

# Octopus Key Hanger

Michael Wollowski

I saw the hanger on the left at the 2008 SOFA conference. Ken Scharabok made it and entered it in the show-and-tell contest. In this document, you find construction notes on how to make this hanger. This is a fun project to practice your forge welding skills.

The one on the right was made by Ken Dettmer and me. Ours is made from 5/16" round steel, but 3/8" will work well also. Start by drawing out one end to a point. Draw it out over a length of about two inches. Cut off a nine inch piece and draw out the other end so that you end up with a piece about 10" long. Prepare four pieces in this fashion. If they are of varying lengths, that is fine as it adds variety to this piece. Next, fold over all four pieces at about the center.



Figure 1: Ken Scharabok (left), Ken Dettmer and Michael Wollowski (right)

Now comes to the fun part: forge-welding the pieces together. Ken took two of the pieces and forge welded them together. If you have never seen Ken forge weld, you missed a masterful performance. He forge welds at the lowest temperature I have seen anyone do this and he does it with an effortlessness that borders on magic.

Next, forge-weld a piece to the side of the one you just completed, giving you what eventually will be the three arms in the front. Weld the last piece to the back, ideally the center back. Now, round over the head of the octopus using a swage block.

Use a hollow round punch to make the eyes. Start at a low angle and when just about done, raise the chisel to give the eyes a little bit of an eye brow. See how we did this on the right of figure 1. Finally, bend the arms, ensuring that two in the back can go fairly flat against a wall. Notice that the one on the left has the ends of the arms curled to the outside for easy removal of items, while the one on the right follows how actual octopi curl up their arms. If your key rings are fairly large, this works.