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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.

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.

**Oct 15
2022**

**Nov 19
2022**

**Dec 10
2022**

**Jan 21
2023**



INDEX

PG 3
SATELLITE NEWS

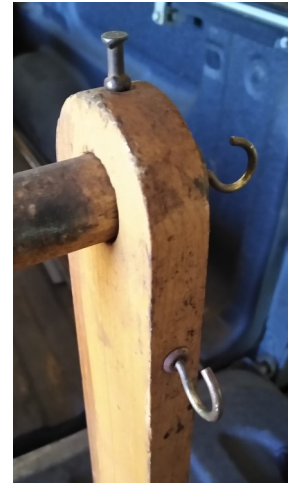
PGS 4-7
FALL REGIONAL
CONFERENCE
BUNKUM VALLEY

PGS 8-11
BILL COREY
TONG TOOL BOX

Editors Message

The Fall Regional Conference hosted by Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths has just wrapped up. It was a good time with great demonstrators. Give a big shout out to hosts Jim and Kathy Malone. Check out pages 4-7 for photos supplied by Carol Baker and Ray Sease.

Many of us have seen the tong tool boxes that Bill Corey makes. Bill has written an article on how to construct a box of your own. As an addendum, Bill wanted to add that he uses 16d duplex nails to hold the handle in either the up or down position. The duplex nails are easy to extract when changing positions. Bill also adds small hooks to hang small tools in a handy position.



Mark Blosser shared this photo of Fred Oden from the Regional Conference hosted by Sutton-Terrock. I failed to get it in earlier.

Currently I am not aware of any scheduled hammer ins or other events for the remainder of the year. If you are interested in hosting a hammer in, please contact Steve King. Steve's contact information is on the front page, upper left corner.

ABANA is raffling off a BAM tool box complete with tools. If you are interested in purchasing tickets or more information use the link below. The drawing will be on November 1.

[Buy Raffle Tickets](#)



IBA website: www.indianablacksmithing.org IBA Facebook page: www.facebook.com/groups/IndianaBlacksmithingAssociation/

Dates to
Remember

IBA Satellite Groups and News

1) Sutton-Terock Memorial Blacksmith Shop

Meet: 2nd Saturday at 9 AM
 Contacts: Fred Oden (574) 223-3508
 Tim Pearson (574) 298-8595

2) Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmith Shop

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

3) Wabash Valley Blacksmith Shop

Meet: 3rd Saturday at 9 AM
 Contacts: Bill Cochran (812) 241-8447
 Max Hoopengartner (812) 249-8303

4) Fall Creek Blacksmith Shop

Meet: 4th Saturday at 9 AM
 Contacts: Gary Phillips (260) 251-4670

5) Maumee Valley Blacksmiths

Meet: 2nd Saturday
 Contacts: Clint Casey (260) 627-6270
 Mark Thomas (260) 758 2332

6) St. Joe Valley Forgers

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

7) Rocky Forge Blacksmith Guild

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

8) Meteorite Mashers

Contacts: Mike Mills (812) 633-4273
 Steve King (812) 797-0059
 Jeff Reinhardt 812-949-7163

9) Whitewater Valley Blacksmiths

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

10) Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths

Meet: 1st Saturday
 Contacts: Jim Malone (812) 725-3311
 Terry Byers (812) 275-7150
 Carol Baker (317) 809-0314

11) Covered Bridge Blacksmith Guild

Meet: 1st Saturday
 Contact: John Bennett (812) 877-7274

12) Snake Road Forge

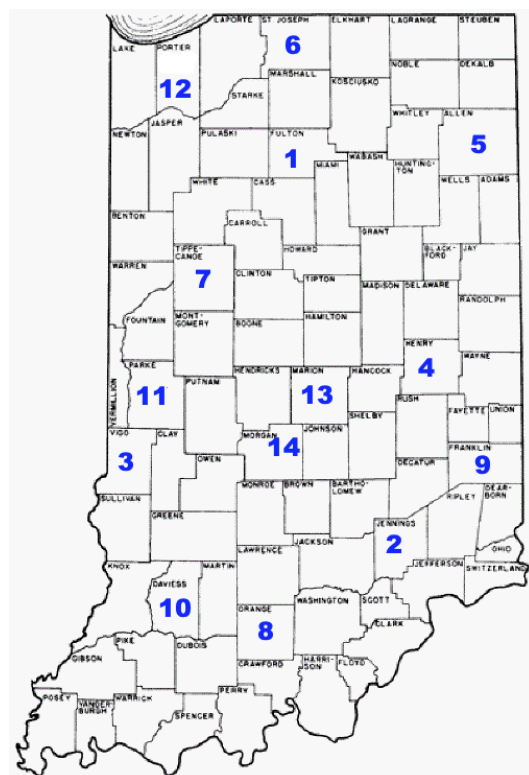
Meet: 1st Saturday
 Contact: Rod Marvel (219) 241-0628

