Making Puzzles Using the Scrollsaw

Puzzles are for "Kids of All Ages"

What Type of Puzzle?

Tray	Stand Up	Jigsaw	Name
Mental	Geometric	3D	

Who is Your Audience? Age, Capability, etc.

- If for kids 0-5, make sure pieces larger than the hole in a toilet paper/paper towel roll

What is the Puzzle's Purpose?

Do you have a Theme for the Puzzle?

What Material Will You Use?

- *Type and Thickness depends on who will receive your puzzle!*
- Wood
  - Plywood – Baltic Birch / Other Backer Woods
  - Pine
  - Solid Hardwoods – *Consider Toxicity of Some Woods*
- Plexiglass
- Solid Surface

How Will You Finish the Puzzle?

Idea Sources

- Pattern Books
  - Many books available - most published by Fox Chapel Publishing
- Scroll Saw Magazines
- Other Magazines
- Searches on Internet
- Stickers
- Coloring Books
- Calendars
- Gift Cards
- Self-Created – photos of family, landscapes, drawings, etc.

Attaching the Pattern

- Direction of Wood Grain
- Temporary Only for Cutting
- Permanent for Jigsaw Puzzles

Blades

- Depends upon the type of puzzle & age of recipient
  - Larger thickness of blade for kids puzzle to create a larger space between pieces (easier for kids)
  - Reverse tooth great for all but jigsaw puzzles
  - Thinner blades produce thin kerf
  - Superior Puzzle Blade by Flying Dutchman – 31 t.p.i, no reverse teeth

Square Table

Don't Push So Blade Cuts "Crooked"

Collection "Bowl"/Box

- Collects Pieces as You Cut
- Build Your Own with Scrap and Attach Plastic Screening to Bottom – collects and creates a vacuuming sieve after cutting is complete

TYPES OF PUZZLES

Tray Puzzles – Great for kids of all ages. Can be difficult or easy. Can be multiple levels

- Inside cut and sits in a tray with a backer

Stand Up – Usually thicker wood and have no backer.

- With Interlocks
- Without Interlocks
- Woodimals

Names

- Video on YouTube – Just Build Stuff (Jan 19, 2016) [3.33 Minutes]
- Use Microsoft Word or Similar Product to Create the Names
- Good Font is Cooper BLK Oul BT at 200 or more Size
- Use info in Video to modify
    - Landscape Orientation in Page Layout
    - Font – Spacing Condensed by 30 pt (or whatever looks good
    - Text Fill
    - Text Outline
- Make Adjustments Until Looks Good
- Draw in Puzzle Bumps

Jigsaw

- Generally have interlocking joints of ball and sockets of some shape. Pieces can be exactly the same size but can be unique sizes. Can include "figurals" highlighting something in the picture or just for fun.
- Multi-layered puzzle process discussed in postings on *Scrollsaw Woodworking & Crafts* forum under "Scroll Saw Puzzles". One of the experts is Shawn Ferguson, a pediatrician from the Niagara Falls area.
- Templates for puzzles can be found on the internet & you can make your own
- Puzzle Calculator - https://cdn.rawgit.com/Draradech/35d36347312ca6d0887aa7d55f366e30/raw/b04cf9cd63a59571910cb226226ce2b3ed46af46/jigsaw.html

Mental / Stacking

- Requires Accurate Cutting

Geometric

- Clocks, etc.

3D

- Pieces interconnect
- *Whole separate lesson*

FINISHING – *Bright Colors for Kids!*

- ✓ Unfinished
- ✓ Dyed – Natural, Food Coloring, Kool-Aid, Rit-Dye, Mixol, Transtint, etc.
- ✓ Watercolors
- ✓ Acrylics
- ✓ Gel Stain – Unicorn Spit
- ✓ Oil
- ✓ Shellac
- ✓ Wax
- ✓ Polyurethane
- ✓ Lacquer

Books on Making Puzzles with the Scrollsaw

[Not a comprehensive list but a starting point]

Title	Author(s)
Big Book of Scroll Saw Puzzles: More Than 75 Easy-to-Cut Designs in Wood	Tony & June Burns
Scroll Saw Puzzle Patterns *[A Classic!]*	Patrick & Patricia Spielman
Wooden Puzzles: 31 Favorite Projects & Patterns	Editors of *Scrollsaw Woodworking & Crafts*
Adorable Animal Family Puzzles in Wood	Jaeheon Yun
Animal Puzzles for the Scroll Saw	Judy & Dave Peterson
Dinosaur Puzzles for the Scroll Saw	Judy & Dave Peterson
Fantasy & Legend Scroll Saw Puzzles	Judy & Dave Peterson
Making Wooden Dinosaur Toys and Puzzles	Judy & Dave Peterson
Making Wooden Jigsaw Puzzles	Evan J. Kern
Making Wooden Jigsaw Puzzles	Charles W. Ross
Making Wooden Puzzle Playsets: 10 Patterns to Carve, Scroll & Woodburn	Carolea Hower
Scroll Saw Art Puzzles	Tony & June Burns
Scroll Saw Baby Animals	Judy & Dave Peterson
Scroll Saw Farm Puzzles	Tony & June Burns
Woodimals: Creative Animal Puzzles for the Scroll Saw	Jim Sweet
Zodiac Puzzles for Scroll Saw Woodworking	Judy & Dave Peterson