

VMD Tutorial #0: Exporting a Job from Torchmate CAD

To cut a part designed in Torchmate CAD you first have to export machine code into a job file. A job file is simply a text file with GM code in it; Torchmate CAD has the ability to export this type of file directly. In this tutorial you will learn how to export a job file from a toolpath in Torchmate CAD.

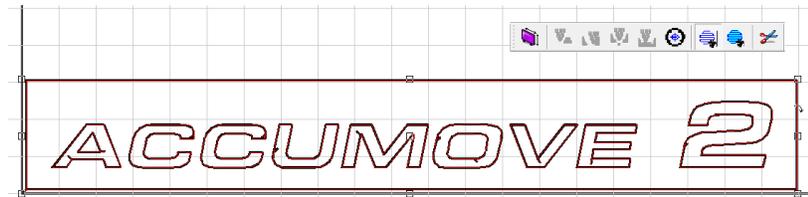
Before You Start:

Before you can create export machine code from Torchmate CAD you must have a toolpath created for your part. When generating the toolpath in Torchmate CAD make sure that the tool you are using is assigned to the proper turret. By default, the plasma cutter should be assigned to turret 1. If you need more information on how to generate a toolpath in Torchmate CAD, read the Torchmate CAD Software Guide.

Torchmate CAD uses a file called a 'Post-Processor' to generate the machine code for VMD. This post processor is called 'Accumove Imperial' and it is included with Torchmate CAD Version 9. If you are using an earlier version of Torchmate CAD you will need to install the Torchmate CAD Patch. This patch is included on the USB Flash Drive included with your machine. Follow the 'Installing the Accumove VMD Post in Torchmate CAD' instructions to install and configure the post processor.

Generate the Accumove Machine Code:

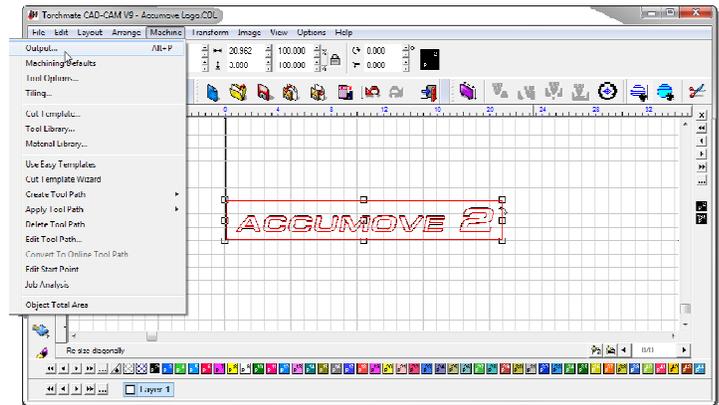
1. Make sure your toolpath is selected by pressing the 'Show Toolpaths' icon, then clicking and dragging a selection box around the toolpath. Position the toolpath in the lower left corner of the CAD workspace.



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2. Open the 'Machine' menu from the toolbar at the top of the window, then select 'Output.'

If you get an error message that says 'No objects to cut,' it means that the toolpath was not selected. Press 'OK' to close the error message and then make sure you select the toolpath and not the drawing. Try repeating step 1 if you are having trouble.



3. Make sure that 'Accumove Imperial' is selected in the 'Device' combo box.

What do I do if 'Accumove Imperial' doesn't show up in the Device list? See the FAQ for help with this issue.



4. Press the 'Cut Now' button on the Torchmate CAD ribbon bar. You will be prompted to save the .gm file. Give the job a descriptive name, then save the file to your Jobs folder.

Generally it's a good idea to save the jobs to your 'C:\Torchmate Controller Data\Jobs' folder for ease of access.



That's It!

The .gm file you saved is a job that you can run with the VMD software. If you haven't set up your Torchmate machine yet, continue reading Tutorial #1: Machine Configuration. Otherwise, launch VMD and select your job to start cutting!