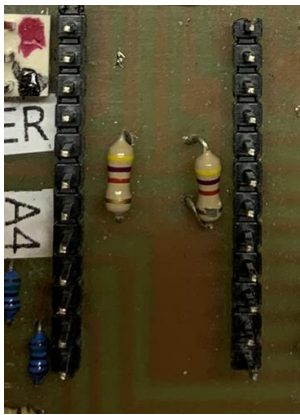


# Freehand Drilling of IC Socket Holes, Version 1

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By **R. G. Sparber**

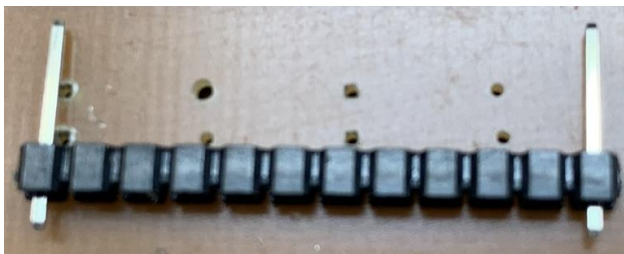
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Drilling a series of holes that will accept pins on an IC socket can be challenging. They must be 0.1 inch on-center and in a straight line. Excessive error means the socket will not slide in place. Here you see the 24 pins that accept a Pro Micro. That is a lot of demanding drilling.

With careful attention to parallax, I can freehand drill these holes. I have developed an [indexing scheme](#) that makes the job much faster and precise enough. However, the experience of other users has been disappointing.

An alternate approach is to use one of these pin strips as a tool.



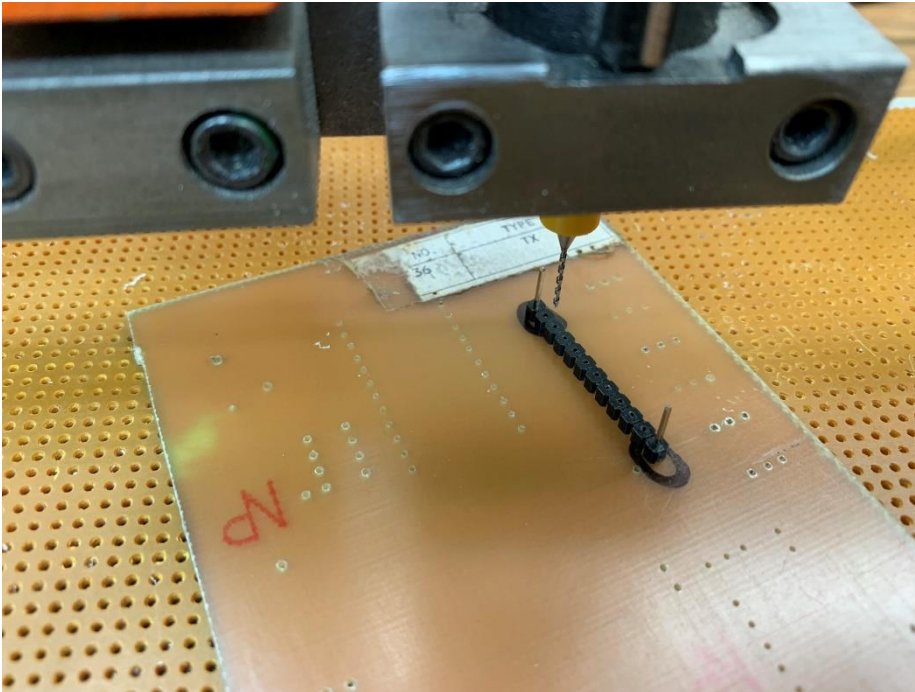
All but the end pins are pulled out. These pins are pushed up, so they do not extend beyond the back of the board being drilled.

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First, I drill the two holes at the ends of the run. This is usually performed on the copper side of the board, where the features define the holes.



Then I install a 1.12 mm drill into my [homemade Dremel drill press](#). I can drill through the voids left by the pulled the pins.



How did I do?



An 11-pin strip fits nicely. I'm sure that a 12-pin strip would fit fine too.

I welcome your comments and questions.

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Rick Sparber

[Rgsparber.ha@gmail.com](mailto:Rgsparber.ha@gmail.com)

Rick.Sparber.org