

Tool Type

Jointer

Experience

Intermediate

Injury Severity

Needed Medical Attention

Description

This happened about seven years ago. I was jointing the edge of a long oak board on my 6" jointer. I think the board was about 12' long and 9" wide. I'd set up a roller stand to support the edge on the outfeed end and everything was going well until most of the weight was on the stand. I guess the bottom edge was still rough in spots and the stand got caught and started to fall over away from me. I was pushing down real hard to keep it on the jointer and the next thing I knew the board twisted out away from the fence. My right forearm fell on the cutterhead taking a shallow scoop out of my arm. The doctors grafted a piece of skin onto the area and it's fine now, but it scared the hell out of me.

Advice

I don't see these kind of stands anymore but the ones I do see don't look much better. Watch out!

Tool Type

Jointer

Experience

Intermediate

Injury Severity

Close Call

Description

I was edge jointing an 8' x 12" piece of walnut on my 6" jointer. I had all the guards in place, and was using a roller stand for my outfeed. As I came to the last few feet of the board, the outfeed stand began to tip over. Now I have a problem. I have a very nice piece of wood that I am working on. I do not want to mess it up, and yet things are quickly getting out of hand. I try to push back down on the board, try to support both ends, and try not to drop anything. Both hands are on the board, and I can not reach the cutoff switch on the jointer - the board kicks up, the stand falls over, (luckly) the guard slams shut, and my hand is on the jointer table. I drop the board and shutoff the jointer. Shaken, but unhurt. However, the walnut got chewed up pretty bad.

Advice

Make sure your guards are in place! This saved me from a trip to the hospital!!! Plan your work and then work your plan. Make sure your outfeed will support your work piece. Do not exceed the capacity of your tools.

Tool Type

Jointer

Experience

Beginner

Injury Severity

Needed Medical Attention

Description

About 6 years ago was brand new to woodworking. Fell into the "need every tool" trap, and came home from the retail store with a 6" Jointer bought from the clearance section. Didn't get any pushblocks, didn't bother to read instructions or safety information. And decided to joint the six beveled sides of a 8" piece of pine I was planning to use as the center piece of a picnic table I was building. I didn't know that jointing against the grain would cause such a kickback. When the piece kicked, my left hand grazed near the cutterhead, and I felt the wind and my heart stopped. When I looked at the little finger, ripped off cleanly at the first joint, I couldn't believe my eyes. I've subsequently learned to keyboard without my left little finger.

Advice

"Be sure to read, understand and follow all the safety instructions included with your power tools."

Tool Type

Jointer

Experience

Intermediate

Injury Severity

Needed Medical Attention

Description

guard on this 4 inch jointer had a habit of falling off so like a BONE HEAD i left off the next piece of lumber i ran threw i lost my pointer finger it happens quick this proves the theory that save your money four good equiptment 100\$ more and a lot more thinking this would not of happend

Advice

Jointers are a very dangerous machine make sure you have a good one with all the guards working and in place

Tool Type

Experience

Injury Severity

Description

I have a small crowded shop. My vacuum hoses and power cords are on the floor. While attempting to reduce the thickness of a piece of oak to repair a German handmade china cabinet, my foot became tangled in the electrical cord. When I lifted my foot to shake off the powercord, the index finger on my left hand came into contact with the jointer blades. I lost about 3/8 to 1/2 inch of my fingertip.

Advice

Make sure that your working area is clear of clutter, including the floor area. Use the "push" equipment to push and guide your pieces thru all cutting equipment.

Tool Type

Jointer

Experience

Beginner

Injury Severity

Needed Medical Attention

Description

We had a new guy in the shop and our boss had him start his powertool apprenticeship on the jointer. With only minimal instruction, our employer left him alone. Later he came back to see the new guy hadn't really done a very good job of jointing the faces of some boards. he watched the guy for a few minutes and told him his problem was not keeping the infeed table free of debris before each cut. He demonstrated how you take your hand and wipe the surface free of any chips before taking each pass. Yep, you guessed it. It was only a few minutes after the new guy was left alone when he dropped his left pinky into the cutterhead.

Advice

The moral of this story -- bosses who are too cheap to install air drops near their power tools are apt to have hurt workers and higher insurance rates.

