

Figure 16-31. (A) This plywood table will give you added support when cutting thin metal. (B) Construction details of an auxiliary plywood table.

when turning tight corners and will reduce blade breakage.

When you're finished, remove the blade and the auxiliary table. Wipe off any oil and/or beeswax that might have gotten on the jigsaw table. Remove the table; then clean away any metal filings from the lower blade chuck and base. This must be done every time you use the jigsaw to cut metal. If you don't, the metal filings may work their way between the moving parts of the jigsaw, causing them to wear prematurely.

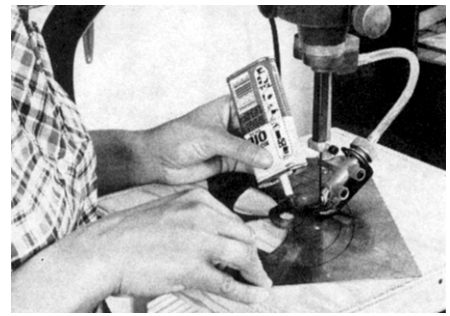


Figure 16-32. When cutting metal, put one to two drops of oil in front of the blade on the pattern line every 1 "to 2". This helps the blade run cooler and last longer.

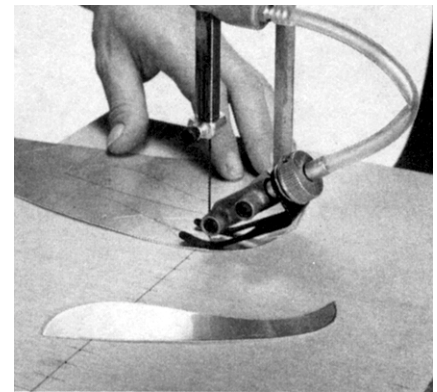


Figure 16-33. You'll get minimum burring when sawing thin sheet metal if you provide support as close to the cutting area as possible. Here the circle cutting platform is used.

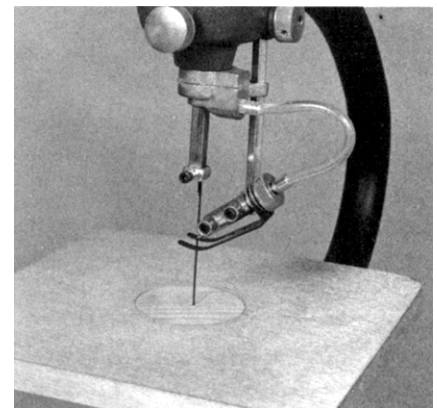


Figure 16-34. You can also make a special insert. The size of the hole through the insert should be no more than the blade needs to get through.

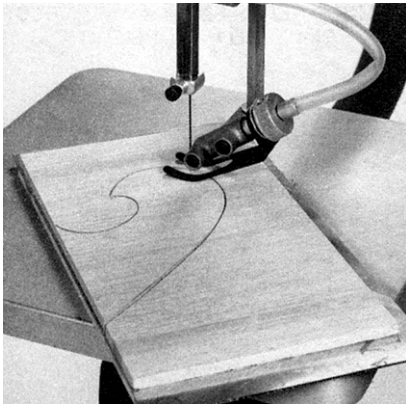


Figure 16-35. Another way to saw thin sheet metal is to sandwich it between thin plywood.

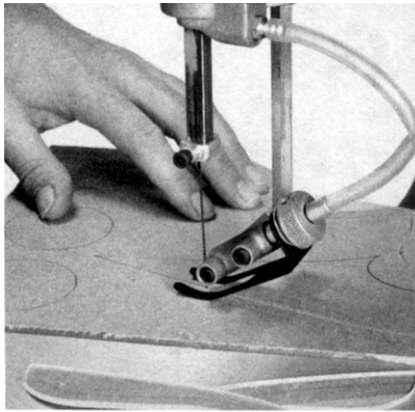


Figure. 16-36. Leave the protective paper on the plastic when you make the cut.

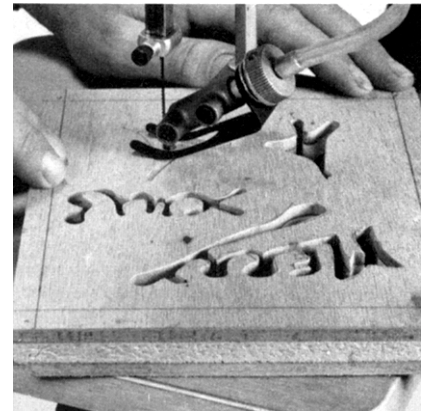


Figure 16-37. A pad of paper can be cut on the jigsaw; but, to avoid jagged edges, the sheets must be

One of the problems with metal cutting, especially if the material is thin, is the burrs that will accumulate as the blade cuts. This is normal; the blade might even bend the material at the cut area. To minimize the problem, use an auxiliary table with a blade insertion hole that is slightly larger than the blade. This can be the platform that you may have made for pivot cutting circles (Figure 16-33) or a special insert of 1/4" hard board (Figure 16-34). Both methods will provide support at the cutting area to minimize burring and bending. Another way to avoid burrs and bends is to sandwich the work between sheets of thin plywood (Figure 16-35).

