

RCI Safety Series Passport — Sheet Metal Shear

Student Name: _____

Certification Date: _____, 20____

What should you do before using a sheet metal Shear?

Shears can be dangerous if not used properly.

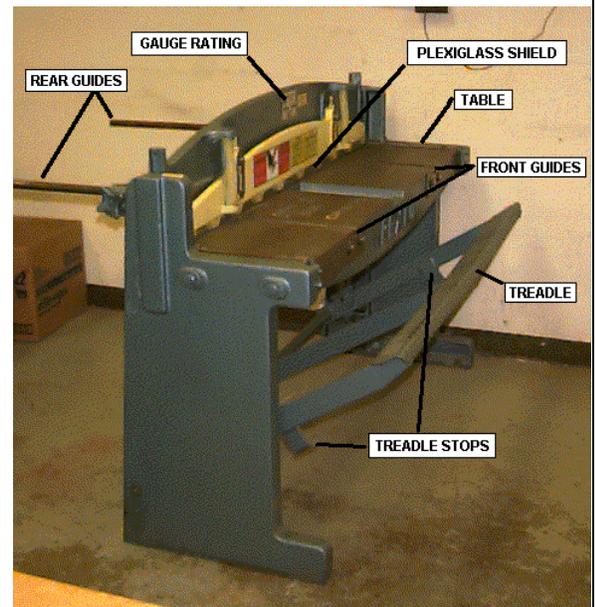
- ✓ Operate only with Mr. Ferguson's permission and after you have received proper instruction.
- ✓ Make sure you understand instructions before attempting to use any tool or machine.
- ✓ Learn the applications and limitations before use.
- ✓ Refer to the General Safety Tips sheet for general safety precautions.

What should you check before using a sheet metal shear?

- ✓ Ensure that the shear is rated to cut the gauge of sheet metal you're working with, or you may damage the blade.
- ✓ The gauge rating of a shear is generally marked prominently on the machine. Ensure you are within this rating.
- ✓ Is the safety guard in place?
- ✓ The safety guard should be set as low as possible, allowing only enough room for sheet stock.
- ✓ Are the parts and accessories in proper working condition?

What safety procedures should you follow when using a shear?

- ✓ Wear safety glasses or goggles
- ✓ Contrary to other tools in the shop, sheet metal tools do require the use of gloves, as sheet stock can often have very sharp edges
- ✓ Wear hearing protection that is suitable for the level and frequency of the noise you are exposed to
- ✓ Only trained students may operate the shear.
- ✓ Make sure the safety guard (Plexiglas Shield) is in place.
- ✓ Keep hands and feet away from working areas
- ✓ Provide a minimum clearance of at least 3 feet around operator
- ✓ Sheet stock should be placed on the table and slid below the plexiglass shield.
- ✓ When the stock is oriented properly, make a cut by stepping down on the treadle
- ✓ Observe all posted warnings
- ✓ Ensure that the shear is rated to cut gauge of steel you're using



What should you avoid when using a sheet metal shear?

- ✓ When the material shears, the treadle may slam down forcefully. The treadle stops are designed to prevent the treadle from crushing your (or anyone's) foot. Still, it's good practice to make sure your other foot isn't beneath the treadle (or treadle stops).
- ✓ Do not attempt to shear material thicker than the listed gauge.
- ✓ Only straight edges can be cut onto sheet metal stock using a shear.
- ✓ Only flat sheet stock (i.e., sheet metal) can be cut with the shear.

Ensure that you follow all shop safety rules

➡ **Safety First** ⬅