

Came Bender Instructions

The came bender is designed to bend came, made of various metals, into arcs. It consists of a driving-roller and two driven rollers. There is a driving handle and a shaping handle. As the driving-roller is pulled towards the driven-rollers the radius of the came arc between the rollers is reduced. The process is a repeated gradual one and requires some patience.

1. Top groove of the rollers is used to bend H-shaped came
2. Center groove of the rollers is used to bend flat H-shaped came
3. Bottom groove of the rollers is used to bend U-shaped came

The process can be a bit tedious, but going slowly should give acceptable results. Experimenting with scrap pieces of came is useful.

1. Bolt the came bender to a table or bench. The shaping-handle is nearest you at the edge of the table. The came is going to form an arc away from you. After several iterations, a circle will be formed.
2. Using the shaping-handle, place the driving-roller away from the driven-rollers. Insert a piece of came in the grooves of the two driven-rollers. The open side of the came should be facing away from the driven-rollers.
3. Rotate the shaping-handle until the driving-roller is touching the came.
4. Using the shaping-handle, rotate the driven-roller handle until the end of the came is close to one of the driven-rollers.. Turn the handle in the other direction. Apply a bit more pressure to the shaping-handle. Reverse the direction of the driving-roller. The came should be developing a slight curve.
5. Repeat. The circle will get smaller with each cycle. Eventually the came will form a circle. A six-foot length of came will produce a circle of a bit less than 2-feet in diameter. Note that the ends of the came will be relatively straight.
6. To form a circle you must overlap the ends of the arc. To make a larger diameter frame use larger arcs and piece together. With a little practice, oval frames can also be made using multiple arc segments.