
Content

XpertLINK	1
In-House Exhibition	4
Wing Designer Version 2	6
Special Offer	8

XpertLINK –

The Economical Alternative



■ Windows for all.

At this year's in-house exhibition we introduced our new XpertLINK system to a large audience. As expected, a great deal of interest was shown.

This low-price Windows solution for your milling tasks enables you to enter the Xpert world. State-of-the-art chip technology using highly powerful processors from the automotive and consumer industries have opened the way for the Xpert system in the field of amateur model building. For the required functions can also be inte-

grated in an existing electronic design, irrespective of whether this is a STEP-FOUR system or a system designed by another manufacturer. So you can carry on using your existing control electronics and yet work with the XpertMILL milling software under Windows 2000/XP. The new XpertLINK is simply connected between the PC and the control electronics and off you go. In the case of external circuits you will need the STEP-FOUR interface for external units. Hooking up and installing the system is really easy. Benefit from the many advantages of the XpertMILL software together with your existing Step-Four mechanism and electronics or with that of another manufacturer. A complete list of functions and details on the extension modules available for XpertMILL as well as on the Xpert CNC controller will be posted very soon on our website at www.step-four.at.

Available from January 2007

XpertLINK Update is available for existing customers from EUR 487.20 incl. 16% VAT (Germany) and from EUR 504 incl. 20% VAT (Austria), depending on the software configuration. Call us or email us to get your individual XpertLINK update offer!

November 2006
Issue No. 20

Customer Information

STEP FOUR



www.step-four.at

Editorial



Autumn Activity

As we certainly didn't rest on our laurels in the summer, we can now show you our new XpertLINK, the lost-cost link between the reliable SF-Cr control unit and the successful Xpert-MILL milling software under Windows. Further projects for this autumn include our new Step-Four DVD for professional modelbuilding and sensational extensions for the WING designer.

This issue of the Step-Four newsletter also looks at what else has been going on in the past few months, and of course we are planning special offers for our customers in Germany before the VAT there goes up in 2007. I hope you enjoy browsing through the newsletter and wish you an energetic, active autumn.

PS: Recommend us to your friends and earn our Step-Four friendship vouchers.

Comparison of Functions: Xpert System

Functions/combinations	Beginners Xpert LINK + SF-C2 with Xpert MILL LT	Advanced XpertLINK + SF-C2 with Xpert MILL	Professionals XpertCNC with Xpert MILL
Import of several files	-	•	•
Division of geometric data into individual objects	-	•	•
Grouping objects and groups	-	•	•
Moving objects and groups	-	•	•
Rotating objects and groups	-	•	•
Mirroring objects and groups	-	•	•
Scaling objects and groups	-	•	•
Duplicating objects and groups	-	•	•
Aligning objects and groups	-	•	•
Converting corrected milling paths into individual objects	-	•	•
Calculating milling time in advance	-	•	•
No. of controllable outputs	2	2	4
Reading inputs	1	1	7
Emergency off, stop	-	-	•
Max. phase current of motors	1,4 A	1,4A	2A/3A
Dynamic conversion of microstep to full step mode	-	-	•
Resolution at 1.8° stepper motors	400 steps/revolution	400 steps/revolution	12 800 steps/revolution
Vibration-free operation	good	good	excellent
Exponential acceleration ramp	-	-	•
Activation of 4 axes	-	-	•
Connection of two X motors	-	-	•
Max. advance feed at 3mm spindle rise	1 500 mm/min	1 500mm/ min	30000 mm/min

New Street Number

The local council in Wals-Siezenheim has rearranged the street numbers, and in fact it is now easier to find us. Instead of Bayernstraße 380, our address has changed to Bayernstraße 77, so please update your address book.

Kids Build and Fly



■ Mr. Rathner constructing model planes with several kids.

We are pleased to introduce Mr. Rathner from Laakirchen in Upper Austria. He has a great project in which he helps the younger generation get acquainted with modelbuilding.

STEP-FOUR and Porsche Racing!

