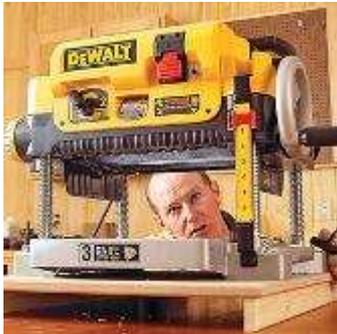


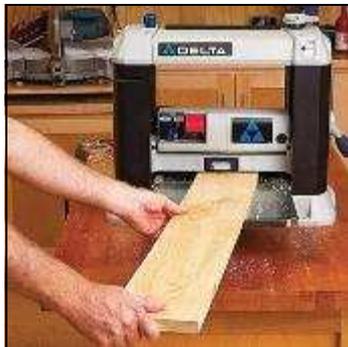
Woodworking Tips

Get the most from your planer



Few benchtop planers will continue to deliver the kind of results you want—and expect—without maintenance. Getting and keeping your planer in top condition is the key that unlocks the door to peak planer performance. Although you might occasionally run across circumstances that require professional repair, such as a cutterhead out of alignment with the feed rollers, you can successfully perform the following maintenance to keep your machine in top shape. Just be sure to read your planer's manual for procedures specific to that make and model. And always unplug your planer before working on it.

Here are some basic ideas to remember: The cutterhead cuts parallel to your planer's table as boards are fed across it, so keep it flat, clean, and smooth. Keep your planer and its parts that contact the wood clean and free of chips, dust, sappy residue, and lubricants. A little TLC will help your planer be a reliable workhorse in your shop for many years.



Veer from the straight path

Feeding boards at a slight angle not only reduces surface chip-out, but also helps limit any snipe to one corner. You can also feed a board at a sharp angle; then straighten it somewhat after a couple of seconds. This only works, however, on benchtop planers with rubber feed rollers. Stationary models with steel rollers will not allow you to straighten a board once it starts feeding



Make a board train

Planing boards end to end keeps the feed rollers at a consistent height, taking away the chance for snipe. Use scrap pieces to lead the first board and follow the last.

Plane thin boards with ease



Take shallow cuts ($1/64$ ") when planing thin stock, so you don't accidentally shatter the workpiece. If you want to plane a workpiece to a thickness less than $1/4$ " , you'll get the best results by using an auxiliary bed. Although most planers indicate they will cut to $1/8$ " thick, don't try it: You risk deep snipe and chatter marks. Instead, place a 3'-long piece of melamine through the planer, and clamp it to the infeed and outfeed tables. Then plane your stock to thickness as usual, as shown. To plane a short board thin, double-face tape it to a 15"-long piece of $3/4$ " plywood, MDF, or particleboard. This allows the workpiece to ride piggyback through the planer.



Runners secure short stock



Scrapwood runners help you get use from cutoffs, like this 8" piece of leopardwood. Because most planers won't safely and accurately machine single workpieces shorter than 12", use special runners when you need to plane a board that short, as shown. To do this, glue sacrificial runners - at least 12" long and slightly thicker than the workpiece - to your stock's edges. Be certain to glue the carriers parallel to each other so they will maintain equal contact with the feed rollers. Wipe away glue squeeze-out that will nick the knives. Once you've milled your board to the desired thickness, rip away the runners on the tablesaw.



From warped to flat in practically no time

We cut this 10"-wide, bowed birch board to rough length, and then glued it to sacrificial runners to carry it through the planer. Chalk marks vanish when the face is flat. Then rip away the runners at the tablesaw, and plane the opposing face to the desired thickness



Group boards for stability

Squeeze boards together on the infeed and outfeed sides when edge-planing. To plane the edge, a board must be square and true on all four sides, but slightly wider than finished width. If the workpieces are not exactly the same width, narrower boards (especially in the middle of three or more boards) can be kicked out by the planer. You can plane single boards or multiple boards at the same time, which helps them maintain a 90° angle, as shown.



Don't let dull knives damage your boards

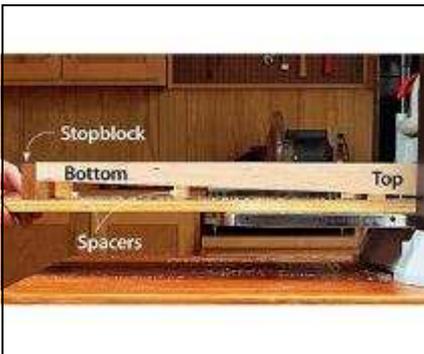
Worn and nicked planer knives couldn't do justice to this mahogany, which had multidirectional grain at opposing ends that was difficult to read. After changing knives and making several passes with light cuts, we revealed a board with beautiful cathedral grain. Shop for replacement knives for your planer





Get flawless surfaces with figured boards

This curly maple suffered substantial chip-out (left) when it was planed at the dealer. By using sharp planer knives, a slower feed rate, and 1/64" cuts we produced a smooth surface with striking figure (bottom photo).



Let your planer do the hard work on tapered boards
This tapering jig feeds through the planer while holding the work-pieces tapered face parallel to the feed rollers and cutterhead.

Wise Buys: Precision Steel Rules

Why buy? One of the most important woodworking tools you should own is a dead-on-accurate steel rule. It not only helps you mark perfect measurements, but it also proves indispensable at setting blade and bit heights on machines, as well as checking the accuracy of measuring tapes. If you can get only one such rule, we recommend a 12" version. We tested several models in each of three categories, and then named our favorite rule for each category. All of our picks here feature a dull finish (to diffuse glare), etched markings (which are more precise) rather than printed or stamped (which can rub off with wear), and scales in at least 1/8" and 1/16" increments. While a 1/32" scale proves useful, we find 1/64" scales difficult to read and mark.

For Sale

Dewalt dust extractor 120mm inlet powerful 500m3 per hour single bag, cabinet on wheels. \$60:00
John Morris ph. 5421333.

For Sale;

1HP Carba Tech Dust extractor. In excellent order Price \$170.00
Gary Ph. 576 3296

