

How to: Solder Connectors to LED Strips

Inspired LED's flexible LED strips are a versatile option for almost any accent or task-lighting application. While we offer our customers the convenience of both pre-soldered options or simple solderless connectors, there are certain circumstances where desire or necessity may require some DIY soldering. When this is the case, we recommend the following techniques for soldering.

You will need:

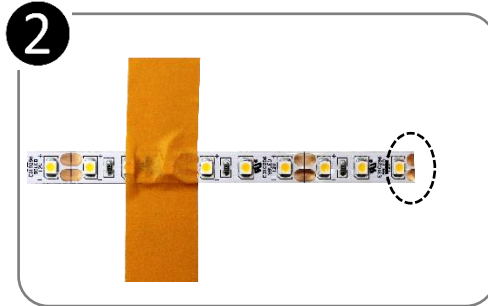
- Soldering iron
- Spool of solder
- Flux paste
- Flexible LED Strip
- Scotch or painter's tape
- 12V DC power supply (with 3.5 x 1.3mm plug)
- Inspired LED solder-on connectors
- Wire sponge or damp kitchen sponge

Important Soldering Safety Tips:

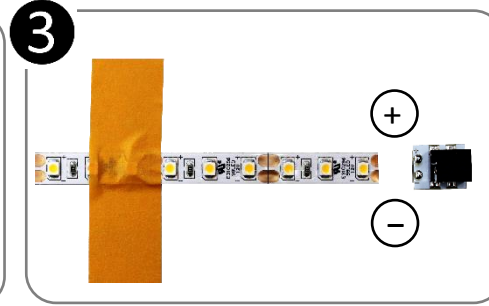
1. Be careful, soldering irons get extremely hot! (Our technicians recommend a temp of 700°F).
2. Be sure to work in a well ventilated area to avoid breathing fumes.
3. Pay attention to polarity. Mismatched positive and negative polarities will not function properly.
4. Don't rush yourself, but work quickly once flux is applied to ensure it does not dry out.
5. Clean off tip of soldering iron by brushing against sponge between uses.



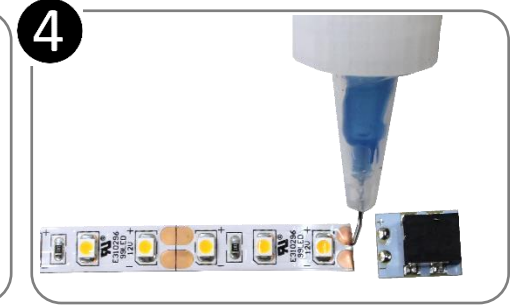
Begin by turning on your soldering iron and allowing it to heat up to at least 700° F.



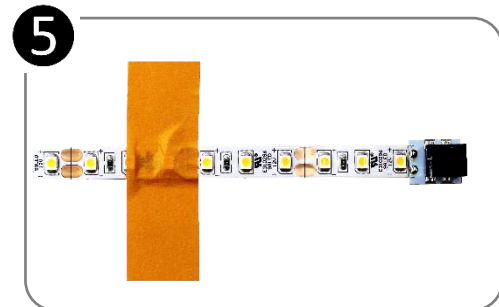
Ensure that flexible LED strip has been cut along copper solder pads. Use tape to secure LED strip in place.



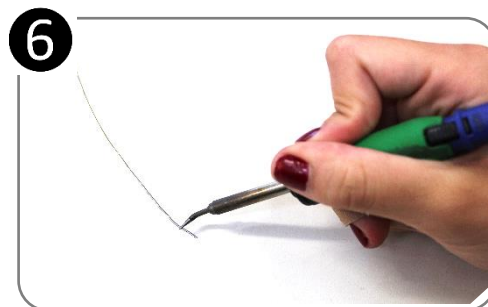
Align connector with copper solder pads at the end of your flex strip, ensuring polarities are matched.



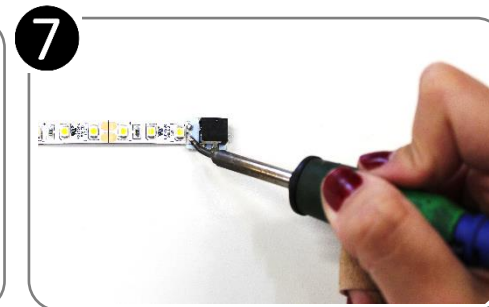
Add a drop of flux to each solder pad on the flex strip and connector.



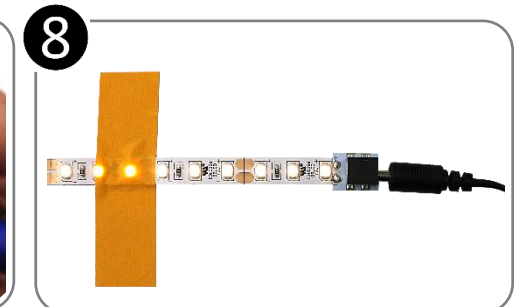
Position connector on top of flex strip solder pads for mounting.



Use tip of heated soldering iron to collect a bead of melted solder.



Touch melted solder to each connector pad, hold for 1-3 seconds (no more, or solder will begin to brown & burn).



