PVC Clips

How it came about

I came up with this idea one night back in January of 2006 while falling asleep; during that point where your mind opens up and you stop thinking about all of the junk in your life. I had no idea whether this would actually work or not. Things that you think of during sleep always work better than they do in reality.

Making the Clips

This is just ¾ inch PVC pipe that I picked up at Menards for somewhere around $1.50 for ten feet. Using a table saw and a combination blade, I slit the pipe lengthwise with the blade moved over just the thickness of the wall of the pipe; this was a total guess. Cutting at a nice average pace works the best; too slow and it tends to melt and too fast will cause the PVC to chip.



I then cut the pipe in ½ inch widths. I found that a band saw worked the best this way. The table saw either cracked the pipe or totally annihilated a section of it.

Using the PVC Clips

The real test was going to be when it was time to start putting up the display. My original thought was that the blunt point would hang under my eves to hold four strings of mini lights. In previous years, I used to clip C7's to the underside of my eves and they looked good that way. I didn't really like the look of mini lights hanging down below the eves' especially with the weight of four strings. Then I realized that there was an extra metal strip on the front fascia of the eve. So I shoved a few of the clips underneath the metal strip, each right next to a nail and moved the four mini light strings in position. Since the fascia was white, this made the eve act as a reflector and added more light.

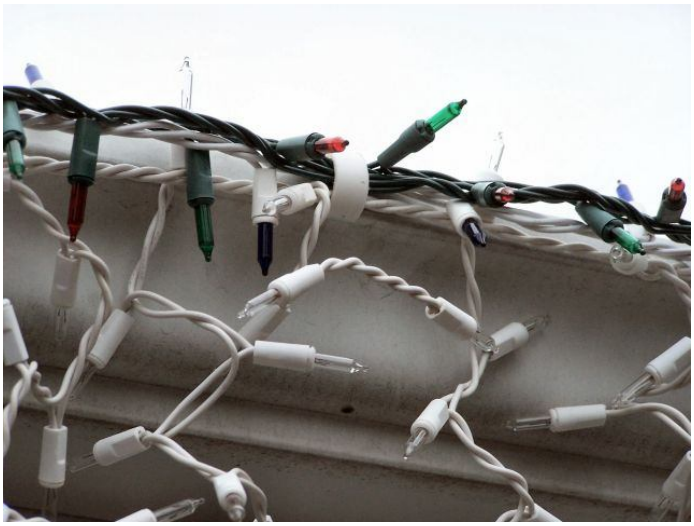






My association decided that everyone needed gutters over the garage door, which is actually pretty handy when it rains but maybe not so much for hanging Christmas lights. Well after a little pondering, I found that the clip will stretch over the front lip of the gutter and still have plenty of room for multiple wires.



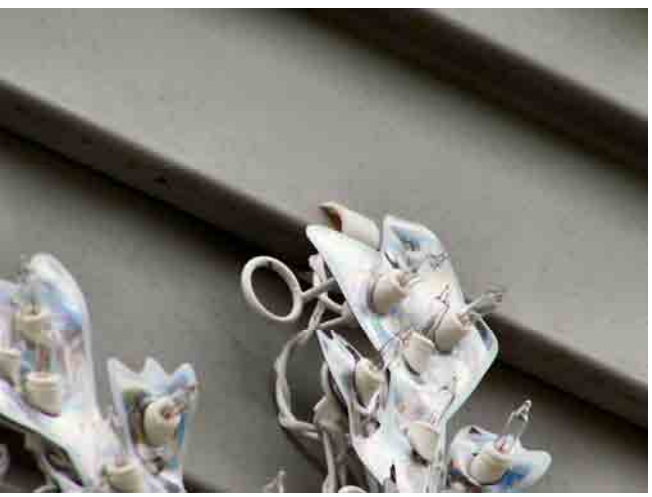


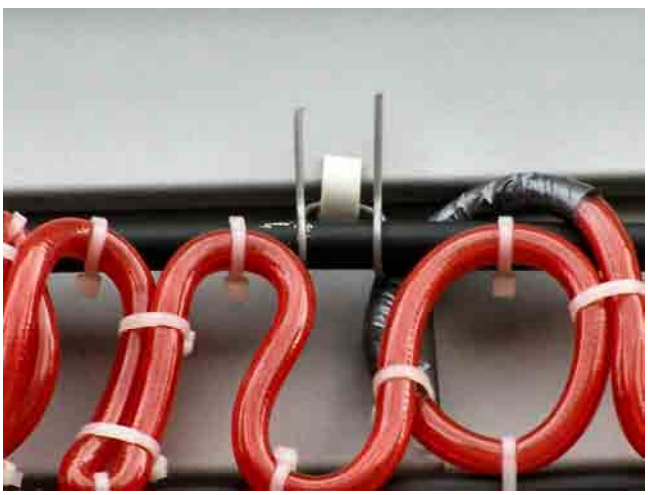
They work well for these fake shutters too.



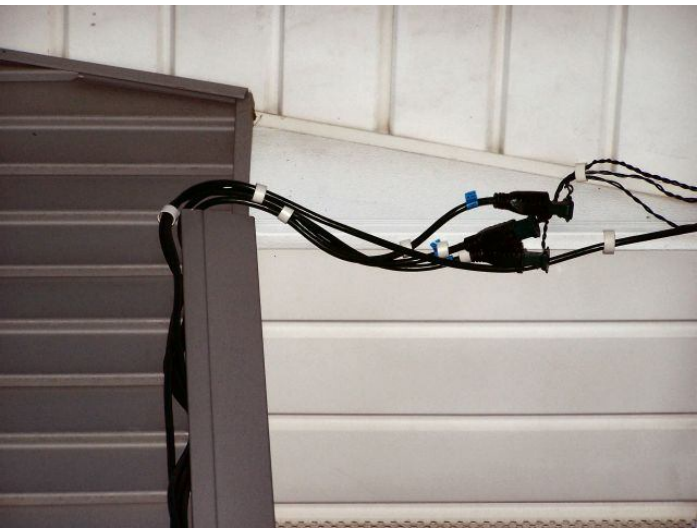


You can also shove these up under the siding. That's a modified lawn staple holding up the rope light sign.





A bit of power cord weight relief on second floor.



Conclusion

Some of the clips that were stretched for two months last year, looked as though they would permanently stay that way. Maybe it was just the below freezing temperatures when I was taking things down (they were packed away as soon as I was done), but all of the clips went back to their original shape and tension sometime over the summer.

I have no idea how much weight these things will take but they seem to be pretty strong and most of them probably could have been half as wide as they were.

I left these in the white color that they came in. I suppose you could spray paint these any color. It would certainly take less time than re-coloring mini-lights.

These are easy to make, with the right tools and probably would have taken about a half an hour to run through 2 10 foot pipes if I would have done them all in one shot.

I don't know how many you can get out of one pipe but figuring that you loose 1/8 of an inch for width of the band saw blade, if you cut them to exactly an inch you could get a maximum of 192 clips per pipe. That's pretty cheap for a buck and a half.