

# MAG GRAB FLY PATCHES BY CLING

REVIEW BY BRIAN CLARK

Is it just me, or does it seem like magnets have infested every corner of fly fishing gear in recent years? Magnetic net leashes, magnetic closures on slings and vests and packs, magnetic nipper holders on hats, magnetic rod holders for vehicles, magnetic fly reel frame + spool connections . . . I’ve even seen a magnet inside a fly recently. Not that I’m complaining; powerful rare-earth neodymium magnets must rank high on humanity’s list of most useful inventions, and their applications in the fly fishing world are legion.

Still, I’m not sure anybody’s doing more useful things with magnets in the fly fishing space than the Bozeman-based company, Cling Fishing Products. Like many clever innovations, Cling arose from the fertile minds of avid young anglers, Jared and Grace May. They’re machining fly and tool patches out of aircraft aluminum and loading them with magnets that strike the perfect balance: strong enough to hold flies and (some) tools, even under a fair bit of stress, but you can still easily pull the flies off by hand. It’s a neat trick, and a pragmatic one. Their “Mag Grabs” come in a number of sizes; the hyper-portable Mini is just 1.5in square, and it comes with a stainless steel backplate that can be used to temporarily adhere the patch to clothing and other materials, or dangle on a lanyard. The Plus is a 2.5in square that also comes with a mounting plate; it works nicely with waders and many gear bags. The Delta and Boat Bars are rectangular and significantly larger; they’re intended to be mounted with adhesive backing on coolers, boats, and other surfaces that’ll be permanently attractive to flies. Some versions of the Delta even have a bottle opener!

Best of all, they’ve really nailed the aesthetics. The colors range from black and orange to blue and white, and a variety of fish species and fly patterns are available as graphic adornments. The results are practical, attractive, novel, versatile, and make one of the best gifts we can imagine for the fly angler who already has everything.

Naturally, we’ve mounted the redfish boat bar on the console of On The Fly Magazine’s skiff – a perfect fit since we spend most of our time chasing redfish in the marsh. As an accidental test, one evening we forgot that a number of flies were still on the patch after getting off the water late,

and we made a 90-minute drive home at highway speeds. When we arrived, every single fly was right where we left it.

When we first saw the Mag Grabs, I assumed they were mostly for trout anglers swapping out lots of small flies, like chironomid patterns. That isn’t true; they work well on flies of all sizes.

One caveat: although Cling’s magnets are strong enough to hold tools like nippers, hemostats, and even pliers, many of those tools are made mostly from non-ferrous metals like aluminum and titanium, especially if they’re intended for saltwater use. Those won’t stick to the Mag Grabs, but most tools made primarily from stainless steel will.

**MSRP:** Mini US\$19.99 | Boat Bar US\$139

**Website:** [www.clingfishing.com](http://www.clingfishing.com)

