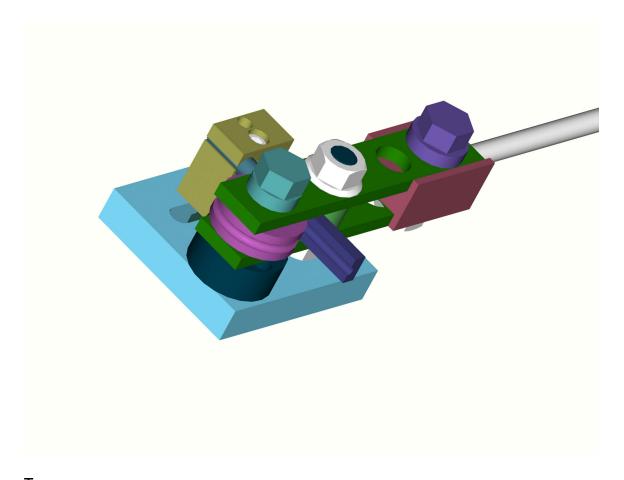
Precision Tube Bender

DESIGNED BY MICHAEL WARD

JULY 2002



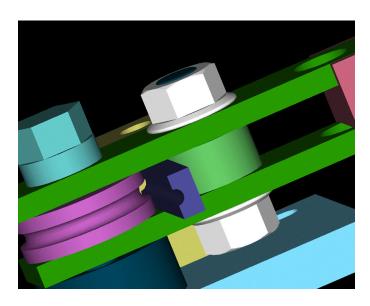
THIS PROJECT IS INTENDED TO BEND TUBES TO A VERY SMALL RADIUS, WITHOUT DEFORMING THE PROFILE OF THE TUBE OR CREATING A CRIMP OR BUILD UP OF MATERIAL AT THE LEADING OF THE BEND - THE CIRCULAR PROFILE SHOULD REMAIN CONSISTENT AND THE STRAIGHT PORTION OF THE TUBE AT EITHER END SHOULD FORM A TANGENT TO THE BEND WITH A SMOOTH TRANSITION FROM STRAIGHT TO CURVE.

THAT'S EASIER THAN IT SOUNDS, BENDING A 5/16 TUBE TO AN INSIDE RADIUS OF 5/16 IS CHALLENGING. A FUNCTIONAL BEND USING CONVENTIONAL TECHNIQUES IS NOT TO DIFFICULT, HOWEVER AN ASCETICALLY PLEASING ONE IS (IMO).

THE IS AN EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN AND HAS NOT YET BEEN TRIED. A PROTOTYPE IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION. IF YOU KNOW THE MAGIC SOLUTION TO MAKING THESE BENDS, OR HAVE CONSTRUCTIVE COMMENTS ON THE DESIGN, PLEASE EMAIL, YOU'LL SAVE ME A LOT OF CHIPS.

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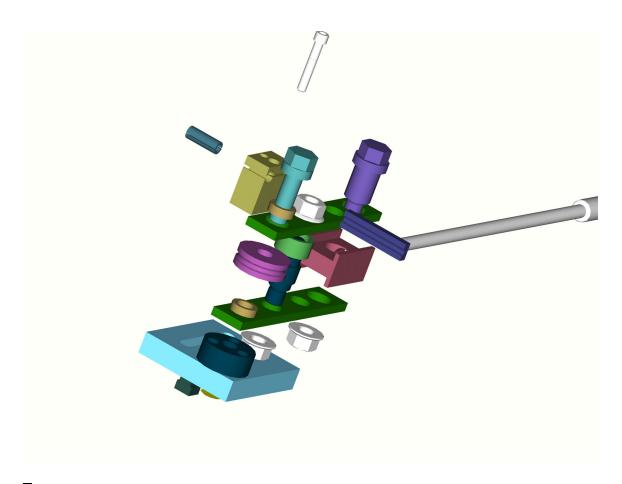
The key to the success (I hope!) is the forming block, shown in purple. Like conventional benders, the inside radius is formed around a fixed round roller with a profile cut. (I made a neat tangential profile cutter for the lathe, which saw extensive and successful use in making the sister project to this, a tube staightener). However the outside radius is formed by the former BLOCK THAT also has a profile and is held tightly between the fixed and moving rollers (pink and green). The mark I prototype had a round moving roller and tended to build up a "leading edge" of material at the front of the bend. I modified the Mark 1 to the above design, however it did not hold the block tightly enough to the fixed roller, allowing the tubing to "squeeze" out and pinch in the gap.



