

# Monaro Timber

# NEWS

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The monthly newsletter from  
Monaro Timber Pty Ltd

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## Basic machining

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Many of you would know we offer a fairly comprehensive wood machining and component manufacturing service. This month I thought it would be a good idea to go over some basics of machining timber. One thing about timber is that it can be quite unpredictable. All may be going well when suddenly it's not. For example, when ripping a piece of timber it may come out straight or it may spring badly. In general, clean, knot free straight grained boards are more likely to behave well when ripped and these are the ones to look for when this operation is to be done. However, the good boards can give you trouble and the ugly ones can be fine.

Another problem with cranky boards is the difficulty in getting a clean surface with no pick out. As the grain changes direction the cutters are either working with it or against. The best machinists on the best machines will have some trouble with wild boards. In order to get around these problems, we often finish our timber through the thicknessing sander. It takes a little longer but produces very clean and usable timber. An advantage of using wild and cranky boards is that you often find the most interesting and beautiful grain patterns.

Before machining your timber, take care in the handling. Don't drop on the ground, walk all over it or throw it in the back of the ute with the left over sand and gravel mix. For those of you laughing now, don't. We often get people who mistreat

their timber then wonder why their machine blades are blunt in no time. We are careful not to contaminate the boards with any extra dirt etc and keep a wire brush handy to clean up dirty timber. Sometimes docking the end off first is also a good idea. And watch out for the occasional staple. All this improves your finish and prolongs blade life.

Ever get stepping on the ends of your boards as you thickness them? This is called sniping and can be minimised by feeding the boards in right after one another. Also, spend some time to set up the feed rollers and pressure bars on your machine. This will reduce the problem. Did you know that rough sawn boards should be planed on a jointer before thicknessing? Many of you will know this but I know many don't. A jointer establishes a flat face and square edge and then you can thickness or rip on the saw. Thicknessing untrue boards produces inferior results and ripping them on the saw can be downright dangerous.

There is so much to know, even when doing basic operations on machines. These words were meant only to offer a few tips and give you something to think about. If you have any specific queries regarding the preparation of timber feel free to ask. Happy machining.

### Accounts.

We offer 30 day accounts to over two hundred businesses and institutions. It can be difficult sometimes keeping track of all the accounts and making sure they are paid on time. Lately, a

number of our debtors have taken liberties and strung out the accounts far beyond our terms. In response, we have closed a number of accounts. In short, we are not a bank and don't lend money. If you are having difficulties with your account **please** call us to discuss before we have to start chasing you. This will ensure a continued mutually beneficial relationship.

### New Stock.

We have taken delivery of quite a bit of new stock over the past month. Jarrah supplies are good in many sizes as are the Danta stocks. A fresh pack of 38mm Rock Maple arrived a week or so back and a new pack of 150 x 38 Brush Box. We have 150 x 25 Grey Iron Bark now and some great 38mm Blue Gum.

Looking at flooring? We have fresh stocks of Tas Oak in both standard and select, 13mm and 19mm. A better floor is hard to find and the prices are unbeatable. Starts at \$38.50 / m<sup>2</sup>. Also in Tas Oak we have some 250 x 38 if you want wide boards as well as a selection of narrower sizes.

Nearly forgot the Blackwood. New 200 x 25 turned up and other sizes are in good supply. Don't forget the 75 x 75. It's great for turning or table legs.

Well that about finishes it for another month. Here's hoping all your creations are future heirlooms.

Regards

*Shaun.*

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