

Getting Started
With
PartWorks 3D



Tutorial 2
2 Sided Machining

Vectric PartWorks3D

Disclaimer

All CNC machines (routing, engraving, and milling) are potentially dangerous and because ShopBot Tools Inc has no control over how the software described in this manual might be used. ShopBot Tools Inc or any associated Resellers cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage to the work piece, machine or any individual, howsoever caused by misusing the software. Extreme care should always be taken and the output from the software thoroughly checked before sending it to a CNC machine.

The information in this manual may be subject to change without any prior notice. The software described in this manual is supplied under the terms and conditions of the software license agreement and may only be used in accordance with the terms of this agreement.

© Vectric Ltd
26 Peterbrook Close
Redditch
B98 7YF
UK

www.vectric.com

E-mail info@vectric.com
Phone +44 (0) 1527 460 459
Fax +44 (0) 1527 460 459

Table of Contents

What is PartWorks3D?	2
What the software allows you to do	3
What file formats can be used?	3
Getting Help.....	3
Watch the supporting tutorial videos.....	4
Overview of the interface	4
The PartWorks3D Logic.....	6
View Controls.....	7
Tutorial 1 2 Sided 3D Machining	7
Introduction	7
1. Opening the 3D Model.....	9
2. Material Size and Margins	11
3. Roughing Toolpath	13
4. Finishing Toolpath	15
5. Cut Out Toolpath	17
6. Preview Toolpaths	18
7. Save Toolpaths.....	20
8. Tool Database	21

Introduction

Many businesses use their CNC machine for simply cutting out flat letters and shapes from plastic sheet, or engraving standard badges and nameplates, which are all based on simple 2D machining strategies. Vectric PartWorks3D adds another dimension to your CNC machine, allowing it to be used for more interesting and often higher profitable projects that would normally only be possible using expensive CAD/CAM software.

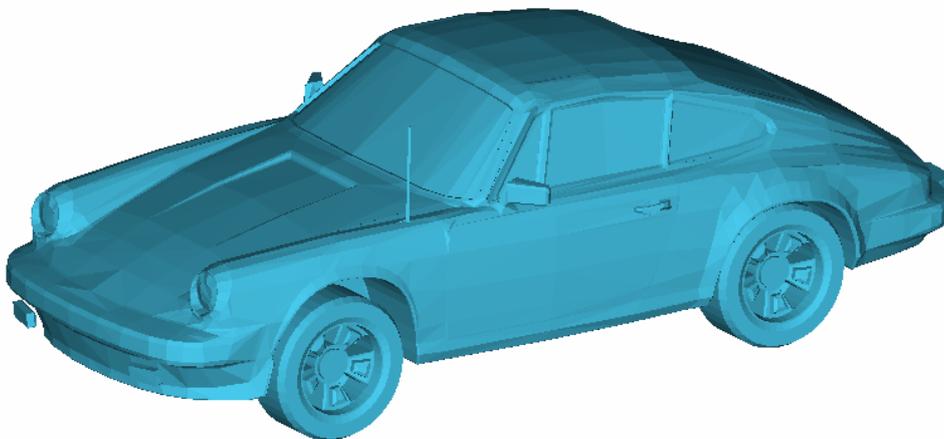
The manual takes you step-by-step through an illustrated tutorial that shows and explains exactly how to use the Software. Tips and tricks have also been included that will help you get the most from your CNC machine.

We hope you enjoy using the software.

What is PartWorks3D?

PartWorks3D has been developed specifically as a toolpath engine for machining 3D models that have previously been designed using another CAD or Graphics design product such as AutoCAD, Rhino3D etc.

The software calculates toolpaths that contain XYZ point data to move a cutter simultaneously in all 3 axes to cut the shape of a 3D model into the material being used.



Typical 3D Model designed using 3D Studio

What the software allows you to do

PartWorks3D can be used for the following applications,

Model making	3D models from foam, plastic, wood etc.
Rapid Prototyping	New product designs / Contract work
Sign making	Adding dimensional elements to signs
Wood Carving	Custom fireplaces, door panels
Engraving	Commemorative Brass plaques
Gifts	Personalised gifts
Stone cutting	Memorials, Commemorative engravings

What file formats can be used?

PartWorks3D will open 3D model files that have been saved in the following formats.

