Magnetizing a bar by hammering

You need an iron rod about one metre in length. An iron curtain rod will do. Test it with a compass at each end to see if it is magnetized. Hold the bar in a north-south direction and tilt. Strike the rod several sharp blows in this position and then test it again with the compass. A bar can often be demagnetized by holding it in an east-west direction and striking the end several times with a hammer.