Multimedia Bowl Hard Rock Maple and The Red Hot Steel Band

Roy Holmberg
December 12, 2020
Santa Cruz Woodturners

Photos by Wells Shoemaker

This is where we'll wind up



Roy's bowl—clasp detail



We'll take you step by step



Our demonstrator: SCW's Own Roy Holmberg Portrait of the blacksmith as a young man



Roy Holmberg a few years later: A Man of two shops In 2020



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At home with hard wood



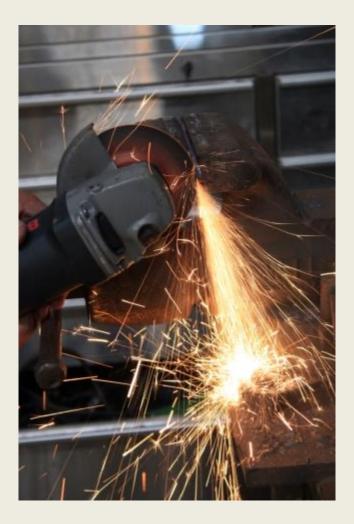
And sharp steel



Equally at home with hot iron



And showers of sparks



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And that Hammer, of course

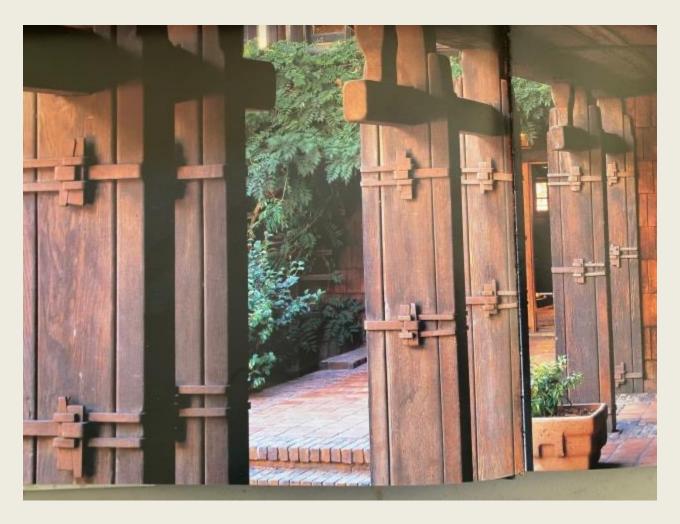


A journey of a thousand miles starts with a single step…let's begin!

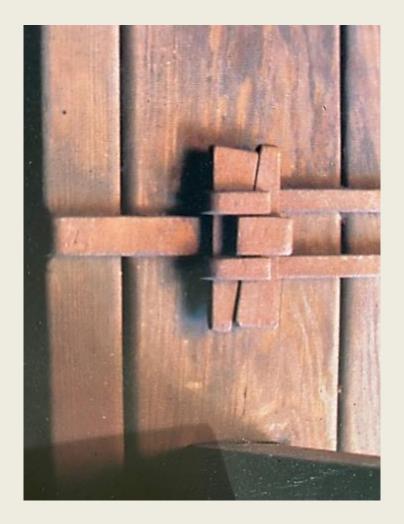


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Original Clasp Concept: Gamble House Architectural Scale



Gamble House Clasp Detail



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Roy's Forge of 20 Years Ago



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Roy's first steel banded bowl: 1998



First banded bowl: Clasp detail



That was then...This is Now



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Using a jig to cut a circular blank



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Bandsaw knows this maple is Hard



Drilling center hole for screw chuck



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Blank mounted on screw chuck



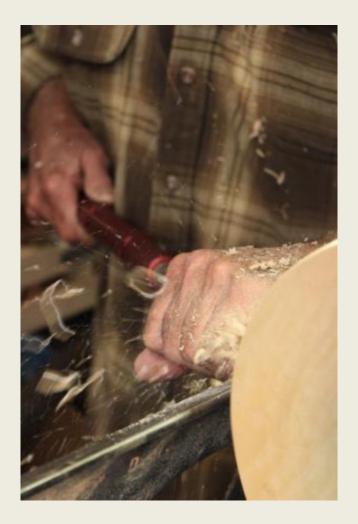
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Truing up the edge first



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Heavy gouge 60° bevel



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Gotta love PPE when the chips fly



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Truing the face



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Just about flat



Verifying plane before gluing



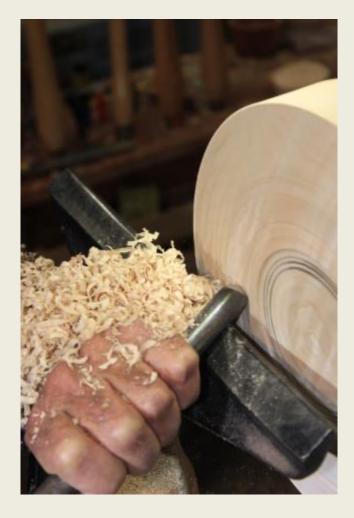
Mark circle



Three's a Charm

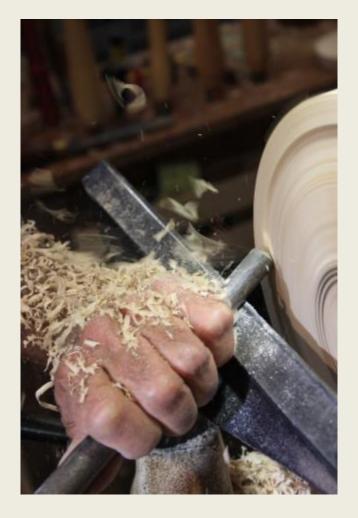


Paring off bulk



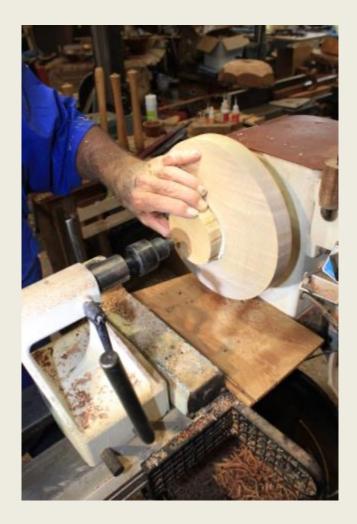
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Developing the contour— easier before installing glue block



