

**Tool Type**

Grinder

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

Carelessness and stupidity. Had just flipped on an 8" grinder (coarse wheel) to grind off one side of a large metal washer and noticed the eye guard was really dusty. Brushed off the outside, hesitated a split second and thought "I can brush off the inside without touching the wheel". Took four and a half hours of waiting in ER to get the back of my finger stitched back together (grinders don't leave much to work with).

**Advice**

If that little voice goes off, LISTEN!

**Tool Type**

**Experience**

**Injury Severity**

**Description**

This actually happened to my father years ago. He had a lathe with a grinding wheel attached to it. When he turned on the lathe, the wheel disintegrated as it was coming up to speed sending rock shards all over. The force of the fragments flying from the wheel knocked holes in the cement-block wall behind the lathe. Luckily, he was in the habit of standing to the side of any tool when he turned it on, and so was not hit by any of the fragments.

**Advice**

Never stand in line with any rotary equipment when you first turn it on. Avoid standing in line while using the equipment if possible.

**Tool Type**

Grinder

**Experience**

Advanced

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

Back when I was working as a Machinist, I went to the grinder to sharpen a tool. I had no more than touched the tool to the wheel when my index finger was pulled between the wheel and tool rest. The finger was ground down into the bone at the first joint. I have never been able to bend that joint since. Later inspection showed the tool rest was about 5/8 inch from the wheel, and the wheel had a quarter inch wide by eighth inch deep gouge in it.

**Advice**

Set the tool rest no more than one eighth inch from the wheel. Dress the wheel regularly. Inspect the wheel BEFORE turning grinder on. EVERYTIME!

**Tool Type**

Grinder

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

I had replaced the grinding wheels on my grinder with buffing wheels. I was buffing a nickel plated brake spring for an old English bicycle. I was holding the spring in my bare hands and managed to hook one end of the spring into the buffing wheel. The other end of the spring (which in retrospect I realized was hooked) buried itself down to the bone in my pointer finger on my right hand. My hand was pulled into the buffer with the grinder still running. I have never screamed like that before or since. The exciting part was getting to see the wheel still spinning with my hand in it and the far end of the brake spring almost touching the back of the wheel. I powered off the grinder and then stopped the spinning wheel with the palm of my left hand. I had to extricate my hand myself and since no one was home and my neighbors weren't home I got to remove the spring from my finger myself (scream number 2) and then drive myself to the emergency room.

**Advice**

Pay attention to what you are doing! Think about what you are about to do before you do it. Foresight can be as clear as hindsight if you just give it a chance!

**Tool Type**

Grinder

**Experience**

Beginner

**Injury Severity**

Hurt but OK

**Description**

In high school shop I was sharpening a big, dull chisel on a big grinder. I was pushing the chisel HARD into the wheel with the back of my left hand. The chisel slipped and my hand went into the wheel. Lots of blood. Got a big scar which lasted for many years.

**Advice**

Be patient; things take time.

**Tool Type**

Grinder

**Experience**

Beginner

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

Two for one on this accident. Unlike most woodworking accidents that seem to happen in a split second, this one took several months. I was at a woodworking show in N.C. and a salesman was showing off the Tormek line of tool sharpeners. He was noting how slowly the water-cooled stone turns (~70 rpm). He did this by placing his fingers on the moving stone....very nice! Months later I had a new Tormek. Playing the salesman, I showed my daughter this feature of the grinder. Seconds later she had a portion of her index finger ground down to the bone after it had gotten trapped between the stone and the tool rest. Weeks later, while pressing hard to finish a jointer blade, the tool rest lost its grip, and my finger was trapped as well. I instinctively jerked my finger loose and it came out without a scratch and without the fingernail. Pulled out at the root. They do grow back, but it took 5 months.

**Advice**

1) Woodworking salesmen can be stupid too. 2) Never ever ever ever ever allow children that close to your tools. I can't describe the sickening pain that I felt for subjecting her to that danger. 3) Although the manual recommends FIRM pressure when sharpening large blades, this does not mean INTENSE pressure. 4) Sometimes even the guards slip!

**Tool Type**

Grinder

**Experience**

Beginner

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

Twenty-five years ago in high school metal shop. It was a slow day, half the kids were at some event, a day of tinkering. I found a 5" peice of scrap iron with a short peice welded to the side for a handle to grab on to. It seemed that it would have made a nice bat shaped key holder, the short peice would give me something to hold on to and make it safe so I thought I covered my bases. Went to the machine and started to grind away to make it round. A second later, I was turning off the grinder and pulling the metal out of the machine less part of one finger and a mangled middle finger. The tool rest was not tightened enough and the small peice of metal got caught between the wheel and rest and got pulled in with my hand.

**Advice**

Just because it feels tight and secure does not mean that it is tight enough. Check all guards again and again. Just because it was tight the last time you used the machine, doe not mean that it is still tight enough.

**Tool Type**

**Experience**

**Injury Severity**

**Description**

I was using a Dremel Rotary tool with the small grinding disk attached, as I had done before - without safety goggles. I must have put too much pressure on the disk because it just exploded and a piece actually hit and cut my eyelid. I was very lucky, my eyelid actually had a blood red cut right about where my pupil would be. Whew!

**Advice**

Wear safety glasses. Buy some nice ones so at least you'll look cool. ;)



**Tool Type**

Grinder

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

I was working as a millwright in a large factory and went to the grinder in the mechanic's shop to sharpen a drill bit. This was long enough back that wearing safety goggles wasn't nearly such a big deal. As you might guess, one of the sparks flew off, embedding an ember in my eye. It didn't hurt very much but itched like crazy, especially when I blinked. No one could figure out how to remove it so the foreman made me drive myself 20 miles to the ER. They numbed my eyeball with a spritz of something, and then snagged the ember with a Q-tip, pulling it out. After about a week, I was OK.

**Advice**

Ever since then, in my own shop, I keep a dedicated pair of safety glasses over the switch on the grinder so I have to at least move them before turning on the machine. i was lucky the first time and I'm not making the same mistake twice!