Volume 26 Issue 01 January 2012

FORGE

Dedicated to the revival of the "King of Crafts"

Vancouver Island Blacksmiths

www.viblacksmiths.com

COMING EVENTS

January 29 2012…….…....Annual General Meeting, Luxton forge 11:00 AM
February 26 2012…….Meeting at Luxton Forge 11:00 AM

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By order of Her Majesty, a Royal Summons has again been issued to all members of the Vancouver Island Blacksmith Association to once again convene and conduct an Annual General Meeting for the express purpose of electing Club Executive Officers for the year 2012. According to club bylaws, a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be chosen from among the general membership by secret ballot voting, using commonly established democratic election rules.

By way of positive incentive and compensation for elected Officers, the usual system of privileges and perquisites have been re-introduced… largely unchanged from prior years. Meeting time will be reimbursed at the usual hourly rate, calculated and rounded to the nearest hour. The Country Club and Spa membership are again complimentary for all Executive Officers and His/Her immediate family members. The Symphony membership and Theater seats for other entertainment venues taking place throughout the year will again be complimentary. Un fortunately, any newly elected unmarried Executive Officers will no longer be automatically issued passes to the 'Upstairs Gold Key Society' since the Executive Wives Association objected so strongly to that practice last year. I am confident that some other accommodation can be reached if the involved Officers can exercise a minimal amount discretion and decorum.

2012 - Executive
President::Joe Gillings 250 727-7925
V P: Glen Jones 250 743-9564
Secretary: Charlie Low 250 479-6712
Treasurer: Neil Gustafson 250 727-2173
Librarian: Dave Winestock 250 598-9377
Editor:Dennis Gillett

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Submissions & Contributions

Submissions to "Forge" can be made at any monthly meeting or by snail mail to:

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V9C 3C4
OR
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Secretary's Report
By: Charlie Low

Viba Nov 27 '11

Show and tell: Charlie L brought in the big tanto and two paring knives. Last month they were the damascus billet, this month they are polished. At the next meeting (January), they should be finished. He also brought in two trivets- one just a piece of half by quarter flat stock, with ha'penny snubs at the ends and in the middle, bent into a couple of S curves- it should have possibilities, but to his eye it is still wrong. The other was copied from the recent Hot Iron News, with modifications, It is three leaf-ended scrolls, welded to each other at the edges and in the middles where they touch, with the welds more or less hidden by collars on the outside and copper wire wraps in the middle.

Neil brought in the questionnaire from the Western Canadian Blacksmiths guild newsletter. It will be elsewhere in this newsletter, and you all are respectfully requested to fill it out and email it to Neil, whose email address is also in this newsletter

Norm brought in the new catalogue from the new Princess Auto store

New members: Joanna Holloway and Jamie Orr signed up

The minutes were accepted as published in last months Forge

There was no business arising

New Business: we agreed that Neil merits a vote of thanks for getting the new lights in the shop

Dennis will do a demo on damascus now that the power hammer is well. He will give it a try in January, and then will take 5 to 8 members through making their own billet of W damascus with steel that he will provide at cost, or the members could use their own steels, with something approximating 1095 and L6.

Neil brought in the new swage block that we found in Ontario and decided was necessary for the shop. It will need a stand, as it is 4 sided and can be rotated to use each of the sides. I think a little work party would be in order to produce such a stand.

Neil's course will be Saturdays, from the 3rd weekend in March till the May long weekend, with Easter week and the week of the NWBA spring conference off. The cost will be $300.00, and soon would be a good time to get signed up

The next meeting will be the last Sunday of January. It will be the AGM, with election of officers, payment of dues, and all that beginning of a new year stuff.

Space by C Low

When forging, many items are solid, such as knives, chisels- most of the tools, in fact. Many of the decorative items have voids, for instance, trivets, gates, etc. A friend and mentor once said, "Look at the spaces", and indeed, when forging things where symmetry is important, and empty spaces define that symmetry, the shape and arrangement of those spaces is more important than the shape and arrangement of the steel, even though those spaces are defined by the steel..

As an example, I have made a number of 3 scroll trivets, where 3 identical scrolls each have a foot bent down at the free end, the three scrolls are brought together so that the ends with the feet each touch the next scroll in line, and the inner scrolls come together in the center. Wherever the scrolls touch, they are welded, so there are 6 small welds, and the whole thing is quite sturdy, and, if I say so myself, nice looking.

