GDSii software"Layout Editor" (see link below) is preferred and makes photomask making much easier. Layout Editor is very intuitive and easy to learn. The use of Solidworks, Autodesk Autocad or any other 3D CAD software is discouraged. They do not work well for the 2D designs needed for photomasks. If you are already acquainted with one of these software types and prefer to use it.....see section 5.0 Heidelberg SOP

https://rsc.aux.eng.ufl.edu/_files/documents/148.pdf

When done submit the file to Bill Lewis at walewis@ufl.edu or sharepoint link. Bill will convert the file and attempt to fix any issues with "Linkcad 7" conversion software and email the file back to you in GDSii format. To view the file for correctness, download the free GDSii software "Layout Editor" at

https://layouteditor.com/download