

**Tool Type**

Nail Gun

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

This accident happened to my partner one night. We were laying down baseboard and working late to finish up. I was cutting and he was following me with the finish nailer. All of a sudden my buddy came up to me and I could see blood coming from his leg where he had shot himself. The gun was the type you could bounce fire and while he was getting up he'd brushed it against his leg. The nail lodged in his bone and he needed a surgeon to get it out. He's alright now.

**Advice**

This type of accident could have happened anytime but I think we were tired and getting careless.

**Tool Type**

**Experience**

**Injury Severity**

**Description**

I was nailing into oak with an 18 guage air nailer and the brad curved out of the wood and went into my finger.

**Advice**

Don't put your finger where the nail could get it.

**Tool Type**

**Experience**

**Injury Severity**

**Description**

When assembling wall braces, the nail gun fired the nail through the 2x4s and into the side of the person holding the brace. the bottom 2x4 split and allowed the nail to shoot through.

**Advice**

Be absolutely sure that the back side of all (especially elevated) uses of nail guns are clear of bodies and body parts.

**Tool Type**

Nail Gun

**Experience**

Advanced

**Injury Severity**

Hurt but OK

**Description**

Was hanging masonite siding with a coil nailer, with 8d nails. On a stubborn section that wouldn't lay down right, I was pushing on the siding with my left hand, with the nailer right next to it in my right. Hit the trigger, the nail hit something under the siding, curled and came right back out into the meat of the first finger of my left hand, all the way out the top, so I was looking at the point of the nail sticking up thru my finger at me. As it was a ring-shank nail, when I jerked my finger off the nail, a little excess finger tissue was left on the nail. Tetanus booster and \$150 later, all I have is a sore finger.

**Advice**

Take into account the length of your fastener before you put your hands anywhere close. Nails don't always drive straight. Always wear safety glasses...

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**Experience**

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**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

I was finishing up some fastening on the roof of my house, when I decided to put one more 8d nail into a panel. The gun became jammed, so I looked down the barrel to dislodge whatever was blocking the trigger spring. The firing mechanism went off in my face, shooting a nail completely through my left eye, only stopping because it caught on the nasal bone. Blinded and in shock, I rolled down the roof into some hedgery where I broke both of my legs. I'm blind now in my left eye, but my legs have healed.

**Advice**

Don't look down the barrel of a nail gun.

**Tool Type**

**Experience**

**Injury Severity**

**Description**

I bought a new framing nailer and did not disconnect the air supply before checking the depth adjustment. Ended up with a 2 1/2" nail thru my left thumb. Did not hurt at the time but got to throbbing later. Healed up ok with minimal damage to thumbnail. Had to push the nail out of my thumb by pushing the end of it against a concrete wall. Needless to say, I am a little fearful of my new toy!!!!!!

**Advice**

DON'T touch the business end of a nailgun without disconnecting the air supply.

**Tool Type**

Nail Gun

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

It was a day like all others, my friend was using the nail gun (air) when suddenly something hit my left shoulder. Then I touch my shoulder to see what it was.. NOTHING, but when I looked at my hand I saw the blood. My friend looked at me and said "OH MY GOD, there it is.. I knew it wasn't in the piece of the wood, hum.. does it hurt???" As you probably imagine, YES it hurt. I've been to the hospital and the nail was all in my shoulder so we couldn't just pull on it. After 2 weeks the pain was gone.

**Advice**

NEVER shoot in your friends shoulders, it hurts!! ALWAYS check if the nail path can be dangerous! Try to always shoot face down.

**Tool Type**

Nail Gun

**Experience**

Advanced

**Injury Severity**

Hurt but OK

**Description**

Was on a step ladder in an awkward position, had to use the nailer with my left hand while holding a 2x with my right hand. Was over-reaching to steady the 2x and had to "jump" the nailer into position quickly. Nail gun fired into and right out of the 2x and the nail lodged in the web of skin between my thumb and index finger. Was able to just pull it out. No blood, guts or glory on this one. Shear stupidity in trying to do something that was obviously not the least bit correct. Tetnus shot hurt worse than the nail did.

**Advice**

Self discipline and lots of risk management when you are working solo. If it looks risky and feels risky, it is risky. The worst part about power tools is that they always have more power than you do. That is precisely why they are called power tools. Learn to accept that as fact.



