

Damascus Billet Making

June 2-6, 2025

\$400

Continuing education only – not for college credit

This class is a hands on class for the students. This class will be focused on the making of Damascus (pattern welded) steel for use in gun hardware and knife blades. Each student should finish the class with at least one billet of Damascus steel to take home.

This focus of this class is to teach "dry welding" technique, that is the making of Damascus steel using no flux. This approach provides steel of much greater consistency and strength. We will be using gas forges to weld our steel not coal. Subjects covered will include: Dry vs. Wet forge welding, steel selection, tool selection, use of power equipment such as power hammers and forging presses, pattern development, heat treating and etching.

Instructor: Steve Rollert

Tool list

(Please keep in mind that the tools suggested for each class are the minimum tools you should bring. Please feel free to bring any additional tools you feel you may need)

Students will pay the instructor \$30 per billet for the raw steel at the time of the class

- Safety glasses
- Respirator either dust mask or double filter (preferred)
- Work apron
- Baseball or other brimmed hat
- Hearing protection
- Welding gloves
- One pair large vice grips
- Hammers - cross pein and ball pein of about 1.5 to 2.5 pound in weight
- Grinding belts - 2 each in 36-40, 60, 220, 400 grit - Zircon or ceramic recommended but aluminum oxide is acceptable but will not wear as long, size: 2 inch by 72 inch in length

Please bring a refillable water bottle since we will be working around hot forges in June