

On the Anvil NEWSLETTER

PHILIP SIMMONS ARTIST BLACKSMITH GUILD

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Hello Blacksmiths!

I hope you all are doing well in these interesting times! It is sad news that yet another meeting is cancelled, but here's to hoping for the October 24th meeting in Lexington. It should be cooler at least!

I'd like to give a big thank you to Joe Marsh and Walter Hill for volunteering to man the forge at Camden during the reenactment on what would have been our meeting weekend, feel free to stop by and see them! Yes, they are having a scaled back reenactment that Saturday (8/15) to fire up their new brick kiln. They have also cancelled/scaled back their big reenactment in November. It will also be only one day, 11/7.

Summer is here and It's always a good idea to refresh ourselves (get it) with some safety protocols on heat injury. Use your common sense and monitor yourselves and those around you for symptoms of overheating/ heat exhaustion etc. there are hundreds of sources to find this info and more but i'll

list the basic symptoms below:

Confusion

Dark-colored urine (a sign of dehydration—don't try to rehydrate with beer! Use water!)

Dizziness

Fainting

Fatigue

Headache

Muscle or abdominal cramps

Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea

Pale skin

Profuse sweating

Rapid heartbeat

The earlier you catch it the better with this stuff, so stay cool, keep hammering and drink plenty of fluids! Don't wait until you're thirsty to drink!

I do hope we see each other soon. Be careful, or I will come to your shop! Ask Jason H. Anderson...

