Balcones Forge Dispatch

President's Corner

April / May2020

Greetings!

We're still here!

After much consideration Balcones Forge decided to cancel the Blackhawk Iron and Metal Fest for 2020. We are making plans for this event in April of 2021. This will give us a year to reschedule folks and get our ducks in a row. Our hope is to have this festival every year at the same weekend (the last weekend of April) to avoid any conflicts with other blacksmithing or any other forging events.

We will keep an eye on the country to see when things start to ease so that we can plan monthly meetings and demos. This is the perfect time to be alone in the shop and hone your hammer skills by finishing all the project that you started in the past and just put to the side for a better time and it's not too early to start on this year's Christmas presents.

I hope that this message finds all of you as well as can be expected. Although we are all hoping for this whole event to go away so that things can get back to normal, our lives have changed forever. For a lot of us this is not something we can tell our grandchildren about, it's something our grandchildren can tell their grandchildren about. We are all in this together and we all need to do our part no matter how small that may seem. It's time to stay home and sing "Happy Birthday" to yourself while washing your hands several times a day.

Please keep up with the Balcones Forge Facebook page and watch for info and changes in our schedule.

God bless you and stay safe.

Jerry Achterberg – Pres. Balcones Forge

Next Meeting Date is ????

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From the President's Anvil

You may have seen in our Facebook postings: the 2020 Raffle is ab live! This event will officially started on May 1st 2020. You can go to www.abanaraffle.com or www.abanaraffle.org which will take you to EventSquid. Those of you that have registered for the Conference and already have passwords to log in, simply log in to purchase your tickets. If you have not registered for the 2020 Conference, it will ask you to register in order for us to mail the ticket stubs back to you. Tickets are $10 each and you can purchase as many as you like and your stubs will be mail to you. Thank you for your support.

Our new https://shopabana.myshopify.com/ has now been officially launched. On that website you will find memorabilia for the 2020 Conference, Mini-Anvil's for both the 2020 Conference and non-conference, along with new ABANA specific merchandise. This site is now live and you can purchase items from there at any time.

Thank you very much for your time. Stay safe and have a glorious day.

Leigh Morrell
ABANA President

Due to circumstance beyond our control, the ABANA board has no choice but to cancel the 2020 ABANA conference.

The situation with regards the continued COVID-19 pandemic continues to change, and can pose considerable health risks to those that encounter it.

We cannot, in good faith, risk the health of anyone involved by going ahead with the conference.

At present, there are New York State restrictions of gatherings over 50 people in place until mid-May. If these restrictions were removed at that time, we cannot complete the logistical requirements of the conference within the remaining time frame of 2-weeks.

If you have previously registered for the conference, we are currently formulating a process for refunds, please do not contact our registrar at this time, we will contact you.
Any conference goods purchased will be mailed to you. Although the 'Slack-tub bourbon' cannot be mailed across State lines, the empty 'Slack-tub bourbon' kegs will be sent to those that purchased them.

ABANA has incurred some hard costs in organizing this conference, and while ABANA is fiscally very solvent, most funds are restricted in their use. Our out-of-pocket expenses for the conference are above $30,000 dollars, of which $13,000 is non-recoverable. The remaining $17,000 paid out will seriously hamper ABANA's cash flow and its ability to rapidly fund a future event.

We are asking that you consider making a donation to the ABANA general fund, in the sum of $20, $40 or other amount. This funding will offset the conference expenses already incurred and will help fund the next event. https://abana.org/donations/#!form/Donations, and thank you, we appreciate your help.

The board and the conference committee want to wish you and your loved one's good health as we move forward from here.

Please be safe, and we'll see you at an ABANA event in the future.

The ABANA 2020 conference committee.

ABANA RAFFLE

Due to COVID-19 we were unable to have our ABANA 2020 Conference but we still have our raffle items. Help us rise from the ashes by purchasing raffle tickets for these great prizes.

First prize:
BAM box filled with tools made by prominent smiths

Second prize:
Re-built 100 lb Big Blu air hammer

Third prize:
240 lb Peter Wright anvil

Drawing @ The Village Blacksmith Shop 221 North St. Goshen CT August 1, 2020 @ 7:00 pm

Tickets will be mailed USPS. Winner need not be present.

