When A Bandsaw Blade Guard Is Jammed Or Stiff To Adjust: It Will Need to Be Removed And Cleaned

It is fairly common that the upper blade guard rise & fall mechanism of your bandsaw can become stiff to adjust or even completely jammed. This is caused by sawdust building up and being trapped between the rack and pinion wheel. The likelihood of this happening depends upon how often the saw is cleaned, the efficiency of the dust extraction used and the type/moisture content of the timber being cut. Fortunately, it is a relatively easy problem to rectify.

The following guide uses the Charnwood W730, but the process is virtually the same on all models:

Disconnect the machine from the power supply. Remove the blade from the saw. If possible, lower the blade guard fully or as far as it will go.	
Using circlip pliers, remove the retaining circlip from the upper band wheel axle. Remove the wheel from the axle. If the wheel does not come off easily, use a small three-leg puller.	

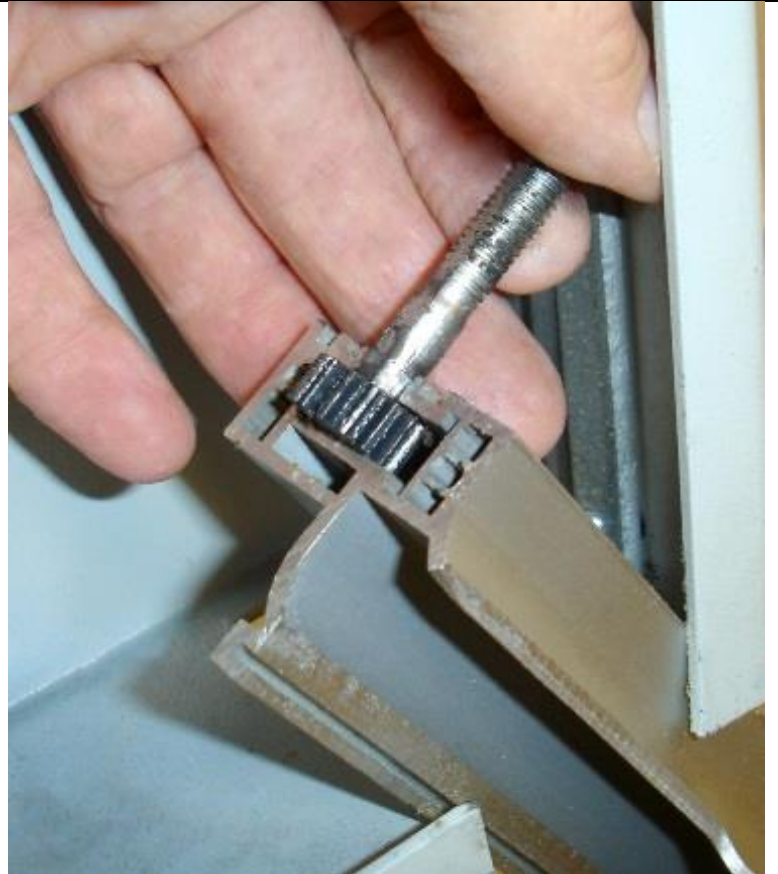|		
Fully remove the vertical locking and adjusting knobs taking care to retain any springs/washers fitted to the shaft.		
Tilting the guard, remove the two screws and blanking plate from the top of the guard extrusion.		

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If possible, wind the shaft and pinion gear out of the top of the extrusion. Tilt the saw table to allow the guard to be removed downwards through the bottom of the upper enclosure. If the pinion gear is really stuck, this step can be a bit tricky. It is just a case of working the pinion gear until it becomes free.	
Thoroughly clean the rack, guard and pinion gear of any compacted sawdust or resin. The toothed rack is inside the guard, made of nylon, and should be cleaned using a wire brush or a pick to remove all compacted dust. A suitable solvent may be used, but ensure that all items are dry before re-assembly. **IMPORTANT – do not apply any lubricant to the rack or pinion gear as this would encourage sawdust to accumulate.**	
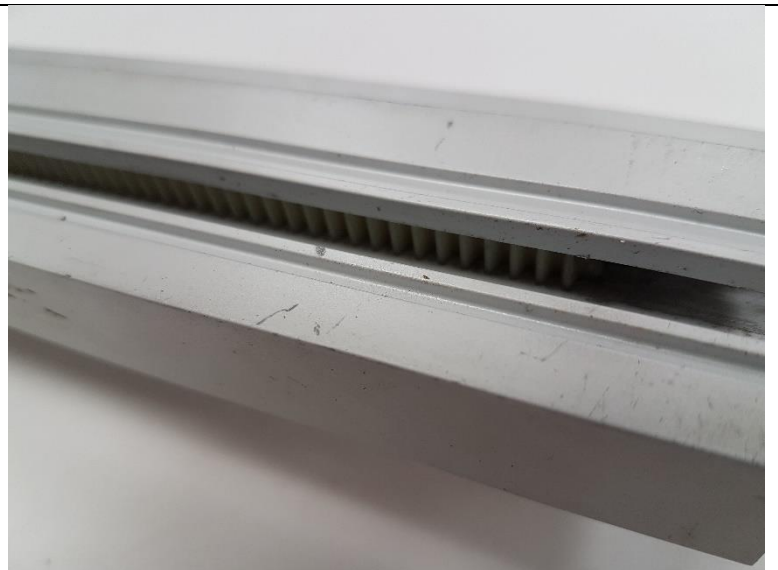
Reassemble the bandsaw by following the instructions in reverse.