page navigator filter .....	94
<b>4.2</b>	<b>General functions</b> .....	96
4.2.1	The title bar .....	97
4.2.2	The status bar .....	97
<b>4.3</b>	<b>Coordinate systems</b> .....	98
4.3.1	Graphical coordinate system .....	98
4.3.2	Logical coordinate system .....	99
<b>4.4</b>	<b>Grid</b> .....	99
<b>4.5</b>	<b>Increments, coordinate input</b> .....	100
4.5.1	Increment .....	100
4.5.2	Coordinate input .....	101
4.5.3	Relative coordinate input .....	102
4.5.4	Move base point .....	103
<b>4.6</b>	<b>Graphical editing functions</b> .....	104
4.6.1	Graphical objects – lines, circles, rectangles .....	104
4.6.2	Trim, chamfer, stretch and more ... ..	106
4.6.3	Group and ungroup .....	111

4.6.4	Copy, move, delete, ...	113
4.6.5	Dimensioning	113
<b>4.7</b>	<b>Texts</b>	116
4.7.1	Normal (free) texts	117
4.7.2	Path function texts	118
4.7.3	Special texts	119
4.7.4	The Properties – Text dialog	121
<b>4.8</b>	<b>Components (symbols)</b>	126
4.8.1	Insert components (symbols)	126
4.8.2	Properties (components) dialog – [device] tab	127
4.8.3	The Display tab	129
4.8.4	The Symbol/function data tab	131
4.8.5	The Parts tab	134
<b>4.9</b>	<b>Cross-references</b>	135
4.9.1	Contact image on component	135
4.9.2	Contact image in path	138
4.9.3	Special feature: Pair cross-reference	139
4.9.4	Device selection settings	142
<b>4.10</b>	<b>Macros</b>	144
4.10.1	Types of macros	144
4.10.2	Macros with value sets	149
<b>5</b>	<b>Navigators</b>	157
<b>5.1</b>	<b>Overview of the most important navigators</b>	158
5.1.1	Additional navigators and modules	162
<b>5.2</b>	<b>Device navigator</b>	164
5.2.1	Device navigator/Assign main function	166
5.2.2	Device navigator/Cross-reference DTs	168
5.2.3	Device navigator/Synchronize function texts	169
5.2.4	Device navigator/Interconnect devices	170
5.2.5	Device navigator/Number (offline)	177
5.2.6	Device navigator/New ...	181
5.2.7	Device navigator/New device ...	182
5.2.8	Device navigator/Place/[Representation type]	183
<b>5.3</b>	<b>Terminal strip navigator</b>	185
5.3.1	Terminal strip navigator/Edit ...	185
5.3.2	Terminal strip navigator/Correct	188
5.3.3	Terminal strip navigator/Number terminals	189
5.3.4	Terminal strip navigator/New ...	193
5.3.5	Terminal strip navigator/New functions ...	193
5.3.6	Terminal strip navigator/New terminals (devices) ...	195
5.3.7	Terminal strip navigator/Place/[Representation type]	197



<b>5.4</b>	<b>Plug navigator (Socket navigator)</b> .....	197
5.4.1	Plug navigator/Edit .....	197
5.4.2	Plug navigator/Correct .....	198
5.4.3	Plug navigator/Number pins .....	199
5.4.4	Plug navigator/New ... ..	199
5.4.5	Plug navigator/New functions ... ..	200
5.4.6	Plug navigator/Generate plug definition .....	200
5.4.7	Plug navigator/Generate pin .....	201
5.4.8	Plug navigator/Place/[Representation type] .....	201
<b>5.5</b>	<b>Cable navigator</b> .....	202
5.5.1	Cable navigator/Edit .....	203
5.5.2	Cable navigator/Number .....	204
5.5.3	Cable navigator/Generate cables automatically .....	207
5.5.4	Cable navigator/Automatic cable selection .....	209
5.5.5	Cable navigator/Assign conductors .....	211
5.5.6	Cable navigator/New ... ..	213
5.5.7	Cable navigator/Place/[Representation type] .....	213
5.5.8	Cable navigator/Number cable DT .....	215
5.5.9	Cable navigator/Number DT .....	215
<b>5.6</b>	<b>PLC navigator</b> .....	217
5.6.1	PLC/Write back connection point designations .....	219
5.6.2	PLC/Set data types .....	221
5.6.3	PLC/Addresses/assignment lists .....	221
5.6.4	PLC navigator/Address .....	223
5.6.5	PLC navigator/New ... ..	225
5.6.6	PLC navigator/New functions ... ..	225
5.6.7	PLC navigator/New device ... ..	227
5.6.8	PLC navigator/View .....	227
<b>5.7</b>	<b>Part navigator/(Devices/Parts)</b> .....	228
5.7.1	Popup menu functions .....	230
<b>5.8</b>	<b>Assign function (navigators)</b> .....	235
<b>5.9</b>	<b>Navigators/Quick input filter</b> .....	237
<b>6</b>	<b>Reports</b> .....	239
<b>6.1</b>	<b>What are reports?</b> .....	240
<b>6.2</b>	<b>Report types</b> .....	241
<b>6.3</b>	<b>Types of graphical reports</b> .....	241
6.3.1	Report types (forms) .....	241
6.3.2	Special connection diagrams .....	256
<b>6.4</b>	<b>Settings (output options)</b> .....	258
6.4.1	The Display/output project setting .....	258
6.4.2	The Parts project setting .....	260
6.4.3	The Output to pages project setting .....	261








