

I had made a drive hook for a young boy whose father had stopped by and was having a little trouble keeping the youngster in site. Well by asking the young man how I should make this hook I was able to keep his attention and at the same time let his father enjoy the demo. Should I put a twist in the shaft? The answer was yes. Should I place a curly-cue on the end? Please was the answer. Do you think I should hit it with my brass brush just to give it something extra? Blank stare, but I did it anyway and the magic came when I told him I would like for him to have it, if it was O-K with dad. Dad was as pleased as the young man was, for they had something that was made right in front of them and got to take it home with them. But I had given a gift to one child in front of many children and could not forsake the others. As if on queue Charlie and I both started making hooks and passing them out to the youngest of the crowd with many thanks and smiles from the parents. Lesson learned make give-a-ways ahead of time.

I said "the word" twice and credit the second gift of magic to just working with Charlie Boothe and spending the day with him and his family. Somehow just knowing that Charlie was there with his vast knowledge and know-how seemed to ease all the fears that I had brought with me. And I must thank each and everyone that has shared his or her knowledge of this craft with me, that I may share with others and may-be, just may-be spark an interest into this craft in someone that I share with.

I said earlier that I've not missed a regular monthly meeting since I joined O.D.B.S.A. one year ago this very month and would like to be counted as "present or accounted for" because I was sharing with the public the very things that you shared with me and I was wearing my Old Dominion hat both days. Promise!



Photo by John Riddle

Apprentice Blacksmith David Hinshaw in Appomattox, VA

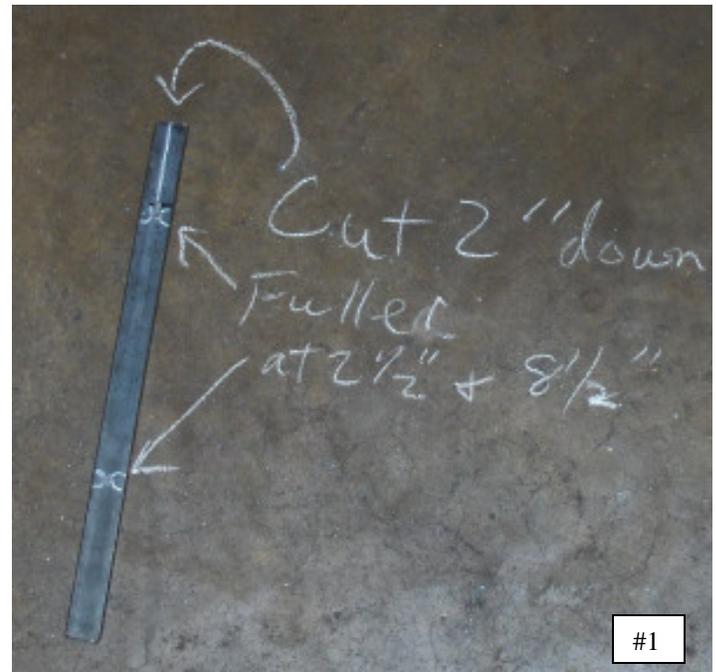
Grill Fork

By Master Blacksmith Dale Morse

(Owner of the *Virginia Institute of Blacksmithing* and ODBSA Vice President of Education.)

I started this project with a 12" long piece of 1/4" X 3/4" stock. I laid out the bar by marking my cut, which is down the center of the bar and two inches in length. I also marked and center punched 2 1/2" down and 8 1/2" down from the end to be cut.

See picture #1. A piece of mild steel plate works for this, though aluminum such as that shown in picture #2 is better. This protects the chisel and anvil from damage. When this is done, push it perpendicular and bring the first one back in line with the parent bar.



#1



#2

Once split, push one of the tines perpendicular to the parent stock to get it out of the way. Draw the one that is in line with the parent bar to a nice point. Forge a point on this one as well. It is a good idea to make a chalk mark on the anvil or somewhere to indicate the length that you wish to forge each tine to so they come out the same at the end. You can see the forged tines in picture #3.



#3

Fuller at the center punch mark just below the tines. This is the mark that you put 2 1/2" from the end of the bar in the

Con't on next page

beginning. Since there is heat in the bar, go ahead and forge down to the fuller to start the handle. See picture #4.



Once done, put the fork in the vise vertically, tines up, grabbing it right at the fuller point. Forge the tines down flat and perpendicular to the original bar so that it makes a T shape. On the far edge of the anvil, step the tines over the edge and forge into the end at the edge of the anvil. You are trying to eliminate all traces of the base of your chisel cut and establish a transition from the tines to the handle. Once done to your liking, forge the tines over the horn and shape into a typical fork end.



See picture #5. Note the step from the tines to the handle on the bottom side of the fork (shown on top in the picture). Let cool and flip the whole piece around so that you are holding onto the tines. Heat and fuller at the second center punch mark that was originally at 8 1/2" down from the top end of the piece. For my handle, I also fullered near the end and gave the resulting piece between the fullers a bit of a taper as pre shaping the end of the handle. See picture #6. Taper down the bit at the end to a nice long flat taper and scroll it into a hook end to your liking. Flatten and bevel the rectangular block left between the fuller and the hook. Finish rounding out the center portion of the handle to make it smooth and give the whole piece a slight arc. Clean and wax and use it the next time you grill out.



Current News

By Bobby Floyd

- Please don't forget that Danny Ward has invited all ODBSA members to attend the 32nd year of his hosting the Eastern Farrier Conference in Martinsville, VA on Saturday, November 7th at his Danny Ward Horseshoeing School! It will have lots of vendors; winners of the National Champion Horseshoes contest will demonstrate and free food. <http://dannywardhorseshoeingschool.com>
- Three NEW applications to join ODBSA were taken at our last Event with Ken. Please welcome our newest *Old Dominion Blacksmith Association* members: Charles Tarasisdis, Michael Malloy and Marshall Ecker
- Our newest Blacksmith Public demonstrator is Apprentice Blacksmith Ron Howard. Congratulations Ron! Ron was visiting the Dixie Classic Fair in Winston Salem, NC and while watching the NC blacksmiths, he introduced himself,

and they invited him to demonstrate with them. He did and stayed four hours demonstrating to the public. We are proud to say that *Old Dominion Blacksmith Association* now had 24 of its members that demonstrated to the public.

* Journeyman Blacksmith John Riddle accepted immediately the call for a demonstrator that was posted on our Web site for a demonstrator at a Girl Scout camp even though it was a long way from his home. John said: they had groups of about 8 every fifteen minutes or so. I give each group a choice of a horseshoe hook, an S hook, leaf, or a small Horseshoe. Most of the girls wanted to watch me make a miniature horseshoe. With a group every fifteen minutes, I stayed busy all day long, but I enjoyed doing it for them. The girls sure did enjoy it. Most of the adults liked it as much as much as the girl scouts. **Note:** Our hats are off to John for doing this for the girl scouts; these young girls will "always" remember Blacksmith John Riddle!

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