The Visual Builder Screen

The latest Visual Builder Screen has extra features added to it. It helps you to build up your timetable in a very visual and intuitive way. In the example below, a single-period lesson, for Class 10CD, with 4 Teaching-Groups (Teachers LM, MJ, AT HI) is about to be placed on Tuesday-period 1.

Just follow boxes 1 to 12 below to see how it works:

1. The list at the left hand side shows the Priority List. TimeTabler has calculated their priority order for you. Each ‘card’ shows a lesson. Click with your mouse to select any of them. It turns yellow to show you it has been selected, and...

2. ...a Class Timetable Strip and a Staff Timetable Strip are displayed. These show the Class and the Staff needed for the lesson that you have selected. Neat. Interlinking classes are also shown for you. The relevant Class row is highlighted in yellow.

3. Full details of the selected (yellow) lesson are shown in the top area. You can see how many more lessons of this activity are to be assigned, and details of the Subjects, etc.

4. Just drag the lesson (with your mouse) to where you want it to be, and let go. TimeTabler won’t let you make a mistake. As simple as that. So quick!

5. The control buttons on this row give you a range of features. See Section E10 in the Manual.

6. A row near the top of each strip shows in green the possible periods that you can use. The numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 show you the quality. *1* shows TimeTabler’s recommended position. The dots show impossible periods. To find the reason for a dot, click on it to get a Report which explains why you can’t use this period. See Sections E15, E12 in the Manual.

7. Click to expand or contract the Time-Line. Eg. if you have a 1-week or a 2-week timetable. With a very long timetable cycle you can spread it across two VDU monitors.

8. Just hover your mouse to get a message with more details of any lesson.

9. These buttons give you tools to apply to the lesson you have highlighted. So you can Unassign lessons, or Lock or Move them, etc, without leaving this screen. You can use these buttons or you can right-click on a lesson with your mouse. See Sections F16, F17, F19.

10. Direct access to the FIT Screen to solve your kickout problems. See Sections F5, F6 in the Manual.

11. Click on Auto to start automatic scheduling. See Section G.

12. Details of your progress.

Using Dual monitors

With 2 VDUs plugged into your computer, you can:
- Spread this Visual Builder Screen across 2 VDUs, (eg. if you have a very long timetable cycle), or
- Show this Visual Builder Screen on one VDU while at the same time you have another TimeTabler screen on the second VDU.

For example, you can also show one or more of:
- the Class Timetable Screen,
- the Staff Timetable Screen,
- the Room Timetable Screen,
- the Container Block Screen.

So, although the screen may look complicated at first sight, it is actually straightforward. It gives you a very efficient way of working.