

# Spiral Blades

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Woodworkers of Central New York

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# Spiral Blades

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- Steve Good You Tube Video
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-8sy9zqpVZQ>



# Spiral Blades

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- Spiral Blades can cut in all directions.
- Blades that are twisted wherein the points are aimed at 360 degrees.
- They are not that precise.
- Straight blades - cuts for clean edge & sharp corners.
- Straight blades available in larger sizes, so they generally work better in thicker hardwoods than spirals.
- Spinning the piece, limited in how large of a piece you can easily handle on the saw.
- Straight blades are used for the majority of general scrolling.





# Spiral Blades – When to Use

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- Spirals - specialty blade, ideal for specific applications.
- Great for large and difficult projects to spin due to throat depth of the saw.
- Spirals won't cut as cleanly as a straight blade
- Points/corners won't be as sharp and crisp.
- Portrait patterns do well with spirals.
  - Have few straight, smooth lines
  - Don't need precisely cut sharp corners.
  - Usually cut from thin plywood, the slightly rougher edges aren't as noticeable as they would be with thicker wood.







# Spiral Blades - Tips

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- Well tensioned blade is important.
- A loosely tensioned blade will be frustrating.
- Slow speed is better than fast speed.
- Slow feed is better than fast feed.
- Smooth/gentle guiding of the piece into the blade is good - pushing is not.
- Some spiral blades are a lot more manageable than others.
- Obviously the blade but also type of wood & thickness.



# Spiral Blades – More Tips

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- Experiment with what blade is best.
- Firmer grip on piece and table.
- Tremendous control and stability.
- Let blade do the work.
- Ease forward pressure on curves and turns.
- Pattern lift from cutting.



# Spiral Blades – Best Advice!

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Practice

Practice

Practice

