

**Woodworkers of Central New York**  
**Scrolling Interest Group – October 21, 2020 Meeting**  
***Basic Scrolling Information***



**10 Step Process:**

1. Determine what you want to cut
2. Find a pattern or make up your own
3. Select your wood
4. Prepare your wood
5. Attach the pattern to wood
6. Select a blade for cutting
7. Drill holes as necessary
8. Cut the piece as indicated
9. Remove the pattern
10. Finish the piece

**Resources:**

- **Best Beginner's Book** – *Scroll Saw Workbook* by John Nelson – 3<sup>rd</sup> edition now available
- Free Patterns – Steve Good's *Scrollsaw Workshop* website - [scrollsawworkshop.blogspot.com](http://scrollsawworkshop.blogspot.com)
- Fox Chapel Publishing – publish a great collection of books – plus the Scrollsaw Forum - <http://www.scrollsawer.com/forum/>
- Rick Hutcheson's Website – [www.scrollsaws.com](http://www.scrollsaws.com)

**Thoughts:**

- **Patterns** – One magazine – *Scroll Saw Woodworking & Crafts* – Many books, many pattern vendors or individual pattern designers. Pinterest. Google Images. Your own designs.
  - Remember, patterns can be resized to fit your wood or your needs
- **Applying Patterns** – Different ways – scrollers disagree on the best way
  - Carbon/Graphite transfer paper
  - Gluing patterns to the wood – always apply glue to pattern not wood. Use temporary bonding spray, rubber cement, or repositionable adhesives like those of the Xyron machine. You can put masking tape, packing tape or other lubricating adhesives to the wood first if desired.
  - Templates when doing the same pattern many times
- **Wood** – Thickness can be modified from pattern as you desire. Remember, if you have slots in the pattern to adjust your slots based on the thickness of the wood. Think about grain when applying the pattern.
  - Stack Cutting
- **Prepping the Wood** – Plane and sand the wood to create a flat surface prior to adding the pattern.
- **Blades** – Pin End vs Plain End
  - *Design Aspects:* **Reverse Tooth** (several teeth at bottom that face the opposite direction of the rest of the blade – reduces splinters on bottom of piece) **Crown Tooth** (cuts on up and down stroke; can be turned over for a fresh set of teeth) **Skip Tooth** (teeth are skipped allowing for better clearing of material when cutting) **Double Tooth** (two teeth followed by a flat space) **Spiral** (twisted allowing the teeth to cut on all sides of the blade)

- In general, the thicker the wood (or stack of wood) the fewer TPI. The finer (thinner) the piece of wood the more TPI is desired. You must try various blades to find what you are comfortable with.
- The thickness of the blade will affect how well you can turn tight corners, how much of an opening is left behind in the kerf (veining type cuts), and it will affect the longevity of the blade. Thinner blades may heat up faster and break a little more readily. Individual sawing styles will also affect the longevity of a blade.
- **Brands** – Olson, Flying Dutchman, Pegas, Sharktooth, Super Sharps, etc.
- **Starter Holes** – You need a variety of sizes of drill bits. Most often, a 1/8" bit can be used for most holes. You can also use 1/16". For small holes and veining you will need smaller bit.
  - Drill straight to avoid issues. Use either a drill press or a Dremel in a drill stand or even the Seyco drill unit.
- **Cutting** – Great cutting tips in videos etc. on Rick Hutcheson's website - [www.scrollsaws.com](http://www.scrollsaws.com)
  - Cutting thicker wood (1/2") is easier than thin (1/8")
  - Position your fingers to give maximum holding and movement of the wood
  - Speed is your choice – find a speed with which you are comfortable
  - The blade moves/drifts depending upon your saw's motion. Cutting a straight line can be a challenge. Your saw and blade will make a difference.

## IMPORTANT:

Take time to practice. Practice cutting straight and curved lines. And test your blade on your wood.

