

Alligator Clip Test Leads

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



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Alligator clip leads are flexible wires with spring clips at both ends, used to make fast temporary connections to terminals, component leads and test points. They are the quick-probe workhorse of any electronics bench.

Key Features

- Clip sizes from mini to heavy
- Insulated and bare jaw models
- Various lengths and colours
- Flexible stranded wire
- Stackable lead options

Typical Uses in the Workshop

- Temporary circuit connections
- Probe test points on boards
- Ground clips and jumpers
- Battery and supply hookups

Safe Operation

1. Open the clip and grip the point firmly
2. Clip onto clean metal for good contact
3. Route the lead clear of moving parts
4. Use colour pairs for polarity
5. Remove clips before powering changes

SAFETY NOTES

- Clips can short adjacent points - mind the jaws
- Do not use on live high-voltage circuits
- Insulated jaws prevent accidental shorts
- Keep the leads away from hot irons
- Store leads coiled

Maintenance & Consumables

- Clean the clip jaws of solder and oxide
- Check the spring tension
- Replace cracked insulation
- Coil and store the leads
- Keep a set per bench

Specification & Buying Notes

A pack of mini clip leads with insulated jaws and a set of heavier clips covers testing. Quality clips grip tightly and do not short to neighbours.