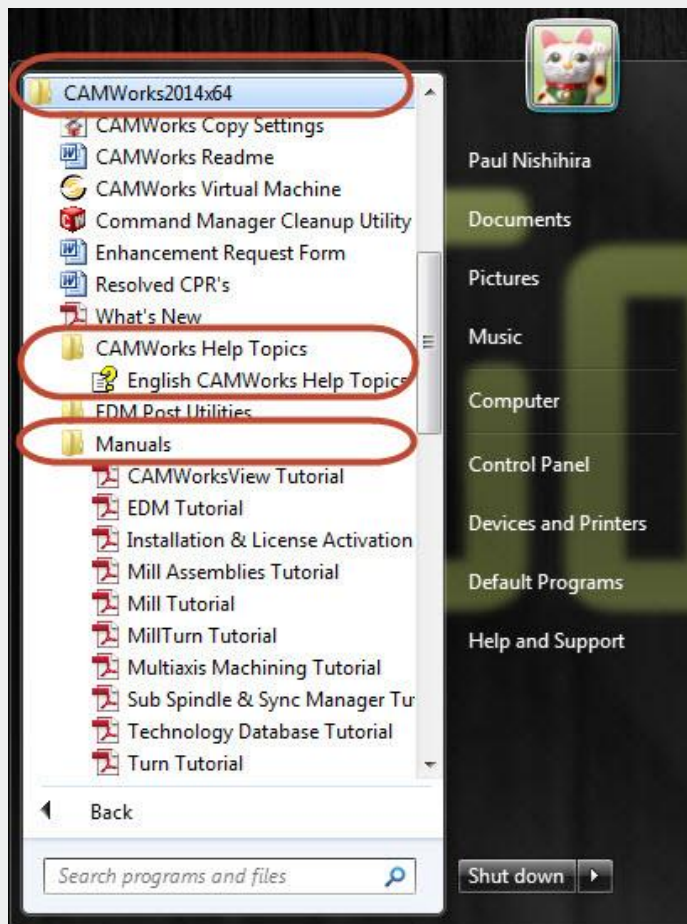


Getting Started with CAMWorks

Now that you have CAMWorks installed on your computer, it is now time to “dive in” and experience what CAMWorks is about. There are two ways to approach this task; 1) Jump right into CAMWorks, start picking and clicking to see what icon “potentially” does what. Or, 2) Leverage all available CAMWorks Help Topics and CAMWorks Manuals (Tutorials) at the click of a mouse button from the Windows Start Menu.

One of the keys to any successful project is to have access to all related information before starting the project. Or, at least know where to look. Why is this important, you ask? Minimizing guess work, saving time and/or saving money by doing the job correctly the first time are just few examples worth mentioning.