V3D	PartWorks3D and Vectric Cut3D files
STL	STL Mesh files - binary & ascii
V3M	Vector Art 3D files
3DS	3D Studio - binary & ascii
X	DirectX
DXF	AutoCAD 3D DXF
LWO	LightWave
TXT	MaxNC Digital Probe
SBP	ShopBot Digital Probe files
WRL	VRML
OBJ	Wavefront

Notes Although the design systems that are used to write the file formats all claim they output standard file formats, there are often many variations of each type. As a result Vectric cannot guarantee to read all of the file formats. There are many different file translation software products available from the internet that offers the tools needed to modify and convert 3D models into formats that are suitable for use with PartWorks3D.

For general file conversion and editing we recommend a product called **AccuTrans 3D** from **Micromouse Productions**. www.micromouse.ca

Getting Help

If you need assistance when using the software there are 5 primary places to look.

1. **Program Help File** - From the Main menu select Help or Press F1
2. **Video Tutorials** - These can be downloaded from the Vectric website.
3. **User Forum** - The Vectric user forum at www.vec tric.com/forum is a very useful resource for information on all Vectric products along with materials, cutters etc. and also to share knowledge and experiences.
4. **E-mail Support:** - The PartWorks 3D Support Team at support@shopbottools.com

5. **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)** - The support area on the Vectric web site at www.vectric.com maintains a list of the most frequently asked questions along with the answers.

Watch the supporting tutorial videos



The video camera icon indicates there is a video file for that particular section of the manual.

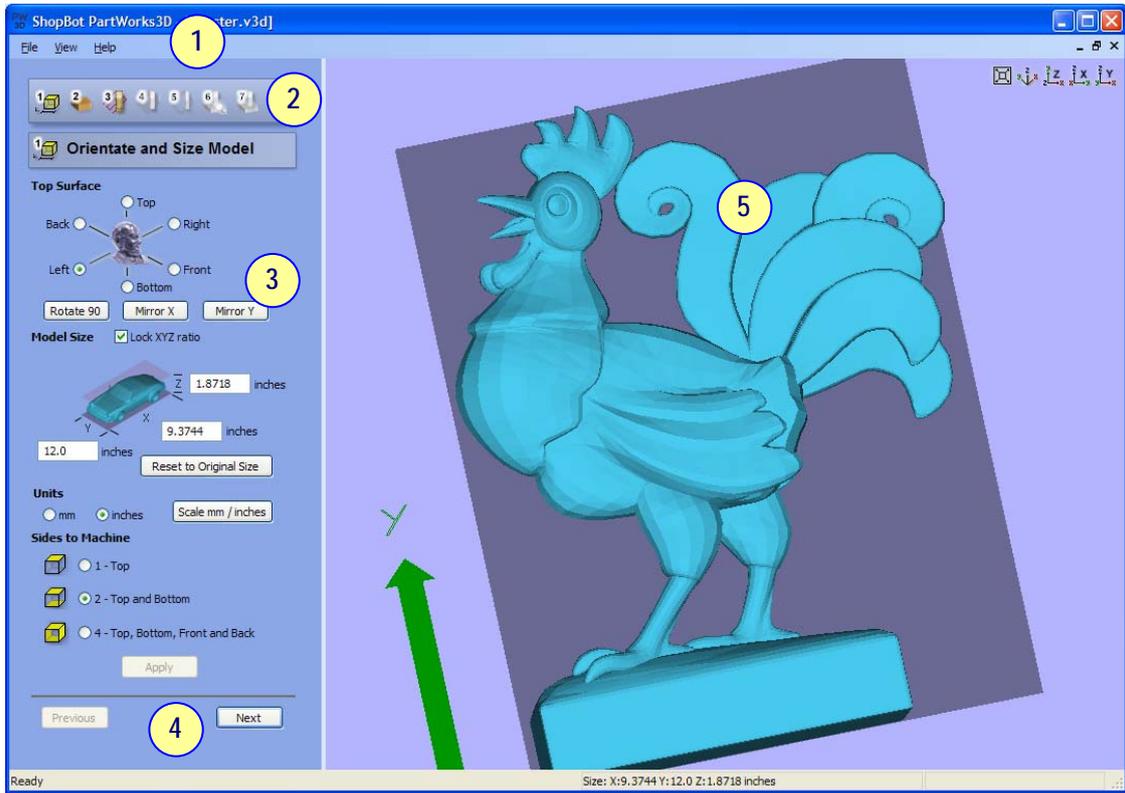
Many of the tutorial documents have associated video footage that will make learning to use this software more interesting and enjoyable. These can be downloaded from the web site.

If you experience problems running these files or need assistance please visit the technical support area on the web site and follow the links.

Overview of the interface

The screen area is split into 5 main regions.

