

SECTION 4 BLADE HANDLING

This section covers coiling the blade, uncoiling the blade and inverting the blade.



WARNING! Always wear gloves and eye protection when handling bandsaw blades. Keep people away from work area when coiling or moving blades.

4.1 Coiling The Blade

See Figure 4-1. Raise the blade in front of you, with the teeth pointed upward. (About 1/3 to 1/4 of the blade should be between your hands.) Hold your hands about shoulder-width apart. Place your thumbs on the outside of the blade and your fingers on the inside of the blade. Squeeze the blade inward, making it oval-shaped.



FIG. 4-1

See Figure 4-2. Keeping your wrists locked in position, turn your forearms upward and inward. (The teeth will rotate inward and the bottom of the blade will rotate outward.)



FIG. 4-2

See Figure 4-3. Bring your hands together. The blade will form three loops. Snap the bottom loop upward and catch the three-loop coil in your hands.

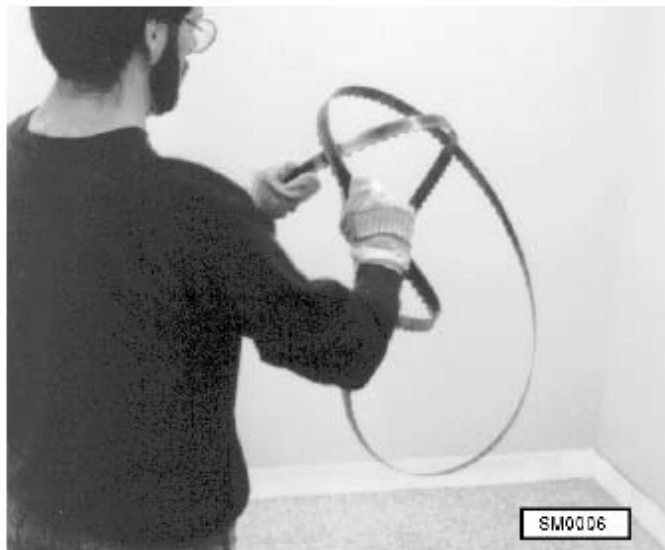


FIG. 4-3

4.2 Uncoiling The Blade

See Figure 4-4. Take the three-loop coil in your right hand. Place the band against your palm with the blade teeth pointing outward toward your fingers. Slide the top loop off and let drop.



FIG. 4-4

See Figure 4-5. The remaining two loops of the blade will form a cross. Hold this crossed section out in front of you with the blade teeth pointing toward you. If the right side is crossed OVER the left, hold the crossed section with your right hand. (If the left side of the blade is crossed OVER the right, hold the crossed section with your left hand.)



FIG. 4-5

See Figure 4-6. Keeping the blade in its crossed position, take hold of the side crossed UNDER with your other hand. Use your right (or left) hand to hold only the side crossed OVER. Place your thumbs on the top side of the blade. Put your fingers on the underneath side of the blade.



FIG. 4-6

See Figure 4-7. Hold the blade out and away from you. Slowly move your hands apart while rotating your forearms down and outward.



FIG. 4-7

4.3 Inverting The Blade

See Figure 4-8. Hold the blade in front of you. Let one side rest on the ground, teeth pointing toward you. Place your thumbs on the outside of the blade. Put your fingers on the inside of the blade.



FIG. 4-8

See Figure 4-9. Hold the blade with your hands a little farther than shoulder-width apart. Then bring your hands toward each other while rotating your thumbs downward. This causes the middle of the blade to curve downward.



FIG. 4-9

See Figure 4-10. Keeping your hands close together, rotate the curved section of the blade up and away from you. The blade will be in an oval shape, but twisted.

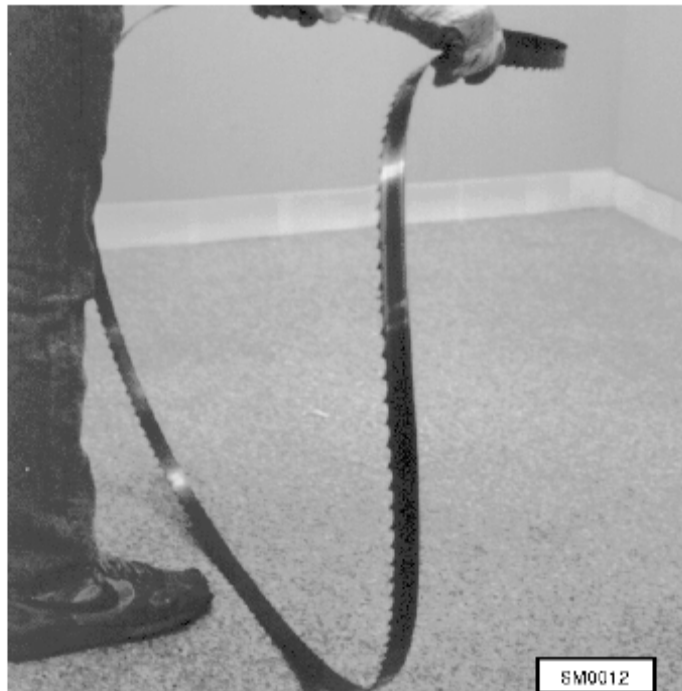


FIG. 4-10

See Figure 4-11. Slowly move your hands apart, allowing the blade to untwist.

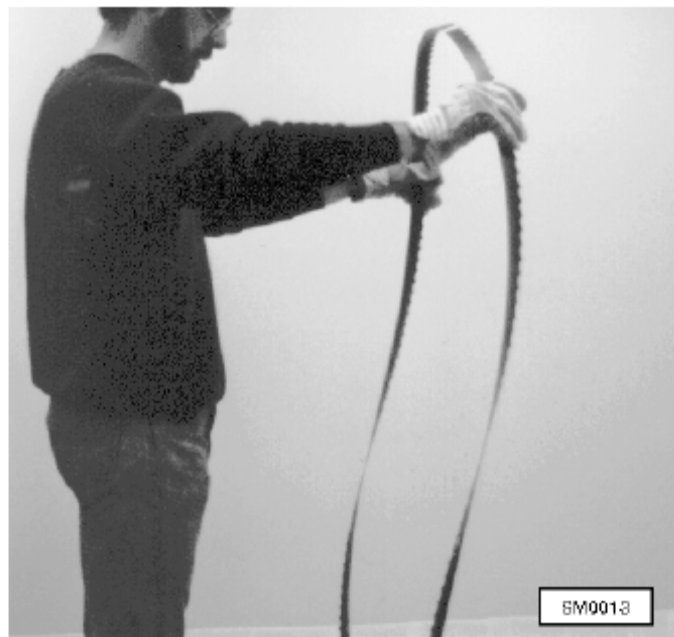


FIG. 4-11