

Proposal to Add Magnet Character

To: Unicode Consortium

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Abstract

This submission is a request to add a magnet character to the Unicode emoji set. The magnet is a common tool used throughout both science and in common language, and none of the current emoji convey the idea of attraction or magnetism that is associated with the magnet.

Introduction

Magnets and magnetism are one of the core concepts of physical science. Magnetism is a concept taught in almost every school curriculum science class, usually through the concept of a compass or Earth's magnetic poles. The first known descriptions of magnetism comes from 2500 years ago, and magnets have been used to drive ship's compasses since the 12th century. Magnets are used everywhere within daily life, from credit card strips, speakers, microphones to MRI machines and secure phone cases.

In addition magnets have found themselves become part of everyday speech, phrases such as "trouble magnet" or "chick magnet" are common and describe the aura of a person attracting a phenomena to themselves. Magnetism is also prevalent in pop culture, in the form of powers for characters such as Magneto from X-Men and the Pokemon Magnemite, one of the original 151 Pokemon created, or the meme "#%*@ing Magnets, How Do They Work?".¹

Names

CLDR short name: magnet

CLDR keywords: magnet | tool

¹ <http://knowyourmeme.com/memes/fucking-magnets-how-do-they-work>

Images



Artwork by Philippe Kimura-Thollander. Licensed for noncommercial use: free to share and use.

Compatibility

The author is unaware of any magnet images used in any major platform (Google, Apple, Snapchat, Facebook).

A magnet emoji provides a unique opportunity to convey the idea of magnetic attraction or unintentional attention from a phenomenon.

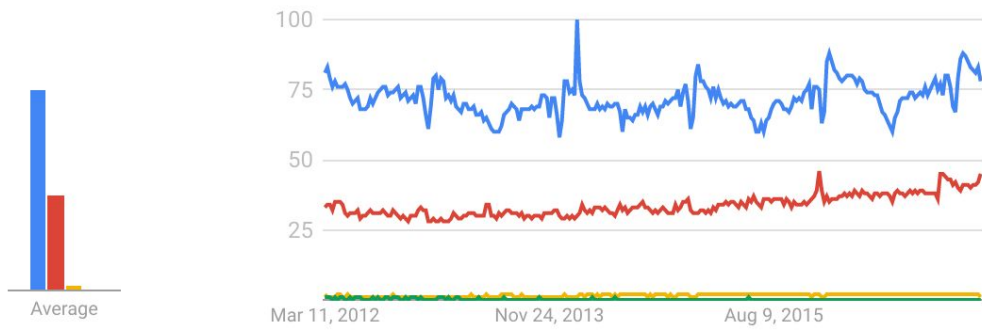
Expected Usage

A. Frequency

The expected usage of the magnet emoji is high. A current Google Trends analysis of “magnet” versus current tools such as “wrench” and “nut and bolt” show a much higher usage of magnet over other emoji in the “tool” category. Magnet also far outranks pushpin, an object which can also serve the same purpose in the context of placing notes or photos up on walls.

Interest over time

● magnet ● wrench ● nut and bolt ● pushpin



Worldwide. Past 5 years.

In addition, magnet emoji is one of the top five rising searches within the past 5 years:

Related queries	Rising
1 lipo magnet	Breakout
2 pelis magnet	+4,250%
3 lipo magnet nedir	+4,250%
4 lipo magnet şikayet	+3,950%
5 magnet emoji	+3,650%

B. Multiple Uses

A magnet has various uses beyond its symbol as a tool of magnetism. Magnets can symbolize attraction, such as in the phrases “magnet for trouble” or “chick magnet.”



Magnets are also prevalent in comic book culture in the form of the magnetism power, characters like Magneto and Polaris could be referenced by using the magnet emoji.



C. Demand

The demand of and frustration with a lack of a magnet emoji has been expressed across social media² and forums³.

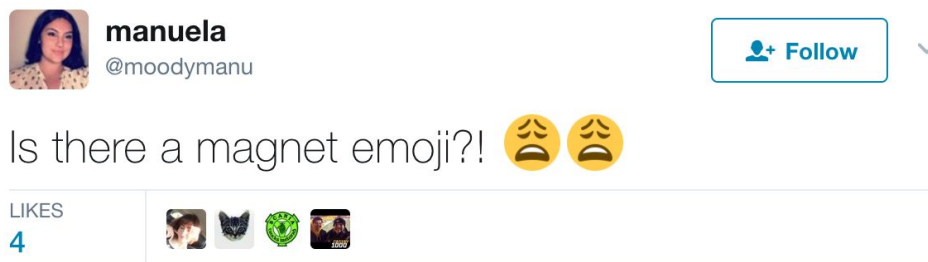
“Why doesn't this keyboard have a magnet emoji? Missed opportunity there.”

“All my life I swore there was a magnet emoji. I guess I was proven wrong today”

“March 28th, 2017: still no magnet emoji”

“THERE'S AN EMOJI OF A LITERAL HOLE AND TWO PAPER CLIPS FOUR CAMERAS AND NO MAGNET”

D. Anecdotal Support



Q: Is there a magnet emoji? I've looked anywhere and I can't find it. If Apple could add it that would be greatly appreciated!

I just want some emojis, such as this one, added so I can have more freedom texting my friends and such. If there's an app with the magnet emoji please tell me down below. Thanks for the help!

² <https://twitter.com/search?q=magnet%20emoji&src=typd&lang=en>

³ <https://discussions.apple.com/thread/6396749?tstart=0>

Visual Distinctiveness

A magnet emoji would be visually distinctive from any other emoji and be immediately recognizable as an emoji for “magnet”. A common representation of a magnet is a horseshoe magnet, and there exist no emoji in a horseshoe shape. The red color of a magnet is commonly shared with other emoji, but can be offset by coloring the different poles or with the use of gray or black. The most visually similar emoji might be the pushpin due to its angle and color, or the scissors due to its open shape. None the less, the magnet emoji would have a distinct enough appearance and shape to have it not be confused for any other emoji.

Completeness

The magnet emoji would help round out the tools emoji, which include objects such as hammers, gears, and wrenches. A magnet is also a common tool used within engineering disciplines, and would help represent an phenomenon used in engineering beyond just physical mechanics.

Factors for exclusion


A. Overly Specific

The magnet emoji would not be overly specific. The design would imply “magnet”, which can take on various meanings, representing both the tool and the idea of attraction. Although magnets come in many shapes and sizes, the symbol would be the canonical horseshoe magnet which is most used and recognized in pop culture.

B. Open Ended

N/A. The magnet emoji would be the only one of its kind.

C. Already Representable

The magnet emoji cannot be represented with any other current emoji. The Dango emoji assistant⁴ (used in the prior Broccoli Emoji Proposal⁵) suggests  as the closest series of characters, which does not convey the idea of magnetism or attraction.

D. Logos, brands, UI icons, etc

The magnet emoji does not connote any specific company and is not confined to logos or branding.

⁴ <https://getdango.com/>

⁵ <http://www.unicode.org/L2/L2016/16375-broccoli-emoji.pdf>

E. Transient

As long as we have magnetism, we will have magnets. Magnets as human creation have existed for over 2500 years and will continue to be used in the future.

Sort Location

Category: Tool

Emoji before: Nut and bolt

The image I am submitting does not have any significance that would make it unsuitable for encoding as a character. There are no copyright, religious, or issues that reference anyone historic or living