

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gary Phillips '18 President:
14800 N SR 167 N
Albany, IN 47320
(765) 789-8316
behere@netdirect.net

Steve King '18
1155 S. Paoli Unionville Rd
Paoli, IN 47454
(812) 797-0059
kngnives@live.com

Bill Conyers '19 Vice Pres
50964 Lilac Rd,
South Bend, IN
(574) 277-8729
billconyerssr@yahoo.com

Bill Newman '19
4655 Williams Rd
Martinsville, IN 46151
(317) 690-2455
ruralsmiths1@yahoo.com

Dominick Andrisani '16
3608 Capilano Drive
West Lafayette, IN 47906-8869
(765) 463-4975
andrisan@purdue.edu

Ted Stout '16
8525 W 700 S
West Point, IN 47992-9258
(765) 572-2467
stout8525@tds.net

James Johnston '17
Education Chairman:
806 Twyckingham Lane
Kokomo, IN 46901-1885
(765) 452-8165
kokomoblacksmith@comcast.net

Keith Hicks '17 Secretary:
5184 State Road 252
Brookville, IN 47012
(765) 914-6584
keithhicks2011@gmail.com

Librarian:
Larry Rosentrader
8715 E. 375 N
Churubusco, IN 46723-9501
260-693-3267
rosentrad@cs.com

Editor:
Bill Kendrick
1280 N 900 W
Seymour, IN 47274
(812) 445-3009
bill.d.kendrick@cummins.com

Treasurer and membership secretary:
Farrel Wells
8235 E 499 S
Dunkirk, IN 47336-8807
(765) 768-6235
fwells@frontier.com

Awards Chairman:
Charlie Helton
2703 South Water Plant Road
Westport, IN 47283
(812) 591-3119
heltoncs@frontier.com

April 2015

THE FORGE FIRE

The Newsletter of the Indiana Blacksmithing Association, Inc.

An Affiliate Of The Artists-Blacksmiths' Association of North America, Inc.

IBA is a Not For Profit Indiana Corporation recognized by the IRS under section 501(c)(3)

9:30 AM is the regular meeting time for IBA Hammer-Ins
with beginner training available at 9:00 AM.
PLEASE MAKE SURE TO ASK FOR HELP!

**If you would like an IBA membership application form,
please contact Farrel Wells, Membership Secretary
(765) 768-6235.**

BULK LOTS ARE AVAILABLE TO DEMONSTRATORS,
SHOPS, SHOWS AND OTHERS WILLING TO MAKE THEM AVAILABLE.
WE APPRECIATE YOUR HELP.

The Indiana Blacksmithing Association, Inc., its staff, officers, directors, members, and hosts and the *Forge Fire*, specifically disclaim any responsibility or liability for damages or injuries as a result of any construction, design, use, manufacture or other activity undertaken as a result of the use, or application of, information contained in any articles in the *Forge Fire*. The Indiana Blacksmithing Association, Inc. And the *Forge Fire* assumes no responsibility or liability for the accuracy, fitness, proper design, safety, or safe use of any information contained in the *Forge Fire*.

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More nearby resources and organizations for blacksmiths:

Rural Smiths of Mid-America:
Meetings are on the first Saturday
of each month
Call Ron Gill
317-374-8323 for details

IBA MEETING SCHEDULE

Check the latest *Forge Fire* for monthly IBA revisions.

Apr 18 2015 MAUMEE VALLEY BLACKSMITHS NEW HAVEN

May 16 2015 TBD

June 5-7 2015 IBA CONFERENCE TIPTON FAIRGROUNDS

July 18 2015 TBD

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Dates to Remember

May 9
Sutton-Terock
Shop Repair Day

May 16
Sutton Terock
Shop Repair Day
or Hammer In

June 5-7
IBA Conference

July 17-19
UMRBC
(Pontiac)

Editors Message

For those who have not heard, I am sad to report that Arthenia Zile passed away on March 27. Arthenia and her husband John were long standing supporters of the IBA. Our condolences and prayers go out to the family.