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Glue block in place



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Use tailstock for both centering and pressure



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Options: Leave it overnight, or use symmetrical clamps and then remove, or use fast setting CA glue



Assembly off the lathe



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Make the dovetail in the waste block (77 degrees w scraper)



Grasp tenon in scroll chuck



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Measure thickness in trued up blank

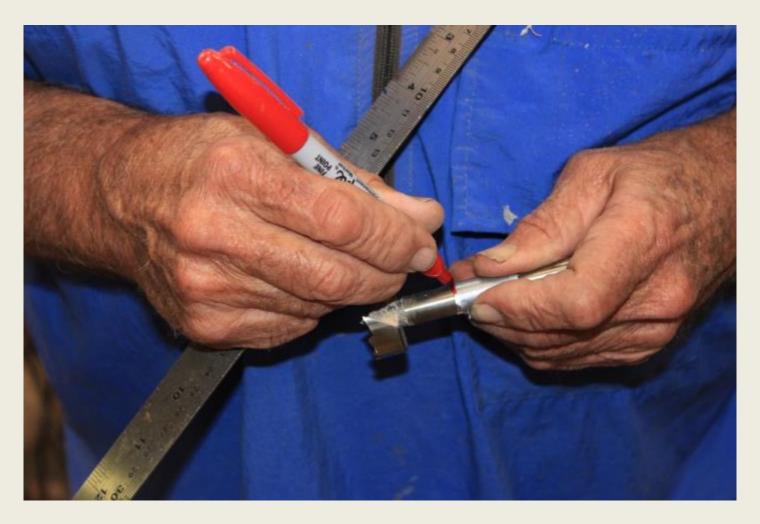


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Measure depth of central hole Essential to leave thickness... And mind the point of the bit



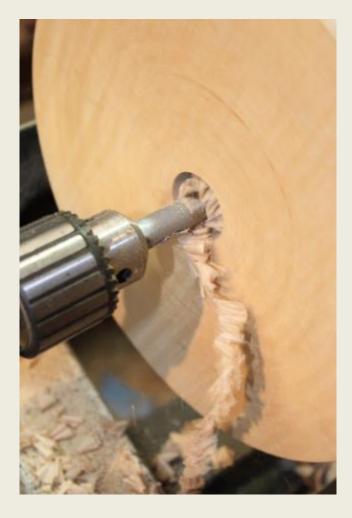
Mark depth on shank



Forstner bits are boring



Almost at depth

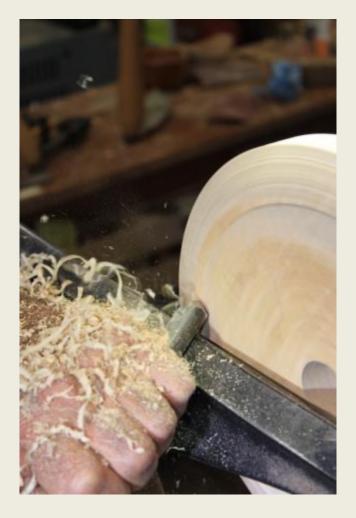


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Begin shaping top of bowl



Debulking



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Begin shaping central depression



Incrementally widen and deepen



Measure opening. Know when to stop



Begin undercut



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Check proportions for deep undercut



Undercut is rough duty...special tool, difficult angle, catch liability



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Starting to look familiar



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Dig a little deeper



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Feeling for contour

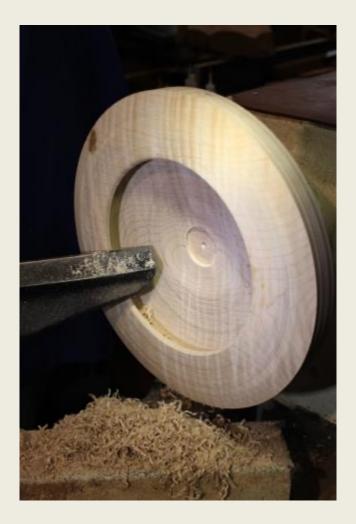


Not the most ergonomic posture... but sacrifices must be made Note length of this Roy-made tool



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Ready to clean up bottom



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Approaching undercut with custom scraper



Last cuts with the long tool



Periphery done, now remove bulk in center and shape curve



Large radius scraper



Blend the curves...go carefully now! Wall thickness almost "there"



Keep that scraper sharp—no time for tear-out now!



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Just about there!



Find ridges with your fingers



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Now true up the rim...Must be flat to receive the metal band



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Mark the margins of the groove for the band

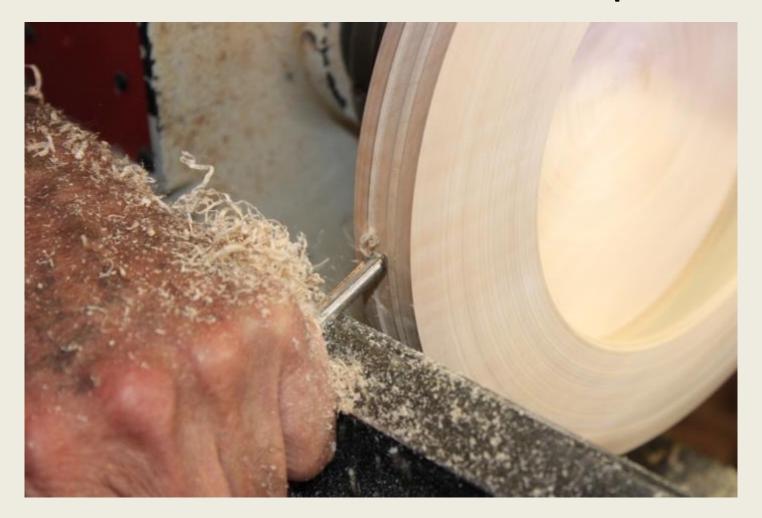


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Time to cut the groove Define the margins with a spear point



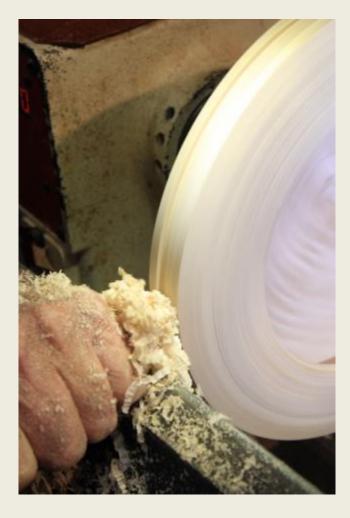
Spindle gouge is a little small for this task in hard rock maple



Parting tool, you're up!



