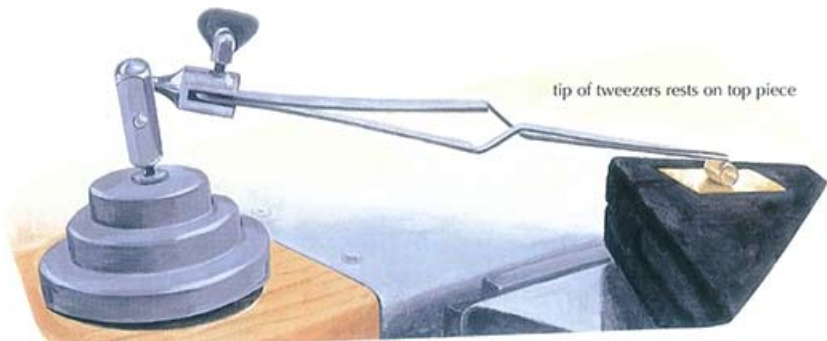


Lean on Me

Using soldering tweezers as an angled weight



tip of tweezers rests on top piece

front of base is lifted off bench

BY ALAN REVERE One of the most difficult aspects of soldering is often just holding the pieces in place long enough to heat them. Adding to the difficulty is the fact that when solder flows it can lubricate the contact area, causing the top piece to swim around uncontrollably. To make the process easier, you need to find a way to hold the pieces in place.

Binding wire, clips, and clamps might work, but they can be cumbersome and sometimes time consuming to apply. Here is a simple way to use your third hand to help during soldering. This tool, which consists of soldering tweezers mounted on a stand, is

intended to hold an assembly in the air for soldering. But like most tools, if you look at it closely you can find other (often unintended) uses for it.

The next time you need to keep slippery bits of metal in place for soldering, use the third hand as a weight. Adjust the angle of the tweezers in relation to the base so that the weight is redistributed to the edge of the base and the tip of the tweezers. (You'll know you've got it right if the front of the base is partially lifted off the bench top.) Simply adjust the angle to add or decrease the weight until you have the desired setup. ♦