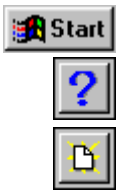
# SPAN: Getting Started

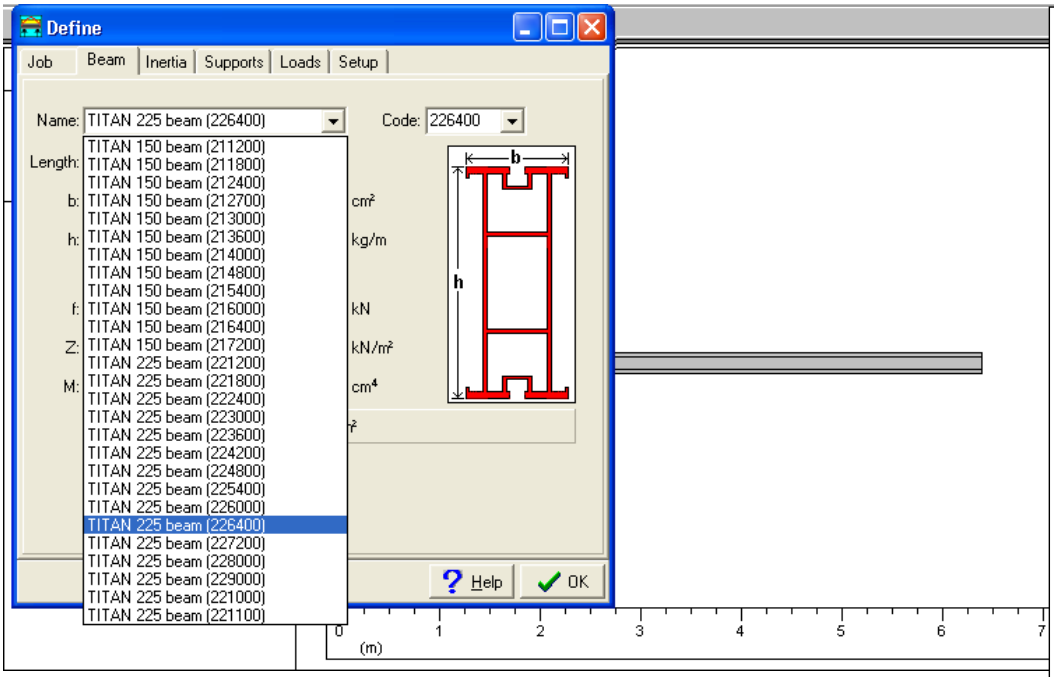
Start **SPAN** by selecting: **Start ▶ Programs ▶ GTSoft ▶ SPAN**




Select the **Help** button, or press the **F1** key on your keyboard at any time to view the online **Help** file.

Click the **New** button on the toolbar to open the main design window.

Follow the instructions below to see how easy it is to create a design:



