

How to make

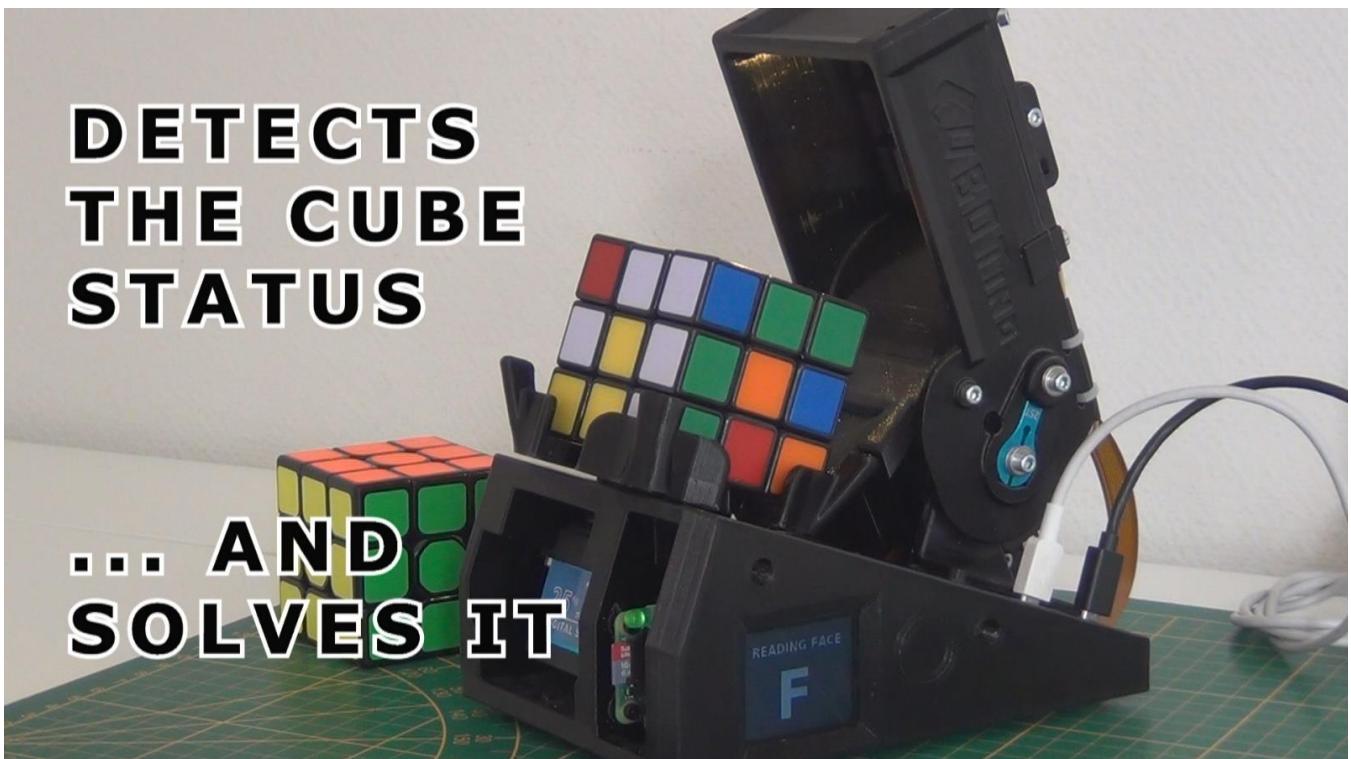
CUBOTino autonomous: A small, 3D printed, Rubik's cube solver robot

<https://www.instructables.com/CUBOTino-Autonomous-Small-3D-Printed-Rubiks-Cube-R/>

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06/08/2022 Rev. 3.6 (always check if a newer version is available)

Robot demonstration at YouTube: <https://youtu.be/dEOLhvVSBCg>



This is an autonomous Rubik's cube solver robot, the “Top version” of CUBOTino series.  
(Cubotino Base version: <https://youtu.be/ZVbVmCKwYnQ>)

It uses the same mechanical solutions of the Base version: It is rather simple, very small (the base is about 160 x 110mm) and it does not require any special gripping for the cube.

As average it takes 90 seconds for scanning and solving a scrambled cube; this is for sure not a fast robot, yet it is rather simple, small, and fully autonomous.

This is one of the smallest autonomous robots, for Rubik's cube solving, from those not requiring a special cube.

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## 2) Introduction:

To explain why I've started this project I've to shortly mention my first Rubik's cube solver robot....

That robot is based on a Raspberry Pi 4B (2Gb ram) with a Picamera, it reads the cube status via a camera system, and it solves it: A full autonomous robot.

The complete process takes less than one minute, some references:

- How to make it: <https://www.instructables.com/Rubik-Cube-Solver-Robot-With-Raspberry-Pi-and-Pica/>
- Youtube: <https://youtu.be/oYRXe4NyJqs>

That robot works simply fine, I had lot of satisfaction from it, I learned a lot on different areas.....yet that robot has clear drawbacks:

- The cost, as there are about 150euro of components.
- Another limiting factor is the box size, a bit too large for most of the domestic 3D printers.

## 3) Project scope:

Based on the introduction you probably can guess the project scope 😊

This second Rubik's cube solver robot project wants to be affordable, to attract more people and especially students into robotics and programming.

The overall idea is to build a scalable robot, based on a minimalist base version.

Project targets for this robot:

- The Base version must be as cheap as possible
- The mechanical part should be the same for all the versions
- The robot should be scalable (in automation, and consequently in complexity/materials cost)
- The robot should not require changes to the cube for gripping
- Compact design
- Fully 3D printable
- How to make it instructions and files
- Learning & Fun 😊

## 4) Robot name:

I've started this project with the idea to write and share the instructions, and along the way I thought a robot name would make the project more complete.

By combining CUbe, roBOT and -INO, the Italian suffix for diminutives (to remark the small robot size), the chosen name is CUBOTino

By considering the Top cover, combined with the Lifter, has a "C" profile shape, then CUBOTino become:



## 5) Conclusions:

At this moment, the Base and Top versions are finished, below a high-level pros/cons summary:

Pros:

1. The new way to manoeuvre the cube has proved to be effective.
2. Robot dimensions are very small.
3. The same base mechanic works fine on these two versions.
4. Base version specific:
  - a. is relatively cheap (about 30 to 40 euro of material, on early 2022, depending on where you live)
  - b. GUI works simply fine
  - c. Rather easy to set the robot parameters via the GUI
5. Top version specific:
  - a. Raspberry Pi Zero 2 (512Mb ram) has proved to be sufficient for the computer vision, and all the required tasks....also for those not strictly needed, but nice to have.
  - b. PiCamera works well despite the short distance from the cube.
  - c. Cube status detection rather unsensitive to external light conditions.
  - d. Despite the increased complexity, the electronic and wiring is still limited and simple.
  - e. Power supply via two common 2A micro-USB phone chargers.

Cons:

1. In general, this is a slow robot; It was known since the start, yet...
2. Noise: Flipping the cube on the horizontal axis generates noise when the cube falls into the seat.
3. Base version specific:
  - a. Micropython documentation is somehow limited.
  - b. Micropython documentation does not always correspond to real cases, for instance the PWM (on latest two official release) have much lower resolution than reported on the docs.
  - c. Single power supply inlet not robust on all the builds
4. Top version specific:
  - a. Connections board requires some more skills than the base version
  - b. Total material cost is about 100 euro, on early 2022

## 6) Next steps:

Work out the Medium robot version, yet it won't be before winter 2022 😊.

## 7) Safety:

Energize the robot only via USB ports having a class 2 insulation from the power supply net; Phone charger normally have this safety feature, yet you're requested to "double" check it.

Despite the robot mechanical force is limited, it must be operated only under adult supervision.

If you build and use a robot, based on this information, you are accepting it is on your own risk.

## 8) Commitment:

If you read these instructions, there are chances you are interested on making this project, or to get some ideas on a sub part of it, or you're a curious person...

In any case, I hope the information provided will help you! If that's the case please consider leaving a message or a feedback or thumbs up on Youtube (<https://youtu.be/dEOLhvVSBCg>), or at the Instructable site.

In case you cannot find the solution by yourself (part that makes projects fun 😊), please drop a detailed question at the Instructables site (<https://www.instructables.com/CUBOTino-Autonomous-Small-3D-Printed-Rubiks-Cube-R/>).

I can't promise I'll be able to answer your questions, as well as I cannot commit to be fast in replying....

**Please feel free to provide your tips and feedback, on all areas: This will help me**

## 9) Models:

This project considers the robot to be scalable.

The idea is to develop three robot versions, by re-using the same mechanical part to manoeuvre the cube.

Model	Type	Main directions	Status
Base	PC dependent, for cube status and cube solution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cube status entered on the GUI, via mouse or PC webcam</li><li>• Cube solution (Kociemba) generated at PC</li></ul>	Finalized (April 2022)
Medium	PC dependent, for cube solution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cube status detection at the robot</li><li>• Cube solution (Kociemba solver) generated at PC</li></ul>	Stand-by, see notes below
Top	Autonomous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cube status detection at the robot, via a vision system</li><li>• Cube solution (Kociemba solver) generated at the robot</li></ul>	Finalized (June 2022)

### Notes for the Medium version:

The cube status detection method I've tried for the Medium version, is via 9 colours sensors (LDR+WS2812B leds), as explained at: <https://fourboards.co.uk/rubix-cube-solving-robot>

I've spent some time on this method, but the quality of my soldering has proved to don't be sufficient; I'm even doubting if it really fits the overall project scope, as this method involves too many skills.

Anyhow I've some other ideas for the Medium version....

Considering the Base version has been "published" on early April 2022: I'm pretty sure in little time people will design their own version ... and probably the Medium version will come to live in this way 😊

#### 10) High level info (Top version):

1. Re-uses most of parts from the base version; Only the PCB\_cover has to be re-printed for this Top version.
  2. The robot is based on a Raspberry Pi Zero2 (WH) with a 16Gb microSD.
  3. A PiCamera (ver 1.3) is used to detect the cube status; Camera is placed at an angle with respect to the cube.
  4. Python CV2 library is used for the computer vision part.
  5. A led module is used to reduce the influence from the ambient light conditions.
  6. A small display provides feedback on the robot task/progress.
  7. All coded in Python.
  8. This robot works with Rubik's cube size ranging from 56 to 57.5mm (those I've available); It might also work on cubes with slightly smaller size, by adjusting some parameters
  9. Cube notations are from David Singmaster, limited to the uppercase (one "external layer rotation" at the time):  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rubik%27s\\_Cube#Move\\_notation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rubik%27s_Cube#Move_notation)
  10. Cube's orientation considers the Western colour scheme (<https://ruwik.com/the-rubiks-cube/japanese-western-color-schemes/>):

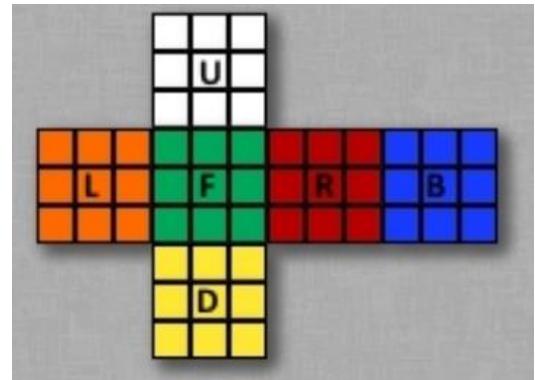
The Western color scheme (also known as BOY: blue-orange-yellow) is the most used colour arrangement used not only on Rubik's Cubes but on the majority of cube-shaped twisty puzzles these days.

