

Uses for Magnets, Version 1.3

By R. G. Sparber

Protected by Creative Commons.¹

A few months ago I decided to spend over \$100 at K & J Magnetics. They sell high-quality neodymium magnets of every imaginable shape, size, and strength. Downright handy devices!



Using Go2 Glue, I stuck a round magnet on the end of each of my chuck keys.



During set up, I can stick the chuck key to the side of my tailstock. When done, it goes back on the shelf.



Next to my Drillpress, its chuck key sticks to my toolbox. I just have to get it close and don't even need to look.

¹ This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/> or send a letter to Creative Commons, PO Box 1866, Mountain View, CA 94042, USA.



This next application is an admission that I am getting more forgetful in my old age. My metal water bottle is constantly being left behind. I've written my name and phone number on it and that does help. But I must still travel to get it back.

Recently I bought a "Cube" which rings my phone when I'm more than about 200 feet away. Works well but the device clanked against the water bottle and was very annoying.



I glued a magnet on the back. It holds with just enough force to prevent the free swinging of the Cube. Problem solved.

I do not usually speculatively buy things. However, my track record with this brand of magnets has been very good so took the risk. So far I have used half a dozen of these magnets with great results.

I suspect that many readers have their own stories to tell about using magnets. Send them in and I will expand this article plus put your name in the Acknowledgment section.

Marv Klotz has a few great tricks involving magnets:

At Michael's craft store you can buy a card of six neodymium magnets that are exactly 1/4" diameter. This means that flat-bottomed depressions to receive these magnets can be drilled in material using nothing more than a 1/4" endmill. I made aluminum soft jaws for several of my vises and used this trick to mount magnets on the reverse side so they would stick to the vise jaws.

I have several of those articulated lights with the built-in circular magnifying lens.

I discovered that a circular car wax applicator was a perfect fit so I use one for a dust cover for the lens. When I need to use the lens, I don't want to lay the cover in the workbench grunge so I glued a magnet to the material and now I can just stick it on one of the articulating arms. It remains clean and is right to hand when I want to replace it.

Glue a magnet to the corner of a shop towel and you can throw it at any ferrous surface and it will stick. If you use super-glue, you can rescue the magnet when discarding the towel by soaking in a little acetone.

These magnets from Harbor Freight...

<https://www.harborfreight.com/10-pie...ets-67488.html>

are cheap and scary strong. They're about 7 mm diameter.

From "Wizard69:

I suspect you missed a common usage, that is to fasten notes, drawings and the like to machine tools.

Another idea that just came to mind is to fasten solar powered calculators to Machines and work station. At work we have used Velcro for this. These days everybody has a calculator in their pocket due to smart phones, however it hard to beat a calculator that is always ready to go.

Les Garlinghouse sent these pictures of magnets around his shop.



Quick Change Tool Holders hang from a Harbor Freight “Magnetic Tool Holder” providing visibility and easy access.



A second magnetized bar on the front of his lathe holds numerous tools that must be quickly accessed and then stored. No need to aim for a holder, just put the tool near this bar and it is held fast.



A steel bar on the front of his bench holds notes pinned under round magnets bought at Walmart. Additionally, Les takes steel strapping and puts double-sided tape on the back. Sticks anywhere and provides instant note keeping.

Thanks Marv, Wizard69 and Les!

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

Rick Sparber

Rgsparber.ha@gmail.com

Rick.Sparber.org