

# RCI Safety Series Passport — Shaper

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Certification Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

## What should you do before using a shaper?

Shapers can be dangerous if not used properly.

- ✓ Operate only with Mr. Ferguson's permission and after you have received proper instruction.
- ✓ Make sure you understand instructions before attempting to use any tool or machine. Only trained, experienced personnel should be allowed to operate wood shapers.
- ✓ Learn the applications and limitations before use.
- ✓ Refer to Woodworking Machines - General Safety Tips for general safeguards.

## What safety procedures should you follow when using shapers?

- ✓ Wear safety glasses or face shield.
- ✓ Wear hearing protection suitable for the level and frequency of the noise you are exposed to in the woodworking area.
- ✓ Use the cutter (and spindle speed / RPM) suited for the job. Use sharp cutters only and keep them clean.
- ✓ Remove wrenches and tools used in the set up from the table.
- ✓ Check moving parts of the shaper periodically such as belts and pulleys for signs of wear; also check the spindle for burrs or for excessive runout.
- ✓ Make sure all guards are in proper position.
- ✓ Before operating, check that the spindle is square with the shaper table; that the spindle top and knives are correctly adjusted and securely fastened; and that the spindle is free before turning on the power.
- ✓ Use jig fixtures, holders, and hold-down push blocks. Fasten the work securely in a jig.
- ✓ Cut with the grain rather than against it.
- ✓ Remove all other blades when one blade is removed from the shaper spindle. This will prevent the other blades from being hurled from the spindle if the machine is started.
- ✓ Turn off power, lock out a machine when doing set-ups or any other operation on or about the spindle.
- ✓ Shape only one piece of stock at a time.
- ✓ Use extra care in machining stock that contains cross grains or knots. These may pull the operator's hands into the knives or may cause kickbacks.
- ✓ Shape stock only if longer than 25 cm (10 in).
- ✓ Support long pieces of wood with extension tables or roller supports.



## What should you avoid when using shapers?

- ✓ Do not leave a shaper machine running. Make sure that the power is shut off and that the cutter head has stopped revolving before leaving the area.
- ✓ Do not rest your hands near the edge of the stock being cut.
- ✓ Do not tamper with the guards or make them inoperative in any way.
- ✓ Do not back up the stock (check to see that the direction of rotation is as expected). Always feed against rotation of the cutter.
- ✓ Do not make deep cuts or feed the stock too rapidly.
- ✓ Do not distract or startle an operator during a shaping operation.
- ✓ Do not remove saw dust or cuttings around knives by hand or with compressed air. Use a stick or brush.
- ✓ Do not clear the table while the cutter is rotating.
- ✓ Do not accumulate stock or finished work on the table.
- ✓ Do not stand in line with the stock being fed.

Ensure that you follow all shop safety rules

➔ **Safety First** ⬅