



TRIMECH
Manufacturing

*The Mill
and Drill*

Vol II, Issue 4
(August 12,
2005)

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

Many of our customers have received their new versions of FeatureCAM, so if you are still waiting for yours, it should arrive soon.

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

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)	September 7,8 October 5,6
FeatureCAM Advanced Milling	September 15 October 13
FeatureTURN, FeatureWIRE, or Tombstone	By appointment

TIPS AND TRICKS

Installation Issue Revisited

Please be careful and take your time when you install FeatureCAM 2006. When you start FC2006 for the first time, you will get the opportunity to install your tools and you speed and feed tables. You will get a dialog box that asks where your feed and speed databases are located. Select the option that says that your tables are on your local computer - **DO NOT** designate a network location. This option is for an add-on feature that allow users to place their table on a network, and as of yet *none of our customers has purchased this module.*

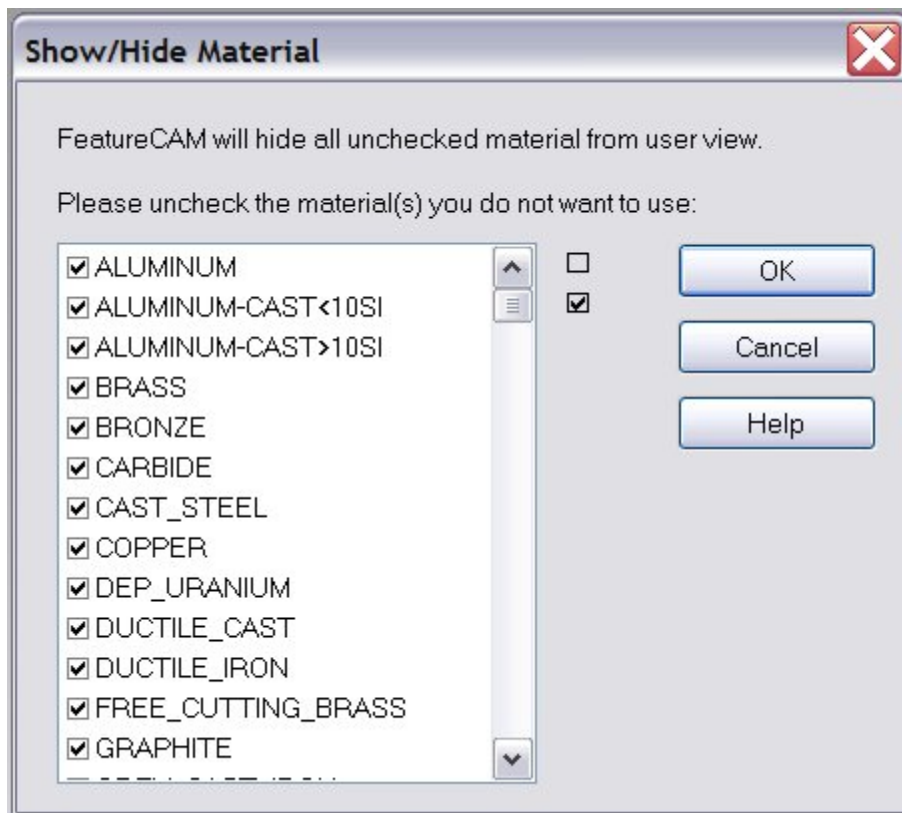
A few of our customers have done all of this correctly and *still* ended up with empty material databases. If this happens to you, exit FeatureCAM, run through the installation again using the same destination folder and program group, and restart FeatureCAM. So far,

this has cleared up the problem every time.

So, once you get all those materials loaded...

...you want to get rid of 2/3 of them! Boy, there's just no pleasing some people. Seriously, a nice new feature of FC2006 is that you can hide the materials you don't use so that you don't have to manage two hundred materials when you only use six.

Here's how you do it: Go to **Manufacturing > Materials > Show/Hide**. You will get a list of all the materials, and you can uncheck the ones you don't use. (Hint: It might be easier to uncheck all of them and check the ones you do use.) More good news is that the unchecked materials are indeed hidden, not deleted, so if you ever do get that depleted uranium job, it will be easy to add that material back.



More info about cutter comp for roughing passes...

A couple newsletters ago, we told you about being able to finally apply cutter comp to rough passes with FeatureCAM 2006. If you remember,

there are a couple of rules that apply; you cannot use Bi-directional rough, and you must use a spiral rough pattern.

Here's another little fact about this new functionality; the cutter comp doesn't engage until the last X,Y pass of each Z rough level. For example, if you are roughing a pocket, the cutter comp doesn't kick in until the last "lap" along the wall. This shouldn't cause you any problems unless you are making something like 99% stepovers, but you should be aware of this so that you aren't looking for a G41 or a G42 at the very beginning of the rough operation.

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