Cutting Plastics-When cutting plastics, use a skip-toothed blade. The extra space between the teeth helps to clear away the chips. The blade runs cooler and the workpiece doesn't get as hot. Regular woodcutting blades sometimes create so much heat that the plastic chips weld together and the blade binds.

Leave the protective paper on the plastic when you cut (Figure 16-36). This will keep it from getting scratched. If the plastic melts, you may be feeding the workpiece too slowly or the speed may be fast.

Pad Sawing Paper-Sawing paper becomes a simple procedure when the sheets are sandwiched between thin plywood (Figure 16-37). The paper should be large enough so the nails holding the pad together can go through it in an area that is outside the pattern. If the edges of the sheets are to be bent back or otherwise hidden, the hole locations don't matter. Paper cut in this manner will have remarkably smooth edges.

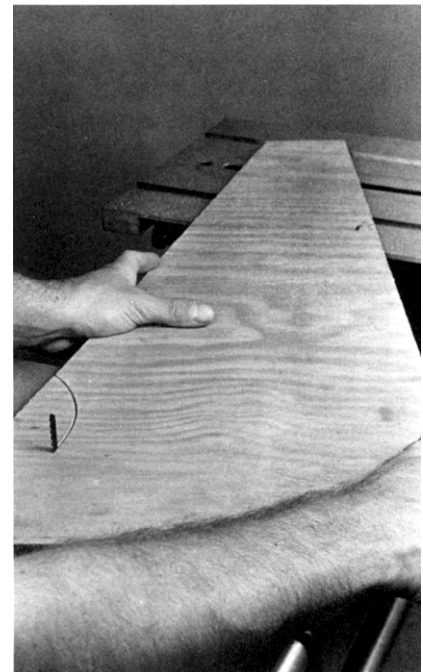


Figure 16-38. Doing sabre sawing with the jigsaw's arm removed. Work carefully so you don't bend the blade or cause it to move off the cut/me.

SABRE SAWING

Your jigsaw can easily be converted to a sabre saw, following the procedures in the Owners Manual. This setup is useful when you need to cut patterns in large workpieces or make piercing cuts in thick stock.

If the workpiece is large enough, you may need additional support to cut it safely. Slide the Mark V

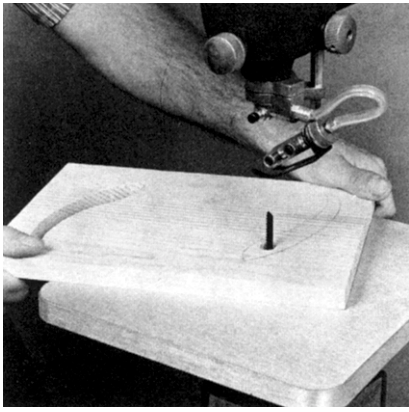


Figure 16-39. You can use the sabre saw setup when doing piercing on heavy stock.

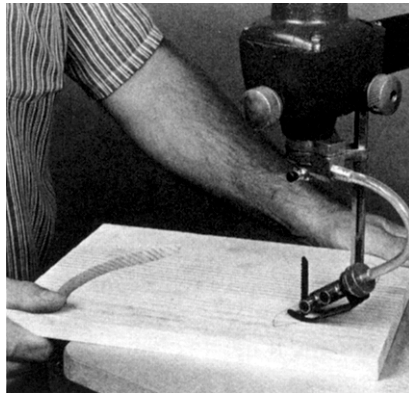


Figure 16-40. When blade length and stock thickness allow, you can use the blade guides and the spring hold-down when sabre sawing.

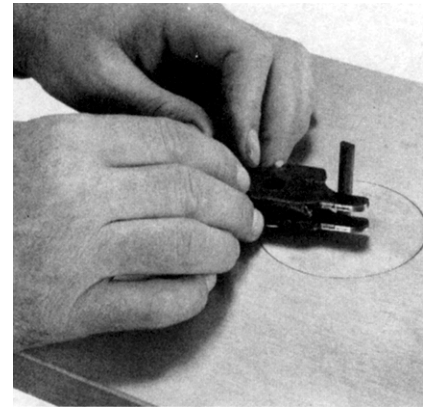


Figure 16-41. Work at a slow speed and use only enough feed pressure to keep the file cutting. Keep the work firmly on the table so it won't lift on the file's upstroke.

worktable toward the power plant and lock it in place. Adjust the worktable so that it's at the same height as the jigsaw table. When you cut, let the workpiece rest on both tables. (Figure 16-38). Feed the workpiece slowly.

