

“By Hammer and Hand all the World Does Stand”

Old Dominion Blacksmith Association

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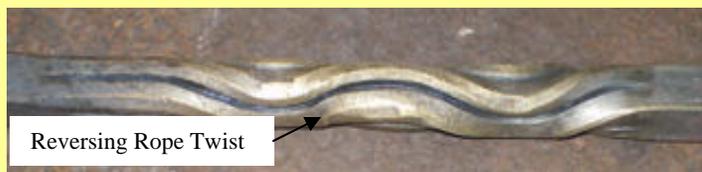
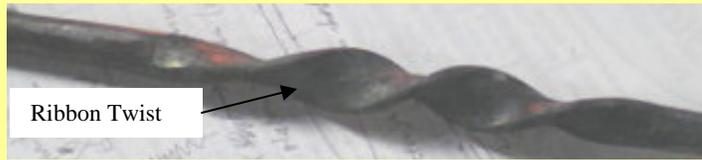
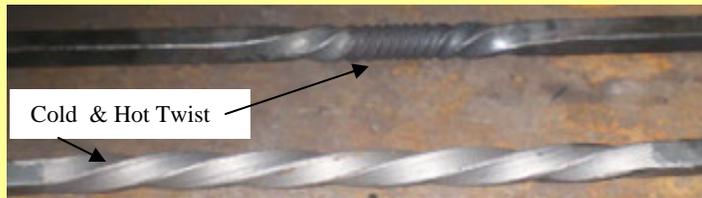
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ODBSA “MONTHLY”

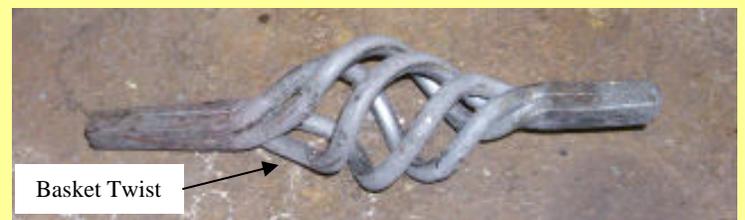
Newsletter



The Twist Class

This ODBSA Event presented by our host and demonstrator Master Blacksmith/Teacher Dale Morse at his *Clay Hill Forge/Virginia Institute of Blacksmithing* school on Saturday March 14, 2009, in my opinion, goes down as one of the best hands-on experiences we have had to date, especially for the less experienced blacksmith.

To everyone that took advantage of the hands-on training making the seven twists, which are shown on the left side of this page, “congratulations”!



Twist Reviews

Saturday March 14, 2009
 "It's all in the eye of the beholder"

Everyone sees, remembers and expresses him or herself a little differently and I wanted to see what you guys had to say, so I asked some of our newer members if they would write a report of the day. We all appreciate Ted Crockett, David Hinshaw and Dave Brown for participating in writing their reviews. By reading everyone's report we can maybe reinforce what we just learned or remember something that we had forgotten; plus this will help the ones that did not attend this event to learn to make different twists. Thanks to all three of you for helping me with this. "I owe you and so do the other members."

Master Blacksmith/Teacher Dale Morse who gave the twist class volunteered to go over these reports. I used his suggestions and did a little tweaking of their reports. Thanks Dale!

Ted Crockett's Report

Our monthly meeting was held at Dale Morse's Clay Hill Forge/Virginia Institute of Blacksmithing in Charlottesville and we had a good turn out as evidenced by our group photo.

Griffin Hinshaw, David's 17-year-old son, joined as an associate member today. Welcome aboard Griffin.

Dale has a great shop with enough forges and anvils to accommodate 10 Smiths, all working at the same time.

Dale demonstrated 10 different types of twists for us today 1) a cold twist 2) a hot twist 3) split twist 4) ribbon twist 5) rope twist 6) reversing rope twist 7) pineapple twist 8) crazy Italian twist 9) open basket twist and 10) optical illusion braid.