The IBA annual business meeting was held on March 21st. Here are a few highlights:

- Bill Conyers and Bill Newman were re-elected to the board. Jeff Reinhardt finished in a very close third.
- IBA officers were re-elected with no changes.
- Satellite group forge masters were asked to check attendees against the IBA membership list. Visitors are welcome at satellite hammer ins, but there is an understanding that repeating visitors will become members.
- The annual financial report was reviewed and approved during the meeting. The IBA had a good year financially. Annual expenses totaled \$20810 and annual income totaled \$26510 for a net of \$5700. The bulk of the profit came from the Conference in terms of attendance fees, auction and pre-conference class.

This years Conference is coming up quickly. Full brochure and flyers will be coming out shortly. This year we have two classes. Prior to the Conference on June 3&4, Nathan Robertson will conduct a hammer making class. During the Conference Dennis Kutch will be conducting a class on tinsmithing. Space is limited for both classes, so sign up early.

As noted above, the conference auction is a significant contributor to the IBA's financial health. Every year we see better designs and better workmanship of the donated items. This year the garden bench project should bring in a variety fine pieces. We also have needs for individual items. Spouses are encouraged to participate as well. During the business meeting it was clearly stated that baked goods would be appreciated

Satellite group highlights:

- The most recent group has conducted their first hammer in. The group is aptly named "Satellite 13". They meet the 4th Saturday of each month at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. Starting time is reported to be approximately 9AM. You can enter the fairgrounds from Fall Creek. Identify yourself as a blacksmith to avoid parking fees and proceed to the Pioneer Village area.
- The Sutton-Terock shop will be installing new metal siding on their shop on May 9 and May 16. They are looking for volunteers to help with the project. Please show up with a screw gun. Lunch will be provided. Note if the work is completed on May 9, then the forge will be lit on May 16.

Visit the IBA website at: www.indianablacksmithing.org

IBA Satellite Groups and News

Sutton-Terock Memorial Blacksmith Shop

Meet: 2nd Saturday at 9 AM
 Contacts: Fred Oden (574) 223-3508
 Dennis Todd (574) 542-4886

Wabash Valley Blacksmith Shop

Meet: 2nd Saturday at 9 AM
 Contacts: Doug Moreland (217) 284-3457
 Max Hoopengarner (812) 249-8303

Maumee Valley Blacksmiths

Meet: 2nd and 4th Saturday
 Contact: Clint Casey (260) 627-6270
 John Schamber (260) 579-7303

Rocky Forge Blacksmith Guild

Meet: 2nd Saturday at 9 AM
 Contacts: Ted Stout (765) 572-2467

Whitewater Valley Blacksmiths

Meet: 2nd Saturday
 Contact: Keith Hicks (765) 914-6584

Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths

Meet: 1st Saturday
 Contacts: Doug Neukam (812) 259-4430
 Steve Stoll (812) 486-9668
 Kathy Malone (812) 725-3310

Satellite 13

Meet: 4th Saturday
 Contact: Bill Newman (317) 690-2455

Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmith Shop

Meet: 2nd Saturday at 9 AM
 Contact: Ray Sease (812) 522-7722

Fall Creek Blacksmith Shop

Meet: 4th Saturday at 9 AM
 Contacts: Larry Singer (765) 643-5953
 Farrel Wells (765) 768-6235

St. Joe Valley Forgers

Meet: 4th Saturday at 9 AM
 Contacts: Bill Conyers (574) 277-8729
 John Latowski (574) 344-1730

The Southern Indiana Meteorite Mashers

Contacts: Billy Merritt (812) 338-2876
 Steve King (812) 797-0059
 Jeff Reinhardt 812-949-7163

One-Armed Blacksmith's Shop

Meet: 1st Saturday
 Contact: Tim Metz (812) 447-2606

"Doc" Ramseyer Blacksmith Shop

Location: 6032W 550N, Sharpsville, IN 46060
 Meet: 3rd Sunday at 2 PM
 Contacts: Mike Kelley
 Charles Gruell (765) 513-5390

Inaugural Hammer In at Satellite 13

Satellite 13

Satellite 13's inaugural meeting was very well attended with approximately 20 people in attendance. Thanks to all the IBA members who turned out for a great time. We had 4 forges and anvils in operation most of the day. The meeting started at 9 am and lasted until 1:30 pm. Our next meeting will be at the Satellite 13 shop on the State Fair grounds in Pioneer Village on April 25, all are welcome to attend. Thanks to all who attended and hope to see you in April.



IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

Rural Smiths of Mid-America

The April meeting of the Rural Smith of Mid America was held at the Blacksmith shop in Johnson County. This was a work meeting to try and get more of the building done before the tractor show in June. We got quite a bit of work done with a lot of people showing up to help. We got the eve done on the east side of the building and the front eve boxed end and the siding door framed and hung, and the electric is all run and ready to use. I want to give a big thanks to everyone who come and helped. Thank You, Ron Gill



Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths

The Bunkum Valley met on April 4th, 2015 at Elnora In. It was a sunny day. But a little chilly .. We lit the forges in a hurry. We had about 30 people in attendance.



There was so many things do and see. This drone was the first one I have seen up close. Such smooth take off and landings. The meeting of the minds:) We all had a great lunch, thanks to everyone that came and ate . We were very pleased to have Pat back with us. We are thankful she is feeling better. We all had a great learning experience when it came to melting glass. Every one helped the new people. I'm one of them. It was so interesting. Everyone is always so helpful. There was so much going on, Derek



Thompson was making his first set of thongs. Sara was working on her rose. It's really nice but she's camera shy. So I didn't get a picture. Stay safe, and have a great month..



IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

Fall Creek Blacksmith Shop

We had 8 smiths show up. Although Arthenia Zile passed away recently, the daughters wanted us to go ahead and have the meeting. "Prayers to the family." Pictured is Eric and Dave Kline waiting for the stock to heat up. Someone burned the piece (I'm not mentioning who this was.-grin-) and Tom White saved the day by using Mr. Miller. Chuck Phillips did another great job. Gary Leeman stopped by and was a tremendous help. (On our way home, Eric and I stopped by Gary's place to pick up a couple of anvils.) Only one not pictured is John Searfoss. (Hoping I got every body's name correct.) Most of us went to Sulphur springs to eat. All in all we made headway on the garden bench. Times pressing so we decided to use the second Saturday of April to forge on. No iron in the hat was held. Reported by Dave Wells. -Yes I worked but not in any pictures because I was taking them.



The Southern Indiana Meteorite Mashers

The Meteorite Mashers met at Jeff Reinhardt's shop in Floyds Knobs this month. Gabe Thomas a new IBA member attended as did Joseph Gehl. Others attending were the Baker family of Odin and the Mills family of Milltown. Jeff was running a small production run when members arrived and so demonstrated veggie choppers and heat treatment of same. While Jeff and Butch Sparks were outside the shop welding final touches to Butch's demo setup. Mike Mills helped Gabe on a beginners project and several others also were forging. Aaron Baker made a fire blow pipe and Jeff turned down some tubing for the pipe which Aaron then soldered together. Dave Knukler made an aluminum leaf that was as usual very finely crafted. A nice chili lunch with bread and cookies and cake and brownies was had by all. 2 members were in attendance improving health. Billy Merritt was in attendance without the need of oxygen and Pete Riddle walked in without walking aids after his recent surgery. All are glad to see these improvements!

Next meeting in Branchville at Dave Kunkler's shop.

IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmith Shop

The Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmiths met at the home of newlyweds, Kevin and Pamela Welsh. This was the first hammer-in at their place and I hope it isn't the last. Lots of great food, fellowship, demonstrations, and yes, a whole lot of BS. What more could one want? The shop was opened at 5:30am and the fire was made at approx. 9:30am. Kevin Welsh and Matt Jones opened a very large snowflake with the assistance of Chip Moore, a newcomer. This isn't the first one they made, but it certainly was the largest. I believe it was from 1 1/2" square stock. After that, Kevin, Matt, and Kenny Dettmer hot punched holes in two pieces of farm implement steel for Tim, a neighbor. Kevin then made spoons from horseshoe nails and he helped Jessica James make her very first one. People were still eating until after 4:00 when the tables were being cleared. Approx. 36 attended. This was a great "First Hammer-in". Did I mention the food was delicious?

