

Tool Type Planer

Experience Beginner

Injury Severity Close Call

Description

I am extremely cautious of standing directly behind my portable surface planer while running stock through it. I once had a piece kick back with enough force to put a monster dent in a metal tool box. Would have done a lot of damage if it were a human instead of a box.

Advice

Make sure that stock is approximately flat before feeding. High points will grab. Never let anyone stand behind the infeed path.

Tool Type

Planer

Experience

Advanced

Injury Severity

Hurt but OK

Description

This happened about a year ago. I had just purchased a new thickness planer to replace my old one. As I unpacked it everything was going fine. The plenum or work surface was covered in a protective plastic. I started to peel it off by hand and as I peeled my hand slipped up into the cutterd. I recieved a nasty gash which should have been stitched but being the idiot that I am wasn't. The wound took a long time to heal but is OK now.

Advice

Prior to assembling the machine, make sure the blades are out and the machine is unplugged. Also use the proper tools for setup.

Tool Type

Planer

Experience

Intermediate

Injury Severity

Hurt but OK

Description

I was preparing some lumber for my technology education class by running it through the surfacer. As part of the instructions for the classes, I tell the students to run only one piece of wood through the surfacer at a time. This particular time, I was working in the lab area by myself. I had quite a few boards that needed to be surfaced to 3/4". (The average thickness was about 1".) To save some time, I was running 2 - 3 boards through the surfacer at a time. I wasn't paying much attention to the boards as they went through the surfacer, looking around, standing behind the boards, and stuff. Yes, it happened. One of the boards was not quite as thick as the others. A kidkback occured. The board came back and hit me in the lower abdomen, just missing a part of me that would really hurt. I was in intense pain for a few minutes, but no permanent damage done.

Advice

Pay attention to what is going on. Know the safety rules and follow them.

Tool Type Planer

Experience Intermediate

Injury Severity Close Call

Description

I had sharpened my planer blades and put them back into the machine. Tightened every thing up and was on the fourth board when one of the knives shot out of the machine and lodged itself into the ceiling. Luckily I was standing to the side of the machine.

Advice

After servicing a tool run it and then retighten it

Tool Type

Planer

Experience

Intermediate

Injury Severity

Needed Medical Attention

Description

Was using a 4" hand held power planer. Had used this alot and was complacent with it. I made the old mistake of using only one hand - the planer slipped off the thin edge I was planing down and went into my left hand. Lost some flesh and needed to have it stitched up.

Advice

Always use two hands with planes (power or manual) - clamp the workpiece securely (never hold with one hand and plane with the other). Don't work when tired - I've become a great believer in naps when appropriate.

Tool Type

Planer

Experience

Intermediate

Injury Severity

Hurt but OK

Description

I wanted to use my 14" moulder planer to plane off a little wood from a very short uneven piece. Our moulder planer has a bar across the outfeed side with a locking knob. I fed the piece of wood through, thickest end first. When the feed rollers reached the thinner part, feed stopped. At this point instead of feeding another piece through I reached over the bar and grabbed the wood. I figured that it wouldn't feed any more and I would just pull the piece out. When I moved the wood, the feed rollers engaged and my fingers were caught between the wood and the bar. Luckily only one knuckle was almost removed. It was a really ugly avulsion injury. Since I could not see any bone and have some medical knowledge, I treated myself using warm soapy water initially and then antibiotic cream. It healed ok but there is a significant scar to remind me of the incident.

Advice

Never put your hands where they might be caught because of the action of the material you are working. Also if you have pieces of metal with sharp edges, file them down. I could have easily lost the end of my finger.

Tool Type

Planer

Experience

Advanced

Injury Severity

Needed Medical Attention

Description

Technically, this needed medical attention, but I wound up not getting it. I was changing the cutter knives of my planer. I had been wearing heavy leather gloves, but had trouble seating the knives, starting the nuts, and leveling so I took the glove off. After carefully tightening three of the nuts on one knife the wrench slipped and my hand pounded and rolled across the exposed knife. Well, blood - and more blood. The bone-deep cut started on the outside of my right-hand pinky, went almost completely around it, across the ring finger, and stopped in the middle of the index finger. More blood. Not having a first aid kit handy, I bound the wounds with kleenex, securing it with baling wire. Bizarrely, I finished setting the knives (now with a protective towel and gloves) drove over an hour to the house and presented the damage to my wife. After much discussion we discovered that our insurance was changing from one company to another that very night. Knowing what a PITA it was last time I hurt myself, we taped up the wounds with surgical tape and let them heal on their own.