You can do sabre sawing even without removing the tubular arm if the work size permits; even piercing, when needed on heavy stock, can be done this way (Figure 16-39). When the blade is long enough and stock thickness allows it, the blade guides and spring holddown can be utilized (Figure 16-40).

FILING

You can mount machine files in your jigsaw. These files are available in a variety of shapes, so that you can smooth the edges on the interior or exterior of almost any pattern.

When using a metal file, run the jigsaw at "Slow" speed. Feed the work gently against the file and keep the workpiece moving constantly (Figure 16-41). When you're finished, clean the table and lower chuck, and brush off the machine thoroughly to remove all metal filings.

You can use machine files to smooth the edges of wood, but use very light pressure. Otherwise, the files "load up" quickly. Sawdust becomes impacted between the grooves and must be cleaned out frequently.

SANDING

Special sanding sticks are available for jigsaw use, but it's not difficult to make your own (Figure 16-42). The sticks are just lengths of dowel, drilled to receive a section of threaded rod that can be gripped in the lower chuck like a file.

The abrasive paper can be cut from standard sheets and rubber cemented in place, or you can use readily available, selfadhesive types.

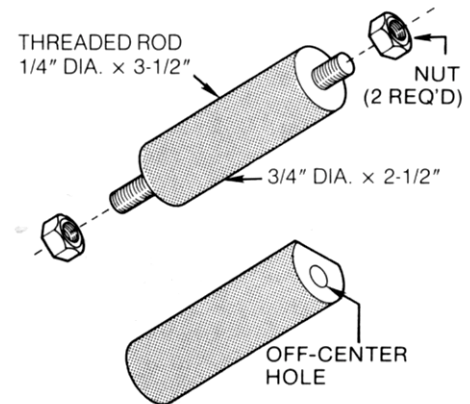
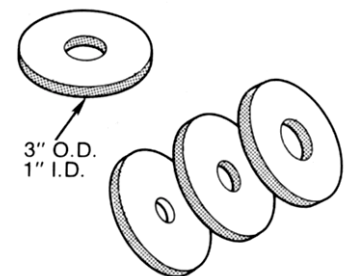


Figure 16-42. Two designs for making sanding sticks.

MAKE INSERTS FROM
1/4\"/>



DIFFERENT INSIDE DIAMETER
HOLES FOR VARIOUS STICKS

Figure 16-43. Make special table inserts that you can use with the sanding sticks.

It's a good idea, when using sanding sticks, to make special inserts so the work will have maximum support close to the work area. You can make these of tempered hardboard with center holes drilled to accommodate sanding sticks of various diameters (Figure 16-43).

Like filing, the sanding action is up and down. Don't apply a lot of pressure against the sanding stick. Hold the work firmly enough so it won't be lifted by the upstroke (Figure 16-44). Keep turning the work so you will use all areas of the abrasive surface.

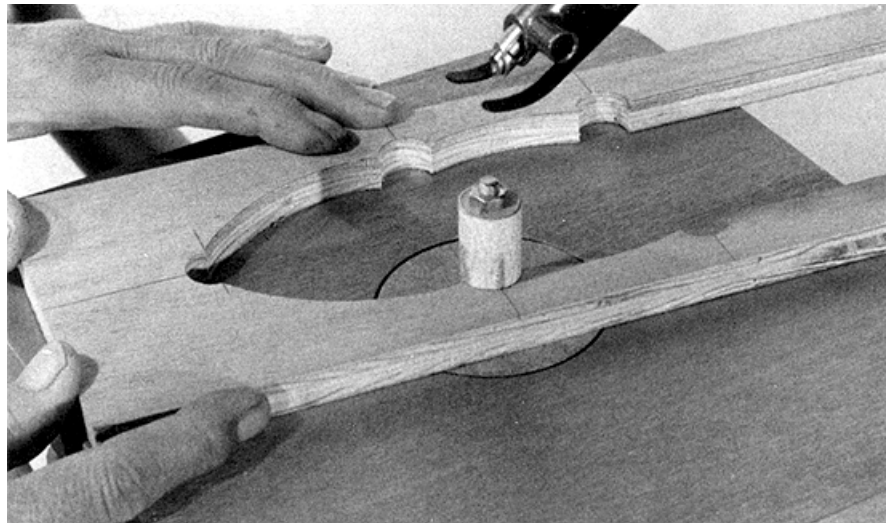


Figure 16-44. Keep turning the work so you will use all areas of the abrasive paper.