Tool Type

Experience

Injury Severity

Description

I using my new 4" jointer, I had been working with some thick stock and had gotten complacent pushing it through with my hands, with my thumb at the back of the stock. Later I was jointing a small piece of walnut for a craft project and sure enough I was pushing with my thumb at the back and then wham my thumb had a real numbing sensation and was bleeding quite a bit. I was really lucky all it did was take a chunk of skin off. Now I always use push blocks, I can't even use the excuse that I didn't have any because a set came with it!!!

Advice

Always use push blocks with jointers, in fact never Never operate any power tools without learning the what safety precautions you should take.

Tool Type

Experience

Injury Severity

Description

In a hurry, had a short piece of oak needing a "good" edge, it was fairly thick. Push plates are for amateurs. Got the tip of right index finger. Lots of blood, didn't make my self imposed deadline.

Advice

Push plates are for people who would like to keep their fingers, hands and other attached parts attached. Use extreme caution with short pieces of material and any tool.

Tool Type

Jointer

Experience

Beginner

Injury Severity

Hurt but OK

Description

While surface planing a 6-inch by 2-foot-long by 3/4-inch pine board to about 1/2 inch, the board kicked, and I watched as the board flew back 6 feet to the wall. I was far enough in the process to have both hands ahead of the spinning blades, but as I was distracted by the flying board, my right hand -- the hand closest to the blades -- was drawn back into the blade area by the impact of the kick. I did not feel the cuts, but in about 1/5th of a second I estimate that I received about 70 cuts to the top and tip of my index finger and the pad of my pinky. I lost the pinky pad and about a thimble-full of index finger, including the whole nail and most of the underlying tissue. No medical attention was sought as there was nothing much left to repair (a doctor verified this later). After five weeks of soaking my fingers in betadine and changing dressings twice a day, I had a completely-healed pinky, but now after three months of guarded use, I still have only half an index fingernail but got lucky in that I have the tip back. The impact of the kickback hurt the most first, the realization of how much index finger I had lost sunk in next ... and the excruciating pain of a compression bandage hurt the most as the bleeding had to be stopped from a very cleaned-out wound. It took a fraction of a second but cost me three days of work and a lot of pain.

Advice

ALWAYS USE PUSH BLOCKS! If kickback occurs, ANTICIPATE it, and do not be distracted by it. By that I mean that you should expect kickback with every cut, and respect that every time you use a power tool and survive without kickback or injury, you have been lucky.

Tool Type Jointer

Experience Intermediate

Injury Severity Hurt but OK

Description

I was in a hurry and had a rather wide piece of pine I was jointing to build a small shelf for my new daughter. The pine had a little bow in it and I was trying to push the bottom of it against the fence. My fingers got a little too low and I made a nice pass over the end of my left index finger. Amazingly, it hardly hurt at all, in fact, I completed the cut on the board, thinking I had only grazed it. I cut about an eighth of an inch off the end including the fingernail. Went to the house straight away to clean it up(alcohol and a couple three bandaids). My wife nearly fainted. I now have much more respect for this tool....

Advice

Use fingerboards to hold the work against the fence, and wax the fence and base regularly to keep the wood from binding up on it.

Tool Type Jointer

Experience Intermediate

Injury Severity Hurt but OK

Description

Some years ago while I was in the military, I had purchased a burl walnut veneer blank for making some turnings. This blank is a quartersawn piece that was very wet when I bought it. (took two of us to pick it up) After about a year of air drying, I cut up the blank into pieces suitable for making turings. Due to the holes in the back side of the blank which held it in the veneer machine, some of these pieces are quite small, plus I was trying to maximize the use of this beautiful wood. (Wish I knew where my buddy got it) You can guess what is coming next. I wanted to glue up some of the smaller pieces so I was running them through the jointer. As I had many to run through, I had spent some time at the jointer. It was hot that summer day in South Carolina and there was not much air movement in the shop. The push stick fell off the jointer as I was picking up the last piece to run through. I wanted to get it done so I picked it up and started running it through. Due to the large moisture change since the last time it was cut, the rough side was real rough. I left it for last. Placing both hands on the top of the freshly jointed surface with the heel of my right hand drapped over the back edge I began to run the rough side through multiple passes. You guessed it, the burl walnut grain is very inconsistent and man did it kick back. Shot the piece all the way across the shop. Lucky no one was on the recieving end. However, it had very cleanly peeled the skin completely off the heel of my right hand and was dangling by a thread. Bleed, man did it ever. No permanent damage but only by the grace of god.

