"Multiplate" menu option (Alt + M)

The concept of Multiplates

Very often, you will be required to engrave a series of plates (or tags) which all share some of the same characteristics: their colour and size (width and height), the number of text lines, the properties of each text line (font, character height,...). The obvious procedure would be to cut your engraving material to the size of these individual plates and then engrave each individual tag.

However, when the size of your individual tags is small enough to allow the engraving machine and the size of your engraving sheets to create a series of lines and columns, you could as well create one single job in order to engrave a number of tags in one cycle and even have them cut to size by the machine itself.

In Symmetry, there is a specific function to do so called "**Multiplate**". You could compare this function with the printing of 2 by 7 or 3 by 8 labels starting from an A4 size sheet of paper.

Examples

First example: If you own a Cyborg X-300 machine with an engraving area of 300 x 200 mm and you have to engrave a series of 30 labels 55 mm wide x 35 mm high, you could create a single job of 25 tags (5 tags side by side x 5 tags top to bottom) out of one single piece of material.

Another example: You have a piece of material with a size of (at least) 180 mm x 75 mm and your tags are 90 x 25 mm, you could engrave six tags in one cycle. The example we are showing was made from a material size of 200 x 100 mm.

What is more, you can choose to your tags cut to size by the machine using a specific cutter. The result will be six individual tags with their four sides already beveled.

Operating procedure

Before looking in detail at the Multiplate screen, we will walk you through the basic method how to create Multiplate.

1. The first step will be to create (or open) a layout for one individual tag that you would like to create. The easiest way to create a job would be through **Autoplate**. That way, you will:
   - decide the size of your tag
   - specify the number of text lines and their respective heights
   - choose a font
   - add a logo, etc.
2. The next step, which will also make it easier to visualise the end result, is to enter your texts. Once this is done, you might want to save the individual tag for later use.
3. Once you are completely satisfied with the way your individual tag looks like – you might even want to engrave a sample to show others – you open the **Multiplate** window and convert your initial job to a Multiplate by entering the size of the material you will use, the margins, the number of plates you want to engrave, and some other options.
4. Save your job and start engraving.

Schematically

Step 1 and 2	**A single layout with text**
	

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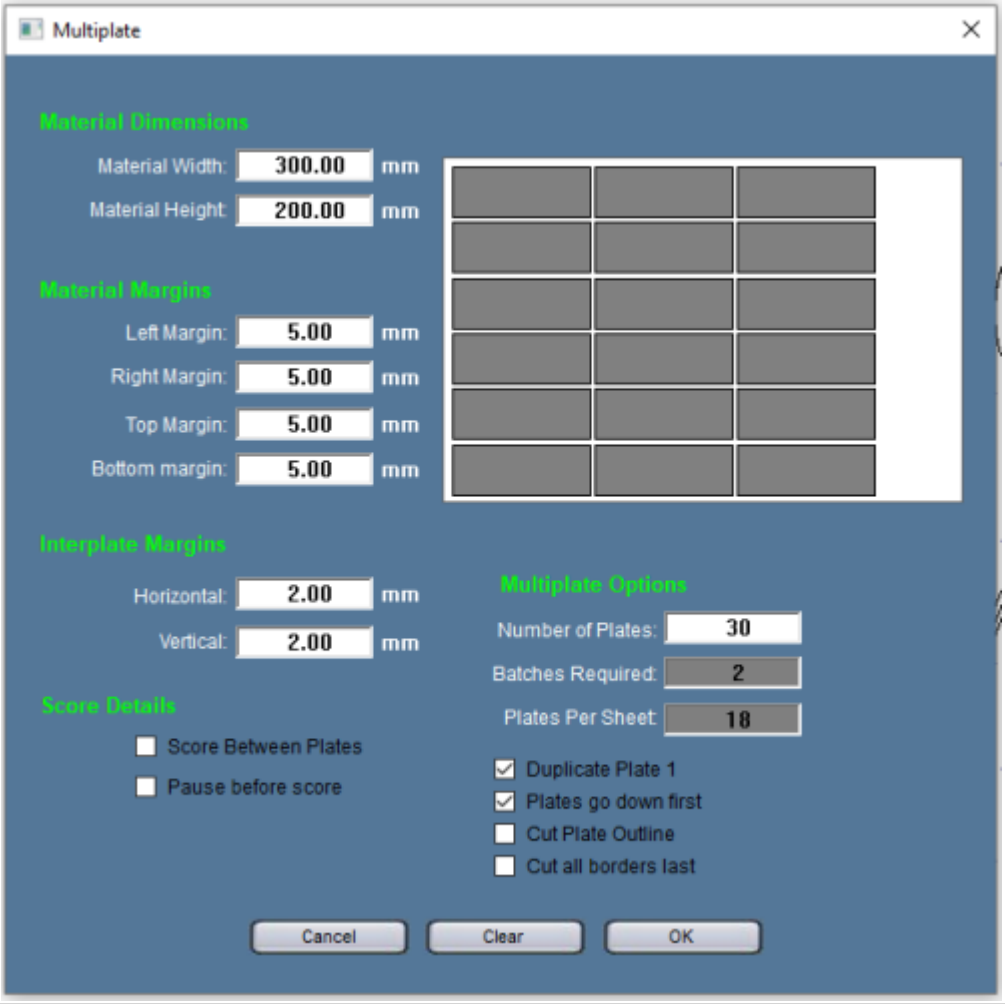
Step 3	**The Multiplate window** 

