

Useful Tools for your Electronics Workshop

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Disclaimer

I am not affiliated with any of these products or manufacturers.

I did not receive free samples, no royalties, rewards, etc.

I paid for all of these tools with my own money.

I actually use all of these tools.

Questions

When was the last time that you found a new tool that:

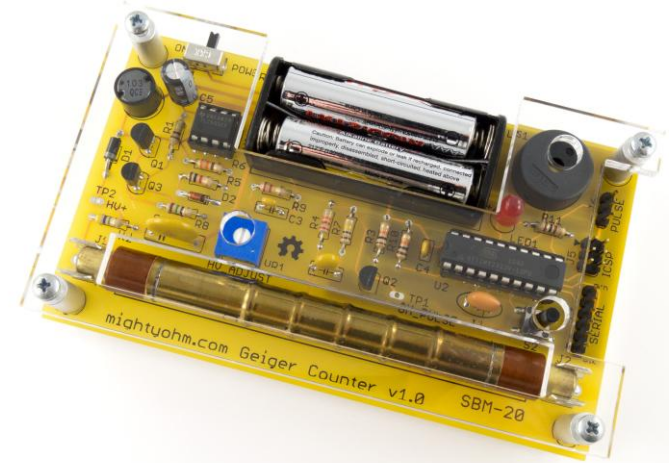
changed the way you work?

enabled you to do something new?

About me

Electrical Engineer 25+ yrs

Soldering for 40+ years



Jeff Keyzer



Teardown 2025



Flatbed Scanner

Dedicated scanner or multifunction printer

Prices vary significantly \$50 - \$3500

High end models may have higher DPI, focus adjustment (!)

Pros

- you might already have access to one
- easy to use. avoids parallax error
- surprisingly accurate

Cons

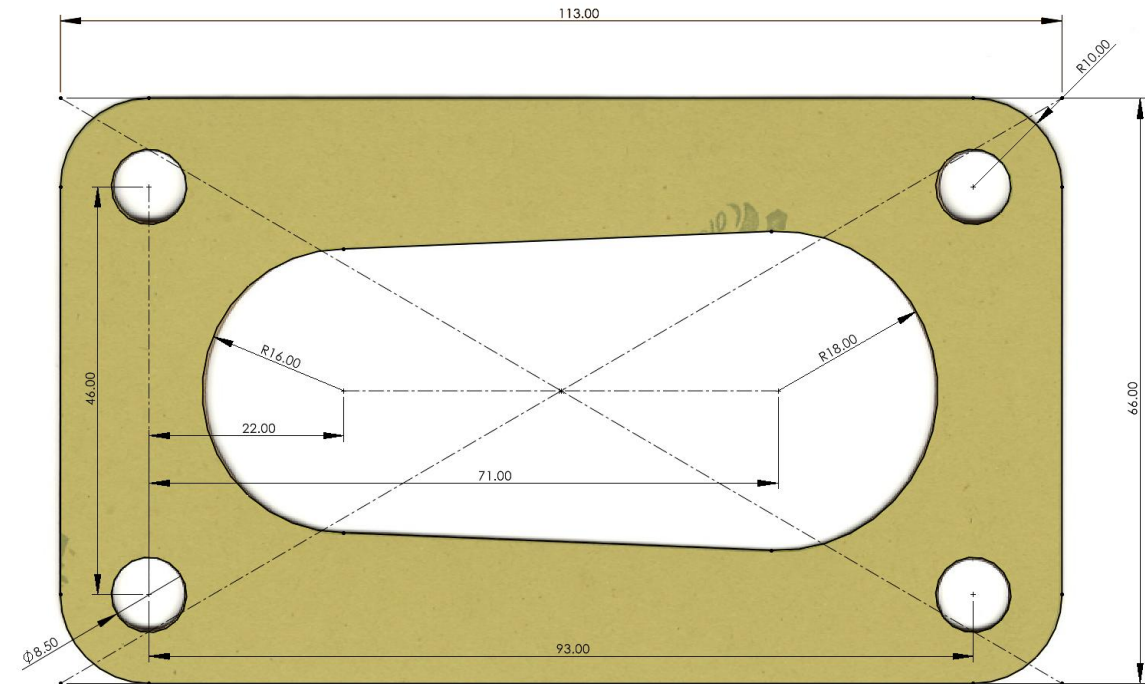
- network-connected models are \$\$
- very limited depth of field
- thing needs to be flat!
- beware scaling factors between file formats



Epson 12000XL



Canon MF733Cdw



Kimwipes

Available from Amazon, McMaster-Carr, Techni-tool, shops that sell soldering or lab supplies.

