



WORKS of GLASS

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Soldering Iron Wattage

Works of Glass only uses the Weller 1140A iron because its tip heats to 1000 degrees F and it has a Ceramic heating element. I believe this to be important in choosing a soldering iron, along with the length of the shaft. Come into the shop and I will let you “feel the difference” in what I am talking about

- **Ceramic heating element*** for longer service life than normal conventional nichrome-iron (NiCr) element.
- Alloy-coated iron tips ensure long-lasting protection from corrosion.

*The **wattage** of a soldering iron is the measurement of the "**Power Rating**" of the soldering iron.

Watts is NOT indicative of the soldering iron's temperature capacity nor its performance.

- WATTS is the energy the soldering iron pulls from the electrical outlet.
- HEATING ELEMENT is the mechanism that converts the Energy into Heat
- HEATING ELEMENT TECHNOLOGY has 2 types:
 - **Wire-wound heating element** technology works like your kitchen toaster - electrical resistance heats up the wire. This type of heating element is very inefficient (wastes energy) and to add insult to injury, it **REQUIRES A LOT OF ENERGY** (example, **100W**) to heat up the whole heating element, which in turn heats up the soldering iron tip. Wire-wound heating elements are less expensive to manufacture, thus the soldering iron's performance is equal to its price.
 - **(2) Ceramic heating element technology** sends electricity to just the area where the heat is needed (at the soldering iron tip.) This type of heating element is **VERY EFFICIENT** and **REQUIRES LESS ENERGY** (example, **60W**), produces **MORE HEAT**, maintains its heat longer, and its thermal recovery (the tip's ability to come back up to soldering temperature when soldering heavy loads) is **FASTER** than a wire-wound heating element. Ceramic heating elements are more complex heating mechanisms that cost more to manufacture, thus the soldering iron's performance is equal to its price.

Users Beware: *An inexpensive soldering iron is probably using the inferior (wire-wound) heating element technology.*

Remember, you get what you pay for. At **Works of Glass** we sell only what we use ourselves!

Monicia