Groove needs flat bottom, 3/32" depth



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It's about to get dusty Who was that masked man? I just wanted to thank him...



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We live near the beach It's sanding time again in Aptos



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Pause for Day 1



A little homework for the blacksmith-turner: Make some new hand forged tools to better reach the undercut for the next bowl



More homework: Apply sanding sealer to freshly turned wood



This seals grain and protects blank from stains

Will eventually finish with multiple coats of spray matte lacquer

It's a glorious new day to get back to the shop



First task: Make a jam chuck to secure the bowl while removing the tenon



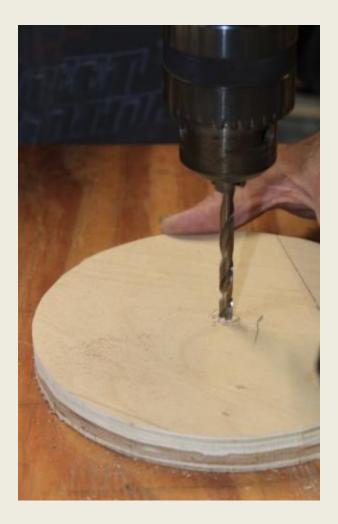
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Cut out jam chuck blank ¾" ply



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Vertical pilot hole for screw chuck



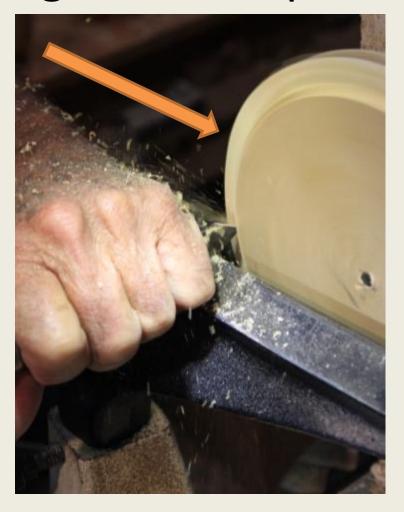
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Jam chuck has a penetrating member and flange—mark carefully, then refine



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Approaching diameter for jam chuck Use parting tool for square corner



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Jam chuck done



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Tape edges to avoid scuffing bowl



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Ready to receive the mouth of the bowl



Bowl snugly mounted on jam chuck. Tailstock engaged. Now take down the waste block tenon



Refining bottom Make a subtle rim for the foot



Going after the nub— All that's left of the tenon



Tape blank to jam chuck after tailstock removed: Security to delete nub without launching a flying saucer. (That's Maarten's day job.)



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Tailstock retracted. Now work down the nub with a spindle gouge



Sand foot while it's easy to access



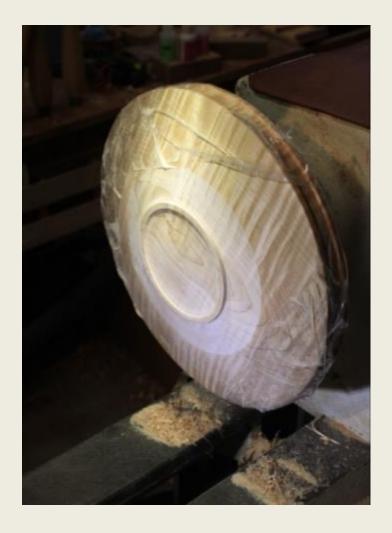
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Nice when the foot accommodates a 3" disc! (not accidental)



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Ready for dismount



Sidebar—Wells can't resist chirping in



Another way to mount a small undercut bowl: Expandable jaws to grip bowl. Faster when you're making more than one



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Bowl mounted OK for light cuts, sanding, finishing



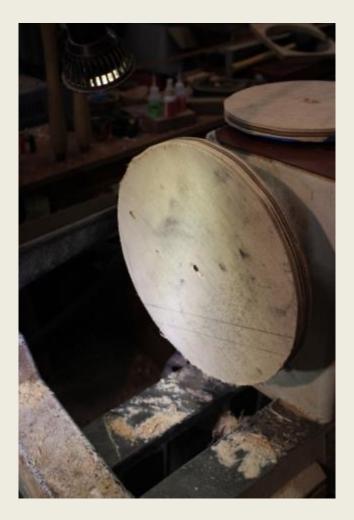
Measure the diameter of the rim Must be exact



Cut another blank to slightly larger diameter and refine on the lathe



Turn this blank precisely. We'll use this in the blacksmith shop

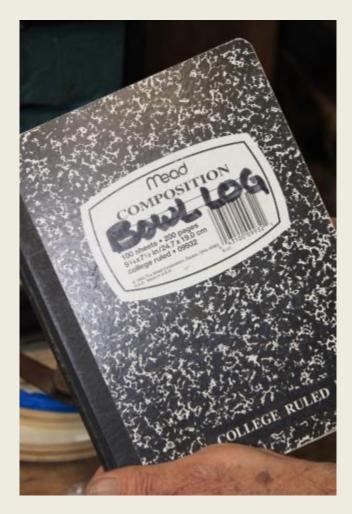


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Sign your work before finish coats