Stay safe,

Jody

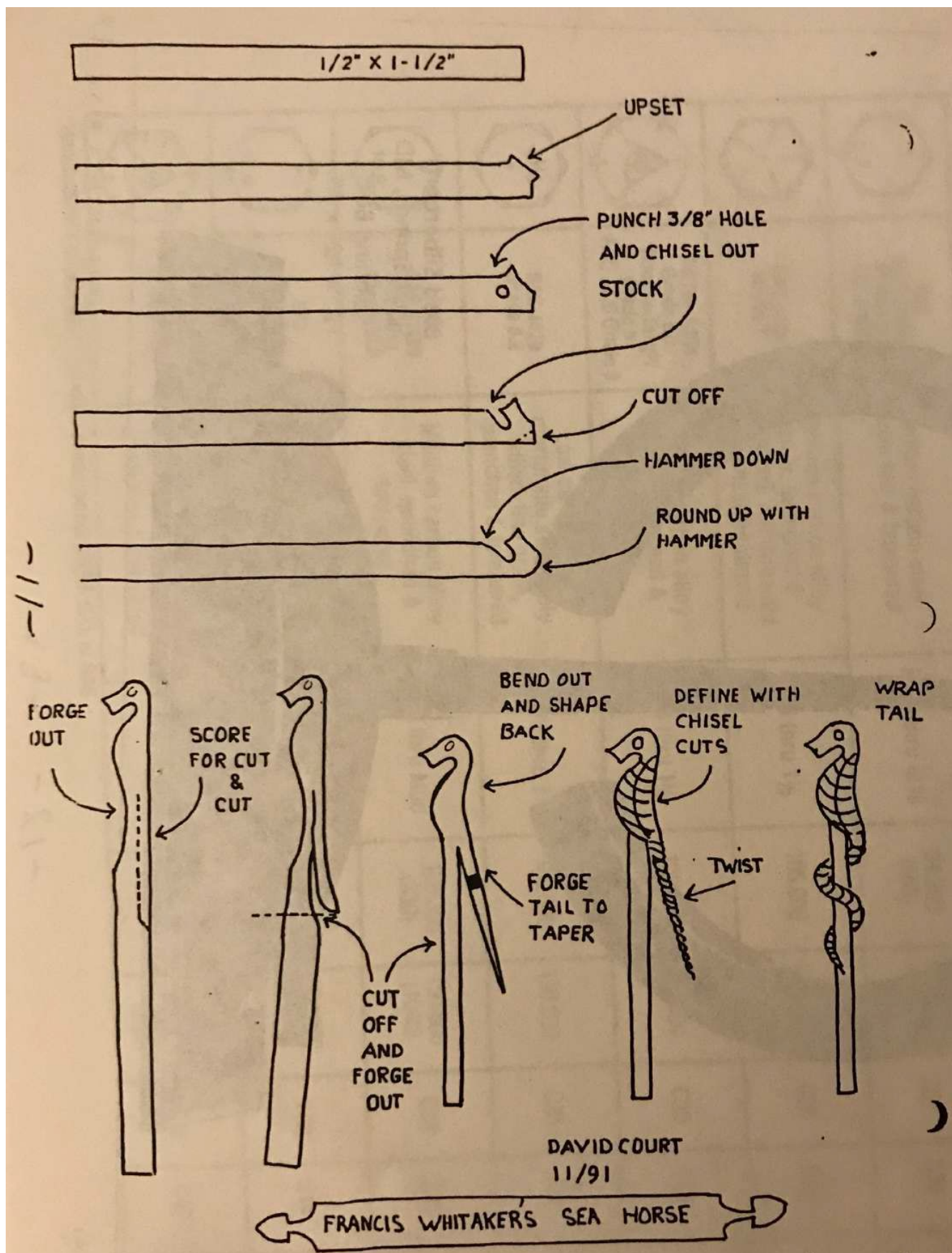


Beautiful carving set by our member, Gerald Drew



One of our creative members has come up with a new use for our hand –crafted creations! Jason H. Anderson has been making beer tap handles! I know, whoda-thuntit? Anyway, look for Jason’s handiwork in several of the Upstate breweries around Greenville and even as far away as Bristol, Tennessee. Here are some examples of Jason’s work:





Reprinted from the *Anvil Chorus*, newsletter of the New York State Designer Blacksmiths

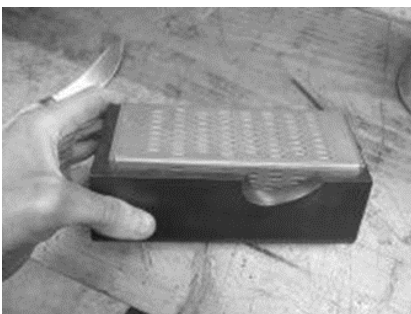
Polishing Blades by Randy Purchase

Once in a while someone will ask, how do I polish my knife blades? I do have a secret and it is Gesswein stone. This stone comes in a lot of different sizes. I like 1/4 x 1/2 x 6" long. I also like a diamond block with 4 different grits. You can use the diamond hone like a file to tune up a bad grinding. You can get this diamond hone at Harbor Freight. You can get Gesswein stones at Weblinfo@gesswein.com.

The secret to these stones is that they are soft, they break down and expose new grit and if you use water

they will make a lapping compound, which also helps cut material. The blade I'm showing here had an 80-grit belt finish to start with, I then went through each grit size. When you get to the finer grits, 600, and 800, do not push too hard, as the stone will load up and leave deep scratches on your blade.

I did this knife blade in about an hour, that is so much better than sand paper and less chance of cutting your fingers.



Diamond block comes with a holder.



The grit sizes are 200, 300, 400, and 600.



Started with 220 grit, then went to 320, 400, 600, and last an 800 stone



The blade with the lapping compound on it.



The nice thing about these stones is they make a handle



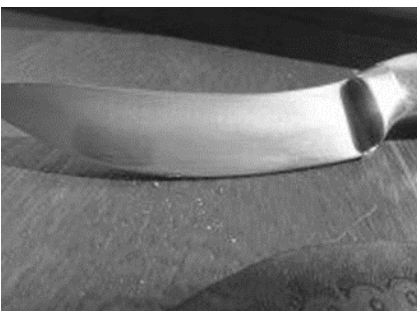
You can hold on, too. No more sand paper.



Once I pull out all the marks



I then go to my buffing wheel.



All done.

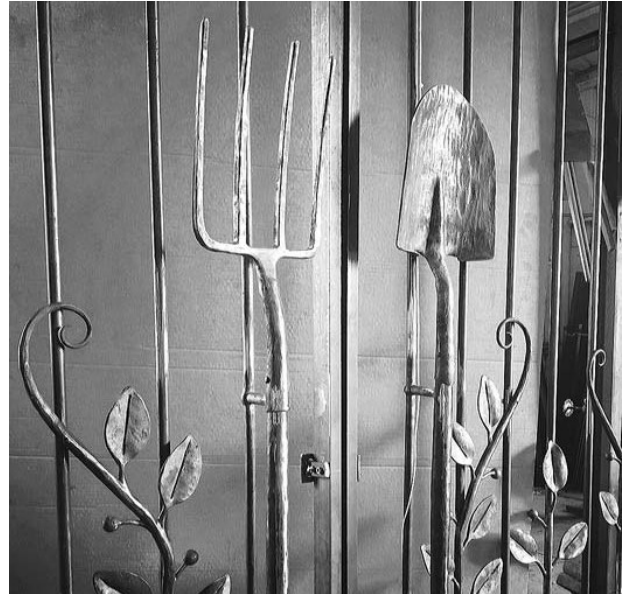
Reprinted from the *Metalsmith*, newsletter of the Guild of Metalsmiths