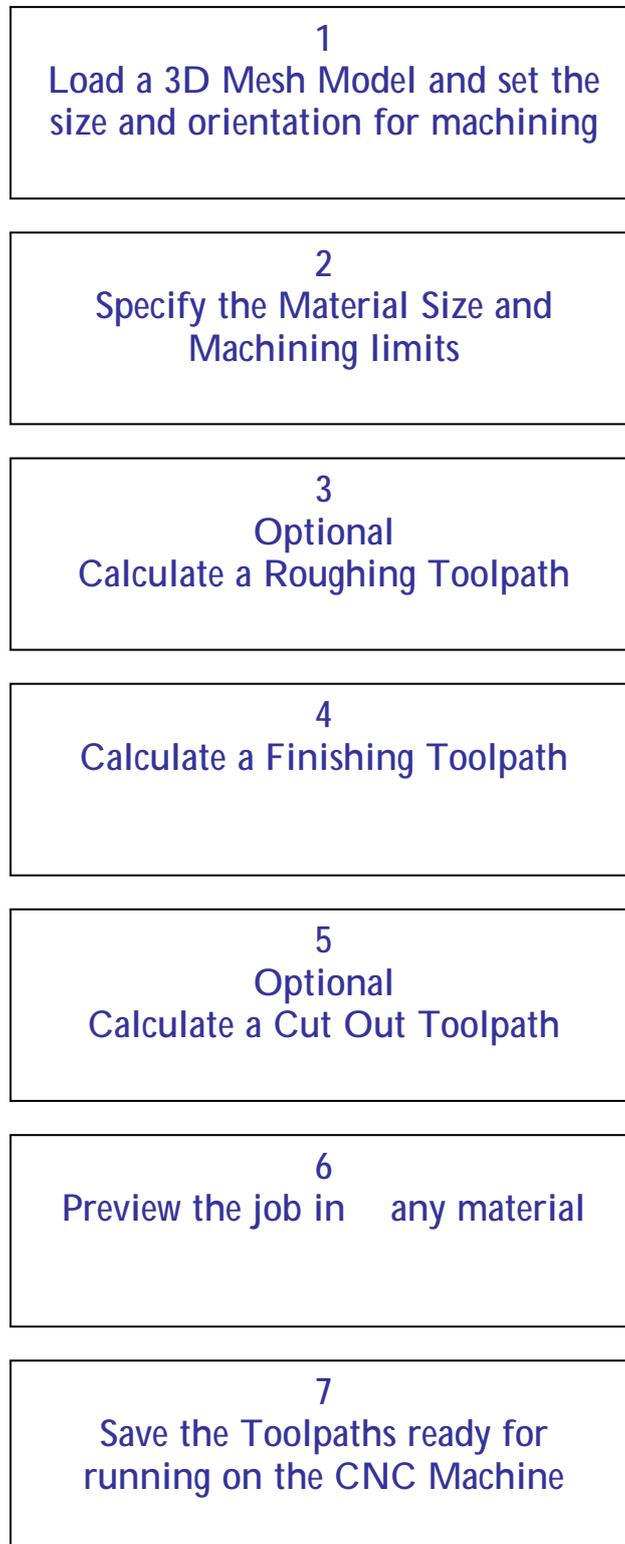
1. The **Main Menu bar** along the top of the screen provides access to the primary functionality such as File Open / Save plus the Help and License options.
2. The **Navigation Toolbar** gives easy access to each of the steps when working.
3. The **Step-by-Step Forms** on the left side of the screen lead you through each of the steps.
4. The **Navigation Buttons** are used to step forward or backwards through each of the steps.
5. The **3D Window** shows the 3D model, calculated toolpaths and the colour shaded machined preview of the model. In the top right corner of the 3D window is the **3D View Menu** for selecting pre-set views of the 3D model.



The User Interface

The PartWorks3D Logic

PartWorks3D has been developed to make machining 3D models as simple as possible. The general work flow logic to apply to most jobs is explained in the diagram below.



View Controls

The View Control options available when working in the 3D Windows are,

	3D Twiddle	Click and drag Left mouse button in the 3D window
	Zoom	Right mouse button – Push / Pull Mouse with Middle Wheel – Push / Pull
	Pan	Click and drag Right mouse button + Ctrl Click and drag Right and Left mouse button
	Plan View	Looks directly down the Z axis onto the design in 3D window
	Isometric View	Shows the model in a 3D isometric view in the 3D window

 Mouse with Middle Wheel can be used to interactively zoom in / out.

Tutorial 1

2 Sided 3D Machining



We recommend that you watch the **5 minute Video** for this Tutorial before proceeding. The video can be found on the installation CD or downloaded from the web site at www.vectric.com

We estimate that this tutorial should take you approximately **10 minutes** to complete.

