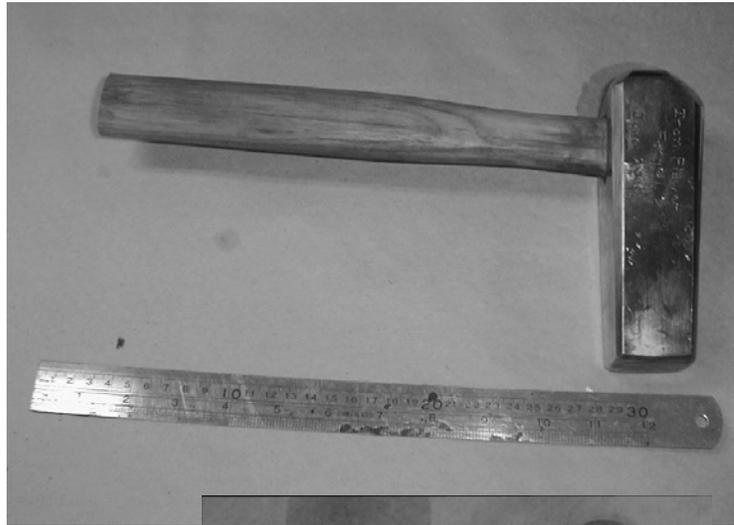


Bladesmithing Hammers - Part I

Steve Bloom, IronFlower Forge

Based on Bill Stapleton's relaying of Don Fogg's recommendations about forging hammers to be used in bladesmithing and after checking out what Japanese smiths used, I decided to build a set of cutler's hammers. These are characterized by having the majority of the weight in front of the handle and having the head set at a slight angle to the center of the head. We were asked to bring a heavy hammer (4 to 6 lbs) to the John C. Campbell's Folk School Swordmaking course, so that was the first project. Following the advice of Fred Caylor (who said that when you buy a used hammer, you're really buying the eye), I acquired a sorely abuse 8 lb sledge at the Jud Nelson shop auction - the price was right, it was free. I annealed the head, sawed off the end that was most damaged, and reformed the rest into a 4.5 lb hammer. The results are shown in the accompanying pictures. While it is atypical since the center of mass is just in front of the handle, it moves metal with relative ease. The face was gradually crowned until it left minimal hammer marks.



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