

Desoldering Pumps and Wick

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

Desoldering tools remove solder to extract and replace components. A desoldering pump (solder sucker) is a spring-loaded vacuum tool that sucks molten solder away, while desoldering wick is braided copper that draws solder up by capillary action. Both are essential for repair and rework.

Key Features

- Pumps with silicone tips and release triggers
- Anti-static body versions
- Wick widths 1.5-3 mm in rolls
- Flux-coated wick for faster absorption
- Replacement tips for pumps

Typical Uses in the Workshop

- Remove components from damaged boards
- Correct solder bridges and bad joints
- Extract through-hole parts for reuse
- Clean vias and pads before resoldering

Safe Operation

1. Heat the joint with the iron until the solder flows
2. Position the pump tip at the joint and trigger
3. Repeat on stubborn joints, adding fresh solder to help
4. For wick, lay it on the joint and heat from above
5. Check the lead is free before pulling the part

SAFETY NOTES

- The iron is hot and molten solder can flick
- Wear eye protection when desoldering
- Do not blow on joints to cool them
- Clean up solder splashes from the bench
- Work in a ventilated area

Maintenance & Consumables

- Empty the pump body frequently
- Clean the pump tip of solder and flux
- Cut used wick sections off cleanly
- Check the pump spring and seal annually
- Store both in the solder station drawer

Specification & Buying Notes

Buy a quality high-vacuum pump with replaceable tips and rolls of fluxed wick in 2 and 2.5 mm widths. Both tools together cover through-hole rework thoroughly.