1. Check the abrasive on the sander to make sure it isn’t too coarse or too fine for the work you want to do.
2. The sanding disk must be in good condition. Don’t use the sander if the disk is loose, torn, burned or clogged.
3. Check the clearance between the disk and the table. The table should be set as close as possible without touching the disk at any point.
4. When you use a guide, be sure the guide remains completely clear of the disk.
5. As always, wear eye protection. Goggles are preferred when sanding.
6. Loose clothing can get caught between the revolving disk and the table. Keep clothes tucked in and shirtsleeves rolled up neatly.
7. If your hair is long, tie it back or wear a cap over it.
8. Never stand at the sides of the sander when it is running. Don’t let anyone else stand there either. If the abrasive disk should come off or fly apart, it will be thrown toward the edges, toward the sides of the sander.
9. Keep the material flat against the table. Don’t try to sand freehanded. Use the table as a support.
10. Most disks turn in a clockwise direction. Use only the right side or the side that is moving downward past the table.
11. Make sure the material is large enough to be held safely. Don’t sand small pieces of stock on the disk sander.
12. The material must be kept clean and dry. Avoid sanding wood that is green or gummy. Avoid sanding softwood with resins in it.
13. Keep the stock moving back and forth across the downward side of the disk. Holding it in one place will cause it to over-heat and burn.
14. Never leave the sander while it is still running or coasting. If you need to, you can stop the coasting by using a piece of scrap on the side of the disk.
15. The sander doesn’t look like a cutting tool, but that’s exactly what it is. Think of it as a cutting tool and keep your fingers, hands and arms away from the revolving disk.