

Hampton Roads Hammer

JANUARY 2012

IN this Issue: * January Meeting * Pipe Piercer * Structural Twist * It's a What? *

Director's Holler: January started off with an early meeting of four of the five ABANA project participants. It was a beautiful day mid 60's, sun shining and four very different visions of the same concept. How could this BEEEEEE!!!! Hahaha. Well we toughed it out and arrived at a decision that we could all live with. The design requirements have been set and so our project has feet. Jay Mitton will be the point man and will have the final draft plans out to all by the regular meeting on Jan 14th. Much of our work at our Jan. meeting will be on this new project. We are going to keep it under wraps until we get much closer to completion.

We still need to obtain a strongback, rope, stakes and posts, make a center clip with locking pin for use with the tent strongback, so there are lots going on.



We did the final signing of the Repousse Candle Holder piece and moved right into the ABANA conference final design. There was also enough time at the meeting for almost everyone to make a blank for the ABANA pc and Joe G. did an impromptu lesson on Water Leaves. The water leaves will be used on the ABGT Banner Stand which is nearing completion. It was a great day as previously stated. Of course we outdid ourselves once again and there was something for everyone to enjoy for lunch.



Bob Starting up the forge



Great IHT table



Show me table



Bottom of ABGT Candle Holder



Another shot of Show me table



Top left: Meeting – Top right: I getting it fired up, hold your horses ☺
Center left: Bob, Tessa, Tony in background – Center right: Our own Photo Meister Steve LaPaugh – Bottom: Lunchtime!

Does anyone know what this photo is showing?



Answer on next to last page.

How did those neat holes get there?



Answered on the next page:

Inside Pipe Piercer

By Joe Gentile

I have been working with black pipe recently and wanted to come up with a unique candle holder. The candle will sit below the top surface and the light can come through holes all around the pipe. Drilling holes in the pipe is one way to achieve this look but it looked too generic, not handmade. I tried punching the holes in the pipe and this also worked but wasn't the look I wanted. I thought how could I punch a hole from the



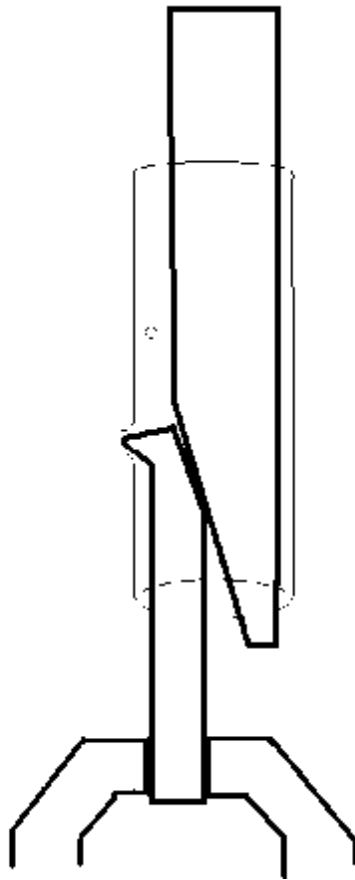
inside out? In order to put a hole in the middle of the pipe I would need a special tool. I practiced with a cardboard toilet paper roll, a stick and a screw. Once I had an idea of how to use the two tools I made a prototype with a long bolt and $\frac{3}{4}$ inch round bar.

I used copper pipe first so I could see if the process worked then once I refined the tools I tried it with black pipe.



You have to be quick when placing the hot pipe over the punch. Changing hands from holding the pipe to holding the drift is difficult while keeping the pipe lined up. Then you need to grab a hammer and drive the drift down to make it pierce the pipe. The heat will leave very quickly, once it does then reheat and punch another hole.

- I. Drill a small hole in the pipe.
- II. Place the bolt with the modified end in a vice and slid the pipe over it.
- III. Let the point find the hole and then slid the round drifting bar in from the top.
- IV. Hammer down onto the bar and the small drilled hole will start to bulge outward.



Inside view of how it works

BEGINNING BLACKSMITHING

Do the Structural Twist

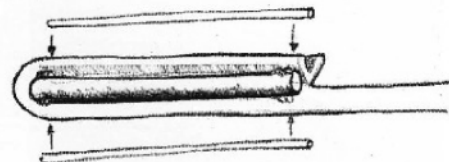
By Brian Gilbert

Here is a fairly easy way to add visual interest to any number of projects. It makes especially nice handles on fireplace tools. This was done in the Yellin shop. (Letter to *The Anvil's Ring* by Max Scgal, June, 1975)

The idea in a nutshell is that sections of small structural steel can be bundled together, forge-welded at the ends, and twisted to great effect. Nearly any combination of round, square, flat, angle, or channel can be combined. Size is a limitation if you are going to make a handle... you need to be able to get your hand around the finished bundle to be effective. Other than that, almost anything goes.

For a sample of what I'm talking about, start with a piece of 1/2" x 1/8" angle. Bend it back on itself at about seven inches, or whatever length you prefer. Forge welding the ends takes up an inch or so, leaving a finished twist of about five inches. By leaving one end long, you have a built-in handle, which helps when welding the ends. Bend it so the point of the angle faces in, forming an "X." (Bending makes the "X" easier to align, but you can tack weld the ends of an entire bundle if you prefer.) Lay two pieces of 3/8" rod opposite each other in the grooves formed by the angle (in other words, top and bottom). Spot weld the ends to hold them in place with an arc welder. Do the same with two pieces of 1/4" rod. (In other words, side to side.) The pieces of steel that I used were what I had in the scrap bin, feel free to mix and match.

