

**Tool Type** Bandsaw

**Experience** Intermediate

**Injury Severity** Hurt but OK

**Description**

I had made my cuts at the bandsaw and there was waste stock left on the table. I wanted to clear it out of the way, so I reached around the blade which was STILL RUNNING and took a small cut to my first finger.

**Advice**

Wait for the blade to come to a complete stop before attempting to clear away any scrap, or use a push stick or another piece of scrap to clear the table.

**Tool Type**

Bandsaw

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Close Call

**Description**

Found out just how dangerous having the stereo on loud enough to hear over the shop vac and the bandsaw. I was re-sawing some oak and got distracted by something (probably an air guitar riff) and then started to sweep the sawdust from the resaw jig. With my hand already in motion, I realized the saw was still running. I managed to jerk my hand back from the blade, just trimming the ends of my middle and index finger off. Very little blood, but a real eye opener.

**Advice**

PAY ATTENTION! When you repeat a task until you are as comfortable with it as with a cozy chair, it will reach out and bite off your hand or fingers. Reduce your distarctors as much as possible.

**Tool Type**

Bandsaw

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

### Description

It was Sunday night and I was trying to get in every last minute of woodworking before starting another week of "real work" in the office. I like to do turning. I had found a nice citrus tree stump and branches in the alley, and wanted to try turning it. The tree was relatively freshly cut so it was wet. Still it was very hard. I wanted to round out the oval shape of the wood on my bandsaw instead of giving a beating to my turning tools and lathe. I was cutting off a piece that was about an inch wide at the beginning of the cut, but then tapered to nothing. The wood was about 5 inches tall and about 5 inches wide. I have a 12 inch craftsman bandsaw that does not always like to cut such hard, thick wood. The drive belt sometimes slips on the pulleys if the wood is too hard or thick. The blade will then get stuck and I either end up breaking it or bending it to get it back out of the cut. I compensate by pushing the wood into the blade, but then backing off really quickly as the blade slows, but before it stops. Quick little cuts. It was working fine until the blade came through the end taper more quickly than I anticipated. You guessed it, a nice clean cut across my knuckle on my index finger! Very shallow, but still very damaging. Although the cut barely nicked the bone, it sliced through my extensor tendon. Plenty of blood too. About 3 hours of hand surgery two days later, then 3 months in a splint and now after six months, it's still stiff in the mornings or when I work it too hard.

### Advice

Several lessons learned (1) when things keep going wrong, turn off the tools and go do something else; (2) be very careful when cutting "wet" wood; (3) don't exceed the capacity of your tools by "compensating"; (4) if you can't cut the piece of wood without putting your hand or fingers directly in front of the blade, DON'T CUT THE WOOD!

**Tool Type**

Bandsaw

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Hurt but OK

**Description**

crosscutting cylindrical stock (turned work , firewood , whatever ... the peice will rotate when contacting the blade and come get you . a friend lost a tooth , i was lucky enough to get hit square in the forehead .

**Advice**

fasten it to the miter gauge , put a flat on if possible , hold on and stand to the side .

**Tool Type**

Bandsaw

**Experience**

Beginner

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

Back when I was in school shop, I watched a fellow student feeding a piece in to the bandsaw. He was guiding it with his right hand, with fingers on one side of the intended cut, and thumb on the \*other\* side. I don't know if the piece fed faster than he thought it would, or if he just wasn't paying attention to what he was doing, but you can guess what happened. Aparantly, it didn't hurt much, as he just about took his thumb off before stopping.

**Advice**

Keep things you want to keep (fingers, etc.) away from the blade.

**Tool Type**

Bandsaw

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

In high school shop, 15 years ago, another student and I were cross-cutting a 7" or so diameter hardwood log on an bandsaw, under the direction but not direct supervision of the shop teacher (he knew what we were doing, told us how to do it, but wasn't standing there at the time). We had successfully cut a few 1" thick slices of this log, but were having trouble. About half way through one cut, we thought that if we rolled the log, rather than sliding it, past the blade, it would go easier, as the bark was catching on the work surface. The problem with this was that rolling the log changed the angle of the cut relative to the blade, as it was not a perfectly round log, and the blade got caught in the kerf, spinning the log and pulling my partner's hand into the blade, doing extensive damage to two fingers and nearly severing his thumb. I somehow avoided injury, even though I was the one in front of the blade.

