

Blacksmithed Hook

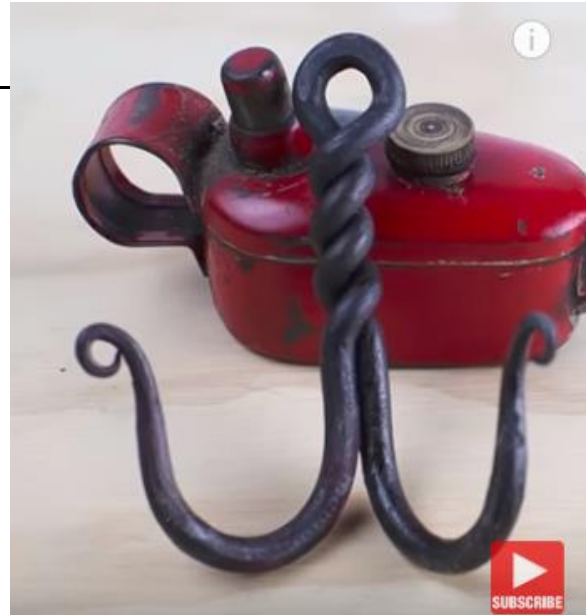
Forge Project; Drunken Octopus

Adapted from Black Bear Forge

PURPOSE

In this activity you will be practicing basic Blacksmithing skills to manufacture a Coat hook.

NOTE: I cannot demo Blacksmithing, as it undoes MONTHS of my physiotherapy. BE NICE TO YOUR ARMS!



PREPARATION

For this activity you will need the following:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 14" length of 5/16" round stock | <input type="checkbox"/> Face shield |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hacksaw | <input type="checkbox"/> Tongs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hammer and Vise | <input type="checkbox"/> Leather gloves |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forge | |



The Video this project was taken from

STOCK BREAKOUT

- Cut a piece of 5/16" round stock to about 14" length



TAPERING

- Blacksmithing is easier when the metal is RED hot.
- Heat the metal to cherry red in the forge.
- Use a hammer and the anvil to TAPER BOTH ENDS of the stock about TWO FINGER WIDTHS in length or so.
 - Hammer it square
 - Hammer it hexagonal
 - Hammer it round
- Reheat as it cools off.



TIP FORMING

- Place about a finger-width of metal hanging over the edge of the anvil.
- Bend the tip of the each hook all the way over on the edge of the anvil 90°.
- Turn the bent corner over and hammer it closes, but try and keep it curved.
- You need to hit it in a sliding-strike kind of motion, NOT straight on. You're *persuading* the metal to go where you want it to go.



HOOK FORMING

- Place the bending jig in the Hardy Hole of the anvil.
- With the curled end just touching the small pin, bend the rod around the large pin
- Do both ends!



LOOP FORMING

- Bend the MIDDLE around the small pin as shown.
- Hammer the loop closed to about a baby finger size.



TWISTING

- RED HOT and QUICK!
- Clamp the two-hooked end into a vise



- Squeeze the two legs together a bit tighter towards the loop with a BIG pair of pliers



- Place a metal rod through the loop, and twist smoothly and steadily until it looks the way you want it to.
- If you twist it too far, or if it is not red hot when you do this, you will twist it right in two.
- Keep the loop inline with the hooks.



HOOK BENDING

- Red Hot!
- Place half the twisted part in a vise and bend one leg of the hook about 45°
- Repeat for the other hook.
- Tweak either side until it looks symmetrical.



FINISHING

- Inspect the hook for any defects, and correct them.
- Wire-Brush or Wire-Wheel the scale off your hook. Watch your skin, and don't feed the wire wheel an edge!
- Reheat the hook in the forge until it is warm enough to transfer brass from a BRASS WIRE BRUSH to give it a cool antique finish.



HAND IN your awesome wicked cool project for awesome wicked cool marks.