\$6 - \$8 per box

I love the small 280 count wipes (8 x 4”).

I buy them a case at a time (cheaper and they last for years).

“lint-free”

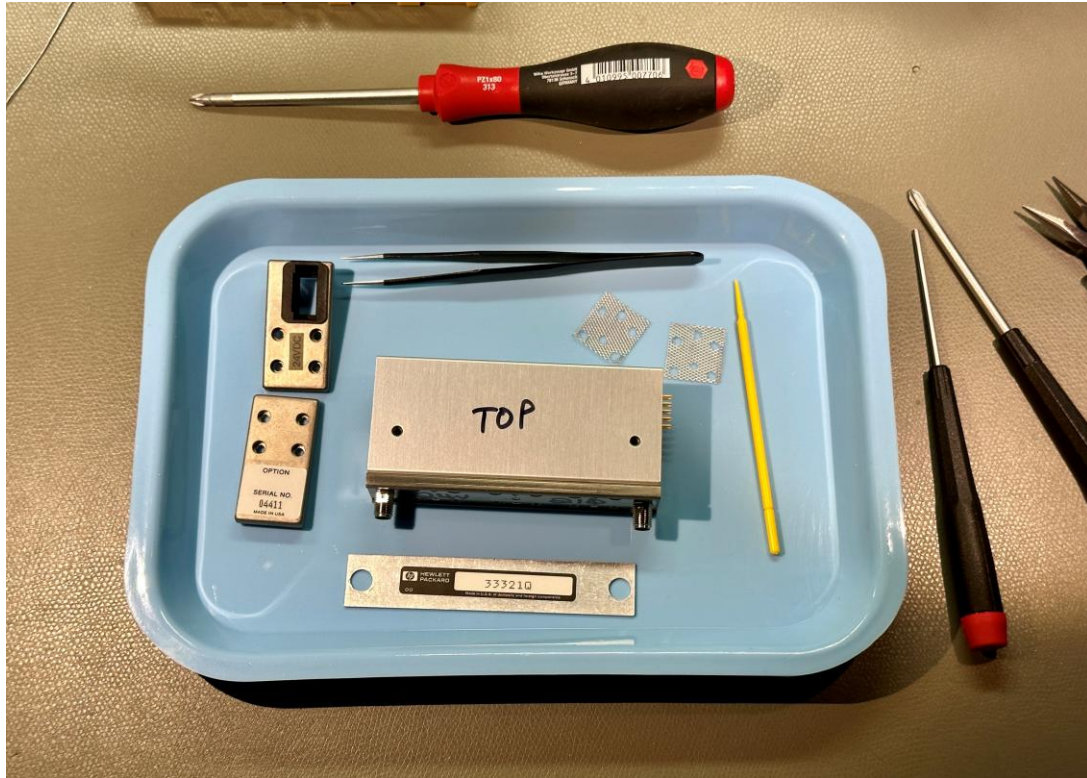
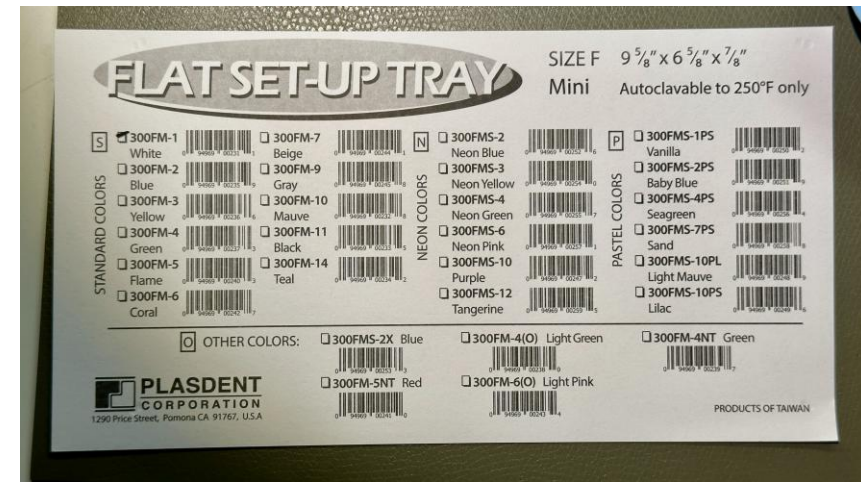
microfiber cloth or paper towels better for some tasks



