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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.

Mar 19 2022	ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING CARTERSBURG (PLAINFIELD)
Apr 16 2022	BOB HUNLEY'S SHOP SULLIVAN, IN
May 21 2022	TBD
June 2022	ANNUAL CONFERENCE



INDEX

PGS 3-4
SATELLITE NEWS

PG 5
TOOL HANDLE

PGS 6-8
ERGONOMICS
PART 3

PGS 9-10
CONNECTIONS

PG 11
ABANA RAFFLE

Editors Message

I will start with a big shout out to Dominick Andrisani for catching an error in last month's Forge Fire. I have no idea how I managed to mess it up, but I had transposed the addresses for the February hammer in and the March business meeting. I hope no one was lost in Plainfield last month. I will try to do a better job proof reading in the future.

As I type this edition, the IBA Business Meeting is a week away. I am looking forward hearing details about the conference and other planned events. Anyone interested in IBA functions is encouraged to attend. I will include some notes from the meeting in next month's Forge Fire.

The April hammer-in will be at Bob Hunley's shop. Bob and Steve King are working on a demonstration. Details have not been revealed. Two special notes. First, the hammer-in is the day before Easter. I did confirm the date. Second, be sure to check the driving instructions on the back cover. When I entered the address, Google tried to put me about 5 miles too far North.

I have not spoken to Brad Weaver recently, but I am sure he is looking for nominations for Blacksmith of the Year and Rookie Blacksmith of the Year. Guidelines and Application Forms can be found on the IBA website: <http://www.indianablacksmithing.org/membership.html>. The deadline to submit applications is April 1. If you have any questions, Brad's phone number and email address are on the front cover.

Just a reminder, Farrel Wells wears many important hats for the IBA. He is the treasurer and membership secretary. He also handles the mailing of the Forge Fire to those not receiving electronic versions. If you need to pay membership dues or have problems with hard copy newsletters, please contact Farrel. His email and revised phone number are on the front cover.

This month's edition covers a pretty broad variety of topics:

- Third of the three part series on ergonomics.
- Two pages from a larger article on different joinery techniques. The remainder of that article will be included in future Forge Fire editions.
- Pinch-style holder for punches and slitters

ABANA News:

Our last page highlights this year's ABANA raffle. The prizes are very impressive. Use the imbedded link to get more details or to purchase tickets.

ABANA conference is May 11-14 in Denton, TX. Follow this link for registration information: <https://conference.abana.org>

Dates to Remember

March 19 Annual
Business Meeting
Belleville Masonic
Lodge

June 3-5
IBA Conference

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

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

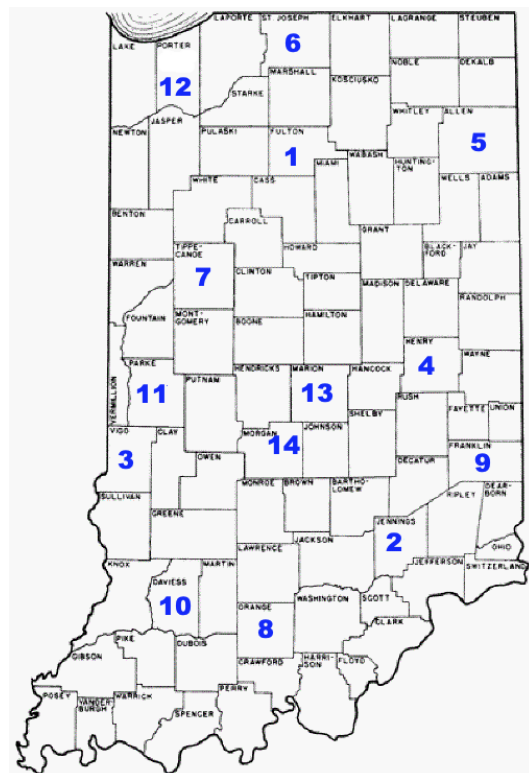
Meet: 1st Saturday
 Contact: Rod Marvel (219) 241-0628

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 Kenny Dettmer's forge on the 12th. Dave Good, with Kenny's help, heated the butt of a knife and peened it over. Kenny took a bar of cold rolled steel 2" square by 6" to a red heat and by going from power hammer to hydraulic press formed a wood splitting wedge. Dave made a ginkgo leaf and worked a flat copper strip into a "Russian" rose. Louis Wonning, with assistance from Bill Wonning, made a nice fork with a leaf handle.