13) Satellite 13

Meet: 4th Saturday
 Contact: Darrin Burch (317) 607-3170
 Doug Wilson (317) 439-7684

14) Old Town Waverly Blacksmiths

Meet: 2nd Saturday
 Contacts: Mike Lyvers (317-728-5771),
 Kenny Hale (765-318-3390),
 Mike Jackson (317-509-9115).



Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmith Shop

The Vernon blacksmiths met at Vernon on the 8th with Jim Bynum getting a draw bar for a tractor hot enough to literally straighten it out. Dave Good made a double candle stand to resemble lilies. Doug Watson worked very diligently making a damascus billet. October will be the last meeting at Vernon this year. November meeting will be at Kevin Welsh. Hope to see his new toy in action-lol. Hope to see you on the 8th. Paul Bray

IBA Fall Regional Conference Hosted by Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths

The Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths hosted our 2nd annual conference. We had perfect weather, a good crowd Friday and Saturday and some great demonstrations. The 1st demonstration on casting with Randall Kinnamon was hot! We had green and orange fire as seen below. Which gave us a couple nice medals! Thanks to Randall for his iron in the hat donations too! It was very interesting and educational!



The next was a forge welding demonstration and an interactive discussion on forge welding and Damascus. Thanks to Aaron Baker for sharing and demonstrating and being available to assist any who asked!

The next was Josh Sampson making tongs assisted by his other half! What a great job and great tongs that found a new home.

Any conference takes a village to pull it off. Jim Ray Malone posted several thank you's to the demonstrators, those who helped provide food including those who brought food to share and for the support of the Directors. In addition a big thank you to Jim and Kathy for hosting the event, to the members of Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths for their help and support especially those who went above and beyond and as mentioned. Steve Stoll and family for stepping in at the last minute when our food truck cancelled! Would add a thank you to Steve King for donating one of his hammers to the iron in the hat! The hammer cup overflowed! Thank you Thank you to anyone we missed in thanking!

Next year 2023 we are hoping to host #3 the 1st weekend of October so mark your calendar!



IBA Fall Regional Conference



IBA Fall Regional Conference





Collapsible Tong Tool Box

by Bill Corey



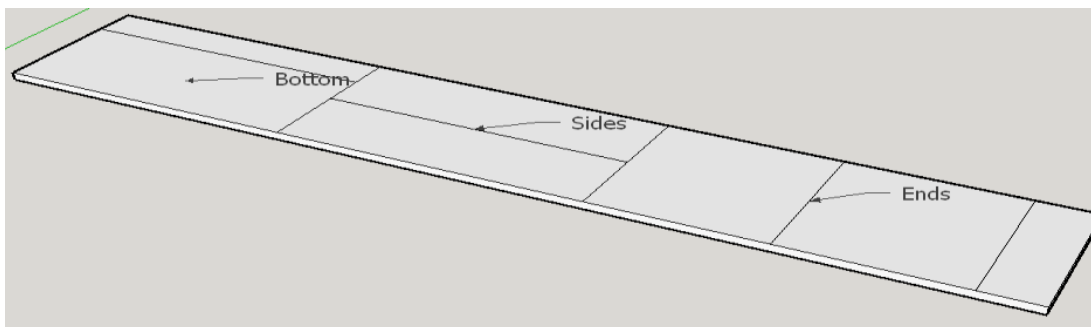
One of the handiest blacksmithing tools I've made for myself is a toolbox to carry some of the other tools to demonstrations, hammer-ins or when I'm visiting another shop. This is my Collapsible Tong Toolbox version 3.1 (Not for collapsible tongs, the tool box collapses.) I've made the handle removeable so that it can be extended by a couple of uprights to hold my tongs while I forge.

I use a laminated pine shelf board from the local Big Box. It's inexpensive,



stable and a full 12" wide by 6' long. The size of this tool box uses almost the whole shelf board. And some 3/4" X 2 1/2 X 24" pieces (step 9) for the uprights on either ends. I usually just cut these out of scrap 2X4s I have around the shop and also use the same scrap to cut the thin pieces that are the dividers in the bottom of the tool box (step 11). It takes 24" of dowel (I use poplar) for the handle and a 5: piece the short plugs used for step 10. (If I forgot some of the parts list I'm sorry. I use a lot of pieces of scrap in my shop. For instance the last uprights I cut were from my wifes porch swing that was falling apart.)

