A Magnetic Wire Clip

By R. G. Sparber

What do you do if you need to connect a test probe to a flat piece of steel? It may be hard to find a clip big enough to go around it. The answer can be found in a common attachment for a welder: a magnetic ground block. Harbor Freight sells them for under $10. The problem is that it is far too big for most test probes. But the idea is just the right size. This article shows you how to easily make small versions of this clip.

[1] You are free to copy and distribute this document but not change it.

You start by finding a female spade clip. The red ones are just the right size.

Pry the curled sides open so the point straight up.

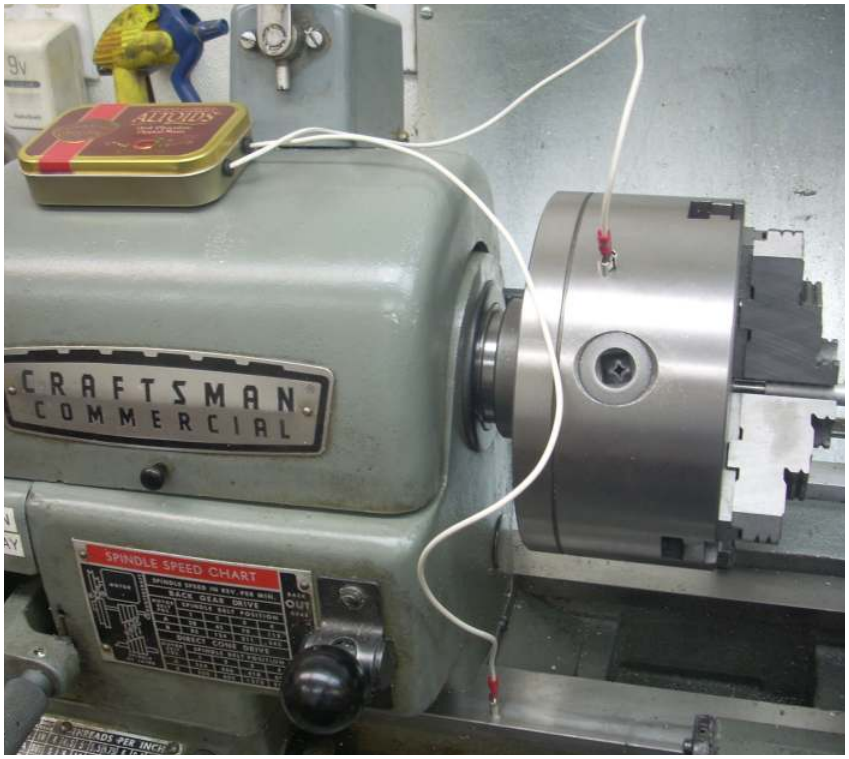
The magnet you will need can be bought from K&J Magnetics, Inc.[2]

It is a neodymium magnet 1/8" x ¼" x ¼" and fits nicely.

Just drop it into the open clip.

[2] http://www.kjmagnetics.com/proddetail.asp?prod=B442-N50

Then use a pliers to form the sides around the magnet. Bend up the front a little so it doesn't fall out. The clip is now ready to have a wire put in the other end and crimped.



Here you see the clips in action. It would be impossible to make these connections with alligator clips. But with the magnetic clips, I just toss them onto the surface. And as an added bonus, any oil left on the surfaces is pushed aside by the strong force of the magnets.

I welcome your comments and questions.

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