The Natural Angle

Volume 17: Issue 1

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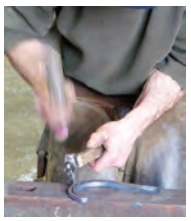
Fullering Technique

Crossover or Inline?

Roy Bloom recently talked with us about fullering or creasing styles in forging or modifying shoes. This conversation was precipitated by some steel handled tools that were damaged and returned for inspection. It has also been a topic in Roy's clinics for many years and it is certainly debatable as to which of the two common fullering techniques may work better for you.

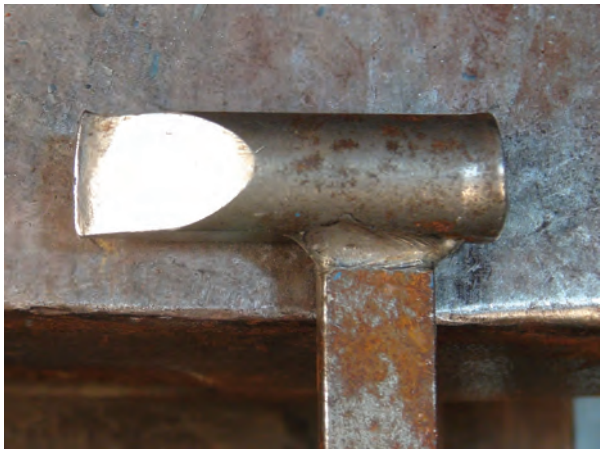
We're going to use the terms "Crossover" and "Inline" to describe the two most common styles Roy discussed. We termed Crossover to mean the fullering tool is positioned on the branch of the shoe that is furthest from the hammer hand; in effect, crossing over one branch of the shoe to fuller the other. Inline fullering would be the opposite; positioning the fullering tool on the branch nearest the hammer hand. The decision on style used will dictate what fuller you buy - regardless of the marking of left or right on the tools. Keep that in mind when you shop for a fuller - especially steel handled.

CROSSOVER



INLINE

We asked a number of top competitors why they worked predominantly with one style or the other. It wasn't too surprising to hear that it all depended on how they were taught; whether it was in shoeing school or in following



LEFT HANDER USED THIS IN CROSSOVER STYLE. NOTE DAMAGE TO FULLER END.

FOUR TOOLS ALL USED IN CROSSOVER STYLE. TWO TOOLS USED BY RIGHT HANDER, TWO BY LEFT HANDER. IF YOU LOOK CAREFULLY YOU CAN SEE ALL WERE STRUCK OFF CENTER.

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mentors or clinicians like so many things we do in work and life in general. It is also clear, with a lot of practice and development of hand-eye coordination either style can work very well. We have attended a lot of forging competitions and know that many of the top competitors use a Crossover style rather than the Inline. They have spent thousands of hours working on their skills and hand-eye coordination to reach the top levels and if they had any difficulty in the beginning, hard work and experience obviously got them past it.

Roy talked about two key disadvantages of using the Crossover style for someone just starting in forging. The steel handled tools pictured in this article were all used by novice level farriers working in the Crossover style. This style requires an extremely skilled level of hammer control to be certain you are striking the center of the tool. The tendency is to lean the tool away from you and that forces the hammer swing to come from a less balanced position, with the elbow further away from the body. Your swing has to take the hammer in an arc that is not easy to gauge when starting out. Not to say that you won't learn to compensate as you develop your hand-eye coordination, but in the early stages, this is a complicating factor and the reason why you see the damage to these steel handle tools. They have been struck on one side of the tool, not in the center. And it is always the side of the tool nearest your body. The more serious damage is what then happens to the working end of the tool as you can see with the deformation of the end of the fullers.

