

“Back to Basics”

Tune Up Your Bandsaw

The bandsaw is a very versatile piece of equipment that's capable of doing very accurate work if properly setup and aligned (unplug the saw while aligning):

- Initial setup and alignment - should have done this when you got the saw
 - "Co-planer" adjustment of the wheels
 - Rubber tires - clean and in good condition
 - Table alignment stop - perpendicular to blade
- Before every use -
 - Install the proper blade (and tune up the blade if new)
 - Grind "high teeth"
 - Round over the back edges
 - Adjust the blade tension and tracking
 - Adjust the upper and lower blade guides

Blade Selection Chart

Blade Width	Smallest Radius
1/8"	1/8"
3/16"	5/16"
1/4"	5/8"
3/8"	1 1/16"
1/2"	2 1/2"
5/8"	3 3/4"
3/4"	5 1/16"

I have two band saws

- A 14" Delta with 6" capacity – I usually have a 3/16" x 10tpi blade installed
- A 14" Shop Fox with 12" capacity – I usually have a 1/2" "Wood Slicer" blade installed

Wood Slicer Resaw Blades

Wood Slicer Specifications:

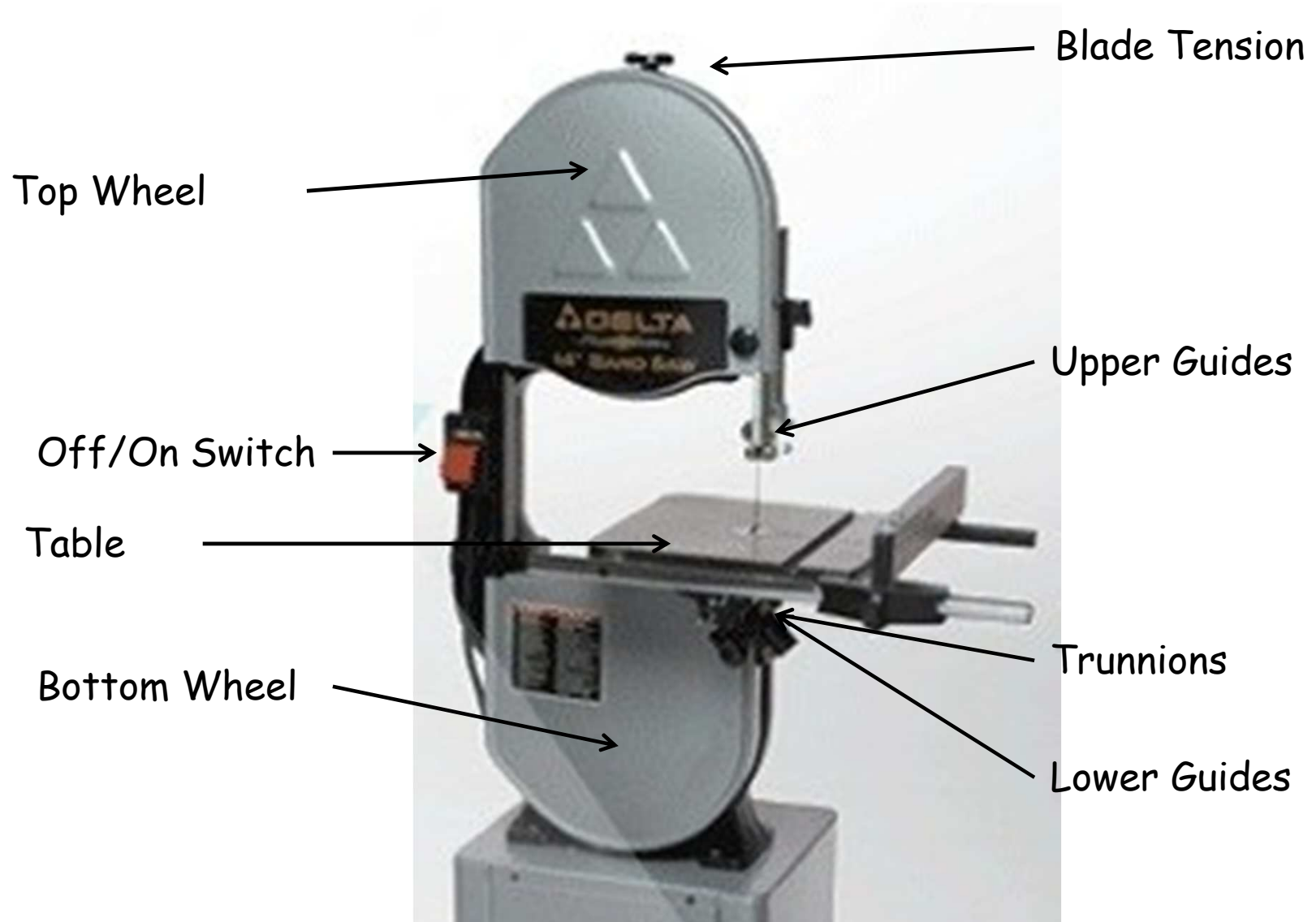
- 3-4tpi variable pitch
- Teeth hardened to Rc 65-67
- 0.022 inch band thickness
- 0.03125 inch kerf
- 1/2 inch or 3/4 inch width