**Advice**

Don't use a band saw for this particular kind of job, do it by hand.

**Tool Type**

Bandsaw

**Experience**

Advanced

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

Cutting a bandsaw box out of a medium hard exotic. Cutting a moderate curve and coming out of the cut, as the blade exited the 3" deep cut, it exited from the bottom first. The blade apparently pulled the box down and through my hand against the now exposed blade (guard was down to within 1/4" of the wood). Middle finger of the left hand was nearly severed. Cutting was very fast and nearly painless. For 3/4 minutes we believed it was merely a deep cut. Cut was through bone and left only about 1/4-1-3". Emergency room doctor wanted to remove it completely, since it looked to be at least 5-6 hours before a surgeon could be found. No surgeon was available immediately, so the hand and finger were kept on ice for 12 hours. Surgeon reattached the finger and it functions well, though mostly numb. Very little pain throughout the entire incident, from start to finish.

**Advice**

Under no circumstances allow your hand in front of the blade within 12" of the blade. Do not purchase a 'cheap' bandsaw. The table was slightly off level, a feature I had been living with for around 25 boxes and 2 years of bandsaw work. Do not trust medical opinions that you will lose a finger or other part and should just "cut it the rest of the way off." Even long periods can allow successful reattachment.

**Tool Type**

Bandsaw

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

I am an early morning person, so at 4:30 A.M. i was doing quiet things out in the garage. I was adjusting the blade so I had all the cover off. I turned the bandsaw on and I noticed the blade was walking off the upper wheel, well I reached to turn off the saw and at that moment the blade came off. This is a Sears band saw and the on-off switch is just left of the blade. Well it caught the middle finger just at the joint. Now mind you I was a medic in the service, even got to spend some time in southeast Asia. Where I was able to pratice my trade often. I cut the finger enough to see the tendon and the bone, neat i said, I went in and woke my wife and ask her if she was doing anything, if not could she drive me to the ER. She does not take things as well as I. Eight stiches latter and I was back in the shop. A little more respect for that bandsaw. Funny thing about the whole thing is just a few days before I made a statment to my wife that it's amazing after all these years of using power tools that I had not cut anything off. Happens pretty fast, I was lucky. By the way the nurse and the Dr. really looked at me funny when I told them what happened. Their eyes went directly to the clock which was 5 A.m. at this point.

**Advice**

Watch out when the guards have been removed, simple advise and logic should prevail but!



**Tool Type**

Bandsaw

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

Had just replaced the blade on the bandsaw. The top door was still open. Now for tensioning the blade -- the manual called for starting the bandsaw with the blade loose, then applying tension till the band stops wobbling, then 1/2 turn more. Dutifully, with my eyes fixed on the blade, I reached up to turn the tensioner knob. I ended up just brushing my hand across the top of the upper wheel. I glance at my hand revealed I'd just sliced open the back of my left index finger. 6 stitches, and no permanent damage.

**Advice**

Keep access doors on machines closed at all times, unless it's absolutely necessary to have them open for adjustments. Close the doors \*immediately\* after the adjustment is done. Open doors on running machines are really dangerous. PS from your Webmaster. I don't like to add anything to these reports and haven't done so before now. I must say the manual for this tool seems incorrect. Though you can fine-tune tension while the blade is running, starting the saw with the blade loose can cause all sorts of problems. When I change a blade, I pretension it turning the wheels by hand backwards while the cord is unplugged from the electrical outlet. If you do adjust tension while running using the flutter test, keep the doors closed at all times.

