Stanley FME301

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Stanley FATMAX Circular Saw FME301 Instruction Manual

Model: FME301

1. Introduction

This instruction manual provides essential information for the safe and effective operation, maintenance, and troubleshooting of your Stanley FATMAX Circular Saw FME301. Please read this manual thoroughly before using the tool to ensure your safety and to achieve optimal performance. Keep this manual for future reference.
The Stanley FATMAX Circular Saw FME301 is designed for cutting wood and wood-based materials. It is intended for professional and DIY use, offering robust performance and ergonomic design for intensive applications.

2. General Safety Instructions

WARNING: Read all safety warnings, instructions, illustrations, and specifications provided with this power tool. Failure to follow all instructions listed below may result in electric shock, fire, and/or serious injury.

2.1 Work Area Safety

- Keep the work area clean and well-lit. Cluttered or dark areas invite accidents.
- Do not operate power tools in explosive atmospheres, such as in the presence of flammable liquids, gases, or dust. Power tools create sparks which may ignite the dust or fumes.
- Keep children and bystanders away while operating a power tool. Distractions can cause you to lose control.

2.2 Electrical Safety

- Power tool plugs must match the outlet. Never modify the plug in any way. Do not use any adapter plugs with earthed (grounded) power tools. Unmodified plugs and matching outlets will reduce risk of electric shock.
- Avoid body contact with earthed or grounded surfaces, such as pipes, radiators, ranges, and refrigerators. There is an increased risk of electric shock if your body is earthed or grounded.

- Do not expose power tools to rain or wet conditions. Water entering a power tool will increase the risk of electric shock.
- Do not abuse the cord. Never use the cord for carrying, pulling, or unplugging the power tool. Keep cord away from heat, oil, sharp edges, or moving parts. Damaged or entangled cords increase the risk of electric shock.

2.3 Personal Safety

- Always wear eye protection. Use safety glasses, goggles, or a face shield.
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) such as dust masks, non-skid safety shoes, hard hats, or hearing protection for relevant conditions.
- Stay alert, watch what you are doing, and use common sense when operating a power tool. Do not use a power tool while you are tired or under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or medication.
- Dress properly. Do not wear loose clothing or jewelry. Keep your hair and clothing away from moving parts.

3. Specific Circular Saw Safety Warnings

- **DANGER:** Keep hands away from cutting area and the blade. Keep your second hand on the auxiliary handle, or motor housing. If both hands are holding the saw, they cannot be cut by the blade.
- Do not reach underneath the workpiece. The guard cannot protect you from the blade below the workpiece.
- Adjust the cutting depth to the thickness of the workpiece. Less than a full tooth of the blade should be visible below the workpiece.
- Never hold the workpiece in your hands or across your leg while cutting. Secure the workpiece to a stable platform. It is important to support the workpiece properly to minimize body exposure, blade binding, or loss of control.
- Hold the power tool by insulated gripping surfaces when performing an operation where the cutting accessory may contact hidden wiring or its own cord. Contact with a “live” wire will also make exposed metal parts of the power tool “live” and could give the operator an electric shock.
- When ripping, always use a rip fence or straight edge guide. This improves the accuracy of cut and reduces the chance of blade binding.
- Always use blades with correct size and shape (diamond versus round) of arbor holes. Blades that do not match the mounting hardware of the saw will run eccentrically, causing loss of control.
- Never use damaged or incorrect blade washers or bolt. The blade washers and bolt were specially designed for your saw, for optimum performance and safety of operation.

3.1 Kickback Prevention

Kickback is a sudden reaction to a pinched, bound, or misaligned saw blade, causing an uncontrolled saw to lift up and out of the workpiece toward the operator. Kickback can lead to serious personal injury. To avoid kickback:

- Maintain a firm grip with both hands on the saw and position your body and arm to resist kickback forces.
- Do not overreach and do not cut above shoulder height.
- Never cut with the saw held upside down in a vise.
- Ensure the blade is sharp and clean.