Prices

93 1/2"	\$29.95
105"	\$29.95

Anatomy of a typical bandsaw



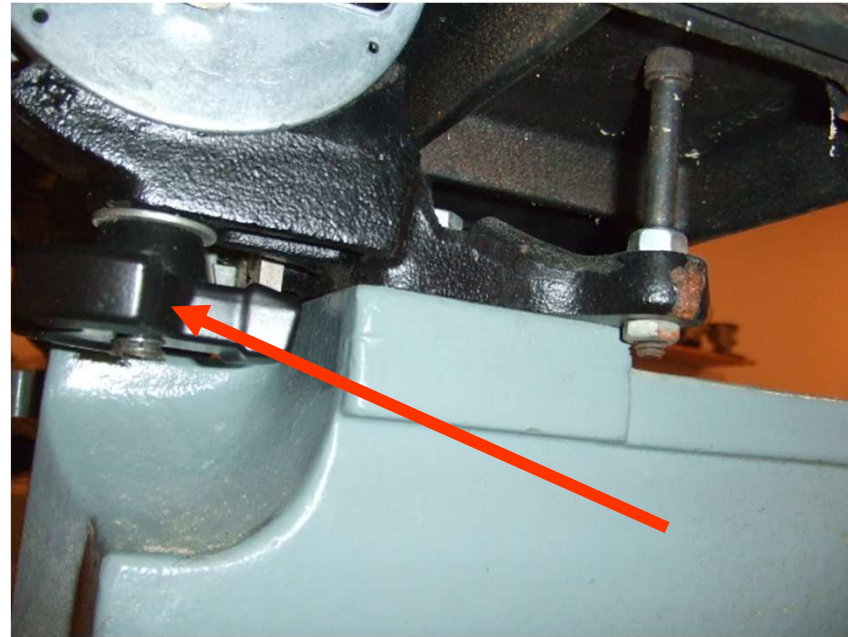
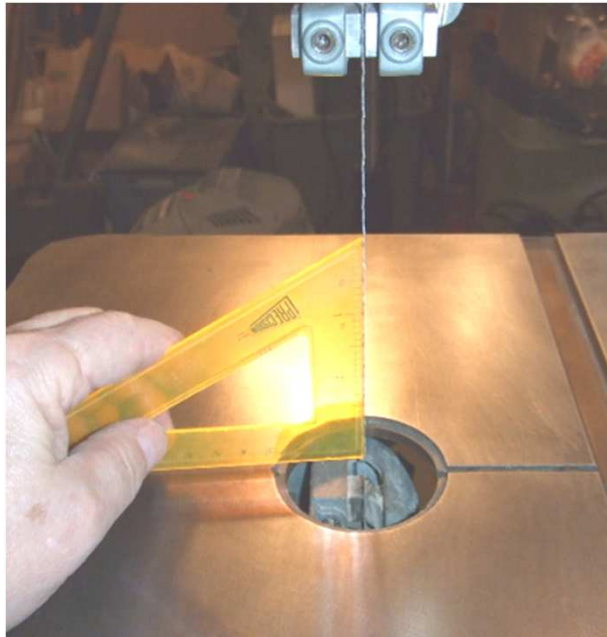
Adjusting the wheels "Co-planer"