Advice

It only takes a few seconds to be safe. Take the time, its worth the effort.

Tool Type

Jointer

Experience

Intermediate

Injury Severity

Hurt but OK

Description

I was running a short stocky piece of oak through just to clean up the edge. A bone-headed thing to do considering it was about 6 inches long. Just as I was thinking how stupid this was, the front dipped into the blade and violently kicked the wood into my thumb. I'm not sure but I think it cracked my thumb and was very painful.

Advice

Be careful (I'm more afraid of my joiner than just about any other tool I own). Don't run short pieces through a joiner!

Tool Type

Jointer

Experience

Beginner

Injury Severity

Needed Medical Attention

Description

As a lot of shops have, I have a shop cat - Gumbo. I had just finished jointing the face of a board and walked away from my 1923 jointer. The good and bad things about these old machines is that they are extremely heavy and have well balanced blade mechanisms. This results in the blade taking as long as five minutes to stop completely. Gumbo heard that whirring and I guess moved the blade guard aside to investigate the noise. As you can imagine, sadly, Gumbo put his paw in the blade path and lost the majority of his front left paw.

Advice

Don't have a shop cat or make sure that they have at least 4 lives left.

Tool Type

Experience

Injury Severity

Description

I was running a 12"x3"x3" through my jointer. It would hang up on the guard. I reached with my left hand to twist open the guard and got my middle finger caught between the blades and table. Result, compound fracture and lost the finger to the first joint.

Advice

NEVER EVER move or adjust your machine while it is running. The guard did what it was intended to do and "I" defeated it's purpose!

Tool Type

Jointer

Experience

Intermediate

Injury Severity

Needed Medical Attention

Description

I needed to take off about 1/16" from the edge of a glued-up panel 20" X 42", thickness 11-16". It was such a quick little cut that I failed to set up properly. There were two saw horses sitting close to the jointer that caused me to be a little off balance. I sensed that the last couple of inches didn't cut clean. I stuck my middle finger under the edge of the board to feel if there was any ridge. I lost the top half of the first joint. I was making such good progress on the project that I was moving a little too quickly.

Advice

Take the time, every time, to set up properly. Take breaks once in a while and never let your attention lapse when the power is on.

Tool Type

Jointer

Experience

Intermediate

Injury Severity

Needed Medical Attention

Description

Finger slipped into the cutters.

Advice

Use push sticks. Don't use jointer for small pieces.

Tool Type

Jointer

Experience

Advanced

Injury Severity

Needed Medical Attention

Description

While changing the blades on a 16" jointer I relied on shutting off the main power to the buss bar to de-energize the directly wired machine. Some of the gib bolts were rounded so I went out to get replacements. When I returned I continued to set the knives. As I rolled the cutter head to the next position the machine started and quickly severed the top of my thumb. Someone turned the power back on in my absence. In addition the on button of the magnetic switch protruded beyond the shroud and I must have hit it with my knee. Seconds before I had all of my fingers in the cutterhead. I'm very lucky that I can still work in my chosen profession.

Advice

Before performing adjustments and cutter changes make sure the power is off on all tools. Learn and use lockout tag procedures. Do not perform dangerous tasks when your concentration is distracted.

Tool Type

Experience

Injury Severity

Description

When edge jointing a board, I was in a hurry and didn't use a push stick. Well there was a knothole on the trailing end of the board. I was of course pushing against it. The jointer kicked out the knot hole and my fingers went into the blades. I was lucky it took a large divit out of the end of my index finger and not more than that.

Advice

Lesson learned don't get in a hurry, always use the right tools, and watch out for knot holes.

Tool Type

Experience

Injury Severity

Description

I was jointing a small piece of oak and placed my left pointer finger on top of the piece (about 4 inches long) and pushed it in with a stick. The wood caught on something and kicked out and... my pointer was shaved off to the first joint.

Advice

Never use a jointer with any stock less than 12 inches long and never put your fingers directly over the cutterhead of a jointer.

Tool Type Jointer

Experience Advanced

Injury Severity Needed Medical Attention

Description

Jointing an edge on a 4 x 2 x 30 European Cherry stock. The sample of wood was quite wild and not well chosen, I'd also been working very late the night before and was not firing on all four. I used poor technique, had removed already poor-badly maintained guarding and trailed a finger over the back end of the board - as the board passed over the cutter head an interlocked bit of grain caused the wood to chatter over the cutters and I dropped my second finger of my right hand into the blades - I lost half an inch from the finger!

