



## Training Courses for Preactor

Installed by more than 3,000 companies in 67 countries around the world.

### IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT TRAINING FOR PREACTOR

Preactor is a functionally rich product that has been developed over 16 years. To get the best from your application, thorough training is a sound invest-

#### 1 | USER COURSE

The Preactor User Course is meant to be attended by those members of staff who will be the primary users. It covers entering data such as resources, product routing and shift patterns as well as generating schedules and interacting with them.

#### 2 | CUSTOMISATION COURSE

The Preactor Configuration course is designed for those members of staff who wish to customise Preactor, for example add fields, change menus, and integrate it with other applications such as spreadsheets, ERP, SFDC etc...

#### 3 | API COURSE

The Preactor API course is for those members of staff who have software programming experience and who wish to customise Preactor further using .NET compliant programming languages.

#### 4 | WORKSHOPS

All courses are taught by experienced Preactor International support staff. Computers are provided to have hands-on training through a series of structured workshops.

## WHY IS TRAINING IMPORTANT?

Training is important when using all software and Preactor is no different. Of course it is possible to go without and use the on-line help and technical support but there is no substitute for hands-on training from those that have been familiar with how Preactor works for many years. Preactor is also renowned for its flexibility. The best way to explain how Preactor is structured is to say that it is the 'Excel of Production Scheduling'. It provides an environment to create a model or solution that meets the exact requirements of the application. Just as a single spreadsheet is an 'instance' of Excel so a configuration is an instance of Preactor. Many configurations or data models may be created and used in Preactor using a single license.

## USER COURSE

The User Course is split into two parts. The first part is designed to give the user an understanding of the available functionality. It starts with a simple make to order job shop model then moves to a more complex assembly environment. Note that the course is not designed to teach how to plan or schedule but to teach experienced planners how to schedule with Preactor.

An agenda for Part 1 of the user course is as follows:-

### Introduction to Preactor FCS

- Using the operating system
- Setting up the Preactor data tables
- Entering orders
- Scheduling orders
- Adding new orders
- Breakdowns, status update, schedule repair
- Reports
- Using Preactor for Assembly

### Introduction to APS

- APS Scheduling Rules
- Materials Control
- SMC Pegging Rules
- Scheduling Despite Shortages
- Order Promising with multiple level BoMs

## Modelling Techniques

Part 2 is designed to give the user more information on how to set up Preactor to handle common types of model.

The workshops are based on three examples.

The first is a food processing company. It shows how the following features are used in a typical model:-

- Infinite capacity resources
- Secondary constraints with infinite capacity resources to limit, for example the number of batches in ovens and tanks
- Match Property to limit which batches can be processed together
- Maximum Operation Span to affect the timing of operations
- Minimise queue (waiting) time between operations

The second is based on an injection moulding company. It shows how the following features are used in a typical model:-

- Simple Sequence Dependent Setup Time
- Transfer Batching
- Using Dependent Lots
- Using Independent Lots
- Using Subsequent Resource Groups

The third example shows different ways of modelling staff and labour constraints.

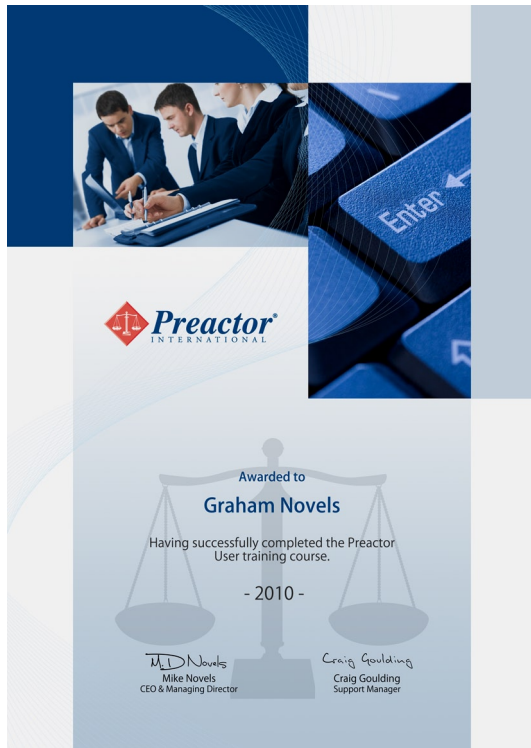
# CONFIGURATION COURSE

The Configuration Course is the starting point for those wishing to customise Preactor. Workshops show how to make changes to the main configuration files (.prtdf and .prmdf) import and export data from and to other software programs and create Event Scripts which allow macro style customisation of events in Preactor.

- Preactor Structure
- Table Definition File (.Prtdf)
- Menu Definition File (.Prmdf)
- Modifying the Command Definition File (.Prcdf)
- Integrating Preactor with other systems
- Preactor Web Publisher
- PrSpy
- Preactor Communication Object
- Preactor Viewers
- License Site Manager
- Compiling Configurations
- Migrating from older versions
- Preactor Event Script Processor
  - For Events
  - Actions
  - Timed Events
  - Transferring Event Scripts
  - Debugging Event Scripts
  - Example Scripts

## COURSE CERTIFICATES

Users who complete any of the Preactor courses can obtain a course certificate. This qualification is useful to show your expertise in the use of one of the world's leading planning and scheduling tools available in today's market.



# STARTER PACKS

Preactor International offers a Starter Pack. This provides a package that includes the standard training courses as well as services to start the process of configuring Preactor for the solution that is required. Typically the Implementation Plan will start with a Design Workshop where together we will define the Design Framework for your Preactor system. This will lead to a Preactor Work Plan and Customer Work Plan for the project. Additional services can then be ordered as required to complete the implementation.

## API COURSE

The API course is designed for software developers who have experience in using the latest Microsoft tools such as Visual Studio and .NET programming languages. Examples would be creating or enhancing unique scheduling rules, providing a message driven integration to systems such as ERP, or creating new add-ons for Preactor.

- Introduction
- Software Development Kit (SDK)
- Template Projects
- Overview of Preactor Objects
- Creating Custom Actions
- Setting up a Custom Action
- Using the Preactor Object
- Data Manipulation
- Debugging, Logging and Error Handling
- Using the Open Planning Board Objects
- Event based Rules
- Algorithmic Rules
- OCX Windows
- Deployment

## CONTACT DETAILS

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## 4 OF OUR USER TESTIMONIALS

### 1 | EASTWOOD PRECISION

*The User Course was just what I needed to get up and running. It was well structured so even a novice could understand the basics while the modelling techniques day gave me more about how I could use standard functions to model my factory without using a consultant.*

*Chris Groves,  
Planning Manager*

### 2 | CAPE HORN PLASTICS

*It all looked a bit complicated when I started but I soon got to grips with it. The workshops were really useful as step by step we were taken through the setup and daily use of the tool. It's well worth the time and investment.*

*Kelly Blunstone, Materials Controller*

### 3 | STATION FOODS

*For me the most important factor in choosing Preactor was the ability to customise it so we could change it to suit our needs. The courses enabled me to understand how to do this and I was able to meet Preactor support staff who would help me further if I needed to.*

*Mike McCarthy, Planner*

### 4 | BRIMAN

*We needed to get the best out of what we had purchased and training was as important to me as the software itself. Being out of the office too was important. There were no interruptions and I could learn that much faster.*

*George Draper, Owner*