

# 6 Uses for Magnets in a DIY Garage

Kyle Smith, Hagerty News  
12 February 2026

Holding two pieces of steel together is effortless. Literally. We garage-dwellers have racks and racks of tools we are quite proud of. but there are other items hidden around our shops that we often forget are actually tools, or discover a use for by accident. For me, magnets are the perfect example. Some tools have these scientifically confusing magic bits integrated in, while others should. Even on its own, a single magnet can save a project—or at least a lot of your money. Don't believe me? Here are six examples.



## Keeping hardware together

Magnetic trays are a gift sent from above. For some projects, the “stick the bolts through a piece of cardboard” is truly unbeatable, but for tasks that I have done a dozen times and could recognize the hardware with a blindfold on, a small magnetic tray is a perfect catch-all to keep everything together, even if I knock it or drop it. If you don't want to shell out to buy one, consider gluing an old speaker magnet to the bottom of a metal bowl. Sometimes being organized is that easy.



## 6 Uses for Magnets in a DIY Garage

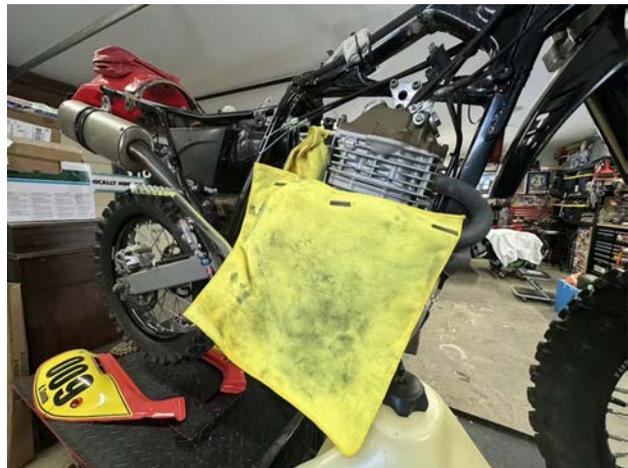
### Retrieving things

The unbeaten champ of finding all the chips on your floor—and also hardware. Despite being able to see the ground through most vintage car engine compartments, hardware never seems to make it all the way down and out when dropped. A magnet on a stick can save the day, whether it is a purchased solution with a flexible end or a literal magnet glued to whatever piece of scrap wood you have nearby.



### Holding something out of the way

Just a couple of magnets and a microfiber help keep debris out of and off this engine. One of the more annoying parts of doing engine or mechanical work within a vehicle's chassis is the disconnected wires and hoses that often hang down or flop around in the work area. Two small magnets and a rag make a simple sling that can support that pesky mechanical spaghetti up and out of your work area. Magnets holding a rag up can also be a makeshift diaper or catch pan for something that needs to move or sit open for some time.



## 6 Uses for Magnets in a DIY Garage

### Magnetizing tools

While some tools are sold with magnets pre-installed, most steel tools will become lightly magnetized after just a swipe or two with a magnet. Even nicer is that a second swipe can remove that magnetism. Use this to hold small hardware and screwdrivers for easier thread starting. Also consider simply sticking a magnet to the side of a socket or extension to hold a bolt or nut. Of course, be careful that the magnet doesn't find something it is more attracted to. A wrap of electrical tape might be the simple solution to that.