IN OPERATION THE GREEN FRAMES ROTATE ON THE BLUE BOLT TOWARDS YOU, PUSHING THE PURPLE BLOCK AROUND THE PINK FIXED ROLLER

THE GREEN MOVING ROLLER IS MOUNTED ON A SHAFT. I PLAN TO BUILD ONE THAT IS SLIGHTLY ECCENTRIC SO THAT THE DISTANCE BETWEEN FIXED AND MOVING ROLLERS IS SOMEWHAT ADJUSTABLE - SEE DRAWINGS. HAVING A SLOT IN THE GREEN FRAMES TO ADJUST THE MOVING ROLLER DOES NOT WORK!

Numerous combinations of tube sizes and radius of bends are possible with the 1", 1.5" and 2.5" hole SPACING on the frames which are reversible. I've generated the tables in the plans.



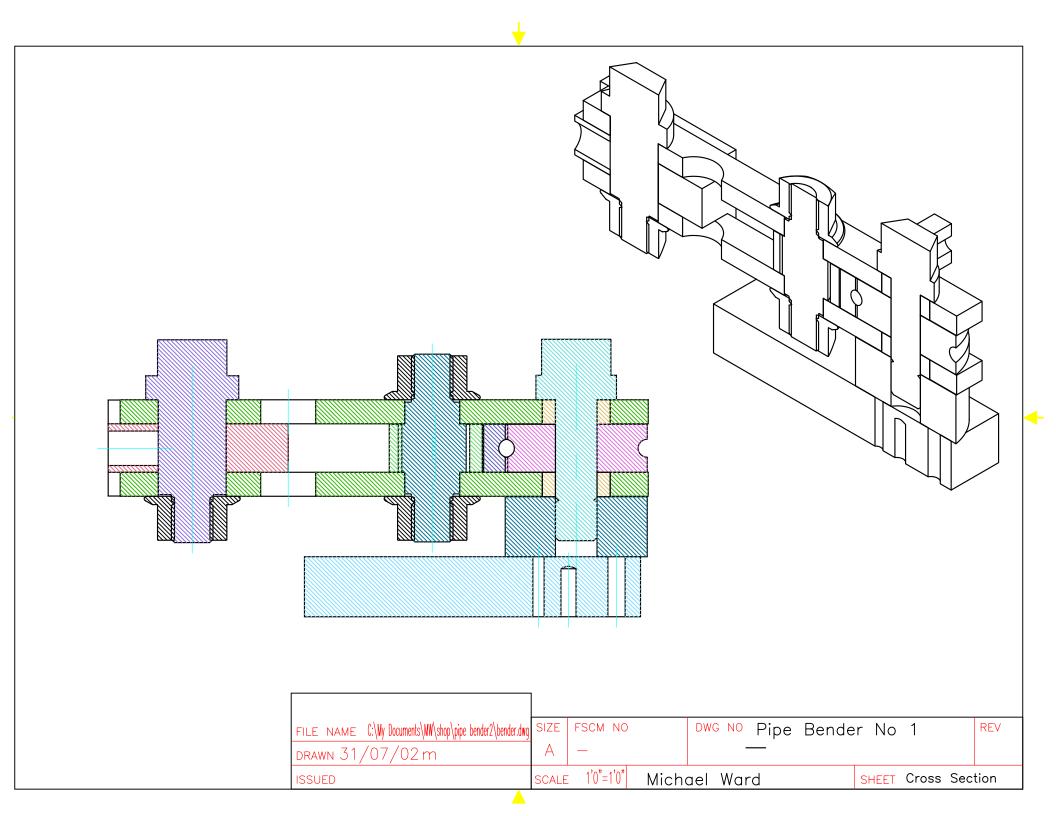
THE DRAFTING IS FAR FROM PERFECT, BUT IT DID TRY TO CLEAN IT UP AFTER BUILDING THIS. CHECK BEFORE YOU BUILD. THIS IS PRESENTED IN THE SPIRIT OF SHARING AND SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN AS A PROVEN OR ACCOMPLISHED DESIGN.

