

HAMMER MARKS

Take a Heat in the Heat!



Decisions, Decisions, Decisions
Spring Meeting Conference
Patrick McIver Axe Making Blueprint
on page 4

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The Newsletter of the Kootenay Blacksmiths

KBA Minutes

KBA Spring Conference May, 27, 2023, Grand Forks, BC

President Tony Austin opened the meeting at 6 PM with thanks to Patrick McIver for his hands-on Axe Forging Class and Bob McTavish for hosting the Spring Conference. Tony read the following reports, motioned for approval, 1b seconded, carried.

Treasury: Balance April 30, 2023 \$2760.00

Library: The Library will remain at Doug Newell's, available by mail.

Website: We are looking for a new Webmaster:

Working knowledge of Wordpress is a major benefit. Tim will mentor the next Webmaster

Duties include: - Keeping the KBA Wordpress website up to date

- Updating website content with information about upcoming conferences, board and member information

- Uploading photos of members work, need members to participate!

- Keep an eye on the KBA email, respond to email requests and inform members of any opportunities.

Old Business:

Getting the newsletters on the website, all of the newsletters from 1996 to 2022 have been, copied as PDFs and are ready for transferring to the website, as soon as we find a new Webmaster.

New Business:

- Tony reviewed the Future of the KBA Proposal (see Page 20) and suggested the Grand Forks group as a model.

Elections:

The following KBA Board was elected by acclamation.

Librarian - Doug Newell

Newsletter Editor - Tony Austin

Secretary - Holly Dolanz

Treasurer - Carolyne Dolanz

President - Tony Austin

Meeting closed at 6:30 PM

Publishing Information

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Please address all HAMMERMARKS correspondence to the Editor:

Tony Austin

c/o Dragon Iron Forge

35 Ross Street, Kimberley, BC, V1A 2B9

Email: tnt_austin@shaw.ca

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Use Content at your own risk

Library News

Doug Newell

Phone: 1(403)932-2685

Email: dnewall@wildbuffalo.com

123 Books, 40 DVD's and 7 Videos

Check It Out!

The KBA Library Stock List can be seen online at:

www.librarything.com/catalog/kootenay-blacksmiths

(You have to join, it's free)

The Newsletter of the Kootenay Blacksmiths

KBA Website News

Hello all,

I am Katrina/Josephine and my son, Leif and I, have been a part of the association for about a year! We are super excited to be here. We personally are in Grand Forks.

NEWS: August 3, 2023

- I am now running the website and I would love to connect with members update information and share news
 - Please if you are interested I'd like to create a local forge page: I would like you to send me your media pages if you have them or even just the name and city you are located in.
 - I would love to showcase your work, add you to the list in the Members Gallery
 - Please email me to share ideas for the website and social media pages
- I would also LOVE if if we could connect with other like-minded associations: Maybe WoodWorking guilds? (these two skills go hand in hand) Or other such guilds/associations, if you in one PLEASE share with me the person I could get in touch with to discuss these things!

Let's get the word out there! This is an amazing skill that most people think has gone the way of the Dodo bird.

Update August 21, 2023

I'm so happy to be a part of this amazing association. My family moved to the Kootenays just a couple of years ago and we have been blessed to find so many amazing opportunities.

That being said, I've had the opportunity to join as an administrator as well as an active Smith. I plan to share as much as I can between the Smith's that are in our association, I'd love to know what you have going on. I have been working towards updating the website. I've also created a Facebook page, Kootenay Blacksmiths' Association, for everyone to see what we are up to as well as a group, Boundary Blacksmiths, for members of the association. As with most of us, life has many ebbs and flows, therefore I will do my best to keep things up and running with all our online resources. Please feel free to check out all the web sources!

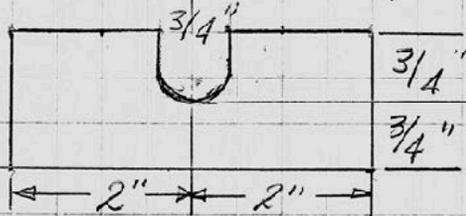
Happy Blacksmithing to one and all! KJ

The Newsletter of the Kootenay Blacksmiths

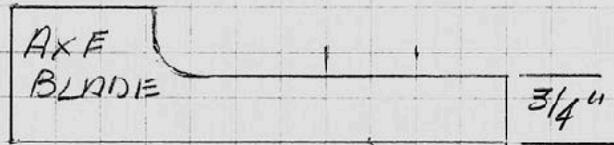
Patrick McIver's Axe Demo, (Blueprint by Tony Austin)

Materials: 4" of 1 1/2 x 1/2 4160 tool steel

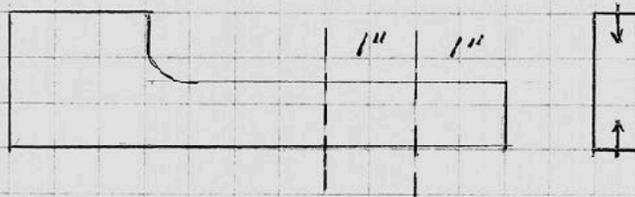
1.) 3/4" Top Fuller top center 3/4" deep



2. DRAW OUT ONE SIDE

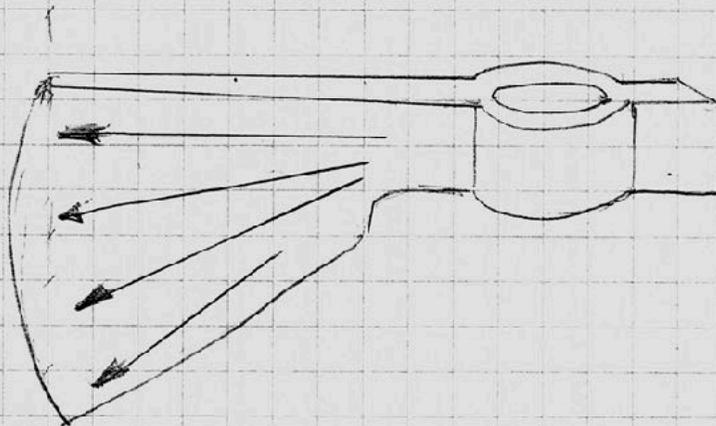


3.) 1" Slitter mark top & bottom work alternately



4.) DRIFT TO FIT HANDLE

5.) DRAW OUT Blade



Blacksmiths from across Alberta, B.C. converge on Grand Forks for Annual Conference

**Karen Mckinley
Grand Forks Gazette**

There's more to blacksmithing than swinging a hammer and hitting hot metal until it turns into something.

Students and novice blacksmiths were getting a lesson in the basics at the annual Kootenay Blacksmiths Association conference on Saturday and Sunday, which included an open house and instruction from blacksmith Patrick McIvor.

Ten people were in attendance on Saturday, coming from B.C. and Alberta.

Saturday's project was creating a tool axe, which McIvor said could be used for anything from chopping small pieces of wood, to climbing.

Novice and experienced smiths learned how to ignite and maintain a hand-cranked coal forge and the properties of the metals they were using as it is heated, and changed colour. He also guided students through where and how hard to strike the metal once it was at the proper temperature to begin making the axe blade and butt so they didn't mash the metal or hit it so hard they lost their grip and sent it flying off the anvil.

