

Thickness Planer

Like a jointer, the thickness planer removes material from the surface of a board. It can be distinguished from a jointer in that the cutter head is mounted above the feed table to remove material from the upper face of the board. It is used to smooth and flatten the second face of a board that has been jointed, ensuring that the two faces are parallel.

Safety Rules

1. Adjust the planer to remove no more than 1/16" per pass.
2. To avoid kickback, do not run boards with loose knots through the planer.
3. Plane only boards longer than 12".
4. When planing stock 3/8" thick or less, use a backer board. For stock thinner than 1/4", use a belt thickness sander with a backer board instead.
5. When using the planer, stand to the side of the machine to avoid kickback or shattering of the wood.
6. As you feed boards into the planer, be careful not to get your fingers pinched between the board and the in-feed table.
7. Unplug the machine to make any adjustments other than the depth of the cut and the rate of feed.
8. If the board is thicker on one end than the other and jams in the machine, do not shut it off. Slowly crank open the height adjustment wheel until the board resumes feeding through the planer.
9. Always run wood through the planer with the grain running parallel to the length of the planer bed; never plane across the grain. Examine the stock for grain direction, warp, twist, burl, swirl, kink, and cup before planing.

