

Yet Another Way to Hold Thread Wires to a Mic

By R. G. Sparber

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From all that I have read, measuring the pitch diameter of a thread using thread wires is the most accurate. It can also be a pain because you can quickly run out of hands. You need one hand to hold the mic, one hand to hold the bolt being measured, and two hands to hold the wires. With a bit of practice and coordination, it can all be done with just two hands. Foam blocks, grease, or special wire holders all can make this task easier.



But here is another way to do it – using tiny neodymium magnets. I bought these at K & J Magnetics² for 24¢ each plus S/H. They are $\frac{1}{4}$ ” x $\frac{1}{4}$ ” by $\frac{1}{32}$ ”.

Brian of valleymetal has some sage advice. There is a potentially serious side effect here. The anvil and spindle of the mic can become magnetic and that can attract bits of swarf. It might be necessary to demagnetize the mic if this becomes a problem. If you are concerned, use one of the standard methods mentioned above.

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² <http://www.kjmagnetics.com/proddetail.asp?prod=B4401>



These magnets are not very strong which is a good thing. They do firmly attach to the anvil and spindle of my mic yet come off easily.

I close the mic on these magnets and set my zero.

Note that my mic is on a stand made of MDF. I use similar magnets to gently hold the mic to this stand.



It is easy to drop the wires onto these magnets and have them stick.



As I close the mic with the bolt in place, the wires adjust on the magnets to drop into the threads.

The one down side to using magnets is that they do attract swarf which will throw off the reading. I find that the swarf wipes off easily because these magnets are not that strong.

I welcome your comments and questions.

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