Loading and Unloading Media with MCE firmware

For MPE-based devices, the loading and unloading was broken into sections: pick, load, unload, and eject. For MCE-based devices, there is only the concept of load and unload. Load means moving a plate from the bay or from the load ramp fully onto the drum. Unload means moving the plate from the drum all the way out of the machine.

Automatic Loads

First of all, check what's currently loaded in the bay with the command **bay 1**.

If this is not correct, load the bay from the workstation, or modify it with the command:

bay 1 load <quantity> …

For example:

bay 1 load 25 m 491 s 673 t 305 mi 1

to load the bay with 25 plates of 491mm around the drum by 673mm along the drum, thickness of 305 microns, and media index 1.

Then type **load bay 1** to load a plate from bay 1 onto the drum.

Manual Loads

To load a plate or other media manually, type:

load manual …

For example

load manual m 491 s 673 t 305 mi 1

Other Load Commands

Use the **load args** command to display the arguments for the next load. If these are what you want, you can just type **load**.

Check the status of the media on the drum with the **loaded** command. It is possible to update the parameters of the media on the drum with the **loaded force** command. For example, **loaded force mi 2** changes the media index to 2.

Unloads

To unload the media off the drum, just type **unload.** If the load was manual, this will cause a manual unload; if the load was automatic, this will cause an automatic unload. If you want to over-ride this default, type **unload manual** or **unload auto**.

Partial Load/Unload Sequences

If you need to do just part of the load or unload sequence, there are two ways to do this:

- Use the **step** command for the appropriate section. For example, do **picker step enable**, then **load bay 1**. Use **picker step** to step through the sequence. Use **picker step disable** to go back to normal operation (you might need one last **picker step** to restart the sequence). The other options are **engine step enable** and **table step enable**.

- For the pick sequence of the Autoloader, there is a **picker pick** command. This command will pick a plate from the bay, then leave the picker in the up position. There is no way to continue the load sequence.

There will be better commands coming soon to do partial sequences – stay tuned.

Suspend Responses

The suspend responses in MCE firmware are slightly different than in MPE firmware. There are six standard suspend responses for devices running MCE firmware:

Button	**Meaning**
Resume	Try the last step again. Can also be used in a "press Resume to continue" kind of situation where the firmware needs acknowledgement.
Release	Asks the device to release the media so that it will be easier for the operator to remove.
Media Removed	Operator has removed the media and is telling the device to continue.
Leave On	Cancel the job but leave the media on the drum. This will only be displayed if media rescheduling is enabled.
Eject	Cancel the job and unload the media.
Cancel	Cancel the job. If this is selected for an error during the load, the firmware will attempt to back out of the load. If this is selected for an error during the plot, the media will be unloaded.

Release can be a very useful command. For example, if an error occurs during an automatic unload, Release will cause the table to move down and turn the vacuum off. Then the operator can simply reach in and remove the plate.

However, in other cases, it is simply not possible to fully release the media. For example, if the plate is partially loaded on the drum, the firmware often cannot open the leading edge clamps to release the media. Attempting to do so would require moving the drum – something that would more than likely cause the partially loaded plate to get jammed against the load ramp or one of the engine actuators.