



**SAFE WORK PROCEDURE  
PLANING MACHINE (PLANER or BUZZER) (HAND-FED)**

**SPECIFIC DANGERS OF A PLANING MACHINE**

- ✓ A Planing Machine is dangerous because the timber is hand-fed and your hands are pushing timber towards the planer blades. Any slip could cause severe injury. Timber can vibrate badly causing loss of control, while your hands are pushing towards the blades.
- ✓ Machining short pieces of timber can be particularly dangerous as they can easily move aside or vibrate out of control leaving your hands pushing towards the blades. Never attempt to machine timber any shorter than 250mm. Always use appropriate push blocks when machining short pieces. Always take thin cuts when machining short timber lengths to minimise vibration.
- ✓ All materials must be free of embedded metal. It is recommended that recycled material is only used if completely screened with a metal detector for embedded metal.
- ✓ Painted timber is abrasive causing excessive wear on the blades. Paint should be removed with a hand plane before machining.
- ✓ Dirty timber is also abrasive and should be thoroughly washed before machining.

**GENERAL SAFETY ASPECTS**

- ✓ Do not use this machine unless you have been instructed in its safe use and operation.
- ✓ **Covered footwear, eye protection (Minimum safety glasses or goggles) and hearing (muffs or plugs) protection must be worn at ALL times by the operator** and any other person in the near vicinity of the planer.
- ✓ Long or loose hair must be contained, and clothing must be close fitting.
- ✓ Ensure the work area is free of any trip hazards or obstructions before commencing operations. Keep the work area clear of such hazards while working.
- ✓ The planer must always be operated by only one person. This includes turning the machine on/off and feeding the timber over the blade. Please note that a second person may be needed to support longer pieces of timber as it is machined.
- ✓ Ensure assistants or bystanders are not at any risk from the planing operation.

**PRE-OPERATIONAL ASPECTS**

- ✓ Do not use faulty equipment. Immediately report faults to the convenor or persons responsible and, if appropriate, tag out the planer.
- ✓ With the power cord disconnected, ensure the depth of cut is no more than 1.5mm. Adjustment is done by raising or lowering the front table. Adjust if necessary, according to the width and hardness of the timber being machined.
- ✓ Check the operation of the switch (start/stop).
- ✓ Ensure the swinging guard that covers the blades is functioning properly.
- ✓ Blades should be changed only by authorised persons.
- ✓ Always ensure the work is NOT in contact with the blade when starting the machine.
- ✓ Use dust extraction if fitted.



## *Melville Group of The Woodturners Association of Western Australia (Inc.)*

### **OPERATIONAL ASPECTS**

- ✓ Always feed material evenly and smoothly **according to the grain**, while holding firmly with downward pressure to ensure effective control while machining.
- ✓ Do not force material. If excessive force is required, STOP, and determine the reason for the resistance and adjust methods to resolve the issue before proceeding. A lubricant such as soap or wax, may be needed on the planer table. Excessive noise when machining is an indication that the blades are blunt and need replacing.
- ✓ Whenever possible, always use a push stick or specifically designed push block to keep hands well away from the planer blades.
- ✓ When it is not possible to use push blocks, never have your hands over the planer blades or close to planer blades on the approach side (never pushing towards the blades when your hands are close). Hands can be safely and carefully placed on the timber when the leading end of the board is 100mm past the blades. Your hand will then be pushing away from the blades. Please note; this is only done to hold timber firmly down on the planer table when the timber is being safely fed with your other hand.
- ✓ Push the material far enough past the blades so that the guard returns to cover the blades, before removing the timber from the table.
- ✓ Engage the assistance of another person to support the end of the timber when it is very long.
- ✓ Never leave the machine running unattended.
- ✓ Before making any adjustments, switch off the planer and wait until it stops.
- ✓ Stop the machine immediately if it develops a problem.

### **POST-OPERATIONAL ASPECTS**

- ✓ When finished, unplug the power cord.
- ✓ Clean work area and planer of sawdust.

**REMEMBER: THE ONUS IS ON YOU TO WORK SAFELY**