Introduction to the Work Coordinate System (WCS)

July 2014

Mastercam X8

Mastercam® X8 Introduction to WCS

Date: July 2014

Software: Mastercam X8

TERMS OF USE

Be sure you have the latest information!

Information might have been changed or added since this document was published. The latest version of this document is installed with Mastercam or can be obtained from your local Reseller. A ReadMe file (`ReadMe.pdf`)—installed with each release—includes the latest information about Mastercam features and enhancements.

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Introduction

Welcome to the *Introduction to the Work Coordinate System (WCS)* tutorial. Before you begin the lessons, it is recommended you first complete the *Introduction to Mastercam* tutorial, which gives an introduction to Mastercam's views and planes.

Tutorial Goals

- Learn about views and planes, specifically WCS.
- Understand the difference between tool planes (Tplanes) and WCS.
- Machine two parts on different fixtures using one setup.
- Create and change the WCS for previously created toolpaths.

IMPORTANT: Screen colors in the tutorial pictures were modified to enhance image quality; they may not match your Mastercam settings or the tutorial results. These color differences do not affect the lesson or the exercise results.

General Tutorial Requirements

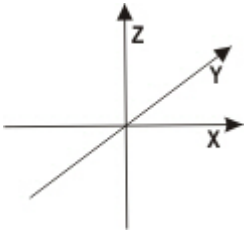
All Mastercam tutorials have the following general requirements:

- You must be comfortable using the Windows® operating system.
- The tutorials cannot be used with Mastercam Demo/Home Learning Edition (HLE). The Demo/HLE file format (`EMCX-8`) is different from Mastercam (`MCX-8`), and basic Mastercam functions, such as file conversions and posting, are unavailable.
- Each lesson in the tutorial builds on the mastery of preceding lesson's skills. We recommend that you complete them in order.
- Additional files may accompany a tutorial. Unless the tutorial provides specific instructions on where to place these files, store them in a folder that can be accessed from the Mastercam workstation, either with the tutorial or in any location that you prefer.
- You will need an internet connection to view videos that are referenced in the tutorials. All videos can be found on our YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/user/MastercamTechDocs.

- All Mastercam tutorials require you to configure Mastercam to work in a default metric or English configuration. The tutorial provides instructions for loading the appropriate configuration file.

Working With Views and Planes

Mastercam uses a 3D Cartesian coordinate system to locate your work in three-dimensional space. This means that geometry and toolpath positions are expressed in terms of three coordinate axes: X, Y, and Z. Each axis is signed, which means it has a positive and negative direction.



The focus of this tutorial is the Work Coordinate System, or WCS. The WCS refers to the alignment of the coordinate system itself. You can choose to align the coordinate system axes with any view you wish.

When you create a new WCS the following happens:

- You map the XY plane to the plane of the view.
- The origin of the view becomes your new (0,0,0) point.
- The plane becomes the **Top** plane in the new working coordinate system.
- Gviews, Cplanes, and Tplanes are all measured relative to the WCS and its origin.

Views and planes are used frequently in Mastercam for many drawing and machining purposes. However, you select a new WCS much less often, and only for specific machining purposes.

Views and Planes

This section introduces ways to access and use planes. You use planes for three main functions.

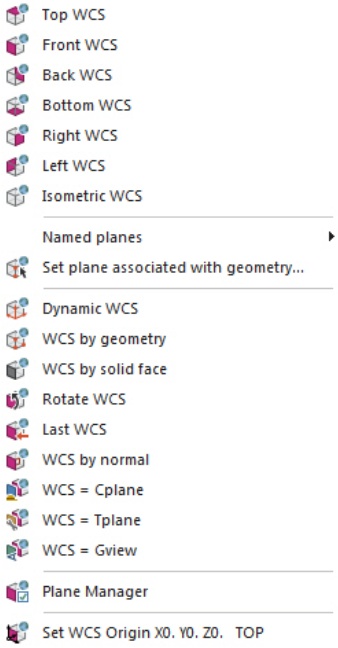
- **Graphic views (Gviews) -** A Gview determines the angle from which you look at your part in the graphics window.
- **Construction planes (Cplanes) -** When you draw geometry, the Cplane is where geometry is created. This doesn't have to be the same as the Gview. For

example, you can look at your part in **Isometric Gview**, while drawing geometry in the **Front Cplane**.

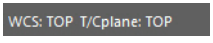
- **Tool planes (Tplanes) -** This plane is typically normal to the tool axis. Tplanes are only used when creating toolpaths. They determine the tool orientation. In most cases, your Cplane is the same as your Tplane (the most common exceptions are Mill/Turn operations).

In addition, you can create a new WCS by mapping the entire coordinate system to a different plane.

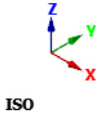
Most of the tools for working with planes are located on the Status Bar at the bottom of the Mastercam window. The **Gview** menu, the **Planes** menu, and the **WCS** menu bring up similar sets of options. The **WCS** menu is shown to the right.



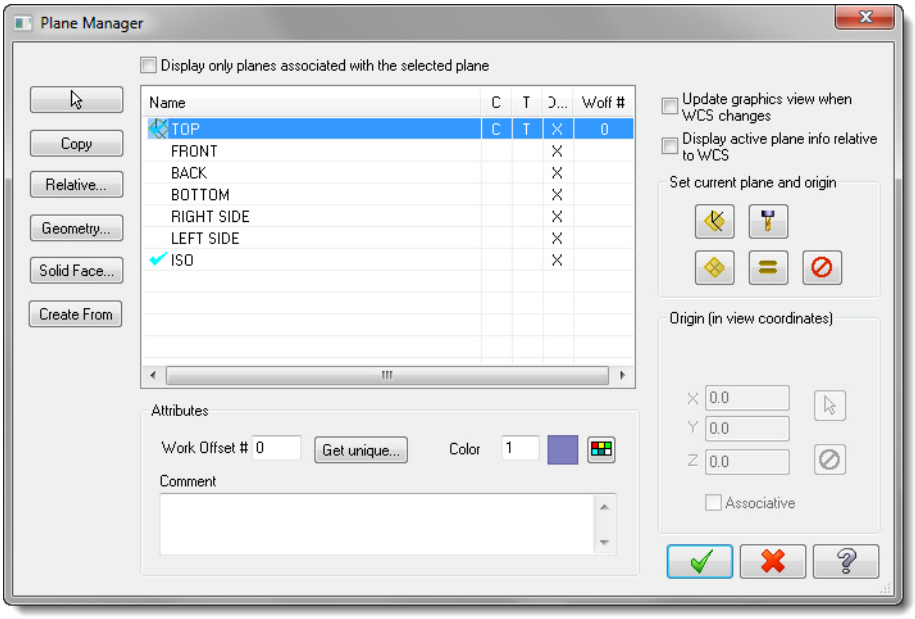
Mastercam displays the current WCS and T/Cplane in the left side of the Status Bar.



The current Gview is displayed in the bottom-left hand corner of the graphics window.



Use the **Plane Manager** to look at your planes and set their properties. Display the Plane Manager from the Planes, WCS, or Gview menu.



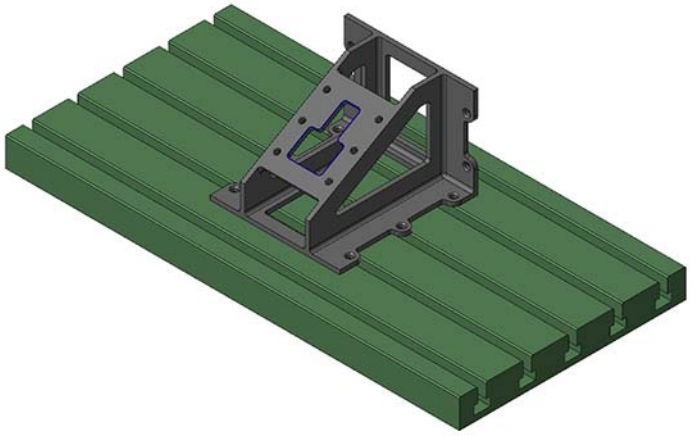
In the first lesson, you create a toolpath to machine a part in two ways, one by using a Tplane and one by changing the WCS.

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORK COORDINATE SYSTEM (WCS)

LESSON 1
Changing the TPlane vs Changing the WCS

In this lesson, you create a Dynamic toolpath to cut the slanted slot face of the part. You create toolpaths to machine it in two ways:

- First, you machine the part as if it were mounted on a table. You use a machine with rotary axis capability so that the tool axis is rotated to the proper orientation. To do this, you select a Tplane aligned with the slanted face.
- Second, you machine the part as if it were mounted in a fixture. You create a toolpath that machines the part as if it were lying flat, without moving or transforming geometry. To do this, you change the WCS so that it aligns with the slanted faces of the part.



Lesson Goals

- Create a Dynamic Contour toolpath with the selected Tplane.
- Change the WCS on the Dynamic Contour toolpath.
- Review both NC files to see rotary position commands.

Exercise 1: Selecting the TPlane

The Tplane determines the orientation of the XY plane in which the toolpath is calculated. In a simple 3-axis toolpath, the tool axis is typically normal to the Tplane. To set

the Tplane, you must align it with a view. You must also keep in mind the following when setting a view:

- The XY plane of your toolpath is parallel to the selected view.
- The origin of the selected view determines the zero point of your part program.

Unless the Tplane is parallel to the default XY plane, selecting a Tplane typically results in A- and/or B-axis codes when you post your toolpaths.

NOTE: To post A- and B-axis code results, your machine definition must be configured with the proper rotary axis components, and your post must be properly configured for rotary output.

In this exercise, you align the Tplane with the slanted face of the part.

1 Start Mastercam using your preferred method:

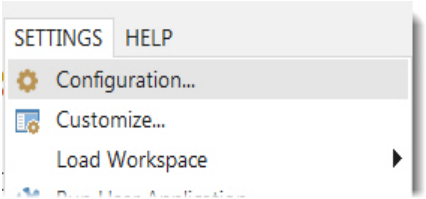
- Double-click Mastercam's desktop icon.

  Or

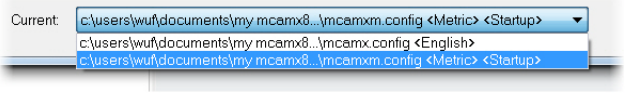
- Launch Mastercam from the Windows Start menu.

2 Select the default metric configuration file:

a Select **Settings, Configuration** from Mastercam's menu.

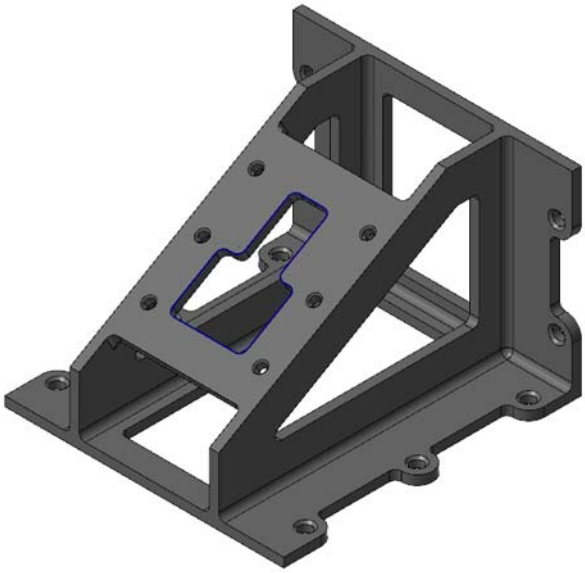


b Choose **...\mcamxm.config <Metric>** from the **Current** drop-down list.



c Click **OK**.

