

Tips and tricks

Main window

- 1) Right-click on any of the material category tabs to display an alphabetic list of the individual material lists. Click on a list to go to it.
- 2) You can right-click in the “Quick search” field to pop-up a menu of options.
- 3) In “Quick search” you can screen out various classes of materials from the search under the “Search” menu or from the pop-up menu. In “Quick search” capitalization and non-alphanumeric characters are ignored.
- 4) From a materials list you can right-click to show a list of properties, then click on a property to show a list of the materials within this list that have datasets for this property.
- 5) If the material list is a polymer you can choose to list only the filled or the unfilled materials in a new pop-up window.
- 6) You can use Unicode characters in the UI from the “Options” menu in the main window. This can make the labels easier to read. Make sure the font you have selected has all the required Unicode characters. If you have accidentally selected a font that does not display at all, one fix is to delete your mpdb.ini file. This will reset all your selections. You can also blindly select a new font until it looks OK.

Main window (Elements tab)

- 1) You can right-click on an element to show a pop-up list of other functions.
- 2) Click on the “Solid”, “Liquid”, or “Gas” element boxes to open a new dialog to change the colors used by the program. You can click the “Show other tab type” button to see how the new color scheme would look on the other type of tab (periodic table vs. others).
- 3) You can change the layout of the periodic table to the alternate common layout under the “Options” menu. This will require a restart of the program.

Main window – Multi-Material Plots

- 1) Right-click on a material in a list and select “Add to multi-material plot”.
- 2) Hold the CTRL key while you right-click on a material in a list and select “Add all materials up to the next break to multi-material plot”. This will add multiple adjacent materials at once.
- 3) You can add up to 15 materials.
- 4) Use the “Multi-plot->Open Multi-plot window” to make your plots.

Material window

1. You can double-click on a “Property”, “Phase/Condition”, or “Orientation/Condition” to plot the property.
2. You can double right-click on a “Property”, “Phase/Condition”, or “Orientation/Condition” to display the data.
3. When you make a selection the note will be automatically displayed so you can get more details about the materials/test conditions without having to make a plot or display the data.
4. You can automatically copy the data to the clipboard by setting this option under the “Options” menu. This will automatically copy the data when the data is displayed in the window.
5. You can color the “Reference”, “Note”, and “Data” tabs for better visibility under the “Options” menu.
6. You can have a green or red indicator shown indicating if you have a consistent set of units selected under the “Options” menu.
7. If the “at temperature” option is checked the property will only be shown at the temperature entered.
8. If you are displaying an Excel equation you can use the F4 key much like you can in Excel to change the cell value reference type from local to fixed row/column. Just place the cursor in the input field and press F4.
9. If you click the “Multi-plot” button all of the data curves for that property will be available for plotting on the same plot for easier comparison. See “Multi-plot window” below.
10. You can first click anywhere in a reference http link then press the right mouse button and a browser will open to that reference.

Plot window

1. Once you have a plot you can read off a value by clicking on the curve. The values are displayed next to the menu in the plot window. This can be turned on/off under the “Plot options” menu. Once a point is selected and the mouse is within the plot limits you can use the mouse wheel to move the point. Holding down the “Shift” or “Ctrl” keys while scrolling will move the point faster, holding them both down will move it even faster.
2. You can move the min/max value of the plot by entering values (Option menu) or with the mouse wheel if enabled (Option menu). Using the mouse wheel can be a bit tricky, just enable this and place the mouse below the x-axis. If the mouse is on the left-side the minimum value will be moved, if on the right-side, the maximum value will be moved.

Multi-plot window

1. If you click on a curve label the note and reference will be displayed. The curve will also be highlighted if the “Highlight selected curve” option is checked.
2. You can right-click on a main heading to pop-up a menu to select or de-select all of the curves under that heading.
3. When a large number of curves (>80) are selected the Windows version is slow. It is helpful to uncheck all curves, resize the plot as desired, then re-select the curves you want to plot.
4. You can first click anywhere in a reference http link then press the right mouse button and a browser will open to that reference.

Search by composition window

1. You can right-click in the min/max field to show a list of predefined composition ranges.
2. You can right-click on an addition button to show a list of options.
3. You can use the mouse wheel to change the values in the min/max field.

All windows

1. You can enable some highlighting features to make your selections clearer. You can enable color highlighting and/or font highlighting under the “Options” menu in the main or material window.
2. There are several display options available in the “Output options” window (the gear icon). You can control which temperature, length, and stress units are displayed.