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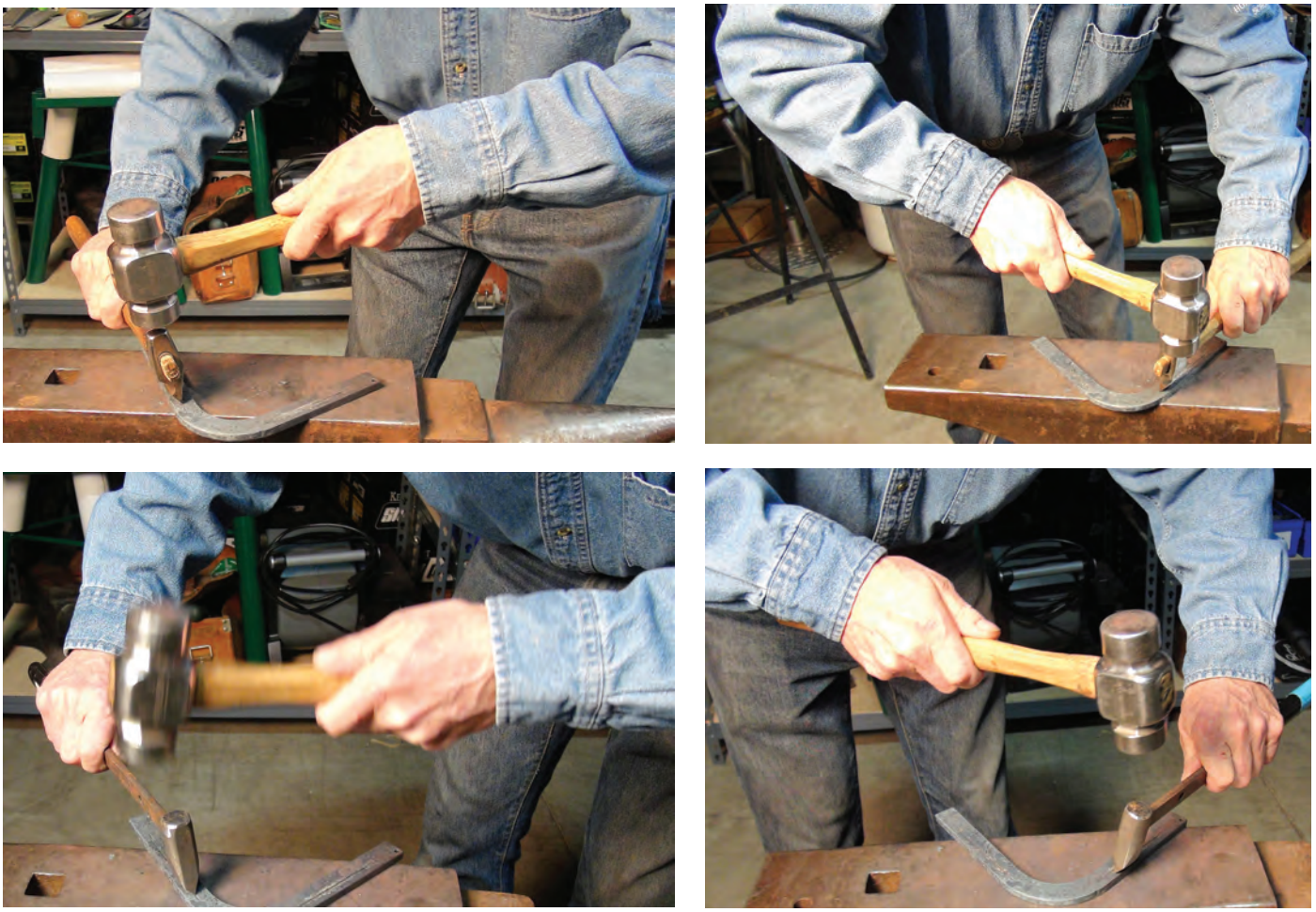

ABOVE: LEFT AND RIGHT HAND CROSSOVER STYLE. LOOK CLOSELY AT THE POSITION OF THE ELBOWS IN RELATION TO THE BODY.

BELOW: LEFT AND RIGHT HAND INLINE STYLE. LOOK CLOSELY AT THE POSITION OF THE ELBOWS IN RELATION TO THE BODY.

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The reduced control of the hammer swing is probably the primary drawback for using the Crossover style in your early stages of forging. Second to that is the reduction of power or force that occurs when the struck tool is further away from your body and your hammer arm is also not centered with the blow. Note the position of both elbows in the various pictures of the two styles. As a rule, the Inline style keeping the elbows closer to your center will maximize the control and power behind the hammer blow. This is just food for thought. If you are experiencing any difficulties keeping your struck tools in good shape, you may want to consider these ideas. n

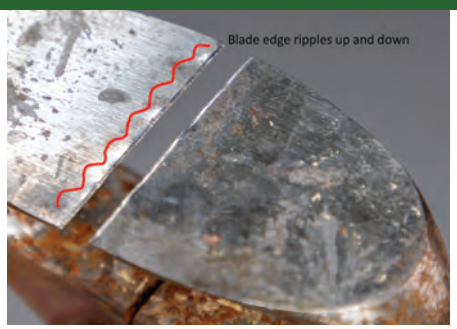
Check out Roy's videos on YouTube for more ideas on tool

HOOF NIPPER WARRANTY
What You Should Know

Warranty images and details apply to all brands sold by FPD. Photos courtesy GE Tools.

