

Instructions for making a cross

using the cross blank from M.B.R.

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1. Put a chisel in a vise with the sharp end up.
2. Heat a little over one half of the cross blank.
3. Hold the cross blank vertically, and line up the hot cut end with the chisel.
4. Hammer on top of the cross blank, cold end, spreading the lower cut end open.
5. Heat the other end in the fire.
6. Repeat #3. and #4.
7. Reheat if needed and put each end over the corner of an anvil, or the horn, to further spread the arms, and hammer more.
8. When you have each end spread at least 90 degrees between arms, or each arm about 45 degrees bent, lay the cross blank over the top anvil face, and hammer it more, bending all the arms more, and making it basically flat.
9. Heat the outer half of one of the LONG arms and hold it on the chisel that is in the vice.
10. Hammer carefully on each side of that arm, cutting it off to a length appropriate for the top arm of the cross. be carefull, the hot end you cut off may fly a few feet !
11. Heat this cut edge as needed and tap the cut edge flat to look like the other arm ends.
12. Take the chisel out of the vise, and clamp one arm at a time, as needed to 'square up' or adjust the arms.
13. Now lay the cross on the face of the anvil and use the chisel to make a lot of quick random marks in it, to simulate wood.
14. Optional: Brush it with a copper brush to give it a brown/copper look. Option: Coat with clear paint.
15. Optional: Paint lightly with black, and after it dries, sand lightly to show off the wood grain you made in it.

