Installing a Custom AutoCAD Toolbar (CUI interface)

AxciScape produces AutoCAD script files which must be Run within AutoCAD. You can do this by typing SCRIPT into the command line and then select the file from the file list.

AxciScape by default creates the script file in its Work space folder, normally found in My documents. And also by default the script is given a standard filename "autocad_script.scr". If you retain the default settings then a custom toolbar can be installed into AutoCAD to load up the default script filename and run it with just 1 mouse click. This can be a real time saver if you, like me, prefer to do several plots in a short space of time (using Undo within AutoCAD each time); I can then tailor my drawing functions before finalizing the job.

Before you start you need both AxciScape and AutoCAD open.

Creating the Run Script Command

Before we start modifying the AutoCAD CUI, we need to load a macro from AxciScape. This saves time having to format the macro text manually.

You need to have version 3.03 (or newer) of AxciScape to create the macro. If you are using an older version and you don't wish to install 3.03 or later then go to the chapter at the end of this document for details on creating the macro yourself manually.
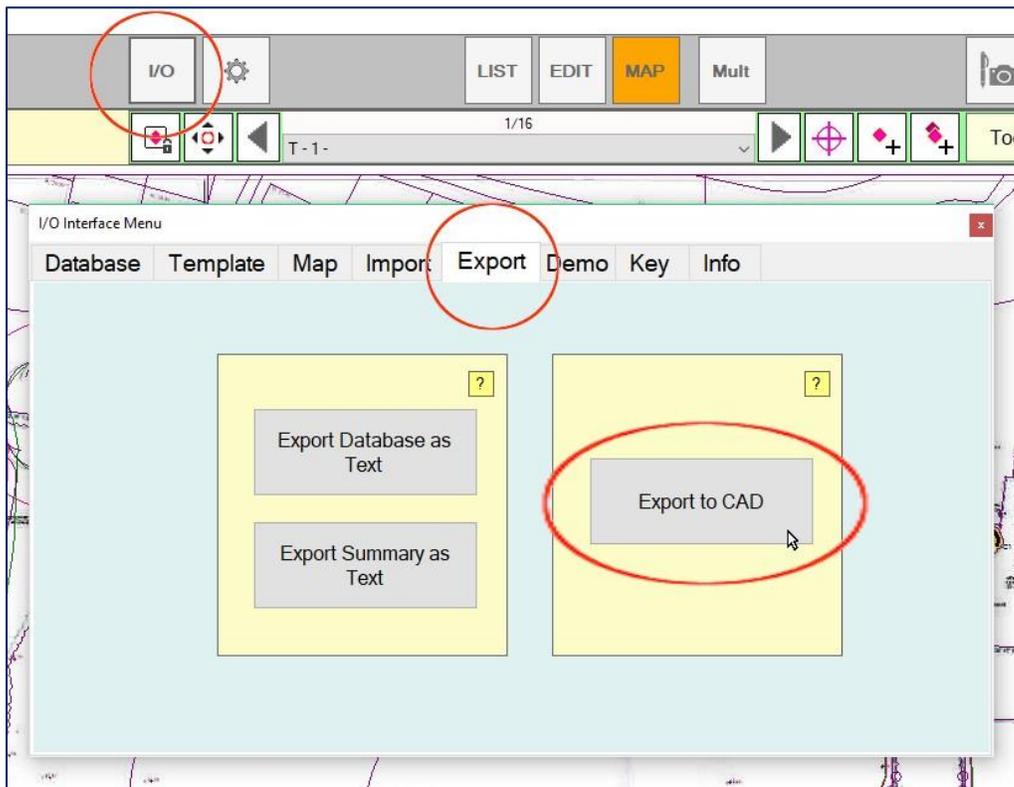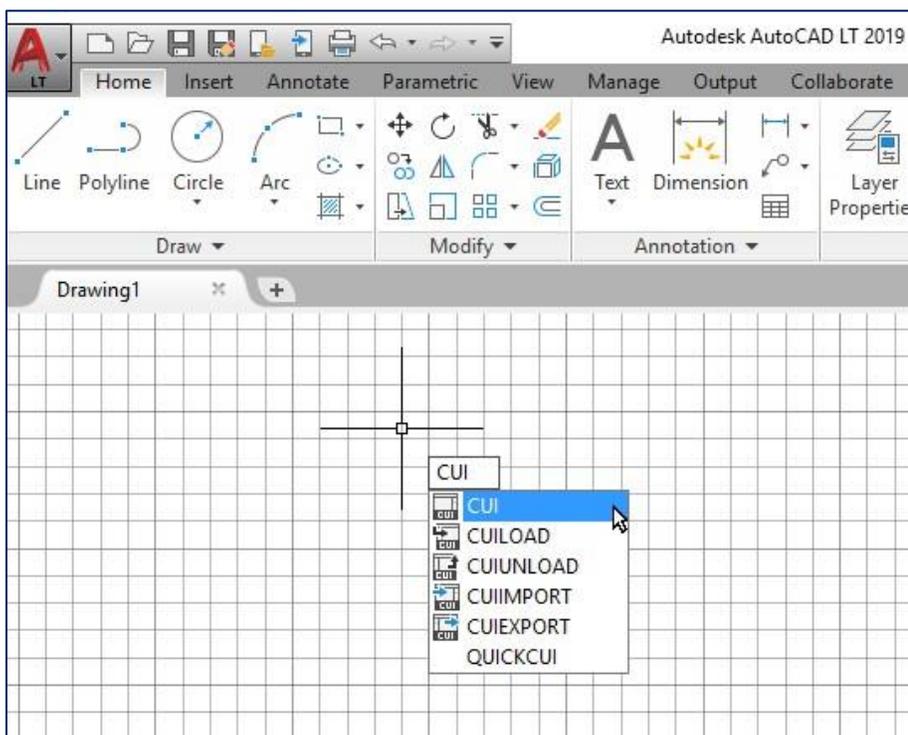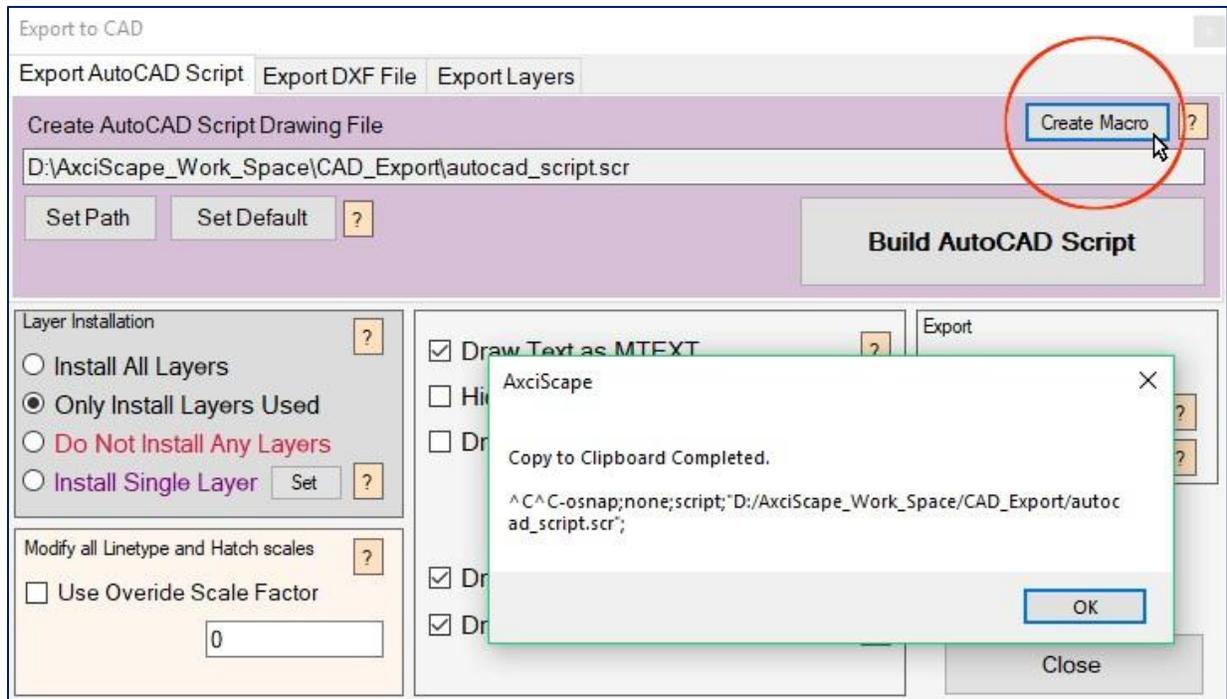

Open the I/O window, select Export and click the 'Export to CAD' button.

AxciScape

Select the Export AutoCAD Script tab and click on the 'Create Macro' button (this is only present on v3.03 or newer).

A pop-up windows appears telling us that the macro has been saved to the windows copy/paste clipboard.
You can now close all the windows and even AxciScape if you like. But its important not to copy anything else until we have pasted the macro later on!

Export to CAD

| Export AutoCAD Script | Export DXF File | Export Layers |

Create AutoCAD Script Drawing File   Create Macro   ?

