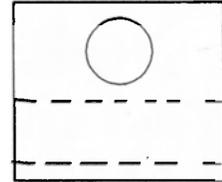


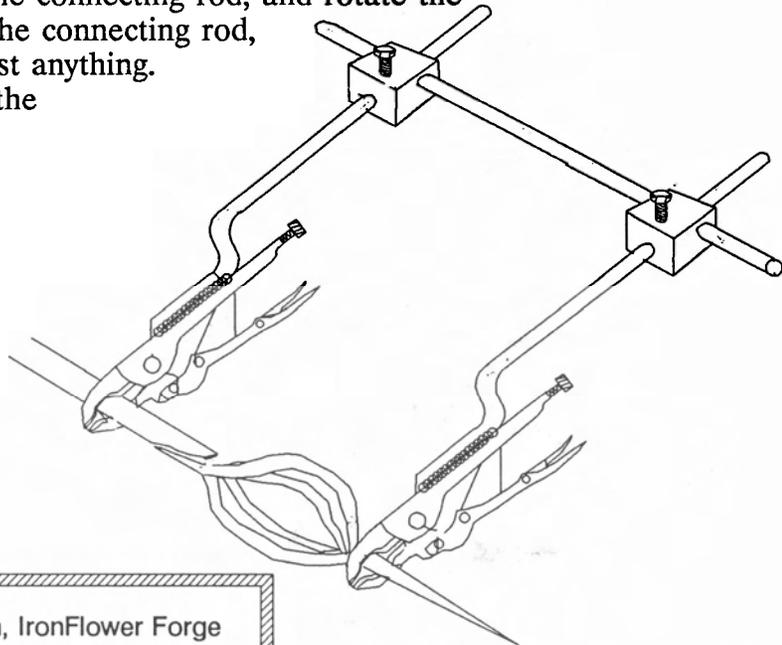
The way can get to Carnegie Hall is Practice!, Practice!, Practice! and the drop-tongs weld is the same. Or if you're impatient (like me), you can cheat by making a jig that will virtually assure that you'll make the weld every time.

Acquire a couple of 10" Vise-Grips at your local flea market. Grind down the teeth in the jaws (so you won't leave the traditional "Vise-Grips Maker's Mark" on your work). Bend 2 pieces of 5/8" round stock as shown above and arc-weld them to the Vise-Grips (leaving clearance so the Vise-Grips are still adjustable).



If you have a pair of laboratory clamps, you're done. If not, get two cubes (approx. 1" square) and drill 2 11/16" holes as shown to the right. Note that the holes are on adjacent faces & run at right angles. Drill and tap (or weld a nut over) two holes from the top & bottom faces. Install a pair of 1/4" x 20 bolts (or wing-bolts). You will also need a length of 5/8" round stock (approx. 18").

To use the jig, scarf the poker as usual. Clamp one Vise-Grip below the scarf & one above (see drawing below). Since you can adjust the distance between the Vise-Grips, the distance between a Vise-Grip & the connecting rod, and rotate the Vise-Grip around its own axis & the connecting rod, you should be able to clamp almost anything. Place the scarfs in the forge with the Vise-Grips out where they'll stay relatively cool. Bring the scarfs to welding heat, move the whole rig over to the anvil and make the weld.



...or you can Practice!

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