

System Recommendations for use with Mastercam for SOLIDWORKS

Rev 3.2 January 2015

See the table below for minimum and recommended system configurations for Mastercam for SOLIDWORKS.

	Minimum	Recommended
OS	Windows 7 or 8/8.1 64-bit Professional	Windows 7 or 8/8.1 64-bit Professional
Processor	Intel or AMD 64-bit processor	Intel i7 processor
Memory	8 GB	16 GB
Video	SOLIDWORKS certified video cards and drivers ^a No onboard graphics	
Storage	250 GB drive with 20 GB free DVD/USB drive (depending on installation media)	250 GB Solid State Drive (SSD) with 20 GB free DVD/USB drive
Mouse	3-button Microsoft compatible mouse	3-button wireless Microsoft or Logitech mouse
3D Mouse		3DConnexion 3D mouse

- a. For more information on certified graphics cards, go to www.solidworks.com/sw/support/SystemRequirements.html, and click the **Certified cards and drivers** link.

Connection to internet and e-mail is recommended for installation, support and updates.

The rule of thumb is to get as much power (processor, video card and memory) for your systems as you can afford.

PROCESSOR

The processor speed will impact how fast the software will calculate and complete tasks. More and more aspects of Mastercam for SOLIDWORKS are becoming multi-core processor aware with each release. Toolpath calculation and Simulation will generally run faster with a multi-core processor. We typically see a 50% reduction in toolpath calculation time with the Intel i7 processor.

MEMORY

When Mastercam for SOLIDWORKS uses all available RAM it switches to using virtual memory space, which is stored on the hard drive, and will dramatically slow the system down. For large toolpath generation and simulation we recommend 16 GB or even 32 GB of RAM.

MONITOR

The majority of our internal systems utilize dual monitors and we find this to be more productive. A second monitor allows applications such as Mastercam Simulator, Code Expert,

Tool Manager and other applications to run on the secondary monitor while Mastercam for SOLIDWORKS utilizes the primary monitor.

STORAGE

We have found that one of the biggest upgrades to be made is to invest in a Solid State Drive (SSD). These are now priced at a point which makes them a good investment. Many of our test systems employ a smaller primary SSD for the OS and installed application with a second large capacity conventional drive for data.

MOUSE

A three-button mouse is recommended. We would recommend using a major brand name like [Microsoft](#) or [Logitech](#).

3D MOUSE

A 3D mouse improves the way you interact with your 3D application. It is designed to be used by your non-dominant hand in tandem with a standard mouse for a balanced and cooperative work style. You gently manipulate the 3D mouse's controller cap to simultaneously pan, zoom and rotate 3D content while your standard mouse is free to select menu items or parts of the model. More technical and purchase information can be found on the [3Dconnexion](#) website.

ANTI-VIRUS SOFTWARE

Most computers today have some kind of anti-virus software to protect from unwanted malware. In some cases these have been found to interfere with applications such as Mastercam for SOLIDWORKS which are running on the PC. CNC Software does not recommend particular products but if you see unexpected issues, it may be a clash with anti-virus software. Try temporarily disabling the anti-virus software or setting an exception for Mastercam for SOLIDWORKS.