Table of Contents iv
Introduction 1
Topics covered in this Book 1
Chapter 1: Getting Started with FreeCAD 0.21 2
Introduction to FreeCAD 2
Starting FreeCAD 5
User Interface 6
Graphics window 6
File Menu 7
Toolbars 8
File Toolbar 8
View toolbar 8
Menu 13
Status bar 14
Tasks tab 14
Mouse Functions 15
FreeCAD Help 17
Questions 17
Chapter 2: Sketch Techniques 19
Creating Sketches 19
Grid and Snap Settings 20
Toggle grid 20
Toggle Snap 21
Sketch Commands 21
The Line command 22
The Polyline command 23
Creating Arcs 23
The Center and end points command 23
The End points and rim point command 24
Creating Circles 24
Center and rim point 24
3 rim points 25
Creating Rectangles 25
Create a 2 Point Rectangle 25
Centered Rectangle 26

Rounded Rectangle 26
Create Slot 26
Creating Polygons 27
Triangle 27
Square 27
Pentagon 28
Hexagon 28
Heptagon 28
Octagon 29
Regular Polygon 29
The Ellipse by center, major radius, point command 29
The Ellipse by periapsis, apoapus, minor radius command 30
Hiding the Internal Geometry 31
Toggle Construction geometry 31
Adding Dimensions 31
Horizontal Distance 31
Vertical Distance Constraint 32
Distance Constraint 33
Angle Constraint 33
Diameter Constraint 33
Adding Dimensions to an Arc 34
Adding a Radius 34
Adding a Linear dimension to the Arc 35
Constrain auto radius/diameter 35
Over-constrained Sketch 36
Geometric Constraints 36
Coincident Constraint 36
Horizontal Constraint 37
Vertical Constraint 38
Equal 39
Tangent 39
Parallel Constraint 40
Perpendicular Constraint 40
Symmetrical Constraint 40
Block Constraint 41

The Sketch Fillet command 41
The Corner-preserving fillet command 42
The Extend edge command 42
The Trim Edge command 43
The Split Edge command 44
The Select unconstrained DOF command 44
Rectangular array 44
Delete all Constraints 45
Delete all geometry 46
Remove axes alignment 46
Removing Redundant Constraints 46
The Mirror Sketch command 48
Creating Splines 48
B-spline by control points 48
Periodic B-spline by control points 49
B-spline by Knots 49
Periodic B-spline by Knots 50
Best Practices 50
Cautions 51
Tips 51
Tutorial 1 (Millimetres) 52
Starting a new part file 52
Starting a sketch 53
Adding Constraints 54
Adding Dimensions 55
Tutorial 2 (Inches) 59
Creating a New document 59
Creating a Sketch 60
Tutorial 3 (Millimetres) 66
Creating a New Document 67
Creating a Sketch 67
Questions 74
Exercises 74
Exercise 1 74
Exercise 2 74
Exercise 3 75

Chapter 3: Pad and Revolve Features 76
Pad Features 76
Extruding the Sketch in the Custom Direction 77
Revolved Features 78
Best Practices: 81
Cautions: 81
Tips: 81
External Geometry 82
Pocket 83
The Groove command 83
Planes 84
Creating a Parallel plane 84
Inertia 2-3 85
Plane at Angle 85
Plane by 3 Points 86
Normal to 3 Points 86
Tangent to Surface 86
Normal to edge 87
Revolution section 87
Best Practices: 88
Cautions: 88
Tip: 88
Datum Line 88
1st principal axis 88
Through Two Points 89
Normal to surface 90
Datum Point 90
Center of mass 90
Vertex 91
Additional options of the Pad and Pocket commands 91
Extent Type 91
Adding Taper to the Pad Feature 94
Best Practices while Extruding Sketches 95
Cautions to Keep in Mind 96
Useful Tips 96
View Modification commands 97

Tutorial 1 (Millimeters) 99
Creating a New Document 99
Creating a Sketch 100
Creating a Pad Feature 101
Creating a Pocket Feature 101
Extruding a sketch up to the Face next to the sketch plane 103
Extruding a sketch up to a selected face 106
Tutorial 2 (Inches) 107
Creating a New document 107
Creating a Revolved Feature 107
Creating a Groove feature 109
Adding a Revolution Feature to the Model 110
Questions 111
Exercises 112
Exercise 1 112
Exercise 2 113
Exercise 3 113
Chapter 4: Dress-up Features 115
Hole 115
Simple Hole 116
Counterbored Hole 118
Countersink Hole 119
Counterdrill Hole 119
Threaded Hole 120
Best Practices 122
Cautions 122
Tips 122
Fillet 123
Selection Modes 124
Best Practices 125
Cautions: 125
Tips for Different Types of Parts: 125
Chamfer 126
Equal Distance chamfer 126
Distance and Angle chamfer 127
Two Distance chamfer 128

The Draft command 128
General Guidelines 130
Drafting Tips for Different Part Types 130
Cautions: 131
Thickness : 131
Best Practices 132
Cautions 133
Tips 133
Tutorial 1 (Millimetres) 134
Creating a New document 134
Creating the Pad Feature 134
Creating the Hole Features 138
Creating Fillets and Chamfers 142
Tutorial 2 (Inches) 144
Creating a New document 145
Creating the Pad features 145
Creating the Rib 148
Creating the Pocket features 151
Creating the Fillet and Hole features 152
Tutorial 3 (Millimeters) 154
Creating a New document 154
Creating the Pad features 155
Creating the Angled Plane 155
Creating the Pad feature 156
Creating the Hole feature 158
Questions 159
Exercises 160
Exercise 1 (Inches) 160
Exercise 2 (Millimeters) 161
Chapter 5: Patterned Geometry 163
Mirrored 164
Best Practices 165
Cautions 165
Tips for Specific Part Types 165
Create Patterns 166
Linear Pattern 166

