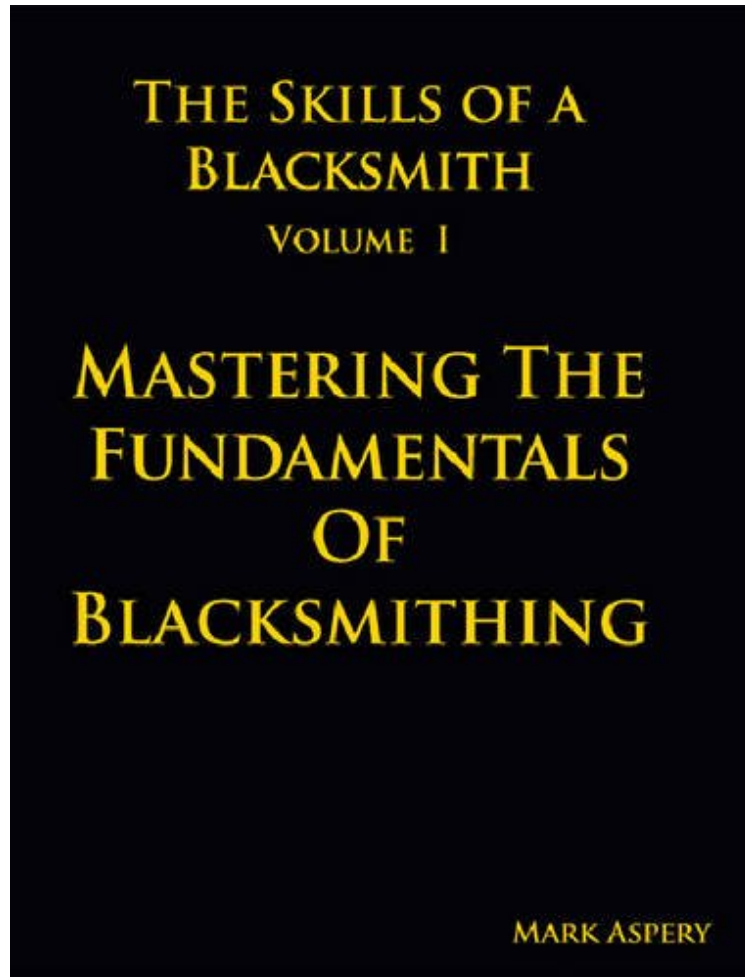


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The Skills of a Blacksmith: v.1: Mastering the Fundamentals of Blacksmithing

Mark Aspery

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Mark Aspery : The Skills of a Blacksmith: v.1: Mastering the Fundamentals of Blacksmithing before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Skills of a Blacksmith: v.1: Mastering the Fundamentals of Blacksmithing:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great book if you've got a little time under your beltBy MehThe only blacksmithing I do, other than the therapeutic effects of beating on a hot piece of metal for fun, is the occasional bit of metalwork for around the house (pothooks, shelf brackets, and the like). Professionally, I work in the metal business, and am pretty well educated in the fields of chemistry, engineering, metallurgy, manufacturing, etc. I spend a LOT of time with machinists, welders, and the like. This book seems to be a good book for an intermediate blacksmith/metalworker. It's not quite basic enough for a beginner than doesn't know what they need or what to do with it, but the metallurgy isn't quite so deep that you need a degree to understand it. It's well written, but with enough

left out that you need a little bench-time (or anvil-time) to really get it. If a person was just starting out, they may want to start with a very basic book. After getting a little work done, this would be an excellent addition to the ol' library. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Great book, highly recommended. By Davie This is an excellent book on the basic processes of blacksmithing that I feel would be of benefit to both beginners as well as many intermediate smiths. For the beginner the very basic beginning processes and theory are explained thoroughly and with step-by-step high quality pictures. For the intermediate smith the book presents set-by-step processes with photographs, processes and insights that may be different from how the smith is currently doing his work. The author has produced a book whose printing and photographs are very high quality. ---- And for the collector of books on blacksmithing, this book is a must-have. I look forward to the publishing of his third book in this series. 14 of 14 people found the following review helpful. An excellent teacher By Matthew Thomas I am a novice blacksmith, but Mark Aspery is an excellent teacher and this book covers the fundamentals of blacksmithing quite well. He begins with safety and then moves into the fundamental tools - anvil and anvil stand, vice stand, hammer styles - and how to use them properly. He emphasizes the importance of square-octagon-round tapering. Throughout he uses humor and interesting examples which stick with you through the learning process. Following the above introduction he moves into tools and how to craft them - various chisels, punches and drifts. Several of these are specialized tools that are to be used for the later projects in the book. At the end of the tool section he discusses the basics of heat treatment. The latter two-thirds of the book are all projects from Wizard Bottle Opener to various tongs and a simple knife blank. Some of the projects are more tools, including scrolling tongs and some bottom tools and a few more tongs. I'm very happy with this purchase so far. The book is abundantly illustrated with black white photographs as well as a few drawings and graphs. After purchasing the book, I was lucky enough to attend a conference at which Mr. Aspery was giving a demonstration. His teaching ability there was as well-balanced as withing his writing. He is able to educate both novice and advanced blacksmiths simultaneously without making novices feel that they are being talked over while giving more advanced students additional insight into skills they already have.

Mastering the Fundamentals of Blacksmithing' is an expanded collection of course text from the author's own blacksmith school. This book represents 120 hours of student learning in a project based home workshop environment. The author leads the student from the basic tenets of blacksmithing through to more complex projects step-by-step. An emphasis is placed on guiding the smith through making, heat treating and using his/her own tools throughout the book. Each project builds upon the last. The book starts with the laws and principles of blacksmithing and has a good section on working safely within the smithy. This is a large (8 1/2" x 11") hardcover book of 304 pages with 1200 photos! This is the first volume of 4 planned instructional text books from the author.