

Planer/Thicknesser safety instruction notes

This is a substantial machine with significant potential for injury if the cutter block is not guarded effectively or the work is incorrectly fed.

1. Structure of the Planer/Thicknesser –
 - a. Infeed & Out-feed tables for surface planning.
 - b. Cutter block guard
 - c. Fences
2. PPE and extraction.
 - a. No loose clothing
 - b. No gloves
 - c. Safety glasses or visor at all times
 - d. Dust extraction always to be used.
 - e. Not suitable for man-made boards – MDF, Ply etc.
3. Follow basic safety rules.
 - a. Turn on extractor before powering up the machine.
 - b. Keep hands clear of bit at all times – Use push sticks and guide blocks as required. Ensure these are to hand before starting the machine.
 - c. Allow the machine to reach full speed before starting cut.
 - d. Keep work piece clear of the bit, start the machine, and **LISTEN**, Rumbling, whining or vibration indicates a problem.

4. Surface planning.

Adjustments

- a. Ensure the removable out-feed table is firmly clamped in place.
- b. Set the guards and side fence to ensure as much of the cutter block as possible is covered with the guard just high enough to pass the board underneath.
- c. Ensure the dust extraction hood is correctly positioned and held in place by the thicknessing table.
- d. Set the required depth of cut using the scale on the side of the infeed table.

Method

- a. Hold the material flat on the infeed table and pass it under the guard.
 - b. As the material passes out the opposite side of the guard, slide one hand over the guard and press the material firmly onto the out-feed table as you continue to feed it through.
 - c. As the cut progresses, transfer the second hand onto the out-feed table side of the cutter.
 - d. Inspect the surface. If there is evidence of tearing of the grain, consider changing the feed direction.
5. Adjustments – Jointing (i.e. edge planing).
 - a. As for Surface planing but position the side fence and the guard such that the material can just pass between them.
 - b. Ensure the side fence is accurately set to the required angle (generally 90°)
 6. Adjustments – Thicknessing
 - a. Remove the out-feed table and place it safely to one side. Move the guard clear of the table.
 - b. Flip the chip ejection hood over the cutter block.
 - c. Place the extractor hood over the ejection hood.
 - d. Position the guard over the extraction hood to secure the hood in place.
 - e. Set the height of the thicknessing table to slightly lower than required for the material.