

Magnetic Holder Keeps Tools In Place

Socket Straps can keep wrenches, sockets, screwdrivers and pliers, as well as nuts, bolts and screws, in place. The magnetic strips come in various sizes and feature powerful magnets.

Made from flexible, seamless urethane rubber, they won't scratch surfaces and clean up easily. They're also resistant to chemicals like brake cleaner. Their narrow design allows placement in spots where magnetic dishes won't fit, such as implements, vehicle frames, and metal shop posts.

Socket Straps keep everything close at hand and not rolling on the shop floor or ground. The strips are black, red or blue and come in small, medium or large sizes. They also have a heavy-duty version suited for large sockets with magnets about three times as strong as other versions. Holes have also been added to both ends to allow a carabiner to secure the socket strap to a belt loop and free up your hands (e.g. when climbing a ladder).

"I was working on my Ford E-350 and didn't have space for a magnet bowl, but the socket strap worked great. I mainly used it to hold the screws. The magnets are strong enough to put two to three screws in each groove. That made it so easy to keep track of which screw went where, since I put them



Sturdy magnetic straps hold sockets and tools close at hand.

on the magnet in the same order I removed them," says Andy Brooks from an online review.

Prices start at \$25 and vary based on size. Their website offers free shipping within the U.S. on orders of \$50 or more.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Socket Straps LLC, 4218 S 500 W, Murray, Utah 84123 (info@socketstraps.com; www.socketstraps.com).



"I've got a thermostatic switch that I put at the top of the heater. When the temperature reaches 80 F, the fan cuts in and heats the shop," says Taylor.

Made-It-Myself Solar Heater

Doug Taylor of Bengough, Sask., built a solar air heater for his shop that exceeded his original expectations. "I built this heater last October, hoping it would supplement my shop's heat pump," he says. "When sunny, this is my primary heat source, and the heat pump doesn't even cut in."

Taylor's shop measures 30 ft. by 72 ft., while the solar heater is 11 1/2 ft. high by 32 ft. long. "My walls are concrete-faced foam, but I think the design could be installed over any material," he says. "Steel siding would work great. I used 2 by 4s upright, 4 ft. apart. Then, I stapled a wire screen between them. Each screen measures 2 ft. by 4 ft."

Taylor added three layers of screen spaced a 1/4 in. apart. "They're fastened at an angle, out at the bottom and in at the top. The next row higher overlaps the lower row."

He spray-painted everything flat black and attached twin wall polycarbonate sheets to the 2 by 4s. At the bottom of each 2 by 4, he installed a 4-in. dryer flap that closes when there isn't airflow. "This keeps cold air from entering the shop at night," he says.

At the top, he cut a 4-in. hole for the ducting that goes to the fan. "I've got a thermostatic switch that I put at the top of the heater. When the temperature reaches 80 F, the fan cuts in and heats the shop. Even on -20 F days, it would get to 176 F in the panel. The air from the fan is cooler, though, ranging from 104 to 140 F. It'll heat the shop between 53 and 57 F on a freezing winter day, plenty warm enough to work in."

On sunny days when the temperature is around freezing and above, Taylor finds the shop stays warm enough that the heat pump won't kick in at night. "When it gets too warm, I'll just cover the panel with a silver reflective tarp," he says.

Taylor found the heater to be a quick and affordable project. "It cost around \$1,000 CAD (\$700 USD) to build, but I already had the lumber, fan and screen. If I had to buy everything, it would probably be closer to \$1,600 to \$1,800 CAD." He estimates it took him a week to build, working two to four hours daily. "If I had to do it again, I'd paint the wall flat black before installing the screens," he says. "The black wall would probably absorb more heat that way."

For readers interested in making their own heater, Taylor highlights the importance of improvisation. "If you happen to have lots of old windows lying around, use them," he says. "Double-pane windows would definitely be more efficient. I used a heavy 1/8-in. mesh for the screen because I had lots on hand. However, a metal window screen would probably work about the same and be easier to work with. I went with three layers of screen. Two might work, and four might be even better. Take your time to experiment, and you'll likely come up with some creative solutions."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Doug Taylor, Bengough, Sask., Canada (ltaylor@lask@gmail.com).

