



How to Tin a Solder Iron Tip

Before you use your soldering iron (or a new tip) for the first time you must tin the tip. This is a very simple process that will stop the solder “balling” and running off, keep correct temperature, easier soldering and a longer life tip.

1. Heat the iron up for the first time and dip in flux when hot.
2. Apply solder to the tip
3. Wipe excess solder off with a damp sponge, you will see a shiny tip surface... Job done

Tip and safety Care

1. Make sure to use good quality solder. Impurities in the solder can build up on your tip, effecting heat transfer and make it difficult to solder.
2. Keep the tip of the iron clean while you work. Have a damp sponge handy to occasionally wipe your tip on while soldering to keep it clean. Not too often though as a wet sponge causes excessive tip heat drop and can cause tip fatigue.
Properly cleaned tips are bright and shiny. Keeping it clean ensures you receive the maximum heat at the tip surface. You can also use the pad on the solder stand.
Never use sandpaper or any abrasive material to clean a tip.
3. At the end of a soldering session, wipe the tip clean, flood the tip with solder, wipe it again and then unplug the iron. This will flush and re-tin your tip, protecting it from oxidation.
4. Prevent the tip from seizing (becoming stuck) in the barrel by loosening the nut or screw that secures it. This is an especially good practice when storing your iron. If your tip seizes, you can easily damage the heating element trying to remove it. When reinserting tips, Make sure they are properly seated in the barrel
5. Be careful not to inhale any hazardous fumes from the solder
6. Do not touch the solder iron tip as it is very hot
7. Remove anything you don't need from your surroundings as not to accidently burn them