D:\AxciScape_Work_Space\CAD_Export\autocad_script.scr

Set Path   Set Default   ?   **Build AutoCAD Script**

Layer Installation   ?   ☑ Draw Text as MTEXT   2   Export
○ Install All Layers   ☐ Hi   AxciScape   ✕
● Only Install Layers Used   ☐ Dr   ?
○ Do Not Install Any Layers   Copy to Clipboard Completed.   ?
○ Install Single Layer   Set   ?   ^C^C-osnap;none;script;"D:/AxciScape_Work_Space/CAD_Export/autoc
                                              ad_script.scr";
Modify all Linetype and Hatch scales   ?
☐ Use Overide Scale Factor   ☑ Dr   OK
                 0   ☑ Dr   Close

Autodesk AutoCAD LT 2019

LT | Home | Insert | Annotate | Parametric | View | Manage | Output | Collaborate

Line Polyline Circle Arc   Text Dimension   Layer Properties

Draw ▾   Modify ▾   Annotation ▾

Drawing1   ✕   +

CUI

| CUI |
| CUILOAD |
| CUIUNLOAD |
| CUIIMPORT |
| CUIEXPORT |
| QUICKCUI |

Now from within AutoCAD type CUI into the command line and hit enter to open the interface screen.
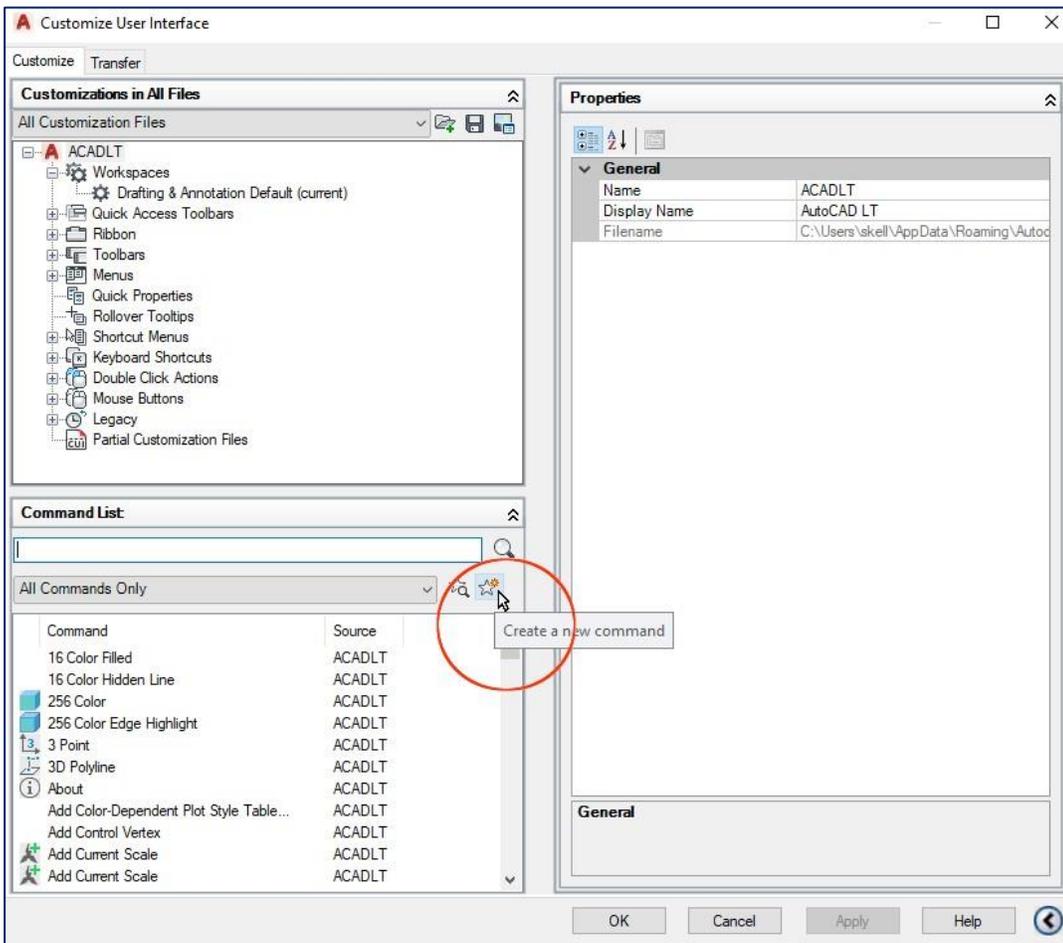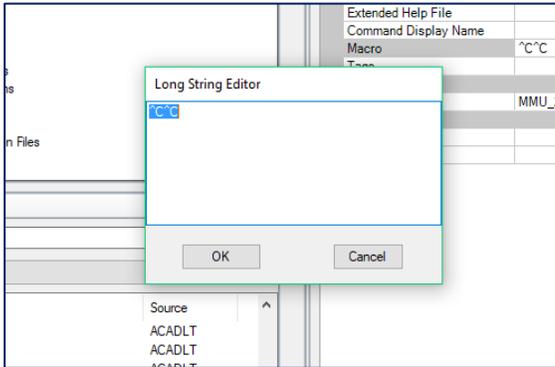
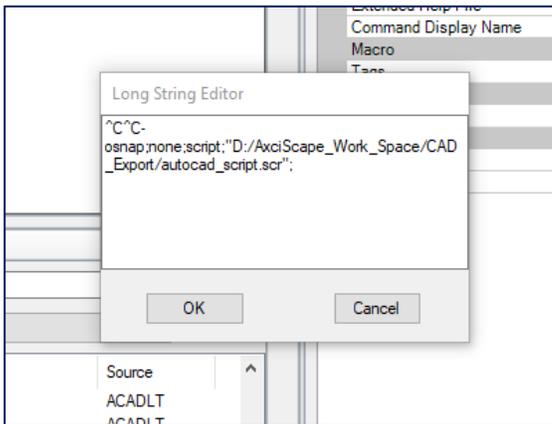Click on the little star in the command list to create a new command.
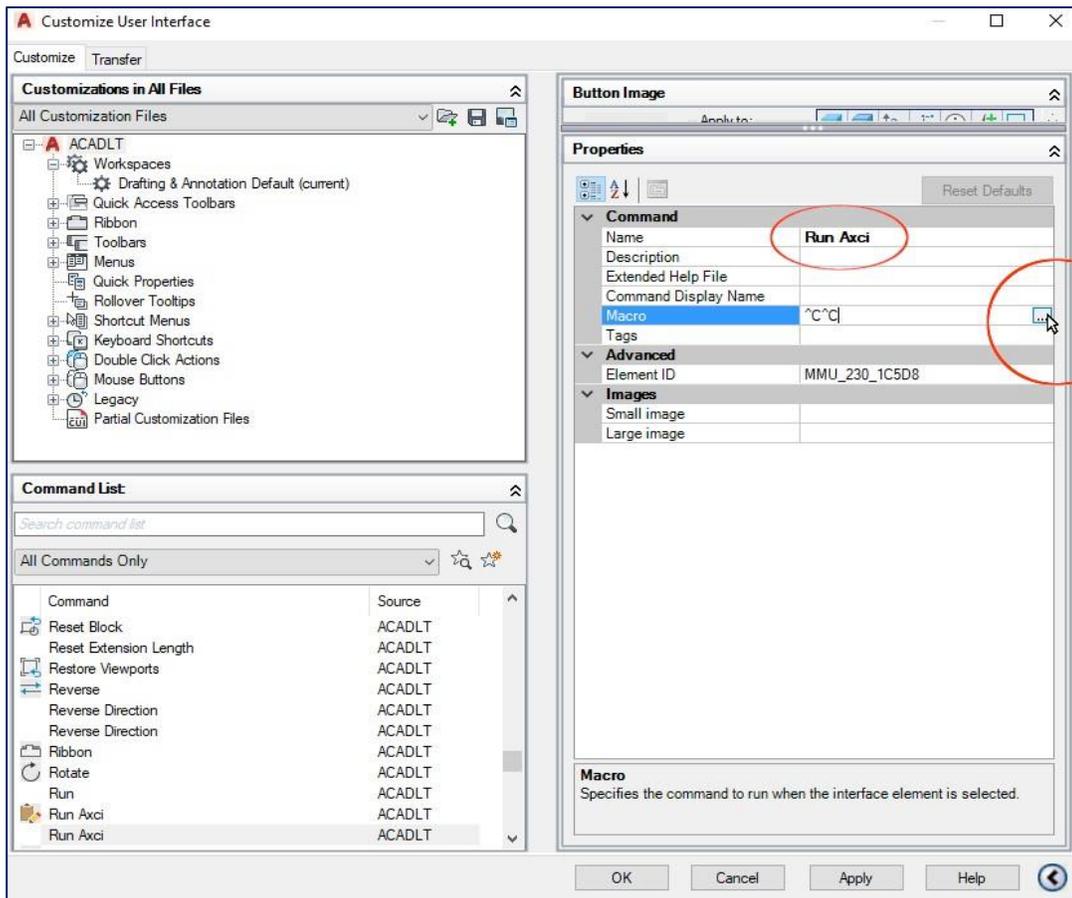
Give the command a name, I have called mine 'Run Axci'.

