



This command is primarily for foam cutting with a blade. The user defines a series of parts or shapes via the Group->Outline command and uses this command to connect the groups. This command is only useful when multiple shapes need to be cut on one sheet. For single parts, use the standard toolpath method.

In addition to generating the toolpath the following features are included:

- A fillet is created at the apex of two connecting lines. The [Corner Radius] value on the 'Tool Dialog' page is used
- A stock box is drawn, based on the values in [Tool Offset/1] and [Tool Offset/2] on the 'Tool Dialog' page.
- The [+] and [-] keys allow you to dynamically zoom in/out when defining the connecting lines.
- The right mouse key will snap to the next shape when defining the connecting lines.

First time setup:

See the document 'Foam and 2-axis tips.doc'

Making a part.

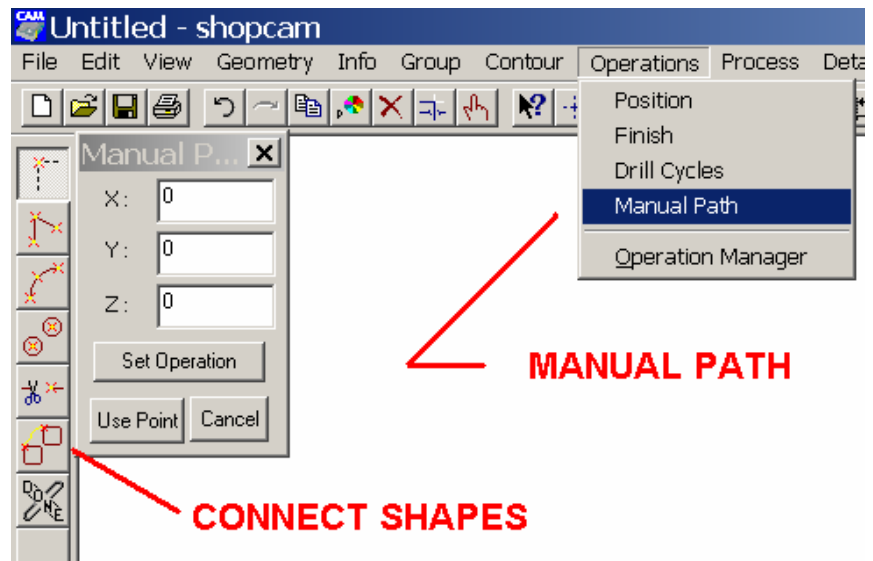
Making a part consist of a couple steps: Geometry, Grouping, Toolpath, Postprocessing and transferring to the machine.

Step One: There are two ways to generate geometry. Either use the Shopcam geometry commands or merge in a DXF or IGES via the [File] -> [Import] command.

Step Two: Group the shapes using the [Group] -> [Outline] command. The default and preferred pick

method for grouping is the 'chaining' method. Start the chain by picking a start point at the start or end of a geometry. See the 'Shopcam Users Guide' for more info on chaining.

Step Three: To generate a toolpath with 'Connect Shapes', you must access the side toolbar by selecting [Operations] -> [Manual Path].

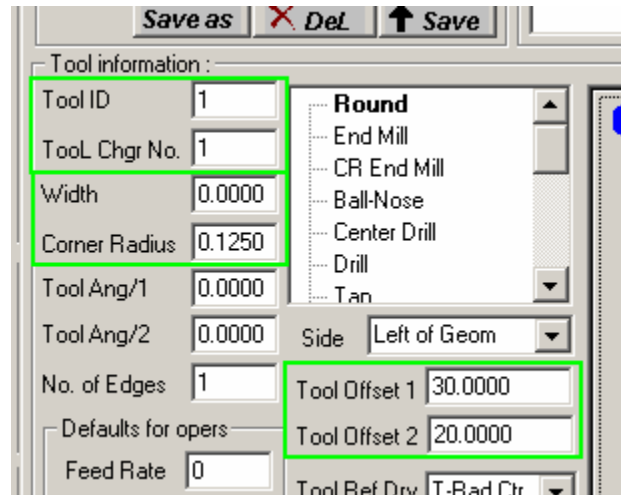


Once the icon is selected, the connect shape dialog box will appear.

At this point, you may change parameters with the [Set Operation] button or use the defaults you saved in the setup file.

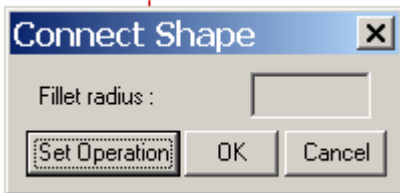
The only parameters that are important are:

- Tool ID: Usually 1
- Tool Chgr No. Same as Tool ID
- Width For animation only
- Corner Radius The fillet radius
- Tool Offset 1 Stock width – X axis
- Tool Offset 2 Stock height – Y axis



Note:

If these values are set and saved in the setup file, you will not need to set them on every part.

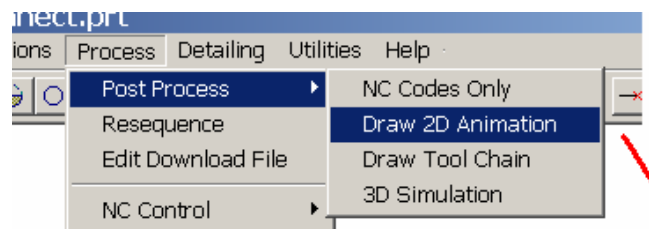


When the [OK] button is hit, (in the Connect Shape dialog), the system will start the connecting process. The 1st thing it will do is draw a rectangular 'stock' box, based on the values in [Tool Offset/1] and [Tool Offset/2].

A rubber-band line will be generated with the 1st anchor point at X0, Y0. The system will automatically scale the screen with start and destination points being used as the extents. The user may digitize intermediate positions to create the connecting lines. A fillet will be drawn at the apex of these connecting lines. By hitting the right mouse button, the last line is created to close the last digitized line and the start of the next shape. That start/finish point and the start/finish point of the next shape will be used as the extents, to rescale the screen. The [+] and [-] keys, on the keypad, may be used to zoom in and out respectively.

On the last shape, the entire part is displayed. Digitize outside the right vertical line of the stock box to complete the operation.

Post process with either the Post Process menu or the posting icon. If you haven't saved your part, the system will ask you to 'save as' and prompt for a filename. Postprocessing will create a G-code file with the same name as the part file you saved. The G-code file will have a .TAP extension and be located in the tapes folder.



Posting Menu



2D Animation

Posting Icon

