

Cluster #2 – Scroll Saw

Primary Use

The primary use for the scroll saw is to cut curves or irregular shapes. Its main advantage over the band saw is that it can be used to make inside cuts (interior openings). It is also very useful for cutting small radius curves or intricate shapes.

Important Parts

The most important parts of the scroll saw are the:

Upper & Lower Chuck

Secures and holds the blade in the machine.

Hold-Down & Guard combination

Holds the wood as the blade comes up and should be in contact with the wood.

Blade Tension Adjustment

Keeps the blade at the correct tension, about 1/16" of play.

Blower Tube

The blower tube is positioned to blow away the sawdust and keep the cut line clear.

Speed Control

Set the speed for the type of wood being cut & skill level.

Adjustment of the tool

All of the above parts should be set correctly for successful cutting.
Be sure the teeth of the blade are pointed down, for normal cutting.

Demonstrate the basic operation

Trace or glue a pattern onto a piece of wood.
Have a plan as to how you will take all of your cuts.
Break complicated cuts up into simpler curves.
Only the front of the blade cuts. Be sure to feed the work correctly.
Never apply side pressure against the blade.
To make an internal cut, drill one or more holes large enough to feed the blade through the waste stock.

Safety

- **Always wear eye protection.**
- Never have your hands so close to the blade that you do not have enough reaction time to pull away.
- Do not force the wood into the blade; feed only as fast as the saw will cut.
- Use the correct blade for the job,
- A wider blade makes a straighter cut. A narrow blade is better for making curves.
- The blade selected should have at least 3 teeth in contact with the wood at all times.
- Roll sleeves above the elbow, secure long hair, don't wear loose clothing or loose jewelry.
- Make sure the work area is clean.