All prizes will be shipped FOB Goshen, CT. Winners will be responsible for shipping costs and any applicable tax.

Erin Hafts a Hammer

Erin Simmons, Shingle Springs

Erin's new 5.5lb hammer gets its handle attached. He showed this process at Oktoberfest 2016.

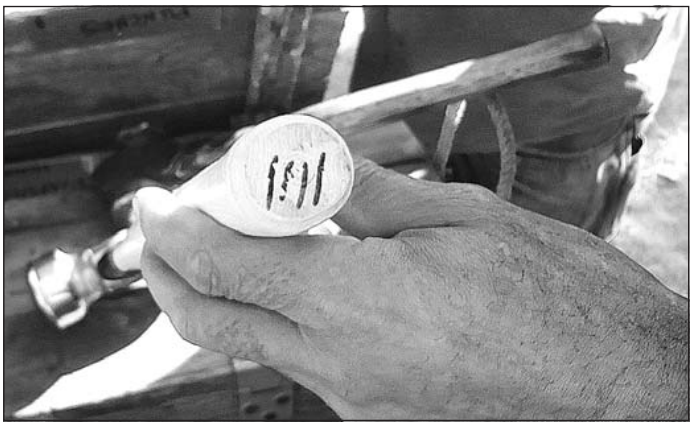
Start with the forged head rough-fitted to the handle.

1. Fit a section of a rubber racing bicycle inner tube over the handle. Racing tubes are a better grade of rubber than the typical every-day inner tube. The racing tubes don't seem to crumble like every-day tubes. It should not fit too tight, but also not be so loose that the rubber folds over.

2. Wet the outside of the rubber with water.
3. Insert the handle part way.

4. Use long-nose pliers to pull the rubber through.

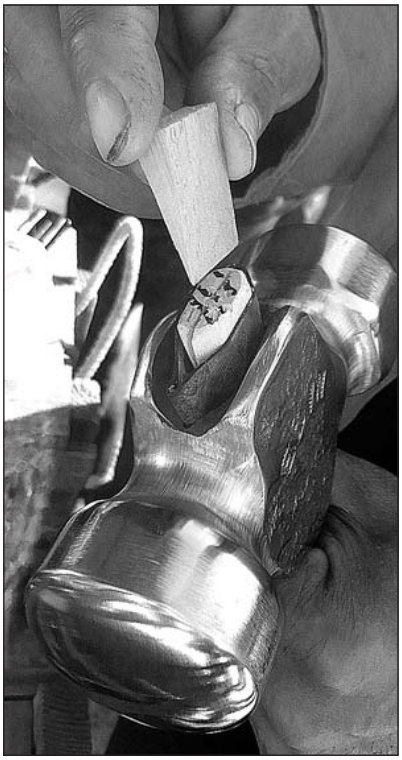
5. Erin's preferred way to drive the handle on:
   hit from the back, let the inertia of the head resist.
   Once the rubber is driven through, make sure that the head is properly aligned. Adjust as necessary.



6. Mark the end grain direction. *You did choose a straight-grained handle, didn't you?*

   Ideally, you would put a wood wedge perpendicular to the grain, steel wedge parallel to the grain. For this hammer, the wooden wedge is nearly perpendicular, running across the widest part of the handle.

7. Transfer the grain marks to the head end, and then make the preliminary cut for the wedge.



8. Cut a fat wood wedge to go in the slot. It will be held in place with 5-minute epoxy. The 5-minute epoxy seems to set softer than higher-strength epoxies and survives shock of hammering better. The high-strength types seem to be brittle.

   Coat the bottom half of the wedge with a liberal quantity of epoxy, and then drive it in to bottom out. But don't overdo the driving-in.

   Check to make sure that the head is still properly aligned.

9. While the epoxy is still wet, drive the steel wedge in parallel to the grain, perpendicular to the wooden wedge. Put a bit of epoxy on the steel wedge before driving it in.

