

On the Anvil NEWSLETTER

PHILIP SIMMONS ARTIST BLACKSMITH GUILD

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Hello blacksmiths!

I am happy to say the April meeting was a success! It was great to see all the familiar faces again and catch up with everyone. I would like to thank our hosts, Ray and Bill. They did a great job providing the equipment and ensuring the demonstrators had everything they needed. They also hosted a hammer-in the day before that went off without a hitch, too!

We had about 60 people drop in throughout the meeting. We were privileged to have three sophomores, Alex Irwin, Bowen Beaty and Quin McKay from the ACBA (American College of Building Arts) demo for us. Jack Brubaker and Addison deLisle, their professors/instructors, also came to

visit with us. They brought an amazing example of the work the school is doing in the form of a false hinge, a reproduction of the work from the doors of Notre Dame Cathedral (in France)! The Demonstration took a little over 2 hours and involved several forge welds, as well as a lot of pre shaped and layered forgings. I was thoroughly impressed by these students as it was their first public demonstration, they were confident in their skills and it showed in the work they provided.

The demo piece was donated to the Iron In The Hat and Barry won it, Despite the 10 dollars of tickets I dumped into the cup, (much to my chagrin.) He posted pictures of it and the demo pictures on Page 5. We did not have a shared meal as a cautionary measure to the virus. and after a break, we had our IITH drawing. The guild took in \$495 from donations which funds the guild and its scholarships. We also announced a fundraising raffle for a specific scholarship which will not have the demonstration or article requirement. This scholarship will be named for our late, dear friend Mike Tucker. The tickets will be sold at meetings and once it is funded a drawing will be held to pick a winner. So there is another reason to attend! Check the back of the newsletter as usual for the details on our next meeting on June 19 at the Marcengill's home!

Please welcome our new members: Bowen Beaty, Brannon Rickman, Allan Steinkual, Billy Waberson and David Richardson. I hope to see you guys again soon!

Please add Bill and Jeannette Burgess to your prayer list. They have been having some health issues. They are some good folks and we sure hope and pray they get better.

Cheers from Durham's Forge,

Jody Durham

Iron In The Hat

Item	Donated By	Won By
Tiller Teeth	William Creek	Al Jenkins
Leather worker's tools	Mike Tucker	David Bush
Chain Fall	Barry Myers	Todd Elder
Soft Tip Hammer	Mike Tucker	Jody Durham
Sheath Kit and Sheath	Mike Tucker	Beckett Edwards
Hardy Tool	Mike Tucker	Billy Joe Burgess
Copper Plate	Al Jenkins	William Creek
Lead Ingots	Al Jenkins	Jesse Barfield
Vintage Drill Bits	Al Jenkins	Jesse Barfield
License Plate Frame	Mike Tucker	Rusty Osborne
Purple Heart Slabs	Ben Secrist	Mike Merriken
Pistol Holster	Jesse Barfield	Al Jenkins
Harness Hook	Jesse Barfield	Barry Myers
Harness Hook	Jesse Barfield	Al Jenkins
Copper Bracelet	Jody Durham	Keith Williams
Horseshoe Heart	Jim Pender	Tony Etheridge
Forged Claw Hammer	Todd Elder	LaDonna Burgess
Coil Spring and Mild Steel	David Bush	Keith Williams
Trivet	David Bush	William Coughman
Handled Hot Cut	David Bush	Billy Joe Burgess
Framed Blacksmith Print	Mike Tucker	William Creek
Stabilized Wood Blocks	Matthew La???	Todd Elder
Hook with Chain	Joe Holladay	John Tanner
ACBA Student Demo Piece	ACBA Students	Barry Myers
ACBA Student Demo Piece	ACBA Students	Tony Etheridge

Not seeing the content you want? Submit requests for the kind of info and articles you are interested in, or better yet, submit an article yourself!

nice finishing touch.

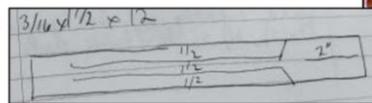
Peter Clark: Sunflower

The inspiration for this all of one piece sunflower comes from techniques Peter learned from Fred Crist.

Materials: 3/16 " x 1 1/2" x 12" - 14 gauge steel



First things first, have a plan! Then, mark the cutting lines. The starting piece was already grooved on the pattern lines to save time for the demo. Peter then used a narrow fuller and fullered along the groove lines before punching through.



Blacksmith Week 2017 Sponsored by Cascadia Center for Arts and Crafts Peter Clark: Sunflower continued...

Begin cutting the lines, starting all the lines without cutting all the way through, then use a cut plate for the final blows cutting all the way through.

Peter dips his chisel in a graphite and water mix. The fine graphite is a product called *Seed SLIK*® and can be purchased from farm supply stores and online.