Cubers who use this colour scheme usually start solving the Rubik's Cube with the white face and finish with the yellow; This colour scheme is also called **Minus Yellow** because if you add or extract yellow from any side you get its opposite.

White + yellow = yellow

red + yellow = orange

blue + yellow = green



11. Cube solver uses the Hegbert Kociemba, "two-phase algorithm in its fully developed form with symmetry reduction and parallel search for different cube orientations", with an almost optimal target:
    - intro: <https://www.speedsolving.com/threads/3x3x3-solver-in-python.64887/>
    - Python script: <https://github.com/hkociemba/RubiksCube-TwophaseSolver>
  12. When rotations are express as CW, or CCW, it is meant by facing the related cube face. For the Cube\_holder servo the same rule is applied: CW and CCW are meant from the motor point of view.
  13. Cube's sides follow the URFDLB order, and facelets are progressively numbered according that order (sketch at side); Facelets numbers are largely used as key of the dictionaries.
  14. The robot detects the cube status on cubes with and without the black frame around the facelets

## 11) Construction:

The robot mechanical targets remain the same of the base version:

1. solving a Rubik cube without changing it for special gripping
2. low cost
3. simplicity
4. compact design
5. fully 3D printable
6. limit the amount of different screw types

Construction principles:

1. The inclined cube-holder is inspired to Hans construction [Tilted Twister 2.0 – LEGO Mindstorms Rubik's Cube solver – YouTube](#);

This is a clever concept, as it allows to flip the cube around one of the horizontal axes by forcing a relatively small angle change (about 30 degrees, over the 20 degrees of the starting cube holder angle); Once the cube center of gravity is moved beyond the foothold, the cube falls on the following face thanks to the gravity force.

Overall, it allows to flip the cube via a relatively small and inexpensive movement.

2. The Top-cover, combined with the cube Lifter, is the logical simplification step from my previous robot:

- The Top-cover provides a constrainer for cube layer rotation, further than suspending the camera+led for the cube status detection, while keeping a compact robot construction.
- The cube Lifter flips the cube around one of the horizontal axes.
- Top-cover with integrated lifter is directly actuated by a servo, therefore controlled via angle.

Overall, it allows to combine multiple functions in a relatively small space, parts quantity, and costs.

3. Cube-holder is mounted directly to a servo, therefore controlled via an angle.

4. This robot has 2 pivots total, both at the servos axes; I believe Tilted Twister has a total of 8 pivots....

5. All parts are made by 3D printing:

- This makes possible to pursue the needed geometries, also complex shapes.
- The biggest parts can still be printed on a relatively small plate (min plate 200x200 mm).
- Some of the parts are split, mainly for easier, and better, 3D printing; Others are split for assembly reasons.
- All the overhangs have been designed to enable 3D printing without support.

There are many different examples of Rubik's cube solver robot, based on two servos; I think most of them are variations from the one from Hans on 2008 and the one made by Matt's on 2014: <https://hackaday.com/2014/06/28/rubiks-cube-solver-made-out-of-popsicle-sticks-and-an-arduino/>

In these executions, the solution used to flip the cube on one of the horizontal axes, requires the main pivot (servo) to be placed rather far from the cube; This obviously increases a lot the overall dimensions.

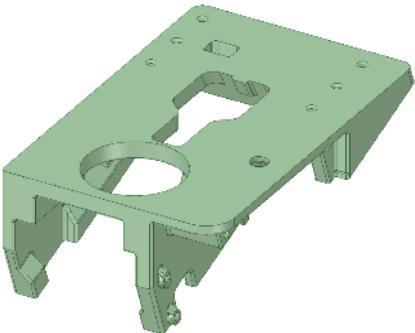
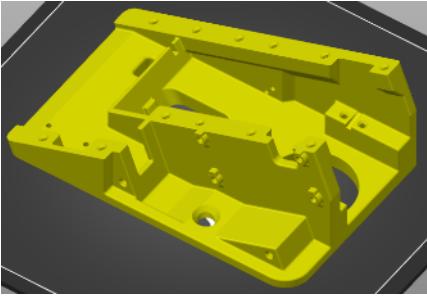
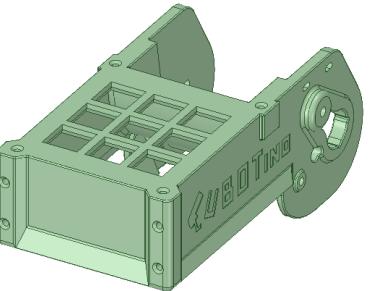
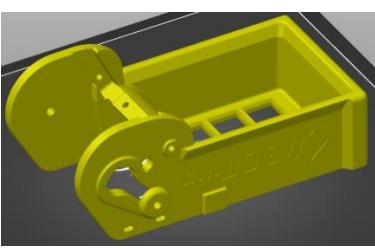
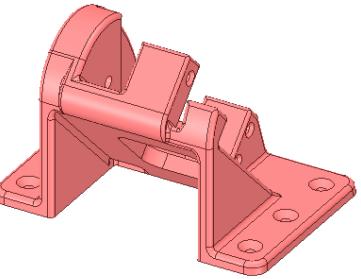
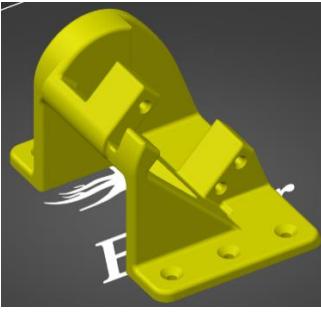
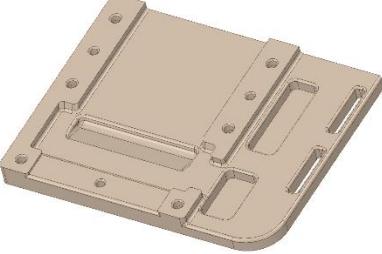
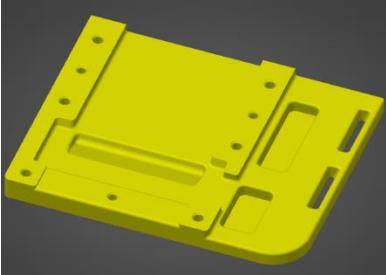
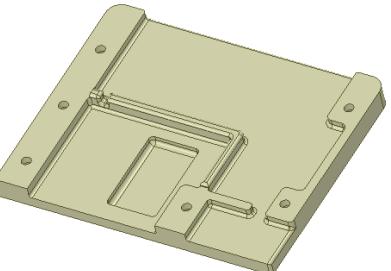
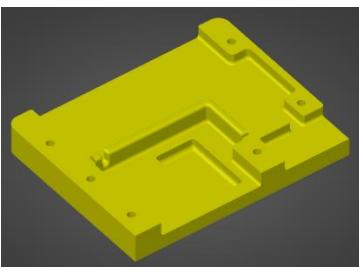
## 12) 3D printed parts:

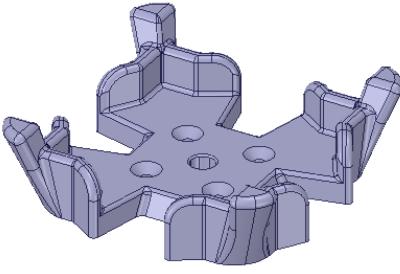
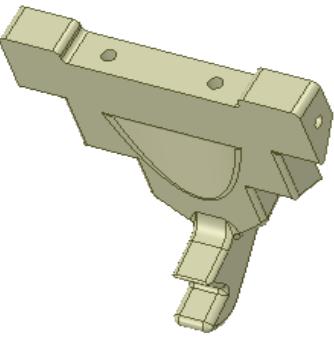
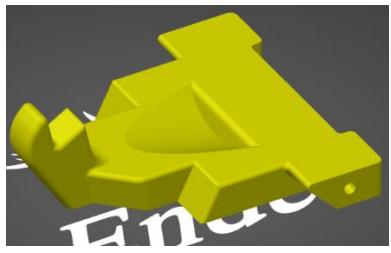
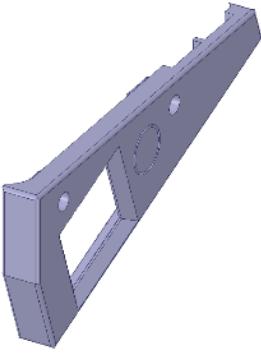
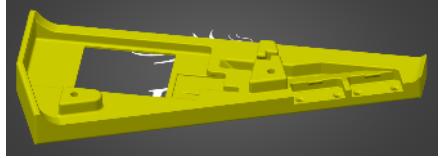
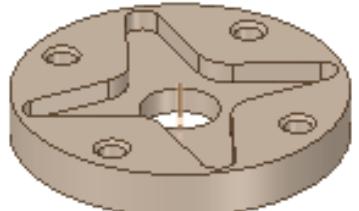
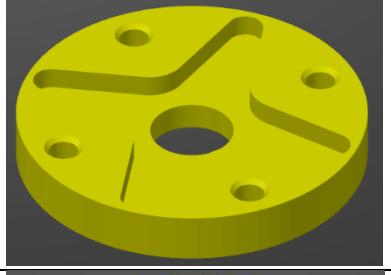
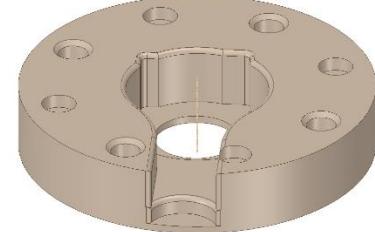
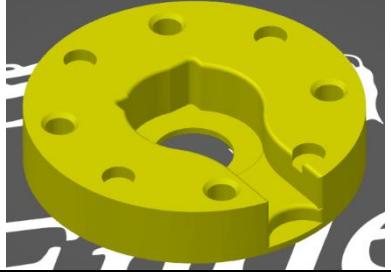
See notes below for filament quantity, and printing time ...