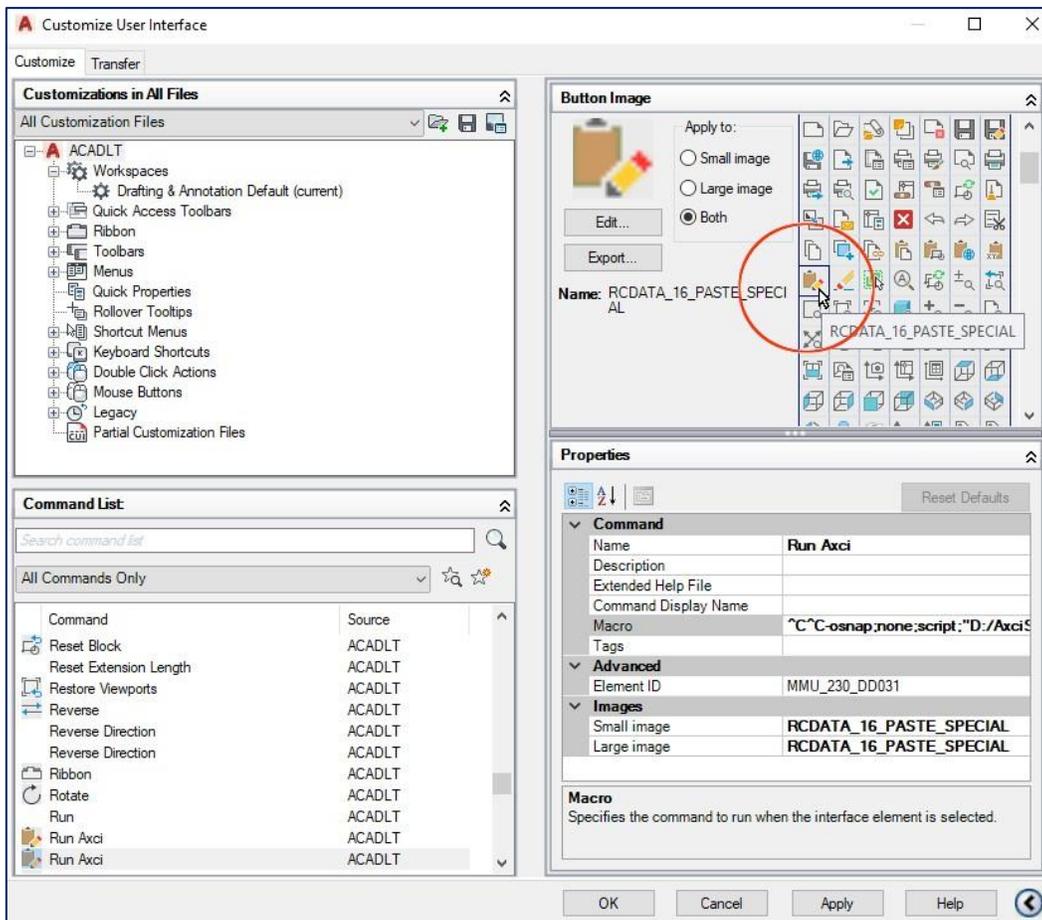And then click the small box on the Macro line.

A text box opens. Select the existing text and delete.

Then press Ctrl V (or right click – select paste) to enter the text we copied from AxciScape.

So you should have something similar to this. Your path will be slightly different, I use a D drive to hold my files, yours will probably be C:/.....

Click Ok.

Now we can assign an icon picture to the command. So expand the top window for a list of images. Select on any you wish to use.

I have gone for a clipboard and pen !

And that's it, our script run command is finished.

We will be using this command in the next section below.

Command Display Options

There are two ways to show the above command on the AutoCAD screen. We can place it on a toolbar or add it to the main ribbon at the top.

The picture below shows the 2 options. I have it docked on the left toolbar and also inserted it into the 'Manage' Tab ribbon (simply because this ribbon is quite empty)! I could add it to any of the ribbon tabs (such as Home) and delete some functions I don't need, to make space.
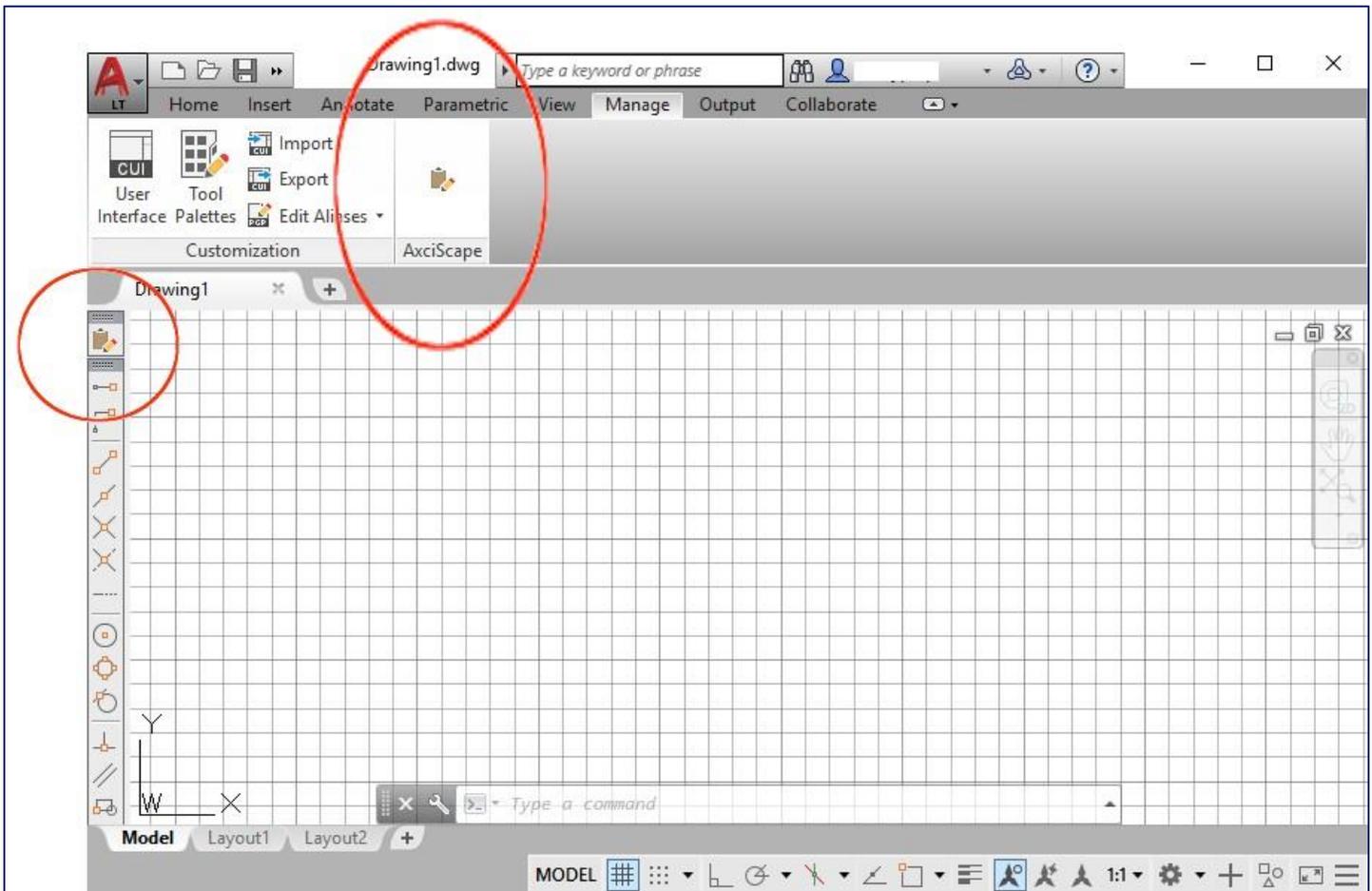
So the following sections discuss both options and you can decide which one to use for your AutoCAD.

If you intend to place it on the ribbon, its important to decide which Ribbon tab you are going to use before modifying the CUI ! So close the CUI by clicking OK and explore where it should go.
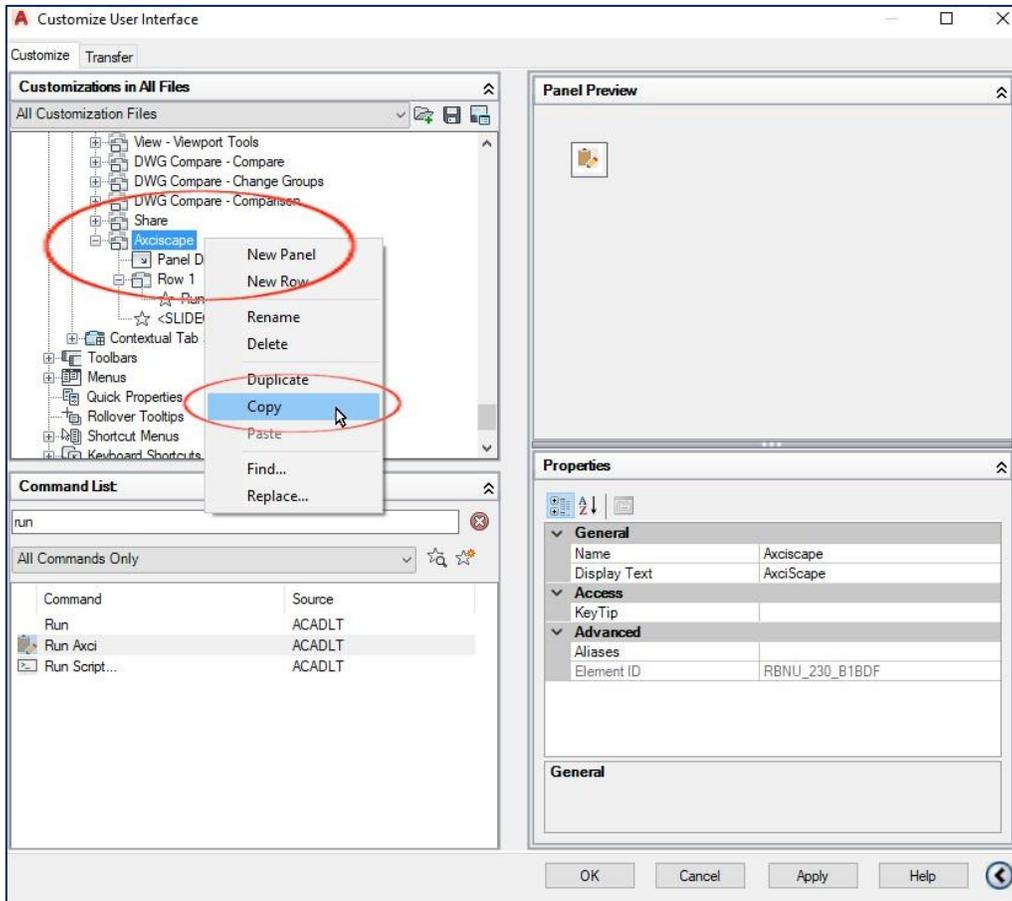
Adding the Command to a Ribbon Tab
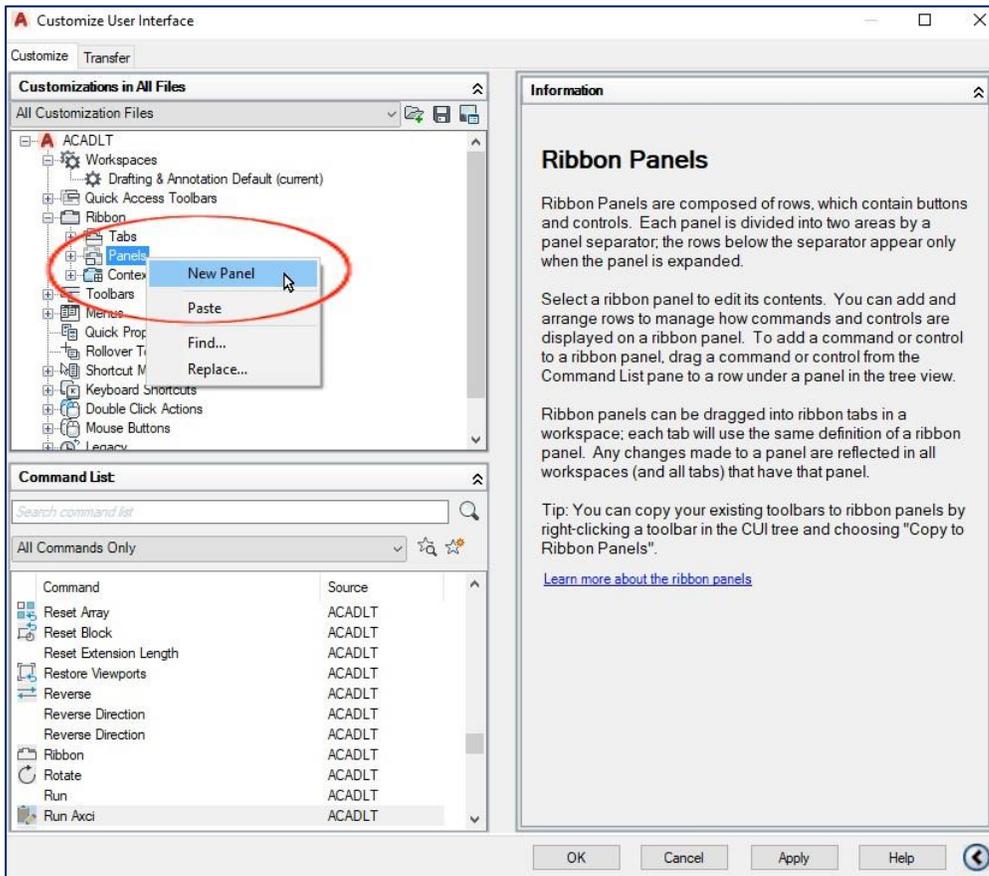
Open the CUI interface unless its already open.

