

Sticky Finger, Version 1.1

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No, the screw is not sticking to my finger because I've been vaccinated². Yet it is a handy tool when working with small steel parts.

I'm using a 1/8" X 1/8" X 1/16" neodymium magnet from K & J Magnetics. They are ten for \$1.10 plus shipping.



Not much to it. I cut off the end of the pinky from a pair of disposable gloves and



dropped the magnet in.



Alternately, I can tape it to my finger.

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² Yes, this insanity continues to circulate on the Web.



I find it difficult to dig a tiny part from one of these tiny compartments.



Yet, one jab with my magnetic finger and I pick up a few #4 nuts.



A screw is held with just enough force that it doesn't escape.



It is equally easy to pick up a small tap.



The taped on magnet works just as well.

When not in use, I stick the tool to a small block of steel and peal off the tape.

John Herrmann and Norton Dommi point out that a magnet on the end of a screwdriver or similar tool is great for fishing out steel fasteners from tiny compartments. Jeff Kahn fastens a small magnet to the end of a pencil or to his eye glasses' temple tip.

Of course, they are right. If attaching a tiny magnet to my finger was only for extracting small parts from tight places, there are good alternatives.



Here I am starting a #4 nut on a bolt. Picture doing this in a tight space. The magnet acts as an extra finger and prevents the nut from dropping away.



For this example, I cut a longer piece of fingertip plus changed to a neodymium magnet that was 0.1 inches in diameter and 1/16 inch thick. I was surprised that it could hold a $\frac{1}{2}$ inch diameter ball bearing as long as I didn't move my finger too quickly.

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