4. Product Overview

The Stanley FATMAX Circular Saw FME301 is a powerful tool designed for efficient and precise cutting. Familiarize yourself with its components before operation.



Image 1: Stanley FATMAX Circular Saw FME301. This image displays the circular saw from an angled perspective, highlighting its yellow and black housing, the blade guard, the main handle, and the auxiliary handle. The Stanley FATMAX branding is visible on the tool.

Key Components:

1. **Main Handle:** Ergonomically designed for comfortable grip and control.
2. **Auxiliary Handle:** Provides additional stability and control during operation.
3. **Trigger Switch:** Activates the motor.
4. **Lock-off Button:** Prevents accidental starting.
5. **Blade Guard (Upper & Lower):** Protects the user from the rotating blade. The lower guard retracts during cutting.
6. **Blade:** 190mm diameter, 18-tooth tungsten carbide blade for efficient cutting.
7. **Depth Adjustment Lever:** Allows quick adjustment of cutting depth.

8. **Bevel Adjustment Lever:** Enables adjustment of the cutting angle for bevel cuts up to 45 degrees.
9. **Magnesium Sole Plate:** Provides a stable and durable base for cutting.
10. **Dust Extraction Port:** Connects to a vacuum cleaner for dust management.

5. Setup

5.1 Unpacking and Inspection

Carefully remove the saw from its packaging. Inspect the tool for any damage that may have occurred during shipping. Do not operate the tool if any damage is observed. Ensure all components listed in the Product Overview are present.

5.2 Blade Installation and Removal

WARNING: Always disconnect the saw from the power supply before installing or removing the blade.

1. Press the spindle lock button to prevent the blade from rotating.
2. Using the provided wrench, loosen the arbor bolt by turning it counter-clockwise.
3. Remove the arbor bolt and the outer blade washer.
4. Retract the lower blade guard and carefully remove the old blade.
5. To install a new blade, ensure the teeth are pointing in the direction of rotation indicated by the arrow on the saw and the blade itself.
6. Place the new blade onto the arbor, ensuring it sits flush against the inner washer.
7. Replace the outer blade washer and arbor bolt.
8. Press the spindle lock button and tighten the arbor bolt securely by turning it clockwise. Do not overtighten.
9. Release the spindle lock and check that the blade rotates freely.

5.3 Depth Adjustment

The cutting depth can be quickly adjusted to match the thickness of your workpiece.

1. Loosen the depth adjustment lever.
2. Raise or lower the saw base to achieve the desired cutting depth. Ensure that only a small portion of the blade teeth extends below the workpiece.
3. Securely tighten the depth adjustment lever.

5.4 Bevel Angle Adjustment

The saw can make bevel cuts up to 45 degrees.

1. Loosen the bevel adjustment lever.
2. Tilt the saw base to the desired angle, aligning the indicator with the angle scale.
3. Securely tighten the bevel adjustment lever.

5.5 Dust Extraction Connection

For a cleaner work environment, connect a suitable dust extraction system to the dust port on the saw.

1. Attach the hose of your dust extractor or vacuum cleaner to the dust extraction port.
2. Ensure the connection is secure to prevent dust leakage.

6. Operating Instructions

6.1 Powering On/Off

1. To turn on the saw, press the lock-off button and then squeeze the trigger switch.
2. To turn off the saw, release the trigger switch. The blade will stop rotating.

6.2 Making a Cut

WARNING: Always ensure the workpiece is securely clamped before cutting.

1. Mark your cutting line clearly on the workpiece.
2. Set the desired cutting depth and bevel angle (if applicable).
3. Place the front edge of the saw's sole plate flat on the workpiece, ensuring the blade is clear of the material.
4. Start the saw and allow the blade to reach full speed before beginning the cut.
5. Slowly push the saw forward along the cutting line, maintaining a steady, even pressure. Do not force the saw.
6. As the saw enters the material, the lower blade guard will automatically retract.
7. Once the cut is complete, release the trigger switch and allow the blade to stop completely before lifting the saw from the workpiece. The lower guard will automatically return to its closed position.

