Chapter 15

Customizing MillWrite - Setting defaults

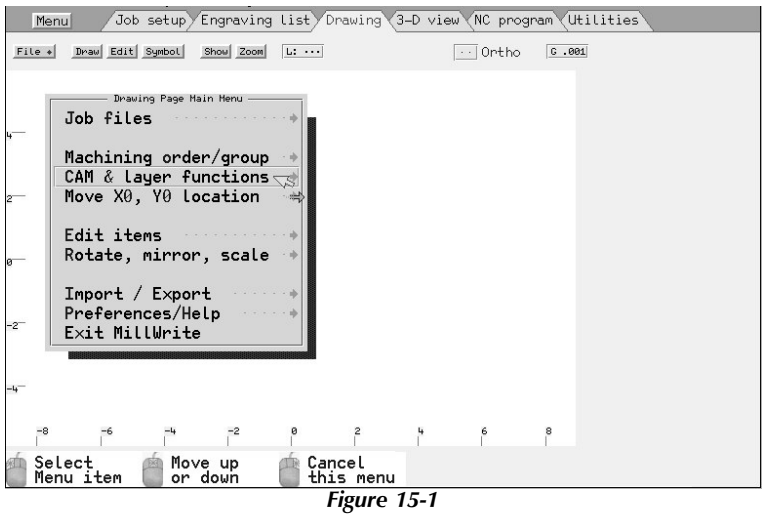

Figure 15-1

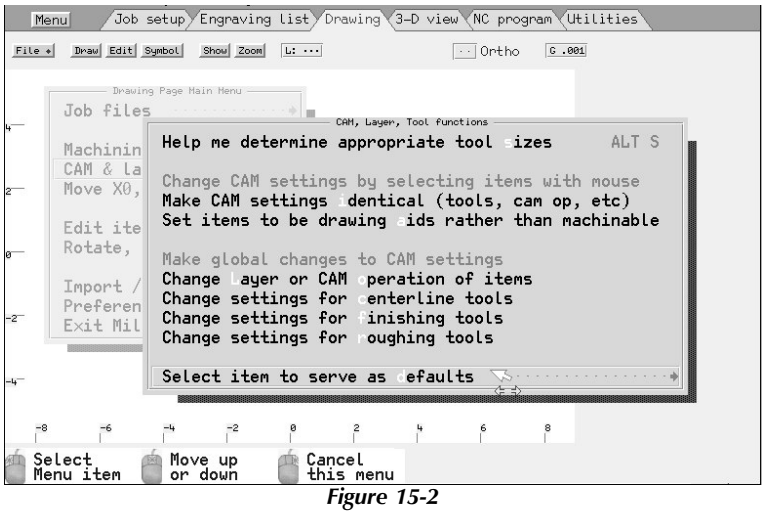

Figure 15-2

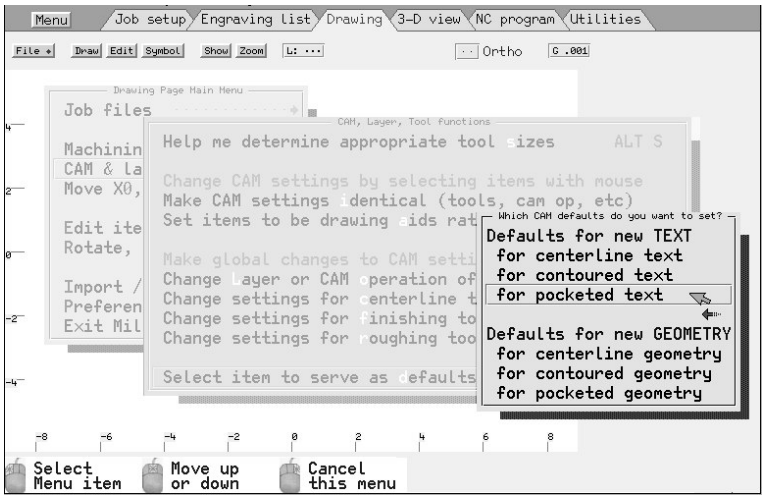

Figure 15-3

Setting the CAM defaults.