Find the Ribbon folder, expand it by clicking the little +. Find the Panels folder, right click on the Panels and select 'New Panel'.
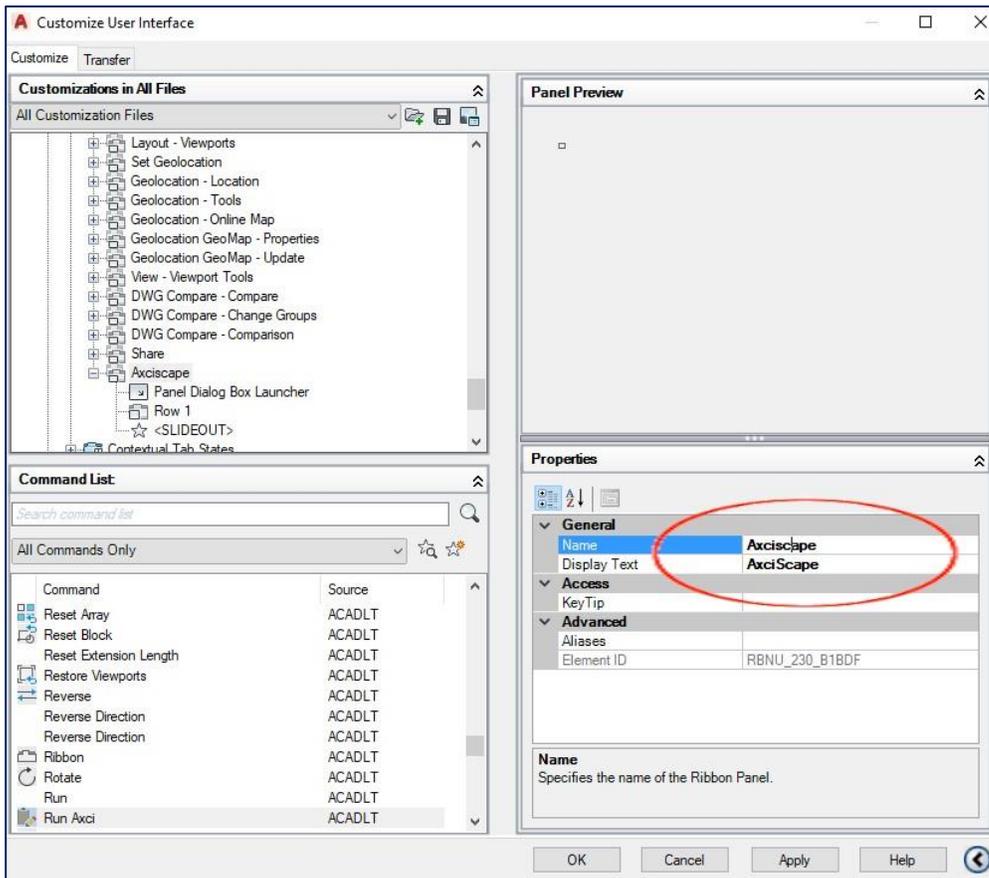
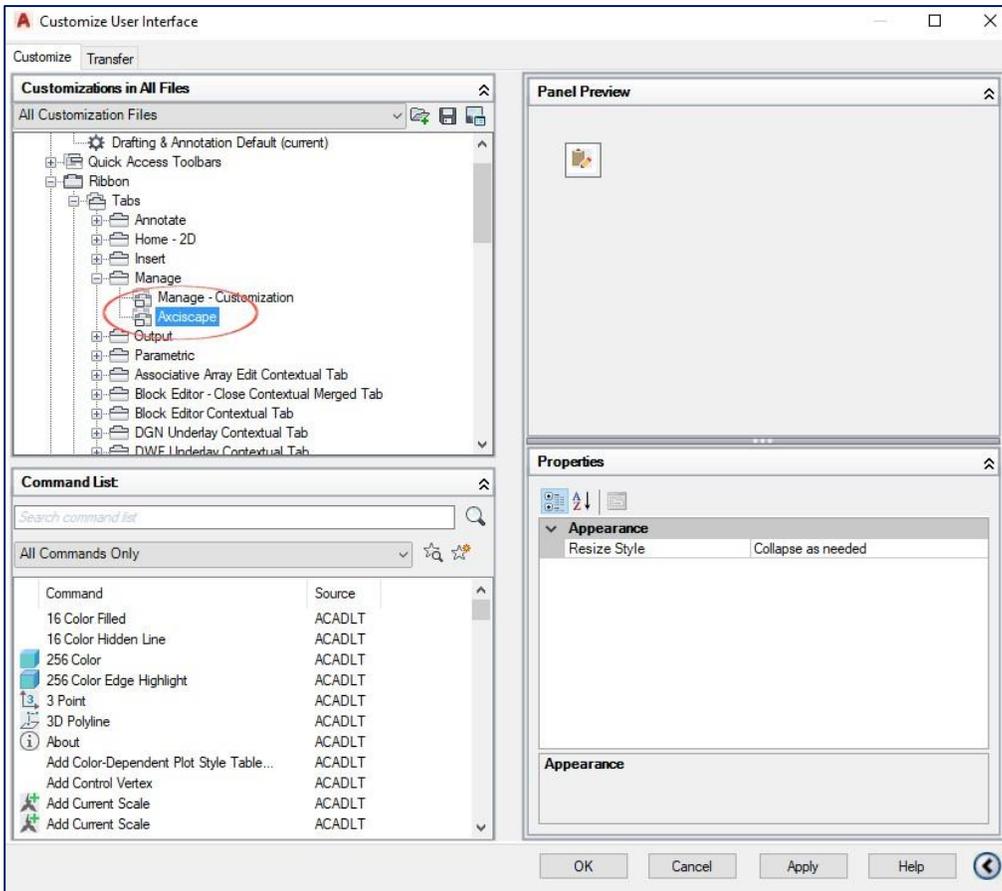Enter a name for the Panel, I have used "AxciScape".

Now we need to find the command we made earlier.

I called mine 'Run Axci' but rather than scroll through the command list (which is very long); just type "run axci" (or whatever yours is called) into the search box and wait for it to appear.

Once you find it, right click on it and select Copy.

Now go back to the upper left window, expand the ribbon, panels and find the AxciScape panel. Expand it and you should see the entry called 'Row 1'.

If you are lost here, refer to the first image in this section for the location of the Ribbon/Panels.

Right click on the Row 1 and select paste.

Our command should appear in its list.

