The Professionals' Edge™

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-Longer-

-Shorter-

Back Gauge Equivalent Readings

All three readings on each line are equivalent.

Band saw back gauges measure the chord height (distance from the center of an arc to a straight edge) over a set distance. Usually, this chord height is expressed in a fraction of an inch in 5 feet. The most frequently used "back" is 1/64" in 5 feet.

The following chart shows the reading various lengths of back gauges will give on the same saw. To use this chart:

- 1. Determine the decimal equivalent of the desired chord height (the decimal equivalent of 1/64" is .0155", 1/32" = .031", 3/64" = .047");
- 2. Read down the chart under the column for the known chord length (e.g.: 5 ft.) to find the known chord height (e.g.: .0155");
- 3. Read across the chart to find the equivalent reading on a gauge (or chord) of a different length gauge.

For example, to determine the readings on a saw with 1/64" back in 5 ft., read down the 5 ft. gauge column to the line with the decimal equivalent of 1/64" (.0155"). A 4 ft. gauge will read .010" and a 3 ft. gauge will read .0055" on this saw.

3 Ft. Gauges	4 Ft. Gauges	5 Ft. Gauges
.004	.007	.011
.005	.009	.014
.0055	.010	.0155 (1/64" in 5 ft.)
.006	.011	.017
.007	.012	.019
.008	.014	.022
.009	.016	.025
.010	.018	.028
.011	.020	.031 (1/32" in 5 ft.)
.012	.021	.033
.013	.023	.036
.014	.025	.039
.015	.027	.042
.016	.028	.044
.017	.030	.047 (3/64" in 5 ft.)
.018	.032	.050

Note: Armstrong's standard "top-of-saw" No. 76 back gauge reads in reverse (e.g.: a 1/64 back in 5 ft. reads - .010" on a 4 ft. gauge)