

TROUBLESHOOTING STEPS

Have you assembled your rattler kit, double checked your work and can't get any sound to come out when plugged in?

Here are some very simple things to start troubleshooting with which, believe it or not, are frequently overlooked when first plugging in.

1) Is the 9V battery fully charged and connected?

2) Are your guitar and amp plugged into the correct jacks?

-as you are looking at the pedal with the footswitch closest to you and the two knobs further from you, the guitar plugs into the jack on the right side of the pedal.

Are your guitar and amp plugged into the correct jacks, but you can only get the normal guitar signal when switched into by-pass, and then very weak or no signal when switched into the effect circuit?

3) Double check your component placement and wiring.

4) Double check for correct polarity placement of the transistors, diodes, and polarized capacitor.

5) Make sure that there are no component leads touching that shouldn't be.

-For example, the 10K resistor that connects between two lower terminal strip holes, has a risky placement that can result in a lead unintentionally touching some terminals it shouldn't be touching.

6) Check for "cold solder joints". (*Please see the page of soldering tips*).

-A component may look physically connected to the right point, but it may not be electrically connected.

a. If you have a meter to measure volts and ohms, you can check for electrical continuity between each point to make sure they are electrically connected.

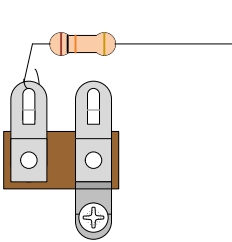
b. If you do not have a meter, you should make sure each solder joint looks shiny and that you cannot physically wiggle the component loose from its connection.

SOLDERING TIPS

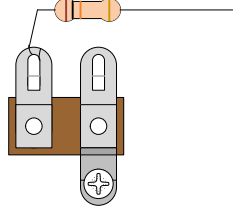
It is important to make a good solder joint at each connection point. A cold solder joint is a connection that may look connected but is actually disconnected or intermittently connected. (A cold solder joint can keep your project from working.)

Follow these tips to make a good solder joint. *Take your time with each connection and make sure that all components are connected and will remain connected if your project is bumped or shaken.*

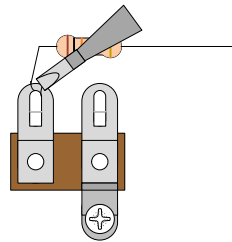
1. Bend the component lead or wire ending and wrap it around the connection point.
 - Make sure it is not too close to a neighboring component which could cause an unintended connection.
2. Wrap the component lead so that it can hold itself to the connection point.
3. Touch the soldering iron to both the component lead and the connection point allowing both to warm up just before applying the solder to them.
4. Be sure to adequately cover both component lead and connection point with melted solder.
 - Remove the soldering iron from your work and allow the solder joint to cool. (The solder joint should be shiny and smooth after solidifying.)
 - Cut off any excess wire or component leads with cutting pliers.
 - Clean the soldering iron's tip by wiping it across the wet sponge again after making the solder joint.



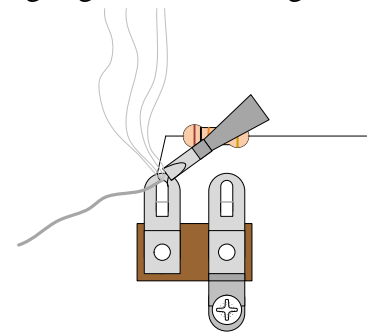
1. Bend the component lead and wrap it around the connection point.



2. Wrap the component lead so that it can hold itself to the connection point.

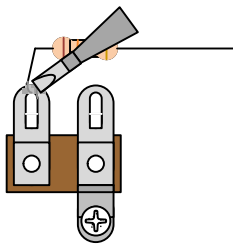


3. Heat up both component lead and connection point with the soldering iron.

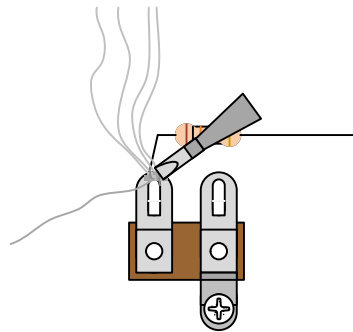


4. Apply solder to both component lead and connection point.

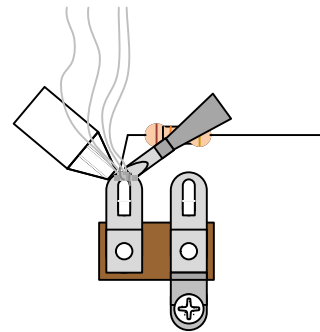
De-Soldering Tip



1. Heat up old solder joint with the soldering iron.



2. Apply fresh solder to mix in with old solder joint



3. Use a de-soldering tool to remove the old solder joint while it is heated.