Forged Pitchfork & Shovel

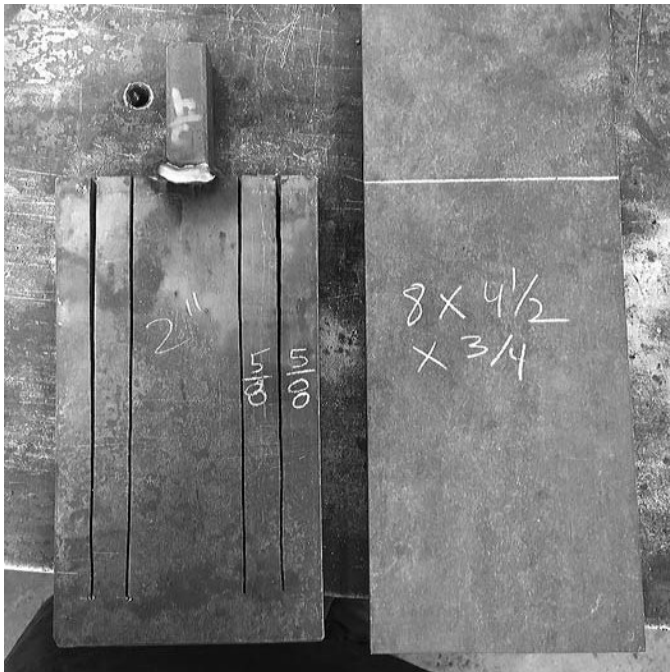
Elements of the Lake Merritt Gate

Shawn Lovell, Berkeley

The shovel and pitchfork are decorative handles for the Lake Merritt Gate. They are forged steel, about the same size as a standard pitchfork and shovel. The handles are forged steel pipe. The fullering/cross-peen work was done on a power hammer. This extreme spreading is too extensive for hand hammering.



Pitchfork



Start here. Note temporary welded-on handle.



*Bend first arm out, straight. Forge the square corner out.
This will become an inner tine.*

I put in the pitchfork this issue, I will put the shovel in the next one. Barry

Pitchfork



Get it further around and straight



Oops! Gonna need to get it bent out of the way in the forge.



Get inner tine on the other side straight.



*Bring outer tine around and straighten.
Do the same on the initial side.*

Pitchfork



Start drawing out the section that wraps around handle. Mostly cross-peen work.



Draw handle wrap out further.



Trim tines, and then wrap around handle. Set rivet.

Reprinted from the California Blacksmith Association

Forging the Ball Nail

A Habermann Architectural Element

Justin Buonanoma, Reno

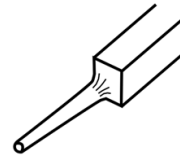
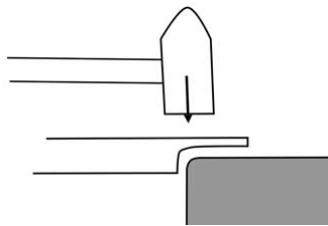
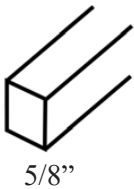
Last year I was awarded a CBA grant to study in the Czech Republic and Italy. For the CBA magazine I would like to share a small element that I learned to forge with Josef Habermann and his apprentice/co-worker Lukas Zadrazil.

Forged balls are a signature element that the Habermanns incorporate often in their work as a decorative spacer or, in this case, as a fastener. Small forged elements like this can really take a project to the next level.