**Tool Type**

Nail Gun

**Experience**

Advanced

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

It was getting on towards quitting time and I was hurrying to get done as I was nailing in some blocking for a shower surround. I stuck the nail gun up to the stud, because it was a smaller than normal stud bay I was forced to put the tip near the edge of the stud. My other hand was holding the block in place at the other end of the block about twelve inches away (just in case it shined out). I pulled the trigger and heard the ricochet. I glanced around to see where the nail went thinking I heard it bounce off a couple of walls. Then I realized it went into my hand. It basically nailed my thumb to my hand. Being the only one on site I had to drive back the 2 miles to the shop were one of the guys took me to the hospital. I lucked out for once. It only was under the skin and I didnt hit anything important. Other than embarasement and a little sorness for a few days no ill effect will come out of this mishap.

**Advice**

Slow down and make sure you know were the tip is and your other hand is clear. One little knot can make a nail do a 180.

**Tool Type**

Nail Gun

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

A friend of mine was with his cousin doing some work on a house. At one point he bent to take a closer look at some of his work and let the air powered nail gun hang at his side. He swears he had the safety on, but somehow the nail gun fired. He was on a ladder at the time so he looked down to find out if it had caused any damage. He noticed his cousin who was just beginning to stand up rather shaken from apparently falling backward a short distance. At about the center of his forehead there was a strange welt that was beginning to bleed. Looking at it closely they found that the nail was imbedded in his forehead. The nails were full size, aprox 3". My friend rushed his cousin to the hospital. The hospital found that the nail had embedded itself between the young man's lobes of his brain. They safely extracted it and the last I heard he was doing well. He was extremely lucky as if it had been just a little to the left or right and he could be seriously messed up or dead.

**Advice**

Be EXTREMELY careful with nail guns. Be sure you are familure with the safety and how to use the gun. And disable them when not in use.

**Tool Type**

Nail Gun

**Experience**

Advanced

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

I had completed the task of nailing a piece of trim work on a fence project. As I was climbing down the stepladder, not realizing my finger was still on the trigger, the nail gun bounced off of my knee cap. I fell from the ladder still not knowing whether or not the nail had actually gone inside my leg. There was very little blood, so I used my utility knife to cut my pant leg open. I still could not see the nail and was still hoping that perhaps it had merely bounced off the hard bone. However, I called for help and was brought to the hospital. I needed surgery to remove the 2" long nail from my knee. I am now in my fourth week of recovery with at least four more to go. So as a reminder, don't leave your finger on the trigger after you have used it.

**Advice**

Be careful with all power tools and be aware of your surroundings.

**Tool Type**

**Experience**

**Injury Severity**

**Description**

This isn't really a nail gun accident but I thought it would be alright. I recently bought a new kind of staple for my Duofast stapler. They are made by Stanley Bostich and for some reason, the points of the staples are razor sharp. The first time I loaded the gun I sliced open my left index finger pretty deep just pushing the staples into place. The second time, and I was thinking about the danger a few seconds beforehand, I sliced open my left pinky. This last one was even worse than the first one and I got blood all over my work. This is ridiculous. My hands are pretty rough and I've been using nail guns for 20 years and I have never seen anything like this. A guy shouldn't have to put on leather gloves to just to load a nail gun.

**Advice**

I've sent an email to Stanley and hopefully they'll correct the problem. Until they do, careful!

**Tool Type**

Nail Gun

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Close Call

**Description**

I borrowed a framing nailer from a friend to do a job. This nailer had a "bump fire" trigger installed. I was framing a wall on the floor and was having trouble getting the nailer to fire single nails. The recoil was so fast the gun would fire twice. So I started bump firing. I have done this technique before, but not when I was tired (this was after the regular job). I had just warned my wife, who was helping not to stand in the line of fire, when the firing sound made a different sound. Upon checking, I found a 3&1-2" framing nail sticking out of the sole of my tennis shoe. I had bumped the very tip of the gun, shooting the nail 1/8" above the board into the sole of my shoe 1/8" below my foot.

**Advice**

Always pay attention. When you get tired, mistakes happen really easily.

**Tool Type**

Nail Gun

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Hurt but OK

**Description**

I was doing a wall frame up section on the ground. While holding two boards together my 2 1/2" framing gun double shot and the kickback lifted the gun enough to aim the 2nd nail into the palm of my hand. It entered the fleshy part between the thumb and index finger base joint, going just under the four metatarsal bones, and didn't exit. 1/2" of the nail head was showing as I looked down at what I had done. I dropped the gun, grabbed the nail with my other hand and yanked it out feeling it graze the underside of those bones as it came out. Unbelievably, after a sore week or two it all healed. I can barely get myself to imagine if the angle of attack had been a few degrees higher and the nail had crashed through the bones of my hand.....