<b>6.5</b>	<b>Generate reports</b> .....	267
6.5.1	The Reports dialog .....	268
6.5.2	Generate reports without templates .....	270
6.5.3	Popup menus in the Reports tab .....	279
6.5.4	Generate reports with templates .....	280
<b>6.6</b>	<b>Other functions</b> .....	286
6.6.1	Generate project reports .....	287
6.6.2	Update .....	287
6.6.3	Generate report project .....	287
6.6.4	Settings for automatic updates .....	287
<b>6.7</b>	<b>Labeling</b> .....	288
6.7.1	Settings .....	289
<b>6.8</b>	<b>Edit properties externally</b> .....	295
6.8.1	Export data .....	297
6.8.2	Importing .....	303
<b>7</b>	<b>Management tasks in EPLAN</b> .....	307
<b>7.1</b>	<b>Structure identifier management</b> .....	307
7.1.1	Tabs in structure identifier management .....	311
7.1.2	Graphical buttons .....	313
7.1.3	Sort menu .....	315
7.1.4	Extras menu .....	316
<b>7.2</b>	<b>Message management</b> .....	318
7.2.1	The visual appearance of message management .....	319
7.2.2	Project checks .....	320
7.2.3	Message classes and message categories .....	320
7.2.4	Filters in message management .....	326
7.2.5	Various message edition options .....	328
<b>7.3</b>	<b>Layer management</b> .....	330
7.3.1	Standard layers .....	330
7.3.2	Export and import of layers .....	331
7.3.3	Create and delete your own layers .....	332
7.3.4	Uses of layers .....	333
<b>7.4</b>	<b>Parts management</b> .....	336
7.4.1	Structure of parts management .....	338
7.4.2	Tabs in parts management .....	339
<b>7.5</b>	<b>Revision control</b> .....	346
7.5.1	General .....	347
7.5.2	Generate new revision .....	347
7.5.3	Execute changes .....	349
7.5.4	Complete page(s) .....	352
7.5.5	Generate reports .....	353
7.5.6	Complete a project .....	354

<b>8</b>	<b>Export, import, print</b> .....	357
<b>8.1</b>	<b>Export and import of DXF/DWG files</b> .....	358
	8.1.1 Exporting DXF and DWG files .....	358
	8.1.2 Import of DXF and DWG files .....	362
<b>8.2</b>	<b>Image files</b> .....	365
	8.2.1 Exporting image files .....	366
	8.2.2 Insert image files (import) .....	368
<b>8.3</b>	<b>Print</b> .....	371
	8.3.1 The Print dialog and its options .....	372
	8.3.2 Important export/print setting .....	374
<b>8.4</b>	<b>Export and import of projects</b> .....	375
	8.4.1 Exporting projects .....	375
	8.4.2 Importing projects .....	375
<b>8.5</b>	<b>Print attached documents</b> .....	376
<b>8.6</b>	<b>Import PDF comments</b> .....	377
	8.6.1 Importing commented PDF documents .....	377
	8.6.2 Deleting PDF comments .....	380
<b>8.7</b>	<b>Generate PDF documents</b> .....	382
	8.7.1 Export of PDF files .....	383
<b>9</b>	<b>Data backup</b> .....	391
<b>9.1</b>	<b>Zippping and unzipping of projects</b> .....	392
	9.1.1 Zip projects .....	392
	9.1.2 Unzip projects .....	393
<b>9.2</b>	<b>Backing up and restoring projects</b> .....	393
	9.2.1 Back up projects .....	394
	9.2.2 Restore projects .....	400
<b>9.3</b>	<b>Other important settings</b> .....	402
	9.3.1 Default settings for project backup (global user setting) .....	402
	9.3.2 Compress project (remove unnecessary data) .....	403
	9.3.3 Automated processing of a project .....	405
<b>9.4</b>	<b>Backing up and restoring master data</b> .....	408
	9.4.1 Backing up master data .....	409
	9.4.2 Restoring master data .....	411
<b>9.5</b>	<b>Send project by e-mail directly</b> .....	413


















































<b>10</b>	<b>Master data editors</b> .....	415
10.1	Preparatory measures .....	418
10.2	Overview of forms .....	418
10.2.1	First option – manual overview .....	418
10.2.2	Second option – automatic overview .....	420
10.3	Forms .....	422
10.3.1	Create new form (from copy) .....	425
10.3.2	Edit existing form .....	431
10.3.3	Create new form .....	432
10.4	Plot frames .....	433
10.4.1	Create new plot frame (from copy) .....	434
10.4.2	Edit existing plot frame .....	436
10.4.3	Create new plot frame .....	437
<b>11</b>	<b>Old EPLAN data (EPLAN 5...)</b> .....	439
11.1	Import options .....	440
<b>12</b>	<b>Extensions</b> .....	443
12.1	EPLAN Pro Panel .....	443
12.1.1	What can EPLAN Pro Panel do? .....	443
12.1.2	General .....	444
12.1.3	Toolbars in EPLAN Pro Panel .....	446
12.1.4	Menus in EPLAN Pro Panel .....	458
12.1.5	Navigators in EPLAN Pro Panel .....	472
12.1.6	Settings for EPLAN Pro Panel .....	477
12.1.7	A practical example with EPLAN Pro Panel .....	479
12.2	EPLAN Data Portal .....	493
12.2.1	What are the advantages of the EPLAN Data Portal? .....	493
12.2.2	Before the first start .....	493
12.2.3	How the EPLAN Data Portal works .....	496
12.3	Project options .....	500
12.3.1	What are project options? .....	501
12.3.2	Terminology in the Project options module .....	501
12.3.3	Creating options and sections .....	502
12.3.4	Generate options overview report .....	508

<b>13</b>	<b>FAQs</b> .....	509
13.1	General .....	509
13.2	Parts .....	536
13.3	Terminals, plugs .....	541
13.4	Cables .....	545
13.5	PLC .....	548
13.6	Properties, layers .....	549
	13.6.1 Master data .....	553
13.7	Data exchange .....	560
13.8	Reports .....	561
<b>14</b>	<b>Creating a schematic project – step by step</b> .....	565
14.1	Create a project .....	565
14.2	Generate pages .....	569
14.3	Create a schematic .....	572
	14.3.1 Insert symbols .....	573
	14.3.2 Insert cables .....	578
14.4	Generate reports .....	583
	14.4.1 Generating other report pages .....	586
	<b>Index</b> .....	587













































