

Surface Planers and Jointers

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

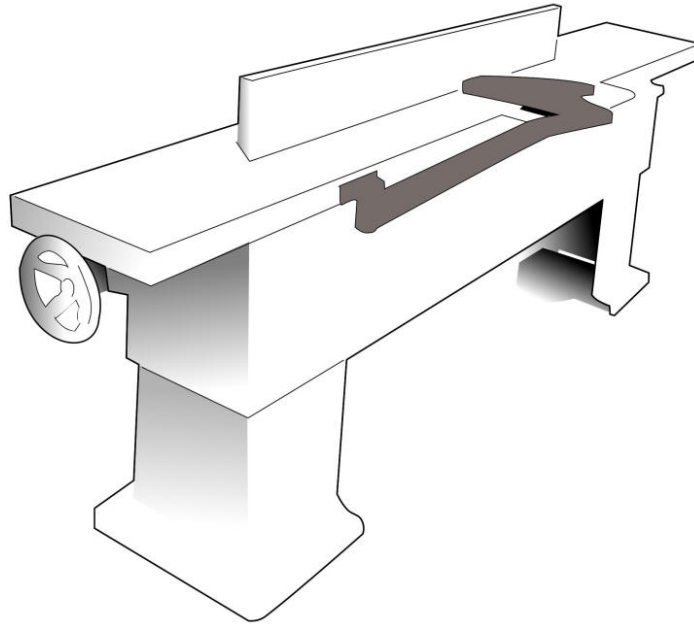


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A surface planer (jointer) flattens the face and edge of rough timber using a cutter block below the table. It makes one face and one edge straight and square, which is the first step before thicknessing or sawing accurate components for furniture projects.

Key Features

- Cutter widths from 150 to 250 mm for school models
- Fence tilts 0-45 degrees for bevel edges
- Two or three knife cutter blocks
- Infeed table adjustable for depth of cut
- Dust hood connects to extraction

Typical Uses in the Workshop

- Flatten one face of warped or rough timber
- Straighten one edge square to the face
- Cut rebates and chamfers with the fence
- Produce straight edges for edge-to-edge gluing

Safe Operation

1. Check the grain direction and set depth of cut small
2. Hold the work face against the fence and table
3. Feed with the grain; let the knives do the work
4. Plane the face, then the edge in several passes
5. Stop the machine and wait for the block to stop

SAFETY NOTES

- Never reach over the cutter block
- Use push blocks or push sticks for short work
- Keep hands well back from the cutter housing
- Wear eye and hearing protection
- Check timber for nails and stones before planing

Maintenance & Consumables

- Change or rotate knives when the finish dulls
- Vacuum the cutter area and tables regularly
- Check belt tension and alignment
- Wax the tables to keep work feeding smoothly
- Check guards and anti-kickback pawls

Specification & Buying Notes

Choose a jointer with a decent cutter width for the class, a tilting fence, a proper guard and easy knife changes. A magnetic knife setting jig saves hours. Extraction connection is essential.