

Scroll saw safety instruction notes

This is one of the safest machine to use due to the reciprocation action of the blade. It is basically a motorised version of a coping or fret saw.

1. Describe structure of Scroll saw –

- a. Straight narrow blade
- b. Blade under tension
- c. Machine table
- d. Hold down feet

2. PPE and extraction.

- a. Safety glasses or visor at all times
- b. Dust extraction always to be used
- c. Dust mask if prolonged cutting of fibrous materials – MDF etc.

3. Adjustments

Most will be previously set up by workshop cleaning/maintenance team. However be aware blade fitting and tension. **If in doubt ask.**

- a. Adjust hold down feet to suit the thickness of the material being cut – ensure material passes smoothly under the feet.
- b. Ensure the blade is fitted with the teeth pointing downward – i.e. the blade will cut on the down stroke

4. Keep work piece clear of the blade, start the machine and **LISTEN**

- a. Significant vibration indicates a loose or poorly tensioned blade.

Now we're ready to start cutting

5. Follow basic safety rules

- a. Keep hands clear of blade at all times – this is especially important as all cutting on this machine is freehand.
- b. Allow the machine to reach full speed before starting cut
- c. Feed work piece at steady rate – do not force. Any signs/smells of friction or burning stop the machine without withdrawing the work piece.
- d. Ensure the hold down feet are effectively restricting the upward movement of the material.
- e. When cutting 'stopped' cuts switch off and wait for the blade to stop before backing out. – **Never back out of a cut with the blade running**
- f. When cutting round or irregular shaped stock use appropriate jigs to effectively support the work piece. Consider making simple jigs and holding devices.
- g.

6. Useful functions of the machine

- a. Freehand cutting of complex shapes
- b. With appropriate blade clamps 'pin less' blades can be used which can be much finer than 'pin ended' blades