

# Pattern matching

TapeTrack has powerful pattern matching functionality that can be utilized globally in TapeMaster.

## String Pattern Matching

### Asterisk (\*)

The **Asterisk** is used to indicate which character positions are to be filtered. [image](#)

- An **Asterisk** before a set of characters will show all items that end with those characters.
- An **Asterisk** after a set of characters will show all items that begin with those characters.
- If used on its own, the **Asterisk** will display all data in that column.
- Using two **Asterisks**, one on either side of a character or set of characters will show all items containing that character or set of characters at any character position.

The Asterisk does not need to be used when entering a full Object-ID or when searching for [Flags](#) in the [Volume List](#).

### Question Mark (?)

The **Question Mark** is used to indicate that any character can exist in a specific character position. [image](#)

### Square Brackets ([ ])

**Square Brackets** can be used to provide parameters for a specific character position that are longer than one character. There are four different configurations:

#### Multiple Characters

When multiple characters are put in a **Square Bracket**, any of the characters listed will be displayed at the specified character position. [image](#)

#### Vertical Bar (|)

When two or more characters are placed between **Square Brackets** and separated by **Vertical Bars**, the **Vertical Bar** will act as the word "OR" displaying any of the characters. [image](#)

#### Hyphen (-)

When two characters are placed between **Square Brackets** and separated by a **Hyphen**, any

character alphanumerically between the two characters will display. [image](#)

## Exclamation Point (!)

When the **Exclamation Point** is placed immediately following the left **Square Bracket** in a set of **Square Brackets**, any character except for the characters listed after the **Exclamation Point** will display. This functionality also works with **Multiple Characters**, **Vertical Bars**, and **Hyphens**. [image](#)

## Date Pattern Matching

### TapeTrack Date Format

TapeTrack allows you to represent dates both as literal date values and date calculations.

### Syntax

- **YYYY-MM-DD**: ISO Date format
- **\***: Today
- **\*[+-]x**: Today + or - x days
- **M**: The first day of this month
- **m**: The last day of this month
- **Y**: The first day of the year
- **y**: The last day of the year
- **M+-x**: The first day of the month + or - x months
- **M+-x+-y**: The first day of the month + or - x months + or - y days
- **Y+-x**: The first day of the year + or - x months
- **Y+-x+-y**: The first day of the year + or - x years + or - y months
- **Y+-x+-y+-z**: The first day of the year + or - x years + or - y months + or - z days

### Examples

\*-10 *10 days ago* Y the beginning of this year

M-0-1 *the last day of last month* y-1 the last day of last year

Y-1+3-1 *the last day of February last year*

From:

<https://rtfm.tapetrack.com/> - **TapeTrack Documentation**

Permanent link:

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Last update: **2025/01/21 22:07**



