

CHAIN SAW MAINTENANCE & ADJUSTMENTS

Take apart and clean regularly. (Use carburetor cleaner only because it won't mess up plastic parts).

Clean air filter.

Clean oil port hole in bar.

Clean chain groove in bar.

Make sure chain sprocket on bar is clean and lubricated.

File roll over burr off bar. This prevents the bar from grabbing as you saw through wood.

Dress bar at 90 degrees where the chain slides. This prevents a curvy cut.

Adjust chain tightness so that if you pull the chain away from the bar the gap will not exceed 1/2 inch.

Sharpen the teeth of the chain by light reflection just the way you sharpen your turning gouges and chisels. If you see any light reflected at the edge, that means that they still have round edges and they are not sharp. Sharpen until there is no light reflected from the edge.

Make sure you use the right diameter file for the teeth on the size of chain you are using.

Teeth on the chain are slightly angled, so as the tooth is filed there is less of a gap for the tooth to engage the wood.

This is compensated for by flat filing the drag link slightly to maintain the proper depth of cut on the teeth. Don't over-file these. It will make the saw much more aggressive and can become a serious safety issue.

Keep your idle speed and your maximum running rpm's within factory specifications.

SAWING

Never use the chain saw alone. Always have someone else around or assisting - just in case.

When not sawing always leave the chain safety brake on.

When starting the saw either put it on the ground with your foot in the handle loop or make sure that you hold the saw in a position with the bar away from your body so that if the saw starts it stays away from your body.

Make sure wood is secured and steady before engaging the saw so that the wood won't shift or roll while sawing.

Make yourself a v-notch sawing block to hold the wood and keep the wood up off the ground so that you don't get the chain in the dirt (instant dulling).

Try to always have the grabbing teeth just behind the chain engaged before starting the cut and while cutting.

Never stick the tip of the chain into the wood.

When rounding a bowl blank with a chain saw NEVER GO COUNTERCLOCKWISE. Always go clockwise so that the grabbing teeth behind the chain can engage and eliminate the torque and provide safe support.

Keep the RPM's up and ALLOW THE SAW TO FEED ITSELF. DON'T FORCE THE CUT.

NEVER stand in front of and in line with a spinning chain saw blade. Chains can break.

Don't hold or have someone help hold wood that you are cutting anywhere near the spinning chain. Use a hookaroo or some other type of pick to steady the wood.

If the saw gets clogged with shavings turn it off before reaching under the chain guard to clear the sprocket.

BANDSAW TIPS

BANDSAW MAINTENANCE & ADJUSTMENTS

Always turn off and unplug the saw before changing blades or doing any maintenance work on the saw.

Do not exceed blade tension settings.

Adjust the wheel cant so that the blade runs about 1/32 inch ahead of the back roller guide.

Adjust the side blade rollers or cool blocks so that they are about 1/64 inch away from the blade, insuring that if the blade flexes back against the back roller the side rollers or blocks will not touch the teeth.

Keep the top blade support as close to the wood as possible.

SAWING -- NEVER HAVE YOUR FINGERS IN FRONT OF THE BLADE --MAKE FLAT SURFACES FOR SUPPORT.

When cutting straight or resawing, you must allow for blade drift so you can't use a parallel fence without adjusting it for drift depending on what size blade you are using.

When sawing wet wood, use the widest kerf blade with an every tooth set configuration.

When sawing circles, don't allow the blade to twist away from the line of cut. It can bind the blade to the point that it will seize up in the wood. Slow down and feed and turn at the same time. Don't force the cut.

Keep your hands to the side of and behind the blade when pushing and rotating the wood in a circle cut.

If you are resawing or making a cut that will be close to the blade use a push stick.

Bandsaws can be quite dusty. Wear a mask or connect dust control.

Keep the saw shavings (especially wet wood) cleaned out of your lower blade guides. They can get packed up and bind to the point of stalling the saw or putting too much tension on the blade causing a break.

Don't run round stock into the blade without wedge support to prevent a catch-and-spin situation.

Have adequate support around the saw pre-saw and post-saw.