

Screwdriver Rack, Version 1.2

By R. G. Sparber

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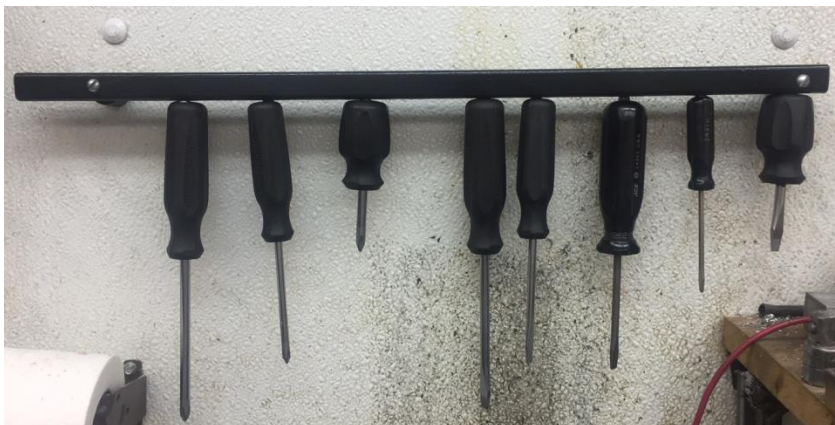
I recently cashed in a Harbor Freight coupon for a screwdriver set. Along with the standard 20% off coupon, I ended up with two sets of screwdrivers for under \$2.30. This is one of those sets.

For light duty, they appear to be usable. The Lifetime Guarantee makes them essentially indestructible.

My plan was to put a set next to my mill and another set over my lathe.

A word about me using small hand tools like screwdrivers. I need a low or no hassle way to retrieve the tool. When done, I can't be bothered with finding the exact resting place of each tool. So what can I do with these screwdrivers that will make their storage more user friendly?

My solution involved an old favorite: magnets.



I installed a neodymium magnet² into the top of the handle of each screwdriver. A dab of 5 minute epoxy did the trick.

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² See <https://www.kjmagnetics.com/proddetail.asp?prod=D42>



The hole was cut with a 1/4" end mill and the magnets are 0.250 +/- 0.004" in diameter. The thickness is 0.125".



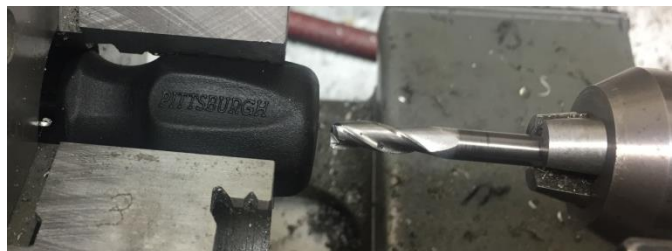
Each screwdriver went into my lathe for drilling.

The longer shank screwdrivers were held in my 3 jaw chuck by the shank. This placed the magnet hole at the center of the shank.



But since these are super low cost screwdrivers, there was no reason to believe the handles were aligned with the shank. Not pretty but really doesn't matter.

The short screwdrivers were held only by the handle.

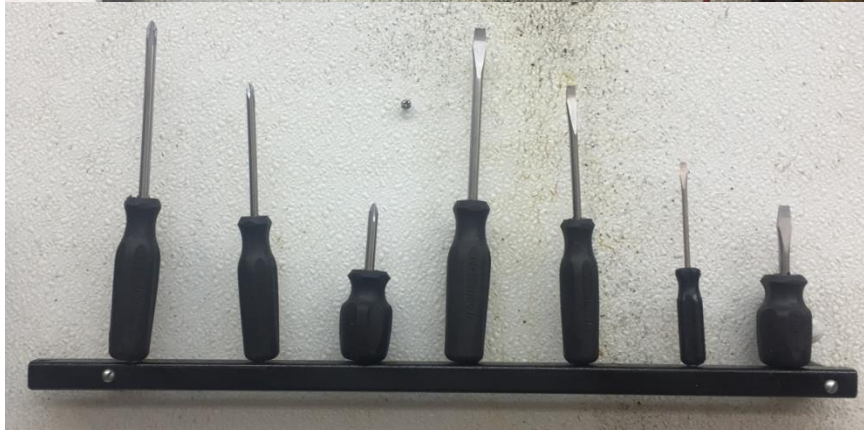




The bar is a piece of ½" square steel tubing about 18 inches long. Two holes are drilled through it 16 inches apart. This lets me run my screws through the tubing and into studs in the wall. Two spacers, made of conduit, place the tubing about ½ inch from the wall. A coat of black paint and it all looks new.



I can easily find the desired screwdriver, pluck it from the bar, and put it back almost without looking.



Of course, there is no rule that says I can't store my screwdrivers all pointing up. I could also point all of them down except for the one I use most which could point up.



I can even take one or more screwdrivers and store them so the points face towards me. Seems useless but ya never know.



The screwdrivers also lay nicely in my metal tool box. There is just enough pull from those magnets to keep them from rolling around. Yet a gentle tug removed the desired too.

I welcome your comments and questions.

If you wish to be contacted each time I publish an article, email me with just "Article Alias" in the subject line.

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