Dental Set-up Trays

Plasdent Mini Tray, Flat, Size F (9x6")

Look online at discount dental stores (e.g. iSmile) or on eBay. Can find as low as \$2/ea.



There is a version with a locking lid (300FM2) but they are more difficult to find. Both the tray and the lid are different.

Look at other industries for tool ideas.

Dentists use a lot of tools!

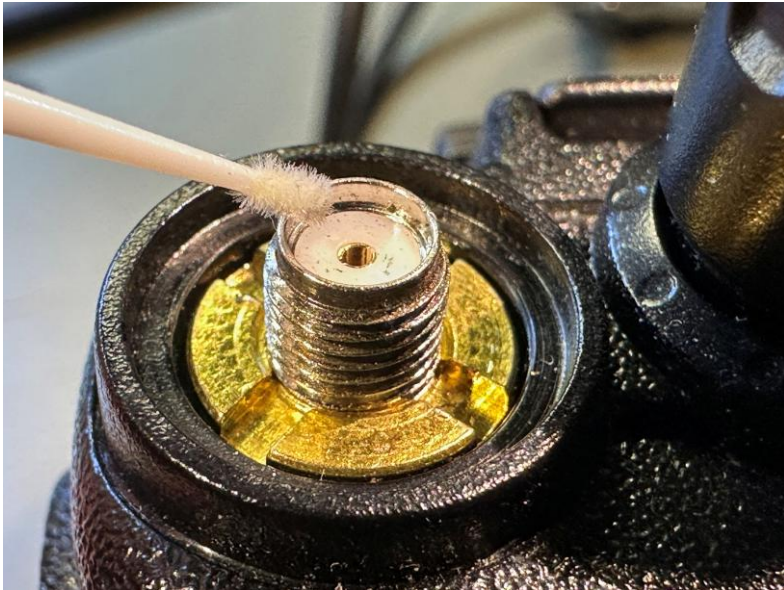
Microbrush / Ultrabrush Precision Applicators

Available in various sizes (Regular/Fine/Superfine).

Real Microbrushes are available from Hobby Stores, eBay, Micro-Mark.

Look for cheap knockoffs on eBay / AliExpress.

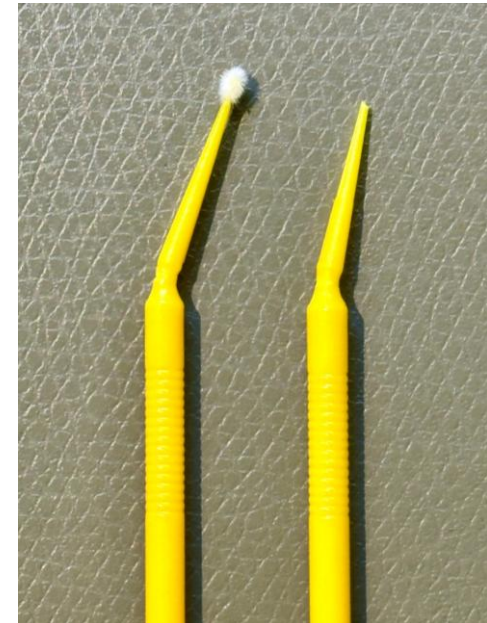
Snap-top boxes from Adafruit / AliExpress



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Prescription Safety Glasses

Look for ANSI Z87+ rating.

RX Safety / Phillips Safety (rx-safety.com)

\$80-\$150 depending on lens, coatings, etc.

May be able to use HSA

Polycarbonate vs. Trivex lenses

Anti-scratch vs. AR? no coatings?

Consider a higher diopter for close-up work.

Do NOT clean with alcohol, ever! It will cause crazing of lenses and frames. This includes commercial lens wipes!



