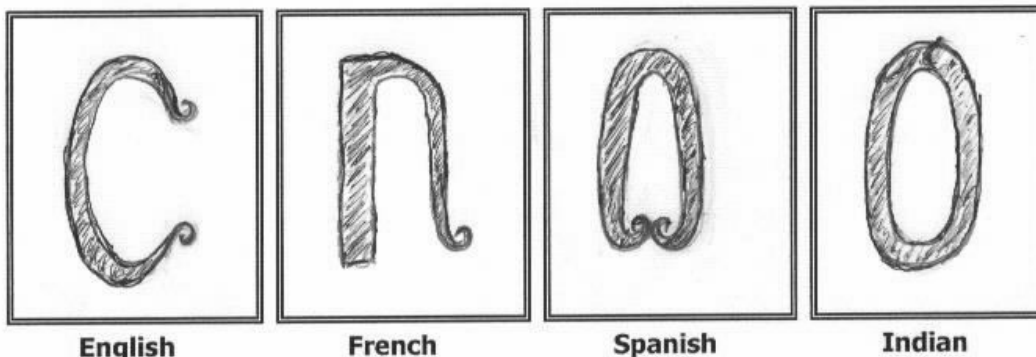


Striker for Flint & Steel Fire Making By: Buster Grubbs



English

French

Spanish

Indian

1. Find a piece of good high carbon tool steel. I have made strikers using files, tire tools, allen wrenches, rakes and many other worn out and discarded tools.
2. Heat to bright red in a coal forge and forge into a bar approximately 3/16" X 1/2" X 6" long.
3. Taper each end for the English and Spanish style strikers at a cherry red.
4. Make a curl at each end by hanging the tip off the edge of the anvil and tapping down on the point to start curl rolling. Flip over and hang off the edge. Tap the beginning curl toward you to finish rounding out the curl. This can be done with needle nose pliers.
5. Heat again and form the "C" shape over the horn of the anvil. You can slightly cool the curls in water to hold the shape while forming the "C".
6. Straighten on the face of the anvil while red.
7. To harden – bring striker to critical temperature (to the point where a magnet will not attach to the striker) and submerge in luke warm water. Move the striker in the water as if cutting with a knife to remove air bubbles.
8. Polish striking face with sandpaper.

9. Optional temper – If the striker is so hard that it breaks your flint, you can place it on the oven rack while you are baking at 350 to 400 degrees. Watch the polished face and when it's color changes from shiny to bronze, remove from oven and set aside to cool. This takes about 30 to 45 minutes. Don't worry if you leave it in the oven to long and it won't throw sparks. Go back to the shop and harden again.

Notes:

- ✓ **Always forge tool steel at cherry red to medium orange. Below red will cause fractures. A little above orange and it will burn the metal.**
- ✓ **Always forge strikers in a coal forge. I know several blacksmiths that have made strikers in a gas forge and the strikers will not throw goods sparks.**
- ✓ **Use a piece of rolled solder to size for your hand. Straighten out and that is the length where your curls should be.**
- ✓ **If you want a black finish, spray lightly with flat black paint, then wipe or sand off the striking face.**
- ✓ **For more information on starting fire with flint and steel:
Book of Buckskinning II (ISBN# 0-9605666-2-7)**