

## NEW SQUARE MILL CNC EXPRESS SQ

Our standard CNC Express Mill has been a boon to hundreds of customers' workshops over the last few years. Great as that may be, there's always room for bigger and better things. Some of our customers requested a square column mill, which required special order ball screws. The customer had to purchase their own milling machine and install the CNC kit themselves.

By popular demand we're now offering this larger and more robust machine, prebuilt and tested right here in our Kennesaw, Georgia facility.

The advantages of the SQ model are:

- A larger machining area (9" X 20")
- A larger table (9.5" X 32.5")
- Geared head drive delivers more torque
- Square way on Z axis (dovetail) allows accurate repositioning for tall parts without losing registration
- Tilting head allows more machining flexibility

When your parts are frequently larger than what the standard CNC Express can accommodate, or if you simply want more capacity and flexibility in how you fixture your materials, consider the new CNC Express SQ. Delivery is currently stock to two weeks ARO. Inquire for price.



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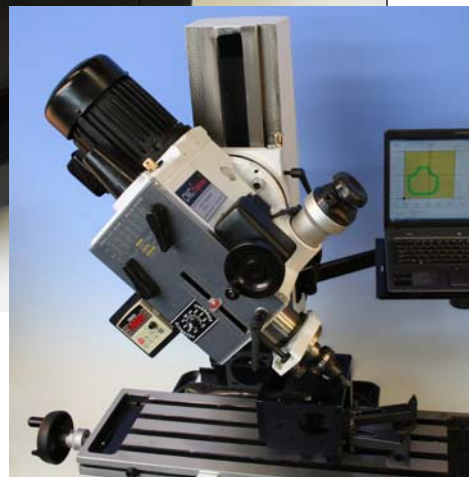
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### CNC Milling Training Class Now Forming

If you recently purchased or are thinking about purchasing a MicroKinetics CNC Mill, this may be your chance to get specialized training. It's on Wednesday and Thursday, March 11 and 12. Call for details and to reserve your seat. Space is limited!



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Dear Colleagues:

Over the last year we've seen the economy plummet, we've heard debates on whether we're in a recession or not, we've debated the financial institution bailouts, and now the big 3 automaker bailouts are in the works. We also have heard of massive layoffs from many companies including 40,000 workers from the U.S. Postal Service. When people ask me how we're doing, I say it could be worse. We're still clicking along but it may be that ignorance, as they say, is bliss.

We also have a new president and many changes are expected. I generally don't discuss politics so I'll keep my opinions to myself, except to say that we need to invest in ourselves and in American manufacturing. We need to produce hard goods; not shuffle paper to make a living. Those of you who find yourselves without employment may be looking at starting your own small business. And if so, you may want to produce something. If our machines end up helping you do that more cost effectively, then we're doing our part. And I appreciate that you're doing yours.

*Best wishes and happy holidays,*



*Maurice S. Khano, Owner*

## MICROKINETICS AND AMAZING ROBOTICS TEAM UP

Robot anything always conjures some definite ideas in any techie's head. The ideas that come to my mind are utilitarian. I appreciate what is useful. I recently became acquainted with James Deen, a Georgia Tech Engineer and proprietor of [amazingrobotics.com](http://amazingrobotics.com) through some development work for our website. When he told me about his company and the robotic components he offers, I could immediately see us putting our heads together and creating a novel application that brings together all our resources.

At the time, we were busy doing some significant updating of the MicroKinetics website, but as soon as we completed that task, I asked him to put a platform together for such a project. He did, and we have a physical rendition of what will be a functional robot. The initial plan is to create a seeing and moving device that runs on batteries.

We decided that a laptop with built-in camera and wireless G would be ideal. I just so happened to be at Costco that weekend, and picked up an amazing little laptop for \$349. Unbelievable! This thing had Windows XP, camera, wireless, 120 GIG HD and 1 GIG of RAM. I couldn't resist.

So far, we can command it to go forward and reverse varying distances, turn in various directions and we can have it follow a script of Motionet commands. It was cool to see it move along a square so precisely.

What I'd like to see next is for someone on the network to be able to command it to move in various directions while viewing its camera. This is fun! Stay tuned...





## CNC TRAINING: FIELD VS. FACTORY

Many of our customers purchasing a CNC Express or a CNC Lathe 1236 or both have faced the decision of whether to send the person(s) who will be running their machine(s) to MicroKinetics facility to obtain CNC training or to get the trainer to come to them. There are several advantages and disadvantages to either choice. The factors that go into this are 1) how many personnel will be attending, 2) are they able to attend the factory training when offered, and 3) are they able to be away from work and their families for the 2 or 3 days needed. The bottom line is what works best for the customer.

The laboratory group at U.S. Pipe in Birmingham, Alabama considered the options and chose to receive the training on the CNC Lathe Model 1236 at their facility. This allowed them to tend to business and learn the machine during periods of inactivity. They intend to use their lathe to make tensile strength test samples. Rectangular pieces of metal pipe needed to be machined into the dumbbell shape needed for the tensile-strength machine.

The training took place at the lab. The study material was covered in the manager's office, and we used his computer to enter programs. These programs were then transferred to the 1236 via a USB jump drive. We huddled around the machine and made the parts. The working conditions were not ideal for instruction, but we managed well, and we were able to bring it together in stages until the full training was completed. And as always, I was able to learn a few things from my students.

Thanks to the great bunch of hard working guys at U.S. Pipe, I have been entertained and enlightened just as much as everyone else. By the way, what was the name of the country cooking place we went to for lunch? Almost worth the trip to Birmingham just to eat there!



## REDUNDANCY IN MILLMASTER & TURNMASTER

Have you had a momentary power drop or brownout? Did someone in your shop ever step on a cord or accidentally pull out a USB cable while the machine was cutting a part? If you've experienced either, you'll really appreciate the latest enhancements to MillMaster Pro and TurnMaster Pro. Yes, they're getting smarter.

They're now able to detect a power glitch or accidental disconnect of the USB cable. Either occurrence will display an appropriate message and will allow you to recover from the problem safely. The position will most likely remain accurate and there is typically not any wasted material. I hope you will not need this level of redundancy, but it's nice to know it's there.

To get this functionality, you'll need to download the latest versions recently posted on the website. While the new enhanced features do go a long way towards protecting your work, it is not an ultimate solution for handling power issues. As always, you should use a UPS (uninterruptible power supply) to make sure the electric company does not do a number on your parts. The more complex and the more expensive the material, the more you need a UPS.

The new software revisions are:

TurnMaster Pro: 4.3.74 Build date: Nov 25, 2008 Release date: Dec 9, 2008

MillMaster Pro: 4.3.81 Build date: Nov 26, 2008 Release date: Dec 9, 2008

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