The whole purpose of showing students how to smith and forge metal the old way is so they get a good understanding of why hot metal has to be treated and formed properly to create a good product in the end.

"I tell students all the time you could have a shop full of all the tools imaginable and the best metals, or just five things like a fuller, tongs, anvil, hammer and forge. None of that matters if they don't understand the basics of metalworking and forging," he said. "If they don't master the basics, they will never make a satisfactory, quality product."

Many of the techniques he teaches have been passed down generations and across cultures, said McIvor. Variables like the speed of which a forge is fired, using the colour of the metal to determine temperature and the medium to quench and temper hot metals goes back up to 5,000 years.

There are modern tools smiths can access, such as electric hammers and gas-powered forges with automatic temperature controls. However, McIvor said using the traditional tools gives all novice metalsmiths an appreciation and skillset anchored in the traditional ways. Holding these workshops and conferences is to keep the craft alive. Tony Austin, Association president said he's been a blacksmith for 20 years, running Dragon Iron Forge in Kimberly, B.C. What keeps him going as a blacksmith is the passion of working with his hands.

"It's so fascinating to get this hot metal to move in a direction you want it to and make something," he said. "For me, it's so fascinating to make things that other people enjoy."

Blacksmithing is also a foundation trade, he explained, making tools for all other trades.

He added he was pleased to see more young people taking up blacksmithing, pointing out many of the smiths in attendance were under 35.

He added he was pleased by how supportive the community as a whole has been with helping the Association's members, pointing out the coal needed to run the forges was donated by a local man.

The evening's activities included voting on a new president and executives. Austin added they need to hold annual meetings to keep their non-profit status in B.C. However, he is proposing it expand into local groups, to make it easier for smiths to grow memberships for the Association as a whole. It currently covers a geographical area from Calgary to Kelowna.

The Newsletter of the Kootenay Blacksmiths



Liam and Patrick forging an Axe Head
Karen McKinley Photo - Grand Forks Gazette



Liam and Dad Chad Luider



McTavish on air control



Checking measurements

The Newsletter of the Kootenay Blacksmiths



Fullering



Pam drawing out her axe blade



Pam's finished axe head



Pam's handled axe and sheath

The Newsletter of the Kootenay Blacksmiths

Bowl/Sheet Metal Tongs

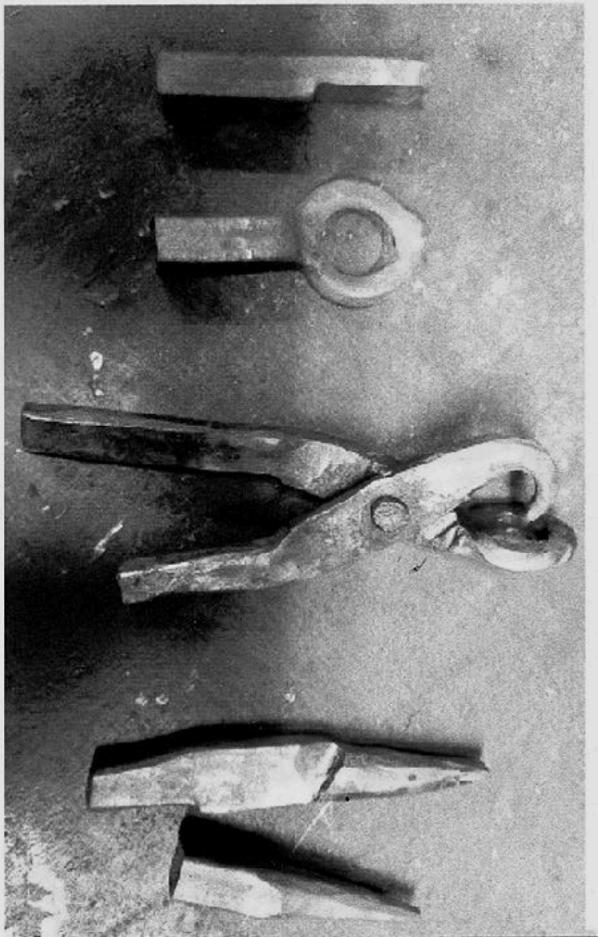
Patrick Beck

Porl, Finland

Responding to the call for Saturday Afternoon Blacksmith projects, Patrick Beck sent this storyboard.

The stock for the storyboard is $\frac{1}{2}$ " x $\frac{1}{2}$ ". The ring is $\frac{3}{4}$ " inside diameter.

Patrick suggests: "adjust them to hold $\frac{1}{16}$ inch material and they will suit most sheet metal work."

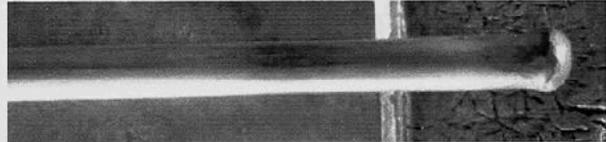


Construction Notes:

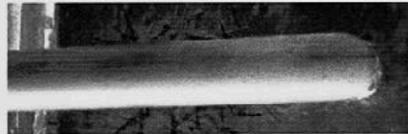
Photo Shoot at RoadRunner Forge

Stock: 24" of $\frac{9}{16}$ " round, cold-rolled steel.

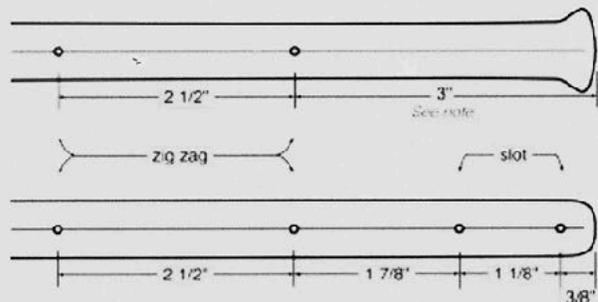
1. Upset and round the end of the bar for the top jaw, to about $\frac{5}{8}$ ".



2. Round end of bottom jaw bar. Note: this round is a cylindrical round - it helps when making the loop rounded, to have the bar end rounded.

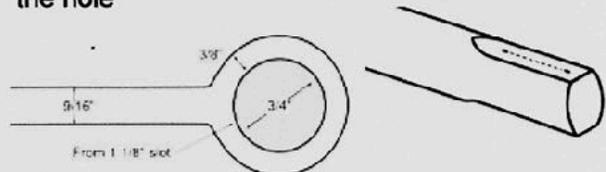


3. Punchmark for references for forging the jaws.



Note: 3" was used for the upper jaw in this example, but it would have looked better at 3 1/2"

4. Put a slight flattened area on the top and bottom of the bar where the ring will be. This helps hold everything still when you go to chisel or punch the hole

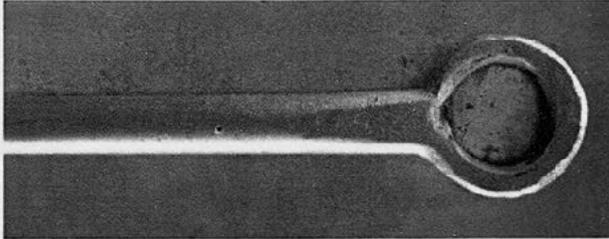


5. Chisel or punch for the hole (in the example shown, I chose to chisel the hole rather than slot punch it. However, this leaves more rag in the hole than if I were to slot punch it.

