

Soldering wires and making splice connections with RibbonFlex Pro LED tape lighting

Direct soldering of wires is the surest method for making extra reliable electrical connections.



Choose the right soldering tools

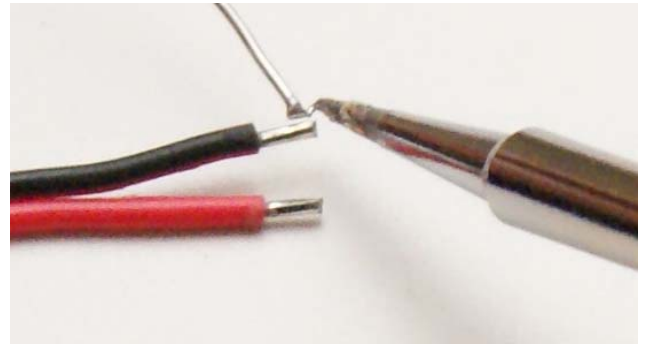
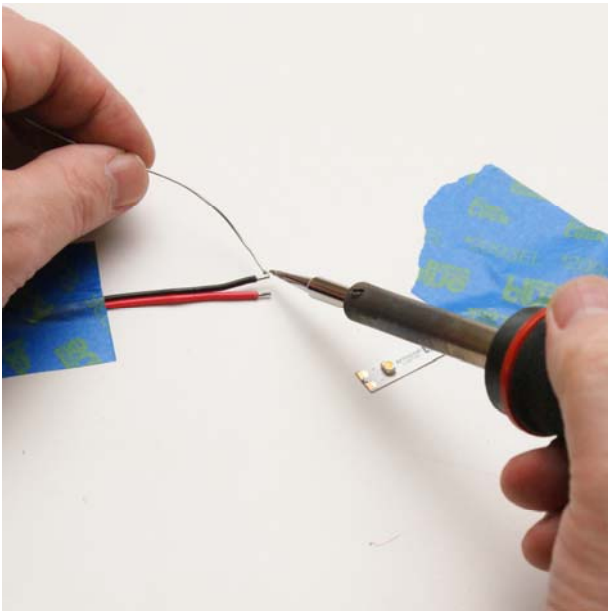
Recommend using a Weller 40 watt soldering iron with a fine point conical soldering tip, Weller model ST7. Use thin rosin-core solder, for example: 60/40 .032" light duty solder found at Radio Shack.



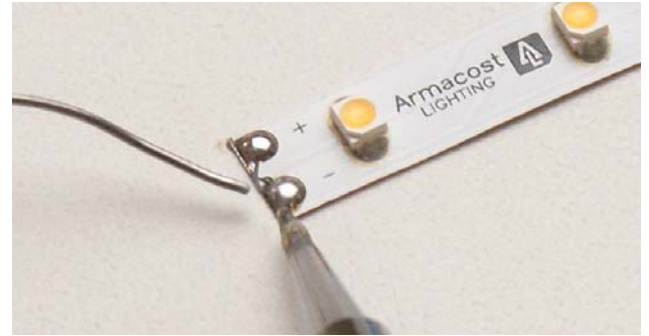
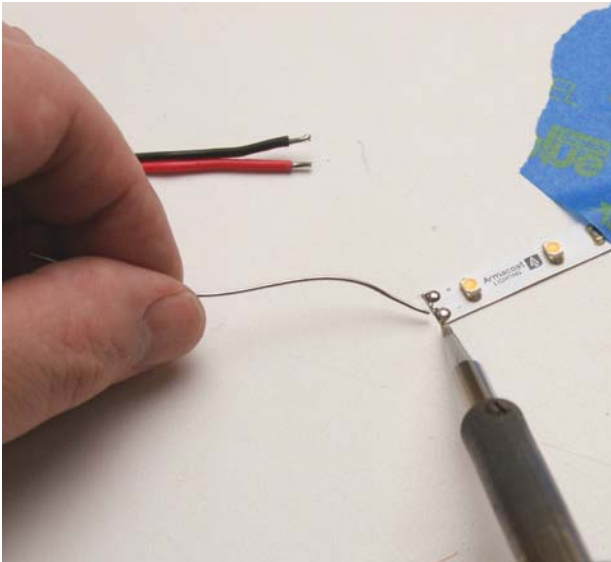
Use a Weller fine point conical soldering tip model ST7.



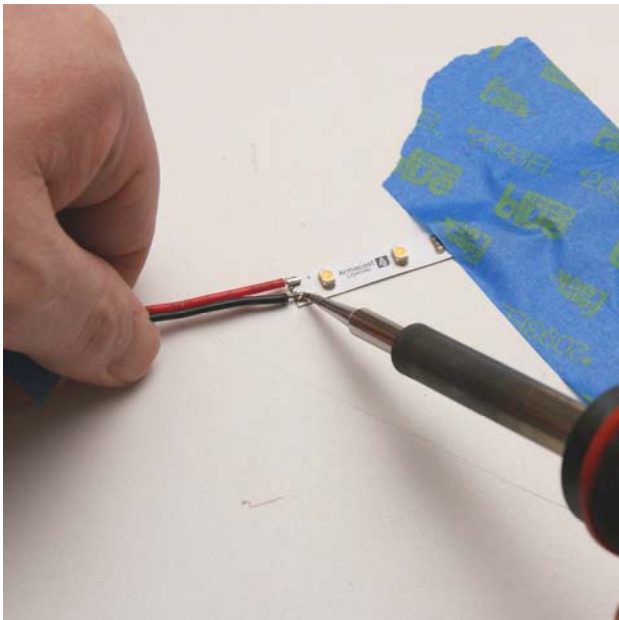
Use a wet sponge to remove excess solder and to keep your tip clean. Soldering stations are also useful and readily available online.



