

## Re: Will it work :) (first SMD goofball project)

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In article <5vao83p3up33n9ukfqo3dm87j1lb98gibc@xxxxxxx>, James Lerch wrote:

Funny you mention the sparkfun site. I found it on you tube, and watching him blob solder all over one side of that chip made me cringe, then he pulled out the de-solder ribbon and I was like "Oh.... neat trick.." :)

I was also surprised just how relatively inexpensive this board turned out to be. All said done, one board fully populated is going to run about \$25.00. I'll need 4 of them for the proto-type, and another 16 to finish the project if all goes well.

I developed my own way of soldering SMT parts, especially 0603 size components:

1. Use tinned fine point tip on low wattage iron to solder one lead/end of the part onto its pad – even if not well.
2. More properly solder the other end or remaining leads.
3. Solder properly the first connection.

As for getting a really small part such as an 0603 into place to begin with:

1. Have a good fingernail on your index or middle finger on your non-iron-holding hand.
2. Dip the fingernail edge into rubber cement.
3. Have the part handy on a convenient surface. Land the tip of your rubber-cemented-finger (not the nail) near the part, with your rubber-cemented fingernail tip over the part.

Using the landed fingertip as a pivot, lower your rubber-cemented fingernail onto the part so that the part sticks onto your fingernail.

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4. Similarly land your fingertip in an appropriate location close to where the part has to go (typically requiring fingertip to land on the board – ground yourself and board supply rails and the soldering iron if static-sensitive parts are involved).

Using a fingertip pivoting method as above, lower the part into place.

5. Once the part is located well, tack one lead/end onto the PCB with a tinned iron as above. Proceed from that point as above.

– Don Klipstein (don@xxxxxxxxx)

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