Introduction

This tutorial will show you how to 3D Machine a 3D Rooster into a piece of material that's approximately 11" x 13" x 2" thick using a 1/4" diameter End for roughing and 1/4" Ball nose cutter for finish machining.

Note The 3D model can also be scaled to suit whatever material and cutter sizes you have available.

This 3D model has be designed using 3D Graphics packages such as Rhino, 3D Studio, Silo, Strata, ZForm etc. and then saving the design as a Mesh format that can be opened in the software.

'**The Rooster**' has been designed by Dale 'Dasch' Shultz and more information about his work can be found on the Vectric Forum.



The finished 3D Rooster in a Picture Frame and machined on 2 sides

The key steps in calculating the toolpaths for this sample are,

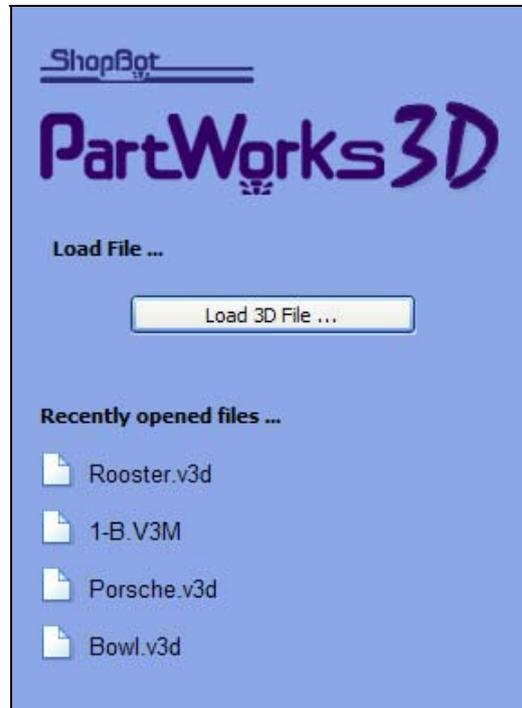
1. Open the 3D Model and set the Size
2. Specify the Material dimensions and cutting depths
3. Calculate the Roughing toolpath - Optional
4. Calculate the Finishing toolpath
5. Calculate the Cut Out toolpath - Optional
6. Preview the completed job and Estimate the machining time
7. Save the Toolpaths ready for cutting

The file required for this tutorial are installed on your PC in the folder,

C:\Program Files\ShopBot\PartWorks3D\Samples\Rooster.v3d

1. Opening the 3D Model

1. On the front page click on the Load 3D File  button.
2. Navigate to the folder - C:\Program Files\ShopBot\PartWorks3D\Samples
3. Select the file named – Rooster.v3d and click the Open button



The 3D model will be drawn in the 3D view as shown below.

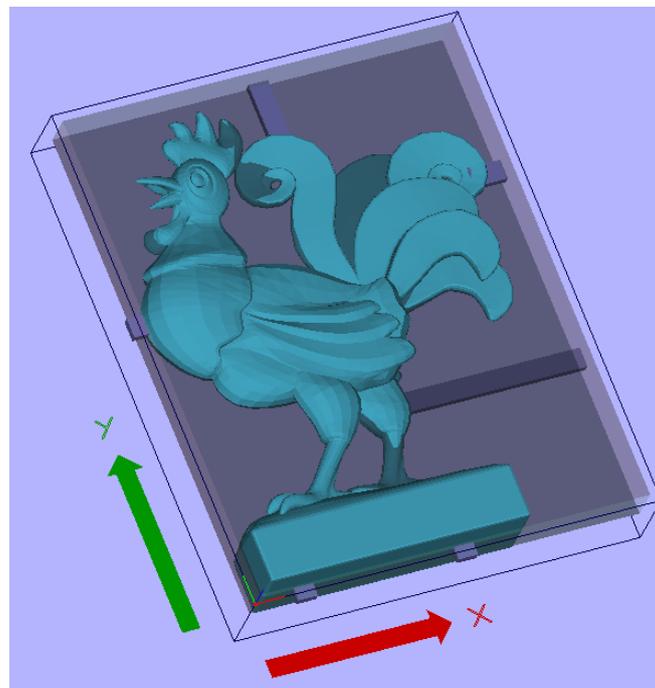


Figure 2 Original 3D Model



Note: Tabs have been added to this model and these can be edited / deleted inside PartWorks3D at Step 2

The arrows showing the X and Y axes that relate to the coordinates on the CNC machine. The model is automatically positioned looking directly down the Z axis onto the XY plane.

- Specify the required orientation and size for the model to be machined.

