

# A Bandsaw Blade's Purpose

"The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well." – Ralph Waldo Emerson

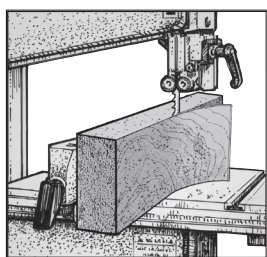
When pondering whether or not I am going the right direction in life, I often go back to this quote from Emerson. I find a great deal of clarity in its simplicity. Interestingly enough, it can also be applied to bandsaw blades. Let's imagine a bandsaw blade is a person & break down this quote.

**It is to be useful.** Every bandsaw blade I have ever met has wanted to do one thing: cut. Fortunately for me, I find that a very useful thing when I have a 12/4 board that I'd like to slice up into some fantastically bookmatched faces. To be honorable. For a bandsaw blade, I imagine this means to track true, cut like it is expected to, & provide a fair exchange of performance value for its price.

**To be compassionate.** This one is a bit tough for an inanimate object, but I think I've found something that applies. For a bandsaw blade to be compassionate, it has to understand that it won't always be used the way it is supposed to be, have sympathy for the woodworker using it incorrectly, and try its best not to punish them for it. I think you'll find all of our bandsaw blades are compassionate; to a point. Eventually though, once the limits of their compassion are exceeded, they will give up.

**To have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well.** Every bandsaw blade lives. Not every blade lives well! For a bandsaw blade to live well it needs some help from us. We need to select the right blade for the job. We need to setup the blade to make it as effective as possible. We need to take care in how we use & store our blades. All of these things met, in return our blades will give us a long, useful, and well lived life.

The bandsaw blades offered at Highland Woodworking fall into 4 major categories (*or life purposes*): **Wood Slicer® Resaw, Carbide-Tipped, Woodturner's & General-Purpose.** For all of our blades, the first step toward having them live well starts with choosing the right blade. To make that decision, it might be helpful to list what each blade is best for.



## WOOD SLICER® RESAW

The Wood Slicer® has one, & only one, purpose: Resawing clean and dry wood. Not plywood. Not laminated wood. Not green wood. Not crosscuts. Not curve cuts. Not circle cuts. Not... You get the idea. In exchange for being so limited in options, the Wood Slicer® does deliver resaw cuts so smooth you will wonder if you've unlocked the secret to turning your bandsaw into a planer. Our recommendation for the Wood Slicer® is to use it only for resawing and to remove it to use for your next resaw.

**Wood Slicer®**  
resaw blade

## CARBIDE-TIPPED

Carbide-Tipped blades are the cat's meow when it comes to stock preparation of really dense woods. By really dense, think exotic woods like Katalox, Teak, Purpleheart, etc. Where regular bandsaw blades may only get through a handful of board-feet before dulling, Carbide-Tipped blades frequently ask the question "Don't you have more to cut?". There are some tradeoffs though for its insatiable appetite for wood. The carbide tips create a larger kerf when compared to other bandsaw blades; .05" for 1/2" & .06" for 3/4". Carbide blades are hungry & must be fed at a steady rate. Slowing down, speeding up, pausing to walk around, all of these will lead to some unattractive teeth marks as the blade gnaws away at your wood. Consider a power feeder, or full steady attention when cutting for optimal results. Carbide teeth are strong at their tips, not their sides, so stay away from curve cutting unless you like prematurely dulled blades, or even worse, chipped teeth.

## PREMIUM CARBIDE-TIPPED BANDSAW BLADES

MADE IN USA

**The long-wearing hardness of carbide teeth outperforms carbon steel blades & will keep on cutting long after ordinary blades have lived their useful life.**

The tips on these premium blades are created from a mix of US tungsten carbide (Rc 80) & ground with a unique triple chip shape for cutting efficiency. A tempered steel backer provides optimum beam strength & reduces band fatigue for a longer life. Though higher priced, the cutting edges of these carbide blades will last longer than edges of standard blades. If you work often with dulling exotics, dense hardwoods, MDF & plywood they are an economical option.

PREMIUM CT BANDSAW BLADES				
LENGTH	1/2" Wide		3/4" Wide	
93-1/2"	187593	\$194.50	187993	\$211.50
105"	1875105	\$217.50	1879105	\$235.50
111"	1875111	\$217.50	1879111	\$235.50
115"	1875115	\$239.50	1879115	\$259.50
133"	1875133	\$262.50	1879133	\$285.00

1/2" wide x 3 tpi hook tooth band is .025" thick.

3/4" wide x 3 tpi hook tooth band is .035" thick.



We sell over 30 additional lengths of **Premium Carbide-Tipped** bandsaw blades in both 1/2" & 3/4" widths. Please scan the QR code to see our complete selection, or call us at **800-241-6748** for assistance.