Our next meeting will be at Kevin Welsh, 25619 Gill Rd. Nabb, Ind. bring lots of iron in the hat, and money! Paul Bray

Meteorite Mashers

After weather cancelled our January meeting we were glad to meet on a sunny clear day at Steve Kings shop in Paoli. Had several visitors from the North, and a nice iron in the hat. Steve had a big pot of chili. Good time was had by all. Our March meeting will be at Jeff Reinhardt's shop in Floyd's Knobs.

IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths

Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths met Saturday March 5. We had 20 in attendance with beautiful weather for smithing. Next month we will be meeting in Elnora for the spring Swap meet at the fair grounds. We will have smithing if anyone wants to come for that. There are usually some treasures to be found at the Meet.

Enjoy the pictures from Saturday!



Bruce Manson's Pinch Tool Handle

An article in the Summer 2021 *Hammer's Blow* inspired CVBG's Bruce Manson to design and build his own pinch-style handle for struck tools, incorporating a couple of improvements on the way.

The main body of the handle is 1" black pipe. The ends have a round "punch notch" ground into them to accept the body of the struck tool, and allow it to be drawn up tight to the end of the handle. A long slot is cut and ground perpendicular to the punch notch, that allows the holder to be drawn back, snugging the tool into the punch notch.

The ring that holds the struck tool is a chain link. This is welded to a threaded piece of 1/2" round bar. To keep the rod centered in the pipe, Bruce swaged the pipe down a bit at both ends. He says he got this idea from Ted Banning's November 2021 demonstration, swaging a pipe to make a bell.

A square nut that ties everything together. Bruce found that a 1/2" square nut would fit his anvil's hardie hole. Using it allows the handle can be tightened or loosened without needing a wrench.

This article reprinted from the March-April 2022 edition of The Virginia Blacksmith



Exercises For the Blacksmith

Ergonomics, Part 3

Patrick Beck, Pori, Finland

This is the third part of a three part series of articles. The previous articles were about ergonomics at the anvil and ergonomics at the smithy. Even though the article has been written together with a physiotherapist, don't apply it to your workshop without questioning. Your body, age and overall condition might require a different approach. Talk to your local physiotherapist or other specialist to find tailored solutions to your situation. Your body will thank you.

After talking about your workshop, we focus on exercises to help your body stay in good condition. Remember that it is important to change your working position often. Additionally you can incorporate the following two exercises into your workflow. For example hang a resistance band to the door handle to your coffee room and use it every time you pass through the door.

Strengthening The Core

Back issues are often related to the spine. Strengthening your core muscles helps the spine to stay healthy. A strong core can help you also to improve your lifting capabilities and life quality in general. You can find a lot of exercises for the core online but the following works well in activating the core muscles.

Grab the resistance band and take a stand with slightly bent knees (Figure 1). The band should give a manageable amount of resistance for you, which might be different for everyone. With straightened arms draw the band to the other side of your body (Figure 2). Draw by turning the body, starting the movement from your core. Switch your legs, so that the other leg is in front. Then follow the same procedure for the other side.

This article re-printed from the March/April 2022 edition of California Blacksmith Online, the online news-letter of the California Blacksmith Association



1. Upper body upright, arms straight.
The turning movements come from the core
(area above the belt).



2. Take movement to the center.

Ergonomics Pt. 3

Stretching the Upper Body

When you grab a hammer or tongs the muscles involved contract. If you hold the grip over an extended period of time the contracted muscles will shorten. This is why it is sometimes difficult to open your hand again after a longer period of gripping. To counteract this shortening, one can either activate the corresponding counter muscle or stretch. To activate the countermuscle you can take a resistance band as in the previous exercise.

