



Balcones Forge Dispatch

President's Corner

Nov/Dec 2022

Greetings!

If you missed the October meeting you missed a good one. Lyle Wynn sure gave us a good demo and Mr. Whitley's cooking was top notch as always. It was nice to see such a good turn out.

The November meeting was held at Black Hawk Millworks on the 19th. We had a few brave the cold Joe Trevieso gave a very informative demo on making cable Damascus. It was announced that our President John Meyer is taking a job out of the country and is stepping down; which means as Vice President, I will be taking over as your President.

Let's bring the trade item back. In case you've forgotten or perhaps you don't know what a trade item even is, I'll explain how it works. Someone will decide a trade item (we will discuss who in a moment) for example an S hook then the idea is you make an S hook and bring it to the meeting. Then all the participants will draw numbers and you get to take someone else's item home. This is a good opportunity to challenge yourself and perhaps make something you wouldn't normally make. December's trade item is an S hook and I hope to see some interesting S hooks.

The December meeting will be at the furniture museum in New Braunfels on the 10th starting at 9:30 this will be an open forge so come on out and get in the forge.

Arron Tilton
Balcones Forge President

Meeting is on Dec 10

Start time is 9:30



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HERITAGE VILLAGE

MUSEUM OF TEXAS HANDMADE FURNITURE

WHEN:
SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 10, 2022
10:00 AM- 4 PM

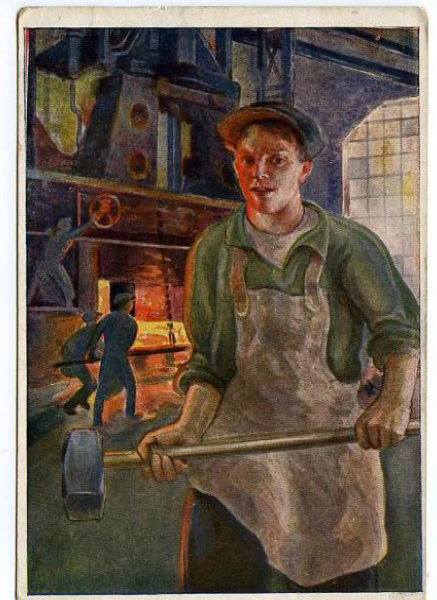
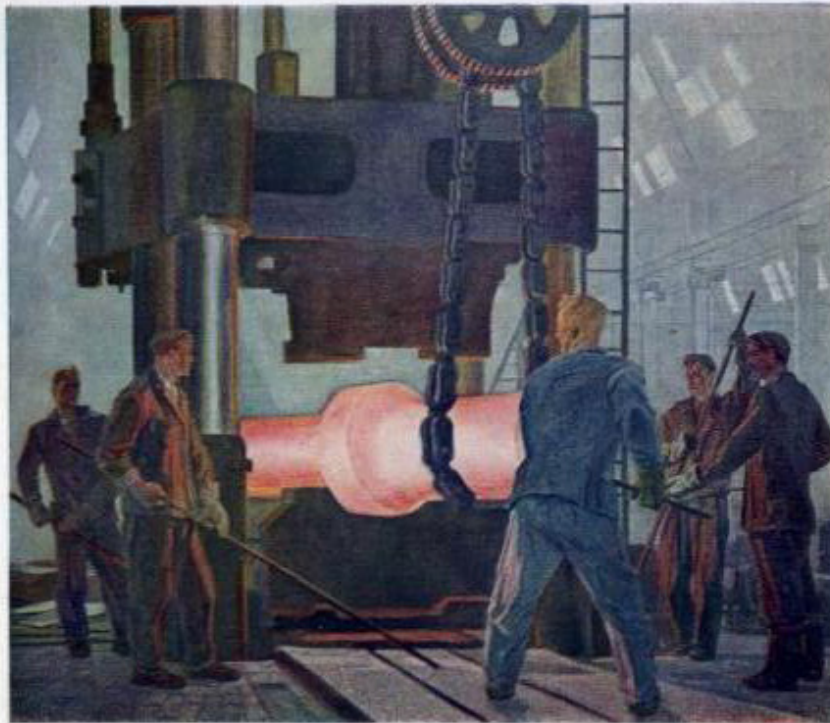


WHERE:
HERITAGE VILLAGE
1370 CHURCH HILL DR

HERITAGE DAY 2022

THE 1846 GERMAN PROTESTANT CHURCH WAS HOME TO NEW BRAUNFELS FOUNDING CONGREGATION. THE ORIGINAL LOG SANCTUARY WAS REPLACED AND DISASSEMBLED IN 1881. ITS TIMBERS WERE MOVED TO AND USED AS A BARN BEFORE BEING SAVED IN 2008 AND PLACED INTO STORAGE TO AWAIT RECONSTRUCTION.