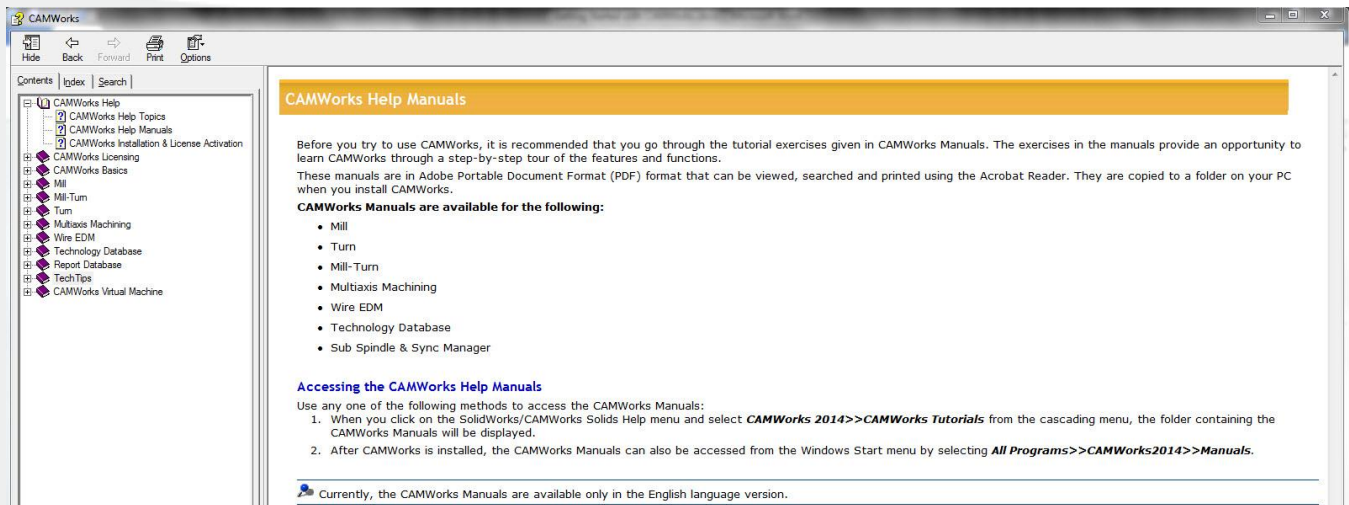


Windows Start Menu (It all begins here...)

We have several folders where we are able to leverage information for getting started in CAMWorks. As previously mentioned, we will focus on the following topics (as located in the CAMWorks2014x64 main folder): CAMWorks Help Topics and Manuals (Tutorials).

