Helping Hand Soldering Stands

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

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A helping hand is a weighted stand with crocodile clips on articulated arms that holds wires, boards and components in position while you solder, magnifier optional. It turns a two-handed soldering job into one that one person can manage safely and accurately.

Key Features

- Two or four articulated crocodile-arm clips
- Heavy weighted bases prevent tipping
- Optional magnifying lenses
- Clip tips with heat-resistant sleeves
- Third-arm and PCB holder versions

Typical Uses in the Workshop

- Hold wires in place while soldering
- Support boards for component placement
- Keep heat-shrink and connectors steady
- Hold work for inspection and testing

Safe Operation

1. Position the clips to support the joint area
2. Adjust arm tension so the work stays put
3. Use the magnifier to see fine joints
4. Fit heat-sleeved clips for hot joints
5. Release and reposition as the work turns

SAFETY NOTES

- Keep the stand stable and clear of the iron cord
- Do not bend arms beyond their range
- Check clips grip without crushing fine wires
- Keep the hot iron away from the base and clips
- Store the stand with arms folded

Maintenance & Consumables

- Clean the clips and base of flux residue
- Check springs and pivots for wear
- Replace worn clip sleeves
- Clean the lens with a cloth
- Store in the electronics bench drawer

Specification & Buying Notes

A heavy cast base with at least two arms and a magnifier is the classroom standard. Look for ESD-safe models and replaceable clip sleeves.