Advice

Do not use any machine whilst tired - use the correct technique and always use the guards - Most important of all do not let yourself think you are master of the machine - I had worked this jointer for 12 years - three hours a day - My finger is still not fully functional despite surgery - bleeds if overused and has little feeling below the first joint. I did it three years ago.

Tool Type

Experience

Injury Severity

Description

I was making a bedframe for my daughter. Working with a piece of 1/2" trim, I wanted a tight fit so decided to take a bit off the back using the jointer (6" Jet). The piece was too small and it jumped the cutter. My left ring finger went the opposite way into the cutter. It happens *very* quick. Little pain but a lot of blood. Drove myself to Emergency. Compound fracture, lost 1/4" of the tip which was mostly bone. The next morning, I found the (mangled) bone fragment on the floor.

Advice

Slow yourself down and think of every cut you attempt to make. If there is doubt, do it a safer way! Have an absolute understanding of your reaction time versus the distance of your hand to the blade. And have fun of course!

Tool Type

Jointer

Experience

Intermediate

Injury Severity

Needed Medical Attention

Description

I was tired, and I had my 6 year old son helping me joint some very long heavy maple planks through my Inca jointer, which is wide, but has a very short bed. My left middle finger came too close to the cutterhead, and I sliced off a bit of the tip. I went to the hospital (more to prevent infection than anything else). Fingertips grow back, but the scars and lingering tip pain remain. In the eyes of the universe, stupidity is always a capital crime (per Larry Niven).

Advice

The obvious. Be careful. Don't work tired. If it seems difficult, then it is too difficult. Use your ingenuity to come up with an easier way.

Tool Type

Experience

Injury Severity

Description

Surface planing a small (12" x 1 1/2" x 3/4") strip of oak. Board must have kicked back and allowed two middle fingers of left hand into cutterhead. Lost about 1/4 of each fingertip. Fortunately there was enough skin to form new tips, and the nails will grow back.

Advice

Use push sticks and hold down blocks.

Tool Type

Jointer

Experience

Advanced

Injury Severity

Needed Medical Attention

Description

End of the evening and tired, I wanted to run a small edged toppiece for a carriage clock through my jointer to remove the seam. The jointer had been set up to take only 1/64" off on a pass. I put the piece through by hand without benefit of a pusher. What I didn't know is that someone had stepped on the jointer outfeed table which set the outfeed to more like 1/2". The piece started to go through, but quickly began to chatter and kicked out leaving my palm exposed to the blades. I lost the heel of my palm down to the second layer. I was extremely lucky that it healed after a few months.

Advice

Don't work when you're tired. Always check your setup. Always use a pusher to keep your hands safely away from the blades.

Tool Type

Jointer

Experience

Beginner

Injury Severity

Hurt but OK

Description

I was perhaps 10 years old at the time. I didn't really know how to use power tools, but I'd seen my Dad do this sort of thing (I thought) dozens of times. How hard could it be? I tried to surface plane a short block of wood, approximately 3 x 4 x 3/4 inches in Dad's jointer. No push block, didn't know how to set the tool, no adults around (or else I wouldn't have had the opportunity to try something so stupid). As soon as the block touched the cutters, it snapped back so hard I thought I had broken all four fingers in my right hand. Thankfully, no cuts and no permanent damage, just some really sore fingers.

Advice

Make sure that children know they are to NEVER EVER EVER use any tools without competent adult supervision. If at all possible, restrict children's access to the shop area. Impress on them the potential consequences of trying something when you don't know what you are doing, and until you feel they are old enough to learn how to use tools correctly, teach them to just stay away!

Tool Type

Experience

Injury Severity

Description

While pushing a 4 foot 1x4 inch piece on the face side through a Sears 6 in. planer-jointer. The thumb on my right hand was pointing down from the push blocks. My thumb was grazed by the blades. Luckily I was wearing leather gloves. The top portion of the thumb was removed. No flesh just leather..

Advice

Always make sure your thumbs and fingers will clear the blades. all should point up.

