



Thommen's Timely Technology Tips "A Windows 7 Perk" The Math Input Panel

Below is a hidden gem included with every installation of Windows 7.

Math Input Panel (MIP)

Anyone that has used the equation editor in MS Word knows that there is a significant learning curve to obtain the desired results. The Math Input Panel (MIP) allows a user to draw the equation in a graphic editing window and then converts what is drawn into a typed format. The MIP is designed to work with a stylus or touch screen device, but can be controlled by a mouse.

To use this application:

1. Open MS Word and the document that you wish to insert the equation.
2. Click the Windows **Start** button > **All Programs** > **Accessories** > **Math Input Panel (MIP)**
3. The MIP application will appear over MS Word. Even though you have clicked (focused) on MS Word, the MIP panel will remain on top of MS word.
4. Click on the MS Word page at the point where you want the equation inserted.
5. Start drawing in the lower MIP (drawing) pane. Interpretations of your drawing will appear in the upper pane of the MIP application.
6. It is recommended that you draw the entire equation before making corrections.
7. Click the **Insert** button at the bottom left of the drawing panel and the finished equation will be transferred to MS Word.

Here is an equation constructed using the MIP editor & mouse.

$$\frac{mAs_1}{mAs_2} = \frac{d_2^2}{d_1^2}$$

Using the MIP editor has a somewhat steep learning curve, but once you master how to editing and manipulating the graphic objects in the drawing pane, it is much easier to use than the new equation editor that is included with Office versions 7 and 10.

Note: The editor prefers math and doesn't work as well with chemistry equations.

This timely tip can also be found at:

ANGEL: Faculty Community Group > Content > Thommen's Timely Technology Tips
http://www.lcc.edu/cte/resources/thommen_tips/