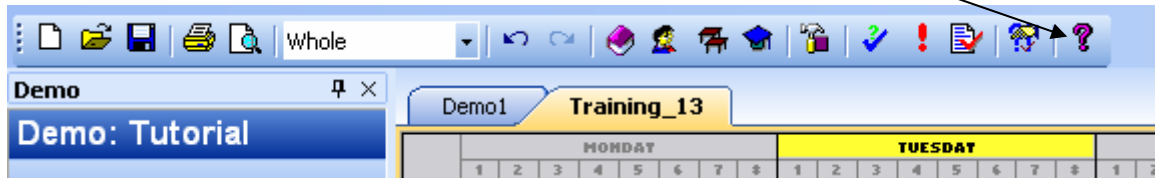


aSc TimeTables

What's new in version 2004

New integrated feedback/support.

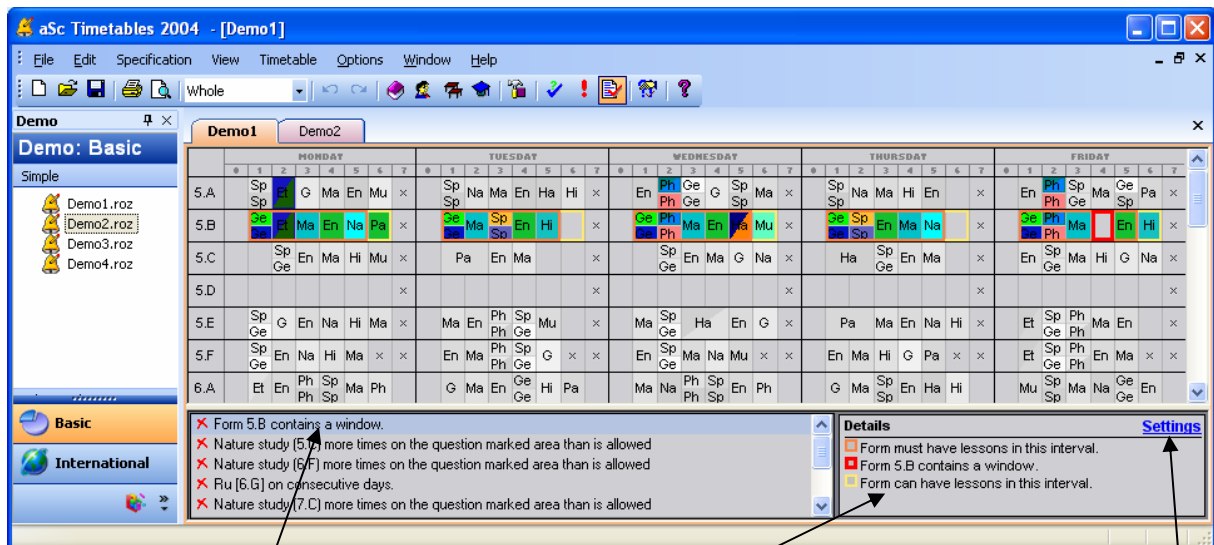
Whenever you have any question, problem, comment or suggestion you can contact us directly from the software. You do not have to use your mail, just click on the icon on the toolbar:



It is also possible to directly attach the timetable you are currently working on so that we know exactly what you are dealing with.

Improved verification

It is now possible to better see what the problem with the timetable is and also now you can quickly change the corresponding settings:



Click on each entry to get more details about the problem in the timetable

Details about the specific problem are shown here

Click here to change the timetable settings that lead to this problem.

Improved algorithm

We have added several enhancements to the generating algorithm and conducted hundred thousand of real world schedules generations to improve the speed and results.

