

TECH TIPS

BANDSAW GUIDE KITS OVERVIEW

The bandsaw remains one of the most versatile tools in the workshop. But with more woodworkers using expensive bimetal and carbide blades, one overlooked area can make or break the cut—your guides.

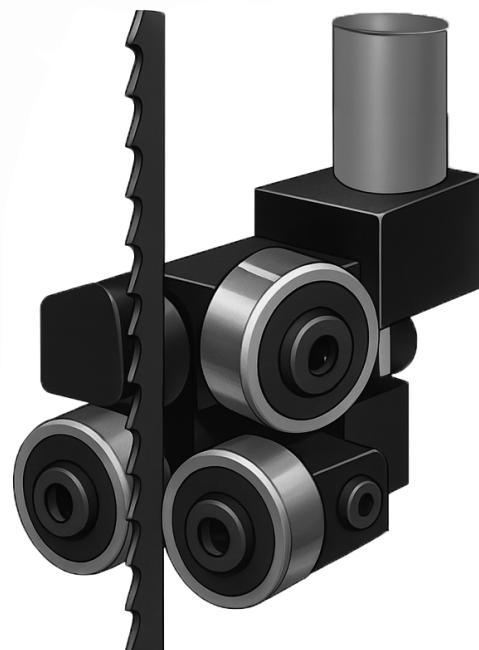
Whether you're resawing hardwood slabs, cutting fine curves for luthiery, or tackling both ends of the spectrum, having the right guides improves cut quality, blade life, and saw control. That's where Black Iron Parts, distributed by Sawblade.com, steps in with modern, precision-made upgrades.

THE ANATOMY OF GUIDES

Every bandsaw guide system—both above and below the table—has three main elements:

- › Two lateral supports (blocks or bearings)
- › One thrust bearing to control blade movement

Guides either use contact blocks or rolling bearings. Bearings come in two types: American-style, with curved outer races that roll against the blade sides, and European-style, which press the blade between flat-faced discs. Black Iron Parts offers modern versions of both styles—designed to reduce friction, enhance blade tracking, and simplify maintenance.



GUIDE BLOCK REPLACEMENTS: AFFORDABLE UPGRADES

Most factory 10" to 14" saws come with square steel blocks. They're inexpensive and reliable, but they wear quickly and—if misaligned—can damage blades. Black Iron offers upgraded solid steel aluminum designed to reduce wear and heat buildup.

The Black Iron Roller Block System combines the precision of bearing guides with the simplicity of blocks. Small sealed bearings are embedded into standard block mounts, supporting the blade laterally with less friction.

- › Easy to install (less than 2 minutes)
- › Offers blade clearance of 0.003" or light contact
- › Ideal for straight cuts and resawing

Black Iron guide blocks offers flexibility for users who want both performance and convenience.

FULL GUIDE ASSEMBLIES

If you have an older saw or you're ready to upgrade beyond block swaps, a full guide assembly replacement can dramatically enhance cutting precision.

BLACK IRON 2300 SERIES

Built for saws 14" to 20", the 2300 Series uses hardened-steel lateral blocks and a precision ground thrust bearing. The assembly is compact, durable, and designed to bolt onto most existing guide posts. Great for general-purpose wood-working, including veneers, cabinetry, and furniture components.



BLACK IRON 2400 SERIES

These guides feature rotatable, rabbeted blocks with four edges per block. You can switch between 1/8", 3/16", 1/4", and 1/2" blade widths by simply turning the blocks. Ideal for schools, shops, or users who frequently switch between detail work and ripping. The tall block height (1") provides unmatched blade stability in every mode.

Both assemblies use upgraded thrust bearings rated for continuous duty and impact resistance—outlasting stock options by years.



