

Tool Type

Experience

Injury Severity

Description

The tool is a craftman disc sander. The problem is the on switch is poorly marked. when I plugged it in it took a nice chunk of skin with it.

Advice

I went back and all my tools with similar switches I used a little white paint and marked an 1 or a 0 on the on off sides

Tool Type

Belt-Disc Sander

Experience

Intermediate

Injury Severity

Close Call

Description

I had set up my Shopsmith as disc sander with the table tilted to about 15-degrees, then attached an extension wing and support legs on the downward side so I could add the rip fence several feet away from the disc to act as a back stop. I used the miter gauge to hold the 2x4 stretcher stock for a workbench, and the goal was to advance the sanding disc via the quill feed to create a nice chamfered-pyramid shape on the ends of the through-tennons of each stretcher. It was a wonderful setup and everything was going smoothly until I subconsciously starting pushing the miter gauge back and forth as I often do for disc sanding end grain to reduce swirl marks. Well, that was the wrong thing to do since I was also using the fence as a backstop on a long piece of stock. The other end of the stock bound on the fence as I pulled the upper end back toward me with the miter gauge, effectively "gouging" the corner of the stock into the sanding disc. Faster than I would have ever imagined, the stock forced its way toward me quite violently doing an amazingly artistic sanding job on the now ruined tennon. The SS didn't miss a beat, but it sure scared the heck out of me once I realized what I had unthinkingly done. It could have been an injury had there been any other factors.

Advice

When you are trying a new and unusual machine setup, be especially aware of any hazards, especially if you have any particular habits of use with that machine.

Tool Type Belt-Disc Sander

Experience Intermediate

Injury Severity Hurt but OK

Description

I was working with small metal parts but this might help someone anyway. I was finish sanding small parts held in my fingers on a vertical belt sander. One of them was more-or-less wedge shaped. The part slipped out of my fingers and wedged, bending the (workpeice) rest (going across the belt) enough to let my fingers in as well. The rest was bent away from the belt with my fingers wedged in and the motor luckily stopped dead, humming or I would have ground my knuckles very badly. I reached around and shut off the sander backing the belt to release my hand. I got a few scratches but I was okay, If the motor didn't stop it would had been worse.

Advice

Make sure the workpiece rests are made well on sanders. If it were made stronger it would have never happend. Also be carefull sanding wedge shaped workpieces on a rest.

Tool Type

Experience

Injury Severity

Description

While using a 16 disk sander, a colleague of mine was 'freehanding' (not using the table) a small part about 1"x1"x2". He was also holding the part from the direction the sandpaper was traveling (downstream?). The piece bucked and, because he was holding the part from downstream, the inertia of his hand jammed the piece back against the paper, which carried it and his hand down to the table. The tip of his finger wound up between the piece and the table, and was literally popped.

Advice

Never freehand without thinking hard. Never work a small part without thinking hard. This accident is analogous to the classic buffing wheel accident that results when you use the part of the wheel that is coming toward you instead of the part that is going away from you.

Tool Type

Experience

Injury Severity

Description

My brother had given me an older 6" x 48" belt sander that needed repair. As I was trying to free up the sanding belt by pulling on the drive V-belt the sanding belt freed and being it was turned on and running it pulled my hand around the pulley between the V-belt pinching all four of my fingers, cut and bruised but now alot smarter.

Advice

This happened extremely fast, I should have known better, never I mean never work on any tools or equipment without first unplugging it.

Tool Type

Belt-Disc Sander

Experience

Intermediate

Injury Severity

Needed Medical Attention

Description

I was contracted to build a trade show booth that was to be fully transportable. I was working with my friend "John" whom I have been schooling at my shop for years. He was using a belt sander to knock down the plywood edges as to lessen the possibly of people getting splinters. As "John" was working the sander over the shipping crates he accidentally rolled his index finger up between the drive wheel and the dust pickup housing. John screamed my name and I ran to him. I literally tore apart the sander to remove his finger that had turned around on itself. We took him to the hospital and he was admitted for surgery the next day. The surgeon was able to repair his finger and "John" today has most of the use and feeling back in it. To this day, whenever I use a belt sander, I see in my minds eye the image of that bloody twisted digit.

Advice

NEVER allow yourself a thought that it can not happen to you.

Tool Type Belt-Disc Sander

Experience Beginner

Injury Severity Hurt but OK

Description

I was shaping a small peice of wood for a radio controlled airplane using a disk sander. The thickness of the piece was less than the gap between the table and the sanding disk. The piece was pulled into the gap, causing it to flip up and take my fingers with it. Sanded off a bit of the tip of my thumb, but fortunately my thumbnail gave a little bit of protection. Scared the heck out of me.

Advice

Do not attempt to sand very small pieces using powerful disk or belt sanders. Shaping is often better done with other tools, however if you must sand, hold the small piece with pliers or a clamp of some sort.

Tool Type

Experience

Injury Severity

Description

I was sanding a piece of wood on the table belt and disc sander . I was distracted by a noise behind me. My right hand lost control of the wood and sent it flying into the wall. My left arm was flipped upward and outward causing serious tendon damage. I'm in physical therapy now and hope to be working on my projects by spring.

Advice

Turn off any power tool before losing your focus on what you are doing.