**Advice**

Constantly think about new ways that tool can get you. Given half the chance it will.

**Tool Type**

Nail Gun

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Hurt but OK

**Description**

While constructing a frame wall for a shower unit, I was in the process of nailing the wall header to the wall studs on the floor prior to standing the wall up into position. I was nailing the end stud in place at the time of the accident. I was holding down with my left hand which was about 8" away from the top plate I was nailing through with my right hand. I pressed the nail gun head into the top plate and fired the gun. The gun was set in the rapid fire position accidentally. When the gun fired, it recoiled a couple of inches. When the gun went back to the top plate after the recoil, it fired again upon contact. The contact point was on the very edge of the top plate, and the next nail fired into my little finger which was about 8" from the nailer. The nail went into palm side of my little finger between the nuckle joint, and the middle joint, and came out to the side of the last joint. The nail extended out of my finger about an inch.

**Advice**

Always check your nail guns, and make sure the gun is not in rapid fire mode if you dont need it to be. Also, most importantly, do not have any part of your body in the "line of sight" of the nail gun when firing.

**Tool Type**

Nail Gun

**Experience**

Advanced

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

A friend and his brother were doing some finish carpentry in the basement of a customer's house. Their compressor was outside and the air line for the framing nailer was strung down through the basement door to the work area. My friend was putting the final touches on a door frame and the air line was going to be just barely long enough if he stretched it a little. Just as he did that and prepared to shoot the last nail, his brother came around the corner and tripped on the stretched and slightly elevated air line. The sudden tug pulled the nail gun down and against my friend's hand, firing a nail through the bone of the thumb and impaling him to the door frame. They had to cut through the door frame and take a section of it with them to the E.R., where they operated to get the nail out of the bone.

**Advice**

Don't rush and take shortcuts to finish "just one more little thing". They could have walked up the stairs and moved the compressor a foot or two and this would have saved a lot of pain and damage.



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**Experience**

Advanced

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

I was sheeting a roof with plywood. My buddy Dash had been drinking whiskey the night before, I went to hand him a nail gun with a disabled contact element, he was on a tow board above me and I reached up with the hose in my hand. He grabbed it with his left hand and lowered it to the tow board. When he went to grab it with his right, his finger hit the trigger, shooting an 8d into his heel. The nail went between the achillies tendon and the bone, missing the artery also. I had to tear off the last sheet and lower him down to the cut-man. Lucky for him I had just removed a rack of 12d nails seconds prior to that.

**Advice**

1. Don't pin back the safty on any nail gun. 2. Don't drink whiskey on a work night. 3. If you do drink on a work night don't climb around a roof with your head up your rear end.

**Tool Type**

Nail Gun

**Experience**

Advanced

**Injury Severity**

Close Call

**Description**

I was using a nail gun to frame a wall on a house I was building. The stud that I was nailing to the bottom plate had a knot on the end of it. As I casually bounced the nail gun and shot the nail, the end of the stud exploded and the knot went flying into my eye with tremendous force. Luckily I was wearing safety glasses and it only snapped my head back but I am sure I would have had a serious eye injury if I had not been wearing glasses.

**Advice**

Wear safety glasses at all times. I know someone who lost the use of his eye by a nail that was "hand pounded" but went flying when he mishit it..he said the last thing he saw was red...then black.

**Tool Type**

Nail Gun

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

My father was helping with building a garage. He and the other man were putting up the header across the door. My dad was holding the header flush and in place when the other man shot one nail to secure it in place. Well, he did just that, my dads hand was nailed to the header, the nail had hit a knot bent and came out into my dads wrist, a 16pennynail. The other man then had to get down from the ladder find something to support the header, get a circular saw, cut the header of near dads hand. Once free he then took him to the hospital. No damage was done to his wrist the nail went right between all the bones.