Tool Type

Jointer

Experience

Intermediate

Injury Severity

Hurt but OK

Description

I was using the jointer to clean up 3 laminated blocks of oak 9" long, 3" x 3" to run them through the planer, well one of the blocks somehow must have tilted down I think in the front as I was moving it over the blades and it suddenly kicked back damn hard! I quickly saw a good sized cut on my left middle finger tip, looks like a couple of bandaids were all I needed for it . It looks like the top-side of the finger just brushed against the blade or the force of the wood being kicked back did it. it sort of made a paper thin slice at the end knuckle towards the nail and tore 1/8" or so of one side of the nail mostly off. Guess on this larger machine (will joint up to 12"wide boards) because the opening over the blades is fairly wide, 9" long wood is just too short for control as it goes over the opening and the blade. Just before that pass the same block dipped slightly in the back from pressing downward, and was gouged a bit. I must have over compensated for that and pressed down too much on the front end of it and it tipped down or maybe I just didn't have a good enough grip on it and being an oak block it wasn't going to "give" by breaking a piece of it out as a piece of poplar likely would in the same happening. I'll have to remember to measure how wide that opening is over the blade and post that. I'm sure it's a good 3" and in retrospect the first kick-gouging should have been the clue to use the smaller machine.

Advice

Don't pass stuff that's too short over the jointer.

Tool Type

Experience

Injury Severity

Description

Setting up my new 6" jointer and working to remove all of the gobs of shipping gunk on the tables. Scrubbing very hard with a rag and mineral spirits on the infeed table. Suddenly, a flash of pain and blood everywhere. I had barely run my right index fingertip along one of the jointer knives. Laid the tip open to the bone. Almost 5 days later, the wound is still painful and starts bleeding from time to time.

Advice

It's dangerous even if it's not running!

Tool Type

Jointer

Experience

Intermediate

Injury Severity

Close Call

Description

Needed to joint up a rough board that was just a bit too wide for my 6" jointer. But the board had a pretty good crook in it, so I wanted to edge joint it before ripping on the table saw. Safety first, you know. Turned on the dust collector (loud whining noise), then edge jointed the board, then ripped to width. Now I need to face joint the board, which I've ripped exactly 6" wide, so I go to push back the fence and expose the whole jointer blade. Just then my 5-year-old daughter walks into the garage, crying, needs some attention. I can't hear her, so I turn off the dust collector. What's that whining noise? Didn't I just turn the thing off? Oh, jeez, the jointer is still running. I could easily have opened the blade guard on the jointer, thought the spinning cutterhead was just a bare portion with the blades hidden behind the tables, and stuck my fingers down in the cutterhead to turn it so I could see the blades. I would have gotten a very nasty surprise. Divine intervention in the form of a little child. Thanks Alice.

Advice

Make it a point to turn off your machines after use. Unplug the machine before touching the cutterhead.

Tool Type

Jointer

Experience

Intermediate

Injury Severity

Hurt but OK

Description

Purchased a new benchtop jointer but was unhappy with the flatness of the infeed table so I was cleaning it up to return it to the store. As I was about to put it back into the box, I saw some more sawdust that I wanted to wipe off. I sat it on top of my shop vac to wipe it down further. Even though I was holding with the left hand while wiping with the right, it slipped off of the shop vac. I tried to grab it with the right hand and my middle finger just glazed the very very sharp exposed blade. The blade took off a good chunk of skin and part of the nail. It didn't seem to hurt much (very clean cut on the new blade) but it bled like crazy. After I washed it off and put on a bandage, it kept throbbing for a couple of days.

Advice

Slow down!!! Keep all tools on a stable surface while working on them. Keep your blades sharp; they hurt less when they cut ;-)

Tool Type

Jointer

Experience

Intermediate

Injury Severity

Needed Medical Attention

Description

I was making blanks for 4 laminated clipboards. After gluing them up and waiting (only 6 hours) for them to dry, I decided to surface them on the jointer to clean up the irregularities in thicknesses from one strip of wood to the next. Without using push blocks--or much common sense for that matter--I slid one of the blanks over the cutter with my hand. Needless to say, when the only partially-cured glue joint gave way under the high speed (and apparently excessive cutter height), I felt great pain. After some mild shock and cursing, I realized the tip of my ring finger resembled something close to tuna-fish and ketchup. Today, 40 stitches and 4 hours of reconstructive surgery later, I'm grateful not to have been injured even worse.