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE THE BEGINNING OF THIS EXCITING PROJECT AS WE BREAK GROUND AND CELEBRATE THE FOUNDING OF OUR CITY AT OUR ANNUAL HERITAGE DAY LIVING HISTORY HOLIDAY CELEBRATION.



More info in the two Balcones Forge Facebook pages. (You can check out the posts without having a Facebook account.)

<https://www.facebook.com/BFCTB/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/688735415468063>

WWW.BALCONESFORGE.ORG

SECRETARY'S OCTOBER MEETING NOTES

The October meeting was held on October 29th and Rustyk forge in Devine. The meeting was a great success. Lye Wynn was the demonstrator and did a fantastic job keeping the narrative going while making some cool items. His horse head bottle opener was beautiful and the tips he gave will make better smiths of everyone making this and other items. He worked in copper and steel making various tools to do the work. He also taught the group how to forge cable into cable Damascus.

There was the memorial ringing of the anvil for folks who passed this past year. The board meeting was held just before lunch. John Meyer announced that he has taken an assignment in Germany and will be stepping down from the presidency. Arron Tilton will assume the duties as president of the organization. We look forward to John returning in a few years.

Joe Sisson presented an outline of the proposed education and training checklist for comment and review. Most organizations have a training program to help new members and new to blacksmithing folks. This ensures that these members know the basics of forging. His proposal was well thought out and will be voted on by the board in an upcoming meeting.

The November meeting was to be held at Caylor forge, but they had to cancel the event, so the November meeting is still to be announced.

Many thanks to Jerry Whitley and family for hosting the meeting and providing a wonderful lunch. If you missed this one you should plan on attending next year. It's one of the best events we have.

Lance Jensen
Balcones Forge Secretary

EDITOR'S SOAPBOX

Greetings Balcones Forge!

Sorry about the lack of a newsletter last month. As it turns out, the folks at Adobe get upset if you forget to pay your annual enrollment for the use of their software!

Please help me make this a better newsletter by sending articles and pictures. Unfortunately the dreaded "real job" often keeps me from attending meetings.

Vince Herod
Editor, Balcones Forge

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Texas Blacksmithing Conference 2023

Hosted with The Hume L. Baker
Texas Antique Gas Engine Reunion

Texas Czech Heritage & Cultural Center
Saturday, January 28th, 2023

250 West Fair Grounds Rd., La Grange, TX 78945

8 am - 5 pm

Proceeds benefit the TCHCC Blacksmith Shop Project

- Demonstrations
- Iron Smelt
- Vendors
- Food & Drinks
- Engine Show
- Onsite camping
- Auction



Week Day Classes

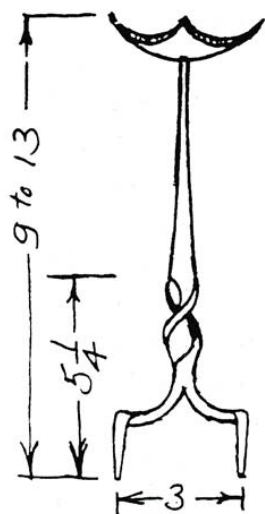
- 1/25- Hand Tools \$150
(Chisels, Punches, Fullers, etc.)
- 1/26- Trivet Making \$150
(Scrolling and Collaring)
- 1/27- Hammer Making \$175
(Cross Peen)

Find us on Facebook @
"The Texas
Blacksmithing Conference"
and Instagram
@texasblacksmithingconference



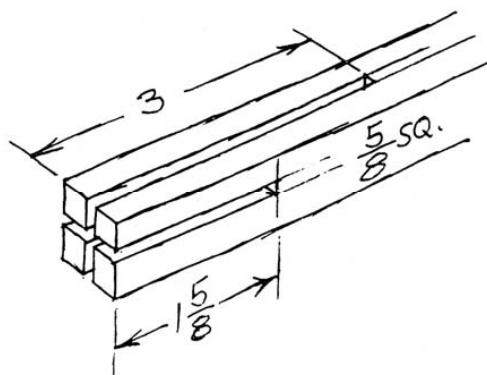
Bob Bauer's Candle Holders

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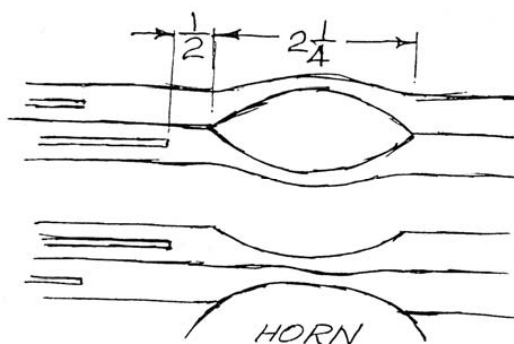


To make two, 4 X 2, candleholders. I do this so I don't have to use tongs, at least until I draw out the long taper above the twist.

