

Micro-Solder Pot

One of the many things Doug Hendricks and I spoke of during our drive to Ham Com 2008, was the idea of a small solder pot to tin the ends of the Thermalzeze wire used in toroids. Doug came up with the idea trying to use a standard soldering iron. When I came home, I had an old 25 watt, dollar store variety, iron that hadn't been used in years, since I started using my temperature controlled model we all use now. I took a brass bolt that fit the end of the iron and drilled a 1/8" diameter hole, 3/16" deep into the end of it, cut the handle in half and mounted it in a wooden block. I heated it up and filled the small reservoir with solder.



The results were great! I first cut the toroid leads to the finished length. Then, I dipped them, no scraping, and beautiful tinned leads, ready for installation. It may not warrant going to all this trouble of mounting it like this, but if you have a defunct tip you haven't thrown away, you might want to try a similar option the next time you have several toroids to do.

