

CONCAVE CHALLENGE TESTS SKILL, DELIVERS PRACTICALITY

Assess and improve on your forging skills while making a hind to help a horse that may pull a front shoe

By Craig Trnka,

For the 2021 Summit Mail-In Forging Exercise, I wanted to bring back concave as part of the challenge. When I choose a shoe for this contest, I want something that will test skill, but also something that is practical. The overall steps should have lessons practical for your everyday work, and hopefully have a shoe that can benefit some horses on your books.

I really like this diamond toe hind shoe. I used it in an earlier contest with the Florida State Farriers Association and

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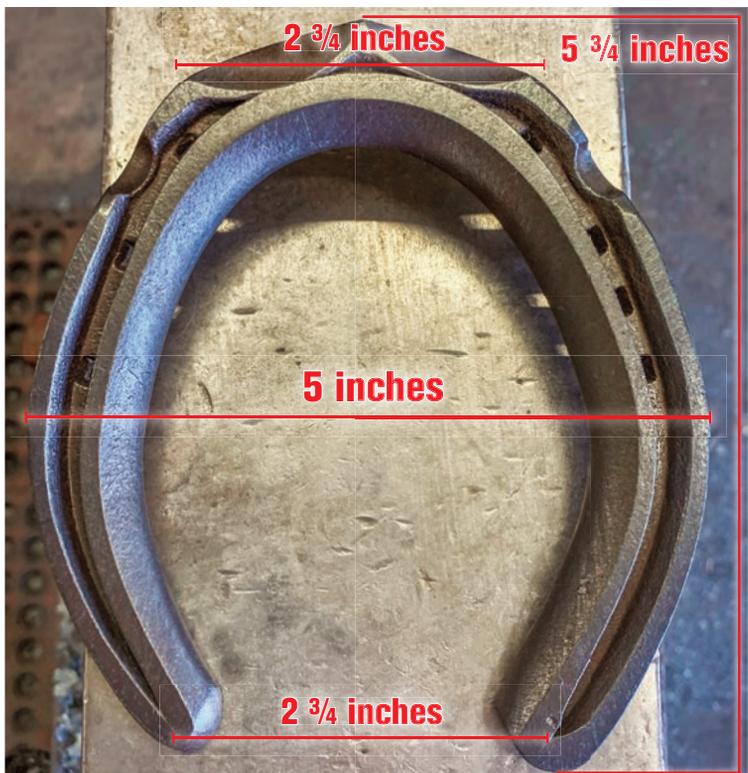
liked seeing how it challenged the farriers who entered. This is a beneficial shoe for a horse

that might grab a shoe on the diagonal, without taking foot length. I view this as a simple shoe, but I think it will force you to take multiple tries to get it right. This is a good shoe for self-evaluation.

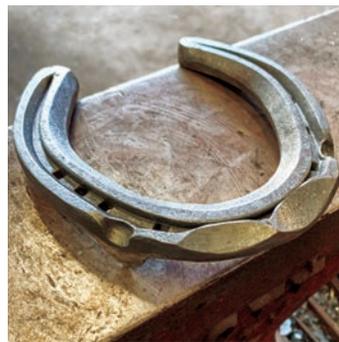
This is the seventh annual Summit Mail-In Forging Exercise. Thank you to VICTORY Racing Plate Co. for sponsoring this challenge again. You can watch a video of making this shoe at AmericanFarriers.com/Summitshoe. You'll improve your skills and earn a free T-shirt just for entering. You may win the buckle. But remember, it isn't about winning — it is about the journey. Good luck! 🍀



Craig Trnka is an International Horseshoeing Hall of Fame farrier based in Edgewood, N.M. He is an American Farrier's Association past president and the founder of the World Championship Blacksmiths.



Fit the Shoe with an E4 Nail



Sponsored by VICTORY, this forging exercise requires making this shoe. You have until Jan. 22, 2021, to mail your entry to and arrive at the AFJ office. Read instructions on how to enter on Page 52.

Dimensions (measurements): 5 inches at the widest part of the shoe, 5 3/4 inches from the heels to toe, 2 3/4 inches from the tip of one heel to the other and 2 3/4 from the medial edge of the scoop to the lateral edge of the scoops.

