

NOTES ON USING THE SAWSTOP TABLE SAW

Table saws are the most dangerous piece of woodworking equipment in any workshop. This is mainly in relation to injuries resulting from improper use. The majority of injuries are for fingers that come into contact with a spinning blade. Other injuries are a result of a kickback where the piece of wood climbs up and kicks back quite violently towards the operator.

Fortunately with the WBAQ Sawstop table saw any injuries to fingers are all but eliminated. However when the spinning blade activates the safety brake mechanism it results in an expensive replacement cartridge and a possible new blade.

KICKBACK :

Kickback occurs when a piece of wood is being fed through the table and the wood comes into contact with the rising part of the blade. At that point if the wood is not perfectly aligned, or has more pressure on one side or the other, the blade will lift the wood and tend to skew it around and flick it back quite violently.

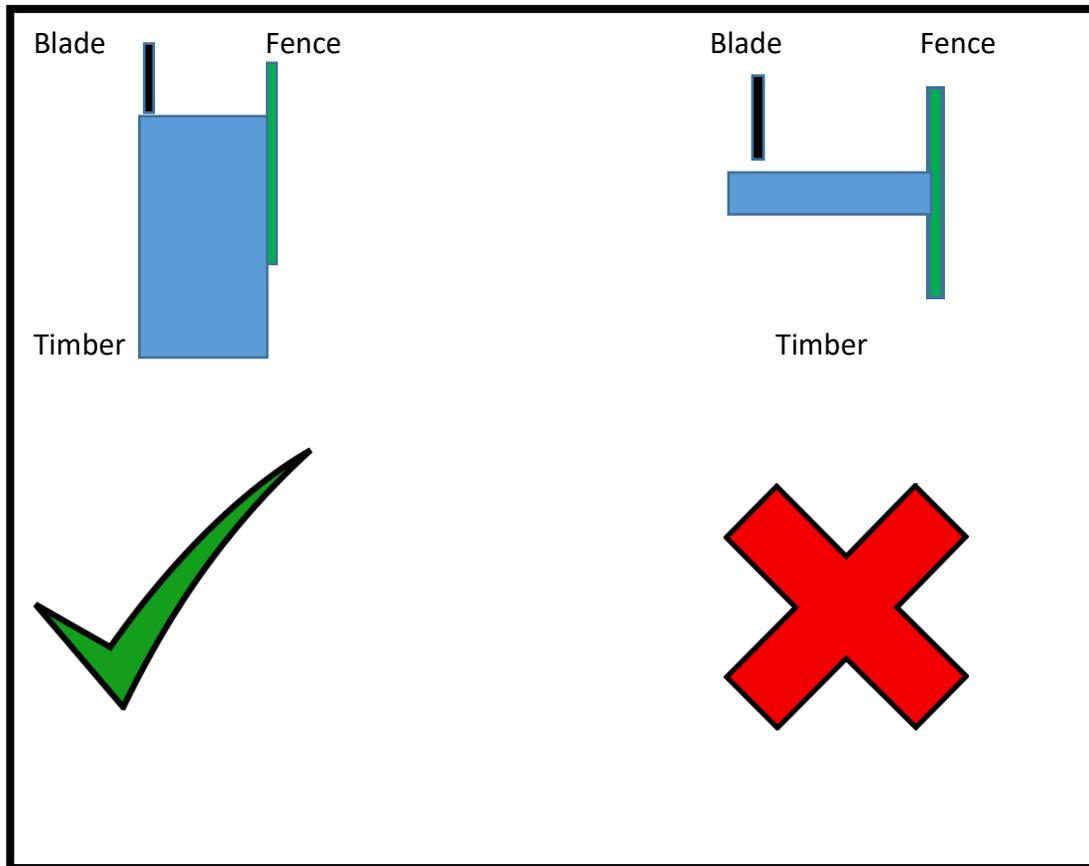
To minimise a kickback occurring the operator should keep in mind that table saws are designed to cut straight cuts only. Any need to cut a curved cut in a piece of wood should be achieved on a bandsaw. To help the operator achieve a straight cut, table saws are fitted with a side fence and in some instances a back fence. Cutting a piece of wood without the use of either the side fence or back fence is **not recommended but do not use both fences on the same cut**. Also table saws are fitted with a riving knife which will prevent the wood binding on to the saw blade.

The length of wood to be cut should be pressed against a fence and should be quite straight and true. This can be achieved using a jointer.

The side fence is used for ripping a piece of wood along the long edge. The back fence is used for cross cutting a piece of wood across the grain and on the short edge. The use of both the side fence and the back fence at the same time is dangerous.

Use the Correct Tool for the Job

If you are cutting a piece of wood that is shorter than the distance between the fence and the blade – Use the docking saw.



USE PUSH STICKS TO KEEP HANDS AND FINGERS AWAY FROM BLADE

The length of the timber **MUST** exceed the distance from the blade to the fence

WET WOOD:

Cutting wood that is wet or has a high moisture content has the danger that it may set off the safety brake. This is because of the high conductivity of wood with high moisture content, either natural water content or wood that has become wet by being left out in the rain. This timber, if it is being held by hand, is seen by the system as a potential difference or as an earth leakage.

Unfortunately there is no specific moisture content as indicated by a moisture meter that will set off the safety brake. The best way to check before cutting a piece of timber is to raise the blade and with the saw not spinning present the wood to the blade. If there is going to be a problem the red light next to the switch paddle will flash.