## GENERAL ICONS IN THE NAVIGATORS

	Multiple projects are open
	Devices without DT, or devices
	Project structure level (view independent of standards)
	Project structure level (preceding sign view)
	Project structure level (user-defined structure)
 	Prefix / identifier; prefix

## UNPLACED OBJECTS IN THE NAVIGATORS

 	Main function, »multi-line« representation type
 	Main function, »single-line« representation type
 	Auxiliary function, »multi-line« representation type
 	Auxiliary function, »single-line« representation type
 	Overlaid main function
 	Overlaid function
 	Function relevant to safety
	Protected main function
	Function template
 	Black box, PLC box (main function)
 	Overlaid black box, PLC box (main function)
 	Black box, PLC box (auxiliary function)
 	Shield (main function)
 	Shield (auxiliary function)
 	Cable definition (main function)
 	Cable definition (auxiliary function)
 	Plug definition (main function)
 	Overlaid plug definition (main function)
 	Plug definition (auxiliary function)
 	Terminal strip definition (main function)
 	Overlaid terminal strip definition (main function)
 	Terminal strip definition (auxiliary function)
 	Channel (PLC)
 	Channel (PLC) with connection point relevant to safety
	Part
 	Isolated wire termination

## PLACED OBJECTS IN THE NAVIGATORS

 	Main function, »multi-line« representation type
 	Main function, »single-line« representation type
	Auxiliary function, »multi-line« representation type
	Auxiliary function, »single-line« representation type
	Auxiliary function, »pair cross-reference« representation type
	Auxiliary function, »overview« representation type
 	Main function, »overview« representation type
 	Overlaid main function
	Overlaid function
	Function relevant to safety
	Protected main function
 	Black box, PLC box (main function)
 	Overlaid black box, PLC box (main function)
	Black box, PLC box (auxiliary function)
 	Shield (main function)
	Shield (auxiliary function)
 	Cable definition (main function)
	Cable definition (auxiliary function)
 	Plug definition (main function)
 	Overlaid plug definition (main function)
	Plug definition (auxiliary function)
 	Terminal strip definition (main function)
 	Overlaid terminal strip definition (main function)
	Terminal strip definition (auxiliary function)
	Channel (PLC)
	Channel (PLC) with connection point relevant to safety
	Net
	Net definition point
	Parts placement, »panel layout« or »detailed panel layout« representation type
	Isolated wire termination
	Function contains inconsistent or incomplete data. After checking the project data, incorrect functions are identified by exclamation marks in the navigators.
	Layout space EPLAN Pro Panel X axis - Red; Y axis - Green; Z axis - Blue

# Foreword

Dear Users,

EPLAN Electric P8 is CAE software that is constantly being further developed. It offers innumerable project editing options and provides new innovations with each new version.



The current version 2.2 is the result of continual development of previous versions. This version once again incorporates a wide range of user requirements and requests that have arisen during the practical use of EPLAN.

This fourth edition of this book has been revised and expanded based on Version 2.2 to demonstrate the wide range of functions in EPLAN Electric P8. The book is meant to make it easier to start using the software and to smoothly guide you around initial hiccups when working with EPLAN Electric P8. Numerous practical examples show you what is possible with Version 2.2.

Of course, like its predecessors, this edition cannot and will not describe all of the software's functions or provide examples for every conceivable function. EPLAN Electric P8 becomes increasingly comprehensive with every new version, and it offers a variety of functions that cannot be completely covered in a single book. A book that describes all the functions would have thousands of pages and be impractical for the reader.

In Version 2.2, there are also many ways to reach the same goal. I will present and discuss some solutions. Others you will discover yourself and ask yourself why no one has ever tried it this or that way before.

This book will recommend solution approaches and demonstrate solutions that will help simplify your everyday work. It will help you make necessary decisions.

The book is addressed to everyone who uses EPLAN Electric P8 for electrical engineering designs – both daily and sporadic EPLAN Electric P8 users as well as engineers, electrical engineers, pupils and students.

I would like to express my thanks to Julia Stepp and her team at the Carl Hanser Verlag for the opportunity to write and publish this book. I would also like to sincerely thank my family, especially my wife Susanne. They have always been, and continue to be, very patient with me.



I would also like to thank all of the readers who have made this book a success. All feedback, whether criticism or praise, has always been a strong motivator for me to revise this book.

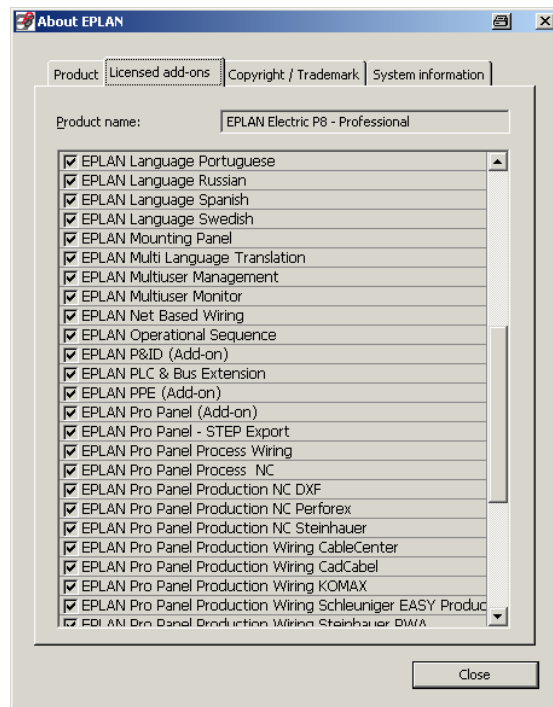
And finally, I would again like to thank EPLAN Software & Service GmbH & Co. KG for their consistent and very friendly support and collaboration in compiling some of the information for this edition of the EPLAN Electric P8 Reference Handbook.