Our next meeting will be back to the shop in Vernon. Come if you can.

Paul Bray

Someone left a "Rachel Rae" cooking bag at Kevin's. If you want it, contact them.



Sutton-Terock Memorial Blacksmith Shop

Shop Repair Days May 9 and 16

On May 9, 2015 the Sutton Terock shop meeting will be to repair the shop and put metal siding on. Then on the 16 th we will meet again to finish it up if needed or blacksmith. hope to see some of I.B.A. members there to help. Bring your screw gun. Dinner will be served by the Museum.

Hammered in Friendship Fred Oden.

Indiana Events Looking For Blacksmiths

June 6&7, Plymouth

The Yellow River Festival at Plymouth, IN. is looking for a blacksmith for their Festival on June 6 & 7 2015. You must dress in Period Clothing.

Contact: Eric G. Anderson 574 261 8496. or veteranreserve@yahoo.com

July 6-11, Jay County

The Jay County Fair is July 6-11 2015. There is an area called the Classic Tent. We need a Blacksmith for this area. Pay is \$300.00 plus some fun fringe benefits (free homemade ice cream daily, free lunch cooked over an open fire etc.) The blacksmith can sell what he wants; there is no percent to the fair. Other craftsmen in the area will be a Chain Saw Artist, a Sawmill, Kittle Corn, Corn grinding, open kettle cooking everyday at noon, Stain Glass Artist, and we have had in the past Gourd artist, one last year painted a Barn Quilt, displays of antique tractors, cars, old tools, Military section and Indian arrowheads. One gentleman makes whistles from Paw Paw wood for the kids and makes rope. Euchre games, checkers etc. Lots of things going on like in days past. If you can help us find someone it would be great.

Contact Dave Frasher 260-726-5300.

Traditional Arts Indiana

My name is Meghan Smith, and I am writing on behalf of Traditional Arts Indiana, the state's official public folk arts agency. We are working on a Bicentennial project featuring traditional crafts that have featured prominently in the state's history, and which are still practiced today. For example, we are looking at subjects such as the Indiana limestone industry, quilting, weaving, Indiana hunting traditions, glassworks and the Indiana gas boom, etc.

We were wondering if there are any members of the IBA who have long-standing, multi-generational lines of blacksmiths, or any members who have been part of a traditional apprenticeship line. (We would potentially be interested in interviewing any such members, so someone who enjoys talking about their work and background would be a bonus.)

If you want to learn more about what we do, check out our website at traditionalartsindiana.org or check us out on Facebook.

Thank you,
Meghan Smith
memasmit@indiana.edu
Traditional Arts Indiana
www.traditionalartsindiana.org

NWBA Mentoring Center Monthly Hammer-In

January 24th, 2015 Tri Ficker: *Forging pipe*

Notes by Hardie Swage, photos by Amy Mook except as noted

Farriers rasp pipe handle. Clearly follows Joe Elliott's rule: Tools should be eye sweet and hand friendly.

Tri benefits from using his own tongs, they grip firmly and have enough mass to work well without being overly heavy. His pipe tongs have a tapered round upper jaw that nests in a wide "V" lower jaw, it holds the lip of the open pipe very firmly.

Start with 6 1/2" of 3/4" ID Schedule 40 pipe. Draw 2 1/2" of pipe into a long tail.

The tail is a long taper and the open end is worked on the end of the horns (Nimba anvil used) to keep it from forming a fold (pucker). Keep turning the piece as you work it to keep squaring it, making sure not to collapse it. The end result is a tapered tail with no fold lines, the pipe walls have been upset on themselves to become thicker as the outer shape is transformed.

Start at the base of the tail (2 1/2" mark), pipe at 45 degree angle to near anvil edge. Keep pipe end cool by dipping in water as you work to form the step. When step is fully formed, bring tip of the tail down to a small square, and then taper the area between. Important to keep top line straight during whole process.



