



The Mill and Drill
Vol 1, Issue 23 (Dec. 10, 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

TriMech Manufacturing now offers sheet metal fabrication software

That's right, TriMech is now a value-added reseller for **Computes**. **Computes** offers a powerful, integrated solution for programming punches, lasers, waterjets and plasma cutters. It also has **MasterNEST** - an advanced system for single- or multi-sheet nesting. Call John Kanney for details. (540) 949-7703

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)	Jan.12, 13
FeatureCAM Advanced Milling	Dec. 21
FeatureCAM Turning	TBA

TIPS AND TRICKS

Inventor has come out with Version 9

I guess this means FeatureCAM can't read the files, right? Wrong. You can open them, but you'll need to get the new translator first. Go to www.featurecam.com and click on **Support** and then **Downloads**. On the right side, you'll see the link for the new translator. Right-click the link and click **Save Target As**. You can save this file anywhere - on the Desktop is fine.

There is a second file that you will have to get as well. Apparently, there is a bug in the translator

(from Autodesk), so there is a **Quick Fix** right below the new translator. RMB (right mouse button) on that link and save it the same way.

Now that you have both files, double-click them to install (*install the translator first*). That's it...you're good to go.

If you have any problems, or if you can't download the patches, give us a call.

Updating Parts in Multiple-Fixture Documents

If I create a Multiple-Fixture part and then I change my original .fm file, how do I update the Multiple-Fixture file to reflect the change? That's a good question, because the Multiple Fixture file does not update automatically. Once you have saved the original .fm file, go back into the .mf file and click on **Parts** over in the Toolbox. When the Multiple Fixtures dialog box opens, click on the **Parts List** button. The Part Files box will appear with the part(s) that is/are contained in the file. Select the updated part, and click **Reload** and exit the dialog boxes.



Macro of the Week

CenterIndexedStock.bas Sometimes, the most difficult part of creating a 4-axis indexing part is getting the stock centered on the index axis. You have to go into the Stock Properties and fiddle with the stock location until it ends up in the right spot. This macro does the job much more quickly and accurately. All you have to do is turn it on (it's already loaded in FeatureCAM), and hit the button.

Remember, to turn on one of these macros, go to **Options > Add-ins** and check the box beside the desired macro. An icon for the macro will appear on your interface.

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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