

**Meeting Notice:**

**Feb: Tuesday the 20th at 5:00 PM**

**Location:** [3711 Blue Mound Dr NE, Cedar Rapids](#)

**Subject:** Scroll Saws

**Project:** Plywood Cores

# Knot News

COLLINS WOODWORKERS GUILD NEWSLETTER

**Next month:**

We will be visiting Ron Kositzky's shop. If you wish to bring a comfortable chair please feel

**Ron's shop!**

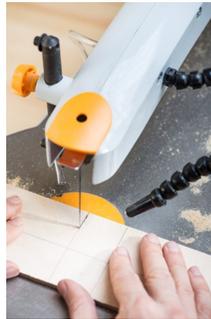
welcome! His shop is at [3711 Blue Mound Dr NE, Cedar Rapids](#)

**This month's subject:****Scroll Saws**

The scroll saw is an invaluable tool for woodworkers. It makes detailed crafts and crisp fretwork in a way that no other machine can. You might have already learned the basics on how to use a scroll saw such as turning it on, setting it on the bench and how to start cutting. However, there is so much more important information you need to have at your fingertips that might not be present in the saw's manual. Here are some scroll saw tips and tricks that will make your projects easier, more fun and more successful.

**1. Lighting**

It will be difficult for you to get a clean cut when using a scroll saw if you can't see the pattern line properly. You may also experience a perception problem where by the black blade and the black line visually merge, making it hard for you to tell the exact position of the blade along the line. It is therefore advisable to purchase lights that can be mounted onto the scroll



saw. Alternatively, you can place a lamp next to the saw in such a manner that the blade casts a right-angle shadow on the workpiece. The point of the angle formed by the blade and its shadow will make a good visual reference. For more precision, you can use a magnifier.

**2. Blade tension**

Blade tension should not be too much or too little. Blades will often break in both cases. Set the tension at that point where you hear a ping when you pluck the blade. At this point it should flex no more than 1/8" from side to side. If the blade breaks right after you start using it, the tension may be too much. If it wanders, the tension may be too little.

**3. Blade retrieval**

For you to be an expert scrollsawer, one of the things you'll need to learn is how to minimize time wastage when changing blades. Most blades become dull or break after about half an hour. You'll therefore need easy access to an extra supply of blades. One tip you can follow for quick retrieval of blades is to place them on a magnetic strip. The strip should then be attached to the

scroll saw stand. Alternatively, you can adhere about 18" strip of hook-and-loop tape to the side of the saw with epoxy. Next, press containers in which you'll store the blades against the strip.

**4. Warping**

Plywood, especially thin plywood, runs the risk of warping. You can prevent it from warping by storing it in a dry, flat surface and placing a heavy piece of wood on top of it. However, this does not imply that you should get rid of warped plywood and go purchase new wood. Dampen the surface of the warped wood and then place it on a flat surface. Place a heavy piece of wood on top of it and leave it for a week or so. Most of the times, a pattern cut out from warped wood straightens out when assembled with other pieces into a project.

**5. Successful drill pressing**

If drilling a hole through a thin piece of wood, you can prevent splitting by placing a scrap piece below your workpiece. If you are drilling through thick wood, you should drill down till that point where you just break through the bottom surface. Stop drilling the wood, turn it over so that the bottom surface is now facing upwards and finish drilling from this side.

**6. Keeping stacked parts together**

When sawing several identical parts, they should be stacked together and joined using cyanoacrylate glue. The stack will be held firmly by the glue and the project will fall out effortlessly when you're done with sawing. Make sure you use the glue in moderation, otherwise it may spread to parts that were to be separated after cutting. Clear packing tape can also be used in place of glue. Tape around the stack to hold the pieces in place.



**This month:**

**More on Bandsaws**

7. Check the teeth: Before you start the saw, always check the direction of the teeth. Make sure they are to the front of the saw and are pointing down. A blade installed backwards will not cut wood. If it is installed upside down, it will pick wood off the table and slap it back down again. Smaller blades can sometimes rotate while you are tensioning the blade, so be sure to verify the blade is pointing in the right direction.

Another site to check on choosing the right blade: <http://scrollsawer.com/2017/09/06/choosing-the-right-blade/>

8. Preventing burning: Put clear packaging tape on top of your hardwood pattern to prevent it from burning. It prevents sawdust from accumulating beneath it and lubricates the blade. When using thicker and harder material set the saw at a higher speed and conversely a lower speed for softer and thinner woods.

9. Scrolling position: You can operate a scroll saw while standing or sitting. If you are an amateur, it is advisable to always stand in front of the saw so as to easily feed the work into the blade and operate the saw without much effort. Whether sitting or standing, make sure you are always comfortable. Scrolling sawing can go on for hours and in the process, fatigue and stiff neck and shoulders can creep in. If you saw while sitting, a swivel chair can come in handy because you can raise it higher and tilt the scroll saw by tipping its back with a piece of wood so that it sits at an angle of about 10 degrees. You'll be able to work comfortably without leaning over or straining your joints and muscles. Whenever possible, use a Pedal Foot Switch which allows you to keep both hands on your work for a safer and more exacting experience.



