

Soldering Iron Tip Care

by [ProvideYourOwn](#) on July 2, 2012

Table of Contents

Soldering Iron Tip Care	1
Intro: Soldering Iron Tip Care	2
Related Instructables	3



Author: ProvideYourOwn ProvideYourOwn.com

ProvideYourOwn.com is a website devoted to people who want to make their own things and provide for their own needs. We provide information, encouragement and resources to empower people to become free from their limitations and bondage to industrialized society and its multi-national corporations.

Intro: Soldering Iron Tip Care

The Problem:

When I was younger, the tip of my soldering iron was always pitted and eaten away. It is difficult to solder with a damaged tip. I have since learned some techniques from pros that will help you keep your soldering iron tip in mint condition.

Explanation:

Tips corrode because of oxidation. This is the same process that causes rust to form on things made from iron or steel. Oxidation is greatly accelerated with higher temperatures, especially soldering temperatures.

The Solution:

Here are two tips to prevent excessive corrosion and maximize the life of your soldering iron tip.

First Tip

Keep your heat low. You can do this by:

- Turning off your soldering iron when not in active use.
- Use a temperature controlled solder station to keep the temperature low and constant.

Second Tip

Keep oxygen away from the tip. You can do this by keeping fresh solder on the tip when not in use. The photos show (in order):

- Tip with old solder and poor coverage
- Freshly cleaned tip - ready for use
- Newly applied solder - tip is not ready for standby

Summary

- Keep your heat low; turn off when not being actively used.
- After each actual use, coat the tip with fresh solder before putting back into its holder.

Just in case you are new to soldering and don't know, be sure to wipe the tip clean on a wetted sponge before soldering. Excess solder on the tip will do no good and lead to problems when trying to solder.

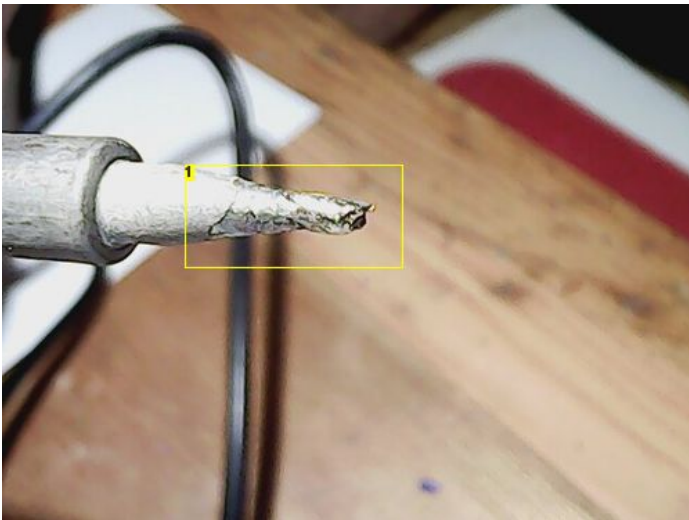


Image Notes

1. old solder on tip - ripe for corrosion

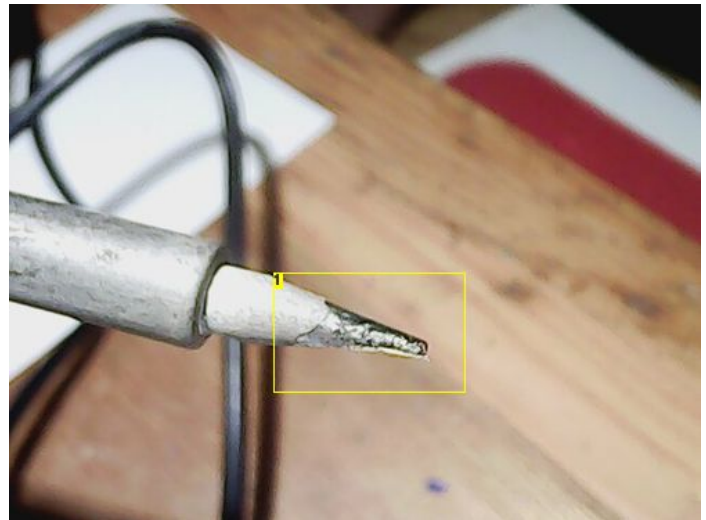


Image Notes

1. clean tip - ready for use

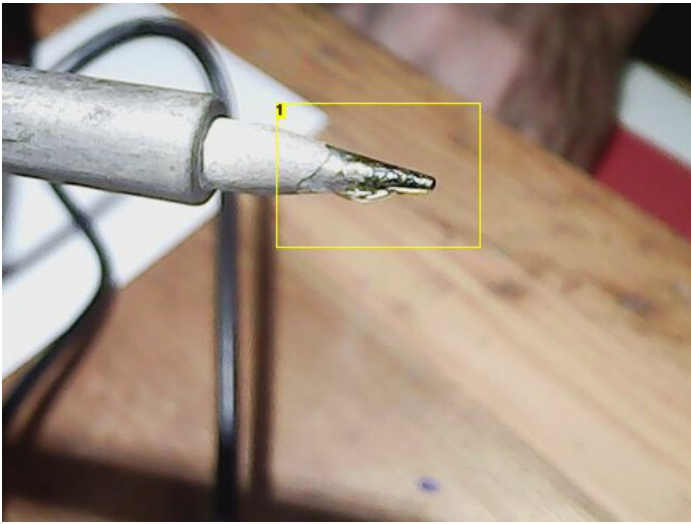


Image Notes
1. freshly tinned - ready for storage

Related Instructables



Soldering tips and tricks by Mr. M



How to Solder - Basic Soldering Guide by soldering iron



DIY soldering iron mounted solder dispenser by tgferreira184



Soldering to large metal objects by T3h_Muffinator



How To: Soldering by randofo

Soldering Tips (Photos) by ddemayo