



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

Format Note

We have slightly changed the format of the newsletter this time to make it wider, thus a little more readable. If this causes you problems with wrap-around or other viewing issues, please let us know and we'll change it back.

Are you on maintenance?

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.

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.

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 12,13
FeatureCAM Advanced Milling	September 22 October 20
FeatureTURN, FeatureWIRE, or Tombstone	By appointment

TIPS AND TRICKS

SolidWorks Import Issue with FC2006

Some of our customers have had trouble opening SolidWorks files with the new FeatureCAM version. Here's what is happening in most cases: When you open a SolidWorks file, FC2006 writes a temp file to the CAD file's folder because of the way FeatureCAM now handles configurations (more on that later). If you do not have write access to that file location, you will not be able to open those files. One obvious solution is to obtain write privileges to that folder, but if that is not possible, have the SolidWorks files saved as a Parasolids and bring those into FeatureCAM. Delcam USA is aware of this problem and is working on a more permanent solution.

SolidWorks Configuration in FeatureCAM

FeatureCAM 2006 now supports SolidWorks configurations in a whole new way. When you open a SolidWorks file that has more than one configuration, you will get a dialog box asking you which config, or configs, you want to bring in.



One great way to take advantage of this functionality is to model a part with one configuration representing the stock, and another representing the finished part. When you bring them in, you can designate the stock configuration as your material (**Stock Properties > User defined**), and then extract your features from the finished part solid.

Selection Sensitivity

Do you have trouble easily and accurately selecting entities in FeatureCAM? You can adjust the sensitivity of the selection arrow by going to **Options > Viewing** and changing the **Selection Radius** (measured in pixels.) The smaller the number is, the more precise you will have to be. *Pssst...The default value is 5 just in case you totally mess it up and want to get back to where you started.*

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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