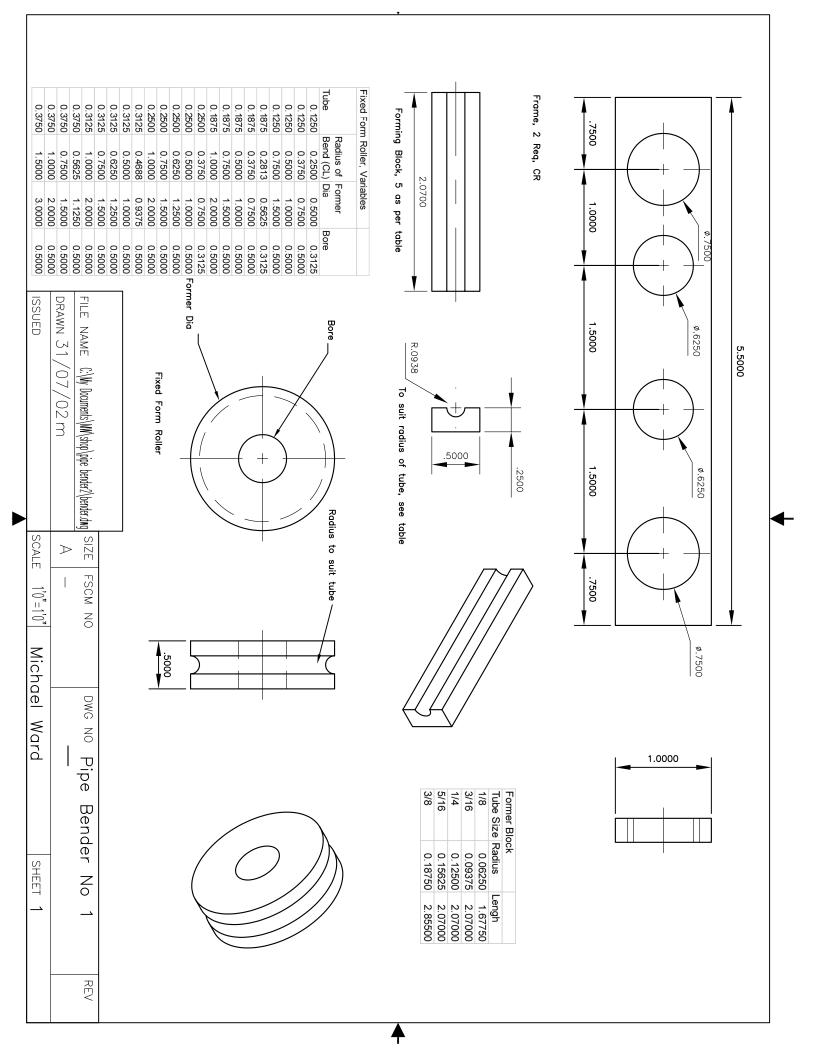
IDEAS WELCOME!