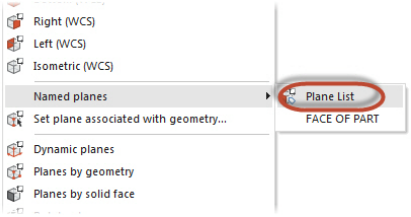
3 Open the part file, `BRACE W-VIEW.MCX-8`, which was provided with the tutorial.



4 If necessary, fit the geometry to the screen using [**Alt+F1**] or the **Fit** button.

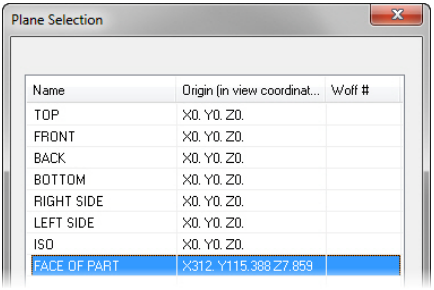
5 Click **Planes**, **Named planes**, **Plane List** on the Status Bar.

The Plane Selection dialog box displays.



6 Select **FACE OF PART** and click **OK**.

The status display updates with the new Tplane. The FACE OF PART plane contains the slanted slot.

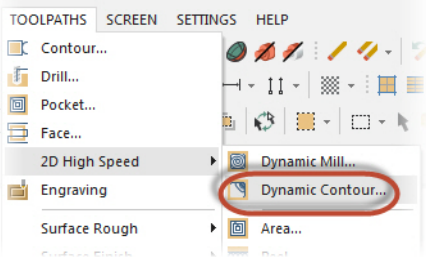


7 Choose **File**, **Save As**, and save the part file under a different file name. This protects the original tutorial file from being overwritten.

Exercise 2: Cutting the Slot

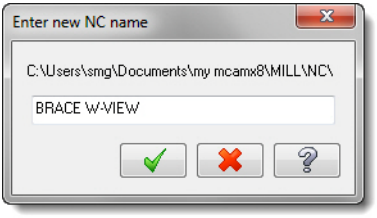
In this exercise, you create a Dynamic Contour toolpath to cut out the slot in the face of the part.

1 Select **2D High Speed**, **Dynamic Contour** from the Toolpaths menu.



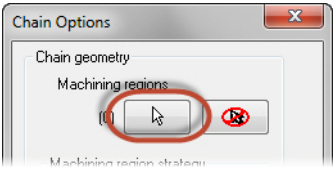
2 Click **OK** if prompted to enter a new NC file name.

The Chain Options dialog box displays.

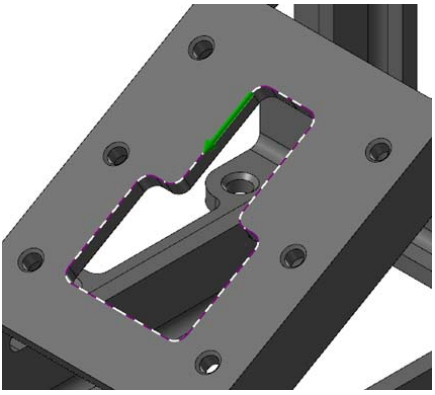


3 Click **Select** under Machining regions.

The Chaining dialog box displays.



4 Chain the contour. The chaining arrow should point counterclockwise.

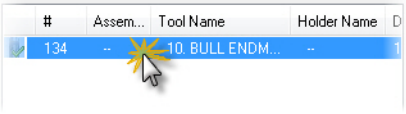


5 Click **OK** in the Chaining dialog box and in the Chain Options dialog box.

The 2D High Speed Toolpath - Dynamic Contour dialog box displays.

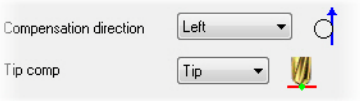
6 Select the **Tool** page.

7 Select the **10mm bullnose endmill** showing in the tool list.

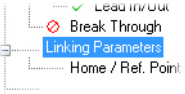


8 Select the **Cut Parameters** page.

9 Verify that the settings match what is shown to the right.

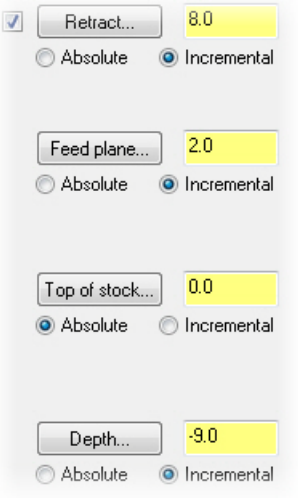


10 Select the **Linking Parameters** page.

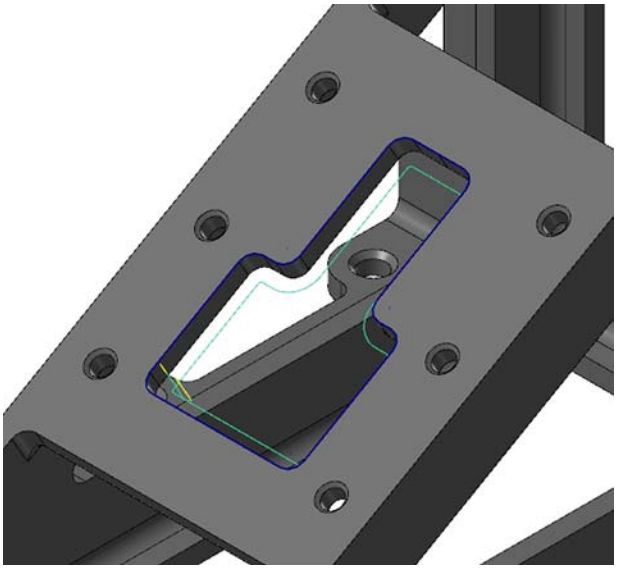


11 Set the following parameters:

- Enter **8.0** for **Retract**.
- Enter **2.0** for **Feed plane.**
- Enter **0.0** for **Top of stock.**
- Enter **-9.0** for **Depth**.
- Set all parameters except **Top of stock** to **Incremental**.



12 Click **OK** to generate the Dynamic Contour toolpath.

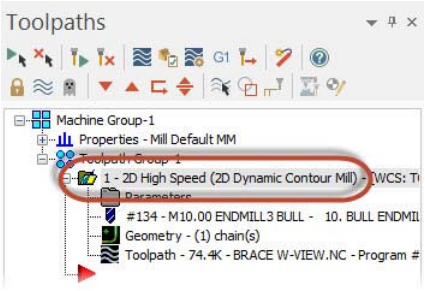


13 Save your file.

Exercise 3: Backplotting the Toolpath

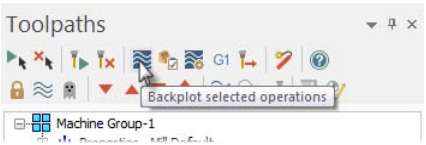
In this exercise, you backplot the toolpath to see how the tool is oriented relative to the part.

1 Select the 2D Dynamic Contour Mill toolpath in the Toolpaths Manager.

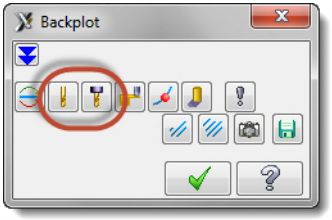


2 Click **Backplot selected operations** in the Toolpaths Manager.

The Backplot dialog box displays.

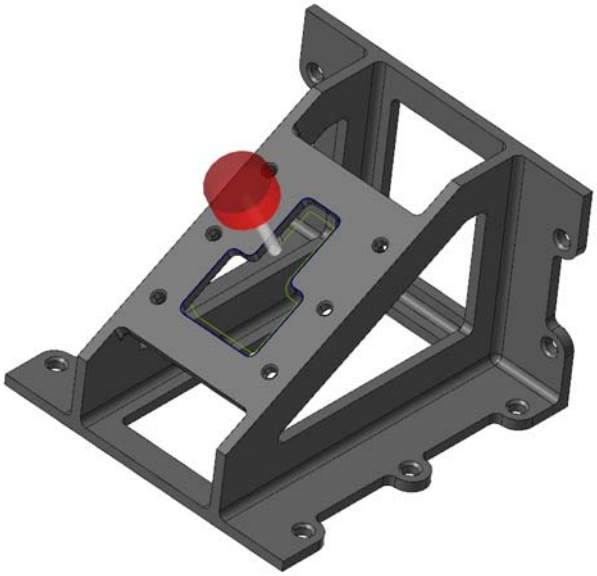


3 Select **Display tool** and **Display holder**.



4 Click **Play** to see the tool machine the toolpath.

The tool is rotated to stay normal to the slanted face of the part. The face defines the Tplane **FACE OF PART**.



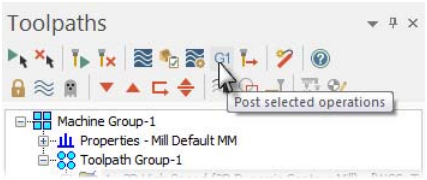
5 Click **OK** in the Backplot dialog box when you have finished reviewing the tool motion.

Exercise 4: Reviewing the NC Code

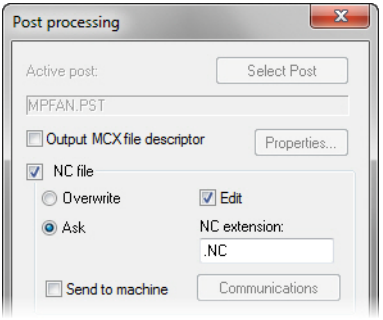
Since the Tplane (and the tool axis) is tilted about the X axis, you should see an A-axis rotation code when you post this toolpath.

1 Select the 2D Dynamic Contour Mill toolpath in the Toolpaths Manager and click **Post selected operations**.

The Post processing dialog box displays.



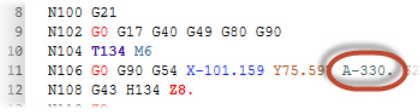
2 Set the options as shown and click **OK**.



3 Click **Save** if prompted to save the NC file. Mastercam Code Expert opens.

4 Review the NC code when it appears.

You should see the A-axis rotation code before the tool plunges into the part.



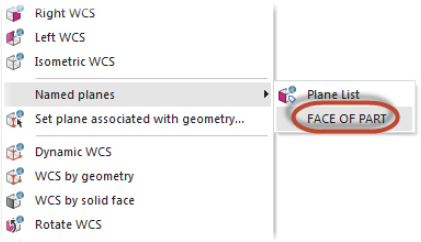
5 Close Mastercam Code Expert.

Exercise 5: Changing the WCS to Machine the Slot Lying Flat

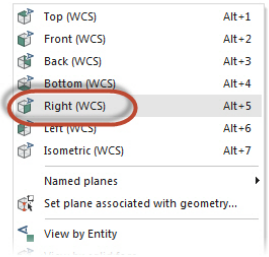
In this exercise, you machine the slot using a different approach, as if it were laying flat. Instead of rotating the tool, you rotate the coordinate system so that it is parallel with the desired face of the part. To do this, you align the WCS with the **FACE OF PART** plane.

