

Recommended tools for Synth DIY

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Who visits Do-It-Yourself workshops or wants to build stuff at home needs some tools. You don't need special or expensive stuff. Here's a list of good materials. Soldering iron and solder wire are essential, the rest is an option.

Nearly all this tools are available at Conrad Elektronik and Voelkner. In many cities there's a Conrad shop, which is a good thing for last minute actions, but the soldering irons there are completely overpriced. With the tools from this list you will have solid basic equipment that will last for some years.

**For the best prices we recommend looking for all the tools online via [Idealo](#) or [Google Shopping](#).
Some of the stuff you will get via Exploding Shed.**

www.leaf-audio.com | www.exploding-shed.com

Hand soldering iron

Soldering stations are fine, but if you want travel with small baggage, better use a 230V hand soldering iron.

A cheap beginners iron is the Ersa-30-S (30 Watt) for about 30€. You'll get it at Voelkner, Amazon or Conrad, check via [Idealo](#). We recommend to buy the additional tip for the iron called Ersa 032BD.



Who wants to invest into the future and better solder connections, should buy this temperature controlled iron PTC-70 (75 Watt) for about 70€, for which a whole bunch of different tips are available.



You get it at [Voelkner](#), [Amazon](#) or [Conrad](#). We absolutely recommend to buy the tip [Ersa 0842 SD LF](#) (Lead Free) and use it instead of the original one, it is way better!

There are other interesting irons called TS-100 and TS-80 which you get online, but it's a chinese product which is generally great but sometimes you get dangerous power supplies with it and bad soldering tips that don't last long etc.

Solder wire

As the times of leaded solder are over, it is a bit hard to find a good lead free solder wire. We recommend Stannol Kristall 611 in the „Sn96,5 Ag3 Cu0,5“ composition with a diameter of 0,7mm. This is a very good universal one. You can get it from Conrad, [Exploding Shed](#) or just search on the web.



Elektronic wirecutter, Toolcraft

Highly recommended to all those who want to solder from time to time or really start into DIY.

Price: ca. 10€ at [Voelkner](#) or [Conrad](#).

De-soldering pump, Toolcraft ZD-190

If you messed up some connections, you can heat it up again and suck the solder off with this tool. Very helpful thing.

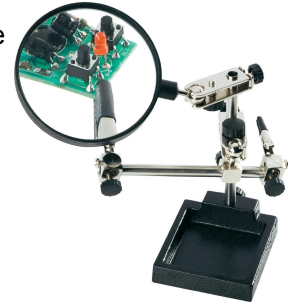
Price: ca. 4,99€ at [Voelkner](#) or [Conrad](#).



3rd hand, Toolcraft ZD-10H

Quite helpful, specially beginners might get better results with a holder, because the board can't move and wander around. Also the magnifying glass is not too bad for people with bad eyes.

Price: ca. 12€ at [Voelkner](#) and [Conrad](#).



Dry cleaner

Top invention to clean the tip of the iron. 100 times better than a wet sponge. A pot cleaner made from metal which is put into a glass does the same job but is cheaper.

Price: ca. 10€ at [Voelkner](#) or [Conrad](#).

LED-Spot, Ikea „Jansjö“

Light is extremely important when soldering. This [spot with holder](#) or any USB-Spot fits in every pocket and lights up your working area. A photo-ringlight would be the optimum, but this thingie also does it for the start.

Price: ca. 13€



Wera Kraftform „Kompakt 28 SB“

For bigger screws when you need some force for example for wood screws on LeafAudio Dronesynth. Including various bits. Tested by us and proven over time, very good tool! [Idealo](#)

Price: ca. 20 – 29€



Xiaomi Wiha Toolset

In DIY you oftentimes need various small screw drivers. This toolset is a killer in terms of design, price and usability. We used it multiple years intensively and it is still super. It will cost between 27€ and 40€.

Maybe the best is to check [Amazon](#) in that case.