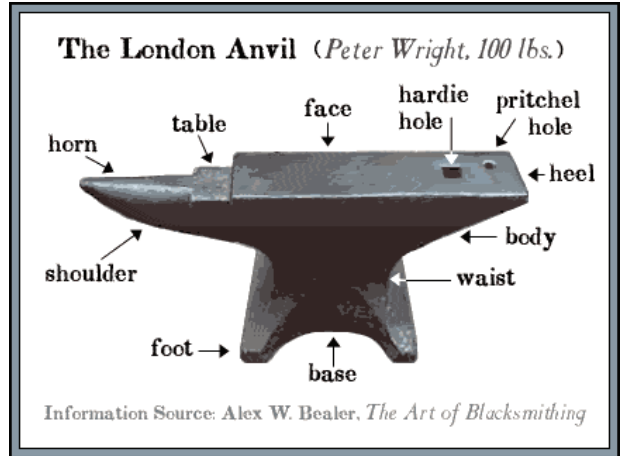


APPALACHIAN BLACKSMITHS ASSOCIATION

An anvil can be any size, shape, or weight. Early anvils were cube-shaped and weighed 50 lbs. or so. The most common anvil has a flat work surface (the face) and a pointed end (the horn). Often, the face will have two holes near the heel; the square one is the Hardie and the round one is the Pritchell. A variety of anvil tools can be made to fit in the Hardie and thus, act as a 3rd hand for the smith. Most generally, the Pritchell hole is used to allow the blacksmith to punch a hole through metal and not damage the face of the anvil or the point of the punch.

A good anvil will not have any chips or cuts in the face or the edges of the face. Anvils are either 'forged' or 'cast' and are made from iron or steel. Anvils can have two horns, one, or none. Some anvils "ring" and others don't. Just because an anvil doesn't ring doesn't mean it's cracked. In short, there are too many anvil styles to be general. Books have been written about the history of the anvil. An anvil, however, is a very personal belonging to a smith--probably more than anything else he'll ever own.



ANVILS

On the web www.appaltree.net/aba

1843
200 different weights and shapes, from 20 lbs. to 500 lbs.

1843 U. S. PATENTS: Original, October, 1842. June 21, 1847. 2907

THE "EAGLE" ANVIL

has always taken the **FIRST PRIZE** at every Exhibition wherever entered, from the Gold Medal awarded by the American Institute of New York in 1853 to dozens of others since, including the Centennial at Philadelphia in 1876 and the World's Fair at Chicago in 1893--the latest being that of the National Export Exposition of 1899 in Philadelphia. We have not sought further honors in that direction since; they are really of little interest or value. The practical experience of the working Blacksmith is worth very much more than the opinion of the gentlemen on the Prize Commissions, obtained only from a hurried examination instead of any actual knowledge of the anvil's real excellence for work. Our Prices are so low and our guarantee so absolute that every Blacksmith buying from us now can get the best anvil in the world for his money. Write for descriptive circular and special discount to

Eagle Anvil Works
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY

Over 250,000 "Eagle" Anvils are now being used in all parts of the world.

The "Eagle" Anvil
(ESTABLISHED 1843)

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EVERY VARIETY OF
Saw-Makers' and Axe-Makers' Anvils
Special "Eagle" Band Saw Anvils

Best Cast Steel Face, of uniform hardness. **Cheaper and better than any others.** Warranted better than any other make. **SUPERIOR** because face is **one piece of Best Cast Steel**, of uniform, hardest temper, perfectly welded, and warranted never to settle or change from a true surface.

We Belong to No Trust and Depend on the Merits of our Goods

1907

Parallel Leg Vises

The first and only Anvil made in America for years.
The very first to give a guarantee and to replace an imperfect anvil.
We are really public benefactors, for now all foreign Anvils are imitating us.

"Fisher" Double Screw Parallel Vise.
Descriptive circular sent on application.

"HORSESHOE" (50 lbs.)
Face, 14 1/2 inches long and 4 inches wide. Solid steel horns, 20 inches long, with steel side clips, 1 1/2-inch projection. Cut hole, 5/8 of an inch square. Tail, 1/2 of an inch thick.

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Matt Thomas and Jeff Petty
Leon Thomas photo

HAMMERS

Blacksmiths of old made all of their hammers and customized them accordingly. Today, some smiths prefer making their own hammers.

For the big jobs, there are motorized power hammers. These hammer weigh between 25# and 150# like the one to the right.



Ross photo

Blacksmiths use a variety of hammers weighing from 1 lb. to 16 lbs. Most often, a 2 to 2.5 lb. hammer is the preferred choice. The heavier hammers (sledges) require 2 hands for good control and are used mainly by strikers (helpers.) The small hammers are used for detail and finish work which is generally done on cold metal.

The flat/rounding hammer (below left) is popular because its rounded face allows for ease of drawing metal and its flat face allows for finishing surfaces neatly. Most blacksmiths do 90% of their work with their favorite hammer.

When selecting a hammer, weight and balance are the keys. Control of the hammer stroke is all important--much more so than impact force.



Ross photo

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Ross photo

For most projects, you will start with hot iron and work until the iron loses its color. This is called a "heat". Blacksmiths try to do their work with as few heats as possible.



Conner photo

Blacksmiths use color to tell how hot the iron is. White-to-Yellow is the hottest, then Orange, then Red, then dull Cherry Red. Above: 2 pieces were brought to Yellow heat and welded to form a single piece.



Ross photo

HOT & COLD



Conner photo

Some fine detail work, like veining the leaf, can be done when the iron is cold.



Conner photo

Iron is easily bent or twisted if the temperature is above 1700° F. The bright red temperature tells the blacksmith when the iron is ready .

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Lubich photo

Left: The traditional coal-fired forge at Young's Machine Shop, built in 1900.

Bottom left: A side-draft flue at the Cedar Lakes, WV shop is the best way to vent coal smoke from the shop.

Below: Two styles of gas forges which are fueled with LP Gas. These are becoming more popular, especially with hobbyists, because the smith can set the fire to reach a desired heat

FORGES



Conner photo



Ross photo



Conner photo

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Gefeti photo



Gefeti photo

TRY IT

Above: 4-year-old Justin is learning how to hammer hot metal with a teacher—his Dad, Brian Riley.

Top right: Brianna Burriss took up blacksmithing a few years ago. More and more women are becoming blacksmiths and excelling in the field.

Right: At age 90, world-renown blacksmith Phillip Simmons of Charleston, SC still finds time to swing his favorite hammer, which he is resting on his anvil. Phillip began blacksmithing when he was 13. Beside him in the white shirt is Bill Fugate who took up blacksmithing a few years before he retired. Bill now teaches blacksmithing classes for Elderhostel programs.



Fugate photo