In this example, the part is fixtured so that you can cut it on a 3-axis mill that does not have a rotary axis. Moving the coordinate system so that it aligns with the selected part geometry means that you do not have to transform the part. This is often easier and more efficient.

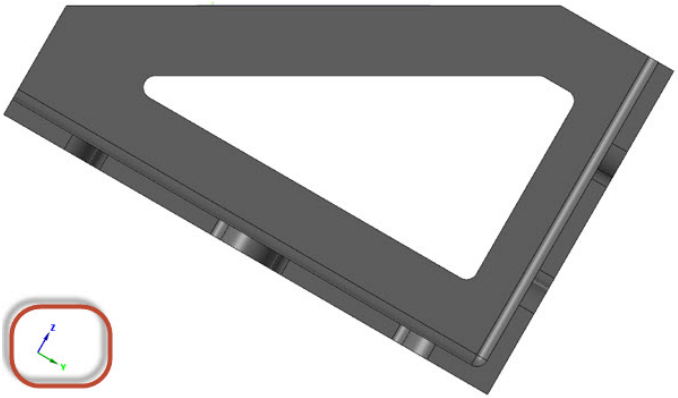
1 Select **WCS**, **Named planes**, **FACE OF PART** from the Status Bar.



2 Select **Gview**, **Right (WCS)** from the Status Bar.



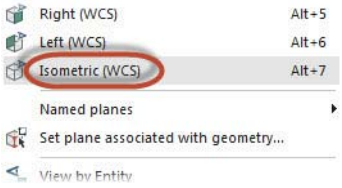
You can see that the part looks like it has been rotated. When you look at the gnomon in the lower-left corner, however, you can see that the axes have been rotated, not the part.



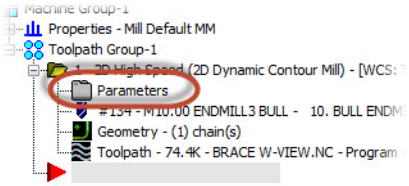
Exercise 6: Using the New WCS for a Toolpath

Normally, to create the new toolpath you would follow the same steps as for the previous toolpath. For this exercise, you edit the existing toolpath to use the new WCS and compare the results.

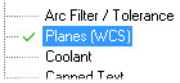
1 Select **Gview**, **Isometric (WCS)** from the Status Bar.



2 In the Toolpaths Manager, click **Parameters** under the 2D Dynamic Contour Mill toolpath.

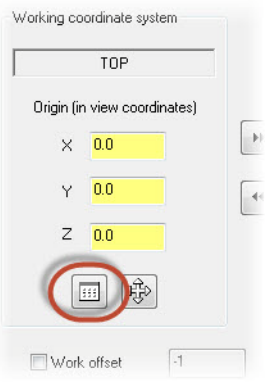


3 Select the **Planes (WCS)** page.

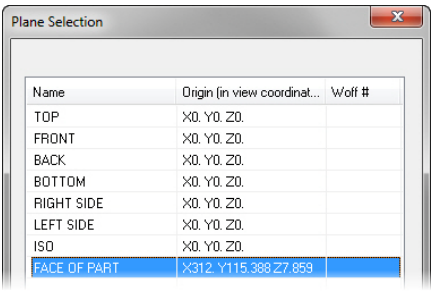


4 Click the **Select WCS plane** button in the **Working coordinate system** section.

The Plane Selection dialog box displays.



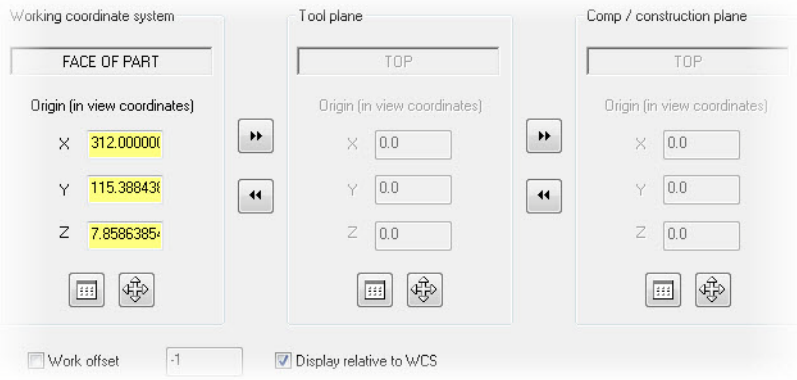
5 Select **FACE OF PART** and click **OK** to return to the 2D High Speed Toolpath - Dynamic Contour dialog box.



6 Select the **Display relative to WCS** option.

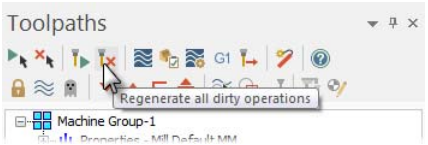
This option displays the names of the tool and construction planes relative to the WCS.

7 Verify that your **Planes (WCS)** page matches what is shown below:

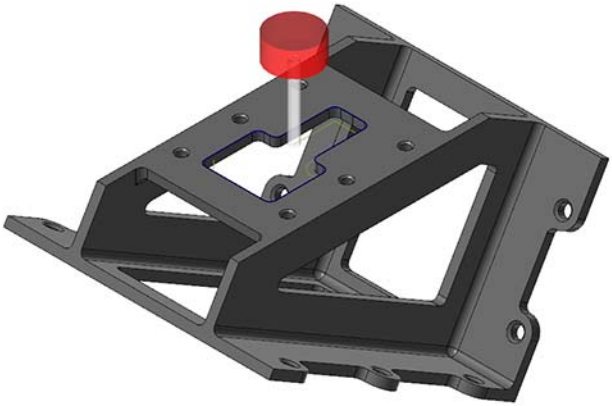


8 Click **OK** to accept the parameter changes.

9 Click **Regenerate all dirty operations** in the Toolpaths Manager.



10 Backplot this toolpath like the previous one. You can see that the tool axis is not rotated at all. This means that the part is lying flat when machined, so the tool does not need to rotate around to machine the slanted face.

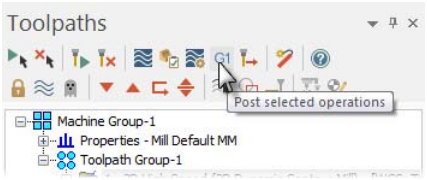


Exercise 7: Reviewing the NC Code

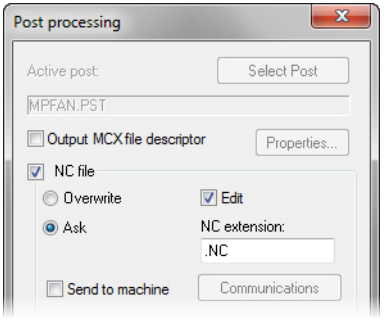
After posting this toolpath, you should find no rotary output in your NC Code.

1 Select the Dynamic Contour toolpath in the Toolpaths Manager and click **Post selected operations**.

The Post processing dialog box displays.

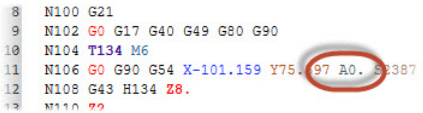


2 Set the options as shown and click **OK**.



3. If prompted, click **Save** to save the NC file.
4. If prompted to overwrite an existing file, click **Yes**. Mastercam Code Expert opens.
5. Review the NC code when it appears.

   You should see no A-axis rotation code.



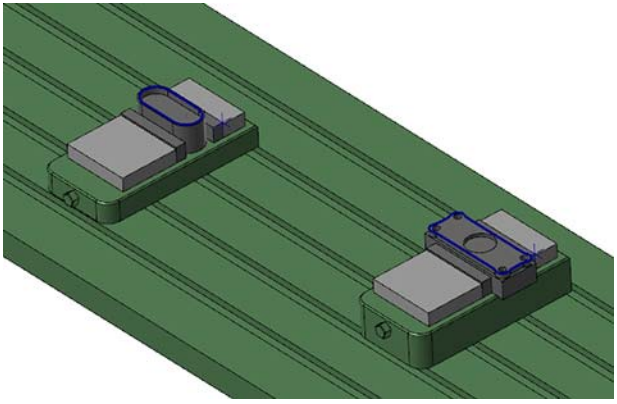
NOTE: A0 only appears because you posted this toolpath with the same post used in the previous toolpath. Because you used the WCS to eliminate rotary output, you could safely use a 3-axis post and machine definition.

You have now successfully changed the Tplane and the WCS of a toolpath. In the next lesson, you will machine two parts with the same NC file.

LESSON 2
Machining Two Parts on Different Fixtures

In this lesson, you machine two parts with the same NC file. Each part is mounted on a different vise on your table.

To machine the parts, you assign a different work offset to each vise. Then, create two different toolpaths and include the offset number in each. By basing each toolpath on an offset number of a coordinate position, your operator can run the job without knowing how the vises are positioned. All they need to do is touch off the parts properly before running the job to set each position in the control.



Lesson Goals

- Create a new plane for each vise and define its origin.
- Create a toolpath for each created plane.
- Review both NC files to see the correct offset codes.

Exercise 1: Creating the First Plane

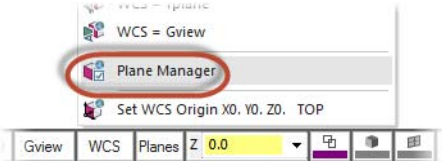
Since both parts will be machined in the top plane, you create the new planes by copying the system **Top** plane. You then change the origin and work offset for each new plane.

1. Open the part file, `Multiple-Fixtures.MCX-8`, which was provided with the tutorial.

2 Fit the geometry to the screen using [**Alt+F1**] or the **Fit** button, if necessary.

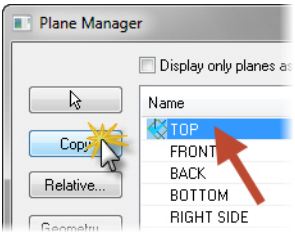
3 Select **WCS**, **Plane Manager** from the Status Bar.

The Plane Manager dialog box displays.



4 Make sure **TOP** is selected and click **Copy**.

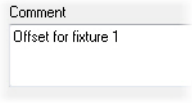
Mastercam creates a plane, **TOP-1**, and automatically selects it.



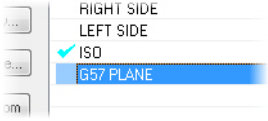
5 Enter **3** for the **Work Offset #**.

A work offset number is used to tell the machine the location of the part on the fixture in relation to the machine origin. By using the number 3, the offset is identified by the Gcode 57 for this machine.

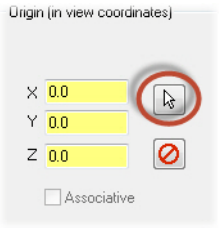
6 Enter **Offset for fixture 1** in the Comment area.



