

Bleihammer

Lead Hammer

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1. this is an old copper/cowhide hammer, and the leather insert is damaged (Picture 1).
2. So I pulled it out, using the vice on it, very tightly (Picture 2).
3. I wrapped a length of steel shim around it, securing it with a hoselock (Picture 3).
4. I melted a few scraps of lead in a ladle, using a propane torch. Observing safety, I did this outdoors (Picture 4).
5. The molten lead is poured carefully into the space enclosed by the steel shim (Picture 5) and levelled before setting (Picture 6).
6. After cooling the shim is removed (Picture 7).
7. Now I have 3 such hammers, different sizes (Picture 8).

It is especially advantageous to use a lead hammer to make gentle adjustments. I use it particularly when forging woodcarving gouges, so as not to leave hammer marks (I also use a wooden swage) it is easy to shape the lead to a convex profile (Picture 9). This does not last long, but is more forceful than a wooden mallet. This shows a gouge formed in 5 minutes after lighting the forge, 25 lead hammer blows. It is in my homemade benchtop swage block, which i did not use, in order not to gall the sides (Picture 10). This is the gouge cleaned up a bit. The colour is a reflection, it has not yet been hardened and tempered, only annealed (Picture 11).

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



In Use

9.



10.



11.

