

COMBAT ZONE

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PARTS IS PARTS

Kitbots Nutstrip

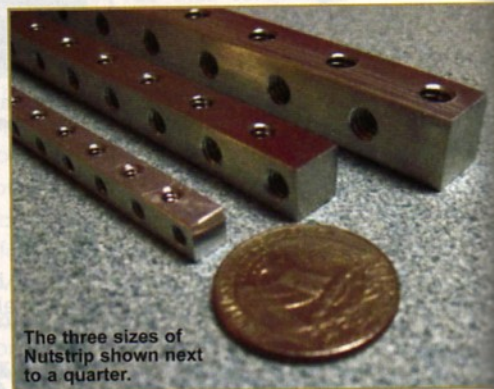
● by Mike Jeffries

Nutstrip is a product Kitbots uses in several of their kits to allow easy assembly and reduce machining costs on the chassis components. Nutstrip is a simple and effective design. The product is made from square stock and has a series of evenly spaced tapped holes accessible from all sides. Kitbots offers three sizes of Nutstrip: Mini (1/4" stock, 6-32 threads), medium (3/8" stock, 10-24 threads), and large (1/2" stock, 1/4-20 threads).

The primary benefits of using Nutstrip are that you only need to use through holes on your parts when you want to assemble them at right angles, and the threaded portion of the assembly can easily be replaced. This reduces the time and precision needed for most applications since threading takes additional time, and loose tolerances can be

used with the through holes to allow for easy part fitting. In addition, if the threads are damaged the parts are much easier to replace.

I am currently using the mini and medium Nutstrip, and plan to use it as the primary means of assembling a 30 lb Sportsman class robot. In testing so far, the Nutstrip has held up to both the abuse of strong impacts and repeated fastener removal without any obvious signs of wear or damage. In my 1 lb robot, Motor City Massacre, the



The three sizes of Nutstrip shown next to a quarter.

