

Planer SOP

Basic operating procedure

- Secure the material to be planed so it can't move. Set the cutting depth of the planer by sitting it on the work and adjusting the knob.
- Position your feet so you're in a comfortable balanced position. Make sure the power lead is out of the way of the planer path. You can put the lead over your shoulder if you think it might get in the way.
- Rest the front of the base plate on the job and check that it is sitting flat on the surface. Keep the cutters clear of the work – check that they're clear by sliding the planer forward until you feel the cutters touch the work, and then pulling it back slightly.
- Start the planer and allow it to reach full speed before commencing the cut.
- Push the planer smoothly forward with an even motion, in the direction of the grain. Be particularly careful to hold the planer flat against the work at the start and finish of the cut and not let it dip at either end.
- At the end of each sweep along the material, lift the planer off the work before you take your finger off the trigger.

If you're planing the end grain of timber, it's best to work from both sides to avoid chip-out of the grain. This includes the underside of doors, which often have vertical 'stiles' on each side and a 'bottom rail' in between.