6.3 Cutting Techniques

- **Straight Cuts:** Use a straight edge guide or rip fence for accurate straight cuts.
- **Bevel Cuts:** Ensure the saw is stable and the workpiece is well-supported, especially when making angled cuts.
- **Plunge Cuts:** Not recommended for this type of circular saw. Always start cuts from the edge of the material.



Image 2: A person operating the Stanley FATMAX Circular Saw to cut a wooden board. The image demonstrates proper handling and the saw's application in a workshop setting.

7. Maintenance

Regular maintenance ensures the longevity and safe operation of your circular saw.

7.1 Cleaning

WARNING: Disconnect the tool from the power supply before performing any cleaning or maintenance.

- Keep the ventilation slots clean to prevent motor overheating.
- Regularly clean the saw dust and debris from the blade guard, sole plate, and motor housing using a soft brush or compressed air.
- Do not use harsh chemicals or abrasive cleaners.

7.2 Blade Care

- Inspect the blade regularly for sharpness, cracks, or missing teeth. A dull or damaged blade can cause kickback and poor cut quality.
- Replace worn or damaged blades immediately with new, appropriate blades.
- Clean resin and pitch buildup from the blade using a suitable blade cleaner.

7.3 Cord Inspection

Periodically inspect the power cord for any signs of damage, cuts, or fraying. If the cord is damaged, have it replaced by a qualified service technician to avoid electrical hazards.

7.4 Storage

When not in use, store the saw in a dry, secure location out of reach of children. Ensure the blade guard is fully closed.

8. Troubleshooting

This section addresses common issues you might encounter with your circular saw.

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Saw does not start	No power supply Faulty power cord/plug Lock-off button not pressed Motor fault	Check power outlet and connections Inspect cord for damage; replace if necessary Ensure lock-off button is pressed before trigger Contact authorized service center
Poor cut quality / Blade binding	Dull or damaged blade Incorrect blade for material Improper cutting depth Forcing the saw Workpiece not secured	Replace blade Use appropriate blade for material Adjust cutting depth correctly Apply steady, even pressure Secure workpiece firmly
Excessive vibration	Loose blade Damaged blade Bent arbor Internal component issue	Ensure blade is securely tightened Replace blade Contact authorized service center Contact authorized service center
Dust extraction ineffective	Dust port clogged Hose not properly connected Dust extractor filter full	Clear dust port Ensure secure hose connection Empty/clean dust extractor filter

9. Specifications

Technical data for the Stanley FATMAX Circular Saw FME301:

Feature	Specification
Model Number	FME301
Power Input	1650 W
No-Load Speed	5500 rpm
Blade Diameter	190 mm
Blade Bore	16 mm
Max. Cutting Depth (90°)	66 mm

Feature	Specification
Max. Cutting Depth (45°)	50 mm
Bevel Capacity	0-45°
Weight	5 kg
Cable Length	4 m
Voltage	Standard mains voltage (e.g., 230V for EU, 120V for US)
Blade Type	18-tooth Tungsten Carbide Tipped (TCT)

10. Warranty and Support

Stanley products are manufactured to high-quality standards and are guaranteed against manufacturing defects. For specific warranty terms and conditions, please refer to the warranty card included with your product or visit the official Stanley website for your region.

For technical assistance, spare parts, or service, please contact your local Stanley authorized service center or customer support. Always provide the model number (FME301) and serial number (if applicable) when seeking support.

You can find more information and contact details on the official Stanley website: www.stanleytools.com

Ask a question about this manual

Ask about setup, troubleshooting, compatibility, parts, safety, or missing instructions. Manuals+ will review the question and use this page's manual context to help answer it.

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Question

Example: How do I reset this device or fix this error?

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