

BELT & DISC SANDER SAFETY GUIDELINES

1. Do Not use the belt & disc sander if you are too tired, hungry, sad, mad, or dehydrated. Never work while under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or any medication that creates drowsiness or impaired thinking.
2. Never use the belt & disc sander until you have been trained on and understand the safety issues and procedures specific to the sanders. Obtain advice from your professor, woodshop manager, or monitor if you are not thoroughly familiar with the operation of the disc & belt sander.
3. Plan ahead, think of the sequence of steps in what you are making. Think about where your hands are going to be placed before, during, and after the operation.
4. Pay attention to your "gut feeling" or that "little voice in the back of your head". If something doesn't feel right or if an operation feels dangerous then it probably is. So STOP and think it through and/or talk with your professor, studio manager, or monitor before proceeding. There is probably a safer way to do the operation.
5. Check that the sander is in working condition. Get in the habit of doing a "pre-flight" checking procedure. The following should be checked before use:
 - a. Is the table clear of debris?
 - b. Is the area around the sander clear of scraps of wood and saw dust?
 - c. Is the table in a locked position?
 - d. Check the condition of the belt or disc, is it torn or loose? If so, contact the studio manager or monitor so they can fix it.
 - e. Does the belt or disc need to be cleaned? If so, we will show you how to clean it with the rubber stick.
6. Like all machines you must give the disc & belt sander your undivided attention during use. Once you have begun using the sander, do not look up at activity that may be happening around you or engage in

conversation until you are finished.

7. Always wear eye protection. A dust mask is also recommended.
8. Do Not wear loose clothing or gloves. Remove watch, all jewelry and tie back long hair or beards. You do not want to get pulled into the abrasive belt or disc. There is NO time to pull yourself away.
9. Do Not make any adjustments on the machine while the machine is running.
10. Turn on dust collection system.
11. ONLY wood can be sanded on these machines. NO plastics and NO metals.
12. Be aware of the size of the material you are sanding. Too small or thin of a piece of wood puts your fingers and hands in jeopardy. Keep your fingers a few inches away from the disc and belt.
13. ALWAYS sand on the downward side of the disc (Left side) when using the disc portion of the machine. Sanding on the upward side of the disc could cause the work piece to fly up which could be dangerous.
14. Only have the piece of wood you are working with placed on the table of the disc or belt sander. Store all other pieces of wood on a cart or a bench table.
15. Do Not have the wood in contact with the belt / disc when you turn it on. Let it come up to full speed before beginning to sand.
16. Keep the wood held to the table at all time on the disc sander and vertical belt sander.
17. Sand lightly; do not force wood into the belt or disc.
18. Keep the wood moving across the belt or downward side of the disc to avoid wearing out or burning a portion of the belt or disc.
19. Clean the belt or disc with the rubber stick periodically as you are working and when you are finished. Clean the belt/ disc, turn off the machine, sweep up around the machine; and throw away any scraps.