

work in my shop for a weekend. The project would be the forging, grinding, heat-treating, and finishing a full tang high-carbon steel blade. Costs would be in the \$30 range for materials (steel, belts, misc.) and whatever you spend on lodging in either Williston or Gainesville (15 to 20 miles from my shop). While a campfire is a possibility, we will do a shared meal on Saturday. Due to having only three knife grinders available, the effective limit is five participants. The only fair way to organize the workshop is on a first-come-first-serve basis. If you are interested, e-mail me (sabloom@ironflower.com) and list what dates in March are good for you. Once a date is set that works for you, a check will lock your position in the class. I'll also maintain a waiting list in case one of the participants has to cancel.

If you are not interested in knife work, let your coordinator know what type of class you would like and perhaps FABA can sponsor a similar workshop in that area.

2011 Blacksmith Calendar

The 2011 calendar contains 21 images of old blacksmith activity based on photos 80-110 years old. Most are full-page views of blacksmith shop interiors. Because many people missed out on the 2000 calendar, I've added 3 of the images from that calendar. The last 3 images from the 2000 calendar will be added to the 2012 calendar, which is almost certain to be the last one I produce. [1-5 Year 2011 Calendars: \$17.00 each ; 6-20 Year 2011 Calendars: \$15.00 each; 21-39 Year

2011 Calendars: \$13.00 each; over 39 Year 2011 Calendars: \$10.00 each]

CD with over 7200 Blacksmith & Anvil images: Contains a wide (very wide) variety of images collected from many sources over a period of years. They're arranged in 18 slide shows for easy viewing. You'll see anvils posed in every way imaginable. Many old shop interiors are included along with many unusual European anvils. The images have been cleaned up using photo enhancement software. (For Windows 2000 and later, not for Macs.) [1-5 CDs: \$17.00 per CD; over 5 CDs: \$12.00 per CD]

Set of 25 Blacksmith Postcards: This is not a new set of postcards. Only one set of 25 postcards has been produced.

1-5 Sets of Postcards: \$6.00 per set; 6-25 Sets of Postcards: \$5.00 per set; over 25 Sets of Postcards: \$4.00 per set

Calendars from Prior Years: Year 2010 calendars are available for \$12.00 each. Year 2001 through 2009 calendars are available for \$5.00 each.

Shipping / Ordering: The prices shown above include the cost of shipping to a U.S. or Canadian address. Insurance is extra if desired. If interested, please send a check or money order to: Gill Fahrenwald, P. O. Box 2323, Olympia, WA 98507 or PayPal to anvilman@ocalink.com

Pommel Plates

Steve Bloom, IronFlower Forge

If you took a look at the utility blades I had in the Gallery, you may have noted the mokume gane pommel plates. The trick is to cut a slot in the plate so that the tang just fits into the slot, then silver braze (not solder - braze) the plate to the tang.

Cutting the slot can be done with a wafer wheel on a side-grinder or a knife-edge file but if you have a mill, a slotting attachment does the work in a few seconds (once you make the jig to hold the plate). The jig shown below is a piece of aluminum angle with a couple of 1/4x20 bolts. The slotting blade is 0.0938" thick, so if the tang is thinner than that, it's file time.

Once the slot is done, the real fun begins. The plate has to be securely held at right angles to the tang during the brazing process. What I came up with is the apparatus shown to the right. A piece of angle iron is clamped in a vise. On one end of the angle is a piece



of 1/4x20 all-thread and on the other end is a 1" x 1/8" plate with a few holes. Connecting the two is a wood arm. A wood strip bolts to the arm and locks the blade. A scrap of refractory brick sits at the pommel end and supports the plate. A pivoting tube on the arm and a nut completes the unit. The blade is positioned so that the tang hits the brick squarely and the nut on the all-thread is screwed down to lock the tang into the slot. The plate can be "bumped" left to right to set the angle to the tang. All that is now needed is to flux the joint, heat it with an oxy-acetylene torch until the silver braze flows into the joint. The jig makes the braze a whole lot easier!

