

Examples of Chased T-Folds

Here are examples of a standard T-fold that have been chased.



Tool Modifications for T-folds

Most foldforming is done with the basic tools of metalsmithing—hammers, vises, anvils, stakes, and a rolling mill. There are, however, several special tools or alterations to tools that can make foldforming easier, or solve clamping problems. We will look at some of them in the next pages. These fall into four categories:

- Leg Inserts
- Table inserts
- Vise Jaw Inserts & Extensions
- Angled Punch

Leg Inserts

A T-fold has a fixed proportion of table width to table return width. The distance across the top of the table equals two table return widths. To change this proportion so the length of the return section is smaller, insert a piece of wood, nylon, metal, or any other rigid material between the legs when the T-fold is made. Because the usual proportions between returns and table have been altered, the resulting form will look different than the normal T-fold. The inside of the table will be struck down onto the top of the insert, which means that a texture here will show up on this inside section when the form is opened.

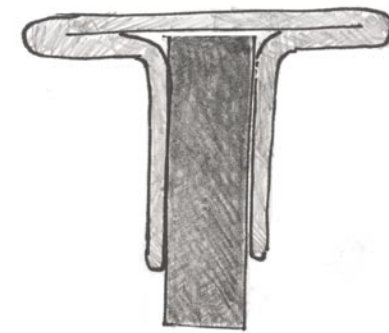
Table Inserts

Table inserts are another way to alter a T-fold. Make a normal loop (maybe a little bigger than usual) and slide a rigid object inside the loop. When the loop is malletted down, it will rest on the insert.

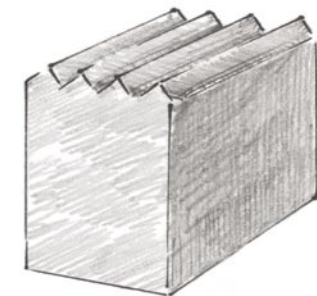
To trap it completely, set a slab of rubber or leather on top and strike it with a very heavy hammer. This will force the sheet metal intimately around the enclosed part, simultaneously forming the shape and printing whatever

texture is on the insert into the metal. This lets you work with pattern, and reflected pattern in the table returns.

Using chasing tools to define and refine the top surface of the table around the embedded parts gives further options. When the fold is finished, it is annealed and opened, which releases the trapped parts. In the example pictured below a simple washer, a bolt, and a binding wire spiral were placed inside the loop.



Leg insert



A texture on the top of the insert will appear on the underside of the table.



The same piece, front and back, showing the possibilities of trapping hard “tools” under the table returns.