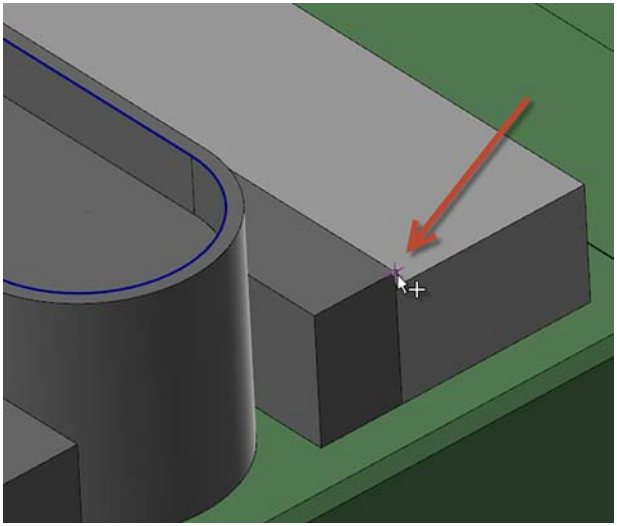
7 Double-click **TOP-1** and rename the plane to **G57 PLANE**.



8 Click the **Select** button in the Origin group box to return to the graphics window.



9 Select the point on the right side of the left vise.

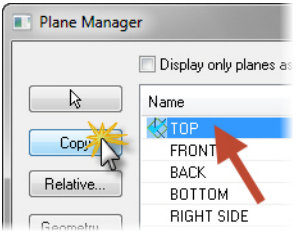


Do not close the Plane Manager.

Exercise 2: Creating the Second Plane

While the Plane Manager is still open, you will repeat the previous process for the second vise.

1 Select **TOP** and click **Copy**.

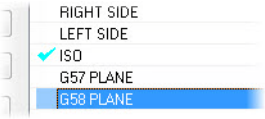


2 Enter **4** for the **Work Offset #**.

3 Enter **Offset for fixture 2** in the Comment area.

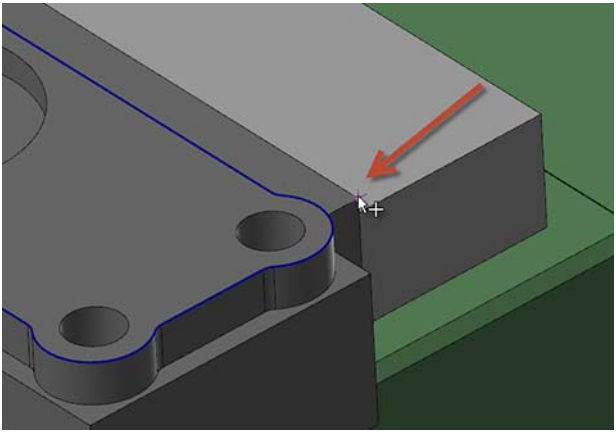
4 Rename the plane to **G58 PLANE**.

You will use this plane for the vice on the right side of the table.



5 Click the **Select** button in the Origin group box.

6 Select the point on the right side of the right vise.



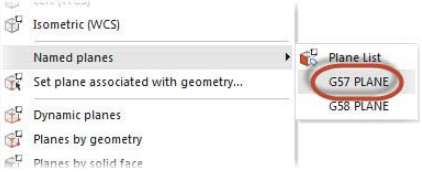
7 Click **OK** to close the Plane Manager.

8 Choose **File**, **Save As**, and save the part file under a different file name. This protects the original tutorial file from being overwritten.

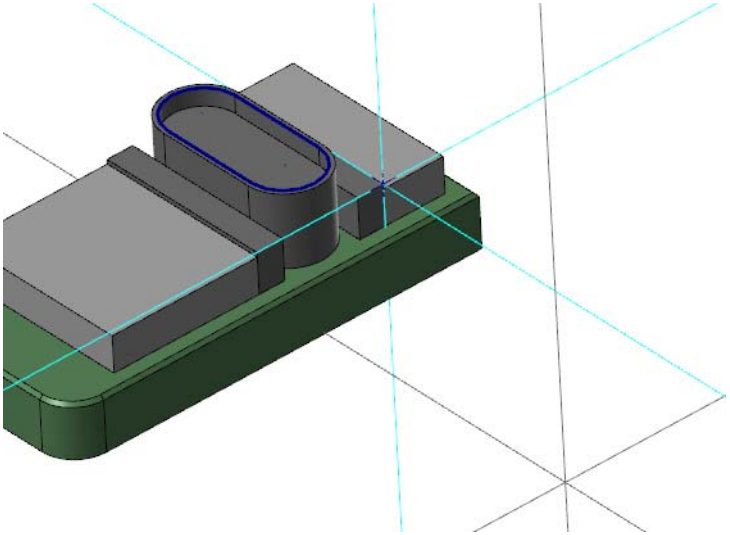
Exercise 3: Using the First Plane

In this exercise, you set the Tplane to the **G57 PLANE** to set the part zero and work offset to the values you associated with the plane when you created it.

1 Click **Planes**, **Named planes, G57 PLANE** on the Status Bar.



2 Press [**F9**] to display the new Tplane/Cplane axes in blue.



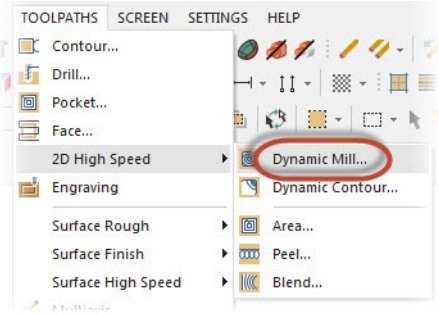
NOTE: The fixture table has been hidden to make the axes easier to see.

3 Press [**F9**] again to hide the axes.

Exercise 4: Creating the First Toolpath

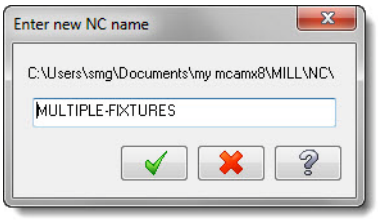
In this exercise, you create a Dynamic Mill toolpath for the part in the G57 vise.

1 Select **2D High Speed**, **Dynamic Mill** from the Toolpaths menu.



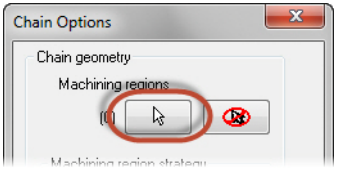
2 Click **OK** to confirm the default NC filename.

The Chain Options dialog box displays.

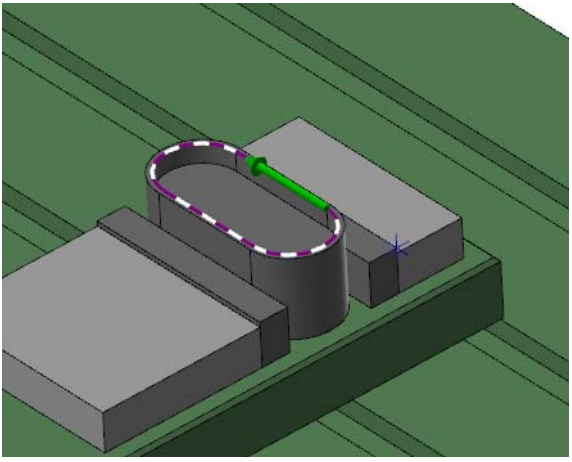


3 Click **Select** under Machining regions.

The Chaining dialog box displays.



4 Chain the contour at the top of the pocket in the G57 vise. Chain direction does not matter for this operation.

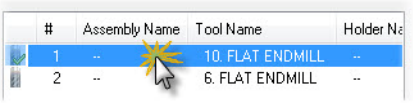


5 Click **OK** in the Chaining dialog box and in the Chain Options dialog box.

The 2D High Speed Toolpaths - Dynamic Mill dialog box displays.

6 Select the **Tool** page.

7 Select the **10mm flat endmill** showing in the tool list.



8 Enter **G57 - vise #1** in the Comment box.

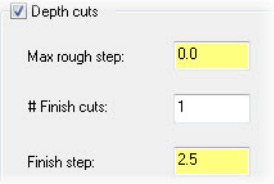
9 Select the **Cut Parameters** page.

10 Enter **75.0** for the **Stepover** percentage.

11 Select the **Depth Cuts** page.

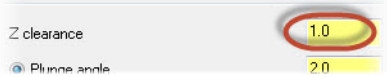
12 Select the **Depth cuts** checkbox to enable the page, and set the following parameters:

- Enter **1** for **# Finish cuts**.
- Enter **2.5** for **Finish step**.

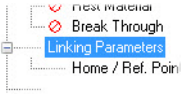


13 Select the **Entry Motion** page.

14 Enter **1.0** for the **Z clearance**.

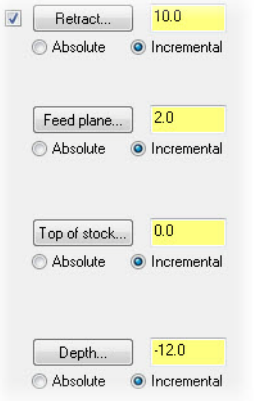


15 Select the **Linking Parameters** page.

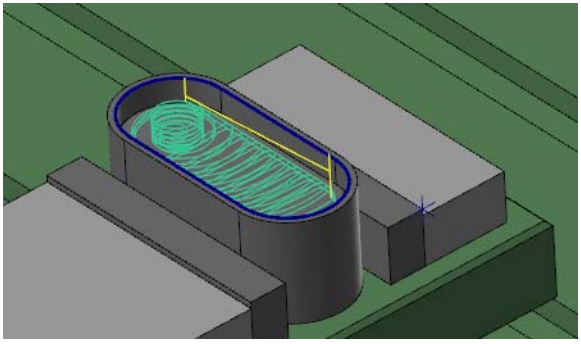


16 Enter the following parameters:

- Enter **10.0** for **Retract**.
- Enter **2.0** for **Feed plane**.
- Enter **0.0** for **Top of stock**.
- Enter **-12.0** for **Depth**.
- Set all parameters to **Incremental**.



17 Click **OK** to generate the toolpath.

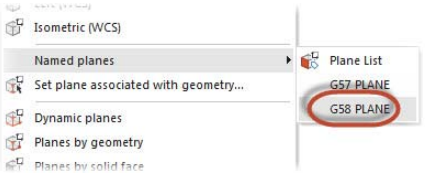


18 Save your file.

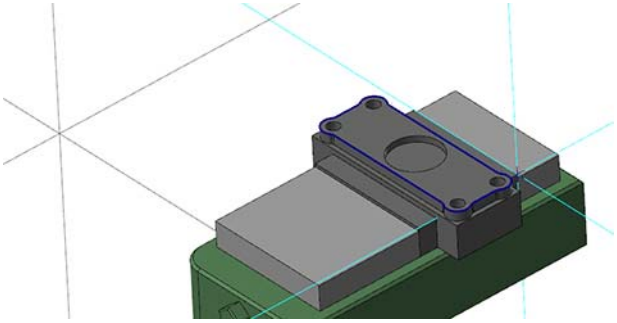
Exercise 5: Using the Second Plane to Create a Toolpath

In this exercise, you set the Tplane to **G58 PLANE,** and create a Dynamic Contour toolpath on the second vise.

1 Click **Planes**, **Named planes, G58 PLANE** on the Status Bar.



2 Press [**F9**] to display the new Tplane/Cplane axes in blue.

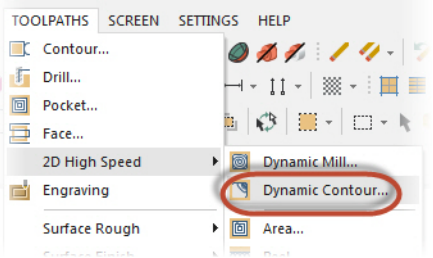


NOTE: The fixture table has been hidden to make the axes easier to see.

