



The Jerry Clip can be used on a soft or hard hat or used with glasses to keep a pen or pencil handy while working.

Clip Holds Pens Or Pencils Tight

"The Jerry Clip is designed to eliminate the frustration of not having a writing instrument, which we're all familiar with," says Jerry Clip inventor Gerald Mullen.

The idea came about for a simple reason: "I have very narrow ears on the top, and I can't put a pencil or pen up there without it falling out," he says. "Plus, I wear hearing aids."

"I was building a shed behind the house a couple of years ago, and every time I turned around, the pencil slipped out from under the brim of my hat," he says. "I wasn't getting a lot done because I kept looking for my pencil."

At the end of the long day, Mullen was sitting on his porch and looking at a metal ball marker that golfers use on the course. He thought if the marker could be turned into a U-shape and attached to a hat or glasses with a magnet, a pen or pencil would always be secure.

"We could add it to a hard hat, soft cap, or even the frame of someone's glasses," Mullen says. "That was the genesis of the idea in 2017, and I've been working on it ever since."

Jerry Clips can be purchased on the company website.

"If you're wearing a soft hat such as a

cap, it attaches right on the sweatband," he says. "There's a magnet inside the sweatband secured by double-sided Velcro tape. The clip attaches to that, and the pen or pencil attaches to the clip."

"If it's a hard hat, it's more of a permanent addition to the hat," Mullen says. "Double-sided industrial Velcro tape is affixed to The Jerry Clip and the magnet."

The Jerry Clip for eyeglasses is a little different design, but it still attaches at the temple by a magnet.

Mullen, a retired Air Force veteran, can be creative with The Jerry Clip and add a special logo or design on it.

"I have the Air Force logo on mine," he says. "If you're a union member, you could put your union logo on there. If you're a patriotic person, we could put the U.S. flag on your Jerry Clip."

The Jerry Clip for a soft or hard hat is \$13.91. The eyeglasses clip is \$14.79. Sleeves sell at \$1.79. S&H is additional.

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Floor Mount Keeps Snowplow Controls Handy

When Craig Nelson's dealer installed a snowplow on his F150 Ford, the control switches were installed on the floor. Using mostly salvaged parts, he soon had them within easy reach.

"I didn't want to have to bend over every time I adjusted the plow, so I raised them up on a permanent mount at seat level," says Nelson. "I used the arm from an old satellite dish and screwed it to the floor of the truck. I picked up a 3-gang electric box at Home Depot and screwed it to small flanges on the arm."

Before screwing it down tight, Nelson added JB Weld to the union to reinforce the joint.

"The snowplow switches fit the 3-gang box perfectly," he says. "Once in place, it is easier to reach the controls than it is to turn on the radio."

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Craig Nelson raised the snowplow controls up off the floor of his pickup for easy operation.

"Plastic" Cabinets For Shop & Home

Merle Miller builds cabinets, tables and moldings for shops, barns, lake homes, and pool houses. What sets him apart is the Marine-grade polymer building material he uses that makes it ideal for moist environments where wood molds and rots.

"It's not flimsy plastic," Miller notes. "My cabinet face frames are 3/4-in. polymer and the side panels are 1/2-in. thick. I strive to make cabinets that last a lifetime."

Besides handling moisture, they are easy to clean. Many customers use a pressure washer, for example, to clean shop cabinets. Brake cleaner takes care of grease or stains.

At the same time, the cabinets are attractive enough to put in a home. He also makes sewing cabinets and an 8-ft. pull-out table that stores in a cupboard with leaf storage.

Gray has been a popular color, but Miller has a dozen colors to choose from including wood grain patterns. Using one color for the frame and another for the faces is also a decorative option.

Millers Custom Plastics in Nappanee, Ind., has grown steadily since Miller started his home-based business in 2019. Miller had experience building wooden cabinets as a teen before working at an RV factory. He recognized that plastic was an opportunity to offer something new and would allow more time at home with his family.

He's already more than doubled his shop size and added a full-time employee. He has



Miller has built many cabinets and one-piece window trims and other trims for many bathrooms, all out of HDPE plastic.

many repeat customers and is open to trying new ideas for custom orders.

"I've built for milk houses, horse barns and dog kennels. I've also built for children's play areas, where they can clean off crayon and marker with brake cleaner," he says.

His prices are similar to cabinets made with high-quality wood, Miller says. He ships to other states and works with homeowners and contractors for custom orders. He is in the process of selling wholesale and working with dealers. Besides cabinets and trim, he makes signs, clocks, mirrors and other items out of plastic.

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Yax modified his motorcycle lift to fit a 3-pt. hitch to make a scaffold.

Modified Motorcycle Lift Used As Adjustable Scaffold

When Mark Yax needed to replace some rotten wood on his barn this past autumn, he decided to modify his 1,000-lb. rated Harbor Freight motorcycle lift into a man lift scaffold to complete the work.

"I'm getting older, so I didn't want to work off a ladder," says Yax. "I thought if I could put a cage on the lift, I'd be able to safely reach what I needed to."

Yax used an old 2 by 2-in. bed frame for the 6 railings and cage supports and added swing-out gates on either end of the platform for entry and exit. A bracket on one end supports a ladder for him to climb into the raised scaffold. The pump-up hydraulic cylinder to raise and lower the lift is normally controlled by foot pedals, but Yax extended the handles with black pipe so he could operate them by hand from inside the elevated platform.

To raise the scaffold higher, he welded 3 by 3-in. square tubing to the underside of the

lift for his tractor's 3-pt. hitch forklift attachment forks to slide into. For extra safety, he drilled holes through the forks and inserted bolts to secure the scaffold. Yax also covered the deck surface with gritty Rustoleum truck bed coating for a non-slip surface.

"I can adjust the front/back tilt and level the platform with the adjuster on the lift arm when the tractor is on a small slope," he says. "It raises about 4-ft. in the air and the tractor lifts it another 3 ft. so I can work comfortably at a height of 10 ft. It's great for painting, cleaning gutters or working on windows."

He says the total cost of the project was about \$100 as he already had the motorcycle lift and most of the metal lying around.

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