### Important notes

All of the examples and explanations assume local installation and local operation of EPLAN. Furthermore, the book assumes that the user has all of the user rights in EPLAN and is logged in as the local administrator.

It is possible that, depending on the user's license and module package, certain functionality or a certain function described in the book will not be available or executable in the way in which it is explained and illustrated. Therefore, you should always check to see which licensed add-ons you have (via **HELP/ABOUT/LICENSED ADD-ONS TAB**).

For this book, EPLAN Electric P8 Professional Edition 2.2.5 Build 6338 was used with the licensed add-ons shown in the figure.



Help/Info/Licensed  
add-ons tab (excerpt)



**NOTE FOR USERS OF PREVIOUS VERSIONS:** Certain parts of the functions described here may exist in EPLAN Electric P8 Versions 1.7.x, 1.8.x, 1.9.x, 2.0.x and 2.1.x, but their use, settings and range of functionality may differ from Version 2.2.



The examples used in the book are available as an EPLAN Electric P8 project at [www.eplan-efficient-engineering.com/handbook](http://www.eplan-efficient-engineering.com/handbook). The example project can also be downloaded in the EPLAN Electric P8 Education Version format.

Some of the settings used in this book, such as those for filters or schemes, differ from the standard EPLAN installation. All of this additional data is available in the sample data. In addition, some custom, non-standard shortcut keys were also used.

The following text boxes are used to visually highlight notes, tips, etc.



**NOTE:** This box contains important notes that should be observed when using EPLAN Electric P8.



**TIP:** This box contains helpful tips for everyday working with EPLAN Electric P8.



**TO DO:** This box gives you practical exercises to let you try out what you have learned.



This box provides additional information and tips.

Whenever this symbol appears in the book's margin, you will find questions and answers to problems that occurred during actual use of EPLAN Electric P8.





# 1

## Installing EPLAN Electric P8

Since installation requires few steps and can only be performed by the system administrator, this chapter provides only a basic description of this process. EPLAN is usually already installed on the workstation.

Installation of EPLAN generally requires administrator rights. The system administrator also designates at least one EPLAN administrator who will later manage the EPLAN users (also known as rights management). If rights management is not used, then EPLAN can be started by all users without requiring passwords, etc.

User management (an add-on that must be purchased separately and is not always included with every license) is not described in this book. Brief general information is provided as necessary at the appropriate points.

### ■ 1.1 Hardware

For Version 2.x, EPLAN recommends a CPU comparable to a 3-GHz Intel Pentium D or a 2.4-GHz Intel Core 2 Duo with at least 4 GB of RAM.

EPLAN has no special requirements for the graphics card or other hardware components. A standard computer as used for Office applications, for example, is sufficient. Even for the graphic card, the more available memory, the smoother EPLAN runs. Certain add-ons, such as EPLAN Pro Panel and its extensions, have other hardware requirements that affect the graphics card and its drivers.

I feel that a single-screen solution can no longer be recommended for EPLAN due to the many additional modular dialogs that can be displayed, such as the various navigators. A two-screen solution is clearly preferable, and a three-screen solution with each screen having a resolution of at least 1680 × 1050 pixels is ideal.

Of course, EPLAN still functions with just one screen. But this screen should have a resolution of at least 1280 × 1024 pixels.

## ■ 1.2 Installation

As far as installation is concerned, EPLAN is a normal Windows program. Apart from a few entries, the new EPLAN Setup Manager (as of Version 2.1.x) performs most of the work. There are only a few entries in the Windows registry, which is commendable and not always the case today.

Installation is usually started using the installation CD. The *Setup.exe* file in the root directory of the CD is run to begin installation. Installation after downloading the installation package from the EPLAN homepage works the same way (the downloaded ZIP file unpacks the installation data into the same directories that would be on the installation DVD).

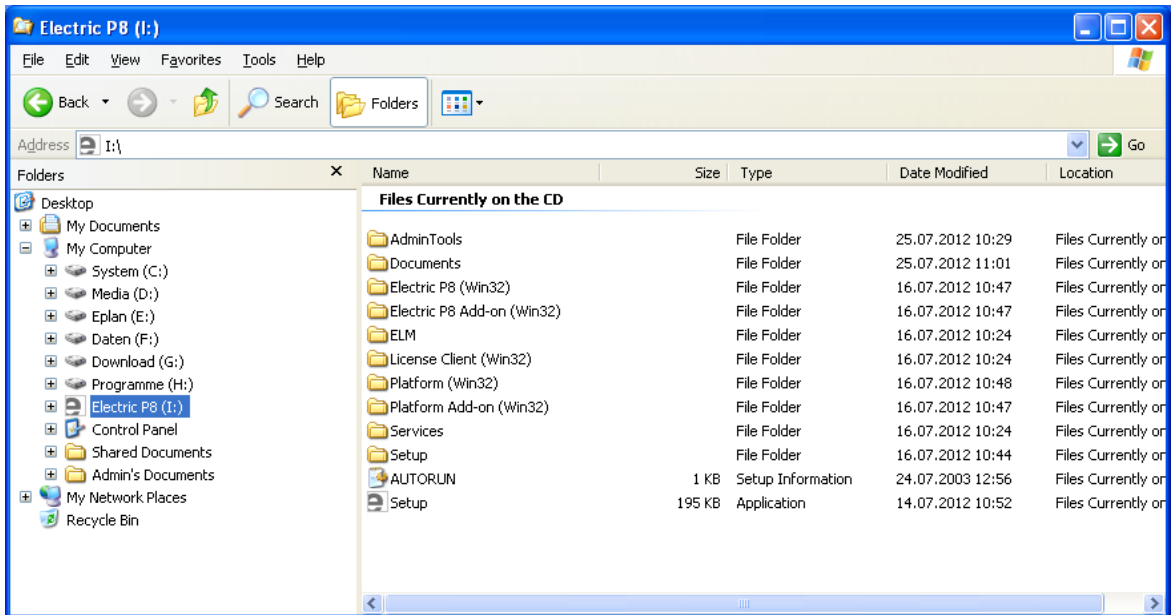
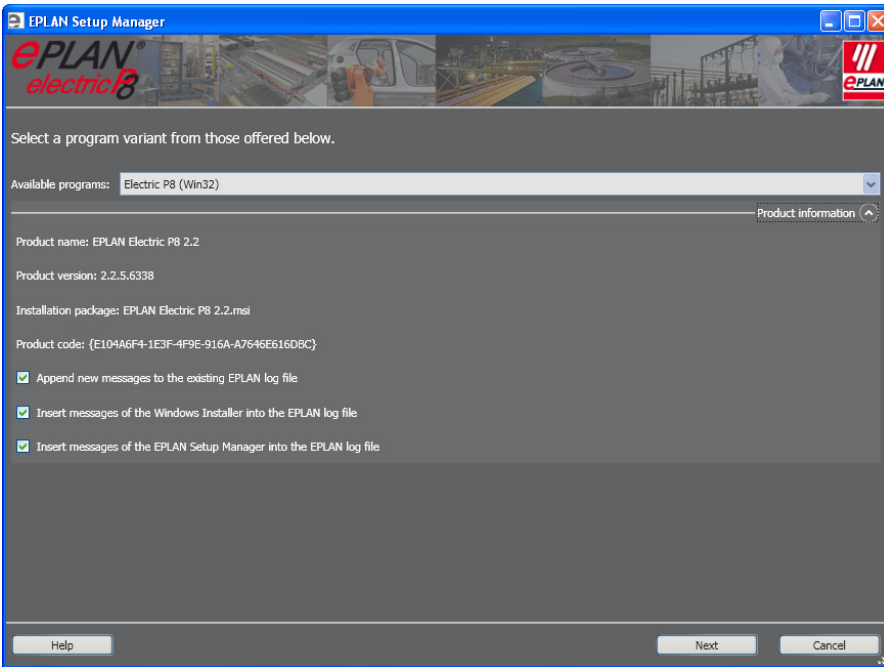


