



The Mill and Drill

Vol 1, Issue 2 (July 9th, 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, Support and "The Mill & Drill" to see the full archive.

FeatureCAM 2005 Maintenance Upgrades

Customers with an expiration date of 6/1/04 or LATER will receive FeatureCAM 2005/Version 11. See below for ship dates:

- Customers with Maintenance: Shipping scheduled to begin July 5th, 2004.
- Free Upgrade: Shipping scheduled to begin July 19th, 2004. This is for customers who purchased a New Software Package after April 1st w/o maintenance.
- FTC's: Shipping scheduled to begin July 26th, 2004.

If you are interested in seeing the new enhancements with FeatureCAM 2005, just email jkanney@trimech.com and I will forward you an attachment with this information.

Just an Idea!!!

TriMech Manufacturing is considering having an annual meeting of the minds. Of course, a meeting like this would have to have some golf invovled. With each new major release of FeatureCAM, TriMech would like to get as many customers as possible together for a brainstorming, learning, sharing and playing golf extravaganza. We are thinking about a Friday to learn everything with a new release and then Saturday for golf or any other activity you may enjoy. There would be a fee invovled to cover the activities, food and location, however, this would be minimal and well worth your time. Email your thoughts.....

Keep an eye on the latest Shipping version of FeatureCAM

It is a good idea every now and then to go to EGS's website and see if you have the latest shipping version of FeatureCAM. Go to www.featurecam.com , select >support>downloads and compare your version of FeatureCAM to the latest listed. To see exactly what version you are running, while in FeatureCAM, select , **Help, About FeatureCAM** and it will list your working version.

As you may now know, TriMech Companies has 3 divisions

TriMech Manufacturing (formerly Automated Solutions, Inc.). Our division focus's on the CAM/DNC market.

TriMech Solutions The second largest SolidWorks VAR in the country. Well known for our levels of expertise and superb technical support team.

TriMech Services A comprehensive engineering services firm created to be a vital resource for your engineering projects, provide contract engineering professionals, or help you make permanent additions to your staff. Our clients partner with us for our expertise and access to the latest technologies to get their engineering projects completed accurately, timely and economically. Whether you need FEA analysis or contract designers with solid modeling experience, this group is available to help you.

Just visit www.trimech.com!!! We offer many events and seminars that are available for you to learn more about our products.

FeatureCAM TRAINING SCHEDULE

Fishersville, Va.	
FeatureCAM Basic (2 days)	July 6,7
	August 10,11
	Sep 7,8
FeatureCAM3d - Advanced	July 8
	August 12
	Sep 9
FeatureCAM2D - Advanced with FeatureRecognition	July 22
	August 19
	Sep 16
FeatureCAM Turning - Advanced	July 29
	August 26
	Sep 23

TIPS AND TRICKS

Are you aware that you can use variables in FeatureCAM?

Anytime you are typing a value in a field, you can enter an alphanumeric string in its place with an equal sign and the value. The main rule is the string has to start with a letter and cannot contain any spaces. This value is now stored for later use. What good does this do you? You can now type in that string in any field and FeatureCAM remembers its value. For example, to define the X location for the center of a bolt hole circle, you type in **xloc=12.1125+3.125**. The next bolt hole location X is 2.5 inches from the first. So, for its X value you can type **xloc+2.5**. Yes, you can also type formulas in the fields also. Ex. $3.14*2.05+\sin(45)-xloc$.

Typing in metric values in an inch document.

Are you aware that you can convert inch/metric values on the fly while keying in locations. Of course, you now know you can type formulas Ex: (30.3/25.4), however,

this is not the most accurate method. If you are in an inch document and you have a metric value you need converted, you can type **mm2in(value)**. This will automatically convert the value for you. It also works the other direction. Ex: in2mm(1.25).

A quick way to get G-code.

Sometimes, you make minor changes in a program and you need to re-generate the G-code. You know everything is working, so you don't want to spend a lot of time watching a simulation, especially if it's a large 3D part. Here's what you do: Run a simulation in 3D, but as soon as the animation starts, hit the ESC key. Your G-code is finished!

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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