Click **Apply Button** to set the model size and select the Single Sided Machining option

- Click the **Next** button to go to **Step 2 - Material Size and Margins**

Notes The Model size should be set to fit inside the material you have available.

The Model can be scaled / squashed to fit into a specific material Thickness by,

- Set the X Length and Y Height for the model
- Uncheck the **Lock XYZ ratio** option
- Enter the required Z thickness to fit the material

Clicking the **Reset to Original Size** button will return the model back to the original size.

2. Material Size and Margins

Step 2 is where the actual material size and cutting depths are specified. For single sided machining the material dimensions are not critical, but for multiple (2 and 4) sided machining the material must first be machined to an exact size and thickness.

6. Enter the size for the material you are going to machine the design into.
7. Set the X0 Y0 to be the bottom left corner of the material block.
8. Complete the rest of the form as shown below.

The screenshot shows the 'Material Size and Margins' dialog box with the following settings and callouts:

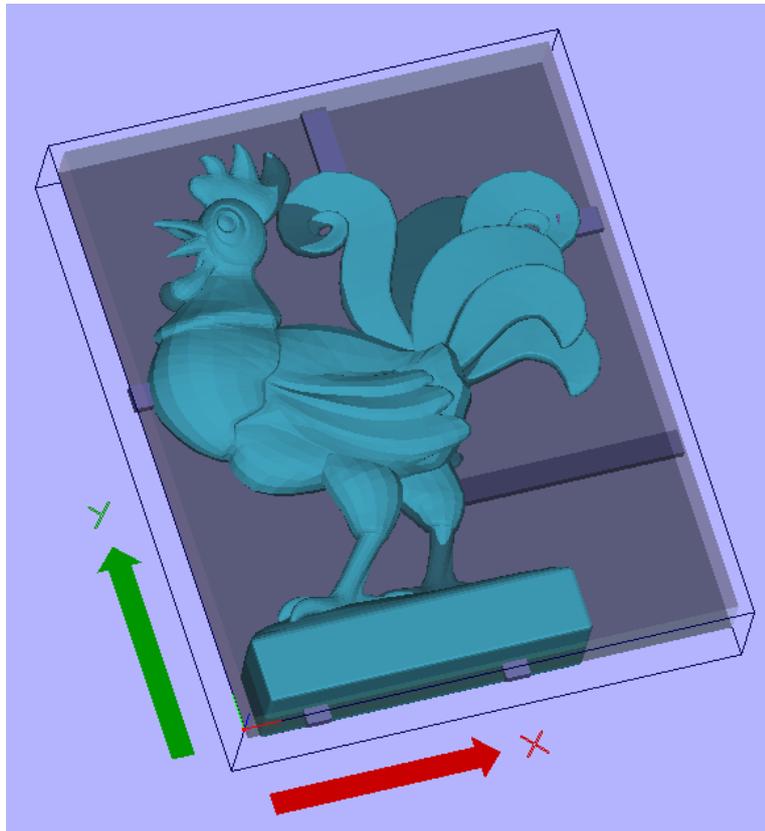
- Material Size:** Length (X): 10.5, Width (Y): 13.0, Thickness (Z): 2.0. Callout: Specify the Material size and XY Origin Position Z Zero Position.
- XY Origin Position:** X: 0.0, Y: 0.0.
- Machining Margins around Model:** A 3D model of a car is shown with a blue silhouette boundary. Callout: Select the Machining boundary around the 3D Model.
- Cut Plane Position in Model:** A vertical slider is set to 0.9359. Callout: Click Centre to place the Cut Plane in the middle of the 3D model.
- Overcut distance below Cut Plane:** A value of 0.2 is entered. Callout: Set the Overcut distance to be 0.2".
- Buttons:** 'Fit to Material', 'Edit Tabs ...', 'Apply', 'Previous', 'Slice Model ...', 'Next'. Callout: Edit the Tabs if needed.

Notes: Click the **Apply** button to update the design settings in the 3D Window

8. Position the **Cut Plane Position** using the vertical slider or click Centre in model.
9. Click the **Apply** button to accept the settings on the form
10. Click the **Next** button to proceed to **Step 3 - Roughing Toolpath**



In this example the Tabs have already been added to the design. They can very easily be edited to make them wider or thicker / thinner, deleted or add new tabs.



The Black Wireframe represents the Material Block

3. Roughing Toolpath

A Roughing Toolpath is optional and will only be needed when machining hard materials and the finishing cutter cannot be used to cut to full depth in a single pass.

