

# MAGNETIC KNIFE RACK

A rare-earth magnet knife rack is a good way to keep your knives out of the drawer, close at hand and, if you love your knives like I do, on display. Rare-earth magnet racks are also great for storing chisels and other tools.

I did some tests to see how strong magnets would be if buried under  $\frac{1}{8}$ " of epoxy and decided to go with two  $\frac{3}{4}$ " diameter magnets to hold each knife securely.

## HOW TO:

1. Mark the location of the magnets.
2. Drill holes to a depth of approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$ ". This will ensure  $\frac{1}{8}$ " thick magnets are concealed  $\frac{1}{16}$ " to  $\frac{1}{8}$ " under the epoxy. You can play around with this depth to get the desired/optimal magnet attraction.
3. Use a small dab of quick-cure epoxy to secure each magnet to the bottom of each hole. Be careful if the holes are close, as magnets will repel or be attracted to each other, and you may need to do this in a few steps. Make sure magnet pairs are facing the same direction. Lee Valley magnets have a red dot to help you orient them. Rare-earth magnets are very strong and can be brittle, so you need to be cautious when handling them. They can break if they snap together naturally and may pinch your fingers.
4. Once the magnets are secured, mix the epoxy as directed on the packaging and fill the holes carefully. Try mixing different tints and metallic powders to achieve different designs.
5. Once the epoxy circles are dry, chamfer or round over the corners of the rack, and sand the surface starting at 80x or 120x, moving through 180x, 220x and 320x and up to 400x or 600x sandpaper. Then move to wet/dry sandpaper and work your way to the highest grit possible. The wet/dry sanding will help polish the epoxy circles.
6. Finish the rack using the product of your choice. Remember to always dry your kitchen knives before putting them away.

