

WHAT BLADE SHOULD I USE

There are many different blades on the market therefore it is not always easy to know which blade to use. First thing to consider is what type of timber you are going to use, hard or soft.

Second is what thickness is the timber.

All blades come in different sizes ranging from 3/0 to 12. The smaller the number the smaller the blade. For best results use smaller sizes for thinner stock and larger sizes for thicker stock. Use smaller sizes for tighter radii and larger sizes for more general purpose cuts. Cut your project out the largest blade you can get away with. Smaller blades make sharper turns but don't last as long or cut as fast.

The first thing you will notice when cutting is that the blade wants to cut to the right. Blades are milled and have a burr on the right side of the blade. This makes the right side sharper than the left. A blade will take the path of least resistance. This is easily correct by just turning your work about 5 to 20 degrees anti-clockwise. With a little practice you will be able to adjust with no problem.

Here is a list of different types of blades and what they are good for -

- Skip tooth blades with reverse teeth on the bottom - These are the most popular blades. They cut fast and leave a smooth surface on the top and bottom. They are good for soft and hard wood.
- Skip tooth blades without reverse teeth on the bottom - These are the fastest cutting blades but they also leave fuzz on the bottom of your work. Use these blades when you want to cut out your project really fast and don't need to have it very smooth.
- Double tooth blades with reverse teeth on the bottom - These blades have two teeth then skip one tooth. They are less aggressive and offer a little more control of where you cut. They are very good for hardwoods. They give a smooth cut with very little sanding.
- Two Way Cut - These blades have two teeth pointing down and every third tooth points up. They give a very smooth cut and are not very aggressive. You get very good control over where you cut and don't have to do a lot of sanding. These blades are good for soft and hardwood and especially for plywood.
- Spiral blades - There are 3 types of spiral blades - regular, flat end and reverse. These blades cut in any direction/ They leave a rough edge and requires a lot of sanding. The reverse tooth spiral blades cut down on the amount of sanding. The flat end spiral blades are easier to put in the blade holders. These blades are used when cutting a project that is too large to turn on the scroll saw. They are also good for veining when the first cut has been made already with a regular blade. A lot of scrollers do not like spirals but that doesn't mean that you shouldn't try them and judge for yourself.
- Pinned blades: these blades are used for scroll saws that don't take plain end blades. They have a small pin in the top and bottom used for installing them in the saw. This pin makes it almost impossible to do small fret work (the making of inside cuts). If your saw takes regular 5" plain end blades you will not want to use these at all.
- Metal cutting blades - These blades have more teeth per inch required for cutting thin metal and other hard material.

When working on a project you might start with a #3 Reverse and find that a #5 or #7 might do a good job for you. The higher the number the less breakage you will have. (# = number)

So now you know why no one ever likes to answer the question of 'What Blade Should I Use?'

My best suggestion is what ever gets you the final result that you are looking for is a good blade to use. Try to get a little of everything and try them out to see what you prefer.

Both **Pegas** (Swiss) and **Flying Dutchman** (German) are top quality blades and have blades that cover all of the types discussed above.

If you are still unsure please feel free to phone or email us. We are always willing to help.

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