Use a long straight edge and

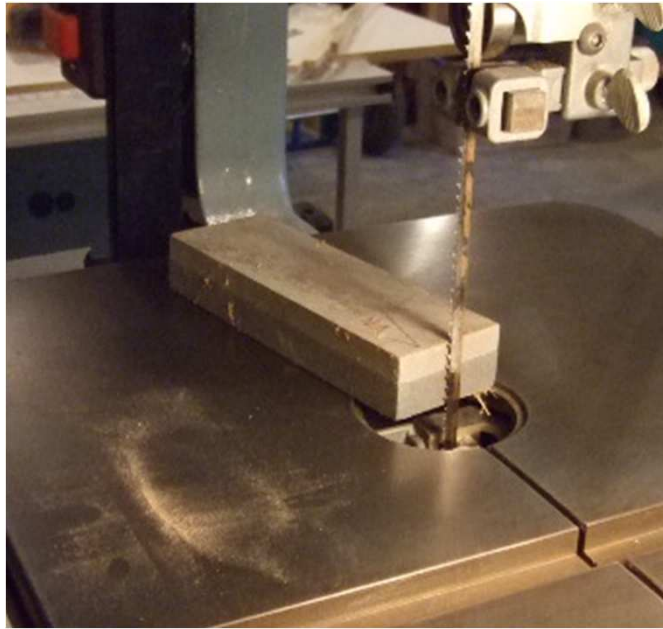
- Adjust the upper wheel angle using the tracking adjustment so that the straight edge contacts both edges of the upper and lower wheels
- Add shims to the top wheel mounting axle to adjust

Adjust the Table to the Blade



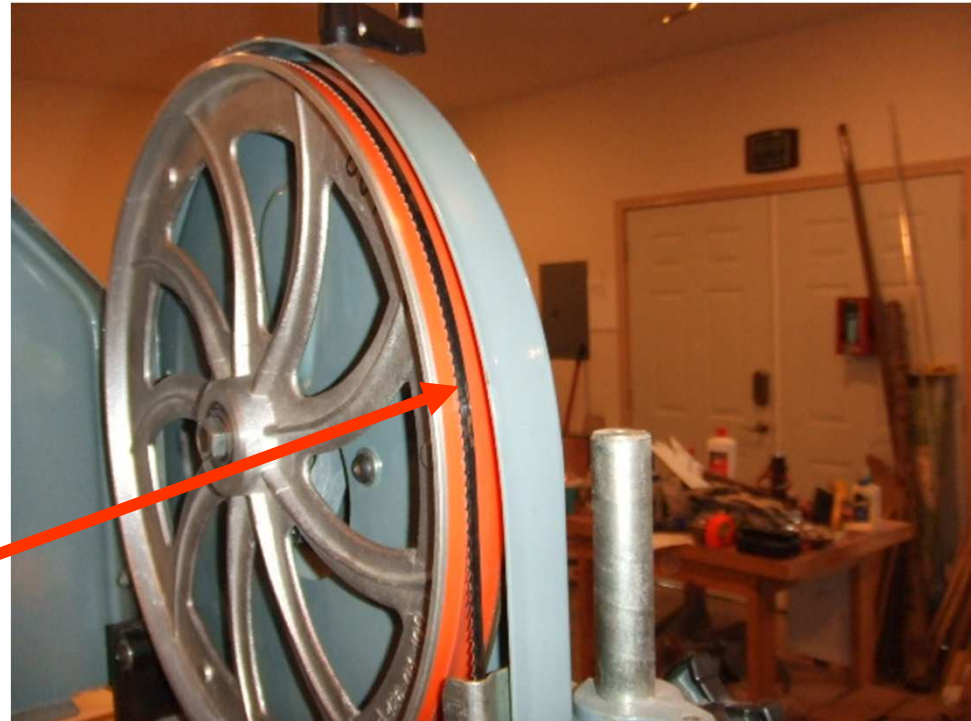
- Step 1 – Loosen the trunnion adjustment knobs
- Step 2 – Adjust the table to 90 degrees to the blade using a drafting triangle or machinist square
- Step 3 – Tighten the trunnion knobs

