



# *CadCamSystems*

## *Support Document*

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### TOOL DATABASE OPTIONS FOR POWERMILL

Here are the various options to store tools in PowerMill.

#### Database format:

- Stores tools and shanks
- Shanks are limited to 3 components with rules
- Stores speeds and feeds for multiple materials
- Can be used in metric and inch projects
- One file that can be shared on network
- Easy to use to add and change tools
- Can not store holders. Holders will need to be loaded into each tool
- Can not store form tools
- New to Powermill so structure may change in future releases
- Will take some time to get setup the first time

#### Template format:

- Stores tools, shanks, and holders
- Stores one set of speeds and feeds
- Can only be used in the units it was created in
- Each tool can be saved as one file or as multiple tools in one file
- You have to load the template in an empty project to change it
- Easy to use and change
- Templates are stable. Has been in Powermill for several versions
- Easy to setup
- This format is upgradeable to the database format when ready

#### Macro format:

- Able to create tools and holders on the fly by running the Macro
- Can only be used in the units it was created in
- Stores one set of speeds and feeds
- Takes some skill to add new tools or change existing macros
- Macro language changes in new releases can cause problems