

Keep Your Thickness Planer Running Smoothly

Here's an easy 6-point maintenance plan that will assure greater efficiency and long-term, trouble-free operation for your Shopsmith Thickness Planer. If your Planer unusually hard, you will, of course, need to perform these maintenance procedures more often than this schedule indicates. For additional detailed procedures, check your Thickness Planer Owner's Manual.

Before starting any maintenance procedure, unplug the Planer and disconnect the Coupler from your MARK V's Auxiliary Spindle (if you're using your MARK V to power your Planer). If your Planer is mounted on its own Power Stand, be sure to unplug the power cord and remove the V-Belt from the Planer pulley.

Ever 1 hour of running time...

Use a brush to remove all loose sawdust and chips from the outside of your Planer and a shop vacuum to clean out the inside areas of the machine thoroughly.

Inspect the feed rollers and roller arms for impacted wood chips. Use a stiff bristled brush (**not a WIRE brush**) to clean the rollers. An alcohol-dampened rag can be used to remove fine sawdust.

Use a good quality furniture paste wax to wax the Planer Table. Buff and remove any excess wax from the Table surface. It's important that you not over-wax, since sawdust can mix with the wax and discolor the wood you may be planing.

Every 5 hours of running time...

Use mineral spirits to clean the wood pitch from the cutterhead, knives and chip deflector.

To prevent the build-up of rust, wax and buff the cutterhead and tie bars. **CAUTION:** Work carefully around the sharp knives to avoid injury.

Check all alignments and adjustments, including knife positions, thickness scale adjustment and synchronization of chain tension and roller pressure. See your Owner's Manual for proper specifications.

Every 100 hours of running time...

With graphite powder or 10-weight oil, lubricate the roller arm bushings, mounting post bushings and the threads of the mounting posts. The synchronizing chain should also be lubricated with powdered graphite or a very light coat of 10-weight machine oil. Powdered graphite is best for these lubrications since it won't mix with sawdust to form a "sludge". If you do elect to use oil, use an oily rag to wipe off the entire length of the chain, then follow-up with a clean cloth to remove all excess oil.