DEEP SPACE

Quantity Takeoff

A step by step walkthrough, from blank package to priced estimate

WHAT THIS GUIDE IS

A walkthrough of the Quantity Takeoff workflow in the Deep Space web app, written so someone who has never opened it can follow along.

Captured live in the DS Construction Group workspace on 5 September 2026, on the Riverside Business Park project.

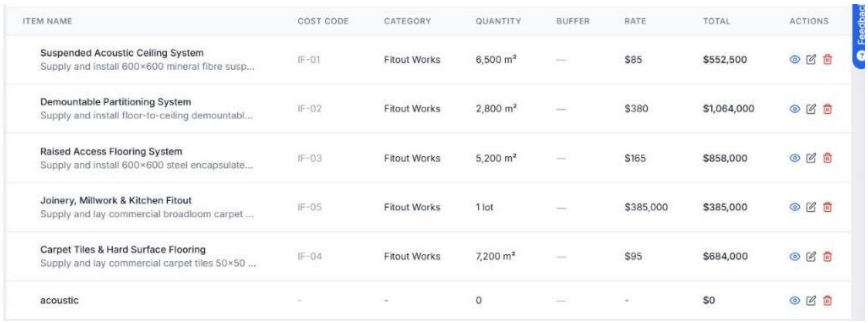
Start here: the one idea

Most people assume a takeoff means measuring a drawing. That is only half of it, and it is the half that causes confusion.

In Deep Space you are filling up a priced shopping list by drawing on a plan.

The shopping list is made of items. An item is a thing you are pricing, for example "Suspended Acoustic Ceiling System". Each item already knows its cost code, its category, its unit rate and its wastage buffer. What it does not know is how much of it there is.

Measuring is how you fill that in. Every line, area, volume or count you draw gets allocated to an item, and that item's quantity climbs as you go. By the end you do not have a pile of measurements, you have a priced and coded quantity list ready to become an estimate.



ITEM NAME	COST CODE	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	BUFFER	RATE	TOTAL	ACTIONS
Suspended Acoustic Ceiling System Supply and install 600×600 mineral fibre susp...	IF-01	Fitout Works	6,500 m²	—	$85	$552,500	
Demountable Partitioning System Supply and install floor-to-ceiling demountabl...	IF-02	Fitout Works	2,800 m²	—	$380	$1,064,000	
Raised Access Flooring System Supply and install 600×600 steel encapsulate...	IF-03	Fitout Works	5,200 m²	—	$165	$858,000	
Joinery, Millwork & Kitchen Fitout Supply and lay commercial broadloom carpet ...	IF-05	Fitout Works	1 lot	—	$385,000	$385,000	
Carpet Tiles & Hard Surface Flooring Supply and lay commercial carpet tiles 50×50 ...	IF-04	Fitout Works	7,200 m²	—	$95	$684,000	
acoustic	-	-	0	—	-	$0	

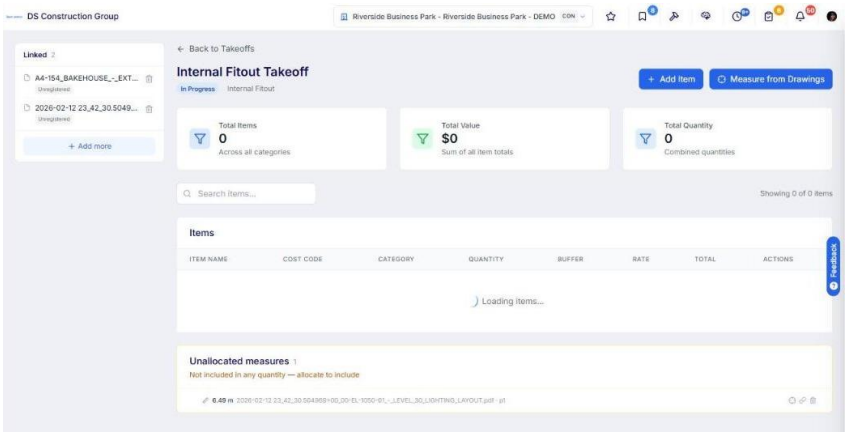
The finished article: quantities measured off drawings, each already carrying a cost code and a rate.