**Tool Type**

Bandsaw

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Close Call

**Description**

After 4 years working in a meat department and about that many more doing woodworking, I thought that it was time to do my own bandsaw maintenance. I got a "do-it-yourself" book that said that I could clean the "tires" on the wheels with a lathe tool. I felt very uncomfortable about the whole thing, very cautious that something could go wrong. It did! The book was not very explicit and very few pictures to show how to really do it. Rather than a "scraping" cut, which wasn't doing a fast enough job at removing resins, I increased the angle to what would have been a "shearing" cut had it been wood on a lathe. Somehow, rubber tires don't quite "shear" like wood does! Ker-whammo!!! After some minor pain in my wrist, I expected to see a spiral and compound bone fracture. Fortunately, my wrist was just slightly sprained, thank God!!! The lathe tool was nowhere in sight and took awhile to locate, having had the force of a rifle bullet that could have! gone right through me.

**Advice**

"Do-it-yourself" books have their place, but let's not elevate them to the level of rocket science! Plus, I was too impatient to follow the ambiguous instructions to begin with. Videos are better. Professionals who have pioneered new territories before you are best who can teach you directly. I ended up calling out a professional repair person to replace the tires who also discovered a frozen set of bearings in the blade guide I never thought to check--what could have happened next time? His careful and experienced approach was well worth the money.

**Tool Type**

Bandsaw

**Experience**

Advanced

**Injury Severity**

Hurt but OK

**Description**

I replaced a blade and was adjusting the tracking (which is a common task for me) when someone asked me a question. I turned my head for a second and felt a tug on my finger. It had slipped into the wheel and caught the aluminum depth gauge. I lost about 1/8" of skin off of my left index finger, I was lucky, most of it was callous and it healed o.k.

**Advice**

If someone ever asks you something while you're busy, either ask them to wait or respond without taking your attention off of your task. It appears from the most of these reports that that is the most common problem in accident situations. And as always, its better safe than sorry.

**Tool Type**

Bandsaw

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

As an Instructor at our local college teaching cabinet making we had a rule that the operator of a machine was not allowed to leave a machine if it was still running. (running is defined as even though the motor is off, if the blade-cutter is still moving the machine is running) This particular student was impatient and after making his cut on the bandsaw, raised the safety guard and grabbed the spinning blade in his hand to stop the spinning. The damage was done so fast that there was nothing to do but wrap up the hand and off to the ER. He was extremely lucky as somehow he was able (with the work of an on duty hand specialist) save the hand and after several months had complete use.

**Advice**

The use of machines deserve your complete attention and respect. Never be in such a hurry as to completely forget the basic rules of safety. Our class motto that I try to drill into each and every student and potential woodworker is. "Before you turn on any machine or pick up any tool ask yourself if there is anyway that I could possibly get hurt doing this particular operation? Does it look safe? What could go wrong? What can I do to make this safer? Have I thought about what I'm doing?" When you have answered these and you're sure, then go ahead. However if there is any doubt ask for help. Yes it might take a minute or two but that sure beats months or years or even a lifetime of healing.

**Tool Type**

Bandsaw

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

I had just finished cutting a curve in a piece of 3/4" pine. I was pulling the wood away from the unit with my right hand. I bumped my left hand against the blade just above the guard. It came across the pad of my thumb and required 5 stiches. The cut didn't hurt as much as the nerves waking back up.

**Advice**

I never should have turned away from the machine until it completely stopped! Also I was in a cramped space. Too close for comfort so to speak.

**Tool Type** Bandsaw

**Experience** Beginner

**Injury Severity** Needed Medical Attention

### Description

I had just finished cutting some notches in a bannister rail with a brand new blade. The blade guide was up quite a bit more than I was used to using it because I had not cut anything as thick as I was cutting now. The scrap piece that had been cut from the notch, was laying on the table in front of the blade and I casually flicked it out of the way with my middle finger as I had done many times when the blade guide was only 3/4" off the table.. It was now 4 inches off the table, and there was lots of room for my finger.. The blade went through the tip at a 45 deg. angle to a depth of about 1/2 inch up the center of the nail.. The largest part of the cut was on the top half in the nail, and only 1/4 inch or so down the front, so stitching was not really possible.. I taped it up and called the doctor.. He replaced the dressing, and gave me a tetanus shot to update the last one I had 15 years earlier (after a brush with a pusher fan on a welding machine, (but thats another lesson in stupidity).