Clearly the blacksmith can forge these to a size of choice. These instructions are given to illustrate a ball nail that has about a 3

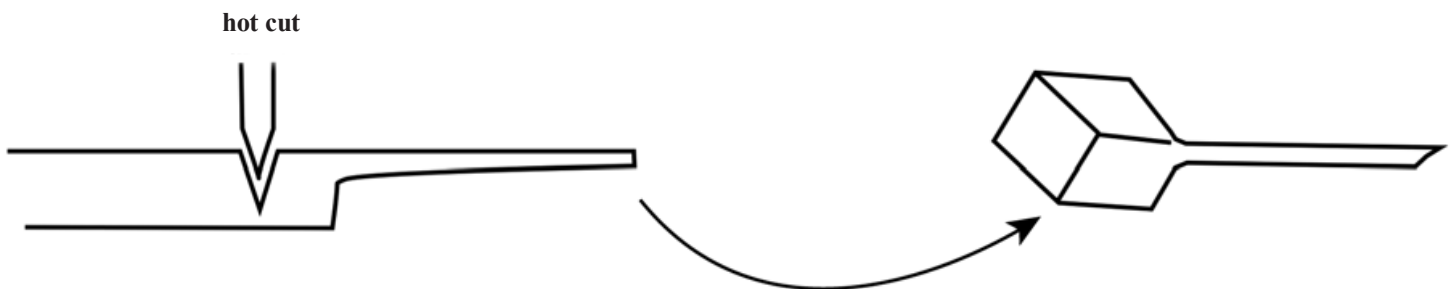
4" diameter ball with a spike 2" to 2 1/2" long, 3/16" diameter.

1. Start with 5/8" square stock. Choose larger or smaller square stock as desired.



2. Draw off approximately 1/2" of the material for the nail portion utilizing half-face blows on the edge of the anvil and a hit-turn technique to keep the spike even.

3. You may choose to leave the nail shank square or forge it round.



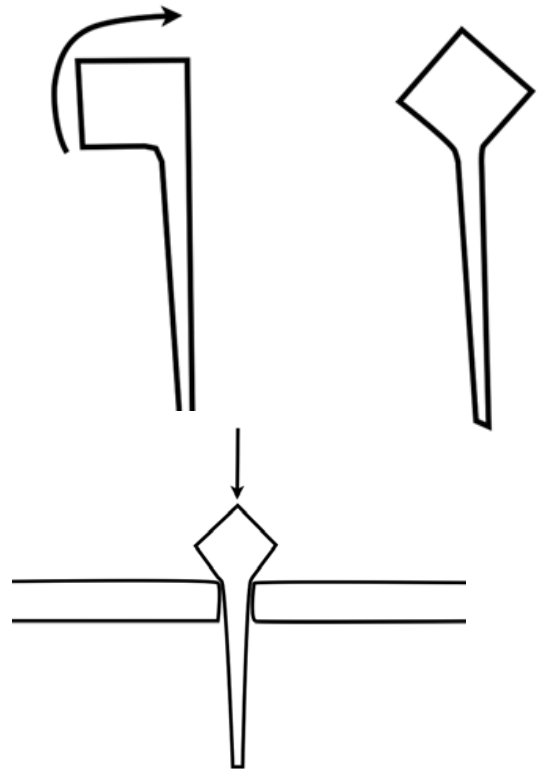
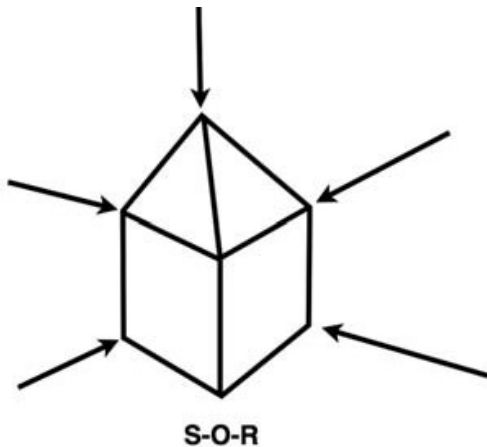
Forging the Ball Nail (con't)

4. Measure 5/8" back from the shoulder that you have created and hot cut toward the corner opposite of where the nail end is attached.

5. Rotate the mass for the ball so that it is in line with the shank.

6. Begin forging the square mass into a ball by knocking down the corners and creating smaller and smaller facets.

Square, Octagon, Round.



Utilize a bolster plate to help support the ball head and to create a sharp transition between the ball and shank.

