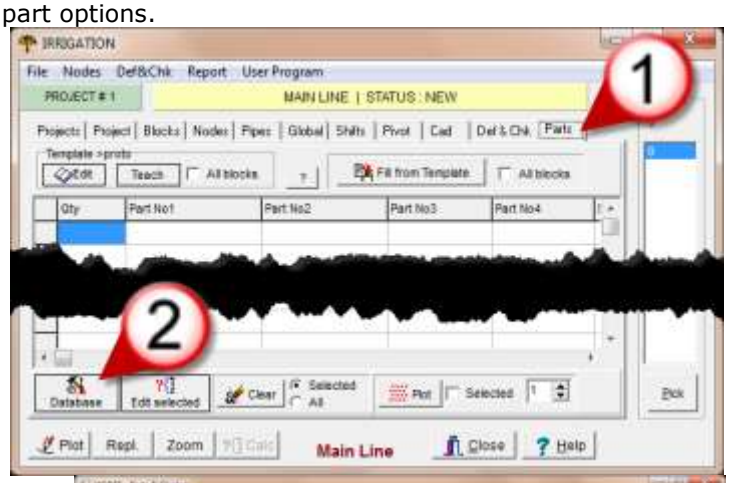
MMS DESIGN

Survey & Engineering Solutions

UNDERSTANDING THE PARTS DATABASE EDITOR

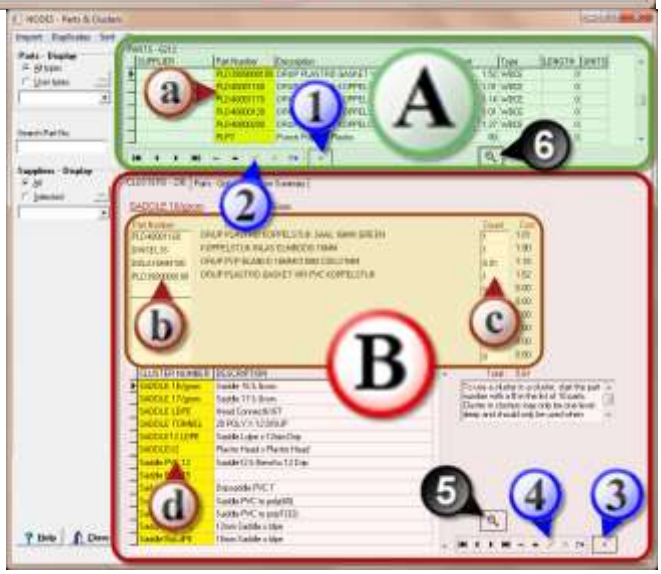
Background
In this article I will continue from my last article titled "HOW TO CREATE A BILL OF MATERIALS WITH PART NUMBERS AND PRICING". I will take a detailed look at the PARTS database editor and show you how to set up parts and clusters. I will also explain a excellent new feature on how you can use Model Maker (MM) to select the most cost effective purchase option based on bulk order part options.

To start:
To access the parts editor, select the parts page (1) on the main irrigation window, then click the Database (2) button.

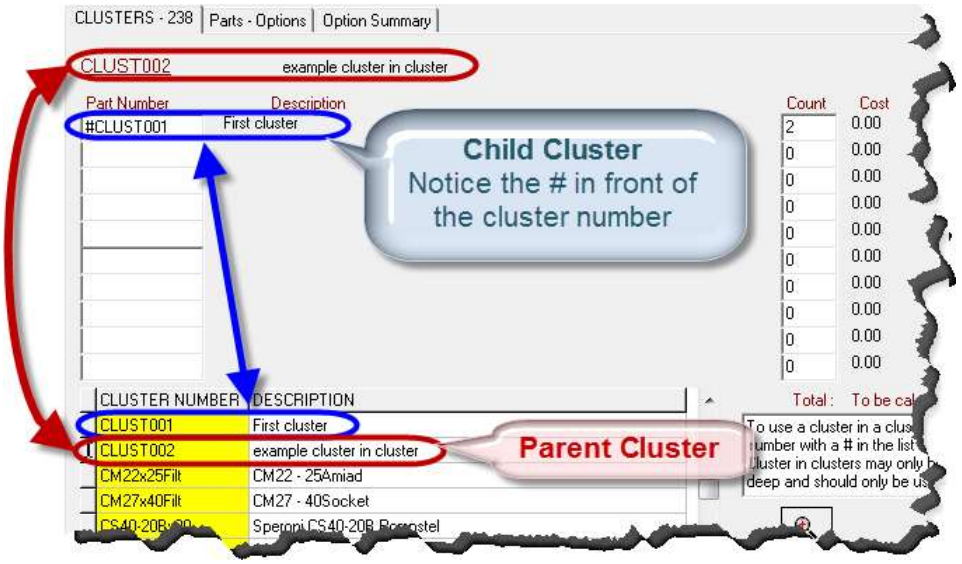


Add the parts first:
The parts editor is where you will add **PARTS** (A) and **CLUSTERS** (B). To add a new **part** to the list, click the plus "+" button (1) and add the required info. When done, click the green tick "√" (2) to accept the new part. Do this for each new part you want to add. Alternatively, you might want to import the parts list as explained on our web forum.