The walkthrough

Step 1 Create the takeoff package

Go to Preconstruction, then Quantity Takeoffs, then click New Takeoff.

Give it a name that describes the scope you are about to measure, and pick a budget category. A package is one bucket of related measuring work, not the whole project, so most builders run several per project, usually one per trade or scope.

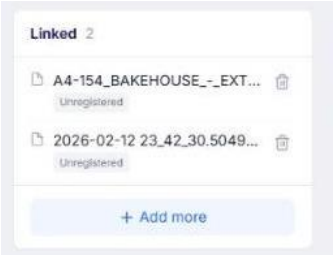


A fresh package. Name, status, budget category, and the three tiles still sitting at zero.

Step 2 Link the drawings

The Linked panel sits on the left. Click Add more and choose the drawings you want to measure off.

These come from the drawings already held in Deep Space, so nothing is re-uploaded and nothing goes out of version control. Link as many as you need. You can switch between them freely while measuring.

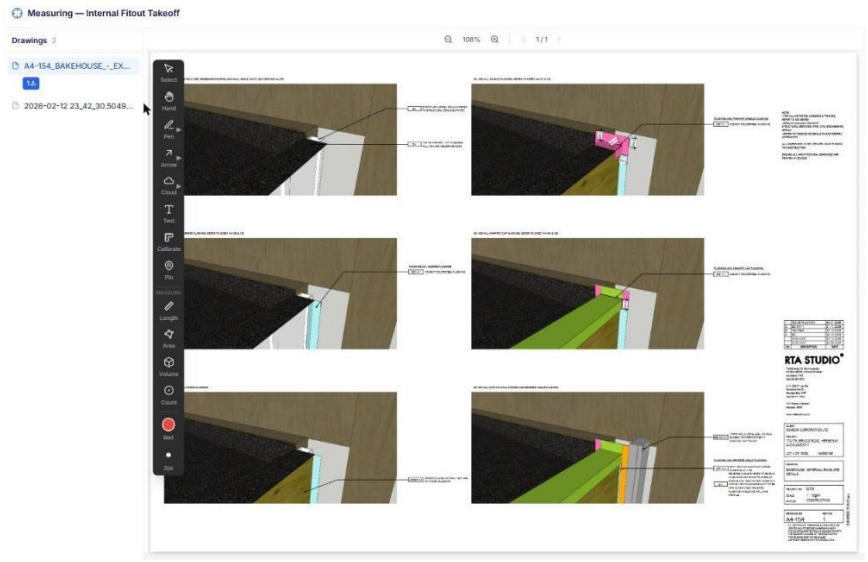


Two drawings linked to this package.

Step 3 Calibrate the scale

Click Measure from Drawings to open the measuring canvas. Drawings list on the left, the drawing in the centre, your live item list on the right.

Before measuring anything, pick the Calibrate tool from the toolbar. Draw along a dimension you know the true length of, then type in what it actually is.



The measuring canvas with a drawing loaded and the toolbar down the left edge.

DO NOT SKIP THIS

Calibrate every drawing before you measure on it. Nothing you measure is trustworthy until the drawing is calibrated.

This is currently a manual step. Deep Space does not auto-detect the scale from the drawing yet.

Step 4 Set up your items

An item is a thing you are pricing. Each one carries:

- A name and description, for example "Supply and install 600x600 mineral fibre suspended ceiling"
- A cost code
- A category
- A unit rate
- A wastage buffer, expressed as a percentage on top of the measured quantity

Two ways to create them. Set them up in advance from the package screen using Add Item, or create them on the fly while measuring by typing a name into the measure panel and setting a rate against it.

This step is what separates a Deep Space takeoff from measuring on a PDF. The moment a quantity lands against an item, it is already priced and already coded.