When soldering power wires to LED tape, prepare the wire by first “tinning” the stripped ends of each wire lead. Place the tip of the hot soldering iron against the wire and apply a light, even coat of solder as shown.



The same basic tinning process is also required on each of the copper pads on the LED tape lighting. Be sure to use painter's masking tape to secure the LED tape when you are soldering.

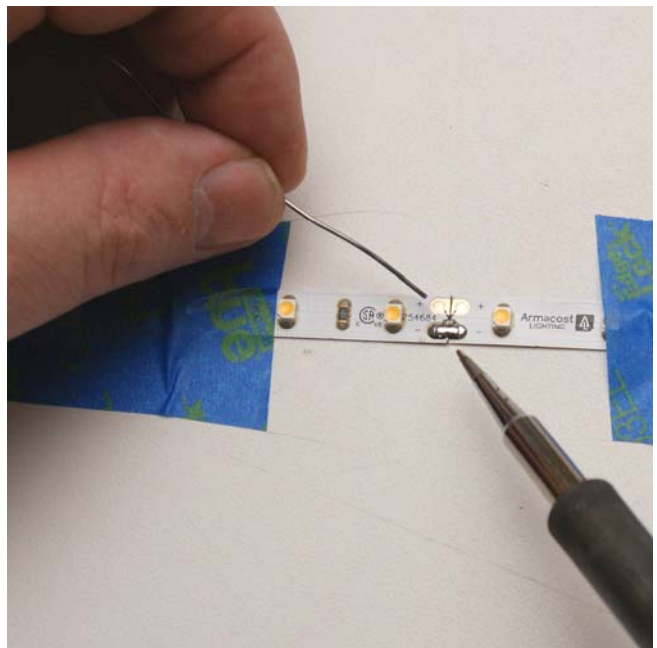
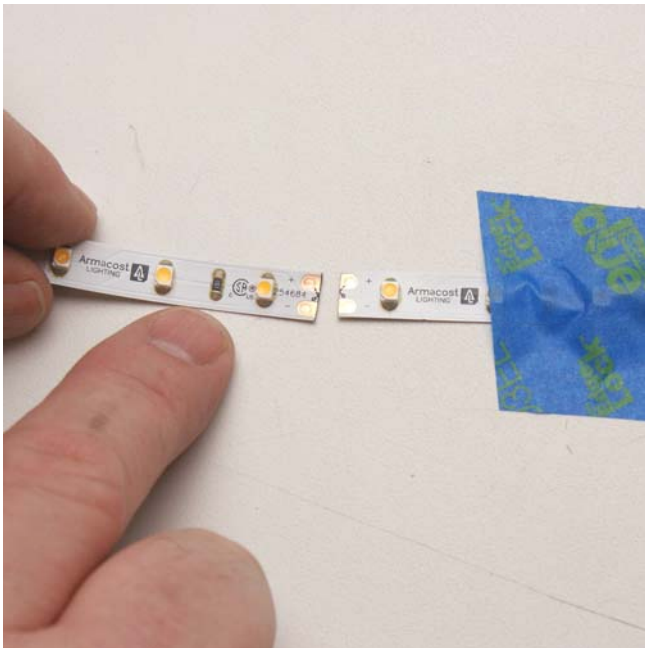
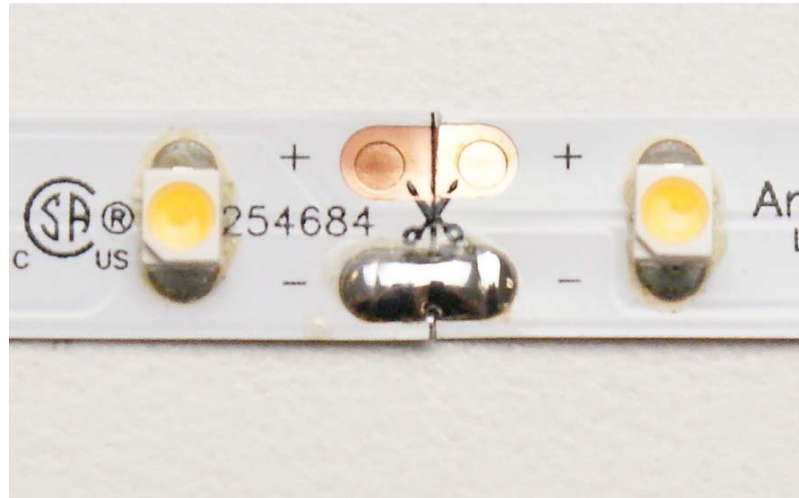


Once the wire leads and copper pads are tinned, simply join the wires to the copper pads and solder using a clean soldering tip. No extra solder is required since tinning has been done. Be sure to maintain correct + / - polarity.

Longer lengths of LED tape lighting are factory made by soldering together ½ meter sections of tape lighting. Likewise, it is also easy to splice two sections of LED tape together using the same factory-style soldering methods.

Maintaining + / - polarity with the tape lighting, join together the two sections as show on a flat surface. Be sure to secure the LED tape in place with masking tape.

Next, tin each section of the copper pads you which to join with a small “mound” of solder. Then, with the tip of your hot soldering iron, drag one solder mound to the adjacent mound to form a single, continuous larger oval solder mound. Repeat to join both connections. Done properly, the soldered splice connection will be as strong, and last as long, as any factory made connection.



Be sure to power up your LED lighting prior to final installation. Check to ensure that all tape sections are lighting properly and connections are solid.

Adding a white shrink tube seal to new wire lead connections also makes for a more professional appearance.

