

## Jig Saw

v2, Updated April 2021

Identify:

Reciprocating blade, Trigger, Shoe, Power Cable

Accompanying Tools:

Goggles, Saw horses or clamps with table/bench, T-square to mark cut lines, dust collection hose

Safety:

- Requires immediate adult supervision
- *Always use goggles* (This tool is very likely to spit out fragments of wood and sawdust)
- Hair tied back, no long sleeves or dangling accessories
- Pay attention to what is under the material (will you cut into the table?)
- Never start a tool with the blade up against material.
- Be mindful of the cable so that you do not cut it. The cord should trail behind the person cutting. Use an extension cable if needed, do not stretch the cable to reach your material.
- Different blades may be needed for different materials. Plastics may need a blade with smaller teeth.



Operation:

- Clamp material to be cut.
  - Mark the intended cut.
  - Ensure that the cut zone is clear, including beneath the material.
  - Adopt a steady stance with your shoulder over the tool, dominant hand on the handle and other hand on top. Pantomime the cut to make sure you won't overextend. Plan to adjust body position or material if necessary.
  - Start blade *before* pressing against material.
  - Press forward, keeping shoe flat on material. When curving, remember to keep pushing forward.
  - Don't lift the saw out with the blade moving. If stopping in the middle of a cut, wait for the saw blade to stop before lifting it out.
- Adjust feet and body while cutting as necessary. Always have a steady stance and be aware of where you're putting your weight.
  - Be prepared for the material to fall when the cut is completed.
  - For inside cuts drill a 1/2 - 3/4" hole for a starting point.
  - If the tool starts to "buck," power it off immediately and figure out why it is binding. Causes can be lifting the foot off of the surface, wrong blade type, too sharp of a turn.
  - Adjust your line by stopping, backing up slightly, and reestablishing your path.

When working on a smooth floor with sawdust, kids may have trouble with their feet sliding as they push the jigsaw. Putting a grown-up foot behind their back foot is helpful.