HEATONS' MEN IN SHEDS

Safety Rules – ROUTER

1 Introduction

The router table has a router mounted vertically below a table. The elevation of the router can be raised and lowered to facilitate bit changing and to adjust the depth of cut.

Bits installed in the router are used to cut grooves, rabbets, slots and moulding profiles on the workpiece.

To avoid accidents, the following operational safety rules must be observed by everyone using the Table Router.

2 Table Router Safety Rules

Follow the 3" (100mm) rule; Do not place your hands within 3" (100mm) of the cutting circle of the bit. Use push blocks, push sticks or jigs as needed to maintain this clearance. Do not reach past the bit to clear parts or scrap while the router is running.

Don't cut workpieces that are not flat on the bottom without a jig that will hold the work in a stable position.

Keep a balanced stance at the router table.

Never clear small pieces from the table with your hand while the router bit is rotating.

A cutter guard is provided and must be used wherever practicable.

3 Start with a Risk Assessment to Ensure a Safe Work Area

A three foot (1m) perimeter around the router should be kept clear of people, debris and sawdust that might impair traction or footing to avoid slips and falls.

Safety glasses with side shields or a face shield in combination with safety glasses and hearing protection must be worn.

Wear a dust mask if dust is generated and not captured by the dust collection system.

Do not cut reclaimed or pressure treated wood on this machine. Do not attempt to cut workpieces with loose knots, or that are twisted, warped or bowed.

Remove loose fitting clothing, jewellery and tie back long hair.

Give the work your undivided attention.

4 Operational Safety Rules:

Approach your work in the Workshop and on the router table with a safe attitude!

Never shape stock less than 12" (200mm) in length unless it is secured jig or fixture.

Ensure that the bit is not cracked or chipped before using it.

Ensure that the collet is securely tightened using the wrenches provided with the router.

The workpiece must always be in firm contact with the fence or a rub bearing mounted on the bit. Do not try to make free-hand cuts.

Make sure that the workpiece is fed from Right to Left. Never climb cut unless a power feeder is used to control the workpiece, or the depth of cut is 1/32" (1mm) or less and the workpiece is captured by hold downs and feather boards.

Match the router speed to the diameter of the cutter. Full speed can be used for bits up to 1" (25mm) diameter.

Bits over 1" (25mm) in diameter must be run at less than full speed. Cope and pattern bits and raised panel bits should be operated at about one-half speed.

Use the smallest diameter table insert that will allow the bit to pass through it.

Never adjust the fence position or gap with the router running.

Minimize the gap in the fence. Adjust the fence halves so that they come to within 1/16" (1.5mm) to 1/8" (3mm) from the bit.

To control the stock, use push sticks, push blocks, feather boards, or any other safety device whenever possible.

Always use a jig to hold the work piece when pattern shaping and profiling the entire edge.

When pattern shaping, ensure that the pattern is in contact with the starting pin at the beginning of the cut and only the bit rub bearing at all times after the initial cut is made.

When pattern shaping, ensure that the workpiece is adequately secured to the pattern with screws or sufficient double-sided tape.

Never profile the edge of a board that is not in contact with the fence.

The workpiece must never be positioned so that it is between the fence and the bit.

Never cut narrow stock that is less than three times the width of the profile to be cut.

Always use the mitre gauge when shaping the ends of boards less than 12" wide.

Cut at a moderate feed rate. Feeding too fast may cause the workpiece to have tear out or excessive machine marks. Feeding too slow will cause the cuter to heat up and burn the workpiece.

The router table is not intended for use with large workpieces. If a large workpiece needs to have a cut made that would normally be done with the router table then consider using a hand-held router.

Ensure that the dust collector is running and that the blast gate to the router table is open before starting the router. Close the blast gate when you are finished using the router table and turn off the dust collector if no one else is using it.

Always remove/isolate power to the router table before changing the cutters or performing any other maintenance operation.

When you have finished your use of the router table remove/isolate the power, clean off the router table and clean the area around it.