To convert feature themes to grid themes

1 Click on the feature themes you want to convert to grid themes.

2 From the Theme menu, choose Convert to Grid.

3 If the view's analysis properties haven't been set to a specific value, then you'll be prompted to set the extent and cell size for the output grid theme. Do so in the Conversion Extent dialog and press OK. For more information on setting the analysis extent and cell size using this dialog, see [Output Grid Specification (Dialog box)](#).

4 In the Conversion Field dialog, choose a field in the feature theme that will be used to give values to the cells in the output grid theme. Press OK.

5 Provide a name and directory for the output grid data set, then press OK. Grid data set names cannot be longer than 14 characters and cannot contain a "." or space.

6 If the conversion field was a string or integer field, then you can choose whether or not to add all the attributes of the feature theme to the table of the output grid theme.

7 Choose whether or not to add the new grid theme to the view.

Start over with step 2 for each feature theme activated.

Any type of feature theme created form any type of source file can be converted to a grid theme. It doesn't matter if the source data for a feature theme comes from a CAD drawing, ARC/INFO coverage, or shapefile; it can be converted to a grid theme. If you wish to convert a data base theme to a grid theme, you must first convert it to a shapefile with Convert to Shapefile in the Theme menu.

Only the selected features in a theme will be converted to the output grid theme. If the theme does not contain a selected set, then all features will be converted to the output grid theme.

When you convert polygons, cells are given the value of the polygon found at the center of each cell. When you convert lines, cells are given the value of the line that intersects each cell. Cells that are not intersected by a line are given the value of No Data. When you convert points, cells are given the value of the points found within each cell. Cells that don't contain a point are given the value of No Data. If more than one line or point is found in a cell, then the cell is arbitrarily given the value of one of the lines or points. If this is a problem, use a smaller cell size during conversion. If you have the Spatial Analyst then Neighborhood Statistics in the Analysis menu can be used to give you more control on which value is given to a cell.

You can convert feature themes using both string and numeric fields. If you use a string field, then each unique string in the feature theme is assigned a unique value in the output grid theme. A field named S_Value will be added to the table of the output grid theme to hold the original string value from the feature theme.