Soldering stations

Hakko FX-888D with fume extraction



The soldering corner



Station, iron holder and extractor arm

Safety glasses **Extractor on, arm over the work** **No food or drink at the bench**

The hazards

- **Burns.** The tip runs at about 350 °C and can be set as high as 480 °C. The barrel and fresh joints are hot too.
- **Fumes.** Flux smoke irritates the lungs and can cause asthma over time. The extractor is there to catch it.
- **Splashes.** Molten solder spits, and clipped leads fly. Both go for the eyes.
- **Fire.** An iron left on, or laid on the bench, can set light to paper, plastic and cable.
- **Solder.** Some solder contains lead. Wash your hands when you finish, whatever you used.

Always

- Switch the extractor on and pull an arm to within a hand's width of the joint
- Put the iron back in its holder every time you put it down
- Solder only circuits that are switched off and unplugged, with batteries removed
- Hold the lead you are clipping so it cannot fly
- Switch the station off when you leave the bench
- Wash your hands afterwards

Never

- Touch the tip to see if it is hot
- Flick solder off the tip
- Hold a part in your fingers next to the tip. Use a clamp or tweezers
- Lay the iron on the bench or the mat
- Solder directly onto batteries
- Leave a hot iron unattended

If something goes wrong

- Burn: hold it under cool running water for 20 minutes. Don't use ice. Tell Nitai.
- Solder in the eye: rinse with water straight away and get medical help.
- Something catches fire: switch off at the socket, move the iron to its holder and get help.