

## Table Saw safety instruction notes

Although the largest machine in the workshop, and possibly the most intimidating, it's actually one of the safest if used correctly.

### 1. Structure of Table saw –

- a. Circular blade
- b. Large flat table (hence the name)
- c. Blade guard
- d. Riving knife
- e. Fences
- f. Special jigs

### 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. Dust mask if prolonged cutting of fibrous materials – MDF etc.

### 3. Adjustments

Most will be previously set up by workshop cleaning/maintenance team. **If in doubt ask.**

- a. Do not remove blade guard or riving knife at any time unless performing maintenance with power isolated.
- b. Adjust blade height & angle to suit required cut – don't forget to check for square/parallel.
- c. Use appropriate fence and/or jig **DO NOT CUT FREEHAND**
- d. When ripping ensure the rip fence protrudes no more than 50mm, 2" beyond the front edge of the blade.
- e. When using the rip fence as a 'length stop' set the fence so that the work is not trapped between it and the blade.
- f. Adjust blade guard – c. 12mm, ½ inch above work piece
- g. If cutting large stock (long plank or wide board) set up roller stand and/or have an assistant

### 4. Keep work piece clear of the blade, start the machine and **LISTEN**

- a. Rumbling, whining or vibration indicates a problem

Now we're ready to start cutting

### 5. Follow basic safety rules

- a. Turn on extractor before powering up the machine
- b. Keep hands clear of blade 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. Feed work piece at steady rate – do not force. Any signs/smells of friction or burning stop the machine without withdrawing the work piece.
- e. When cutting round or irregular shaped stock use appropriate jigs to effectively support the work piece. Consider making simple jigs and holding devices.

### 6. Useful functions of the machine

- a. Angle/mitre cuts
- b. Bevel cuts
- c. 'Compound' angles

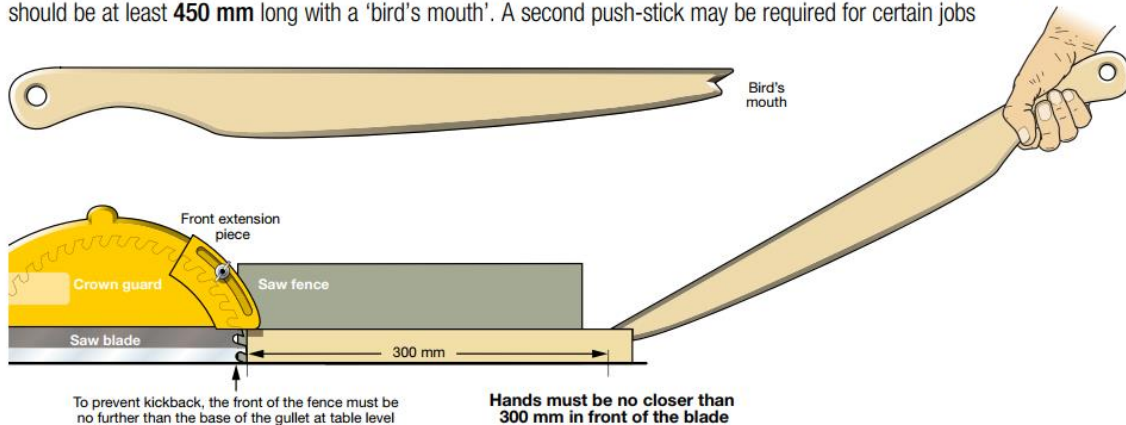
# Circular sawing machines

**Circular saw benches and dimension/panel saws** are used to rip timber to size using a rip fence

**Dimension/panel saws** can also be used to cut material to length using a cross-cut fence

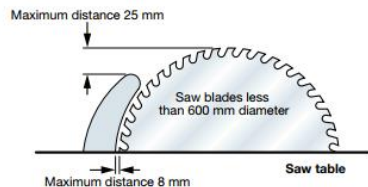
**Note: For ALL machines**

A push-stick **MUST** be available to feed the last **300 mm** of a cut and remove the cut piece and off-cut. Push-sticks should be at least **450 mm** long with a 'bird's mouth'. A second push-stick may be required for certain jobs



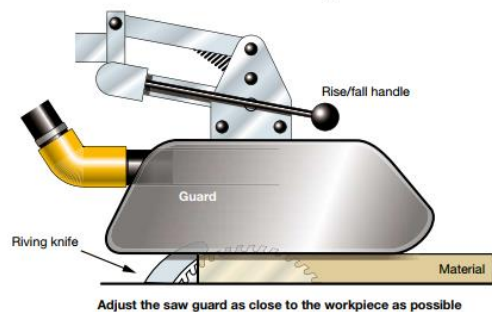
**The circular saw MUST be braked and stop within 10 seconds**

To prevent kickback, the gap between the front edge of the riving knife and back of the blade is set as close as possible. This should be less than **8 mm** at table level



**The top guard MUST be fitted to dust extraction**

Adjust the top guard so that it is as close as possible to the material being cut



**Always**

Use the correct manual handling techniques and lifting aids for large sheets, and use the correct PPE

**Remember**

Saws cause the most accidents in woodworking



HSE's website [www.hse.gov.uk/woodworking.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/woodworking.htm) has more information on saws including Woodwork Information Sheet 16 *Circular saw benches – Safe working practices*