

MiniCAM - Quick Reference



Before you can use MiniCAM you will need to export your design from the CAD package you were using.

ProDesktop :

Select 'File | Export | Stereo Lithography File...'. Tick the 'binary' option. Your file will be saved with a '.stl' file extension.


ArtCAM :

Select 'File | Save' or 'File | Save as'. Your file will be saved with a '.art' file extension.



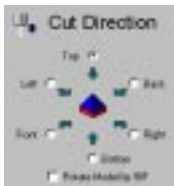
To start MiniCAM, double-click the "MiniCAM" shortcut icon on the computer desktop.

Select File

1) Click  to load your design file.

Note

For Artcam files you will have to change the 'Filetypes' dialog to look for files with a '*.art' extension.



Cut Direction

2) This screen allows you to change orientation of your model. You should imagine the cutter approaching your part vertically from the top of your monitor. Most of the time the cut direction will be 'top'.



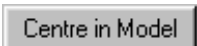
Resize Model

3) The model can be scaled up or down to fit your workpiece. Change one dimension and the others will alter automatically to keep the relative sizes. Remember to leave a border so the size should be slightly less than your billet.



Cut Plane

4) The red line shown the maximum depth the cutter will go. To reduce the depth you must increase the value typed in. You may want to reduce the cut depth when: -

- i) The flute length of your cutter is shorter than the depth of the job.
- ii) You want to leave some material as a base when holding the work down e.g. use of the vacuum table on a router.
- iii) You want to cut a top half and a bottom half to your design. For this you can just press .

Select Material

5) Selecting different materials here does not actually do anything.

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Setup Material

6) Type in the total thickness of the block of material. Position the slider to the top. The 'Base' value should read at least 5.00mm.

Artcam photos:

When using the 'photo' function with ArtCAM, position the slider so the 'Base' value reads 0.5mm.

Roughing Tool

7) It is not usually necessary to include a roughing cycle for soft materials such as foam or wax. Leave this option *unticked*.



Finishing Tool

8) It is important that you enter the correct tool diameter that you will be using in the machine. For the spindle speeds and feedrate settings, refer to the '*Training guide*'.

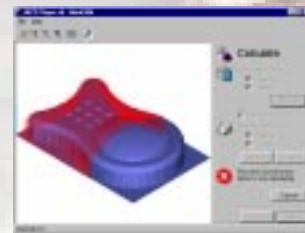
Strategy

9) Machining direction :

Raster in X



Raster in Y



Calculate

10) Click to generate the toolpath.

Simulate

11) Click to view the solid part after machining.

Save Paths

12) Make sure the 'Machine:' is set to

Click on the to bring up the 'Save as' window. It is possible to save directly to floppy disk if you like. A '.fnc' file extension will automatically be added to your filename.