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March 2007
Issue No. 20

New Website for STEP-FOUR

We have relaunched our website to make it more modern and user-friendly. We have tried to offer you an extensive overview of our product range, so that it is very easy for you to find the best solution to your requirements. In future we want to provide you with a great deal of up-to-date information on PC-controlled milling and hot-wire cutting applications.

The new website is to be a lively forum in which you and Step-Four can work together actively. We are always interested in hearing about your plans and ideas, but also welcome any criticism that you might like to voice. Not only does the website look different, but a web-shop has been integrated at your instigation to enable customers to order Step-Four products online very easily.

Of course we can also be contacted by phone, email or fax and will be happy to answer your queries and receive your orders.

We hope that you will like our internet page and that you will visit us there frequently: welcome to www.step-four.at! We are of course also delighted to welcome any "real" visitors. Call us to make an appointment and we will be pleased to show you our products on-site.



■ www.step-four.at has a completely new look.



■ New: online shopping



■ The new website is highly informative.

**Customer
Information**



www.step-four.at

STEP FOUR

Editorial



■ Ernst Ramberger

New on the web

In the tenth year of its presence on the web Step-Four has changed its virtual image for the third time so far. We are constantly updating and changing to keep up with the times. But the relaunch of our website has not changed Step-Four's basic principles: customer service and reliability continue to enjoy top priority. I hope you have a lot of fun visiting and using the website and that you will find everything you are looking for. I also hope you enjoy reading the twentieth issue of our newsletter. Have fun surfing the Step-Four waves!

XpertLINK and XpertMILL – the Future of Milling

After just 18 months on the market the XpertMILL milling software has become a real success story. It offers many options for preparing data and displaying objects as well as milling machine versatility. Geometric editing, milling technical functions, manual and automatic

milling operation modes and various screen displays complement this extremely user-friendly software product.

■ XpertLink

Additional modules

With the aid of the additional module Xpert [DRAW] it is possible to create simple objects and then mill them at once or modify imported drawings. Xpert [CAM] provides a complete 2.5D module which facilitates milling cavities or large-scale reaming. The Xpert[3D] module serves to import and process 3D milling data. In combination with the new XpertLINK Windows adapter the user has a low-cost but highly effective system at his disposal for milling under Windows, and what's more in real time with multitasking. That definitely beats

other so-called "real" Windows software products. Meanwhile we have received the first reports on XpertLINK from our customers and we are proud to announce that results have been exceedingly good.

Adapting to Windows

Standard milling mechanisms from the first generation of Step-Four machinery have also been adapted to Windows. Unfortunately the "old" SF-C1 control electronics is not compatible. We do however offer very favourable exchange conditions for used SF-C2 control circuit in top condition. Just call us. Many customers are really happy that they can use Windows to run their machinery professionally at a price that amateurs can afford.

Delighted customers

Customers are particularly pleased with the effective visualisation and the huge range of functions provided by the XpertMILL milling software (display of machine 3D view, high screen resolution, adjustment of advance feed possible during milling, etc.). The excellent compatibility with the "old" peripheral devices (relay box, spin-



Trade Fair Calendar

This year we will be exhibiting our products at Germany's largest trade fairs. Come and visit us.

