

**Tool Type**

Belt Sander

**Experience**

Beginner

**Injury Severity**

Hurt but OK

**Description**

I was changing the belt on my belt sander to a more aggressive grit (60 to be exact). After I put the new belt on and locked it, I started it up with my right hand and turned it over to check to see if the belt was balanced. The belt wasn't balanced so I reached with my left hand to adjust the balancing knob. As I brought my left hand up, the belt grabbed the inside of the ring finger on my left hand and ripped away a good size piece of skin. The skin wasn't removed, but was hinged and the inclusion had bits of grit in it. Not too pretty.

**Advice**

Belt sanders are deceptively dangerous. Don't treat them lightly!

**Tool Type**

Belt Sander

**Experience**

Advanced

**Injury Severity**

Close Call

**Description**

After installing a new belt on a hand-held belt sander, I always turn the sander over, start it up and run the belt while I make adjustments to the tension screw. After installing a belt that had been stored for a long time, it popped open when I started the sander up, and flew up into my face. Missed my eyes, but it might not have.

**Advice**

Wear safety goggles if there's any chance of something coming off the tool you're using and flying toward your face.

**Tool Type**

Belt Sander

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

belt sander mounted upside down, baby finger got caught between belt and frame while shaping a small piece of wood. Good for nine stitches ,no nail and limited feeling. Hey at least it was a 120 grit.

**Advice**

dont try this at home kids

**Tool Type**

Belt Sander

**Experience**

Beginner

**Injury Severity**

Hurt but OK

**Description**

I attached my 3X21 belt sander to a special jig that I designed so that I could have a "stationary" sander. Worked fine, but I didn't realize that a sander actually cuts. In my (ignorant) mind, it just sort of smoothed the wood. So anyway, there I was, sanding a small piece of wood (maybe 3X2 inches), and maybe I leaned in a little too much, and the sander grabbed it right out of my fingers. The motion pulled me in, and I saw the tip of my finger literally vanish. The cutting action was so quick that I could see, for just a fraction of a second, the white flesh before the blood welled out. Sorry for the graphics, but it was quite sobering for me.

**Advice**

A belt sander is a powerful cutting tool. Don't let anything convince you otherwise. Useful, yes, fun, yes, but capable of serious damage. Use it, don't play with it.

**Tool Type**

**Experience**

**Injury Severity**

**Description**

I needed to take 'just a little' off the lower part of a door I was going to repaint to let it close with out binding. Rather than take it off the hinges I just sat my dumb butt on the floor, braced it between my feet and started sanding. Well the old khakis I wearing to work around the house are a looser fit than jeans, and the sander grabbbbed the leg started wrapping it around the front roller and ran right up my leg to my knee before I could even release the trigger. Pants leg tight as a tourniquet around my knee; took a few minutes hacking away with a utility knife to get free.

**Advice**

If the setup is awkward you are prone to cause an accident. Make sure none of your clothing is OR WILL BE anywhere near a moving part.

**Tool Type**

**Experience**

**Injury Severity**

**Description**

I was sanding a small piece on a horizontal belt sander with my hands. While trying to remove material quickly, I beared down on the piece. The piece slipped from my hands, and flew into the air vent. Meanwhile, I was still bearing down, this time only on my fingertips on the sander. 8 of my 10 finger pads had little red circles which hurt like crazy.

**Advice**

Choose the right machine for the size of your work. I probably would have done better on a disk sander, or even by hand.

**Tool Type**

**Experience**

**Injury Severity**

**Description**

I clamped my belt sander into a workmate to use as a stationary sander. I was using it to shape about 80 toys. Got careless after about 40 and reshaped several knuckles. Took several weeks to heal.

**Advice**

Consider using thin high quality leather gloves when using a stationary sander. A little awkward at first but worth the effort. We are never as careful as we think we are. Keep your fingers to yourself.

**Tool Type**

Belt Sander

**Experience**

Advanced

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

Was working alone on Thanksgiving Day, sanding 20' trim on an overbudget job. 70 hours in that week already. Kicked the extension cord out of the wall, and went to get some coffee. Came back, reached down and plugged the cord in. The belt sander (with the switch locked on), raced across 20 feet of cherry, and hit me dead in the left eye crushing every bone on the left side of my head. When I came to, three hours later, I was taken by ambulance to the hospital for 6 separate reconstructive surgeries. Eyesight will never be the same.

**Advice**

Always turn your machine off properly. DON'T WORK WHEN YOU'RE TIRED!



**Tool Type**

**Experience**

**Injury Severity**

**Description**

belt sander emptying dust bag I have a stove in my shop and with the dust bag full on my belt sander i thought why not just dump it in the stove (ya it was burning)well it started ok then with the fine dust in the bag caught fire(like gun powder) I got it out with no damage to the shop but the bag didnt fare so well melted the zipper and a couple of holes in the bag (any body got a spare bag for a belt sander ?

**Advice**

empty your dust bag in a cold place

**Tool Type**

Belt Sander

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

The injury was caused to the palm of the hand when the woodworker using a belt sander found it necessary to strike the moving belt to remove sawdust. The sawdust was plugging the grains of the belt. The method was to strike the belt while it was moving with the palm of the hand so that the sawdust would dislodge. The hand was drawn to the rear of the belt sander where the inner palm was lodged at the point where the belt turns up into the sander. The effect was to remove skin and tissue and some of the padding at the base of the thumb. Not enough was left for the doctor to stitch anything. It took a year of medical attention before the injury was reasonably cured.

**Advice**

Use a stick rather than the palm of the hand!

**Tool Type** Belt Sander

**Experience** Advanced

**Injury Severity** Close Call

**Description**

Sanding some reclaimed timber, noticed sparks from a piece of metal I had missed when checking for nails etc. Thought no more of it, then there was a loud bang and a red flash. A spark had ignited the finely-divided wood dust in the dust bag. The bag exploded, and disappeared! All that was left of the dust bag was the stitched seam and the zip. The rest had become evil-smelling dust. Scared the merry hell out of me, but otherwise unhurt. Had there been other flammables nearby, this might have been much, much nastier.

**Advice**

Take care to remove all metal. If you are going to use your belt sander on metal, make sure it is free of wood dust before you do so!