General advice on how to handle the TCTControl box

The TCTControl boxes are available in 4 or 6 axes option. Both versions come with stepper motor outputs and: 1x USB client, 1x USB host, 1x 10/100 ethernet, 1x E-stop input, 6x Signal input (i.e. for limit switches), 1x spindel control ouput, 2x relais output, 1x UniPrint3D port and 1x Power supply connector (AC adapter included in delivery).

Note the following:

1) Never use the TCTControl box without the 24 V power supply. (24 V, 5A power adapter include)

2) Never plug or unplug the step motors during operation. The "MACHINE" [3] must be switched off first. This also applies to all other inputs and outputs on the rear panel.

3) Use the box in a dry environment. The ambient temperature should be between -10 and +35 degrees celsius (14 and 95 degrees Fahrenheit).

4) Only use the step motors supplied by us.

5) Turn on "MACHINE" only after the control software machinekit[®] (Cetus/machineface[®]) has been started. To simulate projects on the screen turn off "MACHINE".



- 1 ... boot/shut down button (software part)
- 2 ... connection to the PC (USB)
- 3 ... ON/OFF (stepper motor driver part) The stepper motor drivers part is independent from the software part and must be switched on/ off separately.
- 4 ... network connection
- 5 ... USB port to connect WLan adapter, flash drives,





Blue LED shine TCTControl software part is running Blue and red LED shine CNC application is running software status -> machine power on (ON/OFF button without function)



- 7 power connector (24 V / 5 A adapter)
- 8 machine axes (stepper motor)
- 9 input eg. reference switches
- 10 ... E-stop (art.no. 164 425 CNC)
- 11 ... connection to UniPrint3D
- 12 ... relais outputs 1 + 2 (signal 24 V)
- 13 ... spindle control output (0 10 V)





Connect the 24 V power supply to the TCTControl. Use the supplied USB cable to connect TCTControl to a free USB port.

Wait until it shows under Windows.

(PC with Windows 7 or higher)



For Win8 and Win10 user:

a) disable the driver signature verification before you continue. You can find many tutorials on the internet.

or

b) follow the video https://youtu.be/y-rFVQplUWs

(In this case, continue with "Start CNC application 4.2.2".)





open folder "Windows" on TCTControl



go to "Drivers"



start "BONE_DRV" for 32bit OS start "BONE_D64" for 64bit OS







click YES



Gerätetreiberinstallations-As	sistent	
	Willkommen	
	Mit diesem Assistenten können Sie Softwaretreiber installieren, die zum ordnungsgemäßen Ausführen einiger Computergeräte erforderlich sind.	
	Klicken Sie auf "Weiter", um den Vorgang fortzusetzen.	
	< Zuriick Weiter > Abbrechen	



click CONTINUE

YES install this driver!

(This needs to be continued several times.)

Also confirm all firewall and virus scanner messages concerning TCTControl.





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click INSTALL

click COMPLETE

CNC-1_33

Start CNC application

Variant A:

Run the machinekit-client directly from TCTControl. Go to TCTControl\Windows\ start "Start_machinekit-client.bat"



Variant B:

Run the machinekit-client from your Windows system. Go to TCTControl\Windows\Utils\ copy the folder "MachinekitClient " to you system (eg.: to the Desktop), Open the folder and start "machinekit-client.exe"







Machinekit-client starts

Start CNC application

If you used variant B, than you must enter the IP of the TCTControl, at the first start. Click at "+"







Few seconds later, the machinekit-client shows the connected TCTControl.





To change the language, click on the flag and select your preferred language.



Go to the machine menu. Click on "Machinekit Launcher"



All available machine configurations are now being displayed.





Start CNC application

Use the STAR to rank machines up.



To start a machine configuration click on it.







seconds.

Cetus - machinekit-client interface

4.2.2.1

[milling • cutting • turning]

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6 (now home all axis)	5 (then move down on the Z-axis until you almost touch the material.) 6 (now home all axis)				
7 (turn down the feed override to 40%, then start, after a while you can turn feed override back to 100%)	7 (turn down the feed override to 40%, then start, after a while you can turn feed over	ride back to 100%)			
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ESTOP No Tool Position: Relative Actual exerc3-BuildingBrick_Uni-fraes4-1.ngc					

1 menu bar

- A1) File -> Open File --- To open file from PC or network and upload it to the TCTControl
- A2) File -> Open File from Machine ---- To open file that already stored on TCTControl
- A3) File -> Edit File with System Editor --- To edit the currently loaded G-Code file.
- A4) File -> Reopen file --- After editing an open file, reopen it to update.

