



Drum Thickness Sander

The Drum Thickness Sander, Also Known as a “Drum” Sander is similar to a thickness planer in that it removes material from the surface of a board. However, instead of using a series of rotating knives and shaving the material, it uses sandpaper attached to a drum to abrade the workpiece. The sanding drum spins above the workpiece that feeds through on a conveyor belt. A special feature found on some drum sanders is an open side that allows workpieces wider than the drum to pass through. To avoid accidents, the following operational safety rules must be observed by everyone working on the KCWG Drum Sander. Failure to follow the safety rules will result in a loss of shop privileges.

Drum Sander Safety Rules:

1. Always wear safety glasses with side shields or safety goggles while operating this machine.
2. Precautions should be taken for loose hair, clothing, jewelry or other items that can be caught in the belt or drum.
3. Do not wear gloves while operating the sander.
4. The sanding drum can cause serious abrasive burns when skin is accidentally caught in between the sanding drum and conveyor belt.
5. Do not sand pieces too small to be safely supported through the machine. The minimum material length is 6 inches.
6. A dust collector must be connected to the unit for dust control and on prior to starting the sander. A filtering face piece mask is also recommended for those with respiratory issues.
7. The guard over the drum must be completely down while the machine is in operation.
8. Check the integrity and tracking of the conveyor belt on the machine before turning it on. Any ripped belts or burn marks should be reported to the shop foreman.
9. Stand clear of the drum while sanding to avoid kickback of the material.
10. Avoid feeding more than one piece through the sander at once. There is often a temptation to “gang-feed” material that may result in kickback.

Operational Safety Rules:

1. Approach your work in the KCWG Shop and on the Drum Sander with a safe attitude!
2. Clear the surrounding floor area to make sure you have enough in-feed and out-feed clearance to maneuver the material.
3. Start the machine, and holding the material onto the in-feed side, push it until the drum catches and begins moving the material. At that time, remove your hands and let the material pass through the machine.
4. A proper cut is achieved by balancing the depth of cut with the feed rate, keeping in mind the qualities of the material being sanded. A soft wood can have a greater depth of cut and rate of feed than a hard wood.
5. Set the depth (with the sander and conveyor OFF) by lowering the drum until it contacts the material but you can still pull it free of the drum. Do not attempt to remove large quantities of material in a single pass.
6. Start the conveyor at 50% of its full speed, adjusting up or down in small increments to improve the quality of the sanding.