Improved seminars

The seminar lessons are used in cases where it is too complicated to create groups of the students. Usually this is when the students are picking their choices. For these cases it is very hard to create corresponding groups. In aSc TimeTables you can easily solve this by using so called 'seminar' lessons. You can now create these lessons exactly like normal lessons; all you need is to specify 'Seminar' as a group:

The 'Lesson' dialog box contains the following fields and options:

- Teacher: Huskova (Hu) [Next teacher...]
- Subject: Geography
- Form: 5.B [Add division...]
- Group: Seminar [Joint forms...]
- Lessons/week: 2 [Duration: Single] [Cycle...]
- Home classroom Sharedroom [More classrooms...]
- Other available classrooms: [Change]
- OK

Once you have the seminar lessons defined you can specify which students are attending which seminars:

Click here to see students from specific form. You can also list all students

Click here to add a new student. You can change the student name anytime later by clicking on it.

The 'Seminars' dialog box shows the following data:

Students	Advanced Math	Biology	Philosophy	Quant. physics
Jackie Chan	○ 1	■	●	● 2
Michael Schumacher	○ 1	■	■	● 1
Boris Becker	○ 1	■	●	● 2
David Beckham	○ 2	■	■	● 1
Gary Lineker	○ 2	■	■	● 1

Buttons at the bottom: Export->Excel, Excel->Import, Advanced, Lock, Optimize, Ok.

Click on any field in the list to specify if the student is attending this seminar lesson or not. A circle means he is attending, empty square means he is not attending.

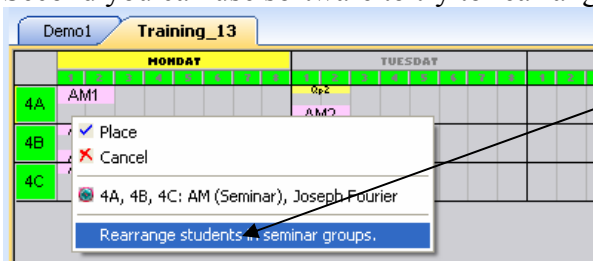
Based on these students' picks the software will create lessons for you that you can put into the timetable. It will also make sure that certain seminar lessons cannot be at the same time in case one student shall attend both lessons.

The seminar lesson will not appear in the timetable when there are no students are attending it.

As you can see at the picture above some seminars can have more groups (check Advanced Math). You can define more seminar lessons for the same subject in one form. The software will know these belong together and they will be shown in one column. You can chose for individual student which group he shall attend. The column header also shows number of students in each group.

If the student/group assignment is not fixed, that means the student only wants to attend the Advanced Math but it doesn't matter to him to which group he belongs, then you can try to find the best student/group assignment in order to create better timetable:

- First you can use the “Lock” check box at the bottom of the dialog. Once checked it will only allow switching student between groups. It will not allow you to completely remove this student from this seminar.
- Second you can use software to try to rearrange the students:



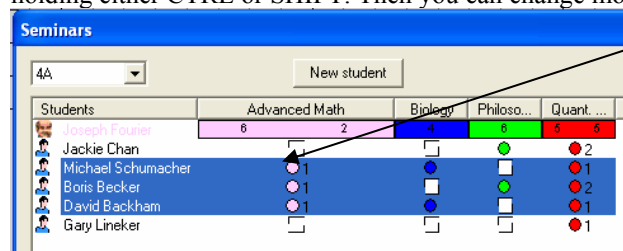
If you are moving a seminar to a position occupied by another seminar the software can try to rearrange the students in seminar groups so that it is possible to place the card. If this option is gray then it is not possible to place the card even if the software is allowed to rearrange students.

- Third you can use right mouse click to completely lock the student's pick. In this case nor you nor software can move this student to other group

A good idea is to check the demo files(menu Files/Show demo files) and check the Training13 file.

Some tips:

1. You can sort the students by clicking on any column header representing the subject. You can sort by more columns if you hold ctrl while clicking on column headers.
2. You can input/change subject selection for more students at once. Just select your students by clicking and holding either CTRL or SHIFT. Then you can change more students' picks at once:



New card relationships for card distributions:

You can now use many options to specify how to distribute the cards over the week.

