



Sofa Sounds

Southern Ohio Forge and Anvil

Newsletter

October, 1993

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Unless otherwise noted all meetings will be held at the Studebaker Frontier Homestead on St. Rt. 202 about four miles north of I-70 and two miles south of the intersection of St. Rt. 571 and 202. Please do not park in the grass or block access to a production area. Donations of items to support the newsletter are always welcome. Finger food and cold drinks provided on a break even, honor donation basis. The forges at the homestead are available before and after the meeting for individual projects. Bring and wear safety glasses. Demonstrations are open to the public and are no charge. Meetings start at 1:00 PM

Upcoming Events:

November 6, 1993	SOFA MEETING at the Studebaker Homestead. Demonstrator will be Ron Turpin doing the Mystery Twist Braided Iron Handle
December 4, 1993	SOFA MEETING at the Studebaker Homestead. Demonstrator will be Don Witzler forging silver (no, not the Lone Ranger's horse)
January 8, 1993 Note Date Change	SOFA MEETING at the Studebaker Homestead. Demonstrator will be Announced later.
February 5, 1993	SOFA MEETING at the Studebaker Homestead. Demonstrator will be Dick Franklin demonstrating basic blacksmithing.

President's Note from Ron Thompson:

Well, another successful Quad-State is behind us, unfortunately the last one at Emmert and Jane's great facility. We don't have the final figures as yet but it is no doubt the largest Roundup yet. The year before was in the neighborhood of 700 attendees. This year we had about 800 or better - I have about 6 hours work remaining to get the walk-ins loaded into the computer before we will have the final figure - and this is growth of about 15%. What a fun time. I had several comments about the high quality of the demonstrators and the diversity of their presentations. Of course, that is exactly what we were trying to do. Hope you all had as much fun as I did.

During the event, I didn't have enough time to acknowledge all of the people who helped us put on the show, since most people are interested in getting the demonstrations going and not interested in listening to business. Some of the key players behind the scenes were:

Ruth Studebaker who prepared all of the registration packets, name badges, and checked people in from Friday afternoon solid right through Sunday without hardly even a break. In the process she also took the money for coal sales. My wife, Judy, helped her some and Hans worked right next to her the whole time, and other than my mistakes - or the post office's - registration was a smoothly operating function.

Ron Van Vickle - who ran the forklift, did a million miscellaneous things, supplied the PA system, and helped with the auction.

Dave Englesman and Ham Hammond - who with Ron put on the auction.

Joe Van Vickle who helped set up, was my flag raiser every morning - while I tried to blow myself up with the cannon - and was our resident Emergency Medical Technician.

Larry Gindlesperger - who organized and ran a very successful spouse's program and volunteered to drive the knife grinder we borrowed for Keith Kilby back to Jerry Geier's first thing Monday morning. Marge Gindlespreger cooked breakfast for the demonstrators.

Jerry Geier - who loaned us his thousand dollar knife grinder without even a second thought even though he was not able to attend the conference. That's a mark of a true friend to SOFA.

The danger of naming anyone is that I'll leave someone out who significantly contributed and I apologize now for doing so. There were many others who helped us put on a successful show and I want to thank them all.

We did honor Ken Scharabok with a token of our appreciation - a nice Blacksmith clock handmade by Orville Weatherhead - but this is only a token of the value Ken has been to us. This was the eighth conference in a row, by my estimate, that Ken has served us as Conference Chairman. He has asked us to find a replacement, no small task, but has offered to share his knowledge and skill on conference chairing with anyone who accepts.

And that brings up the subject of our future conferences. The IBA guys always used to say to me that we were very fortunate to have a group in SOFA that would share the load, get long with each other, and have some fun doing it. We recognized that fact and agreed that we were very lucky. The Larry Woods, Hans Peots, Dick Franklins, Ken Scharaboks, Ron Van Vickles, and all of the others made it easy and fun. Paul Moffet of IBA told me that successful growth of a club intimidates those who would chose to follow because they think it is too much work and would be too hard to match the success. I think it is true that it intimidates but untrue that the new leaders could not match the success. The problem comes when the number sharing the load drops to where the remaining work becomes too much for the few remaining.

