

Introduction to Soldering Workshop – DIY Ornament

Made by Nathaniel Kwan

December 2nd, 2025



Cal Poly
Pomona



Agenda

- **Materials**
- **How to Solder**
- **Practice on Perf Boards**
- **DIY Ornament**
 - For those who feel comfortable/confident



Materials

We will be using:

- Soldering Iron
- Solder Wire
- Flux
- Soldering Iron Stands
- Wet/Brass Sponges
- Carbon Filter Fans
- Helping Hands
- Flush Cutters

To note:

- De-soldering wick
- De-soldering pump/vacuum
- Alcohol Dispenser
- Solder Paste
- Reflow Oven
- Rework Station



Soldering Iron + Stand

- The tool we will be using to melt solder
- DO NOT TOUCH THE METAL
- Irons can typically range between 200° C to 450° C
- Always place soldering irons on a stand for safety, not on the table





Solder Wire

- The metal we will be melting with the iron to make connections
- Comes leaded or lead-free
- Leaded: Easier to melt but contains lead (Melts at 183°C)
- Lead-free: Higher melting temperature (Melts at $\sim 221^{\circ}\text{C}$)





Flux

- Applied to the joint you will be soldering
- Helps solder flow by removing oxides from the liquid solder
- Makes soldering a much easier process
- Can come in paste or liquid form





Sponges/Brass Sponges

- Used to clean the tips of the soldering iron
 - Removes oxidation and excess solder

Wet Sponge

- Removes more oxidation but thermally shocks tip, wearing it down

Brass Sponge

- Less thermal shock and removes solder just as well





Carbon Filter Fans

- Protects you from toxic fumes
- While soldering, fumes are produced from the flux vaporizing when heated
- Fan will pull in the fumes and carbon filter will absorb the toxic chemicals





Helping Hands

- Hold your board in the air while you solder
- Helps get better angles while soldering
- Protects your table from heat damage





How to Solder



Safety Precautions

- Roll up sleeves, tie back long hair, remove loose jewelry
- No food or drink
- Never touch the metal of the soldering iron or stand (450° C)
- Return irons to its stand, not on the table
- Wash hands with soap and water afterwards



1



Heat Part
and Pad
2-3 sec.

2



Add
Solder

3



Continue
Heating
1-2 sec.

4



Let Cool
Don't Blow!

At start, and every few connections: clean tip
of iron on damp sponge, apply thin layer of solder



Perfect!



Too
Much
Solder



Not
Enough
Solder



Cold
Joint



Too
Much
Heat



Short



Questions?