Turning begins and finishes with...logs. This is Roy's project #619



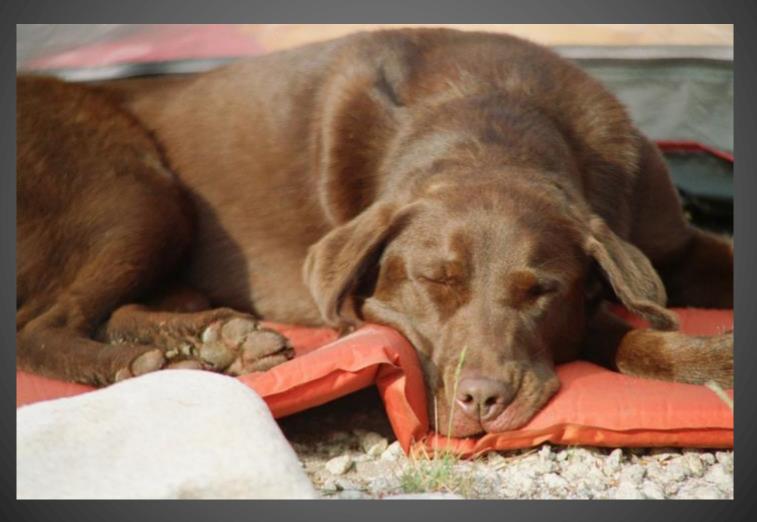
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Wood phase is almost done— Next we get to the forge for hot steel



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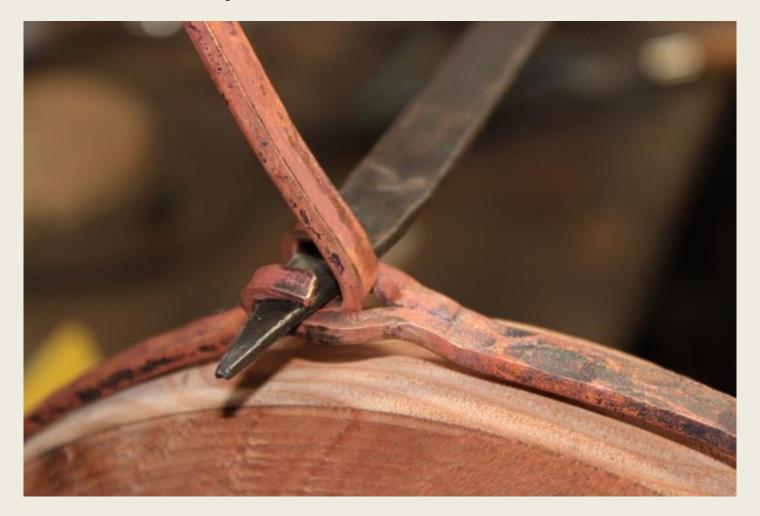
Another pause for the night



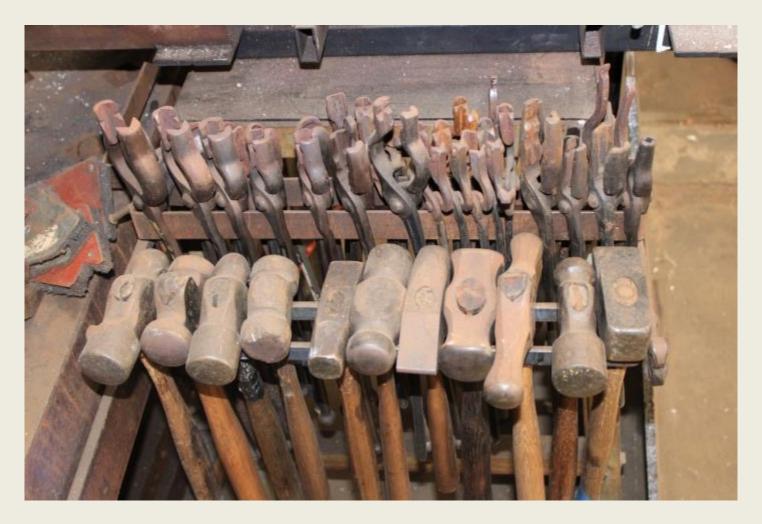
Day 3: Forging Ahead



We'll make the custom metal band to wrap around the bowl



Blacksmiths and Turners Love Racks of Tools



And they have their hang ups, too



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Heavy Metal everywhere, needless to say ...and ear protection, of course



Seriously Cranky Machines



Buoys in the Man Cave



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OK, Where were we?

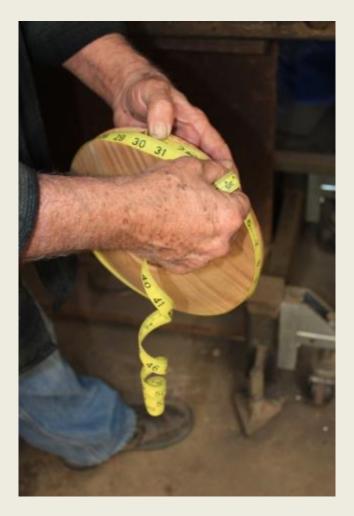
Bowl was turned with a circumferential groove, and we made a template disc that exact size. We'll use it today.





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Start with measuring circumference of the groove on the bowl. Add 2"

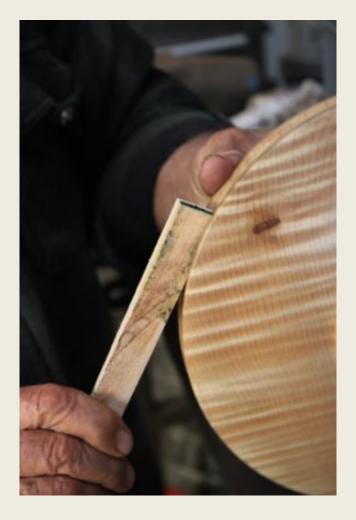


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Transfer that measure to a steel bar and cut it to length



Gauge width of groove on bowl with scrap wood



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Grip scrap between jaws of vise to create an effective steel form for the band



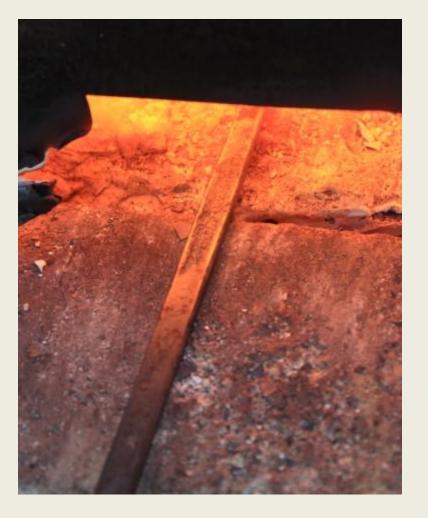
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Are we close? Yes, we are.