Ref	Part	Filament		Printing time	Version specific parts
		Meters	Grams		
1	Structure	49	145	14h33m	
2	Top_cover	39,5	117	12h26m	
3	Hinge	17,2	51	5h37m	
4	Baseplate front	12,2	36	3h33m	
5	Baseplate back	12,6	37,3	3h36m	
6	Cube_holder	11,6	34,4	3h36m	
7	Cube_lifter	5,5	16,2	1h48m	
8	Servo_axis_sup (or its alternative)	2,4	7,2	0h55m	
9	Servo_axis_inf (or its alternative)	2,4	7	0h52m	
10	PCB_cover_display	14	41.4	4h13m	Top specific
11	PiCamera holder	2.2	6.5	0h50m	Top specific
12	PiCamera holder frame	6.1	18	2h17m	Top specific
13	Personaliz_plate	1.5	5	0h30	Top specific
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>175m</b>	<b>692g</b>	<b>51h30m</b>	

Notes:

1. The biggest part is the Structure, and it easily fits on printers with plate size of 200x200mm.
2. Filament length is based on Ø1.75mm.
3. Filament weight is based on PETG density (1.23g/mm<sup>3</sup>), and printing settings I've use on my Ender 3 printer, for accurate result:
  - 0.2mm layers
  - Low speed (between 25 to 40mm/s for the external parts and 1<sup>st</sup> layer)
  - 4 layers on vertical walls
  - 5 layers on horizontal walls
  - 30% filling
  - 8mm brim
4. The filament quantity, and printing time, in the table should be considered as an upper limit. After printing the parts for the base version, total weight was closer to 400grams than 466grams estimated by the slicer SW.
5. Possible to upgrade the Base version, by printing 3 (or 4) more parts, requiring ~8h.
6. All parts have been designed to be printed without supporting the overhangs.
7. Some parts have been split, for easier and better 3D printing.
8. The suggested part orientation for the 3D print is showed on below Table.
9. The stl files are available at
  - <https://www.instructables.com/CUBOTino-Autonomous-Small-3D-Printed-Rubiks-Cube-R/>
  - <https://www.thingiverse.com/thing:5407226>
  - <https://github.com/AndreaFavero71/cubotino/tree/main/stl>
10. The step files are available at <https://github.com/AndreaFavero71/cubotino/tree/main/stp>

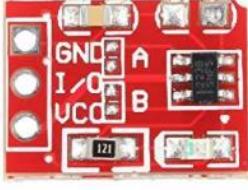
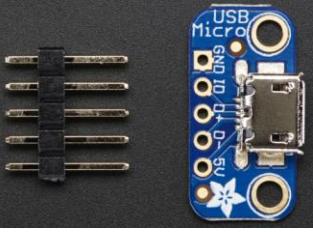
Part name	image	3D print orientation
Structure		
Top_cover		
Hinge		
Baseplate front		
Baseplate rear		

Cube_holder		
Cube_lifter		
PCB_cover_display		
Servo_axis_sup (or its alternative)		Symmetrical
Servo_axis_inf		
Alternative Servo_axis_inf		

PiCamera holder		
PiCamera frame		
Personaliz_plate Or Personaliz_plate01		

### 13) Bought parts:

Q.ty	Part	link to the shop I used	Cost (euro)	Notes
2	Servo TD-8325MG <b>(180deg 25Kg metal, Pulse width 1to2ms)</b> and metal arm "25T"  notes: 1) max 31mm protrusion under the flange. <b>2) Alternative servos on next pages</b>	<a href="https://www.aliexpress.com/item/32298149426.html?gatewayAdapt=glo2ita&amp;spm=a2g0o.9042311.0.0.5d1e4c4d14Qiaz">https://www.aliexpress.com/item/32298149426.html?gatewayAdapt=glo2ita&amp;spm=a2g0o.9042311.0.0.5d1e4c4d14Qiaz</a>	25 (2 servos + 2 arms)	180 Degree Servo 2PCS + 25T Arm 2PCS (Control by Remote Control) 
1	Raspberry Pi Zero2 (WH needed, yet the header can be bought at side)	<a href="https://www.sossolutions.nl/">https://www.sossolutions.nl/</a>	18 (W version)	
1	microSDHC 16GB	<a href="https://www.dataio.nl/sandisk-ultra-micro-sdhc-16gb-uhs-i-a1-met-adapter/">https://www.dataio.nl/sandisk-ultra-micro-sdhc-16gb-uhs-i-a1-met-adapter/</a>	8	
1	PiCamera V1.3	<a href="https://www.amazon.nl/gp/product/B01M6UCEM5/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_asin_title_o05_s00?ie=UTF8&amp;th=1">https://www.amazon.nl/gp/product/B01M6UCEM5/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_asin_title_o05_s00?ie=UTF8&amp;th=1</a>	7.5	
1	30cm cable Raspberry Pi Zero/Camera	<a href="https://www.amazon.nl/gp/product/B079H33VCM/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_asin_title_o05_s01?ie=UTF8&amp;th=1">https://www.amazon.nl/gp/product/B079H33VCM/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_asin_title_o05_s01?ie=UTF8&amp;th=1</a>	5	
1	SPI TFT 128x160 Pixels Display (1.77 inch) with ST7735 driver	<a href="https://www.amazon.nl/gp/product/B078JBBPXK/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_asin_title_o03_s00?ie=UTF8&amp;th=1">https://www.amazon.nl/gp/product/B078JBBPXK/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_asin_title_o03_s00?ie=UTF8&amp;th=1</a>	8	
1	Led module 3W	<a href="https://www.aliexpress.com/item/1005001984730729.html?spm=a2g0o.cart.0.0.58be3c0OSgxRBT&amp;mp=1">https://www.aliexpress.com/item/1005001984730729.html?spm=a2g0o.cart.0.0.58be3c0OSgxRBT&amp;mp=1</a>	2.6 (4 pcs)	

1	2.5-5.5V TTP223 capacitive touch switch button self-locking module for Arduino	<a href="https://www.amazon.nl/en/gp/product/B07BVN4CNH/ref=ppx_od_dt_b_asin_title_s01?ie=UTF8&amp;psc=1">https://www.amazon.nl/en/gp/product/B07BVN4CNH/ref=ppx_od_dt_b_asin_title_s01?ie=UTF8&amp;psc=1</a>	4 (5 pcs)	
1	AMS1117-3.3 DC 4.75V-12V to 3.3V Voltage Regulator	<a href="https://www.amazon.nl/gp/product/B07MY2NMQ6/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_asin_title_o00_s00?ie=UTF8&amp;psc=1">https://www.amazon.nl/gp/product/B07MY2NMQ6/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_asin_title_o00_s00?ie=UTF8&amp;psc=1</a>	6 (5 pcs)	
2	USB MICRO-B BREAKOUT BOARD	<a href="https://www.kiwi-electronics.nl/nl/usb-micro-b-breakout-board-3908">https://www.kiwi-electronics.nl/nl/usb-micro-b-breakout-board-3908</a>	3.8	
~500g	Filament 1.75mm		~10	Suggested PETG, yet other material will do the job

## Electrical small parts:

Q.ty	Part	Notes
1	Prototype board	To connect all the parts
1	40pin (2x20) GPIO male header	In case you could not get the WH version of Raspberry Pi
1	40pin (2x20) GPIO female header	To connect the Connections board to Raspberry Pi Zero 2
1x8	Female Header	To connect the display to the Connections board
4x3	Male Headers 90deg	To connect the servos, touch pads, Led module
2x3	Female Headers	To connect the touch pads, Led module
3	Capacitor 16V 220uF	To limit voltage drop when servos are activated
1	Heat sink for Raspberry Pi	

## Screws:

Quantity	Dimension	Head type	Info
1	M4x20	Cylindrical	Pivot for Top_cover
~ 30	M3x12	Cylindrical	
~30	M3x12	Conical	
4	M2.5x10	Cylindrical	Rpi to Structure
4	M2.5x4	Cylindrical	Micro-usb break-out boards to PCB cover

**Power supply:** 2x 2A phone charger with micro-USB cable, nowadays into some drawers at home....

Off course some other common materials are needed (wires, solder and solder device, tie wraps, self-adhesive rubber feet, etc).

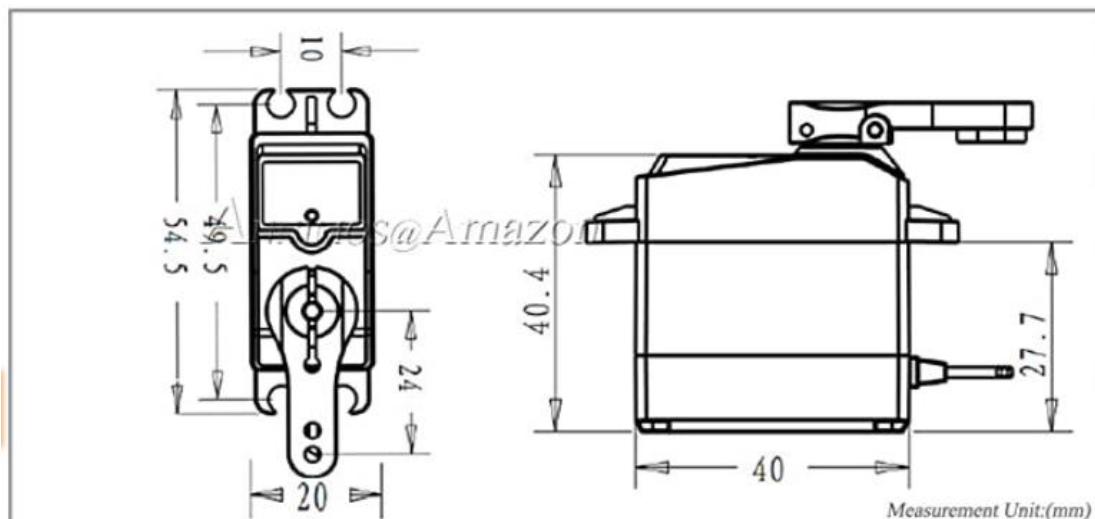
## Alternative servos:

It is possible, and it might be convenient for the angles setting, to use servos having 270deg rotation combined with an extended Pulse Width (when I started the project, I didn't know about the extended pulse width)

