A novel vyce to make

Pictured is a novel type of "vyce" I have developed for holding pipe, tubing and rod stock. It can be built in a variety of sizes, and can firmly hold anything from large-diameter PVC conduit to 3mm welding rod. It can even hold thin-walled stainless steel pipe, without the pipe being deformed.

As you can see the basic idea is two pieces of steel strip, bolted together with spacers between them. The strips have an identical series of holes bored in them, to suit the stock to be clamped, and are then case-hardened.

A number of "J"-shaped hooks are used to perform the actual clamping, as shown. The hooks are made from rod of a suitable diameter, and the hook portion radiused to suit the diameter of the stock to be clamped. They are threaded on the straight end to take a hex nut and flat washer. Each hook is used with a short length of steel strip, to couple it to the sides of the main vyce strips. The nut is simply tightened until the stock is held firmly.

I have made up the vyce in a couple of versions, and they seem to work particularly well. As the stock is clamped in balanced shear mode, even thin-walled tubing may be held firmly without damage. I hope other readers find it as useful as I have.

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