

MISSION HILL FABRICATION STUDIO
160 ST ALPHONSUS ST
BOSTON, MA 02120

SCHOOL OF THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS AT
TUFTS
GRADUATE PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION TO MHFS (Mission Hill Fabrication Studio)

The Mission Hill Fabrication Studio is a multi-material studio. Anything that does not create sparks or require water may generally be done in this shop. Users who wish to work with material other than wood should reach out to the Studio Manager via email to verify if that material may be used in the shop and to verify correct blade installation and tool speed setting or to set up a consultation time to address the specific issue.

ACCESS AND HOURS

MHFS is a high hazard studio. It is only open when a Safety Monitor or the Studio Manager is present. The studio is closed to general use during times that classes are in session. A class schedule is posted on the door of the studio. The schedule for current hours that the studio will be available for general use will be posted outside the studio.

When you arrive at the studio, the Safety Monitor on duty will greet you. Be sure to check in with them when you start working, especially if it's your first time using the studio.

Anyone wishing to use this studio must go through a two-part safety certification process or have taken a class which meets that requirement. Safety certifications are offered at the beginning of each semester and are signed up for in a box folder (link will be inserted here when it is available and online).

Once the safety certification has been achieved, users may request a "refresher" session about specific tools and processes from the manager.

Students that are certified in the Fenway Woodshop may use the stationary equipment (table, band, and miter saws) and drills and drivers.

STUDIO MANAGER

April Franklin

April.Franklin@Tufts.edu

Office Hours: Mon – Fri, 9AM – 4PM

EQUIPMENT

Overview of tools at MHFS:

- 2 miter saws: a Hitachi that is currently set at 90 deg and a Dewalt that is set at 45 deg
- 2 Saw stop table saws: one is a designated dado
- 2 band saws: a Delta 28-276 and a Laguna 14-12
- Router table fitted with a 1 1/4 horse router
- Non plunge 1 1/4 horse Dewalt router
- Makita trim router with various bases
- Festool T75 track saw and rails that can be combined to cut down full sheet
- Festool carvex jig saw
- Bosch and Dewalt jig saws
- Rockwell oscillating tool
- Dewalt portable bandsaw
- Rigid framing nailer
- Porter cable trim nailer
- Makita air compressor
- Centroform Vacuum former
- Bernina, Singer, and Brother sewing machines
- Finger Brake

MHFS also has various pull saws and other hand tools, a drill press and a 13" Dewalt planer in addition to our Makita drills and drivers. There is a set of folding saw horses, and the two big layout tables can be rolled apart.

MATERIALS

What materials can be purchased in this studio?

- Stretcher bars
- Risers
- Vacuum formable plastics

What materials are available for free?

- Wood scraps

- Wood glue
- Various general purpose fasteners

CLOTHING AND SAFETY GEAR

Proper shop attire must be worn to use this shop:

- Loose clothes that may become entangled in tools or tool blades are not acceptable.
- Safety glasses with side shields **must** be worn everywhere inside the studio. For users with prescription glasses, safety glasses must cover the entire frame of the prescription glass and still have side shields. Acceptable safety glasses for loan are located at the entrance of the shop.
- Hearing protection is recommended. There are protective earmuffs and ear plugs available at the front of the shop.

Body Protection

- Long pants are required for anyone who wishes to use tools or machinery within the Mission Hill Fabrication Studio.
- Hair that is longer than shoulder length must be tied back.
- Long-sleeved shirts must be rolled up past the elbow while operating equipment.
- Ties, rings, watches, bracelets, dresses, or other loose clothing/jewelry cannot be worn while operating machinery.

Foot Protection

- Closed toed non-slip shoes (socks with sandals do not count).
- Shoes providing full coverage must be worn at all times while working in MHFS (No sandals, high heels, slippers, crocs, etc.)

Use of Gloves

- Gloves **cannot** be worn in the studio when using tools. Gloves are only used when handling materials.

STUDIO SAFETY

1. ALWAYS BE ALERT!

- Please do not come into the shop when you are ill, exhausted, on medication, or under the influence of any mind-altering substances.
- Do not rush your work or work under duress, accidents are more likely to happen.
- Beware of repetitious work. If your mind starts to wander, take a break.

2. BE AWARE OF YOUR ENVIRONMENT

- Always visually inspect the tool and the area around it that you will be using. The tool and surrounding area should be free from debris and clutter.
- Check for clearance of your material in relation to other people and projects in the work area. You should not be distracted while making a cut or be able to bump into someone else who is working.
- Be aware of who is working around you and what tools they are using. Never stand behind the table saw when someone is cutting. Give your fellow students room to work and don't distract someone using tools.
- No headphones in the shop!

3. MACHINE SET UP

- Make sure the machine is setup properly before working. Check the following:
 - That blades and guards have been adjusted to the proper height. The minimum amount of blade necessary should be exposed.
 - Safety guards are in place.
 - Guides and fences are tight.
 - There is nothing in the blade and the blade is sharp.
 - Planers, joiners and routers are set to make light cuts.
- Only use tools and adjust tools that you have been cleared to work with.
- Do a dry run with the tool not running to make sure you have everything you need, i.e. assistance with large pieces, clearance around the tool, auxiliary roller stands.
- Make sure to turn on the dust collection system before operating the tool.
- If you have questions, please ask the Studio Manager or monitor on duty.

4. WOOD

- Wood in this shop must be clean and dry, no plaster, glue, paint, dirt, NAILS, STAPLES.
- Particle and plywood cannot be used in the planer.
- Do not use power tools for small work (16" or smaller). Use hand tools and a good clamping system.
- Metals, plastics, and other non-wood materials are not to be cut in this shop without approval from the Studio Manager.

5. PORTABLE POWER AND HAND TOOLS

- NEVER PUSH A CUTTER TOWARD YOUR FLESH!
- Always avoid holding a piece of material in your hand when cutting or drilling. Secure work to a suitable work surface with at least 2 clamps.
- Use both hands to operate tools. This keeps your hands away from the blades and gives you better control of the tool.

6. THERE IS NO PAINTING/STAINING OR OTHER SORT OF "FINISHING" IN THE SHOPS

- This means no spray paints, no brush on paints, no rub on oils, no lacquers

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, ASK! The monitors and Studio Manager are here to help you, make sure you are safe, and to impart their knowledge to you. Please take advantage of that.

CLEANLINESS

MHFS is a shared studio space used by the SMFA community. Please show respect to the studio staff and your fellow users by leaving the studio as clean or cleaner than you found it.

There is no storage of artwork or personal items allowed at MHFS. Any items left behind by the user may be subject to disposal.

When planning your time in the studio, allot 30 minutes at the end of your session for clean-up. To ensure that this is followed by everyone, no new work can be started 30 minutes prior to closing.