

\$14.99 U.S.

Joe DeLaRonde is a master blacksmith. Through detailed but easy-to-understand instructions, illustrations, and photographs, he teaches the basic skills of forging. Here is all the information you need to create artistic yet functional iron hardware and accoutrements for home or ranch, including:

- Pokers
- Shovels
- Tongs
- Hooks
- Camp Sets
- Forks
- Spoons/Spatulas
- Skewers (Asadas)
- Nails
- Hinges
- Latches
- Drawer Pulls
- Coat Hooks
- Towel Bars
- Candleholders
- Brooms
- Hoes
- Crowbars
- Awls
- Screwdrivers
- Chain Links
- Chisels
- Spud or Pry Bars
- Hammers
- Adzes
- Axes
- Knives

DeLaRonde started his blacksmithing career 35 years ago as an apprentice under a master German blacksmith. His works are in use around the globe by military personnel and living history enthusiasts, as well as in private collections and museums in the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Europe. He continues to work at his shop in Mancos, Colorado, producing some of the finest tomahawks, axes, and knives available on the market today.

HOW-TO/HOME REFERENCE

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BLACKSMITHING BASICS FOR THE HOMESTEAD

DeLaRonde



# Blacksmithing

## Basics for the Homestead

Joe DeLaRonde









## CANDLEHOLDERS

Lighting fixtures are a necessity in any home and take many and varied forms. For our purpose here, we will cover the simple table candleholder and wall mount. Again, you are only limited by your imagination as to the design. There are two basic types of candleholders: the socket and the spike.

### Socket Candleholders

Stock:  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch x 2 feet, round

Heat and flatten one end back about 1 inch. Cool, and then drill a  $\frac{3}{16}$ -inch hole about two-thirds of the way back on the flattened area. You may want to roll the tip of the flattened portion slightly as a decorative touch. (See Figure 8.31.) Now, begin heating and bending it into a circle with a flattened area in the center. Think of it as a snake coiling up, and the flattened portion as the snake's head. Once you have made a complete circle, measure about 4 to 5 inches and cut. This portion will be the handle. Bend this area up and out and form into a circle or finger ring.

Take a 2- to 2½-inch square piece of 16-gauge sheet metal and cut or file into a circle, dish slightly, and drill a  $\frac{3}{16}$ -inch hole in the center. This will be the drip pan. It is now time for forming the socket that will actually hold the candle.

Take a 24-inch piece of fairly heavy walled pipe, heat, and flare one end as follows: heat the end, slip



Figure 8.30. A ram head candleholder.

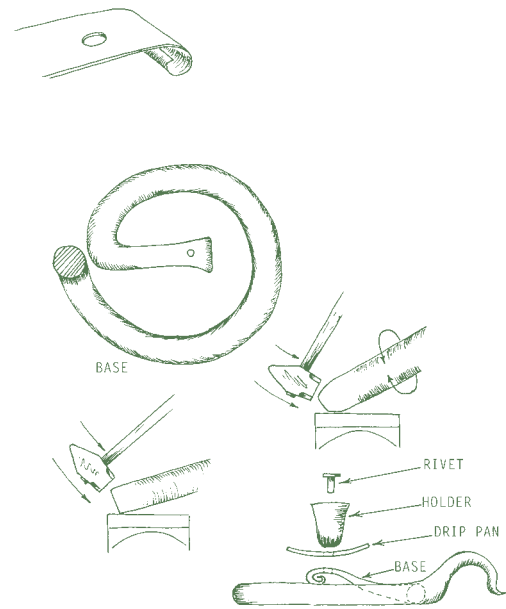


Figure 8.31. Forming the socket holder.



Figure 8.32. Flare the top of the socket.



Figure 8.33. Close the base of the socket.



Figure 8.34. Socket and drip pan are ready to be riveted to the base.

it over the end of the anvil horn or bick, and while turning the pipe, give it several sharp blows on the other end. (See Figure 8.32.) Turning the pipe is done to keep the flare even. You'll notice the thin wall of the pipe cools fairly rapidly, so this process will take several heats depending on how much you want it flared.

