

b. unpacking

Carefully open the box and remove the items. You will see your receipt for the kit enclosed. Also, enclosed is the parts list and instructions. Remove all packing carefully and lay the items out ready for cross checking. With the parts list in front of you tick off the items. Any shortfall please contact Hi-fi Collective once a complete count is done.

CHAPTER 3 - PREPARATION

a. work place

Whether in a dedicated workshop, the garage or on the dining room table, an organised work place will save you time and prevent mistakes. Have your tools close to you & in one place and when you have finished using them put them back. Keep your instructions to hand and try not to rip pages out. It is a good idea to protect your table, an offcut of carpet will work well. You need to have easy access to your soldering iron and solder, always turn it off when not using it especially those of you who have young children. Your work space needs to be well lit with good ventilation to move solder fumes away from you. Above all keep it clean, you don't want to scratch your chassis on a forgotten nut.

b. soldering iron and solder

Your solder and iron are the most important tools in an electronic constructors tool box, but some people get the combination wrong. A good solder joint is one that is shiny, with an even amount of solder on the joint & without brown flux residue. To get it right, first you must have an iron that gets hot enough to melt your solder properly. Most hobbyist soldering irons have a tip temperature of around 370 degree C, for example the 25W Antex iron goes to around 390 degree C. Such irons will work well with solder that change from solid to liquid at around 200 degree C. A higher iron temperature will give good flow to higher temperature solders, these change at 300 degree C. Working with these types with your normal 25W Antex will cause dry joints. We have supplied with this kit 5m of Mundorf silver solder, this works very well with the Antex 25 watt iron. Ensure that the tip is clean every time you solder. Clean with a damp sponge.

c. soldering technique

Before soldering, make sure the wire is bent around the selector contacts/earth post tags/phono solder tags. When soldering to the phono socket's spigot tin them first with solder. How to solder - place the tip of the soldering iron onto the surface of all parts, hold for 1.5 seconds. Apply the solder to the junction, do not flood the join with solder. The whole process should take about 3 seconds.

d. preparing the wire

The wire provided to assemble the Passive has to be prepared before soldering, you need to expose 5mm of wire as a rule. The Mundorf silver/gold wire is PTFE sleeved. The best method for stripping is to slightly squeeze the end of the wire with a pair of snipe nose pliers, not too much as it can crush the actual wire. Hold the edge of the wire on a flat surface and cut the PTFE with a sharp knife along the length, preferably using a trimming knife. The PTFE can be peeled back and the excess trimmed. This may seem tricky at first but you will get the hang of it. The Mundorf wire is non-directional.