

# Hot Glue Reflow, version 1.1

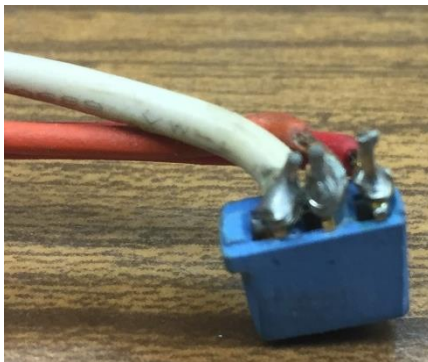
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By R. G. Sparber

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A great pair of tools is a hot glue gun and a hot air gun.



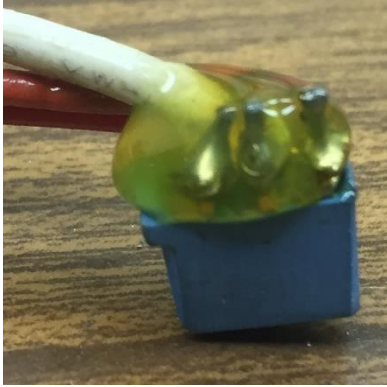
Say I want to pot some wires soldered to a connector. These pins are 0.1" apart and that white wire is rather thick. It wouldn't take much bending to get a short.



I start by just getting enough hot glue around the area to cover. I know it looks bad and there are voids. Not to worry.

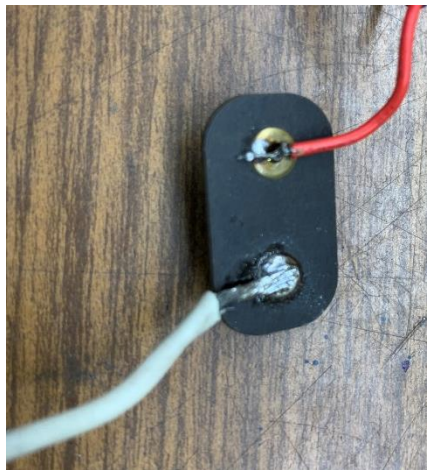
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After a few seconds of the hot air gun, the glue reflows and becomes a smooth, evenly coating, mass.

Then just leave it alone until completely cool.



In this second example, I wanted to protect a 9V battery connector.



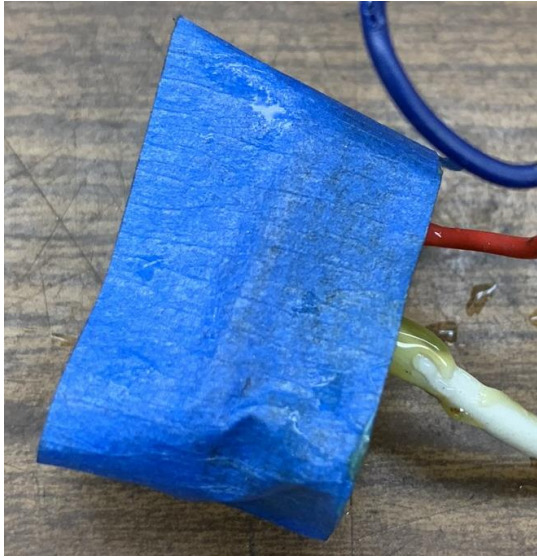
I built a mold out of 3M painter's tape and held it lightly in a small vise. I did bend the white wire so it exits out the top.



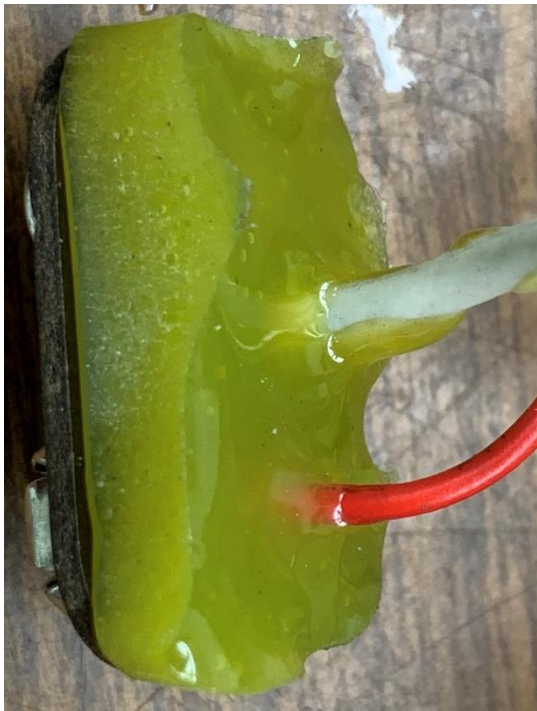
My hot glue guns is heating. I also have a fine water mist sprayer. It is handy if I need to speed up the cooling process.



Working in layers, I fill up the mold. The trick is to not leave voids.



Don't be in a rush to open the present. The hot glue must cool so it becomes solid. Spraying with water helps but I do avoid soaking it because I do not want to damage electrical contacts.



The tape came right off. The edges are sharp in spots but a sharp razor cleans that up.





I then smoothed the edges with a *quick* burst from my heat gun. Too much heat and the hot glue will start to slump.

I welcome your comments and questions.

If you wish to be contacted each time I publish an article, email me with just "Article Alias" in the subject line.

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