The Precise 760 is used in a very original way by our racing friend, Reinhard Brandstätter. The STEP-FOUR milling unit contributes towards reducing the weight and increasing the safety of his 944 S2 Porsche. 4 mm thick polycarbonate plates are milled exactly according to the FIA specifications. The high spindle speed and the tiny router diameter of only 3 mm prevent microscopic tears in the antimist panel thereby ensuring maximum strength in the real glass used during racing. The great difference in weight between the glass and polycarbonate lowers the weight of the vehicle and therefore decreases the vehicle mass to be moved. Indirectly this leads to improved acceleration and to a smaller load on the brakes. With the milling unit the



■ slitted side windows

following parts have been produced or cut so far:

- 2 rear side window screens with cooling slits
- 2 front window screens
- 2 slotted front brake cooling inlets
- Further weight-reducing parts made of polycarbonate are planned.



■ The hot rod in action.

For more details on our Porsche racing driver, go to http://www.porscheclassic.at/motorsport/motorsportler/brandstaetter/Portrait_Brandstaetter.htm

In Brief



PC CUT for China

Another large PC-CUT 2500 cutting machine was delivered to China in September. Michael Schmalzer is shown here overseeing the machine being loaded.



Self-Service

Many satisfied Step-Four customers pick up their machine directly from our premises. As you can see, sometimes we have to resort to unusual packaging and loading methods, especially for large units like the PC-CUT 1000!



Milling Workshop

On October 13 the third milling workshop was held. Due to its great success, we will be holding more workshops in 2007. We will publish the exact dates in the next issue of the Step-Four newsletter.

Third In-House Exhibition



■ At the third in-house exhibition there were plenty of new things for visitors to see.



■ Version 2 of the Wing Designer was well received.

On Saturday October 14 we were delighted to welcome a great many guests at our third in-house fair. Visitors were not only updated on the latest products, but also provided with drinks and snacks. What's more, they could participate in a competition.

The Winners

The first prize, a flight over Salzburg and surroundings, goes to Peter Heilmann from Neutraubling

in Germany. The second prize, a dream day for two in the health spa in Reiteralm, was won by Christian Pöschl in Neumarkt in Austria. Christian Kreuzer from Krenglbach in Austria is the lucky winner of the third prize, a voucher including dinner for two and a visit to the Salzburg Casino.

The ten-piece milling sets (4th to 6th prizes) go to Gilbert Schwank in Thalgau, Karl Raberger junior in Ternberg (Austria) and Andreas Stöger in Egglham, Germany. The 7th to 10th prizes consisted of a DVD on the topic of milling for modelbuilding, and were won by Karl Raberger from Ternberg, Peter Scholz from Plainfeld, Josef Ranstl from Werfen and Christian Neubacher from Salzburg. Congratulations!

Step-Four DVD



Our expert model builder, Hannes Schmalzer, shows how to construct a classic wooden model on the PC and how to mill parts on a STEP-FOUR milling machine. He gives a great many hints and tricks. A flying wing made of EPP is drawn on the computer and cut with the STEP-FOUR cutting machine. The milling machine is turned into a cutting plotter by chucking a swivel knife. We are shown how to cut lettering. To enable viewers to try out the techniques at once, the DVD not only contains demos of the software used but also the corresponding drawings and milling models.

Euromold

EUROMOLD

EUROMOLD, November 29 – December 2 2006, Frankfurt, Hall 9.0, booth F06

Third EuRegio Dialogue



■ 30 entrepreneurs met at Step-Four for the EuRegio Dialogue. Ernst Ramberger reported the company's success.

“Originally, cutting templates were milled for hot-wire cutting which served to guide the hot wire. This led us to construct a CNC hot-wire cutting machine around 15 years ago and to program corresponding software for it”, Ernst Ramberger, the managing director of Step-Four related recently at the third EuRegio Dialogue meeting held in Wals-Siezenheim in 2006. At this event two Bavarian and two Salzburg companies are visited per year. Entrepreneurs are invited from the whole EuRegio area.

30 Participants

This time as many as 30 participants turned up, and after city councillor Dr. Andrea Eder-Gischthaler had welcomed them, Ernst Ramberger introduced his guests into the world of hot-wire cutting. The material processed is cheaper and allows lighter, more stable models to be manufactured. Res-

idue can be recycled, satisfactory results are achieved much quicker and even cavities can be cut in the models. Nowadays companies like Airbus, BMW or Suzlon Energy send the Step-Four company orders. 2400 sold milling machines and 700 cutting units are clear evidence of Step-Four's immense success in the last 15 years. The participants looked impressed by the innovations and range of applications for hot-wire cutting technology. It is amazing how much can be done with polystyrene, including the numerous ways to refine the material, as well as the dimensions that can be reached, as a tour of the company revealed. The company, which now has 14 employees, was found to implement unique production processes. (From: Salzburger Landeskörrespondenz on 2.10.2006)



3D Image in Perspex



■ Sean Connery's face in perspex.