However, there are pitfalls, and these have to do with the size, shape, and arrangement of the spaces. There are some things you can get away with- in the trivet I am looking at, the diameters of the scrolls are not exactly the same, and some of the welds are a bit clunky, but there are 3 nice symmetrical curved spaces that follow each other around the circle and give balance and elegance to the whole.

This article reprinted from the Florida Clinker Breaker Newsletter, April 1993

Cup Hook

Steve Bloom

Materials: 20" of 1"x3/16"
12" of 1/2"x1/8"

Mark at 1" and 4" from both ends

Working on one end at a time-

Draw a point

Spring fuller notches

Draw a taper

Form a leaf and chisel vens and rib. Shape leaf into a life-like form.

Punch a counter-sink but don't punch all the way through.

Make a right-angle bend at the 4" marks.

Using the curve former, insert the bend as shown and then pull the stock back into line - forming a pleasing smooth curve.

Repeat all steps on the other end of the bar.

Using a bending fork, bend the leaf through 180 degrees, then bend the leaf forward so it lies over the top of the smooth curve but does not block the counter-sink depression. Mirror-image the other leaf.

Jigs:

Curve Former: Weld 2 pieces of 1"x1" angle & a section of 1.5" pipe to 5" of 1.5"x 1.5" angle, leaving 0.25" between pieces. Add a hardy stub.

Spacer: kink an 8" piece of 1"x1/4" flat stock,

Hook Creation

Form a finial on a 6" piece of 1/2"x1/8" stock

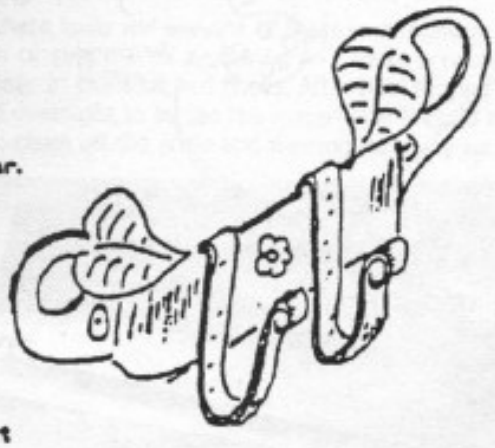
1"

Form a hook

Fold the rear of the hook through a right angle (take care not to crush the hook)

Use the spacer to close the rear of the hook to a 0.25" gap. Make 2 or 3 such hooks.

Drill out the mounting holes and use whatever surface treatment you like.



