



The Mill and Drill

Vol 1, Issue 8 (August 20, 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, Technical Support and you will see "The Mill & Drill" letters to the right side.

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.

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 also what a 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 programs as well as old old programs written from years ago. For more information, just email us.

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. 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

Fishersville, Va.	
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
TIPS AND TRICKS	
<p>Can't get enough of our tech tips?</p> <p>FeatureCAM has a few of their own that are pretty useful. Heck, they're <i>almost</i> as good as ours! Jump on the Internet, and go to www.featurecam.com. Click on Support, and then click on Tech Tips. You'll find a list of tips and tricks with examples.</p>	
<p>Get a closer look at that centerline toolpath</p> <p>Oftentimes when you run a centerline simulation, it helps to be able to pan or zoom the model so that you can get a better look at the toolpath. But as soon as you move the part, the toolpath disappears. There is a setting that will allow you to manipulate the model without that happening. Go to Options>Simulation. Click on the Centerline tab and check the box that says "Keep toolpaths upon view change". You can also snap to this toolpath (maybe you want to measure stepovers) if you have the toolpath snap option enabled. Go to Options>Snapping Modes and turn on Toolpath.</p>	
<p>Select circles of a particular size</p> <p>Many times you bring in a 2D file (maybe DXF or DWG) and want to drill all holes of a particular size. Sometimes you have holes that are very close to the same diameter and this makes it difficult to select. Well there is an easier way. Go to Edit>Select Circles and a dialog box will display asking for the radius. You can enter a value or select the radius word (in blue) and snap to an existing circle. This will query the size for you. Select OK and all circles will be selected that are that size. This does not work on Solid Models, however this is why we have FeatureRecognition.</p>	
QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?	
<p>Please send any tips/tricks, feedback (regarding this newsletter) or requests to be added/removed from our distribution list to...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">jkanney@trimech.com</p>	