

The Volt Vette Project

Chapter 42

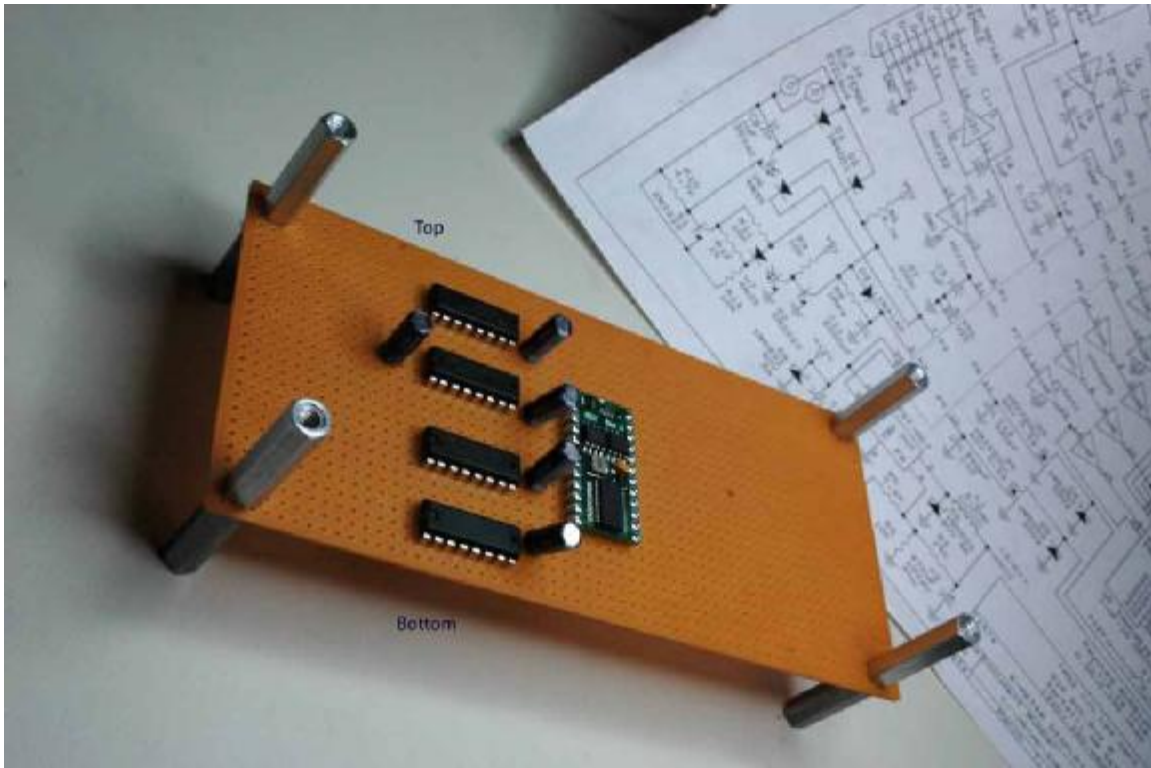
Digital Dashboard, part 2

I'm on the phone ordering the parts I'll need, when suddenly the salesman exclaims, "You don't know what you're doing are you?"

So I order by internet.

Since I don't really know what I am doing, I order two or three extra of almost every thing: Diodes, capacitors, irresistible resistors, IC (integrated circuit) chips, and other perplexing tiny parts.

I start by laying out the main parts on a blank board.