15 to 18 March 2007

FASZINATION MODELLBAU
Sinsheim, Hall 6, Booth 6024



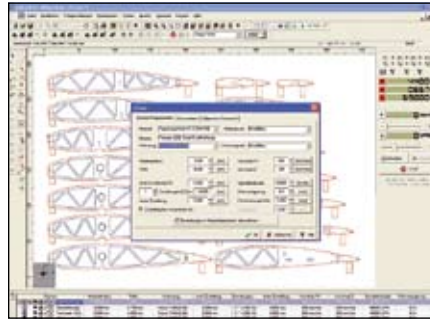
18 to 22 April 2007

INTERMODELLBAU
Dortmund, Hall 4,
Booth 4094

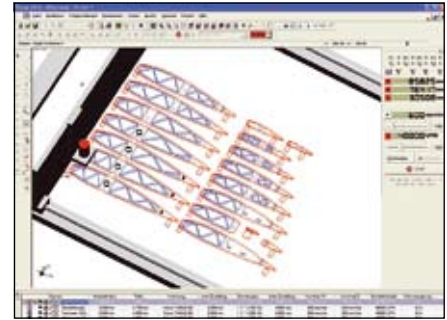


del converter...) is also frequently praised. We are delighted to hear comments like "Everything works perfectly and I have done a lot of milling...". Several of our own and external units have been fitted with the XpertLINK together with an interface for external devices.

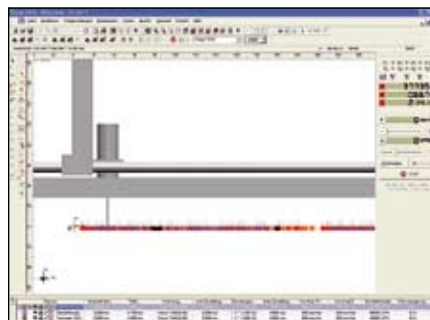
More
information on
www-step-four.at



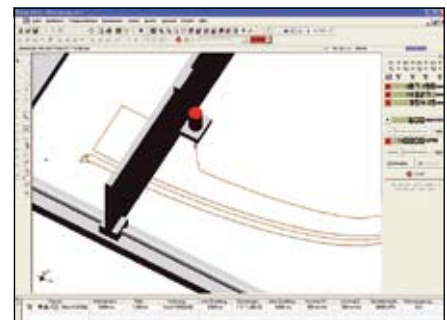
■ Layer definition in XpertMILL.



■ Milling a set of ribs: no problem with XpertMILL.



■ Touchdown on the zero point at the Z-axis with Xpert MILL.



■ Milling the covering.

"Back to the roots" with XpertLINK

To show you how universal the XpertLINK system is, we have modified an "old" Step-Four standard milling unit constructed in 1995. Windows XP or 2000 must be available on the PC as an

operating system. The minimum requirements are 1GHz CPU, 256 MB RAM, a standard graphics card, a CD Rom drive and 20 MB of free memory space. First the Xpert LINK is hooked up to the PC by way of the USB cable provided and then to the SF-C" electronics. Now the XpertMILL milling software is installed.

Installation

In order to use XpertLINK the link "Install USB driver" must be called as soon as the software is installed. This is located in the Windows start-up menu under Xpert-MILL. The first time the software

is started the use and registration is scanned. Now the "milling software with XpertCNC/XpertLINK Controller" mode is activated under the menu item "Info on Xpert-MILL".

Activate the software

Once the machine and controller drivers have been activated the "configuration" button enables us to implement both machine-independent and electronic settings. After that the machine starts by initialising the controller and a reference travel procedure. And then it's "Bon voyage, milling machine!"



■ Adapting is quite easy.

High-End Renamed Superior

Our high-end milling units with ball-recirculation spindles are called Superior from now on. This series is for sale exclusively with the SpertCNC control electronics and the XpertMILL milling software. We now have three series in our sales programme:

- **Basic:** the ideal device for model builders
- **Precise:** the universal machine for advertising
- **Superior:** the high-end for top requirements



■ Superior 1000 with ball-recirculation spindles

High-end HSD Spindle

This high-end spindle for our Superior range opens up new perspectives.

Technical Data:

1.0 kW, max. 24,000 rpm, 220V, 5.5A, 4kg, ER20 chuck

Characteristics:

- non-plus ultra quality, ISO 9001 certified



■ HSD spindle

- up to 100% better performance than similar products of same size on the market
- great overload possible
- low noise compared to other products on the market
- low operating temperature compared to other products
- low current consumption when quiescent and under load compared to other products
- improved fan, stronger air current and lower noise
- bearing play compensation when tool is inserted.