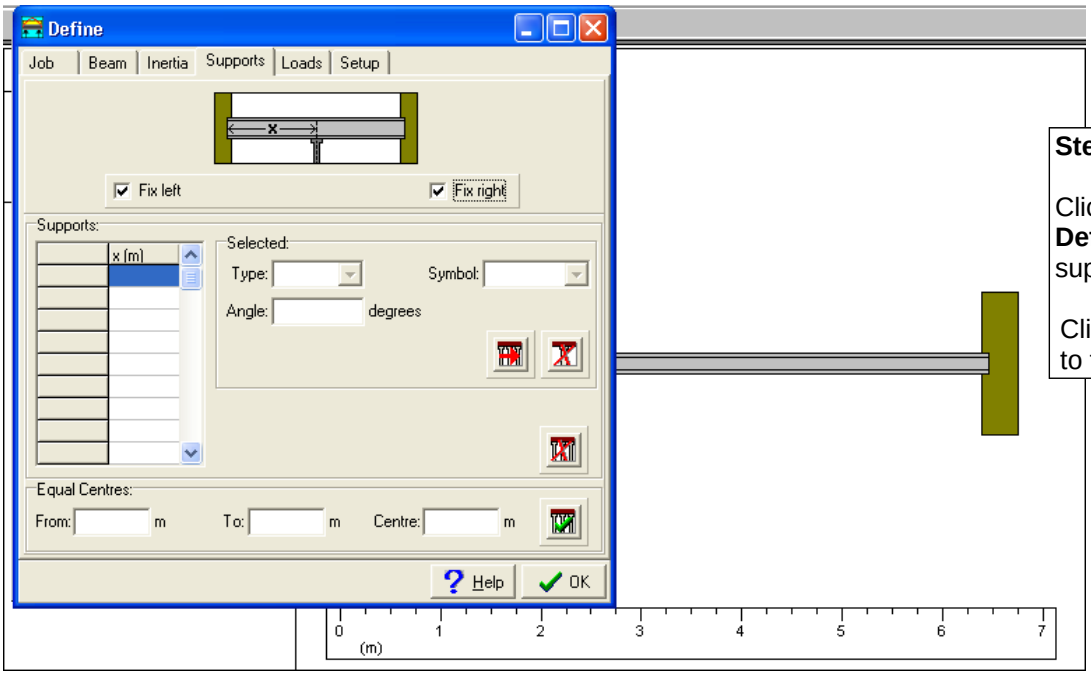

**Step 1: Open Define Box.**
Double-click anywhere in the main window to open the **Define Box**. The **Define Box** is used to create and edit your design.

Drag the **Define Box** to the side to let you see what is happening in the main window.

Click the **Beam** tab of the **Define Box**.

Click the arrow beside the **Name** box and select **Titan 225 beam (226400)** from the drop-down list.

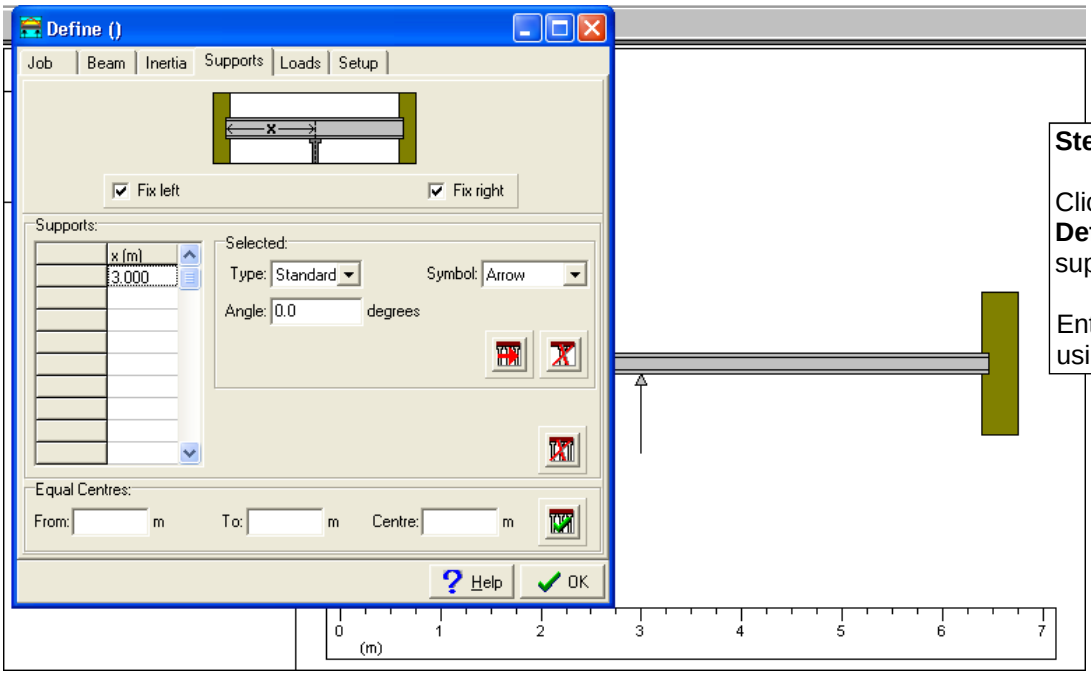
The main diagram changes after any entry in the **Define Box**.




