Alias Command Group

Alias Overview

Alias commands allow you to define new commands as a sequence of standard commands. You may find this useful when repeatedly using the same commands to perform certain tasks like setting up measurements.

Aliases are similar to macros but do not include the capability to substitute parameters into alias bodies. The alias mechanism obeys the following rules:

- The alias name must consist of a valid IEEE 488.2 message unit, which may not appear in a message preceded by a colon, comma, or a command or query program header.
- The alias name may not appear in a message followed by program date, a colon, comma, or question mark.
- An alias name must be distinct from any keyword or keyword short form.
- An alias name cannot be redefined without first being deleted using one of the alias deletion functions.
- Alias names do not appear in response messages.
- The Alias commands are defined in Tektronix Standard Codes and Formats. Deviations between that standard and what is specified here will be considered Phoenix errors unless specifically noted in the command description in this document.

Alias Commands

Command	Description
ALIas?	Returns the alias state
ALIas	Sets the alias state
ALIAS:CATalog?	Returns a list of the currently defined alias labels
ALIas:DEFIne	Assigns a sequence of program messages to an alias label
ALIas:DELEte	Removes a specified alias
ALIas:DELEte:ALL	Deletes all existing aliases
ALIas:DELEte:NAMe	Removes a specified alias
ALIas:STATE?	Returns the alias state
ALIas:STATE	Sets the alias state

ALIas

Description
This command sets or queries the state of alias functionality.

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Alias

Related Commands
ALIas:STATE (see page 39)

Syntax 1
`ALIas {OFF|ON|<NR1>}`

Syntax 2
`ALIas?`

Arguments

- `OFF`

  This turns Alias expansion off. If a defined alias is sent when ALIas:STATE is off, a command error (102) will be generated.

- `ON`

  This turns Alias expansion on. When a defined alias is received, the specified command sequence is substituted for the alias and executed.

- `NR1`

  A 0 disables Alias mode; any other value enables Alias mode.

Example 1
`ALIas ON`

This command turns the alias feature on. When a defined alias is received, the specified command sequence is substituted for the alias and executed.

Example 2
`ALIas?`

This query might return the following string for the current alias state:
`:ALIAS:STATE 1`

ALIas:CATalog?

Description

This query-only command returns a list of the currently defined alias labels, separated by commas. If no aliases are defined, the query returns the string "".

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Alias

Syntax

`ALIas:CATalog?`

Example

`ALIas:CATalog?`

This query might return the string `:ALIAS:CATALOG "SETUP1","TESTMENU1","DEFAULT",` showing that there are three aliases named SETUP1, TESTMENU1, and DEFAULT.

ALIas:DEFIne

Description

This command assigns a sequence of program messages to an alias label. These messages are then substituted for the alias whenever it is received as a command or query, provided that ALIas:STATE has been turned on. The query form of this command returns the definitions of a selected alias.

> **Note:** Attempting to give two aliases the same name causes an error. To give a new alias the name of an existing alias, the existing alias must first be deleted.

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Alias

Related Commands

ALIas:STATE (see page 39)

Syntax 1

```
ALIas:DEFIne <Qstring><,>{<Qstring>|<Block>}
```

Syntax 2

```
ALIas:DEFIne?
```

Arguments

- `The first <Qstring> is the alias label.`

  This label cannot be a command name. Labels must start with a letter and can contain letters, numbers, and underscores; other characters are not allowed. The label must be less than or equal to 12 characters.

- `The second <Qstring> or <Block> is a complete sequence of program messages.`

  The messages can contain only valid commands that must be separated by semicolons and must follow all rules for concatenating commands. The sequence must be less than or equal to 256 characters.

Example 1

```
ALIas:DEFIne "ST1",":RECALL:SETUP 5;:AUTOSET EXECUTE;:SELECT:CH1 ON"
```

This command defines an alias named "ST1" that sets up the oscilloscope.

Example 2

```
ALIas:DEFIne? "ST1"
```

This command returns `:ALIAS:DEFINE "ST1",#246`
`:RECALL:SETUP 5;:AUTOSET EXECUTE;:SELECT:CH1 ON`

ALIas:DELEte

Description

This command removes a specified alias and is identical to ALIas:DELEte:NAMe. An error message is generated if the named alias docs do not exist.

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Related Commands

*ESR? (see page 36), ALIas:DELEte:ALL (see page 37)

Syntax

```
ALIas:DELEte <Qstring>
```

Argument

- `<Qstring>`

  This is the name of the alias to be removed. Using ALIas:DELEte without specifying an alias causes an execution error. <Qstring> must be a previously defined value.

Example

```
ALIas:DELEte "SETUP1"
```

This command deletes the alias named SETUP1.

ALIas:DELEte:ALL

Description

This command deletes all existing aliases.

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Alias

Related Commands

ALIas:DELEte (see page 36), ALIas:DELEte:NAMe (see page 38)

Syntax

`ALIas:DELEte:ALL`

Example

`ALIas:DELEte:ALL`

This command deletes all existing aliases.

ALIas:DELEte:NAMe

Description

This command removes a specified alias. An error message is generated if the named alias does not exist. This command is identical to ALIas:DELEte.

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Alias

Syntax

`ALIas:DELEte:NAMe <Qstring>`

Argument

- `<Qstring>`

  This is the name of the alias to remove. Using ALIas:DELEte:NAMe without specifying an alias causes an exception error. <Qstring> must be a previously defined alias.

Example

`ALIas:DELEte:NAMe "STARTUP"`

This command deletes the alias named STARTUP.

ALIas:STATE

Description

This command turns aliases on or off and is identical to the ALIas command. The query form of this command returns the state of the aliases.

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Alias

Syntax 1

`ALIas:STATE {OFF|ON|<NR1>}`

Syntax 2

`ALIas:STATE?`

Arguments

- `OFF`

  This turns alias expansion off. If a defined alias is sent when ALIas:STATE is OFF, the instrument generates a command error (102).

- `ON`

  This turns alias expansion on. When a defined alias is received, the specified command sequence is substituted for the alias and executed.

- `<NR1>`

  A 0 turns off aliases; any other value turns on aliases.

Example 1

`ALIas:STATE OFF`

This command turns off the alias feature.

Example 2

`ALIas:STATE?`

This query might return `:ALIAS:STATE ON`, indicating that alias expansion is currently turned on.