(1)

2

- A5) File -> Edit Tool Table --- Add and remove tools.
- A6) File-> Disconnect from Session --- Go back to the Launcher, without shutting down the running machine configuration.
- A7) File-> Shutdown Session --- Shut down the machine configuration and go back to launcher.
- A8) File-> Exit User Interface --- Closes the machinekit-client application, the machine configuration remains running.
- B) Machine --- For more details take a look at point 2 "icon bar"
- C) View --- Setup the user interface

2 icon bar



E-Stop ON/OFF





open file from TCTControl



process only next line



zoom function for preview

machine ON/OFF

reload open file



open file from PC



start working process



stop working process

reset live plot



change preview view



Cetus - machinekit-client interface [milling • cutting • turning]

3 control area

Can only be used if E-Stop is OFF and machine is ON.

A) Manual

May slightly vary depending on the machine configuration.

Manuell [F3]	MDI [F5]	a an an an an	
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Maashina			
Maschine	6		
Nebel	Überspülen		
Spindel 7			
CCW	Anhalten	CW	
-	+		
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- 1 axis selection
- 2 direction of movement
- 3 distance of movement (0.001 up to continuous)
- 4 referencing the axis (e.g. set zero point,)
- 5 speed of the movement (feed rate)
- 6 relais (cooling, dust extraction, ...)
- 7 headspindel (ON/OFF, rpm, direction of rotation available functions depend on the motor used.



Education

B) MDI (manual data input) Can only be used if all axes are referenced.

- 1 enter one command line (e.g. G0 X10 y10)
- 2 to execute inputted command, click here
- 3 history of entered command lines

If you click on a line in the history, the line will be entered again (1).

Cetus - machinekit-client interface [milling • cutting • turning]

4 information area

DRO (digital readout)

X, Y, (depends on the machine used) show the actual positions of the axes. If the background is red, the axis is not referenced (homed). If the background is green, the axis is homed.

Vel actual speed of the machine movement. DTG distance to go







Cetus - machinekit-client interface [milling • cutting • turning]

4.2.2.1

- 5 Configuration area
- 1 Feed Override (override programmed feed rate [F] of loaded G-Code file)
- 2 Spindle Override (override programmed spindle speed [S])
- 3 Maximum Velocity (override the maximal speed of the machine)



6 loaded G-Code file and 7 info line



- 1 Currently loaded G-Code file
- 2 Machine status ON/OFF
- 3 Currently loaded tool
- 4 Position mode
- 5 File name of the currently loaded G-Code file.



Machine: UNI-FRAES-V3 File: Sample_M1.ngc Raw material: Special colored Acrylic, 50x50x3 mm[art.no.: 166PLEXS] Tool: 1.6 mm end mill

Mark the center of the square (raw material)
Use the clamping jaws to fix the raw material. Protect the machine table by placing a second plate (plywood or acrylic, thickness min. 3 mm) beneath the raw material.





•) Start UNI-FRAES-V3 (machinekit-client)
1) Deactivate the E-Stop
2) Machine power ON
3) Open G-Code file stored on machine









•) Simulate the G-Code

1 ... Turn MACHINE OFF!

- 2 ... Select the X axis
- 3 ... click HOME

Repeat the process with Y and Z axis.

Now all 3 axes are homed.





1) click on "PLAY"

The simulation is running.

2) click on "STOP" to stop the simulation





•) Run the G-Code at the milling machine

 move the milling head
 (X/Y axis) to the zero position at the raw material.
 mut a thin paper between raw material end milling head.
 Go down with the Z axis and stop if the paper get stuck.
 mow the milling head stay at the zero position.

For that work you can move the axes manual (using the hand wheels - MACHINE at the TCTControl must be OFF! or Use the Cetus software interface to move

the axes - MACHINE at the TCTControl must be ON!

4 ... turn MACHINE ON at the TCTControl





5 ... select the X axis 6 ... click HOME

Repeat the process with Y and Z axis.

Now all 3 axes are homed.



If a axis is already homed, no problem, home it again.





