



***The Mill and Drill***  
Vol 1, Issue 15 (Oct. 8, 2004)

### DEAR CUSTOMER

Welcome to your weekly installment of "*The Mill & Drill*", TriMech Mfg.'s Technical Newsletter 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](http://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](http://www.trimech.com)). Just hover over TriMech Manufacturing, Technical Support and you will see "The Mill & Drill" letters to the right side.

#### If you do not have the latest version of FeatureCAM....

You can still go to EGS website and download the new version just to check out all the new Features. [www.featurecam.com](http://www.featurecam.com). After installing (be sure to install into a separate folder so it does not overwrite original), go to Help > What's New and it will guide you through all the cool stuff. If you have any questions or would like more of an explanation, just give us a call here at the office and we will be glad to help. (540) 949-7703.

#### 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 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 are 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)	Nov. 3,4
	Dec. 7,8
FeatureCAM Advanced 2.5D Milling and FeatureRECOGNITION	Oct. 14

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## TIPS AND TRICKS

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### Spacing in Multiple Fixture Parts

*When you are setting up parts in a Multiple Fixture file, how important is the spacing?*

It depends. If you are cutting your parts out of a single piece of material, it is critical. You need to make sure there is enough space between your parts so that the tools don't gouge one part as it machines another. Run your simulation carefully to make sure you have allowed enough clearance.

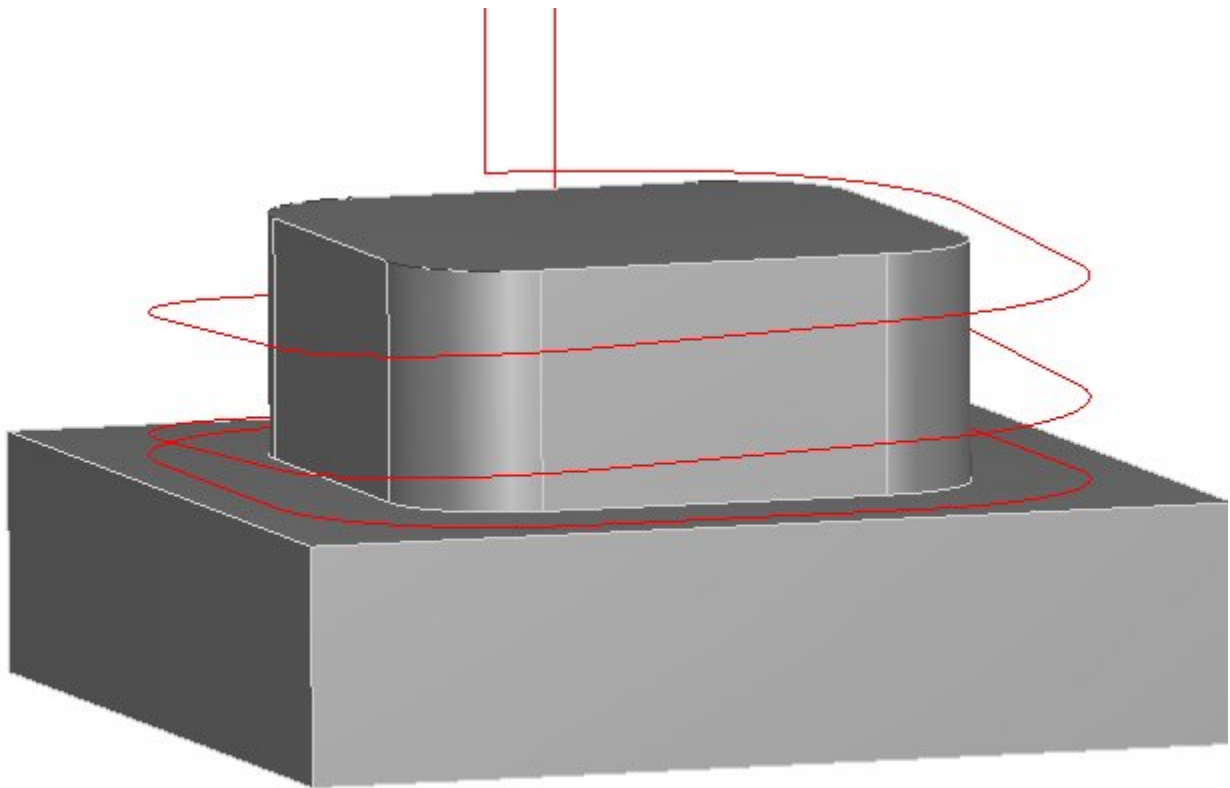
If you are making your parts from separate pieces of material, the spacing is not critical at all. Each part is assigned its own offset (G54, G55, G56...), and the math for each part is generated from its own setup. The spacing you dictate in the MF wizard will be overridden by the values that are entered into the offsets and tool control. In this case, the spacing affects the appearance of your simulation only.

### Have you checked out the new Stock Resize yet?

EGS totally reworked the Stock Resize for FeatureCAM 2005. In your **Stock Properties**, click the **Reset** button. As before, you can move the stock to your geometry or you can move the geometry to your stock. The similarities end there. Now, you can add any amount to stock to your part in any of the six directions **independently**. No more adding .1 in X **and** Y. You can add .05 to -X, .1 to +X, 0 to -Y, .075 to +Y, and so on. Not only that, but you can enter a specific stock size, and place your part in the stock by centering it or offsetting it in any direction. Check it out!

### Helical Finish

Here's another nice enhancement in FeatureCAM 2005. You can create a helical finish path to 2.5D features. Instead of taking one pass along the walls at full depth, helical finish spirals down the profile until it reaches the bottom, then it takes one more full pass around.



To do this, finish the feature, and go to the **Strategy** tab of the feature properties. Under the **Finish** pass **Helical Side Finish** button and a field for the **Helix Pitch**.

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#### 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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