

Figure 8-3:
Shaping of the HyperTransport tap board edge.

After sculpting the beveled edge, all the parts were soldered onto the board. The Appendix on SMT Soldering Techniques covers the technique I used to attach all the components to this board.

The finished tap board now had to be attached to the Xbox motherboard. This critical step was perhaps the most difficult step. First, the Xbox motherboard was prepared by using a fine grit sand paper to strip away the green soldermask, revealing the bright bare copper of the target traces. These traces were fluxed and a thin coat of solder was applied using a hot soldering iron tip.

The procedure I used for the attaching the tap board to the motherboard is shown in Figure 8-4. The prepared tap board was tacked onto the motherboard at the approximate location and angle using a thin (30 AWG) wire soldered between a trace on the tap board and the motherboard. The

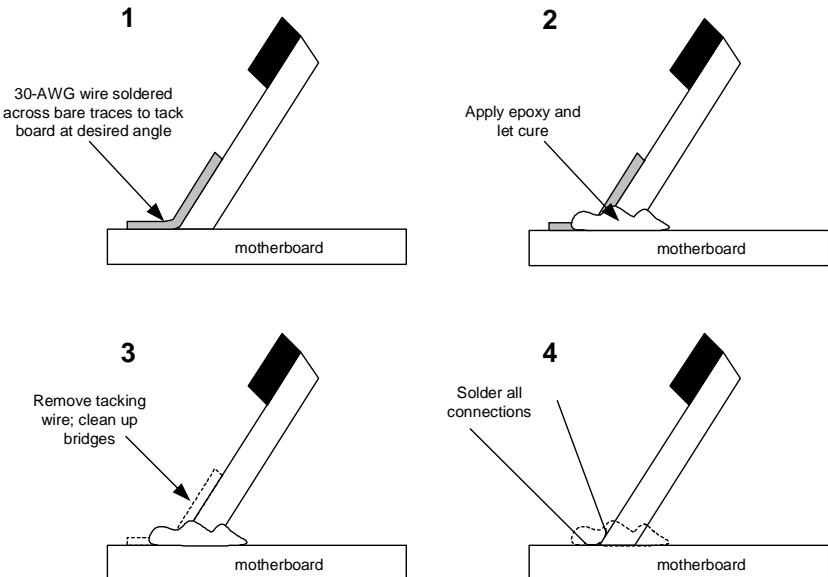


Figure 8-4:
Tap board soldering procedure.