Advice

1 - wear protective gloves 2 - cover exposed knives with a heavy towel or leather 3 - ALWAYS have a first aid kit 4 - look for reliable insurance 5 - marry a medical professional 6 - as soon as you think "O, this could hurt me!" STOP and figure out how to keep it from doing so.

Tool Type Planer

Experience Intermediate

Injury Severity Needed Medical Attention

Description

I was changing blades on a 12" planer. The wrench slipped off the nut and my left hand pinky finger knuckle jammed into the exposed blade. Cut it to the bone of the knuckle. Lost about 25% dexterity of my pinky - to most, it would be a minor injury - to me as a serious guitarist, I'm reminded of it daily.

Advice

Steady your wrench hand on the planer head for support - if you have to bear down to loosen a nut, brace your hand & be ready if the wrench slips.

Tool Type Planer

Experience Intermediate

Injury Severity Hurt but OK

Description

I was using my 12" planer to surface some 18" long boards to 1/4". I was feeding one of the boards into the planer, holding it with one hand on the end, when the board kicked back. It dislocated the thumb of the hand feeding the board and hurt like crazy. I reset my thumb and finished planing the lumber before calling it a night.

Advice

When planing short thin boards, hold the board with two hands, one on each side---not on the end. If the board kicks back your hands will already be clear.

Tool Type

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Experience

Beginner

Injury Severity

Hurt but OK

Description

We had purchased a 13" planer and during the setup I found protective paper on both the infeed and outfeed rollers. With the machine unplugged, I reached in, to remove the paper. My hand made contact with one of the cutting blades putting a nice size gash on my the side of my hand. No stiches but a lot of blood.

Advice

Exercise caution when removing ths protective paper and be advised that the blades are VERY sharp. The use of extension tools might be a good idea.

Tool Type Planer

Experience Intermediate

Injury Severity Needed Medical Attention

Description

end of the day and my boss asked me to change the planer blades. being the tool junky that i am i did not refuse. hey it's an old 16" rockwell made of cast iron and probably weighs as much as my car. A joy to work on so back to the accident the good thing was that when the wrench slipped i was putting on the new blade the the hand surgeon told me that it should heal quite well because of the blade being so sharp the bad thing was that i cut the tendon off just below my second nuckle and took a good cut into the cartilage of the knuckle

Advice

okay the problem with pushing a wrench is that you cant react in time to stop your hand from jamming in to what is in front of it be it an engine muffler or a newly sharpened 16" HSS planer blade if you can and as far as planers go you can pull the wrench that way if the wrench does let go you wont jam your hand in what ever is in front of it second make shure you hve a good fit on the bolt planer bolt heads are machined to fit tighter in wrenches than regular bolts so they dont slip so make shure it fits the next it cover the blade with a folded towel just in case you do slip gloves dont work becuse the blade will cut through a glove without any problem but most important thing is that you have a proper fit on the bolt and if the bolt starts to show signs of wearing replace it

Tool Type

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Injury Severity

Close Call

Description

planer had been spewing chips for the last several weeks because of a clog in the dust collection line and was generating enough chips so that the rollers weren't grabbing the wood adequately to feed through smoothly enough for me. while planing a piece of maple, the wood got caught halfway through and i attempted to push it through with another piece of maple when the original piece shot back INCREDIBLY fast and gave me a nice bruise in my thumb. i stopped the planer afterwards, disconnected the dust collection hose and cleared out all the chips that had jammed inside.

Advice

do not FORCE a piece of wood through a POWER tool. clean out the dust collection hose if you start seeing chips spewing back from the planer.

Tool Type

Planer

Experience

Advanced

Injury Severity

Needed Medical Attention

Description

Replacing the knives...wrench slipped off the gib screw...7 stiches in the palm of my hand

Advice

use a new wrench...not one that has been used for 30 years and rounded out so it is no longer the correct size

Tool Type

Planer

Experience

Intermediate

Injury Severity

Needed Medical Attention

Description

was replacing planer blades. I took the old blade of no problem but while replacing the new sharp blade the wrench slipped off the bolt. Cut my index finger to the bone requiring four stitches.

Advice

a little piece of scrap wood over the new blade while tightening the front bolts would have prevented this accident.

Tool Type

Planer

Experience

Beginner

Injury Severity

Needed Medical Attention

Description

I was changing my planer blades. I'd removed the old ones and was installing the new blades when my worn wrench slipped loose from the securing bolt. I ended up with five stitches on the back of my left index finger.

Advice

The mistake could have been prevented intirely with a small piece of cardboard to cover the down stroke while I was tightening the bolt.