



TRIMECH
Manufacturing

The Mill and Drill

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DEAR CUSTOMER

Welcome to your biweekly 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 Latest FeatureCAM 2006 Release News

FeatureCAM 2006 is definitely on the way; we got ours last Friday. Once again, please remember that Delcam USA has thousands of packages to send out, so it might be a week or two before yours arrives. If you don't have your software by the middle of August, let us know and we will track it down for you.

Check out other notes about FeatureCAM 2006 in **Tips and Tricks**.

"Can't I just download FeatureCAM 2006 from their website?"

Well, you could, ***BUT*** you will not have the update codes for your dongle and you will end up running in Evaluation Mode. Please be patient. Your new codes will be included in the package you receive.

Are you on maintenance?

With all this news about the next major release of FeatureCAM, please remember that if you are not on maintenance, you will **not** receive FeatureCAM 2006. Also remember that in addition to software updates, you receive technical support and post processor support with your maintenance contract. It's a fantastic value, so contact John Kanney at 540-949-7703 to sign up.

Send us their name and e-mail address, and we'll add them to the list.

FeatureCAM TRAINING SCHEDULE

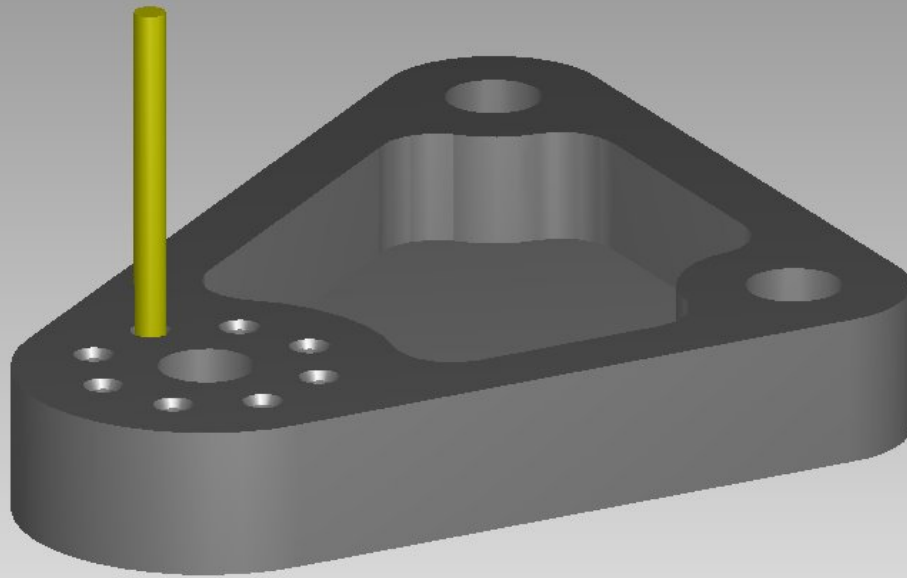
Note: Our main training facility is in Fishersville, VA, but we can make special arrangements for classes at any of our other TriMech offices (Columbia, MD; Pittsburgh, PA; Richmond, VA; Durham, NC; and Charlotte, NC). We also provide on-site training.
Call (540) 949-7703 for rates and details.

Fishersville, VA	
FeatureCAM Basic (2 days)	August 3,4 September 7,8
FeatureCAM Advanced Milling	August 11 September 15
FeatureTURN, FeatureWIRE, or Tombstone	By appointment

TIPS AND TRICKS

Gradient Background

We do love FeatureCAM, but looking at that stark white background all day can be a little hard on the old eyes. Well, FeatureCAM 2006 relieved that situation with its new gradient background:



Nice, huh? You can make the top and bottom colors anything you want by going to **Options > Coloring > Default Colors**.

Spaceballs

No, not that goofy movie. Spaceballs are motion control devices that you can use with all kinds of software including CAD and CAM. Now, FeatureCAM supports them. Here's what one looks like:



Typically, you hold that ball with your non-mouse hand, and it's like holding the part itself. If you want to turn it over, you twist your wrist a little, and the part rotates. You can also program all of those little buttons for viewing modes and command shortcuts. Several models are available through <http://3dconnexion.com/>

Simulating Tool Holders

Is there any way to show tool holders during simulation? Sure. **Options > Simulation > Show Holder.**

Will I be able to tell if the tool holders collide with my part or fixtures? Yes. If "**Pause on gouge**" is turned on in your **Simulation Options**, the simulation will stop, and you will get an error message telling you that the tool has gouged.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?

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

ccole@trimech.com