Making a Compass (cont.)

Making a Magnet

In an ordinary pin, the atoms are not arranged in any particular order. As you run the magnet over the pin, the atoms line up with the positive end pointing one way and the negative the other. Stroking the pin many times strengthens this alignment.

The pin is only a temporary magnet, however, and the magnetism gets weaker with time. If the pin is hit hard with a hammer or is heated, it will lose its magnetism.