In order for us to continue to have a roundup we need 4 or 5 additional SOFA members to assume the leadership role for the future of the club. The following jobs are open:

- Newsletter Editor - Hans and I have been sharing the duties.
- Conference Chairman - Ken Scharabok's position. Ken has written out a summary procedure.
- Registration Chairman - Han's did this job assisting Ruth this year.
- Treasurer/Secretary - Han's took over this assignment from Ron Van Vickle.
- Video Coordinator - I did this again this year. Arranging for video tapes to be made of the demonstrations and making copies for the ones who did the taping. SOFA only has one video unit and we had five other demonstrators. I did this last year and did not get all the copies made for those who taped and so I had some mad people. One of the blacksmiths called me a dirty double crosser. Being unsure of the meaning I looked it up in Webster's unabashed dictionary and it said "One who crosses the ocean twice without bathing". I haven't been near the ocean.
- Program Chairman - Prepare the send out document. I did this job the last few years.
- Spouses Program - Larry Gindlesperger did this year.
- Computer List Chairman - I did this job this year taking over from Dick Franklin. Requires a 386 or better computer.
- Sales Chairman - T-shirts, gloves, hats. We have had a request from a member to assume the coal sales since Emmert no longer wants to sell coal, but we cannot assume additional duties since we cannot get enough help to do the present jobs. Hans has been doing this assignment also. Do you see a pattern developing here?

If we do not get some additional names for the jobs above by December of this year other than Hans and Ron there will be no Quad-State in 1994. Period. As Ross Perot says "Its as simple as that". We get good volunteer help during the event but the rest of the year we need some leadership. With a membership of 400 this should not be a problem. The present board will continue to negotiate with the local fair board, attempt to get resolution of the new location, construct a new building before next summer, and make the move. If the membership declines to keep the present level of activity, we will reduce services - at least for a while. That is, no Quad-State in 1994, no further sales of any items, and a reduced newsletter schedule until after the move.

On a lighter note, I heard about a blacksmith who made a forged cobweb that he placed on the ceiling of his shop. It was so realistic his wife spent three hours trying to get it down. My wife said she found that hard to believe. I told her Blacksmiths have been known to do such things. She said "Maybe, but their wives haven't".

The Man Who Didn't Know

W. O. B.

"Ever notice how many things that you thought couldn't be done are being done by some chap who didn't know they couldn't be done."

—Heats, Sparks, Welds—December, 1912

"It cannot be done—at least not that way."
But the man, with a chuckle, replied:
"I really don't know, so I cannot say,
An' I never will know 'till I've tried."
So he waded right in
With the trace of a grin
On his face—if he worried he hid it,
An' he started to sing
As he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done, and he did it.

Somebody cried: "Oh! you'll never do that.
At least no one ever has done it."
But he took off his coat and he took off
his hat,
And the first thing they knew he'd
begun it.
With a lift to his chin
And a bit of a grin
He begun—if in doubt, why he hid it,
As he tackled the thing
He just started to sing—
"It couldn't be done"—but he did it.

There are thousands who say: "It cannot be done."

There are thousands to say: "You will fail."

There are thousands to point out to you one by one

The dangers that await to assail.

But you just butt in—

On your face stick a grin—

Take off your coat and go to it.