# A Bandsaw Blade's Purpose

## WOODTURNER'S

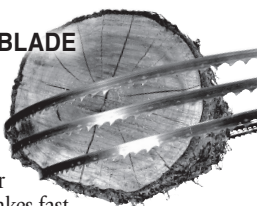
Imagine one of our General-Purpose blades regularly spends time lifting weights at the local gym & you'll get our Woodturner's blade. Its gains can be seen in a 25% thicker band, wider set, & harder Rc 64-65 teeth which makes it perfect for cutting nearly any green wood. At home resawing or curve cutting, it makes an excellent choice for any wood project, but especially for woodturners that enjoy only the freshest of lumber to turn with. While this blade's life purpose is wet, bark covered, green wood, it will also take on dry wood as well. Just know that doing so, you are sending more wood to waste than you need to due to its larger kerf. Unfortunately, it's not magical, so do please clean off dirt & grime before cutting any fresh & fragrant green wood. It just so happens we sell CMT Blade & Bit Cleaner, which does a pretty great job, (see page 73).

### 3/8" WOODTURNER'S BANDSAW BLADE

*3 tpi hook tooth blade is a stout .032", perfect for turners cutting out green wood bowl banks.*

These blades have deep, rounded, gullets, making room for easy chip removal. Their

strong tooth set makes fast & aggressive cuts. The minimum cutting radius is 1-1/2". The Rc 64-65 hardened teeth stand up well to dulling bark & grime.



WOODTURNER'S BANDSAW BLADES		
LENGTH	3/8" Wide	
93-1/2"	196493	\$27.50
105"	1964105	\$28.50
111"	1964111	\$28.50
115"	1964115	\$30.50
131-1/2"	1964131	\$33.00
132"	1964132	\$33.00
133"	1964133	\$33.00
143"	1964143	\$35.00

We have listed are our most popular lengths of **Woodturner's** bandsaw blades, but we offer over 30 additional lengths. If you don't see the length you need, scan the QR code to shop our website, [highlandwoodworking.com](http://highlandwoodworking.com) or call us at 800-241-6748.

## GENERAL-PURPOSE

Finally, the blade that does a little bit of everything. Most bandsaws sold these days come packed with a blade that the manufacturer seems to have found on the side of the road. When you get tired of trying to get good cuts from that blade, our General-Purpose blade is a great place to start. It resaws, rips, crosscuts, curve cuts, circle cuts, stop cuts, cuts cuts, it really does a bit of everything & then some. Unless you only resaw or only cut green wood, this is the blade that will spend most of its life mounted on your bandsaw rather than hanging from your blade rack.

Ranging in widths from 1/8" to 3/4", the only decision you need to make is how sharp you want your cut radius to be. For a standard 14" bandsaw, a 1/2" blade will serve well for larger stock preparation like taking boards to component parts, and the 1/8"-1/4" blades will let you get incredibly intricate with cutting patterns, inside cuts, sharp curves, & small parts.

We are often asked by new band-sawyers what blade to start with, and this is it. At a low price compared to our more specialized blades, this is the blade to really hone your bandsaw skills. Once you're comfortable, it will continue to serve you as a blade with the capacity to do virtually any cut you can think of, while delivering great results.

## PREMIUM GENERAL PURPOSE BANDSAW BLADES

Diamond Saw Works manufactures our Sterling brand Premium General Purpose bandsaw blades as well as our Woodturner's Blade & our Premium Carbide bandsaw blades. Back in 1890, Diamond Saw began producing blades & sawing machines in Buffalo, NY. Still headquartered in New York, the Diamond Saw factory combines a passion for fine workmanship with the latest in technology to produce bandsaw blades that Highland customers have been depending on for over 30 years.

To shop our full selection of **General Purpose Blades** scan the QR code to go to our website, or call us at 800-241-6748.

LENGTH	1/8" Wide	13/16" Wide	1/4" Wide	3/8" Wide	1/2" Wide	3/4" Wide
93-1/2"	197993 \$22.50	198193 \$25.50	198293 \$25.50	198393 \$25.50	198493 \$26.50	198693 \$31.50
105"	1979105 \$23.50	1981105 \$26.50	1982105 \$26.50	1983105 \$26.50	1984105 \$27.50	1986105 \$34.00
111"	1979111 \$23.50	1981111 \$26.50	1982111 \$26.50	1983111 \$26.50	1984111 \$27.50	1986111 \$34.00
115"	1979115 \$25.50	1981115 \$28.50	1982115 \$28.50	1983115 \$28.50	1984115 \$29.50	1986115 \$36.00

Understanding a bandsaw blade's purpose is a fraction of the bandsaw life equation. Along your journey you will find other components like bandsaw selection, setup method, & blade width choice all share an equal part of solving the equation. While all of those cannot be covered here, feel free to email or call us with any questions you have as you start out, progress & master your bandsaw.

As stewards of a wide selection of bandsaw blades, we want to make sure every blade has a chance at a life well lived and serves you usefully, honorably, and compassionately (I really wish Ralph had picked a different word here for my analogy!)