1) Flatten the Sheet Metal Part
2) Create a Sketch on the face of the flattened part.
3) Project Geometry
4) Dimension the Length and Width, (Inventor tell you it will be a reference dimension), Finish the Sketch.
5) While in Flat Pattern view, click the Parameters and Rename the new Dimensions to Length and Width.
6) Check the box to Export the parameter (This makes it available in Custom tab of Iproperties)
7) Go back to Folded Part
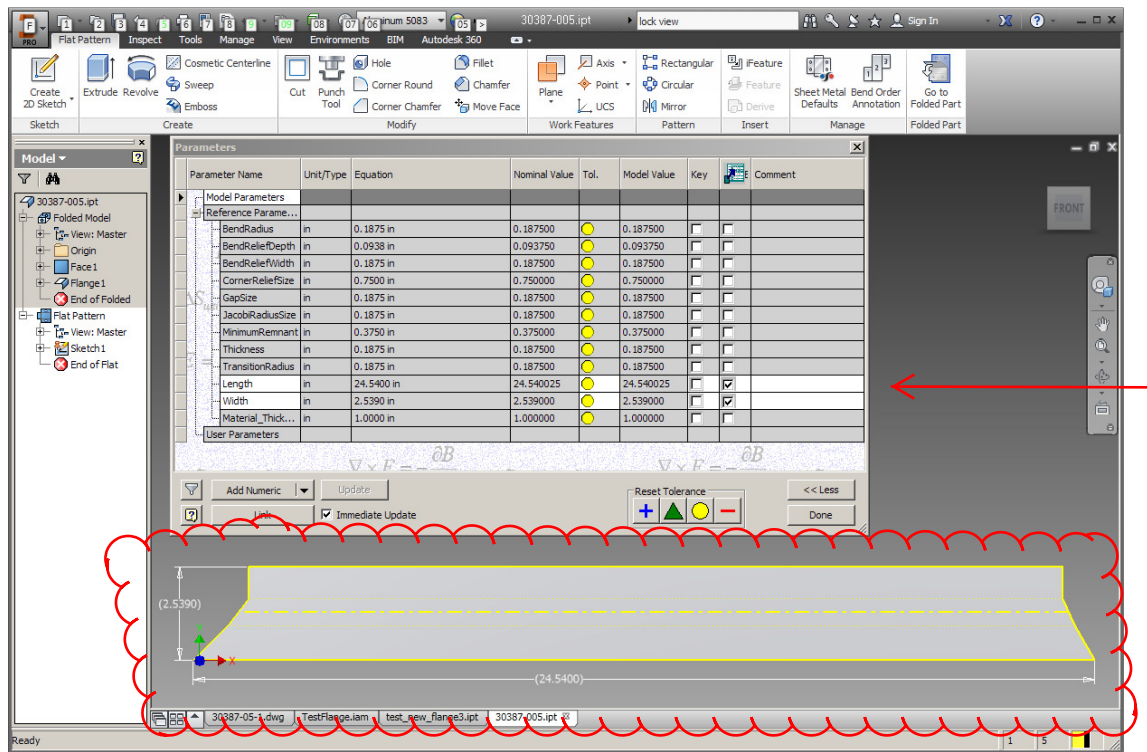
7) Click Parameters and check the box to Export the parameter (This makes it available in Custom tab of Iproperties)
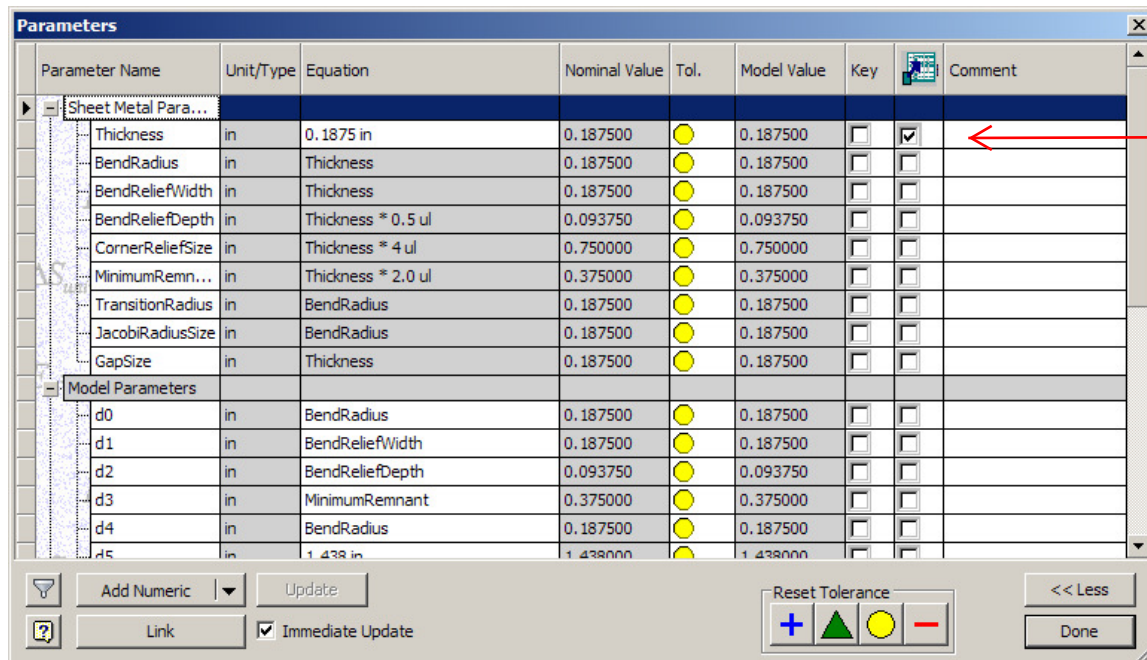
8) Click Iproperties and click the Custom Tab, you'll see the parameters listed. (Thickness, Width and Length)
9) Add a new parameter such as PART DESCRIPTION and in the value box enter something like this
=Sheet, <Thickness> Thk x <Width> W x <Length> L
