BANDSAW MAINTENANCE

By John Woods

Disclaimer

This article is offered from John Woods, a member of the West Suffolk Woodturning Club. It is intended as a comprehensive workshop guide for the maintenance a Bandsaw. The author and The West Suffolk Woodturning Club are not responsible for your actions. Bandsaws are dangerous. Any use, advice or guidance followed or interpreted from this guide is implemented at your own risk and responsibility. You should follow your own Personal Protection Equipment PPE and Health and Safety procedures

Bandsaw maintenance	
Look, listen and feel	It's surprising how much you can tell without doing anything Whether it is something simple - like the blade damaged, or more serious like the wheel bearings getting worn
HEALTH & SAFETY	**Disconnect power before carrying out the following:**
Tools & Materials required	Dusting brush
	Cloth
	Light Oil
	Spanners
	Hex wrenches (Allen Keys)
	Small stiff bristle brush - e.g. toothbrush, suede brush, spark plug brush.
	Abrasive Block / 0000 wire wool / fine abrasive (320/400/600g)
Stand	Check ALL bolts for tightness.
	Check Stability - it shouldn't 'Rock' or wobble
Electrics	Check that the plug is not damaged and the outer sheath of the cable is secure in the cable clamp
	Check that the mains cable is not damaged along the full length, and securely clamped at the lathe end
	Check the outer sheath of the cable is secure in the cable clamps where it enters the lathe and motor connections
	Similarly, check for damage to Switches/Light/Motor Connection Box.
Table	Remove table for easier access to blade guides and drive wheel chamber
	Whilst this is off, clean the surface with wire wool or fine abrasive.
Dust accumulation	Vacuum out the drive wheel chamber
	Slacken blade tension and remove the blade
	Clean any encrusted residue off the blade drive wheels using a stiff brush

	Check the rubber tyre on the drive wheels for damage (replace if necessary)
	Check the blade/wheel cleaning brush for damage and alignment (replace if necessary)
Motor Drive belt	Check belt for damage - replace if necessary
	Check belt tension and adjust if necessary
Blade Guides	Brush away any dust
	Check bearings are free running (and no tight spots) - replace if necessary
	If it has friction block guides - check for damage - re-dress or replace if necessary. (It may be easier to remove the blade guide assembly to replace bearings/guides)
Blade Guard / Support	Remove and clean the guide and support arm
	Re-fit and ensure arm is smooth running the entire length of travel
Re-assembly	Refit the blade guides so they are just about tight
	Install the blade with a light tension
	Rotate wheels by hand and adjust tracking so the blade runs in the middle of the wheels
	Tension blade to correct tension (Slight give on the longest length with a moderate pressure)
	Adjust blade guides so they are just clear of the blade (each side of blade and at the back of the blade)
	Rotate the drive wheel by hand to check adequate guide clearance the full length of the blade
	Move the blade guard/support arm to minimum and maximum gap checking the blade travel at each end
	Re-adjust blade guides if/as necessary. (The blade weld may not be perfect, or the blade may have stretched so may not run perfectly true)
	Close cover, and bring blade guard down to minimum
	Power up to ensure the blades runs without catching
	Remove power, open cover and re-check blade tension and tracking - adjust if necessary
	Re-fit the table
	Check the table is square to the blade - adjust if necessary