The dialog box is titled "Distribution of each subject from the list separately - All forms". It contains the following options and settings:

- The cards can be placed on two following days.
- The cards cannot be placed on two or three following days.
- In case of more lessons per day, these must be placed consecutively.
- Specify relationship between full and divided lessons of the subject.
 - Divided lessons may not be on both sides of the full lesson.
 - Full and divided lessons cannot be the same day.
- Specify the number of days and the number of lessons per day for the card distribution.
 - Distribute cards into this number of days:
 - From: Arbitrary A Till: Arbitrary B
 - Number of lessons per day must be in this interval:
 - From: Arbitrary C Till: Arbitrary D
 - lessons must be until hour.
 - Arbitrary A lessons must be until hour B 0
 - Use the above settings only for:
 - All forms from the list where the number of lessons of this subject(s) is in the interval:
 - From: Arbitrary Till: Arbitrary
 - Distribution of each subject from the list separately.
 - Distribution of the group of cards of the listed subjects.

Check any combination of options to get the desired results.

Use this check to select only some form. E.g. You can setup a general rule that 2 maths per week shall be on 1st lessons. But this rule shall only apply to forms that have at least 5 maths per week.

Check if you want to apply the above rules for each subject (e.g. distribute English and English conversation) or for each subject separately (e.g. specify how Math lessons are distributed and how Geography lessons are distributed).

Bellow we can discuss the most common requests:

We have 5 math lessons per week and want to have them as 2+2+1 (instead of one lesson each day). In this case you only need to input 2 double math lessons and 1 single math lesson. Since all lessons are math the software will not put them on one day. You do not have to specify anything more.

We have 5 math lessons and for us they can be distributed either 2+2+1 or 2+1+1+1 or 1+1+1+1+1. In this case you have to input 5 single lessons and add the new relationship card 'card distribution over the week' and set the settings that number of days must be from 3 to 5 and number of lessons per day shall be from 1 to 2 (otherwise the software can generate also 3+1+1). Also do not forget to specify that the 'lessons shall be placed consecutively in case there are more lessons per day'.

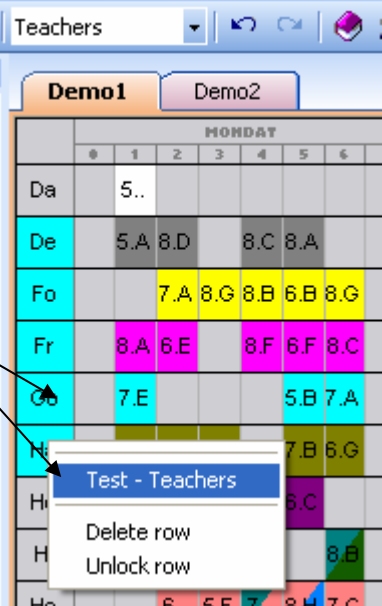
We have 3 English lessons, 1 English conversation and 1 English literature lesson. We want to have these lessons distributed equally over the week. All you need is to add a new card relationship 'Card distribution over the week' select these subjects and in 'Settings' check the check box "Distribution of the groups of the cards."

Print improvements

You can specify exact size of the printed timetables, you can print 10 on one page or specify that you want to have exactly 10x15cm

Other improvements:

- You can now join unlimited number of groups/forms into one lesson.
- For each classroom you can specify a location (building) and you can specify for each teacher the maximum of transfers between locations.
- A very good feature for testing the timetable is to select several teachers/forms/classrooms by clicking on the row header and holding SHIFT or CTRL button. Then you can press Right mouse and test generation of these selected items.
- In menu Files/Show demo files you can see a collection of other real school timetables and in section Training some very basic timetables that show the basic situations you might encounter.
- Many other small improvements.



The screenshot shows a software window titled "Teachers" with two tabs: "Demo1" and "Demo2". Below the tabs is a timetable grid. The grid has columns labeled "MONDAY" and "0" through "6". The rows are labeled with days: "Da", "De", "Fo", "Fr", "Co", "H", "H", "H", "H". A context menu is open over the "Co" row, with the following options: "Test - Teachers" (highlighted), "Delete row", and "Unlock row".

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Da	5..						
De	5.A	8.D		8.C	8.A		
Fo			7.A	8.G	8.B	6.B	8.G
Fr		8.A	6.E		8.F	6.F	8.C
Co	7.E					5.B	7.A
H						7.B	6.G
H							6.C
H							8.B
H							8.B