With your AxciScape panel still visible on the list. Right click on it and select copy.
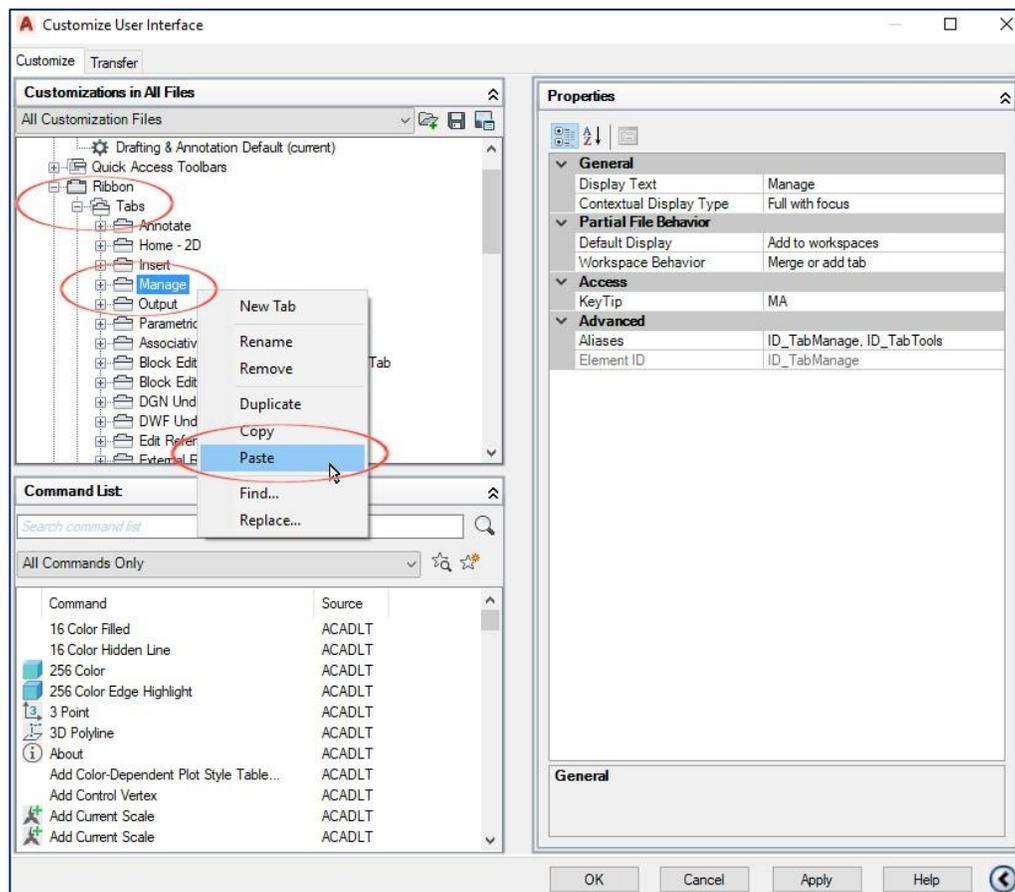
Now, open the Tabs folder within the Ribbon. Select the tab you want the panel to be added too, right click on the tab and select paste.

Your panel should appear inside the tab.
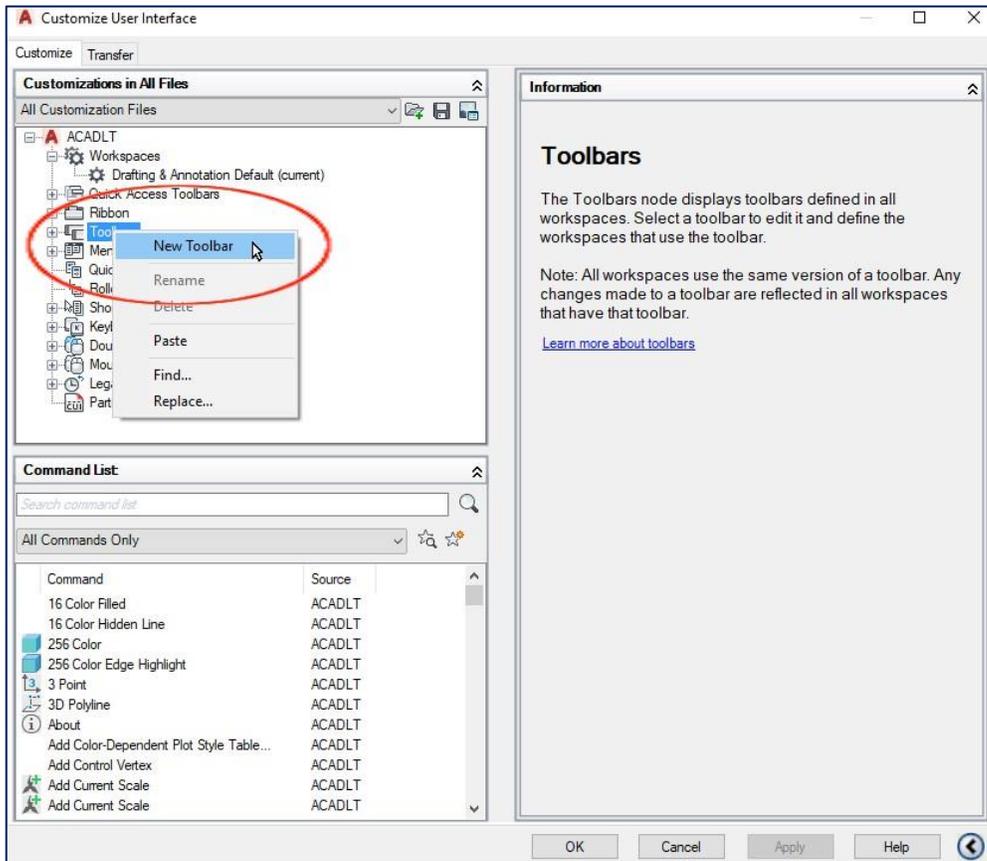
I have placed mine in the Manage tab.

And there it is. Underneath 'Manage – Customization' which means it will appear to the right on the ribbon tab on AutoCAD.

And that's it. Click OK to exit the CUI.
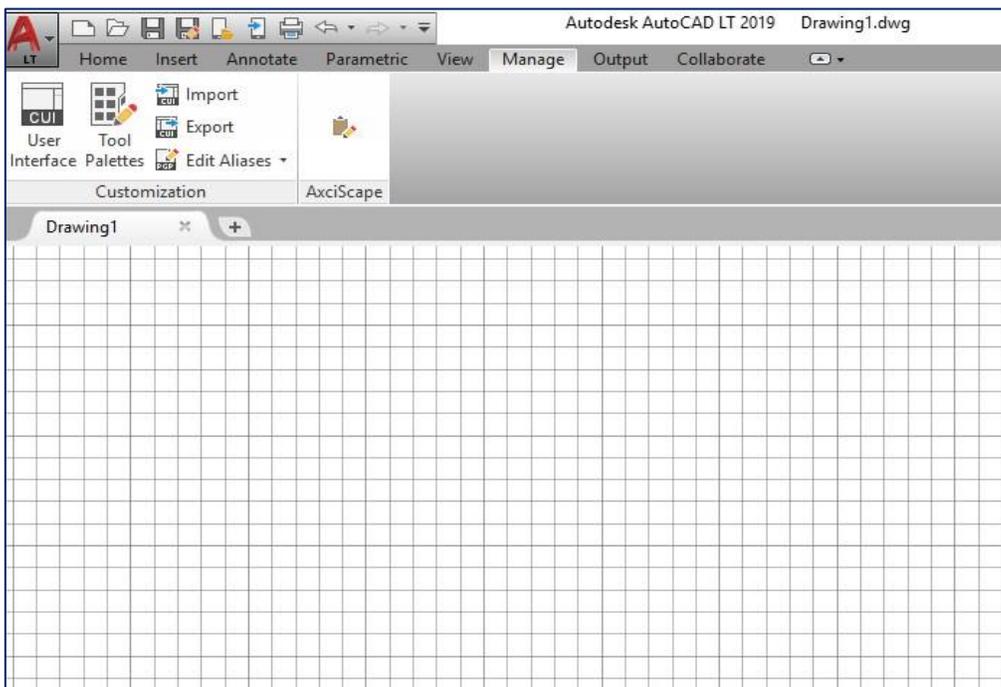
And check its visible on the ribbon tab.

Adding the Command to a Toolbar

Open the CUI interface unless its already open.

Find the Toolbars folder on the ACADLT interface list.

