

Fret Saws

DT Workshop Equipment Reference — D&T / STEM resource for school workshops | Hand Tools



Photo: CrispMuncher — CC BY 3.0 — via Wikimedia Commons (Fretsaw.jpg)

A fret saw cuts very fine curves, fretwork and internal shapes in thin wood, veneer and craft materials, with a deep throat frame and hairline blades that follow intricate patterns. It is the hand tool version of the fretsaw for detailed pierced work.

Key Features

- Deep throat frames for large work
- Very fine blades in many TPI
- Tensioning systems at the handle
- Rotating blade clamps
- Lightweight frames

Typical Uses in the Workshop

- Cut delicate fretwork and patterns
- Pierce internal shapes from drilled holes
- Follow intricate inlay and marquetry
- Cut veneers and thin sheet

Safe Operation

1. Drill a hole and insert the blade
2. Tension the blade firmly
3. Saw with the work supported near the line
4. Turn the frame, not the work
5. Let the fine teeth do the cutting

SAFETY NOTES

- Fine blades snap - keep fingers clear
- Wear eye protection for fine debris
- Do not force the blade through thick stock
- Store with the blade tension released
- Keep blades in a labelled case

Maintenance & Consumables

- Release tension after use
- Clean and oil the frame
- Store blades by TPI
- Check the blade clamps
- Replace bent frames

Specification & Buying Notes

A fret saw with a selection of fine blades and a bench clamp suits craft work. Quality frames hold tension evenly; cheap frames twist out of line.