

Subject: Turtle / Forging / welding information & ideas

From: Merch <zmerch@30below.com>

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To: minimerch6@live.com

Cheapest anvils I could find that seemed decent:

<https://www.centauforge.com/NC-Anvils/products/483/>

This one:

<https://www.centauforge.com/NC-70-lb-Big-Face-Anvil/productinfo/18NCBF/>

seems set up well just for 'shoeing. \$350 shipped.

Forges get pretty spendy there, so you might want to research into building your own. If you get good with cement (refractory cement, specifically) you could google for 'diy wood burning forge' and it'll take you to several sites / forums / blogs that can show you the basics of a "Rocket Forge" - I've already done some research into Rocket Mass Heaters and Rocket Stoves, this is similar but designed for forging instead. Basic physics are the same.

Anyway, Here's the shoes I found:

<https://www.centauforge.com/TS8-Challenger/products/410/>

I specifically went with the size #1 due to the price (bigger ones were more \$\$) but otherwise I'm not sure which shoes would be better for your particular tasks -- you'd have to check that out on your own. The site does have 8 different vendors for shoes in several styles... check 'em out here: <https://www.centauforge.com/Steel-Horseshoes/departments/1/>

This MIG welder at TSC will work on the 30 amp circuit, and will "stick" weld if you get the fluxed wire which needs no gas:

<https://www.tractorsupply.com/tsc/product/hobart-handler-190-mig-welder>

That price doesn't have a spool gun, but it's available for it. It's on sale for the summer, but that sale is less than 5% off (it's normally \$700, on sale for \$670). It does get excellent reviews, tho.

There's a 115volt version that can do up to 1/4 inch mild steel (not sure if that's good enough to weld turtles) for \$500 shipped on Amazon - if that would work then you'd be able to weld here at the same time that the freeze dryer would be running, opening up a much larger "window" to get welding done.

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Now, for pricing, I'd recommend something a little different: I'd put them on "sale" - and remember, if you price them too high no-one will purchase them. I'd say "Normally \$20 -- on sale right now for \$17." [[or maybe \$15, to keep easy bill changing]] for the smalls, and "normally \$25, on sale now for \$20" for the bigs. I can typeset some half-sheets of paper with more particulars, including "Genuine Mackinac Island Horseshoes!" and whatnot.

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Remember, a \$50 turtle that never sells isn't worth \$50; and if the point is to get more cash in your pocket, a product that never sells won't do that for you.

Question: do you have the ability to acquire more Mackinac Island horseshoes? If so, If these become popular here, you might be able to sell them on Mackinac Island -- I saw "crappier" things for sale for big \$\$ last weekend... [[and as the Anishnabe call Mackinac Island "Great Turtle Island" -- it would be fitting as well.]]

Let me know if the pricing & whatnot sound good... and if they start selling then let's plan on how to keep sales up.

Love,

Dad