

Spindle Sanders

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

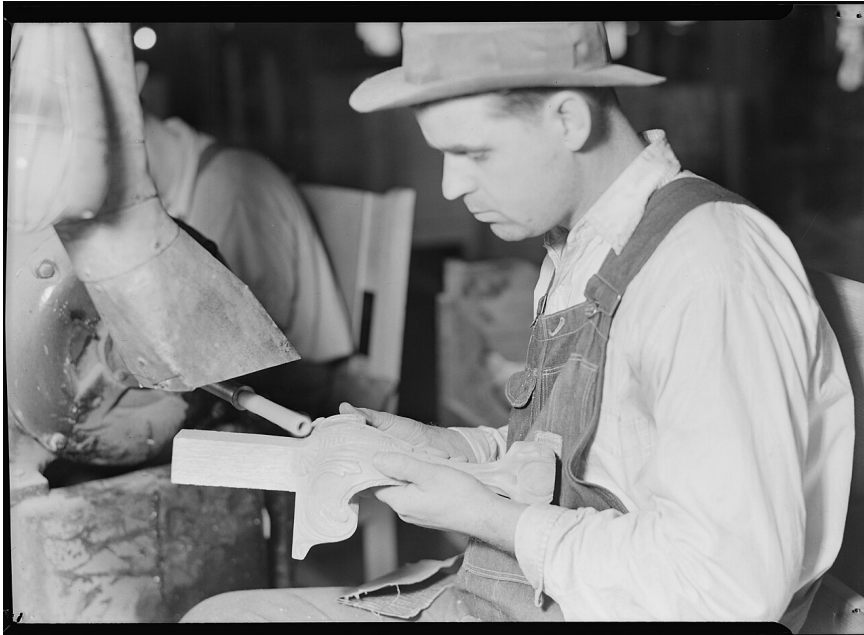


Photo: Lewis Hine — Public domain — via Wikimedia Commons (High_Point,_North_Carolina_-_Upholstering._Tomlinson_Chair_Manufacturing_Co._Spindle_sander_-_chair_leg_-_showing_man..._-_NARA_-_518496.jpg)

A spindle sander is a benchtop machine with a vertical oscillating sanding drum that smooths curved edges on wood and plywood. Interchangeable drum diameters let students sand concave and convex shapes accurately, which is hard to do by hand.

Key Features

- Interchangeable drums from 13 to 75 mm
- Oscillating motion for even wear
- Open or slotted steel tables
- Dust extraction ports
- Tilting tables on many models

Typical Uses in the Workshop

- Sand curved edges of cut-out shapes
- Smooth inside curves and arcs
- Finish the edges of puzzles and models
- Shape small parts against the drum

Safe Operation

1. Fit the drum that matches the curve size
2. Set the table height so work rests on it
3. Move the work against the rotation slowly
4. Keep the work moving to avoid flat spots
5. Vacuum as you sand to keep the edge visible

SAFETY NOTES

- Keep fingers away from the drum at all times
- Don not force work into the drum - let it cut
- Use push blocks for small pieces
- Wear a dust mask and eye protection
- Switch off before changing drums

Maintenance & Consumables

- Remove the drum and clean the abrasive
- Replace worn abrasive sleeves
- Vacuum the oscillating mechanism
- Check the table alignment
- Store drums in the machine's tray

Specification & Buying Notes

A spindle sander with a set of drums 13-50 mm and a dust port covers curved-edge work. Oscillating models sand more evenly and last longer between sleeve changes.