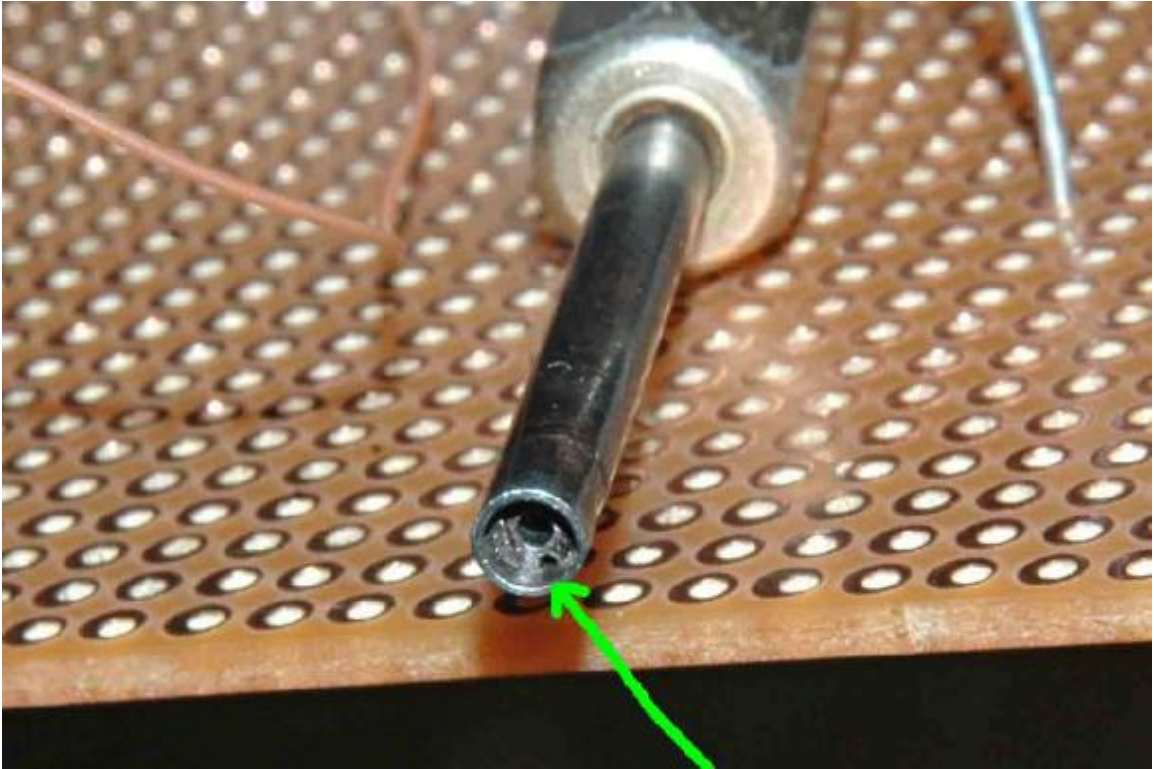


I don't know anything about soldering these parts together, so Lee shows me how to use the wire wrap method.

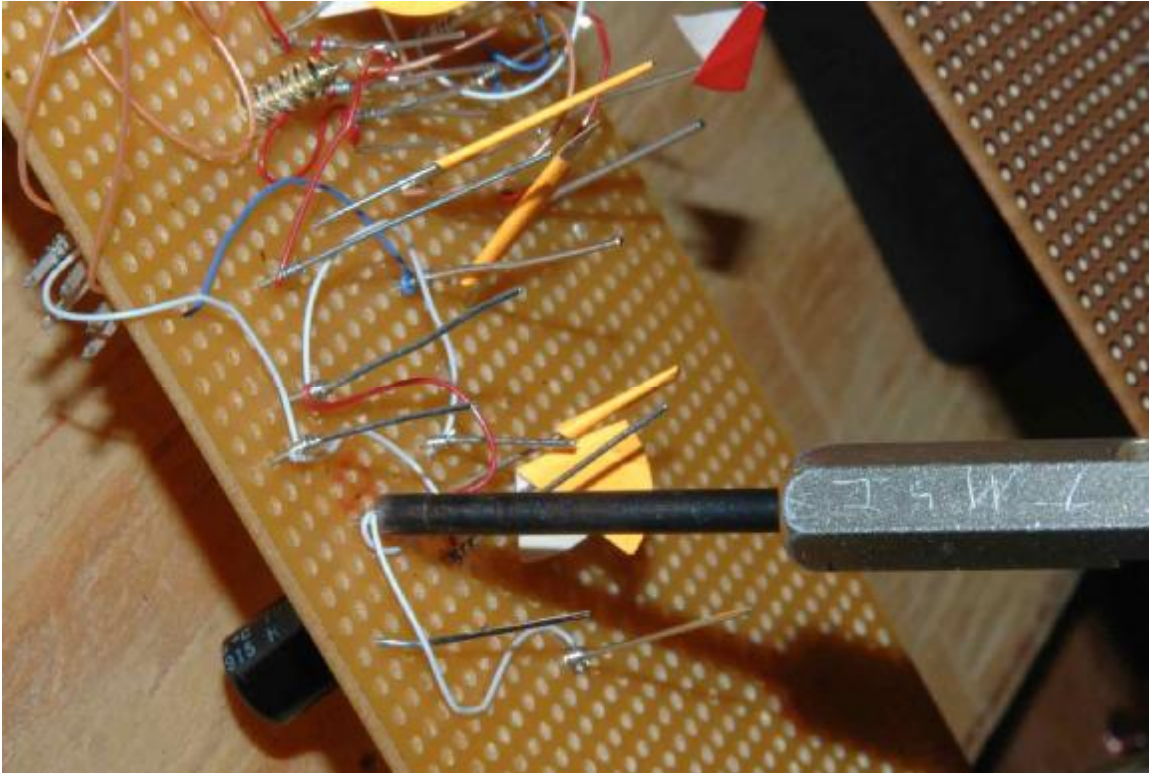
Wire wrap is just one of the many things I never knew about until I started this project.

