

The S.A.G.E. Oak Scroll Saw

5-15-13

Recently I had the opportunity to secure a solid Oak Scroll Saw identified as a S.A.G.E. #51 BB. I know this saw was made in the Branson, Missouri area. I think it was in Reeds Spring, MO.



The first time I had the opportunity to see this saw was at the Engler Block in Branson, MO about 25 years ago, when it was being used and demonstrated by it's maker. I believe his first name was Galen and his last name started with a T. He was a very good and very fast cutter. I believe the cost was on the top side of \$600.00 new. If anyone knows more of the history of these saws please send me an e-mail or just use my ['contact us'](#) page on my website www.mrmssworkshop.com , to help me fill in the facts about the saw's history.

When I got it home it ran, but with a great deal of noise. I tried moving the arms by hand, and a very distinct squeaking sound was present along with a great deal of resistance. After starting the disassembly process to see what was wrong, I found that the pivot axles of the swing arms were frozen into the bronze sleeves. The noise I heard was the bronze bearings actually turning back and forth in the socket holes of the wood.



After a lot of penetrating liquid and much twisting, I did succeed in getting the bronze sleeves off the pivot axles. It seemed that it was not rust, but a material I guessed to be saw dust mixed with oil and a lot of years of no use. Once I got all of the 'gunk' out of the bearings, it seemed to be free and working very well again. I got some plastic washers to put on the pivot axles, which I hope will help keep the fine saw dust out of the action.



One other place I checked to eliminate the noise was the drive arm of the eccentric drive shaft. It had a plastic bushing sleeve in it, and it was worn in an oblong shape. I was able to purchase a new one and that eliminated about 90% of the noise.



I put it all back together, with grease in the bronze bearings, and squared the blade up by shimming one side of the table, up about 1/16". It runs much better, but the bottom blade clamp is a **big headache** to adjust or change the blade. This saw is much more for 'atmosphere' in my Branson shop, not for easy and accurate cutting. I have been spoiled by my Excalibur saw's accuracy and ease of use.



I have included some of the pictures of the process. If you should own a saw like this I believe it needs an occasional **'tune up'** to keep it running smoothly. I plan to do it every few months, depending on how much cutting I do with it.



This is a saw that has a lot of character and nostalgia, and I hope to use both of these features to my advantage in my **Branson Workshop**.

Come see me this summer at the **"Branson Mill"** June 9 – Aug. 10

Enjoy your cutting.

Gaylen Montgomery

Mr. "M's" Workshop

Call me -- 402-659-7652