



Third Hand

TOL-09317 ROHS ✓

★★★★☆ 8

DESCRIPTION

This is a solderer's best helper, the third hand. Comes with a heavy base, two alligator clips, a soldering iron holder, and a good magnifying glass. Note that we don't normally need a third hand. It's nice, but soldering flat on a table works just fine. Then again, the desk is starting to look like a mine field of burn marks and melted pot holes.

What we've found with many of these cheaper third hand is the lack of stability. The small base on this unit does not make the problem any better. However, with some creativity, you can make it more stable. We also really enjoyed the fact that this unit has a iron holder. Cheap fire-starting soldering irons often do not include a holding stand - this third hand can help prevent accidents and melt marks in the dining room table.



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Third Hand Product Help and Resources

SKILLS NEEDED

Core Skill: DIY

Whether it's for assembling a kit, hacking an enclosure, or creating your own parts; the DIY skill is all about knowing how to use tools and the techniques associated with them.



Skill Level: Noob - Basic assembly is required. You may need to provide your own basic tools like a screwdriver, hammer or scissors. Power tools or custom parts are not required. Instructions will be included and easy to follow. Sewing may be required, but only with included patterns.

[See all skill levels](#)

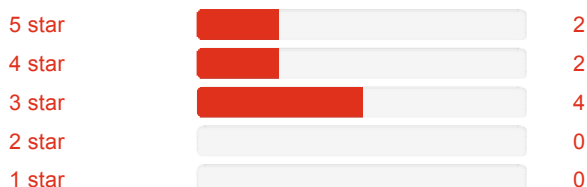
COMMENTS 23

REVIEWS ★★★★★ 8

Customer Reviews

★★★★☆ 3.8 out of 5

Based on 8 ratings:



1 of 1 found this helpful:

★★★★★ basic but good

about 2 years ago by [Member #247797](#) ✓ verified purchaser

Pretty solid stand. I only planned on using the actual hands but the magnifying glass/iron stand comes off (I'm also fairly certain that if you put an iron in it the whole thing would tip. The base is heavy but not that heavy). I also recommend putting a piece of heat shrink tubing on either jaw of each hand so whatever you're holding isn't scratched.

★★★★☆ Much better than not having one.

about 2 years ago by [YKK_PC_Tech](#) ✓ verified purchaser

As others mentioned the base is a little small but that didn't bother me at all because I just taped a old HDD magnet to the table and that stuck so well to the bottom of this thing that it started pulling the duct tape off the table rather than letting go of the 3rd hand. Bottom line I could put a 1lb soldering iron in the holder and it won't fall over.

★★★★☆ Lens arrived with a 1/4" chip on the edge, otherwise works fine

about a year ago by [Member #851167](#) ✓ verified purchaser

The outer box arrived looking good, but the glass lens inside had a sizable chip. It was protected with two really wimpy pieces of cardboard and nothing else, so the lens damage is not that surprising. Not bothering to RMA as it seems to be fine otherwise, but the packaging of the glass needs to be improved.

Other ideas for improvement that I see right off the bat:

1) Higher-quality thumb-screws – specify a smaller thread pitch for easier adjustment; use high-strength steel to avoid stripping. The current one require some force to lock to a stable state.

2) Use a clip mechanism that allows the compression to be adjusted as-needed. I'd be worried to grasp delicate items with the current alligators.

[ROB-24601](#) replied on November 21, 2016:

This is a pretty basic third hand tool. We do have one that's **a little more robust**, but lacks the magnifying lens. I'm going to contact you directly about that issue. Happy hacking!

★★★★☆ Great Product, But Disappointed On What Was In The Box.

about a year ago by [CMoyni24](#) ✓ verified purchaser

This works really well and I love it, but I'm forced to give this 3 stars because inside it's box it was really dirty and dusty. Also I was disappointed that there were dead bugs in there as well, so for this being the first time I have purchased stuff from SparkFun it kind of discourages me from making purchases like these in the future from SparkFun.(I would like to specify that it was not the red box that everything comes in and instead the box for the third hand its self)

Update[1/23/2017]: I do have to say SparkFun does have very nice customer service, and after using it quite the bit it works well but the nuts keeping the clips on constantly need to be screwed on further after use. (By the way thank you SparkFun for the great customer service and I'm still a happy SparkFun customer)

[ROB-24601](#) replied on January 19, 2017:

Wow, really sorry to hear that. I'm going to contact you directly about this.

★★★★★ How practical!

about a year ago by [Member #882747](#) ✓ verified purchaser

This is so useful! I use it for all of my projects that require soldering. It's a great cheap option for a third hand if you don't want to create a hole in your wallet by buying a more expensive one. I'm not a huge fan of the magnifying glass, it doesn't really help me much and it gets in the way, but the other parts of it are really helpful.

★★★★☆ Handy, but not TOO handy

about 3 years ago by [MarmotXing](#) ✓ verified purchaser

Like many similar products and their respective reviews, don't expect it to be terribly sturdy, especially if you plan on using the iron-holder. It works well enough as a "third-hand," though, and is FAR better than not having

an alternative. Proceed with caution, but if budgetary considerations leave this or nothing, go with this.

Single T replied on March 18, 2015:

Hi, You are right, this is a more basic third hand. If you need one that is more robust, have a look at this one! <https://www.sparkfun.com/products/11784> Happy hacking

★★★★☆ Works good

about 4 months ago by [Member #1188751](#) verified purchaser

Haven't used it to hold the iron but it works good as a third hand.



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In 2003, CU student Nate Seidle blew a power supply in his dorm room and, in lieu of a way to order easy replacements, decided to start his own company. Since then, SparkFun has been committed to sustainably helping our world achieve electronics literacy from our headquarters in Boulder, Colorado.

No matter your vision, SparkFun's products and resources are designed to make the world of electronics more accessible. In addition to over 2,000 open source components and widgets, SparkFun offers curriculum, training and online tutorials designed to help demystify the wonderful world of embedded electronics. We're here to help you start something.

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