9 ... click GO

ON





motor OFF!

three icons a) E-stop

c) Stop

Exercise 1

Machine: UNI-FRAES-V3 File: .../examples/exerc1-simple-square.ngc Raw material: Special colored Acrylic, 50x50x3 mm[art.no.: 166PLEXS] Tool: 1.6 mm end mill

Mark the center of the square (raw material)
Use the clamping jaws to fix the raw material. Protect the machine table by placing a second plate (plywood or acrylic, thickness min. 3 mm) beneath the raw material.

It is similar to the Sample_M1.ngc file







Exercise 2

Machine: UNI-FRAES-V3 File: .../examples/exerc2-3circlrs-g41_g42.ngc Raw material: Special colored Acrylic, 50x50x3 mm[art.no.: 166PLEXS] Tool: 1.6 mm end mill

•) Mark the center of the square (raw material)

•) Use the clamping jaws to fix the raw material. Protect the machine table by placing a second plate (plywood or acrylic, thickness min. 3 mm) beneath the raw material.

Programmed diameter of the circles is 6 mm.

1st circle (on right possition): It is without tool diameter compensation. The diameter of the cut out part is 6 - 1.6 = 4.4 mm The diameter of the cuted hole at the raw material is 6 + 1.6 = 7.6 mm

2nd circle (in the middle): With tool diameter compensation. The diameter of the cut out part is 6 - 1.6 - 1.6 = 2.8 mm **The diameter of the cut hole in the material is 6 mm**

3rd circle (on the left possition): It is with tool diameter compensation. **The diameter of the cut out part is 6 mm.** The diameter of the cut hole in the

material is 6 + 1.6 + 1.6 = 9.2 mm

<u>Experiment</u>

Now replace the milling head at your milling machine - use for example a 1.2 mm end mill. For tool number take a look at your tool table (t50 = 1.2 mm end mill) Now "File =>Edit file with System Editor", change the tool number from T55 to T50 **Save as => exerc2-3circlrs-g41_g42-A.ngc ==> on the Desktop ==> open the new files in CETUS** Use a new raw material and cut the circles again (don't forget to update the zero point). The diameters of the cuted hole (circle 2) and the cut out part (circle 3) will be also 6 mm. It was only one small change at the G-Code file necessary!







Exercise 3

Machine: UNI-FRAES-4 File: .../examples/exerc3-BuildingBrick_Uni-fraes4-1.ngc Raw material: Special milling foam, 50x25x25 mm[art.no.: 166FOAM S] Tool: 1.6 mm end mill

Mark the zero point (raw material)
Use the 4 jaw chuck to fix the raw material.



After successfully milling this project the first time, try the following:

a) Go to "MDI"
b) Enter
G0 a180 => "GO"
c) Go to "MANUAL"
d) Home A axis again!
e) Now you can start the milling file again.





Exercise 4

Machine: UNI-FRAES-V3

File: .../examples/exerc4-100-call-a-subroutine-sample.ngc

Raw material: plywood or acrylic, dimensions depending on the selected parameters **Tool:** 1.6 mm end mill

Preparation

•) Start the files.bat file at TCTControl/Windows/ TOOLS/ •) When asked for a password use: machinekit The left part of the "WinSCP" window is the file system of your PC. The right part is the file system of the TCTControl. •) Go to nc_files/examples •) Copy following files to the folder nc files: 100.ngc exerc4-100-call-a-subroutinesample.ngc

•) Open the exerc4-100-call-asubroutine-sample.ngc file in CETUS

See comments in file exerc4-100-call-a-subroutine-sample. ngc !!! To learn what the parameters like [-8] [8] [3] [3.5] [4] [2] mean, please read the comments in 100.ngc.

Experiment with different parameters.







Exercise 5

Machine: UNI-FRAES-V3 File: .../examples/exerc5-var-cicles.ngc Raw material: Special colored Acrylic, 50x50x3 mm[art.no.: 166PLEXS] Tool: 1.6 mm end mill

Mark the center of the square (raw material)
Use the clamping jaws to fix the raw material. Protect the machine table by placing a second plate (plywood or acrylic, thickness min. 3 mm) beneath the raw material.



Showing circle segments with G2.





Cetus - Engraving cylinders with 3-axis control [X, Y, Z axis G-Code file]

Required hardware

Unimat CNC 3-axis vertical milling machine, CNC-rotating axis [164300 CNC], clamping device (e.g.: collet, 3-jaw chuck,), TCTControl [TCTCONT4 or TCTCONT6]

Requirements for the workpiece

The area to be engraved must have a consistent diameter.