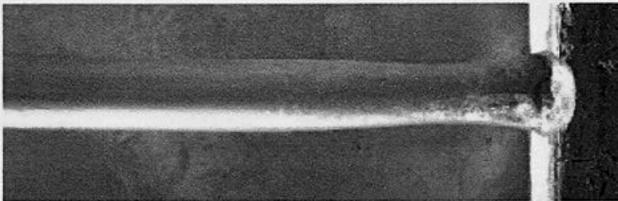
Note: Patrick sometimes draws out the end, makes a loop and forge welds the loop end

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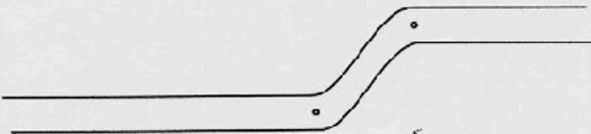
6. Drift, and bring the hole to round, and of uniform thickness and height. The hole is $\frac{3}{4}$ " inside diameter. Make a nice taper from the $\frac{9}{16}$ " shank down to the ring.



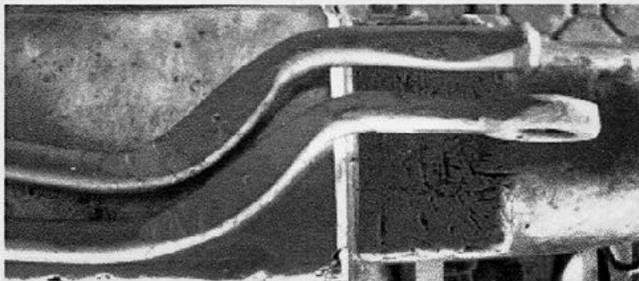
7. On the upper jaw piece, make a slight taper, in a plane which will be parallel to the pivot plane of the tongs.



8. At the two punchmarks that are $2\frac{1}{2}$ " apart, make a zigzag with 45 degree bends. Do this on both pieces.

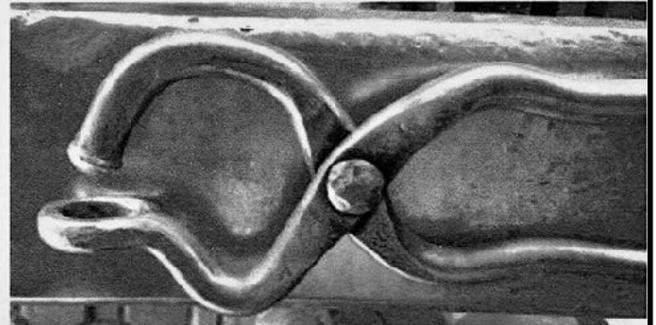


9. Flatten and spread the pivot (boss) area. I go for $\frac{5}{16}$ " thickness in the center of the boss, which gives about a $\frac{3}{4}$ " width there. These tongs are to be held in the left hand, so the bar for the top jaw goes to the inside. Flip both bars to the left, so that you hammer on the outside of the boss, letting the anvil maintain a flat for the mating surfaces. Mark for the pivot hole.



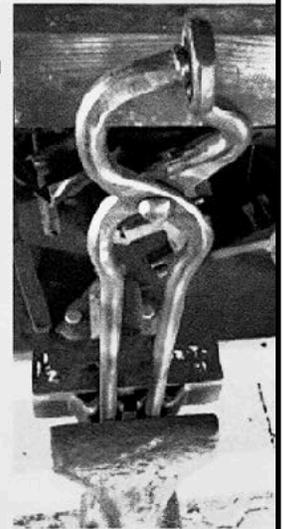
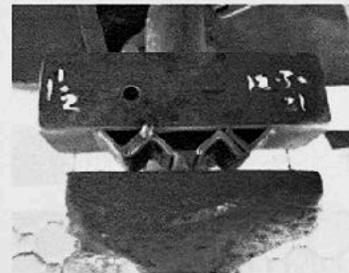
10. Punch and drift the pivot hole. I punch to slightly under $\frac{3}{8}$ ", then drill out to $\frac{3}{8}$ ". A $\frac{3}{8}$ " rivet fits nicely.

11. Set the rivet. If the pivot ends up being sticky, apply the Tong Dance procedure (Calif. Blacksmith, May-June 2019, pg. 23).
12. Find the middle of the smooth action range for the pivot, then clamp in the vise and bring the jaws into alignment. I use an oxy/propane torch for this.

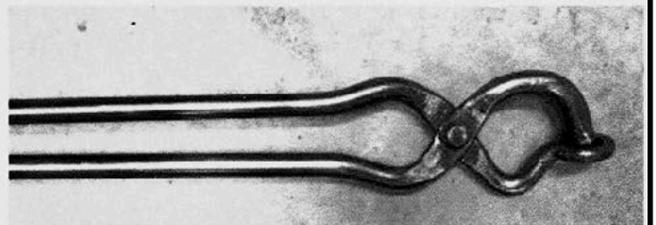


13. Clamp the jaws in the vise, then align the reins. I like to have the reins $1\frac{1}{2}$ " apart and parallel, when holding stock of the intended size. I use a torch to align reins and jaws.

14. You likely distorted the jaws while aligning the reins, so clamp the reins in the vise, re-align the jaws. I use a vise helper jig, made of a few pieces of angle iron.



15. Cut off extra stock, then clean everything.

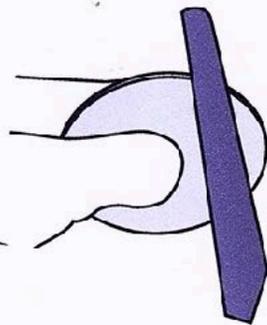
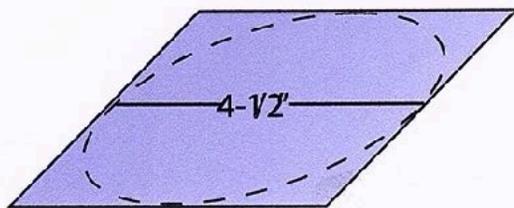


Copper Ladle/Strainer Bowl

Karen Tappendorf

Material: 16 or 18 gauge copper sheet, 4-1/2" x 4-1/2"

1 CUT AND SOFTEN EDGES - Mark or trace a 4-1/2" circle on the copper sheet. Use snips or a throatless shear to cut out the circle. Wear gloves! The cut edges will be very sharp. Use a flat or half-round (fine tooth) bastard file to smooth edges of copper circle. File both sides (front & back) and finish with sand paper. Ensure you can run your fingers on the edge without cutting yourself.