He made each of the twist listed above and after each demonstration he allowed us time to try our hand at duplicating that particular twist before moving on to the next one.

First & Second (cold twist & hot twist) Dale demonstrated that a cold twist is a wider spiral than a hot twist and looks machine made. He then demonstrated a hot twist showing that it is tighter and has more character than a cold one. He went on to say that back in the early days everyone wanted things to look machine made so the early smiths worked diligently to make their work look that way. But, today, with machines making so many things, people want things to look hand made and the hot twist does that.

Third (split twist) To make the split twist, Dale used a hammer and chisel to scribe lines down all four sides of orange hot square stock. He reheated the metal then twisted it to obtain the look he wanted making sure to keep the square corners at the top and bottom aligned.

Fourth (ribbon twist) For the ribbon twist, he planished – flattened - a section of heated round stock then reheated the planished section and twisted to resemble a ribbon.

Fifth (rope twist) Next, he knocked the corners off square stock – chamfered them – before scribing lines down all four sides. He reheated the metal, and twisted it to make a very nice looking rope twist.

For a variation on this technique, Dale told us that you can scribe lines down the chamfered shoulders before twisting.

After everyone finished their hand at making this twist, we broke for lunch.

Sixth (reversing rope twist) After lunch, Dale demonstrated it. You heat the metal then twist it in one direction and while the metal is still hot, you remove the twisting wrench and put a holding wrench (Dale used a Crescent wrench for this purpose) over the twist you just made and place the twisting wrench above the holding wrench and twist the metal in the opposite direction. You can repeat these steps as far up the hot metal as you want, to obtain the look you want. If the metal cools off, reheat and continue twisting in opposite directions.

Seventh (pineapple twist) For the pineapple twist, Dale scribed lines down all four sides of the square stock. Then he reheated the metal and made a moderately tight twist counter clockwise. Next, he hammered the twist square again; then he scribed lines down all four sides of the squared twisted section. He reheated the metal then slowly twisted it clockwise till he obtained the look he wanted. He pointed out that you do not have to twist the metal the same number of times in each direction. In fact, his first twist was four or five turns and his second twist was about 3 turns. And it doesn't matter which direction your first twist is in as long as the second one is in the opposite direction. When he finished the metal looked just like the skin of a pineapple.

It was 3:00 by the time everyone had attempted the pineapple twist and the class was supposed to end at 3:00 but Dale graciously agreed to show us the last three twist so we could see how they are made and we can practice them at home.

Eighth (crazy Italian twist) He made the crazy Italian by scribing all four or more lines per face and then reheated the metal to a nice yellow color. He twisted the hot metal till it was almost at its shearing point. He reheated it again and twisted it in the opposite direction till it obtained squiggly lines forming an unusual affect.

Ninth (open basket twist) The open basket twist was made with four pieces of 1/4" stock forge welded together on both ends, twisted one direction tight, then untwisted with downward pressure until the basket emerges.

Tenth (optical illusion braid) Finally, Dale made an optical illusion braid by twisting three separate lengths of metal in the same directions. He forge-welded two of them together at both ends then he forge welded the third to these two at both ends. He reheated the whole piece, and then twisted them in the opposite direction of their twist, i.e., if they were all twisted counter clockwise then he made the last twist clockwise. When he finished they appeared to be braided together.

Learning these 10 twists made the \$10.00 fee for today's class a real bargain.

David Hinshaw's Report Green Coal Report # 3

The following is a report on a blacksmith class dated March 14, 2009 and held at the Clay Hill Forge/Virginia Institute of Blacksmithing in Charlottesville, VA Master Blacksmith Dale Morse instructed. The class focused on decorative twists in metal. This was a "hands on" class and very informative.

Please remember that I'm a new apprentice blacksmith and may not portray things as a more experienced smith would. That said, we will continue:

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