



## Forging a Scythe Blade from a Machete

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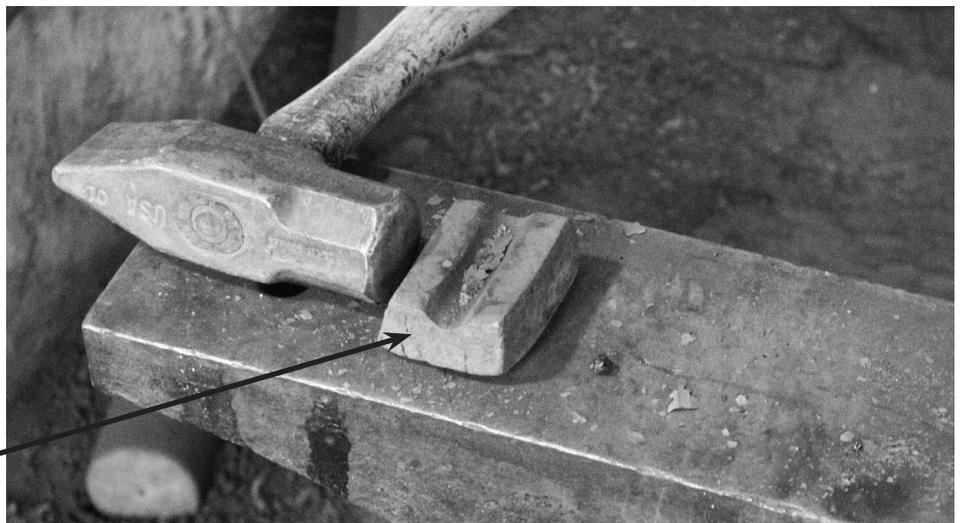
## Step 1: Annealing

Heat the machete to glowing red and cool it slowly to remove any hardness or brittleness.

## Step 2: Shaping the Blade

Hammer along the outside/cutting edge of the machete while hot to curve the blade. Once the curve is completed, hammer the outside edge into a groove or swedge block with a straight pein hammer, working along the full length of the blade to give it added rigidity.

Place hammer blows along full length of cutting edge of machete/outside edge of scythe blade.



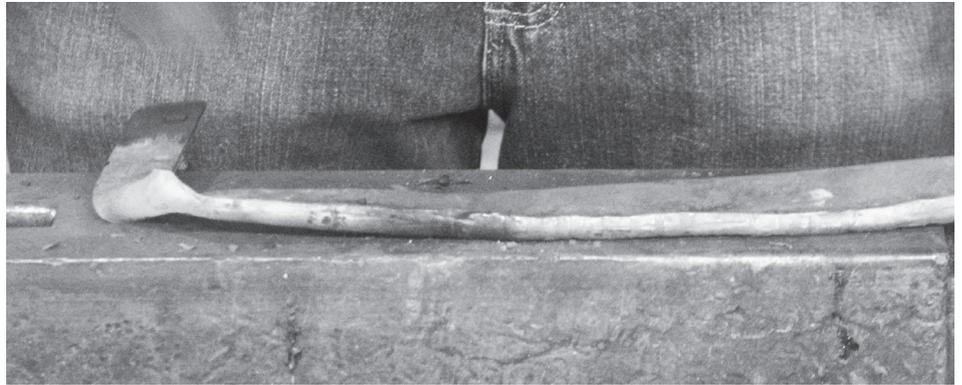
Swedge block



Use a straight pein to hammer the outside edge into a swedge block or groove, forming a bend along the full length of the blade.

## Step 3: Shaping the Handle

Fold over the handle portion such that it forms an approximate 90 degree angle to the blade. Welding or brazing a plate of mild steel over the handle before folding it will greatly improve the tool's strength and resilience. Welds must be annealed to prevent brittle spots. Form an upward pin at the base of the handle.



Inside edge, to be the scythe cutting edge.

Bent outside edge, former machete cutting edge.



Pin, bent at 90 degrees to the flat of the rest of the blade.



# Tillers' TechGuide: Forging a Scythe Blade from a Machete

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## Step 4: Sharpening

Grind a sharp edge along the inside curve of the blade, sharpening it from the underside.