**Step 2: Fix ends of beam.**

Click the **Supports** tab of the **Define Box** to define the supports.

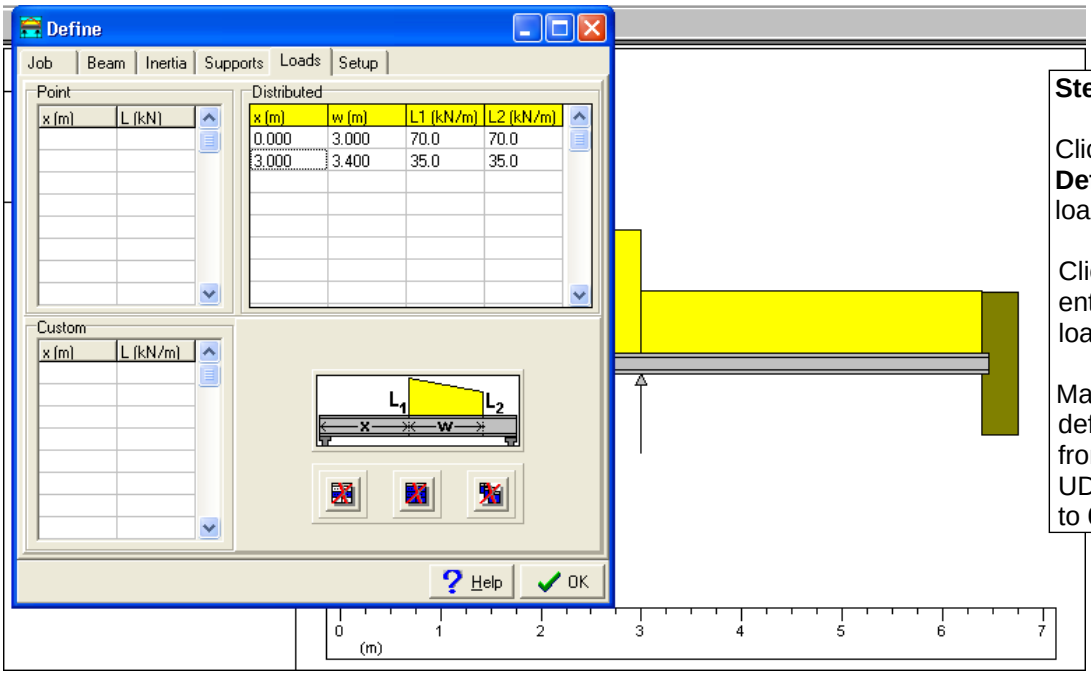
Click **Fix left** and **Fix right** to fix the ends of the beam.




**Step 3: Add a support.**

Click the **Supports** tab of the **Define Box** to define the supports.

Enter a support at **3.0m** using the **Supports** grid.

