

POWER TOOL RULES

Here are the power tool rules for the Academy Theatre Scene Shop. **Know them and live by them. Remember, one little accident on a power tool can ruin your life.** You shouldn't fear power tools, but you should understand and respect them.



Band Saw Rules

- Do not use without direct instructor permission!
- Use a dust mask for prolonged use.
- Adjust guard to 1/4" above stock.
- Keep fingers at least 4" away from blade.
- Never feed stock with fingers in a direct line with the blade.
- Do not force blade; use a "light touch." Blade should not smoke!
- Do not "tweak" the blade; keep the blade as straight as possible.
- Make relief cuts on tight curves.
- When possible, cut to the waste side of the line, then sand down to the line.
- Press foot brake to turn machine off and bring blade to a complete stop.
- Clean up your mess when you finish.

Compressor/Pneumatic Tool Rules

- Do not use without direct instructor permission!
- Point hose away from face and at floor when connecting tool to hose.
- Check air pressure prior to hook-up; ask instructor for pressure settings.
- Keep fingers away from tip of gun!
- NEVER fire or even point the air tools at another person, or anything other than the stock.
- Pneumatic tools are very dangerous! Deliberate misuse will result in MANDATORY 3-DAY SUSPENSION.
- Put tool back in case or file cabinet drawer and clean up your mess when you finish.
- When using air nozzle—
 - Do not use more than 60 lbs pressure
 - Spray only yourself—NO HORSEPLAY
 - Wear safety glasses while blowing off.

Disc/Belt Sander Rules

- Do not use without direct instructor permission!
- Use a dust mask for prolonged use.
- Keep fingers away from sanding surface.
- Do not press down with force; use a “light touch.”
- Utilize the entire sanding surface to promote even wear on the pad.
- Do not sand very small pieces without permission.
- On the disc, sand only on the down stroke side.
- On the belt, sand with piece against the fence whenever possible.
- Sander can be deceptively dangerous! Report any unusual sound, vibration or excessive wear to instructor.
- Clean up your mess when you finish.

Drill Press Rules

- Do not use without direct instructor permission!
- Clamp work to table whenever possible.
- Remove chuck key before starting drill.
- Apply slow, steady pressure; do not bog the motor or “burn through” the work.
- Make sure you have removed loose jewelry and tied back long hair before operating drill press.
- Use backer board to avoid damaging table or bit.
- Use depth setter to avoid drilling into metal table, or when making multiple, uniform holes.
- Clean up your mess when you finish.

Router Table Rules

- Always feed stock from right to left.
- Never place hands over rotating blade.
- Use a push stick when routing narrow pieces and a push shoe for larger pieces.
- Keep fingers at least 4” away from blade.
- Press down firmly against fence and table when routing.
- Use feather board and hold-down devices when appropriate.
- Unplug the table when not in use, and whenever you change blades or make adjustments.
- Clean up your mess when you finish.

Mitre Saw Rules

- Do not use without direct instructor permission!
- Always hold stock firmly against fence.
- Make sure hands are 6" or more away from cutting path.
- Crosscut only (cutting across the grain.)
- Bring down blade slowly and smoothly; don't bind the blade or bog the motor to a stop.
- Do not reach under the blade while the saw is still running.
- Use a partner to hold the end of long stock.
- After making cut, hold the blade in the fully down position until the blade stops completely.
- Lock the blade in the down position when not in use.
- Unplug the saw when not in use.
- Clean up your mess when you finish.

Radial Arm Saw Rules

- Do not use without direct instructor permission!
- Always hold stock firmly against fence.
- Make sure hands are 6" or more away from cutting path.
- Use a stop block for cutting multiple pieces the same length.
- Crosscut only (cutting across the grain.)
- Make sure blade/carriage has returned to behind the fence after cutting.
- Wait at the machine until saw blade stops completely.
- Clean up your mess when you finish.

Planer Rules

- Stock must be at least 16" long.
- Check stock for hardware — screws, nails, staples, loose knots, glue, etc.
- Adjust bed until stock just touches upper blade rollers.
- Never take more than 1/16" per pass.
- If board gets stuck, push and wiggle board side to side. If that fails, shut off machine, wait for it to come to a complete stop, and readjust.
- Warped boards should be surfaced on the jointer first, then planed flat side down. Check with instructor if you are unsure.
- Plan ahead and simultaneously run all boards that need to be planed to the same thickness.
- NEVER look into a running machine.
- Clean, solid wood only — no particle board, plywood, OSB, etc.
- Clean up your mess when you finish.

Table Saw Rules

- Do not use without direct instructor permission!
- Stock must be at least 12" long.
- Edge of board toward the fence must be clean, smooth and straight.
- Use a partner to "catch" whenever possible. Your partner *should not pull*, only catch.
- Use a push stick on narrow stock, and keep the push stick within reach at the saw.
- Never cut freehand; always use a fence or miter gauge.
- Stand to the "dead" side of the fence to avoid kickback.
- Adjust the blade to 1/4" above stock.
- Never remove or cut without the safety guard. Cuts that must be made without the guard must be made by the instructor.
- Keep hands at least 4" from the blade at all times.
- Never clear scraps while machine is running.
- Clear kickback area before running machine.
- Keep floor area clear of trip hazards around machine.
- Roll the blade down and clean up your mess when you are finished.

Panel Saw Rules

- Do not use without direct instructor permission!
- Stock must be large enough to span saw trough.
- Secure the work with clamps or a partner so that you can use both hands on the saw.
- Use a partner to "catch" whenever possible. Your partner *should not pull*, only catch.
- Do not force the tool. Saw should run smoothly.
- Keep hands at least 6" from the blade at all times.
- Never clear scraps while machine is running.
- Avoid cutting nails or other fasteners.
- Keep floor area clear of trip hazards around machine.
- Handle the counterbalance with care. It is under tension and can release with great force if mishandled.
- Crosscutting (vertical cutting) must be done from the top down.
- Ripping (horizontal cutting) must be done in the direction of the arrow.
- Raise the saw to the top and lock it in place when not in use.
- Do not use push sticks.
- Do not stand on the tool.
- Clean up your mess when you are finished.