Using A Screwdriver with One Hand, Version 1.0

By R. G. Sparber

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Yesterday I had to tighten two Phillips head screws up behind a sink. With my body adequately contorted, I could barely touch the screw with the tip of my screwdriver. Tightening that screw took a few tries, with the screwdriver dropping to the floor each time. Upon reflection, I figured out a better way.



To illustrate the technique, I will use a screw that is far easier to see. Just imagine something blocking your view.



I can hold the screwdriver near the tip and fish around until it drops into the recess of the screw. But in this position, there is no hope of tightening the screw.

As I inch down the shaft, I will inevitably lose registration on the screw and likely lose my grip and drop the tool.

One solution is to place a strong magnet at the tip so the screwdriver can hang. This method is satisfactory if the magnet is not more attracted to the metal around the screw. Besides, what if you don't happen to have such a magnet?

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You do likely wear socks. Remember, these are desperate times, so you are willing to resort to desperate measures. Don't worry; you will get the sock back.



Invert the end of the sock and pull the toe through such that the overall length of the pocket is about 1 inch less than the length of the screwdriver.



Slide the screwdriver into the pocket, handle end first.

Hold the end of the screwdriver handle with your first hand. Pinch the screwdriver shaft through the sock as you pull up on the sock with your second hand. This fabric stretching provides an extra upward force on the screwdriver handle.

Fish around with the tip of the screwdriver until you enter the recess of the screw.



You can then inch down the shaft until you reach the handle. That extra upward force allows you to reposition your fingers without the screwdriver slipping down.

Resheith your foot with the sock; job complete.

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