during fluting process. The basal end of preform (before platform preparation) can be made slightly convex or squared. The shape of the channel flakes when removed are controlled by the outside surfaces or faces of the preform so the smoother and more uniform the flaking and the more symmetrical the cross section of the preform, the more uniform will be the channel flake and the scar ~~it leaves~~. A high spot or ridge on the preform face in relation to the rest of facial surface will cause the channel flake to spread and follow this high place. A low spot will cause a narrowing of channel flake in vicinity of low area.

PLATFORM PREPARATION FOR FIRST CHANNEL FLAKE TO BE REMOVED

The ~~proximital~~ proximal or basal edge of preform would normally be in the center, but the first step in platform preparation is to change or move this edge from the center (by removing short flakes from basal edge opposite the face you wish to flute - Fig 1A) over until it is vertically in line or almost in line with the face you are going to flute. These short flakes are removed until the ~~proximital~~ proximal end is almost squared off. (Fig 1B) This leaves basal end almost flat or at right angle to long axis of preform. (This flattening of the base will give punch a better seat and allow platform to be almost directly in line with the face when its preparation is completed).

Next step is to segregate the striking platform from rest of basal edge positioning it in the center of the base. (Fig 4C) This is done by removing flakes starting at each extreme edge of the base, in turn, on the face you are going to flute. The flakes are removed starting from each basal edge toward the center. The flakes removed from the outside edges need not be too long, but as you progress toward the center they should be made longer with the longest flake immediately beside the projection left as the platform. (Fig 4 A,C) These longer flakes should be 3/8 inch or longer. This procedure changes the basal edge (except for the platform projection) back to the center of the base. This frees the platform from the basal part of the face. (This procedure also leaves the platform projecting above the rest of the basal edge. If the platform does not project at least 3/16 inch, it should be made to do so by removing more flakes from the basal edges next to the platform projection. The platform should be approximately 1/8" wide at the top.

The base may now have a slightly biconcave appearance or may be squared depending on how one wants to leave the base. If the base is made biconcave (Fig 4A), that is by not flaking the ears down to where the base is square, the ears or extensions of the edges will project a good distance above the rest of the base after the fluting of both sides has been completed. If the ears left from the platform preparation are flaked down (Fig 4B) and the base ultimately squared except for the platform projection, the finished form after both channel flakes

are removed will not have extreme projecting ears. In my opinion, in most cases the basal edge projections (or ears) were flaked down and the base squared on the first platform preparation. If this was not done, the ears would project extremely far above the rest of the base after both sides had been fluted. I have seen examples illustrated with extremely long projecting ears so sometimes the ears were evidently left - probably at the discretion of the maker.

Next the platform must be freed on the side opposite the face you are preparing the platform for. This is done by removing a flake on each side of the platform as in Fig 4 B, arrows 1 & 2. This leaves an equa-lateral triangular shaped platform. The freeing of the platform on this side establishes where the channel flake will free itself from the preform when it is removed. Generally it will come free immediately behind the apex of the triangular shaped portion of the platform. Fig 4-D red line and arrow When the channel flake comes free immediately behind the apex of the triangular shaped platform it leaves the small basal projection characteristic of the classic folsom. (Fig 2) In some cases if the platform is not freed sufficiently from rest of preform, the flake will free itself further behind the triangular shaped portion of the platform and leave a flake scar similar to Fig 6 and there will be no basal projection.

The top of the platform is then polished until completely smooth. This is done so that the platform will withstand the force used to remove the channel flake. If the platform were not polished, it would collapse or shatter when force was

applied resulting in breaking the preform or not removing the channel flake properly.

In all cases the platform must be prepared as described or a very close facsimile so that the characteristics of the classic Lindenmier folsom will be present when the channel flake is removed. The main purpose of the platform is to facilitate easy removal and better control of the removal of the channel flake.

The distal or tip end must be polished also so that it will withstand the shock of the force used to remove the channel flake as the distal end must be supported on an anvil when placed in the vise used to hold the preform.

The edges of the preform are also polished slightly to withstand the pressure of the vise. This is not absolutely necessary, but is a safeguard against crushing the edges in the vise.

