

NOTE ON MEASURING THE ISOLATION OF A SOLDER POT

Somebody asked how to make 'tip-to-ground' measurements on a solder pot (!) If it can happen once, it can happen again. I was sorely tempted to advise the enquirer to wait until the solder in the pot was thoroughly molten, then pour the contents into his, her, or its left ear, but maybe the question was serious. Here you go:

As you can tell from looking, there isn't any tip on a solder pot, but you can measure pot-to-ground resistance to verify that the little dear is grounded to ground. Two ways:

1. Straight resistance measurement.
 - a) Unplug the pot and let it cool.
 - b) Using an ohmmeter, measure between the pot and one of the AC connexions on the cord. The reading should be infinite.
 - c) Repeat for the other AC connexion. Again, the reading should be infinite.
 - d) Measure between the pot and the ground connexion. The reading should be 0Ω .

2. Using a 192.
 - a) Plug the solder pot into the receptacle on the 192.
 - b) Turn the 192 on.
 - c) Select 'ohm' scale.
 - d) Get an alligator clip-lead and connect one end to the solder pot.
 - e) Touch the free end of the clip-lead to the plate on the 192.
 - f) Read pot-to-ground resistance. It should be 0Ω .

If either method yields a resistance greater than 2Ω , disassemble the pot (be sure it is cold!) and clean the mechanical connexions between the pot and the chassis. Use a solvent such as Naval Jelly to remove rust, and be sure to remove all residue. A wire brush is often useful, too. Reassemble. Repeat tests.