Tray Keeps Gear Organized

The Stupid Car Tray provides a stable, flat surface for various tasks.

Made in the U.S., it's designed for use in both front and back seats. It's ideal for everything from holding lunch while parked to keeping tools, notebooks, and large cups or water bottles steady on rough terrain.

One end features a leg to keep it level in a seat, while an arm slides between the seat cushion and backrest for added stability. A built-in cargo strap helps secure items and can be stowed under the tray when not in use.

The tray is handy for holding a laptop or tablet when parked, making your vehicle a convenient mobile office. Its dimensions are 18 in. by 12 in. by 4 1/2 in.

The cargo strap helps secure items like pizza boxes, bakery boxes, or anything else that might slide off the seat while driving.

Priced at \$29.99 for the tray alone and \$39.99 for the bundle with drink holders, it's an affordable, multipurpose addition to any vehicle. Discounted shipping is available on the website, and orders over \$50 qualify for free shipping. The tray comes in several colors and has an easy-to-clean surface.

One satisfied customer noted, "I bought



Tray creates a level surface in passenger seat for work and storage.

the Tray for my truck, and it's been a game-changer. It keeps my coffee and work gear from flying everywhere when I hit a bump."

Whether you're a farmer, rancher or someone who spends a lot of time in their vehicle, the Stupid Car Tray proves that sometimes the simplest ideas can be the most practical.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Stupid Technologies, Wauconda, Ill. 60084 (support@stupidcartray.com; www.stupidtech.com).



After 18 mos. and more than 20 prototypes, Moulton had a rugged but flexible magnetic cleaning paddle that could handle a vehicle's curved glass.

Tool Cleans Windshields Inside And Out

Windshield WOW! makes it possible to clean both sides of your windshield simultaneously. "The idea began in early 2018 when I was driving in a torrential rainstorm," says founder John Moulton. "The glare from oncoming headlights shining off the dirty windshield made for a dangerous situation. I did the usual gas station squeegee outside cleaning the next day, but it didn't remove the built-up film and haze. I eventually realized the source of the problem was the inside."

Moulton learned that vinyl and plastic off-gassing in a vehicle's interior causes haze and film to build up on the windshield. "I attempted to scrub the interior, but most people know how awkward that is. I resorted to a microfiber pad on a long stick, but this proved only slightly better than using my arm." After several days, he came up with a solution: two magnetic cleaning paddles. After 18 mos. and more than 20 prototypes, Moulton had a rugged but flexible magnetic cleaning paddle that could handle a vehicle's curved glass. "I showed it to friends and family, and the universal response was 'WOW!'" he says.

Today, the patent-pending flexible paddles surround strong magnets. It provides consistent pressure across contours for an even clean. When placed on both sides of the windshield, they will bind to each other and improve your cleaning potential. Move the exterior paddle, and the interior will follow.

"It's quite simple to use," says Moulton. "Attach clean microfiber cloths to the Velcro paddles and spray them with glass cleaner. Set the external paddle on the outside

windshield, and then reach in and attach the inside paddle. Through magnetic force, both paddles are now magnetically connected, and by moving the outside paddle, the inside moves in unison automatically. Yes, new users experience a bit of a learning curve. But after a few goes, most people can master it."

The Windshield WOW! works for most vehicle glass, including rear windows with defroster wires embedded into or on them. It's also safe for use on tinted windows, so long as the tint was professionally installed and doesn't usually scratch from hand cleaning. This system should not be used for home windows, as the magnet strength is only optimized for automotive glass. Home windows are thicker, so the magnets will not work.

The Windshield WOW! Basic set costs \$99.95 and includes dual flexible cleaning paddles, two foam storage/paddle separator trays, a 10-pack of reusable microfiber cloths, a 2-pack of buffing cloths, and a rigid storage box. A Pro set costs \$129.95 and adds an adjustable extension arm for easy reach, double the microfiber and buffing cloths, a 4-oz Sprayway glass cleaner spray can, and a silicone scuff guard. Additional reusable microfiber cloths are sold at \$14.95 per 10-pack, and buffing cloths are sold for \$3.95 for two. "All of our cleaning cloths can get hundreds of uses as they can be washed and reused," says Moulton.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Windshield WOW! (www.windshieldwow.com).