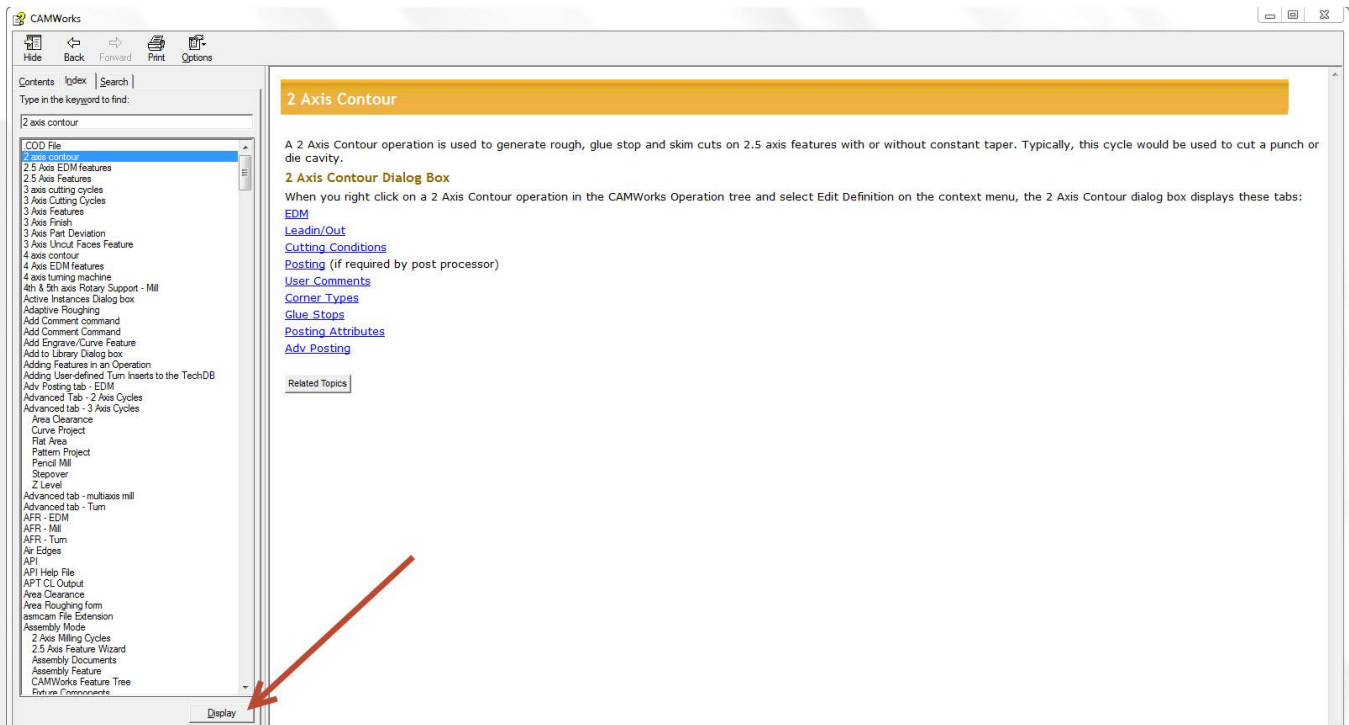
CAMWorks Help Topics

English CAMWorks Help Topics



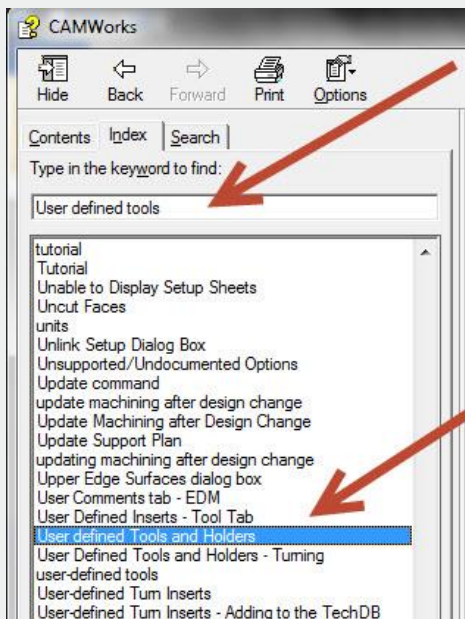
CAMWorks Help Topics - Contents

Intuitively broken down into top-level subjects, the Contents Tab lists everything from basic CAMWorks Help to advance subjects addressing Multiaxis Machining. There is even a Tech Tips dialog, which advises you of best practices to efficiently get you up and running with CAMWorks. For those of you who like to print and physically write topic-related notes on your hard copies, it is just a matter of selecting the Print icon up near the top.