Bend leaves out of the way while working on the flower's circle. Use graphite mix painted on the spike with a brush, for easy release. Continue to widen the opening, working to keep the circle growing evenly. Avoid bending the stem this way and

that while rounding out the flower, to prevent weakening of the stem and flower junction, flatten and align as you go.





Round up the stem. Then, bend the leaves back into alignment with the flower stem. Forge the bottom of the stem and leaves into a "V", and spread the leaves.



Punch in the decorative petals, spacing them evenly around the circle, all around except adjacent to the stem.

Heat the leaves, bend and twist into a natural, lifelike form.



The center of the flower is made from a textured copper sheet (purchased pre-textured). The forged flower was used as a template to draw out the circle on the copper, first tracing the circle with a blue Sharpie, then scribing the line. The marker line is easy to see, and the etched line provides accuracy. Cut the copper circle out, test the fit. Adjust as needed, use a grinder to shape and smooth to the final shape, to fill the circle as closely as possible. Peter heated the copper to neutral color and used Scotch-Brite to make highlights.



Set the copper disk by creating 6 tiny tabs with a pointy punch, so the edge barely dimples out, like a jeweler might set a bead or small stone. Match these marks on the opposite side.



Thank You Peter for two excellent demonstrations!

Peter Clark sells a line hand forged utensils and skillets. <http://northwestskilletcompany.com/>
He also offers blacksmithing classes and events: <http://www.kunepigs.com/oregonhandforged>



Some shots from the ACBA students demonstrating the techniques to show how the faux center hinge for the ACBA forge was made. The demo piece won by Barry Myers is shown in the center bottom photo.

Tendonitis Relief by Gerald Franklin

Tendonitis in the elbow, sometimes referred to as “Tennis Elbow” is a common ailment among blacksmiths. The main cause, I’m told, is gripping things too tightly (like hammers or tongs). Once you get it, treatment is a long process. It’s easier and more pleasant to prevent it in the first place. Exercise is the key to both prevention and cure. It works by strengthening the set of muscles that oppose the ones that we use to grip things.



To perform the exercises you’ll need 3 fairly stout rubber bands. I like the ones that the mail carrier uses to hold the mail in a bundle.

Put the set of bands around the ends of your fingers as the photos show. Spread the fingers out as far as they will go and then bring them back towards the start point. This is one repetition, or rep. Do three sets of ten reps three times a day for a total of 90 reps per day.

I like to keep my bands close to my favorite recliner so that they are handy. As you strengthen the opposing muscles, you will progress toward “Tendonitis Immunity”.

If you have to treat a case of tendonitis, don’t expect quick results but if you stay with it, you should eventually get well. When you do get well, keep doing the exercise daily to prevent future attacks.

Gerald Franklin, Black Bull Forge, Norman, OK

Reprinted with permission from the Saltfork Craftsmen Artist-Blacksmith Association

Additional notes from someone who has had this malady:

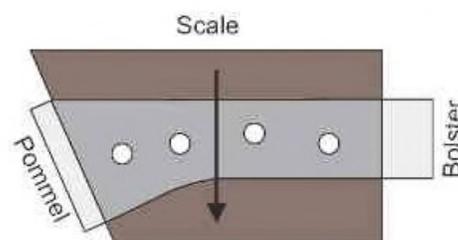
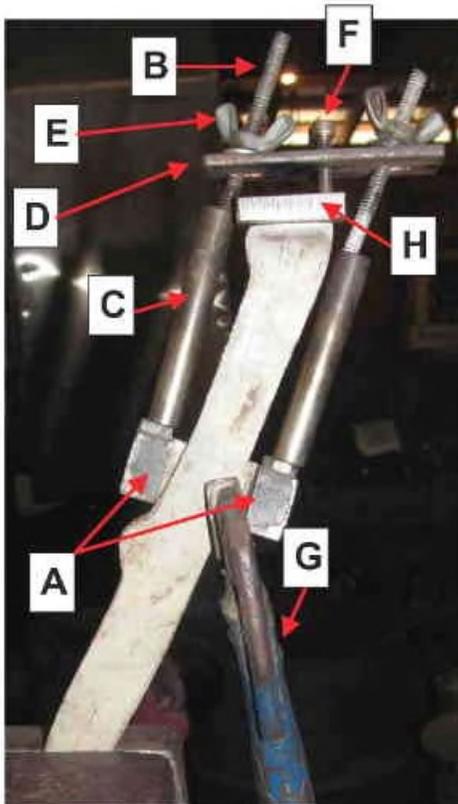
As Gerald says, this results from gripping tools too hard. The gripping muscles become stronger than the opening muscles and the tendons become inflamed.

