

Tool Tip #29 – IFIXIT Wire Soldering Splint

In a previous Tool Tip, I introduced a wire splicing jig made of solid silicone rubber with multiple wire-holding slots. This time around, I am going to talk about another wire splicing jig, also of silicone rubber construction, this time from the popular supplier IFIXIT.



Figure 1 - IFIXIT wire splicing jig

This tool, called a *Wire Soldering Splint* by IFIXIT, has but a single slot with zig-zag gripping teeth, capable of holding wire from 30AWG to 10AWG, or wire of up to a 4mm diameter.

What sets this device apart from the one that I discussed previously is that the IFIXIT device has a base that includes a pair of neodymium magnets, designed to securely hold the tool onto ferrous metal surfaces.

The design of this tool will catch excess solder drips and keep them from damaging the underlying work surface. The subject wire is held securely for easy soldering, though it can be a challenge to work a splice with a tenuous physical joint into the teeth of this jig without separating the joint, as the teeth are quite tight (as they need to be to securely hold the skinniest of wires).

The throat of the tool provides sufficient clearance for insertion of a soldering iron *under* the subject joint for complete soldering of the splice. The length of the jig will also aid in keeping any heat-shrink tube that is placed on the wires far enough from the splice to avoid inadvertent premature shrinking of the tubing caused by the heat of the soldering work.

The single slot means that only one single splice can be worked on at any one time, but that is not really much of an inconvenience in the overall scheme of things. I rarely need to splice more than one or two wires in any given job. Of course, sufficient wire free length is necessary in order to get the splice into the teeth of the tool in any event.

In actual use, I found this jig to be perfectly adequate for the job at hand. However, as well-intentioned as it may have been, I know that most of the equipment on which I find myself doing repairs uses aluminum chassis members rather than steel or other ferrous metals, which tends to moot the value of the magnetic base.

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