A wooden vise is employed to hold the preform during the fluting process. (Fig 3A ) The preform is placed in the vise at an angle of approximately 80° with the distal end resting on a small piece of deer or elk horn anvil. (Deer or elk horn is not necessarily the only substance that could be used for an anvil -- soft stone or possibly hard wood would be a suitable substitute). As can be seen in the illustrations (Fig ), the vise is capable of holding the preform firmly by its edges and also of exerting downward pressure to hold the distal end of preform firmly against the horn anvil. The distal end must be held supported firmly against

the horn anvil by the downward pressure of the vise so that the channel flake will feather out when it is detached. (Fig 2B) If the distal end is not supported sufficiently, the channel flake will, during the process of its removal, not feather out, but will break the preform as in Fig 5. The term "feathering out" is used to describe the way the channel flake comes off or frees itself from the preform face (Fig 7) and is defined as the lessening of the thickness and the narrowing of the width of the channel flake as it is nearing the distal end of the preform. This narrowing and lessening continues until the channel flake reaches the face of the preform and frees itself or reaches the distal end and is freed there. The angle at which the force is directed into the preform determines where the channel flake will feather out. The amount of force used is also a factor involved in this. If insufficient force is used, the channel flake will step fracture at the point where the amount of force applied is used up or exhausted.

After preform is placed in the vise, the intermediary tool, which in my case is a copper tipped wooden handled instrument of about one pound in weight and approximately one foot in length (referred to as a punch)(Fig 8), is placed with the end of the copper tip centered directly on the polished platform. The tip of the punch must be held firmly against the platform and the entire punch must be directly in line vertically with the preform (Fig 9-B) with the punch angled back approximately 10° as in Fig 9-A. The punch must be directly in line vertically; that is, the punch,

the platform, and the center of distal end must all be in line. This is to insure that the channel flake will be removed from the center of the preform. If these conditions are not met and the punch is not in line vertically and is angled off slightly to one side or the other, the channel flake will come off one edge or the other, depending on which way the punch is angled off center and leave a flake scar as in Fig 10 when it is removed.

As this is the indirect percussion method, the next step is the striking of the blow against the punch to remove the channel flake. To strike this blow I use an elk antler billet approximately one foot long and weighing slightly in excess of one pound. The blow must be struck directly in line with the punch. The magnitude of the blow cannot be said to be any exact amount as the amount of force needed to remove the channel flake varies with the material and the size of the preform. Probably the best way to ascertain the amount of force necessary is by experience. In any case the blow must be sufficient to carry the channel flake to the distal end where it should feather out if all preparation prerequisites are fulfilled.

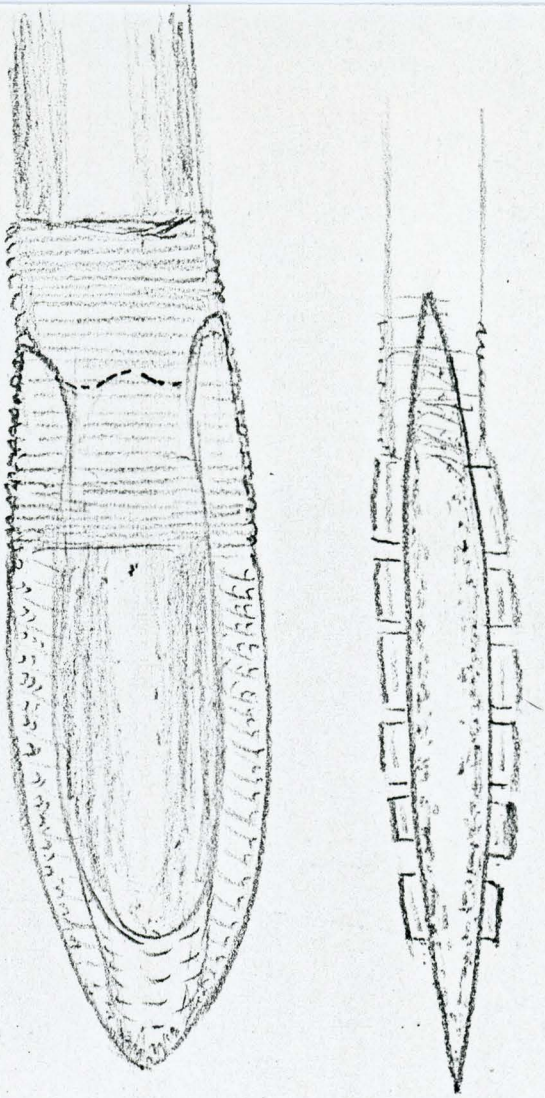
Now, assuming you have successfully removed the channel flake -- and by no means is every attempt a complete success, due mostly to human error -- the preform is removed from the vise and you are ready to start preparation of the striking platform for the second channel flake.