If you currently have tennis elbow, don’t use this exercise until you have marginally healed. Start small with small, weak rubber bands. If it hurts at all, quit! Keep the band/s across you cuticle. Control the return to Gerald’s start point slowly. The resistance is what helps your muscles get stronger. Work your way up until you are at the broccoli or asparagus—the substantial bands. Barry

Hard copy or digital?

It was discussed at the meeting, whether we wanted to go digital—you know, join the 21st Century, or not. I will endeavor to send out (get Jody to send out) some sort of Survey Monkey email to poll you on this. The question will be whether you want to continue to get a hard copy or just get the newsletter via email. It would save us some money, but that is not a big issue right now. So far, our dues pays for the printing and mailing.

What it might do is allow me to expand the newsletter to include some longer, more involved articles that I find that might help you improve your skills. Maybe your dues will go down! Nah, that isn’t going to happen—they have been \$15 a year since 1994, a pretty good deal...
Barry



Pommel Brazing Tool

Steve Bloom, Ironflower Forge



If your blade design involves bolsters and pommels, you will have to decide a bunch of other things - like how is the handle proper going to be constructed. One standard option is to use wood scales between the bolsters and the pommel - the usual 'Full Tang' approach. Typically the bolsters are blocks of metal like brass or nickel-silver that are riveted onto the blade and capillary weeping prevented with either solder or JB-Weld. A simple way to attach the pommel is to weld or braze the pommel to the tang.

The trick is how to hold the pommel in place for the brazing/welding procedure. What is shown here is a relatively simple solution. A base (A) is made from a plate (1" x 2" x 1/4"), flanked by two 1/2" square blocks drilled for 1/8" all-thread. The gap between the blocks is determined by the normal width at the bolsters plus a bit for angle adjustment. Two pieces of all-thread (B) are locked into the base and protected from slag with some tubing (C). A slotted plate (D) fits over the all-thread and is secured by washers & wing nuts (E). A pair of cap screws (F) are threaded through on the center line of the plate and near the edges.

To use, the blade is locked into the base (here with a set of Vise-Grips) (G) and the unit is locked into a bench vise. The wing nuts are differentially adjusted to hold the pommel (H) in place and the cap screws are adjusted to insure that the pommel plate is at a right angle to the tang. The complex can now be moved to wherever is convenient for the brazing operations. If you look at the lower image, you will note that the spacing between the blocks will control the size of the blade that can be used in this rig - so bigger is better than smaller.

The last thing to note is that this rig allows you to position the plane of the pommel at an angle to the rear face of the bolster blocks. The scale can then be made over-sized, slipped in and adjusted until there is a perfect fit between the bolsters and the pommel. Tang outline is scribed, pin hole locations marked and the excess wood sawn off.

Our grateful thank-you to Steve Bloom, Ironflower Forge for sharing his work with our readers. Steve served as Editor of Florida's "Clinker Breaker" for many years.

Some of you like to make stuff from railroad spikes. I saw this tool in the Saltfork Craftsmen Artist-Blacksmith Association's newsletter. With it, you can maintain the integrity of the spike head and get the twist right up to it. Barry



Blueberries!

In the demonstration by the sophomores from the ACBA, one of the units you see on the demo piece is the blueberries that are prominent near the top of the piece. This was done by Bowen Beaty



I don't know if any of you ever read this newsletter, but a while back I published an article about the "ball nail" which is a Josef Habbermann structural element. Bowen made these using a spring swage for a half inch round bar. And, that worked very well as you can see. But, I think the ball nail method would be easier for those of us who don't have one of those or a striker to hit said swage.

Anyway, after making the ball, he installed the ball and stem into a hollow, round bottomed hardy tool. He took a punch made like a Torx tool and punched the divot into the face of the blueberry. The hardy insert was larger than the "berry" and when the hot berry was struck with the punch, it became squat like a real blueberry. And, other than the thick stem, they really do look like blueberries. Barry



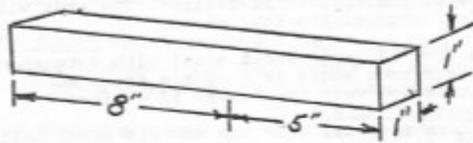
Reprinted from Appalachian Area Chapter October 1995

AN INEXPENSIVE SWAGE

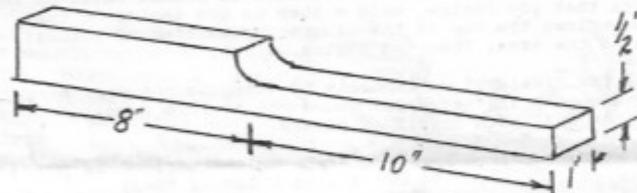
by Al Cannella-- Appalachian Area Chapter

Have you ever needed a "V", square or round swage for forming ends or forge welding such as cable knives or basket weaves?; and cursed about the high cost of swage blocks. Well here is a simple substitute to use on your anvil.