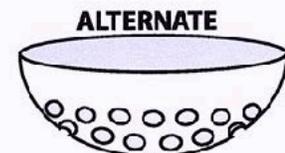
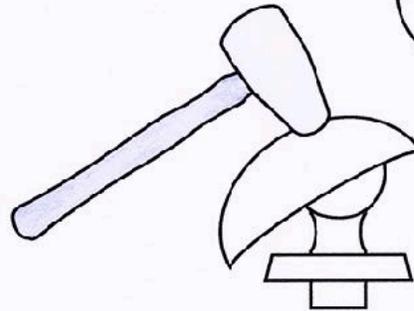
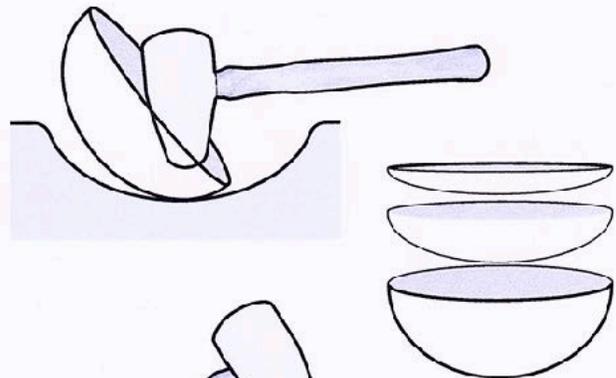


TIP!

Use a file card to clean copper from the file as needed

2 ANNEAL - Copper must be softened (annealed) before working it and frequently during the process below. As copper is hammered or shaped, it work hardens, making it difficult to shape and prone to cracking. Heat the copper to a dull or dark red in the fire. It may be quenched or allowed to cool. Be careful not to melt your piece! If you see green flames in the fire, that is your copper burning away!

3 SHAPE - Use a plastic teardrop mallet to gently round and deepen the copper bowl shape. Watch for folding or creases. Use a dished out stump, a swage block with a bowl or spoon shape, or make your own shape by carving out a wood block. You can alternatively shape the bowl over a round steel object such as a hitch ball. Remember to anneal the copper (step 2) as it work hardens to avoid tearing or breaking.



ALTERNATE

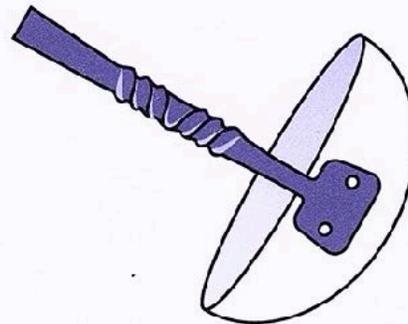
drill 1/4" holes to make a strainer ladle

4 POLISH - Use sandpaper of various grits to smooth and polish the bowl.

5 ADD A HANDLE -

Forge an iron handle to suit your needs and style.

Drill or punch holes through the handle and use them to drill matching holes in the bowl. Cold hammer copper rivets to attach the handle. The length, style, and handle end are your choice - be creative!



6 FINISH - Refer to the instructions on finishing or tinning your ladle if preferred.

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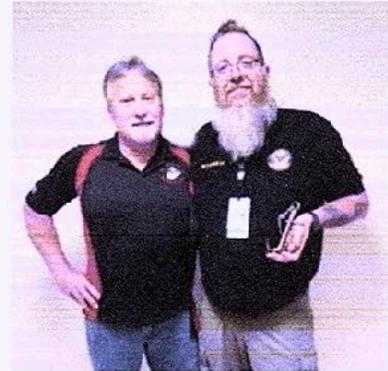
Anchors Your Way! By Tim Savino

Editor's Note: This project includes many skills and could be helpful for an instructor to challenge students. Splitting, punching, drifting, tapering, drawing out, and symmetry are all goals to make this stylized anchor a special project. Perfect for a summer assignment at the forge!

This anchor was presented to Chief Curtis Thiesse to thank him for the work he continues to do at the Clarksburg VA Medical Center. Appreciation was extended to him for his service in the Navy and continued service to veterans and from his Marine brother, Semper Fidelis.

Materials, one each: 1/2" X 1/2" X 10" Square
1/4" X 4" Round

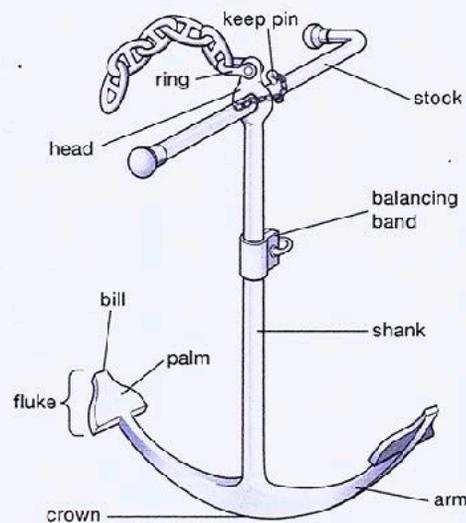
1. Split 3" of 1/2" square bar for the arms of the anchor while material is cold on a band saw or if you choose split hot with a chisel.
2. On the opposite end, mark with a center punch where the ring of the head of the anchor will be in the same orientation as arms of the anchor.
3. Drop down to mark (approximate) where the stock (crossarm) will pass through the shank of the anchor. (See photo below, the stylized version is different then the actual anchor)
4. Return to the head end of the anchor and drift the hole. Use a 1/2" slit punch to start the ring at the top of top of the anchor, I made my own punch. Drift the slot using a 1/2" drift punch. You will need to round up the corners of the material on the end of the bar. If necessary round out using the point on the anvil or cone mandrel.
5. Find the center punch mark for the crossarm and slot punch for 1/4" rod. You may have to adjust the site to be in proportion to the length of material. This stock (crossarm) is not located at the same site as the drawing.
6. Heat and open up the arms of the anchor vertically in a vise being careful of the completed work.
7. Draw out to even lengths and break edges. Shape so that each arm is symmetrical; flare edges. Option: You can upset the ends and spread a fluke on each end. Clean up with a file.
8. Heat and finish with a brass brush for a golden finish.
9. I added a rope by braiding three stands of cord together to complete the decorative anchor.



PAABA Member, Tim Savino and Chief Curtis Thiesse with anchor.



Left: Stylized anchor with braid. Center: Parts of a traditional anchor, note the stock and arms are perpendicular. For a stylized rendition they are turned to be on the same plane. This makes the anchor easier to display. Right: Splitting the square bar to make arms; symmetry is very important. Below Right: Actual anchor located on 8th street in Ambridge PA.

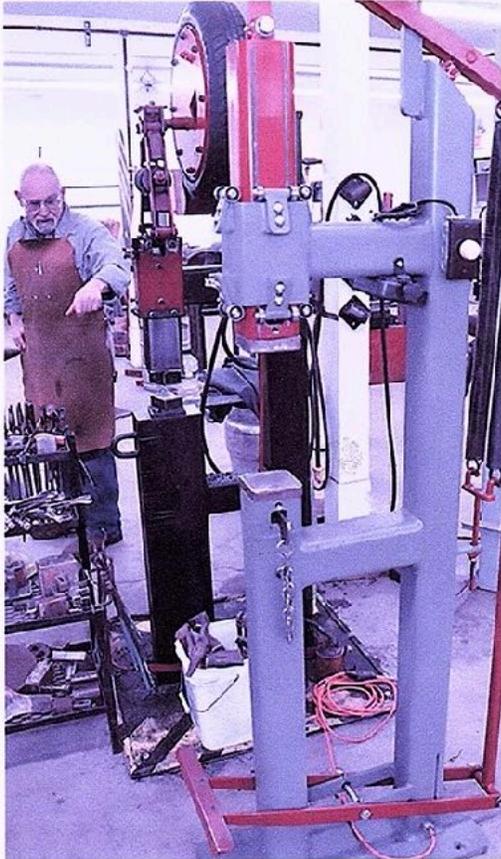


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Mark Manley: Forging Processes with a Treadle Hammer