When you create text or geometry, MillWrite doesn't know which tool you want to use, nor does it know how deep you want to cut the item. Rather than leave all the tool settings blank and let you fill them all in, MillWrite will assign values according to what has been specified as the defaults for new items. You then change only the values that are incorrect.

If you find that a lot of the default values are incorrect, you can change the defaults simply by selecting the item that has the settings you want to become the defaults.

For an example, assume you must engrave a lot of circles and you want them each to be engraved with tool #2 at a depth of 0.3 inches. You begin by creating the first circle. MillWrite will give it whatever the current defaults happen to be, which may be tool #1 at a depth of 0.15 inches. So you change the tool settings that are incorrect. Set the tool to tool #2 and change the depth, the rapid height, and whatever other tool settings are incorrect. After the circle has been set with the correct tool settings, you can select that circle to be used as the defaults for new items. From then on, whenever you create another circle, MillWrite will give the same CAM settings as the circle that you selected to be the defaults.

Later you may have to create a lot of circles that you want to engrave with tool #3 at a depth of 0.06 inches. The defaults will be incorrect for these new circles. However, you can quickly change the defaults simply by picking one of these new circles to become the defaults.

The procedure to set the defaults is to bring up the **Main Menu** by clicking the **Menu** button in the upper left corner (or by pressing the Esc key). Then select the **CAM And Layer Functions** option from the menu, as seen in Figure 15-1. From the menu that appears next, as seen in Figure 15-2, select the option to **Select Item To Serve As Defaults**.

This brings you to another menu, as seen in Figure 15-3. There are six defaults; three for text and three for geometry. In the example previously discussed in which you are engraving circles, you would pick the defaults for **centerline geometry** because those circles were being engraved along their center line, and they are **geometry** rather than **text**. If instead you were ***pocketing*** the circles, you would select the option to set the defaults for pocketed geometry. Or if you were engraving ***text*** you would select the option to set the defaults for centerline text.

After selecting which of the defaults you want to set, MillWrite will put a message at the top of the screen to tell you click the geometry that has the CAM settings that you want to use for defaults.

The actual message will depend on which of the defaults you are setting. In Figure 15-4 MillWrite is prompting the user to click ***geometry*** rather than ***text***. Also, MillWrite is prompting the user to select geometry that has been set to ***centerline*** cutting rather than geometry that is set to be ***pocketed*** or ***contoured***. Note also that the mouse icons at the lower left of the screen show that the left mouse button is now set to copy tool parameters.

As you move the mouse over items in the drawing, MillWrite will put a message along the right side of the screen to either show you that the mouse is over an incorrect type of item, or, if the item is correct, MillWrite will show the parameters for that item.

In Figure 15-4 the mouse is touching a piece of geometry that has been set to be pocketed. However, MillWrite is prompting you to select geometry that has been set for ***center line engraving***. The message on the right side of the screen is informing you that the mouse is ***not*** touching the correct type of item.

In Figure 15-5 the mouse has been moved over a piece of geometry that has been set to engrave along its centerline. Since this is the type of geometry that MillWrite is waiting for, it displays some of its CAM settings along the right side of the screen so that you can make sure that this is the item that has the settings you want to use as defaults. If you were to now click the left mouse button, the CAM parameters for that item will become the defaults for new geometry that is engraved along its centerline. The screen will then return to its normal state and you can resume drawing or editing.

Resetting an item's CAM parameters

When you change the defaults, you affect only the items that you create from then on. Items that have ***already*** been created will keep their existing values rather than changing to the new defaults.

However, there may be times when you have messed up an item's tool settings and want to reset them to the defaults. The procedure to reset an items CAM settings is:

- *move the mouse onto the item. This will bring up the parameters along the right side of the screen*
- *click the left mouse button in that parameters area. This causes a button to appear at the bottom that says* ***Reset With My Default Values****, (Figure 15-6)*
- *click that button.*