3 Press [**F9**] again to hide the axes.

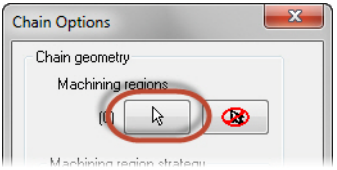
4 Select **2D High Speed**, **Dynamic Contour** from the Toolpaths menu.

The Chain Options dialog box displays.

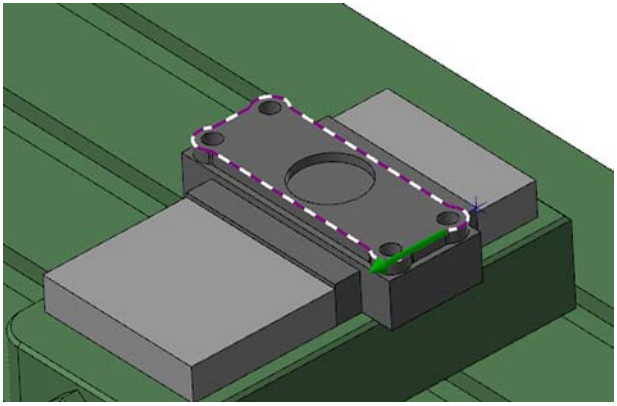


5 Click **Select** under Machining regions.

The Chaining dialog box displays.



6 Chain the contour at the top of the pocket in the G58 vise. The chain direction should be clockwise for this operation.

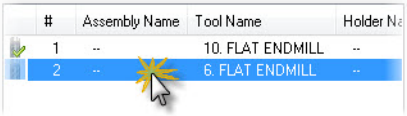


7 Click **OK** to close to Chaining dialog box and again in the Chain Options dialog box.

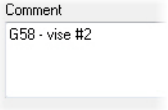
The 2D High Speed Toolpath - Dynamic Contour dialog box displays.

8 Select the **Tool** page.

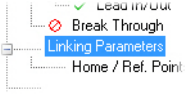
9 Select the **6mm flat endmill** showing in the tool list.



10 Enter **G58 - vise #2** in the Comment box.

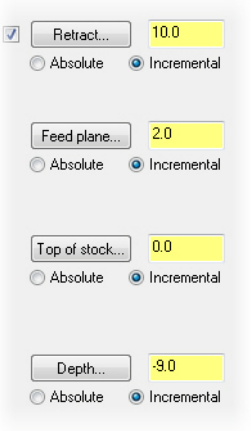


11 Select the **Linking Parameters** page.

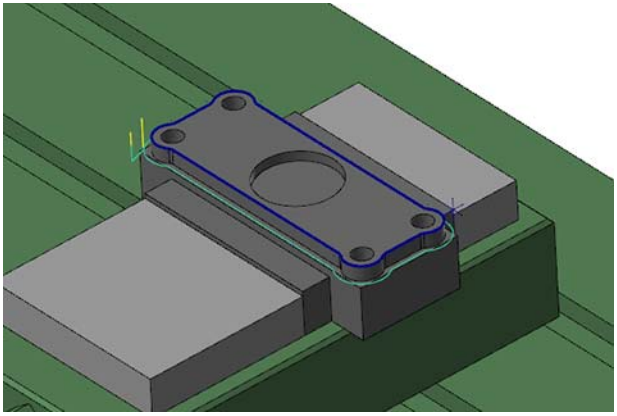


12 Enter the following parameters:

- Enter **10.0** for **Retract**.
- Enter **2.0** for **Feed plane**.
- Enter **0.0** for **Top of stock**.
- Enter **-9.0** for **Depth**.
- Set all parameters to **Incremental**.



13 Click **OK** to generate the toolpath.

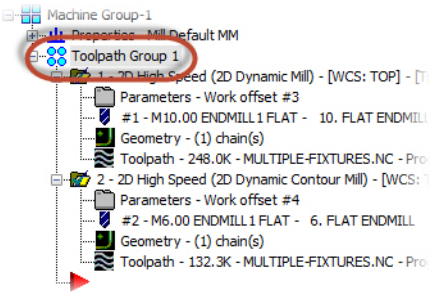


14 Save your file.

Exercise 6: Reviewing the NC Code

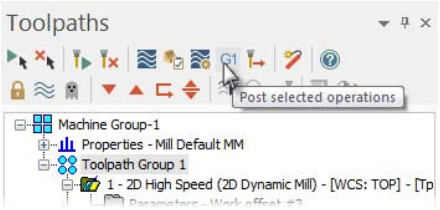
In this exercise, you post and review the NC code for both toolpaths.

1 In the Toolpaths Manager, click **Toolpath Group 1** to select all operations.

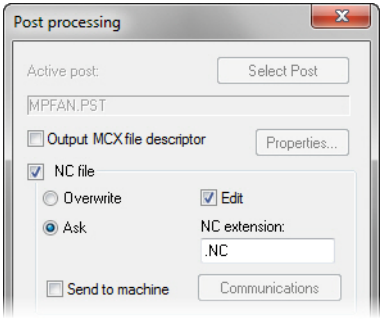


2 Click the **Post selected operations** button on the Toolpaths Manager.

3 The Post processing dialog box displays.

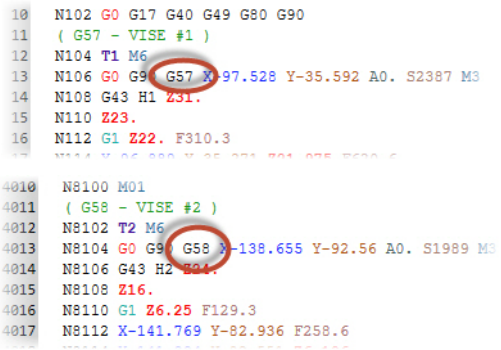


4 Set the options as shown and click **OK**.



5 Click **OK** if prompted to save the NC file. Mastercam Code Expert opens.

6 Review the NC code when it displays.



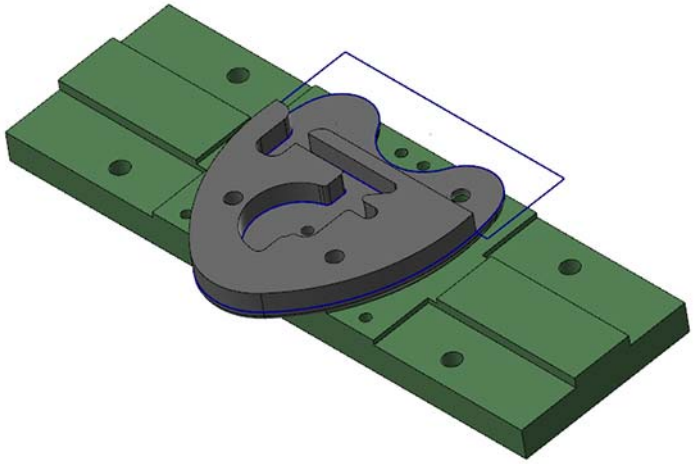
For each operation, Mastercam has reset the part zero (0,0,0) and output the proper work offset.

In the next lesson, you rotate and position a part and update previously created toolpaths with a new WCS.

LESSON 3
Updating Previously Created Toolpaths

In this lesson, you rotate a part and create two new WCS planes. You then update each toolpath with one of the new WCS planes.

The part must be rotated, because the machine it was meant to be cut on is unavailable. To cut the part on a different machine, the toolpaths must also be reoriented. You can do this by utilizing the WCS, allowing you to continue producing parts with an available machine.



Lesson Goals

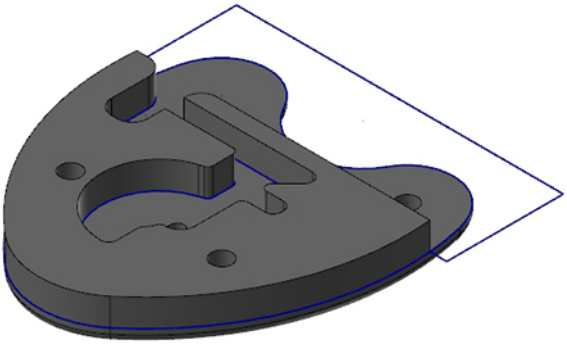
- Rotate the part and place it on the fixture.
- Create two new WCS planes for the toolpaths.
- Update each toolpath to use the new WCS planes.

Exercise 1: Rotating the Part

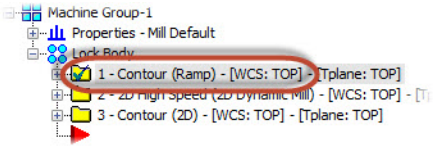
In this exercise, you rotate the part so that it is on the same angle as the fixture.

1 Open the part file, `Heart-lock.mcx-8`, that was provided with this tutorial.

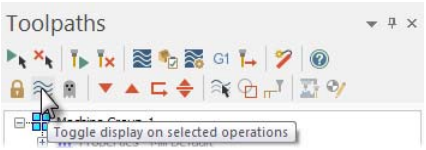
2 Fit the geometry to the screen using [**Alt+F1**] or the **Fit** button, if necessary.



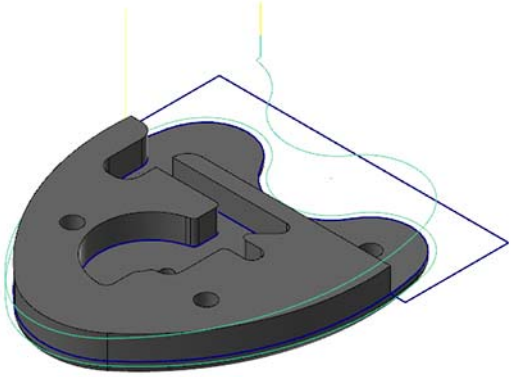
3 In the Toolpaths Manager, select the **Contour (Ramp)** toolpath.



4 Click the **Toggle display on selected operations** button.



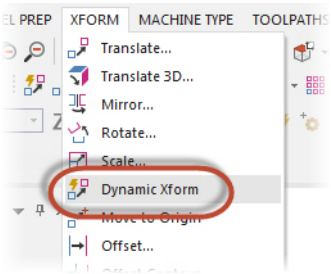
5 The graphics window now displays the Contour (Ramp) toolpath. Notice how the toolpath looks.



6 Display the toolpath motion for the Dynamic Mill toolpath and the Contour (2D) toolpath. When you finish viewing the toolpaths, turn them all off.

7 Select **Xform**, **Dynamic Xform** from the Mastercam menu.

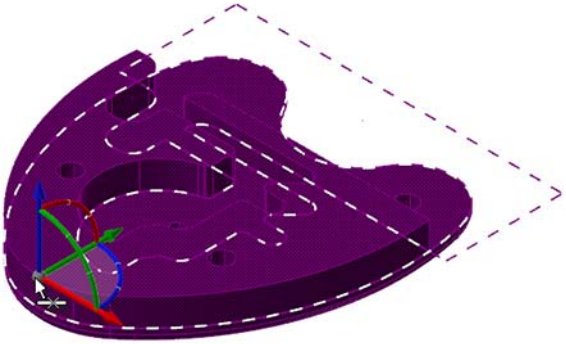
The Dynamic Xform Ribbon bar displays.



