Fitting hammer headers

Our hammer headers allow you to fit a male or female header to your Pi Zero or pHAT with absolutely no soldering required. Nifty! Here, you'll learn how to fit them using our jig that comes with the kit.

It's important to hammer on a sturdy, stable, well-supported surface like a worktop or a solid wood table (although not your expensive dining table!)

The jig comes in three pieces, and has two nylon bolts. Snap apart the acrylic pieces, and peel off the protective film (althought this isn't absolutely necessary).

Male headers (for Pi Zero)

Push the nylon bolts through the larger plastic piece with the long rectangular hole cut in it for the GPIO pins. It doesn't matter which way up this piece is.

Next, put the other rectangular acrylic piece below it, so that the heads of the nylon bolts fit neatly into the two holes. This piece prevents the pins from being pushed too far through.

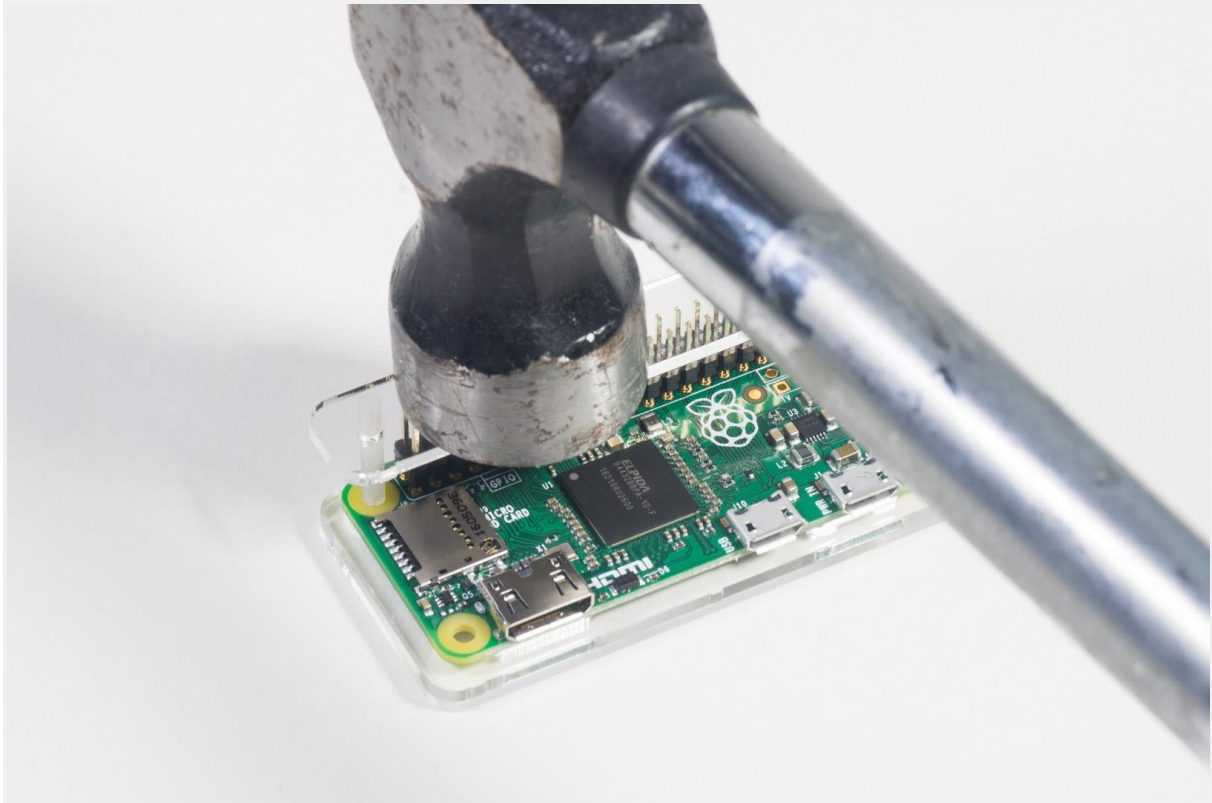Now, push your Pi Zero PCB, right way up, onto the jig.

Place the hammer header on top of the pin holes on your Pi Zero, making sure that the longer ends of the pins (without the retaining nubbins) are pointing upwards.

Now, place the last acrylic piece on top of the pins and push it down until it touches them.

Using a hammer, gently tap back and forth on the top acrylic piece to push the pins through. Pushing one end of the header all the way it can cause the other pins to bend when you hammer them in. It's worth taking your time over this part.

Female headers (for pHATs)

If you're fitting a female header to a pHAT, simply turn the pHAT over and rotate it through 180 degrees, as in the diagram below.

It should be much easier to fit the female header, and you can use a little more force as you're hammering onto the plastic of the header.