

5 The Jig Saw

The mechanical function of the jig saw is to convert a rotary motion (the rotation of the spindle) into an up-and-down movement. This is accomplished by a crankshaft mechanism, similar to an automobile piston rod. The up-and-down motion is carried to a special, straight saw blade. The speed with which the blade moves makes the cutting action (the down stroke) a continuous one.

The basic operational function of the jig saw is to cut curved or straight lines. These may be

exterior cuts, started from the edge of the stock, or they may be confined entirely within the perimeter of the work—referred to as “piercing.” Various sizes and styles of blades can be mounted in the saw. Because the jig saw can cut curves of very short radius, with an extremely fine kerf, it is especially adapted to intricate scrollwork and fretwork. Fine crafts such as inlay, intarsia, marquetry, and intricate pierced design work in metals are almost entirely dependent on the jig saw. In addition, a

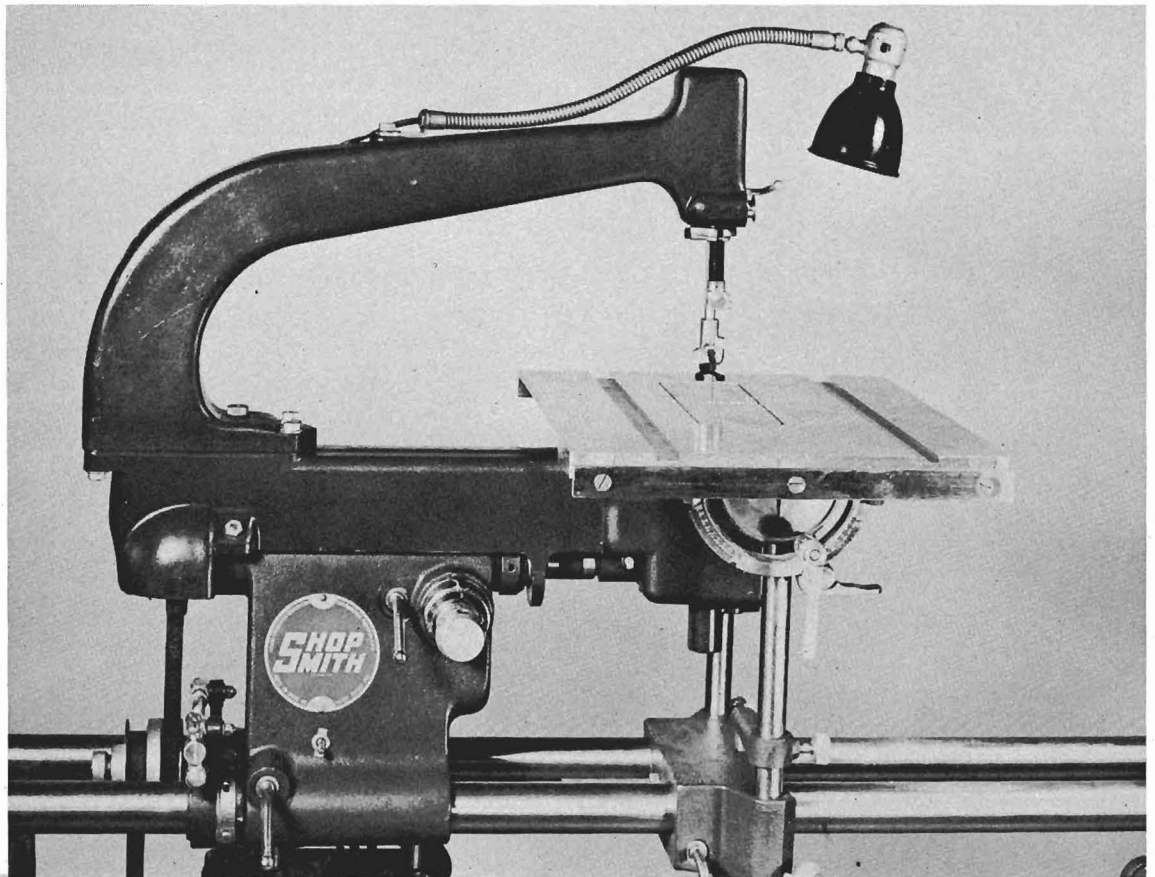


FIGURE 5-1