

TEST WINNER

Silverline Electric Kit £15 (typical)

Item 845318
Contact Various online
www.silverlinetools.com



Score
9/10

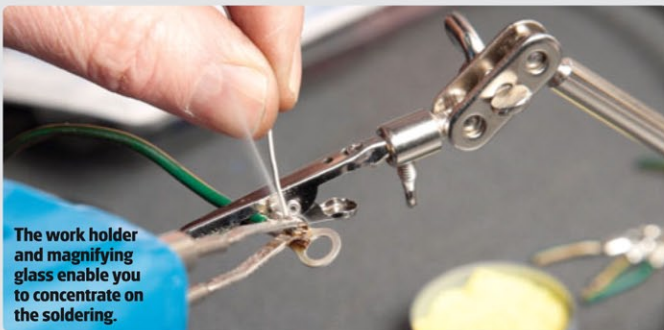
▲ We like...

The price, the price, the price. The versatility of a torch or a gun. The soldering aids such as the stand and magnifying glass will prove invaluable for delicate close-up work. Almost instant heat from the gun dealt with our test piece easily. LED pilot light on gun. The torch did all it was required to. Brilliant value.

▼ We don't like...

The gun's build quality wasn't quite as good as the Draper, although they share casings and the Silverline is rated at 110 watts.

This kit has it all for instant soldering at a penny-scraping price.



The work holder and magnifying glass enable you to concentrate on the soldering.



Traditional torch worked well and achieved the desired result.

CM SAYS...

Knowing how you need to use a soldering gun or torch should ultimately decide the type you opt for. There's no denying the sheer versatility of the portable butane-powered units tested. All worked very well, though some proved more easy to ignite than others. The Draper Gas Iron and Sealey torch proved the most ergonomic, the Dremel the best all-round butane

package for its price. Gunson's battery-powered iron is best suited to circuit boards where less heat is required.

Traditional mains-powered guns and irons perform consistently without the need for refilling, although they can be more limiting for in-situ work such as the confines of an interior. With the exception of the two guns tested, all the units remained heated without being held – not

critical but potentially safer. The gas torches use a naked flame, so avoid battery gases, fuel sources, and other such hazards.

The winning Silverline kit offers superb value, with useful accessories, and is capable of achieving the desired results. The Draper looks better built, but based on value for money the Silverline delivers. Why not buy the Draper Gas Iron and the Silverline kit and cover all your bases? **CM**