BLADE DEFECTS **COVERED** UNDER WARRANTY

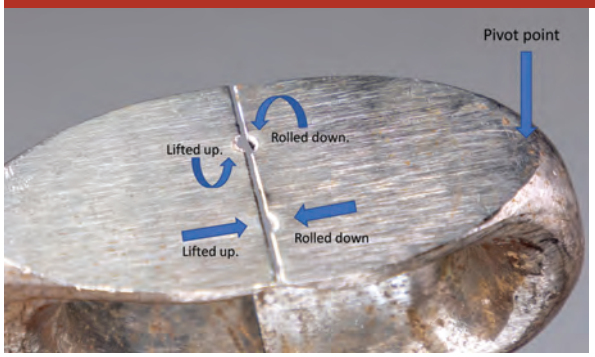
In this photo, the blade of the tool appears to have "flaked off" a layer of steel – or delaminated. This is considered an error in the forging and therefore is covered under the warranty.



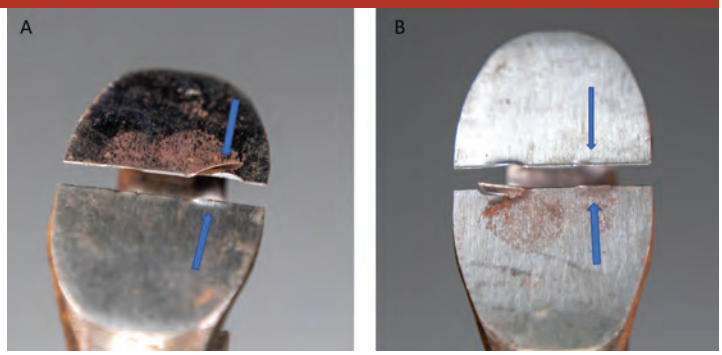
In this photo, both blades of the Nipper are "rippled" and most likely a result of soft or thin blades. This defect is covered under the warranty.

In this photo, one blade is in good condition and the other is severely damaged, indicating there was a heat treat issue on one of the blades. This defect is covered under warranty.

BLADE DAMAGE **NOT COVERED** UNDER WARRANTY



In this photo, one blade is lifted up; the other blade is rolled down. This indicates the user tried to pull an object by pivoting the pull on one side of the Nipper head. The hole is round and displays multiple attempts. The rest of the nipper blade is in good condition. A hoof nipper is not designed to pull objects. The hoof nipper is designed to cut the hoof of an animal. This damage is not covered under warranty.



In both Photos A & B the blades of the nipper are lifted in the area of concern. Note the area in question resembles a specific shape, i.e. Photo B resembles the head of a horseshoe nail. There are multiple attempts and the shape is similar to each other (Photo B). A large piece remains on the tool; appearing that someone attempted to pull out a large object. This damage is not covered under warranty.

OTHER DAMAGE **NOT COVERED** UNDER WARRANTY

Never apply heat to the tool. The damage will not be covered under warranty.

REBUILDS FOR **NORMAL WEAR**

A hoof nipper, with "normal" wear, can typically be rebuilt two times. Depending on the size of the Nipper, in some cases they can be rebuilt as many as three times. The 15" Nipper can be rebuilt up to three times with "normal" wear.

NORMAL WEAR INCLUDES:

- Blades worn back evenly
- The corners slightly rounded back
- No chips, cracks or holes

Vettec Improvements

by Larkin Greene

Twenty two years ago, Vettec introduced advanced urethane adhesives to the equine market aimed at restoring compromised hoof structure as well as protecting and supporting the foot in ways that had not yet been realized.

SUPERFAST CUSTOM SHOE WITH EQUIPAK POUR-IN PAD

With the development of pour-in pads and rapid setting repair materials, most would agree that Vettec created a revolution not seen since the introduction of the keg shoe. Farriers no longer had to cobble together adhesives from construction, automotive, and marine applications, though it did make for some interesting stories. With materials specifically designed for equine applications, farriers could do two things that were previously all but impossible: quickly and reliably put foot back on a horse, and protect soles and frogs without the need for a physical pad.

Polyurethanes are well suited to equine applications because they are very durable, can withstand both stress and strain as well as impact, and are exceptional at attenuating vibration. Unlike methacrylates, urethanes are non-flammable, produce almost no vapor, and do not chemically attack the substrate (hoofwall) in order to achieve a high strength bond. Add in the 30 to 60 set time, and it opens up a world of possibilities.

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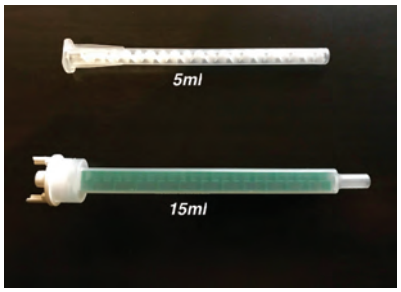
Pour-in pads became popular for four reasons: Protection, support, vibration dampening, and quick, easy application. As a durable, yet flexible protective layer, a horse in challenging terrain can step on the sharpest rock without even knowing it, promoting more confidence, and curbing hesitant behaviors. The ability to vary fill levels, and create enhancements like frog support and stepped pours gives practitioners more options for successfully treating therapeutic situations like caudal heel pain, laminitis, founder, and navicular syndrome. Full fills provide horses more physical surface area to stand on, and more surface area for distributing weight, helping to ease the load on the perimeter hoof wall. Partial and combo pours provide options for supporting specific areas with firm materials while cushioning more sensitive structures with softer formulations. More recently, pour in pad materials have been used to customize hoof boots to improve internal fit and eliminate the shifting so often associated with lost boots. Boots can also be modified externally with wedging and extensions, making them a good option as a removable therapeutic device.



