

Tetrode burning:

Before they are ready to be loaded into the drive, tetrodes need to be prepped. This consists of separating out the four wires and stripping the insulation off of the ends that get attached to the head stage pins.

First, cut the loop at the top. Pull the two sets of wires down gently until you feel a little resistance, then give a sharp tug to both sides to make them stay separated.

Do the same with each set of two wires. If the ends aren't accessible at first, hold the wires a little below the end and twirl the ends between your fingers sharply until they separate enough for you to grab them. Separate and tug to hold as above. Use the #2 tweezers if necessary.

If the four wires are of different lengths or the ends are curly, cut them down until they are all about the same length from the intersection point (where the polyimide coating has stuck them all together from the heat gun). Just be sure there's enough straight tetrode at each end to push it into a green shrink wrap, and enough play to span the four pins of the head stage.

For each of the four wires, grab it ~5mm down with small metal forceps. Be sure to use metal forceps, as they act as a heat sink to protect the rest of the insulation from being stripped. Slowly bring it towards the blue part of the flame from the little torch thing until the end of the tetrode glows. As soon as it does it is stripped and you can pull it away from the flame. Take great care not to burn any part of the tetrode but the end that is sticking out of the forceps. Repeat for all four wires.

The tetrode is now ready to be loaded.

As a matter of good practice, ALWAYS complete the entire procedure whenever you start it. You do not want to have to guess which cut tetrodes are stripped and which are not. Cut = ready to load.

