

Work holding during wood machining

For an extra hand at the saw/planer-thicknesser or bandsaw try using a featherboard. MAGSWITCH have a range of magnetically held featherboards, which are held down at a quarter turn on each magnet. Two magnet sizes are available, smaller (ref 8110004) requires 44 kg to move it while the larger (ref 8110005) requires 67 kg to move it. Once fixed onto a steel machining table - they do not move! Setting and resetting can be carried out in seconds. School technicians with class size runs of timber through a machine will benefit from this extra hand. I now find myself using them for machining short runs of timber.

On a circular saw, fix the featherboard just before the saw blade. If the machine fences are magnetic then the same system can be used to hold down timber by applying the magnets to the fence (check fence is not aluminium!).



Figure 1 - Magswitch Starter Kit.



Figure 2 - The Universal Featherboard.

Figure 1 shows a Magswitch work holding starter kit which uses a universal base and two magnets. Typical price for a starter kit as shown in Figure 1 is around £66.

An internet search for 'Magswitch' will reveal a number of UK based suppliers and will show a variety of hold down devices and variations specifically for individual machines. The Universal featherboard shown in Figure 2 is priced at around £42.

Welcome to BS 4163: 2014

BS 4163: 2007 has been revised and version 2014 has now taken its place. To give it its full title:

BS 4163: 2014 Health and Safety for Design and Technology in Educational and similar Establishments - Code of Practice.

Including a slightly different title, the whole document has been brought up to date, being published on 31st August 2014 and is now available in either hard copy or in pdf format.

This British Standard now includes sections on 3D printers, laser cutters and rapid prototyping.

Members' price	£30
Non-Members' price	£60
ISBN	978 0 580 80544 8
Website	http://shop.bsigroup.com/