Stripe Snoop – Making a Reader
(On the Cheap)

Note: This is my first experience with setting up a card reader. Your experience may vary. All suggestions are welcome. Remember operating a soldering iron can be dangerous; make sure you are comfortable using these tools before you begin this project.

Approximate time: 15 minutes

Parts List:

All parts were purchased from ALL ELECTRONICS (http://www.allelectronics.com). I choose to purchase used readers. New ones were available for $5.00. I would recommend purchasing at least 3 kits shown below since you are already paying the flat shipping charges.

MCR -8	Magnetic Card Reader (Used)	$1.50
DB-15P	Sub Mini D Connector / 15 pin Male	$0.59
DB-15H	DB-15 Hood	$0.39
Sub-Total		***$2.48***
Shipping		*$6.00*
Total		***$8.48***

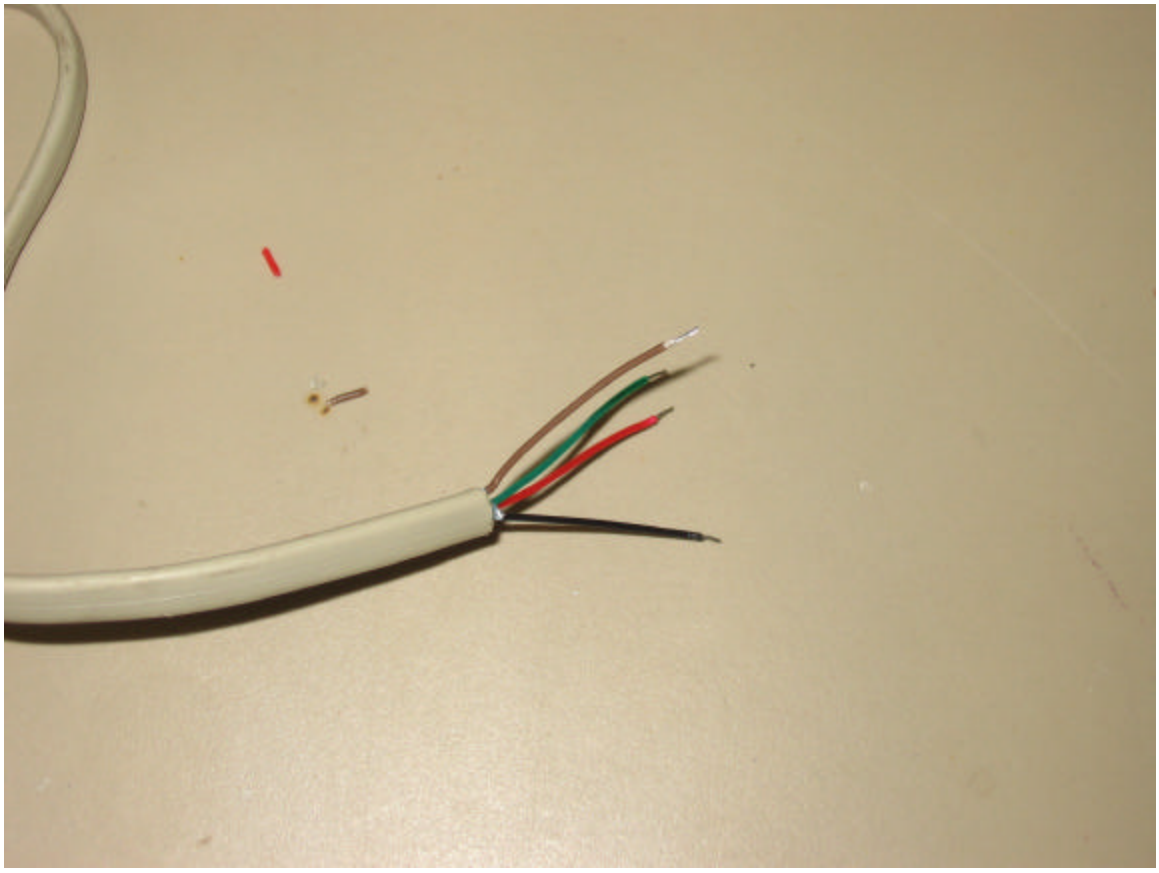
Tools Required:

Soldering Iron
Rosin Core Solder
Wire cutters / strippers
Small screw drivers
Vice Grips (optional, used to hold parts)

Step 1:

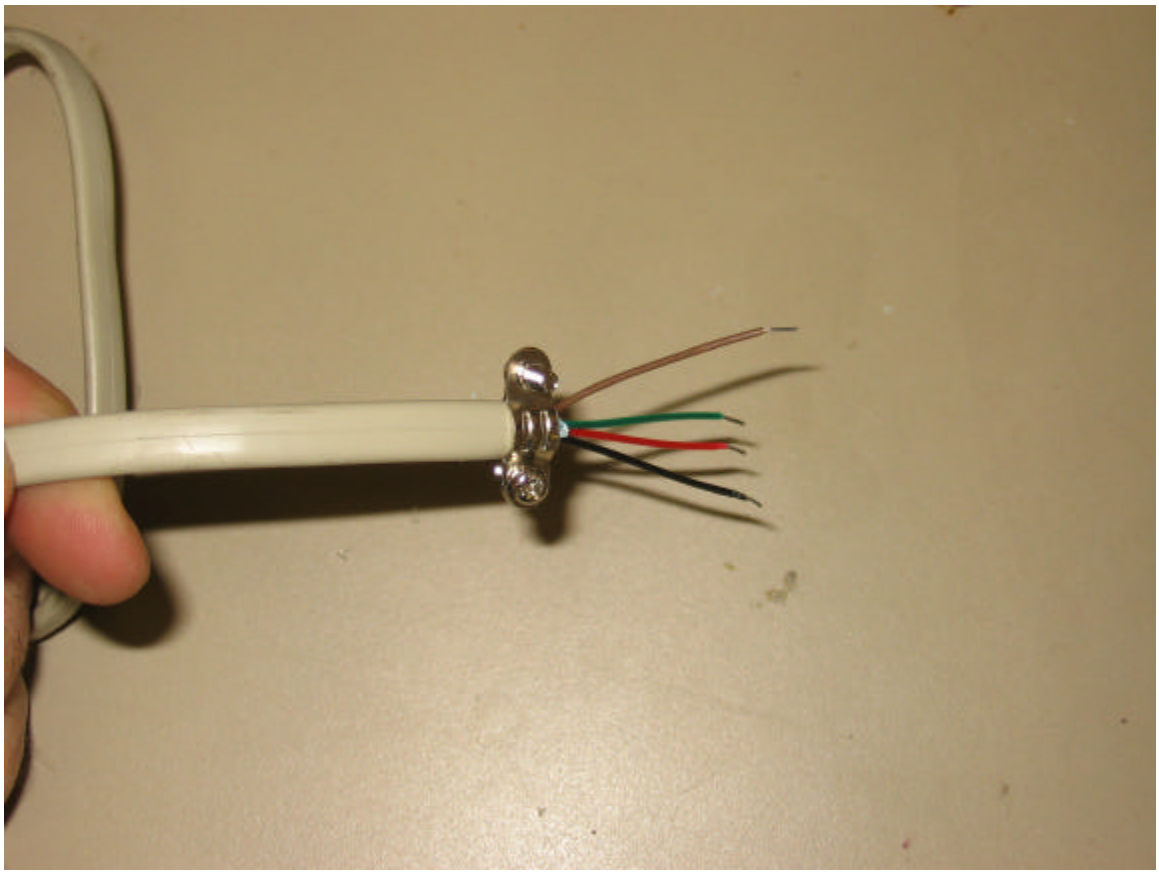
Plug in your soldering iron. It will take several minutes for it to reach working temperature.

