

Choosing a saw

• Do all Saw Trax Panel Saws include a circular saw?

The Varsity, 1000, 2000, 3000, Sign Maker and Classic Series all include a circular saw. The Basic Series vertical panel saw does not include a circular saw but utilizes a Universal Saw Insert Plate for the end user to supply their own saw.

Saw Trax offers the Makita 5007F with our Classic, Varsity, 1000, and Sign Maker's Series saws. These model saws are appropriate for the general use industries, lower sheet counts, and smaller depth-of-cut requirements.

The Makita Hypoid 5477NB in our 2000 Series is used for higher sheet count industrial applications or harder materials, like plastic or thicker MDO/MDF.

The Milwaukee 10" 6470-21 in our 3000 Series is for deeper depth-of-cut, up to 2.5 inches, (for Domestic use); the Bosch GKS 65 is for International use (220 volt).

• Do I have to get the saw motor, or can I just get the dust-free cutters?

Saw Trax can put together a package that only includes our dust-free cutting heads for you, the OLFA[®] Pivoting Knife Insert and ACM Rolling Shear Insert. The Saw Motor or Floating Router Insert can be added to the system later should you need it.

• How many sizes of frames does Saw Trax make and when would you choose a compact vs. a full-size frame?

Saw Trax offers welded steel frames in 7 sizes, all with a powder coated finish.

Compact frames offer a 5' wide frame and vertical cut height of either 52" or 64". The compact frames are great for shops or home spaces that may not have the room for a full-size panel saw, or for those users who will be taking their panel saw out to job sites.

If your cutting needs require a lot of rip, or horizontal cuts, then a full-size frame will serve you better. The full-size models are available in cut heights of 52", 64", 76", 88" and 100" and feature a 10' wide frame.

• I have extremely limited space. Can I cut a full-size sheet on a compact frame?

Yes, a compact 52" frame will hold a full-size 4'x8' sheet or, in the case of our compact 64" frame, a 5'x8' sheet. Saw Trax offers Builder's Extensions in either 28" or 56" sizes if you find that you need extra temporary support on some end cuts or rip cuts. These extensions can be bolted on quickly for a job then removed when not needed to save floor space.

• How long does the machine take to set up?

Saw Trax provides many components that are factory attached on most models, like a Folding Stand, Transport Wheels, and optional Mid Fence, which means that you are nearly ready to go, as soon as, the machine arrives. You will be cutting in no time. For additional setup information, visit www.sawtrax.com > more info > videos.

• What materials can I cut with this machine?

There are many different materials people use, from OSB to plywood, from acrylic to PVC, from hardwood to solid surface, and more. If you will be using several different materials, you want a machine that is flexible for your needs. Saw Trax uses a quick release carriage (change in seconds!) that allows for different cutting head inserts to be used.

With the proper cutting head in your carriage, you can also cut any sign substrates you may need to. With the OLFA[®] Pivoting Knife Insert, you can cut soft, floppy materials like corrugated plastics, PVC, and foam board. The ACM Rolling Shear Insert will cut through 3 mil Aluminum Composite Material while leaving a safe non-sharp edge on it. Pair the ACM Rolling Shear Insert with our Floating Router Insert attachment to make folded boxes. The saw motor can be used to cut everything else including acrylics/plastics, wood, aluminum, whiteboard, and other rigid materials. While Saw Trax does not sell a router, they do recommend a Porter Cable 892.

Saw Features

• What is the Accu-Square System and how does it work?

The Accu-Square is our patented "set and forget" alignment system. Alignment of our machines is done in the factory so they are accurate out of the crate and will get you cut accuracy of 1/64".

The Accu-Square works something like a slide rule using the Vernier principle. There is a series of 9 holes centered on the guide tube support bracket spaced 5/32" apart and there is a series of 9 holes on the frame mounting plate spaced 4/32" apart (1/8"). When the guide tube bracket is mounted to the frame mounting plate, only one hole will line up in the front and back and the adjacent holes will show the hole getting smaller as you move away from the front and back holes that line up. Once aligned at the factory, a set screw is inserted into the holes that line up preventing the guide tube bracket from shifting in relationship to the frame.

