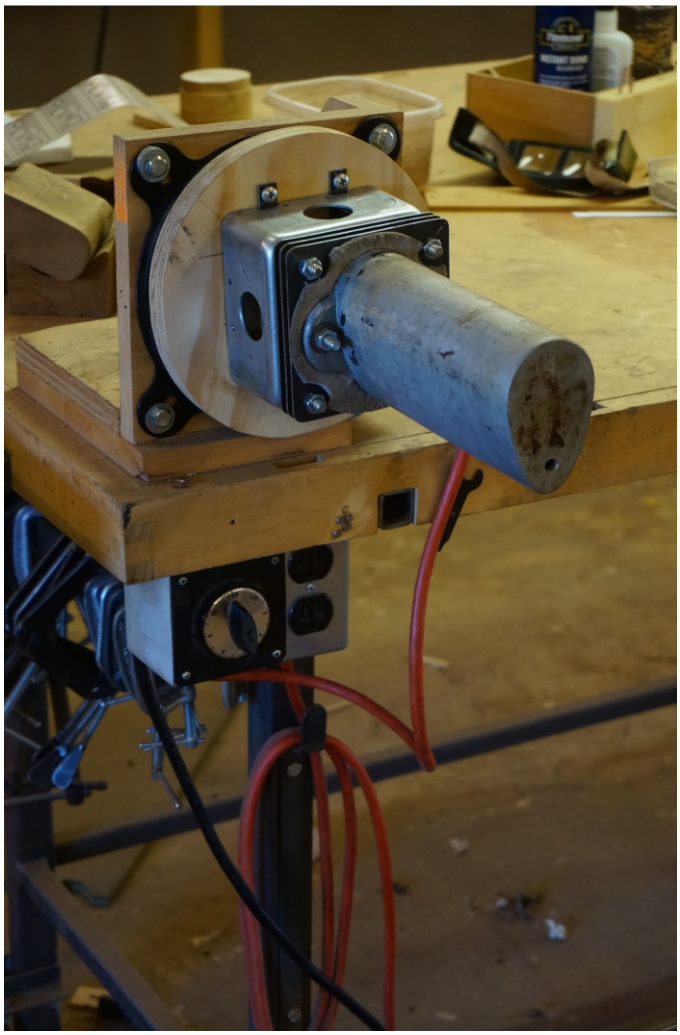
Bending Iron rebuild

I bought the bender pictured here about 9 years ago, and have used it on average about once a week since then. After a couple of years the mounting bolts that hold the iron to the base began to loosen, so I tightened them. With time, the tightening became more frequent. It was the that I realized that the ceramic cloth between the iron and wooden base was breaking down and the wood underneath was becoming charred. I replaced the cloth, but with time the problem reoccurred, so I decided to rebuild it using a metal base.

Here's the base after about 9 years of service. It was a possible fire hazard so I was always carful not to leave it plugged in and unattended, but kept on using it.



Here's the rebuilt iron. It's mounted horizontally on a heavy duty "Lazy Susan" plate, as was the original wooden-base bender, so it can be rotated to the desired radius. The original heat control was relocated in a new box away from the bender.

The iron is mounted on a deep electrical box with steel fins in between to dissipate the heat. There is also 1/8" thick ceramic cloth between the iron and first plate, and 3/4" of ceramic wool between the inside front of the box and the wiring. In use, the box proved cool enough to grab and rotate to new positions