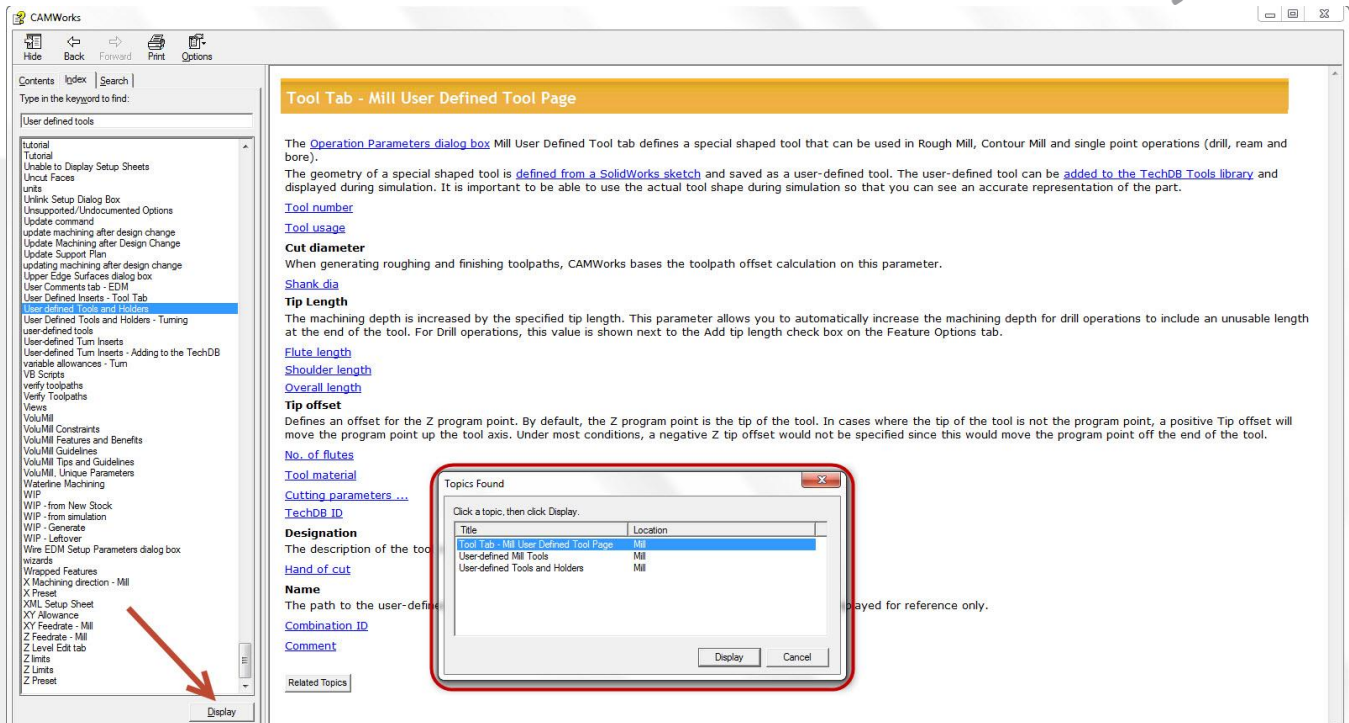
CAMWorks Help Topics - Index

Sorted numerically and alphabetically into detailed, yet easy to understand definitions, the Index Tab expands further on leveraging “how-to” information inside CAMWorks.



CAMWorks Help Topics – Index (Find field)

A great time savings function inside the Index Tab is utilizing the Find Field. For example, let’s type in “User defined tools”.



The [Operation Parameters dialog box](#) Mill User Defined Tool tab defines a special shaped tool that can be used in Rough Mill, Contour Mill and single point operations (drill, ream and bore).

The geometry of a special shaped tool is [defined from a SolidWorks sketch](#) and saved as a user-defined tool. The user-defined tool can be [added to the TechDB Tools library](#) and displayed during simulation. It is important to be able to use the actual tool shape during simulation so that you can see an accurate representation of the part.

[Tool number](#)

[Tool usage](#)

Cut diameter

When generating roughing and finishing toolpaths, CAMWorks bases the toolpath offset calculation on this parameter.