Photography by Dan Bowyer



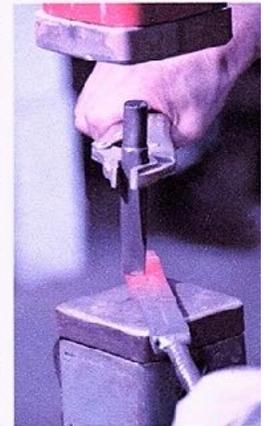
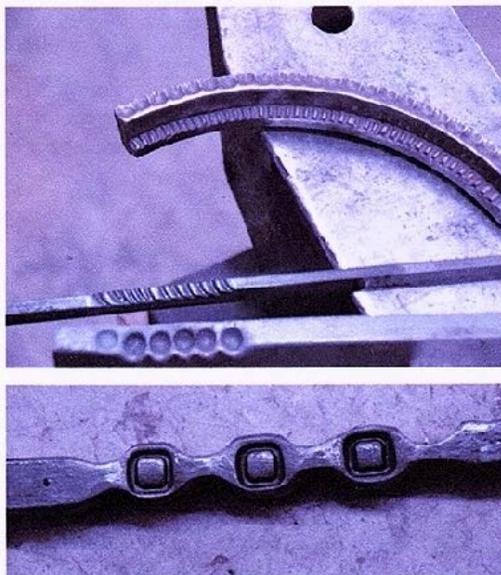
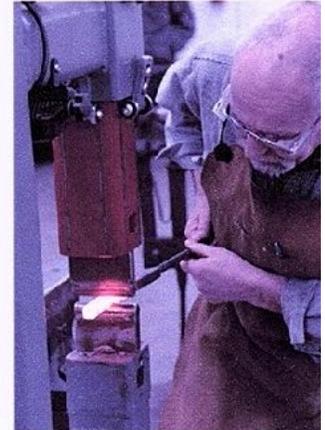
Curious about a Treadle Hammer and whether or not it is worth the investment? NWBA was fortunate to have Mark Manley join us as January's Mentoring Center Demonstrator to address that very question. Mark is a highly respected blacksmith and instructor who owns "Manley Metal Works" located in Bandon, OR.

Mark has built several Treadle Hammers and brought along one of the hammers to use during his demonstration titled "Forging Processes with a Treadle Hammer." The treadle hammer features a 75lb head which Mark indicated worked well for his projects.

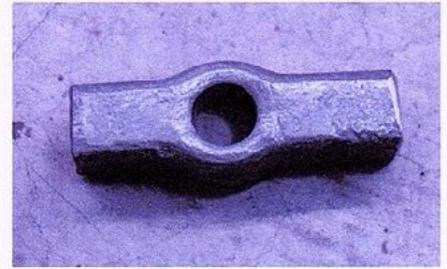
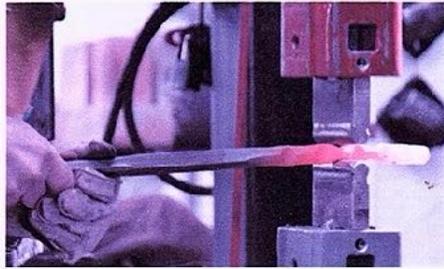
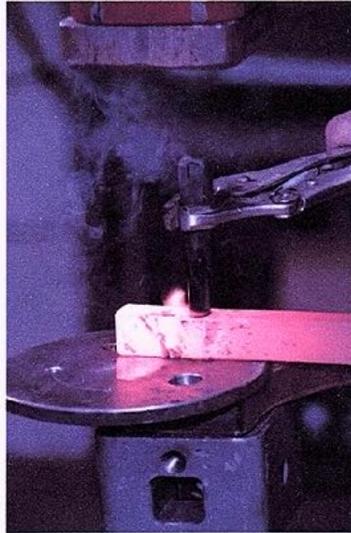
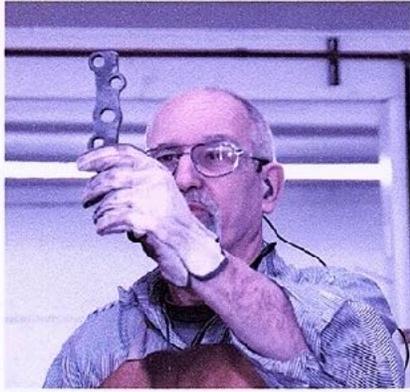
Clearly, each piece of shop equipment has its place and it depends on the work you wish to accomplish and personal work preference. Mark often works alone in his shop and has found that the treadle hammer does a lot of work that normally would be done by a striker. In essence, the treadle hammer is his second set of hands freeing him to use one hand for holding tools with ease while the other is managing the hot metal.

Mark appreciates the versatility of the treadle hammer and uses it for detail work such as punching, cutting, repoussé or chase as well as general project work.

As an example, Mark had found punching holes using an anvil to be problematic for him and found that he has better control and results with the treadle hammer.



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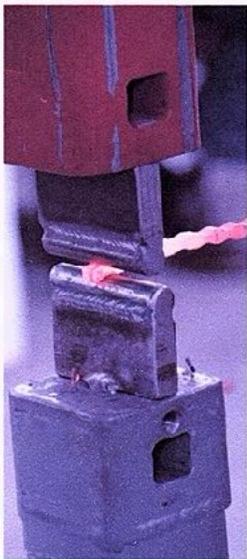


During the Mentoring Center Demo several types of top and bottom dies were shown which can be switched out pending the task to allow greater versatility of the hammer.

The treadle hammer is operated with foot action which may take a tad of practice. As a safety reminder, NEVER use a hand to hold a tool under the hammer. Mark generally uses vice grips to hold his tools.

be posted on the NWBA YouTube Channel at a later date.

Monthly Mentoring Sessions are generally the third Saturday of each month starting at 9:00 a.m. followed by Open Forge time from 1:00-4:00 p.m. The NWBA Mentoring Center is located at the Cowlitz County Expo Center/Fairgrounds; 1900 7th Avenue, Longview, WA. The events are open to all current NWBA members. A \$20 admission fee is charged to assist with program expenses. Watch our NWBA website for upcoming sessions and plan to attend a future session. Generally, the demonstrations are also livestreamed for those unable to attend in person.



Throughout the demonstration Mark shared tips and techniques for forging processes with the treadle hammer. He also emphasized the value of the treadle hammer including:

- Saves physical energy
- Saves time
- Assists in efficiency of each heat
- Leads to accuracy /better control as both hands are free to hold/manipulate the metal being worked
- Provides controlled heavy blows
- Provides greater versatility.