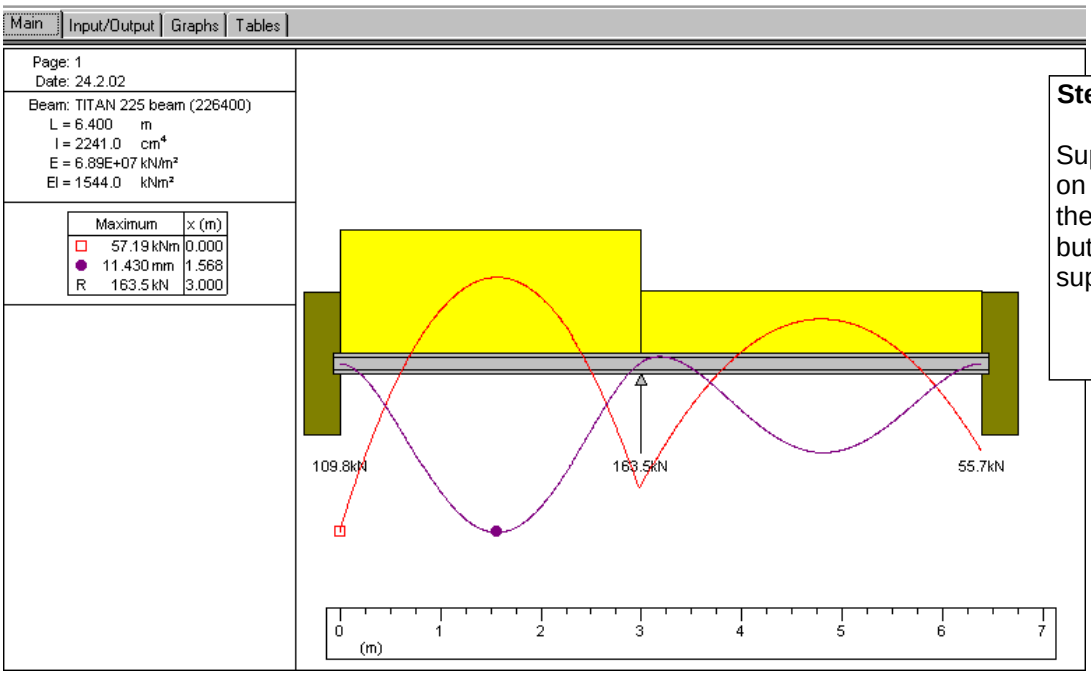



**Step 4: Define loads.**

Click the **Loads** tab of the **Define Box** to define the loads.

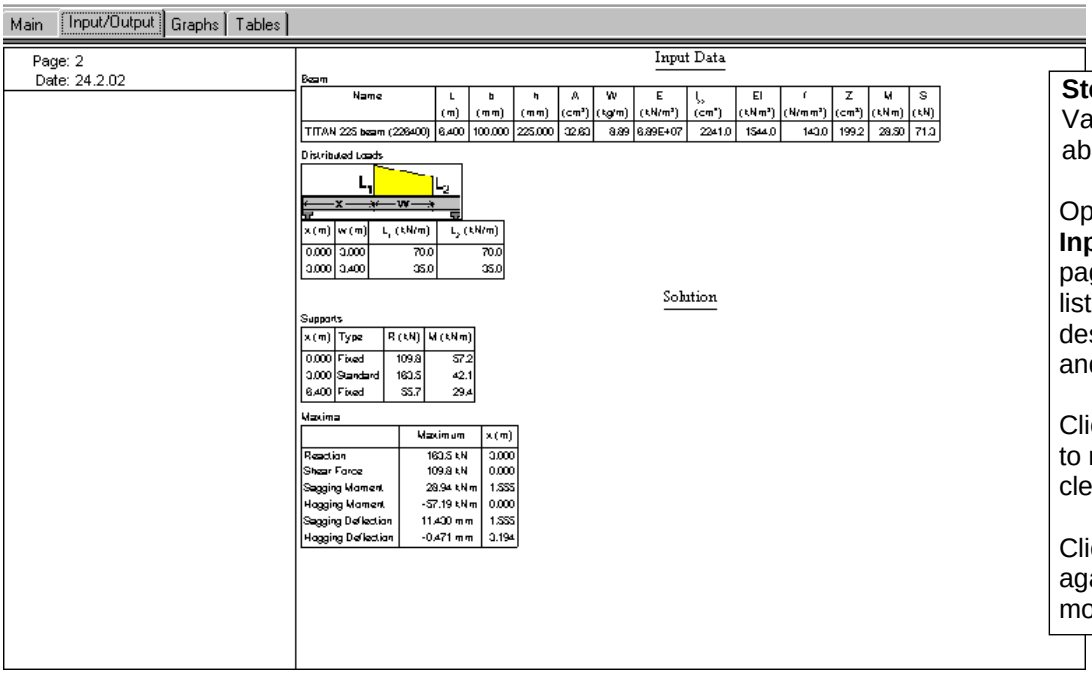
Click the **Distributed** grid to enter uniformly distributed loads.

