

**Tool Type** Shaper

**Experience** Advanced

**Injury Severity** Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

While running a door frames through the shaper to mortise the back to receive the panel , I did not have enough pressure on it and it got away from me and pulled my left hand into the bit. I lost the tip of my index finger from the cuticle up.

**Advice**

Pay close attention to everything you are doing and don't think that you have enough experience or control over all the machines in your shop.

**Tool Type** Shaper

**Experience** Beginner

**Injury Severity** Close Call

**Description**

I was learning how to use my shaper, using soft pine with a rail and style cutter. Fed the work in the wrong way and \*instantly\* sent it through the window.

**Advice**

Spend time studying your setup. Shaper is always a \*one way\* cut. This applies to your router also.

**Tool Type**

Shaper

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Close Call

**Description**

I was using a router bit when The bit came out of the collet when the machine was running at about 10,000 RPM's.

**Advice**

Fasten your collet as much as possible.

**Tool Type** Shaper

**Experience** Intermediate

**Injury Severity** Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

I had just planed some wood, went over to the shaper, set it up and forgot one very important thing - to lower my guard down. It was too high and allowed my fingers to slip under and into the cutter. I had 3 fingers mangled up. After a year I now have feeling back, but am luckily to have them. Please check and use all guards.

**Advice**

Always use all guards, even if it is a hassle.

**Tool Type**

Shaper

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

I had a molder head in my ShopSmith 520. I was making flutes down the wide sides of 2x4s. I wanted the cut to start 4 inches from the end of the board, and so was carefully lowering the board onto the cutting head. Yup, that stupid. It worked great for about 15 cuts and I got very complacent. I wanted the final few flutes to be a tad deeper than the earlier cuts, so cranked up the cutting wheel. When I put the board on, it kicked out, pulling my hand into the cutting wheel. My first and third fingers went through (how I missed my second finger, I'll never know). I sliced the index finger, and did a 3/4 amputation of the third finger. Quick first aid (ice and cold water) and a quick trip to the ER resulted in my finger tip being saved. It's 5 months later, and it is almost healed. Took quite a while though.

**Advice**

I have no one but myself to blame. I always thought of myself as Mr Shop Safety, but I had not thought the process out fully. I could have easily used push sticks (as I do now), but seeing Norm run boards that close to cutters had helped condition me into a "can't happen to me" mode. It did, and I learned a valuable if painful lesson for a fairly low price.

**Tool Type**

Shaper

**Experience**

Beginner

**Injury Severity**

Hurt but OK

**Description**

Using a 2.5" long 1/2" diameter flush trim in the Delta portable shaper to do template routing on a chair leg the bit pulled the leg about 8" and pulled my thumb into the bit. The bit cut my thumbnail for about 3/4" and a shallow cut into the flesh behind the thumbnail. Blood gushed but pressure and a tight bandage stopped the bleeding.

**Advice**

1) When using a shaper or router table never put a finger or thumb on the same side of the work piece as the bit, particularly where it could get pulled into the bit. 2) When template routing using a flush trim bit, trim the work piece to within 1/16" of the template using a bandsaw. As well as being a safety practice this prevents chipout. I had only trimmed by workpiece to within 3/16".

**Tool Type** Shaper

**Experience** Advanced

**Injury Severity** Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

While separating a 5/8 square section of mahogany off a 6foot length of window framing using a shaping machine (in the UK ,spindle moulder)Fitted with a horizontal saw blade. The machine was fitted with all the neccessary guards and mechanical feeder. This procedure was as I thought tried and tested by the manufacturer of the shaping tool . As they designed this specific cutter to form window section and further more to save on wastage, the 5/8 section was used for a glazing bead. We carried out this procedure many times without any problems. While feeding the 6 foot length through the machine a 3 foot length of the glazing bead broke off and was propelled backwards towards me at such a force that it penetrated my right thigh, passing right tnrough it . I was in fact impailed by the glazing bead. I was taken to my local hospital after the glazing bead had been cut by the emergency services to allow me access into the ambulance,where I went through emergency surgery to remove the now shortened piece of wood from my leg. I now have a badly weakned right leg with a permanent numbness below the knee and scarring. The Health and Safety Body investigsted the accident but could not reach any conclusions as to how the accident happened.

**Advice**

Never underestimate the injuries you might recieve and give machinery the greatest respect. The prevention of this accident happening again could come about by someone reading this account.

**Tool Type** Shaper

**Experience** Advanced

**Injury Severity** Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

I was shaping raised panels with a panel raising cutter. I was attempting to push through a very narrow panel with out the aid of a push stick. The piece caught something and jumped causing my extended fingers to come in contact with the cutterhead. the shaper immediatley gobbled up the first and second knuckles of 3 fingers. After 20 hours at the trauma center and \$24,000 later I have 3 short fingers and no more playing guitar.

**Advice**

NEVER operate a shaper without guards in place.  
NEVER use your hand/s to push material through cutterhead.  
NEVER attempt to shape small or narrow materials without proper setup.



**Tool Type**

Shaper

**Experience**

Beginner

**Injury Severity**

Close Call

**Description**

One of the perks of our shop was allowing the employees to use the tools after hours to make their own furniture. One Saturday the new guy was setting up the 7 1/2 HP shaper to make some panel raises. The pieces were small and non-rectangular so they had to be clamped into a fixture. It was obvious to whoever watched him that his fixtures were too lightweight and his hold-down toggle clamps were cheap knockoffs of DeStaCos, and were underpowered for how much holding they had to do. I mentioned this to him but he knew better. He'd been a shop teacher, after all, and didn't need anyone's advice. I still insisted on checking his knife alignment with the dial indicator. Ours was a small shop and couldn't afford to lose a tool to carelessness.

As you can imagine, the moment he fed the piece into the whirling shaper, the cutter pulled the oak from the fixture and whipped it across the shop through five or six workstations. Fortunately it was the weekend and only one person was working there and was missed by the missile. I was out of the way on the dovetailer, watching and shaking my head. The former shop teacher was unhurt and more sadly, un-fazed by the misshap. In a couple hours he was back at it again with a replacement workpiece and similar results. After the second time, we pulled his shaper privileges.

**Advice**

I really hate to say this, but some people should stay away from certain tools. You can learn a lot from reading books and watching videos, but for some operations a little talent is very helpful. Some of that talent is instinctual and some is intuitive. Without it and an innate understanding of the subtle relationships between tools and materials, accidents will happen. If our shaper user sounds a little like you, maybe your shaper work is best left to professionals, or maybe assigned to the router table where the forces are more manageable.

In the end, we had to let go of our shop teacher - he couldn't build anything square.