11. Click the option to calculate a Roughing Toolpath



12. Click the **Select...** button and select a suitable cutter for Rough machining the design.

13. Complete the Roughing form as shown below,

The screenshot shows the 'Roughing Toolpath' dialog box with the following settings and callouts:

- Create Roughing Toolpath:** Checked.
- End Mill (0.25 inch):** End Mill (0.25 inches). Callout: Select a 1/4" End Mill cutter from the Tool Database.
- Cutting Parameters:**
 - Pass Depth: 0.2 inches
 - Stepover: 0.1 inches, 40.0 %
- Feeds and Speeds:**
 - Spindle Speed: 12000 r.p.m.
 - Feed Rate: 100.0 inches/min
 - Plunge Rate: 30.0
- Tool Number:** 1. Callout: Edit the cutting parameters to suit the material being machining.
- Toolpath Parameters:**
 - Rapid clearance gap: 0.1 inches
 - Machining Allowance: 0.04 inches. Callout: Remember to leave sufficient material on the job for the Finishing Toolpath.
- Strategy:**
 - Z Level:** Raster X. Callout: Select Z Level Roughing.
 - Profile: Last
 - 3D Raster:** Along X
- Side Displayed:** Top
- Estimated mc time:** 39 minutes
- Buttons:** Calculate, Previous, Next. Callout: Calculate the Roughing Toolpath.

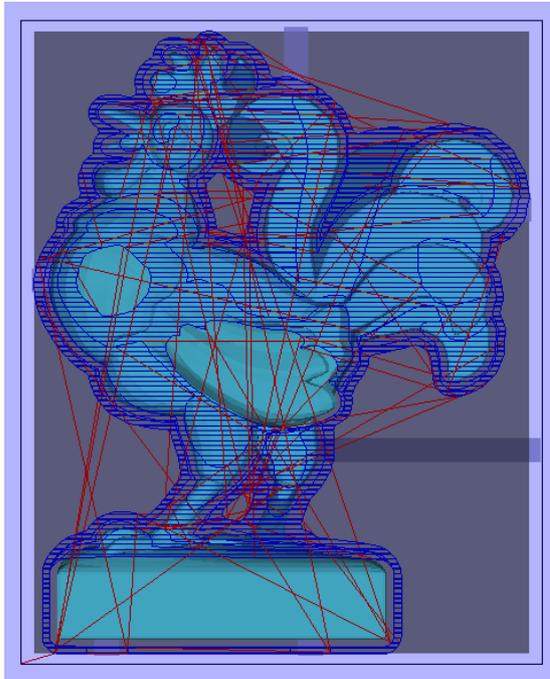
Notes This model could be Rough and Finish machined using the same 1/4" Ball Nose

The Cutting parameters and Spindle Speed / Feed rates shown above are for general guidance only and should be set to suit the material you are cutting. Clicking the **Edit Parameters** button allows the values to be changed. Depending upon what material is being machining, you may wish to run faster or slower and with deeper cuts.

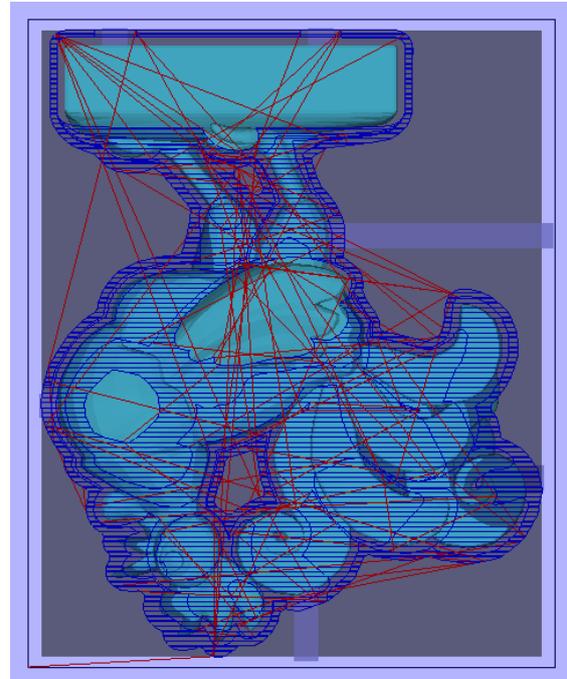
14. Click the **Calculate** button and the progress bar will run along the bottom of the screen to indicate that the toolpath is being calculated.

15. Click the **View Down Z** button in the Top Right corner of the 3D window.





Multiple Z Level Roughing



Bottom view selected



remove

Z Level Roughing will very quickly machine planar passes around the model to the unwanted stock.

Profile passes before or after each roughing pass may not always be necessary, especially when cutting soft materials.

The **Red lines** show where the cutter will retract and move at rapid feed rate.

