

A Strong and Clean Method of Mounting a ToneWood Amp On a Curved Back Instrument

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I tried for a couple of weeks to get my TWA to stick on the back of my curved back guitar. Mine is a Taylor GS Mini. I tried several of the methods I found online and each resulted in a tenuous mount that made poor contact at the transducer end of the TWA. Lifting the other end resulted in good contact but the TWA kept falling off. I got so frustrated I called Sweetwater and got a return authorization.

Then I started thinking. What would happen if I used something sticky on the end of the TWA. I thought about that for a while and realized that I didn't want to use adhesives on my GS. Then I looked at my soon to be returned X-Brace stuck to the side of a metal filing cabinet and thought "What's stickier than another magnet?"

Here's what I did.

I ordered a hundred 10x2mm neodymium magnets on Amazon. That was the cheapest way to get them at \$7.99 USD. 10mm is about the size of the magnets in the X-Brace and the 2mm thickness gave me about the right size for fine tuning the angle. After handling these a bit I would caution you to not get anything bigger unless you're some kind of superman. They are powerful.

You're also going to need some 'felt like' material with an adhesive on one side. Thinner material may be better. A co worker had several scraps for me to choose from. (Praise the packrat!)

The magnets came in a plastic holder:



The 8 that are missing are the ones I used.

I mounted the X-Brace per instructions, doing several trials until I found the position I wanted. One that let me reach the controls without turning the guitar sideways, upside down etc. Once I found that I removed the plastic covers from the adhesive and permanently mounted it inside the guitar.

I estimated that I would need four magnets on each side of the TWA. So I pried eight magnets out of the stack. It's easier if you slide them sideways until they let go. If you set them within about 4 inches of each other they will get stuck together again.

Here's where it gets technical. The magnets in the X-Brace have a polarity. You need to find the correct polarity for each one of them individually.

Lay a sheet of paper over the back of your guitar about where you installed X-Brace. (This will keep the finish from getting scratched) Take one of the stacks, hold it FIRMLY and move it close to where you mounted the X-Brace. If you feel the magnets being pushed away the polarity is backwards, if you can feel the attraction allow the magnets to find the right location. (If the magnets are snatched out of your grasp and jump to the back of the guitar the polarity is correct.)

Once you find the right end of the magnets pull them off the guitar (one at a time) by sliding them away from the X-Brace magnets. Being sure not to turn them over place enough sticky back felt on the bottom magnet to completely cover the bottom of the magnet. Once you've done that stick them back on the guitar to make sure you got the polarity right. The polarity of the magnets in the X-Brace may not all be the same so you can't expect them to be interchangeable.

This is what they look like with the felt installed.



This is what they look like on the guitar.



They can be left on the guitar or on the TWA, whichever you prefer. If you carry them around loose they have a habit of getting stuck together or sticking to random steel things in your bag. Since I use my TWA on other guitars I prefer to leave the magnets on the guitar.

And this is how the TWA fits now:



And to show you how strong the mount is this is me picking the guitar up by the TWA. Note that the transducer is making good contact. The sticky pads do not work much on this guitar.

