LMCS – Safe Work Procedure

DROP SAWS

DO NOT use this equipment unless you have been instructed in its safe use and operation and have passed the safety accreditation

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT


Safety glasses must be worn at all times in work areas.


Long and loose hair must be contained.


Hearing protection must be worn.


Sturdy footwear must be worn at all times in work areas.


Close fitting/protective clothing must be worn.


Rings and jewellery must not be worn.

PRE-OPERATIONAL SAFETY CHECKS

- ✓ Locate and ensure you are familiar with all machine operations and controls and emergency stops.
- ✓ Ensure the machine, power cords etc. are in safe working condition.
- ✓ Check workspaces and walkways to ensure no slip/trip hazards are present and that no one will be harmed by you operating the machine.
- ✓ Ensure all guards are fitted, secure and functional. Do not operate if guards are missing or faulty.
- ✓ Ensure table and work area is clear of all tools, off-cut timber and sawdust.
- ✓ Start the dust extraction unit before using the machine.

OPERATIONAL SAFETY CHECKS

- ✓ Plug in the machine.
- ✓ Allow the blade to obtain maximum speed before making a cut.
- ✓ Place cupped boards with the concave side away from the table.
- ✓ The work piece should be kept in the same place against the fence and the drop saw be moved down and forward for timber less than 40 mm wide and for wider boards the machine is to cut away from the operator by pushing the assemble towards the wall

ENDING OPERATIONS AND CLEANING UP

- ✓ Switch off the machine when work completed.
- ✓ Reset all guards to a fully closed position after use.
- ✓ Leave the machine in a safe, clean and tidy state.

POTENTIAL HAZARDS AND INJURIES

- ⓘ Airbore dust.
- ⓘ Eye and hearing injuries.
- ⓘ Contact with blade at point of operation, potentially severe injuries.

DON'Ts

- ✘ Do not use operate equipment without wearing appropriate PPE.
- ✘ Do not use faulty equipment. Immediately report suspect equipment.
- ✘ Do not cut pieces with shattered ends.
- ✘ Never leave the machine running unattended.
- ✘ Do not use heavy pressure to a point the machine slows down audibly at a starkly reduced pitch.

This SWP does not necessarily cover all possible hazards associated with this equipment and should be used in conjunction with other references. It is designed as a guide to be used to compliment training and as a reminder to users prior to equipment use.

This information is modified from Frontline Safety www.frontline.edu.au

Issued	Issued For	Prepared	Checked	Approved	Rev.
08.05.2022	Endorsement by Safety Com	A Oldham C de Groot	Safety Com pending	Approved	0.2

LAKE MONGER COMMUNITY SHED

Safe Operating Procedures – Drop saws

BACKGROUND INFORMATION & READING

This video will assist you in following safe work practices:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FVpmjX1DjmI

This video needs to be viewed prior to arranging an assessment.

FITNESS TO OPERATE THE DROP SAWS

Members are expected to refrain from working on these power tools and machines if they acknowledge their own level of physical ability inhibits them from doing so safely.

However, if assessors determine that a member has some level of physical impairment that makes it unsafe to use machines, they will have no option other than to assess the member as not having the capacity to do so safely.

You can still do your projects, just mark the timber and ask another shed member to cut/machine the timber for you. You are not compelled to cut the timber yourself and in this environment, you will easily find others that are more than able and willing to do the cutting for you.

GENERAL RULES & TIPS

- If recycled material is used, all timber MUST be visually checked for nails and screws. After that the timber MUST also be checked with the metal detector. Processing CCA treated timber is not permitted.
- When commencing operation ensure dust extraction system is switched on either manually or automatically.
- Use clamps to secure and support the workpiece to a stable platform. Do not use a length stop on the free scrap end of a clamped workpiece.
- Before turning on the saw, perform a dry run of the cutting operation to ensure no problems will occur when the cut is made, especially if cutting angles other than 90 degrees. Pay particular attention to where your hands and fingers are in relation to the ENTIRE trajectory of the blade.
- Never reach over the saw line. Never cross arms when cutting.
- When pulling the saw down with your right hand, keep the left hand, especially the thumb, well clear of the line of cut.
- **If angles are greater than 30 degrees it is generally safest to switch hands**; when cutting towards the left operate the machine with the left hand and hold the timber with the right hand. Vice versa if cutting towards the right at such angle it is usually safest to operate the machine with the right hand and hold the timber with the left hand.
- If workpiece is bowed or warped, run it through the planer first. If not possible then clamp it with the outside bowed face toward the fence (convex side towards the fence). However liaise with the Shed Supervisor first.
- After finishing the cut, release the switch, hold the saw arm down and wait for blade to stop before removing work or off-cut piece.
- Before making any adjustments, disconnect the plug from the power source and bring the machine to a complete standstill.

