

Puzzle Making with the Scrollsaw

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Puzzles are for “Kids of All Ages”

What Type of Puzzle?

Tray	Stand Up	Jigsaw	Name
Mental	Stacking	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 / Quality Plywood – Thickness Matters
 - Pine
 - Solid Hardwoods – *Consider Toxicity of Some Woods*
- Plexiglass
- Solid Surface

Idea Sources

Pattern Books (see last page)	Internet Vendors (see last page)
Scroll Saw Magazines	Calendars
Other Magazines	Gift Cards
Coloring Books	Self-Created

Blades

- Depends Upon the Type of Puzzle & Age of Recipient
 - Kids Puzzles - Thicker blade for creates a larger space between pieces (easier for kids)
 - Reverse Tooth Blades – Great for all but jigsaw puzzles as they reduce the fuzzies on the backs
 - Thin Blades – Produce thinner kerf and tighter connections
 - Jigsaw Puzzle Blades – Best to use blades with 31 t.p.i, no reverse teeth
 - ✓ Flying Dutchman Superior / Niqua Pebco 2/0 / Pegas Modified Geometry 2/0

Attaching the Pattern

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

Cutting

- Square Table
- Don’t Push So Blade Cuts “Crooked”
- Think About Cutting Order for Maximum Stability

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

After Cutting

- Clean Up Edges from Fuzzies & Desharpen Edges

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

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 BlkOut 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* or *whimsies* 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”.
- New Facebook Group – **Hand Cut Wooden Puzzles**
- 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
- Wood Selection Can Make More Difficult

Geometric

- Clocks, etc.

3D

- Pieces interconnect

FINISHING – *Bright Colors for Kids!*

- Who is the Puzzle For?
- Do You Need to Finish?
- Maybe the Owner Should Finish (kids!)
- **FINISHES**

Unfinished or Buffed	Dyes – Natural, Food Coloring, Kool-Aid, Rit, or Commercial Dyes like Artisan, CromaCraft, Mixol, Transtint, Spirit Stain
Clear – Mineral Oil, Linseed Oil, Real Tung Oil, Wax, Shellac	
Paint – Watercolors or Acrylics	Stains – Unicorn Spit, Wood Stains
Oil	Sprays

Packaging

- Boxes, Tins, Shrink Wrap Plastic Bags plus Enclosures

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 <i>[A Classic!]</i>	Patrick & Patricia Spielman
Wooden Puzzles: 31 Favorite Projects & Patterns	Editors of <i>Scrollsaw Woodworking & Crafts</i>
Easy Handmade Toys & Puzzle: 35 Wood Projects & Patterns	Editors of <i>Scrollsaw Woodworking & Crafts</i>
Adorable Animal Family Puzzles in Wood	Jaeheon Yun
20-Minute Scroll Saw Puzzles	Jaeheon Yun
Noah's Ark Puzzle Pattern for the Scroll Saw	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
Wooden Puzzle Toys	Ed Sibbett
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
Wonders in Wood	Edwin M. Wyatt
Puzzles in Wood: Simple Patterns for Creating 45 Classics	Edwin M. Wyatt
Wooden Puzzles: 20 Handmade Puzzles & Brain Teasers	Brian Menold
Crafting Wood Logic Puzzles: 17 3Dimensional Games for the Hands & Minds	Charlie Self
Puzzles Old and New: How to Make and Solve Them	Jack Bottermans & Jerry Slocum
New Book of Puzzles: 101 Classic & Modern Puzzles to Make & Solve	Jerry Slocum
Wooden Toys, Puzzles and Games	Ralph Dorazio

Online Vendors for Puzzle Patterns

Vendor Name	Vendor Location	Other Info
Real Wood Crafts	Internet	Al Baggetta collection of free patterns
AlexFoxUA	Etsy	New to puzzles
EntwoodQuest	Etsy	Mostly older children & adult types of puzzle patterns on a variety of topics. Some intarsia & wall hanging patterns also
FantasiesISaw	Etsy	Small collection of puzzles (<i>Jacob Fowler</i>)
Free Wood Puzzles	Internet	As it says, free patterns
HolyokePuzzles	Etsy	Variety of puzzles for various ages and topics
Namunolie	Etsy	Animal puzzles of all types for all ages
Sarahscreativestuff	Etsy	Small collection but some interesting puzzles
Scrollsaw Workshop	Internet	Steve Good patterns – search his catalog with the word “puzzle”
Wood Craft by Scott	Internet	Source to purchase animal puzzle patterns by Harvey Byler
Wooden Teddy Bear	Internet	Catalog vendor with puzzle and many other patterns & supplies
Woodtoyworking	Etsy	A variety of wooden toys and puzzles of all levels