Thank you Mark for most informative demonstration. A copy of the demonstration will



Copper Tulip

By David W. Wilson

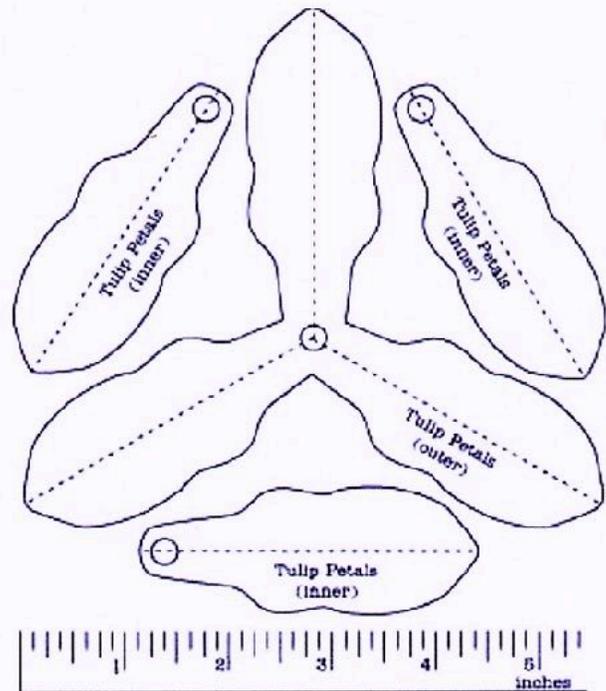
This tulip is planished from .032" (20 gauge) copper. The end of a fireplace poker handle will work well as a stake. A smooth face planishing hammer will not leave unwanted marks on copper. To make the copper easier to work, frequently anneal it, especially after hammering. To anneal, simply heat with propane torch to dark red and quench. The PETAL Patterns are designed to conserve material. Individual petals may also be created, however the inner petals should be slightly smaller.

A stem may be made from 1/4" round stock. Use oxyacetylene torch to weld a nut on the stem for shoulder (at base of petals). Heat and hammer the hex nut to a round shape. Inside the petals, a threaded end with nut on the stem will allow easy repositioning and removal of the petals. Peening over the stem onto the petals will also work. Put a slight curve in the stem to add a realistic look.

The leaves are made from 22 gauge sheet steel. Fold the LEAF Pattern in half and open half way. This creates a center vein for the leaf. Ridges are made by heating with propane torch and bending with smooth needle nose pliers. File or snip the tips so they are not sharp. Wrap the base of the top most petal onto the stem first. Then wrap the lower petal base around the upper one. Note: the lower petal has a longer base to hide the upper petal base.

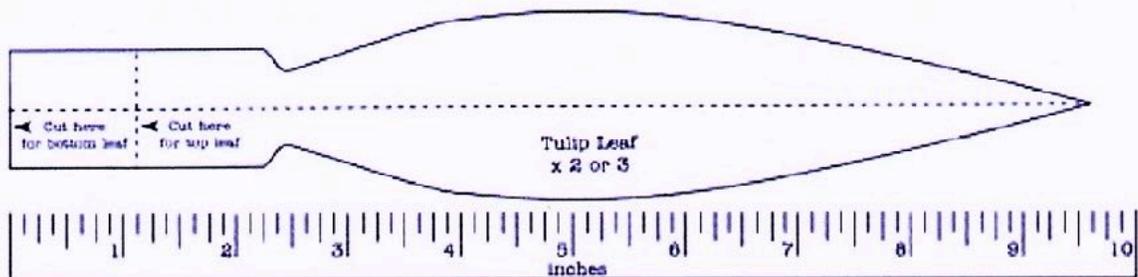
To make a ridge on the center of the petals, use copper wire. Wrap the wire around a round surface, lay the petal on the wire, outside up. Hammer with dead blow hammer to raise ridge.

Drill 1/4" holes in the copper PETAL Pattern. Place the larger, outer petals on the stem first, then the inner ones. Screw nut onto the end of the stem, stagger petals as



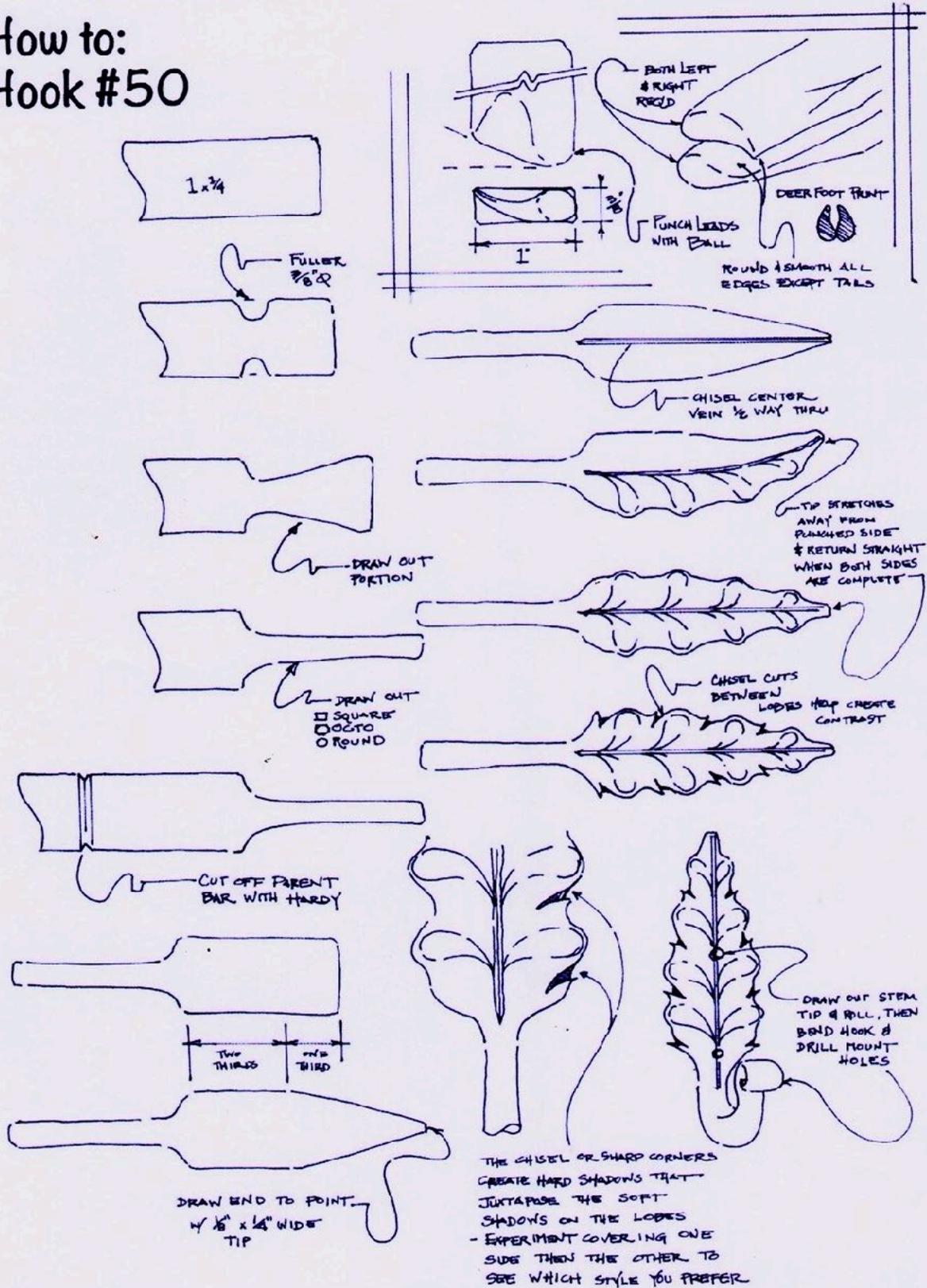
Created by David W. Wilson Illustration/Design
www.flash.net/~dwwilson/

Our grateful thanks to CVBG for sharing contents from their publication "Iron in the Fire" - June 1998.



