



SAFETY ITEMS

FOR USE ON TABLE SAWS (SawStop); BAND SAWS AND ROUTERS. ("Push Sticks" and Feather Boards)

Working with machines that have rapidly moving parts (eg. Sawblades, band saws or routing bits) requires special care and attention to avoid serious injury (and in the case of the SawStop to avoid the expense of a new cartridge and sawblade).

All woodworkers would have experienced a close call (or worse) when using machinery and it is with a view to make using machines safely that we aim this article, mostly as a reminder.

We constantly need to be aware that many of our machines are spinning at about 30,000 rpm and that the blades and cutting bits that are spinning are sharp. They are what we have categorised as being "Risk Category 5", that may cause catastrophic, permanent and disfiguring injury (amputation) or even death.

So, it is best to keep all body parts well away from the spinning blades and cutting bits, but that means we may need to use artificial means of holding our project close to the spinning blades and cutting bits so as to make the cuts safely and accurately.



For this purpose we have various items, Shed made and/or purchased that are made from wood and plastic that are inexpensive and sufficiently soft so that they are expendable and soft enough not to cause damage to the spinning blade or cutting bit should they come into contact. It is better to mangle the bit of sacrificial wood or plastic rather than your finger.

It is vital that your "chicken stick", "push stick", "holding down stick or paddle" and/or feather board (or maybe a combination of them depending on the job) is close to hand so you can use it as and when you need without having to make the choice while you are mid-job between stopping work to fetch the safety item and taking a horrible "NO-NO" risk. The trouble is that in the heat of the moment you may make the wrong choice. **So, when planning your project, factor these safety features into your cut and have your safety items close to hand before you start your project.**

Hopefully, using these safety items will become second nature and save you from serious injury. If you have any doubts about which safety items are the most useful for your job, speak to the Technical Supervisors.