Fig. 1.1 Installation directory

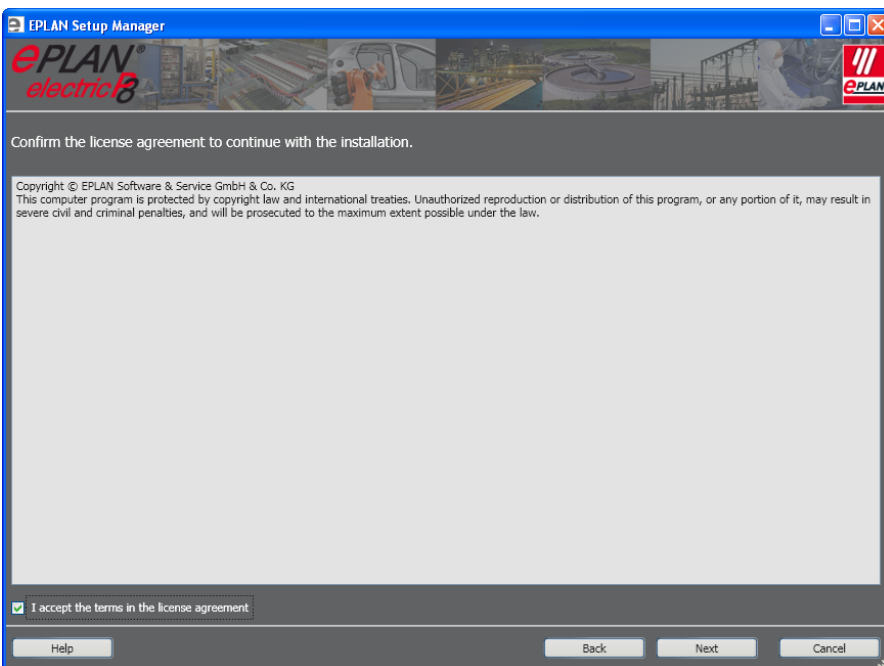


**NOTE:** Running EPLAN Electric P8 requires a specific version of .NET Framework. If .NET Framework is not installed, or is not installed in the required version, it must be installed before you can proceed with the installation of EPLAN.



**Fig. 1.2**  
The EPLAN Setup Manager's basic settings

When the **NEXT** button is clicked, the license agreement dialog is displayed. This must be accepted in order to use the EPLAN Setup Manager.



**Fig. 1.3**  
Licensing agreement dialog

After the dialogs showing the EPLAN Setup Manager's basic settings and the available programs, the first installation dialog appears.

When the NEXT button is clicked, the **Target directories, settings** dialog is displayed. This is where you set the *program directory*, the *system master data directory*, the *company code*, and the directories for *user*, *workstation* and *company settings*. You must also define the *units of measurement* for the system and the directory for the *EPLAN original master data*. This ensures that your own master data is always synchronized with the original EPLAN master data.

EPLAN always suggests default directories for the installation.