   Drive it in to dead with the bar.

   Use the last of the epoxy to cap the end. It will seep in.

   Erin put only one steel wedge into this hammer.

10. Let everything dry in an upright position. Then cut off the excess rubber.

Enjoy your newly-handled hammer. ♣

Your editor bought this beauty from Erin.

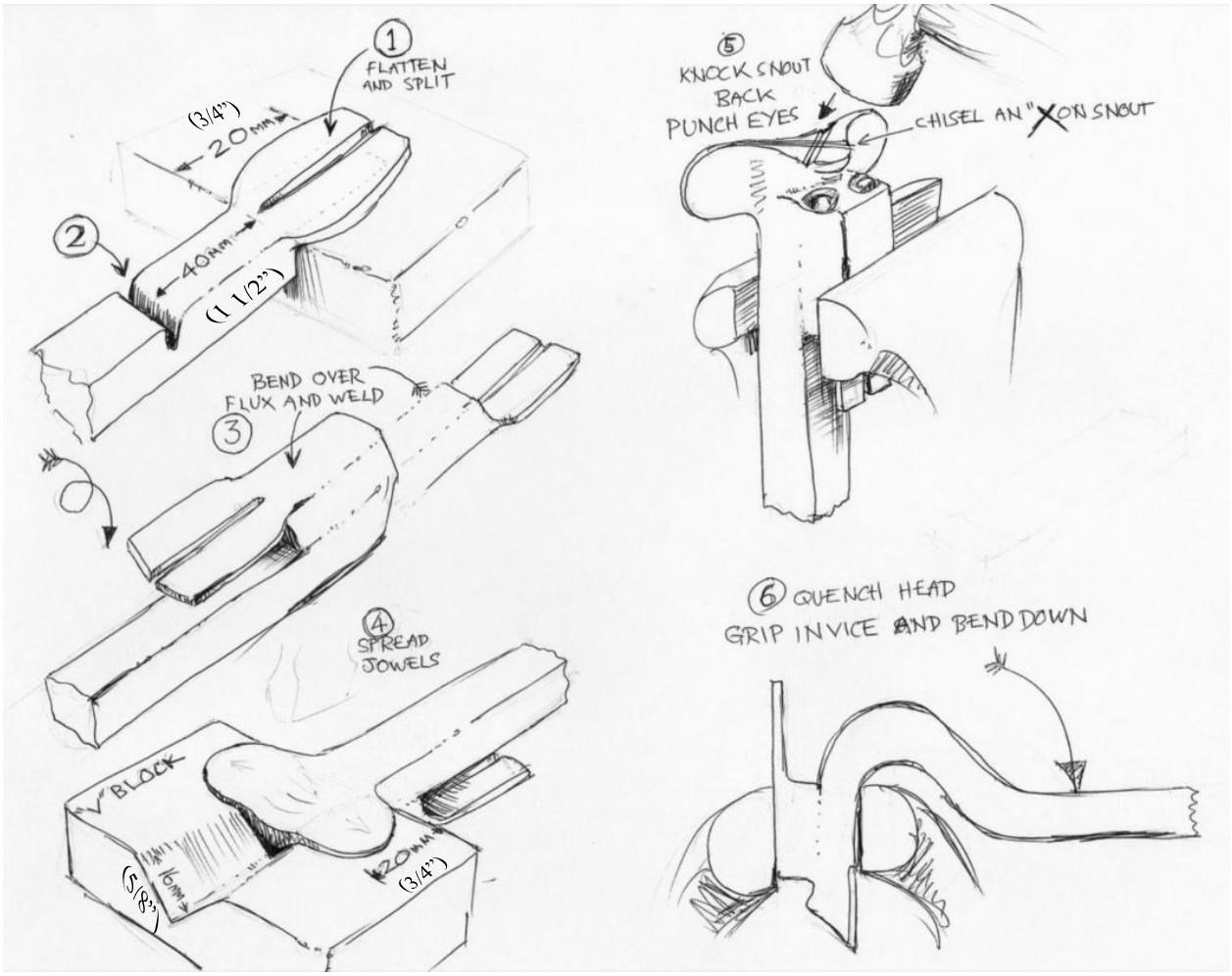