7. You may also choose to leave the ball heavily faceted or smooth. Hot cut the spike to the desired length.

Use the ball nail as a decorative fastener for hooks, brackets, railings and beyond. To use, drive in like a nail with a pre-drilled hole, or peen the end over like a rivet.

I want to thank the California Blacksmith Association, Dennis Dusek and Beth Holmberg for the grant. It was an excellent learning opportunity. This article describes only one of a number of techniques that I learned while visiting in the Czech Republic. I demonstrated this technique at the CBA Spring Conference in Placerville.



For Sale

Fire Bricks – Brand New, Industrial Grade. \$1 ea. Ed Sylvester 803.414.2487

Tire Hammer plans by Clay Spencer. Send Paypal for \$30US to clay@tirehammer.com. Or check/money to 73 Penniston Pvt. Dr., Somerville, AL 35670. I can mail a copy or email PDFS.

Beverly shear blades sharpened. Remove blades, mail in small Flat Rate box, include check/money order for \$50, includes return postage. clay@otelco.net, 256-558-3658 .

Forklift tine sections for striking anvils, \$30. Jody Durham, 864-985-3919 ironsmith@gmail.com

Sewell Pea Coal, washed, \$11 per 5 gallon bucket. Will also sell in bulk at lower prices. Derice Hochstetler, Aiken, [803-508-1326](tel:803-508-1326)

Todd Elder is offering Beginning Blacksmithing and Knifemaking Classes. Contact him at (864-978-7232)

Guild Coal: 3 buckets, \$30; 6 buckets or 30 gal barrel—\$45.00; 11 buckets - 55 gal barrel - \$ 60.00; 15 buckets - 1/4 ton - \$70.00; 30 buckets - 1/2 ton - \$140.00; 60 buckets - 1 ton - \$280.00. Contact **Mike Tucker** [803-316-3707](tel:803-316-3707)

Upcoming events:

Griz Hockwalt is demonstrating at the Bart Garrison Agricultural Museum of South Carolina for special events and tours. The museum is located off of highway 76 in Pendleton S.C, across from Tri-County Tech. Griz will be demonstrating the first Saturday of each month.

Weekend Class at Jaco Farm with Jason Lonon. Socket Chisel Project for intermediate and advanced smiths. Date to be decided, **possibly** in **NOVEMBER**. Todd Elder is contact (864-978-7232).

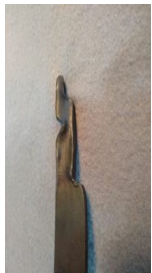
2020 Meetings: August 15, Historic Camden is cancelled

October 24, Lexington County Museum. Heyward Haltiwanger 803.345.3474.

December, tentatively 12/12, Magnolia Gardens. Ray Pearre 843.860.0532

Forging a crane

by Atticus McFadden-Keesling of the PAABA



A nice addition to your work can be an avian detail. Atticus showed us “how”. You can add it to a handle, hook or a project of your choice. In six important steps you can create this special detail, start at the top/left. Give it a try, it will take flight!

Reprinted from the Pittsburgh Area Artist Blacksmith Association

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Membership Application

___ New Member ___ Renewal

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

email: _____ Sponsor _____

Dues are \$15.00 per person/family, per year. **Make checks out to PSABG** Please remit to:

C. Ray Pearre, Jr., 4605 Durant Ave., North Charleston, SC 29405

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK

I acknowledge that blacksmithing and related activities are inherently dangerous and involve risks and dangers to participants and spectators that may result in serious injury or death. I have considered these risks and I knowingly assume them. I agree that I am responsible for my own safety during Guild events, including wearing appropriate clothing and protective gear and remaining a safe distance from all dangerous activities. I agree to hold Philip Simmons Artist Blacksmith Guild and guest demonstrators of our craft harmless from liability and expenses arising from of my actions and/or omissions.

When was the last time you paid dues?

There is a note below your address on the last page of our newsletters. It will say something like...

“Dues Last Paid – 2019” or “Dues for 2020” are due” or “Dues paid 2020”

This note is updated for each newsletter. We appreciate your prompt payments.



**Don't come to Camden
on August 15th!
Our meeting is again cancelled
due to the Covid virus,
AGAIN.**

Rick Thompson in a manly competition at a Celtic celebration doing the anvil lift as an alternative to the Scottish caber toss. You should have seen the anvil that the winner lifted...