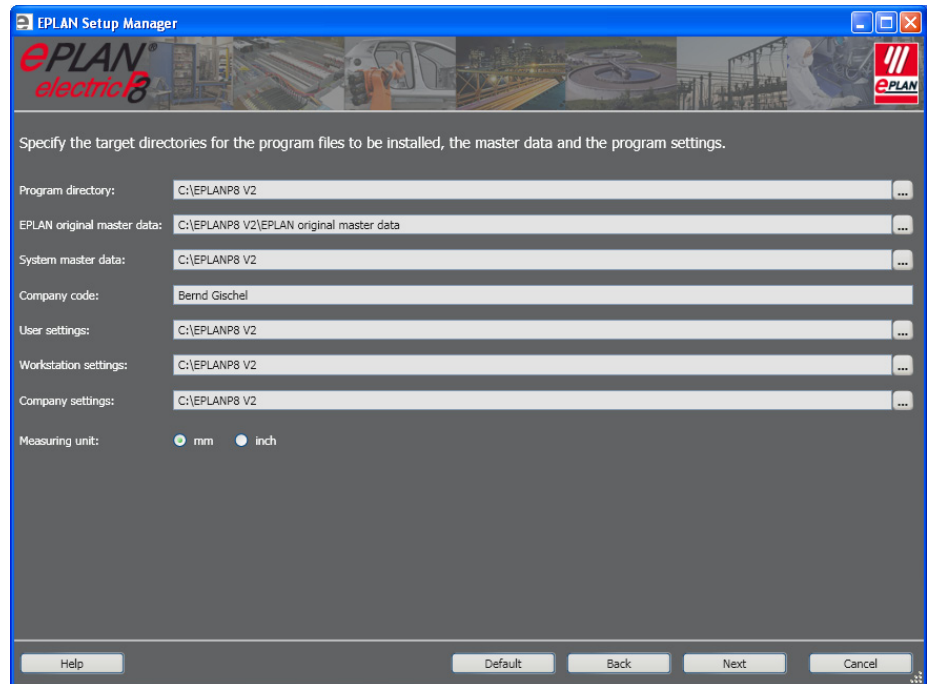
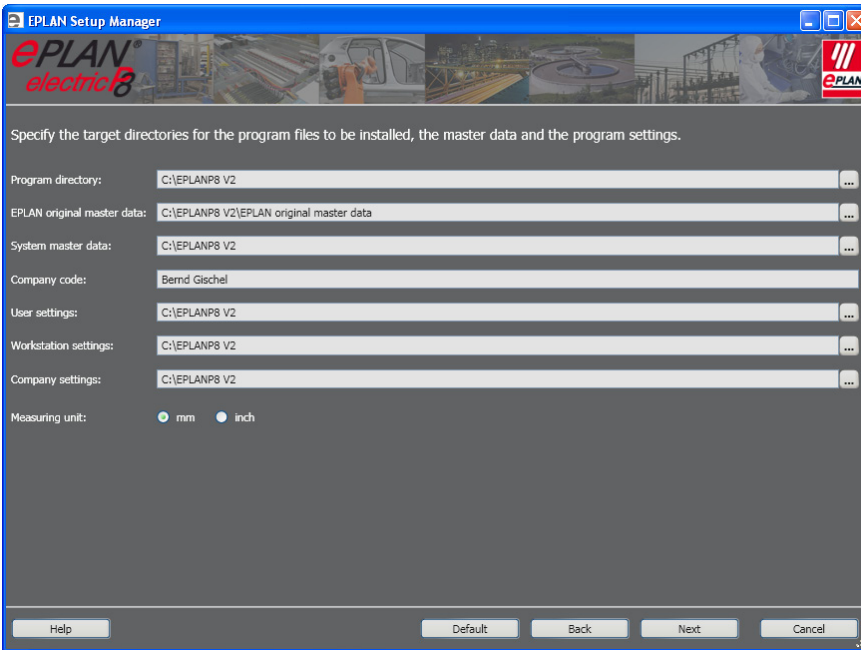


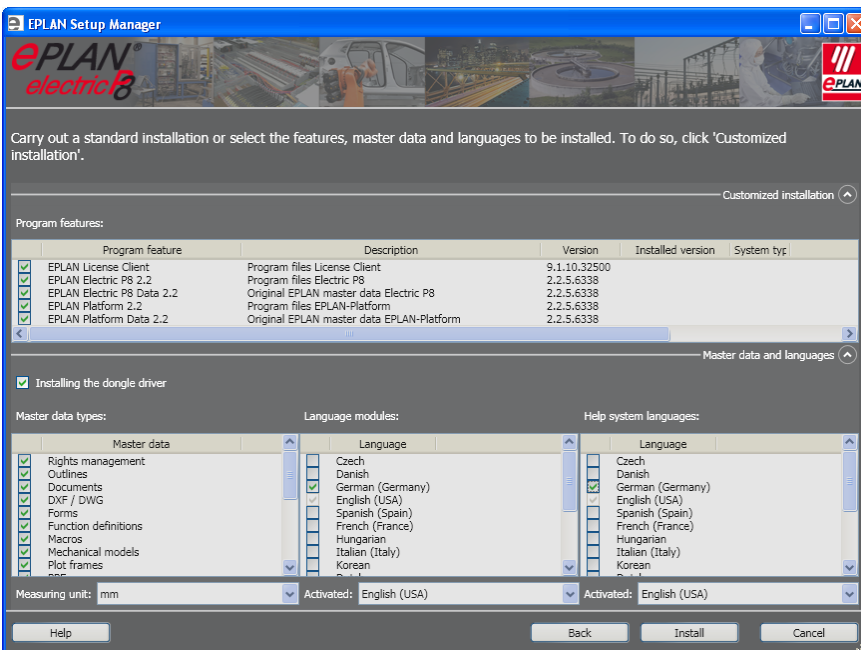
Fig. 1.4 Definition of target directories

These suggested directories can be kept or changed at this point. I always change these directories (and of course the company code) to my own target directories.



**Fig. 1.5**  
Changed target directories and company code

When you have checked or changed all directories, you exit the dialog by clicking **NEXT**. EPLAN continues with the installation and asks what program components, master data and languages should be installed.



**Fig. 1.6**  
Scope of components to be installed



After you set all the required information and click **INSTALL**, the Windows Installer prepares the required components and the actual installation begins.