Boxer Dog Forging

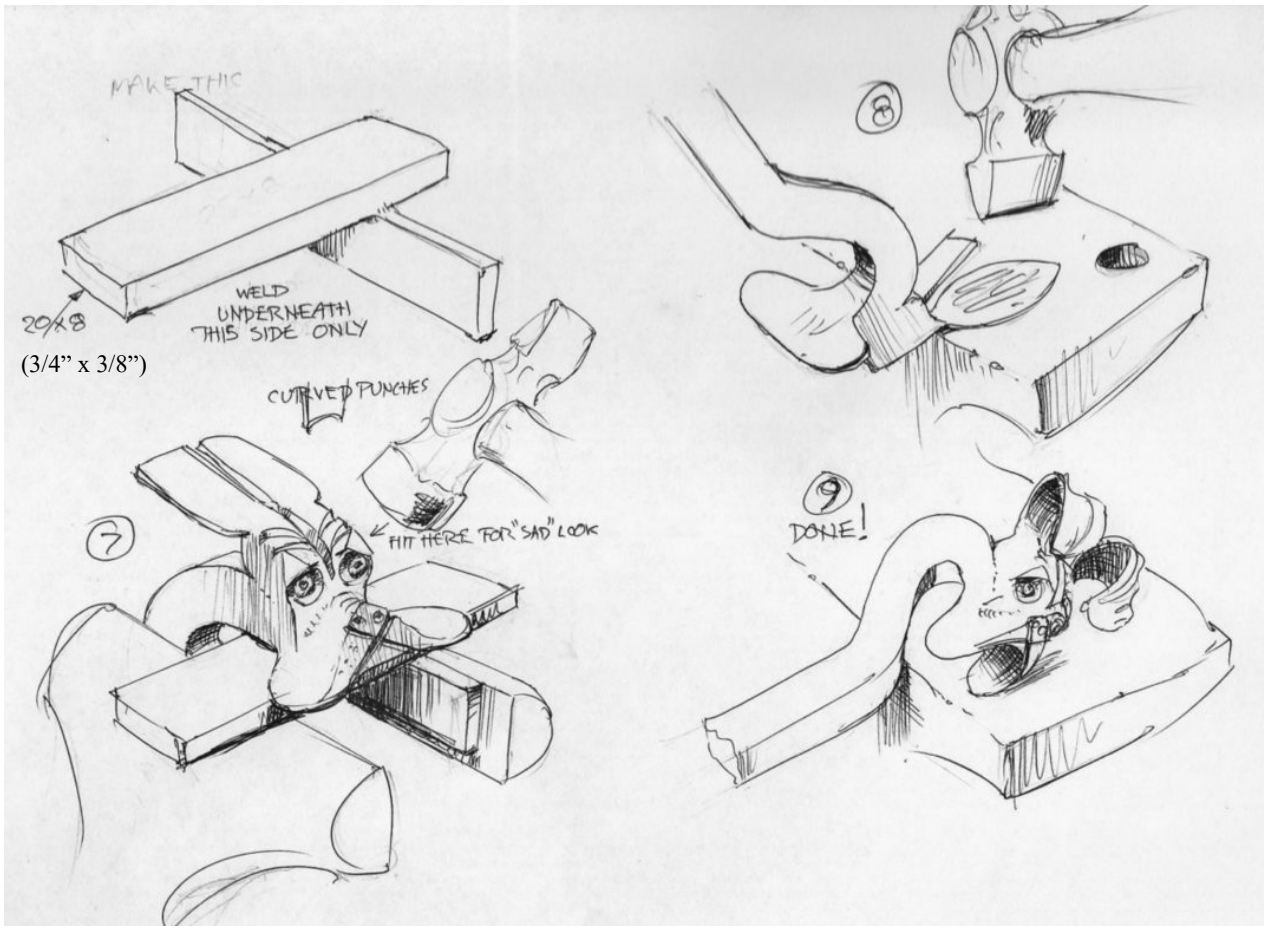
By James Cooper, England

James Cooper is a retired professional blacksmith in England who had posted this interesting set of instructions for forging boxer dog heads on Facebook. James Graciously granted permission to re-publish his instructions in the Saltfork Newsletter.

