

Version 6.6 Release Summary

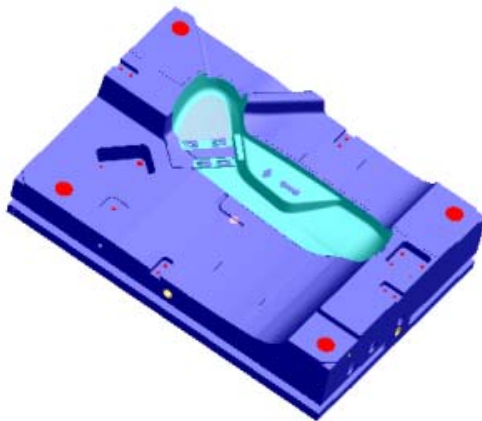
July 2008

Overview

Version 6.6 includes new features and important software corrections. This release summary will briefly review these changes to Prospector. Choose What's New from the Help menu for a more thorough introduction to the changes included in this release.

Patch Surfaces

Patch surfaces can be included with the design data of a project to cover certain features of the design that will be machined later in the manufacturing process. For example a lifter pocket in a mold could be covered by a patch surface to indicate it is to be ignored during the initial roughing process. Later in the machining process, the patch surface can be removed to machine the pocket. Details that will be addressed with secondary processes EDM or holmaking operations are also prime candidates for covering with patch surfaces.



This part data was designed with patch surfaces in red to cover holes that will be machined after the job is roughed and finished.

The New Project wizard has a separate page to allow you to indicate which color(s) and/or layer(s) were uniquely assigned to the patch surface data.

If a project has identified patch surfaces, you can decide whether or not those surfaces will be machined on the first page of the new program wizard.

If this switch is enabled, the job will be machined with the patch surfaces as part of the data set. If the switch is disabled (as shown), then the patch surfaces are ignored allowing you to machine in the area(s) that the patch surfaces covered.

Use Patch Surfaces

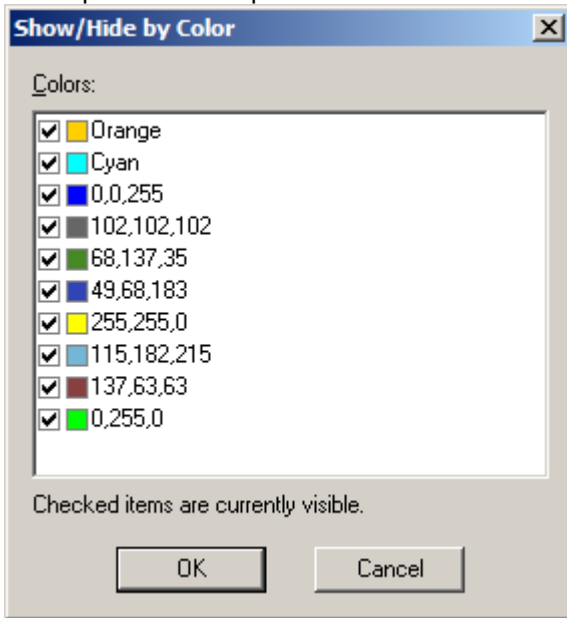
Notes about patch surfaces:

- In addition to the Project/New wizard, the Project/Properties properties sheet includes a tabbed page to allow you to identify or change patch surfaces after a project has been created.

- For 2D machining, the Use Patch Surfaces switch determines whether or not patch surfaces should be considered when looking for features. For example if the switch is enabled when searching for holes, holes covered by patch surfaces won't be considered.
- The remaining stock model data is always created and updated as though the patch surfaces were not there.
- The display of patch surfaces can be turned on or off using the new View/Display option.

Enhanced Color Support

When importing part data in Parasolid format all color information will be preserved. In previous versions, colors were mapped to the closest color in Prospector's palette of 12 standard colors. When you are working with Parasolid part data, dialogs for choosing colors will show all the colors present in the part data.



The Show/Hide by Color dialog is an example of one of the revised dialogs.

Colors used in the project that exactly match a color from the standard Prospector palette are always named (Orange and Cyan in this example).

Other colors used in the project are labeled by their RGB values.

Circular Interpolation

By default Prospector will output circular interpolation records for post processing when it is evident that the geometry of the feature to be machined is a true arc or circle. This is also the case for arcs generated for lead-in and lead-out approaches. In previous versions arcs would not be generated unless you enabled the Circular Interpolation switch on the High Speed Machining tab of the Send to Control dialog.

If your post processor supports circular interpolation, G02/G03 blocks (or your CNC's equivalent) will be output for machining as was the case previously when the Circular Interpolation switch was enabled. If your post and/or machine doesn't support circular interpolation, it will continue to generate the same output (i.e. the arc/circular motion will be output in linearized form).

Customer Closed Track IDs

Track is the electronic database system that records all customer and internally generated requests for corrections and enhancements. When you report a problem or request an enhancement, our customer service representatives will input your request into the Track system and give you a Track ID number. When we complete a release, we set the status on all records in the Track database that have been addressed to closed. In the table below is a listing of all Track items addressed by this release:

ID	Customer	Synopsis
121	HS Die	Add a color editing dialog.
4813	SofTech	Add support for patch surfaces.
4954	ITW Drawform	Add support for patch surfaces.
5143	SofTech	Color settings dialog should reference new geometry instead of current object.
5957	Mach Mold	Add support for patch surfaces.
6018	Model Die	Add support for patch surfaces.
6398	Mach Mold	Add support for patch surfaces.
6563	MSI Mold Builders	Enhance color support to exactly match colors of the CAD data.
6581	Strohwig Industries	Z-Planar No Clear program produced 2 unnecessary levels.
6585	Oakwood	Z-Planar remachining part gouge.
6589	Spartech	Updating a drilling program to change hole depth causes a program crash.
6592	Spartech	Program crash and missing circular leads for 2D profile program.
6593	K&S Tool	Mirror of Z-Planar with Machine Floors option will not mirror the floors.
6594	SofTech	Mirroring a thread milling program does not maintain cutting convention.
6595	SofTech	Project/Properties dialog shows inches instead of mm for constant stock.
6596	EMF	Default to output of G02/G03 for profiling/pocketing a true circle or arc.
6597	EMF	Output G02/G03 for circular lead-in/lead-out for profiling and pocketing.
6599	EMF	Default to output of G02/G03 for profiling/pocketing a true circle or arc.
6600	Oakwood	Updating a drilling program to change hole depth causes a program crash.
6601	SofTech	Facemilling program does not completely cut the indicated profile.
6602	K&S Tool	Mirroring a Z-Planar program can fail on a multi-core computer.
6603	SofTech	Revise error dialog when a trial license expires.
6604	SofTech	When using Prospector as a COM object disable the trial license dialog.
6605	R&D Tool	Flow cut program is gouging the part.
6606	MSI Mold Builders	Updating a drilling program to change hole depth causes a program crash.
6607	AMH	Radial program is gouging the part.
6608	AMH	Flow cut program is gouging the part.