RX Safety T9538S



RX Safety RX-15011



Optivisor

Look for Donegan Optivisors on eBay or your local estate sale. There are LOTS of these out there and the design hasn't changed much in 50 years.

Glass lens plates are best (avoid plastic).



Higher mag has less working distance.

I like #3 for bench soldering without a microscope.

Knockoffs are much cheaper, come with lots of lenses, people seem to like them.



Item No.	Focal Length	Magnification
DA-2	20"	1.5 times
DA-3	14"	1.75 times
DA-4	10"	2 times
DA-5	8"	2.5 times
DA-7	6"	2.75 times
DA-10	4"	3.5 times

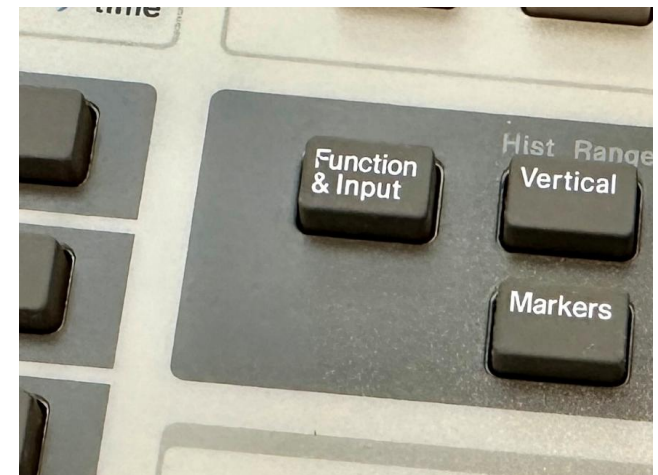
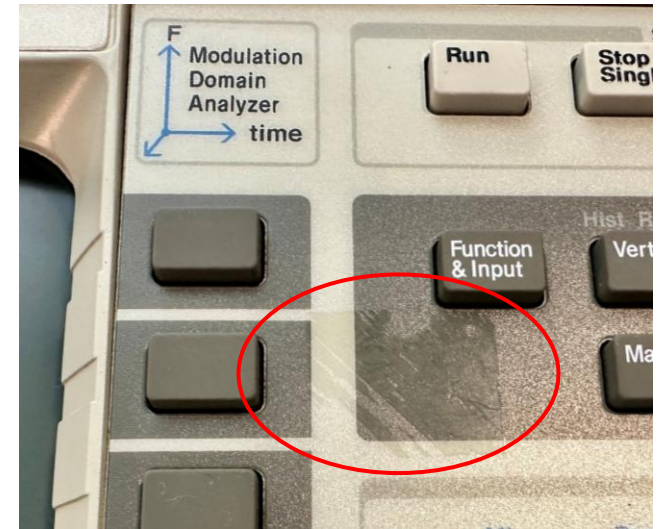
Bestine (Heptane) Solvent

Does anyone actually use this to thin rubber cement?

Safe for MOST plastics/paints. Test first!



Menda 35315 Dispenser



Available from Art Supply Stores (Blick, etc.) or Amazon (\$20). Not available in California?

Wear gloves / safety goggles / ensure good ventilation!

Small and “Quiet” Air Compressor

California Air Tools CAT-1P1060SP

Available from Amazon (\$150-\$230)

Coil hose (\$20) and blow-off wand (\$5) from Harbor Freight Tools. Add industrial coupler fittings (\$7).



1 gallon. Larger tank would be nice!

Oil-less compressor avoids possibility of oil contamination of air (important) but air is not necessarily dry!

