ControlMate Serial Barcode Reading

1 Introduction

New commands, to enable serial barcode reading, have been added to the ControlMate custom Intrinsic command list. The new commands will allow a user to now define a barcode reader attached to a serial communications port as well as when to use the information read.

1.1 Global Values

Since the commands have been constructed using the ControlMate templates, the custom Intrinsic Global Value commands can be used to retrieve the barcode or any other field data. This means that Barcode data, for example, is available for use within other commands. This is particularly useful when used with the ControlMate Database module.

1.2 Device Dependency

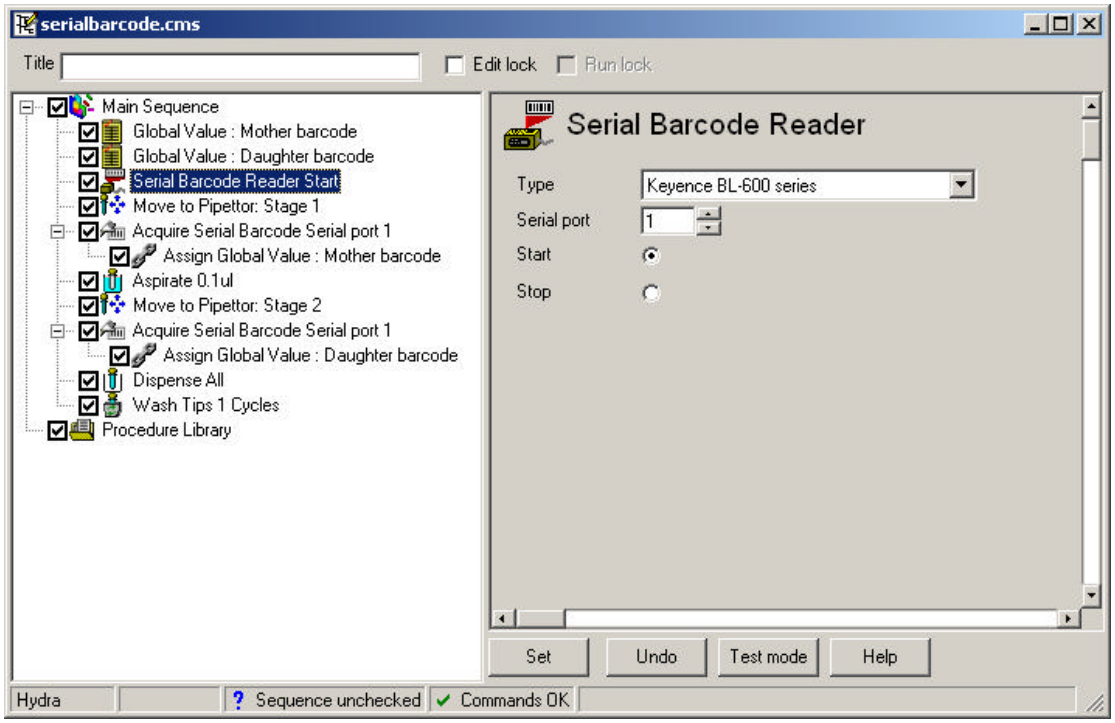
The commands, being Intrinsic, are not device specific. This means that serial port barcode reading capability is available for all ControlMate device modules, including PlateMatePlus, PlateMate2x2, Hydra, SerialMate and VisionMate96. This applies to any future device control modules that may be developed.

2 Commands

2.1 Serial Barcode Reader

This command is used to define the barcode reader type, associated serial communication port and port activity (i.e. to switch it on or off). The ControlMate.ini file contains the parameters required for the reader control which include the RS232 parameters (baud, parity etc), control character formats for the data header and delimiter as well as the commands needed to activate/deactivate the motor and/or laser.

It is worth noting that up to 256 serial barcode readers can be simultaneously controlled, although this does require additional RS232 ports adding to the PC.



2.2 Acquire Serial Barcode

During sequence file execution the Serial Barcode Reader command creates a thread which will act upon data being received at the specified port. This in turn will save the barcode data into an internal register associated with the port. The Acquire Serial Barcode command is used within the sequence file at the point at which the barcode is required to be registered. This command will, when called, save the details in the file as specified in the Tools Options Barcodes tab.

Using the command in this fashion ensures that only the last barcode read for the associated port is saved and removes the problems associated with multiple reads of the same barcode as they pass the barcode reader.

The following screen shot shows the command user interface as well as an example of positioning within a sequence file.