Step-By-Step



1. I start with 13 inches of $\frac{3}{8}$ - by $\frac{7}{8}$ -inch stock. I off set about $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch on lateral side



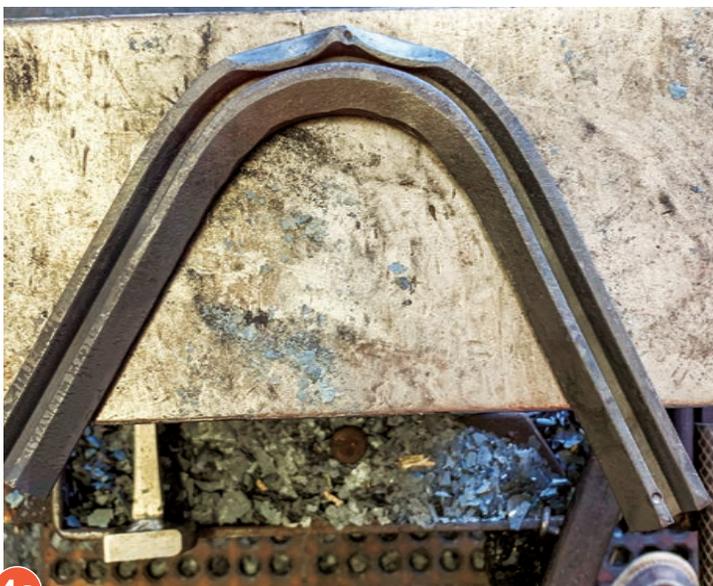
2. I upset the stock about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch.

3. Next, I forge the toe bend. One thing to remember if you don't work with concave is it might get blobby in a certain area, but will regain its nice lines as soon as you crack the toe.

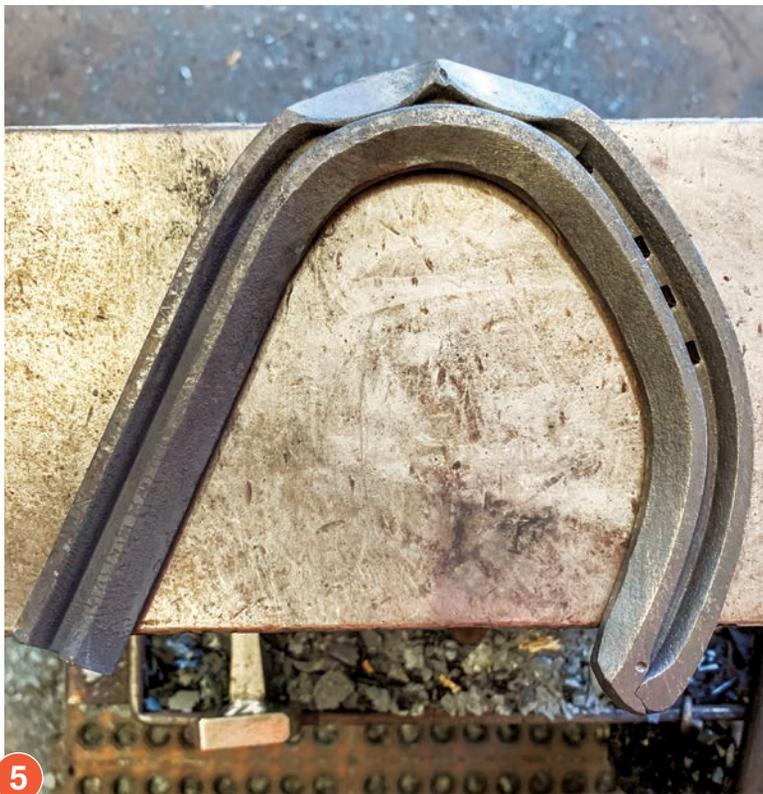


4a and 4b. To make the scoops, I start by folding the material on both sides of the center punch on the horn, making sure to only hit the ground surface edge. The corner of each scoop signifies the beginning and the end of the toe. The scoops have to be a certain size because they fill from the center punch mark to the beginning of the nail hole.

