1. The abrasive belt on the sander has to be in good condition. Don’t use the sander if the belt is torn or clogged.
2. The sander must be set for the right tension. The belt will break if the tension is too tight. It will slip if it is too loose.
3. Check the grit of the abrasive to make sure it is the right grit for the work you want to do on the sander.
4. Be sure the guards or in place and that the table is adjusted correctly.
5. Switch on the sander and see that it is tracking properly.
6. The wood has to be in good condition, with no gummy resin, paint, finish or hardware in it.
7. Hold the material so your hands stay clear of the surface and the edge of the moving belt.
8. Use a “stop” to keep the material from being twisted or thrown by the moving belt.
9. Don’t sand small pieces of stock with the belt sander. The material can twist and pull your fingers toward the moving belt.
10. Use a push block when you sand thin material. Don’t get your fingers and hands too close to the belt.
11. Use the table or a fence to hold the work. Avoid sanding freehanded.
12. The friction of the sanding process heats the surface of the material. It can get hot enough to cause a burn if you touch it. Be careful when you touch a surface that’s just been sanded.
13. Use the belt sander with care and caution. It is a power tool and it is safe only when it is used correctly and carefully.