

Using the Vertical Band Saw

- Wear the proper safety equipment, as per Machine Shop rules. Wear safety glasses and closed-toe shoes, loose clothing tucked in or removed, and all long hair secured safely up and out of the way.
- **Do NOT work alone.**
- Mark on your piece any complex cuts that you will be making.
- Check that the blade is appropriate for the material thickness. At least two teeth must be in the material at all times. If the material is too thin for the blade, ask a technician to help you switch it out.
- Set the blade guide to the proper height for your material. Have the guide as low as practical to support the blade fully.
- Make sure the blade speed is appropriate for the material you are cutting. Refer to the chart on the front of the band saw.
- Power up the saw by pushing the power button.
- For cutting round stock, hold the work in a vise; make sure the work is flush with the table of the saw. Usually that means having the vise upside down. Ask Joe to demonstrate the proper technique to you if you have questions.
- Make your cut. Use a push block to move the material, keeping it between your fingers and the blade at all times.
- Once you've finished, power down the saw by pressing the off button.
- Clean up any debris and dispose of any scrap materials.

Tips:

- Pushing from the ends of a long piece can cause it to bend at the cut and pinch the blade, potentially breaking it, messing up the cut, or even throwing the part and injuring you. Push from the center with a push block to reduce the chances of this happening.