1-Take a 13-inch piece of 1-inch square rod (or whatever size fits your hardy hole)



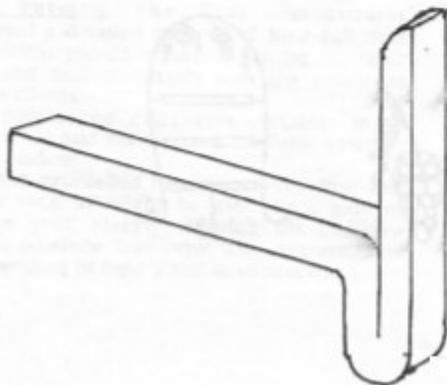
2-Fuller down to slightly less than 1/2-inch--5 inches from one end. This will increase in length to about 10 inches.



3-Round off the top end of the 1/2-inch section.

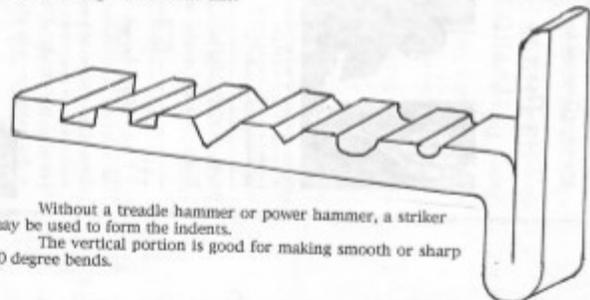


4-Now bend this section down through 90 degrees for 3 inches, then bend back up through 180 degrees to produce a piece like this;

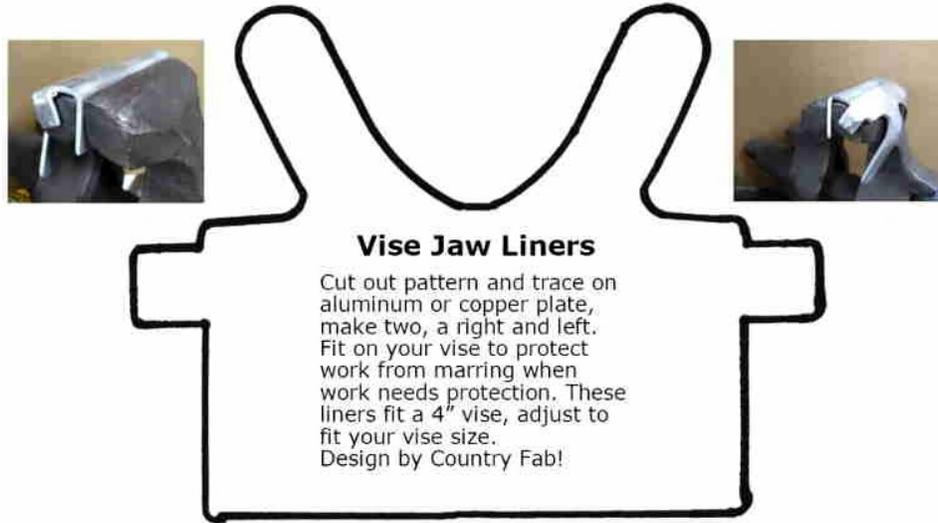


Work this bent section to fit nicely into your hardy hole.

5-Now, by using yellow heats and square and round bars, you can form your own swage to look like this:



Without a treadle hammer or power hammer, a striker may be used to form the indents. The vertical portion is good for making smooth or sharp 90 degree bends.



This pattern is reprinted courtesy of the Pittsburgh Area Artist-Blacksmiths Association newsletter November 2020.

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

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 **Walt Beard 803-464-8483**

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 from 10 to 3. Griz demonstrates the first Saturday of each month.

2021 Meeting Schedule: **August 14, Historic Camden**
 October (Open for you to host)
 December (Open for you to host)

Hammer-in at the Jaco Farm on May 22, and we need to move the coal from the Farm. Ray has reduced the price from that listed above to our cost. Jesse Barfield will be the instructor. Jason Jaco is the contact (see the following page for his contact info) for the Hammer-in and the coal.

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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 ASSMPUMPTION 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 2020, Dues for 2021 are Due, or Dues Paid for 2021”

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

Come to Westminster

132 Ringing Anvil Drive, 864-647-1132

June 19, 10 AM!

Roger and Gail are our hosts. Ryan Calloway and his crew of smiths will be our demonstrators! Don't know what they plan, but they are always interesting to watch.

For the lunch, we are going to have our usual lunch! Gail said she will cook something and we will take the precautions of having the lunch served by Covid vaccinated people. You can bring sides or drinks or desserts if you want. Or, you can bring your own food and drink if you so choose. Or, you can go hungry, which I don't really recommend...

You can let me know what your plans are if you want. I will try to keep up with the numbers so that I can let Gail know.