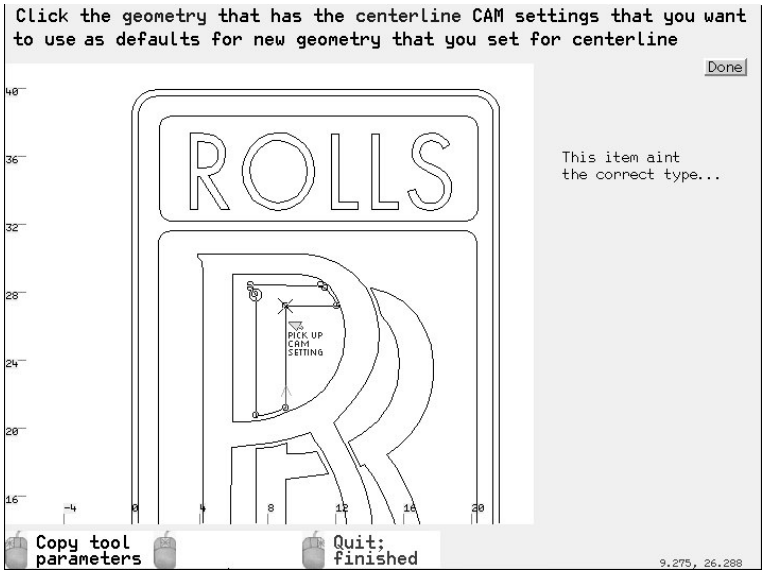

Figure 15-4

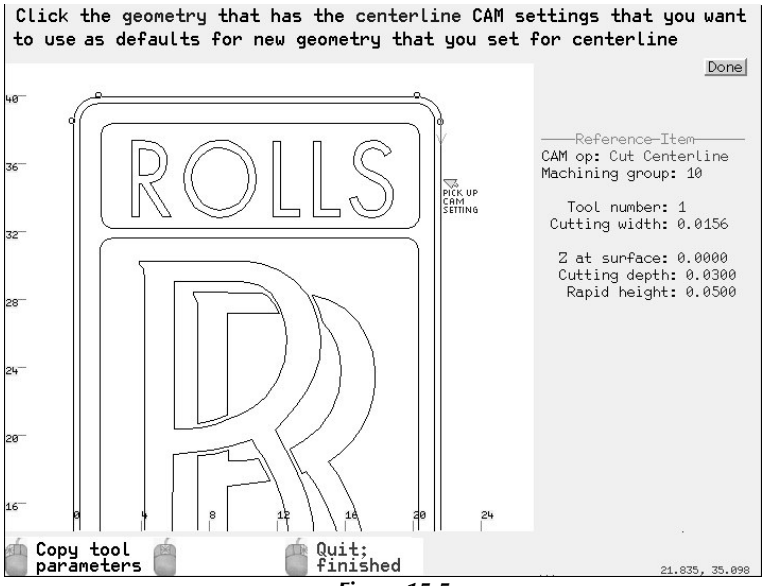

Figure 15-5

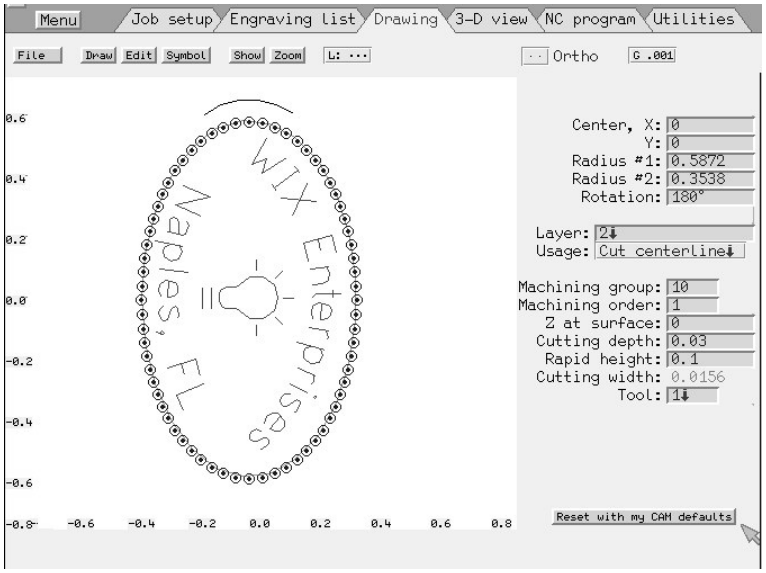

Figure 15-6