Prototype Bars, Version 1.0

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About 25 years ago, I found about a dozen of these chrome plated steel bars in the trash. Each one was drilled and tapped ¼-20. They are ¼ inch thick, ½ inch wide, and 6 inches long.

If you played with Erector Sets as a kid, there is no need to read further. You understand the value of these bars.

As an astute reader, I am sure you noticed that there are fewer than a dozen bars in this picture. Some are rather beat up and one is short. Such is the peril of these years of use.

Ah yes, but what **good** are they? Mostly I use them to help me visualize parts of machines I wish to build. The value ranges from seeing how it moves to being able to build the machine. There are times when I use these bars as tooling, like the time I built a clamp for welding. See the partially ground off scorch marks?

Occasionally, I have drilled out a few of the threaded holes so bolts can freely pivot. And there are times when one of these bars so perfectly fits the need, that I lose it to that project.

They have stood the test of time, just like my beloved Erector Sets of my childhood.

I welcome your comments and questions.

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