



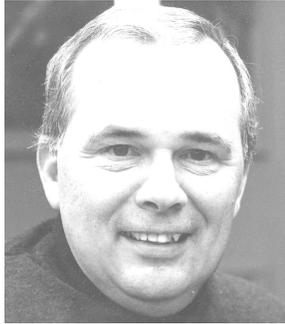
Bright Ideas by Nick Cardello

Blacksmiths are a resourceful group. Our workshops are as varied as each individual artist.

Good lighting can make a huge difference in your shop. Straining your eyes to see your work will only make you tired.

Good lighting is determined by the following:

- * Size of the Room
- * Ceiling Height
- * Bright Colors for walls and ceiling



PAABA's Energy Star!

The increasing importance of energy efficiency in today's economy has inspired most lamp manufacturers to make an alternative to regular light bulbs. These economical and long-lasting bulbs are available in a variety of wattages and shapes. Compact fluorescents, or CFL bulbs, can be screwed into most light sockets that use regular bulbs. Their long life eliminates the need for frequent changing making them ideal for a variety of applications. This kind of product is recognized by the Energy Star label which is generally the color green.

Lighting your workshop doesn't have to be a difficult job. If your ceiling height is 8' - 10', 2 light 4' fluorescent strip fixtures or 2 light 8' fluorescent strip fixtures will work fine. These fixtures spread the light down and horizontally which is why you see them used in so many applications. In addition, let's look at the lamp life. An 8' lamp has 12,000 hours of life. A 4' lamp has 24,000 hours.

If you compare a 100 watt light bulb to a 4' - 40 watt fluorescent bulb; the fluorescent has twice the light output, twelve times the life and uses less than half the energy. And, if you paint your walls and ceiling a light color you improve the available light by 50% - free !

If you want or need even more light from this kind of fixture. There is a High Output Version that gives a lot more light and is not affected by the cold as regular fixtures are. If you have even higher ceilings 15' - 25', High Intensity Discharge "HID" metal halide low bay fixtures are an ideal choice. They provide a very bright, very efficient white light source and cold does not affect them at all.

Many times just changing your light bulbs is all you need.

Hopefully this article has provided some good ideas on how to improve your shop lighting. Now that we are into the Winter season, and it gets dark so early, this would be a great time to brighten up your shop.