10) Click APPLY to update the value in the box
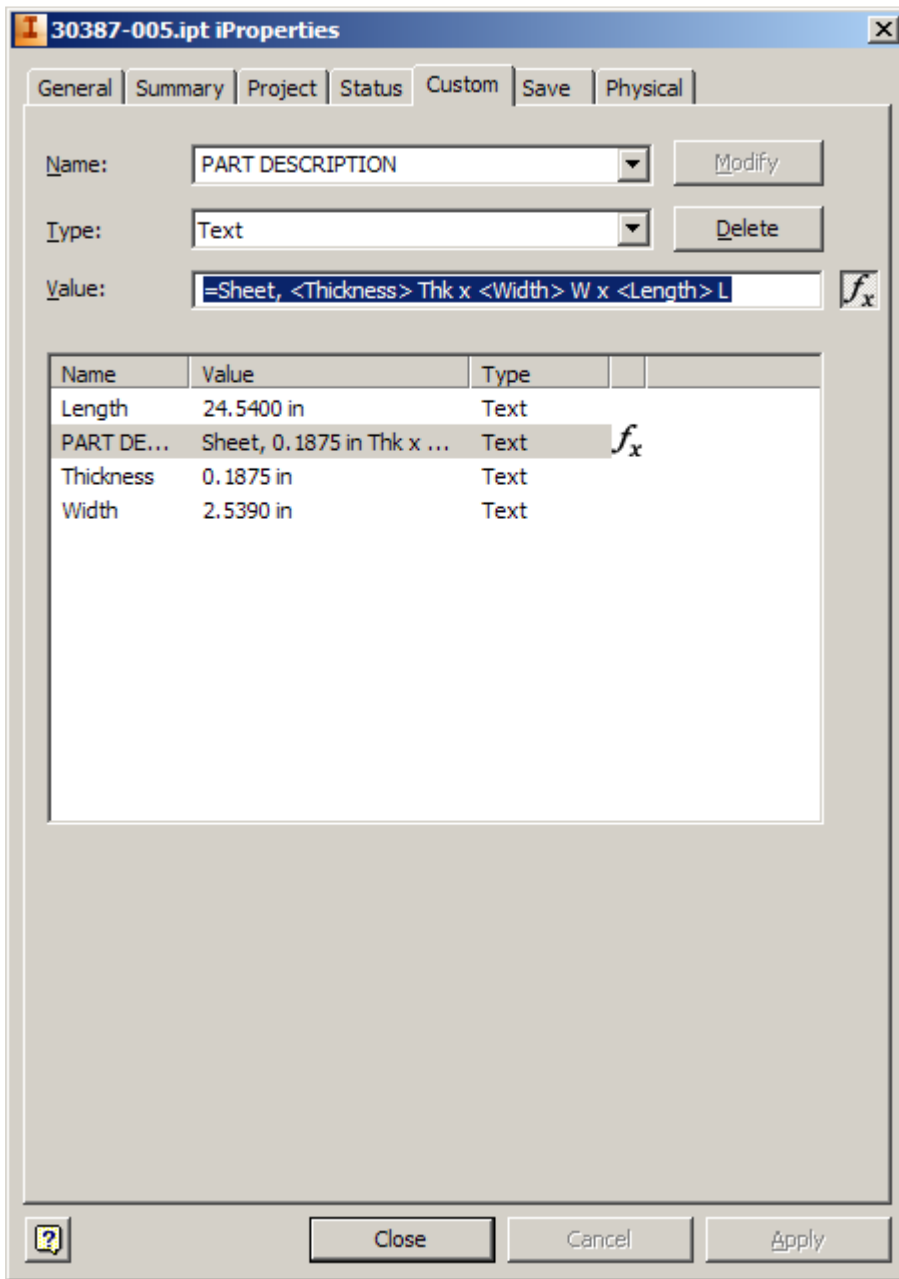
11) Now these values are available in the Text Editor.
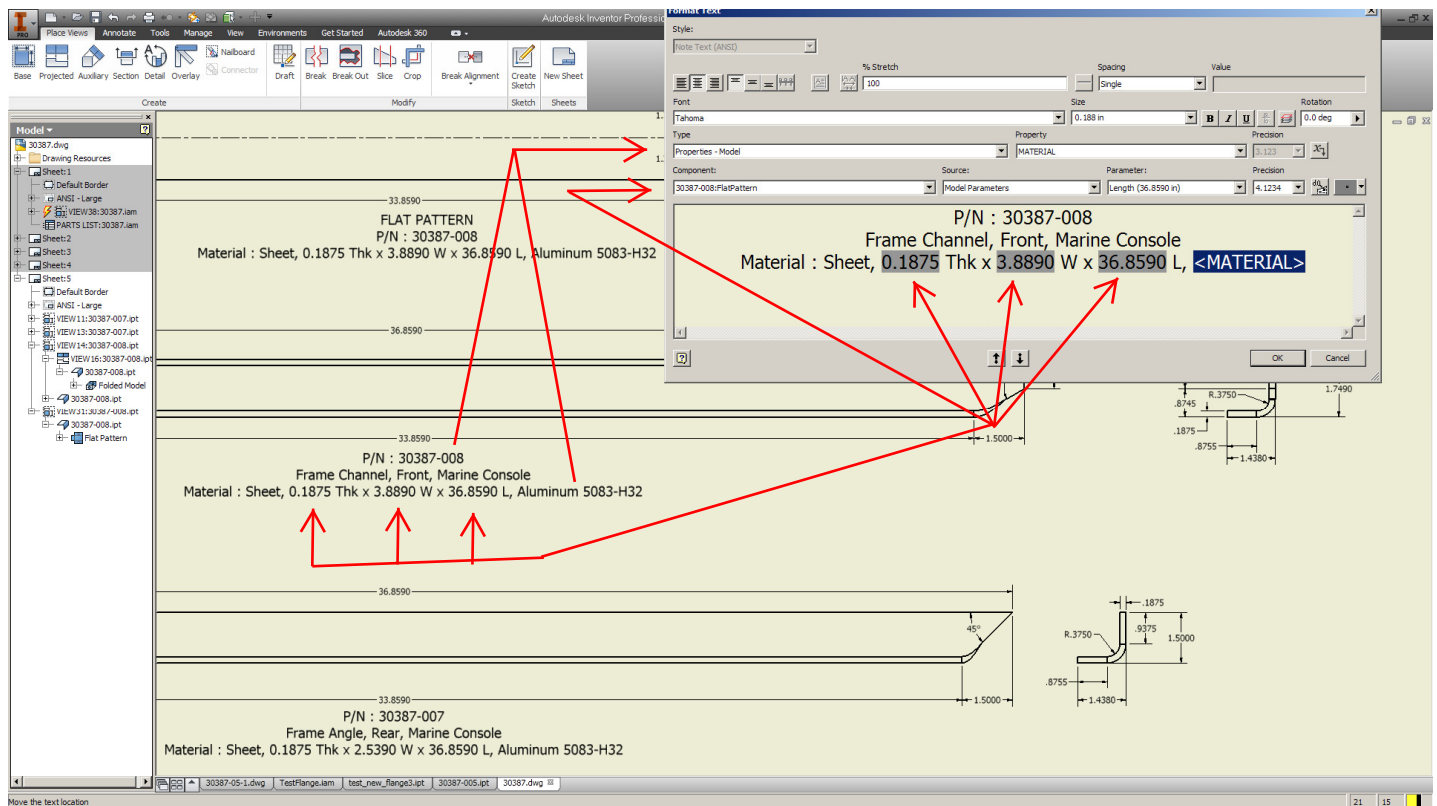
Here is a screen shot of a drawing that contains two separate parts and details
Data from "Type" and "Property" in the text editor can only be retrieved from the "FIRST" part placed. Bummer, because it forces you to re-type all the text that is not highlighted.

