

# Preface

## AutoMax Ladder Editor Feature Overview

The AutoMax Ladder Editor ships as part of the AutoMax Programming Executive. It can be run from within the Executive or as a stand-alone application for offline programming only. The Editor provides these features to help you create your ladder programs:

### **More easily view and work with rungs in the same program or in different programs.**

Because the Editor is based on Microsoft Windows 95™, you can:

- Use familiar menu commands and toolbar icons for typical Windows features like restore, maximize, open, save, cut, copy, and more
- Display multiple rungs at the same time
- Display rungs from different parts of the program at the same time
- Display rungs from more than one program at the same time
- Use pop-up menus to access frequently used commands

### **More easily edit ladder programs.**

Because of the drag-and-drop functionality and property sheets for each program element you can:

- Cut, copy, paste individual instructions and rungs or groups of instructions and rungs
- Move rungs by selecting them and dragging them with the mouse
- Create a “work-in-progress program” by building rungs without variable names or coils when you end an editing session
- Insert instructions and branches, or change an instruction type or variable name without any re-typing
- Reduce the amount of typing by importing the variable descriptions for global variables from the Variable Configurator. Also, while entering variable names, you can choose from a list of smart-matched names
- Insert new rungs without renumbering existing rungs
- Add rung descriptions which become part of the rung

### **Create programs using an enhanced set of ladder instructions.**

The AutoMax Ladder language has been enhanced to include support for:

- An expanded instruction set based on the IEC-1131-3 standard
- Variable names of up to 16 characters
- Multiple coils per rung
- More instructions per rung and more parallel branches
- Easier access to bits within integers and arrays, for example: `INPUT_VAR.31` or `array_var[index].bit_num`

### **More easily edit online programs.**

When editing an online program you can:

- Identify inserted, deleted, or modified rungs
- View the original program while you are editing an online version of the same program
- Monitor and modify timer and counter preset values
- Test online edits before permanently downloading them to the Processor
- Set, force, and unforce variables from within the Editor

### **Where to Find More Information**

This instruction manual describes the AutoMax Enhanced Ladder Editor. For information about the Ladder language, refer to instruction manual J2-3094. The information in both instruction manuals can also be accessed in the AutoMax Ladder Editor and Enhanced Ladder Language help file (MAXED.HLP). The help file contains additional information not found in either instruction manual.

For more information about the AutoMax Programming Executive, refer to J2-3089.

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