



The Mill and Drill

Vol 1, Issue 1 (July 3rd, 2004)

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

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, Support and "The Mill & Drill" to see the full archive.

FeatureCAM 2005 Maintenance Upgrades

Customers with an expiration date of 6/1/04 or LATER will receive FeatureCAM 2005/Version 11. See below for ship dates:

- Customers with Maintenance: Shipping scheduled to begin July 5th, 2004.
- Free Upgrade: Shipping scheduled to begin July 19th, 2004. This is for customers who purchased a New Software Package after April 1st w/o maintenance.
- FTC's: Shipping scheduled to begin July 26th, 2004.

If you are interested in seeing the new enhancements with FeatureCAM 2005, just email jkanney@trimech.com and I will forward you an attachment with this information.

Congratulations to Matthew Gallelli from NRL

Matthew sent in the name "The Mill & Drill" that was chosen for the name of our newsletter. Matt has won a full free day of training at our Fishersville office for FeatureCAM. Thank you Matt!

No Support For FeatureCAM Version 9 and earlier

With the release of FeatureCAM 2005 in mid-to-late July, TriMech will no longer be able to support FeatureCAM Version 9 or earlier. It has always been TriMech's policy to support the current release of FeatureCAM and one release previous. As you know, Post Processors are tied tightly to the released version. This makes it very very difficult to keep up with all versions. Also, it is not possible for us to maintain machines with more software releases loaded. So if you are currently operating on a version of FeatureCAM that is Version 9 or earlier, consider upgrading to a more recent version to maintain your support from TriMech Technical Support.

FeatureCAM TRAINING SCHEDULE

Fishersville, Va.	
FeatureCAM Basic (2 days)	July 6,7
	August 10,11
	Sep 7,8
FeatureCAM3d - Advanced	July 8
	August 12
	Sep 9
FeatureCAM2D - Advanced with FeatureRecognition	July 22
	August 19
	Sep 16
FeatureCAM Turning - Advanced	July 29
	August 26
	Sep 23
TIPS AND TRICKS	
<p>Every time I save my NC code, FeatureCAM puts a .txt extension on the file. Is there any way I change this?</p> <p>Yes. Go to Manufacturing > Post Process, and click Edit to enter the post editor, X-Build. Click on CNC-Info pull-down menu, and select General. There is a field on the right side labeled NC File Ext. Enter the extension you want in this space. If you don't want any extension at all, leave the field blank. Save the changes, and from now on, FeatureCAM will automatically attach the correct extension to your NC files.</p> <p>A quicker Box Zoom.</p> <p>The Box Zoom is a really handy viewing tool because it lets you zero in on a specific area of a part. Typically, you right-click off the part, and then select Box Zoom from the viewing menu. However, there is a quicker way. With your selection arrow active, drag a box around the area you want to see as if you were box selecting it. Don't let go of that mouse button! Now, hit your right mouse button, and then let both buttons go. Your screen should now zoom in on the boxed area. It takes some coordination, but once you get used to it, it is a very fast way to navigate around your part.</p> <p>One more method of zooming.</p> <p>Have you noticed when you roll your middle mouse button that the part on the screen will zoom in and out. This is nice, however, the part typically will zoom away from the center of the screen. But, if you hold down the control key while using the mouse wheel, you will notice the zoom center is on the area of the part you have located your mouse. If you are a SolidWorks user, this is done without holding the mouse key. FeatureCAM just requires you to hold down the Control key.</p>	
QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?	
<p>Please send any tips/tricks, feedback (regarding this newsletter) or requests to be added/removed from our distribution list to...</p> <p>jkanney@trimech.com</p>	