

# RCI Safety Series Passport — Thickness Planer

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

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

## What should you do before using a thickness planer?

Thickness planers 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 Woodworking Machines - General Safety Tips for general safety precautions.

## What should you check before starting your machine?

- ✓ Follow the 3" rule for your hands & fingers at the opening of the infeed and outfeed tables.
- ✓ Stand to the side of the machine to avoid kickback or shattering of the wood from the planer that can occur even with feed roller pressure.
- ✓ Place boards on the bed of the machine so your fingers do not get pinched.
- ✓ Do not wear gloves while operating the machine.
- ✓ Only plane clear boards or boards with solid knots to avoid kickback.
- ✓ The shortest board that can be run through the thickness planer is 12"

## What safety procedures should you follow?

- ✓ Always check the wood before planing for foreign material in the wood.
- ✓ Unplug the machine to make any adjustments of the machine other than the depth of the cut and the rate of feed.
- ✓ Depth of the cut should be set before each pass of feeding the stock into the machine.
- ✓ Our thickness planer is dual speed and for best results, the slower the rate of feed, the smoother the cut.
- ✓ Keep all guards and covers on the machine when running the machine.
- ✓ Always connect the dust collector to the planer and use it.
- ✓ A typical pass should remove no more than 1/8" of material for soft wood. 1/16" is the recommended rate per pass for hardwood.
- ✓ When planing thin stock 3/8" or thinner, you must use a backer board.
- ✓ Each complete revolution of the hand wheel moves the table 1/8". Only rotate the hand wheel 1/2 of a turn per pass for the 1/16" recommended removal.
- ✓ Wood that is warped, cupped, twisted or bowed will cause inconsistent contact with the blades of the planer. Joint the concave surface first before running it through the planer.
- ✓ When running short stock, always butt the ends of the boards against one another as they are fed into the planer.
- ✓ If the board is thicker on one end than the other and jams in the machine, do not shut off the machine. Slowly crank open the height adjustment wheel until the board resumes feeding through the planer.
- ✓ The planer is self feeding.



## What should you avoid when using a thickness planer?

- ✓ Do not leave thickness planer running unattended. Shut off the power and make sure that the cutting head has stopped revolving.
- ✓ Do not make cuts deeper than .3 cm (1/16") in one pass.
- ✓ Do not surface stock less than 30 cm (12") long or less than 1.5 cm (5/8") thick.
- ✓ Do not reach into the machine.
- ✓ Do not remove dust or particles of wood from a table by hand or with compressed air. Use a stick or brush.

Ensure that you follow all shop safety rules

➔ **Safety First** ⬅