Make the entries shown to define a UDL of **70.0kN/m** from **0.0m** to **3.0m** and a UDL of **35.0kN/m** from **3.0m** to **6.4m**.




**Step 5: Toolbar.**

Superimpose various items on the main diagram using the toolbar buttons. Click a button again to remove the superimposed item.

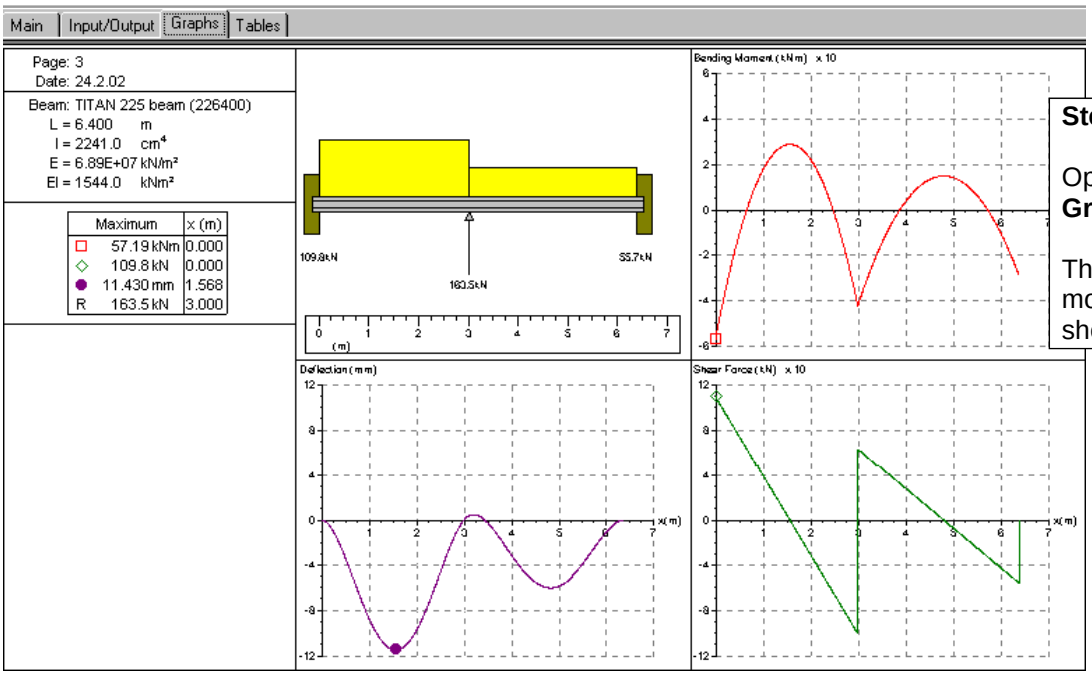



**Step 6: Change view.**
Vary the view using the tabs above the main window.

Open the **Input/Output** page. This lists the design input and solution.


Click the **Zoom** button to read the text more clearly.