Tuning a New Blade



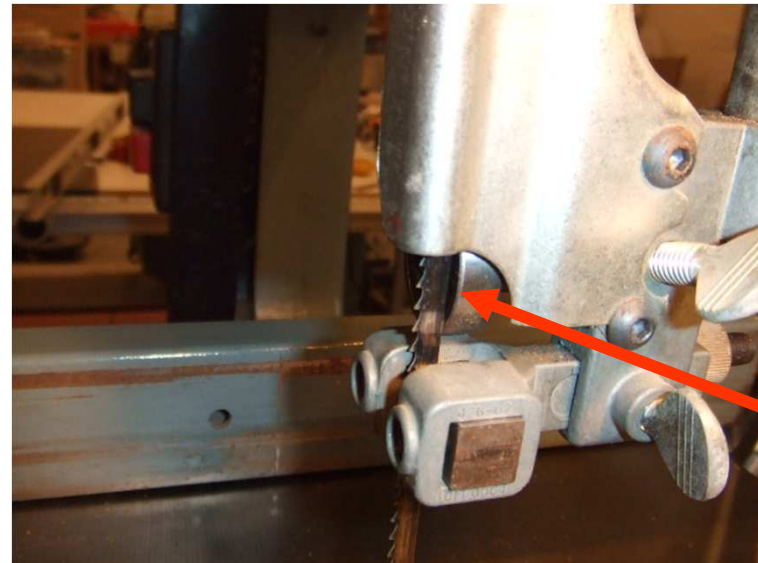
- Step 1 – Turn the blade “inside out” so that the teeth are facing up
- Step 2 – Install and tension the blade – with guides removed
- Step 3 – Start the saw and ‘true the teeth’ using a grinding stone on both sides
- Step 4 – Round over the back edge of the blade