A good overall stretch for the blacksmith can be the following one. If one performs it in a squatting positing almost every muscle in the body is stretched. You might encounter balance issues in the beginning though. The muscles and tendons are stretched enough when you notice the stretch. Stretching further might bring more harm than benefit.



3. Bring the fingertips to your shoulders



4. Bring the hands as far out to the sides as possible, but remain a slightly bent elbow



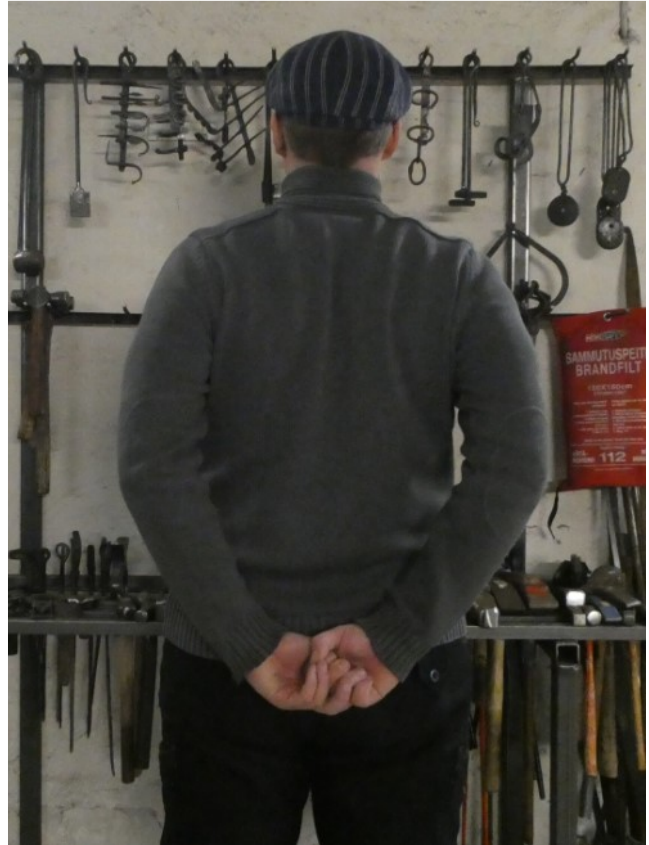
5. Form a fist and point with the knuckles downside



Ergonomics Pt. 3



6. Turn the arm towards the back until the knuckles point upside



7 & 8. Bring both fists together behind your back and move them up, keep your arms straight while doing so. Move the arms up as much as possible, while maintaining a straight upper body.

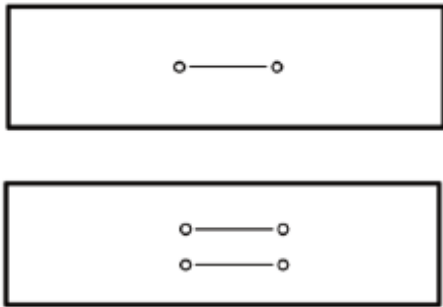


Connections

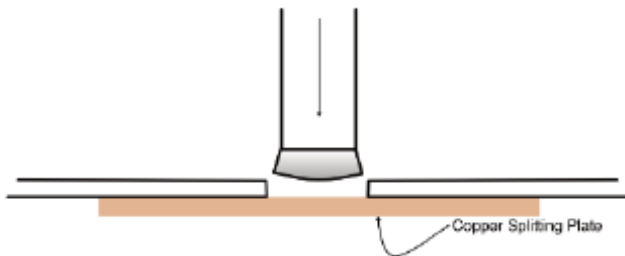
An Introduction to Pass-Throughs and Connections

The following are some pass through techniques which may or may not be of use in your designs. As always: *Measure and Mark!*

1. Center punch and register marks (cold chisel).



2. Slitting chisel (same width as split needed).

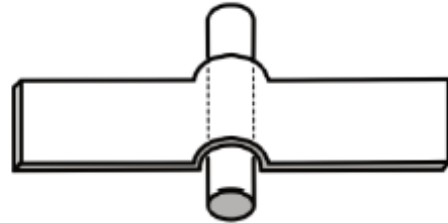


Finish split over hardie, pritchel, or bolster hole.

