



## BAND SAW SAFETY RULES

The band saw is almost indispensable for making curved cuts and re-sawing (cutting wood to make it thinner). The blade is a thin loop of steel, typically  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch wide. The blade runs over wheels above and below a table, allowing wood to be cut where blade is traveling downward through the table. The size of a band saw is determined by the diameter of the wheels, which roughly indicates the largest piece that can fit between the blade and the body of the saw. The band saw is a rough cutting and shaping tool not intended for finish cuts. The following rules must be followed when using the band saw:



- Adjust the upper guide and guard to be set as close to the work as possible, at least within 1/4 inch.
- Allow the saw to reach full speed before starting to feed your work.
- Plan cuts carefully; layout and make relief cuts before cutting long curves and curves of small radii. Turning holes should be made where required. Plan work so that all cuts will be made in the forward direction.
- If the stock binds or pinches the blade, do not attempt to back the stock out until the power has been shut off. Backing up while the machine is running could pull the blade off the wheels.
- When removing scrap material from the band saw table, always be aware of the blade. Use a piece of scrap stock to remove scrap pieces; do not use your hands.
- Keep floor area surrounding the saw clear of scraps.
- If the blade breaks, stand clear and shut off the power if possible. Keep others clear until the machine stops completely and notify the instructor.
- Never make adjustments to the saw while it is running.
- Do not place your fingers close to the saw blade when cutting stock. Always maintain a 4" margin of safety.
- If it is necessary to back the saw out of a long cut, turn the power off and wait for the blade to stop. Then seek assistance from the instructor.
- Leave the machine only after the power is turned off and the blade has stopped moving completely.
- Your instructor must approve all re-sawing and other special setups.
- Use a push stick or guide for cuts near the saw blade.
- Keep upper and lower doors closed and all guards in place.
- Cutting cylindrical or irregular stock on the band saw may be done only with a special jig, such as a V-block (special setup).
- Never stand or allow others to stand to the right of the band saw when it is running.
- If you hear a clicking noise, turn off the saw at once. This indicates a crack or kink in the blade as it passes through the guide.