



TRIMECH
Manufacturing

*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 for additional information.

NOTICES

The Mill and Drill is taking a little break...

.. .but will return June 10th. In the meantime, we will be attending the annual FeatureCAM Conference where we will get a first-hand look at what's coming in **FeatureCAM 2006**. Keep your eye on the newsletter for details about the new release including added features and tools in addition to information about the release dates.

Programming Services/DNC Services

Please keep in mind that TriMech Manufacturing offers programming services. Does your shop have a large backlog of programming that needs to be done? Or maybe you have a special project that requires some extra software capabilities. Whatever the case may be, we can help by doing the programming for you. Give us a call for more information.

TriMech also offers **Predator** as a DNC package to communicate 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

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)	June 8,9 July 13,14
FeatureCAM Advanced Milling	June 16 June 21
FeatureCAM Turning	TBD

TIPS AND TRICKS

Sorting

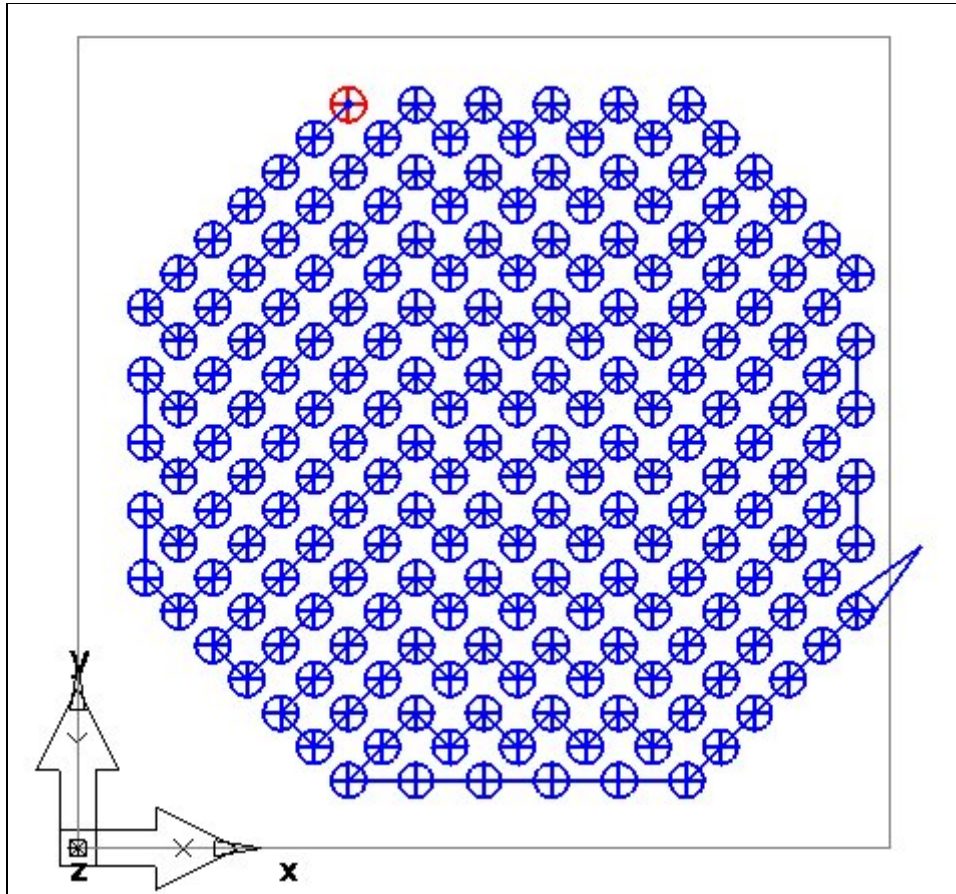
Whenever you have a points pattern of features, you have the ability to sort the order in which the program machines the instances. One way is to sort manually. You can click on any instance of the pattern and move it in the order by clicking the **Up** and **Down** buttons. The blue pattern preview arrows update dynamically as you move an item through the list.

The screenshot shows a software dialog box titled "Pattern - Dimensions". It features a "Point List" table with four columns of numerical values. A "Sorting..." button is located at the top right of the table. Below the table are buttons for "Set", "Add", "Delete", "Up", and "Down". A coordinate input section includes fields for X (1.2500), Y (4.7500), Z (0.0000), and A (0.0000), along with a "Preview" button. At the bottom, there are navigation buttons: "< Back", "Next >", "Finish" (with a folder icon), "Cancel", and "Help".

Point List			
0.5000	4.0000	0.0000	0.0000
0.7500	3.7500	0.0000	0.0000
1.0000	4.0000	0.0000	0.0000
1.2500	4.2500	0.0000	0.0000
1.5000	4.5000	0.0000	0.0000
1.7500	4.7500	0.0000	0.0000
2.0000	5.0000	0.0000	0.0000
1.2500	4.7500	0.0000	0.0000
2.2500	5.2500	0.0000	0.0000

X: 1.2500 Y: 4.7500 Z: 0.0000 A: 0.0000

Another way to sort patterns is to use the automatic options under the **Sorting** button. This gives you options to sort by X, Y or shortest path. As with manual ordering, the blue pattern preview will update to show you the results.



Pattern - Dimensions

Point List Sorting...

Point List Sorting ✖

Sort points by shortest path OK

Sort points by X ascending Cancel

Sort points by X descending

Sort points by Y ascending

Sort points by Y descending

Preview

< Back Next > Finish Cancel Help