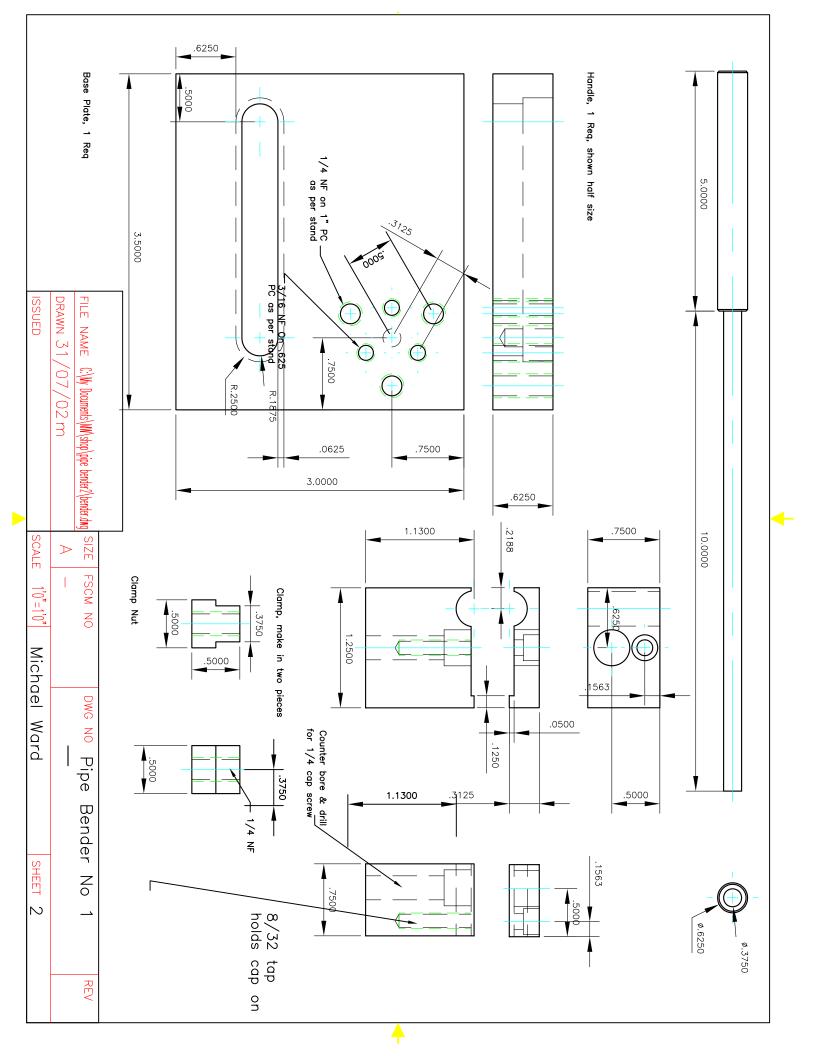
MICHAEL WARD

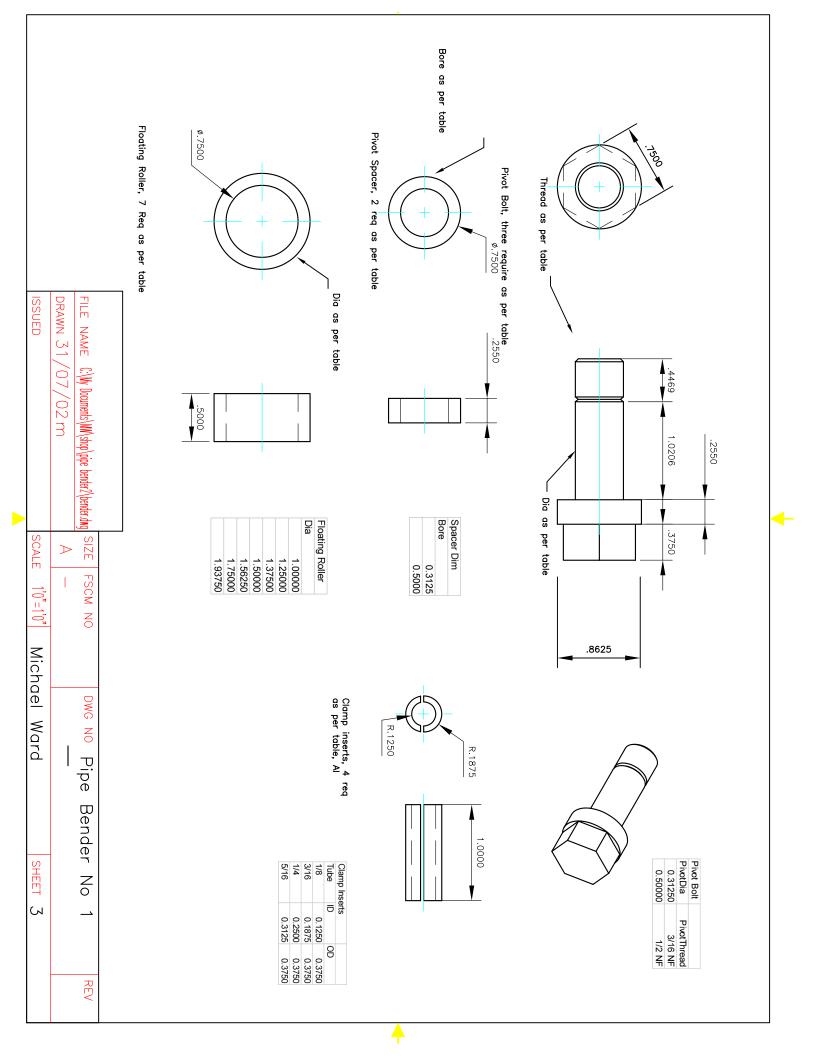
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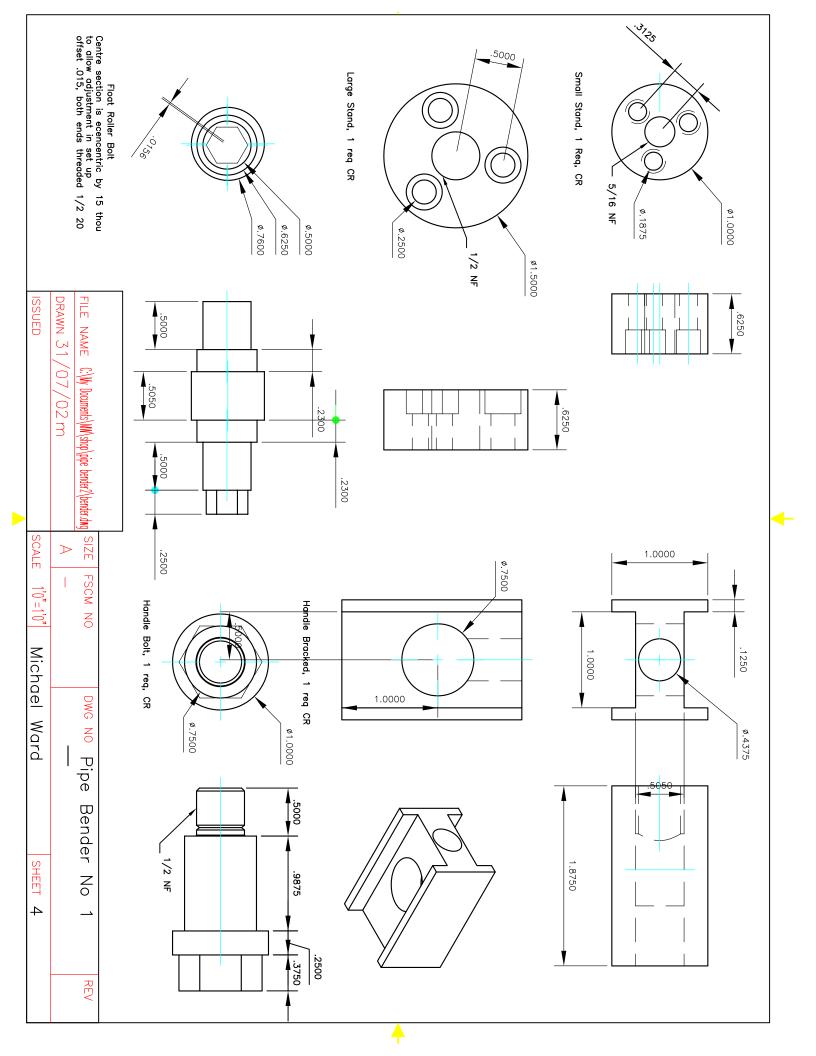
DRAWINGS FOLLOW AS WELL AS DRAWINGS OF A CRANK OPERATED TUBE STAIGHTNER