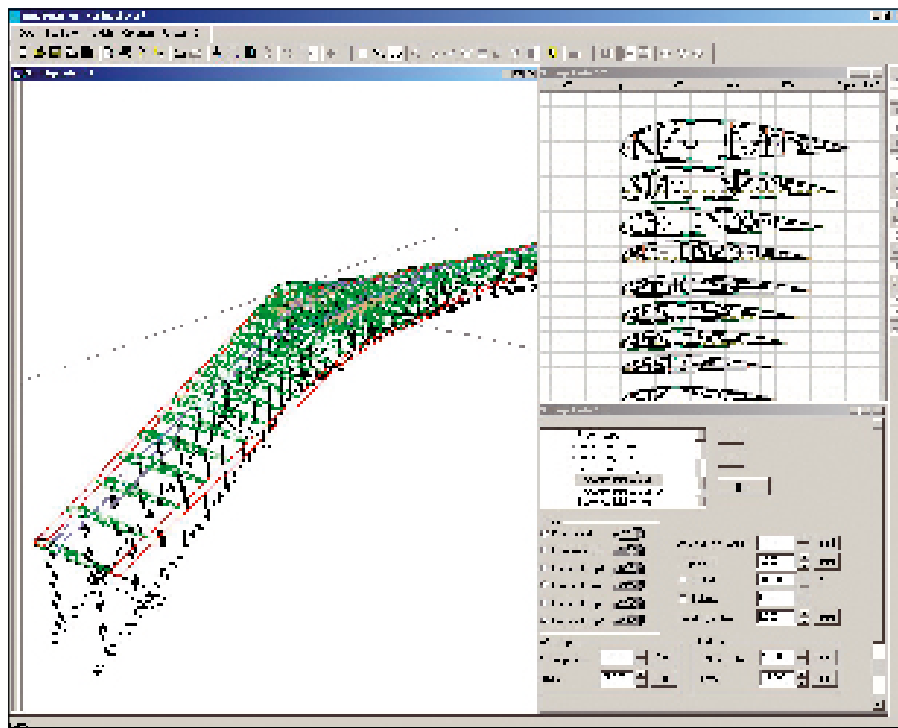
Our loyal customer, Mr Fürhauser from Rückersdorf in Lower Austria, produces something really special with his Step-Four unit: 3D milled and illuminated perspex photographs. Here you can see Sean Connery. Have a look at www.fuerhauser.com and you'll be in for a surprise.

Impressum

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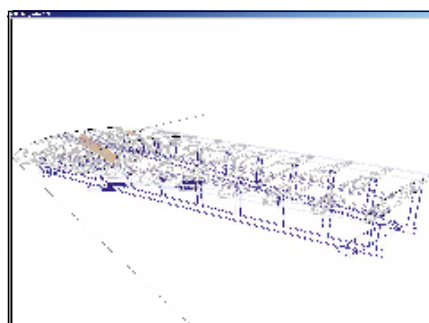
The new WING Designer, Version 2



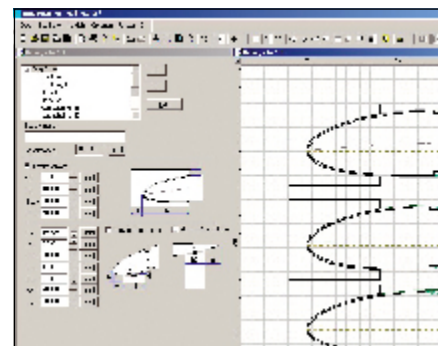
■ 3D view of the flying wing with construction jig.

The first version of the WING designer created quite a stir and set new standards for the simple construction of complex wings. Now Version 2 has arrived and is just as ingenious! You will be amazed how simple it is to drill by just clicking the mouse, produce contour-parallel cut-outs to lower the weight or integrate highly complex lattice structures in your rib surfaces. We have also implemented several additional functions to allow you to transform your virtual flying wing into the real thing. For instance, you can give your ribs simple "feet" or use a brilliant jig structure to build the most complex wings with the utmost precision. A number of "small" but extremely useful extensions and improvements, such as the output of airfoil templates to

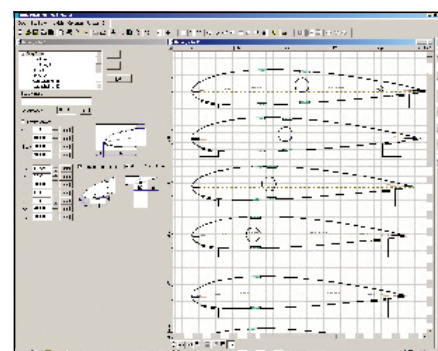
check sanding and beveling, are also a great help. Furthermore, extended options make leading and trailing edge definitions a piece of cake.