James says that no two of these ever come out exactly alike so that is normal. Also, keeping the snout short is important as well as knocking down the corners of the eyes to give the sad expression.

You can visit James' original Facebook Post here:
https://www.facebook.com/1634945274/posts/10214660778986536/





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Thanks again to James Cooper for sharing his forging talent and instructions - *Editor*

The following article has been provided by METAL supermarkets newsletter.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ANNEALING AND TEMPERING

The difference between annealing and tempering comes down to how it is treated. Annealing involves heating steel to a specified temperature and then cooling at a very slow and controlled rate, whereas tempering involves heating the metal to a precise temperature below the critical and is often done in air, vacuum or inert atmospheres.

Heat Treatments

Heat treatments are used to alter the physical and mechanical properties of metal without changing its shape. They are essential processes in metal manufacturing which increase desirable characteristic of metal, while allowing for further processing to take place.
Various heat treatment processes involve carefully controlled heating and cooling of metal. Steel, for example, is commonly heat treated for use in a variety of commercial applications.
Common objectives of heat treatment are to:
Increase strength, hardness, ductility. Improve toughness, machining, formability, and elasticity.
The cooling stage has different effects depending on the metal and process. When steel is cooled quickly it hardens, whereas the rapid cooling stage of solution annealing will soften aluminum.
While there are many types of heat treatment, two important types are annealing and tempering.

Annealing

Annealing involves heating steel to a specified temperature and then cooling at a very slow and controlled rate.
Annealing is commonly used to:
Soften a metal for cold working, Improve machinability and Enhance electrical conductivity.
Annealing also restores ductility. During cold working, the metal can become hardened to the extent that any more work will result in cracking. By annealing the metal beforehand, cold working can take place without any risk of cracking, as annealing releases mechanical stresses produced during machining or grinding.
Annealing is used for steel, however, other metals including copper, aluminum and brass can be subject to a process called solution annealed.
Large ovens are used for annealing steel. The inside of the oven must be large enough to allow air to circulate around the metal. For large pieces, gas fired conveyor furnaces are used while car-bottom furnaces are more practical for smaller pieces of metal.
During the annealing process, the metal is heated to a specific temperature where recrystallization can occur. At this stage, any defects caused by deformation of the metal are repaired. The metal is held at that temperature for a fixed period, then cooled down to room temperature.
The cooling process must be done very slowly to produce a refined microstructure, thus maximizing softness. This is often done by immersing the hot steel in sand, ashes or other substances with low heat conductivity, or by switching off the oven and allowing the steel to cool with the furnace.

Tempering

Tempering is used to increase the toughness of iron alloys, particularly steel. Untempered steel is very hard but is too brittle for most applications. Tempering is commonly done after hardening to reduce excess hardness.
Tempering is used to alter: Hardness, Ductility, Toughness, Strength, and Structural stability
Tempering involves heating the metal to a precise temperature below the critical point, and is often done in air, vacuum or inert atmospheres.
The temperature is adjusted depending on the amount of hardness that needs to be reduced. While it varies depending on the metal type, generally, low temperatures will reduce brittleness while maintaining most of the hardness, while higher temperatures reduce hardness which increases elasticity and plasticity, but causes some yield and tensile strength to be lost.
It is essential to heat the metal gradually to avoid the steel being cracked. The metal is then held at this temperature for a fixed period. A rough guideline is one hour per inch of thickness. During this time the internal stresses in the metal are relieved. The metal is then cooled in still air.

ABANA

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Type of Membership

☐ Regular .....$55 ☐ Overseas $65

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$5 discount for two year memberships and renewals

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Application may also be made at the ABANA web site:

www.abana.org

E-mail: _____

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Credit Card Information _____

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Expiration Date: _____

Card# _____

Submit check, money order (US banks only), or by credit card:

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