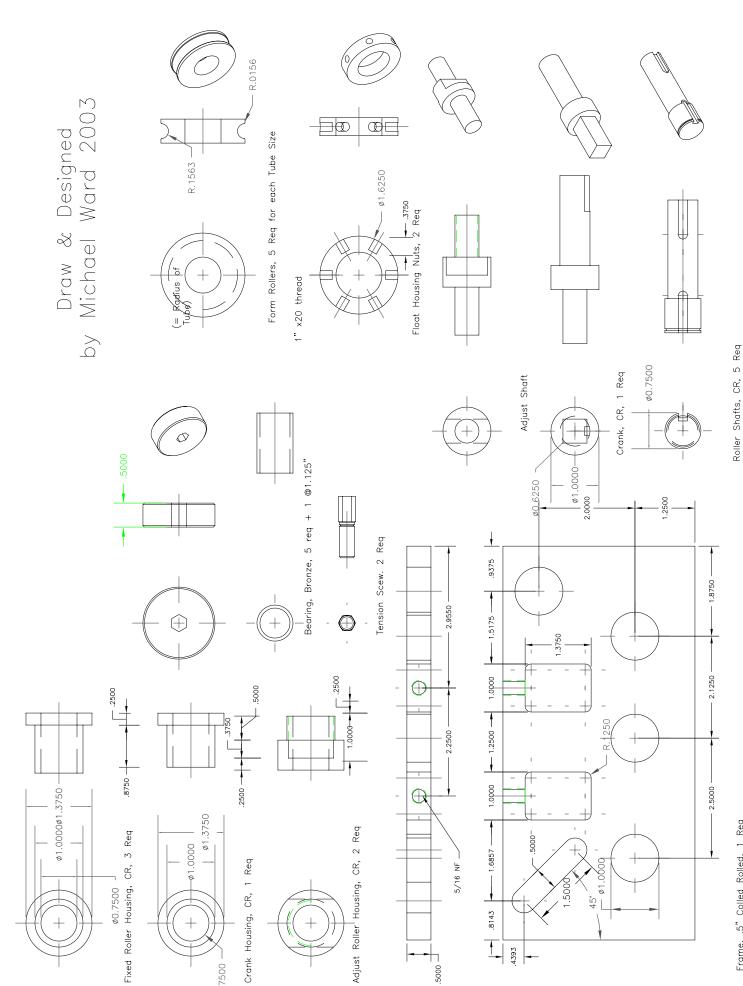












Frame, .5" Colled Rolled, 1 Req