This model isn't cheap, yet is seems widely available

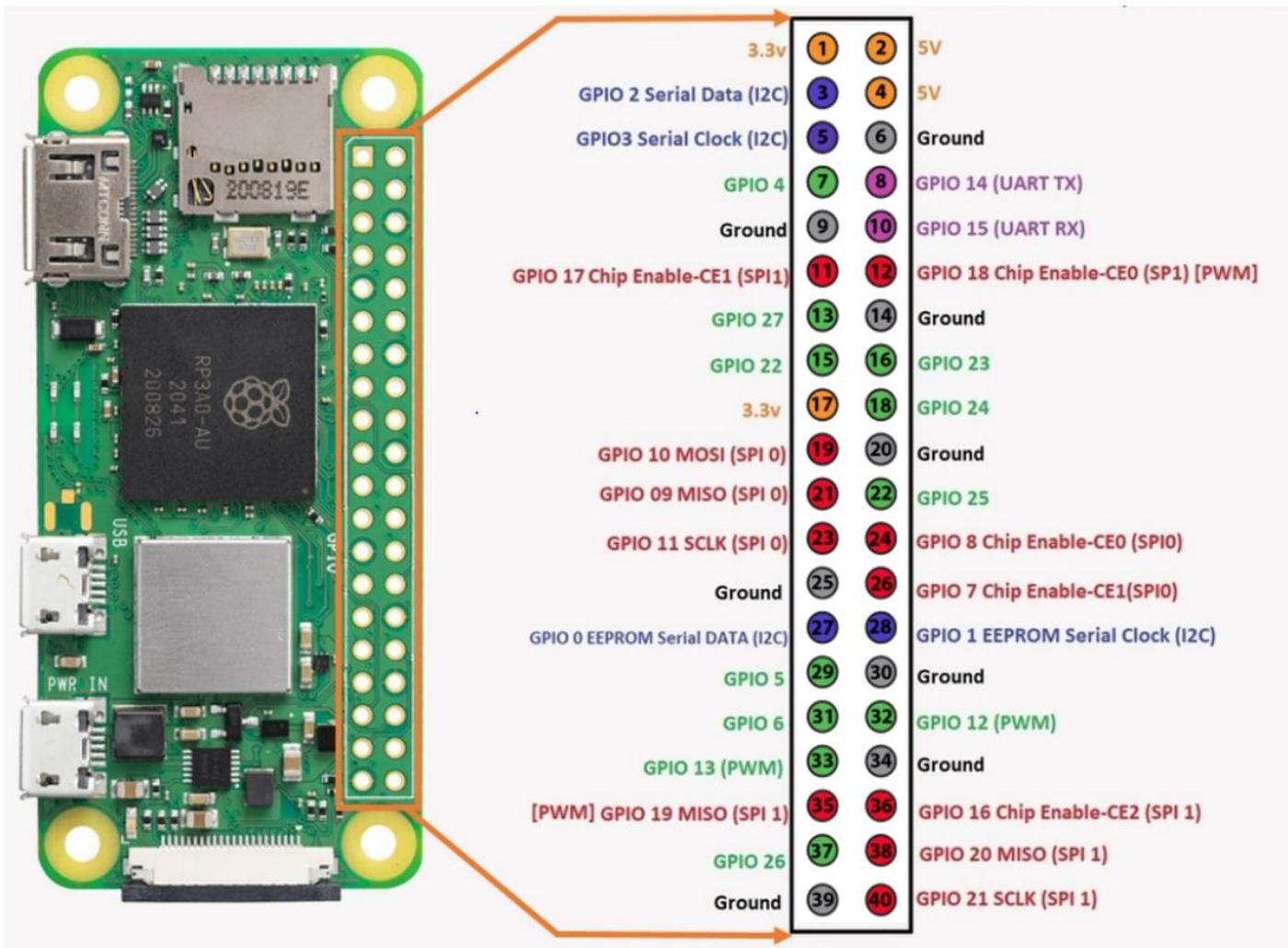
As reference this servo has these characteristics:

Q.ty	Part	link to the shop I used	Cost (euro)	Notes
2	Servo DS3225MG <b>(270deg 25Kg metal, Pulse width 500 µs to 2500µs)</b> and metal arm "25T"	<a href="https://www.amazon.com/ANIMOS-Digital-Waterproof-Crawler-Control/dp/B07GK1G5FV/">https://www.amazon.com/ANIMOS-Digital-Waterproof-Crawler-Control/dp/B07GK1G5FV/</a>	38 (2 servos + 2 arms)	



<b>Operating Voltage</b>	5V	6.8V
<b>Idle current(at stopped)</b>	4mA	5mA
<b>Operating speed (at no load)</b>	0.15 sec/60°	0.13sec/60°
<b>Stall torque (at locked)</b>	21 kg-cm	24.5 kg-cm
<b>Stall current (at locked)</b>	1.9A	2.3A
<b>Control System</b>	PWM(Pulse width modification)	
<b>Pulse width range</b>	500~2500µsec	
<b>Neutral position</b>	1500µsec	
<b>Rotating direction</b>	Counterclockwise (when 500~2500 µsec)	

## 14) Raspberry pi Zero 2 GPIO pinout:



Used pins:

Pin	Label/GPIO	Purpose
2, 4	5V	Energize the SBC board
25, 6	GND	Energize the SBC board (Note: GND continuity between pins 25 and 6 is made by the Raspberry Pi board)
8	GPIO 14 (UART TX)	Led of Rpi ON status
7	GPIO 4	8 Display backlight
13	GPIO 27	6 Display RS (Register select)
15	GPIO 22	5 Display reset
24	GPIO 8 (CHIP ENABLE SPI 0)	7 Display CS (Chip select)
19	GPIO 10 MOSI (SPI 0)	4 Display SDA (Serial Data Pin)
23	GPIO 11 SCLK (SPI 0)	3 Display SCK (Serial Clock)
12	GPIO 18 [PWM]	PWM Led at Top_cover
32	GPIO 12 (PWM)	PWM servo Top_cover
33	GPIO 13 (PWM)	PWM servo Cube_holder
37	GPIO 26	Touch button

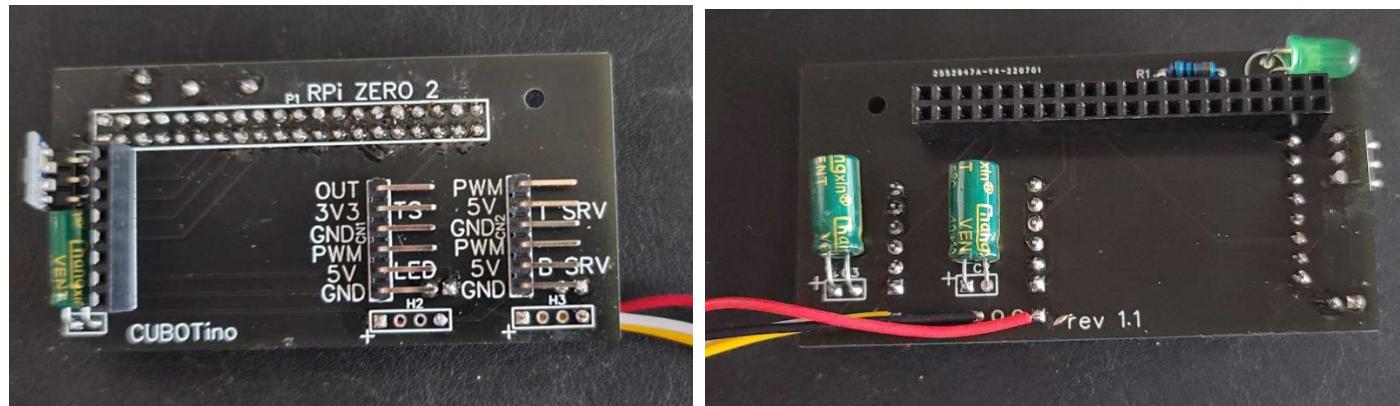
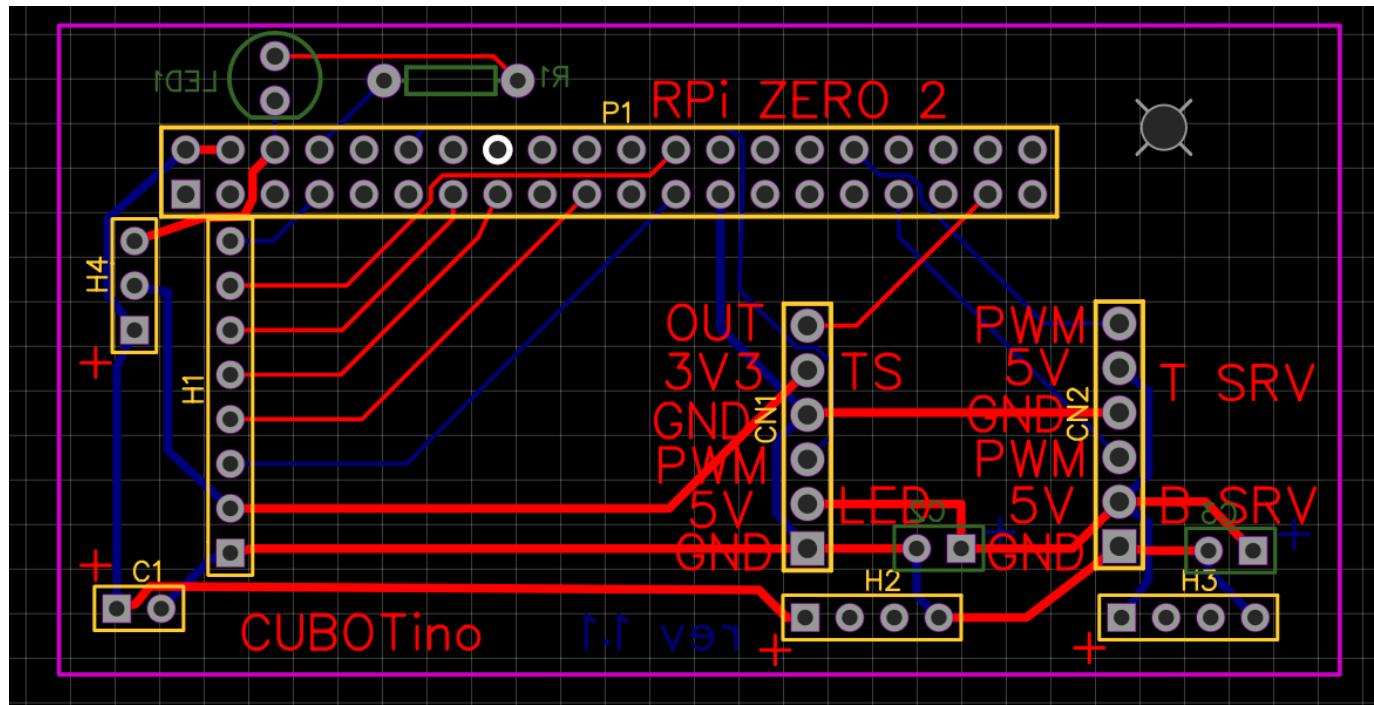
## 15) Connections board:

Since July 2022 there are more options for the Connections board:

- A) Chad (Vanblokland) has drawn and made available the gerber files to order the pcb to a pcb manufactures; On the received board you'll 'just' solder the few components needed.
- B) You can make it by yourself via a prototyping board