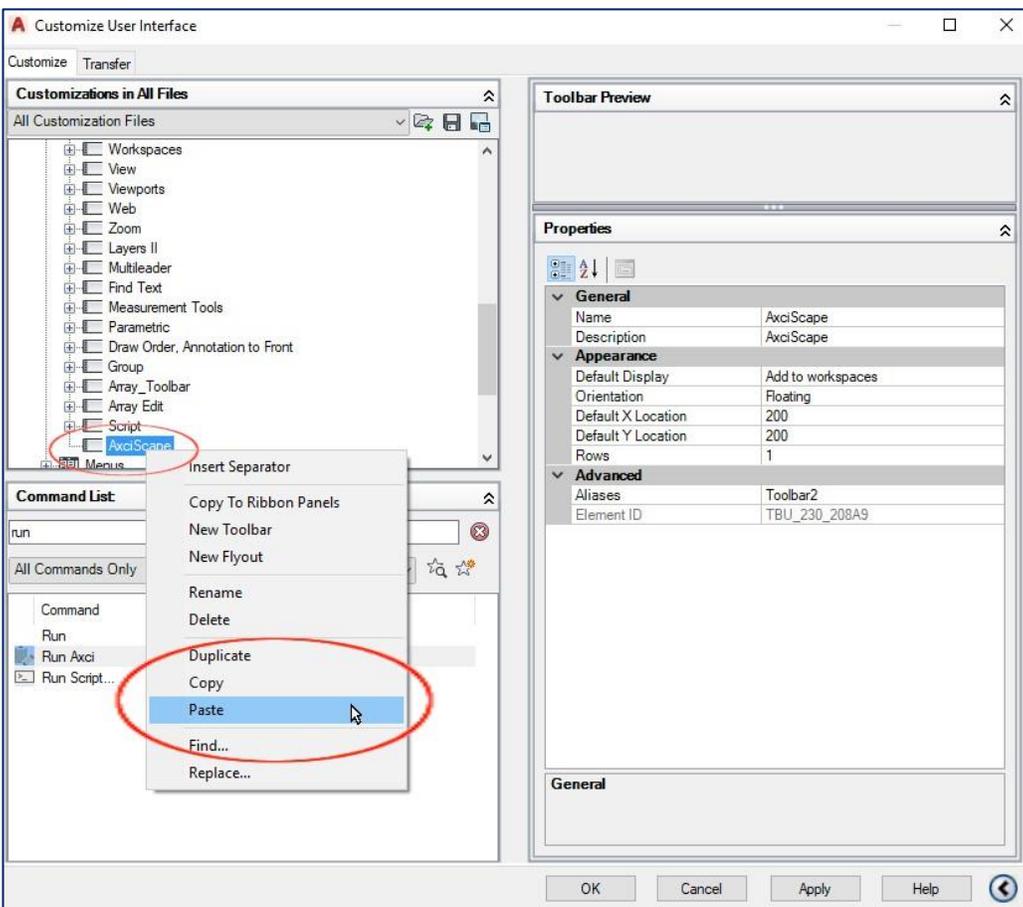Right click on the Toolbars folder and select 'New Toolbar'.
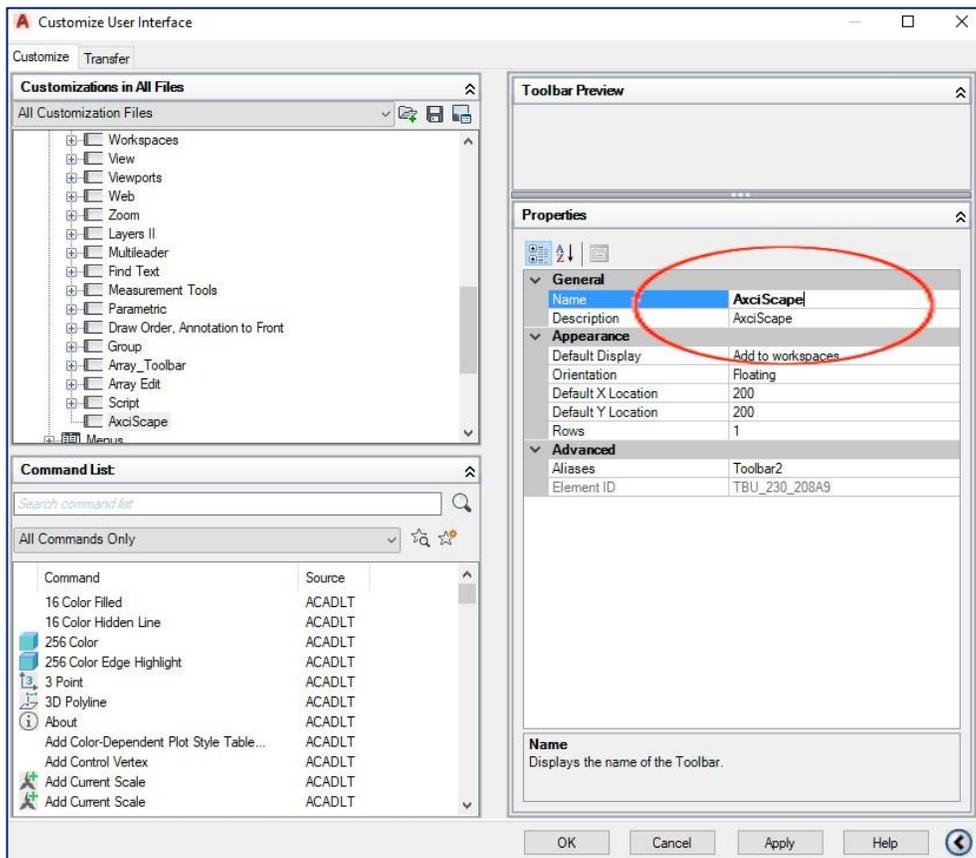
Enter a name for the Toolbar.
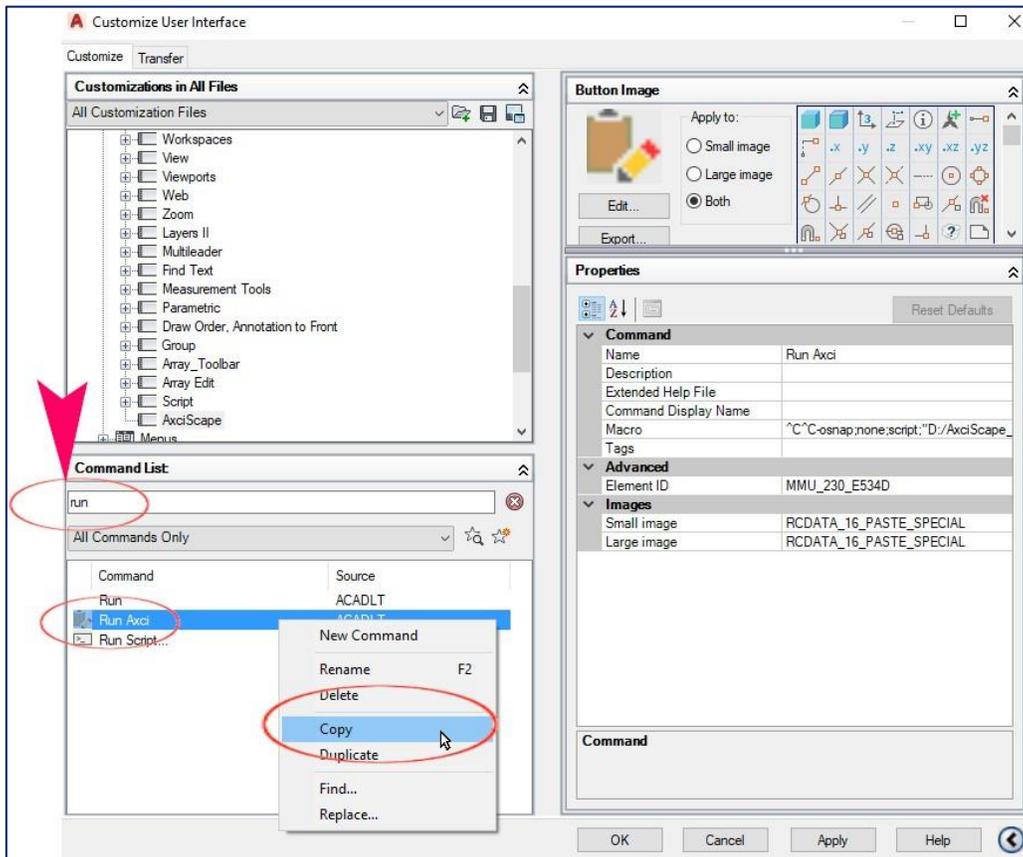
Now we need to find the command we made earlier.

I called mine 'Run Axci' but rather than scroll through the command list (which is very long); just type "run axci" (or whatever yours is called) into the search box and wait for it to appear.

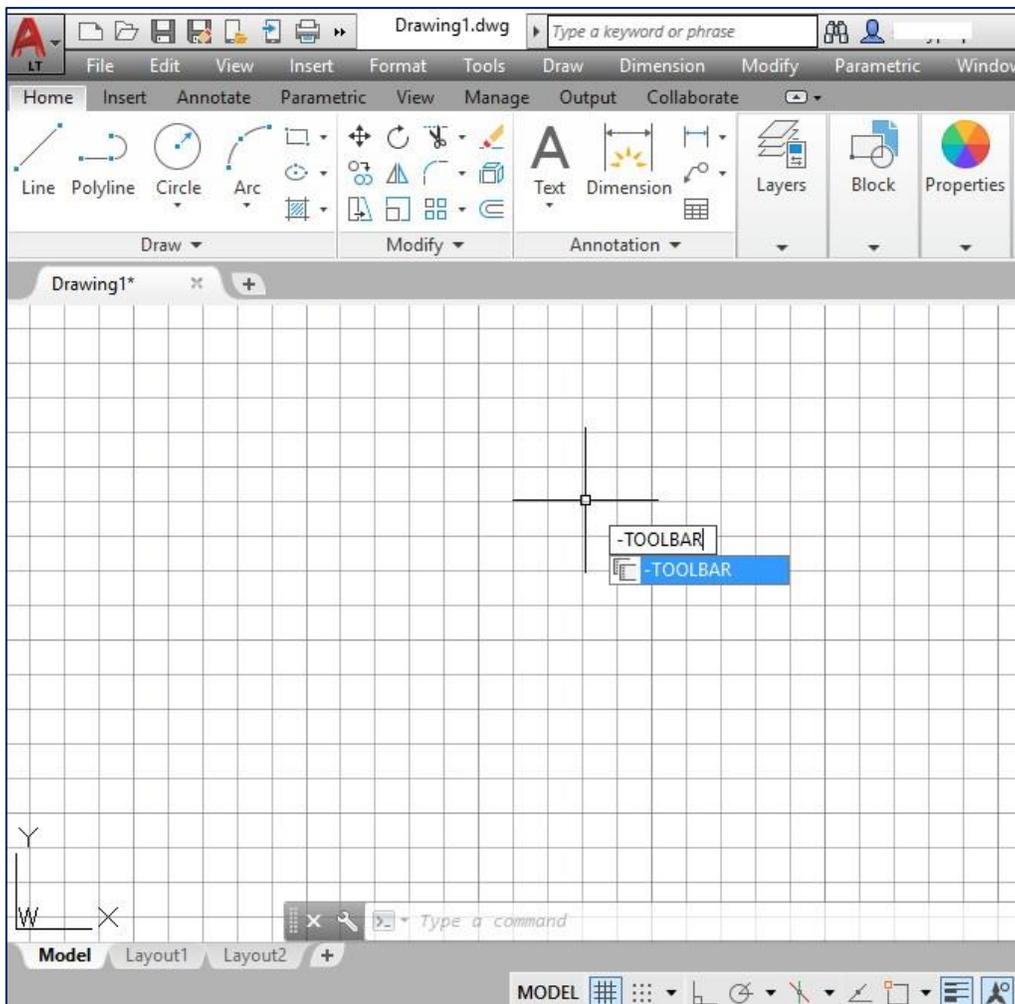Once you find it, right click on it and select Copy.