Advice

Take the necessary precautions--there's a reason it's called "safety". Know and observe the limitations of your tools--as well as your own. Perhaps most importantly, follow instructions on glues, finishes, etc. to make sure you don't compromise your work or your digits.

Tool Type

Experience

Injury Severity

Description

In England you can't seem to buy jointers with the rounded, spring loaded safety guard, just bridge type guards, usually aluminium and with sharp edges. So, I walked into the safety guard and put a 3 inch gash in my belly...

Advice

Don't be as dumb as me! Look for potential hazards before you walk into them.

Tool Type

Experience

Injury Severity

Description

I was cleaning and replacing the blades on my 6 inch jointer. I had the cutterhead completely removed from the jointer. I got nicked by one of the knives while handling the cutterhead. Just a small nick.

Advice

Watch those knives. They are sharper than you think.

Tool Type Jointer

Experience Intermediate

Injury Severity Needed Medical Attention

Description

Stupidity should be painfull. Small piece of wood without a push block. The wood piece caught the jointer blades and sucked my right middle finger into the spinning blades. It took off 1/2" of my finger and 1/4" of my distal bone. It left my finger print pad and a small fragement of my nail. The Dr. sewed the skin up over the stub and put on a bandage. My finger is shorter and still a little numb, but is working fine.

Advice

DO NOT compromise on your safety! If I had taken 60 seconds to get the push block I would be sharing this with you now and I would have all of my fingers intact.

Tool Type Jointer

Experience Intermediate

Injury Severity Needed Medical Attention

Description

While truing up the edge of a piece of white oak for use in a mission style bed I was building, the jointer "caught" on a knot and the piece was pulled backward and launched across my shop. The "hold down feed block" piece was pulled on to the blades and out of my hand also flying backwards and in the blink of an eye (or even faster) the ring finger on my right hand made contact with the blades. My finger was trimmed off at a steep angle, essentially plucking the meat out of the end of it. Now 4 years later I have a great pointy nose picking didgit with no feeling beyond the last joint. The bed is very comfortable, but not worth the finger tip.

Advice

Always be keenly aware of where your fingers are when using any tool, and if you are manually feeding a piece of stock into a machine, use only the proper type of push-stick, or hold-down.

Tool Type

Experience

Injury Severity

Description

I was jointing some 2x4's when the accident happened. I normally use push blocks when jointing, but I sometimes the wood won't move so I have to give it a nudge. This is more likely to happen when I joint long boards. As I was working on a "stuck" board, a friend walked into the shop and I looked up to say "Hello". That's when my right hand index finger went into the blades.

Advice

Don't get distracted. Tell people not to approach you until you are done with your current step.

Tool Type

Experience

Injury Severity

Description

Many years ago I needed a tapered 2X4 to fit into a vertical space in a door frame. The taper was needed along the 4" side and not along the edge. I passed the 2x across the knives backwards with the 2x on the outfeed table. I got away with it one time, but the taper still would not fit into the space. I tried it again. The knives grabbed the 2x and shot it to the other end of my shop and three fingers of my left hand went down onto the knives. Blood everywhere. No fingers were lost, thank goodness, but I needed plastic surgery on three finger tips including a cross-finger flap for my index finger.

Advice

Never, ever use a jointer backwards.

Tool Type

Jointer

Experience

Beginner

Injury Severity

Needed Medical Attention

Description

A few years ago I was rushing to finish a project before meeting people for dinner. I had been working all day and I was worn out. I had to take about 1/8" off the width of the piece I was working on and headed for the jointer. Well, the machine shot it back and jammed my thumb. We still went out to dinner, but I didn't have much fun. By the time we got back it hurt enough for me to go get it looked at. The xrays surprised everyone. The piece drove the distal bone of my thumb like a nail into the joint behind it.

Advice

The moral of the story is, never-ever keep on working when you are tired and there is never-ever a reason to rush. There is always tomorrow.

Tool Type

Jointer

Experience

Beginner

Injury Severity

Needed Medical Attention

Description

I had just purchased a used King Seeley 6" Jointer and built a small stand to mount it on. I had spent several hours mounting the machine and motor and had test run it to be sure it operated OK. The blades were dull upon receipt and needed sharpening. Dull blades being a primary cause of kickback, I should have ended the day successfully. I decided to take a test run on a small piece of scrap 2 X 4. The piece kicked back and flipped over taking my left middle finger passed the cutter and then impacting some object so forcefully that I broke the tip of the finger. It basically looks like the finger was beat with a sledge hammer. Six hours in the emergency room and another visit to the hand specialist scheduled.

