

20” MiniMax and 24” Laguna Band Saw Safety Rules



The Band Saw has a thin vertical blade that allows cutting curves, resawing, and large depth cuts on thick material. To avoid accidents, the following operational safety rules must be observed by everyone using the CLUB 20” Mini Max Band Saw. Failure to follow the safety rules will result in a loss of shop privileges.

Band Saw Safety Rules:

1. Follow the 3” rule from the blade; always keep fingers at least 3” from the blade.
2. Check the blade tension and blade position on the upper wheel before starting the saw.
3. Don’t cut stock that is not flat on the bottom without a jig that will hold the work in a stable position.
4. Keep a balanced stance at the band saw.
5. Never clear small pieces with your hand while the blade is moving.
6. Never use your thumbs to push toward the blade. Use a push stick.

7. Never back out of a cut while the machine is running. However, if the cut is straight, with no curves, you may be able to slowly back up. Watch the blade closely. If it starts to hang-up, stop the saw.
8. Always wear gloves when replacing the blade and coiling/uncoiling the blade.

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

1. A three-foot perimeter around the saw 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 and hearing protection must be worn.
3. Remove loose fitting clothing, jewelry, and tie back long hair.
4. Give the work your undivided attention.

Operational Safety Rules:

1. Approach your work in the CLUB Shop and on the band saw with a safe attitude!
2. Ensure that the upper and lower wheel guard doors are closed when the saw is running. These doors are interlocked so that the saw will not start if one is open and the saw will stop if one is opened while the saw is running.
3. Laguna Band Saw: Ensure that the Powermatic dust collector is running and that the blast gate to the band saw is open before starting the saw. Close the blast gate when you are finished using the band saw and turn off the Powermatic dust collector if no one else is using it. There is an interlock on the blast gate that should automatically start the dust collector when it is opened, and stop the dust collector when it is closed.
4. MiniMax Band Saw: Ensure that the Onida dust collector is running and that the blast gate to the band saw is open before starting the saw. Close the blast gate when you are finished using the band saw and turn off the Onida dust collector if no one else is using it.
5. The teeth of the band saw blade should point down toward the table and facing the operator.
6. Do not use the ceramic blade guides when the blade is narrower than ¼". These guides can not properly support narrow blades and if used will result in the blade coming off of the wheels and or breaking.
7. Use the Cool-Block blade guides when using a blade narrower than ¼".
8. The blade should be 1/64" from the blade guide thrust bearing behind the blade.
9. The blade should be at the center of the upper wheel to ensure proper tracking and minimize drift
10. Keep the blade guard & guide no higher above the stock than necessary to see the cut line. ¼" to ½" is usually sufficient.
11. Keep bystanders away from the work area of the saw. Broken blades have a tendency to fly out to the right.
12. Always keep your fingers and hands away from the path of the blade.
13. If you hear a rhythmic click as the wood is being cut, this often indicates that the blade is cracked. Turn off the saw, lock it out and inspect the blade. A crooked blade weld can also

cause a click and can not be corrected. If the blade is cracked or the blade weld is crooked, the blade must be replaced.

14. To control the stock, use push sticks, feather boards, or any other safety device when cutting small or short stock.
15. Use “V” blocks when cutting cylindrical stock.
16. Cut at a moderate feed rate into the blade. Do not force a cut.
17. Cut relief cuts prior to cutting long or tight curves. The relief cuts will free the blade of the tension of the tight curve and the wood will fall away. The blade size will dictate the radius of the cut.
18. If you need to back out of a cut, shut the machine off, wait for the blade to stop, and then carefully back out. If the stock can not be easily removed: Lockout/Tagout the band saw; slowly rotate the upper wheel backwards by hand as you pull the stock back through the cut. Verify that the blade has not come off of the wheels prior to restarting the band saw.
19. If a blade breaks, shut the machine off and stand clear until everything stops. Notify the Shop Leader.
20. If the work is too large for one person to handle, get help holding the stock or use infeed or outfeed supports.
21. Lockout/Tagout the saw before changing the blade or performing any other maintenance operation. All blade changes and guide block settings must be done under the direction of the Shop Leader.
22. When you have finished your use of the band saw, push the stop button and apply the foot brake until the blade has stopped moving. Do not allow the saw to coast to a stop. The massive wheels on this saw will allow the saw to coast for a long time and that presents an unnecessary hazard. Never stick an object into the blade to stop the machine quicker.