

By now you will have noticed our newsletter has deteriorated considerably. My humble appologies for my feeble efforts.

We wish our former editor Bob Jacoby the very best in his new adventure in Russia. He shall be missed. Probably most by me as I proceed to put out a news letter each month.

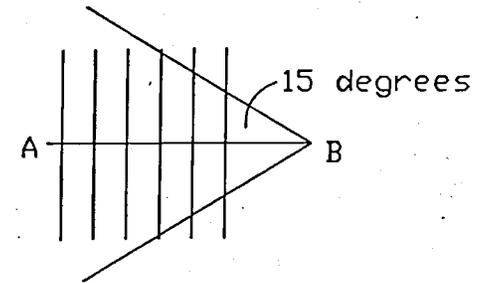
Please help me, first by sending items of news and intrest that I may use in future issues and secondly by getting them to me by the 15 th of each month as I am going to do my darndest to mail each issue so it reaches our members before the first of each month

DONT FORGET TO SEND IN THOSE
FREE WANT ADS
FOR SALE OR WANTED TO BUY
AS WELL AS ANY ITEM OF INTEREST

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Center Finder for Damacus Billets Steve Bloom

On my continuing quest for the ultimate jig, I recently faced a measuring problem when forging a Damacus billet. When the billet has been forged out to approximately twice its original length, a cut should be made at the center of the billet so that when the billet is folded, the ends match. Also for consistency sake, the length of the billet at this stage should be reasonably constant. My solution was to mark on an 18" x 18" x 1/8" plate of steel the pattern shown in Fig. 1. Mark a horizontal line from A to B, mark a series of vertical lines approximately one inch apart, and mark two lines angled at 15 degrees to the original horizontal line (just be sure that the angle above and below the horizontal line are the same). I used a pencil and a cheap compass (the type that holds a pencil) to make these lines.



Find the vertical line whose length between the angled lines is approximately twice the length of the starting

Figure 1: Line pattern

billet and mark it with a chalk arrow. Set up the plate near your power hammer. You can then rapidly compare the billet during forging to that line. When the billet is ready for cutting, lay it on the pattern with the surface to be cut uppermost. Use the vertical lines to keep it perpendicular to the horizontal line, and move it left to right until the top and bottom of the billet just touch the angled lines (Fig. 2). Lay your hack on the billet as shown. Now shift the billet and hack (making sure to preserve their relative positions to one another) onto the hammer and make the cut. This technique may well save you valuable time, thus decreasing the number of heats and preserving the carbon content of your blades relative to fumbling with a ruler (besides its easier for those of us in the bifocal brigade!).

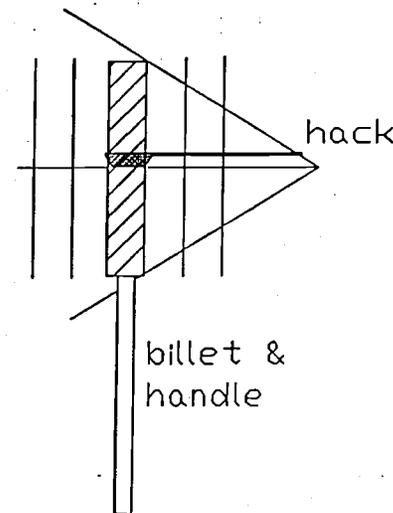


Figure 2: Hack placement technique