SPECIFICATIONS AND PERFORMANCE



16.2 Inches



13.0 Inches

16.2 Inches



Weight
34 Pounds



Noise Level
56 Decibels



Maximum Pressure
120 PSI



Voltage
110V / 60 Hz



Low Amp Draw
4.5 Amps



Small Parts Bins

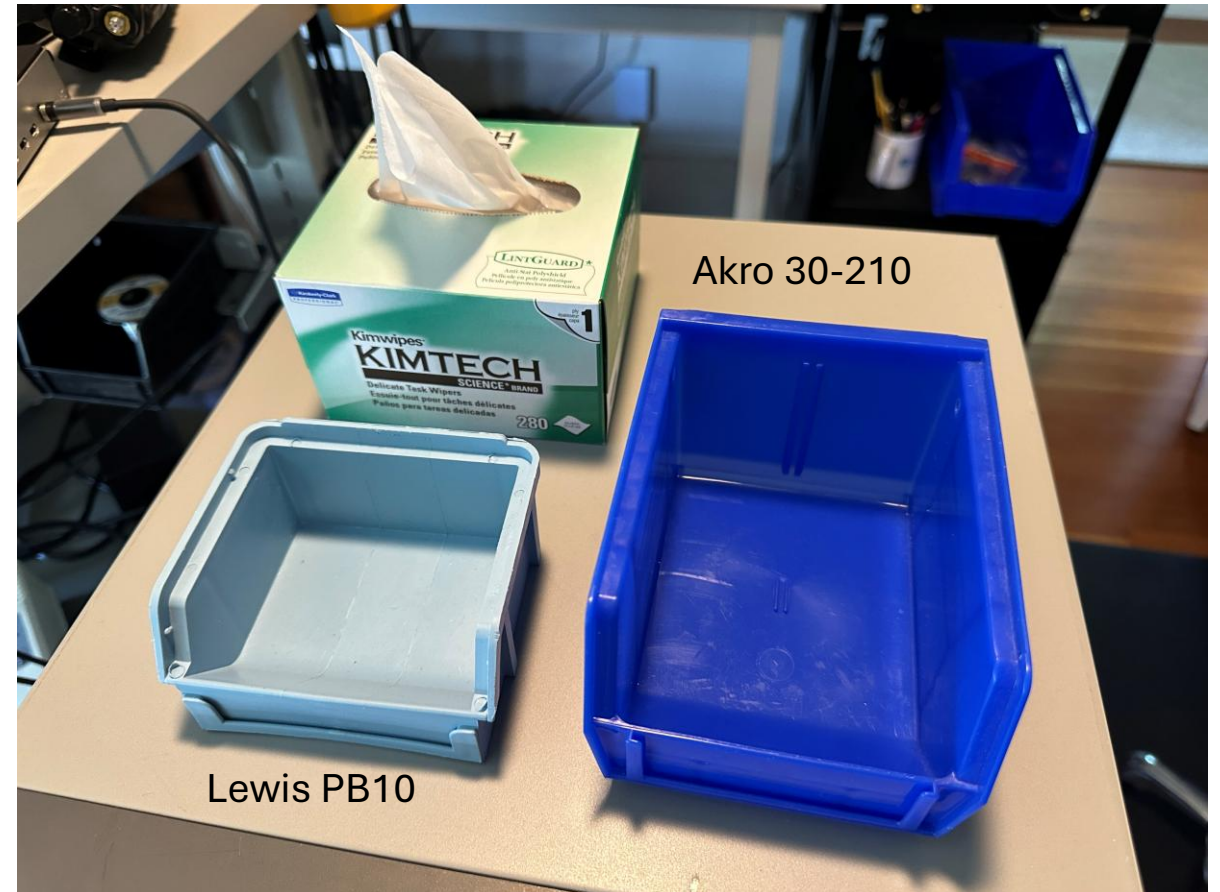
Lewis Bins Plastibox Bins

PB10: 3.5 x 4 x 2" (\$5 ea. on Zoro)

PB10X has center divider (for small parts)

Available in powder blue or black ESD.

Available from Zoro, Hisco, others.



Totes

“Space Age” Totes available from Uline.
Model S-133
\$14 ea.



Very durable. Weatherproof.

Same as USPS totes?



Final Thoughts

Hopefully one or more of these tools might be useful to you!

Many industries have interesting tools that might be useful for electronics work.

Auto detailing

Graphic arts / photography / airbrushing

Miniatures / hobbies / RC

Nail care / Hair care

Dental / Medical

Machining / welding / fabrication

and many more...

For more information:

Check out my website!

<http://mightyohm.com>

Geiger Counter Kits!

<http://mightyohm.com/geiger>

My kits are now available from Amazon!

<http://www.amazon.com/shops/mightyohm>

[@mightyohm.bsky.social](https://www.bsky.social/mightyohm)

<http://www.qrz.com/db/W6OHM>

This talk was partly inspired by Kevin Kelly's "Cool Tools" <https://kk.org/cooltools/>