



## *The Mill and Drill*

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### 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, Support and "The Mill & Drill" to see the full archive.

#### **Did you expect FeatureCAM 2005 and not receive it?**

Everybody should now have received their FeatureCAM 2005 software. If for some reason you expected the software and did not receive it, let us know. Of course, if you are not on maintenance or it has expired, you would not receive the software. If you are interested in the new software, please call and we can discuss your options. EGS and us have been known to make mistakes, so if you think you should have it, please contact us.

#### ***Annual get together of FeatureCAM customers.***

We have given this much thought. TriMech Mfg. is giving away a brand new 2005 Jeep Grand Cherokee to the winner of this years golf tournament. Not really, but I wanted to get your attention. We are still interested in having an annual get-together of FeatureCAM users. I cannot explain how beneficial this would be to you and your company. It is basically free training and advertising. We plan on getting sponsors to help with door prizes and maybe even take plant tours. We can share information and learn all about the new features in the latest FeatureCAM release. Email us with any ideas and if you would be interested.

#### **If you are not going to receive the latest version of FeatureCAM....**

You can still go to EGS website and download the new version just to check out all the new Features. [www.featurecam.com](http://www.featurecam.com). After installing (be sure to install into a separate folder so it does not overwrite your original), go to **Help-What's New** and it will guide you through all the cool stuff. If you have any questions or would like more of an explanation, just give us a call here at the office and we will help the best we can. (540) 949-7703.

### FeatureCAM TRAINING SCHEDULE

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<b>Fishersville, Va.</b>	
FeatureCAM Basic (2 days)	August 10,11
	Sep 7,8
FeatureCAM3D - Advanced	August 12
	Sep 9
FeatureCAM2D - Advanced with FeatureRecognition	August 19
	Sep 16
FeatureCAM Turning - Advanced	August 26
	Sep 23
<b>TIPS AND TRICKS</b>	
<p><b>How can I benefit from FeatureRecognition?</b></p> <p>Very often we have customers/prospects ask about the advantages of FeatureRecognition. There are two main benefits for owning this module. First FeatureRecognition allows you to open most Solid Modeling formats. These include SolidWorks (Parts and Assemblies), SolidEdge, Inventor, Mechanical Desktop, ParaSolids, ACIS, Unigraphics, STEP, Pro-E (including Wildfire) and Catia. The last 4 are additional cost. Second and most important is the fact that FeatureRecognition studies the model (Solid or Surface data) and automatically figures out the machinable Features. With this it creates toolpath for holes, bosses, slots, sides, pockets and optionally facing the part. You still have complete control with going to the properties of a feature and making whatever changes you like. You can always evaluate FeatureRecognition by going to <b>File, Evaluation Options</b> and checking this module. Try it out and see what you think. Any questions just give us a call.</p> <p><b>Converting a curve to geometry</b></p> <p>Here is one of my favorite and a very useful tool. Many times you may have a curve that you want to modify in some way. However, certain commands cannot be performed on a curve, only geometry. Well, did you know you can convert the curve to geometry, make whatever changes you like to the geometry and of course make it back into a curve? An example might be some sort of engraving using text. Maybe you do not like the way FeatureCAM outputs the letter S. So convert it to geometry, modify and add using lines and arcs and then convert back to a curve. To do this, highlight the curve you wish to modify, select the pull down menu called <b>construct, curve, to geometry</b>.</p> <p><b>Program names for each Setup</b></p> <p>Are you aware that each setup in your file can have its own program name. When I say program name, I am referring to the description at the top of your G-code. An example would be the O2345 at the top of a standard fanuc style program. If you go to the properties of your setup, select Edit you will see a field called program name. This can be different for each setup in your file. Without you modifying this field, FeatureCAM defaults to the name that you save your file under. Example would be Top Plate. Of course this would output OTop Plate at the beginning of your G-code. If you have 4th axis turned on and have multiple setups, FeatureCAM outputs the program name from the first setup.</p>	

To reiterate...if you have multiple setups in your file, you will get multiple G-code programs. Using the program name under each setup, you can have each G-code program output its own O name at the top. Hope this helps.....

**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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