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## CAD/CAM Comparison Table



CAD/CAM software is complex, a table like the one below only gives some quantitative comparisons. The table says nothing about the packages' ease of use, user interface, usefulness of the help files, technical support, update policies, etc. These qualitative comparisons should also be considered when purchasing software. Unfortunately, at the present time, Desktop CNC is not able to furnish reviews on these packages. This table is a start, even though it has many limitations.

The main source of information for this table was from e-mail with the manufacturers. The manufacturers that do not have information associated with their name have been sent e-mail but have not yet responded.

| Product Name                          | Manufacturer                 | CAD/CAM or CAM | Available Platforms                   | Min. Processor Speed (MHz)  | Minimum Memory Required (MBytes) | Video Card Requirements                               | Post Processors Available  | # Of Axis Supported | Import Formats Supported  | Machines Types Supported  | Surface or Solid                       | Modeling Type              | Category  | Associativity               | Demo type  | Cost*                     |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|---|--|---------------------|---|---|--|----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| BobCAD-CAM V21                        | BobCAD-CAM                   | CAD-CAM        | Windows ME, 2000, XP, XP Professional | Pentium 3 processor 933 MHz or better (or comparable Celeron/AMD Processor) | 256 MB RAM with 60MB hard disk.  | 128 MB Video Card                                     | Over 500 G-Code posts with added VB Scripts  | 2, 3 & 4            | DXF, IGES & STEP, ParaSolid, Solid Works  | Mill, Lathe, Router, Wire EDM, Plasma, Burning, WaterJet & Laser                        | Solids & Surfaces as well as wireframe | Nurbs                      | All   | currently not available     | Free demo download from www.bobcad.com           | \$2,495.00                |
| Hobby PRO                             | BobCAD-CAM                   | CAD-CAM        |                                       |   |                                  |   |  |                     |   |   |  |                            |   |                             |  | \$995                     |
| ProfileLab                            | CADlink                      | CAD/CAM        | IBM                                   |   | 16MBytes                         | Any   | XYZ, Larken, Precix, Techno-Isel see <a href="http://www.cadlink.com/Profilelab/outputdev.asp">http://www.cadlink.com/Profilelab/outputdev.asp</a> for complete list   | 3                   | 36 formats including DXF, EPS, DWG, G-code, PLT   | Routers, Engravers, Water Jets, Laser & Plasma Cutters                                  | Surface                                | Polygon, Polyarc           | Machine, Engraving, Signs, Mold making                            | Forward & Backward          | download crippled version (no output functions)  | Starting at \$1,495.00    |
| Advanced System 3000                  | CamSoft Corp.                | CAD/CAM        | IBM                                   | 233MHz  | 32MBytes                         | 2MBytes VRAM  | Over 700 available, Editable post processor  | 2, 3, 4 & 5         | IGES, DXF, STL, SLA, Gerber, HPGL, CadKey & APT, CATIA CL, Excellon, Gerber                                     | Mills, Lathes, EDMs, Punch Presses, Routers, Laser Cutters, Plasma Cutters & Water Jets | Both                                   | Nurbs                      | Machine, Jewelry, Engraving, Moldmaking                           |                             | available on CD                                  | \$1,295 - \$17,995        |
| Vector-Cam                            | Centriforce                  | CAD/CAM        | Wintel                                | 100MHz  | 32MBytes                         | 8MBytes   | FlashCut, MicroKinetics, Shopbot, EMC & Configurable   | 2, 2.5, 3 & 4       | DXF   | Mills, Routers, Lathes, EDM, Waterjet, Laser & Plasma Cutters                           |  | Wireframe, Surface         |   |                             | must fill out demo request form for 30 day trial | \$795.00                  |
| CimatronE                             | Cimatron Ltd                 |                |                                       |   |                                  |   |  |                     |   |   |  |                            |   |                             |  |                           |
