



The Mill and Drill
Vol 1, Issue 25 (Jan. 14, 2005)

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)	Feb. 9,10 Mar. 9,10
FeatureCAM Advanced Milling	Feb. 17 Mar. 17
FeatureCAM Turning	TBD

TIPS AND TRICKS

Help us help you!

When you have general questions or problems with FeatureCAM, you know that you can give just pick up the phone and give us a call...we're happy to assist you. But when you are having a more specific problem with a specific file, it really helps us to be able to see what's going on. In some cases, it is absolutely necessary. So, to save some time, send the file(s) to us *before* you call. That way, you won't have to hear, "Send me the file and I'll call you back." If it is a code-related issue, send along your post processor, too. E-mail your files to Chris Cole: ccole@trimech.com

Individual Levels - What are they?

Individual Levels is an option that you will find on the **Strategy** tab of a milling feature, and it is used whenever a feature uses more than one roughing pass (in Z). For example, let's say you have a .5" deep pocket that you are going to rough .1" at a time. If you check the Individual Levels box, your one rough operation will be broken into 5 separate roughing operations - one for each *individual level*. This is a cool option, because now you can control the attributes of each level independently. You can even use different tools for different depths.

File Locations

Do you keep all of your .fm files organized in a special folder? (You should.) Maybe that folder has sub-folders that help you organize your files by customer or project. Have you ever noticed that whenever you go to open a FeatureCAM file it is always looking in the Examples folder? Wouldn't it be great if it would look in the correct folder so that you don't have to browse? Well, since this is under **Tips and Tricks**, you *must* be able to do just that, right? Here's how: go to **Options > File Options**. Click on the **Existing Files** tab. You will see a **File Location** field that will enable you to set a default folder that FeatureCAM will look in when you click Open.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?

Please send any tips/tricks, feedback (regarding this newsletter) or requests to be added/removed from our distribution list to...

jkanney@trimech.com