16. Click the **Next button** to proceed to **Step 4 - Finishing Toolpath**

4. Finishing Toolpath

The Finishing Toolpath machines the model to the required size using a Ball Nose cutter. A Raster toolpath will run over the specified area to be machined, along the X axis, the Y axis or at 45 degrees.

17. Click the **Select...** button and select a suitable cutter for Finish machining the design

18. Complete the Finishing Toolpath form as shown below,

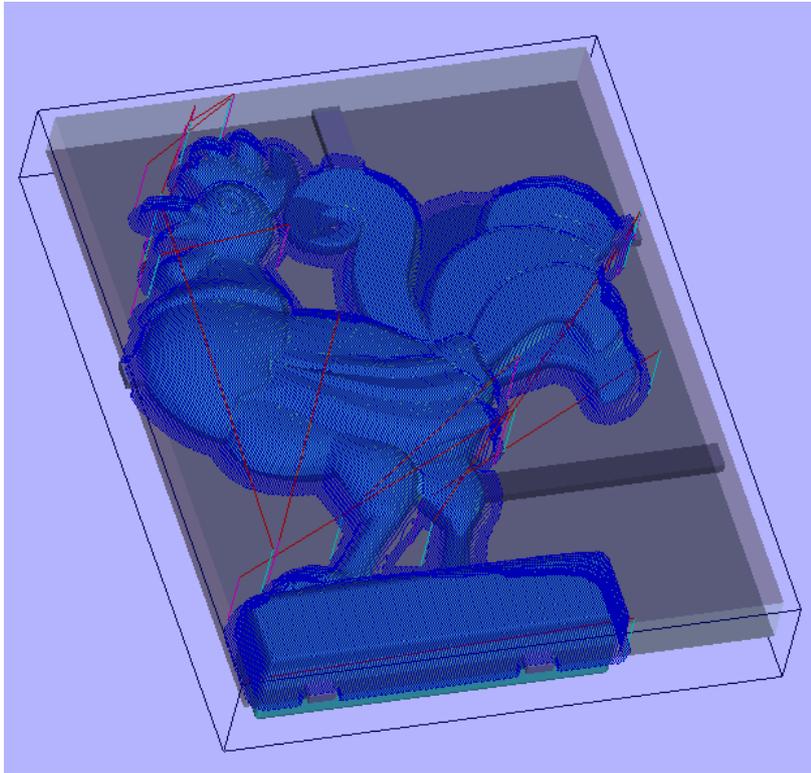
The screenshot shows the 'Finishing Toolpath' dialog box with the following settings and callouts:

- Tool Selection:** A 'Select ...' button is highlighted with a callout: 'Select a 1/4" Ball Nose cutter from the Tool Database'.
- Cutting Parameters:** Stepover is set to 0.0375 inches and 15.0%. A callout points to this section: 'Edit the cutting parameters to suit the material being machining'.
- Feeds and Speeds:** Spindle Speed is 12000 r.p.m., Feed Rate is 100.0 inches/min, and Plunge Rate is 30.0. A callout points to the 'Edit Parameters' button: 'Edit the cutting parameters to suit the material being machining'.
- Toolpath Parameters:** Raster Angle is set to 45 Degrees. A callout points to this dropdown: 'Select the cutting angle for the Finishing Toolpath'. Rapid clearance gap is 0.1 inches. There is a checkbox for 'Create extra pass at 90 degrees to first' which is unchecked.
- Side Display:** 'Top' is selected. Estimated mc time is 37 minutes.
- Buttons:** A 'Calculate' button is highlighted with a callout: 'Calculate the Finishing Toolpath'. 'Previous' and 'Next' buttons are also visible.

Notes

Cutting at 45 degrees will help produce better surface finish on the vertical walls of the base on the particular model.

19. Click the **Calculate** button and the progress bar will run along the bottom of the screen to indicate that the toolpath is being calculated.



Finishing Toolpath machines to the model boundary

20. Click the **Next button** to proceed to **Step 5 - Cut Out Toolpath**

5. Cut Out Toolpath

In this example the Cut Out Toolpath is not required because the design can be cut from the material manually using a small saw to cut through the Tabs.

Notes
the

To machine around the boundary silhouette of a 3D model first select the option on the Material setup form in Step 2.

By default the Cut Out Toolpath will machine to the base of the material - Z0.

To leave a 0.020" skin on the bottom of the job Material to leave = 0.020"

To cut 0.020" through the material Material to leave = -0.020"

21. Click the **Next button** to proceed to **Step 6 - Preview Toolpaths**

6. Preview Toolpaths

After calculating toolpaths the **Preview Machining** form can be used to simulate each of the toolpaths in turn. The material type can also be selected to create realistic screen images.