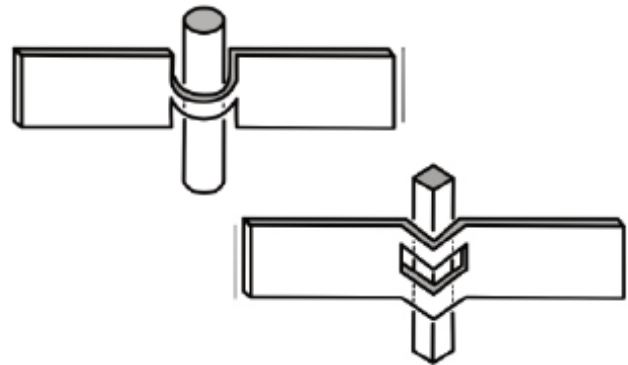
- 3.. Use pass-through stock to establish channel openings - opposite sides.



4. Use pass-through stock to drift slits to size.



5. Double and triple split pass-throughs are more stable.



The variations of this technique can accommodate virtually any cross-section of stock. Experiment! Have fun with it!

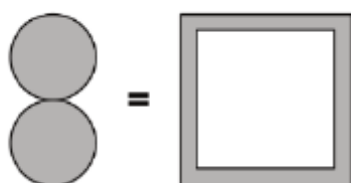


Editor's Note: These two pages are reprinted from the March/April 2022 edition of the California Blacksmith Online newsletter. The article was written by Jay Burnham-Kidwell of Golden Valley, AZ. Additional portions of this article will be printed in future Forge Fire editions.

Connections

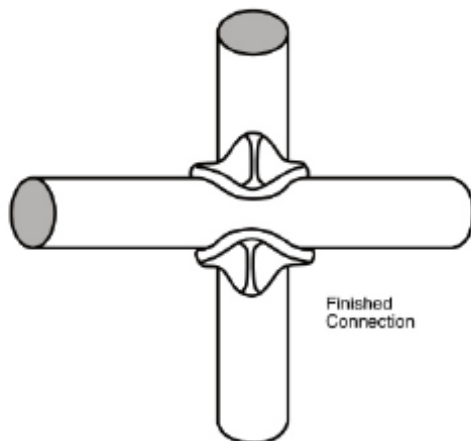
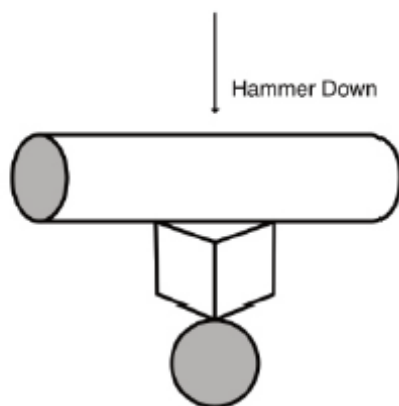
Claydon Connection

This connection was developed by Stuart Hill, a British blacksmith, in the late 70's. It uses a combination of solid and tubular stock as the connecting device. It is not a completely solid connection, as in most collars and wraps, but also doubles as an ornamental device. The tube (we will use square tubing on round stock) is approximately twice the thickness of the pieces to be joined. With 1/2" stock, use 1" schedule 40 square tube.



Measure Tube to Stock

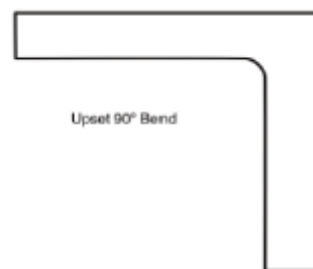
Cut the tube to size, heat to yellow in the forge. Place the tube between the round stock, hammer quickly down. Do not over hammer, and let cool.