10. Taking care of scroll saw blades: Blades are vulnerable to rust when stored over a long period of time. You can protect them from rust by spraying a thin coat of WD40 or oil on them. Check out our article on scroll saw blade selection here

Final thoughts

Scroll saw techniques require practice and lots of patience. Just relax

and allow the blade to do its work according to its capability. The above scroll saw tips and tricks will help you enhance your skills and derive more self-satisfaction from your woodworking projects. For some other great reading material to beef up your scrollsawing skills check out these helpful books.

Blade selection of the scroll saw is very similar to what was discussed about band saw blades.

Set the speed for the material, if this is a multi-speed or variable speed scrollsaw. The harder the material, the slower the stroke you want to use. Metals, using the correct blade, use the slowest possible speeds. Hardwoods need a slower speed than softwoods, and soft maple can take a faster speed than can hickory. Soft maple is a popular scrollsawing wood, as is tulip (yellow) poplar, basswood, butternut and similar 'soft' hardwoods.

Feed at the speed that feels right to you. Feed rate is almost entirely determined by feel, with your fingers and eyes and ears feeding back to you the information on whether or not you're moving too fast or too slow.

Simple guidelines for matching the blade to the pattern and wood by Bob Duncan

You can feel your blood pressure rising as the blades keep snapping while you cut. It's equally frustrating when you try to make tight turns in a small fret, but the blade won't turn fast enough. You know proper blade choice is the solution, but blades come in many sizes, shapes, and tooth configurations; how do you pick the right one?



Conventional wisdom has always suggested trial and error. And everyone is willing to share his or her favorite blade or favorite manufacturer. Instead of relying on guessing or gossip, use these general guidelines to help you to successfully select a blade without trying dozens of sizes, brands, and configurations.

To start, there are two main types of blades: plain-end and pin-end. Most saws, except a few entry-level models, use plain-end blades. Pin-end blades don't come in small sizes and the 3/16" (5mm)-diameter blade-entry hole they require is often larger than the frets you want to cut.

**Next Month Meeting**

**TBD**

We will be talking about wood warpage, and different ways to correct warped, cupped, and/or bowed wood. The location is TBD. Plan on Tuesday, April 17th at 5:00 p.m.



bow crook kink cup twist

60 Grit Rough humor by Steve Spiro



**Last Month meeting**

Our February meeting was opened by President Joel Gillette. Fifteen members were present.

Paul Heyd reminded the group about the Milwaukee Woodshow March 9-11.

Wayne Hanson lead a discussion on the various methods, tooling, and additional use of the band saw. The group engaged in several topics from blades to various adjustments to the band saw, depending on the make and model. We also spoke about dust control—Larry provided a picture of his adapted dust removal system from the tire. Perry Coffman provided some valuable insights as well. Larry recommends Mark Duginske’s book “New Complete Guide to the Band Saw: Everything You Need to Know About the Most Important Saw in the Shop”



**More on Bandsaws**

It was important to use guide blocks, and set up the bandsaw properly to avoid drift and blade damage.

There was a consensus to pursue a group buy on blades.



**Last Month Project**

Perry brought in a bowl he made from soft spalted maple. Ron brought in a napkin holder and a lazy susan turntable. Ron won the gift card prize.

Joel won the gift card from the general membership drawing.

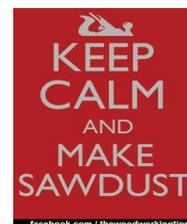


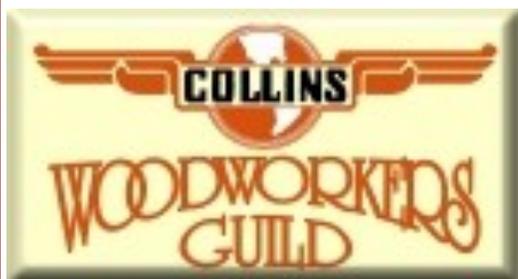
**Food Servingware project**

**Upcoming projects:**

- April:** Patio Project
- May:** Noise-maker, musical or otherwise
- June:** Box Joints/Fixtures
- July:** Handles/Knobs
- August:** Inlays
- September:** Scrap Wood Project

We would really LOVE to come see your shop. Would you be willing to open your [garage] door some time?





The Collins Woodworkers Guild is a club dedicated to preserving the age old practice of creation using the medium of wood. CWG members gather monthly to share tips, ideas and experience to further the knowledge of all members. From creating heirlooms for their families to Toys-For-Tots, members help each other get the most out of their woodworking experience.

Membership in the Collins Woodworkers Guild is open to ALL Rockwell Collins, Inc. Employees, Spouses, Retirees, and Contract Employees, AT ALL ROCKWELL COLLINS LOCATIONS!! Everyone is welcome at our meetings and yearly dues, renewed each September, are \$17.00

#### GUILD BENEFITS

- Access to our EXTENSIVE library of books, magazines and Tool Collection
- Open exchange of ideas, from project help to house building; and a hand when needed
- Social Activities
- Workshops
- Toys-For-Tots and other Programs to help our Community
- Educational and Informative Presentations
- Open Houses
- Tours

#### KNOT NEWS

Is published monthly by the Collins Woodworkers Guild

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