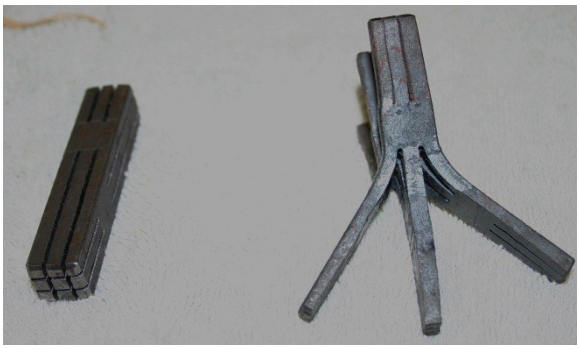
Show and Tell

Photos by D Gillett

Charlie L's Damascus knives….pre-etch

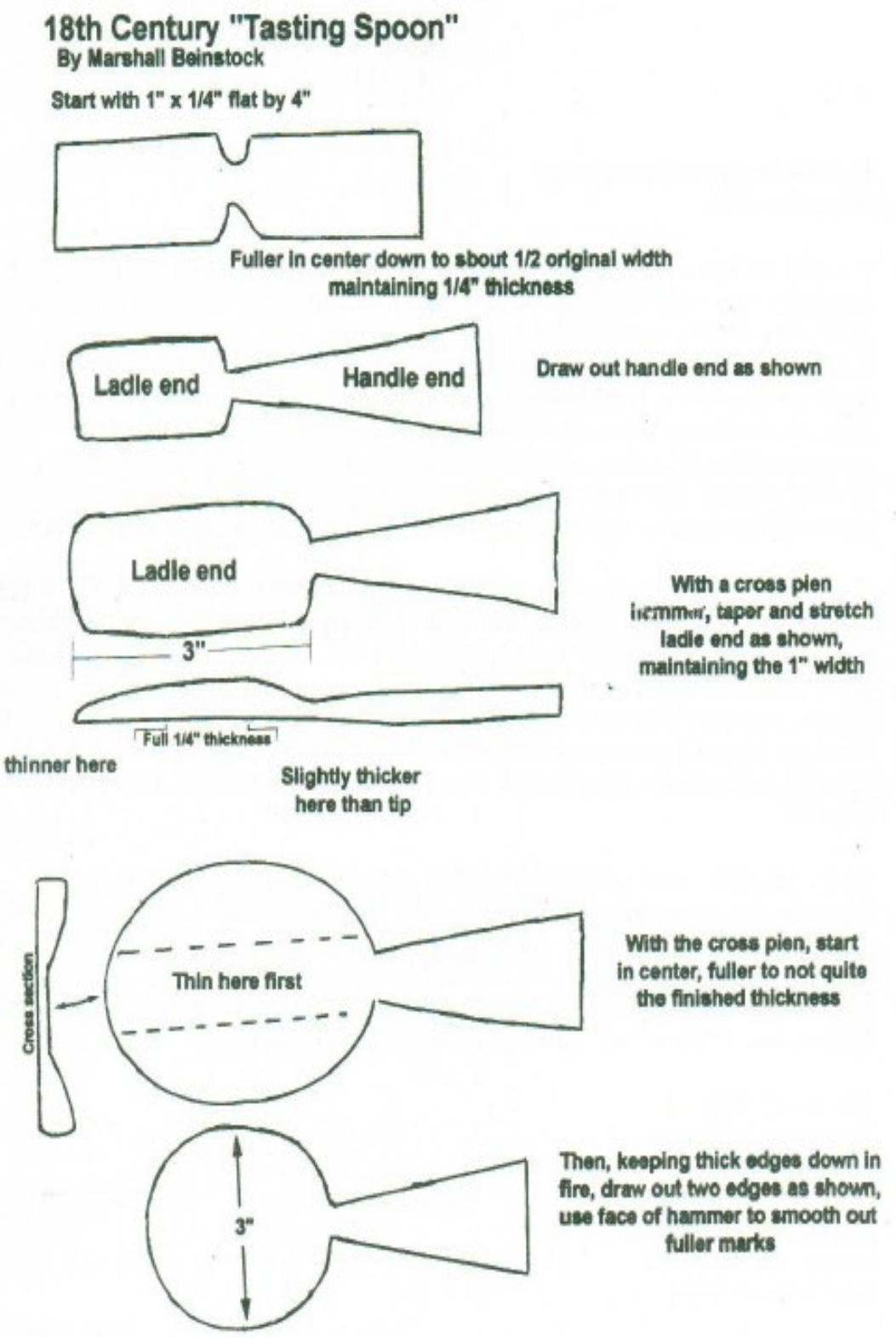
Charlie's trivets

Neil’s tongs

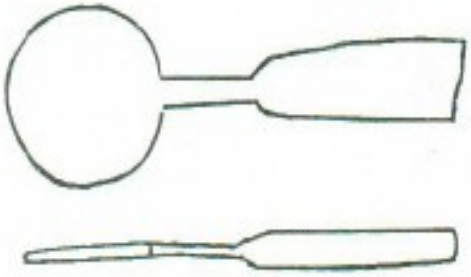


Neil’s metal snowflake

Reprinted from the New Jersey Blacksmiths Assoc newsletter

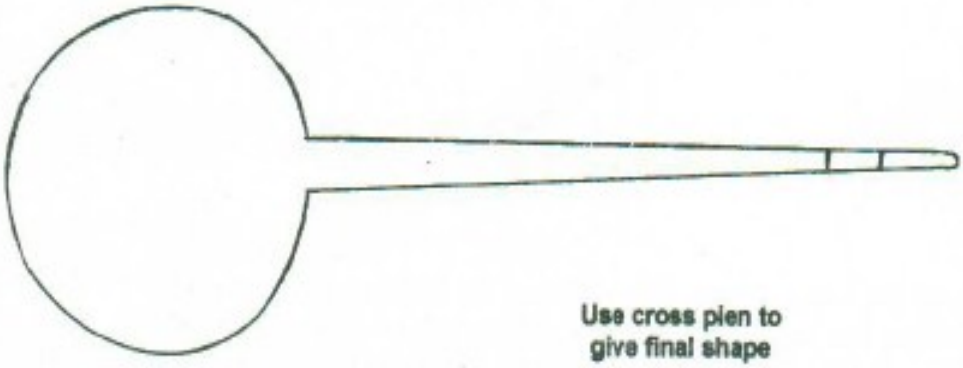


18th Century "Tasting Spoon" Continued



Next, start drawing out handle as shown, to a long straight taper in both planes.

