

Tool Type Biscuit Machine

Experience Intermediate

Injury Severity Needed Medical Attention

Description

I had never experienced kick-back from my plate joiner. My ex-wife and I had a "tiff" the night before, and I got up very early still "ticked" and went into the shop. I was rebuilding a teak anchor pulpit (bowsprit with a pulley) and had all the pieces marked for slotting. For the first time I (stupidly) held the pieces in my hand while pushing the joiner against them. After a number of them were done successfully, one caught, and left the area in a very rapid manner leaving the last three fingers of my left hand (I'm right handed, thank goodness!) in its place. It felt sort of like having the tips of your fingers hitting the blade of an electric fan... didn't really even hurt (yet!). When I looked at them, I immediately called my wife(ex) and told her to drive me to the emergency room. They looked kind of like a cartoon shotgun that had an exploded barrel. The pain started about the time I got in the car, and blood was everywhere. I lucked out and got a good surgeon, but when he looked at the 1/8" kerf in the last bone of the ring finger, he said "Well, at least it was sharp!" Today, there is little feeling in the end of the ring finger, and the tip of the "bird" finger is still tingly after 10+ years. Every time I look at the underside of my left hand, and the three badly scarred fingers, I'm reminded to keep my hands far away from the business end of any tool. In retrospect, I was quite lucky, from the top of my hand the fingers look almost normal.

Advice

Don't start work angry. Don't start work before the first cup of coffee. For the love of life: don't assume that just because a certain tool hasn't kicked back or bound before means it can't or won't. And NEVER put a part of your body in the path of the blade (bit, etc.) Tom

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Description

While using the Freud JS-100, I slid my finger in the chip slot that is on the side of the machine. The slot needs to be redesigned to exclude fingers. I lost about 1/2 inch, 12 stitches, Before the accident, I was unaware of the danger.

Advice

Be aware or buy a different machine.

Tool Type Biscuit Machine

Experience Intermediate

Injury Severity Hurt but OK

Description

I was cutting some biscuit slots for a chair I was building the other day. On the first cut I guess I got out of sequence. You're supposed to start the motor, then push in to cut the slot. I didn't realize that I had pushed in enough to have the blade touching the material. When I pulled the trigger, the blade immediately walked to the left, right into my thumb which was holding the fence in place. Fortunately, the blade had not come up to speed. I can now fit a #20 biscuit nicely into the end of my thumb. Not really, but I do have a nice 1/8" wide shallow groove.

Advice

Always remind yourself of the procedure you're doing just before you do it. It only takes a second or two and may very well eliminate that fraction of a second that it takes for something to go wrong.

Tool Type

Biscuit Machine

Experience

Beginner

Injury Severity

Needed Medical Attention

Description

After a few days with my new biscuit jointer, I was enjoying the ease of which the tool could be used. Being new to the tool, I was experimenting with vertical cut depth and exactly how to align the biscuit slots. To test the depth, I held a scap piece with my left hand and proceeded to make a sample cut. The jointer grabbed the piece and pulled it to the right along with my left hand. I quickly realized that my left index finger also had a test cut about 1 inch long and half the depth of my finger. After a quick trip to the emergency room and several stitches later, I now have a constant reminder to practice shop safety.

Advice

Always use clamps to hold your work in place.

Tool Type

Biscuit Machine

Experience

Advanced

Injury Severity

Needed Medical Attention

Description

Short version: DUH! Long Version: Had a small piece of wood to put a biscuit in. So I figured I'd just hold the piece of wood against the biscuit jointer (Ryobi for what it's worth). The blade decided to turn the piece of wood into a projectile and I felt my finger hit the blade at the same time that I heard the piece of wood hit the opposite wall. OUCH! Ended up with a trip to the emergency room (you get in faster if you're bleeding a LOT!) a biscuit slot about 1" long in my finger, a chipped bone, several stitches, a severed nerve, and surgery 4 weeks ago (2 years after the incident) to bury the severed nerve in my bone to eliminate the pain. The end result is a left index finger that is numb along the middle-finger-side.

Advice

Whirring blades hurt....A LOT!!! Use clamps!!!

Tool Type Biscuit Machine

Experience Advanced

Injury Severity Needed Medical Attention

Description

Reading all the things A biscut cutter does to hands fingers and feelings please take this advice

Advice

always clamp the timber. Speed kills and maimes never push the slide into timber fast Or the teeth will grab and run away leaving groovy fingers damaged work Ernie

Tool Type Biscuit Machine

Experience Beginner

Injury Severity Hurt but OK

Description

I was biscuit joining a small piece when when my mother called. BAD THING! I looked away and the wood came out and my finger went into the blade. Off went my fingernail. I was 14, by now you cant tell that it happend.

Advice

Don't look away when you use any woodworking machine.

Tool Type Biscuit Machine

Experience Intermediate

Injury Severity Hurt but OK

Description

I was working late to finish up a project, strike one. Hand holding a small (12") work piece, strike two and three. The work shot off to the side my finger contacted the blade and I needed stitches.

Advice

There is ALWAYS a choice just before an accident.

Tool Type Biscuit Machine

Experience Intermediate

Injury Severity Needed Medical Attention

Description

Always wear my safety goggles but for one little biscuit I decided not to go across the shop and get them. Big mistake. The biscuit slot cutter hit a knot and wood fragments into my eye.

Advice

Don't get lazy, even for one little step. Not being able to see for two weeks was no fun, but it could have been much worse.

Tool Type Biscuit Machine

Experience Beginner

Injury Severity Close Call

Description

attempting to biscuit a slot in a piece of plywood while holding it down on the table with my hand when the blade grabbed the piece and whipped it across the table.

Advice

hands are NOT clamps!

Tool Type Biscuit Machine

Experience Intermediate

Injury Severity Needed Medical Attention

Description

I was working at my workbench, holding onto the end of a short style for a cabinet face. I was cutting a biscuit slot with my biscuit cutter in the opposite end of the style. As I concentrated on centering the tool on the end of the style, I pushed slightly on the biscuit cutter before engaging the blades. To make a long story short, when I pulled the trigger on the cutter, the blades kicked the end of the style across the bench and two of my fingers on my left hand were instantly in contact with the blades. You truly can learn a wealth of shop safety in a split second. ALWAYS USE A SECURE CLAMP AND TAKE YOUR TIME!!! After a trip to the local emergency room for 12 stitches, and several weeks of healing my fingers were almost as good as new. While I still use the biscuit cutter, I now prefer pocket-hole joinery when the joint can be hidden. (Safer and much faster)

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