

Theatre Safety

Tools and Machines – Scroll Saw

While somewhat similar to a band saw, a scroll saw uses a reciprocating blade rather than a continuous band. It can be used to cut thin pieces of wood, metal, plastic with the ability to cut highly curved edges and edges with bevels. Like a hand coping saw, the scroll saw's blade can be removed and placed through a pre-drilled starting hole, allowing interior cutouts to be made without an entry slot. Also, the fineness in both width and tooth count of a scroll's blade permits significantly more intricate curves than even the narrowest gauge band-saw blade.

PPE Requirements:

Safety glasses

Pre-Inspection:

- Ensure that the machine has been unplugged before making any adjustments.
- Make sure the blade is intact, has correct tension and suits the material to be cut.
- Plan a sawing strategy to minimize backing the blade out.
- It is good practice to mark the work piece with the desired cut path for use in guiding the piece through the blade.
- Never cut material that is too small to be held safely.
- Adjust the blade guard to minimum height to just clear work piece thickness.

Scroll Saw Operation:

1. Turn on saw power.
2. Allow the machine to reach full speed before starting a cut. Always saw at a moderate rate.
3. Hold work piece firmly against tabletop and slowly advance material into the blade with light pressure.
4. The user must keep a constant downward pressure on the work piece when cutting.
5. Keep hands away from the moving blade.
6. Take care when cutting curves to ensure that the blade does not twist or bind. Drill small holes if necessary to aid blade movement.
7. If the blade binds, turn off the machine immediately. Free the blade and inspect if for damage.
8. Keep the machine free from accumulating sawdust.