

Question: How can you tell the difference between a human and a piece of wood? (Sounds like a child's joke, doesn't it...like there is a dumb little catch you didn't see coming....)

Answer? : **Ask the 10" Sawstop now installed at the Wood Hobby Shop at Camp Lejeune!**

Believe it or not, this inanimate object not only knows the difference, it instantly stops when it encounters flesh instead of the wood it anticipates sinking its teeth into! Amazingly enough, this system has been engineered with an electronic detection system that "knows" when a person contacts the spinning blade by means of an electrical signal induced onto the blade. Compared to wood, the human body has a high level of electrical conductivity. Upon contact with flesh, this high level of conductivity causes the signature electrical signal to drop. Another component monitors that signal for change. When a significant change occurs, the Sawstop braking system basically shoves a block of aluminum into the blade, destroying the teeth as it halts the spinning action. It also causes the saw to retract and the motor to cut off....all in about 1/200th of a second.

Jack Neuber, Manager of the Marine Corps Community Services' Wood Hobby Shop at Camp Lejeune was ecstatic when he found out that he was getting the Sawstop for the hobby shop here....he only wishes it had arrived a few years earlier. Like most lifelong woodworkers, Jack bears the scars of encounters with woodworking equipment. As he knows, not even experts safely trained in the use of dangerous equipment are immune from accidents. His most recent one, about 2 years ago, is still fresh in his mind. A collapsed piece of wood caused a kick back that twisted his torso-- pulling his hand (from a safe distance away) into the blade, splitting his forefinger from the tip all the way to the second knuckle, hitting his thumb tip in the process. While Jack admits that he is incredibly lucky to still have his finger, he shudders when he recounts the recovery—"It took 4 to 5 hours of surgery to attempt to rebuild the finger, caused 3 weeks loss of work, 6 weeks of an immobile hand as the finger was pinned, and 9 months of physical and occupational health therapy". He acknowledges that if his accident had been on this new saw, he would have had, at the most, a small cut that required only a band-aid.

This is not your basic equipment. Each time this saw is tripped, the blade and its carriage are destroyed and require replacement. Since its arrival at Lejeune, Jack has replaced the carriage four times. While these carriages are not cheap, the real story is that four people have been saved from the same sort of traumatic injury that Jack endured. Needless to say, in a few short months, this piece of equipment has more than paid for itself.

For more information about this amazing, award-winning piece of equipment, go to www.sawstop.com.

To find out more about the innovative equipment and programs at the Wood Hobby Shop at 1249 Birch Street Extension, call Jack Neuber at 451-5191.