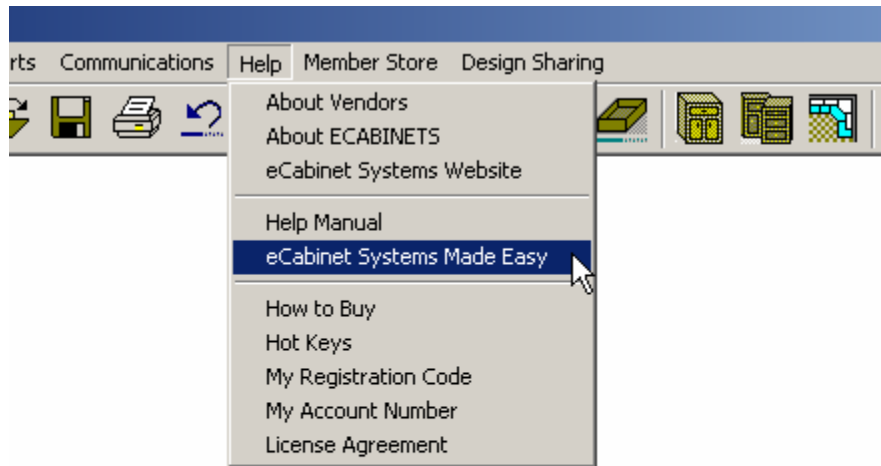## Where to Start

The best way to get started with eCabinet Systems is with **eCabinet Systems Made Easy**. You can find it on the help menu just under the Help Manual.   It is a lot to comprehend if you try to read it from start to end but it is very helpful if taken in moderation.
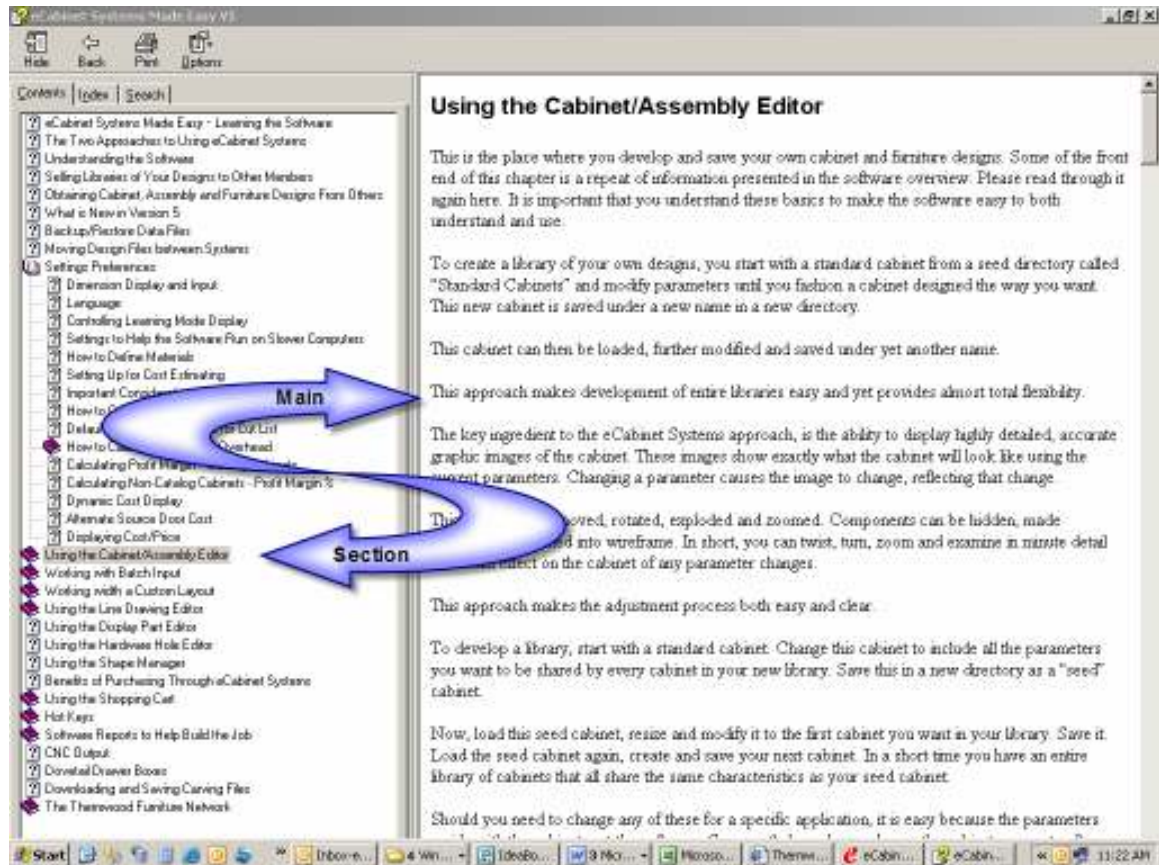
Start at the top and go down through the "**How to Define Materials**" section in "**Settings Preferences**". That will give you enough information to get started with setting up some materials but *don't do any yet*. The rest of this section deals with cost estimating and will be unnecessary for the time being.

Now skip to the **"Using the Cabinet/Assembly Editor"** and _read the main section_.

After this read the sub-sections down through **"Working with Global Settings"**.

Do not try to read any further than this until you are comfortable with modifying a basic cabinet in the Cabinet Editor.

Once you get comfortable in the Cabinet Editor, venture out a little in the order the guide is constructed and in no time you will be a master of eCabinet Systems.

After reading this far you are ready to get started defining your materials.

There is no need to try and define every possible material that you might use at this point as you can add materials whenever you need.

Defining Materials

You will define each size and species of board and sheet stock you are using.

For example, if you use 1x2x96, 1x3x96, 1x4x96, 1x6x96 oak; 1x2x96, 1x3x96, 1x4x96 and 1x6,96 cherry, those are the boards you would define.

If you used 48x96x1/2 birch, 48x96x3/4 birch and 49x97x3/4 MDF sheet stock, those are the sheet goods you would define.

Step 1

Go into **Settings/Preferences** and click the **Define Stock Materials** button.
Select the type material you want to define--banding stock, board stock, countertop stock or sheet stock.

Step 2

Pick one of the *EXISTING* materials and make changes to the name, size, image, etc.

Click the *ADD* button.

Step 3

Repeat this for every material you are defining of the *SAME TYPE*.

Step 4

Select the next material type you want to define and repeat steps 2 and 3.

Step 5

After you have defined your materials, click *OK*. This will take you back to the **Settings/Preferences** screen.

Click *OK* again to exit **Settings/Preferences**.

You are now ready to use your materials in your designs.

NOTE:

Be sure that you do *NOT* use any of the following characters in material names:

\ * ? " < | , ( ) ` '

Designing your First Cabinet

Reread the section "**Understanding the Software**". Here is an excerpt from that section:

"eCabinet Systems takes a different approach. In eCabinet Systems you DO NOT EVER create cabinets. Cabinets already exist. You modify, duplicate, and save them using new names but you do not create new cabinets from scratch."

To quantify that somewhat, until you have designed your own library or purchased one of the Design Sharing libraries, you *MUST* begin with one of the standard cabinets.

When you modify one of these standard cabinets and save it in your folder, it becomes part of your library. You can then start with that cabinet or a standard cabinet, the choice is yours.