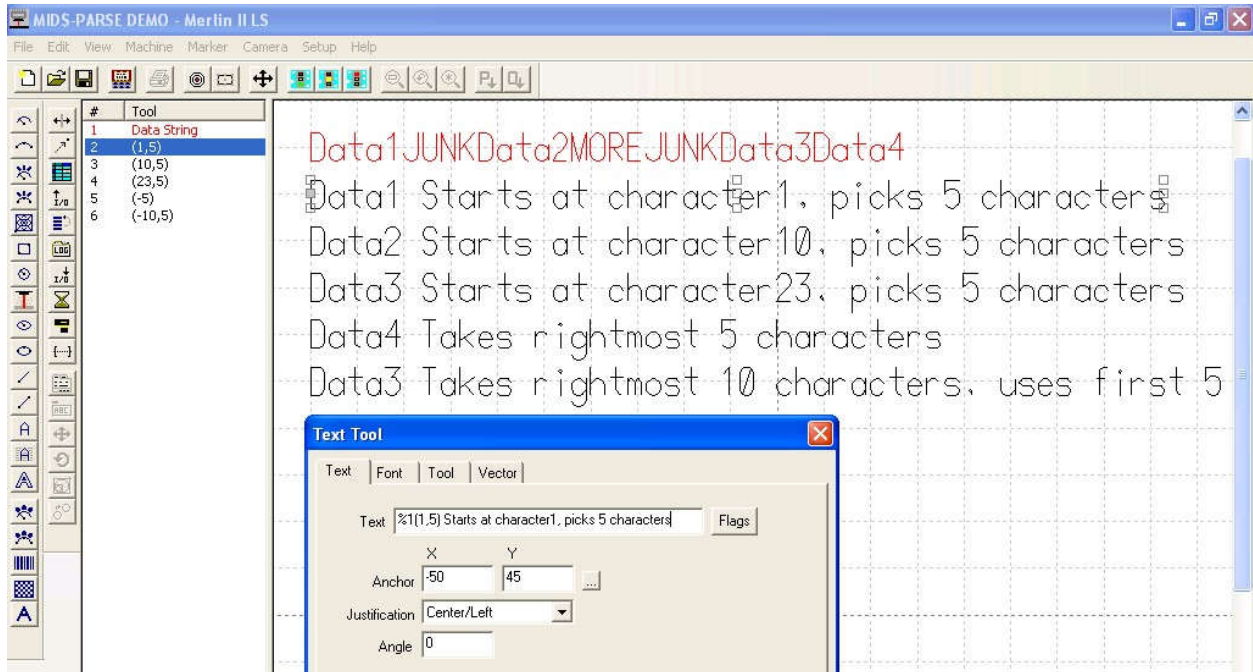




Merlin LS Parse Flag (Mid\$)

In the newer versions of Merlin LS, Telesis has added a parse function that allows you to select parts of a text string for use in other objects. It is listed in the Flags menu as %?(Partial data.....). This works in the same way as the Mid\$ function in Basic. The most common use is if you are reading data from a source that had more info than you need, like a data bolt or RFID tag. Reading the source may return dozens of characters, of which you only need 10 or 15. In order to extract the data that you really need, you can place the data into a line that you have set up as a template, a non-printing object. You then use the parse function to extract the data you need. The parse function has these components: % This tells the software that a command will follow instead of data. ? This represents the line, tool or object, from which the data will be extracted. (The beginning of the parameters.) The end of the parameters. The parameters consist of one or two numbers. The first is the position in the string of the first character to be extracted. If no additional parameters are listed, the function extracts all the data from the starting character to the end of the string. %1(5) would extract all of the characters in line 1 beginning at the fifth character. If an additional parameter is included, separated from the first by a comma, a fixed number of characters will be extracted. %1(5,5) will extract five characters beginning with the fifth character. A negative starting number extracts data from the right side of the string. %1(-10,5) will extract five characters starting from the 10th character from the right.

Below is an example pattern using the parse function.



Line 1 is the data string, which contains both data and junk. The text tool is open for line 2, which shows the format for the parse flag, and also has text that tells what the parse flag does. If you look at line 2 you'll see that it starts at the 1st character, picks 5 characters, and extracts "Data1". As with other flag functions, the parse flag can be combined with text, as well as other flags, in the same line. For example, using the pattern above, `%1(1,5) Date %1(23,5)` would yield: "Data1 Date Data3". Also, as with other flags, it can be used in any text object, as well as barcodes.

Please feel free to contact PTR if you have any questions regarding the parse function, or any other questions you have about Merlin LS

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