

# Re: Extending Soldering Tip Life

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- *From:* [szekeres@xxxxxxxx](mailto:szekeres@xxxxxxxx) (GregS)
  - *Date:* Thu, 21 Dec 2006 18:15:24 GMT
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In article <1166723877.802571.276110@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>, "Arlet" <usenet+5@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

Joerg wrote:

Arlet wrote:

Joerg wrote:

Nico Coesel wrote:

[myrealaddress@xxxxxxxx](mailto:myrealaddress@xxxxxxxx)  
(D from BC) wrote:

I'm  
currently  
using rosin  
core solder  
and  
sometimes I  
use no clean  
flux and  
water  
soluble  
flux..

I wonder if  
I could add  
sometime to

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that damp  
sponge on  
the solder  
station to  
help with  
tip life..

Buy an Ersa soldering iron  
and tips. The tips usually  
last longer than  
the iron.

Now I just wish Ersa was available in the  
US. That's what I had in  
Europe a lot, now it's all Weller. The big  
Bertha is still an Ersa and  
needs 230V. Almost big enough to do a  
plumbing job.

Anyhow, even though I use Kester  
No-Clean the tips remain in good shape.  
Of course, I don't let the iron idle through a  
lunch hour and stuff like  
that.

I have a Weller station and tips. Current tip has been in there  
for  
about 2 years now, and still looks fine. It's on for 10-20  
hours a week  
at 350 deg C. I don't bother turning it off when I expect to be  
using  
it again, so on some days it stays on all the time. Sometimes  
I forget  
to turn it off, and it even stays on all night. The first time that  
happened, I noticed the tip had actually cleaned itself.

Over night? I wouldn't do that.

I don't do that on purpose, but it has happened two or three times.  
However, it is sometimes on continuously during the day. I know it's  
not recommended, but after 2 years, the tip is still shiny and has good  
wettability. In fact, when I turn it off right after using it, it will

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start to accumulate black crud that is hard to remove later. When I leave it on, it apparently burns off all the crud.

While you mentioned tap water: In the US that is often heavily chlorinated. In our area the chlorine content can be higher than the pool water. So I use filtered water for the iron sponge.

I live in the Netherlands, and our tap water isn't chlorinated, or at least not to a level where you can detect it.

I don't ever recall seeing an iron clean itself. If left on and above 600 degrees, I see my tips get black and form a very hard layer. I have a solder sucker iron that stays on about 800, and is terrible to clean. I usually use a brass sink cleaner or a watered sponge.

greg

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