### Advice

Its now a week since the bandsaw bit me, and friends have asked me how I did it.. My Answer? "I Don't Know, I obviously wasn't paying attention"... Keep your mind on the job, Particularly if you are using a familiar machine in a unfamiliar situation.

**Tool Type**

Bandsaw

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

I was bandsawing a long piece of wood with sharp radius and the blade twisted, while I was attempting to get the blade back in line with my workpiece I moved my left index finger into the blade, cutting the finger along side of the nail up to the first joint in the finger. This accident required six stitches.

**Advice**

Never take your eyes off your work and pay particular attention to the blade, if you have a problem turn off the saw before trying to correct the problem.

**Tool Type**

Bandsaw

**Experience**

Advanced

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

I was hurt resawing a small piece of walnut scrap to obtain a blank for plug cutting. I was in a hurry and talking to a new employee who had started that day and not paying sufficient attention or respect to the machine or the wood. In addition, I had not bother to change a dull blade. I was pushing too hard against the dull blade, hit a crack in the wood, and the index finger of my right hand went into the blade just below the last joint. I only felt a pain like an electric shock as, I suspect, the blade went through the nerve. I grabbed my nearly severed finger in a dead grip with my left hand as blood covered the saw table and me. After various misadventures at the hospital (I know why they NEED liability insurance) I had the finger re-connected by a good micro-surgeon. After about a year I got some feeling back and after several years It is just about as good as before but 1/16" shorter.

**Advice**

I always thought it would be the 12 jointer, 16" cut off saw, 14" table saw, or one of the other over-powered fire breathers that would get me, not that silly 14" band saw. \* Respect EVERY tool \* Do ONE THING AT A TIME \* Don't ever be too busy to replace a dull blade \* Don't let anybody ever "finish cutting it off" if they are talking about your fingers.



**Tool Type**

Bandsaw

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

I was working with the band saw and I had the safety guard up about 1 inch and was in a rush. I was making relief cuts on a tight curve and I backed out of a relief cut and the non-razor side of the blade came in contact with a big and very loose knot in the walnut. The knot flew loose and hit a person about 50 yards away from me. I looked up to see if he was okay, and my left hand was in direct path of the blade. All my fingers were sliced off except my pinky. A friend in the shop took me to the hospital and all but my ring finger could be replaced. I now have no movement in any finger on my left hand, except my pinky. The worst thing was my wedding band(with was passed on from my Dad) had been sliced into small pieces and got embedded into my ring finger(hence why my ring finger could not be reattched) and never got out.

**Advice**

Always pay attention to your project. Don't cut wood with loose knots. Don't wear jewelry while working, even rings.

**Tool Type**

Bandsaw

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

I was cutting the last of 10 plant holders. I did not have the blade guide down near the work. I finished a cut and moved the piece of wood. Next thing I know 4 of my fingers were in the blade. I immediately grabbed by hand with my hand with the other. I grabbed the paper towels and applied pressure. I drove myself to the ER. They put in stitches in 2 fingers-. I didn't cut any tendons or nerves, It happened so fast,

**Advice**

Always use your guards and never let your mind wander. I remember that I was distracted for a second and that's all it took. Use your guards and always be aware of the cut.

**Tool Type**

Bandsaw

**Experience**

Beginner

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

In sixth grade woodshop I was cutting a 3/4" piece of pine, with the grain, on the band saw. The blade was dull, and I was forcing the piece. The pine split, and I pushed my ring finger into the band and sawed half way through the bone just behind my nail. If the blade had been sharp, I would probably not have been pushing, but if I had been, I would have lost several fingers.

**Advice**

Never use dull tools. Never force anything without considering where your hands and face will go if something slips or breaks.

**Tool Type**

Bandsaw

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

i was using a band saw and the blade was dull and i was in a hurry so i pulled it off really fast and when it came off it cut my whole arm off and eventually had to get my arm amputated

**Advice**

it doesn't matter if you are in a hurry or not SLOW DOWN

**Tool Type**

Bandsaw

**Experience**

Advanced

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

I was resawing some gnarly oak lumber for use in jewelry boxes and I didn't see a split in the board along the back side. When the blade reached the split, the piece I was pushing slipped forward letting the blade remove the end of my thumb. I lost about a 1/4" which was cleaned up by a surgeon at the ER.

