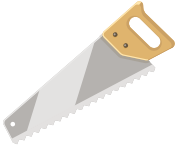


Sawing with Panel Saws



Lots of people struggle with using a Panel Saw. However with a few useful tips and a bit of practice, you will quickly be sawing like a Pro.

Panel Saws are highly versatile. They are available in various sizes, but we recommend that you use a smaller “Toolbox” saw. They’re easier to control, and you will get better results. Choose fine teeth for a smoother finish, though it takes longer, or rough teeth for quicker cuts.

Saw Safety



Sharpness: Saws are extremely sharp when new. Keep the guard on to protect the blade and yourself. Make sure that you always put it away with the guard on.

Grip: Panel Saws usually have a small dimple or groove on either side of the handle for you to rest your **INDEX** finger. This helps you keep the Saw straight and under control.

Sawing Technique

Assume that your Saw only cuts in **ONE DIRECTION** - when you push it forward. Some saws do cut in both directions, but they are often tricky to get right, so just work on the principle that they cut on the **PUSH**

Body Position: This is really important. Sawing should be a relaxed activity. If you’re breaking into a sweat, you’re not letting the saw do the work.

If you’re **Right-handed** put your left foot forward, and slightly turn your body, so that your right arm has plenty of room for movement. Keep your right arm and shoulder relaxed.

If you’re **Left-handed**, put your right foot forwards, and slightly turn your body, so that your left arm has plenty of room for movement. Keep your left arm and shoulder relaxed.



Hold the saw in your strong hand - don’t forget to put the Index finger into the little groove, to brace the saw and keep it straight.

Starting a Cut: Mark the line that you want to cut (You can use the handle of the Saw to do this). Make two sharp pulls towards you on the line, to make a small groove.

Starting Sawing:

Start to push the saw forwards in the groove, but without putting any downward pressure on the blade. You just want to get the moment where the blade is moving easily, and not getting stuck. You will see little bits of sawdust coming off the wood, even though you are not pushing hard.

When you pull the Saw Blade back, don’t put any pressure on it at all. The only time you put any pressure on the blade is when you are pushing it forwards. Once you find this moment when the saw is moving freely, you can experiment with how much pressure you can put on the blade before it starts to stick.

Gradually you will start to get the feel for the right amount of pressure. If the saw blade gets stuck, just ease off the pressure until it moves freely again. With a little bit of practice, this will start to feel relaxed and you will get the rhythm going, and make really efficient and effective cuts.