

Question/Issue

What is a machine definition?

Answer/Solution

A machine definition is a collection of settings that lets you model your machine, its components and peripherals, and its control—for example, a 5-axis machining center with a Heidenhein control; a lathe with two spindles and four turrets, and a Fanuc control; or a 3-axis HMC with a Fadal control. Mastercam customizes its interface based on your CNC machine. This means that Mastercam is aware of what the machine can and cannot do. Because of this, you are much less likely to enter incorrect information when programming in Mastercam, resulting in correct G-code output. Mastercam also uses the machine definition to determine which Mastercam product is running. For example, when you select a lathe machine from the Machine type menu, Mastercam automatically starts Mastercam Lathe. When you select a mill, you see Mastercam Mill functions and toolpaths.