BLACK IRON PINPOINT ADJUST GUIDES

These guides feature precision-machined side blocks mounted on sliding dovetail adjusters, allowing tool-free pinpoint adjust control for lateral blade positioning. Fine-tuning the support takes only seconds, making them ideal for woodworkers who need consistent, repeatable accuracy—whether switching blades, resawing, or making tight-radius cuts.

Each Black Iron Parts Pinpoint Adjust Guide Kit includes a hardened-steel thrust bearing and a rigid support arm, offering exceptional blade stability and reduced vibration. Designed for demanding applications, this system simplifies setup while maximizing guide life and cutting precision.



BEARING GUIDE ASSEMBLIES

For woodworkers who prioritize smooth tracking and reduced friction—especially during long resawing operations—Black Iron Parts offers premium bearing-style guide assemblies.

BLACK IRON 500 SERIES

Designed for 16"–24" saws, the Black Iron 500 Series supports the blade with the curved edge of sealed bearings. They:

- › Run cooler than blocks
- › Minimize friction
- › Hold the blade tight during resawing

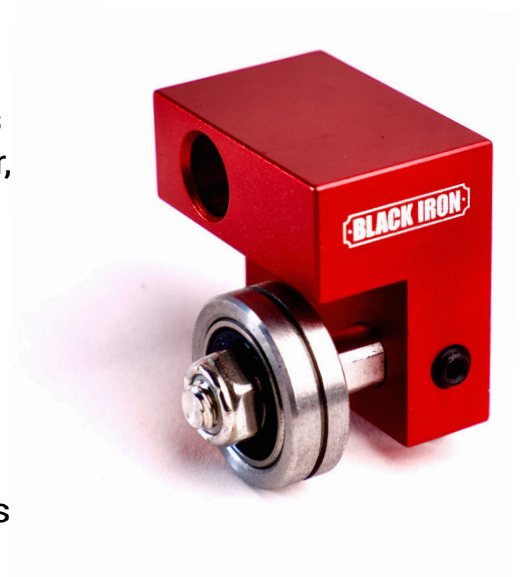
The sharp-edged outer races also help resist narrow blade deflection. A hooded bearing cover sheds sawdust, reducing pitch buildup.



CURVEMASTER™ GUIDES

When it comes to ultra-tight curves and intricate scrolling work, traditional guides fall short. That's why Black Iron Parts engineered the CurveMaster, a specialized upper guide designed for precision, finesse, and blade stability.

Unlike conventional guides with side bearings or blocks, the CurveMaster uses a single precision machined bearing with a custom groove that cradles the blade edge. This allows the blade to pivot and flex naturally through complex contours without twisting or walking.



WHAT ABOUT HEAT AND FRICTION?

Don't blame your guides when blades heat up. In testing, steel blocks and phenolic blocks only showed an 18°F temperature difference during identical cuts. What made the bigger difference? Feed rate and guide setup.

- › Always tension blades properly
- › Set thrust bearings just behind the blade (not pressing)
- › Adjust lateral blocks close—but never touching—the teeth
- › Lower the guide assembly close to the workpiece

Do this, and your Black Iron guide blocks will perform with minimal heat or wear.

SHOULD YOU REPLACE THE WHOLE GUIDE OR JUST THE BLOCKS?

Here's a simple breakdown:

IF YOU...	USE THIS BLACK IRON SOLUTION
Have a 10"–14" saw with stock guides	Upgrade to 2300 Series
Have a 16"–24" saw with stock guides	Upgrade to 2400 Series
Cut tight curves with 1/8" blades	Install the CurveMaster guide
Need to retrofit an old bandsaw	Install the 2300 Series full guide kit
Do a lot of resawing or wide cuts	Use the 500 Series bearing guide assembly
Need precise lateral adjustments	Install a Pinpoint Adjust Guide Kit

Black Iron Parts, offered exclusively through Sawblade.com, brings professional-grade performance to any shop. Whether you're replacing worn steel blocks or overhauling a 20" saw, Black Iron's American-made guides deliver reliability, durability, and cutting precision at every level.