| Mastercam X                           | CNC Software, Inc.           | CAD/CAM        | Windows 2000, XP                      | 2.0 GHz   | 512 MBytes                       | 64 Mbytes Open GL compatible                          | Hundreds available, Configurable post processors based on Machine Definition and Control Definition  | 2, 2.5, 3, 4, 5 +   | 36 formats supported including, IGES, STEP, Autodesk, Solidworks, Solidedge, Rhino, Pro-E, Catia                | Mills, Routers, Lathes, EDM, Waterjet, Laser, Plasma cutters, Punch presses             | Both                                   | Wireframe, Surface, Solids | All   | Full toolpath associativity | Demo available on CD from reseller               |                           |
| ArtCAM Pro                            | Delcam plc.                  | CAD/CAM        | Windows 95, 98, 2000, NT 4.0          | Pentium 266   | 64MBytes                         | nVIDIA chip set recommended                           | Over 50 available, Configurable post processor, 3D laser engraving, STL Export   | 3 & 4               | 3D studio, 3D DXF, STL, IGES, BMP, TIF, EPS, AI, 2D DXF, 3D Laser, Renishaw & G-code                            | Mills, Rapid Prototype  | Proprietary                            | 3D Relief                  | Jewelry, Engraving, Moldmaking, Woodworking Signmaking            |                             | download 2 video demos                           | \$7,500.00                |
| MillWizard                            | Delcam plc.                  | CAM            | Windows 95, 98, 2000, NT 4.0          | Pentium 133   | 32MBytes                         | Any   | Over 50 available, Configurable post processor   | 3                   | 3D studio, 3D DXF & STL   | Mills   | Proprietary                            | N/A for CAM only           | Mold making, Model making, Rapid Prototyping                      | N/A for CAM only            | download evaluation version                      | \$250.00                  |
| PowerMILL                             | Delcam plc.                  | CAM            | Windows XP                            | Pentium 3   | 512MBytes                        | nVIDIA chip set recommended                           | 150, Configurable post processor   | 2, 3, 4 & 5         | IGES, VDA, STL, STEP, DXF, DWG, Solid Works, Solid Edge, UG, ProE, Catia, ACIS, ParaSolid, Rhino, Cimtron, SDRC | Mills   | Surfaces, Solids, Triangles            | N/A for CAM only           | Molds, Tools, Dies, Prototypes                                    | N/A for CAM only            | Demo on request                                  | \$18,000                  |
| Deskproto V3                          | Delft Spline Systems         | CAM            | Win 9x/2x/NT/XP                       | Pentium or better   | 16MBytes                         | Any, but runs faster with cards that support Open/ GL | Autograv, XYZ, Boxford, Charlyrobot, Cielle, CPM, Deckel, Defiance, Denford, Emco, Fanuc, FlashCut, Gerber, Haas, Heidenhain, Hurco, Isel, ISO G-codes, Komplot, Korner, Kosy, Kuhlmann, Light Machines, Maho, Makino, MaxNC, MicroKinetics, Mimaki, Minitech, Multicam, Num, Pacer, Roland, Sensa, Servo, Shopbot cnc2spb, Taig, Techno-Isel, Venture | 3 & 4               | STL, DXF (polygon data only), VRML  | Mills   | Both                                   | N/A for CAM only           | Rapid Prototyping, Moldmaking, Jewelry, Sign Making, Model making | N/A for CAM only            | download trial version                           | \$1,150.00<br>\$575.00*** |
| DeskProto Lite                        | Delft Spline Systems         | CAM            | Win 9x/2x/NT/XP                       | Pentium or better   | 16MBytes                         | Any, but runs faster with cards that support Open/ GL | Autograv, XYZ, Boxford, Charlyrobot, Cielle, CPM, Deckel, Defiance, Denford, Emco, Fanuc, FlashCut, Gerber, Haas, Heidenhain, Hurco, Isel, ISO G-codes, Komplot, Korner, Kosy, Kuhlmann, Light Machines, Maho, Makino, MaxNC, MicroKinetics, Mimaki, Minitech, Multicam, Num, Pacer, Roland, Sensa, Servo, Shopbot cnc2spb, Taig, Techno-Isel, Venture | 3                   | STL, DXF (polygon data only), VRML  | Mills   | Both                                   | N/A for CAM only           | Rapid Prototyping, Moldmaking, Jewelry, Sign Making, Model making | N/A for CAM only            | download trial version                           | \$260.00                  |
| Esprit                                | DP Technology Corp.          |                |                                       |   |                                  |   |  |                     |   |   |  |                            |   |                             |  |                           |
| FeatureCAM (FeatureMILL, FeatureTURN) | Engineering Geometry Systems |                | Windows 95, 98, 2000, NT 4.0          | 166 MHz Pentium   | 32MBytes                         | 1MBytes Minimum                                       | Over 100 available, Editable post processor  | 2.5 & 3             | IGES, DXF   |   |  |                            |   |                             | download trial version                           | Price set by dealer       |