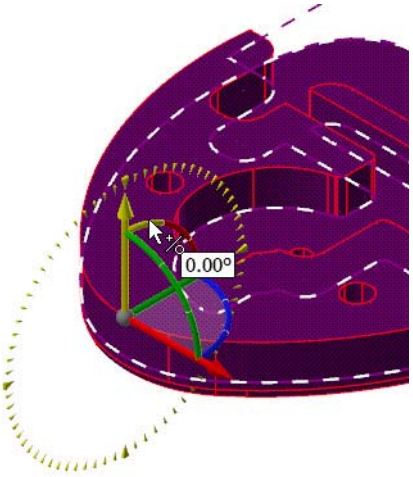
8 Window select the solid body and wireframe and press [**Enter**]. The Dynamic Gnomon displays.

9 Select the midpoint of the arc as the gnomon origin position.

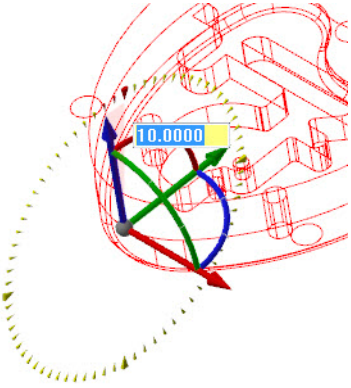
You may need to zoom in to find the correct position.



10 Select the top segment of the curved control for 3D rotation.

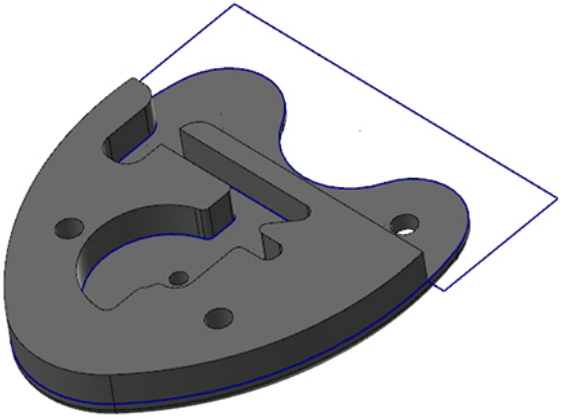


11 Type **10.0** degrees and press [**Enter**].



12 Press [**Enter**] again to accept the changes. Click **OK** in the Dynamic Xform Ribbon bar.

The part has now been rotated 10 degrees around the X axis.



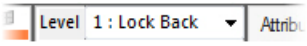
TIP: Select the **Clear Colors** button to remove group and result colors from affected entities.

13 Choose **File**, **Save As**, and save the part file under a different file name. This protects the original tutorial file from being overwritten.

Exercise 2: Placing the Part on the Fixture

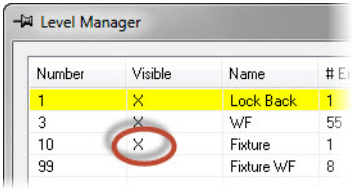
In this exercise, you place the rotated part onto the fixture.

1 Select **Level** in the Status Bar.

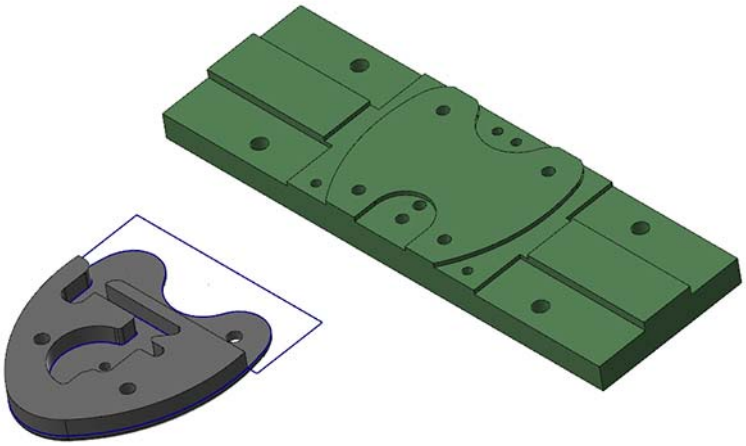


The Level Manager dialog box displays.

2 In the Level Manager dialog box, select the **Visible** column for **level 10: Fixture**.

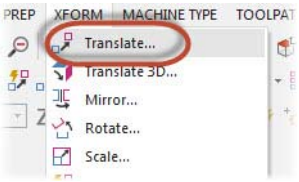


The graphics window will now display the Fixture level.

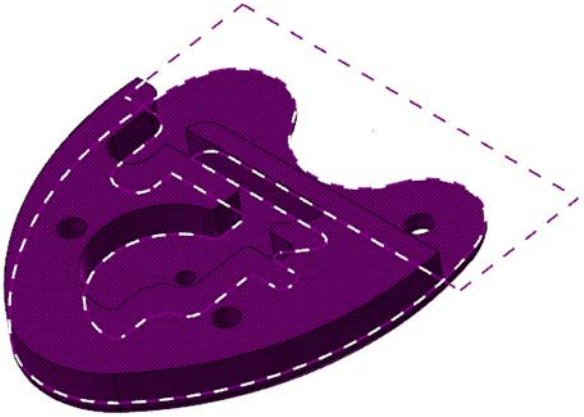


3 Click **OK** to exit the Level Manager dialog box.

4 Select **Xform**, **Translate** from the Mastercam menu bar.

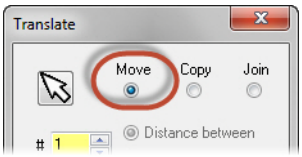


5 Window select the solid body and wireframe, then press [**Enter**].



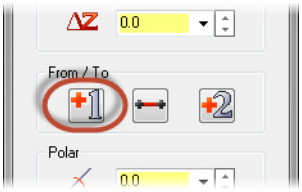
The Translate dialog box displays.

6 Set the Translate option to **Move**.



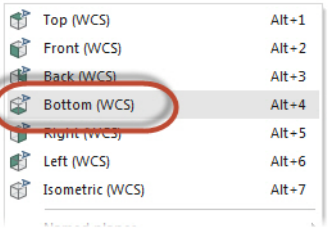
7 Click the **Select FROM Point** button to return to the graphics window.

You will now select the point to translate from.

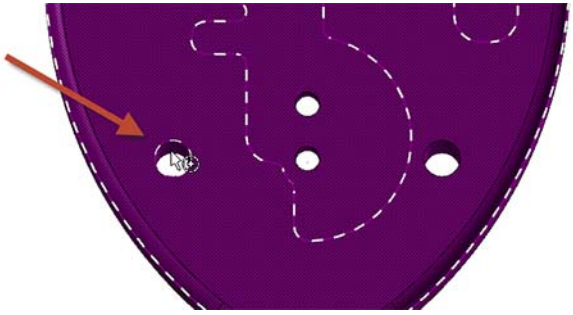


8 Select **Gview**, **Bottom (WCS)** from the Status Bar.

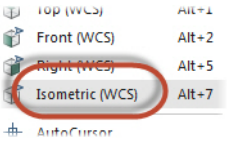
This sets your Gview to Bottom and helps to select the point to translate from.



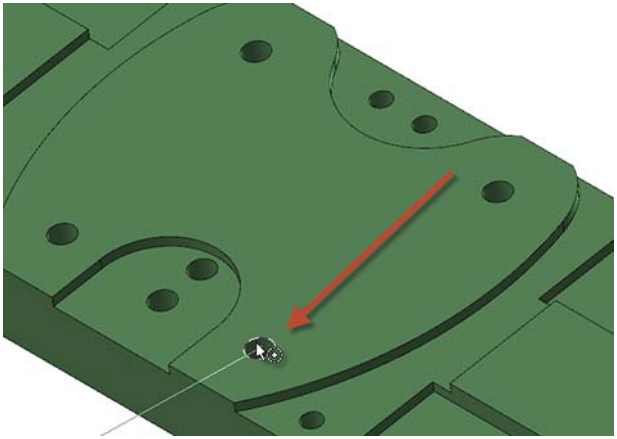
9 Select the circle center point indicated below on the solid part. Be sure that you select the center point of the circle on the bottom of the part.



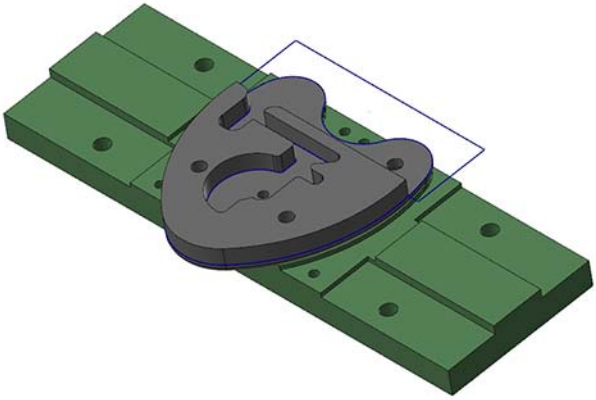
10 Right-click in the graphics window and select **Isometric (WCS)**. This rotates your view back to Isometric.



11 Select the circle center point indicated below on the fixture. Be sure that you select the center point of the circle on the top of the fixture.

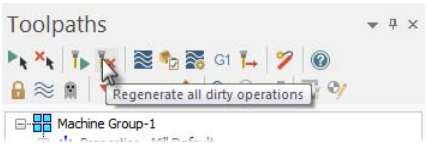


12 Click **OK** in the Translate dialog box to exit the dialog box and move the part onto the fixture.

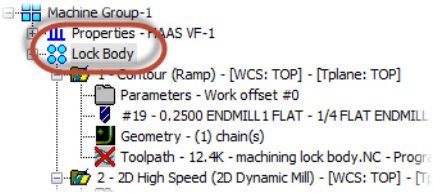


Notice that after moving the solid body and geometry, the toolpaths are marked dirty.

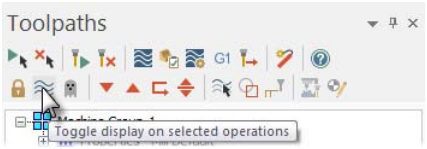
13 In the Toolpaths Manager, click the **Regenerate all dirty operations** button.



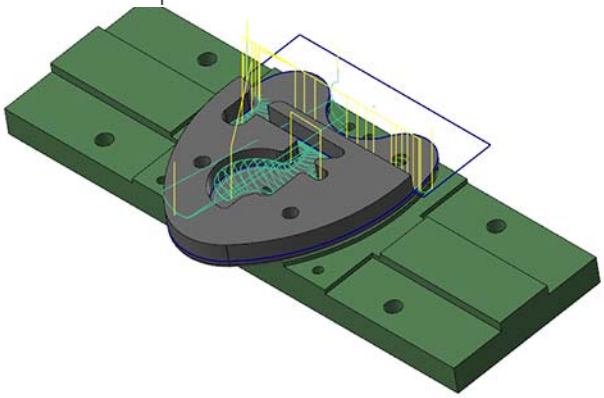
14 Select the **Lock Body** toolpath group.



