



*The Mill and
Drill*

Vol 1, Issue 30 (Feb. 18,
2005)

DEAR CUSTOMER

Welcome to your weekly installment of "*The Mill & Drill*", TriMech Mfg.'s Technical Newsletter for FeatureCAM. This newsletter is intended to keep you, the hip TriMech FeatureCAM User, on the cutting edge of your FeatureCAM seat. Don't forget to visit www.trimech.com for additional information.

NOTICES

FeatureCAM is adding Machine Simulation.

Even as you enjoy the power and ease-of-use of FeatureCAM 2005, EGS is working hard on the next version of FeatureCAM. **Machine Simulation** is an exciting enhancement that is on the way. You will actually be able to see your *entire machine* during simulation, and the simulation will detect collisions. We will provide more details as they come available, but in the meantime you can read the press release at www.featurecam.com

Did you miss a newsletter?

Don't worry, the newsletters are posted, every issue, in PDF format on the TriMech Web Site (www.trimech.com). Just hover over TriMech Manufacturing, Technical Support and you will see *The Mill & Drill* letters to the right side.

Is there anybody else at your company who would like to receive the newsletter?

Send us their name and e-mail address, and we'll add them to the list.

FeatureCAM TRAINING SCHEDULE

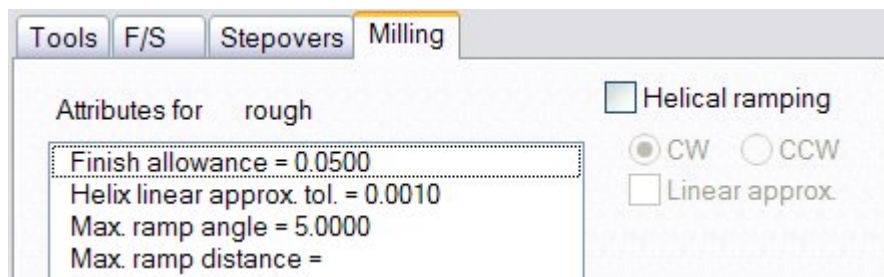
Note: Our main training facility is in Fishersville, VA, but we can make special arrangements for classes at any of our other TriMech offices (Columbia, MD; Pittsburgh, PA; Richmond, VA; Durham, NC; and Charlotte, NC). We also provide on-site training. Call (540) 949-7703 for rates and details.

Fishersville, VA	
FeatureCAM Basic (2 days)	Mar. 9,10 Apr. 6,7 May 4,5
FeatureCAM Advanced Milling	Mar. 17 Apr. 14 May 12
FeatureCAM Turning	TBD

TIPS AND TRICKS

Ramping Options

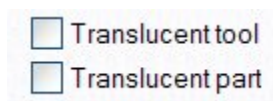
You have several options when it comes to plunging a tool into your material. You can ramp the tool back and forth at a specific Z angle; you can ramp the tool on a helical path; or, you can just plunge straight in. At the feature level, these options are controlled on the **Milling** tab.



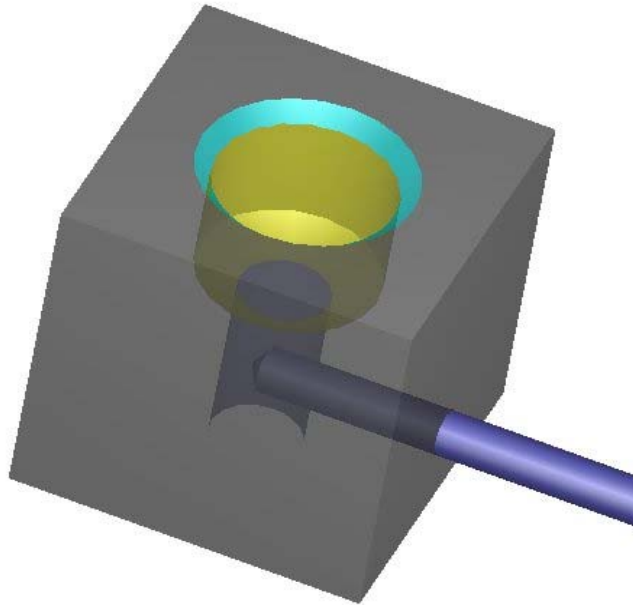
As you can see from this portion of the list, you have control of the tool's descent angle as well as the ramp length. If helical ramping is not checked, the tool will use a linear ramping path. If you want the tool to plunge straight into the material without ramping, set the **Max. ramp angle** to 0. (If you pre-drill your feature, the roughing operation is smart enough to plunge straight down the pilot hole regardless of the ramping parameters.) Also, keep in mind that these preferences can be set in the **Machining Attributes** and **Machining Configurations** for more global control.

More Simulation Options

Last week, we told you how you can display different tool colors in simulation. This week, we have a couple more things you can try:



Translucent Tool shows a see-through tool. **Translucent Part** shows - surprise - a see-through part. This is especially handy if you want to see features breaking into one another.



These options can be found by going to **Options > Simulation > 2D/3D Shaded**.

Turning Input Modes

Sometimes prints give you lathe dimensions in diameters, sometimes you get radii. FeatureCAM gives you three options when entering data in FeatureTURN: 3D (X,Y,Z); Radius (R,Z); and Diameter (D,Z). These options can be found under **Options > Turning Input Modes**.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?

Please send any tips/tricks, feedback (regarding this newsletter)
or requests to be added/removed from our distribution list to...

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