



***The Mill and Drill***  
Vol 1, Issue 19 (Nov. 5, 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](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.

**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.

**Programming Services/DNC Services**

Please keep in mind that TriMech Manufacturing can help program those complex 3D parts or even help program if you have too much to do and not enough time. This keeps us sharp and there is no better way for us to guarantee that those post processors are tweaked to your satisfaction.

As you may know, TriMech offers Predator as a DNC package to communicate those programs to your CNC machines. Predator is loaded with lots of extras goodies. To mention one, Predator Editor has a back plot utility that will simulate a G-code program the exact same way FeatureCAM simulates in 3D. You just add stock size and tool size to the top of the G-code file and Predator Editor will simulate the code. This is useful for verification of new programs as well as old old programs written from years ago. For more information, just email us.

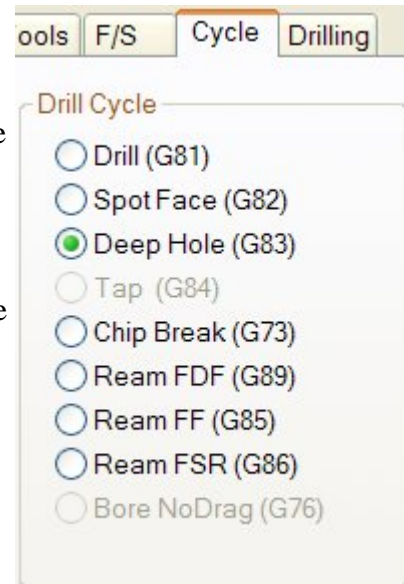
**FeatureCAM TRAINING SCHEDULE**

**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.

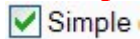
<b>Fishersville, VA</b>	
FeatureCAM Basic (2 days)	Dec. 7,8
FeatureCAM Advanced Milling	Nov. 18
<b>TIPS AND TRICKS</b>	

## Drilling Cycles

Did you realize that you have complete control over which cycles are chosen for your drilling operations? Open the properties of a **Hole** feature, click on any of the operations, and click on the **Cycle** tab. You will see a list of available cycles, and you can choose the one you want. For example, twist drill operations generally default to a pecking cycle (G83), but if you would rather drill straight through, select the G81 instead. The feature actually looks at the active post to see what cycles are supported, so you don't have to worry about creating a code generation error down the line.



## What does the “Simple” box do in a groove feature?



The Simple box is on the **Dimensions** tab. If it is checked, the software will select a tool with a diameter that is equal to the groove width, and it will make one pass per Z level along the centerline. It is an ideal choice for when you are engraving and you just want to scribe along the text. If you turn Simple off, a smaller tool will be used to rough and finish the groove width. This is probably the better choice for grooves that require more control or precision.

## Can I load FeatureCAM on more than one computer?

Sure. If you would benefit from having FeatureCAM installed on another computer at work or even at home, go right ahead. Just remember that you must have your dongle attached to your computer when you run your software in order for FeatureCAM to be fully enabled. Without a dongle, you can still use software, but you will not be able to save any files or post any NC code. (Minor details, right?) So, if you would like to have an extra copy installed so that you can practice or evaluate extra modules, feel free. FeatureCAM is available for download at [www.featurecam.com](http://www.featurecam.com)

### 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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