Now find the AxciScape Toolbar; right click it and select paste.

Refer to the first image in the Toolbar section above if you have lost track of the toolbars, but it's likely to still be visible on the list.
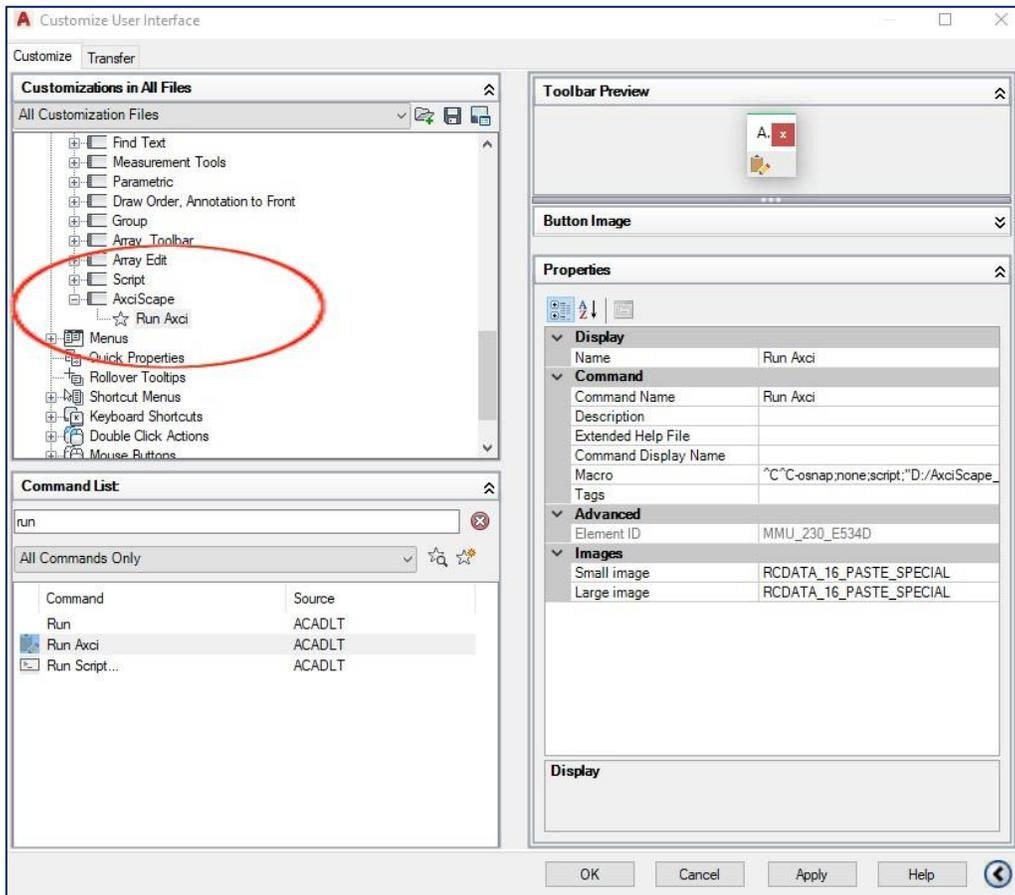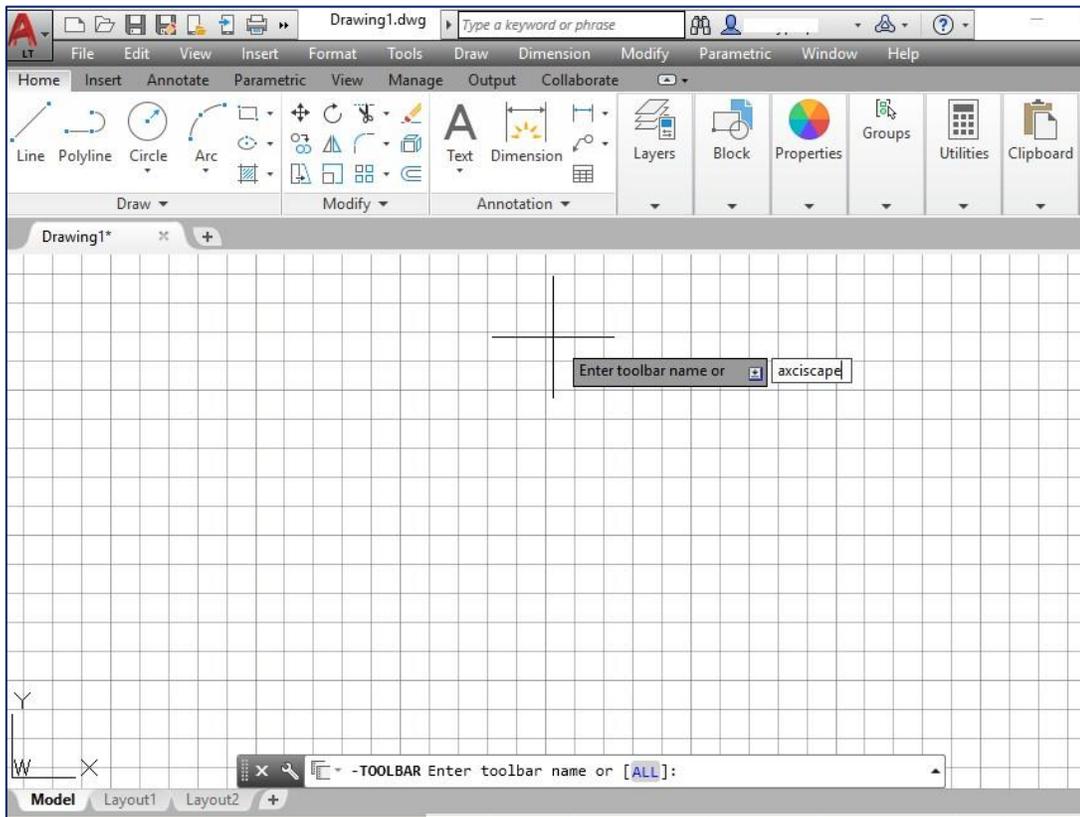
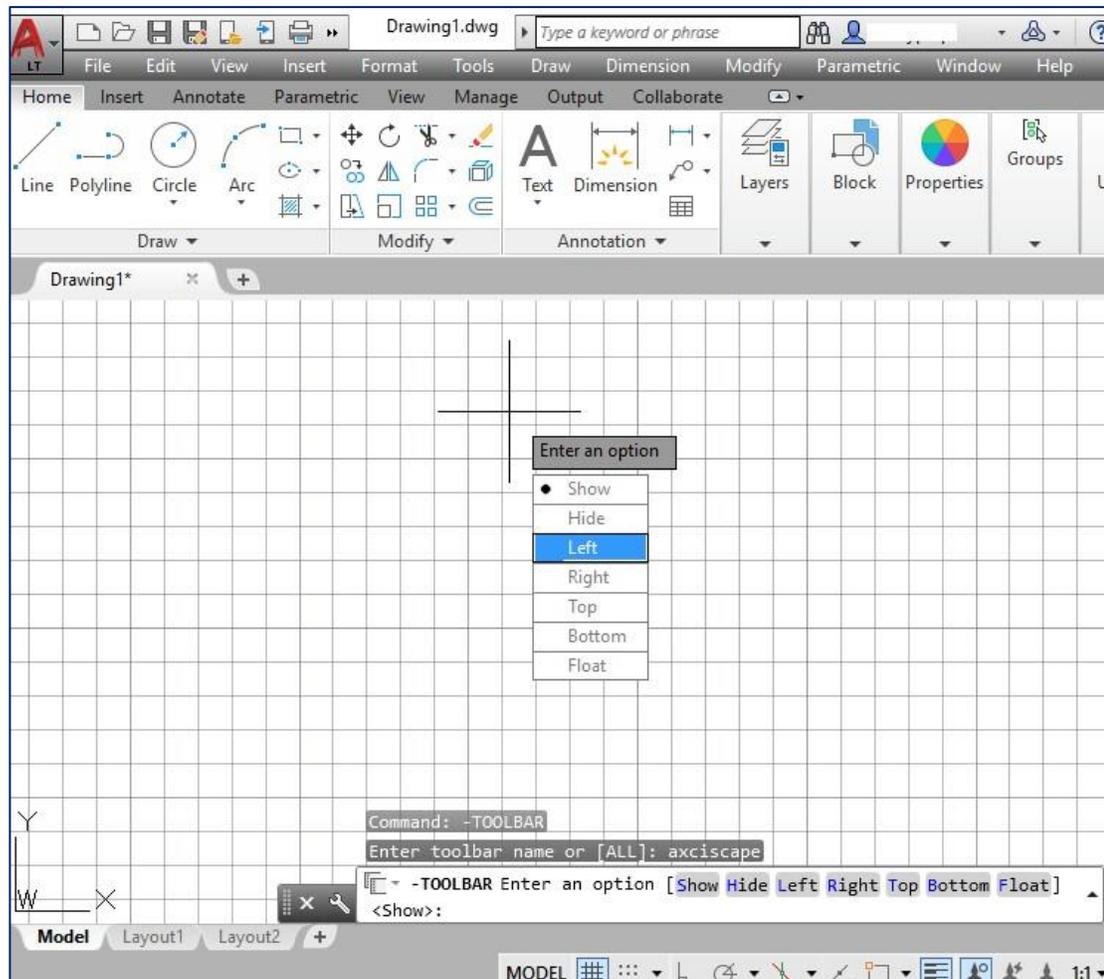And you should see the 'Run Axci' command inside the AxciScape folder.
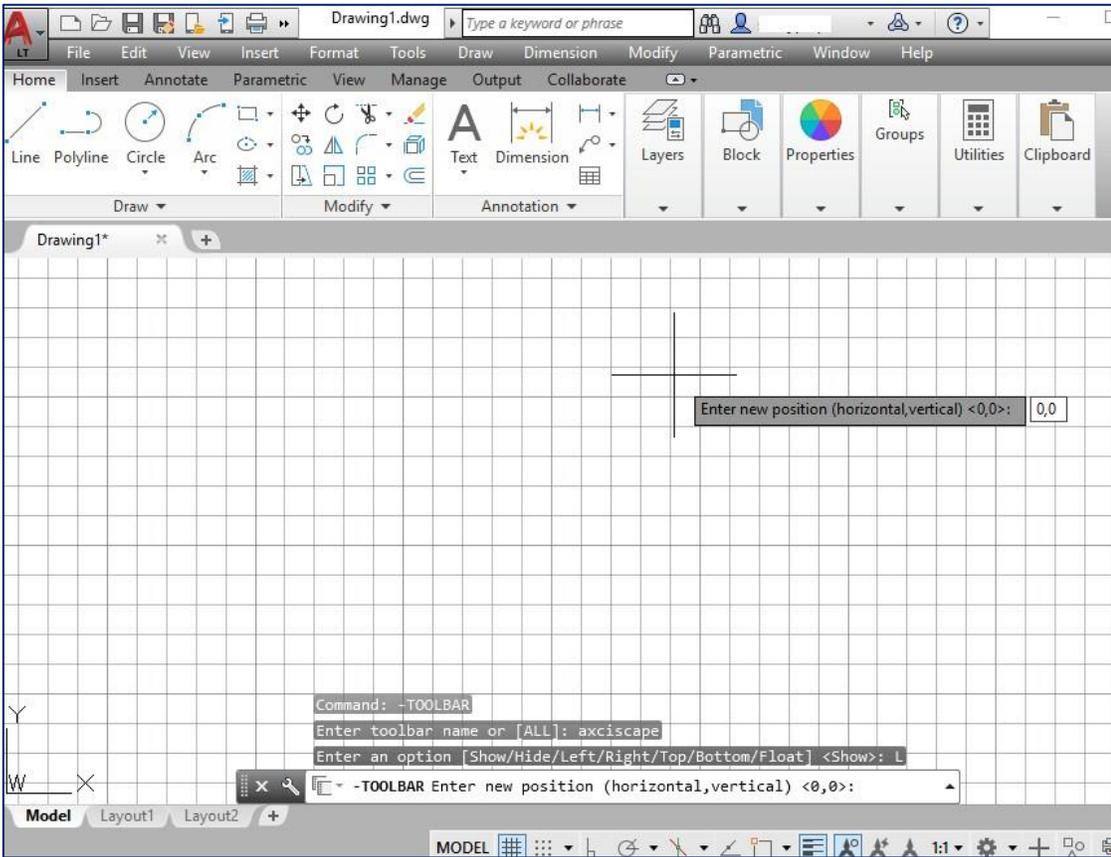
And that's it. Close the CUI by clicking OK