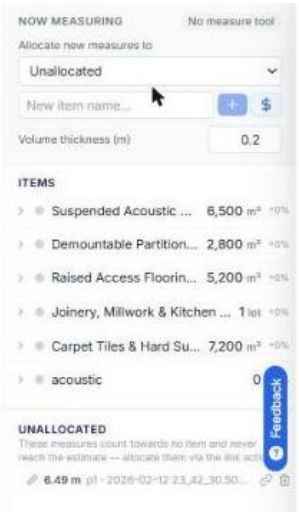
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Six items on a real fitout package, totalling $3,543,500.

Step 5 Pick the item you are measuring into

Top of the measure panel on the right there is a selector labelled "allocate new measures to". Set it to the item you are about to measure.

From that point on, everything you draw lands against that item and its quantity climbs live in the list underneath.



The allocate-to selector, with the live item quantities below it.

THE MISTAKE EVERYONE MAKES

This is the step people skip. They calibrate, they measure beautifully, and then wonder why their numbers are nowhere.

Change the selector every time you move on to a different item. Treat it like changing the colour of your pen.

Step 6 Measure

There are four measure tools, grouped at the bottom of the toolbar:

- Length, for anything linear such as skirting, kerbs or pipe runs
- Area, for floors, ceilings, wall faces and paving
- Volume, for anything with depth. It asks for a thickness, defaulting to 0.2m
- Count, for doors, fittings, luminaires and anything you tally rather than measure

Draw on the drawing and the quantity accumulates against the selected item.

Above the measure tools sit the markup tools: pen, arrow, cloud, text and pins, plus colour and stroke weight. Markup does not affect any quantity, it is purely for communicating with whoever reads the drawing next.



The full toolbar. Calibrate and Pin above, then Length, Area, Volume and Count under the MEASURE divider.

CURRENT LIMITATION

The pen offers freehand and highlight only. There is no straight line markup tool with angle control yet.



The pen flyout: Pen and Highlight, nothing else.

Step 7 Sweep up the unallocated measures

Anything you measured without an item selected gets collected under Unallocated Measures, with a warning that it counts toward no item and will never reach the estimate.

Use the link icon next to each one to allocate it to the right item, or delete it if it was a stray. Clear this list before you call the takeoff finished.

This is a genuine safeguard rather than a nag. It means a measurement can never quietly go missing between the drawing and the estimate.



A 6.49m measure sitting unallocated, flagged so it cannot slip through.

Step 8 Sync into the estimate

Go to Estimation, open Sources, and run Sync Quantities.

The quantities flow through into the estimate, each line showing that it is linked back to the takeoff. Change a measurement later and sync again, so the estimate follows the drawings rather than relying on someone re-keying numbers.

Back on the Quantity Takeoffs landing page, the Linked to Estimating tile now counts this package.

Screenshot still to be captured: Estimation, Sources, Sync Quantities

VERIFY BEFORE YOU PRESENT

Steps 1 to 7 were captured live on screen. Step 8 comes from the internal training session rather than a live click-through, so confirm the exact Estimation navigation before putting this in front of an estimator.

Quick reference

The whole thing in one line each, for anyone who has done it before and just needs the order.

#	Step	What you do
1	**Create the package**	Preconstruction, Quantity Takeoffs, New Takeoff. Name and budget category.
2	**Link the drawings**	Linked panel, Add more. Pulls from drawings already in Deep Space.
3	**Calibrate**	Measure from Drawings, Calibrate tool. Every drawing, before anything else.
4	**Set up items**	Name, cost code, category, rate, buffer. In advance or on the fly.
5	**Select the item**	Allocate new measures to. Change it every time you switch item.
6	**Measure**	Length, Area, Volume (set thickness), Count.
7	**Clear unallocated**	Allocate or delete. Nothing unallocated reaches the estimate.
8	**Sync**	Estimation, Sources, Sync Quantities.

Known gaps, as at 5 September 2026

- No automatic scale detection. Calibration is manual on every drawing.
- No straight line markup tool with angle control. The pen offers freehand and highlight only.

Both are logged. Raise them yourself in a customer conversation rather than letting an estimator find them.