Spur Making

Students will begin with pattern development and continue through the various processes of spur making. These include jig and fixture design and construction. Fabrication of spur parts, welding, grinding, sanding and finishing. Spurs built in this class should be of a simple design to allow time to complete the project.

Prerequisite: Tig welding skills are an asset, however they are not required.

Frank {Buddy} Knight was raised on a ranch south of Marfa, Texas and learned from his father and grandfather to appreciate quality gear. Early on he wanted to work with his hands and spur making was a perfect fit. He built his first pair of spurs in the Vocational Agriculture Shop at Marfa High School when he was fourteen.

His work has been displayed at The Trappings of Texas in The Museum of the Big Bend at Sul Ross State University Alpine, Texas, at The Western Folk Life Center in Elko Nevada, The Cowboy Classic in Phoenix Arizona, and The Trappings on the Llano at the Llano County Historical Museum in Llano, Texas. He demonstrated spur making at the 25th Texas State Folk Life Festival at the Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio, Texas.

Today Buddy operates a shop in Marfa, Texas. He produces bits, spurs, silver buckles, jewelry, and some ornamental iron.

Buddy Knight

List of tools needed for spur making class

1. Jewelers saw
2. 2/0 or 4/0 jewelers saw blades --- about a dozen
3. Assorted files with handles
   a. 6” or 8” half round
   b. 6” square
   c. 6” or 8” three square slim taper--- 2nd cut
   d. 8” or 10” flat
   e. 4” half round or flat
   f. 8 “ or 10” round
4. Hack saw
5. Layout dye
6. Scribe
7. Ball peen hammer
8. Stick or spray glue
9. 6” or 12” steel rule

Tools good to have but not necessary
1. Dye grinder with 3/8” radius end burr
2. Dremel tool with 3/8” or ¼” sanding drum and 60 grit sanding bands

**Materials needed to build spurs**
1 Heel band material
   3/16” X ¾” or 1” or 1 ¼ x 8 ¼” long strap
2 Hanger materials
   1/16” x ½” X 3” strap
   Rowel blanks ¾” 1” 1 ¼” 1 ½
I buy these thing at:
Metal Fab Products
PO Box 14367
Odessa TX 79768
432 362 3617

Shank materials
2 options
   3/8” X 2” or ½ X 2” mild steel bar stock
Can be purchased at any metal supply store

   Button materials
   Truss head rivets
   ¼” X ½” and 5/16” X ½” -- 2 each
I buy rivets at:
RJ Leahy Co.
1475 Yosemite Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94124
415 861 7161

******************************************************************************