How to Coil A Bandsaw Blade

If your shop space is at a premium, here's an important tip for you
For some, re-coiling a Bandsaw Blade is next to impossible. They either punch holes in their fingers with the sharp pointed Blade teeth...or get "close" to success, only to have the Blade "boing" out of their hands and fly across the shop. But....it's really not that difficult.
Here's the method that's easiest for most woodworkers. **Caution:** If you're working with a heavier gauge Blade with coarse teeth (such as a 1/2" or 5/8" Resawing Blade), we recommend wearing a pair of gloves to avoid puncturing your fingers. Smaller blades with finer teeth won't require this precaution.

Here goes... Stand up and grasp the blade with both hands (at 3:00 & 9:00 on a clock face)...with the teeth pointing AWAY from you. Extend your arms fully in front of you.

Next. Twist the blade - in a clockwise direction with your right hand - and a counter-clockwise direction with your left hand (or vice-versa, depending on whether you're right or left-handed).
As you twist, the blade will start to coil naturally, causing your hands to move closer to each other and requiring you to pull your arms in closer to your body to complete the action.
When the blade coils completely, your hands will be directly above each other...very close to your body...almost like you're about to "hug" yourself.
That's it. Pretty easy, eh ?

Forstner Bit Use & Maintenance

8 Times to reach for your Forstner Bits:

- When you need a flat-bottomed hole

When you need to drill to within 1/32" to 1/16" of the bottom of your workpiece without piercing through

- When you need to drill an angled hole
- When you need to bore over-lapping holes
- To re-locate an existing hole by enlarging it
- To drill veneers without splitting

To create round-end mortises
When you need to bore end grains

7 Tips For Using & Maintaining Forstner Bits

- Forstner bits should ALWAYS be used in a Drill Press
- For accurate positioning (when using Forstners with little or no center spur), you should always draw or scribe your circle on your workpiece before boring

Always follow the manufacturer's speed recommendations. Forstners usually work best at slow speeds...especially when boring large diameter holes or working with hard woods. Excess speed will burn the bit and destroy the temper of the steel. A Speed Reducer may be required for certain operations .

- **NEVER** drill metal with a Forstner Bit
- When drilling deeper than the Bit rim, always retract the bit frequently to clear the chips and avoid burning.
- Never sharpen the outside of the rim on a Forstner Bit, as this will reduce the size of the hole it will drill. In fact, it's best to have Forstners PROFESSIONALLY sharpened.

If possible, clamp your workpiece in position when using Forstners to ensure accurate positioning

Sandpaper Pad/Disc Storage

Finally - the perfect use for that 5-1/4" computer disk file box!

Got an old 5-1/4" computer disk file box laying around that you're no longer using? Here's the perfect application for it.

Use it to store pre-cut pad sander sheets and disc sanding discs. You can even make miniature file tabs to help you identify and quickly find exactly the paper you need!

Removing Small Dents From Furniture

Here's an easy way to remove small, unsightly dents from quality furniture.

Here's the plan. Insert a small piece of dampened cloth inside an ordinary bottle cap. Place the bottle cap right-side-up over the dent with the cloth contacting the wood surface.

Use the tip of an ordinary iron to heat the cap...creating steam...which will swell the wood under the cap and remove the dent.

Pretty simple

Emergency Dowel Fluting

Run out of fluted dowel pins? Here's how to make your own.

Don't you just hate it when it's 10:00 PM and you're in the middle of a project...when you run out of an important component that's required to take you to the next step?

If those depleted components are fluted dowel pins...and you just happen to have some correct sized dowel rods at hand, this little trick will keep you going.

Woodworking Tips

13 pointers for perfect plywood cuts

1. Crank it up for quality

When cutting plywood on the tablesaw, raising the blade height can make a big difference in cut quality. Most of the time, safety dictates setting the blade low, but this cuts away the underlying plies first, leaving the top face unsupported as the teeth slice through. For a cleaner cut, raise the blade a couple of inches, as shown. The teeth contact the sheet while moving almost straight down, so the face veneer is supported by the plies below.

2. Zero in on the best table insert

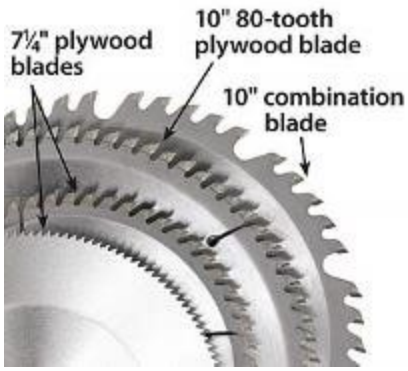
Before cutting plywood, swap your tablesaw insert plate for a zero-clearance model, as shown in the photo, to dramatically reduce chip-out on the underside of the sheet. The blade cuts the opening in this type of insert to match its thickness, offering support to the workpiece edges along the cutline. You can buy zero-clearance inserts for most saws.

3. Score early, score often

If both faces of the plywood will be visible on your project, you need to minimize chip-out on each side. Do this by making a scoring pass first, with the blade raised only about 1/16" to 1/8", as shown. Then raise the blade, as advised in tip 1, and make another pass to cut completely through the workpiece.