Try #50 , Made on February 19, Hook made by Matt Jenkins, Directions Here!

How to: Hook #50



It's Time to Self-Promote

Tony Austin, Dragon Iron Forge, Kimberley, B.C.

Get your works out into the world so that you and they can be seen. According to Opus, the best way to get that elusive exposure is through blameless, shameless self-promotion. Have fun with it, look at ways to best represent who you are and what you do.

Creating a portfolio, you don't have to limit it to slides for grant applications and art shows, create a larger portfolio including photographic representation of your work, with detailed descriptions, (e.g. hand forged, mild steel, riveted construction, flame coloured finish). Use this larger portfolio to give your potential clients ideas they might want you to design and create especially for them.

As with all portfolios, include an Artists Statement, let people know how you conceive and how you think about your art. Also include a Curriculum Vitae (CV), list exhibitions, collections of your work and publications. Let people know about where you and your art have been. It should all work together to tell a story and display who you are, your talent and the purpose and direction of your work. If you are having trouble writing your Artist Statement, Opus recommends these websites: www.artbusiness.com/artstate.html and www.eciad.bc.ca/wc/writingcentrehandouts.htm

Save your work photos on your computer, so you can reproduce them for mail outs and presentations on line. If you are computer literate create a Facebook Page to promote your work to a larger audience.

I protect my photos in clear plastic sleeves and break down my portfolio by product or style (e.g. Furniture, Fire Tools, Garden Tools, Repousse, Weather Vanes, etc.) and

recommend creating composite photo pages to display ideas (see below). These composite pages are also useful as mail outs to former and perspective clients. If you have a large collection of photos of a particular product like Gates and Railings or a major project like a sculpture or series of sculptures, I would recommend creating a separate portfolio. I prefer to exhibit my portfolios in three ring binders for easily making changes, adding and or removing photos.



This 1 page article originally appeared in the Ocmulgee Blacksmith Guild Newsletter, in or prior to 2002. A nice beginners project for Mother's Day!

The Beginners Corner

By: Buster Grubbs

Ocmulgee Blacksmith Guild

A Plate Hanger

You will need:

- * 2 pieces of 3/8 to 1/2 square 6' long
- * 2 pieces of 1/4 x 1" flat 6-3/4" long
- * 3 pieces of 5/16 or 3/8 square 13"
- * 10 - 1/8" rivets (or welder)

Step 1-

Forge both ends of the 6' long pieces to a taper or flair or whatever, and roll these into scrolls. (Use your imagination as to design).

Step 2-

Center punch marks at 14", 16", 29", 42" and 44" from the tops of the scrolls as shown (in figure 2).

Step 3-

Heat at the 14" and 44" marks and drive a piece of the 1/4 x 1" flat bar into it so that a notch is formed for the 1/4 x 1 to rest in (so that it is flush with the back of the scroll.)

Step 4-

Weld or drill and rivet the 1/4 x 1 x 6-3/4 to the upright scrolls. (as shown in Figure 4) and then drill 2 holes in each of the 1/4 x 1 cross pieces for mounting.

Step 5-

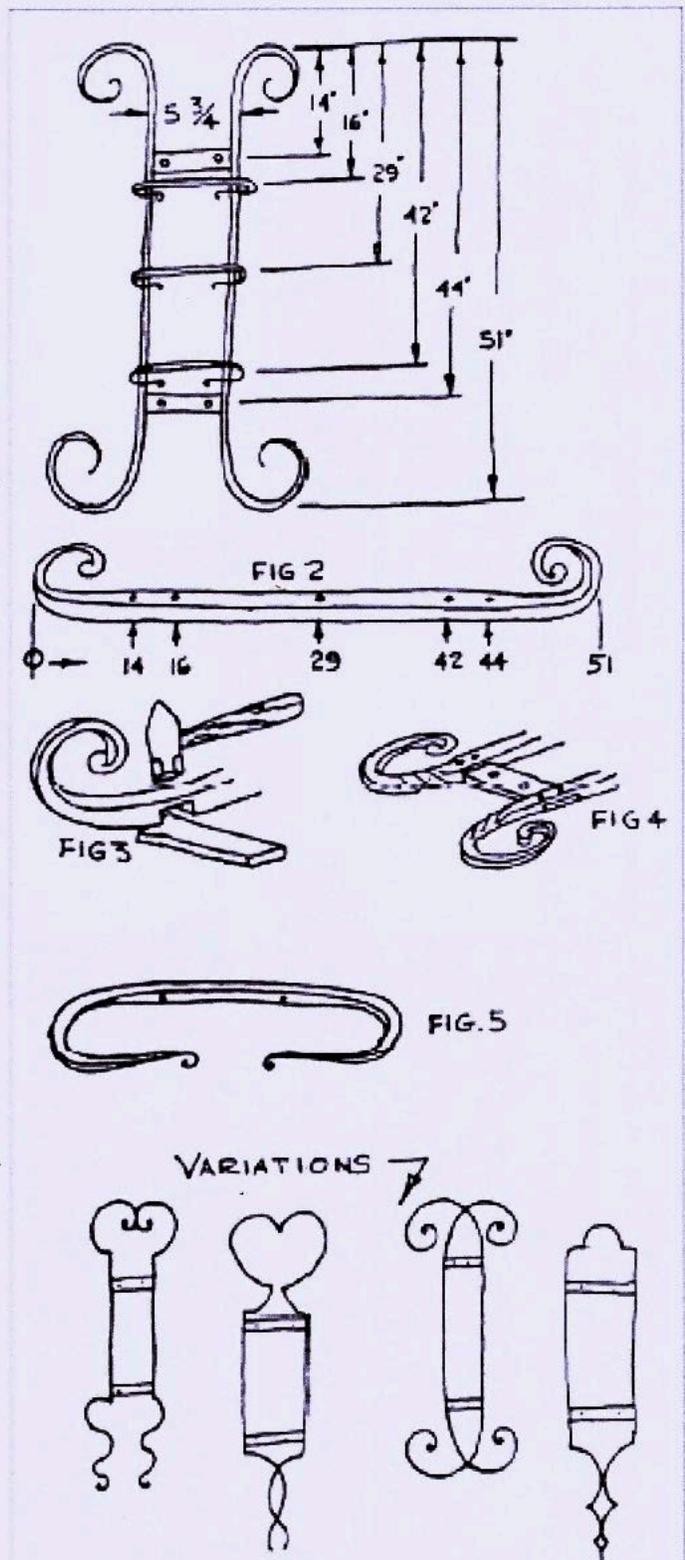
Forge the 3 pieces of 13" long 1/4 or 5/16 out to a taper so that they end up about 15" long. Form tiny pig tail scrolls on each end with needle nose pliers or small scroll tongs. Bend each of these as shown. These are the pieces that will actually hold the plates.

