



The Mill and Drill
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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, Technical Support and you will see "The Mill & Drill" letters to the right side.

TriMech Manufacturing is Growing...

.. to serve you even better. Initial plans are under way to add Manufacturing personnel to the Pittsburgh area and North Carolina. We are still early in the recruitment stage for Sales Representatives/Applications Engineers, so we will be making more announcements as details become finalized.

FeatureCAM User Groups

We are exploring the possibility of forming FeatureCAM user groups throughout our territory. These groups will give you, our hip FeatureCAM customers, the opportunity to get together to exchange ideas and information about FeatureCAM. Each meeting will feature a presentation about a specific FeatureCAM topic and time for open discussion. If you are interested in having a group form in your area, contact us!

Tell a friend!

Don't feel like you have to keep our newsletter all to yourself! If you have friends and associates who aren't TriMech customers, but would benefit from our information or services, feel free to forward our newsletter to them.

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)	Oct. 5,6
	Nov. 9, 10
	Dec. 7,8

FeatureCAM Advanced 2.5D Milling and FeatureRECOGNITION	Oct. 14
FeatureCAM Turning	Sept. 23
TIPS AND TRICKS	
<p>Evaluation Options</p> <p>All of you are aware that the hardware keys, or dongles, tell FeatureCAM which modules you own, and they allow you to save files and post code for those file types only. But, did you know that you can try out other modules that are not activated on your dongle? You do this by closing any part files that you have open and going to File > Evaluation Options. Here, you will see a list of all of the FeatureCAM modules; the ones you own will say Enabled, and all of the others will have a check box beside the name. Place a check in the box beside the module you want to evaluate, and go explore the functionality of that module. Just realize that since you are evaluating the module, you will not be able to save any files or post code.</p> <p>Therein lies the rub. If you turn on <i>any</i> module for evaluation, it will cause <i>all</i> of your modules to be in Evaluation Mode, and you will not be able to save files or post code for <i>anything</i>. This isn't really a problem, though, as long as you remember to return to Evaluation Options and turn off the modules you are evaluating once you are finished.</p> <p>Hole Depth vs. Drill Depth</p> <p><i>When I create a hole feature, there is a field for depth on the Dimensions tab. Is that referring to the depth to the full diameter of the hole, or to the tip of the drill?</i></p> <p>That is the dimension for the full diameter of the hole. The actual Z value in the code will be deeper since the point of the drill has to be added.</p> <p><i>What if I want to control the exact depth of the drill?</i></p> <p>Go to the Hole Properties, click on the Drill operation, and click on the Drilling tab. Highlight the Drill Depth parameter, enter the desired value in the New Value field and click Set. This value will be the actual depth output in you code. This method also applies to spot drills, taps, etc.</p> <p>New Engraving Fonts in FeatureCAM 2005</p> <p>FeatureCAM has added three new Machine Tool fonts to the latest version. Machine Tool fonts are single-line fonts that are ideal for engraving (as opposed to standard Windows fonts, which all have thickness.) They are:</p> <p>Machine Tool Grenadier</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SAMPLE</p> <p>Machine Tool Handscript</p>	

sample

Machine Tool Script

sample

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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