

Efficient and Effective Tip Cleaning



WDC 2 Dry Cleaner with brass wool
Order No. T005 13 841 99

Cleaning of soldering tips – efficient and effective

The reason for cleaning soldering iron tips is to remove particles of flux, surface oxides and other contaminants to maintain a clean and wettable tip. A frequent, mild cleaning process will ensure that repeatable good solder joints will be made and also extend the working life of the solder tip.

If more intensive cleaning methods are used, the wetted surface of the tip will be removed, the iron plated tip surface will be exposed and will oxidise. If these oxides are not regularly removed, then even more aggressive methods to remove the contamination such as abrasion or the use of a tip cleaner containing an acidic flux and solder granules will be necessary. Both of these actions will remove iron plate and reduce the working life of the tip, but if this is not done, the tip will become completely unwettable and unusable.

NEW! Weller® WDC 2 Dry Cleaner with Brass Wool

The new Weller® WDC 2 dry cleaner (T005 13 841 99) uses brass wool and is recommended for conventional hand soldering processes. The wetting properties of the tips will be maintained; operator time spent maintaining the tips will be reduced as will the possibility of solder joint contamination. Solder splashes will be eliminated and tips will have an increased working life. The advantages gained will maintain quality and reduce costs.

Weller® WDC 2 Metal Wool Cleaner

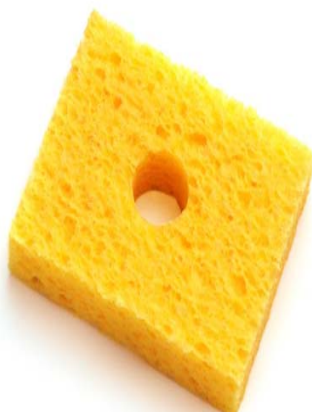
If, because of your soldering requirements, perhaps the use of solders other than tin lead or lead free solders, more aggressive cleaning methods are needed, Weller® can offer a metal wool cleaner (T005 13 825 99), this will provide more intensive cleaning but will reduce the working life of the tip.

Weller® Cleaning Sponge

The classical tip cleaning method is to wipe the hot tip on a damp sponge to remove oxidised solder and spent flux etc. This will eventually lead to a build up of contaminants on the surface of the sponge which can be transferred to the solder joint and could affect joint quality. It is important therefore that the sponge should be frequently rinsed in clean water to remove any contamination, and if after wiping on the sponge, the tip is not immediately wetted with solder, the tip will oxidise, again leading to a reduction in working life. De-ionised water should be used to keep the sponge damp, not wet. If your process requires tips to be cleaned by this method, Weller® can offer a new slim macropore cellulose sponge (T005 22 419 99) and for heavy duty soldering irons a conventional sponge (T005 22 420 99) with a fine pore hard surface is available.



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New Cleaning Sponge
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