



Router Table Safety Rules

The router table has a router mounted vertically below a table. The elevation of the router can be raised and lowered to facilitate bit changing and to adjust the depth of cut. Bits installed in the router are used to cut grooves, rabbets, slots and molding profiles on the workpiece. To avoid accidents, the following operational safety rules must be observed by everyone using the CLUB Router Table. Failure to follow the safety rules may result in a loss of shop privileges.

Router Table Safety Rules:

1. Follow the 3” rule; Do not place your hands within 3” of the cutting circle of the bit. Use push blocks, push sticks or jigs as needed to maintain this clearance. Do not reach past the bit to clear parts or scrap while the router is running.
2. Don’t cut workpieces that are not flat on the bottom without a jig that will hold the work in a stable position.
3. Keep a balanced stance at the router table.
4. Never clear small pieces from the table with your hand while the router bit is rotating.
5. If guards, feather boards or hold downs are needed, discuss this with the Shop Leader and make arrangements to get them.

Start with a Risk Assessment to ensure a safe work area:

1. A three foot perimeter around the shaper should be kept clear of people, debris and sawdust that might impair traction or footing to avoid slips and falls.
2. Safety glasses with side shields or a face shield in combination with safety glasses and hearing protection must be worn.
3. The dust collection system on the router table is not adequate. A dust respirator must be worn when using the router table.
4. Do not cut reclaimed or pressure treated wood on this machine. Do not attempt to cut workpieces with loose knots, or that are twisted, warped or bowed.
5. Remove loose fitting clothing, jewelry, and tie back long hair.
6. Give the work your undivided attention.

Operational Safety Rules:

1. Approach your work in the CLUB Shop and on the router table with a safe attitude!
2. Never shape stock less than 12" in length unless it is secured in a Shop Leader approved jig or fixture.
3. Ensure that the bit is not cracked or chipped before using it.
4. Ensure that the collet is securely tightened using the wrenches provided with the router.
5. The workpiece must always be in firm contact with the fence or a rub bearing mounted on the bit. **DANGER!** Do not try to make free-hand cuts.
6. The workpiece must be fed so that the cutter is rotating towards the workpiece:
 - a. When using the fence, make sure that the workpiece is fed from Right to Left. Never climb cut unless a power feeder is used to control the workpiece, or the depth of cut is 1/32" or less and the workpiece is captured by hold downs and feather boards.
 - b. When pattern shaping the exterior of a workpiece, feed the workpiece in a counter clockwise direction.
 - c. When pattern shaping the interior of a workpiece, feed the workpiece in a clockwise direction.
7. Match the router speed to the diameter of the cutter. Full speed can be used for bits up to 1" diameter. Bits over 1" in diameter must be run at less than full speed. Cope and pattern bits and raised panel bits should be operated at about one-half speed.
8. Use the smallest diameter table insert that will allow the bit to pass through it.
9. Never adjust the fence position or gap with the router running.
10. Minimize the gap in the fence. Adjust the fence halves so that they come to within 1/16" to 1/8" from the bit.
11. To control the stock, use push sticks, push blocks, feather boards, or any other safety device whenever possible.
12. Always use a jig to hold the work piece when pattern shaping and profiling the entire edge.
13. When pattern shaping the initial cut must be made at a place on the pattern where the bit will not be cutting; or a starting pin must be used to start the cut. Ensure that the pattern is in contact with the starting pin at the beginning of the cut and only the bit rub bearing at all times after the initial cut is made.
14. When pattern shaping, ensure that the workpiece is adequately secured to the pattern with clamps, screws or sufficient double-sided tape.
15. Never profile the edge of a board that is not in contact with the fence. **DANGER!** The workpiece must never be positioned so that it is between the fence and the bit.
16. It is best to profile wide boards and then rip off the portion that you need. Never cut narrow stock that is less than three times the width of the profile to be cut. If you are cutting a 3/8" radius bead, the board would need to be at least 1-1/8" wide.
17. Always use the miter gauge when shaping the ends of boards less than 12" wide.

18. Cut at a moderate feed rate. Feeding too fast may cause the workpiece to have tearout or excessive machine marks. Feeding too slow will cause the cutter to heat up and burn the workpiece.
19. The router table is not intended for use with large workpieces. If a large workpiece needs to have a cut made that would normally be done with the router table, use either the shaper or a hand-held router.
20. Ensure that the dust collection cabinet door is closed when the router is running. This door prevents access to moving parts and ensures that the dust collection system is operating efficiently.
21. Ensure that the dust collector is running and that the blast gate to the router table is open before starting the router. Close the blast gate when you are finished using the router table and turn off the dust collector if no one else is using it.
22. Lockout/Tagout the router table before changing the bits or performing any other maintenance operation.
23. When you have finished your use of the router table, push the stop button, clean off the router table and clean the area around it.