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Heat that bar red hot...first of many times it's going into the forge

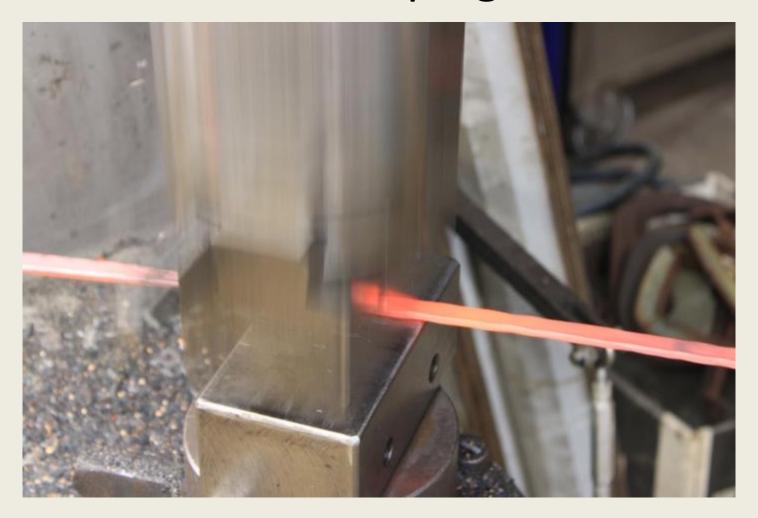


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The Man and his Power Hammer



Red hot bar into the power hammer for shaping



Back into the forge Work one end of the bar at a time



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Use power hammer to refine dimensions of the bar



Flatten it out Old School



Texturing tool



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Now use power hammer with texturing tool



More hand work to straighten edges



Back into the forge...get used to it!



Starting to look right



Wire brush off the scale



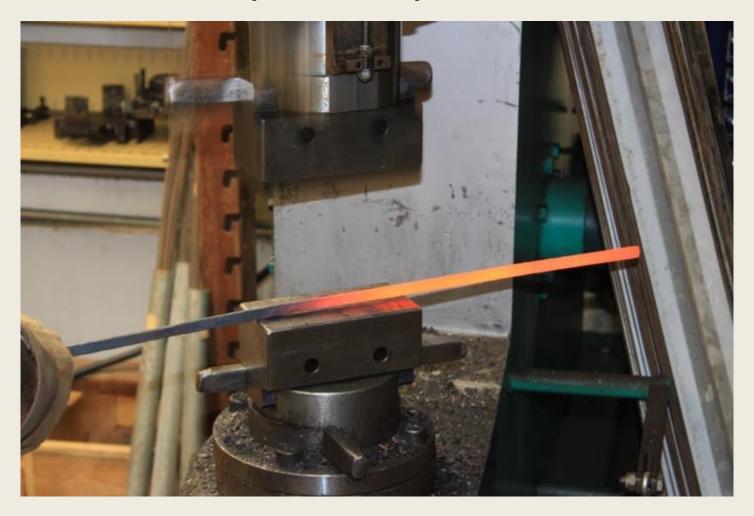
Steel band with texture done



Check for fit in the vise groove Sure enough...there's a tight spot



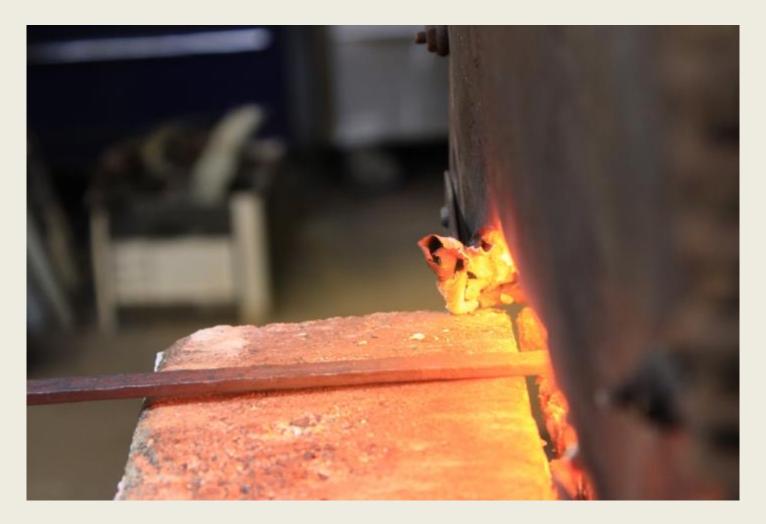
Use the power hammer to compress proud spots



Now it fits perfectly



Work on the tip—back to the heat



Score the hot tip to begin making a "Y"