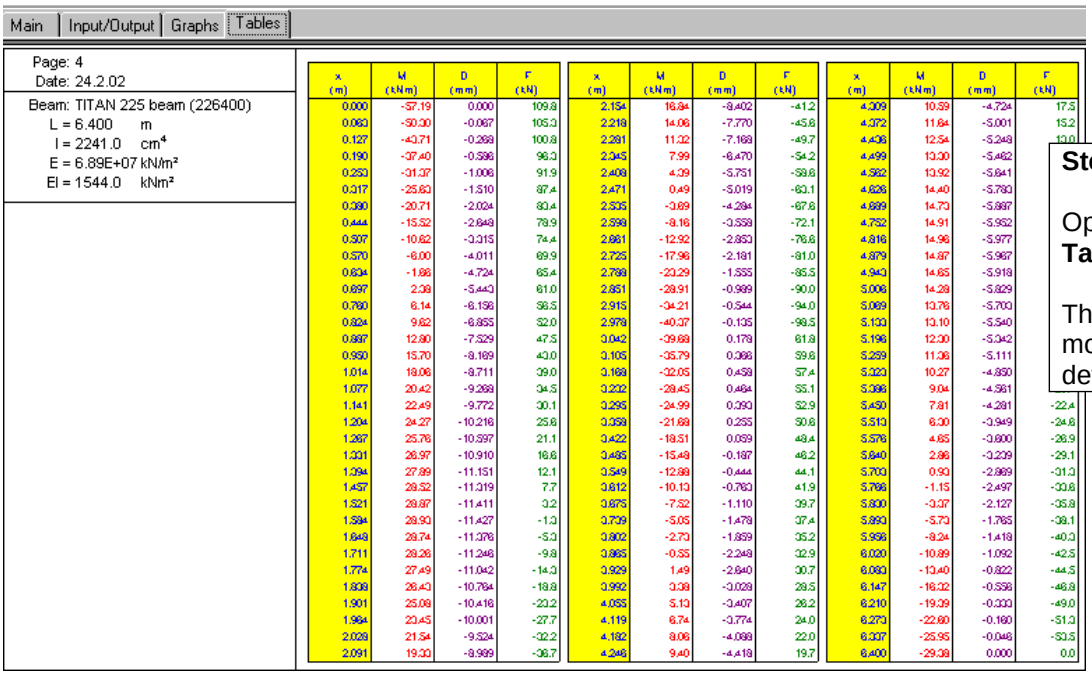
Click the **Zoom** button again to return to full screen mode.




**Step 7: Change view.**

Open the **Graphs** page.

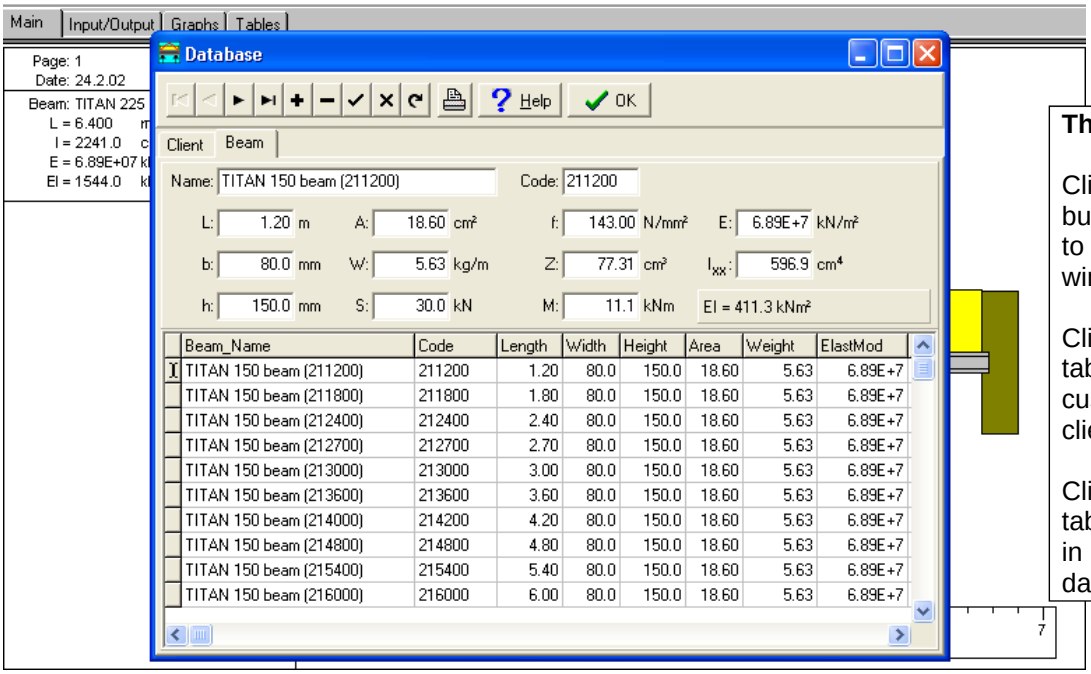

This displays bending moment, deflection and shear force graphs.




**Step 8: Tables page.**

Open the **Tables** page.


This displays bending moment, shear force and deflection tables.

