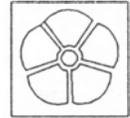


Potpourri I Steve Bloom

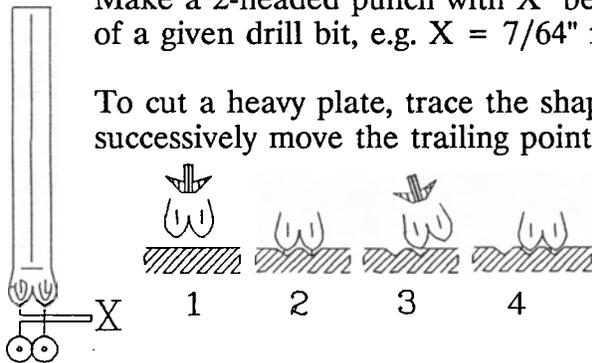


The following are not new ideas (except perhaps to me), but they're worth knowing about.

The 1-2 Punch (thanks to Carl Van Arnum)

Make a 2-headed punch with X" between the points ($X = 1/64'' +$ the diameter of a given drill bit, e.g. $X = 7/64''$ for a $3/16''$ bit).

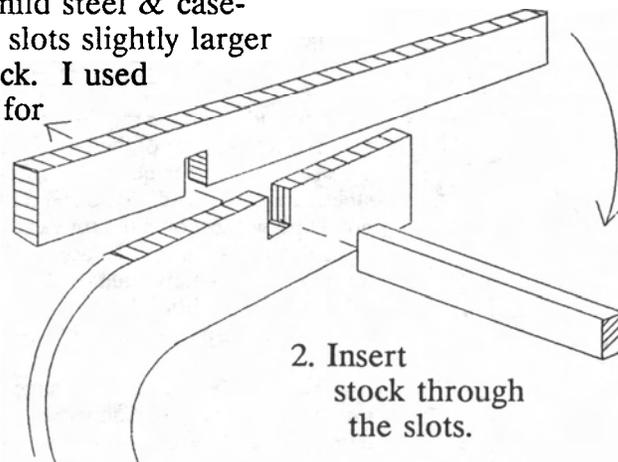
To cut a heavy plate, trace the shape by initially punching two pits, then successively move the trailing point to the leading pit & strike again, i.e.:



Then drill each pit (leaving $1/64''$ between holes). Break off the excess & clean up the edge with a grinder & files. It works & it's easy.

Shear Ingenuity (thanks to Lester Hollenbeck)

Use leaf springs (or mild steel & case-hardening) & cut out slots slightly larger than the intended stock. I used $5/8'' \times 2''$ leaf springs for shearing $1/2'' \times 3/16''$ stock.



1. Place lower bar in a vise.

2. Insert stock through the slots.

3. Rotate downwards 90 degrees while pressing the arm to the shear base.

You can cut multiple slots for a range of stock sizes as long as the bars are not weakened

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