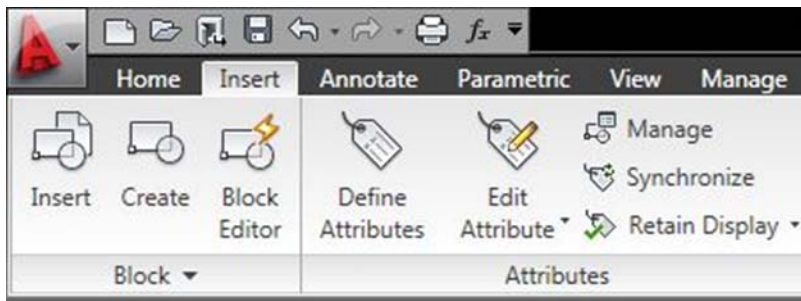


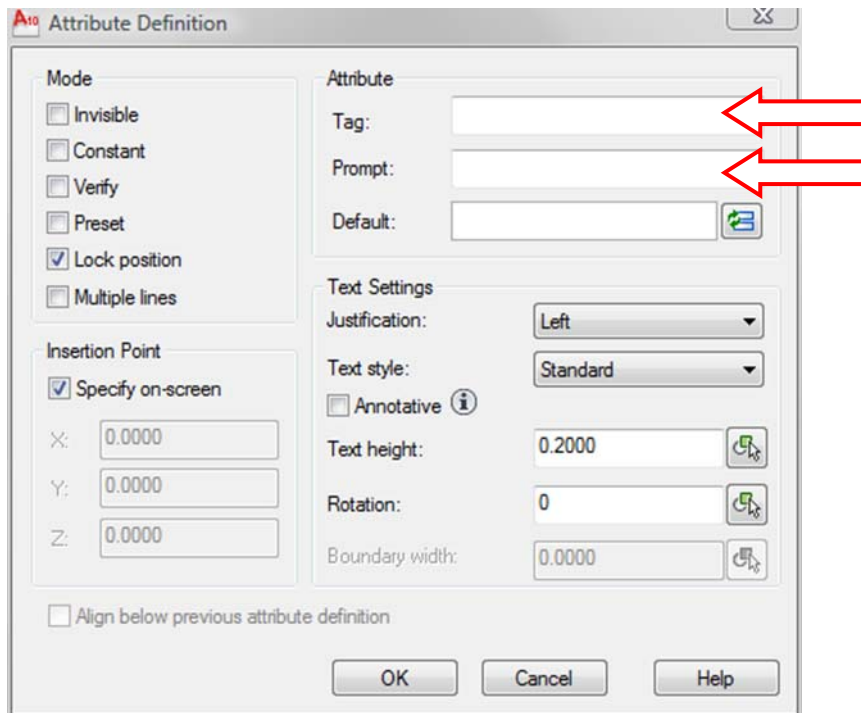
## Using attributes in AutoCAD

An attribute is a text object with special characteristics about it. Using an attribute, it will allow users to insert a block, and be prompted for information to populate that block. Attributes are most commonly used, but not limited to title blocks. The fundamentals of an attribute are not at all difficult, but there are a few key points that should be understood before using this command.

Before the attribute can be placed into the drawing, the user must define it. The attribute command is located on the Insert tab.



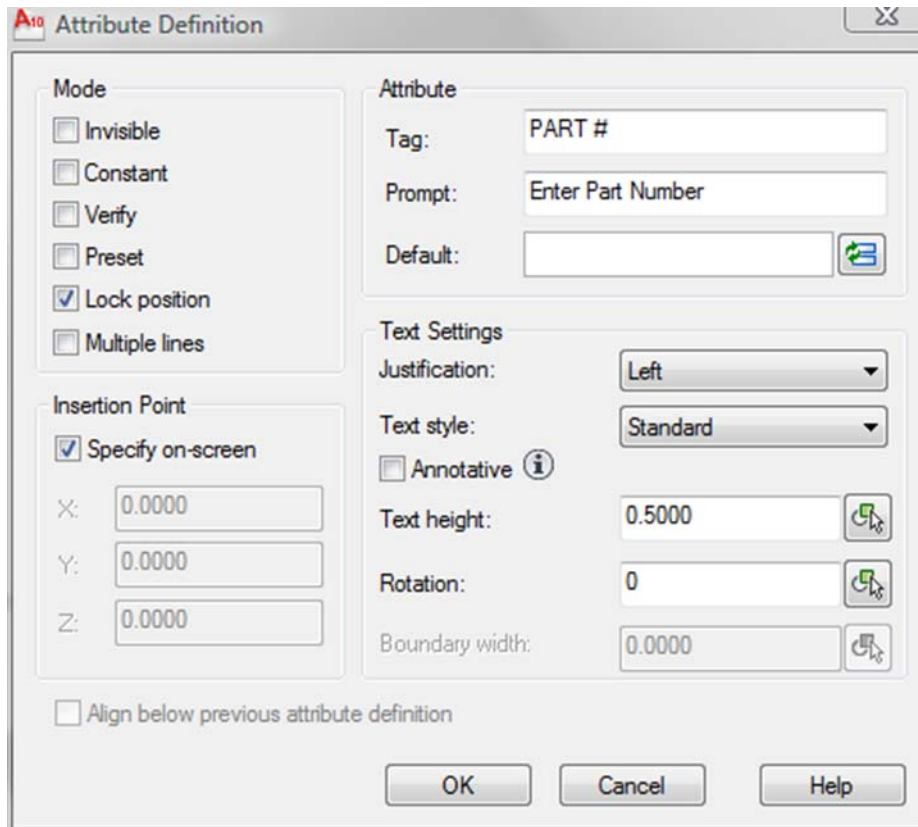
After executing the command this dialog box will appear.



