

The

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Forge Review

SPECIAL REPORT:

Mike Jaksik, a smith on the move up. It's been my pleasure and amazement to make a friend and watch him grow very quickly into a fine smith, and a master in the making. Best of luck Mike!!

Editor

Being born and raised as the son of a farmer and rancher, I can still remember my early years at the blacksmith shop. The smell of burning coal, the hammering of red hot metal, and the quenching of hot steel was magic to me, and the smith was the magician.

My fascination and curiosity for knowledge of the magic was once again sparked off in the fall of 1980 at the blacksmith shop of the Texas Renaissance Festival. It was there I met Jim Fleming and Don Morelock, blacksmiths who could do alot more than draw out plowshares. It was then that I knew this was something I wanted to do the rest of my life, but I didn't know where to start.

It wasn't until the summer of 1982 that things started falling into place. I once again crossed paths with Don who was demonstrating at the Texas Folklife Festival. There I suscribed and bought my first copy of the Forge Review, with news of the Ingram Hammerfest and the Perry Cann workshop in the fall. At last I would be in the presence of working blacksmiths who could give me some ideas about how to get started.

I would have to say that the Ingram Hammerfest was the beginning of a new and trudging road. At the Hammerfest, I was given all the information that I needed to get started in the blacksmithing profession: where to go to school, get coal, etc. Besides that, I came home with a new 280 lb. Swedish anvil. This was to replace the piece of railroad track I had been using for an anvil.

A week later I built my first forge, bought caol and started hammering. I also registered for blacksmithing classes at Turley Forge in Santa Fe, New Mexico. A few weeks later I located and bought a used trip hammer.

In the fall I attended Perry Cann's workshop. By this time I had a few work pieces to show for. I again acquired more information and came home with a used leg vise.

It was fall now and I realized that I was losing a lot of time taking out and putting away tools, having been using an open area outside the garage as a workshop. I spent the next few weeks setting up and converting my shed out back into a blacksmith shop. Now I could work rain or shine.

In March of 1983, I attended Turley Forge blacksmithing school. What I learned about forge-welding alone was worth what I paid for the whole course. One of Turley's objectives was to teach the basic techniques. After five weeks at the forge, I could forge out most anything without the

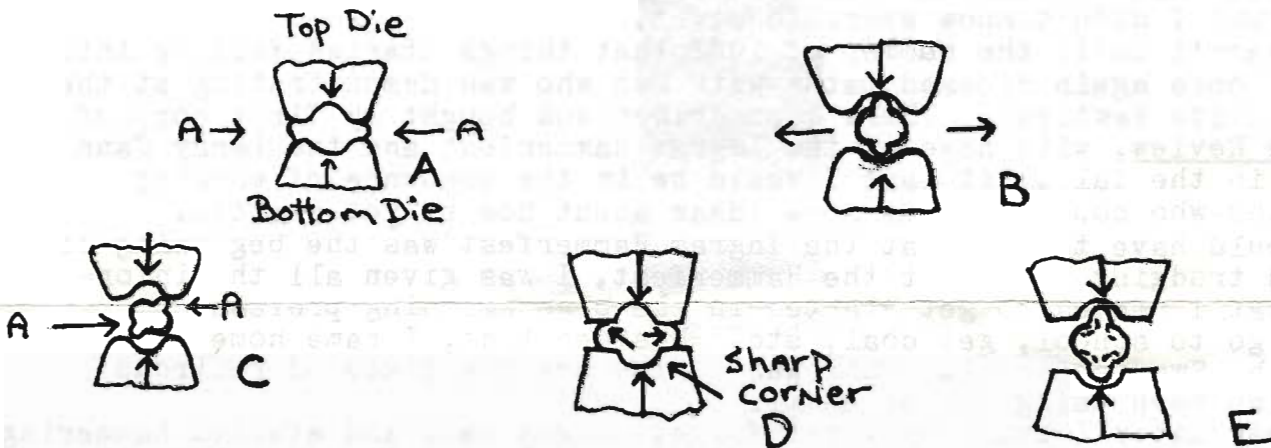
aid of modern equipment. We spent a lot of time on metallurgy, and how to forge out and temper tool steels. We also learned how to identify temperature of steel by color.

By the end of the six weeks I had enough knowledge and experience to make a start. Learning to forge iron is just the tip of the iceberg. There is also the business and the marketing of a finished product side to learn.

Looking back, I can see that I have made quite a bit of progress in a relatively short time. It's a growing process that takes time, patience, and love of the craft. The development of a full time business is my ultimate goal. Until then I will continue to develop my artistic ability into a creative expression, with emphasis on good, clean work.

TIPS & TECHNIQUES

Swaging A forging operation known as swaging is employed when certain portions of the forged part are required to be smooth and accurate, or when cylindrical portions of the part are to be squeezed to assume an even, round, taper shape. If accuracy is not required, swaging can be done by hand with hand tools. For more accurate work and for larger sections, a pair of simple swaging forms or dies is attached, one to the anvil and the other to the ram of a steam or other power hammer. Fig. 1 illustrates a simple hot swaging operation with the aid of a pair of swaging dies. The dies shown at A and B have rounded corners, and this is a desirable feature, since the swaging will not form sharp corners in the heated metal as shown at D, which finally would be folded in as shown at E. The dies shown at C have correctly rounded corners, but the positioning of the work is not correct relative to the dies.



EDITORS NOTE

Hey what's going on out there?????? We've got about 90 members but I never here from you. Please take the time to send an article of intrest, tips & techniques, items for sell or item your in the market to buy. This is your newsletter help make it an interesting one!!!!!!!

SPECIAL THANKS!!!!

A big hand goes out to Dale Parish of Orange, Tx. for the data processing, what a relief not to hand label any more letters!!!!

FOR SALE:

New swage blocks (8½"X8½"X3") with round and square swages, two large radii, large spoon, three ladles plus shovel bowl depression. \$80.00
Cone Mandrel with tong slot, 36" high, top ten inches come off to use in a vise. Set \$175.00, Bottom \$160. top \$18.

Roger Lorance, RR1, Box 180 Bourbonnais Ill. 60914 (815-939-2829)

Buffalo Blower #200, hand crank, good condition \$65.00
Don Morelock, Rt.1, Box 260 Brownwood, Tx. 76801 (915) 646-4128

If you are in the market for tool steel such as O-1 oil hardening or W-1 water hardening drill rod, 18" lenghts contact:

Brownells, Inc. Rt.2, Box 1 Montezuma, Iowa 50171-9989

Cut here

Don and Debbie Morelock, Rt.1, Box 260	Brownwood, Texas 76801
\$5.00 membership subscription	\$10.00 sustaining

Name: _____

Address: _____

Enclosed \$ _____

Make plans to attend the 3rd Annual Ingram Hammerfest, Sat. Aug. 25th starting at 9 a.m.. If you would like to see a specific demonstration, or need more information, contact Rick Ross, Box 816 Ingram, Tx. 78025 or call (512) 367-4433.