Use standard plug-in power supply to test functionality. If solder has made a proper connection lights will turn on.

How to: Solder Cable Leads to LED Strips

Inspired LED's flexible LED strips are a versatile option for almost any accent or task-lighting application. While we offer our customers the convenience of both pre-soldered options or simple solderless connectors, there are certain circumstances where desire or necessity may require some DIY soldering. When this is the case, we recommend the following techniques for soldering.

You will need:

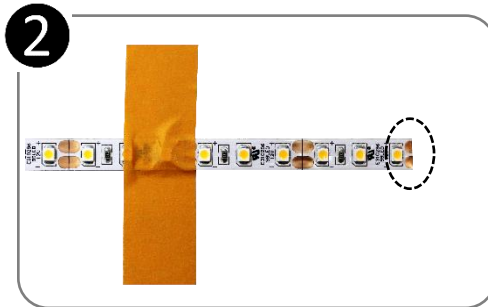
- Soldering iron
- Spool of solder
- Flux paste
- Flexible LED strip
- Scotch or painter's tape
- 12V DC power supply
- Inspired LED cable or 18-22 AWG bulk wire
- Wire strippers
- Wire sponge or damp kitchen sponge

Important Soldering Safety Tips:

1. Be careful, soldering irons get extremely hot! (Our technicians recommend a temp of 700°F).
2. Be sure to work in a well ventilated area to avoid breathing fumes.
3. Pay attention to polarity. Mismatched positive and negative polarities will not function properly.
4. Don't rush yourself, but work quickly once flux is applied to ensure it does not dry out.
5. Clean off tip of soldering iron by brushing against sponge between uses.



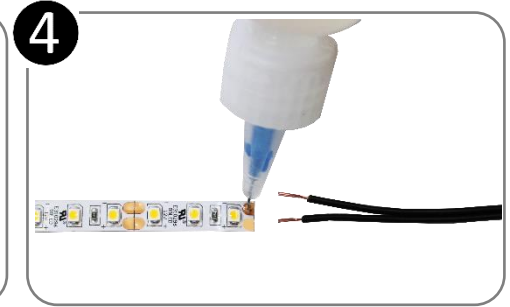
Begin by turning on your soldering iron and allowing it to heat up to at least 700° F.



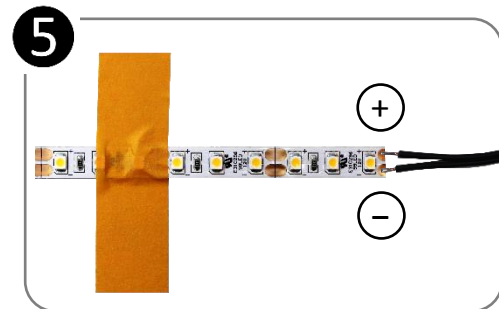
Ensure that flexible LED strip has been cut along copper solder pads. Use tape to secure LED strip in place.



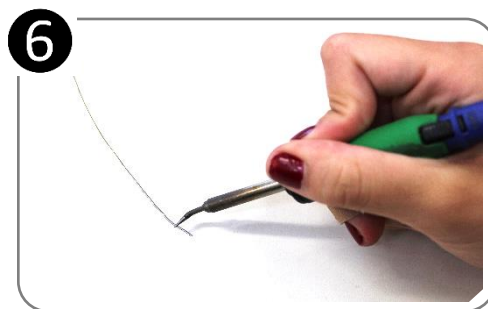
Strip back cable about ¼", identifying polarity. (If using Inspired LED cable, white lettering indicates (+) polarity.)



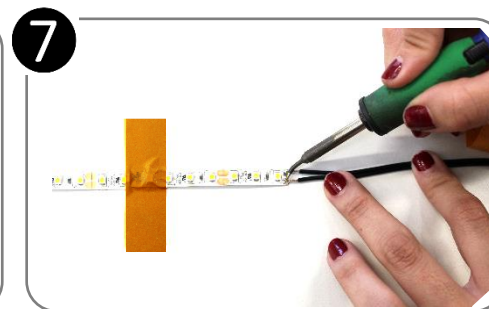
Add a drop of flux to each solder pad on the flex strip, and to the exposed ends of cable.



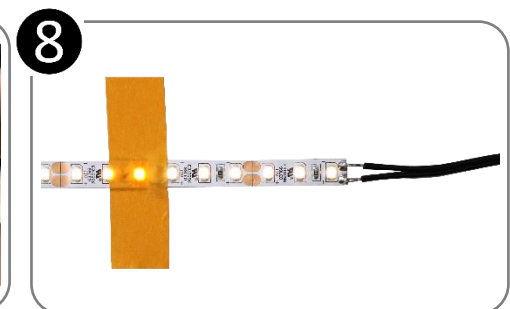
Match the positive and negative sides of cable to flex strip, position on solder pads for mounting.



Use tip of heated soldering iron to collect a bead of melted solder.



Cover each cable lead with melted solder, holding 1-3 seconds (no more, or solder will begin to brown & burn).



Connect cable to power supply to test functionality. If solder has made a proper connection lights will turn on.