15 Click the **Toggle display on selected operations** button.



16 Notice where the toolpaths are located.



The toolpaths are no longer dirty, but they are not machining the part correctly.

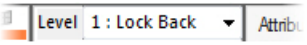
17 Click the **Toggle display on selected operations** button again to hide the toolpaths.

18 Save your file.

Exercise 3: Creating New WCS Planes

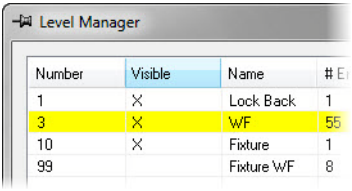
In this exercise, you create two new WCS planes corresponding to the geometry to be machined, one plane for the Contour (Ramp) toolpath and one plane for both the Dynamic Mill and Contour (2D) toolpath.

1 Select **Level** in the Status Bar.



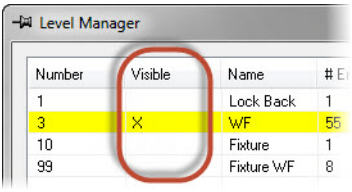
The Level Manager dialog box displays.

2 In the Level Manager dialog box, click in the **Number** column for level **3: WF** to change it to the main level.



3 Select the **Visible** column for **10: Fixture**, **1: Lock Back**, and **3: WF**.

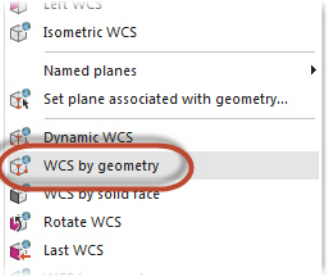
The graphics window no longer displays the Fixture level or the Lock Back level.



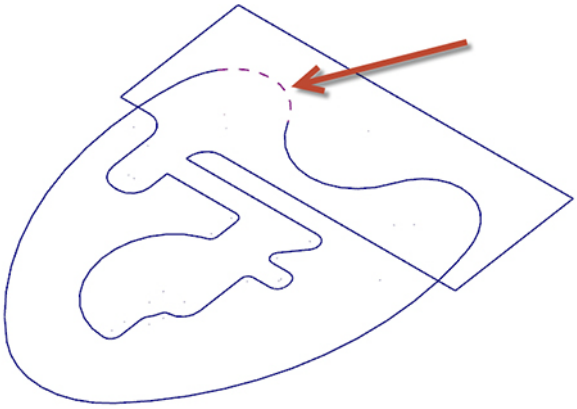
4 Click **OK** to exit the Level Manager dialog box.

You will first create a WCS plane for the Contour (Ramp) toolpath.

5 Select **WCS**, **WCS by geometry** from the Status Bar.

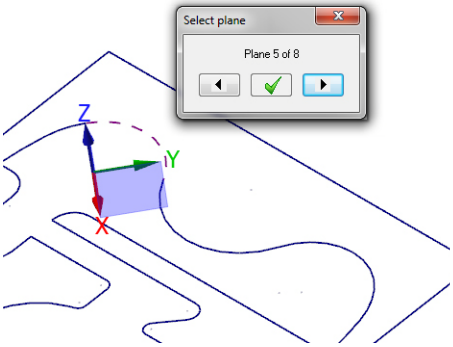


6 Select the arc shown below. The Select plane dialog box displays, along with the XYZ Gnomon.

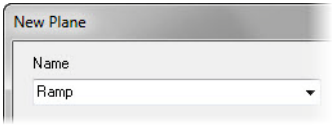


7 Cycle through the potential planes until the one shown in the image is displayed and click **OK**.

The New Plane dialog box displays.



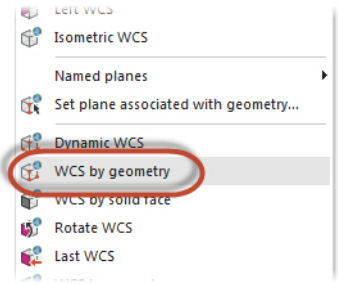
8 Enter **Ramp** for the plane name.



9 Click **OK** to close the New Plane dialog box and create the new plane.

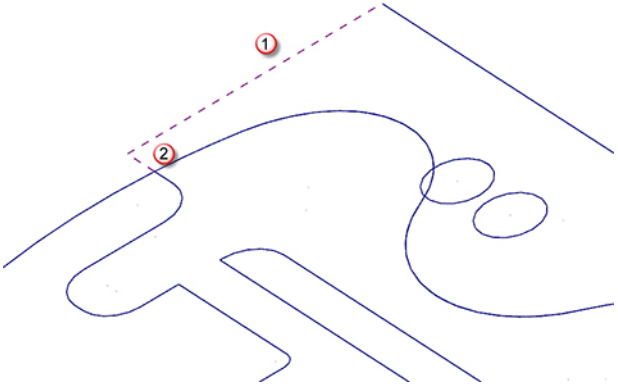
Now you create the plane for the Dynamic Mill and Contour (2D) toolpath.

10 Select **WCS**, **WCS by geometry** from the Status Bar.



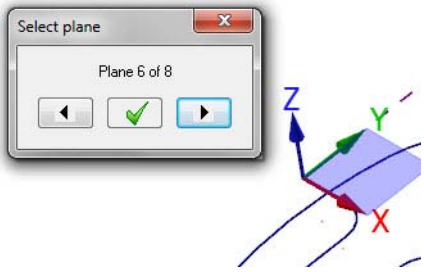
11 Select the lines shown below, in the order they are numbered. The Select plane dialog box displays, along with the XYZ Gnomon.

You may need to zoom in to select the second line.

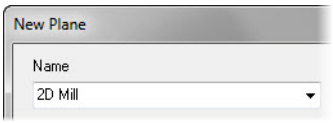


12 Cycle through the potential planes until the one shown in the image is displayed and click **OK**.

The New Plane dialog box displays.



13 Enter **2D Mill** for the plane name.

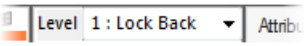


14 Click **OK** to close the New Plane dialog box and create the new plane.

Exercise 4: Updating the Contour (Ramp) Toolpath

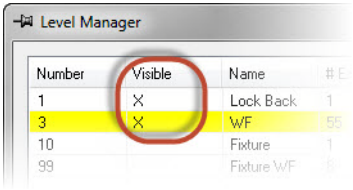
In this exercise, you update the three toolpaths to use the WCS planes created in the previous exercise.

1 Select **Level** in the Status Bar.



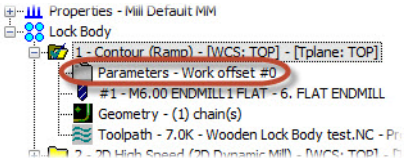
The Level Manager dialog box displays.

2 Select the **Visible** column for **1:Lock Back**.



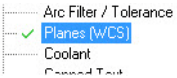
3 Click **OK** to exit the Level Manager dialog box.

4 In the Toolpaths Manager, select **Parameters** under the Contour (Ramp) toolpath.



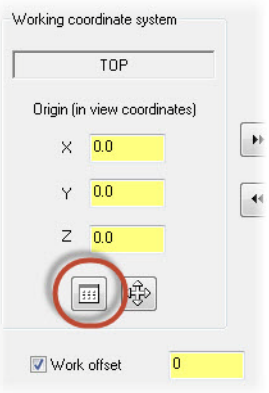
The 2D Toolpaths - Contour dialog box displays.

5 Select the **Planes (WCS)** page.

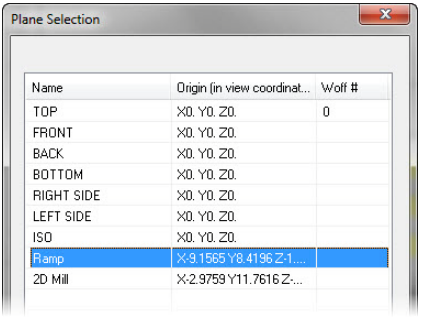


6 Click the **Select WCS plane** button under the Working coordinate system group.

The Plane Selection dialog box displays.

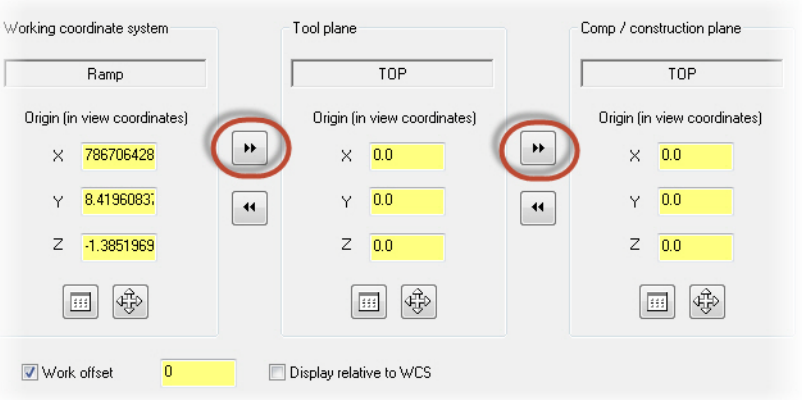


7 Select **Ramp** from the plane list.



8 Click **OK**.

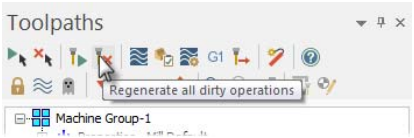
9 Click the **Copy to tool plane** and **Copy to construction plane** buttons, shown below.



By setting the Tool plane and Comp/construction plane to the WCS, you will see tool motion commands dimensioned from the part origin, as if it was lying flat.

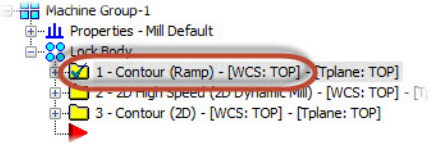
10 Click **OK** to save your changes and exit the 2D Toolpaths - Contour dialog box.

11 In the Toolpaths Manager, click the **Regenerate all dirty operations** button.

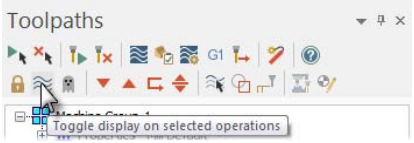


This regenerates the Contour toolpath.

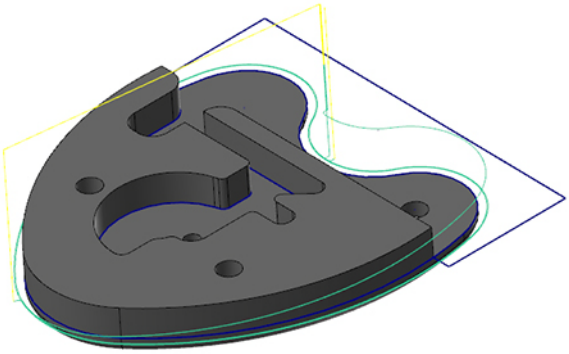
12 Select the Contour (Ramp) toolpath.



13 With the toolpath selected, click the **Toggle display on selected operations** button.



14 Notice how the toolpath is now correctly machining the part.



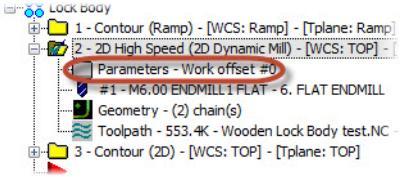
15 Click the **Toggle display on selected operations** button again to hide the toolpath.