PLATFORM PREPARATION FOR SECOND CHANNEL FLAKE

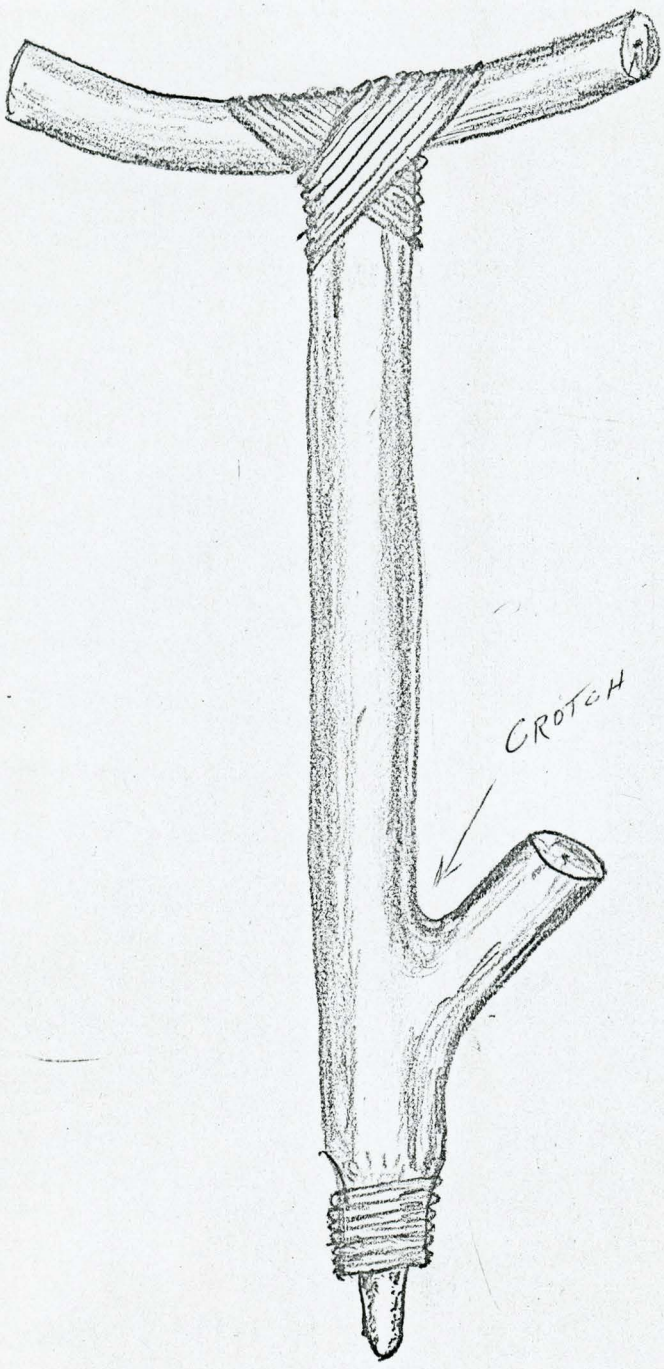
The second platform is prepared similar to the first except that the basal projection left from the first flute can be utilized in its preparation. First, the basal edge is moved over until it is in line with the face you are going to flute and is slightly flattened as in Fig 1 A,B. The basal projection left from the first flute should still be projecting higher than the rest of the base as it was higher to begin with. Now the platform is completed as in the first channel flake preparation, building it around the basal projection. The extreme edges of the base need not be flaked down this time, leaving you with the artifact with ~~ears~~ characteristic of the folsom point. The rest of the procedure to complete the fluting process is the same as in the first channel flake removal except that after point is removed from the vise it is retouched, the edges are ground about one-third of the way down from the base, and two flakes are removed from the bilateral ridges immediately beneath the basal projection left from the removal of the channel flake. (Fig 11, arrows 1,2).

The method just described is not necessarily the one used by the makers of the "Classic Folsom" even though good success has been achieved in replicating this point by using this method. One drawback to this method may be that the channel flakes almost always break into at least two pieces as they are removed. As I have never had the opportunity to read any descriptions or see any illustrations on the channel flakes from any of the folsom sites, I do not know if the channel flakes

which Folsom man removed were broken during the fluting process also. If the channel flakes did break, then this could possibly be a close facsimile to his method. If his flakes came off whole, then another method was probably used -- possibly the crutch and vise method which gives a better success in not breaking the channel flakes.



A sugested method of hafting the Folsom Point, compared to the Old World use of the Micro blades.


CROTCH