Cut the RJ-11 from the cord and strip off about 1 ¼" of insulation. You can also cut the white wire and ground braid. Remove about 1/8" of insulation from each of the remaining 4 wires.



Step 2:

Attach the strain relief to the cord. This will prevent it from being pulled out of connector. It consists of two "U" shaped "wings" that screw together. Completely tighten both screws.



Step 3:

Securely hold the DB-15 connector using whatever you have available. Unless you have 3 hands, you will need something to hold the connector. I used heavy vice grips. Be very careful not to apply too much pressure to the connector or you could damage it.

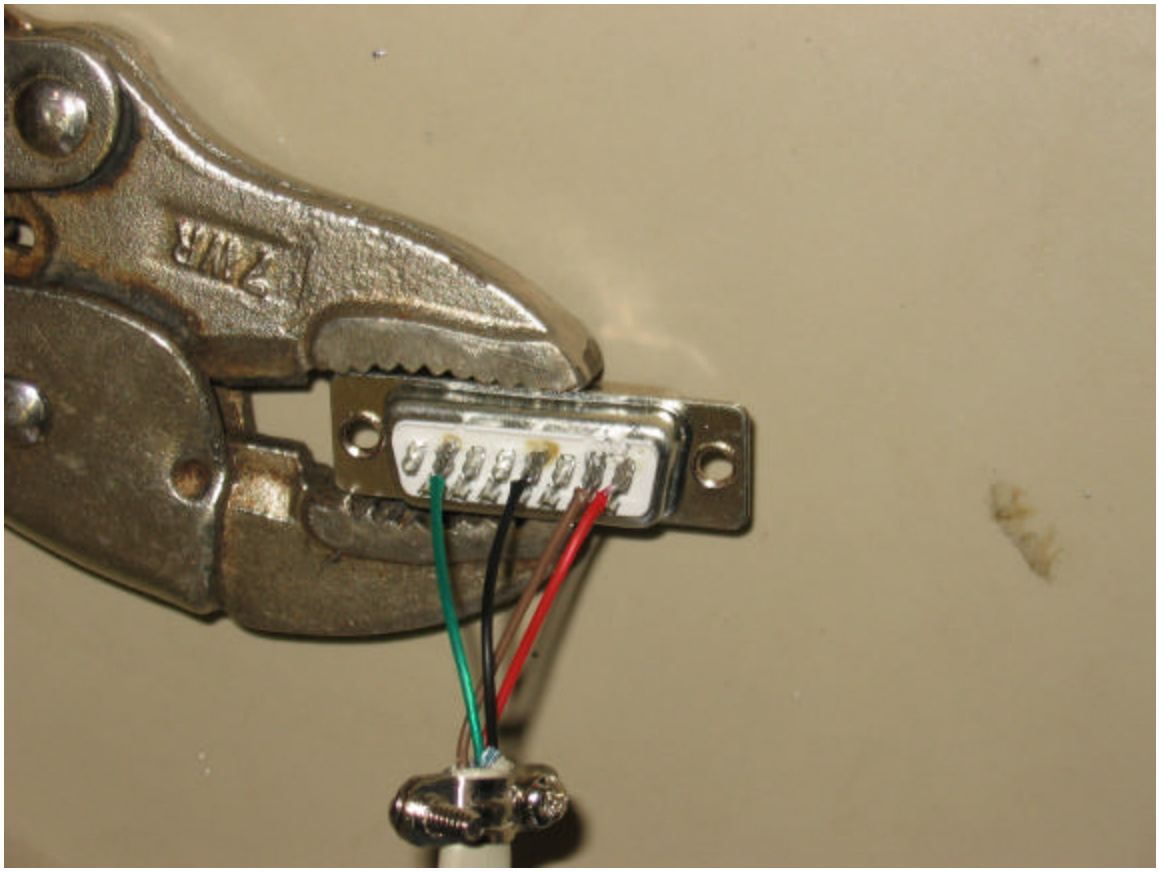
Look closely at the connector and you should see a mark for pin 1 and 8 on the first row. Pin 1 is on the far right side when looking at the back of the connector.

