

HEY PRESTO

GENERAL INFORMATION.

My Uncle Mort used to have two soldering irons in his shop...a little cheap 15-watter he used for repairing radios¹ and tinkering with Cousin Elwood's toy train hookup, and a honking great American Beauty, used for wiring infernal machines out in the barn, that dimmed all the lights in Idaho when he plugged it in. Uncle Mort's death ray didn't work all that well (most of the time it wouldn't even slow up a mouse, let alone a moose) but he had fun with it. Trouble was, the American Beauty got so hot and stayed so hot that Mort had to be very careful after using it, or he'd burn the barn down. This vexed Aunt Addie something fierce. What Uncle Mort needed but didn't have was a Hakko Presto.

The Hakko P-980 and P-981 'Presto' irons are light-duty soldering irons with a difference. That difference is a switch allowing the user to kick up the power for occasional heavy-duty applications. Normally a 20-watt device (or a tip temperature of ~600°F., if you prefer), 130 watts (a tip temperature of >1000°F.), are available when called upon (though only for a brief time - 30 seconds at the most). The 980 is pencil style; the 981, pistol-style, so you can get the shape that suits you...see the picture:



Look in the red circle for the control switch. Press that switch and immediately the power jumps to 130 watts...but be careful! That's a lot of heating power, and holding the switch for too long can overheat the iron. It is, after all, designed for occasional high-power use. If you need high power all the time, permit me to commend to your kind attention several other Hakko irons, which you can see on this web-site, up to and including the really immense 200-watt 'Matchless'.



¹ UNCLE MORT CLAIMED TO BE ABLE TO FIX ANYTHING FROM YOUR CAR TO A TRAFFIC TICKET AND MAYBE HE COULD. HE LEARNED TO FIX RADIOS IN THE 1930S, WHEN ROOSEVELT MINOR WAS IN OFFICE. EVERY TIME A 'FIRESIDE CHAT' CAME ON, MORT WOULD THROW THE RADIO OUT OF THE WINDOW. THEN HE'D HAVE TO GET IT WORKING AGAIN BEFORE 'ONE MAN'S FAMILY' CAME ON OR AUNT ADDIE WOULD SKIN HIM ALIVE.