Note: On version 2 of this toolbox I used two full handles all the way across the tool box. Using these short plugs cuts down on the needed dowel and also removes that lower handle out of the way when using the tool box.



1. start out my cutting the bottom piece. So that I can use a 2' long 1' dowel for the handle, I cut the bottom 22" long. You can also cut another 22" long piece for the sides.



2. I then set my table saw at 7 degrees, trim one side of the bottom then cut the other side of the bottom so that the widest part, or top, is 9" wide.



3. Leaving the saw set at the same angle, I then cut the two side pieces also 22" long so that they have the 7 degree angle that will end up attached to the bottom. This cut is made right in the middle of the 12" X 22" piece for the sides.



4. I then drill 4 evenly spaced 3/8" holes on the bottom of each side about half way though.



This is to recess screw heads that later will be plugged with 3/8" dowel rod.

4



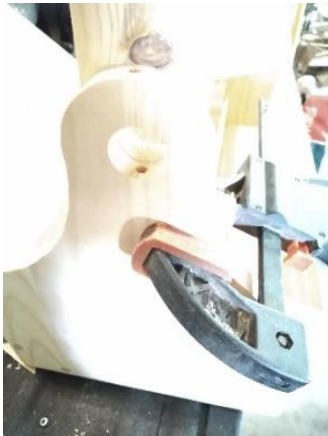
5. I then drill pilot holes through the sides into the bottom and attach the sides using wood glue and 1 5/8" #8 wood screws. I have built these not using metal fasteners and only using dowels however using screws speeds up the assembly by a day or so.
6. I then set the side on the remaining part of the shelf board to mark the ends aligning the edges and tracing around the side boards. I then connect those lines with a 3" half circle that tops out at 12". I cut out one and use it as a template to mark the other end board.



7. I then drill a 28mm hole (about 1 1/8") in the end boards that will later receive the handle. And then drill 6 evenly spaced 3/8" holes, and 6 pilot holes just like for the sides into the ends to attach them to the bottom and sides also using glue.



8. I then cut small pieces of 3/8" dowel and glue them in the screw holes trimming them flush after the glue sets up.



9. I then cut the uprights. They are 3/4" thick, 2 1/2" wide, and 24" long. I cut a half circle on the top and then drill a 28mm hole at the top. I then stand these uprights up in the ends of the tool box to transfer where the 22mm hole is to be drilled at the handle holes.



10. Next I cut two pieces of 1" dowel 2 1/2" long, drilled a 1/4" hole in the ends and glued in a short piece of dowel rod. These are inserted in the handle holes to hold the uprights upright.





11. Then using some thin boards I make a tray divider to fit in the bottom. These were about 3/8" wide by 2 1/2" tall. This divider is then glued to the inside bottom of the tool box. This divider has two purposes, one is to hold the bottom of the upright in position and the other is so when the tool box is loaded with "stuff" there is a spot for the upright to fit into without emptying the box first.



12. The last three steps are optional. On one of the uprights I add a pencil/ small tool holder and on the other I add a holster to hold a farriers rasp. At the bottom of the rasp holster I drove in two small nails so as to stop it from sliding all of the way though.



Apply some kind of finish, I just sprayed mine with about 3 good coats of spray enamel. You can also dress your tool box up a bit with designs. For instructions on this easy method go to YouTube and search for the video "Garden toolbox and fun inkjet photo-transfer technique" by "Woodworking for Mere Mortals" and look at about the 6:15 mark. This whole toolbox is actually based on the small garden toolbox he made in this video and it's a good watch. I strongly advise you NOT to make this box any larger than this one. The size of this box is almost too big as the "Rule of Horizontal Space" comes into effect. Same as it goes for a garage, barn, refrigerator and so on... however big it is it will be full. If you make one of these any larger, you'll need to beef up the handle. I am not sure how the 1" poplar dowel I used holds the weight. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions other than the standard "Will you make me one? I'll pay you for it." I'm not in the building tool box business and this is a real simple build. I've been using my current toolbox for about 5 years now and I have not been gentle with it. It has lots of scars, it's slid the entire length of my truck bed when someone has pulled out in front of me about 3 times and it's still just fine.



Bill Corey
Danville Indiana
Have fun forging!!!!



The *FORGE FIRE*
Newsletter of the
Indiana Blacksmithing Association, Inc.

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