

Flint Striker

By Chuck Hughes



Using an old file (or comparable metal containing higher carbon content) heat and forge the stock reducing it to 3/16" x 1/2."

Mark the anvil measuring from the near edge at 1- 1 1/2" (using soap stone.) This will give a length to set the shoulder on the "legs" of the flint striker. Set the stock at forging heat on the near edge of the anvil and with the measured length on the face of the anvil use half on half off hammer blows to set the shoulder for the first "leg." Now, with the hammer positioned with the peen angled toward the far side of the anvil, hammer fullering blows to the stock to elongate the "leg", turning the stock 1/4 turn first left then right with each hammer blow. As the "leg" reaches the desired length and taper begin to round the leg using more of the face of the hammer to smooth the fuller marks and refine the surface. Once the first leg is forged, measure the length by setting the shoulder at the near edge of the anvil and marking the tine length on the anvil face again using soap stone. Locate a measurement from the first shoulder allowing for a length for the "striker surface" approx 1 1/4" to 1 1/2" and add to that the length chosen for the length of the first leg.

Insert a hot cut in the hardy hole and with the stock now held from the opposite end, place it on the hot cut and cut it off leaving the desired length measured in the last step. Again, bring the stock to a forging heat and using the first measurement on the anvil face, set the length of the second leg shoulder at the near edge of the anvil and again using half on half off hammer blows set the second shoulder. Now, using the hammer peen angled away from you, fuller the leg near to the length marked by the first leg. Then start to smooth the tapered leg and refine it to a length matching the first leg. Heating each leg holding the stock shoulder side down hammer down the end of the leg over the far edge of the anvil to begin a small curl. Turning the leg up, hammer the started curl back toward you closing and completing the small curl. If enough heat remains in the leg begin forming a curl over the horn in the opposite direction and away from the shoulder. Repeat the small and large curl on the opposite end focusing on making the curls the same size and shape. Once the striker is forged to shape, bring it to a red heat in the forge and quench only the striking edge moving it slowly back and forth in the quench. When the striker cools, sand or file lightly the striking edge and test for spark with a piece of quality flint.