Photo courtesy Gregg Watson



Reverse hold and start drawing down the other end. Do the anti fold/pucker work you used before. If you do not have an anvil with the fine ends to the horns make a vice or hardie tool for this purpose. The goal is a rectangle opening that fits the taper of the rasp tang. Make a drift that reproduces the area of the tang you wish the finished handle to grab. Once you drive the drift in, the challenge is to get it out. Grab the struck end on the vice and wiggle pipe slightly side wise and up/down until it releases. Not difficult if the pipe end still has color.



Next form the gentle reduced valley on the middle of the parent pipe. Tri used a radius hammer on top and the radius of the horn below, with light blows and constantly rotating the pipe. Important to keep things straight. Follow the basic blacksmith rule "Be aware". The hammer was not as pronounced radius as the horn, so the horn did most of the work.



The last step is to form the tail into an eye. Start the bend by

bending away from the intended direction to form the eye and then bring the end around. Work over the horn to get the desired round shape of the eye's inside.



Make sure the angle of the loop handle is oriented to the same plane as the flat of the rasp, or it will tend to irritate the hand when gripping.

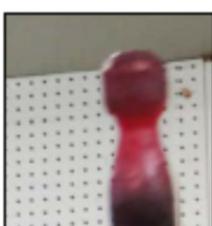
The finished rasp handle.



Tri went on to show his exceptional forging skills by rounding a pipe end to a perfect circular dome. He upset the end of the pipe into itself using the step of the anvil to nestle it and enable the gentle hammer blows to work opposite sides of the opening at once. He used a sweet spring fuller tool that was part of the on-site tooling at the Mentoring Center. The flat area on the top fuller bar is to add spring to the fuller. He forged the ball into a pointed dome using the heavily radiused edge of the anvil, demonstrating one way to make a finial using this technique. Another version Tri demonstrated was the squared dome.



Photo courtesy Hardy Swage



Tri spread the other end of the pipe way past the trumpet mouth to a wide lip 90 degrees to the center line of the pipe; thus forming a stand base that is effective in candle sticks and other uses. A lot of it was the pipe end hanging a little ways off the far anvil side and striking the lower lip edge with a round hammer peen. Again always rotating the pipe and using mild blows while keeping everything in line.



