



The Mill and Drill

Vol 1, Issue 3 (July 16th, 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, Support and "The Mill & Drill" to see the full archive.

Customers starting to receive FeatureCAM 2005!

We have already started receiving calls with customers who have received their new FeatureCAM 2005 software. Of course the big question is, "it says I need numbers in order to run this version". With the new software, you will notice a RED sticker on a piece of paper that says "Important, do not discard". The sticker lists your new codes. For this reason, you should be able to install and enter your new numbers without ever the need for calling us or EGS. However, we never want to discourage you from calling, so if you want to call and talk about fly fishing in Colorado, we are all game for that also.

Just an Idea!!! Sort of bummed we have not heard from anybody on this one.

TriMech Manufacturing is considering having an annual meeting of the minds. Of course, a meeting like this would have to have some golf involved. With each new major release of FeatureCAM, TriMech would like to get as many customers as possible together for a brainstorming, learning, sharing and playing golf extravaganza. We are thinking about a Friday to learn everything with a new release and then Saturday for golf or any other activity you may enjoy. There would be a fee involved to cover the activities, food and location, however, this would be minimal and well worth your time. Email your thoughts.....

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.

As you may now know, TriMech Companies has 3 divisions

TriMech Manufacturing, Inc. Our division focus's on the CAM/DNC market. We represent Predator DNC as a communication, verification, shop floor monitoring and tool crib management software. We also do custom programming when you have a work overload or just cannot handle complex 3D jobs.

TriMech Solutions The second largest SolidWorks VAR in the country. Well known for our levels of expertise and superb technical support team. Ask about the many add-ins SolidWorks offers to help get your job done faster.

TriMech Services A comprehensive engineering services firm created to be a vital resource for your engineering projects, provide contract engineering professionals, or help you make permanent additions to your staff. Our clients partner with us for our expertise and access to the latest technologies to get their engineering projects completed accurately, timely and economically. Whether you need FEA analysis or contract designers with solid modeling experience, this group is available to help you.

TriMech Services also offers programming services (C++, VBA, etc.) to help automate processes in FeatureCAM, Predator and SolidWorks. These products have an open architecture system which basically allows you to do anything you want in the software. If you find you have similar products or task that repeat themselves over and over, this is an example of an opportunity to take advantage of our programmers.

Just visit www.trimech.com!!! We offer many events and seminars that are available for you to learn more about our products.

FeatureCAM TRAINING SCHEDULE

Fishersville, Va.	
FeatureCAM Basic (2 days)	July 6,7
	August 10,11
	Sep 7,8
FeatureCAM3d - Advanced	July 8
	August 12
	Sep 9
FeatureCAM2D - Advanced with FeatureRecognition	July 22
	August 19
	Sep 16
FeatureCAM Turning - Advanced	July 29
	August 26
	Sep 23
TIPS AND TRICKS	
<p>Ever wondered why your middle mouse button is so inconsistant?</p> <p>The middle mouse button (I am talking about the mouse with a wheel) in FeatureCAM is used as a viewing tool. However, I am sure you get frustrated because it is so inconsistant on what viewing option it is using. It is actually defaulting to the last view command that you used. So if you right mouse click and choose Pan as the option. Later on when you select the middle mouse button, it will be in Pan mode.</p>	

Multiple Plunge Points

As you know, most Features in FeatureCAM offer you a plunge point to control the first plunge for your toolpath. Well, sometimes the first plunge is okay, however the tool needs to lift at some point and plunge again (in the same Feature), but this time it does not plunge where you want it to. Did you know you can create connecting lines around your Feature/Part, make these lines into a curve and use the curve as the plunge point. FeatureCAM will use all the intersections as POSSIBLE plunge points. Meaning, if the tool raises and moves to another location, it will look for the closest plunge point and use it. This is one of my favorite Features!

Did you know FeatureCAM has a way of displaying ALL your Systems information.

Go to **Help, System Information**. You will be amazed at all the feedback you get from this option. So, rather than digging around inside Windows to figure how much memory you have, or what service pack you are running, use this handy little command.

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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