22. Click the **Roughing Toolpath Preview** button and watch the Preview in the 3D window.

The screenshot shows the 'Preview Machining' control panel. It includes a title bar with a '6' icon and the text 'Preview Machining'. Below the title bar are two checkboxes: 'Animate preview' (checked) and 'Draw tool during preview' (unchecked). A horizontal line separates this from the 'Toolpaths' section, which contains four buttons: 'Roughing Toolpath Preview', 'Finishing Toolpath Preview', 'Cut Out Toolpath Preview', and 'Reset Preview'. Below these are two more buttons: 'Delete Waste Material' and a material type dropdown menu currently set to 'Oak Soft'. Another horizontal line separates this from the 'Estimated Machining Times' section, which lists: 'Roughing Toolpath: 39 minutes', 'Finishing Toolpath: 37 minutes', 'Cut Out Toolpath:', and 'Total Time: 1 Hour 15 minutes'. Below this is the text 'Time estimates based on ...' followed by 'Rapid Rate' (4.0 inches/sec) and 'Scale Factor' (1.3). A horizontal line separates this from the 'Side Displayed ...' section, which has four radio buttons: 'Top' (selected), 'Bottom', 'Front', and 'Back'. At the bottom are 'Previous' and 'Next' buttons. Six callout boxes with arrows point to specific elements: 'Switch on / off the Preview animation options' points to the 'Animate preview' checkbox; 'Select the Toolpath to Preview' points to the 'Roughing Toolpath Preview' button; 'Select the required Material type' points to the 'Oak Soft' dropdown; 'The Estimated machining times for each set of toolpaths is displayed here' points to the 'Total Time' text; 'Select the each side of the model to Preview when Multi-sided machining' points to the 'Front' radio button.

Notes will

If the toolpaths cut all the way through the material the Delete Waste Material button will remove the excess material from around the remaining 3D model.

Clicking the **Reset** button returns the Preview model to a solid block.



The estimated Machining times are based on the CNC machine running at the actual programmed feed rates. This is often not possible when cutting 3D work because the control systems and hardware work more slowly when computing the 3D moves.

The Scale Factor allows the estimates to be more accurate and this value is remembered by the software for subsequent jobs.



The content of the 3D Window can be saved as an image file at any time by selecting from the main menu,

File > Save Shaded Image

23. Click the **Next** button to proceed to **Step 7 - Save Toolpaths**



Preview of the Z Level Roughing Toolpath



After Preview the Toolpath from both sides

7. Save Toolpaths

The Toolpaths are now ready to be saved using the appropriate postprocessor for your CNC machine.

24. Click the pull-down list of **Postprocessors** and select the one for your machine.

25. Click the **Save Toolpath** button and enter a name to save the toolpath with.

The screenshot shows the 'Save Toolpaths' dialog box with the following elements and callouts:

- Post Processor:** A dropdown menu set to 'ShopBot (arcs)(inch) (*.sbp)'. Callout: 'Select the correct postprocessor for the CNC Machine'.
- Output direct to device:** An unchecked checkbox.
- Device:** A text field with a browse button (...).
- Toolpaths:** A list of toolpaths with checkboxes in the 'Visible' column:
 - 'Roughing Toolpath Save ...' (checked) - Callout: 'Save each Toolpath file'
 - 'Finishing Toolpath Save ...' (checked) - Callout: 'Save each Toolpath file'
 - 'Cut Out Toolpath Save ...' (unchecked) - Callout: 'Toolpaths can be drawn / undrawn in the 3D window'
 - 'Save Toolpaths to a Single File...'
- Notes:** 'The toolpaths use different tools and the selected PostProcessor does not support toolchanging.' and 'Toolpaths must be saved to individual files' - Callout: 'If the same tool has been used for both Roughing and finishing toolpaths they can be saved into a single file'.
- Side Displayed ...:** Radio buttons for 'Top' (selected), 'Bottom', 'Front', and 'Back'. Callout: 'Select the each side of the model to Preview when Multi-sided machining'.
- Estimated mc time ...:** '2 Hours 37 minutes'.
- Buttons:** 'Previous' and 'Next'.

i Take extreme care to ensure the material and cutter are setup correctly before using the toolpath.

8. Tool Database

The default Tool Database is preloaded with a selection of standard cutter sizes. This database can be modified to add New Tools, plus Copy or Delete existing cutters.

Important The **Cutting Parameters** should be set for the material you are cutting

Click the **Edit** button to modify the cutting parameters to match the tooling you are using

