



The Home Blacksmith: Tools, Techniques, and 40 Practical Projects for the Blacksmith Hobbyist

Ryan Ridgway

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As more and more people join the do-it-yourself revolution, they are breathing new life into many time-honored skills and crafts. Blacksmithing is among the trades that are enjoying a resurgence for both practical and artistic uses, yet there is not an abundance of readily accessible information available to beginning blacksmiths to help them get started and understand the craft. Author Ryan Ridgway, a veterinarian and blacksmith with more than fifteen years of metalworking experience, hopes to fill that void with this comprehensive volume geared toward answering the many questions that new blacksmiths often have. By explaining the physics of moving metal, the different styles of anvils and forges, and alternative fuel sources, Ridgway sets his book apart from less detailed volumes. Forty practical, easy-to-follow projects are presented, showing aspiring blacksmiths how to make tools, such as hammers and chisels; farm implements, such as gate latches and hoof picks; and items for home use, including drawer pulls and candle holders.

Inside The Home Blacksmith:

The evolution of blacksmithing around the world and the differences between the tools specific to each region

The behavior of heated metal and the science of metalworking

Setting up a shop safely and economically

The heart of your shop—the anvil and forge—and the other essential tools

Working with different types of steel, including how to salvage steel for different uses

Techniques from beginning to advanced

Step-by-step instructions for forty blacksmithing projects: tools and other implements as well as decorative pieces for personal use or sale

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