**Advice**

Look your wood over carefully for any hidden cracks or splits. When in doubt, cut off a short piece to make sure the wood is sound.

**Tool Type**

Bandsaw

**Experience**

Beginner

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

I put a new resaw blade on the machine and was checking alignment of the guide blocks. I turned on the machine and heard a metallic rubbing sound. Poked around to try to find the source, when the blade reached out and grabbed my innocent finger. Thirteen stitches required, plus of course a 10-day regimen of antibiotics.

**Advice**

Heed the advice of others before you, don't attempt adjustments with the machine (any machine) running. No matter how careful you think you are, a momentary distraction (as simple as light reflecting off part of the machine) can lead to a serious, debilitating injury.

**Tool Type**

Bandsaw

**Experience**

Beginner

**Injury Severity**

Close Call

**Description**

I use the bandsaw in a noisy classroom environment. Lots of tools running, lots of people talking, a high powered vacuum system always on. I finished my cut, hit the power off button and then pulled the wood off the table and left - examining my cut. The bandsaw spinning down - I thought. 10 minutes later the instructor is furiously yelling - "who left the band saw running!" Fortunately, no one had absentmindedly walked up to the machine expecting it to be off - and safe.

**Advice**

Never assume a tool is safe. Approach it with your full attention, check its settings and safety features before you use it, use it fully aware of its capabilities to damage you or someone else, and watch what it is doing - it could well be doing something other than what you expected. And finally, make sure you leave tools safe!

**Tool Type**

Bandsaw

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

Cutting out some small items on a Craftsman 10" bandsaw..tabletop type. While making the cut, my mind drifted off thinking about something else and when I came out of the cut, I didn't notice my finger was in the pathway of the blade. It cut through to half of the top of my middle finger before I realized what was happening. So a trip to the hospital, a tetanus shot and a lesson learned...

**Advice**

Keep your mind on what you're doing and not on what you plan on doing later.



**Tool Type**

Bandsaw

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

I was cutting curved shapes out of a stack of 1/4" flakeboard that was braded together. My helper had braded the stack before tracing the shape on the top piece, instead of the other way around. Consequently one of the pencil lines went right over a brad head and I hit it when cutting. At first I thought the initial resistance was due to a dull blade, so I pushed harder, whereupon the piece slipped and I almost cut off the tip of my left thumb. I got three stitches and was pretty damn lucky.

**Advice**

Check everthing someone else has prepared for you; helpers can botch-up even the most brain-dead jobs. Needless to say, he got a good tongue lashing from me. Pencil lines can really hide dark brad heads.

**Tool Type**

Bandsaw

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Hurt but OK

**Description**

I put an 1/8th inch bandsaw blade on my grizzly G0555 14" bandsaw so that I could do some scrolling. So, there I was scrolling along (following a pattern that I had spray glued to a piece of cherry.) With this particular piece, I hadn't lined up the pattern with the edge of the wood (actually, the piece was a bit bigger than the pattern, so I needed to shave 16th of an inch off one edge (easy to do because I was just following the edge of the pattern.) So I was pushing the wood thru the blade quite nicely, not realizing the tip of my thumb was lined up with the blade. So....after the wood was pushed thru the blade, the blade continued and sliced my thumb.... Fortunately, that was it for me, in terms of injury. But there's a bandaid on my finger to remind me to be more careful.

**Advice**

ALWAYS pay attention to where the blade is, ESPECIALLY in relationship to any other part of your body (like fingers...they're important.) And always count your fingers before and after using a power tool. Make sure that both counts are the same. :-)

**Tool Type**

Bandsaw

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Hurt but OK

**Description**

Doing some detail work on a small 3 dimensional object for carving in the round, the object rolled over and pulled my thumb into the blade. Took a chunk about 1/16 by 1" x 1/8 deep from the pad of my thumb.

**Advice**

If the item you are cutting does not present a flat surface to the bed of the bandsaw, make sure you use some sort of a work clamp to secure it.