Just whistle or sing

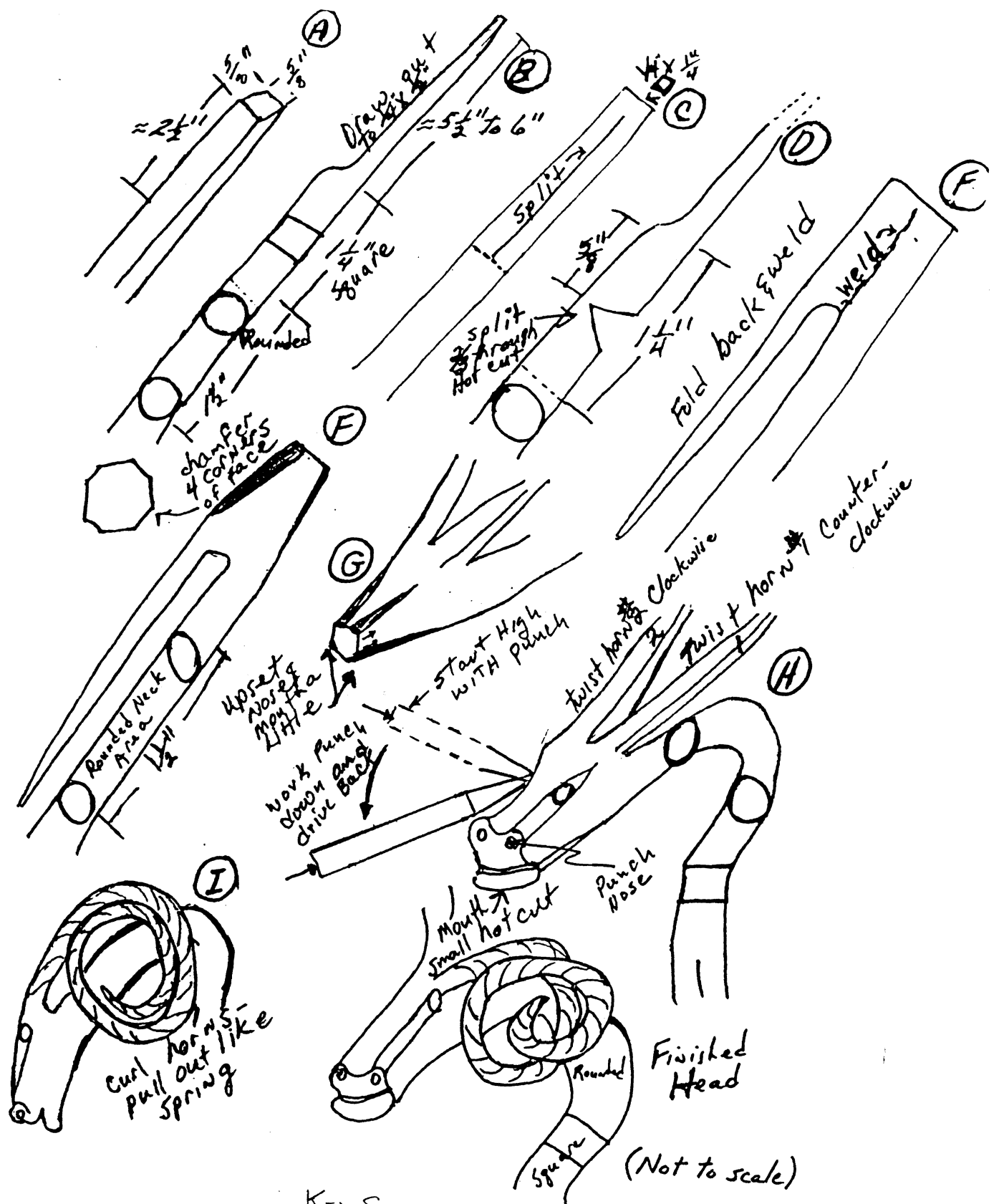
As you tackle the thing

That cannot be done, and then do it.



At the August meeting Ken Scharabok demonstrated making a Ram's Head Poker. This is Ken's specialty and he did a spectacular job. Ken began by stating that he uses 5/8" square bar to make his ram's heads. He also uses charcoal instead of coal. The charcoal was actually charred wood instead of charcoal briquettes. He used most of a large bag (as he stated \$ 7.00 of a \$12.00 bag). The charcoal continues to burn even with no blast of air from the forge. The danger of burning the metal appears to be quite low using charcoal. (Ed. Note: John Kocernik demonstrated using a metal barrel to make your own supply of charcoal from any hardwood at the Quad-State and he promised to write the procedure up and send it to me for a future Sofa Sounds. How about it John? Its really a slick easy procedure.)

Instead of redrawing the steps in making the ram's head, one of Ken's previous drawings was modified from a previous issue of SOFA Sounds back when he was the editor. There are some minor improvements which Ken has made over the years and are as follows: In step "C" he doesn't split the horns all the way to the end so they stay together until he gets ready to work the horns. The other change is how he forms the eyes with the eye punch. He starts it lower on the nose with the punch more vertical to the nose and then moves the punch down more parallel to the nose to raise the eye as shown in step "H". In step "I" he uses a wooden mallet to curl the horns into a tight spiral. (notes by Hans Peot)



KEN SCHARABOK'S RAM'S HEAD

Here is the current listing of tapes in our library. The fee for renting, mailers, and instructions can be had from Hank.

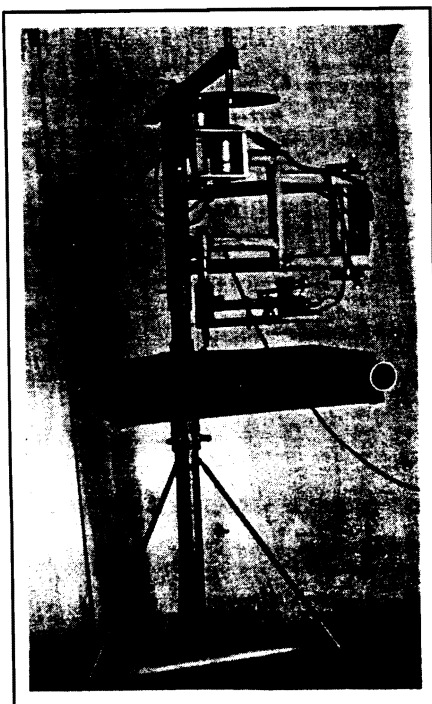
SOFA VCR Tape Library List
Hank Steinmetz - Librarian (513)548-9084
6725 Clifton Rd., Greenville, OH 45331

