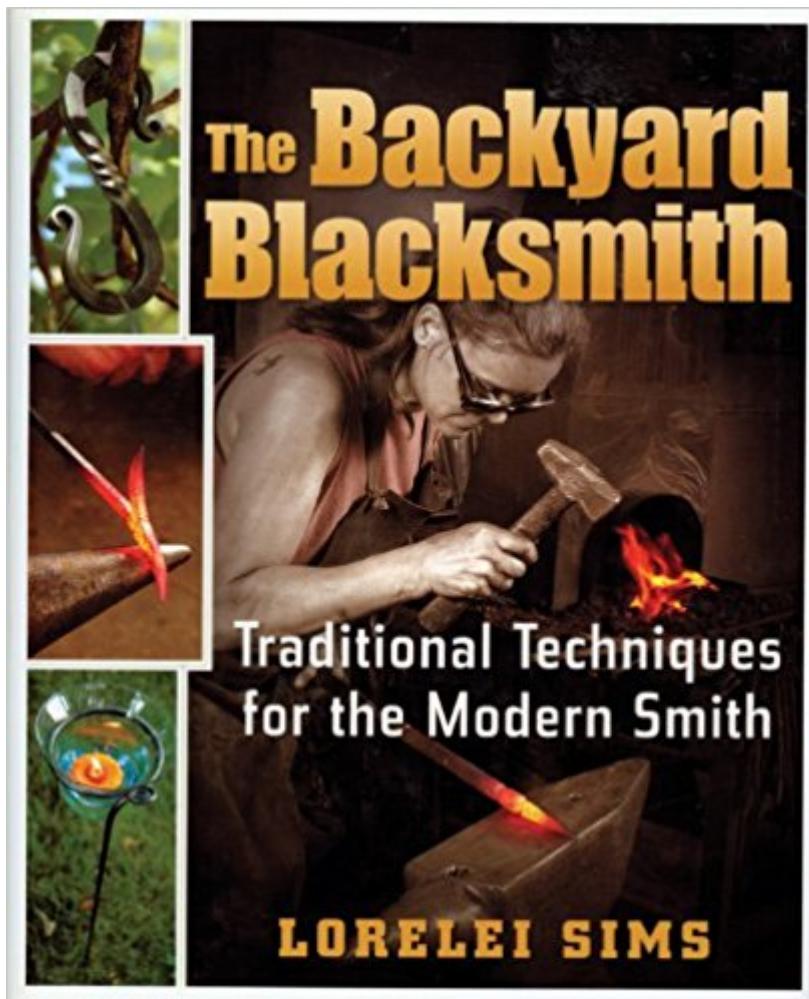


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# The Backyard Blacksmith



## **Synopsis**

The Backyard Blacksmith shows you how -- with some patience and a working knowledge of metals, basic tools, and techniques -- blacksmithing can be easy to learn, and a rewarding hobby. Through instructions and illustrations, readers will learn to make simple tools and useful items, such as nails, hinges, and handles, and also an interesting mix of artful projects, such letter openers, door knockers and botanical ornaments. Written by an expert in blacksmith and metal artist, this book provides readers with a basic understanding of blacksmithing, including an explanation of tools like an anvil, an anvil stand, hammers, and tongs. Heating techniques like coal forging and fire tending are explained in detail, along with different types of metal like wrought iron, cast iron, and steel. The Backyard Blacksmith walks readers through step-by-step, illustrated projects including hooks, door and gate pulls, wall-mounted hooks, knockers, racks, and more. These expert blacksmithing lessons come to life with full-color photography to illustrate the steps and provide a better understanding of the text. With this book, beginning blacksmiths can learn to turn metal from its raw shape into something useful and beautiful to behold.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

There is an increasing interest and revival in the art of blacksmithing as a hobby and art, and both men and women are becoming at-home blacksmiths. Blacksmithing is a simple, rewarding craft anyone can enjoy in their backyard or home workshop?even beginners can produce useful and beautiful projects on their first try. "The Backyard Blacksmith" shows you how blacksmithing can be easy to learn, and a rewarding hobby (with some patience and a working knowledge of metals, basic tools, and techniques). Through instructions and illustrations, readers will learn to make

simple tools and useful items, such as nails, hinges, and handles, and also an interesting mix of artful projects, such letter openers, door knockers and botanical ornaments.

Lorelei Sims is a blacksmith and metalworking artist, and the owner of Five Points Blacksmith Shop in Charleston, Illinois. For examples of her work, see her website [blacksmithchic.com](http://blacksmithchic.com).

My 12 year old son has decided he wants to learn blacksmithing and he saved all of his money to buy an anvil and he and my husband built a forge out of an old brake drum from a big truck. He got a hammer, gloves, apron and tongs for christmas as well as this book. He's been pouring over it and has even made a knife (sort of) and some tongs (sort of. He'll get there). But this book has great pictures and instructions. I see him reading it all the time in his room before going to bed.

Still reading it, but the author explains things well. Good blacksmithing starter book. It might be a great advanced book. As my nephew and I are just getting started, I don't know beginner from advanced yet, but this book is getting us going.

Majority of the book describes the different operations used in a forge in good detail with accompanying pictures and illustrations. Also contains instructions on making various forge tooling and some beginner projects. It even has a very nice how to on making an adjustable anvil stand. One word of caution though is that the nail header WILL NOT WORK as shown in the illustrations, you will just end up with the nail locked in the header. The hole needs to flare out at the top in order to keep the hot metal from expanding into the extra space in the nail header and locking the nail in.

This book is amazing!! Everything you need to be a back yard blacksmith! Lots of photos and ideas!

Recently, I entertained the idea of learning to blacksmith. During my research into the subject, I came across some information that directed me to this title. This book covers everything from lighting a coal forge to a few, basic blacksmithing projects. The different types of tools and their uses are explained; mostly traditional tools (hammers, tongs, etc) but some modern tools and their uses are covered as well. There is a lot of information in this book and as a novice, I would consider this book a wonderful primer for anyone interested in the subject. The information it contains is easy to understand and the pictures help to reinforce the text. This book inspired me to give blacksmithing a try and I hope to be setting up my own "Backyard Blacksmith shop" in the near future. I've yet to

pick up a blacksmith hammer and strike hot iron, but after reading the included instructions on the various smithing techniques, I feel like I could complete most of the exercises and perhaps a few of the easier projects this book contains. If you never pick up the hammer, I think you would still enjoy this book, as it gives great insight into the world, work and art of traditional blacksmithing.

Very awesome book in that collective research for many topics in a sequential order. The author convinced me to further explore the hobbyist sector more. Many things explained in basic terms for novices such as iron and steel components. Very good pictures throughout helping to let the reader enjoy the view of an operational smithy and the appeal of its tools. Constant side notes with hints and tips. Finally the cosmetic appeal of this book to me is very nice. The hardback version is a constant "go to" book on our coffee table for guest to ask about. Thanks for writing it!

Given as gift -recipient very pleased with book (Pretty girl pics helped, I'm sure!)

Bought for my husband. He is just getting into blacksmithing. He says this book is awesome. Has lots of great information to help you get into blacksmithing as well can continue on with the art. Great book. Would definitely recommend this book to anyone that is into blacksmithing.

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