

MetaMech Trial Quick Start

Premium dark engineering automation for SOLIDWORKS - setup, run, and get clean outputs fast.

What this guide covers

- How the trial works and what you need
- First run checklist (SOLIDWORKS + files)
- Custom properties setup for reliable results
- Common issues and quick fixes

Typical workflow



Support: If you get stuck, use the Contact section at the end to send a demo request (include your SOLIDWORKS version and a short screenshot of the error).

1. Requirements

Before you run the trial, check the basics below.

- Windows 10 or Windows 11 (64-bit).
- SOLIDWORKS installed (supported versions depend on the tool build you received).
- A sample top-level assembly file (TLA) to test exports (BOM/PDF/STEP/DXF).
- Permission to create an output folder beside the assembly (recommended).

2. Download and run

- **Download** the trial package from the MetaMech website.
- If you downloaded a ZIP: **Extract** it to a local folder (recommended: Desktop or Documents).
- Right-click the EXE → **Properties** → if you see “Unblock”, tick it → Apply.
- Double-click the EXE to launch. If Windows SmartScreen appears, click “More info” → “Run anyway”.

What you should see on first launch

A clean app window with a log area. Typical steps are: selecting an assembly, then running actions (BOM export, PDF merge, STEP export, DXF export).

Reference: Custom Properties screen (example)

SOLIDWORKS - Custom Properties (example)		
Property	Value	Notes
DESCRIPTION	Stainless bracket - left	Shown in BOM
TYPE	M	A/P/M/R...
VENDORPN	SM-12345	Purchased parts
MODEL TYPE	C	C or CUSTOM PART
PART TYPE	CUSTOM PART	Filter for exports

Tip: Keep property names consistent across parts and assemblies.

The tool relies on consistent custom property names. The next section shows the exact properties to set for best results.

3. Custom properties setup

Custom properties are the backbone of automation. If property names vary between files, exports can be incomplete or inconsistent.

Recommended properties

Property name	Applies to	Example value	Used for
DESCRIPTION	Part + Assembly	Guarding bracket - LH	BOM descriptions and reports
TYPE	Part + Assembly	A / P / M / R	Splitting BOM and filtering exports
VENDOR	Purchased parts	MISUMI	Supplier reporting
VENDORPN	Purchased parts	SCSBIXR-12	Purchased part numbering / renumber rules
MANUFACTURER	Optional	Festo	Manufacturer reporting
PART TYPE	Optional	CUSTOM PART	Filtering for custom parts workflows
MODEL TYPE	Optional	C or CUSTOM PART	Filtering for DXF/flat-pattern exports

TYPE codes (recommended convention)

Use a simple, repeatable TYPE code so the tool can split BOM sheets and filter outputs.

- **A** - Assembly
- **M** - Manufactured / custom part
- **P** - Purchased part
- **R** - Reference / non-BOM (optional)
- **UNKNOWN** - Missing or unclassified (tool will report these)

Where to set properties in SOLIDWORKS

Open a part or assembly → **File - Properties** → **Custom** tab. Set the properties exactly as shown (same spelling and spacing).

Tip: If you use a Property Tab Builder template, you can standardise fields across the whole team.

4. Running the trial

A practical checklist for a clean first test run:

- Open SOLIDWORKS first (recommended), then open your top-level assembly (TLA).
- In the MetaMech tool, select the same top-level assembly file.
- Run one action at a time (for example: BOM export first).
- Check the output folder: confirm files are created and naming looks correct.

Common outputs

- Excel BOM file (master sheet + sheets split by TYPE).
- PDF export / merge outputs (if enabled in your build).
- STEP exports for unique parts and subassemblies.
- DXF flat patterns for sheet metal parts (if enabled).

5. Troubleshooting

Issue	Fix
Nothing exports	Check you selected the top-level assembly and the assembly is fully resolved (not lightweight).
Properties missing in BOM	Confirm the property names match exactly (DESCRIPTION, TYPE, VENDORPN, etc.).
Trial download works but EXE won't run	Right-click EXE - Properties - Unblock - Apply.
PDF merge not available	Some trial builds ship with limited features. Request a demo build if you need PDF merge.

6. Next steps and licensing

If the trial saves you time, the next step is a short demo to confirm your standards: folder structure, naming rules, custom properties, and the exact actions you want. After that, you can move to a paid license and receive a production-ready build.

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