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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.

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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.

Sept 19 2015	HAYDEN MUSEUM (BOARD MEETING)
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Oct 17 2015	TBD
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Nov 21 2015	TBD
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Dec 12 2015	DON REITZEL SHOP STILESVILLE
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Dates to Remember

Sept 19—20
Trail of Courage
Festival at Fulton
County Historical
Society

Sept 25-27
Quad State
at SOFA

The Indiana State Fair was a great success again. Bill Newman provided this update:

After 17 days we were able to keep both forges burning from 8am to 6pm every day of the Indiana State Fair. Thank You to all the Blacksmiths who came out to help. On Wednesday August 19th, the Fair Queen came over to the Blacksmith Shop and made a "S" hook, as has been the tradition for the last three years. The Pioneer Village has a new Milking Parlor. The Blacksmith Shop with help from the Wagon Shop (formally known as the Wheel Wright shop) made all the Hardware for it during the Fair by using forges in our shop as well as the Wagon Shop.

The Rural Smiths of Mid- America will no longer be going to the Indiana State Fair as a group. Anyone who does go will be doing so as an individual and not as a representative of RSMA.

Ron Gill president, Rural Smiths of Mid- America

Larry Rosentrader, the IBA Librarian, has a new email address (lrosentrader@gmail.com).

The Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths have some updated contacts. Jim Malone is the forgemaster, Kathy Malone is the treasurer and Terry Byers is the secretary. Their phone numbers are listed in the satellite group information.

The 2016 IBA Conference “Done at Home” contest item will be a cooking fork. The item can be done by one or two people.

For those of you planning to go to the Trail of Courage festival on September 19 and 20 be advised the landmark round barn was leveled by a tornado. The festival is still in the works. A video of an aerial survey is posted on the Fulton County Historical Society site at:

www.fultoncountyhistory.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: Jim R Malone (812) 725-3311
 Terry Byers (812) 275-7150
 Kathy Malone (812) 725-3310

Satellite 13

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

The Southern Indiana Meteorite Mashers

This month we met at Jason Hardin's shop near Salem. We had a good turn out. The BFH team practiced for the new item to be forged at Steamboat days in Jeffersonville Indiana Labor day weekend. The tooling is complete and ready, we have a process, so now on to the show. Our newest Member Isiah, again was making split crosses, and he made a fair number for 1" stock. he then came and helped operate the big forge for the BFH. I believe that he will be relief forge operator under Mike Mills excellent tutelage. The big forge takes great care and observation to run correctly as it will burn 3" steel quickly. A good iron in the hat was held with Isiah getting much of the steel:)

The September meeting will be at Quad State. The October meeting will be at Beck's Mill near Salem for their Oktoberfest.

Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmith Shop

The Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmiths had a lot of beginner work going on. Eli Neakam started with a leaf. Alex Spellman started a leaf with the assistance of Brad Weaver and Charlie Helton. Special thanks to Ron Dunbar for his generous cache of steel. also special thanks to John Wendel, Brad , and Charlie for helping straighten the shop. Also special thanks to Jim Johnston for delivering a load of much needed coal and the young men who helped unload and stack it. This turned out to be more of a work meeting than hammer in. We are looking to the State Fair and making plans. Paul Bray

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: John Zile: (765) 533-4153
 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

IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

Rural Smiths of Mid-America

Where has the time gone? we had a good turn out at Bob Hessong's meeting in July. we had 4-1/2 hour demos from four different people, which everyone seemed to like. In August some went to the Indiana State Fair. The September meeting September 12-13 will be at the Heartnut Festival in the Johnson County Park. we will be doing demos for the festival and working on the shop.

the October meeting will be our fall mini conference. it will be held at Ray Phelps shop in Greenwood on October 3rd. Steve Roth form SOFA will be the demonstrator. there will be more details about this in the September RSMA newsletter.

One-Armed Blacksmith's Shop

The One-Armed Blacksmith Shop held its normal first-Saturday meeting on September 5th at its smithy located on the grounds of the Bartholomew County Historical Society's Henry Breeding farm. Present were John Kirby, Jim Jesse, John McDaniel, and Matt Roberts.

Recent OABS activities included two days of demonstrations at the Indiana State Fair Pioneer Village blacksmith shop by members Jim Jesse and John McDaniel.



September's meeting began with airing of a video which discussed and demonstrated Uri Hofi's hammer techniques.

Jim Jesse followed the video by guiding everyone through the transformation of 14" of 3/8" square stock into his version of a weaver's loom light candle holder.

After discussion of several options for the loom light, the forge was open for members to work on their projects. Matt Roberts made good progress on his cheese cutter. John McDaniel installed the new electric grinder/wire wheel stand he constructed. Plans were discussed for the Sept. 26th Hope Heritage Days demonstrations.

A special thanks to Jim Jesse for the diet pills (donuts)!



October's meeting will include another blacksmithing video, a forging demonstration, and (schedule permitting) open forge time.

Remember to bring items for next month's "Iron-in-the-Hat". See everyone on October 3rd!

IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

Fall Creek Blacksmith Shop



On Friday Dave Kline, Gary Phillips and Dave Wells represented our group. Carl Baker from Rural Smiths helped us with some of Bill Newmans group showing up later. Saturday and Sunday Eric Shotwell was able to make it. Don Reitzel with his daughter Emily helped out both days. I think we all had a good time, the weather couldn't be better. Eric spent some time in the Wheelrights shop helping them out and learning new things. reported by Dave Wells.----I posted some short videos on Indiana Blacksmiths Site.



INDIANA BLACKSMITHING ASSOCIATION DEMONSTRATION

COLORING METALS WITH WAX METALLICS

This paper describes a process for the cold coloring of metals with wax metallic materials to highlight or fully color the base material. It was demonstrated by Toby Hickman of Petaluma, California, before the Upper Midwest Blacksmiths Association at a meeting held at Bob Bergman's shop at Postville, Wisconsin on February 4, 1995. Toby is a professional blacksmith and uses this process on his products.

WARNING: This process calls for the use of lacquer thinner and spray lacquer which are hazardous to your health. Wear protective breathing equipment designed and approved for the purpose and hand and body protective clothing. Thinner resistant gloves are called for. Protect your eyes. These materials are flammable!

Required: Forgings or other materials to be coated

Lacquer thinner with small pan (about the size of a cat food can)

Spray lacquer -gloss or semi gloss as desired

Metallic waxes in the desired colors - particularly silver, copper, and gold.

Toby used Ceramichrome wax metallics made by Ceramichrome, Stanford, KY. In Indiana Rub 'n Buff may be more readily available. Rub 'n Buff is made in Indianapolis by AMACO - American Art Clay Co. Inc. 4717 W. 16th St. Indianapolis, IN 46222 Phone (800) 374-1600. Their retail outlet is Brickyard Ceramics & Crafts, 4721 West 16th St, Speedway, IN 46222 phones (317) 244-5230 & (800) 677-3289 Hours are: M-F 9:00AM - 4:30PM, Sat. 9:00AM - 3:00PM UPS available and Visa and Mastercard accepted. Check your local ceramic shop for what is available. Rub 'n Buff is available in the following colors:

76361A - Gold Leaf 76371L - Grecian Gold

76362B - Antique Gold 76372M - Autumn Gold

76363C - Olive Gold 76373N - Emerald

76365E - Chinese Red 76374P - Sapphire

76366F - Antique White 76375R - Jade

76367G - Pearl Blue 76378W - Amethyst

76368H - Spanish Copper 76379X - European Gold

76369J - Ebony 76390A - Pewter

76370K - Silver Leaf 76381B - Turquoise

Natural bristle brush for each color (Michaels has these for about 40 cents) they should be about 1" wide by 5/16" thick . Read further for how they are used to understand what to look for. Basting brushes may work.

Card board or maisonette for each color to prepare the material. Toby used corrugated box material for the demonstration. About 8"+ X 12"+. In his shop he has maisonette panels for each color and mix.

Craft sticks or other material for mixing and spreading the wax. Toby used old broken hack saw blades (the smooth side).

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Editors Note: This is an article Paul Moffett wrote and demonstrated for IBA in Bloomington in the 90's. Article submitted by Dave Wells. A quick Google search on "wax metallic" indicates that AMACO Rub N Buff is still available

IBA DEMONSTRATION ON COLORING WITH WAX METALLICS

page 2

Wiping rag (for you)

Containers of primary colorants used by paint stores to mix various colors of paints. Toby buys these by the quart. Baby food jars filled at your local hardware store may do for you. (Michaels has small plastic containers with tight fitting lids if needed.) These will mix with the wax metallics.

The metal must be clean and free of oils. If it is scaled use an oxy-acetylene torch with excess oxygen to descale the surface. By moving the torch rapidly over the scale it will heat and oxidize more rapidly than the surface and because the scale expands more rapidly than the base the scale will pop off the surface. You MUST wear face and eye protection when doing this.

Do not use a power wire brush. A modest amount of hand brushing is fine, but do not try for a smooth surface. This process works best on a rough surface.

When the metal is all prepared it is time to prepare the finish material.

Put about a half teaspoon full of wax metallic on the maisonette or cardboard. The quantity is dependent on how large the object is to be treated. If you mix your own colors be sure to make enough to cover the entire project and made repairs later. It might be wise to keep a record of what you mix and the relative quantities in case you must match the color again. A small amount will cover a large area. Experience will guide you. Also record the order of application in multiple color projects.

Using the craft stick or other spreader spread the wax metallic in a very thin layer on the surface of the maisonette or cardboard.

Dip a new brush in some lacquer thinner and brush the thin surface on the maisonette with the brush. The surface will streak. Continue brushing until the surface stops streaking. This is VERY IMPORTANT! If you do not do this you will get a streaky finish. In effect you are thinning out the wax metallic material so that you can use a thin coating. You can over thin the material. Look carefully at the effect and adjust as needed. You are working very near a dry brush method.

