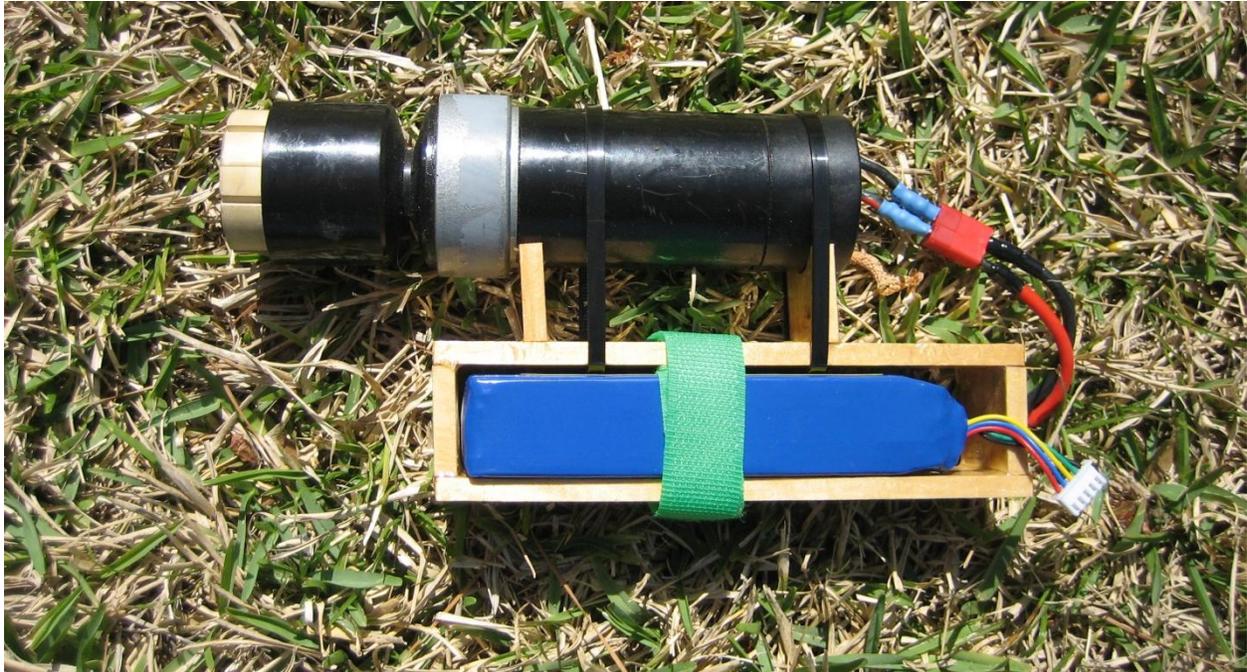


## Paint Stick Battery Holder

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I was trying to start my brand new twin engine aircraft. I was using a new starter I bought just for this purpose. I tried and tried but was unable to start the engine. Paul was watching me when he finally came over and said, "Let me see if I can help." He reached into his field box and came out with his trusty Kavan starter. Compared to mine, it spun very, very fast. He started the engine with ease.

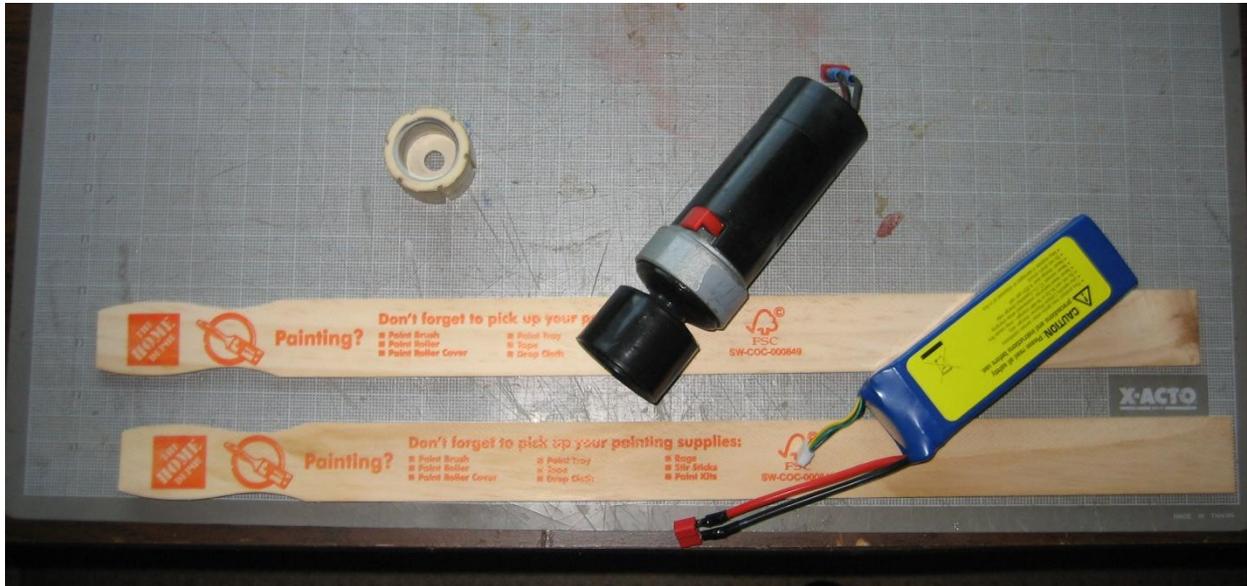
This got me to thinking. How can I make my starter spin like Paul's? MORE VOLTAGE!!! Why not use a 4 cell LiPo battery to spin one of my old Kavan starters. I whipped out my soldering gun and went to work. I changed the battery plug on the Kavan to accept the Deans connector on my 3600 MAH 4 Cell 14.8 volt LiPo pack. I connected it up and viola! It spun like Paul's and... when I applied it to one of my .25 OS engines it started it instantly. Problem solved.....

Well, not quite, although it worked. It was hard to handle with the battery dangling in the breeze.

Next problem..... Find a way to secure the battery.

I went to Home Depot in search of....well.... I was not sure what I was looking for. I was passing the paint section when I saw them. They were paint sticks. Not just the little dinky paint sticks but big honking industrial sized paint sticks. These things measured 21 inches in length, ¼ inch thick and 1 ½ inches wide. I asked the young lady at the counter if I could buy some of them. She said that they were free. Wow, I don't think I EVER got out of a Home Depot so cheap.

## Building the holder



Made from two 21 inch paint sticks obtained from Home Depot.

The holder is made to fit my 3600 MAH 4S 14.8 volt battery and my Kavan starter. You may have to vary your dimensions to fit your hardware. The whole thing is held together with 5 minute epoxy.

I started by cutting two 6 ½ inch lengths from the paint stick. I then cut two 1 ½ inch lengths so I could form a box. I glued them together.

Next I cut two more 1 inch lengths from the paint sticks and used the cone holder as a template to trace a half circle on each one inch piece. I cut the half circle out then glued them to the box.



Since the unit was going to be used near glow fuel. I fuel proofed the whole assembly with the same 5 minute epoxy that I glued it together with. Additionally I found it was easier to just spread the epoxy using a gloved finger ( Yes, I know, I'm a hack ).

The only thing left to do is tie wrap it all together. I used Velcro to hold the battery in because I don't think it is a good idea to compress the LiPo's with tie wraps.

The whole project only took one hour.

