

# **SCROLL SAW SAFETY**

## **Scroll Saw**

- The scroll saw is a power machine usually found in the woodworking areas of the shop.
- It's main function is to cut curves in thin pieces of wood, plastic and metal.
- Various blade styles and types are available for a range of jobs - from fine cutting like jig saw puzzles, to coarse cutting blades for thicker pieces of wood.
- The thin scroll saw blades are usually held in both the upper and lower chucks of the machine.
- The heavy sabre blade is held only in the lower chuck.
- The cutting action results from the up and down motion of the blade.
- The teeth on the blade point down, therefore the blade cuts only on the downward stroke.
- There is a tendency for the blade to lift the material off of the table on the upward stroke.
- To avoid the bouncing of your material, be sure the hold-down fingers are touching the surface of the material.
- You will also have to use both hands to guide your material and keep steady downward pressure.
- The machine can cut interior openings by raising the guide assembly and slipping your material over the blade.
- You will need to drill a small hole inside the waste area of the cut to make this possible.
- Be sure to relocate the guide assembly before proceeding.

## **Preparing the Scroll Saw for Use**

- Insert the blade in the lower chuck with the teeth pointing down
- Tighten the chuck securely
- Release the blade tensioner and place the top of the blade in the upper chuck
- Re-secure the blade tensioner and ensure that the blade is seated correctly in the upper chuck
- Place your material on the table and lower the guide assembly until there is pressure on the guide fingers
- For internal cutting, drill a small hole in the material and place it over the blade before attaching the upper chuck
- When using a sabre blade, use the lower chuck only
- Raise the blade tensioner and upper chuck out and away from your material. It will not be used

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## **SCROLL SAW SAFETY RULES**

- 1 Always get permission from the instructor before using the scroll saw.
- 2 Safety Goggles or a Face Shield must be worn while using the scroll saw. Check with the instructor to see if ear protection is required as well.
- 3 Make all adjustments with the power off.
- 4 Use both hands and keep fingers at least 4" from the blade at all times.
- 5 Plan your cuts carefully. Saw curves gradually. Sudden twists will cause the blade to bind or break. Use relief cuts as necessary.
- 6 If the blade breaks, turn the power off immediately and step back. Inform the instructor immediately.
- 7 Always make a short cut first. Avoid backing out of cuts with the power on. Backing out of a cut may cause the blade to bind
- 8 Use a push stick on small pieces.
- 9 Remove scrap pieces from the table only after the blade has stopped.
- 10 Always operate the saw from the front never from the side.
- 11 Do not leave the scroll saw until the blade has stopped.
- 12 Ensure that the blade is running at full speed before starting a cut.
- 13 Cut on the waste side of your line, leaving the pattern line on the work.
- 14 Keep your hands beside or behind the blade. Never in front.
- 15 If you are in doubt about the operation of the scroll saw, ask your instructor for help

## SCROLL SAW SAFETY

### SCROLL SAW DATA SHEET

#### **General Conditions**

Students must be trained on the safe and proper use of a **Scroll Saw** before they may begin using it. The student must demonstrate to the teacher, proficiency and the safe work procedures that must be followed before usage.

#### **Personal Protective Equipment**

Safety Glasses OR Face Shield

#### **Possible Risk Factor**

Small Projectiles

Fine wood dust

Minor cuts and abrasions

Entanglement of Hair and clothing