

Information Sheet 1

SAFETY RULES FOR THE SHAPER

The shaper can be one of the most dangerous machines in a wood working shop if safety rules are ignored. The high-speed rotation of an exposed cutterhead should be enough to make every user practice the following rules.

1. Follow General Shop Safety Rules
2. Do not shape any stock that has metal or any foreign material on it.
3. Do not shape any stock that is cracked, severely warped, or which contains knots.
4. Lock out the power supply before you change the setup on the shaper or making adjustments.
5. Be sure the fence is securely locked in place. Make sure the cutter is clear of the fence. Double-check all attachments to make sure they are secure. Rotate the spindle by hand to make sure the cutter turns freely.
6. Be sure cutter is securely locked on the spindle before starting machine, then test using the polycarbonate shield.
7. Verify spindle rotation. The spindle must turn in the correct direction relative to how the cutter is installed.
8. Always feed the stock against the direction of the cutter rotation. Feed with the grain of the stock whenever possible.
9. Use a jig or holding fixture whenever possible.
10. Do not attempt to make heavy cuts on the shaper. Several light cuts may be necessary.
11. Never have your hands closer than 4" from the cutters. Use a push block or a jig for small or narrow pieces.
12. Use feather boards or other hold-downs when shaping narrow pieces. Better yet, rely on power feeders to secure and push stock through. Not only is this safer, but you will get a better finish because it feeds at a constant rate.
13. Install the cutter so that the bottom side of the stock—not the top—will be shaped when possible
14. Use the smallest table insert possible as you want the smallest table opening at the cutterhead as possible.
15. Position the infeed and outfeed fences so both will support the stock and be within 1/8" – 1/4" of the cutting circle.
16. Be sure the dust extraction is turned on and connected to the shaper
17. Maintain a well-balanced stance and feed stock into the shaper at a steady rate. Do not lean over the machine, and do not stop the feed or slow it down to the point where you overheat the cut.