[Shank dia](#)

Tip Length

The machining depth is increased by the specified tip length. This parameter allows you to automatically increase the machining depth for drill operations to include an unusable length at the end of the tool. For Drill operations, this value is shown next to the Add tip length check box on the Feature Options tab.

[Flute length](#)

[Shoulder length](#)

[Overall length](#)

Tip offset

Defines an offset for the Z program point. By default, the Z program point is the tip of the tool. In cases where the tip of the tool is not the program point, a positive Tip offset will move the program point up the tool axis. Under most conditions, a negative Z tip offset would not be specified since this would move the program point off the end of the tool.

[No. of flutes](#)

[Tool material](#)

[Cutting parameters...](#)

[TechDB ID](#)

Designation

The description of the tool.

[Hand of cut](#)

Name

The path to the user-defined tool.

[Combination ID](#)

[Comment](#)

[Related Topics](#)

Topics Found

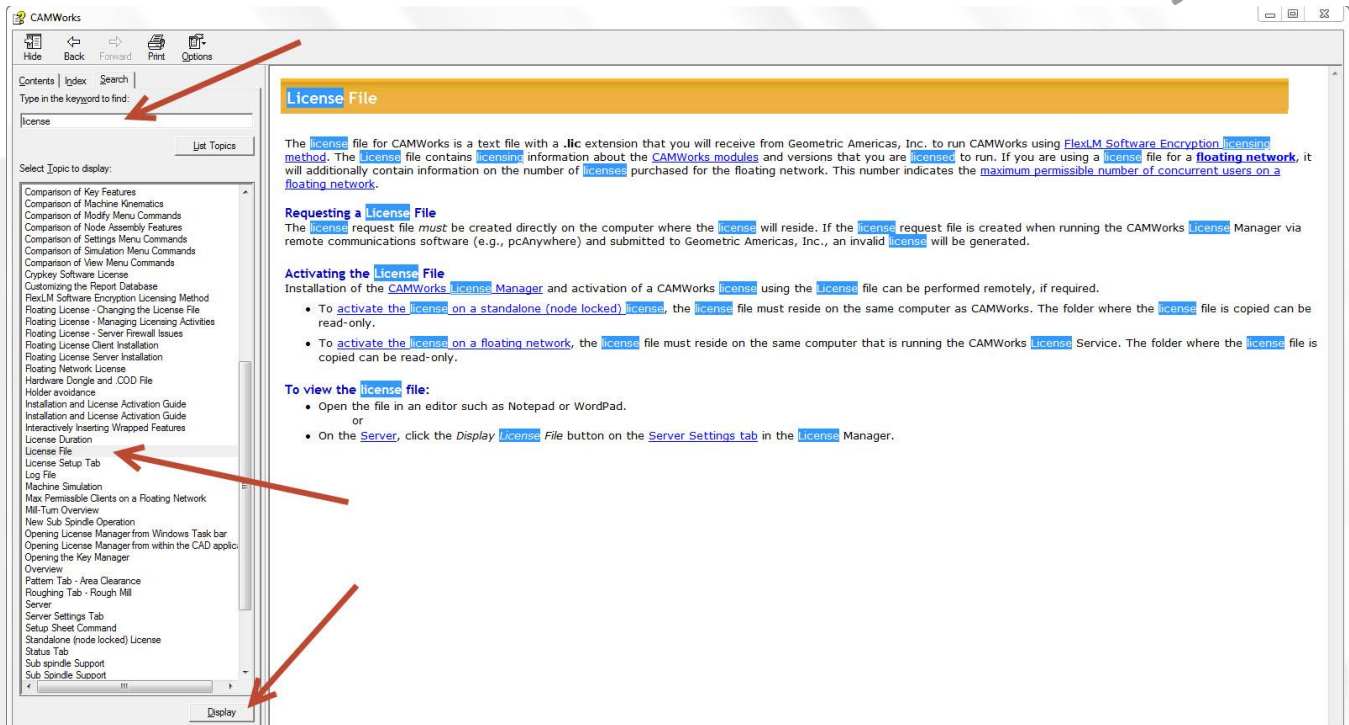
Click a topic, then click Display.