I am most blessed to not have lost a hand in the process. I was using a push stick in the right hand and hand my left hand above and outside the flip guard. The Lord blessed inspite of my pushing things too far. New blades will be on order shortly and newer style push blocks as well to keep me further back from the rotating elements. The injury will take about two months to heal completely (my estimate) but I have feeling in the digit and the only thing I make lose is the finger nail because the doctor had to take the whole thing off to be able to sew up through the nail bed.

Advice

Most of us know when we do the wrong thing. I knew when I did this that there was another method to accomplish the same thing that would have been safer. I also knew that I needed to wait until the machine was ready to run with sharp blades. I plain got lazy and took a chance. I got protected by the Lord from something real serious and reminded that I'm old enough to know better. We don't always get a second chance. I know personally two guys that have lost three fingers each by doing what they knew was inappropriate. I have much to be thankful for. As always, if the machine injures me, it is my fault. The machine can't think for me. I must think for myself.

Tool Type

Jointer

Experience

Advanced

Injury Severity

Hurt but OK

Description

I had a 10" long piece of 1x4 that needed a quick push through the jointer to size it down about 1/8". I figured the little 4" benchtop jointer would be safer to use than the big 6" jointer for a "quick" push through not using the push blocks. I grabbed the width of the board and pushed it through and the left index first knuckle was too close to the surface taking the skin down to the bone. There was no skin to put back so I wrapped it well and two months later, it healed. That was 9 months ago and I still have little feeling in the knuckle.

Advice

I wasn't tired, just in a hurry. It's best to apply as much attention to each cut on any machine as the attention we give to the details of our fit and finishing work. Take the time to use the push blocks, and if you haven't any, buy some! I never consider safety practices, push blocks, eye protection, hearing protection, and safety devices for the amateur anymore.

Tool Type

Jointer

Experience

Advanced

Injury Severity

Needed Medical Attention

Description

I went to make a light pass to clean up a face on a short board and DID NOT use a push stick... The board kicked back, I felt a tug on my right hand. I raised my hand up to see that 2/3rds of the nail length of my first and middle finger were gone. Cut so clean it didn't look real. Very little blood and very little pain... Just numb. I had been feeling distracted at work due to the rapidly declining health of my father and had just sought a referral for some mental health support the day before. But given the fact that most shops are "no work- no pay", I was trying make due.

Advice

Obviously this could have been avoided using a push stick which I was trained to use years ago. NEVER become complacent around machinery. It doesn't care how many times you have used it. Also to all bosses, owners, and co-workers, remember that 99% of these accidents are mental lapses in judgement and try to have a safe and supportive work environment.

Tool Type

Experience

Injury Severity

Description

Cleaning up the faces of a few small (3x2.5) pieces of hard maple for use in a smoker. Way too small & not using push blocks. Very stupid. First piece cleaned up fine. Second caught, was kicked back and my hand kept going right into the blade. Cut 1/4 inch off of the side of my middle finger. I lost a lot of blood, required 5 stitches & they had to remove the nail just to get enough skin to stitch it closed.

Advice

As soon as I was able to get out again I went to Rockler & bought the GRR-Ripper and a set of push blocks. I always thought push blocks were overpriced for what they were, but learned otherwise the hard way. Always use safety devices & never run small pieces of wood through the jointer.

Tool Type

Experience

Injury Severity

Description

At the time when I was naive and just an amateur woodworker I successfully reconditioned an old beaver rockwell jointer. With new knives in place I attempted to face plane a 2 foot piece of pine (without the push pads). The blades caught a knot in the pine and sent my piece of wood flying but my fingers slipped into the blades. Yup I lost two finger tips and the third was slightly cut on an angle. It was over a year before I could use my hand properly and a lot of therapy. I have full function of my hand now but picking up that quarter is alot trickier. Yes this was good enough to earn my DA badge amongst my woodworking friends.

Advice

Use your push pads at all times when face planing any piece.