**Tool Type**

Bandsaw

**Experience**

Beginner

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

My dad is an avid woodworker and naturally i became interested in the hobby. I was eighteen at the time and dad was at work so i thought i was experienced enough to use his power tools. I turned on his delta bandsaw to cut a oak board and began to push it through. It wasn't going fast enough for me so i sort of leaned forward toward the blade putting more pressure on the wood. It happened so fast i can't remember the details but my hand slipped forward off the board and into the bandsaw blade. It severed my hand in half. My thumb and pointer finger and the part to the hand they were attached to were gone. Blood emediately began to spurt all over the place. I screamed for help while rapping what was left of my hand in an old shirt. My mother heard me and when she seen what happened she almost fainted. She called 911 and i was taken to the hospital along with the severed part of my hand.They couldn't reattach it so now my friends call me three fingers.

**Advice**

Do not touch any power tools or hand tools for that matter until you get proper instruction on how to use them and the techniques involved.

**Tool Type**

Bandsaw

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Hurt but OK

**Description**

Cutting a small radius into some pine...blade hit a knot, which you could only see from the other side of the board. The wood slipped through the knot very fast and I did not have the firmest grip on the wood (having cut numerous identical pieces, I was getting complacent at this stage). The saw blade caught my thumb ... the blade went in almost to the nail from the fingerprint side. Fortunately, my thumb was at an angle, so the blade did not penetrate the entire thumb area.

**Advice**

Pay attention to what you are doing with EVERY cut. Do not have anything that would distract you from the task at hand. Also, examine any wood for imperfections in the cutting plane that may cause the blade to skip, slip, or move through the wood with greater ease than expected. Wear good quality fitted gloves that may give you a better chance to react-limiting injury before making contact with your skin (bandsaw blades are barbed-shaped so they grab the wood and pull it ... same thing happens with your skin).

**Tool Type** Bandsaw

**Experience** Advanced

**Injury Severity** Hurt but OK

**Description**

I reached to turn off the bandsaw and my pinky finger entered the blade guard and sliced the pad pretty deep. Butterfly stitch and antiseptics, It should heal ok.

**Advice**

Turn the guard around. You will have to remove it to replace the blade, but it is worth the time spent.

**Tool Type**

Bandsaw

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Hurt but OK

**Description**

Was cutting small parts on my bandsaw, when I had an interruption (neighbor came into the shop) and the tip of my finger came in contact with the blade. The cut went to the bone, but did not require stitches. I used the bandaid that acts like a stitch. For about a year the tip of my finger was sensitive. I knew better, I was rushing and should have used a clamp to hold the piece and not my fingers. Just did not want to take the 5 minutes to get the clamp. I put up a sign next to my bandsaw reminding me that butchers use bandsaws to cut bone..

**Advice**

Take the time to set up the cut properly. Don't work when you are rushed, tired or preoccupied. Common sense, but not always heeded.

**Tool Type**

Bandsaw

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

I just finished cutting some 3/4" stock and was moving on to some 6/4". I needed to adjust the blade guard up and did so without turning off the bandsaw. I'm not totally sure how it happened but I must have been trying to balance the workpiece and reaching for the blade guard at the same time when my thumb contacted the blade and was severed about 3/4 of the way through the first joint.

**Advice**

Don't be stupid! Shut the machine off to make adjustments.



**Tool Type**

Bandsaw

**Experience**

Beginner

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

I was using my bandsaw to remove excess wood before i placed it on the lathe. I hit a soft spot int he wood and my hand slipped severing approximately 1/4 of my right index finger and then lacerating the Right middle finger. The saw cut thru my bone, tendons and nerves. Still recuperating and will need additional surgery to correct my finger.

**Advice**

Never keep the blade guide higher then the thickness of the wood and always keep your hands to the side.

**Tool Type**

Bandsaw

**Experience**

Beginner

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

I was cutting a piece of wood in woodshop class for a table leg when it slipped and cut off my pinky finger. I didn't get to the hospital in time and now I only have 9 out of 10 fingers.

**Advice**

Always use a push stick when cutting and make sure the blade guard is low.

**Tool Type**

Bandsaw

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

I was in a hurry and only wanted to trim a little piece of wood so I didn't put the extractor on or lower the guard to the wood height.