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Time to Split



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Y Hot and Cold

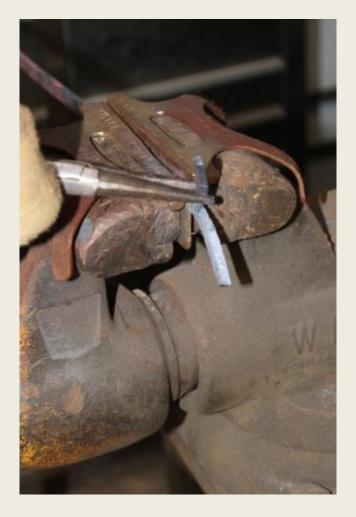




Into the vise—copper cheeks to prevent marring the texture



Steel bends with pliers when hot Y is going to become a T



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Now it's a T



Flatten persuasively



Need to heat this repeatedly to make these shapes



Back into the vise: Turn the **T** into a Fork

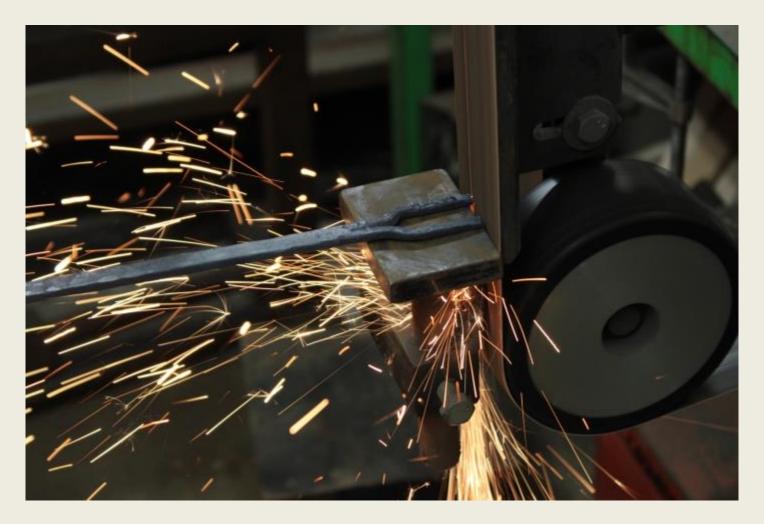


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It's a fork now, but more shape shifting to come!



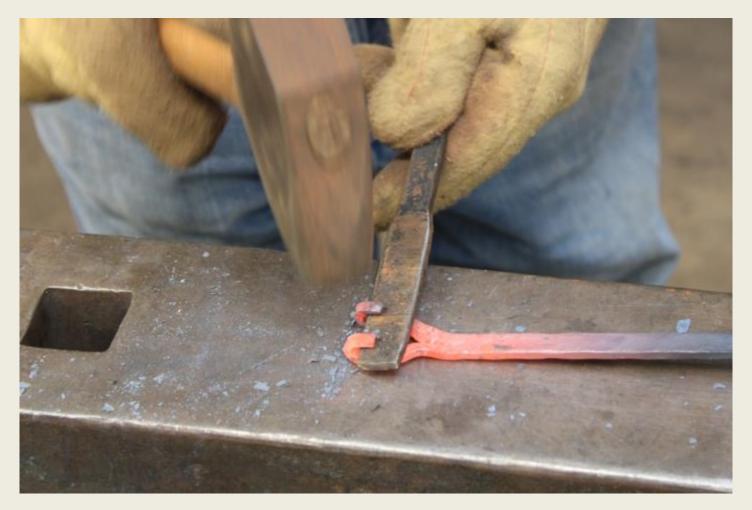
Smooth the tips while they're accessible



Create a 1/8" offset—you'll see why



Start bending the fork into its destiny as a clasp



Taking shape but needs work



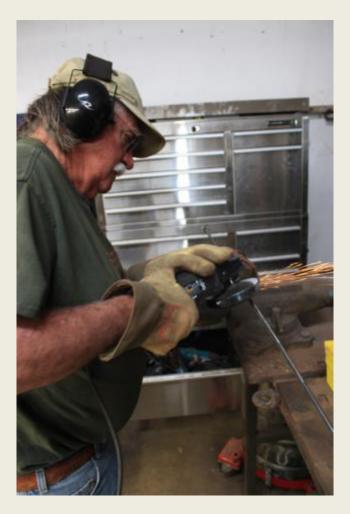
Even out the gaps using a bar



A little touch up with a big hammer

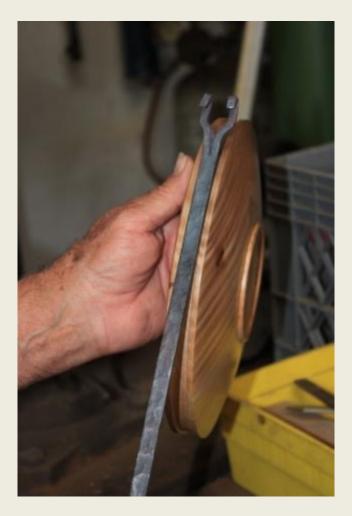


Soften the sharp edges—Fingers will eventually trace these contours



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Double check Verify the band fits into the groove



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Heavy bar to hold the stunt disc



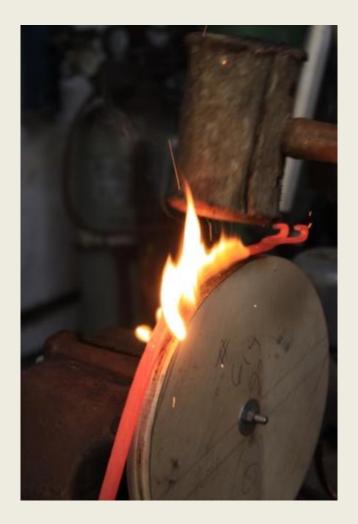
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Stunt disc ready for duty. Big surprise coming



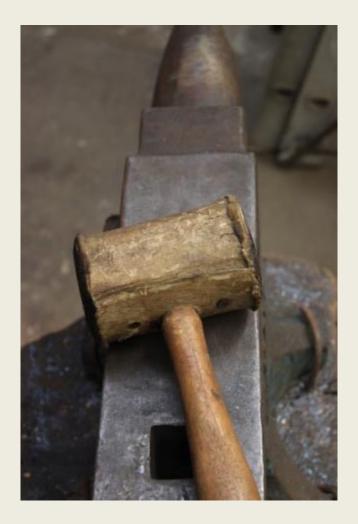
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Bend hot steel over a wooden template? Yes, Virginia, it's on fire



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Secret weapon: Non-marring rawhide hammer