### A) Notes for the printed circuit board:

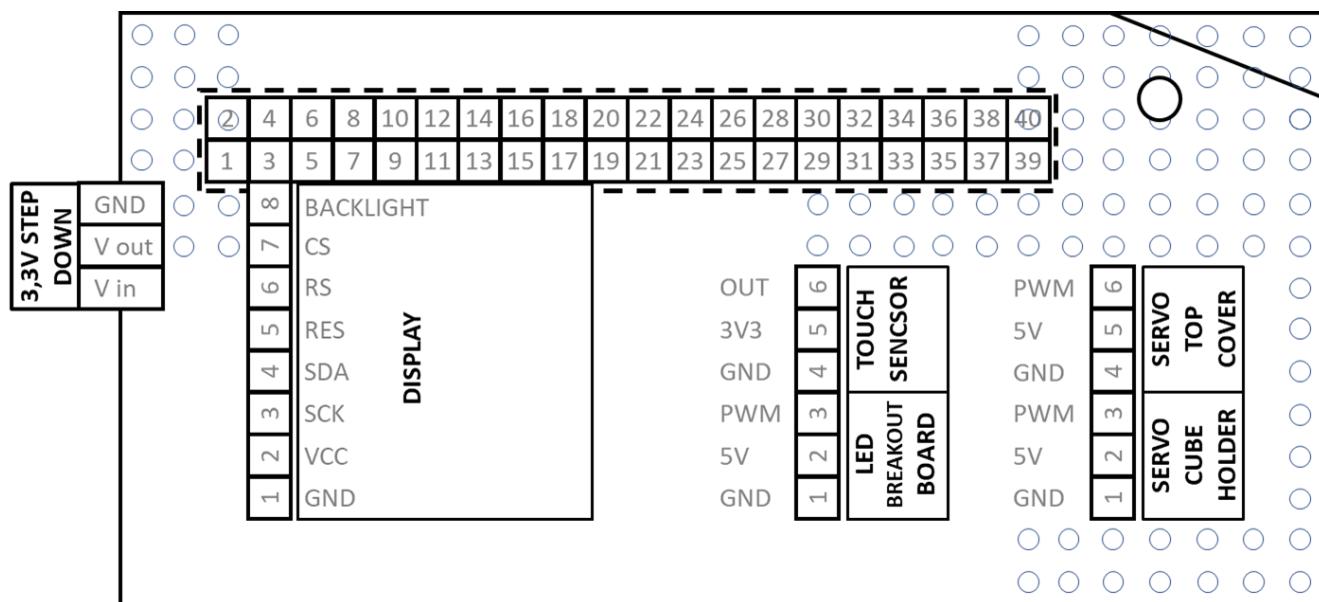
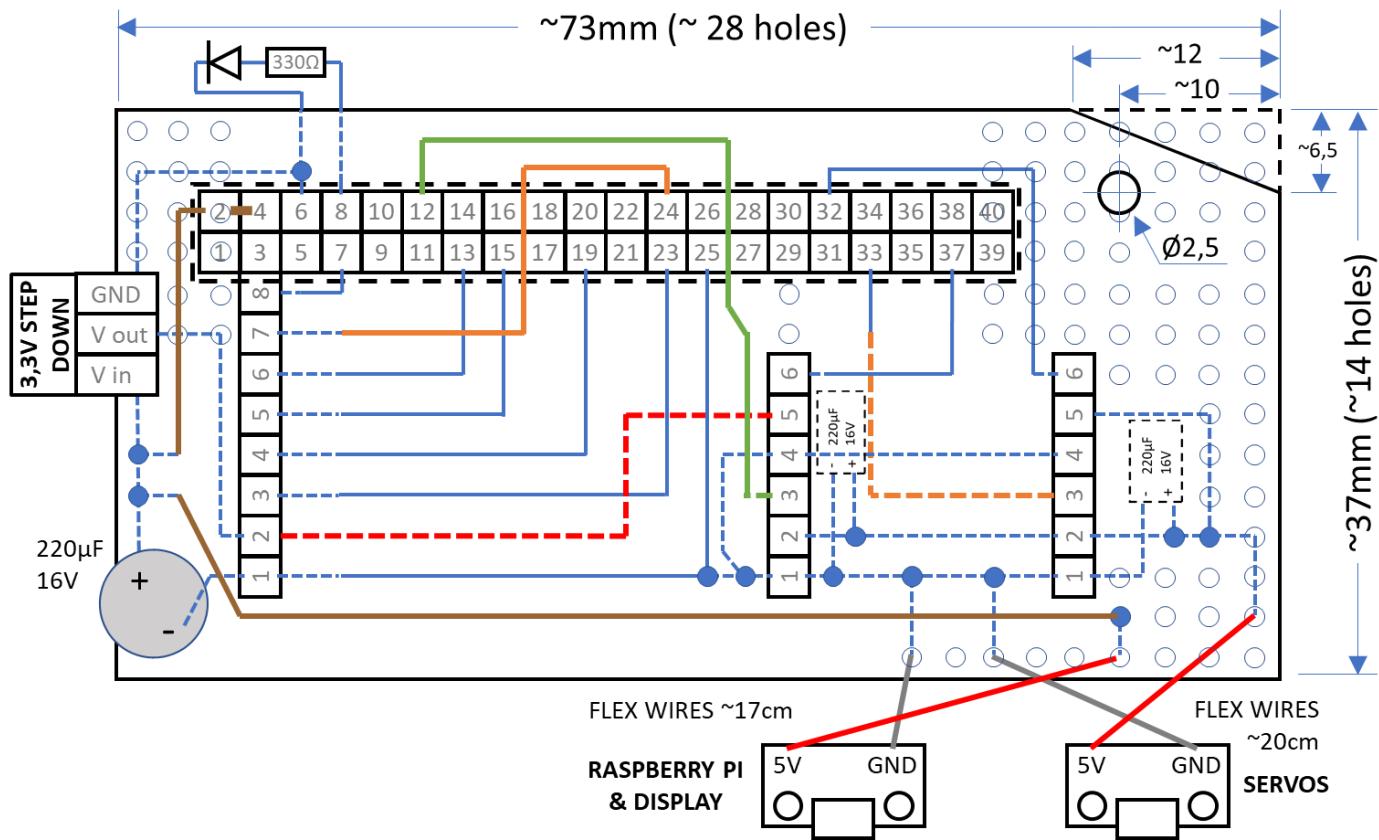
1. This cover the V1.1 revision, that has been positively tested
2. Gerber files are available at [https://github.com/AndreaFavero71/cubotino/tree/main/connections\\_board/gerber](https://github.com/AndreaFavero71/cubotino/tree/main/connections_board/gerber)
3. For the pcb order check: <https://docs.eeasyeda.com/en/PCB/Order-PCB>
4. The board I got from Chad have been ordered at: <http://jlppcb.com/>

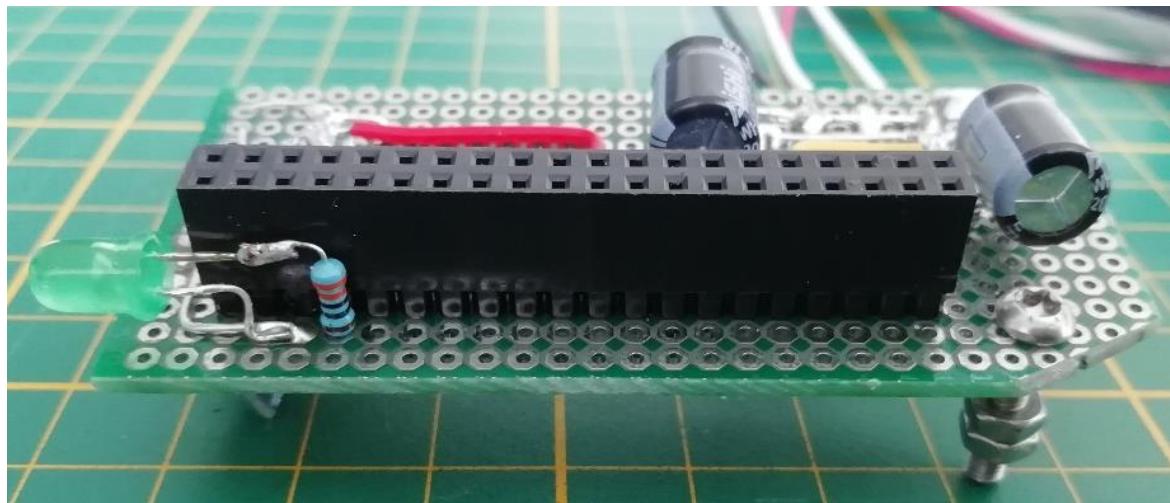
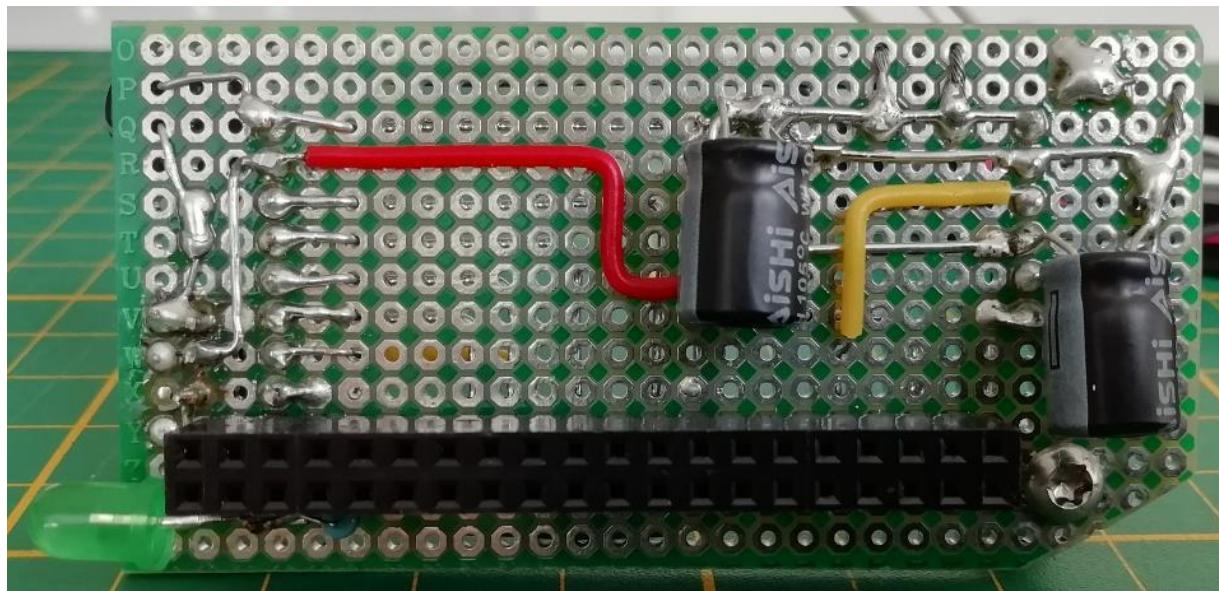
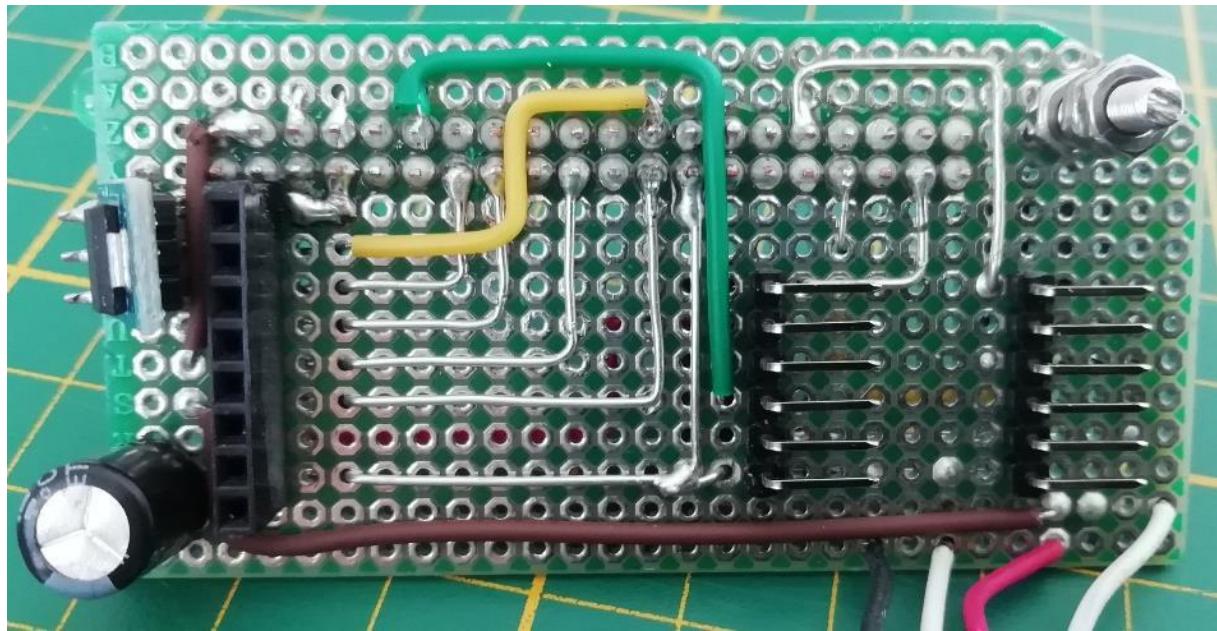


