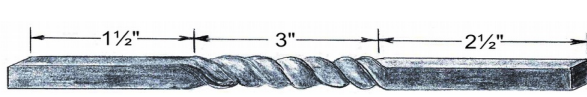


LETTER OPENER

After S. Higgins and A. Kazarian

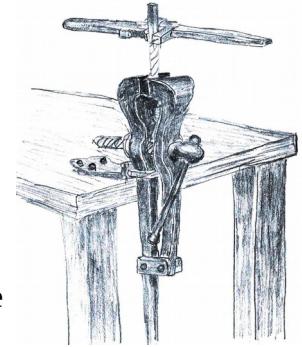


Stock: Mild steel, $\frac{3}{8}$ inch / 9mm square bar, 7 inches / 18 cm length.



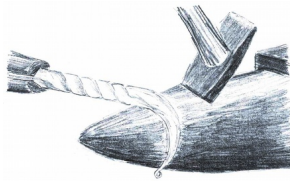
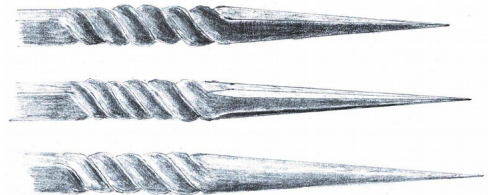
Measure and mark the bar $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches / $6\frac{1}{2}$ cm from one end, and make another mark $1\frac{1}{2}$

inches / 4 cm from the other end mark, leaving 3 inches / $7\frac{1}{2}$ cm between them. Twist the bar between the marks.

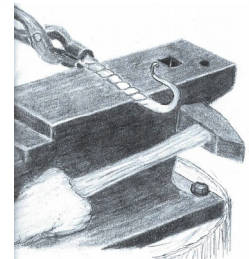


Make a square taper on the end with the shorter untwisted portion, the entire length of the untwisted portion. Flatten the corners to make it an octagonal taper, then round it (square-octagon-round).

Using glancing blows over the edge of the anvil, make a small safety curl on tip of long round taper, facing one of the edges of the other end.



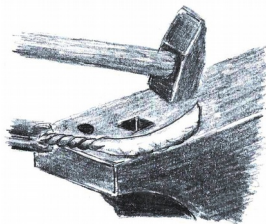
Curl the tip just below safety curl towards the curl, then curl above that opposite direction to make an elephant's trunk curl. This curl and the twist form the handle, and should also be aligned with an edge (for option 2 below) or a flat (for options 1 and 3).



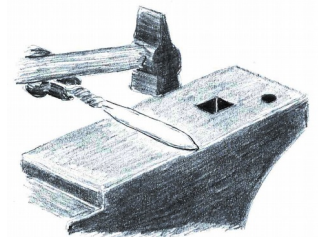
Square taper the other end of the piece, about 1 inch / $2\frac{1}{2}$ cm of taper.

Flatten this end, up to the twist. Options:

1. Flatten on the diagonal with standard hammer blows, spreading the blade in all directions evenly. Results in a serviceable letter opener with a straight pointed blade.



2. Flatten on the flat at the edge of the anvil with angled hammer, one edge of blade only, alternating sides but keeping same blade edge at edge of anvil. Results in a slightly curved single-edged blade, but still a serviceable letter opener.



3. Flatten on the diagonal at the edge of the anvil with angled hammer, alternating sides and edges between heats. Results in a central ridge with thinner edges, more like a dagger blade, but still a serviceable letter opener.