

How To Use the Right Hand Rule to Find the Direction of Magnetic Field due to a Current

This Right Hand Rule (also known as the “Corkscrew Rule”) can actually be used in two ways.

1. For a straight (or straightish) current: point your thumb in the direction of the current. Your fingers will curl around in the direction of the magnetic field due to the current.
2. For a circular current (e.g. current loop or solenoid): curl your fingers in the direction of the current. Then your thumb will point in the direction of the magnetic field due to the current.