Data from "Component", "Source" and "Parameter" are retrieved from any available part placed on any drawing sheet, since they are part of the drawing. Except for "MATERIAL" (in blue), this is retrieved from the "FIRST" part placed, I don't know why so keep "Like" material parts on the same sheet.

You'll noticed that I've placed a "Flat Pattern" detail on this sheet, if you do not want it on this sheet, but need the data, remember it must exist somewhere within the drawing to retrieve the "Width" & "Length" parameter values. You can place it on the drawing and Right Click the view and suppress it.

Now here is what I originally was trying to accomplish, to make A Parts List that was meaningfull.

The next screen shot depicts a Detail of a Weldment Assembly, comprised of four parts.

For the Part List, you need to add the "PART DESCRIPTION" using the Styles Editor > Parts List >Parts List >Column Chooser, then Add the Iproperties you created on steps 5 thru 10, don't forget to position it where it makes sense.

Place the Parts List on your drawing. You'll have to play with it to get the look you want

The last screen shot shows the "BOM" from the Assembly drawing, You'll need to Add the "PART DESCRIPTION" and "Material" Columns and since you already created them the "BOM" has some data that can be exported for purchasing purposes.

Hope you enjoy, not bad for only a week using inventor, huh?

Autodesk Inventor Professional 2014 - 30387.dwg

Style and Standard Editor [Library - Read Only]

Parts List Style [Parts List (ANSI)]

Parts List Column Chooser

Selected Properties:
- ITEM
- QTY
- PART NUMBER
- DESCRIPTION
- PART DESCRIPTION
- MATERIAL

Default Columns Settings

Property	Column	Width
ITEM	ITEM	1.378
QTY	QTY	0.984
PART NUMBER	PART NUMBER	2.165
DESCRIPTION	DESCRIPTION	2.165
PART DESCRIPTION	PART DESCRIPTION	1.000

ITEM	QTY	PART NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	PART DESCRIPTION	MATERIAL
4	1	30387-008	Frame Channel, Front, Marine Console	Sheet, 0.1875 in Thk x 3.8890 in W x 36.8590 in L	Aluminum 5083-H32
3	1	30387-007	Frame Angle, Rear, Marine Console	Sheet, 0.1875 in Thk x 2.5390 in W x 36.8590 in L	Aluminum 5083-H32
2	1	30387-006	Frame Angle, Left, Marine Console	Sheet, 0.1875 in Thk x 2.5390 in W x 24.5400 in L	Aluminum 5083-H32
1	1	30387-005	Frame Angle, Right, Marine Console	Sheet, 0.1875 in Thk x 2.5390 in W x 24.5400 in L	Aluminum 5083-H32

PARTS LIST

DRAWN — Adam
CHECKED
QA
MFG
APPROV

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Bill of Materials [30387.iam]

Model Data | Structured | Parts Only (Disabled)

Part Number	BOM Structure	Unit QTY	QTY	Stock Number	Description	REV	PART DESCRIPTION	Material
30387-001	Normal	Each	1		Panel, Front, Marine Console		Sheet, 0.1875 in Thk x 38.4996 in W x 99.7446 in L	Aluminum 5083-H32
30387-002	Normal	Each	1		Panel, Left, Marine Console		Sheet, 0.1875 in Thk x 48.2705 in W x 64.6047 in L	Aluminum 5083-H32
30387-003	Normal	Each	1		Panel, Right, Marine Console		Sheet, 0.1875 in Thk x 48.2693 in W x 64.6047 in L	Aluminum 5083-H32
30387-004	Normal	Each	1		Panel, Rear, Marine Console		Sheet, 0.1875 in Thk x 16.3429 in W x 38.5000 in L	Aluminum 5083-H32
30387-020	Inseparable	Each	1		Frame Weldment Assy, Marine Console			Welded Aluminum-6061
30387-005	Normal	Each	1		Frame Angle, Right, Marine Console		Sheet, 0.1875 in Thk x 2.5390 in W x 24.5400 in L	Aluminum 5083-H32
30387-006	Normal	Each	1		Frame Angle, Left, Marine Console		Sheet, 0.1875 in Thk x 2.5390 in W x 24.5400 in L	Aluminum 5083-H32
30387-007	Normal	Each	1		Frame Angle, Rear, Marine Console		Sheet, 0.1875 in Thk x 2.5390 in W x 36.8590 in L	Aluminum 5083-H32
30387-008	Normal	Each	1		Frame Channel, Front, Marine Console		Sheet, 0.1875 in Thk x 3.8890 in W x 36.8590 in L	Aluminum 5083-H32