• How often do I need to adjust or re-square your machine?

Because our patented Accu-Square System is factory-set, the frame should never need to be realigned. The system locks the guide tubes to the frame, and the material support wheels do not budge, so they will not go out of alignment. With both systems together, your panel saw frame will always be square!

• Are there any other squaring adjustments for the panel saw?

IMPORTANT: The alignment is done at the factory with a specially made 10-foot-long straight edge and should not be adjusted without first consulting a Saw Trax representative.

There are no other adjustments for the compact models, but the full-size models have a similar arrangement to the Accu-Square, only it is vertical and called the Accu-Fence System. The left roller fence is permanently fixed to the frame. The centers of both fences use square holes and carriage bolts are used to attach the fences to the frame mounting plate. The outside of the right roller fence has an adjustment up or down with the Accu-Fence using the same 1/32" increments of the Accu-Square.

• Can the top guide tube bracket be adjusted on the frame?

No, the top guide tube bracket is mounted to the frame using square holes in the guide tube bracket and the top frame mounting plate. When attached with carriage bolts in the retraction mechanism, no shifting can occur, making the bottom guide tube bracket the only adjustment for squaring.

• What are the benefits of the Sealed Roller Bearing System and how does it operate?

Saw Trax uses a Sealed Roller Bearing system (Patented Accu-Glide) rather than a plastic nylon U-bolt rollers system. This tracking system provides a smoother, more accurate tracking than the competitor roller system & has a longer life expectancy.

The Accu-Glide system uses a special bracket that mounts two sealed steel bearings to the corner of the carriage. A bottom bracket is used with a third bearing to "load" or put pressure on the guide tubes and previously installed bearings to ensure alignment. This arrangement is done on all four corners of the carriage. Obviously, this is a more expensive way of moving the carriage up and down the guide tubes, but it provides a smoother, more accurate and longer lasting method versus other panel saws that use a U-bolt and nylon washers.

• Why don't you use a cam type hub for the rollers like other panel saws?

Saw Trax wanted to create something easier for the user and took out many the variables in alignment of other machines. To do this, Saw Trax bolts our fences to our frame using CNC precision in the parts. Both fences bolt onto the bottom frame mounting plate that is welded to the frame. Because of this, Saw Trax can have wheels that use a center hub and rely on perfect alignment. This makes the machine much easier to use and maintain for the end user.

Cam type hubs in the rollers can be a nightmare to square. Few customers own a ten-foot straight edge that will allow them to align the cam type rollers. This method is used because the fence plate is welded to the frame and with the heating, cooling, and twisting that goes on with welding, they needed a way to initially ensure their rollers lined up.

• How easy is it to replace components?

Unfortunately, as hardy as panel saws can be, they are subject to damage in transit, or in the store, or in your shop (we have been told a number of times of rampaging forklifts killing saws....Yikes!).

At Saw Trax, we know "accidents happen". On our saws, two key components are bolted onto the frame rather than welded. These are the guide tubes and fences. Both can be changed out in minutes.

Saw Features (Continued)

- **What makes your Folding Stand different than the other stands in the Panel Saw industry?**

First and foremost, our Folding Stand is already attached when you get the machine (Optional on the Basic and Classic Series). It folds out like a ladder because it uses ladder hinges. It is cross braced for sturdiness and uses a bracket on the top of the leg to prevent the leg from going any further back should the hinge fail. It uses a total of 10 lock nuts. Other panel saw stands use angle iron U-bolted to the frame with no lock nuts and will need to be installed upon delivery.

- **Why does the weight of the panel saw not sit on the transport wheels all the time like other panel saws?**

Saw Trax panel saws do not have weight on the Transport Wheels when it rests on its stand. This is because we do not want the panel saw moving accidentally while in use. A panel saw can shift if someone feeds material too quickly from the side while rip cutting. You must stand our machine up vertically to get the weight on the wheels to move our machine.

