

Electronic Tool Tip #19 – DIP IC Extractor Pliers

Every now and then, I have the need to remove a DIP-style integrated circuit (IC) chip from its holder on a circuit board. While it is easy enough, most of the time, to gently pry the chip from the socket, there may be insufficient space to get in at either end of the IC, and besides, prying the IC will often bend the pins of the chip. This is where the *Ungar #6980 DIP IC Extractor Pliers* (Figure 1) come in handy.

It is unfortunate that this is a discontinued item, meaning that it is no longer available from the manufacturer, because I find this tool to be an excellent aid in removing DIP IC's of almost any size.

The tool is spring loaded in the “closed” direction, which provides a firm and positive grasp on the IC being extracted. The jaws are equipped with comb-like teeth (Figure 2) that will easily reach in between the IC pins without damaging the IC in any way. The spring closure of the tool causes it to be wedged tightly under the body of the IC, forcing it upward and out of its socket.

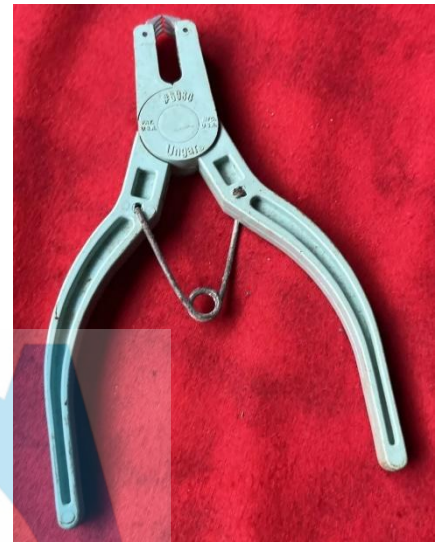


Figure 1 - Ungar 6980 DIP extractor pliers



Figure 2 - Ungar 6980 jaw set detail

While the tool is intended for use with socketed IC's, I have also found it to be useful when removing IC's that are directly soldered to a PCB. I simply clamp the pliers onto the IC in question and then, as I desolder the pins, the spring force wedges the IC up and away from the PCB as the pins are released from their soldered positions. In combination with the desoldering pump of my solder station, this tool makes removing soldered IC's a snap.

As I mentioned, the Ungar #6980 pliers are no longer being made. However, they can still be found relatively easily on the online auction sites such as *ebay.com*. When I purchased mine, they were still in production, and I paid about six dollars for the tool. Current auction site prices run from twelve dollars upward. Get one now while they can still be found. Some of the auctions illustrate the tool

still in its original packaging. If you can find these pliers for anything less than about twenty dollars all in, you are doing well and will not be disappointed with your purchase.