16 Save your file.

Exercise 5: Updating the Dynamic Mill Toolpath

1 In the Toolpaths Manager, select **Parameters** under the 2D High Speed (2D Dynamic Mill) toolpath.

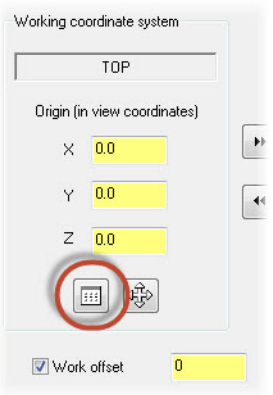
The 2D High Speed Toolpath - Dynamic Mill dialog box displays.



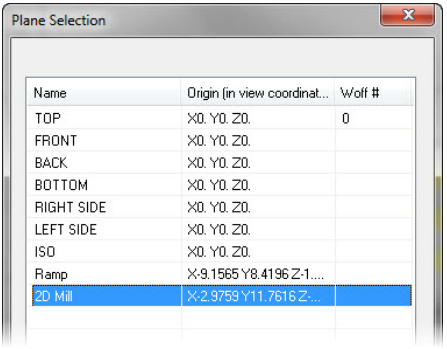
2 Select the **Planes (WCS)** page.

3 Click the **Select WCS plane** button under the Working coordinate system group.

The Plane Selection dialog box displays.



4 Select **2D Mill** from the plane list and click **OK**.

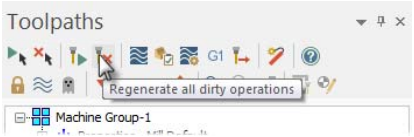


5 Click the **Copy to tool plane** and **Copy to construction plane** buttons.

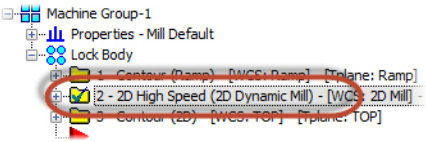
6 Click **OK** to save your changes and exit the 2D High Speed Toolpath - Dynamic Mill dialog box.

7 In the Toolpaths Manager, click the **Regenerate all dirty operations** button.

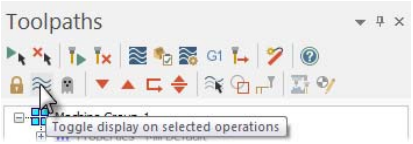
This regenerates the Dynamic Mill toolpath.



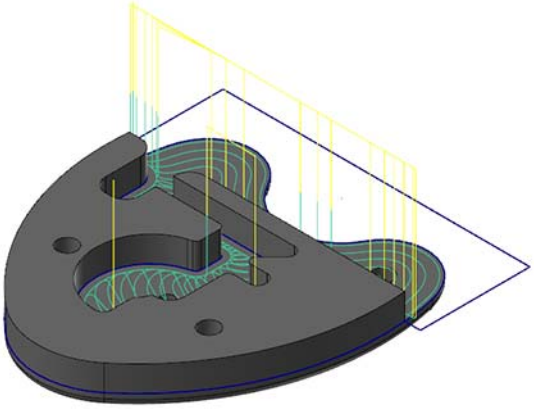
8 Select the 2D Dynamic Mill toolpath.



9 With the toolpath selected, click the **Toggle display on selected operations** button.



10 Notice how the toolpath is now correctly machining the part.



11 Click the **Toggle display on selected operations** button again to hide the toolpath.

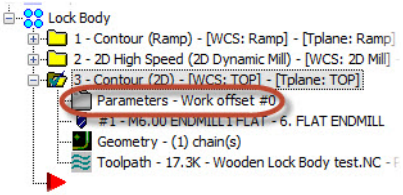
12 Save your file.

Exercise 6: Updating the Contour (2D) Toolpath

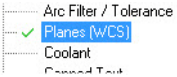
Now you assign the second plane to the Contour (2D) toolpath.

1 In the Toolpaths Manager, select **Parameters** under the Contour (2D) toolpath.

The 2D Toolpaths - Contour dialog box displays.

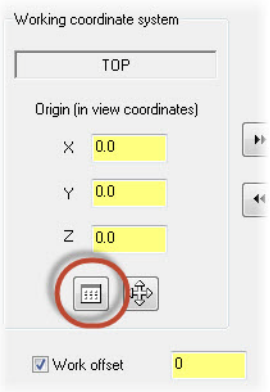


2 Select the **Planes (WCS)** page.

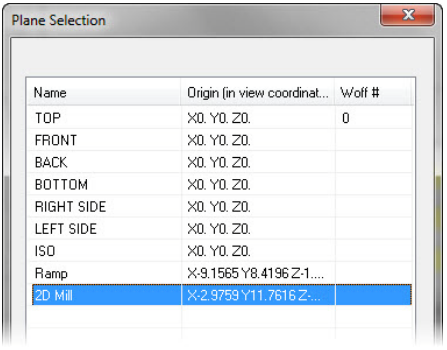


3 Click the **Select WCS plane** button under the Working coordinate system group.

The Plane Selection dialog box displays.



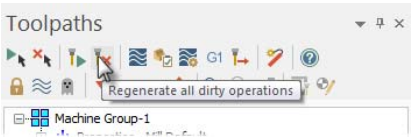
4 Select **2D Mill** from the plane list and click **OK**.



5 Click the **Copy to tool plane** and **Copy to construction plane** buttons.

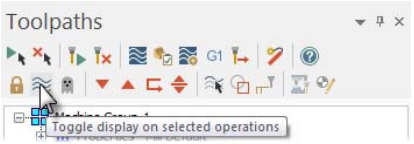
6 Click **OK** to save your changes and exit the 2D Toolpaths - Contour dialog box.

7 In the Toolpaths Manager, click the **Regenerate all dirty operations** button.

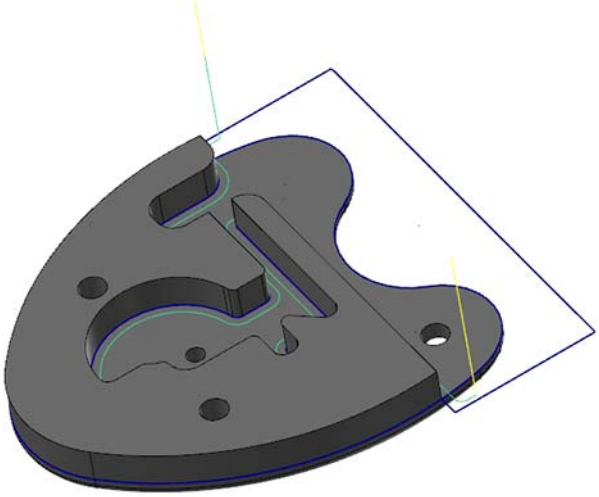


8 Select the Contour (2D) toolpath.

9 With the toolpath selected, click the **Toggle display on selected operations** button.



10 Notice how the toolpath is now correctly machining the part.



11 Click the **Toggle display on selected operations** button again to hide the toolpath.

12 Save your file.

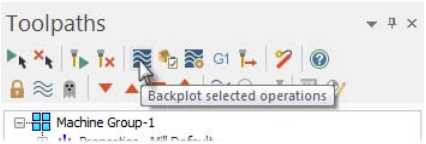
Exercise 7: Backplotting the Toolpaths

In this exercise, you will backplot the toolpaths to see the tool motion.

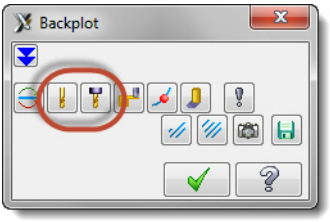
1 Select the **Lock Body** toolpath group in the Toolpaths Manager to select all of the toolpaths.

2 Click **Backplot selected operations** in the Toolpaths Manager.

The Backplot dialog box displays.

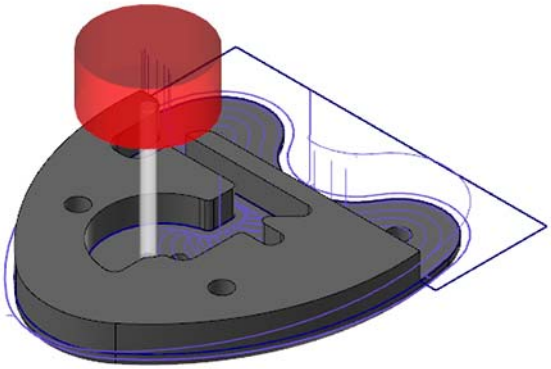


3 Select **Display tool** and **Display holder**, if necessary.



4 Click **Play** to see the tool machine the toolpath.

The tool axis does not rotate.



5 Click **OK** in the Backplot dialog box when you have finished reviewing the tool motion.

6 Save your file.

Conclusion

Congratulations! You have completed the *Introduction to the Work Coordinate System (WCS)* tutorial. Now that you have mastered the skills in this tutorial, explore Mastercam's other features and functions.

You may be interested in other tutorials that we offer. The Mastercam tutorial series is in continual development, and we will add modules as we complete them. For information and availability, please visit our website.

Mastercam Resources

Enhance your Mastercam experience by using the following resources:

- *Mastercam Help*—Access Mastercam Help by selecting **Help, Contents** from Mastercam's menu bar or by pressing [**Alt+H**] on your keyboard.Also, most dialog boxes and ribbon bars feature a Help button that opens Mastercam Help directly to related information.
- *Mastercam Reseller*—Your local Mastercam Reseller can help with most questions about Mastercam.

- *Technical Support*—CNC Software's Technical Support department (860-875-5006 or support@mastercam.com) is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. USA Eastern Standard Time.
- *Mastercam University*—CNC Software sponsors Mastercam University, an affordable online learning platform that gives you 24/7 access to Mastercam training materials. Take advantage of more than 180 videos to master your skills at your own pace and help prepare yourself for Mastercam Certification. For more information on Mastercam University, please contact your Authorized Mastercam Reseller, visit www.mastercamu.com, or email training@mastercam.com.
- *Online communities*— You can find a wealth of information, including many videos, at www.mastercam.com.

  For tech tips and the latest Mastercam news, you can join us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/mastercam), follow us on Twitter (www.twitter.com/mastercam), and subscribe to our blog, *Mastercam Xtras* (http://blog.mastercam.com). Visit our YouTube channel to see Mastercam in action (www.youtube.com/user/MastercamCadCam)!

  Registered users can search for information or ask questions on the Mastercam Web forum, forum.mastercam.com, or use the knowledge base at kb.mastercam.com. To register, select **Help**, **Link on Mastercam.com** from the Mastercam menu and follow the instructions.

Mastercam Documentation

Mastercam installs the following documents in the `\Documentation` folder of your Mastercam installation:

- *What's New in Mastercam X8*
- *Mastercam X8 Installation Guide*
- *Mastercam X8 Administrator Guide*
- *Mastercam X8 Transition Guide*
- *Mastercam X8 Quick Reference Card*
- *Mastercam X8 Post Debugger User's Guide*
- *Getting Started with Renishaw Productivity+™*
- *Mastercam X8 ReadMe*

Contact Us

For questions about this or other Mastercam documentation, contact the Technical Documentation department by email at techdocs@mastercam.com.

Attention! Updates may be available.
Go to Mastercam.com/Support for the latest downloads.

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