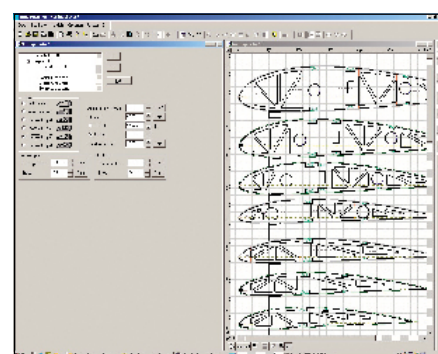
■ Or would you prefer to use complex lattice structures for your perfect vintage plane?



■ Create airfoil templates to check sanding and beveling jobs at the leading edge precisely.



■ Or give your ribs "feet" so that you can assemble wings with cambered lower sides easily.



■ Create cavities with a couple of clicks on the mouse and reduce the wing's weight.



STEP-FOUR Recommend Us to a Friend

You probably know someone, who would be interested in a STEP-FOUR machine. Just recommend us. For every acquired customer or order that comes in on your recommendation, we will show our gratitude by giving you a voucher.

This is what your recommendation is worth:

If the new customer orders goods worth up to €3000, you will receive a voucher worth 3 % of the value.
A STEP-FOUR machine worth € 2800 will get you a voucher worth € 84.

If the new customer orders goods worth up to €5000, you will receive a voucher worth 4 % of the value.
A STEP-FOUR machine worth €4800 will get you a voucher worth €192.

If the new customer orders goods worth more than € 5000, you will receive a voucher worth more than 5 % of the value. A STEP-FOUR machine worth € 6800 will get you a voucher worth € 340.

Important:

The new customer...

- ...does not live in your household
- ...has not ordered anything from STEP-FOUR for the last 3 years.
- ...must spend at least €500 on the current STEP-FOUR product range.

Recommend us to a friend –This is what to do:

Fill in the form below together with the new customer. The new customer enters his address and his order from the current STEP-FOUR product range. You enter your address as an existing STEP-FOUR customer.

	My own data	New Customer's Data
Surname		
Street, No.		
First Name		
Zip Code, City		
Country		
Date of Birth		
Phone		
Fax		
e-Mail		

My friend/ new customer wishes to order the following items:

Article no.	No. of pieces	Product name	Price in €

The voucher cannot be paid out in cash. The voucher must be spent within one year.

STEP-FOUR GmbH

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4 Advantages

1 Step Ahead

To all our customers in Germany!

We can help cushion the rise in VAT if you decide to buy one of the two 4-advantage packages by December 10, 2006. This offer also applies to our customers living in Austria, except for Advantage No. 3.

Advantage No. 1: 10% discount

Advantage No. 2: Milling unit: free upgrade to XpertLINK and XpertMILL under Windows,

Cutting unit: free upgrade to S4CUT V4 LT under DOS

Advantage No. 3: 3% less VAT than from January 1, 2007 (applies to customers in Germany only)

Advantage No. 4: we will pay the freight

The 4 advantage cutting unit package includes:

- PC-CUT standard mechanism kit
- V1.66 wing cutting software
- Upgrade to S4CUT V4 LT
- Cutting transformer

**The whole set for
only EUR 2573.46**
Incl. 16% VAT (D) or EUR 2662.20 incl. 20% VAT (A)



The 4 advantage milling unit package includes:

- Basic 540 mechanism kit
- S4PRO V4 LT
- Upgrade to XpertLINK and XpertMILL LT (available from Jan. 2007)
- Kress 800 FME router
- 10-piece VHM milling set

**The whole set for
only EUR 2621.60**
Incl. 16% VAT (D) or EUR 2712.20 incl. 20% VAT (A)



Order now!

Phone: +43(0)662 459378-0

E-Mail: office@step-four.at

Offer valid until December 10, 2006