

SCROLLSAWS

By Jacob von Holzen

CUTTING;

I like to cut out all the piercing cuts (waste pieces) first and do the outline last. This will avoid any damage to any delicate protrusions around the outside edge of your project, which may catch on your hands or sleeves while the work is being turned on the saw table.

When you are doing the piercing cuts, the blade will need to be released, threaded through the drill hole, retightened and the tension adjusted. Cut into the corner and cut in whichever direction you prefer. After completing each cut, remove the waste piece from the work to stop it from dropping and getting caught in the blade opening in the worktable.

It is not good practice to start a cut halfway along a line, as it can be difficult to meet up in exactly the same place and leaves a small nodule of timber, which will have to be removed. The only way to keep such a cut tidy is to cut one way to a corner, then retreat back to where you started. Turn the work around and complete the cut from the other direction.

SANDING AND FINISHING;

Having cut out all the pieces of your project, remove all traces of glue or tape from the surfaces. The underside of most pieces will have burrs and some cases threads of wood protruding from the surfaces. The underside of most pieces will have burrs and in some cases threads of wood protruding from the surface. These are due to the downward cutting stroke of the blade, and need to be sanded away. For stubborn bits, take a tiny bit of say 180 grit paper, fold in half and rub along the offending areas until all traces have gone. Sand the rest of the surfaces smooth and round off where necessary.

When cutting very thin wood or veneers, I place another piece of material underneath the workpiece and cut through the two together, 3mm MDF is great for this purpose. This will eliminate most if not all the rough underneath, and at the same time protects a delicate piece of work. I like to dry assemble each project before gluing. This gives me the opportunity to test all joints for accuracy of fit, and I can make adjustments where necessary. It also helps me plan the gluing sequence.

Because most of my work has fretted cut-outs, and can be difficult to get at after assembling, I like to give everything a coat of sealer before assembling. I use Wattle super Blond Polish (which is shellac based) and thin it down about 10% with clear Meths. I coat all surfaces, getting into every nook and cranny with a small bush. When dry I give all flat surfaces and outside edges a final sanding with 240 grit paper.

ASSEMBLING;

You have sanded all the parts, and are satisfied with the finish of each piece. You have dry assembled, to make sure each piece fits property. It is time to glue your project together. Have all requirements for assembling on hand and within easy reach. Glue, rag, champs, lights.....



Do not over glue– Any glue oozing out needs to be removed immediately, or it will show up through the finish you apply. A little glue well placed does the trick. Hold glued pieces together firmly, be it with clamps, rubber bands, or weights. Each job will require a different approach of holding together while the glue is drying.

Weather conditions will determine the setting time of glue. Damp and cold conditions will take longer setting time than fine and warm weather.

The final finish you use is your choice. I use lacquer sprayed on with a spray can. Having sealed the work before assembling, one spray is usually sufficient to give me a satisfactory result.