This is how it works:

The parts are connected using short, tiny wires wrapped around the leads. You do this by threading each wire into a very small hole in the end of the wire wrap tool. This takes practice.

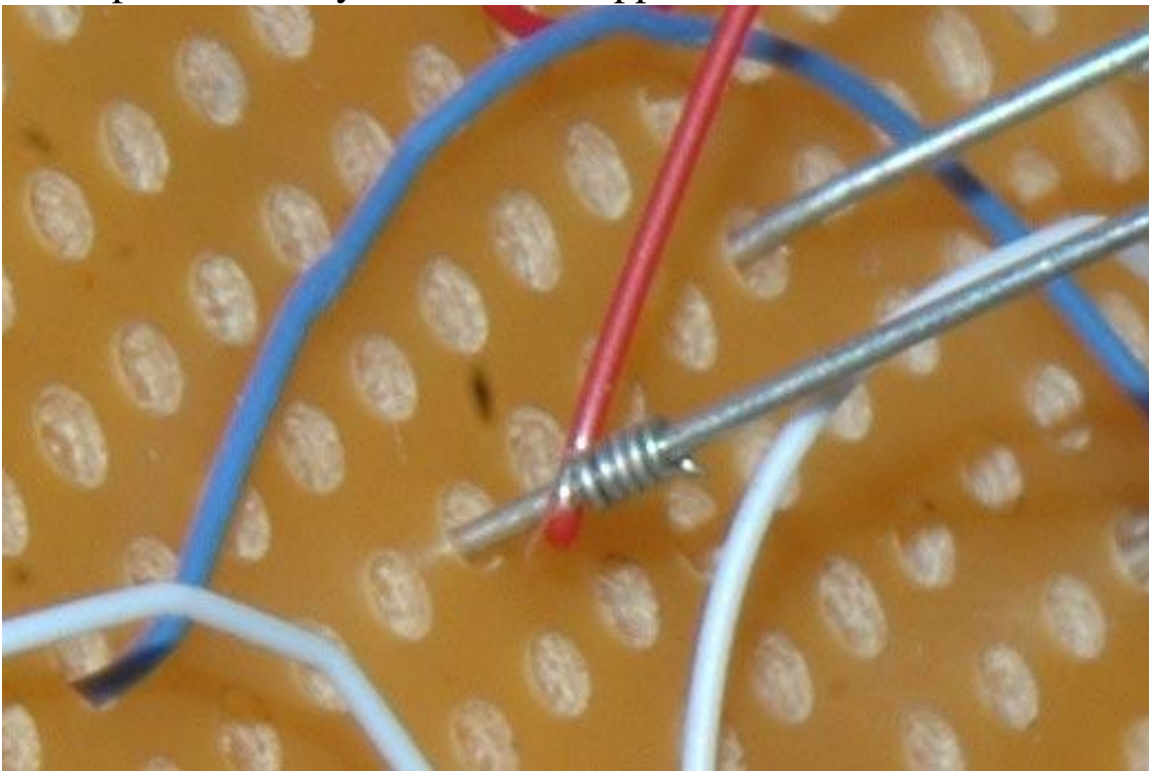


Then place the tool over a lead. Spinning the tool between your fingers causes the wire to wrap tightly around the lead. This also, takes practice.

