



The Mill and Drill
Vol 1, Issue 14 (Oct. 1, 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, 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.

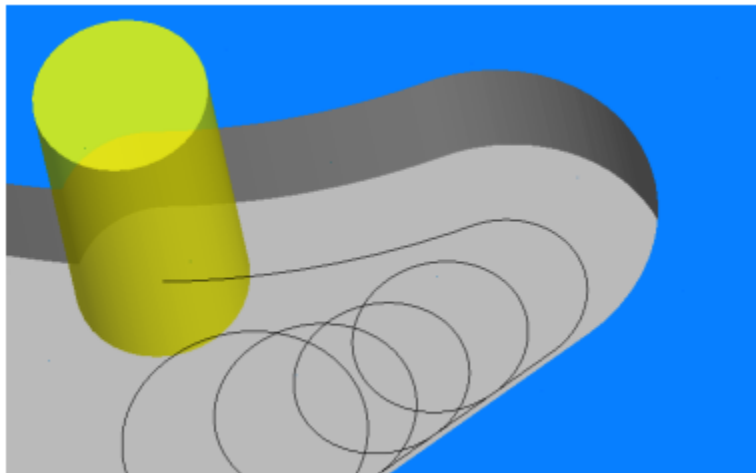
Fishersville, VA	
FeatureCAM Basic (2 days)	Oct. 5,6
	Nov. 9, 10
	Dec. 7,8

FeatureCAM Advanced 2.5D Milling and FeatureRECOGNITION	Oct. 14
FeatureCAM Turning	Sept. 23

TIPS AND TRICKS

Curly Corner Toolpath

When a roughing tool approaches an inside radius, the load on the tool suddenly increases because of the extra material that it encounters. Curly Corner toolpath relieves this by adding a swirling action that keeps a more consistent load on the tool. (This is otherwise known as a *trocoidal* path, but who can pronounce that?)



Now, you can increase your feedrates without worrying about overloading the tool in the corners. To enable this option in a feature, go to the **Milling** tab of the **Rough** operation. Click the **Curly Corner** button, and check the **Enable Curly Corner** checkbox. This method is also available in 3D Z-level rough operations.

Using FeatureCAM for Time Estimates

When you run a full Centerline or 3D simulation, FeatureCAM calculates a run-time for your part. Go to the **Details List** in your **Results** window, and you will find a total time along with times for each individual operation. This time is based on the speeds and feeds that are generated for the stock and tools that you select. Keep in mind, if you change anything, you will have to run another *complete* simulation in order to get a new time.

You can make these times even more accurate by going to the **Operations** tab of your **Machining Attributes**. There you will find a Time Estimation section that lists things such as rapid traverse rates and tool change times that you can edit to match your machine tool's performance.

User Views

Do you ever get your part turned just right so that you can see exactly what you want to

see? Then, of course, you have to go to a different view, and you lose that great angle you had. Wouldn't it be cool to be able to lock that view in so that you could return to it quickly and easily? Well, you can (or this would be a pretty lousy tip, wouldn't it?)

Once the part is positioned the way you want, go to **View > User Views > Save Views**. You can save up to four different views, and to return to them by going back to **User Views** and selecting the view you want.

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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