

# Small Single Piece Cross

Dave McKinnon and Jim Oates and Lanny Campbell

Forging a small single piece cross is tricky until you get a process. Once you have a process and stick with it, making these trinkets is pretty easy and something you can hand out at demonstrations. Our process is modified from the one Glen Conner presents Anvilfire.



1. cross

We'll start by cutting a length of 3/8 square to 3 1/2 inches in length.

Then we'll make a cut down the center of one side. Make the cut about 2 5/8 inches long.



2. layout

Then turn the piece 90 degrees and flip it 180 so you'll be cutting from the other end, on the uncut side. Cut down the middle about 1 3/16 inches.



Now to heat the material, it is relatively small so plan your moves because it won't hold heat long. We use a gas forge so we don't lose the piece in the fire and burn it.



Grab here

Practice has taught us the best place to hold the piece is where the cuts overlap. This keeps you from closing the gap you just tried to open. Use the hardie tool to open the cuts.



On the second opening you can also grab one of the previously split legs.

Once you have both sets of legs opened, return it to the fire. When it is hot you can use tongs to grab the legs the long way and open them up..



When you have the legs opened you can then flatten out the legs and square them up on any part of the anvil. Once you are satisfied you can measure the horizontal legs and cut of the vertices to the same length



This above cross has been trimmed and you could quit here and just drill a hole at the top. But you've just started. You can texture them, polish them, embellish them, brass them, wax or paint them. Below are examples of texture and polish and embellished with brass rivets. .



You don't have to stop there, there are plenty of variations to try.

Lanny decided to try the same process with tubing. Then, since he gets carried away (sometimes) he then tried it on a larger scale.



Jim was not to be out done, he tried the technique on a piece of wrought iron.



That left me with no choice but to try something different. I used the same technique on a piece of pipe. And made a candle holder from a piece of 3/4 square, and a Celtic cross from one of the smaller pieces.



**The rest is up to you.**