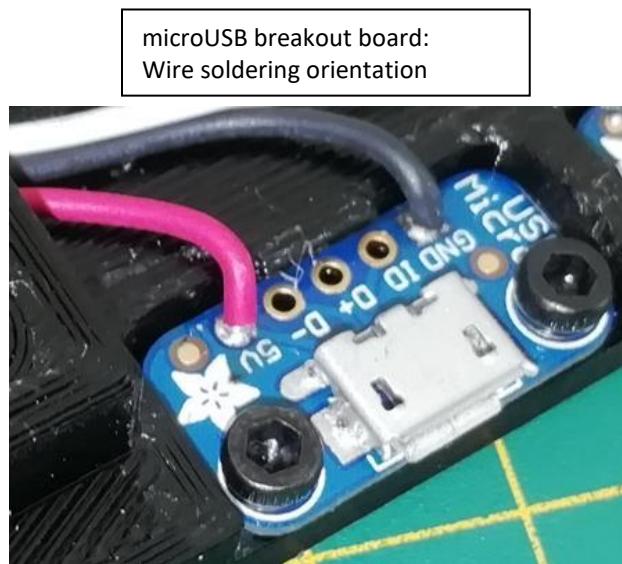
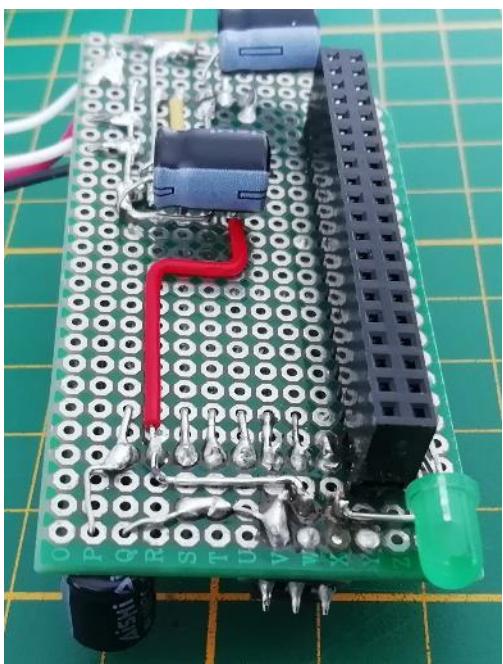
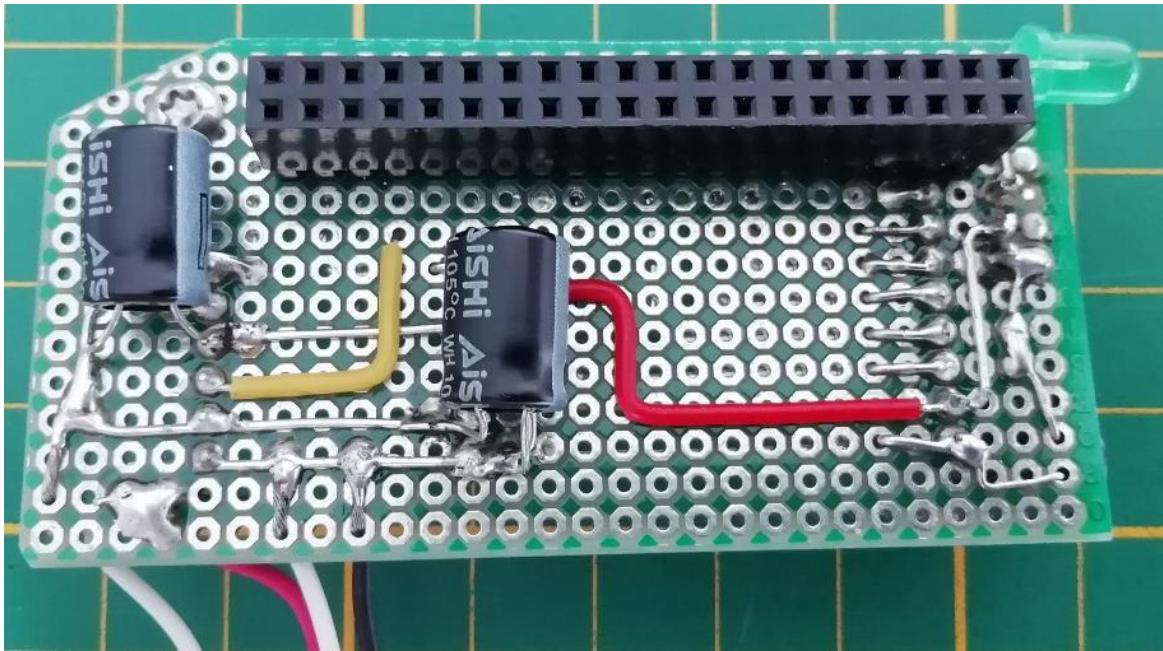
## **B) Notes for the prototyped board:**

5. The prototype board should be of a double face type.
6. Start by positioning the 2x20 header, at 3<sup>rd</sup> hole from the corner.
7. Count the holes for the other parts positioning.
8. Dashed lines for parts/wires on the opposite side.
9. Blue lines are wires without insulation.
10. Red, Brown, Orange and Green lines are insulated wires.
11. Use insulated wires when crossing other lines, also when these are on the board opposite side.
12. Filled dots are connections.
13. 15mm is the max height for the 3V3 step down board, and the capacitor close to the display connector.
14. Ø2,5mm hole is for a M2,5mm bolt (and 3 nuts) to support the display. The highest nut should be at ~15.5mm from the board surface.
15. Add the last 2 capacitors, close to the servo connectors, once the board has been tested.

Front view (the 2x20 header is on the opposite side):







## 16) Setting up Raspberry Pi Zero 2:

Notes:

1. Starting from 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022 only the simplified installation (via GitHub repository) is described in this document.
2. In case you're interested in the manual installation, please refer to the document "How\_to\_make\_CUBOTino\_autonomous\_robot\_20220625.pdf" at Instructables site or GitHub.

The simplified installation method forces some differences compared to the manual installation method previously described; Some of these differences are:

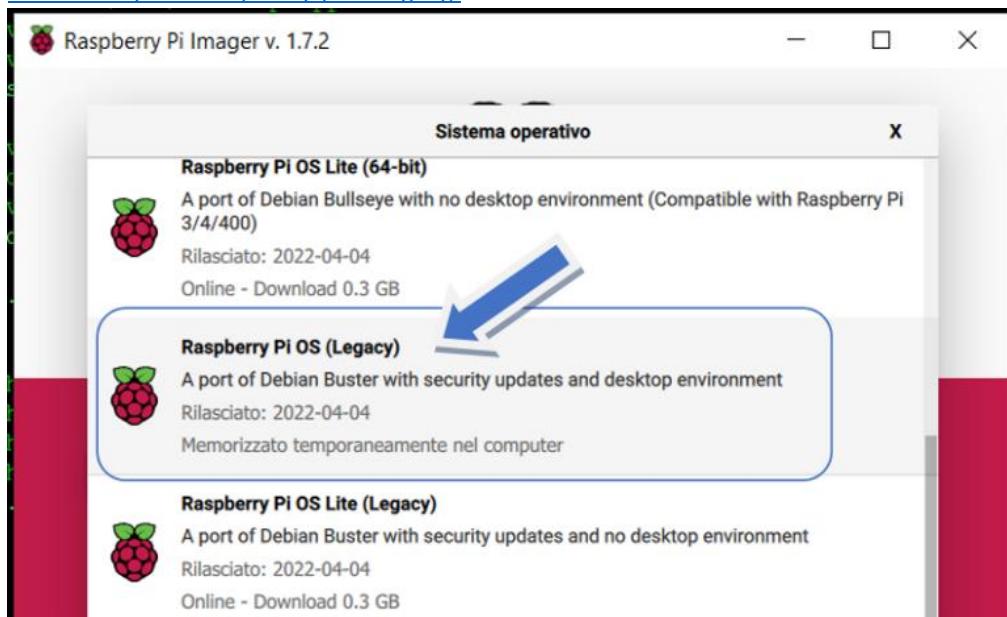
- Hostname changed from raspberry to cubotino
- Main folder changed from /home/pi/cube to /home/pi/cubotino
- Robot specific files moved from /home/pi/cube to /home/pi/cubotino/src
- Virtual environment method

This simplified installation method isn't just easier and faster, but it makes very easy to update your robot in case newer updates will be made available at GitHub

Step1: Download the Raspberry Pi Imager, from <https://www.raspberrypi.com/software/>

Step 2: From the Raspberry Pi Imager

- a. Selection of Raspberry Pi OS: under the “raspberry Pi OS (other)”, and choose “RASPERRY PI OS (LEGACY)”  
The reasons to select this ‘special’ version are explained at <https://www.raspberrypi.com/news/new-old-functionality-with-raspberry-pi-os-legacy/>



- b. Select the SD card



- c. On settings, enter:

- a. *cubotino.local*
- b. check SSH
- c. enter *pi* as username
- d. enter a password (my choice has been *raspberry*, as no sensitive data, but you are encouraged to use a more secure password)
- e. check set WiFi
- f. enter your SSID
- g. enter your network password
- h. enter your Country code
- i. set your local settings
- j. set ejects at the end
- d. write the OS, that takes around 10 minutes