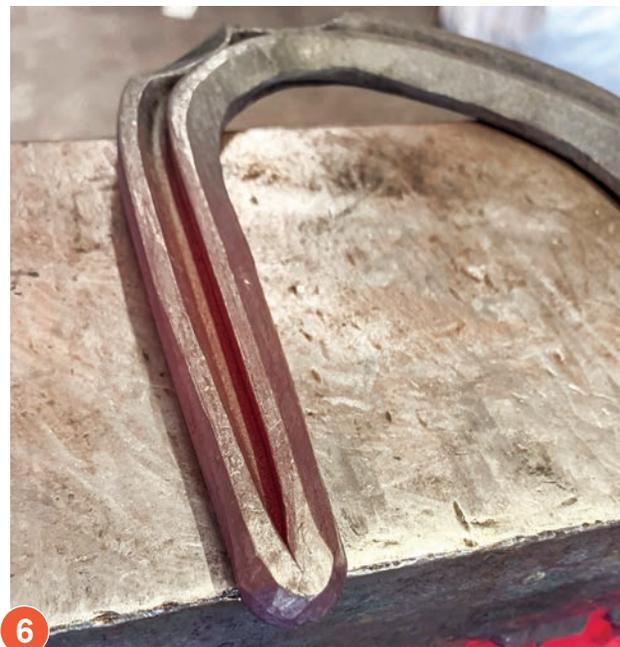
Next, I push down on the face of the anvil and use the round side of the hammer to hit the bottom of the scoop and pull the circumference back out. Earlier, I wrote that this is a simple shoe, but you will need more than one attempt. It requires putting two half-moon cups in the toe without wrecking the peripheral edge of the inside and outside web. This is where I think most mistakes happen. That's the secret of the bump – you are adding material to prevent wrecking the inside and outside web. You should be able to flip the shoe over and have it look like a regular hind shoe.



5. I then work on the lateral side and punch my nail holes.



6. Starting at where the heel nail will be, I fold material to where it brings the stock to the center of the width of stock. I'm only sweetening it up the top edge, not the whole piece of stock to maintain width of stock on the foot surface.



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7. I then finish the medial side and punch my nail holes.



8. I then draw my clips, using a cross pein to not disrupt the section. Then I clean up the shoe with a half-round.



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To watch a video of Craig Trnka discussing and making this specimen shoe, visit AmericanFarriers.com/0920

HOW TO ENTER

Step 1: Make the shoe as described here by Craig Trnka.

Step 2: Obtain and complete the entry form at AmericanFarriers.com/Summitshoe. If you are unable to download the form, contact *American Farriers Journal* at (262) 782-4480 to request a form to be sent in the mail.

Step 3: Send in the completed form and your shoe. Mail this entry form and your shoe to *American Farriers Journal*, Summit Mail-In Forging Exercise, 16655 W. Wisconsin Ave., Brookfield, WI 53045. Your entry must be received in the mail by Aug. 1, 2021.

If you are entering from outside the U.S., DO NOT assign a value to your shoe on the customs declaration form.

You can drop off your entry form and shoe at the WCB Fitchburg Contest registration area by 5 p.m., Aug. 4, 2021.

Step 4: Each contestant will receive a free commemorative T-shirt. The top finisher will earn a belt buckle and 2022 IHCS registration. Entries can be picked up at the WCB Fitchburg Contest. All other entries will not be returned.

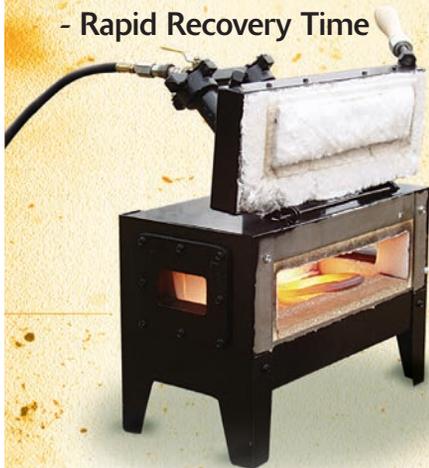
THE JUDGING CRITERIA

The steps for the shoe are guidelines to give you a starting point, but use your imagination to make it to the specs delivered. Matching these specs is most important. In terms of the judging criteria, I prioritize it as such:

- ◆ **Size.** If the shoe isn't the right size, it won't go on the foot I intended.
- ◆ **Flat.** After size, this is usually an area that has hurt the chances of winning for several entries each year.
- ◆ **Nail fit.** Use an E4 nail.
- ◆ **Maintaining stock.** I think this will challenge you with using more control.

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