

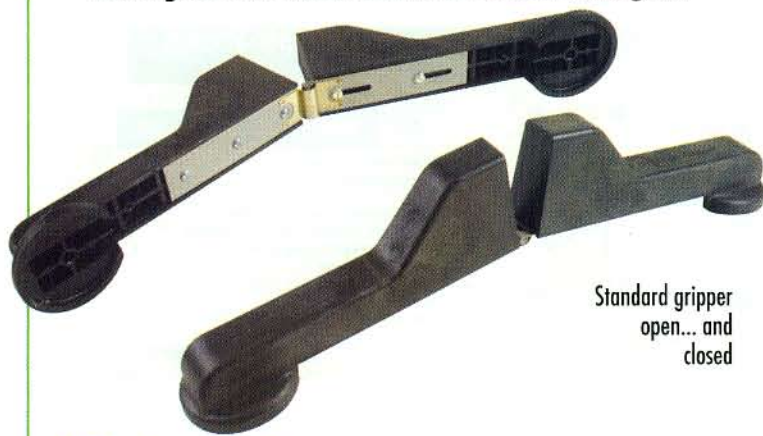
Abracadabra, the door holds firm

PHOTOGRAPHS BY GMC/ANTHONY BAILEY

MAGIC GRIPPERS

Anthony Bailey is enchanted with this workholding device

What's this then? Black plastic mouldings! Do I really want more stuff cluttering up my precious workshop space? OK, that was my somewhat ungracious reaction to opening up this box of tricks. Better give them the benefit of the doubt, I thought...



Standard gripper open... and closed

What you get

- Two identical mouldings hinged together by means of a flat strip-steel hinge adjustable by screwdriver at one end, allowing one moulding to move in and out
- Ridge lines in the steel to assist in easy setting
- Curved strip-steel spring, spot-welded over the hinge area

The test

The amount you can do with it is impressive. For instance, you might want to plane the edge of a room door or fit the lock out of situ, possibly using a router and jig.

Traditionally, carpenters would make up a block and wedge

to support the door on edge for working on it.

Using Magic Grippers, simply adjust the gap between the two mouldings to a fraction more than door width, tighten the screws, place the grippers on the floor and drop the door into the gaps in the grippers. The weight of the door locks it in place.

When you've finished, lift the door up, allow the grippers to spring up slightly and let go - magic!

It's so rigid I managed to stand on the edge of a board mounted like this without any risk of falling over - unbelievable!

The possibilities

If it will do that, then there are all sorts of possibilities: four sets and two boards as uprights allow you to make a timber rack, work surface or desk. Two sets can hold a large exhibition panel completely stable. The uses are down to your imagination.

A wheeled variant allows creation of a movable worktable or movement of heavy parts around the workshop.

The verdict

This is a 5-star product. It's simple, effective and versatile. ■

PRICE AND WHERE TO BUY

- Standard Magic Gripper set: £35 inc VAT from various independent outlets
- Website: www.magicfituk.com

5 STAR RATING,

- | | |
|-----------------|-------|
| VALUE FOR MONEY | ★★★★★ |
| PERFORMANCE | ★★★★★ |
| BUILD QUALITY | ★★★★★ |

There's a wheeled version as well