- **Do all Saw Trax Panel Saws include a dust collection system?**

The Varsity, 1000, 2000, 3000, and Sign Maker Series all include a Dust Collection System. The Basic and Classic Series do not.

With the many different materials, such as cement board, and the chemicals in some substrates, air-borne particulates become an important concern. Saw Trax uses a dust containment brush surrounding the saw blade under the insert and a 2.5" hose attached to the dust bonnet, which can be attached to a standard shop vacuum for the extraction of the suspended particulates.

Other Saw Questions and Information

- **Is your panel saw equipment safe enough for novices in my shop to use?**

Yes! On all our cutting heads, the blades are protected by the insert, meaning you would have to reach through the material travel space to get to the blade. With the vertical format, the substrate will stand against the frame instead of needing you to balance the material as you would on a table saw with an exposed saw blade. This makes for a much safer environment where any person with some basic training can safely use our saws.

- **What are the benefits of using a vertical panel saw vs. a horizontal panel saw?**

A vertical panel saw, unlike a horizontal panel saw, allows for sheet materials, such as plywood or OSB, to be cut vertically, taking up much less floor space. On a table saw, or with a track circular saw, you need a lot more horizontal space to make similar cuts. The vertical panel saw saves on shop space. In the case of breaking down large sheets of plywood, a vertical panel saw can be placed near a wall. A horizontal panel saw really needs to be placed in the middle of a space. Consider breaking down a full sheet of plywood; given how plywood is fed through a table saw, you would need twice the length, at the least. Also, it is much easier for one person to load a vertical panel saw by themselves, than onto a horizontal panel saw. The final thing is safety. Vertical saws have the saw blade guarded behind the carriage making workplace injuries by the blade practically impossible. Horizontal saws may have a guard that pivots out of the way when cutting but still allow for a finger or hand to be cut by the saw blade.

- **Are there any limitations to using a vertical panel saw?**

Panel saws can only make straight continuous cuts in either the horizontal or vertical axis, no angle cuts. The thickness of the material to be cut is limited by the saw blade configuration and saw – typically a maximum of 1 ¾ inches. Panel saws can generate significant dust when cutting and should be connected to a dust collection system or vacuum when operating. Plastics may require a special blade and, depending upon the cutting work, additional ventilation. A table saw is a more appropriate tool for rip cutting 2" x 4" boards.

Purchasing and Shipping

- **Where can I purchase Saw Trax products?**

All products are sold through our distributor network. Call us at 770-974-0021 or see a list of distributors at www.sawtrax.com under the Distributor tab.

- **If I order a saw is assembly required?**

Saw Trax panel saws arrive 95% complete. All that is required are to add a few bolted-on items which are removed for ease of shipping. You can see an Assembly video at www.vimeo.com/416027902 or on our website www.sawtrax.com in the video section.

- **How are Saw Trax products shipped?**

Panel saws are shipped via LTL carrier. A lift gate is available by request. Smaller parts shipments are sent via UPS ground. Saw Trax can also ship by third party carrier if requested.

- **What do I do if my package is damaged in shipment?**

All Saw Trax Mfg., Inc machines are crated to prevent damage. However, we encourage all customers to fully inspect the machine before signing the release. We suggest that customers write, "SUBJECT TO INSPECTION" on the bill of lading. This statement protects both our company's and the customer's interests. If any visible damage to the machine has occurred, it must be fully documented on the bill of lading. Contact the shipper and Saw Trax Mfg., Inc immediately to report a damaged shipment. Saw Trax Mfg., Inc. reserves the right to refuse to claims against accepted machines.

Should you, as a distributor, be notified of a damaged shipment, have the customer contact Saw Trax Mfg., Inc immediately. We will determine the extent of the damage, and the next course of action. Fortunately, Saw Trax Mfg., Inc machines are component based, and many parts can be easily replaced.

Other Items

- **Are the cutting heads on the Coro Claws and Bidli Knife's replaceable?**

Yes, the heads are replaceable. More information can be found at www.sawtrax.com under the Coro Claw tab.