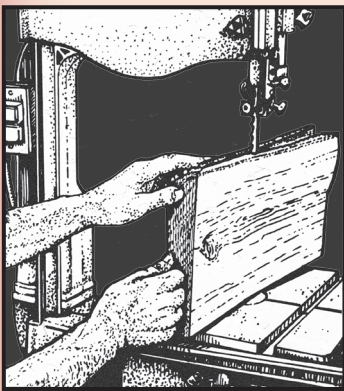


Slicing Wood: A Practical Guide to Successful Resawing

Resawing means cutting a sawn plank of wood into thinner planks, thus the cut runs through the plank's width. The bandsaw is the ideal tool for this job. Its narrow kerf and vertical blade movement make it extremely efficient, wasting minimal wood and cutting relatively easily and quickly even with a low-power saw. Resawing on a bandsaw can be easy; all you have to do is cut very straight lines. This requires nothing more complicated than appropriate bandsaw blade selection, adequate tension, effective stock control, and practice.

BANDSAW BLADE SELECTION: NO CONTEST

As you saw through very thick stock, each saw tooth shaves out an enormous amount of waste. In order to maintain a productive feed rate, there has to be room for that waste to be stashed until the teeth emerge from the cut. Otherwise the gullets between the teeth fill up and stall further advance until they've cleared the stock. Blades with about 3 teeth per inch (tpi) have large gullets which can accommodate as much waste as you'll generate even by sawing through thick stock. The best choice of all is our Wood Slicer®, whose thin-kerf, variable pitch 3-4 tpi design makes it the smoothest and quietest resaw blade on the market.



TUNING YOUR BANDSAW

Because there's not enough space here to cover setting the guides and blade tension on your bandsaw for optimal resawing, please search on YouTube for "The Best Way to Set Up Your Bandsaw" & watch bandsaw expert Alex Snodgrass's concise 8-minute lesson.

SLICING WOOD: JUST DO IT

Once you've tuned your bandsaw, your next concern is to avoid feeding your stock too fast or too slow, or letting the bandsaw blade get too dirty. Feeding too slowly will cut the wood okay, but it will wear out the blade a lot faster than need be. You're feeding too fast when the completed cut shows bands of wide diagonal tooth marks. Practice feeding at a moderate, consistent pace, just slow enough to leave a smooth surface.

Eventually wood debris will build up on the blade. Material crusted around the teeth can make the blade cut as poorly as if it were dull. If a quick scrub with a Scotch-Brite pad laced with mineral spirits doesn't do the trick, take the blade off the saw & apply our Blade & Bit Cleaner, (p 73), wait a few minutes and then wipe it clean. If you saw resinous wood regularly, our BladeCote, (p73), blade treatment will help retard accumulation of resins and junk.

There's one last detail to remember: keep your fingers attached. Always use a push block whenever your hands are near the blade.



Scan to see a short video
demo of the amazing
Wood Slicer® in action!

Q: I want to get one of your Wood Slicer® blades for a really old Delta bandsaw that I recently bought, but I don't know what length to order. Do you know what length will fit my saw?

A: We're not sure what blade length fits that old saw either, but fortunately it should be easy to find out. If you have an existing blade that fits the saw, just measure its length. Make a mark on the inside of the blade & align it with the zero point on a measuring tape laid out on the floor. Roll the blade along the tape until the mark reaches bottom center again, and there's your measurement. The exact measurement is just a target, by the way — if your blade measures 114-5/8", you don't have to special-order that exact length. Try a blade of 114" or 115" in length; either one will probably work just fine.

In case you do not have an old blade to measure, go to our website and search for "determine blade length". See our detailed instructions there to calculate the length by taking measurements on your bandsaw.

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