**Advice**

Look at the wood or the area to be nailed for knots or altered grain patterns that could deflect the nail. Keep hands well back from the area being nailed

**Tool Type**

Nail Gun

**Experience**

Advanced

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

I was teaching a beginning woodworking class at a local art school, and got to the point of explaining how to use the nail gun. This was my fifth time teaching the exact same thing that week, and I was really just going through the motions. Anyway, I was explaining that holding the trigger was dangerous because every time you bump the tip, it fires a nail, and that you need to make sure that you don't accidentally "bump" yourself. As I said this (I was holding the trigger to illustrate my point), I bumped the palm of my left hand, firing an 3/4" long, 18 gauge finish brad right into the center of my hand. I saw about 15 doctors in the emergency room, each one passing me on to someone else. (The short nail didn't come out the other side, so no one could even find it-the x-ray was the only evidence of the accident) Ended up having the nail in my hand for a week until a hand surgeon could dig it out.

**Advice**

Never work while tired or just "going through the motions". ALWAYS release the trigger on the nailgun before placing the tip for the next shot

**Tool Type**

Nail Gun

**Experience**

Advanced

**Injury Severity**

Hurt but OK

**Description**

I was attaching a piece of 1/4" MDF facing to a 2x4 with a Staple gun. I was holding the 2 pieces together with my right hand and stapling with my left. As I shot one staple, it hit a knot hole I hadn't seen and skipped out, went completely through the mdf, part of the 2x4, and part of my right index finger. Didn't hit the bone or anything, but tore a nice little 1/4" long hole in my finger. No seroius damage, and just a little scar.

**Advice**

Always check your pieces to make sure they are safe to be shooting staples into.

**Tool Type**

Nail Gun

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Close Call

**Description**

Pressed trigger to put a nail in a board and something whizzed by my eye and then I heard the sound of metal hitting metal not too far from where I was standing. The air diverter on the back of the gun had somehow dislodged itself from the gun and went flying.

**Advice**

Check your air diverter before firing your nailgun.

**Tool Type**

**Experience**

**Injury Severity**

**Description**

running baseboard around 90 degree corner: in trying to push piece down tight to floor with heel of hand at corner, a 6d finish nail from the gun took a u-turn off the corner bead and jabbed about 3/8" into the palm of my hand.

**Advice**

keep your other hand safe distance away from gun even if you think it's behind the discharge---finish nails can sting as well. a spacer like a small piece of scrap probably would have worked in this instance for pushing down without gunging the top edge of the base too bad.

**Tool Type**

Nail Gun

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Hurt but OK

**Description**

I was attempting to tack a self-return on a window stool while foolishly HOLDING the pieces together with my left hand. As soon as I shot the nail, I immediately felt a sharp pain through my finger and realized that the wood was now stuck to my hand! After pulling it out, I washed out the wound and bandaged it. After four days, it's almost completely healed.

**Advice**

Make sure that your tetanus shots are updated every ten years. Check what LENGTH of pin is loaded in your nail gun as I had foolishly assumed that I had the gun loaded with 5/8" brads when in fact I had left 1 1/4" brads in the gun. DO NOT USE YOUR FINGERS for clamps. I subsequently bought a set of collins miter clamps to prevent mishaps like this from happening again in the future.



**Tool Type**

**Experience**

**Injury Severity**

**Description**

While holding two mitred pieces of 3/4" MDF together, I attempted to drive a 1 5/8" brad into the joint to hold it until the poly glue cured. My "gun" hand was at the wrong angle relative to the face of the MDF, allowing the brad to skip off the surface, entering my left thumb between the first and second joints. Thankfully, no tendon/ligiment or joint damage occurred, and the thumb was numb long enough for me to extract the brad with a pair of pliers.

**Advice**

I strongly recommend use of a miter clamp, and careful attention to the placement of the brad nailer gun. One's hands should always be out of the way of nails, staples, etc., especially when driven by a power tool.

**Tool Type**

Nail Gun

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

While nailing a wall together for a local lumber company a few years back I nailed my fingers, yes fingers, together! I was "kneeing" up a "hockey-stick" of a 2x4 for a treated deck display. My left hand was keeping my balance, on a concrete floor, while I was attempting to knee a 2x4 into position to hit with a pneumatic nailer shooting a 12 penny galvanized ring-shanked nail. It hit a knot, bounced off concrete nailing my left middle finger, went through the knuckle, through my ring finger and then pinkie finger. (I do have an x-ray to prove it.) We figured the nailed traveled about 40" before it hit my fingers. A later operation removed a small piece of concrete from my ring finder as it was not healing.

**Advice**

Now they have the proper clamps and/or bars to straighten out the crocked boards, please use them!