

Water Lily

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In a previous article I gave an account of making a daisy. In this article you find an account of making a water lily. For the daisy, the bloom center was screwed to the stem, which is somewhat unsatisfying. I built the lily so as to experiment with further ways to attach a bloom to a stem.



Figure 1: Water lily

For materials, I used a 3½" by 3½" piece of sheet metal, about 1/8" thick and what I believe to be a railroad screw tie, which I won at one of our iron-in-the-hats.

Figure 3 shows the pattern that you need to cut (reduced by about 25% so that it fits on this page.) It helps to round out the space between the petals with an angle grinder. Once cut, you are ready to forge the bloom into shape. Begin by progressively flattening the petals. This will give the edges a more delicate appearance and will widen the petals. This step will also close up the space between the petals.

In order to form the cup shape of the bloom, I cut a hole, about an 1¼" wide into a piece of pine and used it as a swage block. The spoon form of a swage block works well to round out the petals.

The center hole needs to be cut so that it fits the stem snugly. As a matter of fact, I drilled the hole before forging the bloom. When I formed the center cup, the hole was enlarged and a slight lip formed on the inside.



Figure 2: Back of lily

This proved to be useful when attaching the stem to the bloom. Forge the tie so that there is a tight fit to the bloom hole. In order to shape the head of the tie, I used a combination of grinding and forging. Cut a slight ridge into the stem, right where the bloom hole would end up. Heat up the bloom and tap it near the hole so as to make it slightly smaller in diameter. After another heat, assemble the bloom onto the stem and tap the lip of the bloom into the ridge of the stem. The result can be seen in figure 2.

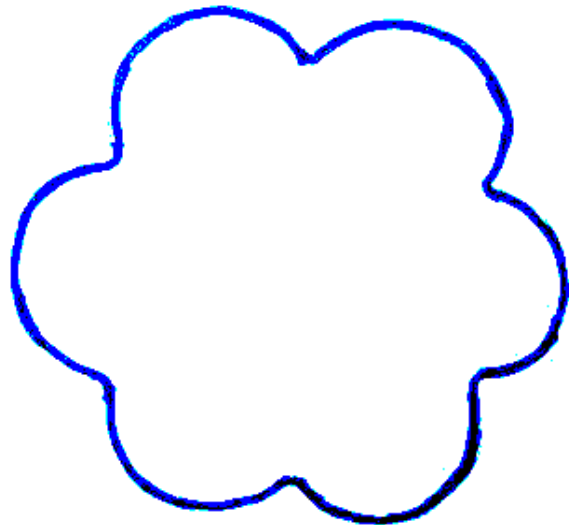


Figure 3: Bloom pattern (reduced by 25%)