

Teaching Sanders

Sanders require more skill and finesse in their use than many other power tools. The operator's inexperience is too often clearly evident in the finished product. Students must learn to pay particular attention to the manufacturers' instructions for mounting abrasive belts, discs and sheets, and benefit from talking with experienced users about technique.

Refer To...

➤ [Safety is Specific, Section on Sanders](#)

...for references to the safe use of sanders.

Lesson Suggestion...Talk with the Experts

Objective: Have students become familiar with and benefit from the experience and perspective of seasoned professionals.

Materials/Requirements: [Safety Is Specific](#)

What to Do: Assign each student, or a small team of students, to create a report on a particular power tool — a sander if you wish. Each student or team should begin by reading the pertinent section of [Safety Is Specific](#).

In preparing the report, the student or team should interview professional users of the tool — carpenters, contractors, cabinetmakers — about their experiences with the tool. Issues should include safe tips for maximum effectiveness, mistakes the professional has made, use and care pointers, lessons students have learned and anecdotes. Have each student present his report to the class. When all reports have been presented and discussed, they can be combined to create the students' own guide to using these tools.