

Band Saw Safety Rules

The Band Saw has a thin vertical blade that allows cutting curves, resawing, and large depth cuts on thick material. To avoid accidents, the following operational safety rules must be observed by everyone working on the MakeIt Labs Band Saw. Failure to follow the safety rules will result in a loss of shop privileges.

Band Saw Safety Rules:

1. Follow the 3” rule from the blade; always keep fingers 3” from the blade.
2. Check the blade tension and tracking before starting.
3. Don’t cut stock that is not flat on the bottom without a jig.
4. Keep a balanced stance at the band saw.
5. Never clear small pieces while the blade is moving.
6. Never use your thumbs to push toward the blade.
7. Never back out of a curve cut while the machine is running.

Start with a Risk Assessment to ensure a safe work area:

1. A two foot perimeter around the saw should be kept clear of people, debris and sawdust that impair traction or footing to avoid slips and falls.
2. Safety glasses with side shields or a face shield must be worn. Hearing protection should be worn.
3. Remove loose fitting clothing, jewelry, and tie back long hair.
4. Give the work your undivided attention.

Operational Safety Rules:

1. Approach your work in the MakeIt Labs Shop and on the band saw with a safe attitude!
2. The teeth of the band saw blade should point down toward the table.
3. The blade should be 1/32” from the rear roller bearing behind the blade.

4. The blade alignment tracking should be at the center of the wheels.
5. Make sure that the upper and lower wheel guard doors are closed when running.
6. Keep the blade guard & guide only 1/4” above your stock.
7. Keep bystanders away from the right hand area of the saw. Broken blades have a tendency to fly out to the right.
8. Always keep your fingers and hands away from the path of the blade.
9. To control the stock, use push sticks, feather boards, or any other safety device when cutting small or short stock.
10. Use a “V” block when cutting cylindrical stock.
11. Cut at a moderate feed rate into the blade. Do not force a cut.
12. Cut relief cuts prior to cutting long or tight curves. The relief cuts will free the blade of the tension of the tight curve and the wood will fall away. The blade size will dictate the radius of the cut.
13. If you need to back out of a cut, shut the machine off, after blade stops, and then back out.
14. If a blade breaks, shut the machine off and stand clear until everything stops.
15. If the work is too large for one person to handle, get help holding the stock.
16. When cutting with the table at an angle, clamp a block to the table to prevent your stock from slipping off the table.
17. Always disconnect the power before changing the blade or performing any other maintenance operation.
18. Turn off the band saw and wait until comes to a complete stop. Never stick an object into the blade to stop the machine quicker. Let it stop on its own.