

## SHAPERS & ROUTER TABLES

Power tools require operator respect in specific ways. They must be used carefully and kept in safe operating condition, whether they are in the hands of a professional tradesman, an amateur do-it-yourselfer, or a vocational student. *The demands of safety apply to all.* The material presented here is a compilation of carefully selected safe use precautions as they relate to specific electric power tool CAUTIONS, WARNINGS and DANGERS. The purpose is to highlight the safe use of specific tools that have a potential of causing injury if ignored. The warnings and instructions on the power tool and in its operator's manual provide the best source of safety information for the tool. Read and understand the contents and follow the advisements of operator's manuals on each specific power tool and all related accessories. This is considered essential to the safe operation of any power tool. Review PTI's *Safety is Specific* publication for general power tool safety.



Shapers and router tables are used to create decorative surfaces in wood and wood like materials.

### Good Personal Safety is a Must

Following good safety practices when using a shaper or router table is a must. Make a habit of including safety in all your activities.

- Always wear safety goggles or safety glasses with side shields complying with current national standards, and a full face shield when needed.
- Use the appropriate mask or respirator in dusty work conditions.
- Wear proper hearing protection, as needed.
- Never alter a guard or use the tool with a guard missing. Be sure all guards are in place and working properly before each use. Do not defeat guards.

### Choose the Right Tool and Accessory

Choosing the correct tool and the proper accessory for your job can help to reduce the risk of serious injury.

When used according to the manufacturer's instructions, the proper tool and accessory will make the job safer and faster.

- Use only the cutter recommended by the tool manufacturer. This is extremely important for your personal safety.
- Always keep cutters sharp and clean of rust and pitch to avoid excessive blade friction.
- Do not attempt to sharpen cutters while they are installed in the cutter head unless a proper sharpening attachment is provided.

### Know your Workpiece

Take time to review your workpiece and make sure that all necessary precautions have been taken before shaping. Examine the workpiece carefully before cutting. Do not shape chipboard, panel board or any stock containing nails, paint or varnish.

- Shaping narrow materials can be hazardous. Always use fixtures, feather boards, push sticks or blocks and/or other jigs to hold down the workpiece.
- Never make freehand cuts. Holding the work piece by hand is unstable and may lead to loss of control.
- Be cautious of knots in wood. Knots can be thrown out of the workpiece or cause kickback.
- Properly support long lengths of material to maintain control. Use work supports or stands as needed.

### Before Shaping...

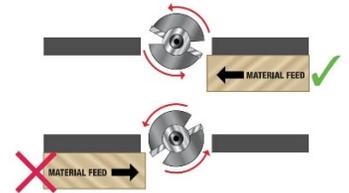
Before working with a shaper or router table, make sure the tool and its accessories are in proper working order. Failure to do so may increase your risk of injury.

- Obtain advice from a qualified person if you are not thoroughly familiar with the operation of this tool.
- Do not operate the tool until it is completely assembled and installed according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Check that all guards are in place and return quickly to normal rest positions. If a guard seems slow to return or "hangs up", have it adjusted, repaired or replaced immediately. Never use a tool without a properly operating guard.
- Always use the guard as recommended by the tool manufacturer.

- Set up and secure cutters and worktables according to the operator’s manual.
- Make sure cutters are securely locked in the cutter head and that the unused portion of the cutters are covered by the guard before tool use.
- Maintain proper adjustments for infeed and outfeed tables.
- Adjust the fence halves so the cutter opening is more than is required to clear the cutter blade.
- Lock the fence into position after making fence adjustments.

## While Shaping...

- Avoid awkward operations and hand positions where a sudden slip could cause a hand to move into the cutter knives.
- Keep your hands, fingers and body away from the cutting area. Contact with a knife will cause serious injury.
- Never feed the workpiece in the direction of cutting blade rotation. Otherwise, the cutter blade can grab and pull the workpiece.
- Always use a miter gauge and clamp for “end shaping” to maintain safe control of the work piece.
- Keep the exhaust port pointed away from yourself.
- Don’t reach into the exhaust chute to unclog chips. Stop the tool and unplug it from the power source. After making sure that blade has stopped, clear the chute with something other than your bare hand.
- Never reach under the table while the tool is running to avoid personal injury.
- Always be sure that the tool is switched off and unplugged before making any adjustments.



## When Done...

When done, lock the switch in the “off” position to prevent unauthorized use.

## Always Remember...

Store cutters with care. Do not drop them or subject them to excessive heat, cold or humidity.

## NOTICE

The contents are not meant to be, nor should they be considered, an absolute or complete presentation of the safety measures and procedures that relate to using the power tools covered. Obviously every possible application cannot be foreseen. This brochure’s purpose is to highlight only some important safety and safety related information compiled from the experience of Institute members and other reliable safety oriented sources. Individual manufacturers’ tool operator’s manuals, shipped with tools and accessories, are recommended as a final source for proper procedures for specific tool usage.