

Perfboards and Stripboards

DT Workshop Equipment Reference — D&T / STEM resource for school workshops | Electronics & Prototyping

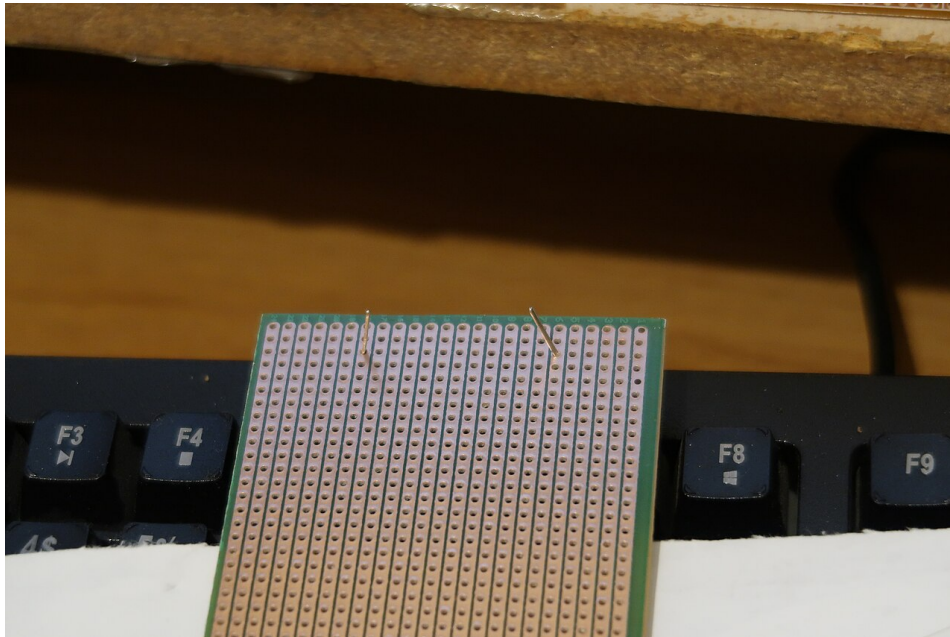


Photo: Morahman7vn — CC BY-SA 4.0 — via Wikimedia Commons (Copper_trace_side_of_stripboard,_with_leads_protruding_outward.jpg)

Perfboards are plain drilled boards for soldered circuit construction, while stripboards (Veroboard) have continuous copper strips that connect rows of holes and are cut with a track cutter to isolate pads. They are the step between breadboard and custom PCB.

Key Features

- Hole pitches of 2.54 mm standard
- Copper strip or plain pad layouts
- Sizes from 5 x 7 cm to 10 x 15 cm
- Track cutter tools for isolating strips
- FR4 fibreglass or SRBP board material

Typical Uses in the Workshop

- Build permanent prototype circuits
- Transfer breadboard designs to solder
- Learn layout and soldering discipline
- Repair and modify existing boards

Safe Operation

1. Plan the component layout on paper first
2. Place components and bend leads to hold them
3. Solder neatly and trim lead ends
4. Cut tracks under ICs and at isolation points
5. Test with a multimeter before powering

SAFETY NOTES

- Solder in a ventilated area with fume extraction
- The iron is hot - use the stand always
- Wear eye protection and wash hands after
- Do not inhale solder fumes
- Check for solder bridges under ICs

Maintenance & Consumables

- Store boards flat and dry
- Keep track cutters sharp and clean
- Check the copper does not lift on cheap boards
- Keep a magnifier for joint inspection
- Store solder in a cool dry place

Specification & Buying Notes

Buy FR4 stripboards in class packs plus a good track cutter. Quality boards hold solder well; cheap SRBP lifts tracks easily when students rework joints.