Cut a piece of $\frac{5}{8}$ square 18 inches long. Using a combination square set so it's about $\frac{1}{32}$ off from center, scribe two lines on each side, they should be about $\frac{1}{16}$ apart. Measure back 3 inches on one side and the same on the opposite side, mark the other two sides back $1\frac{5}{8}$. File a notch on the end to help start your saw. If you draw a single line and then saw down that line you loose your reference. With two lines you can see when you are crooked and make corrections.

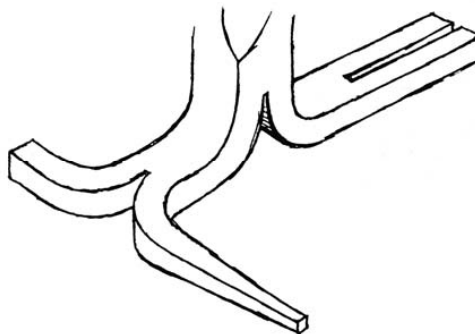


Forge the flat for the twist on the horn of the anvil. Be sure you are on the correct corner. Since we are making two, cool it and do the same on the other end. Straighten the iron before you make the twist.



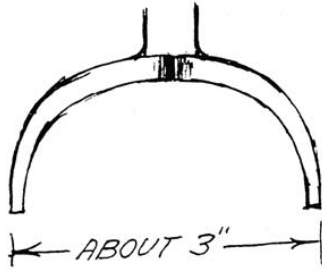
Heat the flat, put it in the vise with the flat just a hair above the jaws. I use an adjustable end wrench just above the flat and turn a half turn or 180 degrees. I go counter clockwise and as soon as it's done I put the short end, below the twist, into the vise and straighten it, all four sides. I saw a wrench that Dick Wright made, he welded a bar onto a monkey wrench and has a two handed adjustable wrench.

Next spread the two parts under the twist. I use my hot cutter to get it started and then the rounded edge of the anvil. Try to get both sides bent the same. Then open the two legs and very carefully taper them. I have a coal fired forge and I can turn this little leg into a 4th of July sparkler in less than 25 seconds. I use the heel of my anvil to get the bottom side.



If it's too thin I go to round and then back to square. Use light hits and work them down to just a little under an eighth inch at the end. Do the other two legs. When they look alike, about $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 inches tip to tip, use the horn and bend them down.

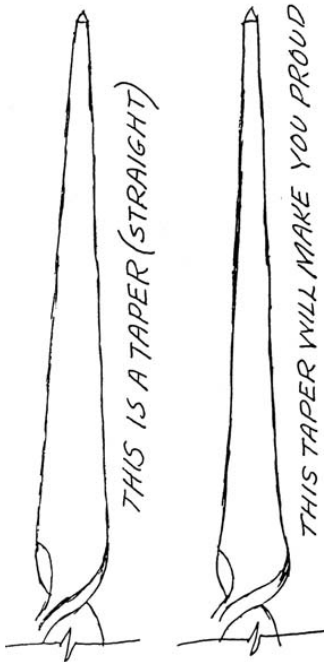
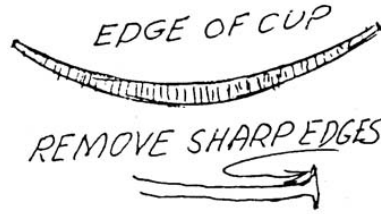
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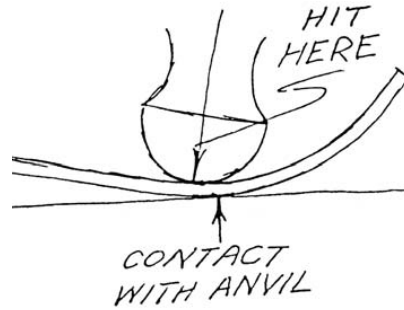
Try to make the ends go straight down.

I cut it out with a saber saw. I make the blades from old Vermont American hack saw blades. The end of a used blade is still sharp. You eliminate vibration by putting a 2 X 4 in the vise and C clamp the metal to the wood, it is really easy to cut.

You should have around 6 inches between the tops of the twists, that will give you about 3 inches above the twist, more than enough. Cut the two apart.