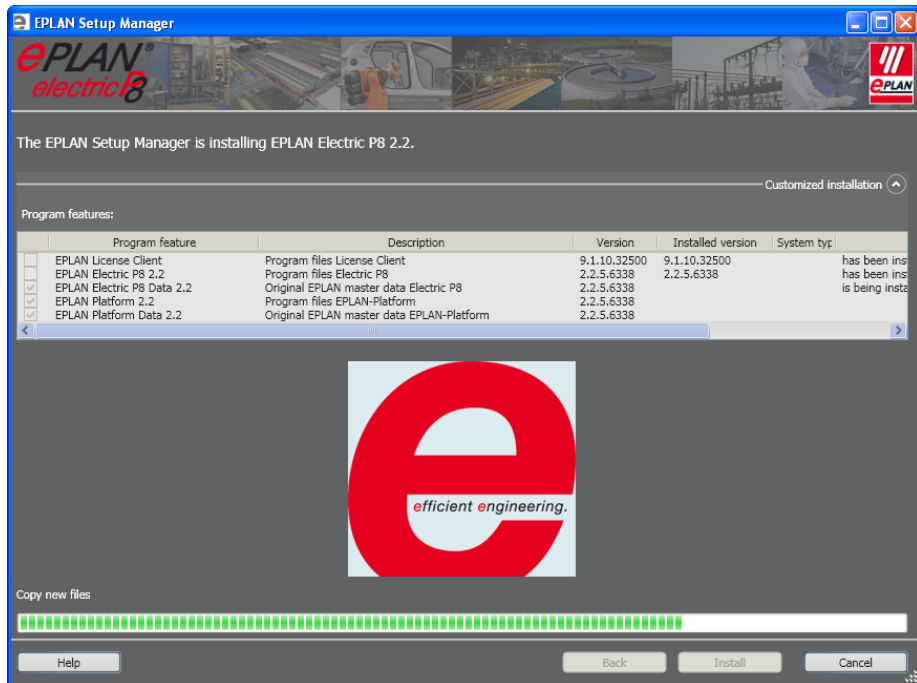


Fig. 1.7 EPLAN being installed



**NOTE:** EPLAN does not replace your system master data. If you would like to work with EPLAN's new system master data at a later date, then you must synchronize this data.

By design, EPLAN does not overwrite user-related master data because the user may have modified the original system master data and saved this under the original name assigned by EPLAN. During installation, EPLAN does not recognize whether this data has been changed and would therefore simply replace it. Usually the user does not want this to happen.

Once installation is complete, EPLAN displays the completion dialog. Here, you have to click **FINISH**. Installation of EPLAN Electric P8 is now complete.

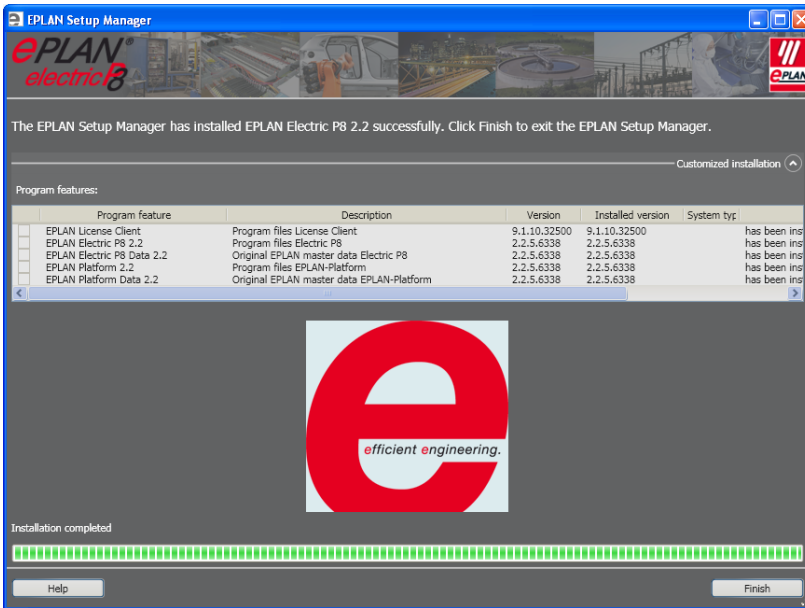


Fig. 1.8  
Finishing the  
installation

EPLAN Electric P8 can now be started from the Start menu or the desktop icon.

If a license has not yet been installed, a one-time dialog requesting the validation code (license number) for the installed dongle (hardware protection) is displayed before the program starts.



Fig. 1.9  
Activating EPLAN

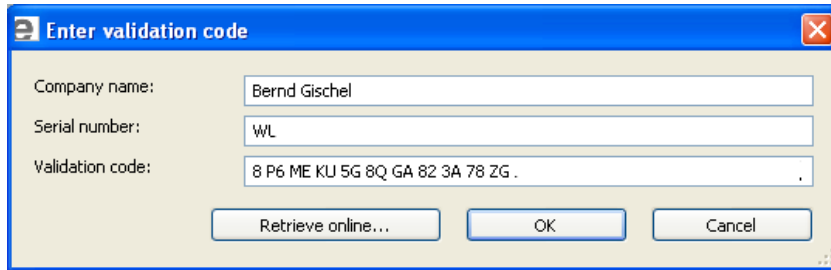


Fig. 1.10 Entering the validation code or request the code online

EPLAN starts with the **Select scope of menu** dialog. Here you can choose between the options *Beginner* (only the basic menus allowing graphical drawing of a project and/or working with macros), *Advanced* (more extensive display options, such as minimum text size or empty text boxes, can be displayed and used), or *Expert* (all menus and functions available), and then confirm your selection by clicking OK. The *Beginners*, *Advanced*, and *Expert* options are hard-coded into EPLAN and cannot be changed or extended.

