
AstraLink

USER GUIDE

Dealer Mode Operation

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1. Introduction

The AstraLink software includes a number of operations (listed below) that are normally only performed by dealers and not by Astra end users. Normally, these operations are hidden from the user, but they can be accessed by running AstraLink in *dealer mode*.

This manual describes the operation of AstraLink in *dealer mode*. It is provided as a supplement to the standard AstraLink User Guide, which describes the general operation of AstraLink.

The operations only available in dealer mode are:

- Astra ROM switch settings
- Setting AstraLink configuration data
This includes features such as specifying which fields to display in the PLU edit dialog and the default keysheet layout.
- Bypass the AstraLink Setup Wizard that appears when AstraLink is run for the first time and which requires an actual Astra scale to be available.

In *dealer mode*, additional commands relating to the above operations appear in the menus. Otherwise, the operation of AstraLink in *dealer mode* is identical to operation in standard end-user mode.

2. How to Run AstraLink in Dealer Mode

Specify "-d" as a command line parameter to run AstraLink in dealer mode.

Microsoft Windows provides a number of different methods for specifying command line parameters. The following are two options:

Method 1 Use **Run...** in the Windows **Start** menu.

Enter the full path name for the AstraLink executable file, followed by the -d parameter.

e.g. "**C:\Program Files\Ishida\AstraLink\AstraLink.exe**" -d

Note that the -d goes outside the quote marks.

Method 2 Create a shortcut

1. Use Windows Explorer or some other method to create a shortcut to the AstraLink executable file (usually C:\Program Files\Ishida\AstraLink\AstraLink.exe).

2. Edit the shortcut properties (Right click on the shortcut icon and select **Properties**)

3. Add -d after ...\AstraLink.exe in the **Link** field.

e.g. **C:\Program Files\Ishida\AstraLink\AstraLink.exe -d**

4. Also check that the work folder is set to the folder in which AstraLink was installed (the same folder as the AstraLink.exe file).

3. ROM Switch Settings

Selecting **ROM Switch Settings** from the **Scale** menu displays a dialog containing the ROM switch settings for the scale.

NOTE: Before you can edit the ROM switch settings, you must have received the current settings from the scale. AstraLink will display a message to notify you if no data has been received from the scale.

Note that all settings are in hexadecimal.

Contact your Ishida distributor for details of the meaning of each ROM switch.

4. AstraLink Setup

AstraLink has a number of configuration settings that can be used to customize the operation and to specify the model of scale being used.

The setup information is contained in the file **ASTRASETUP.DEF** in the AstraLink work directory. A default setup file is provided with the installation and should be appropriate for almost all users. However, if changes are required, the procedure is described below.

Customizing the PLU Edit Dialog

Selecting **PLU Fields** from the **Setup** menu displays a list of the registered PLU fields. To edit the detailed settings for a field, click on the field to select then click the **Edit** button (or simply double-click on the desired field). This opens the dialog shown below for customizing the PLU field.

The following describes the meaning of each item.

Item	Explanation
Name	The field name. The name specified here is used as the field title in the PLU Edit dialog and report. Accordingly the name must be short enough to display in the dialog.
Field Type	The field meaning. Select from the list. Do not create more than one field with the same meaning.
Display?	Specifies whether to include the field in the PLU Edit dialog.
Print in Report?	Specifies whether to include the field in the PLU Report.
Display Width	For numeric fields, this specifies the number of digits to display (not counting the decimal point).
Digits after Dec Pt.	The number of digits to display after the decimal point. Specify zero to not display a decimal point.

Which of the following items to set depends on how you wish the field to appear in the PLU

Edit window.

For fields that take one of a fixed set of values (e.g. the sales mode can be either “Fixed price” or “Weight”), set the allowed values in the **Field Values** list, as follows.

Item	Explanation
Add	Adds a new field value. This opens a dialog to specify the name and numeric value of the field value.
Edit	Edits the selected field value. This opens a dialog to edit the name and numeric value of the field value. (Double-clicking on a value in the list performs the same operation.)
Delete	Delete the selected value.
Set Default	Makes the selected value the default value. This value is set as the default when a new PLU is created. The default value is indicated in the list by an asterisk (*).

For fields that take any value within a specific range (e.g. the price or weight), leave the **Field Values** list empty and set the following items.

Item	Explanation
Maximum	The maximum allowed value of the field. An error message appears if in the PLU Edit dialog if the user specifies a value greater than the maximum.
Minimum	The minimum allowed value of the field. An error message appears if in the PLU Edit dialog if the user specifies a value less than the minimum.
Default	This value is set as the default when a new PLU is created.

NOTE: Typically, only the **Name**, **Display?**, and **Print in Report?** settings are modified. Do not modify any of the other settings unless you know what you are doing. Incorrect settings can cause misoperation of AstraLink or scales.
This feature is mainly provided to allow for future modifications to the scales and to customize the software for different countries.

Options (General Settings)

Selecting **Options** from the **Setup** menu displays a dialog containing various AstraLink configuration settings.

The following describes the meaning of each item.

Item	Explanation
Max PLU Number	Specifies the maximum PLU number and determines the number of digits. For example, set 9999 if you wish to use 4-digit PLU numbers.
Tare weight increment	Specify the tare weight increment used by the scale. The Astra has a different increment for the USA (oz.) and international (gram) versions.
Fixed weight increment	Specify the fixed weight increment used by the scale. The Astra has a different increment for the USA (oz.) and international (gram) versions.
Use nutrition?	Set this on if the Astra supports nutrition information. Typically, nutrition is only used in the USA.
Backup database at startup?	Set this on to automatically save a copy of the database in the BACKUP subdirectory each time AstraLink is started. Up to three backup files (most recent, one week old, one month old) are saved. The backup date is incorporated into the backup file name.
Bypass bug in printer driver	Some printer drivers do not print rotated text correctly (they rotate the text in the wrong direction). Text is printed rotated when keysheets are printed in portrait mode. Set this check box ON if you have problems printing keysheets.
Set keysheet as default	Sets the current keysheet as the default keysheet. The default keysheet is set when a new database is created. Typically the default keysheet shows the left hand side keys as blank and the right hand side keys show the standard meanings of the non-preset keys.
Item	Explanation

Set display font	Specify the font to use in description text fields. If using non-English characters, you must set a font for the character set (e.g. Thai, Chinese) used by your scales.
Report font size	You can select the font size for the PLU report. The smaller the font size, the more information can fit on the report.
Scale font	Specify the character set used by your scales.