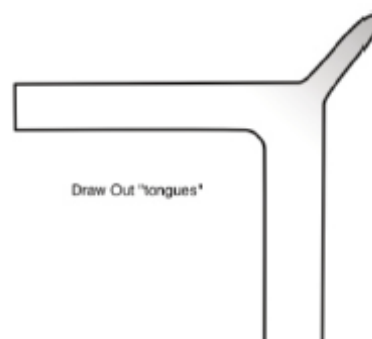
Finished Connection

Arno Muller's Corner Connection

I saw this trick in Germany at Manfred Bredohl's shop in Aachen. It was developed by Arno Muller, one of the apprentices, for his journeyman's examination piece. Take square stock, upset at point of bend, make a 90° square bend.



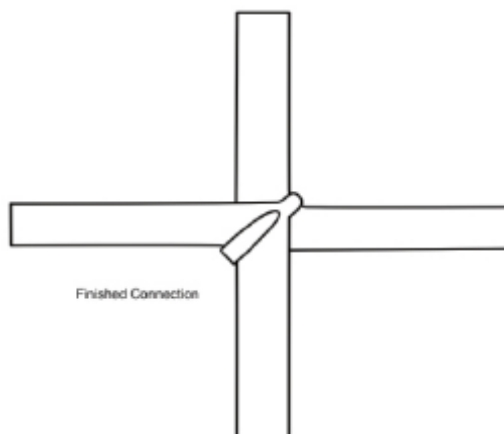
Upset 90° Bend



Draw Out "tongues"

Using a set hammer or the corner of the air hammer die, hot forge the bend corner out to a "tongue." Repeat with another 90° bend piece of stock.

The corners may be welded (Arc or MIG) for extra stability, and the "tongues" hot wrapped around the stock.



Finished Connection

Announcing the 2022 ABANA Raffle

Back by popular demand, thanks to our President, Leigh Morrell and several very generous sponsors we have created an outstanding raffle with 11 must have items for every shop. Why not think about adding that needed piece of equipment to your shop.

Ticket Sales: Start: March 1 End: May 1

Whether you win or not, we hope you will support our sponsors.

Prizes and Sponsors are;

- 1st prize
- Anyang 68 power hammer
- 2nd prize
- Big Blue Hydraulic Press
- 3rd prize
- Blacksmith Supply #6 Fly Press
- 4th prize
- Brodbeck Ironworks, Grinder Package
- 5th prize
- ABANA purchased, Induction Forge, used at the 2021 Iron to Art
- 6th prize
- Mid Atlantic Smiths Assoc NEB style Coal Forge
- 7th prize
- Holland Anvils, Swage Block
- 8th prize
- Forge-Aprons, Custom Forge Apron
- 9th prize
- Steel Stamps, Personal Steel Touchmark
- 10th prize
- Steel Stamps, Personal Steel Touchmark
- 11th prize
- Steel Stamps, Personal Steel Touchmark

Hurry, we will only be selling 6000 tickets.

Drawing to be held at the Village Blacksmith Shop 221 North Street Goshen CT 06756 May 1, 2022 at 7:00 p.m., winner need not be present.

All items are FOB sponsors location. Winners are responsible for all applicable taxes.

[Purchase Tickets](#)

Ticket Price:\$10 per ticket



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Farrel Wells *Membership Secretary*
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March 19 Annual Business Meeting Belleville Masonic Lodge

4252 Cartersburg Rd, Plainfield, IN

From Indianapolis: take I-465 exit #12 (Washington St/US-40 West). Follow US-40 about 10 miles through Plainfield. Turn right Cartersburg Rd. Masonic Lodge is about 1 mile on left.

Pitch in lunch

April 16 Hammer In Bob Hunley's Shop

258 N CR 800 E, Sullivan, IN 47882

Driving Directions: The best way to come is to go to Dugger first. Then turn North off highway 54 on 800 E. near the train tressel and the liquor store. (at the juncture of 54 and 159). Go North through 2 stop signs and we are out in the country on the right. We are 1.2 miles from highway 54. It's a newer tan house with a tan and black pole barn. The Blacksmith shop is in the pole barn.

Chili, crackers and coffee. Please bring a side dish or dessert