On the AutoCAD screen or in the bottom command line, type -toolbar and enter.

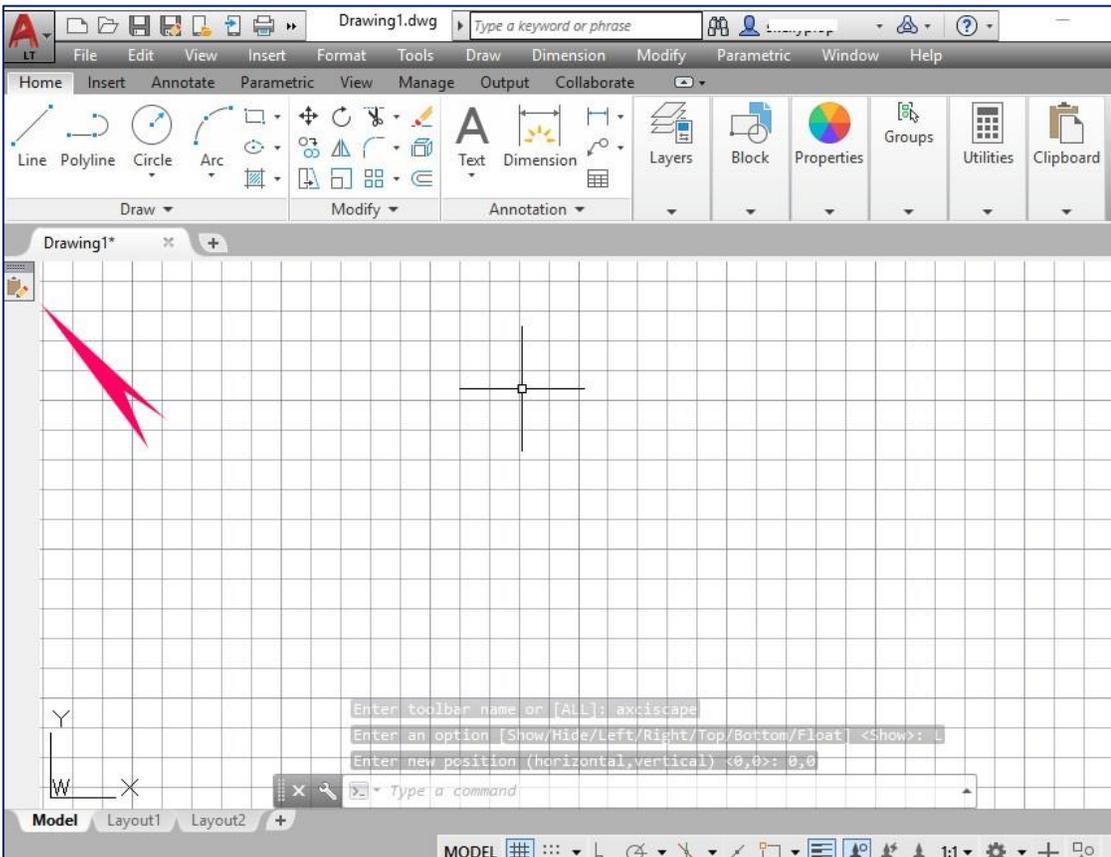Now type the name of the new toolbar which is called 'Axciscape'.

Select Left.

AxciScape

Enter the text 0,0 and hit enter.

This ensures its visible at the top of the left tool area.


And check it appears on the screen.

And that's it, all done!

Appendix

Manually Create the Command Macro Text

You only need to do this if you are using a pre v3.03 version of AxciScape. See the start of this pdf.

Click on the I/O icon top left. Select the Export tab and click on Export to CAD. Make sure you are looking at the Export Script tab and click on the Set Default button (below). Then select the text, right click the mouse to copy.
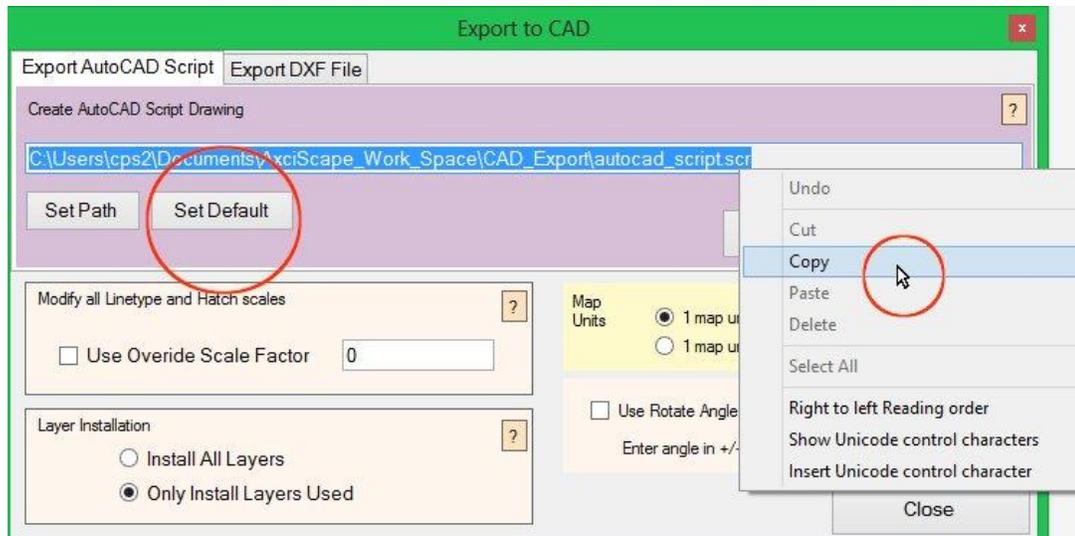
Open Notepad, if you don't have it visible on your PC, just type notepad in the search box on your taskbar. Paste the copied text into notepad.

Now it gets a bit fiddly. We need to modify the text that we copied from AxciScape by adding some additional text to the start and end.

The following text must go at the start of the text from AxciScape.

^C^C-osnap;none;script;"

And the following text must go at the end of the text from AxciScape.

",

Finally you must change every **** character into a **/** character as AutoCAD needs them this way!

So for my own installation my Macro text would end up looking like the following (note the correct **/** characters).

^C^C-osnap;none;script;"C:/Users/cps2/Documents/AxciScape_Work_Space/CAD_Export/autocad_script.scr";

The inclusion of every letter is essential; some of the punctuation characters have special meaning to the Macro and control the processing.

Don't be tempted to add spaces or delete what you may think is a space; or it will fail to work! There must be no spaces or tabs at the start.

Once finished, select all the text in notepad, right click, and Copy so its ready for insertion into AutoCAD.

Go back to the start of this pdf to continue with the command creation.