4. BILL MORAN Demo at Knoxville knife Show 1987 nat. Knife Museum
5. Quad-State Roundup Sept. 23, 24, 25, 1989
7. LARRY GINDLESPERGER & EMMERT STUDEBAKER Gordian/Clayton Knot 12/2/89
13. BOB CRUIKSHANK Quick Sale Craft Items SOFA Demo 6/90
16. CHARLIE FULLER Beginning Blacksmithing Q-State Sept. 1990
17. CHARLIE FULLER Intermediate Blacksmithing Q-State Sept. 1990
18. JERRY DARNELL Colonial Hardware Quad-State Day One
20. JIM BATSON Bladesmithing Quad-State 1990 Part 1
21. JIM BATSON Bladesmithing Quad-State 1990 Part 2
22. JIM BATSON Bladesmithing Quad-State 1990 Part 3
23. ABANA Conference 1990 Williamsburg Smiths - Fireplace tools
26. BRIAN THOMPSON Baby Spoons & Heart Shaped Candle Holders SOFA Nov. 90
29. BOB CRUIKSHANK Kerosene Lamp Holder SOFA Demo 1/91
32. DOUG FINK Techniques Using Angle Iron, Channel, and Pipe SOFA 11-90
33. JARESLAV VALEK Sculptured Bird SOFA Demo May 91
35. LARRY WOOD Drift Pin, Tongs, Pintle and Hinge SOFA Demo 7-91
37. RON TURPIN Iron and Steel S-Hooks SOFA Demo 9-91
39. HANK STEINMETZ & DON MUMFORD Adjustable Trammel - SOFA 11-91
40. RON THOMPSON & RON VAN VICKLE Making and Tempering Springs SOFA Demo 12-91
41. HANS PEOT Window Grille SOFA Demo 1-92
42. BOB BECKER Precision Forging - Quad-State 1991 Part 1
43. BOB BECKER Precision Forging - Quad-State 1991 Part 2
44. BILL CALLOWAY Quad-State 1991 Part 1 (NO SOUND FIRST HOUR)
45. BILL CALLOWAY Quad-State 1991 Part 2
48. JOHN JACOBS Candle Holder SOFA Demo 4-92
49. E&C MACHINE INC. Air Hammer Sales Promotion Tape
50. BOB CRUIKSHANK Early Style Door Latch SOFA Demo 2-92
51. CARBORUNDUM - FIBERFRAX (Gas Forge Lining Material) Safe Handling Practices Part 1
52. CARBORUNDUM - FIBERFRAX (Gas Forge Lining Material) Safe Handling Practices Part 2
53. MIKE DOWLER Faces on the corner of Square Stock SOFA Demo 5-92
54. ART HOLZ Filing and Making Things Look Old SOFA Demo 6-92
56. DON MUMFORD & HANK STEINMETZ Bending Fixtures and Pot Lifter SOFA 4-92
57. HERSEL HOUSE - Forging Gun Butt Plate/Trigger Guard Quad-State 92
58. CLAY SPENCER Treadle Hammer Techniques Quad-State 92 Part 1
59. CLAY SPENCER Treadle Hammer Techniques Quad-State 92 Part 2
60. DUTCH BLACKSMITH 91
61. DAN BOONE Dragon Heads & Flowers Quad-State 1992
62. COMPOSITE - DAN BOONE, HERSEL HOUSE, DOROTHY STIEGLER Part 1
63. DOROTHY STIEGLER Delicate Forging Quad-State 1992 Part 2
64. BOB CRUIKSHANK Fire Poker-Game Fork-Quilt Hanger SOFA Demo 1-93
65. DICK FRANKLIN Forge Welding SOFA Demo 9-92
67. HANS PEOT Making Tongs SOFA Demo 7-92
68. RON THOMPSON Making Pipe Tomahawk SOFA Demo 11-92
69. BRIAN THOMPSON Curtain Tie Back SOFA Demo 2-93
70. HANS PEOT Damascus Pattern Welded Steel SOFA Demo 3-93
71. RON THOMPSON Making a Copper Rose SOFA Demo 6-93
72. PAUL KUEHNLE-PAUL WOOD-MARK CUSAC SOFA Demos (old)
73. RICHARD KERNS - Tools and Screw Drivers SOFA Demo 5-93
74. LARRY WOOD Intermediate Blacksmithing Quad-State 1992 Day 2
75. BRAD SILBERBURG Quad-State 1992
76. BILL HAHN Beginning Blacksmithing Quad-State 1993 Day 1
78. MARTE CELLURA Sculpture and Repousse Quad-State 1993