Tool Type

Experience

Injury Severity

Description

I was jointing a 4x5x10' piece of heart pine making exposed beams. It was a 12" jointer w-8'bed. There was no blade guard and the knives were dull. I know, I know, very stupid. I was young and doing what my boss told me to. As I got to the end of the beam I hit a knot and the beam chattered a bit and my hand slipped off of the beam and into to cutter head. I lost up to the first joint of my left little finder and had a nice slice into the ring finger. I was very lucky.

Advice

Always have sharp knives and do not remove safety equipment

Tool Type

Jointer

Experience

Advanced

Injury Severity

Needed Medical Attention

Description

Was edge jointing a 1x5x5' piece of mahogany. I always work alone but that day had a friend (completely inexperienced) positioned directly behind the outfeed table watching me work. This distraction resulted in the loss of everything from just below the nail and up on my left hand ring finger. No pain, little blood but now have a goofy looking stub of a finger. Instead of calling it my ring finger I now call it my ding finger. It's functional but not pretty and never will be.

Advice

Distractions, no matter how minor, can be costly even for experienced users. I also believe the more experienced the more likely an accident, taking tool usage for granted.

Tool Type

Jointer

Experience

Beginner

Injury Severity

Hurt but OK

Description

Setting newly sharpened 6" jointer blades. While tightening the bolts, the wrench slipped off and tip of index finger sustained 1/4" deep cut. Amazing how much it bleeds.

Advice

Make sure the wrench is securely on the bolt prior to torquing it down.

Tool Type

Jointer

Experience

Advanced

Injury Severity

Needed Medical Attention

Description

This accident happened to my dad, (now deceased). He was a cabinet and fine furniture maker for 40 years. He was running a triangler piece of cove through a jointer without the guard (the guard was binding the wood). The piece of cove was 4-5 foot long and about an inch wide. He was feeding it through the knives by pushing the cove with index and middle finger. He had fed a few feet through, when the knives hit a wet spot, turn in the grain, or ???. The piece of trim stopped and his index and middle finger went into the knives. He lost the tips of both fingers.

Advice

Even someone that has 40 years of experience can make a mistake.

Tool Type

Jointer

Experience

Beginner

Injury Severity

Needed Medical Attention

Description

I'm a middle school shop teacher. I had a student in my class decide that he needed to flatten and square a block of wood for the lathe, on the jointer. As we know you don't need to do this. Also the block was only 1 1/2" square and only 4" long. I'm not sure what he was thinking and he didn't even have permission to do this. You can guess the rest of the story. The piece being poorly supported tipped in the cutters and he lost the first 1/4" of his index and extra meat on the next two.

Advice

Listen, read, get good advice listen to the little guy inside you if he tells you look out PAY ATTENTION!!!! Never joint material shorter than 8" and use a well desinged push stick or holder instead of your hand. Replacing a holder is a Pain. Repairing your hand is a possible life long injury.

Tool Type

Jointer

Experience

Intermediate

Injury Severity

Needed Medical Attention

Description

I am not to smart lets get that out of the way....I make wooden putters..AT the time i was working with a block of maple,3"x4"x4". i was cutting off pieces of wood 1/4" x4x4 on the bandsaw. then i would take the larger block to the jointer to shave off the the block for the next cut...Old story i had been doing this for quite a while...I was making a pass holding the block with the finger tips of the right hand..The next thing i knew i was looking at the stub of my middle finger and ring finger.

I must have tilted the block down on the back edge...the block flew out and my fingers went down into the blades.

Advice

I found out afterwards from a cabinet maker, that i play golf with, I made 2 large errors #1 nothing under 12" into a joiner....#2 H then asked where the push plate was...When I gave him my normal dumb look he said Thats #2. I hope this helps someone else...Signed STUBBY..

Tool Type

Jointer

Experience

Intermediate

Injury Severity

Needed Medical Attention

Description

Total stupidity. In a hurry, jointing stock that was too short, no push block. The piece kicked back and my thumb went down on the blade; lost about 1/2" of my right thumb.

Advice

Don't be a damn fool. Slow down. Use push bocks, don't joint short stock.

Tool Type

Jointer

Experience

Advanced

Injury Severity

Needed Medical Attention

Description

Complacency. Just not paying enough attention. Removed the entire tip down to the first joint of my pointer finger on my right hand. Chewed it up so bad that it could not be reattached. No excuse.

Advice

You are not superman. Your mojo cannot stop sloppiness in the shop. Don't be a jerk.