|                           |                                   |         |                               |                                   |                     |                    |   |  |   |  |                   |                                  |   |  |  |                                      |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---|--|---|--|-------------------|----------------------------------|---|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| GibbsCAM                  | Gibbs                             |         |                               |                                   |                     |                    |   |  |   |  |                   |                                  |   |  |  |                                      |
| Cimagrafi                 | Graphitech                        | CAD/CAM | Windows 95, 98, 2000 & NT     | 100MHz                            | 64MBytes            | 4MBytes Minimum    | Over 200 available, Editable post processor   | 2, 3, 4 & 5  | EPS, DXF, IGES, STL, All raster formats & Any point cloud format  | Mills, Lathes, Laser cutters & Scanners  | Surface           | Fractile surfaces                | Engraving, Moldmaking, Jewelry,   | Backward   |  | \$1,000 - \$12,000                   |
| SimpleNC                  | Graphic Products North America    | CAM     | IBM                           | 500MHz                            | 128MB               | OpenGL             | G-Code Compatible, Roland Direct  | 2 & 3 Axis   | IGES, STL, RHINO, DXF, Cadceus, FRES DAM  | Mill, Router   | Both              | Nurbs                            | Jewelry, mold making, Engraving, Dies, Electrodes   | Yes  | download   | \$4,000-\$8,000                      |
| StiWork                   | IMService                         | CAM     | Wintel                        | 100MHz                            | 32MBytes            | 8MBytes            | Configurable  | 3  | STL, DXF, Vrml, 3Ds & others  | Mills & Routers  | Solid             | N/A for CAM only                 |   | N/A for CAM only   | must fill out demo request   | \$250.00                             |
| AlphaCAM                  | Licom Systems                     | CAD/CAM | Windows 95, 98, 2000, NT      | 200MHz                            | 64MBytes            | Any                | Library has many thousands  | 2,3,4 & 5  | DXF, DWG, IGES, STEP, Parasolid, Rhino, CADL, ANVIL, BMP, TIFF, STL   | Mills, Lathes, Punch Presses, Routers, EDM, Stone Cutters, Plasma Cutters & Water Jets   | Surface           | Nurbs                            | All CNC machining**   | full toolpath associativity                              | on-line demo w/ Licom rep  | \$3,000 - \$15,000                   |
| VisualMill v3.0 Basic     | MecSoft, Inc.                     | CAM     | PC Windows                    |                                   |                     |                    | Over 200  | 2.5 & 3  |   | Mills, Routers   |                   | N/A for CAM only                 | Molds, Dies, Models, Rapid Prototyping, Jewelry, Sign Making  | N/A for CAM only   |  | \$1,450.00                           |
| VisualMill v3.0           | MecSoft, Inc.                     | CAM     | PC Windows                    | 500MHz or Better                  | 128MBytes or Better | OpenGL Support     | Over 200, Customizable  | 2.5, 3 & 4   | IGES, Parasolides, Rhino, DXF, DWG, STL, SLA, VRML, VDA/FS, SolidWorks & SolidEdge  | Mills, Routers   | Both              | N/A for CAM only                 | Molds, Dies, Models, Rapid Prototyping, Jewelry, Sign Making  | N/A for CAM only   | Download getting started tutorial  | \$3,450.00                           |
| Galaad 3                  | NIL                               | CAD/CAM | Windows 95/98/ME/NT-4/2000/XP | 100 MHz (Pentium 233 recommended) | 8MBytes             | 800x600x16 minimum | User definable + direct machine control for Isel-Automation / Techno-Isel / Sigea / ArtTech / SM-Motion / Roland / Vectris / GravoGraph / WelSoft-Mill / Charlyrobot / etc. | 3 out of 4 for 2½D CAD/CAM module (XYZ or XAZ)<br>3, 4 & 5 for 3D machine driver | HPGL / Text-DXF / Isel-NCP / Windows-EMF / PostScript-EPS / ISO G-code / MasterCam-NCI / NEE-AMC / ProMac-PMC / MecaSoft-NCC / Alecop-ALC / WelSoft-WMC / Excellon-EXL / Gerber / IGN-DIS / Spot-Image-DEM / XYZ text coords / BMP images | Mills, lathes, laser cutters, water jet cutters, plasma cutters, glue & paint dispensers | Surface           | 3D surface wire meshes           | 3 axis applications, cutting, engraving, milling, prototyping, sign making, 2 axes turning, motion & I/O control programming      |  | available on CD  | 1430 € 320*** €                      |
| NCL V9.4                  | Nuneral Control Computer Sciences |         |                               |                                   |                     |                    |   |  |   |  |                   |                                  |   |  |  |                                      |