LAKE MONGER COMMUNITY SHED

COMMON OPERATIONS ON DROP SAWS

One of the two identical drop saws at LMCS, note the locking handles for the mitre and bevel adjustments.

The benches have been arranged for left and right handed people. The fences will be equipped with inbuilt tapes and provided with adjustable stops, later during 2022.

Refer also page 10 onwards of the Makita Manual

Changing saw blade
Contact shed supervisor to arrange changing of the blade before proceeding and this is a 2-person operation.

Kerf boards are not to be adjusted.

Mitre cuts only up to 45 degrees are accommodated and permitted. For angles greater than 45 degrees discuss alternative methods with the Shed Supervisor. However under no circumstance position the end grain on the fence (or narrow aspect of sheet material) to achieve an angle greater than 60 degrees or more acute than 45 degrees.

Cutting Aluminium
Whilst cutting aluminium is possible with this machine, a different (negative angle) blade should be used. Generally cutting Aluminium and Brass is not recommended on this type of machine unless it is equipped with the specified blade and the material is clamped extensively.

LAKE MONGER COMMUNITY SHED

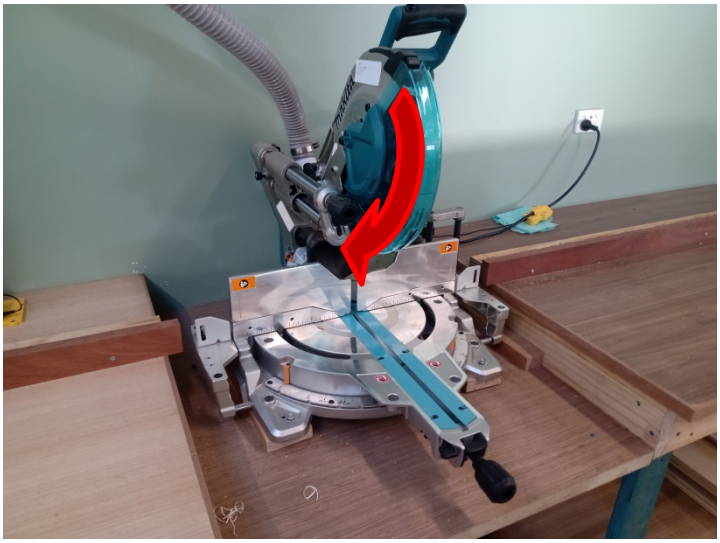

Figure 1 Direction of blade rotation, the same on all these types of saws

Typical activities

Cross cutting

The main purpose of these saws is to cut timber to length or add a bevel or compound angle.

If the timber is narrow (<100mm) then the saw can be dropped and the board be cut from the fence. If the board is wider it is safer and better to keep the blade high and only drop the blade to the lowest point once the centre of the blade has got passed the edge closest to you. Then push the saw/motor assembly backwards whilst making the cut. That reduces the risk of the saw racing towards you.

Eye the timber and place the convex side to the fence.
When cutting bevels; remove both Aluminium upper fences.

Tips:

The table, the guard mechanism and fence surfaces need to be lubricated from time to time.

Cutting speeds

The speed of the arbour is fixed and the correct blade diameter must be used at all times.

Rebating

Rebating can be handy to produce a groove or cutting out a part of a cross section, for example: the sides of stair cases.

This mitre saw has the capability to set the motor assembly higher. Be aware that any lifting or warping of the timber will make the rebate or trench deeper.

Immediately after you finish with rebate set the splitter back up that supports the guard and re-install the guard.

Rebating with DADO blades is not permitted.