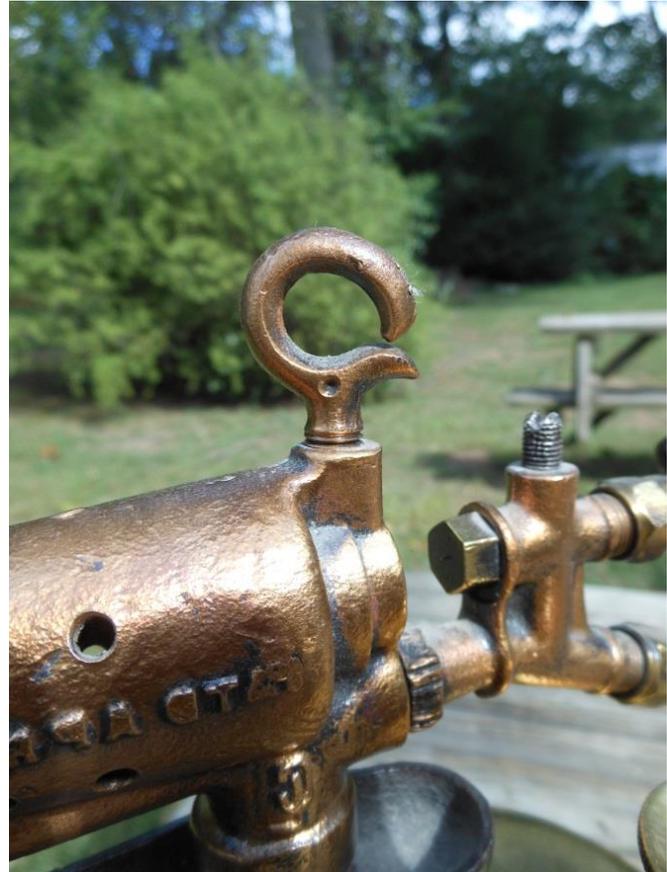


## Straightening Bent Soldering Iron Hooks

I have had many torches with bent soldering iron hooks. I was always at a loss as to how to straighten them. Many years ago I would attempt it with only minor success. The problem is that when you try to bend it back into shape with a hammer, you usually put stress on one specific spot. The result is that it cracks or breaks. I, therefore, no longer attempted to repair them. I recently came up with the idea of using a tapered steel rod. The rod would be inserted into the inner dimension of the hook and the hook would be hammered gently down the taper of the steel rod using a plastic hammer. This would apply equal pressure on the inside surface of the hook and force it back into shape. The result would be that the center of the hook would become a perfect circle with the desired diameter.



When I thought about the tapered steel rod I remembered that jewelers used a similar type tool for measuring ring sizes. I looked on Ebay and found exactly what I needed listed under "Ring Mandrel" for about \$20.00. This process works fine for me. You just have to persuade it back into shape. Many light taps are much better than a few heavy shots with a hammer. Remember to use a plastic hammer. Make sure to hammer the outside of the hook to eliminate any open areas between the inner dimension of the hook and the outer dimension of the tapered rod.