Now fill pins 1,2,4, and 7 with solider.

Step 4:

To solider the wires, hold the tip to the side of the pin. The solder will melt. Place the end of the wire into the pool of solder and remove the iron. You may have to add additional solder to the pin. The pinouts are as follows:

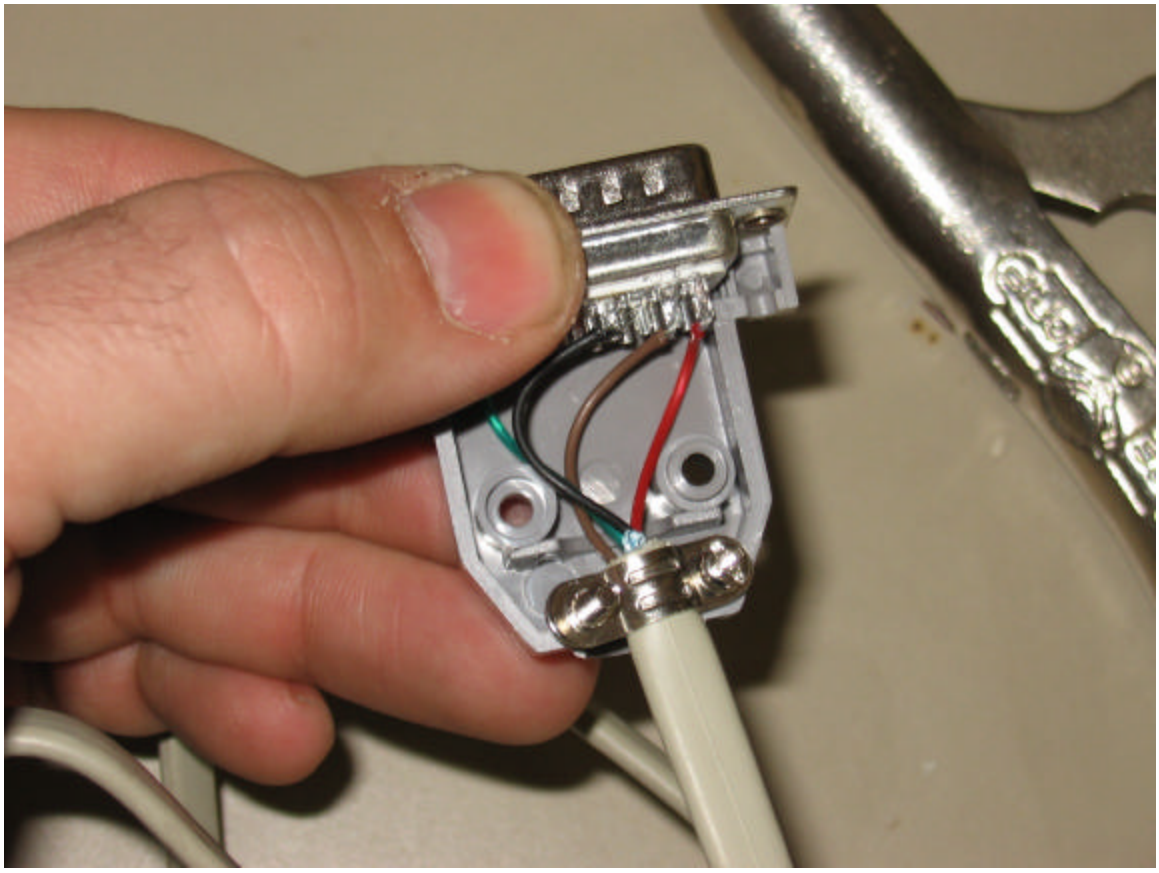
Pin 1	Red	+5V
Pin 2	Brown	Data
Pin 4	Black	GND
Pin 7	Green	Clock



