

I am a BobCAD-CAM dealer. I enjoy using the software, I think it is a great value for the price and yet I have been on Internet sites where people just roasted the software. They hated it, thought it was useless, cumbersome, and a rip-off at \$.50.

After being a little upset and hurt, I had to ask myself, How is it that I use it and like it, know many others that love it, have customers that haven't made up their mind yet, like it or love it, yet there are those that absolutely hate it.

The answer occurred to while I was helping a friend with his CNC router. He is actually the person who first got me interested in BobCAD. As we worked to get his router up and running, I learned many lessons regarding BobCAD, including:

- The more familiar a person is with Anvil, AutoCAD, Unigraphics, MasterCAM, SmartCAM, DP Esprit, NCL etc., the less likely it is they will be comfortable with BobCAD. BobCAD is different.

BobCAD is not those other programs, it is not intended to be and it never will be.

- The manuals provided with BobCAD do a fair job of pointing out features in the software but do nothing with respect to teaching the user practical lessons about how to think and organize their work to simplify programming tasks.

## Why This Book?

- The people who use and like BobCAD seem more focused on getting useable G code than on the CAD interface.
- People need logical, practical instruction emphasizing methods and organization more than how to use every feature.

Once a person knows enough about system, figuring out how to use other features is easier, and, they can figure them out as they need them.

- It makes no sense to try to remember a bunch of impressive features you are not yet ready to use.

I started NC programming with pencil and paper and typing G code into a Freiden Flexowriter to punch tape for NC machines. From there I evolved to CNC machines where I could use pencil and paper and enter the code directly into the machine through the control panel.

Eventually, I worked extensively with NICAM III, NICAM IV, Unigraphics, Applicon Bravo, SmartCAM, NCL, DP Esprit X, DP Esprit 2000, and now BobCAD. I can tell you this, all of these systems are fine systems. Some are far more powerful than others. All of them are very good at some things and not good at others. All of them have bugs. And so on.

All systems are different. You can be an expert in NCL and get totally lost in

SmartCAM. The same is true of BobCAD. Since it is not those other programs, it has its own unique features, methods, quirks and bugs.

If you are familiar with other systems, you may find yourself asking, Why does BobCAD do it this way? Why isn't BobCAD like X? Even if I could answer these questions for you, what good would it do?

BobCAD is BobCAD and if you want to be productive and enjoy using it, ask yourself more productive questions instead. Try these:

“How can I adapt my methods to use BobCAD efficiently?”

“What if the way BobCAD does things is actually easier?”

“How much easier would this be to learn BobCAD if I had never used X?”

“What is my goal here? Is it to wish BobCAD is different or to get something done that I can feel good about?”

You bought or are you considering buying BobCAD-CAM for a reason. My guess it is because you have something specific in mind. Perhaps you have an NC machine that needs to be programmed. No doubt you have a part or type of part in mind that you want to make for fun or profit.

The goal of this book is to help you be productive with BobCAD. . .quickly.

Remember, this is a beginners book. It will not, nor is it intended to make you an expert. It will give you the fundamental concepts, upon which you can build,

to develop whatever level of BobCAD-CAM expertise you want.

It all starts with the fundamentals. As I mentioned before, it does not matter how many features are in BobCAD-CAM. If you don't know the basics, all the really cool features will be useless. With out the fundamentals, the road to success can be one of frustration, trial-and-error.

This book is designed to give you a series of lessons and exercises, that when you complete them, will greatly improve your success and satisfaction with BobCAD-CAM.

This is important for me. I am a dealer who is dedicated to customer satisfaction. I want you to be satisfied with BobCAD-CAM for a couple of reasons.

First, I want satisfied customers. I like going to sleep an night knowing my product or service helped someone achieve their goals.

Second, BobCAD-CAM with a low retail price, has similar features found in software costing 10 times more. This is can be a great competitive edge for shops that otherwise could not afford the expensive programs.

I honestly believe BobCAD can assist shops in making high quality parts, with minimum expense effort. It is not right for every one, but for those that are a good match, BobCAD is very powerful and affordable.

### **SAFETY FIRST**

Programming machine tools is serious business. With even a simple mistake, people can get injured or killed. Expensive material, machinery and tooling can be damaged beyond repair.

As the programmer, you are responsible for the safety of the operator and equipment.

Check your work carefully! Do not assume that, because a computer program created the machine code, it is always correct. The computer only tells the machine to do what the programmer told the computer to do in the first place. If you make a mistake and put a rapid point 5 inches below the table, the computer is more than happy to comply with your demands.

Equally important is proper documentation. Make sure the operator has enough information to insert the right tools in the right place at the correct time. The operator also needs to know where program origins are so he can safely set up the part.