MAP OFFLINE PROGRAMMING FACILITIES

Map now offers possibility programming on or off line, that means you can write programs either on the controller or on your PC or the controller. Writing on PC has many advantages but it can never replace actually been able to program on the machine itself. Programs can be exported this means that programs written some time ago may be exported to a text file and used as a backup. In order to program off-line a text editor is needed. We would recommend the use of notepad++, which is an excellent editor, in order to make programming easier we have provided a keyword highlighter which shows your program up in different colours. This highlighter currently only works in English but a Spanish version will be released in the fullness of time. Language highlighting uses an XML file which can be downloaded from our website. To install the XML in notepad click on the language tab then define your own language and click import select the maplang file and save it with the name map.CNC. Each time you work on a map file you can select this language highlighter which might programming much easier. There are many advantages to writing your program off-line you can use C style comments such as this // this is a comment.

On the controller importing and exporting files is very easy, it must be noted that there is a limit of 1000 lines this does not include comments, and means 1000 instructions. You can also integrate G code and map in the same program file. Once you have written your program using notepad, save it onto a flash stick, making sure the extension is CNC such as "my file.CNC". On the controller in the edit create menu select the option menu which shows an import and export option. To import a CNC file use the file browser to select the file that you have written and press enter, the controller will highlight any errors in red or any warnings in yellow on the screen. Note when you import a text program into map it does not save the file name and so once you have worked on your file and checked it you may wish to use the save as option to save the program either as a map file or a map child process file which has the extension.MCP. There is an example of the off-line program to create menus on our website at http://automation-trm.com/download/example-user-data-entry.pdf.

Comments are not imported into map if you wish to embed comments in map itself you can use the text command or write a comment into any command that has no data fields, this can also be done using the text editor so that comments are permanent. In many cases the author may not wish comments to be known by the user, in which case the programmer would add no comments in the data fields and use C++ style comments throughout their program. When the file is exported to a text file it is possible to change the language so program was written in English it may be exported in Spanish or vice versa this gives an ideal way of translating programs from one language to another. When map exports programs it will put spaces between the data fields. However it is often convenient to use tabs space the programmer neatly. Note condition code which has a zero value will not be shown, when map imports values anything that you do not set will be zero for example if you do not expressly write CC1 value of CC will automatically be zero after importing, the same goes for any data fields if you do not set the value by using the keyword data in that particular data field after importing will be zero. When map exports data it obeys similar rules and may or may not decide to write a data field with a zero value.

Map provides a zero investment programming solution for all programmers. Since its inception the map editor has been provided free and our intention is to maintain this tradition.