

Scroll Saws

DT Workshop Equipment Reference — D&T / STEM resource for school workshops | Woodworking Machines

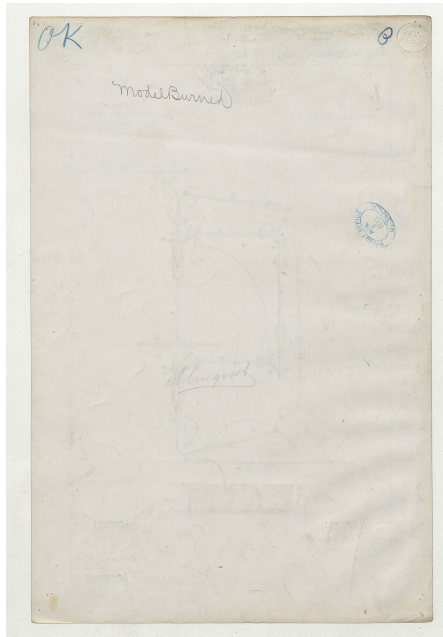


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(H.B._Smith_Scroll_Saws_-_DPLA_-_c44a320f9143a172ff316a2fd850361f_(page_2).jpg)

A scroll saw is a small, precise saw with a thin reciprocating blade that cuts intricate curves and patterns in wood, acrylic and thin plywood. The blade moves up and down at high speed while the workpiece is guided by hand, making it the safest powered saw for detailed decorative work.

Key Features

- Blade strokes around 1800-2600 per minute
- Cuts material up to about 50 mm thick
- Blade tension lever for quick blade changes
- Table tilts for angled cuts
- Work light and dust blower fitted as standard

Typical Uses in the Workshop

- Cut jigsaw puzzles, ornaments and fretwork
- Make intricate inlay pieces from veneer
- Cut acrylic shapes for signs and models
- Produce curved components for automata and toys

Safe Operation

1. Drill a starter hole for internal cuts or enter from an edge
2. Feed the work slowly along the marked line
3. Keep the blade vertical and turn corners gently
4. Use a foot switch or stop the saw before repositioning
5. Let the saw reach full speed before starting the cut

SAFETY NOTES

- Keep fingers well clear of the blade path
- Use a push stick for small pieces
- Wear eye protection and secure loose hair
- Do not force the work - let the blade cut
- Unplug before changing blades

Maintenance & Consumables

- Vacuum sawdust from the blade mount and table
- Replace blades when they wander off the line
- Check the blade tension regularly
- Oil the blade mount pivot occasionally
- Store blades in a labelled rack by TPI

Specification & Buying Notes

For a school, choose a saw with a cast or metal table, tool-free blade change and a work light. A foot switch is a worthwhile extra for teaching. Blade types: standard, skip-tooth and spiral for fine fretwork.