

# Proxxon DS230/E Fretsaw

Ian Wilkie review

This fretsaw/scrollsaw needs to be assembled when it arrives but this is quite straightforward and covered well in the instructions. It is wise to secure the machine to a baseboard which can then be clamped to a table or bench for stability.

This is a rigid-arm fretsaw where the upper end of the blade is held in a spring-loaded holder which moves up and down when the machine is running. The blade tension is not constant as it is with the two other Proxxon parallel-arm fretsaws.

It is important to be aware that this machine is designed for light hobby work in relatively thin materials. I experimented by cutting a very thin plywood jigsaw puzzle with the minimum of blade exposed to reduce any bowing and then used the standard setting with a No 3 precision-ground toothed blade to cut out the penguin in thicker lime. I also tried balsa wood without any problems.

The blade hold-down and the blower system work very well and there is no problem changing and tensioning blades after a little practice.

Many hobbyists have to make do with a corner of the kitchen table for their modelling as I myself once did and this is where this particular Proxxon scrollsaw scores because at 3 kilos it is easy to lift up and put away after use.

The quality of engineering on this machine is impressive and the design is good. The fretsaw fits in well with the other small machines Proxxon manufacture for those hobbyists who make models. I enjoyed using it and found it worked well.

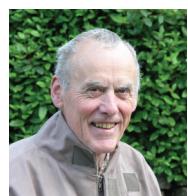
Scrollsawing needs practice and perseverance but once the techniques have been mastered there is a great deal of fun to be had!



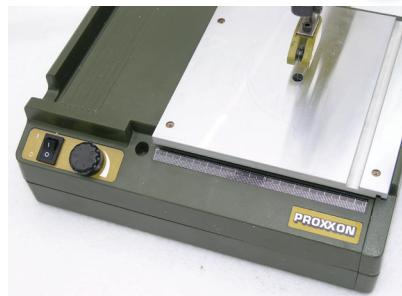
A small jigsaw cut out in 1.5mm plywood



The penguins: one of the patterns included with the fretsaw and cut out in lime wood



Ian has been independently reviewing woodworking products for 20 years and tests machines and equipment manufactured for the amateur woodworker. He does this in his own small workshop where he can assess each product thoroughly.



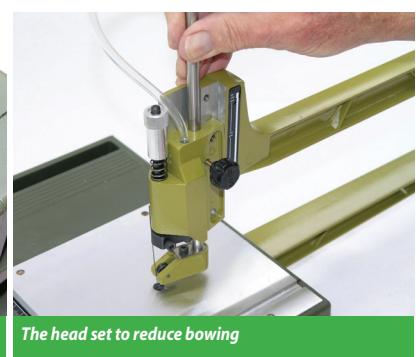
The on/off, speed control and fence calibration are well positioned



The side panel removed to show the bottom blade holder



The hex key stores in the side of the casing – one key for all the hex sockets



The head set to reduce bowing



The hold-down with the in-built blower nozzle



Changing blades is easy with practice



External and internal cutting can be carried out confidently