

W. Schmidt

with a pencil point

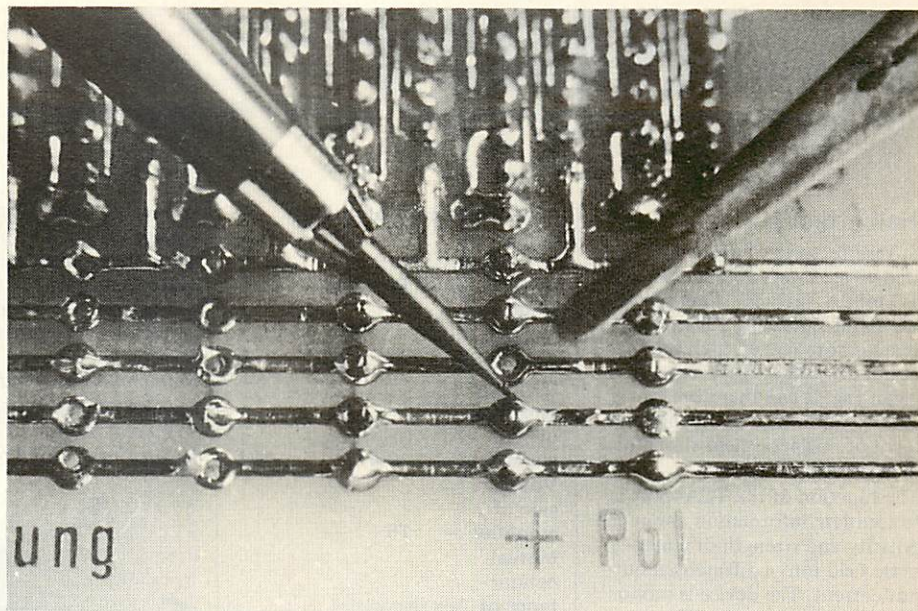
Many electronics enthusiasts look on solder removing as a loathsome job. This is especially true of printed circuit boards with narrowly-spaced conductors. Things which often happen when one is trying to desolder are:

The solder forms bridges between the conductors.

Blobs of solder drop off the board.

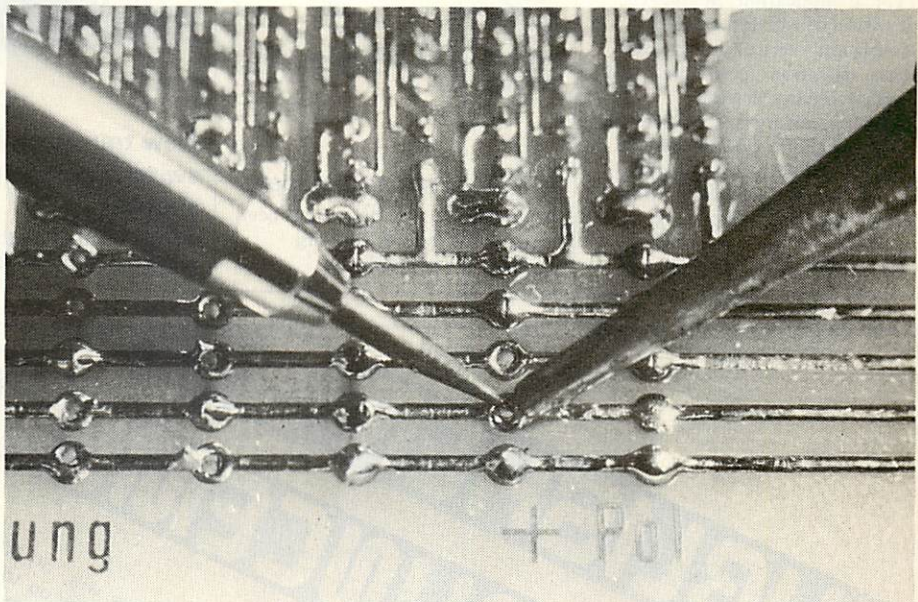
De-soldering tools or wicks are available commercially, but there is no need to pay out that kind of money. Any workshop toolbox should yield a really cheap device which will do the trick - a pencil. Propelling pencils with long leads of 2B or B hardness are particularly suitable (e.g. clutch pencils). To remove solder from a hole, the solder must be heated with a soldering iron until it melts (figure 1). The next step is to stick the pencil point in the hole, and take away the iron (figure 2). Where the pencil lead touches molten solder, the solder 'jumps' away, because of its surface tension, and the hole is cleared of solder (figure 3).

A similar method can be used for getting rid of bridges of solder between tracks. To do this, the pencil point is laid flat on the molten solder between the tracks.



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