

## Scroll Saw Operation

A scroll saw is a small machine with a fine blade well suited for working with thin wood. Blade choice depends on your project. The thinner the blade, the easier it will be to make tighter and quicker turns, which are good if you need to cut out small things. Thicker blades are the opposite. They make it difficult to make quick and tight turns, but they are good for cutting out thicker pieces of wood. If the blades are breaking quickly, you're probably pushing the wood too fast putting pressure on the blade.

1. Verify all guards are in place and operating correctly.
2. The blade should be held firmly in the chucks, be square to the table, and be properly supported by the guide with the teeth of the blade pointing down.
3. Before you turn on the scroll saw, be sure that the saw blade tension is properly adjusted to keep the blade from bending or breaking.
4. DO NOT start the saw with the stock against the blade.
5. Place the hold down foot lightly against the work piece before turning on the power.
6. Adjust the speed of the blade if you are using a variable-speed model. For hard wood, use a slower speed. Soft woods, such as maple or poplar, can take faster speeds. Start on the slowest speed.
7. Aim the scroll saw blade toward the first line to be cut.
8. Never put your fingers in direct line with the blade.
9. Never try to clean scraps of material near the moving blade with your fingers. If small pieces get caught in the throat against the saw blade, stop the machine before trying to remove them.
10. Guide the work slowly through the saw with both hands keeping fingers to the sides of the cut line. Don't force the stock but rather feed the stock slowly to let the machine do its work. ALWAYS hold the piece down. If you lift one hand or release, the piece may jump and create a jagged cut.
11. Adjust the feed rate into the scroll saw to what feels right. Watch the blade and listen to the saw to determine if you need to slow down. Twisting the blade or forcing the cut will break the blade.
12. Make gradual turns with the scroll saw by slowly turning the wood as needed.
13. The saw should be completely stopped before you back out of a cut
14. Do not attempt to saw stock that doesn't have a flat surface unless a suitable support is being used.
15. When finished, turn off the saw and wait until the blade has come to a complete stop before clean-up. ALWAYS clean the entire saw area.

**Tips:** To cut an opening within your material: Drill a small hole, then the blade is removed and placed into the hole. Cut the pattern. Remove the blade once you're done.

**Scroll Saw Parts**

Tension Knob



Guard

Hold Down Foot

Table