



The Mill and Drill
Vol 1, Issue 16 (Oct. 15, 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.

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)	Nov. 3,4
	Dec. 7,8

TIPS AND TRICKS

An Easy Way to Send Us Your Files

Usually, the best way for us in Technical Support to help you is for us to see the files that you are having trouble with. There is a quick and easy way for you to send us those files. First, save the file, then go to **File > Send**. This opens a new e-mail message with your FM file already attached. All you have to do is fill in the To, Subject, and Message fields. Hit **Send**, and it's on its way to us.

Minimum Rapid Distance

When a milling feature has more than one profile to cut, it will either feed straight over to the next position, or it will retract and rapid over. How does the software decide which motion to use, and how can that be controlled?

Whether the tool feeds or rapids is determined by the distance between positions, and

this can be controlled with a **Machining Attribute** called **Minimum Rapid Distance**. This setting is based on a percentage of the tool diameter. If the distance to be moved is greater than that value, the tool will rapid - less, it will feed. You can find this parameter on the **Misc** tab, and it is set at 400% by default. So, a 1-inch endmill will feed over to any position less than 4 inches away. If you would prefer that the tool rapid to locations less than 4 inches away, lower the percentage in the attribute.

Flat vs. 3D Turning View

In FeatureTURN, you have a choice whether to view you stock as a flat 2D profile or as a 3D wire frame cylinder. The software is set for 2D by default, so if the 3D look is what you're after, go to **View > Display Modes** and turn off the **Turning 2D View**.

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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