Title	Location
Tool Tab Mill User Defined Tool Page	Mill
User-defined Mill Tools	Mill
User-defined Tools and Holders	Mill

Display Cancel

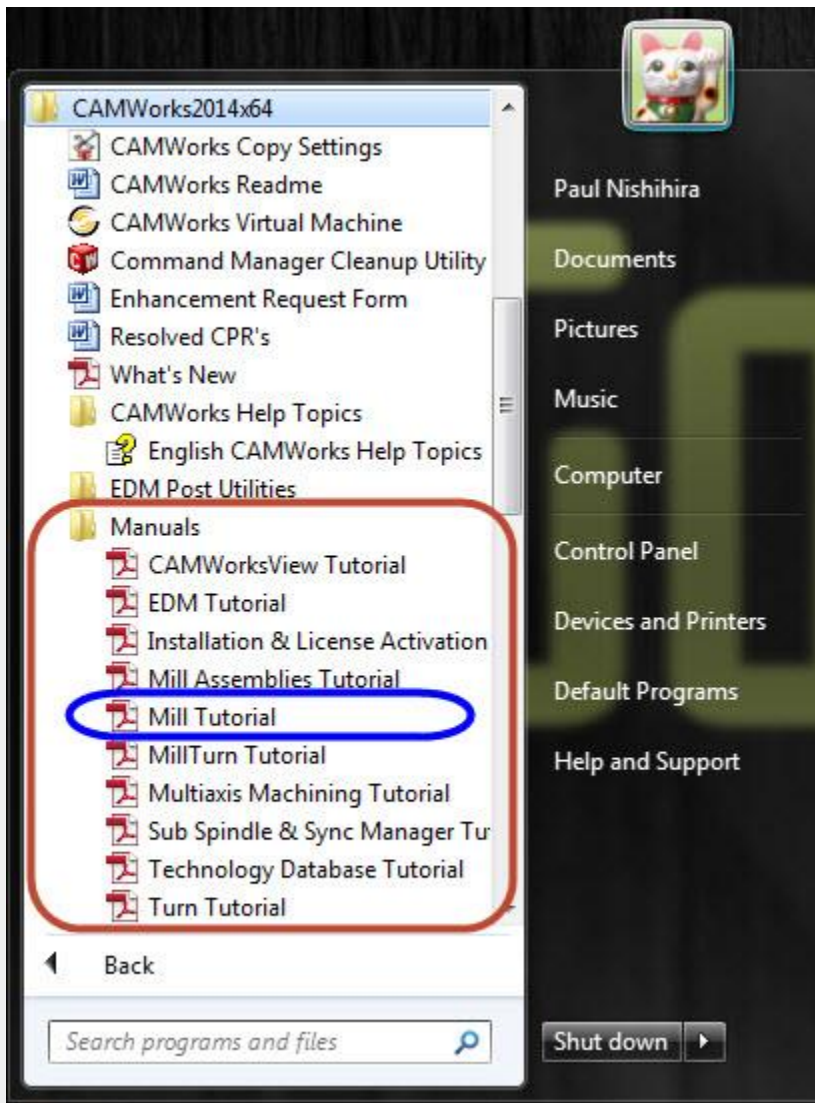
CAMWorks Help Topics – Index (Find field continued)