Halfway through cutting I sneezed due to the dust and managed to cut my left index finger halfway through between the knuckle and first joint.

I needed 13 stitches and ended up losing all the feeling in the top of the finger which means I can no longer use a lathe accurately.

**Advice**

Never rush a job no matter how small it is. The guards and dust extraction are there for a reason.

**Tool Type**

Bandsaw

**Experience**

Beginner

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

My friend is a carver and wanted to go through my wood pile for some stock. He found a LOG he wanted to use but wanted to square it. I was working on something else and wasn't watching him. He traced an outline onto the log of the dolphin shape he wanted. He was having trouble guiding the irregular log through the blade. As he exited the cut he turned into the light to check his cut and moved his forearm into the blade cutting 1 1/2 to 2 inches into his arm.

**Advice**

Wrong tool for the job. Don't cut rough surfaces that can get stuck on the table. Have good lighting. I saw a jig to cut logs on a bandsaw in a catalog. The guard was raised well above the top of the log which may have exposed more blade to the arm.

**Tool Type**

Bandsaw

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

I was slotting a small block about the size of my thumb so my hand was close to the blade. The saw was making a ticking noise and I kept my blade tensioned all the time because the knob is in a bad place. Almost as soon as I started the cut the saw grabbed the wood and the circular insert around the blade in the table split in half. The wood dropped into the hole and pulled my hand into the blade. I partially cut my tendon in my index finger. Thank God it healed fine but it took several stitches in the tendon and 9 on the outside.

**Advice**

Don't use dull blades. I replaced the spring. I upgraded the tensioning knob so it was easy to adjust the tension and store it untensioned. Use a holder for small parts - if all else fails use double stick tape it onto a larger board to keep hands far from the blade. If it's that small - a hand saw will work quickly and be safer. It was 3 months before I could use my hand and took 6 months for the stiffness to go away.

**Tool Type**

Bandsaw

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

Cutting a 6" thick piece of Basswood using a 1/4"x6 tpi blade. The blade had been previously used for cutting a piece of driftwood which had apparently dulled it considerably. When the cut came close to the edge of the block, the blade took the path of least resistance and jumped out through the side of the block. Due to the blade being dull, I was applying considerable pressure to the block. When the blade came out of the wood, my hand went into the blade which was able to cut fingers much better than wood. Eight stitches on 2 fingers and a thumb. Nothing lost or permanently damaged, but my fingers are hard to use, at least until the stitches are removed.

**Advice**

Change the blade when it gets dull. Like most cutting tools, the most damage is done by using a dull tool.

**Tool Type**

Bandsaw

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

When attempting to cut a piece of hardwood it wasn't cutting easily and I didn't understand why. After a bit It became clear. The blade was dull enough to require more pressure than usual to keep it cutting. When it broke through, it came so fast that my hand was out of control: It caused my two fingers to run into the blade and cut quite deep-to the BONE! resulting in lots of blood and hurts.

**Advice**

DO NOT operate a bandsaw when the blade is dull. It requires more than usual force to keep cutting.

Install a new blade. It is much better than trying to get my two fingers to heal, and now I have no feeling on the down side of the front of each my two fingers, first finger and middle finger on right hand. That is very annoying and makes it hard to pick up smaller objects.

**Tool Type**

Bandsaw

**Experience**

Advanced

**Injury Severity**

Hurt but OK

**Description**

I was cutting a conical piece of stock, about 3" wide @ bottom, tapering up 7" to a 1" diameter at the top. I was cutting a pattern part and my next step would be to go to the 20" disk sander, to smooth the job out. I never got to the sander, since my hand slipped and I ended up butchering my right thumb; parallel to the thumb nail, about 1/2" deep. After ER had sewn the thumb (and a painful 6 week recovery), to this day I still have little feeling in the nail part of my thumb.

**Advice**

After this incident, a fellow wood patternmaker (old timer) pointed that I should have used a suitable pushblock, at right a right angle to the stock, on the table, and previously sanded to the appropriate angle to compliment the stock. Since his advice, I've never had even a near miss! This trick works well for resawing also!