The two areas identified are important; these must be completed prior to placing the attribute in a drawing. The tag is a spot that will allow you to give the attribute you want to create a "place holder". The name you give it will show up while the block is being created. The prompt is what is going to be asked when you place the completed block into a drawing. What is it that you want the user to input?

In the following example, the words "PART NUMBER" are single line text, this portion of the block will not change. Now I will walk through the creation of an attribute that will prompt the user for the part number when the block is inserted.

PART NUMBER:

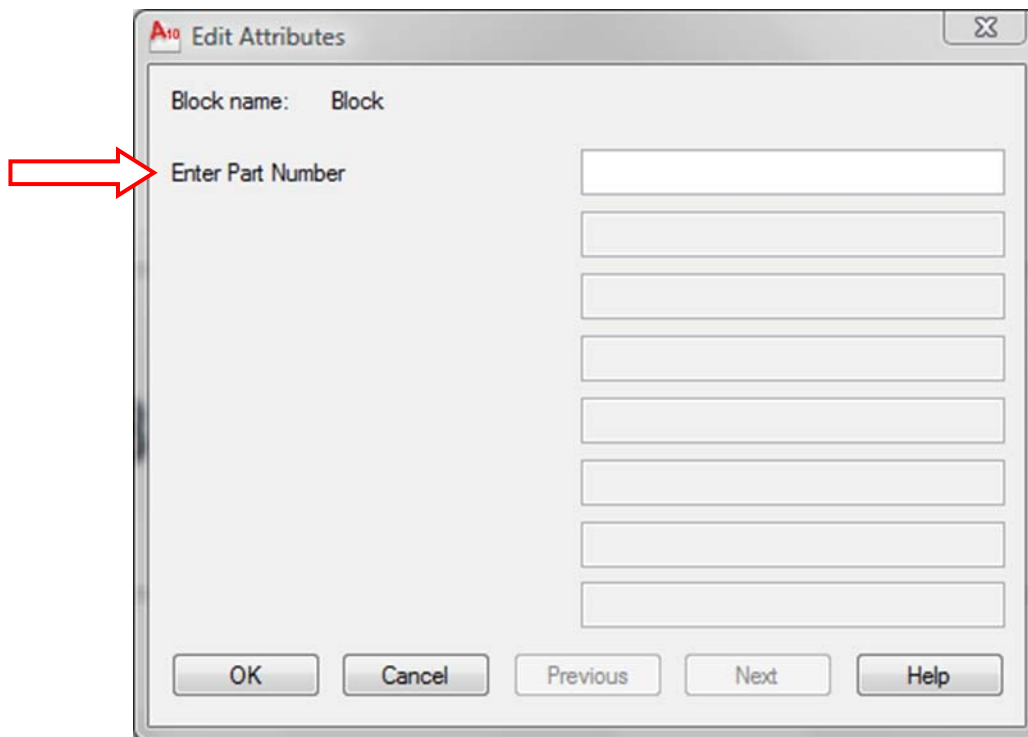


Now that the tag and prompt are completed, here you could change the justification and text options as you would with the multiline text command.

Once your settings are as desired, select "OK" and place the attribute where you want it to be located. Notice the tag is occupying the place for the attribute. This is because these objects are not yet a block.

PART NUMBER: PART\_#

Now all there is left to do is to create a block as you normally would. After you have created the block, and given it a name, re insert that block into your drawing. Upon inserting the block, a dialog box/prompt will appear asking for what it should be populated with, in this case, the part number.



Here is a before and after shot to show you the difference. Notice how when the block is placed into the drawing, the tag is populated with the characters entered into the prompt.

PART NUMBER: PART\_#

PART NUMBER: 1234567

Placing attributes in a block can quickly and easily save time from manually editing blocks that are not always the same. Attributes can also be used to make a block somewhat intelligent, using the field's option. This will allow you to pull information from the drawing such as file name, date, or size. This will be covered in the next AutoCAD tip/trick.