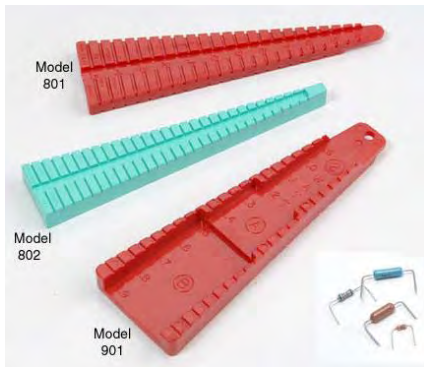


Electronic Tool Tip #3 – Lead Bending Jigs



Doing even the little things neatly and precisely is the hallmark of a craftsman, in any field or discipline. That extends to a simple thing like bending the leads of electronic components to fit properly into printed circuit board (PCB) locations designated for those components.

It is not unusual for hobbyists or even professional electronics technicians to bend component leads freehand. Another option is to grab a pair of needle-nose pliers and use them to bend the component leads. While both of these methods work, and while

both of these methods are widely used, I prefer to size and form the leads properly for the PCB hole spacing in use. To that end, I have long used devices similar to those illustrated above. In fact, some of the jigs in my assortment are the same ones as those depicted in the illustration. Others? Well, I have had some of them for so long that I have completely forgotten when, where, or from whom I purchased them.

I have a total of six bending jigs in my assortment, each of them sized differently either for the component body sizes that they will handle, or for the spacing distances offered, with those distances being either metric or English dimensions. These things are handy! Can the job be done without using these jigs? Sure... but it is not as good a job as when the jigs are used. Components bent with the jig just *fit!* In addition, the contours of the jigs cause the bend radius of each component lead bent in the jig to be precise and in line with the standard bend radius limits typically defined by the component manufacturers. Further, there is no risk of nicking or damaging the component leads as is possible when using pliers to bend the leads.

The set shown above is available at \$12.50 (USD) as a set, or individually at \$4.80 each. They can be ordered directly from the manufacturer, *Production Devices* via their website, where they also offer telephone ordering of their products. The tools are USA made and the company is located in El Cajon, California.

Go to <http://productiondevices.com/leadformingtools.html> to investigate this tool for yourself.