Multiplate Window

■ Material Dimensions

- **Material Width**
- **Material Height**

The original height and width shown are taken from the height and width of your original singe plate layout. You will enter the height and width of the piece of material you are going to use.

■ Material Margins

- **Left Margin**
- **Right Margin**
- **Top Margin**
- **Bottom Margin**

The standard setting will be 0.00 mm or .0 inches. We advise you to always set a certain margin, for

several reasons:

1. Most engraving machines are equipped with bumper slabs. In normal circumstances, the bumper slabs will not protrude above the material surface. However, when these slabs stand out above the plate surface and your engraving is done with the aid of the depth regulator nose, the depth regulator nose could hit the bumper slabs when moving too close to the side of the sheet. If that is the case, the **Material margin** on these sides should be higher than the radius of your depth regulator nose. You should enter a value of at least 8 mm or .2 inches.

2. If set correctly, the height of the bumper slabs allows them to stand out above the machine's table surface, but lower than the material surface. Even if this is the case, it could happen that the wider part of your conical tool would touch the bumper slabs when engraving or "scoring" too closely to that side of the material.

3. When setting a 0 mm **Material margin** where there are no bumper slabs, the Multiplate option will allow your machine to position the score line exactly on the side of the material, or even outside the material, when the actual material dimensions ar slightly smaller than the **Material Dimensions** entered in Multiplate. As a consequence, only the inner borders of your plates will have a beveled (or slanted) side. The margin will make sure the score line is made properly in the material.

■ Interplate Margins

- **Horizontal**
- **Vertical**

The standard setting is 0.00 mm or .0 inches. If the individual nametags will not be cut on the machine using **Score between plates**, but with a circular saw, you will want to add an interplate margin wich compensates for the width of your sawblade.

■ Score Details

- **Score Between Plates** will prompt the machine to cut a groove between and around the individual plates (or tags) after having engraved the texts and logos.
- **Pause before score** will prompt the engraving machine to pause after having engraved all texts and logos. It allows the operator to replace the engraving cutter by a scoring cutter, the tip of which has a specific geometry, with a cutting depth preset in such a way that your material will be partially cut through with a V-shaped groove. This allows you to easily separate the individual plates or tags.
  The obvious setting would be to choose "Pause". Whether you need to swap cutters or not, you can restart your machine

after the pause by lifting the pause through the machine keypad.

■ Multiplate Options

- **Number of plates**
- **Batches required**
- **Plates per sheet**

The only one of three boxes that can be modified by the operator is the **number of plates**. Both the other parameters, **plates per sheet** and **batches required** (how many sheets you require) will be calculated based on the size of the individual plates, the material dimensions and the number of plates you require.

- **Duplicate Plate 1**: When your first plate you are about to reproduce contains lines filled with text, these texts will be copied onto the corresponding lines of the other plates. The other option is to create a series of blank plates that will have to be filled with text, either by typing the texts or by using the **Text Merge Wizard**.

- **Plates go down first**: When this option is not selected, the plates will be engraved from left to

right, then from top to bottom, i.e. row by row. With this option selected, the machine will engrave the plates first from top to bottom, before starting with the next column of plates.

The example below on the left is showing the result when the "**Plates go down first**" checkbox was checked, the example on the right shows the same Multiplate job, but with "**Plates go down first**" unchecked.

- **Cut Plate Outline**
- **Cut all borders last**

Showcases

- **Badges for the Anthromax executive staff**
  Anthromax's 30-headed executive staff requires nametags for public appearances and corporate meetings.