

Foldforming

Foldforming is a technique of metalworking whereby metal is folded, repeatedly forged and annealed, and unfolded; at which stage it generally has a dramatic new three-dimensional form. While alternate spellings abound (e.g., fold-forming, fold forming, Foldforming, and even form-folding, the definitive book "Foldforming" by Charles Lewton-Brain consistently uses the spelling of foldforming as one lowercase word. [Wikipedia](#)

YOU WILL NEED:

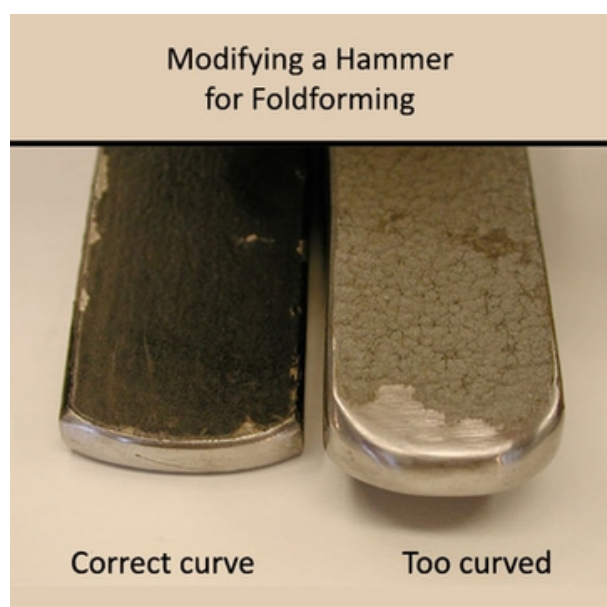
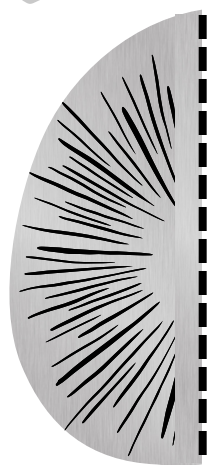
- Sheet metal, 0.8mm x 50mm x 50mm
- permanent marker
- rawhide mallet
- steel plate/block, chopping board
- raising hammer / riveting hammer for smaller items
- a strong steel dinner knife
- jewellers torch, quench pot, tweezers, safety pickle, water bath



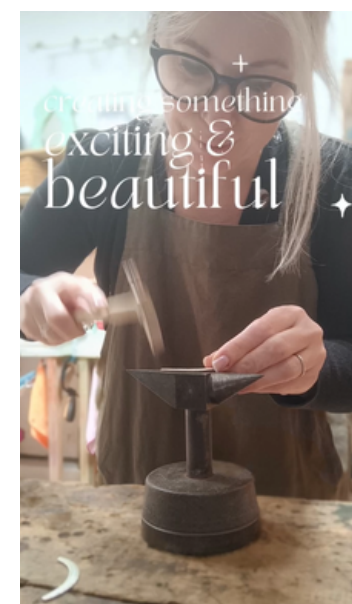
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HOW TO MAKE AN ORGANIC BOAT FOLD PENDANT

1. Consider the shape of the final design, with foldforming you may not get exactly what you expected so try and find a sense of freedom with this technique. Anneal, quench, pickle, rinse and thoroughly dry your metal. **Steel Hates Water!** Mark the midway point with a permanent marker where you intend to create the fold.
2. Line up the halfway point against a straight edge, a wooden chopping board works well as it doesn't mark like a metal edge of an anvil may. Use a raw hide mallet to strike one side down creating a right angle. Slowly, carefully continue to strike the metal so that it folds over itself. This creates the bent shape in the sheet metal.
3. Draw a radial pattern of guidelines from the centre of the piece, but avoid the fold (dotted line in diagram). Use a curved flat-ended hammer, similar to a raising hammer, a slight modification to an existing hammer would look like this the image below. This has been borrowed from www.foldforming.org.
4. Forge, strike the metal with the hammer starting at the top and work your way around the piece, Flip and repeat on the other side. Anneal to soften your metal for another round of forging. Continue until you have your desired effect, the spine (folded edge) will slowly begin to curve.
5. Use a steel edge to carefully wedge open the fold. When you have it open enough you can swap to a wider tool to continue to unfold the sheet metal revealing its form.
6. If you want to add texture or change the form anneal your piece once again and continue.



[Boat Fold](#)



[Teresa Foldforming Video](#)



FURTHER INFORMATION:
www.creativetherapy.space/resources

[Foldforming Hub](#)

Foldforming by Charles Lewton-Brain



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