Create the Clusters:
After adding the different parts, click the plus "+" button (3) for **clusters**, select a part number (a) from the **parts** list and **double-click** the first opening in the cluster builder (b) (or type the part number manually) entering the number of times (c) that the specific part number is used in the cluster. Click the green tick "√" (4) to save the new cluster. Use the magnify buttons (5) to maximize and minimize the lists.



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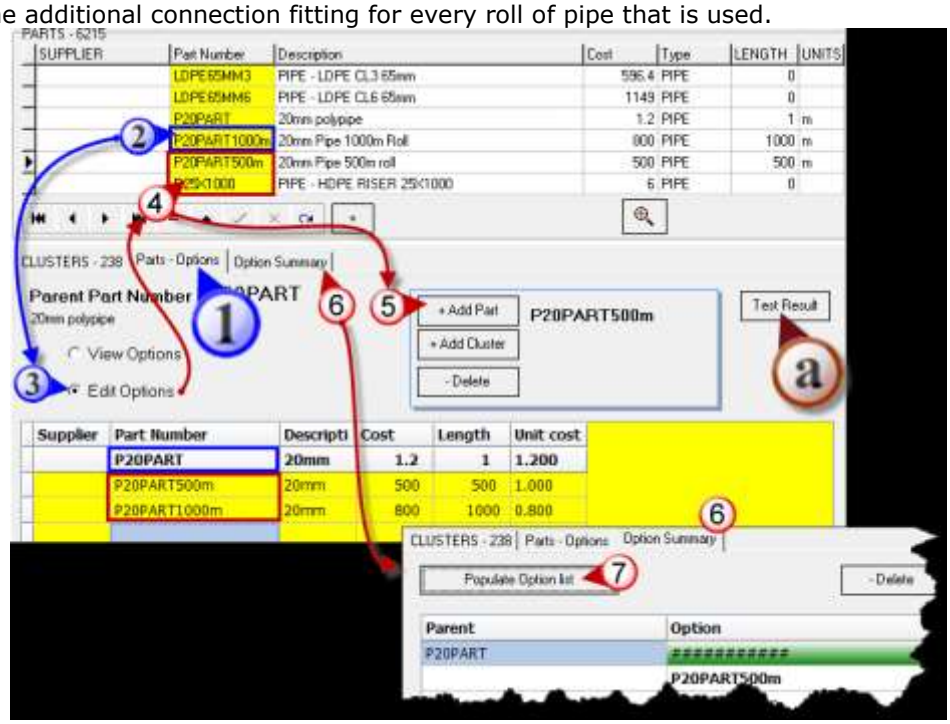
Tip: There is only space for 10 different part numbers in a cluster, but if you need more part numbers in a cluster, you may add cluster numbers (d) into the cluster builder (b) by putting a "#" symbol in front of the cluster number. The "#" symbol will tell MM that the number is a cluster number inside a cluster. You can only do this one level deep; in other words, there can be a maximum of one hundred unique part numbers (or ten #cluster numbers) in any cluster.

Create parts options:
Parts – Options may be defined which will allow MM to select the lowest cost scenario if parts are sold in different bulk quantities e.g. pipes sold in different lengths or parts sold in different box/bag/pack quantities. Let us assume for example that we require 5700m of a particular pipe. The pipe is available in a 500m rolls at R500 per roll (or R1.00 per meter) and 1000m rolls at R890.00 per roll (or R0.89 per meter). MM will assess the different options as specified in the database and choose the option with the least cost:

Roll pipe m	Cost per roll	5700m	Total Cost	
500	R500	12 rolls	R 6 000	
1000	R890	6 rolls	R 5 340	Best

In this instance, it is clear that the designer will be better off buying 6x1000m rolls instead of 12x500m rolls.

Not only is the part options good for determining the best cost scenario, but it can also be used to make provision for that often forgotten pipe connection fitting, can of glue, wire or what ever. You can for example create a part option with a cluster that will include one additional connection fitting for every roll of pipe that is used.



Here is how:
Select the **Parts-Options** page (1). In the parts section, select the part number (2) that you want to create options for then click **Edit Options** (3). Now select the part number (or cluster number) (4) and add them to the options list (5). Repeat this step if there are multiple options available that describes the parent part number (2).

Tip: Use the **Test Result** (a) to see how MM will use your options by entering a quantity of items to check for options.

Finally store the defined options by clicking on the **Options Summary** (6) page then **Populate Options List** (7)

If you get stuck with this procedure, please send me a mail (corne@mmsdesign.co.za) so that I can explain it in more detail should you require.