4. Take smaller bites

The blade you choose makes a difference in the quality of your cuts. The photo shows a few options.



On the tablesaw, a combination blade, because of its split-personality design, cuts smoothly if you keep it sharp and use a slow feed rate. To get the best-quality cuts, invest in an 80-tooth blade designed for sheet goods. The small teeth take little bites to reduce chip-out and are steeply bevelled at their edges to score the veneer face. You'll have to slow your feed rate, but will get a much smoother edge.

Most handheld circular saws come equipped with a blade best suited for making rough cuts in construction lumber. Ditch it fast, and then invest in a carbide-tipped plywood blade, or use disposable thin-kerf steel blades that sell for just a few dollars.

5. Take a sure rout to clean edges

So you've tried everything, and just can't get a clean cut. What do you do now? One remedy: Cut your plywood from 1/16" to 1/8" oversize, and then trim it to final size, as shown, by running a bearing-guided pattern bit along a straightedge.

6. Believe the tale of the tape

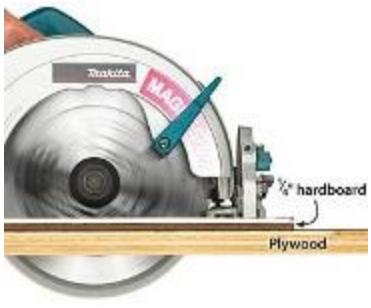
Even if you squelch major chip-out, you may still get minor tear-out of small fibbers. Combat this by covering the cutline with masking tape, as demonstrated in photo. The blue, low-adhesion variety works best because it holds the fibbers in place, but peels away easily without grabbing splinters. Be sure to press the tape down firmly.

7. Get some support

Cutting plywood sheets on your tablesaw is possible if you support the sheet well throughout the cut. As the photo proves, you don't need fancy equipment or a huge saw table, either. A roller (or a sawhorse outfitted with a proper-height support) placed in line with the planned saw kerf holds the end of the sheet steady at outfeed. To support the side of the sheet, be creative by positioning your drill-press table, as we did, or maybe clamping a piece of scrap stock to your jointer to match the saw table's height.

. 8. Stay on the fence

Even with your sheet well supported on a saw table, you have to concentrate on keeping it firmly against the fence as you cut for best results. Push from one side of the blade, as shown in the photo. Your hand nearer the blade pushes straight forward. With your hand that's farther from the blade, push harder, and toward the cutline at the outfeed end of the sheet. As you near the end of the cut, reposition your hands to straddle the cutline so you can push the cutoff pieces through.



. 9. Base success on hardboard

If your circular-saw blade causes tear-out, try the method shown: Cut a piece of 1/4" hardboard to match the size of the shoe. Retract the blade, lift the guard out of the way, and attach the hardboard using double-faced tape. Start the saw, then slowly lower the blade to create a zero-clearance blade opening. Cut with a slow feed rate and use extra caution because of the exposed saw blade.

10. Joint from both ends

To trim small plywood pieces from rough to final size, try running them across the jointer, as shown. But don't just throw the sheet on and run it through -- you may get chip-out at the trailing corner. Instead, place one face against the fence, and joint 2" or 3" along the edge you wish to trim. Then place the opposite face against the fence, and joint the remainder of the edge.

11. Face up to facts

If you're cutting plywood on a tablesaw, the blade's teeth enter the wood from the top and exit the face that's against the table. This is where chip-out will most likely appear. So, keep the good face up on the tablesaw, as shown in the photo.
When you're cutting with a handheld circular saw, on the other hand, remember that the blade's teeth enter the workpiece from underneath, and exit at the top. It's where the teeth exit that you'll have chip-out and splintering. For this reason, place the good face down to get a clean cut.

12. Get down with it

A sheet of 3/4" hardwood plywood can weigh 60 or 70 pounds, making it difficult to move around. If wrestling a sheet that heavy onto the tablesaw sounds daunting, rough-cut it into manageable hunks first, using a circular saw. Just lay a 4x8' sheet of 2" foam insulation board on the floor, and place your plywood on top of that, as shown.

Seek simple guidance

Many of us are a little straight-line challenged when using a handheld circular saw. Sure, expensive store-bought guides are available, or you can make a shop-built straightedge guide if you cut lots of sheets. But a simpler solution exists as close as your scrap bin. Make a guide using the factory edge of a 10"- to 12"-wide scrap of plywood or hardboard. Clamp it in place for your saw's shoe to ride against, shown in photo. If you're cutting on foam, simply chop out notches to create

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The first reason is to allow space for the glue to escape as you assemble your doweled components. Without the flutes or spiral cuts, pressure will build rapidly as you force your components together, which could easily cause one or both of the mating components to split out.
The second reason is to provide more contact surface between the dowel, the glue and the workpieces.
So....let's get back to the tip. If you're out of fluted dowel pins, reach for the appropriate sized dowel rod and flute it yourself by squeezing it between the coarse "teeth" of an ordinary pair of pliers (not needle-nosed or electrician's pliers). This will create some shallow flutes for glue escapement.
When you've finished, don't forget to round-off the ends of your dowel pins. This makes for easier insertion and provides increased holding power as some of your glue "puddles" where the dowel ends meet the bottoms of their holes.

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