HFC Converter



■ Xpert HFC converter

The newly developed XHFC frequency converter helps you optimize the use of the STEP-FOUR 160 W high-speed frequency spindle. It is compatible with the SF-C1, SF-C2, XpertCNC electronic units and external interfaces. Furthermore the speed can be controlled externally by way of an analog signal.



■ The flying man.

Learn to fly with Step-Four

The Act Composites company (www.act-composites.ch) from Geneva in Switzerland has been working with a Step-Four cutting and milling machine for many years. Now it has created a true

masterpiece with its wing for the flying man Yves Rossy. Visit their website under www.jet-man.com and get an idea of the artistry of the Swiss flying man. By the way, he is a professional airline captain.



■ Kyriazis Stadium

Modelbuilding

The company Imaginary Reality (www.architecturalmodels.gr) from Athens is the great all-rounder in modelbuilding. From the stadium to the luxury yacht, you name it. They can fulfil almost any customer requirement using two Step-Four milling units as they have been doing for many years now.



■ Basic 540 built-in vertically.

Really clever

The MEPURA company (www.mepura.at) in Ranshofen in Austria has integrated the milling unit in its handling and processing centre. Standing upright the Basic 540 cuts a good figure.



■ Stars, here we come.

Star gazer

Even in astronomy Step-Four units are ideal. For further details contact the website of the company Astro Optik Martini in Zeitlingen, Germany under www.dietermartini.de.



■ You can't start early enough...

Kid's play?

Mr Rittig from Feldkirchen in Germany should perhaps get his niece to disembark first

Workshop: Milling for model building purposes

From the drawing to the finished product

Once again we will be holding workshops this year on the topic of milling for model building purposes. Two dates have been selected. For interested modelbuilders without any experience in PC-controlled milling, but who are thinking of using machinery to build their models, Step-Four is offering a workshop for beginners. The aim is to teach you the basic principles of milling technology.

SESSION 1:

Friday, 6 July 2007

Apply by 15 June 2007

SESSION 2:

Friday 12 October 2007

Apply by 25 September 2007

Participation fee: €210.

Maximum number of participants per session: six

For further details or applications contact Step-Four.

New Milling Package

We are offering Basic and Precise Step-Four milling machines in three different models, available immediately. As a result, every user can find the machine that suits his needs as well as his budget.

- For milling beginners there is the DOS unit with the tried and tested SF-C2 control electronics and the V4 DOS milling software.
- For experienced users there is the Xpert Start unit with the SF-C2 control electronics, the XpertLINK Windows Adapter and the XpertMILL milling software under Windows.
- For professional users there is the Xpert Advance unit with the state-of-the-art XpertCNC control electronics and the XpertMILL milling software under Windows.

Basic 540 Xpert Start-Up Spring Package



Includes:

- Basic 540 milling mechanism kit
- SF-C2 control electronics
- XpertLINK Windows adapter
- XpertMILL LT milling software

Plus free of charge:

- Kress 800 FME router
- 10-piece VHM milling set
- DVD "CNC processing in airplane modelbuilding"
- Step-Four voucher worth €50
- Freight costs (valid only in Austria and Germany)

Special Price

EUR 2990 (incl. VAT)

Only € 2990,-
instead of € 3200

XpertLINK Update



Update your Step-Four milling unit and use it in real time under Windows!

Buy the XpertLINK Windows Adapter at the special price of only €329 incl. VAT instead of € 420. The only right decision. For the update of your milling software to the XpertMILL milling software you get another 10% discount with this spring offer.

Contact us! We will make you a detailed offer.

Special Price

EUR 329 (incl. VAT)

Only € 329
instead of € 420

Erratum!

On our November 2006 newsletter Issue 20 was printed by mistake. This should have been 19. Someone in our department simply lost count. We apologize for the error.

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