



Scroll Saw Safety Rules

The Scroll Saw has a thin vertical blade that allows cutting curves in a wide range of materials. The Scroll Saw is basically a powered coping saw. With it you can cut both the perimeter of objects as well as make interior cuts. It is capable of making extremely tight turns and even 180° turns with some blades. To avoid accidents, the following operational safety rules must be observed by everyone using the CLUB's Scroll Saws. Failure to follow the safety rules will result in a loss of shop privileges.

Scroll saw Safety Rules:

1. **DANGER!** The Scroll Saw blade is very sharp and can easily cut you finger or amputate it when the saw is in operation.
2. Follow the 3" rule from the blade whenever possible. For some work, it may be necessary to get your fingers very close to the blade. In these circumstances, pay very close attention to the blade path and feed the work slowly, or do not make the cut.
3. Check the blade tension before starting the saw.
4. Don't cut stock that is not flat on the bottom without a jig that will hold the work in a stable position.
5. Keep a balanced stance at the scroll saw.
6. Never clear small pieces with your hand while the blade is moving.
7. Never back out of a cut while the machine is running. The blade will likely break.

Start with a Risk Assessment to ensure a safe work area:

1. A three foot perimeter around the saw should be kept clear of people, debris and sawdust that might impair traction or footing to avoid slips and falls.
2. Safety glasses with side shields or a face shield with safety glasses and hearing protection must be worn.
3. The scroll saw generates a lot of very fine dust which is a carcinogen. Use the dust collection provisions whenever possible. Always wear a dust mask.
4. Remove loose fitting clothing, jewelry, and tie back long hair.
5. Give the work your undivided attention.

Operational Safety Rules:

6. Approach your work in the CLUB Shop and on the scroll saw with a safe attitude!
7. Never make any adjustments to the saw while it is running,

8. The teeth of the Scroll Saw blade should point down toward the table and forward toward the operator.
9. Keep bystanders at least 3' away from the work area of the saw. Broken blades have a tendency to fly in all directions.
10. Ensure that all keys and wrenches are removed before starting the saw.
11. **DANGER!** Avoid awkward hand positions where a sudden slip could cause a hand to move into the blade.
12. Always keep your fingers and hands away from the path of the blade.
13. Always hold the work tight against the table. The saw's hold-down can help accomplish this.
14. Cut at a moderate feed rate into the blade. Do not force a cut.
15. Feed into the teeth of the blade. When cutting a radius there is a tendency to push the blade towards the side. Avoid pushing the work towards the side of the blade.
16. Cut relief cuts prior to cutting long or tight curves. The relief cuts will free the blade of the tension of the tight curve and the wood will fall away. The blade size will dictate the minimum radius of the cut.
17. If you need to back out of a cut, shut the machine off, wait for the blade to stop, and then carefully back out. Backing out is difficult. Plan your cuts so that backing out will not be necessary. Make relief cuts if necessary. If the blade is thin, you may be able to make a 180° turn and go back out through the existing kerf.
18. If a blade breaks, shut the machine off and stand clear until everything stops. You may replace the blade yourself.
19. Unplug the saw when changing blades, or reinserting the blade.
20. Ensure that the Off-On switch is in the Off position before plugging in the saw.
21. Never the leave the saw running unattended. Do not leave the tool until it comes to a complete stop.