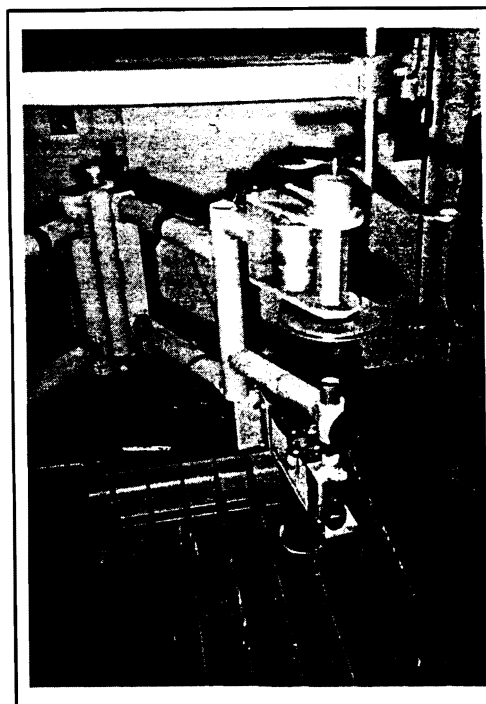
I was raising hell with everybody in sight at the second mistake in the dates that have been getting into the newsletters recently until I was reminded that the mistakes to everybody's recollection were mine.....oh.....moi?.....yes, yours!.....oh.....At the October meeting, held incidentally on October 2, 1993 instead of October, 3rd as stated in the last newsletter, Hans Peot demonstrated making and using a pattern burnout machine. Hans began by going through the basic construction of the unit, using all miscellaneous parts from his junk pile (Editor's note: Hans' junk pile seems to be considerably more high tech than mine....I mean, I got a few old pieces of wrought iron and). Basically, the unit consists of a stand made of pipe holding an articulated arm which could freely move in the x-y directions. Hans had used cheap ball bearings pressed into the pipe joints so the arm had virtually no friction. Attached to the end of the pivot arm was a dc servo motor driving a shaft that would follow a pattern. Hans had the shaft of the motor pass through a solenoid to magnetize it causing it to follow the outline of a metal pattern. Here's Hans' own description of his demo:

Hans Peot demonstrated a homemade Pattern Cutout Device. He stated that the plans for the device are available through the ABANA office. (Editor's note: another reason to join) He showed how the device was made with alternate designs that minimize the amount of lathe work required. The basic unit was fabricated from black iron pipe that came from a junk yard. The drive motor comes from a surplus center in Lincoln, NE for less than \$ 10. The transformers, bridge rectifiers, etc. are also available from the same company. As can be seen from the pictures the pantograph arms follow a pattern through a magnetized 1/4" shaft with the cutting torch mounted directly below the 1/4" shaft.

He demonstrated the device by cutting out a complex design in 3/16" material using a 00 tip on the torch. He also demonstrated cutting 1/2" steel plate using a number 1 tip. He had examples of 1" through 1 1/2" plate that he cut on the device. He stated that he had cut 2" material using a number 4 tip and about 80 psi oxygen pressure. The cutting oxygen is actuated by a solenoid that depresses the cutting lever on the torch (see picture). The patterns are cut out of 12 to 16 gauge sheet metal with a metal cutting bandsaw. The patterns are slightly smaller than actual size since the 1/4" follower places the cutting tip 1/8" outside the pattern.



Front View



View Looking Down on Cutting Table

During the preparation I was contacted by Claire Yellin, who informed me that she had read in our Quad-State brochure that George Dixon had been the head blacksmith at Samuel Yellin Metalworks until it closed. she wanted to inform me that the shop was still in business and had only moved from the original location. We are sorry for the error and wish her all the good fortune in the world. The new address and phone number are:

Samuel Yellin Metalworks
P.O. Box 24104
Philadelphia, PA 19139
The new phone number is (215)472-3122.

SOFA SOUNDS
c/o Ron Thompson
17166 Mason Rd.
Sidney, Ohio 45365



FIRST CLASS

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Membership Expires: 6 / 94