Predator Virtual CNC™ – Mastercam C-Hook

Latest C-Hook Documentation

Before Installing the C-Hook

Both Predator Virtual CNC v4.x or later and Mastercam v7.x, v8.x or v9.x is required to be installed before installing the Mastercam C-Hook.

Backup everything; especially your Mastercam data and any customized menus or configurations you have been using.

Why use the Mastercam C-Hook?

By design, Predator Virtual CNC provides an extra level of CNC verification and machine simulation vs. what is included with Mastercam. The Mastercam C-Hook extracts the stock, tooling, tool motion and other details from within the current Mastercam file and automatically launches Predator Virtual CNC with all of the appropriate details, just press play to begin.

NOTE: Remember, Predator Virtual CNC fully supports NCI files for CNC verification and machine simulation. Within v4.1 of Predator Virtual CNC we even added support to process multiple NCI files with automatic work in process transfer of stock across multiple operations.

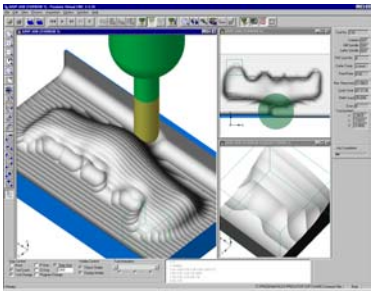
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Installing the Mastercam C-Hook

By default installation occurs within the appropriate Mastercam v7.x, 8.x or v9.x directory. If you were previously running a C-Hook and want to install a newer version, just install the latest version.

Predator Virtual CNC



What's New in the Mastercam C-Hook?

Improved! NCI Version Checking – 9/4/2003
Enhanced version checking of NCI files to insure that the latest version is always used.

Improved! Launching Predator Virtual CNC – 5/23/2003
Enhanced launching Predator Virtual CNC from the C-Hook. This eliminated an intermittent problem for some users.

Improved! Tool Changes – 5/23/2003
Enhanced tool change logic to be more compatible with Mastercam.

Improved! Multi-Axis Rapid Moves – 5/23/2003
Enhanced multi-axis rapid moves to be more compatible with Mastercam.

Improved! Dialogs – 6/10/2002
Removed warning messages for Center Drill and Tap details that were being confused as error messages. Fixed a typo in one of the dialogs.

New! Slot Mill Tools – 6/1/2002
Added support for slot mill tools.

New! Lollipop Tools – 4/24/2002
Added support for lollipop style tools. They are automatically converted to sphere style tools in Predator Virtual CNC.

Improved! Dovetail Tools – 4/24/2002
Added support for dovetail tools with a bottom radius.

Bug Fix! Right Handed Tapping Tool – 4/24/2002
Fixed a bug with right hand tapping tools.

New! Version 9 Mastercam Support – 3/30/2002

The latest Mastercam C-Hook now supports Version 9 of Mastercam.

NOTE: v8 and v7 Mastercam support is still included with the C-Hook.

New! Regenerate Option – 10/17/2000
At the beginning the Mastercam C-Hook will prompt to have Mastercam regenerate the tool motion prior to continuing. There is a checkbox to optionally eliminate this prompt.

NOTE: The checkbox option is saved in the ..\MCAM\REGEN.DAT file.

Bug Fix! Lathe Program Points – 8/2/2000
Fixed a bug with lathe program points. All methods are now supported including intersection, center and both styles.

New! Version 8 Mastercam Support – 5/29/2000
The latest Mastercam C-Hook now supports Version 8 of Mastercam.

NOTE: v7 Mastercam support is still included with the C-Hook.

Improved! Stock Origins – 5/29/2000
Improved support for stock origins. All methods are now supported.

Bug Fix! Multiple Tools – 3/3/2000
Fixed a bug when non-sequential tools are used.

Improved! Tool Change Position – 3/3/2000
Automatically define an appropriate tool change position when STL files are used for stock.

New! Tooling Verification – 10/22/1999
Every tool definition is now verified prior to processing. Refer to the following error messages.

ERROR: Tool Diameter is zero.
ERROR: Tool Radius is larger then Tool Height.
ERROR: Tool Height is smaller then Corner Radius.
ERROR: Tool Angle is invalid.
ERROR: Outside Diameter is smaller then Tool Diameter.
ERROR: Inconsistent Diameter, Height and Angle.
ERROR: Tool Outside Diameter is zero.
ERROR: Inconsistent Diameter, Height, Angle and Corner Radius.
ERROR: Corner Radius is larger then Tool Radius.
ERROR: Tool Shoulder Angle is invalid.
ERROR: Overall Height is smaller then Shoulder Height.
ERROR: Shoulder Height is smaller then Flute Height.
ERROR: Tool Height is zero.

NOTE: One or more of the above error messages are appropriately displayed when specific Mastercam tool shapes are incorrectly defined within Mastercam.

For the latest on Predator Virtual CNC's Mastercam C-Hook, check our web site at http://www.predator-software.com