1) Calculating the "SCALE" for the machine configuration (.ini file)

- •) CNC-rotation axis [164300CNC]: 1 (micro) Step \triangleq 17,7°
- •) cylinder diameter ø D [mm] circumference U [mm] (U ≙ 360°) π 3,14159

 $U = D \times \pi$

$1 \text{ mm} \triangleq 360 / \text{U} = \text{S}$

SCALE [step/mm] = $17,7^{\circ} \times S$

1.1) Example of a cylinder with ø 14 mm

 $U = 14 \times 3,14159 = 43,98226$ S = 360 / 43,98226 = 8,18512 SCALE = 17,7 × 8,18512 = <u>144,87662</u>

2) Customize the machine configuration file (e.g.: Uni-fraes-v3v2.ini)

•) Start files.bat

[TCTCONTROL\Windows\TOOLS\files.bat]

In the right area is the Linux file system of the TCTControl

•) The machine configurations files folder is

/home/machinekit/machinekit-configs/



Cetus - Engraving cylinders with 3-axis control [X, Y, Z axis G-Code file]

- •) Mark the configuration to be edited -> right mouse click -> Edit
- •) Scroll to "#Second axis"

<pre># Second axis [AXIS_1]</pre>		
TYPE =	LINEAR	
HOME =	0.000	
MAX_VELOCITY =	5.0	
MAX_ACCELERATION =	20.0	
STEPGEN MAX VEL =	6.0	
STEPGEN MAX ACC =	22.0	
STEPGEN_MIN_VEL =	0.001	
BACKLASH =	0.000	
SCALE =	-3200	
MIN_LIMIT =	-50.0	
MAX_LIMIT =	50.0	
FERROR =	0.500	

•) Comment out the line "SCALE -3200" with #

STEPGEN_MIN_VEL =	0.001
BACKLASH =	0.000
# \$CALE =	-3200
MIN_LIMIT =	-50.0
MAX_LIMIT =	50.0

•) Add the following lines and save the file



•) Open Machinekit client and start machine configuration

3) Connect the Unimat CNC-rotating axis [164300CNC] to the Y-axis of the TCTControl

4) It is now possible to engrave a design (G code / X, Y, Z values) on the cylinder surface.



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Sample 1 - engraving into acrylic

raw material: acrylic plate ~ 50 x 50 x 3 mm tool: end mill ø1.0 mm optional: end mill ø1.6 mm







2) select at "Custom size" --> "Units" --> "mm".

enter for both "Width" and "Height" 50 after that close the window.

click on the magnifier icon
 "Zoom to fit page in window".





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6) click on the arrow "Select and transform objects".





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8) Now that the rectangle is marked click on "Object" --> "Fill and Stroke".



9) in the window "Fill and Stroke" select "Fill" and click on "X" (No paint).

Attention:

The rectangle must be selected (marked).





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10) switch to "Stroke paint" and click on "Flat color" (1), then click "Blue" (2).

Attention:

The rectangle must be selected (marked).



11) write "255" and press "Enter". The contour color of the rectangle is now blue.

Attention: The rectangle must be selected (marked).



12) click on "Path" --> "Object to Path" (vector). Now the rectangle is a vector graphic.

Attention:

The rectangle must be selected (marked).





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16) click into the blue rectangle, then select a (Single Line Fonts) for example "DINEng1Line". Write your text - for example:

The Cool Tool

CoolCNC

After that click on the arrow icon "Select and transform objects".





Attention: The text field must be activated (marked).



18) click on "red"





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19) enter "255" then click on "blue" and change value to "0" and press "Enter".

Attention: The text field must be activated (marked).



After that click on "Center".











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22) select the text field and place it in the middle of the blue rectangle.

Attention:

Please take care that the blue rectangle is at the center of the raw material. If it is not at the center, select the blue rectangle and the text field and place it again.

23) click on "Path" --> "Object to Path" (vector). Now the font is converted to a vector graphic.

Attention:

The text field must be activated (marked).

24) Why two layers? For each cutting depth you need a separate layer. Here we have two different depths:

1) red text: 1.0 mm (engraving)

2) blue rectangle: 4.5 mm (raw material 4.0 mm - acrylic)





ns <u>H</u>elp



X .9.05 Z 4091

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Gcode Tools®

25) Orientation points (zero point for the blue rectangle)

click on "Extensions" --> "Gcodetools" --> "Orientation points ..."

Attention:

a) layer "Layer 1" must be activated.b) blue rectangle must be selected.