Best Practices 167
Cautions: 167
Tips for Different Types of Parts 167
Polar Pattern 168
Best Practices 168
Cautions 169
Tips for Different Types of Parts 169
Multi Transform 170
Tutorial 1 171
Creating a New document 172
Creating the Pad features 172
Creating the Hole features 175
Creating the Multi transform feature 176
Creating the threaded Hole feature 178
Mirroring the Features 179
Creating the Hole and Pocket features 180
Tutorial 2 (Millimetres) 183
Creating a New document 184
Creating the Pad Feature 184
Adding a Lip to the model 188
Creating Bosses 189
Creating Ribs 193
Tutorial 3 (Millimeters) 197
Creating a New document 198
Creating the Pad feature 198
Creating the Counterbore Hole 202
Creating the Polar Pattern 202
Creating a New Body 203
Creating a Common Body Between the Two Bodies 204
Creating Cylindrical Feature and Hole at the center 204
Creating Fillets 206
Tutorial 4 (Millimeters) 206
Creating a New document 207
Creating the Pad feature 207
Adding the Pad feature 208
Creating the Polar Pattern 210

Creating the Pocket Features 211
Creating a Polar Pattern 213
Questions 214
Exercises 214
Exercise 1 214
Chapter 6: Pipe Features 218
Additive Pipe 219
Section Orientation 221
Creating an Additive Pipe between two Cross-sections 222
Subtractive pipe 223
Best Practices for Pipe features 224
General Swept Features: 225
Plastic Parts: 225
Casted Parts: 225
Forged Parts: 225
Machined Parts: 225
3D Printed Parts for Makers: 225
Additive helix 225
Subtractive helix 229
Best Practices 230
Cautions 230
Tips for Different Types of Parts 230
Tutorial 1 231
Creating a New document 231
Creating the Pipe Feature 231
Adding the Pad Feature 236
Creating the Polar pattern 238
Questions 240
Exercises 241
Exercise1 241
Chapter 7: Loft Features 242
Additive Loft 242
Subtractive Loft 245
Best Practices 246
Cautions: 246
Tips for Specific Types of Parts: 246

Plastic Parts: 246
Casted Parts: 246
Forged Parts: 246
Machined Parts: 247
3D Printed Parts: 247
Tutorial 1 247
Creating a New document 247
Creating a Loft Feature 248
Mirroring the Loft and Pad features 250
Questions 251
Exercises 251
Exercise 1 251
Chapter 8: Modifying Parts 254
Edit Sketches 254
Edit Feature 255
Deleting Sketches 256
Attachment Editor 257
Tutorial 1 (Inches) 259
Creating a New document 261
Editing a Feature 261
Editing Sketches 262
Questions 265
Exercises 265
Exercise 1 265
Exercise 2 265
Chapter 9: Assemblies 268
Starting an Assembly 268
Inserting Components 270
Moving and Rotating Parts 271
Applying Constraints 272
Coincident Plane Constraint 272
The Opposed direction 272
The Aligned Direction 273
Axis Coincident Constraint 274
Circular Edge Constraint 275
Angled Planes Constraint 276

Planes Parallelism Constraint 277
Sphere to Sphere constraint 278
Editing an Imported Part 279
Edit selected constraint 280
Sub-assemblies 281
Best Practices 282
General Cautions 282
Tutorial 1 (Bottom-Up Assembly) 282
Creating the Assembly file 283
Inserting part files in the Assemblies 284
Defining Constraints 285
Questions 289
Exercises 290
Exercise 1 290
Chapter 10: Drawings 292
Starting a Drawing 292
Inserting the Drawing page 293
Insert View 294
Insert Projection Group 294
Insert Active View 296
Section View 297
Section View alignment 299
Creating an Offset view 299
Creating a Revolved Section View 302
Detail View 305
Add Centerlines to Faces 307
Add Centerline between 2 Lines 308
Add Centerline between 2 Points 308
Add Circle Centerlines 309
Add Bolt Circle Centerlines 311
Add Cosmetic Thread Hole Bottom View 311
Add Cosmetic Thread Hole Side View 312
Add Cosmetic Thread Bolt Side View 313
Add Cosmetic Thread Bolt Bottom View 313
Add Cosmetic Intersection Vertex 314
Dimensions 315

Add Axonometric length dimension 320
Create Coordinate Dimensions 321
Cascade Dimensions 322
Chain Dimensions 324
Position Chain Dimensions 325
Calculate the area of selected faces 327
Add Leaderline to View 327
Insert Rich Text Annotation 329
Insert Annotation 330
Add Welding Information to Leaderline 331
Create a Surface Finish Symbol 334
Adding hole Fit or Shat Fit 335
Chamfer Dimensions 338
Best Practices for Generating Drawings in FreeCAD 338
Specific Considerations for Different Types of Parts 339
Precautions 339
Tutorial 1 339
Creating a New Drawing 340
Inserting the Base View 341
Generating the Section View 342
Inserting the Isometric View 343
Adding the center lines to the drawing view 343
Adding Dimensions 345
Populating the Title Block 349
Questions 350
Exercises 350
Exercise 1 350
Exercise 2 351
Index 352