| hyperMILL®                | OPEN MIND Technologies AG         | CAD/CAM | Win XP and Win 2000           | Pentium 4, 1.6 GHz                | 1 GB                | 256 MB Open GL     | Many available or custom built; user can modify parameters  | 2, 3, 4 & 5  | IGS, STP, VDA, DWG, DXF   | mill, router   | surface and solid | wireframe, curve, surface, solid | all   | parametric CAD, toolpath parameters recognize CAD change | Information CD; time limited software license  | \$4000-\$50000                       |
| hyperMILL in Inventor     | OPEN MIND Technologies AG         | CAM     | Win XP and Win 2000           | Pentium 4, 1.6 GHz                | 1 GB                | 256 MB Open GL     | Many available or custom built; user can modify parameters  | 2, 3, 4 & 5  | IGS, STP, IPT, SAT  | mill, router   | surface and solid | N/A for CAM only                 | all   | N/A for CAM only   | Information CD; time limited software license  | \$3000-\$50000                       |
| Edgecam                   | Pathtrace Plc                     |         |                               |                                   |                     |                    |   |  |   |  |                   |                                  |   |  |  |                                      |
| Pro/Engineer Wildfire     | PTC                               | CAD/CAM |                               |                                   |                     |                    |   |  |   |  |                   | Solid                            |   |  |  |                                      |
| RAMS 3D & RAMS Enterprise | RAMS Software, Inc                | CAM     | WINX, NT, 2000, XP            | 200MHz                            | 64MB                | 2MB                | Over 200 available, Configurable post processor   | 2 & 3  | EPS, DXF, 3D-DXF, STL, IGES, VDA, 3dm, SLA  | Routers, Engravers, Water JetsPlasma Cutters   | Both              | N/A for CAM only                 | Jewelry, Engraving, Mold making, Woodworking Sign making  | N/A for CAM only   | download 15 day fully functional trial version   | 3D->\$995.00 Enterprise-> \$1,895.00 |
| RAMS Gold                 | RAMS Software, Inc                | CAM     | WINX, NT, 2000, XP            | 200MHz                            | 64MB                | 2MB                | Over 200 available, Configurable post processor   | 2, 3 & 4   | EPS, DXF, 3D-DXF, STL, IGES, VDA, 3dm, SLA  | Routers, Engravers, Water JetsPlasma Cutters   | Both              | N/A for CAM only                 | Jewelry, Engraving, Mold making, Woodworking Sign making  | N/A for CAM only   |  | \$2,995.00                           |
| SprutCAM                  | SPRUT Technology Inc.             | CAM     | PC Windows                    | 233MHz or Better                  | 64MBytes or Better  | OpenGL Support     | Over 250 available, Configurable post processor   | 2, 2½, 3, 4 & 5  | IGES, DXF, STL, Parasolid, Rhino, VRML, PostScript, SGM   | Mills, Router, Engravers, Laser, Plasma & Water Jets Cutters                             | Solid             | N/A for CAM only                 | Machine, Jewelry, Engraving, Mold making, Woodworking, Sign making, Punch/Dies, Electrodes, Rapid prototyping, Musical instrument | N/A for CAM only   | download either Demo+ version (fully functional, but can not save projects), or Evaluation version (fully functional trial version), or Software Lock version (fully functional version) | Starting at \$1,700.00 \$500.00****  |
| Surfcam                   | Surfware                          | CAD/CAM | Windows                       | 100MHz                            | 256MBytes           | OpenGL Support     | over 1,000 availabe plus end user configurable  | 2,3,4 & 5  | IGES,DXF, DWG, Parasolid, Solid Edge, Solid Works, SAT, VDA, CATIA (up to version 5), Inventor, ProE, Step, UG  | Mills, Routers, Lathes, EDM, Waterjet, Laser & Plasma Cutters                            | Both              | Nurb, Surfaces, Wireframe        | Mold Making, Mills, Routers, Lathes, EDM, Waterjet, Laser & Plasma Cutters  | full toolpath associativity                              | On Line, user requested  | \$4,000 - \$18,000                   |
|                           | Tebis                             |         |                               |                                   |                     |                    |   |  |   |  |                   |                                  |   |  |  |                                      |
|                           | Unigraphics                       |         |                               |                                   |                     |                    |   |  |   |  |                   |                                  |   |  |  |                                      |

\* All prices are given in US\$ except where noted  
 \*\* Note this is the manufacturer's wording  
 \*\*\* Educational discount price

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