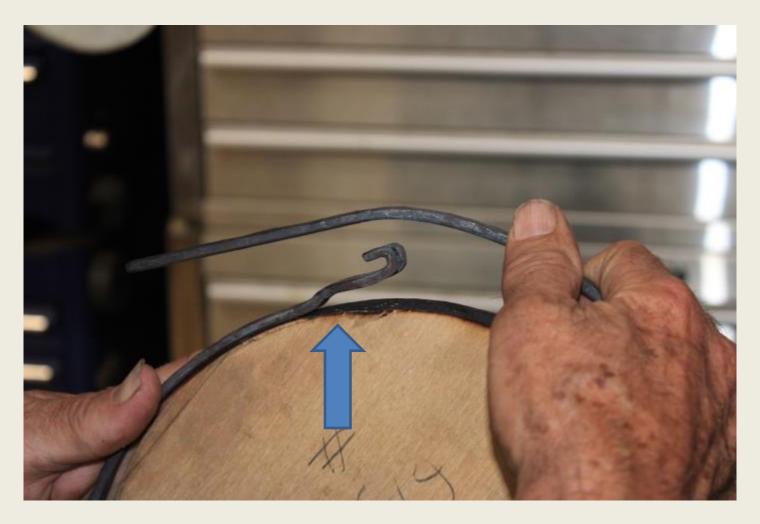
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Checking the fit...not quite there yet



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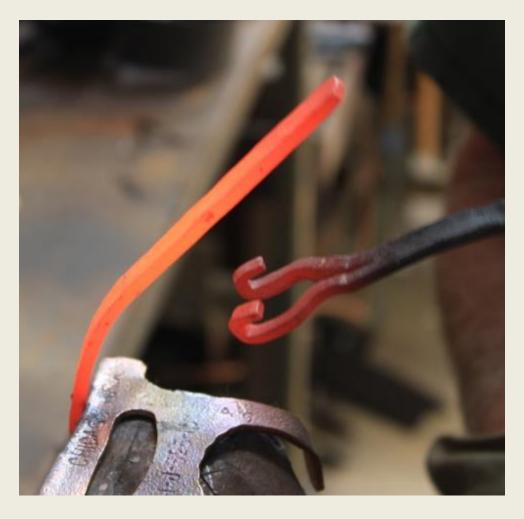
Here is the delicate fit test Notice the offset



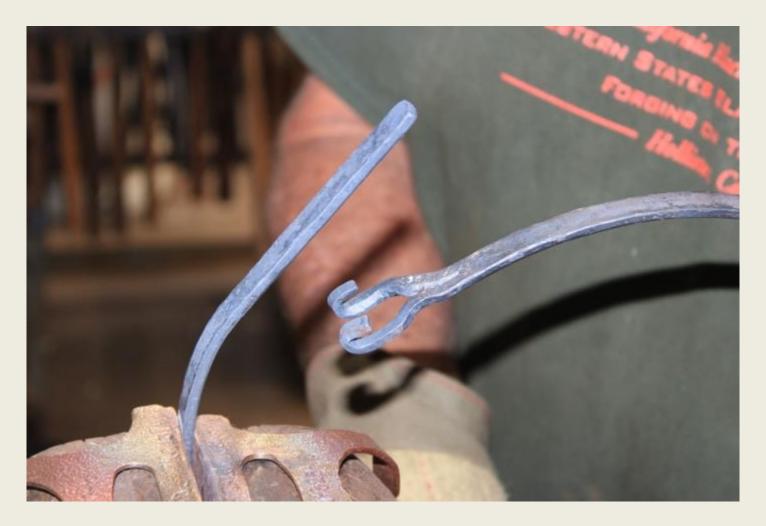
Mark the line for the bend-over



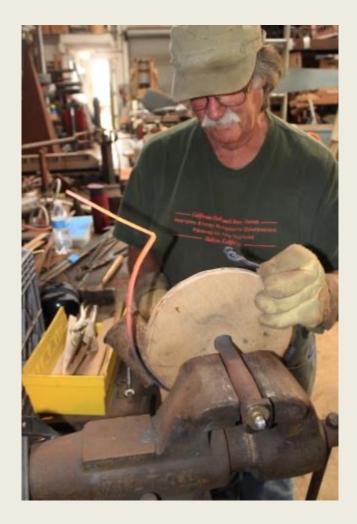
Heat them up and persuade them to cooperate



Yes, Sir, Master Chief Roy! I will cooperate. Stop hitting me, please, Sir!

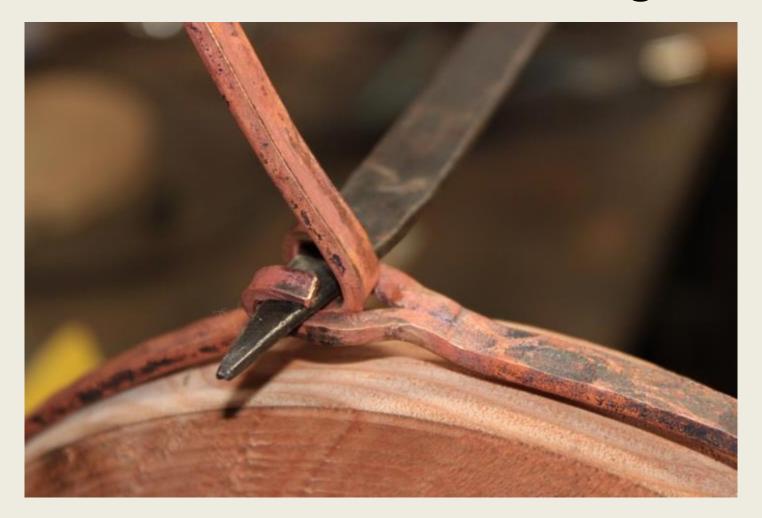


This is going to work



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Use a shop made tool to secure the two ends and bend over tight



Hammer the fold over

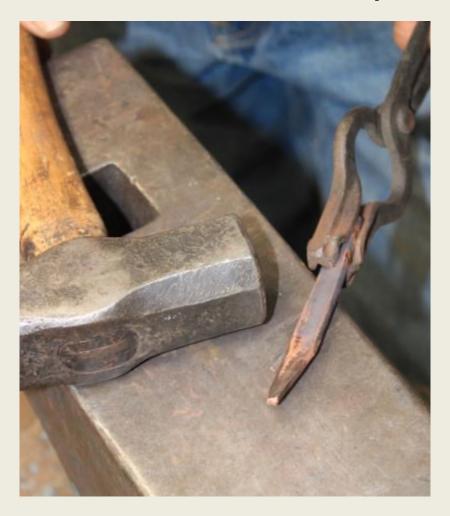


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Cut off the excess



Make two sliding wedges to secure the clasp



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That's about it for Forge day #1 Take a rest, and let's Meet back at the Forge for day #2