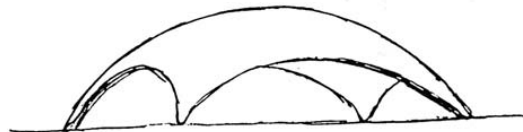
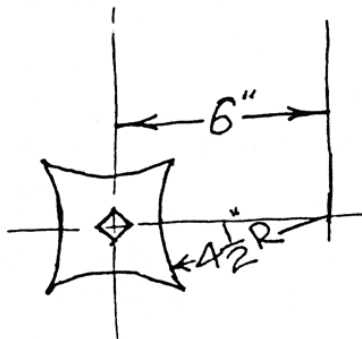
Now you have to use tongs and taper the top. Be careful not to mess up the edge of the twist. Draw it down until the end is about $\frac{3}{16}$ square. I file the top like a little pyramid.



I have a cast aluminum form that I use to shape the cup or you can raise one on the anvil.

You need a chair, a leather glove to hold the metal, and a light ball pein hammer. The chair is so your head will be close enough to hear the tap of the hammer, so you know you are in the right place. Also it's more comfortable, so you won't give up. Keep going all the way around until you get a nice curve and when turned over all 4 points touch.

I use 16 gauge sheet metal to make the cups, that is the only size I have.



This 2-1/2 page article reprinted from- Kentucky Blacksmithing Association, Smashed Thumb Newsletter, 2000

Drill a hole using the center punch mark, that you put on the bottom. Drill it upside down, then if it gets away from you the points won't get you. The drill should be smaller than the size of the top of the taper at $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{8}$ inches down.

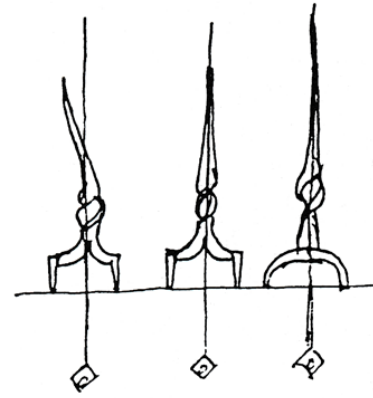
Use a jeweler's file and work the opening into a square. Be sure it's orientated like the drawing. File the top shiny where the cup goes, also put a little bevel on the top and bottom edge of the square hole. Fold up an old towel and hold the cup, use a cross pein hammer and work the edges, harder in the middle, lighter at the ends.

I solder the cup on. Put flux on the top and around the hole in cup, put the cup in last. Cut four small pieces of solder and put around the top, one on each side. The flux will hold them in place. I use a butane torch and heat from the bottom. The solder will flow on to the top and the cup. I file all the corners. I like the bright edges, it looks better and feels good.

I'm sure there are parts that I've left out. One that I just thought about is how to straighten it after the forging and wire brush. I hang a white thread, it has a nut on the end, from the light over my work bench, I put the candle holder on the bench, in

back of the thread. The legs are centered. Then I twist, bend and hit until the thread runs down the center on the front and side. I was thinking about making that square hole in the cup.

Perhaps it would be easier to file the top round, either way. I put a light bevel on the tips of all four sides of the legs, then slide it around on a piece of wet or dry. I don't want it to snag a tablecloth or scratch a table top, I'm not telling you how to do it, I'm only saying this is how I do it with the tools I have.

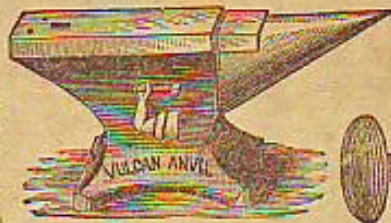
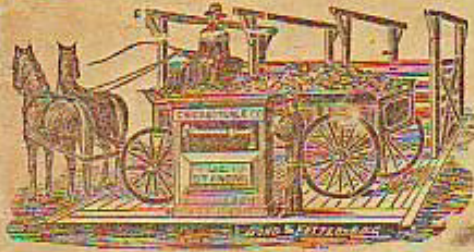


In sawing the ends, you can see where the blade goes in, but not where it comes out. I cut up about half way in then stop, turn my iron a quarter and saw up that side a half way in turn, saw, and turn again, you get a much better job. Also the end of the cuts, they must be straight across.

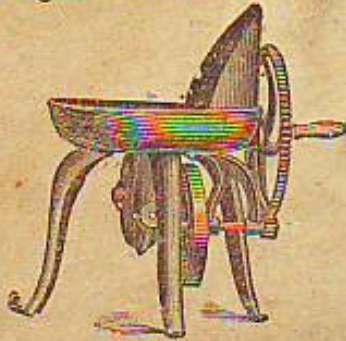


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