desoldering

Posted by Mesak - 2008/05/07 15:30

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i've been soldering small things every now and then, but now i ran into bitchy problem:

i was about to desolder an pot that has been attaced to the PCB with soldering also the "hands" on the sides to the PCB (see the pic, similar thing).

http://www.goldmine-elec-products.com/images/G16267B.jpg

at the end i just wasn't able to to suck all the tin off from these. somehow they were covered with a chunk of tin and at the end the tin didn't even melt anymore but the pot was getting super hot. now it's completely stuck and i'm afraid that i damage rest of the stuff on the PCB with heating it too much. am i forced to take that pot off mechanically (NO!!)? what the hell should i do?

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Re:desoldering

Posted by tIB - 2008/05/07 15:53

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I once tried desldering a c64 sid2sid chip extension, it wasnt pretty and signified the end of me working on my ml303. If youre in anyway not sure/confident enough my advice would be to take it to a pro (TV repair shop for example), the bloke mine went to didnt even charge me.

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Re:desoldering

Posted by Mesak - 2008/05/07 15:58

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tIB wrote:
I once tried desldering a c64 sid2sid chip extension, it wasnt pretty and signified the end of me working on my ml303. If youre in anyway not sure/confident enough my advice would be to take it to a pro (TV repair shop for example), the bloke mine went to didnt even charge me.

exactly what i want to avoid: take it to a pro shop and get charged 50â‚¬ for getting that tiny piece of shit desoldered... but since i don't seem to be able to do it myself it's my destiny i guess... :(

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Re:desoldering

Posted by tIB - 2008/05/07 16:42

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I suppose it all depends on how expensive the thing your desoldering is worth; a 3 euro sid2sid was worth a gamble, the ml303 definately was not....I soon realised I wasnt cut out for it!
You could always just walk in to a component assembly factory and ask them, Ive always found most folk will help you out for nothing in an hour of soldering need.

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Re:desoldering

Posted by Thomas - 2008/05/07 17:40

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I just did a similar thing on my Yamaha A4000 sampler. (the encoders looked just like those)

I used a copper cable like thingy. Not shure what its called in english. Looks like a flat cable. Those sucked up more than the manual pumps.

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Re:desoldering

Posted by neonleg - 2008/05/07 20:15
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you need proper solder wick and a VERY hot iron. dont attempt it with a regular 40watt type. you need a gas iron or a bench type at about 400c degrees! get in and out fast and dont hold the iron on too long.
good luck

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Re:desoldering
Posted by Amanita - 2008/05/07 20:33
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I've always told the engineers that work for me to sacrifice the component in preference to ruining the pcb. Depends if your trying to save what your taking out i suppose. If i had to change a DIL IC for example, i would chop all the leads, then pull them out of the pcb using some tweezers and some heat from an iron. Then desolder the holes with a sucker. Is the pot still on the board? You may find that the body of the component is sinking all the heat from your iron and thats why it wont come off - again thats a reason to chop the component off if your not trying to save it.

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Re:desoldering
Posted by Mesak - 2008/05/07 21:07
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yea, thanks for tips!

well, i don't need to save that component, but it's so close and tight to the board that i feel it difficult to snap off without damaging surrounding chips'n'stuff.

wont be buying pro iron either, though that could be a good idea ;)

cheers!

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Re:desoldering
Posted by neonleg - 2008/05/07 22:02
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suddenly spending $50 to have it replaced sounds like the best option!
at least you wont have to kick yourself in the nutz.

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Re:desoldering
Posted by Allerian - 2008/05/07 22:12
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Amanita wrote:
I've always told the engineers that work for me to sacrifice the component in preference to ruining the pcb. Depends if your trying to save what your taking out i suppose. If i had to change a DIL IC for example, i would chop all the leads, then pull them out of the pcb using some tweezers and some heat from an iron. Then desolder the holes with a sucker. Is the pot still on the board? You may find that the body of the component is sinking all the heat from your iron and thats why it wont come off - again thats a reason to chop the component off if your not trying to save it.

This is dead on the money advice. For a replacement like this, I'll use a small wire cutter to snap all the leads, then remove the remaining legs one by one.

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Re:desoldering

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1. Get a decent soldering iron. Seriously, it's a good buy whatever. It may even persuade you to get into Synth DIY, etc. etc.
2. Try using a decent solder sucker/pump or some of that solder-remover string stuff.
3. The component will get hot, just keep melting away that solder/tin. Have a fiddle around with some pliers while it's hot, see if you can bend the pot out.

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