VETTEC 5ML MIX TIPS COMPARED TO 15ML TIPS FOR 200ML CARTRIDGE

ABOVE: EQUIPAK CS WITH KERCKAERT SSP

Materials like Adhere and Superfast offer many ways to augment a shoeing package, or restore the foot itself with less complicated methods. Aside from repairs that are capable of holding nails and clinches, these materials are great

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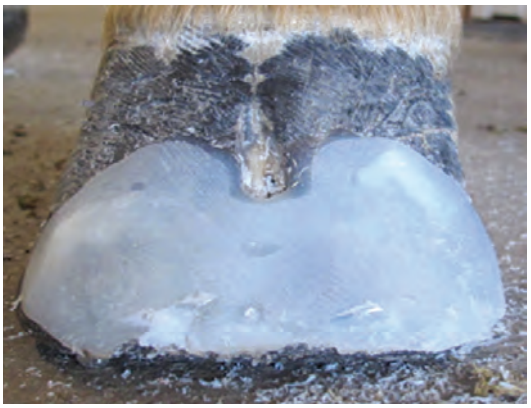
for glueing on steel, aluminum, and synthetic shoes, or for building a custom shoe directly on the foot in a matter of a few minutes. Heel angle corrections, and elevations are a breeze with the simple application of a bead from the heel buttress tapered into the toe quarter; with the stroke of a rasp, the desired pastern alignment can be easily achieved. The superior bond and speed of SuperFast means that foal extensions can be customized, layered, and altered throughout the treatment phase rather than simply glueing on a pre-made cuff. And if something on the rig breaks, chances are pretty solid that it can be fixed without the need for baling wire and duct tape. n

WHEN A HORSE DESTROYS YOUR HOOFJACK BUT THERE'S A VETTEC REPRESENTATIVE NEARBY



SUPERFAST TOE REINFORCEMENT/ REPAIR

THE NATURAL ANGLE is published to provide you with new and useful information about the industry. It is published through a cooperative effort of Vector and Liberty Horseshoe Nails, Bloom Forge, FPD, Kerckhaert Shoes, Vettec, Bellota, Mercury and your supplier.

If you have questions, comments or ideas concerning the articles published in the Natural Angle, please contact your distributor. We welcome your input. *The Natural Angle* is designed and edited by Graphic Response. n

Kerckhaert SX-8 Horseshoes - Unclipped Available at Monetta Farrier Specialties

The Kerckhaert SX-8 horseshoe was designed to meet demand for shoes punched for City head nails. The SX-8 is a 5/16" thick shoe with graduated widths. These shoes are popular for trail, jumping, dressage and ranch work. Punched for 5 City, 5 Slim or 5 Combo, the Kerckhaert SX-8 horseshoes are symmetrical and have sole relief on fronts.

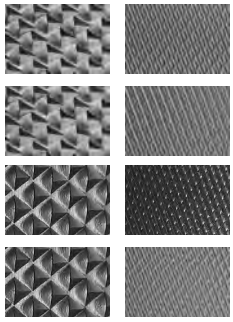
Liberty Cu Horseshoe Nails with Copper (Cu) Shield Technology

In addition to all of the same great features of the regular Liberty nail Liberty Cu horseshoe nails include Copper (Cu) Shield Technology. This technology provides more protection than traditional horseshoe nails. Hoof wall, white line and sole are stronger and healthier when Liberty Cu nails are used on a daily basis. The Copper (Cu) Shield Technology is unique to Kerckhaert and Liberty Cu horseshoe nails. ***Ask us about Libtery Cu Nails!***

Kerckhaert Classic Roller Clipped Horseshoes

This half round style actually boasts more ground surface than a true half round but you get the full benefit of ease of breakover that half round shoes are noted for. Easy fitting and great base of support, the Kerckhaert Classic Roller is available in quarter clipped or toe clipped fronts (symmetrical) and side clipped hind.

Bellota – Rasps Built to Perform



Classic - Aggressive rasp cut and Smooth file side

Top Sharp and Mini Rasp – Aggressive rasp cut and Intermediate file side

Razor Plus – Very Aggressive rasp cut and Coarse file side

Raptor – Very Aggressive rasp cut and Coarse file side

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