

Timber Tech.

Hand, Back and Shaping Saws.

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Hand Tools

Hand Tool Card



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Contents:

Front Cover.....	1
Contents Page.....	2
Introduction.....	3
Activity Aim.....	4
Learning Objectives.....	4
Activity Overview.....	5
How this activity helps learning.....	6
Student Instructions.....	7
Lecturer Instructions.....	8
Scaffolding Options.....	9
Differentiation Strategies.....	10
Assessment Opportunities.....	11
Printables:	
Image Cards.....	12
Name Cards.....	16
Thank You.....	20

Introduction:

This activity pack supports learners in identifying, naming and understanding the purpose of common hand, back and shaping saws used in Carpentry & Joinery. Using a set of image cards and matching name/function cards, learners engage in a practical, gamified task that builds tool recognition, vocabulary, and confidence in selecting the correct saw for specific tasks. The activity is designed for Level 1–2 Construction learners and works well as a starter, plenary, revision task, or assessment checkpoint.

Aim:

To develop learners' ability to correctly identify a range of hand, back and shaping saws, understand their uses, and match each saw to its correct name and function.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the activity, learners will be able to:

- Identify common hand, back and shaping saws from images.
- Match saw names to their correct tool images.
- Describe the purpose and typical applications of each saw.
- Distinguish between saw types based on tooth pattern, rigidity, and intended use.
- Apply knowledge to select the correct saw for a given carpentry task.

Activity Overview:

Learners work individually or in teams to match three types of cards:

- **Image Cards** – clear photographs or illustrations of each saw.
- **Name Cards** – the correct tool names.

You can run the activity in multiple modes:

- **Basic Match:** Image → Name
- **Extended Match:** Image → Name → Function
- **Timed Challenge:** Fastest team to complete all matches wins
- **Application Challenge:** Match the saw to a scenario card (e.g., “Cutting curves”, “Fine joinery”, “Cutting across the grain”)

How this activity helps learning:

This activity supports learning by:

- Reinforces **tool recognition**, a core skill in Carpentry & Joinery.
- Builds **technical vocabulary** and confidence in using correct terminology.
- Supports **visual learning** through image-based identification.
- Encourages **collaboration**, discussion and peer teaching.
- Helps learners make **real-world connections** between tools and tasks.
- Provides a **low-stakes assessment** opportunity for tutors.

Student Instructions:

- Work in pairs or small groups.
- Spread out all the saw image cards on the table.
- Read through the name cards and function cards.
- Match each image to the correct name.
- Once complete, match each pair to the correct function card.
- Check your answers with another group before asking the lecturer.
- Extension: Complete the “Which saw would you choose?” scenario challenge.

Lecturer Instructions.

- Introduce the three categories of saws (hand, back, shaping).
- Demonstrate or show examples of tooth patterns and rigidity.
- Distribute the card sets evenly between groups.
- Circulate to prompt discussion and correct misconceptions.
- Use the scenario cards to stretch higher-level learners.
- Finish with a whole-class review using real tools if available.

Scaffolding Options:

- **Colour-coded backs** for each saw category (Hand / Back / Shaping).
- **Initial letter prompts** on name cards (e.g., “T _ _ _ _ Saw”).
- **Reduced card set** for SEND or lower-ability learners (e.g., 6 instead of 12).
- **Provide a reference sheet** showing all saws with names.
- **Matching lines worksheet** for learners who struggle with card-based tasks.

Differentiation Strategies.

Support:

- Provide fewer cards.
- Allow learners to use notes or posters.
- Pair with a confident peer.

Stretch & Challenge:

- Add scenario cards requiring justification.
- Ask learners to explain differences between similar saws (e.g., Tenon vs Dovetail).
- Introduce tooth count (TPI) and ask how it affects cut quality.
- Ask learners to sketch each saw from memory.

Assessment Opportunities

Formative:

- Observe matching accuracy.
- Ask learners to verbally justify their choices.
- Quick-fire questioning during the activity.

Summative:

- End-of-lesson quiz on saw identification.
- Written task: “Choose the correct saw for each scenario and explain why.”
- Practical assessment: learners select and use the correct saw for a given task.

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Panel Saw

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Rip Saw

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Crosscut Saw

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Tenon Saw

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Dovetail Saw

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Gents Saw

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Bead Saw

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Razor Saw

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Fret Saw

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Coping Saw

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Piercing Saw

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Compass Saw

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Padsaw

Thank You.

We would like to say thank you for using this learning material, we hope you found it useful.



If you have any questions regarding this or any other learning material produced by James, or have any suggestions about improvements or ideas please email James Rix at:

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