



The Mill and Drill

Vol 1, Issue 5 (July 30, 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.

***Still just an idea!!!* We're starting to get some feedback, but we want to hear from you!**

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)	August 10,11
	Sep 7,8
FeatureCAM3D - Advanced	August 12
	Sep 9
FeatureCAM2D - Advanced with FeatureRecognition	August 19
	Sep 16
FeatureCAM Turning - Advanced	August 26
	Sep 23
TIPS AND TRICKS	
<p>Get rid of clutter!</p> <p>Once you have drawn your geometry, chained your curves, and created your features, the screen can get...well...messy. By using Show and Hide, you can remove entities from view and bring them back later. There are Show and Hide icons on your Advanced toolbar, or you can go to the View menu and select Show or Hide. You can hide entire types of entities, such as Hide All Geometry, or you can select individual entities, right-click, and choose Hide Selected. Keep in mind, when something is hidden, it is not available to be changed in any way. If you want to edit a feature, for example, it must be shown.</p>	

Streamlining Hole Patterns

When you create a hole pattern, does your code ever look like this?

```
G83 X1.0 Y1.0 R0.1 Z-1.2002 Q0.5 F14.3
```

```
G80
```

```
Z1.0
```

```
X2.0
```

```
Z0.1
```

```
G83 R0.1 Z-1.2002 Q0.5 F14.3
```

```
G80
```

```
Z1.0
```

```
X3.0
```

```
Z0.1
```

```
G83 R0.1 Z-1.2002 Q0.5 F14.3
```

```
G80
```

```
Z1.0
```

Notice how the drill cycle is canceling after every hole, retracting to Z1, moving, and then restating the drill cycle? That's a lot of code, and a lot of wasted motion and time. By going to the **Strategy** tab of the Hole feature and checking "**Combine with similar holes into canned cycle**", you can improve matters greatly:

```
G83 X1.0 Y1.0 R0.1 Z-1.2002 Q0.5 F14.3
```

```
X2.0
```

```
X3.0
```

```
G80
```

```
G00 Z1.0
```

Better, huh? The code is much cleaner, and the tool will stay down at the R plane

between holes. Now, go check the same parameter on the **Drilling** tab of **My Configuration** so that every part you do from now on will perform this way.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?

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

jkanney@trimech.com