Forge weld one end down to the approximate size of the stock you'll be attaching the twist to... a little over half-inch if you're making a handle for a half-inch square poker, for example. You want to leave the section a little large, because you'll reduce the



TACK WELD THE ENDS OF THE BUNDLE



FORGE WELD THE END

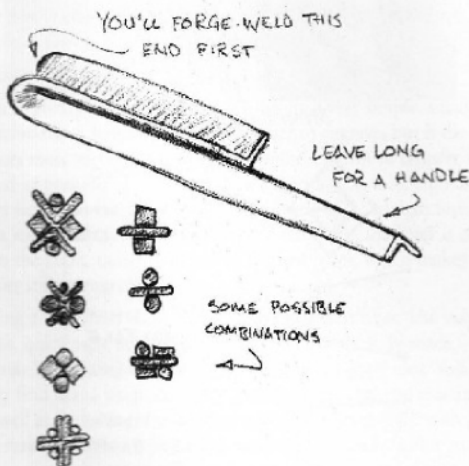
Welding a twist

area when you forge-weld it into its final application. Cut the opposite end flush and weld. You can tack weld a handle to the bundle if you don't have the correct size tongs to make handling easier.

Forge-weld the opposite end and your twist is ready to be attached. Experiment with different sections of steel, and you can come up with your own "signature twist."



A structural twist- 1" flat, 3/8" square



Setting up for twisting

Hammers Blow
Fall 2002

PS: I almost forgot that February we will be hosted at our old friend's Wade and Susan Brooks of Matthews, VA place. Wade and Susan own Garden Creek Woodworks, Inc. Wade and Susan are well known for their knowledge and skill as a Blacksmith, Glassblower, Stained Glass Specialist and Furniture Maker. This is sure be a super day for ABGT members that we are really looking forward to. Thanks Wade and Susan!
Vince

ANSWER TO WHAT IS IT USED FOR:



The person that this unusual device belongs to says that he discovered it quite by accident! It makes an excellent guide to check your twist spacing without having to look around for the last place you set such an instrument. Of course that's a lot of Huey, it's a burn which was obtained during some twisting of metal a week before this was taken. Can you guess who this person is? You're on your own for this answer. 😊

BE CAREFUL OUT THERE!

Mission Statement

We are an Artisan group that has joined together to make the most of our diverse skills and outlooks. It is our sincere desire to promote, encourage and show the public and other interested persons the tremendous contributions and skill of the traditional Blacksmith and the relevance of their contributions in the modern world. We provide continuing skills training for our members, along with a place to develop their artistic skills with like-minded persons, regardless of the modern or traditional expression.

Director:	Vince Nakovics	restoreman123@msn.com
1 st Director/Training	Joe Gentile	jganvil@cox.net
Newsletter Editor:	Vince Nakovics	
Resident Photographer:	Steve LaPaugh	slapaugh@verizon.net
Treasurer:	Matt Sieber	krsejs@yahoo.com

Artist Blacksmith Association of North America
www.abana.org

Virginia Institute of Blacksmithing
www.vablacksmithing.org

Operated by Dale Morse who is featured in American Blacksmiths on pg. 29.
200 Twelfth St. Waynesboro, VA 22980, 434-960-9718, www.vablacksmithing.org.

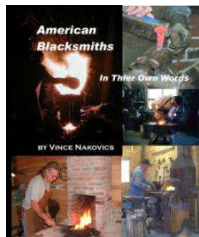
Happy Haven Forge	www.happyhavenforge.com
Gentile Forge	www.jganvil.com
Willway Forge	www.willwayforge.blogspot.com
Warwick Forge	email: slapaugh@verizon.net

TransAmerican Antiques, Inc. Usnbear2@cox.net or call **757-343-3422**

Contact Eric Hinckley if you are looking for something Blacksmith related or need to sell you blacksmith items. Eric is our go to guy when we are looking for anything – He and his wife travel quite a bit doing Estate Sales and Antique Shows so they are able to acquire all kinds of stuff and he usually is willing to give you a better deal if you're a Blacksmith. So...if you need it "ASK ERIC First"!

Remember; as an ABANA member you are eligible for discounts through ABANA at Grainger, Artisan Ideas and others. As well as group discounts for shop and health insurance. Thanks ABANA !! Support those organizations that support us.

All ABANA Affiliate Organizations have permission to use articles in Artist Blacksmith Group of Tidewater's Hampton Roads Hammers newsletter in the promotion and education of the Blacksmithing as Craft and Art.



American Blacksmiths "In Their Own Words" It is available for purchase for only \$17.95 via; www.happyhavenforge.com or www.artistbgt.com. For those wanting a signed copy contact me or they are available on ebay, no extra cost! ☺

ABANA 2012 Conference



Four really big Guys

No I am not making a political statement here. If you haven't heard you probably aren't an ABANA member, the 2012 Conference will be held in Rapid City, South Dakota, July 18th – 21st.

I have tickets for Iron in the Hat and will be selling them until after our May meeting. The reason to buy tickets; It's IRON IN THE HAT!!!! You can win stuff! What stuff? Blacksmith Stuff!!! Picky, Picky, Picky:

1st Prize: Treadle Hammer by Mark & Mindy Gardner

2nd Prize: BAM Box with "Signature Tools" by Pat McCarty

3rd Prize: Nimba Titan 120lb Anvil by Nimba!

You don't even have to be there to win! That's why you're buying tickets now from me or to diversify your ticket holdings (My broker always told me to diversify, diversify) to improve you chances of winning!

You can work out the shipping details if you win any of these awesome items, but who cares!!! It's a TIRE HAMMER, the BAM BOX and a 120LB NIMBA ANVIL!!!!

This Iron in the Hat is particularly important as it is the main source of funds for our ABANA scholarship programs. Check the requirements out on the ABANA website.

Sooooooo..... How Many Do You Want?