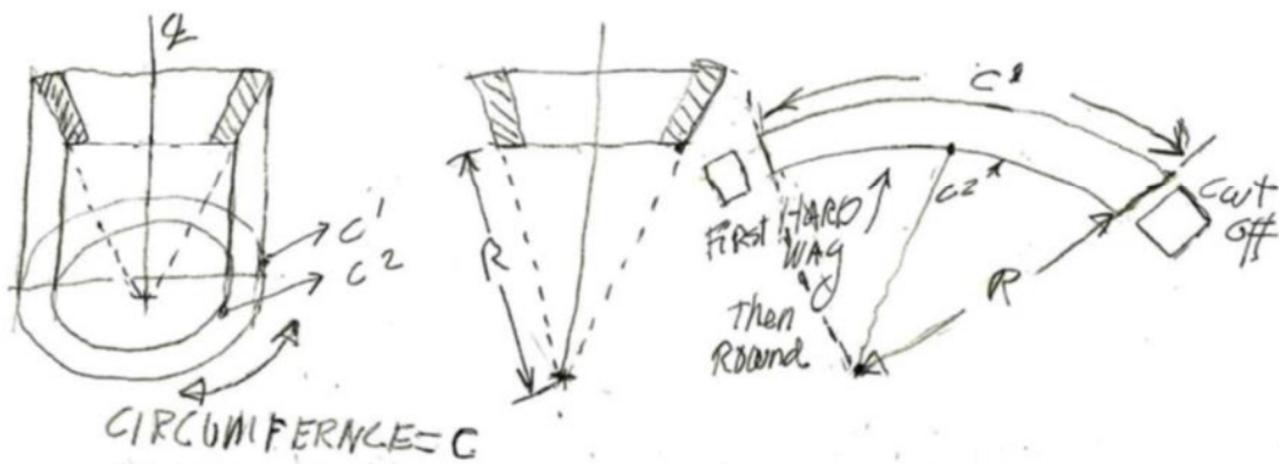
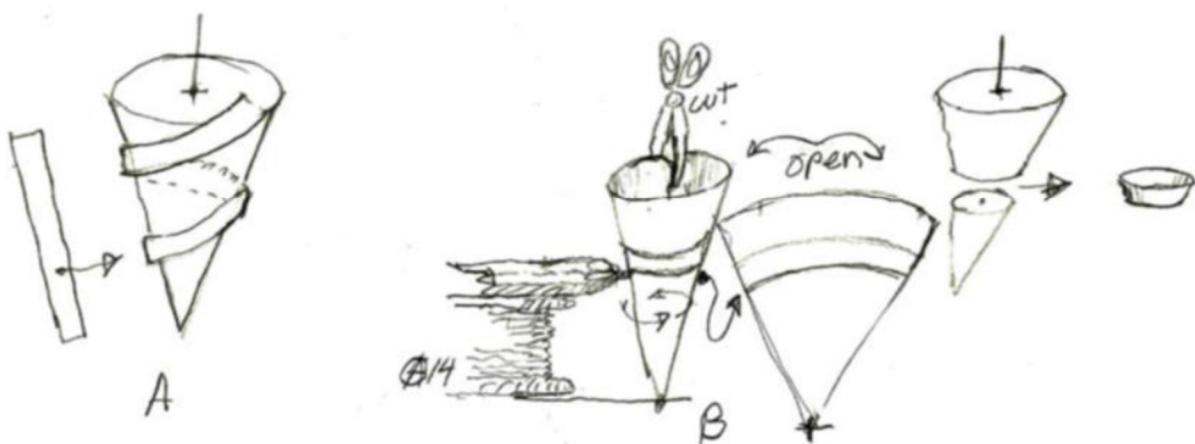
Thank you Tri for the great demo, as always, you make it look easy.

How to Make a Section of a Cone

Write-up and Drawings
by Steve Alling, a MABA member

The shapes such as frying pans and barrel hoops are sections of a cone. To understand how to bend the metal to end up with that shape you have to first make a compensating bend. As you can see in example "A" if you try to wrap a straight piece around a cone you get a spiral. So you can perform a little experiment to understand why you need this pre bend. Make a small paper cone out of a note card and tape it together. Stand it on its point and rotate it against a pencil supported on a book. This will give you a line which represents either the top or the bottom of one of these shapes. Now with a sharp pair of scissors cut the

cone open and flatten it out. You will see that the nice straight line you drew on the paper cone is now a curve which is defined as a radius from the point of the cone. To construct this circular line make a full size side view drawing of your object with a vertical center line. Extend a line off one of the sloping sides till it intersects the center line. That will give you the length of the radius of the arc that you will need. To find the length of that line calculate the circumference of that point on your drawing. Use a piece of string to mark that length on your arc that also tells you the length of material you will need. (When bending on the edge, I find it very hard to get a nice bend on the ends, so I always bend my stock oversize and trim it back.) Now when you have your compensating bend finished you can roll it up into the proper circle and it will straighten itself out and come out the way you want.