Measure back 1½ to 1¾ inches and cut. Heat the end you have cut to a good red or red-yellow heat and begin with a light hammer, constantly rolling the piece back and forth while hitting it to bring the open end together. (See Figure 8.33.) This will take several heats as well. Remember to keep rolling it back and forth so you don't get any flat spots. Take your time.

Once you have rolled the end closed, drill a  $\frac{3}{16}$ -inch hole in the bottom. Rivet the drip pan and socket to the flattened area of the holder. You may need to do some adjusting to make sure the whole thing sits level and straight. (Figure 8.34.)

### Spike Candleholders

Stock:  $\frac{3}{4}$  x 1 x  $\frac{1}{4}$  x 24 inch

This will be a wall-mounted candleholder. Heat and flatten one end. Drill a  $\frac{3}{16}$ -inch hole as with the socket holder. Measure back 3 to 3½ inches, heat, and bend in a hooklike shape with about a 2- to 2½-inch radius. For a simple finial at the top, measure up how far you want, cut, and flatten. Before rolling or curling, take the cross peen of your hammer and texture the area.

# 7

## Basic Projects: Kitchen and Cooking Gear

While getting settled on your homestead or just out camping, you need to eat. To this end, you need some cooking gear.

### HOOKS

#### Pot Hooks or S Hooks

Stock:  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch x 2 feet, round or square (mild steel)

Pot hooks or S hooks, as they are sometimes called, have been in use for thousands of years and are one of the most used (and most often lost) pieces of hardware. They may be made of round or square stock, and may be fancy or plain, depending on your preference.

To make a basic, plain pot hook, take the piece of 2-foot-long stock. (The reason for the extra length added onto the stock for all projects here is so that you have parent stock. Parent stock is the extra-length of the stock that is cut from the finished piece. Do as much of the work as you can while the piece is attached to the parent stock. Tongs are good but won't replace being able to hold onto the piece with your hand while working it.) Heat about 3 inches of the end to a good orange-red heat.

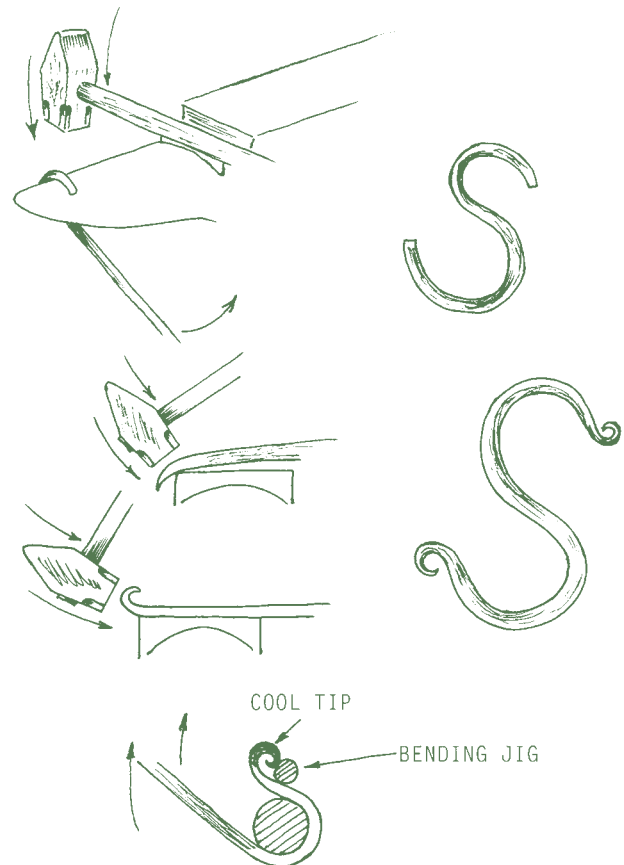


Figure 7.2 (above). Pot hooks.