

DESOLDERING BRAID

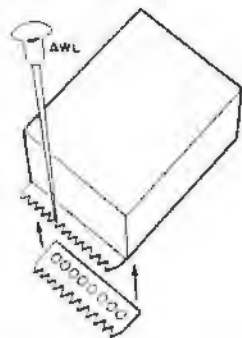
An inexpensive source of desoldering "wick" is the outer conductor of RG-58 and RG-59 coaxial cable. Cut your scrap into 8- to 10-inch (20.4- to 25.4-cm) lengths. Hold the braid and inner conductor firmly with pliers, and pull off the outer insulating jacket with your free hand. Then, push the two ends of the braid together to loosen it, and pull out the inner conductor and surrounding insulation.—*Arnold Irvine, Coopersburg, PA.*

TEST JACK ADAPTER

Have you ever bought a new meter or other piece of test equipment only to discover that none of your standard $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch spaced test plugs will fit the jacks on it? If you can't or don't want to modify your new piece of gear by slotting the test jack mounting holes, consider this simple adapter you can make to rectify the situation. All you need are a pair of banana jacks, a pair of noninsulated banana jacks, and a $1\frac{1}{4}$ -inch (3.81-cm) square piece of $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch (3.2-mm) thick plexiglass or bakelite. Round the corners of the plastic and drill two holes at opposite corners for the jacks, spaced $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch (1.9-cm) apart. Then carefully measure the spacing between the test jacks on the new equipment and drill holes for the plugs in the plastic square to match this spacing. Assemble and wire the plugs and jacks and you're all set.—*Donald R. Hicke, San Diego, CA.*

PC DRILLING GUIDE

Here's a handy guide for drilling IC pin holes on a pc board. Epoxy a length of discarded Molex Soldercon holder strip to a block of wood as shown. Attach a few strips of double-faced adhesive tape (Scotch No. 666 or equivalent) to the



bottom of the block to prevent slippage. Hold the block on the pc board with one hand and make indentations with an awl at each "valley" along the holder strip. Then remove the block. You will find a line of depressions that can easily be drilled through the board, exactly 0.1" (2.54 mm) apart.—*Robert J. Murrell, Verona, PA.*