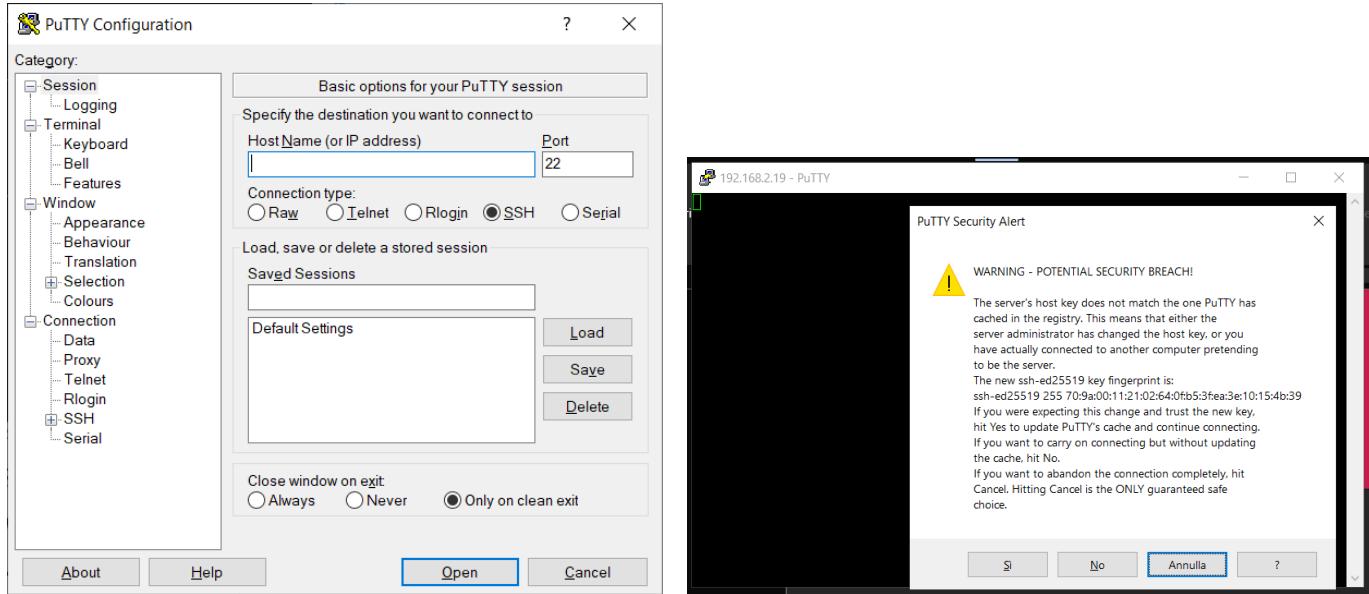
Step 3: Insert the SD card into the Raspberry Pi, and power it.

First boot takes longer, up to two minutes; Wait until the led stop blinking

Step 4: from a command prompt try to connect to the raspberry Pi via *ssh pi@cubotino.local*; insert the password and jump to Step 6

Step 4b: In case you cannot connect via *ssh pi@cubotino.local*, search the Raspberry Pi IP address (different tools for that, i.e. Advanced IP Scanner)

Step 5: Connect to the Raspberry Pi via SSH, i.e. by using Putty: Run Putty, with the IP address of the Raspberry Pi on the Host Name, remain settings as per Putty default. Accept the warning....



Login as: *pi*

You'll be prompted to enter a password, "pi@xxx.xxx.x.xx's password:" enter *your\_password* (*raspberry* in my case)

Note: You can copy the commands from this doc and press Shift + Enter to paste it in the CLI

Step 6: Clone the repository; From the root (pi@cubotino:~ \$) type (or copy -paste)

*git clone <https://github.com/AndreaFavero71/cubotino.git>*

In one or few minutes, depending on the internet connection, files will be cloned into raspberry Pi:

```
pi@cubotino:~ $ git clone https://github.com/AndreaFavero71/cubotino.git
Cloning into 'cubotino'...
remote: Enumerating objects: 235, done.
remote: Counting objects: 100% (167/167), done.
remote: Compressing objects: 100% (145/145), done.
remote: Total 235 (delta 96), reused 36 (delta 16), pack-reused 68
Receiving objects: 100% (235/235), 90.74 MiB / 2.02 MiB/s, done.
Resolving deltas: 100% (102/102), done.
Checking out files: 100% (52/52), done.
pi@cubotino:~ $
```

Notes: Commands can be copied, and pasted in the shell with shift + insert

Step 7: Start the installation:

- Enter cubotino/src folder from the root type: `cd cubotino/src`
- Start the bash file that takes care of the installation: `sudo ./install/setup.sh` (attention to the dot).
- In about 10 minutes, also depending on the internet connection speed, a Raspberry Pi Zero 2 will complete the setup.
- Once requested confirm the reboot with a y and press enter.
- When the Raspberry Pi boots, the additional LED powers ON
- See Appendix 1 for terminal printout reference

The simplified installation is completed

The below folder structure will result at Raspberry Pi:

<code>/home/pi/cubotino/</code>	Is the main robot 24older
<code>/home/pi/cubotino/src/</code>	contains all the robot specific files
<code>/home/pi/cubotino/src/twophase</code>	contains the lookup tables for Kociemba solver
<code>/home/pi/cubotino/src/doc</code>	contains the How_to_buid... .pdf file
<code>/home/pi/cubotino/src/stl</code>	contains all the robot stl files
<code>/home/pi/cubotino/src/images</code>	contains the Cubotino logo image for the display
<code>/home/pi/cubotino/src/extra</code>	contains the link to the Instructables page of this robot
<code>/home/pi/cubotino/src/install</code>	contains the setup.sh bash file: Do not use this file!

Note: This folder structure differs from the original one used until 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

After the simplified installation ends, with a raspberry Pi reboot:

At the next connection with the Raspberry Pi, it will be more convenient using VNC Viewer, because of the the graphical support.

For VNC Viewer installation: <https://www.realvnc.com/en/connect/download/viewer/>

## Step 8: Updating the installation:

The simplified installation isn't just easier and faster, but it makes easier to keep your robot updated, in case newer updates will be made available at GitHub:

1. Enter cubotino folder : `cd ~/cubotino`
2. Type `git status` to check if there are updates
3. In case there are updates available, and you want to install them:
  - i. type `git reset --hard` to discharge local files changes
  - ii. type `git pull` to receive the updates

**Note: Please remember to take notes (or save a copy) of your personal settings (Cubotino\_T\_settings.txt and Cubotino\_T\_servo\_settings.txt) before updating the robot package;**

In case you forgot..., the robot makes a backup copy for you at every boot; In this case rename the backup files:

`Cubotino_T_settings_backup.txt` → `Cubotino_T_settings.txt`  
`Cubotino_T_servo_settings_backup.txt` → `Cubotino_T_servo_settings.txt`

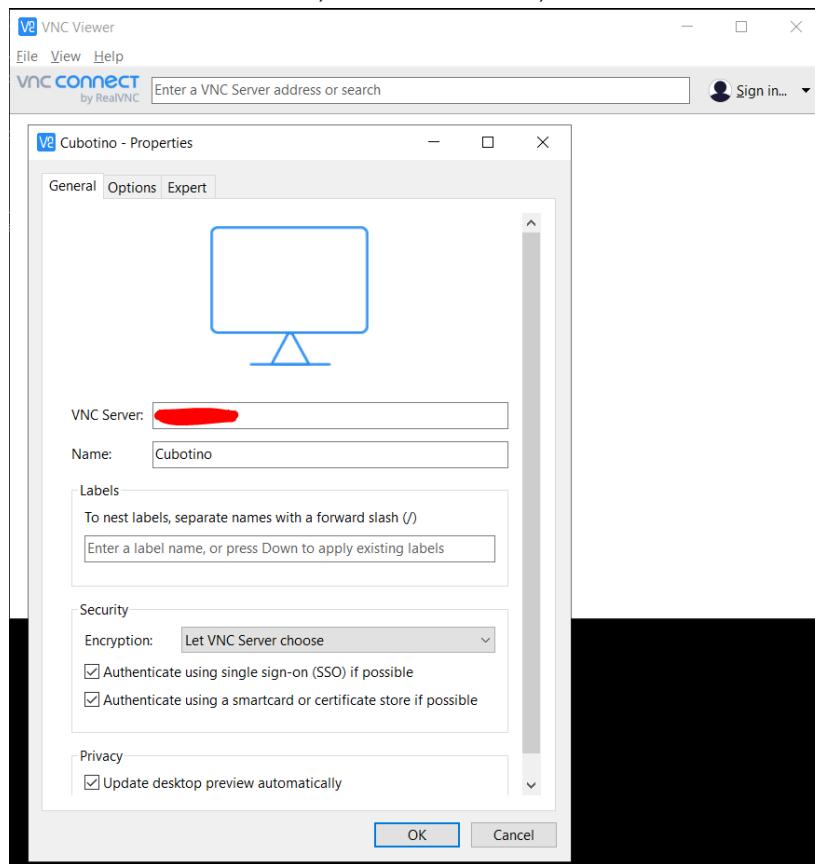
Please bear in mind the updates are based on my robot; There might be other changes you've made: Those have to be handled by you another time.

I can think of the display orientation if you've a Raspberry Pi 3 or 4, and you've oriented the display differently.

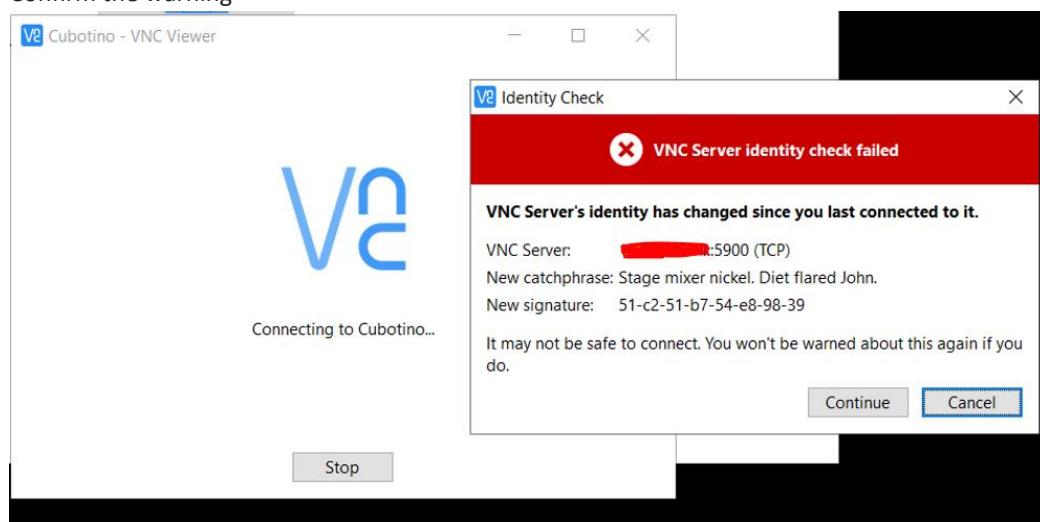
You might also have personalized some prints to the display: Recall to save notes/snippets.