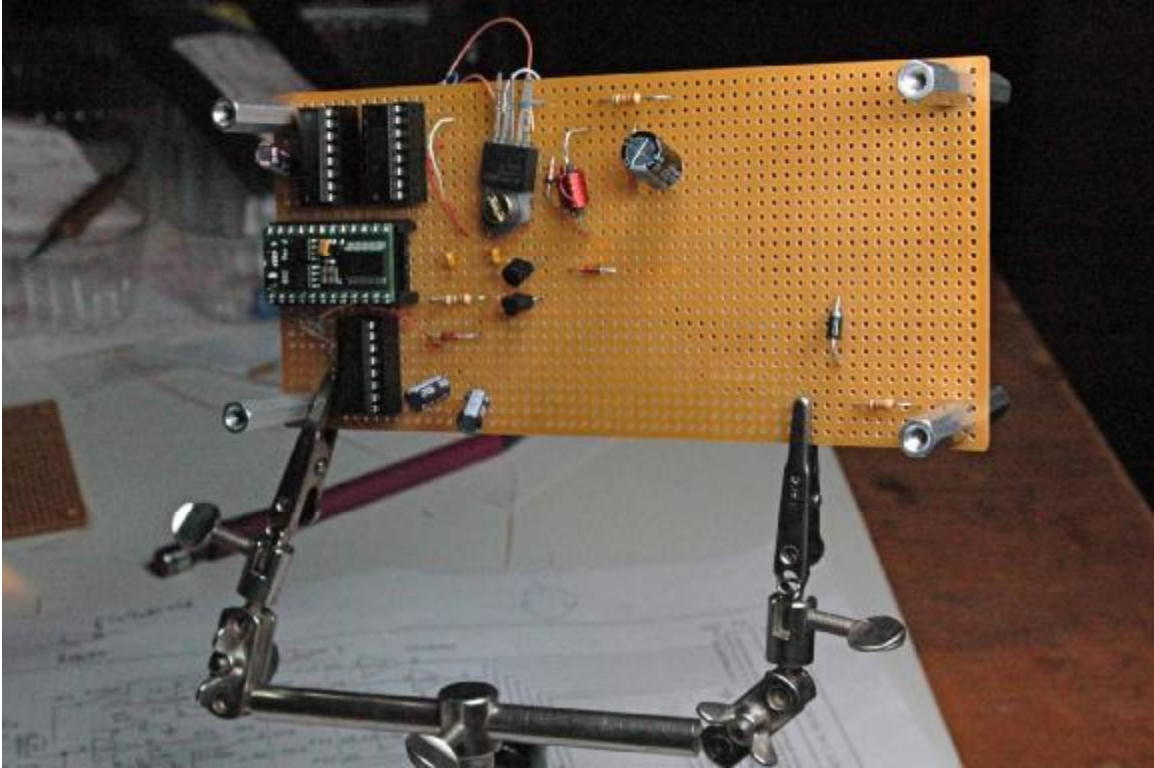


The yellow flags mark ground wires.

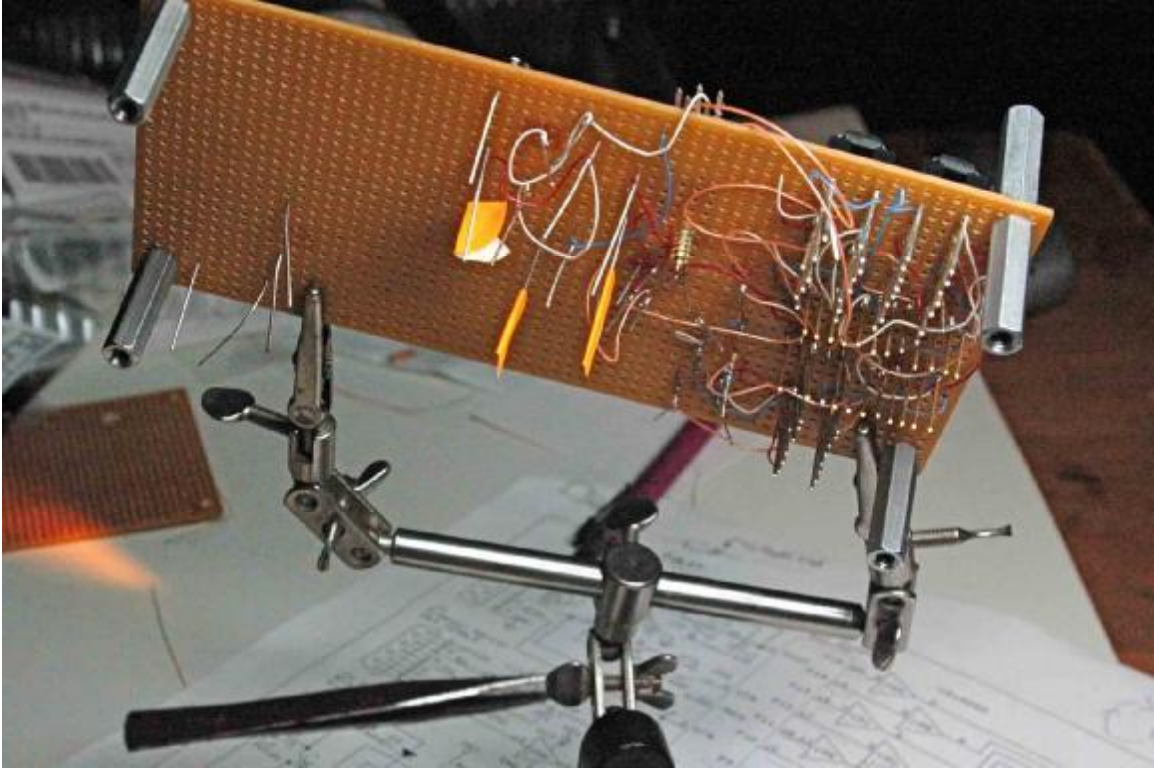
In the photo below you see one wrapped lead.



The work goes very slowly.



I can't seem to get all the parts "nailed down" tightly. I fear that once the dash is mounted in the car, the first pothole I hit will jar some of the wires loose.



I tear everything apart, and try to teach myself how to solder these tiny parts.