**NOTE:** The **Select scope of menu** dialog is only displayed when EPLAN is used without rights management.

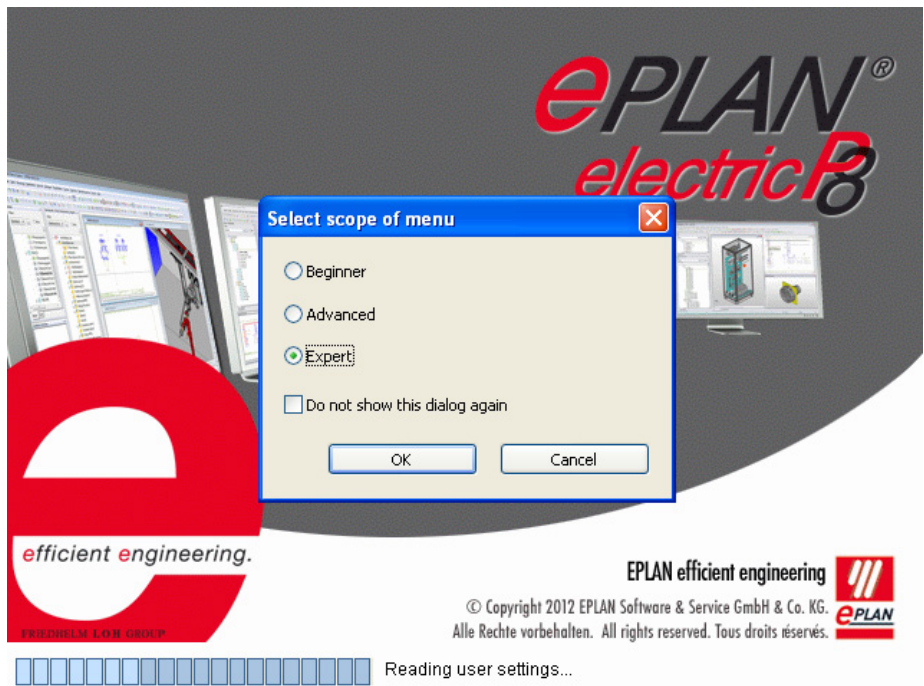


Fig. 1.11 Starting up EPLAN for the first time

If a previous version is being used, then there is a **one-time** option to import the settings (user, workstation and company) from this version in the subsequent dialog. If you click the CANCEL button, none of the previous version's settings will be imported.

EPLAN now opens the *Default* workspace (a standard view) and displays the **Tip of the day**.

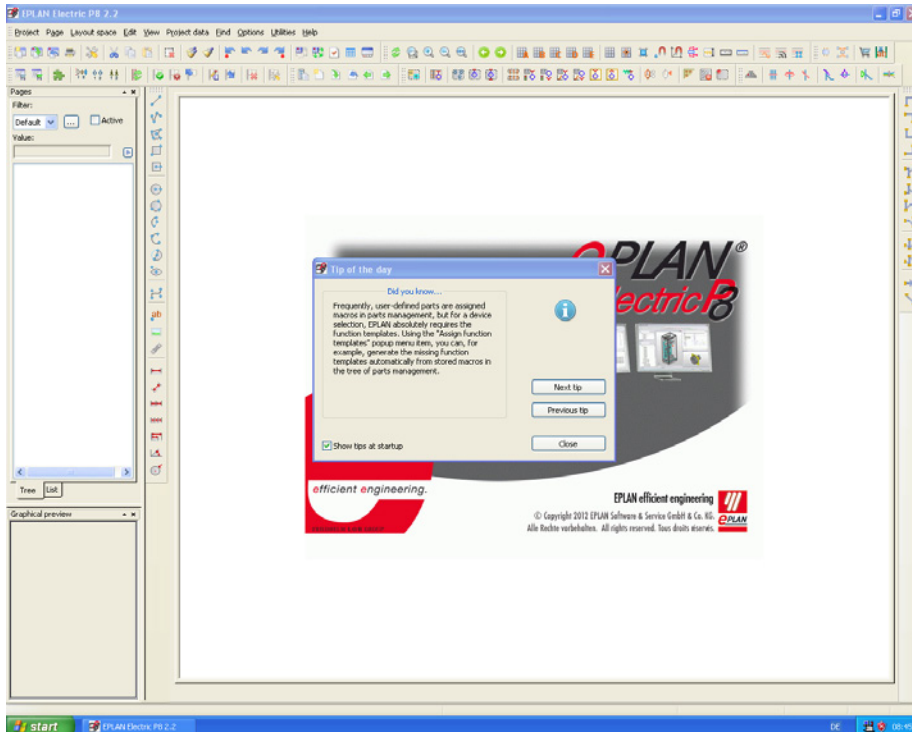


Fig. 1.12 Starting up EPLAN for the first time

## ■ 1.3 Note for users of previous versions

You should use the export function to export the schemes, filters, etc. that you have created in a previous version so that you will be able to import them later into Version 2.2 as necessary.

### 1.3.1 Parallel operation with previous versions

Because EPLAN has again in Version 2.2 made some changes to the databases, which are no longer compatible with the previous versions, we recommend that you install Version 2.2 and its master data in a separate directory.

This especially applies to changes in the parts database. If you open the parts database with Version 2.2 and reformat it for Version 2.2, you will no longer be able to write to the file when you open it with previous versions. However you will still be able to read it with the previous versions.

# 2

## The basics of the system

This chapter provides a brief explanation of some important EPLAN principles, functions, and working methods, and uses a number of examples to illustrate selected facts and system settings.

Important points are the directory structure, settings, multiple starts, notes on project and page properties, notes on particular dialog properties, handling of schemes, forms, plot frames, symbol libraries and an overview of my personal shortcut keys.

### ■ 2.1 Five principles for working with EPLAN Electric P8



**1st principle:** Errors during project editing are allowed in EPLAN Electric P8.

In general, mistakes are allowed when working with EPLAN Electric P8. This basic principle of allowing mistakes is illustrated in the following example. A contactor may have two auxiliary contacts in the schematic, with both of them initially having the same connection point designation. Things that are not physically possible are initially “allowed” by EPLAN while working on a project. The user is not slowed down by “irritating” errors or messages during editing. This type of error naturally appears in message management, but only as a message entry. This entry initially has no further consequences. When project editing has progressed far enough, or is finished, EPLAN can perform certain project checks. Erroneous entries such as those described above will be listed in the project, if they do not already exist in message management.

Of course this error must be fixed in order to have a correct practical reference. However, this is not **compulsory**. EPLAN allows the user to decide whether a project is error free or not and which priority a message (error, warning, or note) should have. It is also pos-