

REMOVING IC'S

Thank you for the years of excellent reading in the extremely diverse field of electronics. I've been reading **Radio-Electronics** on and off for some years, and have enjoyed every issue.

Now for the good news. Over the years I have read letters from readers about the handling of IC's and the questions concerning their abuse. Well, here is some shocking news. When chips (TLL's, CMOS, etc.) are manufactured, they are dipped in a molten material. Notice I said molten, which means that the material is in liquid state. The material used and the temperature of that material must give off heat during the change of state from liquid to solid. Thinking about that concept, I began to work on a way to extract circuit-board components without the use of desoldering tools, and one that would save plenty of time.

Try this out for size: Using a *hot* oil bath as a desoldering fluid and keeping the temperature down to a level that the IC's could handle, I dropped the board in, and within seconds parts began to fall off the board. The temperature of the oil bath should be no lower than 370°F and no hotter than 380°F. That temperature is within an IC's tolerance.

The only exception is electrolytic capacitors, as they will explode and send hot oil all over the place.

Use gloves and eye protection during this process. I have extracted hundreds of useful parts that way and have had an 80% success rate. I said 80% because some plastics cannot withstand that temperature, and the hot oil can break down some plastics altogether.

I hope your readers can use this information—but if you do, be sure to observe safety first. And thanks again for the excellent reading material. Keep up the good work.

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Your method sounds a little dangerous to us, but it does show that where there's a will, there's a way!—
Editor.