Not only do we have suggested subjects automatically propagate on the left side of our menu, if you select the “Display” button at the bottom of the screen, CAMWorks will automatically open up a “Topics Found” window which will give you the option to view your topic in detail. It’s as if having a “search within a search” function inside CAMWorks!



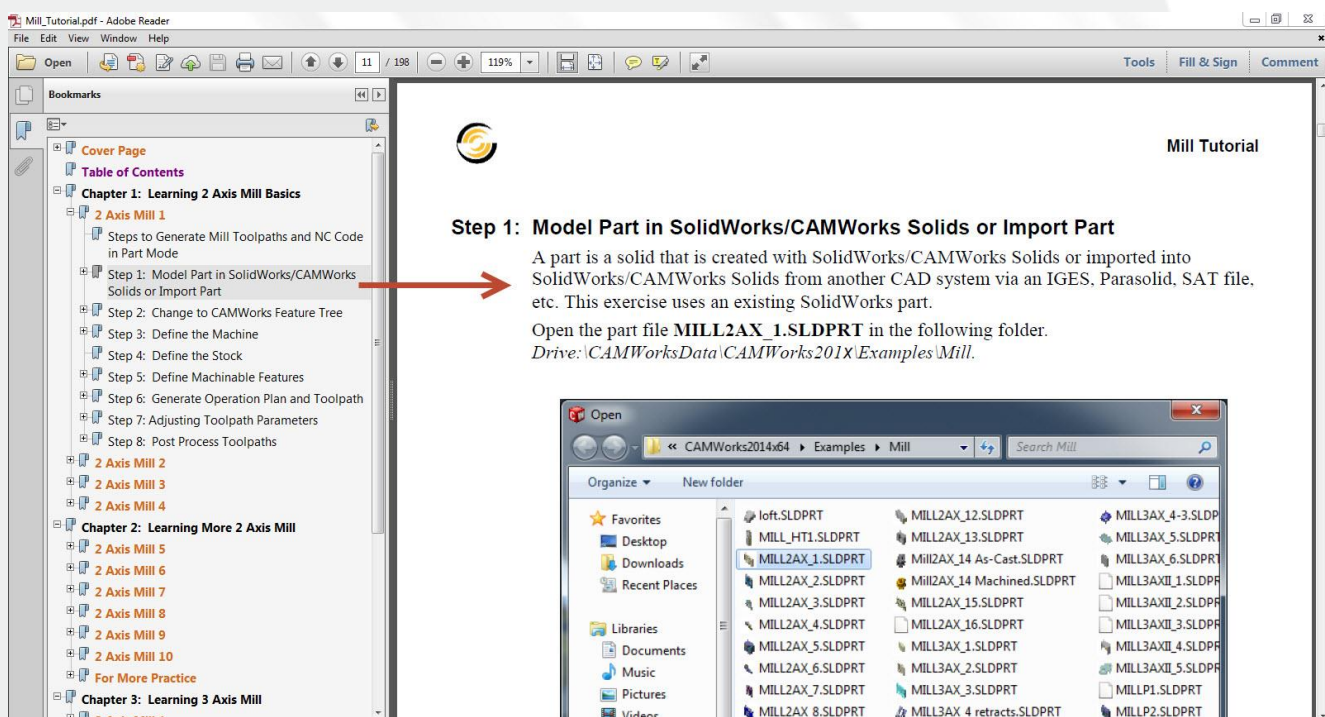
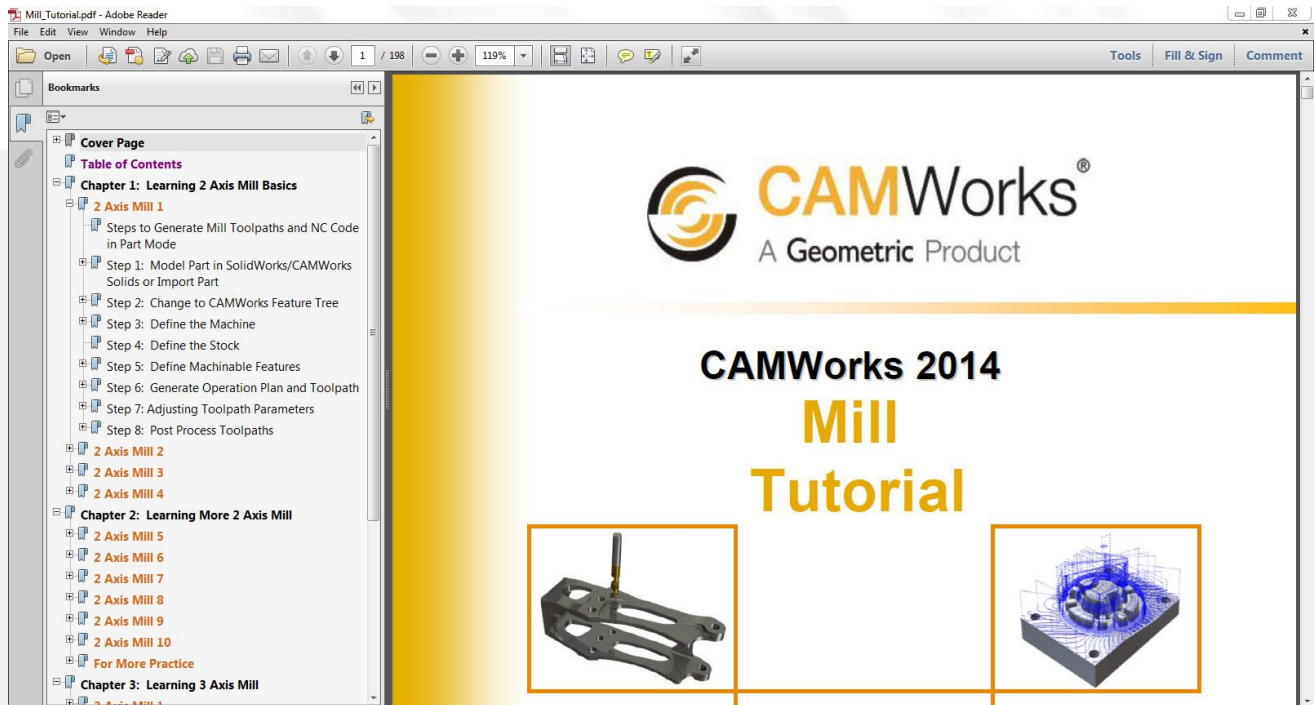
CAMWorks Help Topics – Search

Similar in operation as we had discussed for the Find Tab, we can leverage searching for topic information inside CAMWorks by using the Search Tab. For example, after typing in “license” in our search field, we then select “License File” over in the left side of our given suggestions. Next, select “Display” at the bottom and we are now able to visually see the highlighted text “license” in our topic of selection “License File”. It’s that easy!



CAMWorks Manuals

Accessible with Adobe Reader, these manuals provide a step-by-step guide on the given subjects shown following in accordance with CAMWorks Best Practices. Let's take a look and see what we have available by selecting "Mill Tutorial".



CAMWorks Tutorials – What’s available to us

Once open, we now have direct information for Mill Tutorial. A really great feature that compliments these tutorials are referenced models, included when installing CAMWorks. Everything that you wanted to know from opening your part model or file to post processing your tool path is thoroughly outlined at the click of your mouse button!



Learn CAMWorks Fast with Online Video Training

Self-paced training courses for CAM professionals



CAMWorks Resources – Wait, there’s more!

In addition to the CAMWorks information available to us on our computer, we also have a wealth of online information available to us as well. A great example is available from Solid Professor.

Additional information can be found at: <http://www.solidprofessor.com/training-plans/camworks/>