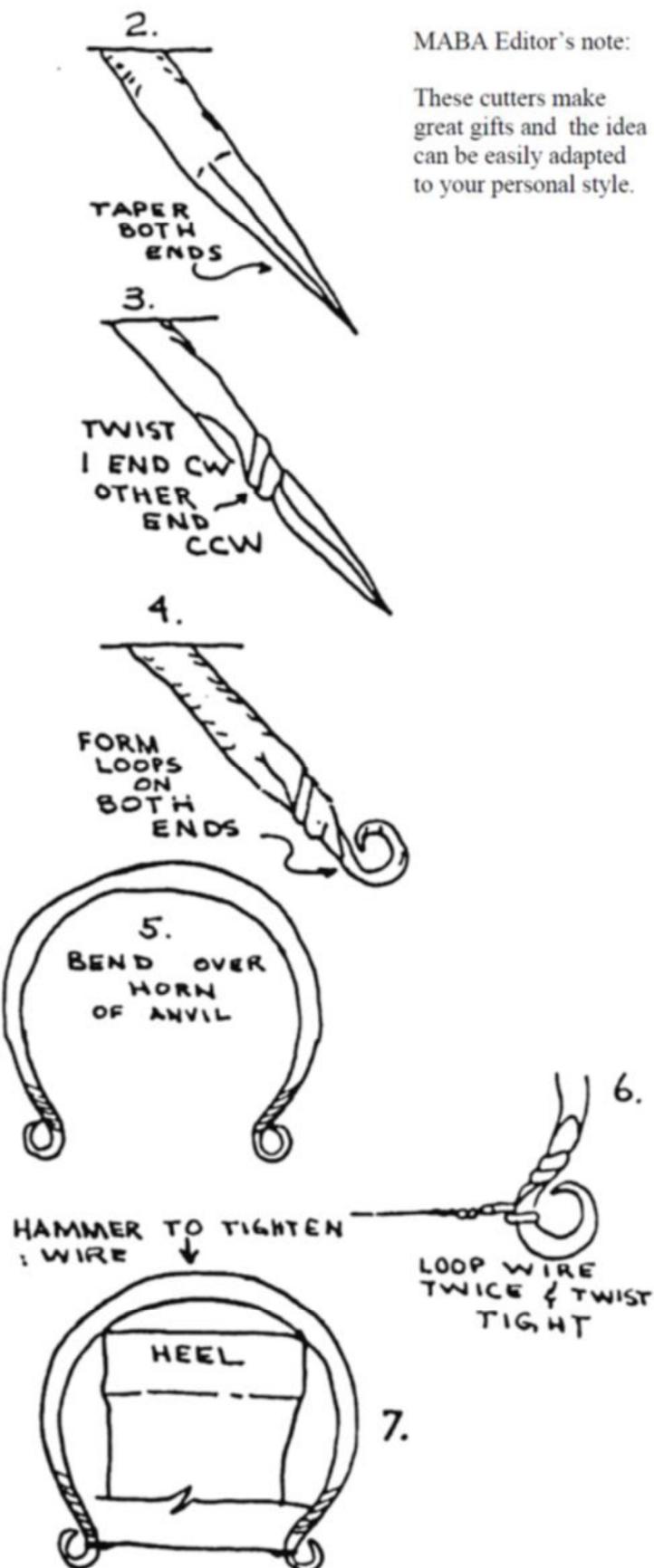


Reprinted from the Blacksmith Association of Missouri Newsletter -1991

Making a Cheese Cutter

Here's a nice quickie project that has real customer appeal.

1. Start with a piece of 1/4" or 5/16" stock, either square or round, approximately 9" long.
2. Taper both ends an inch or so, whatever you think you'll need to make a nice loop on the end.
3. Twist the ends. Twist one end clockwise and the other counter-clockwise. You could also make decorative twists in the center of the handle at this time if you care to.
4. Then form loops on each end.
5. Bend into (GOD.....FORBID) a horseshoe shape by using the horn of the anvil.
6. Wrap a wire through one end of the loops twice, stretch to the other loop and wrap twice again. Wire such as .035 MIG wire, solid guitar or banjo strings, or solid piano wire work well.
7. Using the heel of the anvil, hammer the middle of the handle over the heel to tighten the wire.
8. Finish with a little vegetable oil to preserve the look you want.



MABA Editor's note:

These cutters make great gifts and the idea can be easily adapted to your personal style.



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Newsletter of the
Indiana Blacksmithing Association, Inc.

Farrel Wells Membership Secretary
8235 E 499 S
Dunkirk, IN 47336-8807

First Class Mail

Address Correction Requested
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sender

April 18 Hammer In Maumee Valley Blacksmiths

Maumee Valley Antique
Steam & Gas Association

1720 South Webster Road, New Haven, IN

