

Quality Test Leads

Over the years I've been frustrated by failures of alligator clip leads. Nothing is worse than thinking the device under test has a problem when in fact it turns out a bad test lead that is the issue.

This has only gotten worse in recent years, as most of the commercially-available clip leads have become complete junk: A few strands of weird metal inside stiff plastic insulation, with cheaply-made alligator clips loosely clamped (not even crimped) on the ends.

My old leads are wearing out so a couple weeks ago I bought some new clip leads from a reputable vendor. They turned out to be the worst ever - half of the leads had no continuity right out of the package. I tried soldering the wires to the clips but the few strands of wire did not seem to want to take solder - very odd stuff. I trashed them and went on a search for good test leads. I first sought good test-lead wire and clips to make my own - the minimum quantity of the wire was too high.

I found some ready-made leads from Cal-Test Electronics. I asked and confirmed they are made from real test lead wire, soldered to good quality clips:

<https://app.caltestelectronics.com/product-list/product-page/view/CT2394/>

and bought them from DigiKey, but others sell them as well:

<https://www.digikey.com/en/products/detail/cal-test-electronics/CT2394/5028475>

<https://www.tequipment.net/Cal-Test/CT2394/Alligator-Test-Leads/>

<https://www.mouser.com/ProductDetail/Cal-Test-Electronics/CT2394?qs=sGAEpiMZZMtJbfcMclM8CEmj16%2FR0hxQbyY9pD4jm%252Bw%3D>

They are more expensive than the junk, but the two packs I received show the quality I was seeking.