On Forge day #2 we will

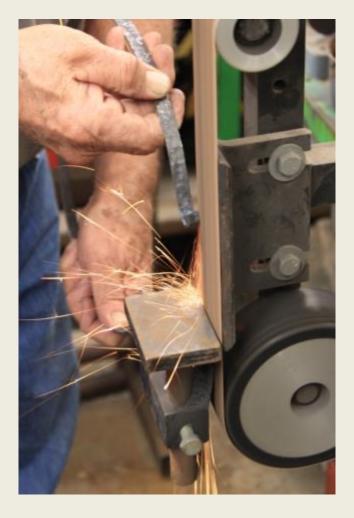
- Heat up the shaped band, dip into wax, let it smoke to create a dull black sheen.
- The wrap it around the bowl, fine tune the wedges and drive them into place.
- And then maybe make another belt of copper.
- Final finishing the wood will come at the end.

Forge Day One was a success This clasp fits, and now the fine touches



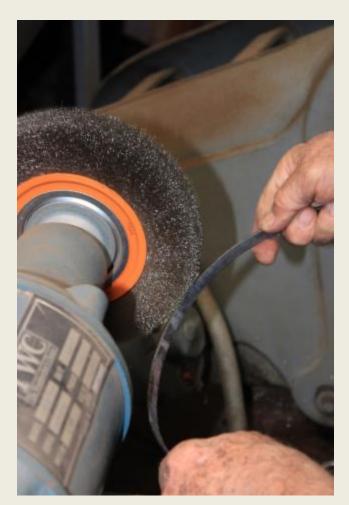
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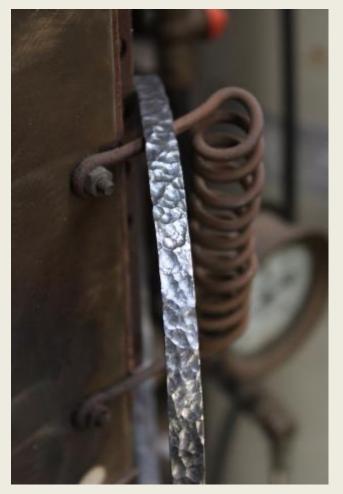
Smooth off any rough edges



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Touch up any remaining scale and make this shine





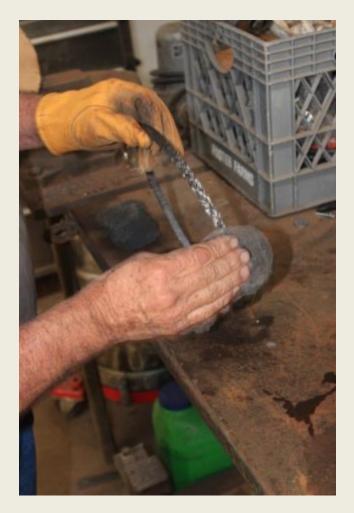
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Heat and blue the steel



Apply wax to the hot band with steel wool





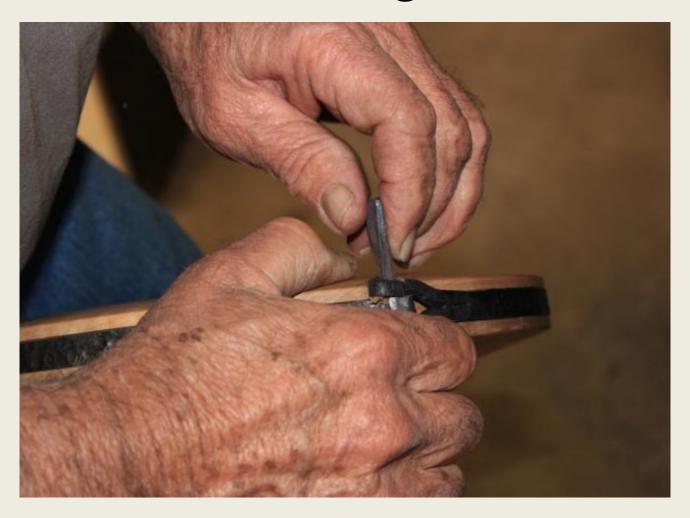
Passes inspection



Let it cure outside



Fit the wedge—this takes patience More hammer & grinder work



Squeeze it home



Wedge engaged, band pulled tight



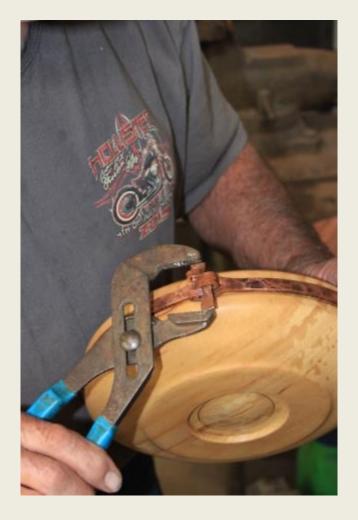
OK, forge work is done on this one Finish sanding and lacquer still to go



Copper is not as stiff as steel



Driving 2 wedges brings band to snug fit



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Copper Clasp is Done



Ready to go home



Roy's bowl in the Bright Light



Steel clasp detail



Imitation is The highest form of flattery



Wells' ash imitation...band by Roy



Questions



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We have earned a rest



Lots of December to Come!

- Geminid meteors with a new moon Dec 13
- Great Conjunction of Saturn & Jupiter Dec 21
- Christmas and Hanukkah
- New Years Eve
- Thank you, Turners, and Good Riddance 2020
- January, your new board picks up the reins
- Next meeting January 16: Kirk deHeer & Demystifying Catches