Now, lightly brush the surface of the work. The brushing should be about what you would do if you were trying to dust off the piece with a clean brush. Continue brushing until you have the cover depth you wish. If the wax metallic dries too much, dip the brush again and brush it out on the maisonette until it stops streaking again. Continue on. Using the brush in jab strokes like a stencil brush may work well in some cases.

On some objects you may want to completely cover the surface. Toby was asked to quote on copper handrails for a restaurant. The quote was refused as too high. He suggested this process to the architect. It was approved. When the restaurant designer

IBA DEMONSTRATION ON COLORING WITH WAX METALLICS page 3

toured the restaurant he said to the architect "I thought we took copper railings out of the contract." Copper can serve as a base coat. So can gold. Both are improved with highlights from other colors. Silver is a very strong highlighter which seems to enliven the other colors. Toby uses it frequently and sometimes even when asked not to because of its help in improving colors. His "don't use" customers never seem to notice.

The Ceramichrome equivalent to Chinese Red was used on an order for some Asian customers in the far east and they were very pleased with the result. It may have been slightly deeper red.

Several colors may be used to create an effect almost like the colors seen when oil is on water.

This seems to be one process which looks better up close. The rougher the piece, the better it works. Pieces which have been burned in the fire can even look good. Toby reports that they have a mixture in his shop which does an excellent job of hiding welds and grinding.

Unless you only want one color it is more effective to start with a base (it need not be opaque) and add other colors over it. Try some copper over which you use perhaps a touch of blue or red and highlight with silver. Experiment!! Where will the piece be used and what colors will go well in that context.

When you have finished with the color let the piece dry. Unless paint colorants are used this may take only a few hours. Colorants may add a day or two. Finish with a spray lacquer either gloss or semi gloss.

Toby is not the only professional smith using color. Albert Paley of Rochester, New York, has used it extensively on very large pieces. The effect is quite stunning. A few years ago Jack Brukaker also had quite a line of distinctive painted pieces.

Break out of that traditional black iron mode occasionally and add a little color to your life!

Prepared by Paul D. Moffet

A few views of the Rochester round barn



Mike Bendele at IBA Conference: Forging a Candleholder



Start: Solid cylinder in gas forge

Die in power hammer to make ball

Ball partially made



Refining the ball

Completed first step: ball.

Second step: Drawing out the stem



Drawing out on power hammer

Third step: Crushing the ball into circle

Finished candleholder.

This article taken from Rocky Forge News, August 2015 edition.
Visit their website at <http://www.rockyforge.org/>

Quick Projects - Hook Ruler

Gerald Franklin



The hook ruler is useful for getting quick measurements on hot material. It isn't intended to be as precise as other measuring tools but can get you within "blacksmith tolerance" without burning the paint off your favorite pocket tape.

These things can be made from about any size material. I used a piece of 1/8" X 1" X 18" flat strap for the one in the photos.

Begin by taking a one-sided upset over the rounded far edge of the anvil. Drive the top corner material back into the mass to set up the hook. Dress the sides of the upset area to maintain the starting thickness. Be careful as you dress the hooked area so that you don't fold material over to the inside of the hook and cause a shut. Take your time here. Don't allow the strap material to neck down behind the hook.

Once you have a 3/8" to 1/2" long hook, move to the vise and rasp the rounded inner part of the hook to a square corner. Allow this area to cool without quenching.



Hook Ruler Continued...

Work the other end into your choice of handle. Don't forget the touchmark.



Polish the shaft of the ruler then mark at 1 inch intervals. Scribe the "inch marks" with a cold chisel and stamp even number marks with number stamps.



Hook Ruler article reprinted from Saltfork Craftsmen Artist-Blacksmith Association newsletter, July 2015 edition. Visit their website at: www.saltforkcraftsmen.org

Post Anvil

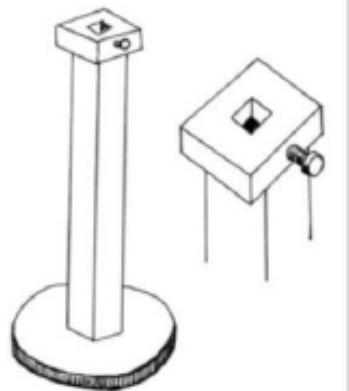
by Richard Shepard, Pittsburgh Area Artist-Blacksmiths
from the New England Blacksmiths Newsletter

Top plate: 2" thick mild steel.

Post: 4" square tubing filled with scrap metal and sand.

Base: 1" thick plate.

Not only for when you don't want to be putting stakes and cut-offs in and out of your anvil's Hardy hole, but if you make it the same height as your anvil, it can serve double duty as a stock support. It has been a helpful addition to my shop.



"Post Anvil" is reproduced courtesy of the California Blacksmith March/April 2007 - Editor



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Indiana Blacksmithing Association, Inc.

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sender

Board of Directors Meeting and Open Forge

September 19

Hayden Historical Museum

Hayden is located in Jennings County about midway between Seymour and North Vernon, just north of US50. From US50, turn north on CR 700W. Turn right at the first road (CR 20 S) and proceed through the next intersection. The Museum is the third building on the right. A gravel parking lot is located behind the museum.

Please bring a dish to share.