Step 5

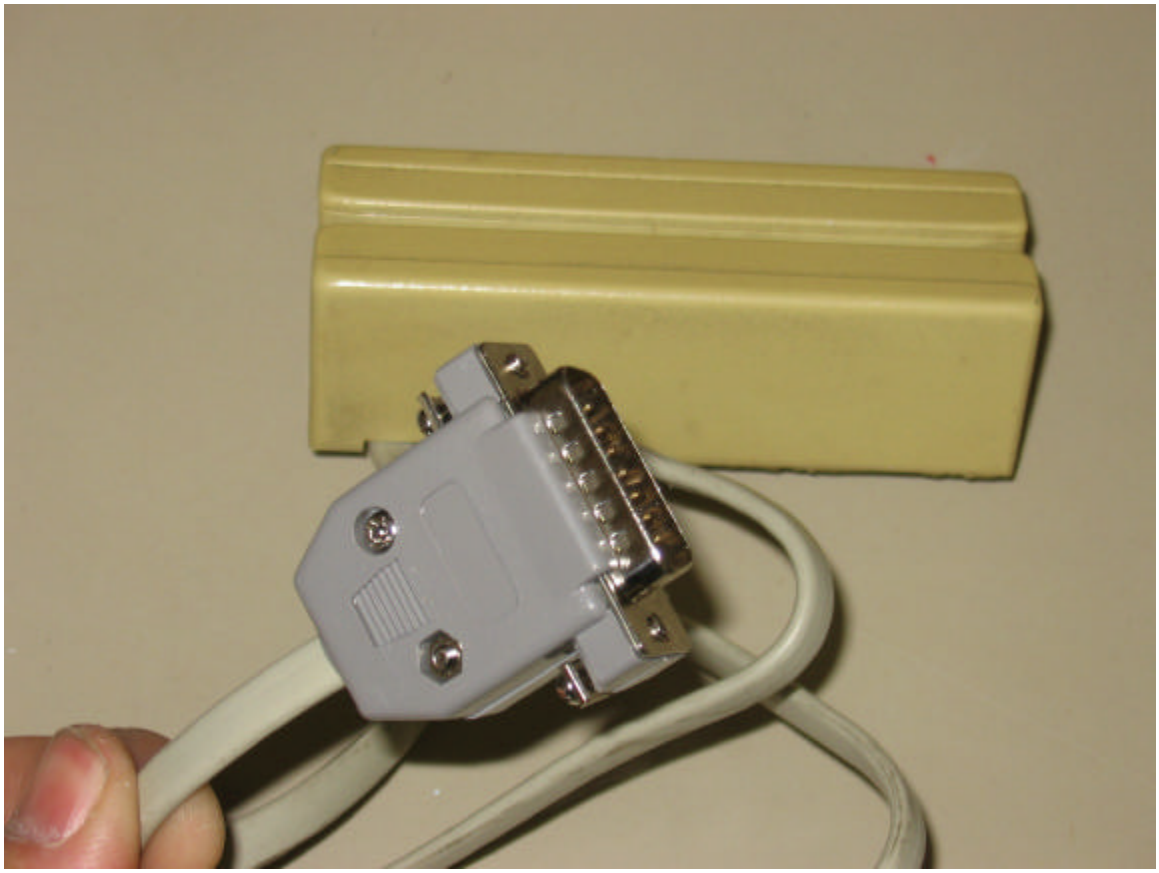
You may be tempted to try out your new reader at this time. **WAIT!** If you do not place your connector in the hood, the wires are prone to brake loose.

Place the connector in the hood. You will have to adjust the wires slightly to get it to fit into the hood. Be careful not to put too much stress on the wires or they can break free of the pins.



Step 6

Place the other half of the hood on the connector and tighten up both screws.



Step 7

DON'T FORGET TO UNPLUG YOUR IRON! This may sound stupid, but who among us has not left theirs plugged in!

You are now ready to go….**Good luck!**