Step 6-

Attach these pieces to the uprights at the 16, 29, and 42" center punched marks made in step 2 above.

Step 7-

Finish by cleaning with a wire brush and applying an edible oil such as vegetable, olive, or whatever you use in your kitchen.



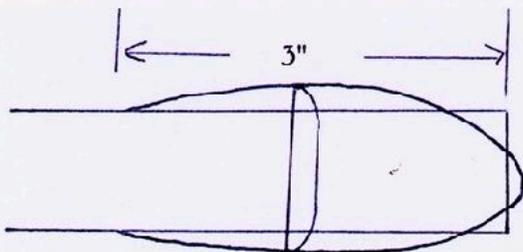


Little FEESCH

Drawing, photos and write up by Steve Anderson, a MABA member

Forging cold steel into a life like form appears magical, but it also is educational. These little fish would be a great demonstration for shows and festivals this summer.

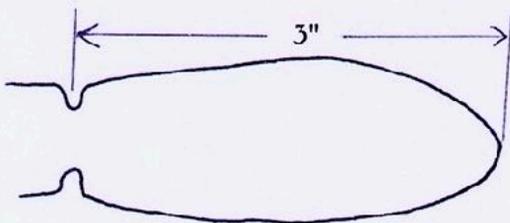
1—Forge the head and body on 3" of the end of 1/4" x 3/4" stock.



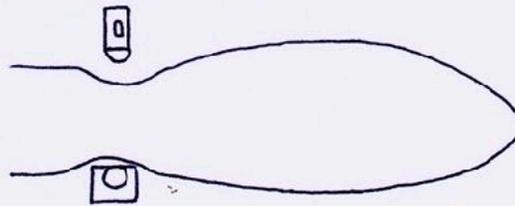
Leave the center flat, but taper the sides and end. File or grind if necessary.

To smooth, planish the surface by heating to red, then lightly hammering to a black heat.

2—Use a small fuller to mark the start of the tail 3" back from the mouth.



3—To forge the transition to the tail, use a small rounding hammer and tip of the horn. A spring fuller can also be used.



Be sure to flip 180° every 2-3 hits.

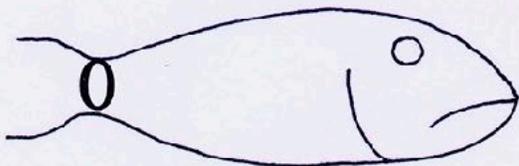
Also start to rotate 45° between front and back to achieve a smooth, oval cross section.

This process is similar to forging square to round (square ~> to eight sided ~> to round)

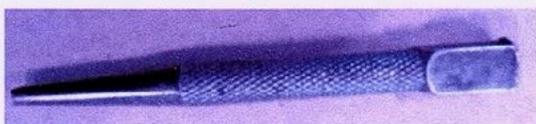


The Newsletter of the Kootenay Blacksmiths

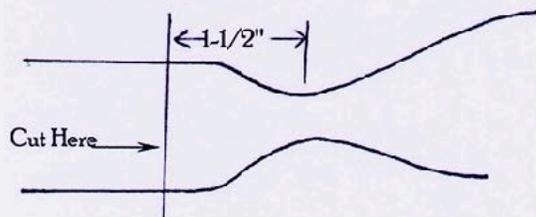
4—Use curved chisels to form the mouth and gill cover. Make the eye with a 3/16" eye punch.



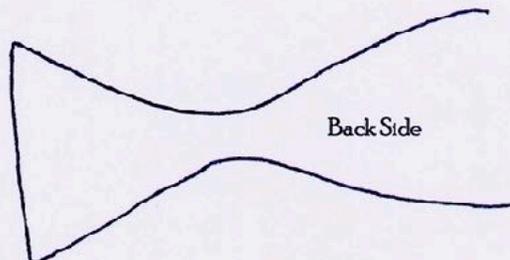
5—Add additional detail if desired. A lateral line can be made by imprinting the edge of a piece of a small file. Spots can be created by using a nail set.



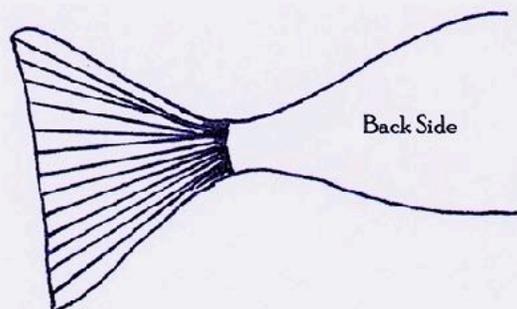
6—Cut the tail 1-1/2" back from the narrowest part.



On the backside use a flat hammer to forge the tail to shape.



Now use a cross peen to continue spreading and form the veins.



7—Finally use a wooden mallet to bend the tail around to the front side using the horn. Adjust the tail so the body stands up on its belly and tail and the fish appears to be jumping out of the water.

8—Wire wheel, apply a thin coat of Penetrol, then 3 coats of wax when dry. Or use a finish of your choice.



Additional Sizes-

3/16" x 1/2", Body 2", Tail 7/8", eye punch 1/8"

1/4" x 1", Body 3-1/2", Tail 1-7/8", eye punch 1/4"

1/4" x 1-1/2", Body 5-1/2", Tail 2-1/2", eye punch 1/4"

Larger stock can also be used with sizes that are visually proportional. Scales can be created on larger fish using a flat round punch at an angle.

The Newsletter of the Kootenay Blacksmiths

The Future of the KBA, Proposal

As of this writing, the Kootenay Blacksmiths Association is 27 years old and has 40 members located throughout the Kootenay's and into central Alberta.

The geographic area we cover, from Calgary to Kelowna in the north and Fernie to Grand Forks in the south, is an area of about 17,000 square miles, which makes it extremely hard for all of us to get together.

In order to retain our BC Non-Profit Society status we need to have an Annual General Meeting to elect officers and plan for the following year, our Spring Conference covers that requirement and the demonstrations and hands-on workshops are an added draw to bring the membership out. Beyond the Spring Conference planning for the whole group is an impossible task, at the moment the only thing keeping us together appears to be the Hammer Marks newsletter.

I am proposing we expand the KBA into a series of local groups, like the Grand Forks group which holds regular hammer-ins at different forges, throughout the year. Each group would have a lead smith, secretary and treasurer as well as a representative on an expanded KBA Board. The expanded board would coordinate group get-togethers and demos, across the whole of the KBA. The individual groups, could offer classes (for a fee), along with their hammer-ins to finance their activities and grow our joint memberships.

Increasing memberships would result in higher income for the KBA and allow money to be invested in the separate groups, for supplies, equipment, demos, etc.

Individual groups could report on hammer-ins and projects, along with photos to the Hammer Marks Editor and the Webmaster to share happenings and ideas across the KBA.



Kootenay Blacksmith's Association Membership Application

Dues are \$30.00 (Due Jan 31) Make check or money order payable to KBA and Mail to:
KBA Membership, Attn: Twila Austin, 35 Ross St., Kimberley, BC, V1A2B9

Name _____

New Member ____ Renewal ____

Forge Name _____

ABANA Member: Yes ____ No ____

Mailing Address _____

_____ Prov/State ____ Postal Code _____

Phone () _____ EMail _____