

Bandsaws

DT Workshop Equipment Reference — D&T / STEM resource for school workshops | Woodworking Machines



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A bandsaw is a machine with an endless blade running on two wheels, used to cut curves, straight lines and irregular shapes in wood, plastic and light metal. It gives better control than a jigsaw and is one of the most used machines in a workshop for cutting out project parts to a marked line.

Key Features

- Blade widths from 3 mm for curves to 25 mm for straight cuts
- Typical throat depth 300-400 mm for school models
- Table tilts for angled cuts up to 45 degrees
- Upper blade guide adjusts to the workpiece thickness
- Quick blade release lever for fast blade changes

Typical Uses in the Workshop

- Cut out curved shapes for projects such as toys and models
- Resaw thin strips from thicker stock
- Cut tenon cheeks and waste from joints
- Split thin sheet material safely with a fence

Safe Operation

1. Set blade tension and tracking before every use
2. Adjust the upper guide to just above the workpiece
3. Mark the cut line and keep the waste side visible
4. Feed the work steadily without forcing the blade
5. Switch off and wait for the blade to stop before leaving

SAFETY NOTES

- Wear eye protection and keep fingers 100 mm from the blade
- No loose clothing, ties or headphones while cutting
- Use a push stick for narrow or short offcuts
- Never reach behind the blade while it is running
- Keep the floor clear around the machine to avoid slips

Maintenance & Consumables

- Vacuum sawdust out of the wheel housings regularly
- Check blade tension, tracking and teeth for damage
- Replace blades with the same width and tooth type
- Wax the table top so work glides smoothly
- Keep spare blades of 3, 6 and 13 mm in stock

Specification & Buying Notes

Look for a cast-iron or welded steel frame, a tilting table, good blade guides and a reliable tension system. A 350 W motor is ample for school use. Blade guards and a quick-release blade change make classroom life much easier.