

Maintenance and Good Practice Procedures for Scroll Saws

A compilation of instructions for Ryobi, Excalibur, Carbatec, Wen, Jet, DeWalt, and Makita scroll saws as well as some other tips.

Each time the scroll saw is used:

- Clean the saw with a soft bristle brush and/or with a vacuum cleaner.
- Check the blade is square to the table in 2 planes – from side to side and from front to back.
- Check the blower or dust collection system is working properly.
- Listen for any abnormal sounds.
- Check the blade clamps are clean and can move easily.
- Check the blade tensioning system works without needing any undue force.
- Clean the ends of blades with methylated spirits.
- Grind the sharp edges at the back of the blade with a small fine grindstone or ignition file.
- Release the tension on the blade when the saw is not in use.

Regular maintenance procedures (Annually if the scroll saw is not used frequently or else, after 50 hours of use):

- If the head of the saw can tilt, clean off any built-up grease on the front and rear trunnions and apply a light dab of fresh grease.
- If the table tilts, clean and lubricate pivot points.
- Check that the angle scale shows the correct tilt angle for the table, or the head of the scroll saw.
- For Ryobi, Jet and Makita scroll saws add a couple of drops of SAE 20 oil to the bearings according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- For DeWalt scroll saws clean and repack the needle roller bearings according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Check the blade is square to the table from the front. Adjust if necessary, following the manufacturer's instructions.
- Check the fore-aft movement of blade and if necessary, adjust the movement according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- If the top arm of the saw can be raised check that it remains in position if it is raised. If not, follow the manufacturer's instructions to increase the holding/clamping force.
- Apply a light coat of wax to the top of the table.
- Check the blade clamping system. If the ends of blades are bent after clamping them in the blade holders re-centre the grub screw and thumbscrew. Use blue Loctite to secure the grub screws.
- To minimise vibration, secure the scroll saw to something solid or consider using anti-vibration blocks.
- Check the brushes in the electric motor, if feasible.
- Use non-petroleum grease on the rubber washers or O-rings.