Adjust the Blade Tension and Tracking



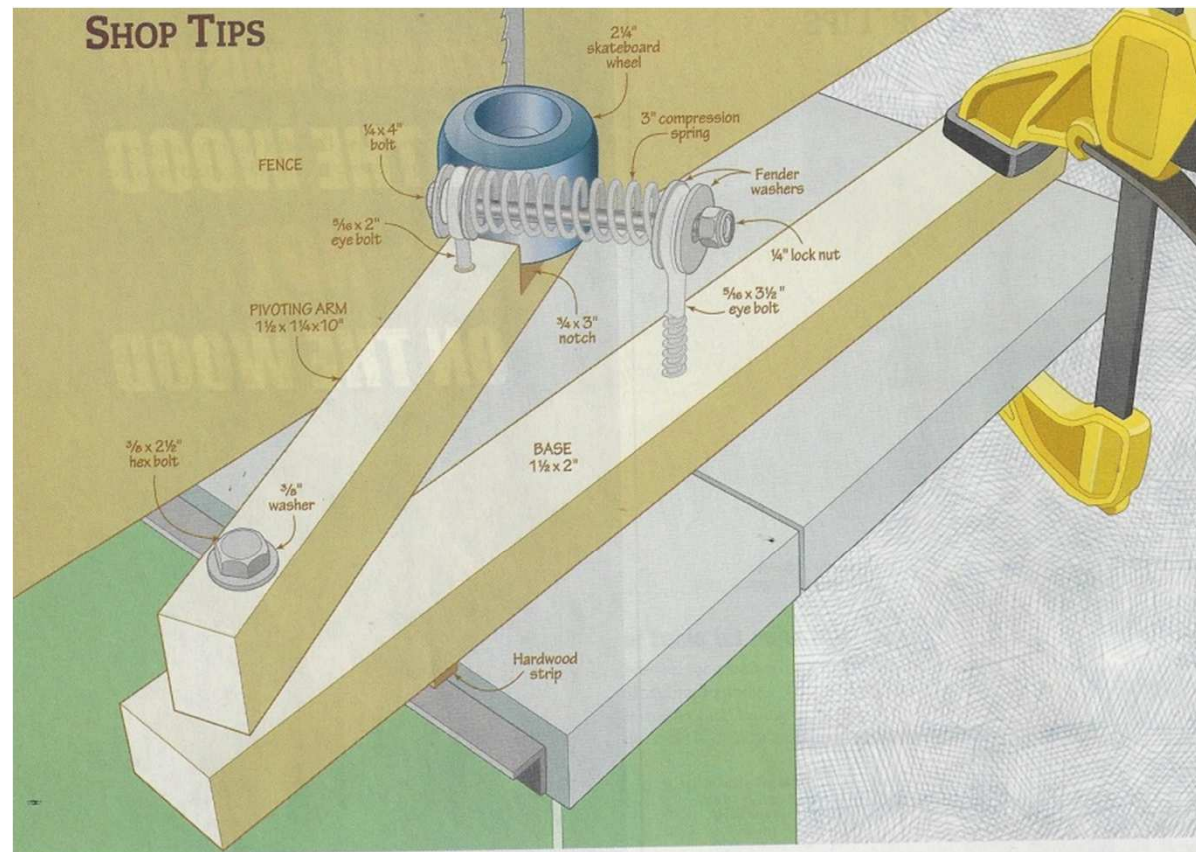
- Step 1 – Remove the blade and turn it back to normal and reinstall
- Step 2 - Adjust the blade tension so that the blade deflects about $\frac{1}{4}$ "
- Step 3 – Adjust the tracking so that the blade tracks to the 'center on the top wheel

Adjust the Guide Blocks (or Bearings)



- Step 1 – Run the saw and ‘warm up’ the blade
- Step 2 - Adjust the blocks/bearings so that they are behind the teeth on the blade
- Step 3 – Adjust the spacing of the blocks/bearings so they are not touching the blade
- Step 4 – Adjust the thrust bearing so that it “almost” touches the blade
- Step 5 – Repeat for the bottom guide assembly

Resaw Guide System - Wood Magazine, March 2018



Jig holds stock firmly against a fence

When resawing roughsawn material at the bandsaw, it's important that the board be held tightly against the fence for a good cut. This shop-made hold-in applies ample pressure to the board, and frees you up to focus your attention on a steady feed rate.

To build one, cut the base a few inches longer than your bandsaw table. To its bottom glue a $\frac{3}{8} \times \frac{3}{4}$ hardwood strip that fits snugly in the table's miter channel. At one end of the pivoting arm cut a notch

to accommodate a skateboard wheel. Mount the skateboard wheel with a $\frac{1}{4}$ -20 hex screw $2\frac{1}{2}$ " long in a tapped $\frac{1}{8}$ " hole, and assemble the jig as shown. Tighten the pivoting arm's nut so the arm rotates freely, but without slop. Secure a compression spring between two eye bolts using a bolt, four fender washers, and a lock nut.

Position the jig in the miter channel so the wheel has $\frac{1}{2}$ " clearance in front of the blade teeth. Secure it with a clamp and resaw away.

—Sam Costa, Smethport, Pa.

Questions