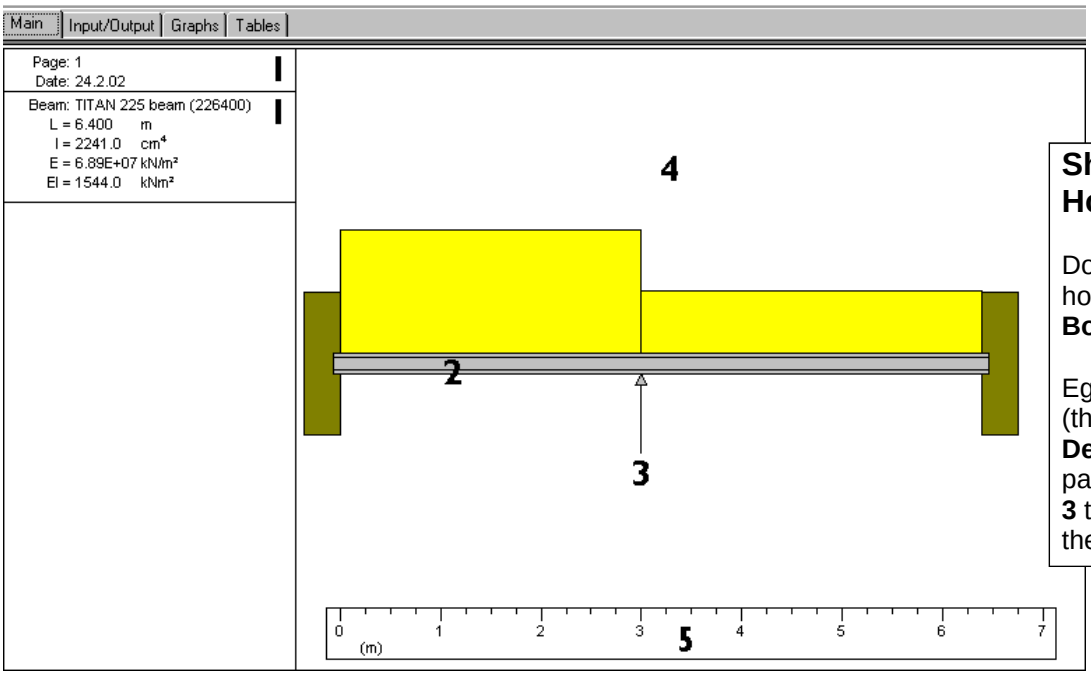



## The Databases.

Click the **Database** button on the toolbar to open the database window.

Click the **Client** tab to edit customers in the client database.

Click the **Beam** tab to edit beams in the beam database.



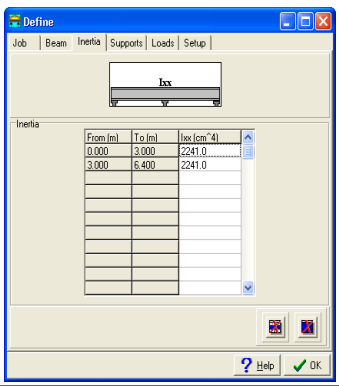

## Shortcuts and Screen Hotspots.

Double click on the indicated hotspots to open the **Define Box** at the appropriate page.

Eg. Double click region **2** (the beam) to open the **Define Box** at the **Beam** page. Double click in region **3** to open the **Define Box** at the **Supports** page.

## The Define Box.

The **Define Box** pages are explained in greater depth in the **SPAN** manual and the online **Help**, including those not mentioned in this brief introduction:




The **Job** page is used to enter customer details.

The **Inertia** page is used to define beams of varying Moment Of Inertia.

The **Equal Centres** section of the **Supports** page is used to define equally spaced supports.

The **Point** and **Custom** grids of the **Loads** page are used to define different load types.

The **Setup** page is used to enter user contact details, select units and set various other display options.

Read the online **Help** file or the **SPAN** manual for more information on using **SPAN**.

For further details or assistance, see **www.GTSoft.org** or email:

**Info@GTSoft.org**