26) select "2-points mode" and "mm". enter at "z depth" "-3.5". Attention: "z surface" remains "0.0".









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31) The position of the zero point for layer "Layer 1" and layer "font" is the same (congruent).

Attention: Do not move this point!



32) Tools library

activate "Layer 1" and select the blue rectangle (marked), then click on "Extensions" --> "Gcodetools" --> "Tools library"



33) select "cylinder"





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4) click on "Apply" then close the window - click on "Close"







36) now you can see the "Tool window" for "Layer 1".





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37) place the "Tool window" near the blue rectangle, then click on the magnifier icon (Zoom to fit drawing in window).







39) edit the following parameters in the "tool window:

diameter = 1 feed = 100 penetration feed = 25 depth step = 1.2





File Edit View Layer Object Bath Text Filters

с - : Ц 4 Р П "Вал Вал Вал Ва

The Cool Tool

CoolCNC

(0.0; 0.0; 0.0)

Images Modify Raster Rende Text

feed

penetration angle

penetration feed depth step

tool change gcode

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40) activate layer "font" and select the red text (marked), then click on "Extensions" --> "Gcodetools" --> "Tools library"





100

90 25

1.2

(None)

(100.0; 0.0; -4.6)

Ann **2 2 2**

ylindrical cutter

About

About... Area... Check for u DXF Points Engraving. Graffiti... Lathe... Orientation Path to God





42) the new "Tool window" (window for layer "font") is magenta.

CNC-1_67

(40)

0.0

100.0

X 244.95 Z 213%

Fill and Stroke (Shift+Ctr(+F)

× • • • • • •

Bjur

Opacity, 9

Fill C Stroke paint Stroke style

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43) click on the "A" icon (Create and edit text objects) and edit following parameters:

44) check the order of the layers.

click on "Layer" --> "Layers ...".

diameter = 1 feed = 100 penetration feed = 25 depth step = 0.5





45) correct order: 1) font 2) Layer 1

If the order isn't correct, you can change the order. Select one of the two layers and then move it (with the arrows) up or down.





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46) click on the arrow icon "Select and transform objects", then select the engraving (red text) and the work piece (blue rectangle).





47) click on "Extensions" --> "Gcodetools" --> "Path to Gcode ...".

48) click on "Preferences" and enter following parameters:

File: Add numeric Directory: cnc/linuxcnc/nc_ ("coolcnc": Z safe heig Units Post-proce	sample-1.ngc "activate" /home/cool- files = username) ht 2.00 mm
Post-proce	ssor None
click on "Path to G	code"!

Path to Gcode Options Preferences Help	48
File: sample-1.ngc	
Add numeric suffix to filename	\checkmark
Directory: /home/coolcnc/linuxcnc/nc_files	
Z safe height for G00 move over blank: 2.00000	^
Units (mm or in): mm	\$
Post-processor: None	\$



128

128

55

0.0

100.0

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49) check the parameters:

Biarc inter	0.100
Maximum splitting	4
Cutting order	
subpath by subpath	
Depth funktion:	d

click on "Apply" and then close the window- click on "Close"!

					_
Path to Gcode	Options	Preferences	Help		9
Biarc interpolation tolerance:				0.10000	÷
Maximum spli	tting dept	h:		4	-
Cutting order			Subp	oath by subpath	2
Depth function	: d				Ī
Sort paths to re	eduse rap	id distance		[
Biarc interpolation tolerance is the maximum distance between path and its approximation. The segment will be split into two segments if the distance between path's segment and its approximation exceeds biarc interpolation tolerance. For depth function c=color intensity from 0.0 (white) to 1.0 (black), d is the depth defined by orientation points, s - surface defined by orientation points.					
Live preview					



50) finished!

Now you can save the Inkscape file (click on "File" --> "Save"), after that you can close Inkscape[®].

51) Open the generated G-Code file in CETUS (UNI-FRAES-V3).



Working with Autodesk® Fusion 360®

https://www.autodesk.com/products/fusion-360/students-teachers-educators

Fusion 360 is a professional 3D CAD/CAM software for which AUTODESK offers free licenses for education.

Advanced designs, 2.5D drawings or 3D models can be constructed, the CAM functionality allows for generating G-code files.

Suitable post-processors and tool-tables make it compatible to the Machinekit CNC software.



Fusion 360 - CAM (set machining parameters)





Autodesk[®] Inventor[®] can also be used.