Leave enough mass on end for this detail



Use cross pien to give final shape

File edges to 3" round

Sink ladle at a red heat into a half round spoon form or a wooden block.

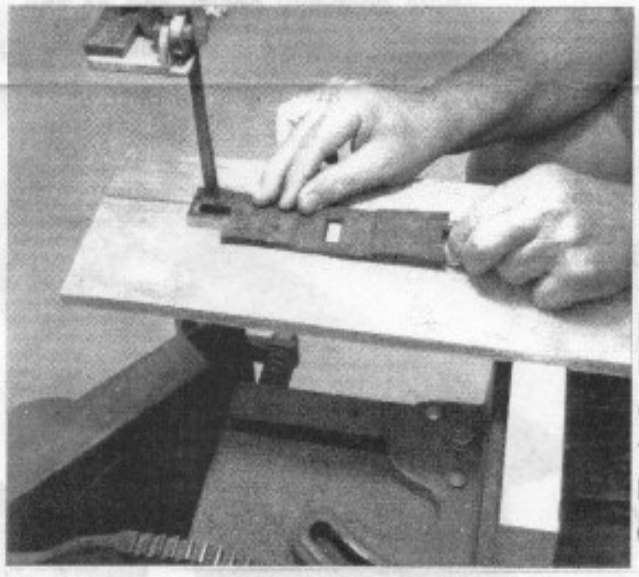
From: Mississippi Forge Council

CHEAP TRICK FOR A METAL CUTTING BANDSAW

By: Tommy Ward

The blades on many horizontal bandsaws can be moved to a vertical position for freehand cutting, but operation in the vertical mode without some means of supporting the work can be difficult, with accuracy hard to achieve and a real possibility for broken blades and physical mayhem.

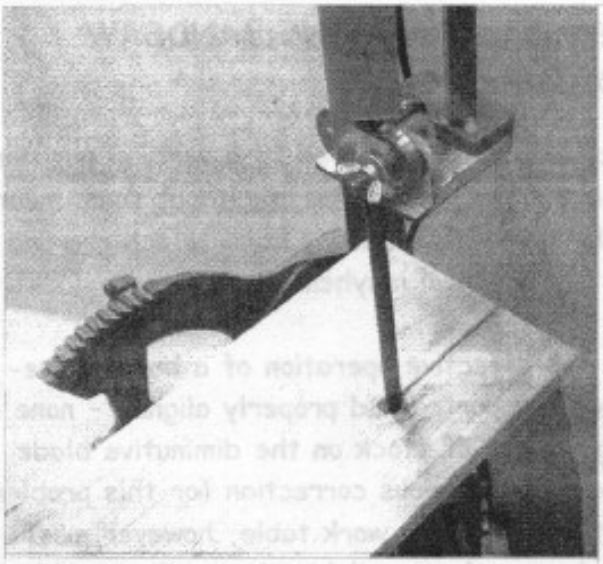
Like any other cutting tool, safe and effective operation of a bandsaw requires that the work be stable, well supported and properly aligned - none of which are possible when balancing a piece of stock on the diminutive blade guide plate of a horizontal bandsaw. The obvious correction for this problem would be to equip the machine with an auxiliary work table, however most saws I've seen don't have one, and even when available the auxiliary tables are often dinky little things that are ill-suited to supporting long or heavy stock and require some effort to install.



Easily constructed auxiliary work table improves safety and accuracy when operating a horizontal band saw in a vertical position.

A recent project required a number of accurate cuts to made in 3/8" flat bar, and necessitated that I devise a way to handle the work in a safe and comfortable manner. The solution I came up with is a table that is supported on one end by the saw's blade guide plate and held securely in place by the jaws of the vise. The beauty of this set-up is in its utter simplicity of construction and installation.

