

# Resawing Wood

## Bandsaw Blade Selection: No Contest

As you saw through very thick stock, each saw tooth shaves out an enormous amount of waste. In order to maintain a reasonably productive feed rate, there has to be somewhere for that waste to be stashed out of the way until the teeth emerge from the cut. Otherwise the gullets between the teeth fill up and stall further advance until they've cleared the stock. Blades with about 3 teeth per inch (tpi) have large gullets which can accommodate as much waste as you'll generate by sawing through thick stock, and they'll handle anything less substantial with no trouble at all. You've made the best choice of all with our [Wood Slicer](#), whose thin-kerf, variable pitch 3-4 tpi design makes it the smoothest and quietest resaw blade on the market.

In principle, the wider the bandsaw blade, the higher its beam strength and the better it can maintain straightness. Wider, however, isn't necessarily better. Almost all US woodcutting bandsaw blades over 1/2" wide are .035" thick, thicker than the [Wood Slicer's](#) total kerf width. 3/4" blades are set far more coarsely as well, so the doubled load on your saw and their rough cuts make wider blades a distinct step backward.

## High Tension: No Worries

Tension may be the least important factor in successful resaw setup, but it's significant nonetheless. Adequate blade tension helps keep stock centered even if your control isn't flawless, and it reduces the bandsaw blade's tendency to flutter under thrust. It's easy to set a satisfactory amount of tension. Install the [Wood Slicer](#) on your saw, with lateral guides and thrust bearings opened up and backed off both above and below the table so they do not contact the blade.

Crank on some tension, and then give the blade a sharp sideways poke about halfway between the upper and lower wheels. The blade will deflect a short distance and then seem to hit a wall; if you push a lot harder it will bend farther, but there's a fairly distinct point where it quits deflecting easily. Add tension until this sideways movement is just 1/4" to 5/16" on saws with 6" depth of cut, or about 3/8" on saws with 12" depth. By the way, don't look at the saw's built-in tension gauge until you're finished; there's no need to confuse yourself with arbitrary numbers. After you've gotten the hang of tensioning by feel, check the gauge and use its reading as a setup guide.

Once the blade is tensioned and tracked properly, there's one last bit of tuning you can do that can make a real difference in performance. Before you bring the [lateral guides and thrust bearings](#) up close to the blade, close the wheel covers and turn the saw on. If vibration blurs the blade, try increasing or decreasing the tension very slightly until the blade runs smoothly in a straight, quiet line from wheel to wheel. Cuts will be smoother when you eliminate this source of fluttering in the kerf, and the saw will run quieter and more efficiently as well.