The project can be easily constructed from two pieces of scrap wood, with the work surface constructed of 1/2" - 3/4" plywood, and a support crossmember made from "two by" stock. Make the table whatever size you'd like; the only criti-



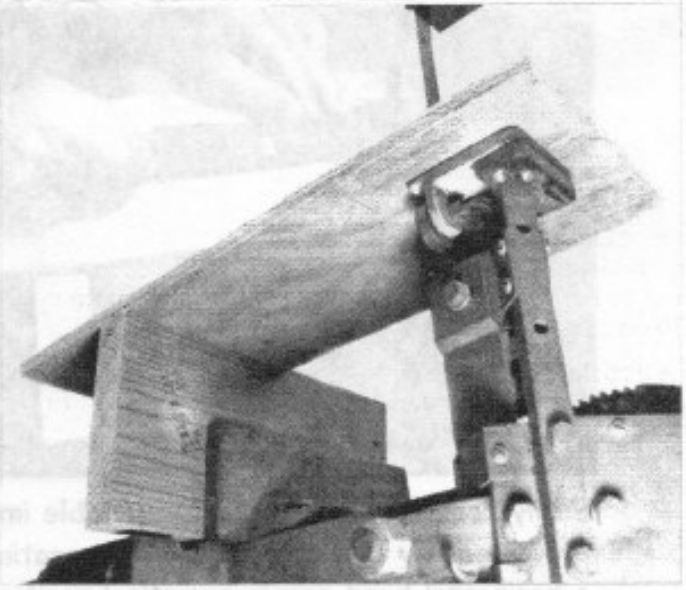
A thin kerf and clearance hole allow table to be quickly installed over the saw blade.

cal dimension being to cut the support crossmember to a height that will allow the table to lay level on the blade guide plate.

Cut a slit in the off end of the table to allow it to slide past the blade for installation and drill a clearance hole roughly the width of the blade where it passes through the table at the end of the slit. Then clamp the support crossmember in the saw's vise and mark its mounting location with the clearance hole properly positioned at the blade. I made a shallow dado cut across the bottom of the table and secured the support crossmember to it with carpenter's glue and a couple of flat head screws, but a simple butt joint would work too – just make sure the crossmember is square to the kerf of the saw blade.

Installation is a snap – simply swing the blade assembly to vertical, slide the end of the table into position with the blade, and tighten the vise jaws against the support crossmember.

Ó 2009 Tommy Ward



Underside view shows the auxiliary table supported by the saw's blade guide plate, with the mounting crossmember held firmly in place by the vise jaws.

Vancouver Island Blacksmith Association
Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov./State: _____

Post/Zip Code: _____

Email: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

Fax: (_____) _____

Are you a: New Member [ ] Renewal [ ]

[ ] Regular Membership $30.00 Annually

[ ] Contributory Member $100.00 Annually
Members are required to sign a Liability Waiver
Make cheques or money orders payable to:
Vancouver Island Blacksmith Assoc. (VIBA)
1040 Marwood Avenue
Victoria, BC CANADA
V9C 3C4

Artist Blacksmiths Assoc. of North America
Membership Application

Name: _____
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Phone: (_____) _____
Fax: (_____) _____
[ ] Full Time Student…….....….$35./year
[ ] Regular Membership…....…….$45./year
[ ] Senior Citizen (age 65+)….....…$40./year
[ ] Overseas Surface Mail…....……$60./year
[ ] Oversea Air Mail.....$80./year
[ ] Contributory Membership.....$100./year
[ ] Public Library Subscription.....$35./year

Credit Card Payment

Card No. _____
[ ] Visa [ ] Mastercard
Expiry Date: _____
Signature: _____
by Phone: 703-680-1632
Mail: ABANA, 15754 Widewater Dr
Dumfries, VA, USA, 22025-1212
Email: abana@abana.org

World-famous Beginner Blacksmith Course begins in March!

Once again Master Blacksmith Neil Gustafson will conduct an instructional course in the basics of blacksmithing beginning Saturday March 17 and continuing every Saturday to Mid-May (Easter and the NWBA meeting excepted). Meet at the Luxton Forge in the Luxton fairgrounds at 9:00 AM. The course will last all day and you will need to bring lunch. Wear cotton clothing with closed toe boots/shoes, safety glasses, and hearing protection. All tools and instructional materials will be provided. Cost will be $300 payable at the first meeting.