## Step 9: Make a new connection at VNC Viewer

Make a new connection: File, New connection ...., insert the IP address at VNC Server, and a Name

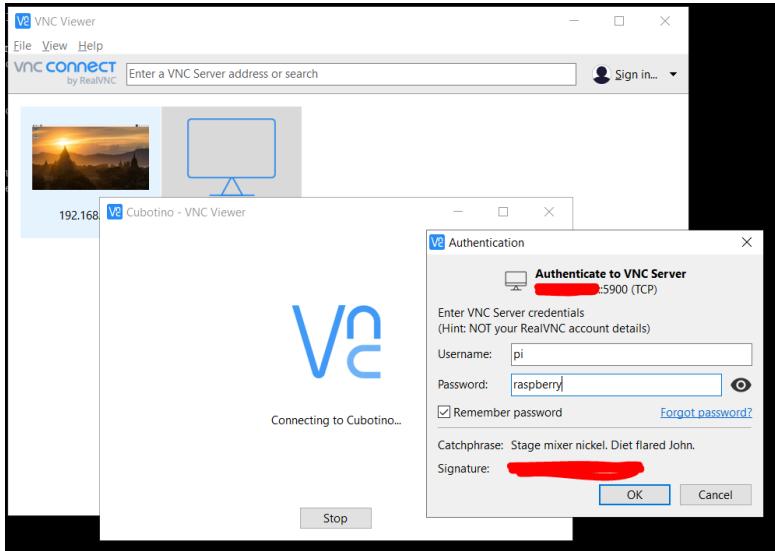


## Confirm the warning

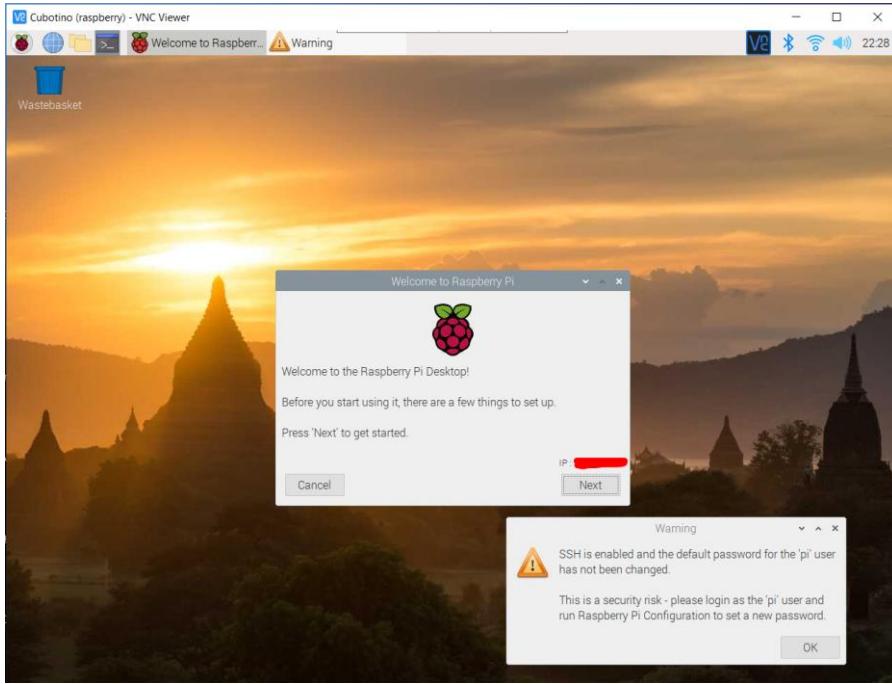


Insert username, *pi* in my case, and the password, *raspberry* in my case

Check the option Remember password



And you're virtually connected to the raspberry pi monitor:



Check, and accept ☺, the warning

Complete the settings

- Set Country
- Change password, in my case again *raspberry*
- **SKIP** the Setup screen (see below)
- **SKIP** Select Wi-Fi Network
- **SKIP** Update Software

Step 10: Change the monitor size in case you don't feel comfortable with the proposed resolution

From the root or from the venv: ***sudo crontab -e***

The first time you'll be asked to choose an editor, use 1 for nano

```
(.virtualenvs) pi@cubotino:~/cubotino $ sudo crontab -e  
Select an editor. To change later, run 'select-editor'.  
1. /bin/nano      <---- easiest  
2. /usr/bin/vim.tiny  
3. /bin/ed  
  
choose 1-3 [1]:
```

Change the geometry on the line:

```
@reboot su - pi -c "/usr/bin/vncserver :0 -geometry 1280x720";
```

Step 11: Make a backup image of the microSD

This is the perfect moment to secure the time spent to get here.....

There are many tutorials available for this task, as reference: <https://howchoo.com/g/nmexndnlmdb/how-to-back-up-a-raspberry-pi-on-windows>

Once the robot will be tuned in your system (see Tuning chapter), then a final backup image will capture the tuning part too.

Step 12: Set things to get the robot starting automatically at the raspberry Pi boot.

See 'Automatic robot start:' chapter

Step 13: Set Thonny to work with the venv.

Setting up Thonny IDE interpreter, to work with the venv, it will be handy to tune the parameters hard-coded in the scripts

See 'Set Thonny IDE interpreter' chapter

## 17) Files copied to Raspberry Pi

Note: The simplified installation takes care to copy these files into the Raspberry Pi

Below listed robot specific files, are copied into `/home/pi/cubotino/src` folder:

File	Purpose	Notes
Cubotino_T.py	Main robot script	
Cubotino_T_moves.py	Translates the cube solution (Singmaster notation) in robot moves	
Cubotino_T_servos.py	Manages the servos	
Cubotino_T_set_picamera_gain.py	Manages the Camera gains settings	
Cubotino_T_Logo_265x212_BW.pdf	Cubotino logo, plot on display	The first time Cubotino_T.py is executed, the logo in the pdf file will be converted and saved as jpg. This is a workaround, because Instructables prevents image sharing as file attachment.
Cubotino_T_display.py	Display management	From 6 <sup>th</sup> August 2022
Cubotino_T_settings.txt	Json file with settings for Cubotino_T.py script	Default values, to start the tuning
Cubotino_T_settings_AF.txt		Optimized values for my robot
Cubotino_T_servo_settings.txt	Json file with settings for Cubotino_T_servos.py script	Default values, to start the tuning
Cubotino_T_servo_settings_AF.txt		Optimized values for my robot
Cubotino_T_bash.sh	Bash file to start-up the robot script automatically after Raspberry Pi boots	

Kociemba solver library is necessary.

Note: The simplified installation takes care to install this package, further than to copy the lookup tables on a well defined folder location

Library	Main scope	Notes
Kociemba solver (twophase)	Kociemba solver for the (almost optimum) cube solution	This is made by 20 python files and 19 Lookup tables files. <a href="https://github.com/hkociemba/RubiksCube-TwophaseSolver">https://github.com/hkociemba/RubiksCube-TwophaseSolver</a> Note: See Kociemba solver installation chapter

The project has been developed / tested with:

- Linux raspberry 5.10.103-v7+ #1529 SMP Tue Mar 8 12:21:37 GMT 2022 armv7l GNU/Linux
- Python version: 3.7.3 (default, Jan 22 2021, 20:04:44) [GCC 8.3.0]
- CV2 version: 4.1.0
- VNC Viewer (6.20.529 r42646 x64), connected via SSN, to interact with the Raspberry Pi; This also includes file sharing.

## 18) Automatic robot start:

It is possible to have the robot starting-up automatically, when the Raspberry Pi boots.

From the root or from the venv: `sudo crontab -e`

The first time you'll be asked to choose an editor, use 1 for nano

```
(.virtualenvs) pi@cubotino:~/cubotino $ sudo crontab -e
Select an editor. To change later, run 'select-editor'.
 1. /bin/nano      <---- easiest
 2. /usr/bin/vim.tiny
 3. /bin/ed

Choose 1-3 [1]:
```

Un-comment the last row

```
'MAILTO=""'
@reboot su - pi -c '/usr/bin/vncserver :0 -geometry 1280x720';
#@reboot /bin/sleep 5; bash -l /home/pi/src/cubotino/Cubotino_T_bash.sh >
/home/pi/cubotino/src/Cubotino_T_terminal.log 2>&1'
```

## 19) Rpi shut down via Touch button:

The Raspberry Pi shut down can be initiated via the touch button (long press), by enabling that function:

From the folder `/home/pi/cubotino/src`, edit the file with `sudo nano Cubotino_T_bash.sh` and uncomment the last row

```
# 'halt -p' command shuts down the raspberry pi
# un-comment 'halt -p' command ONLY when the script works without errors
# un-comment 'halt -p' command ONLY after making an image of the microSD
#halt -p
```

Do not uncomment the last row (`halt -p`):

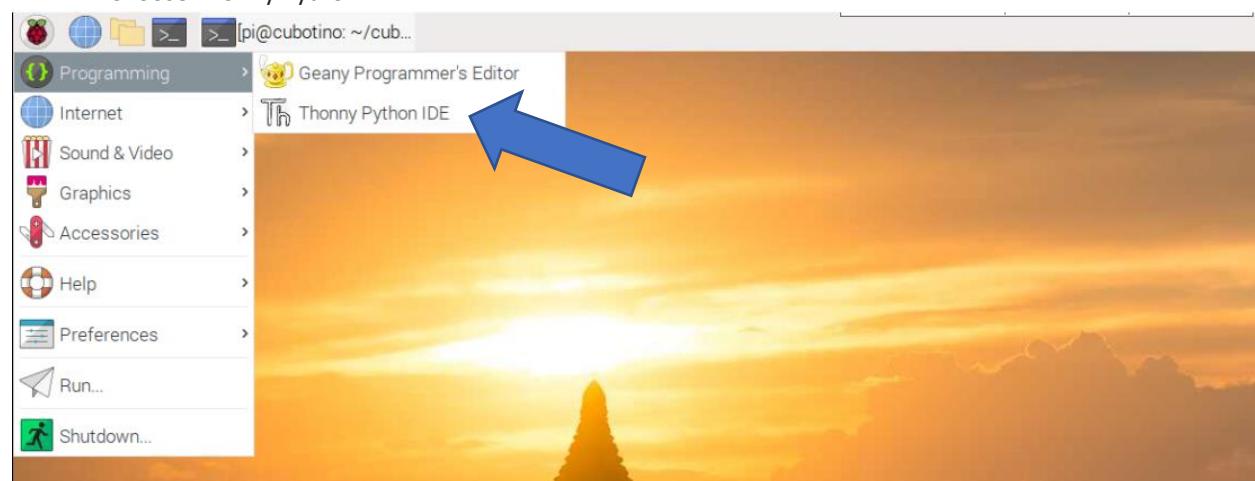
1. Before being sure the robot code runs without errors; A little indentation error sometimes happened when changing a parameter.
2. Before having made an image of the microSD.

## 20) Set Thonny IDE interpreter:

[from Wikipedia](#): **Thonny** is an integrated development environment for Python that is designed for beginners. It supports different ways of stepping through the code, step-by-step expression evaluation, detailed visualization of the call stack and a mode for explaining the concepts of references and heap.

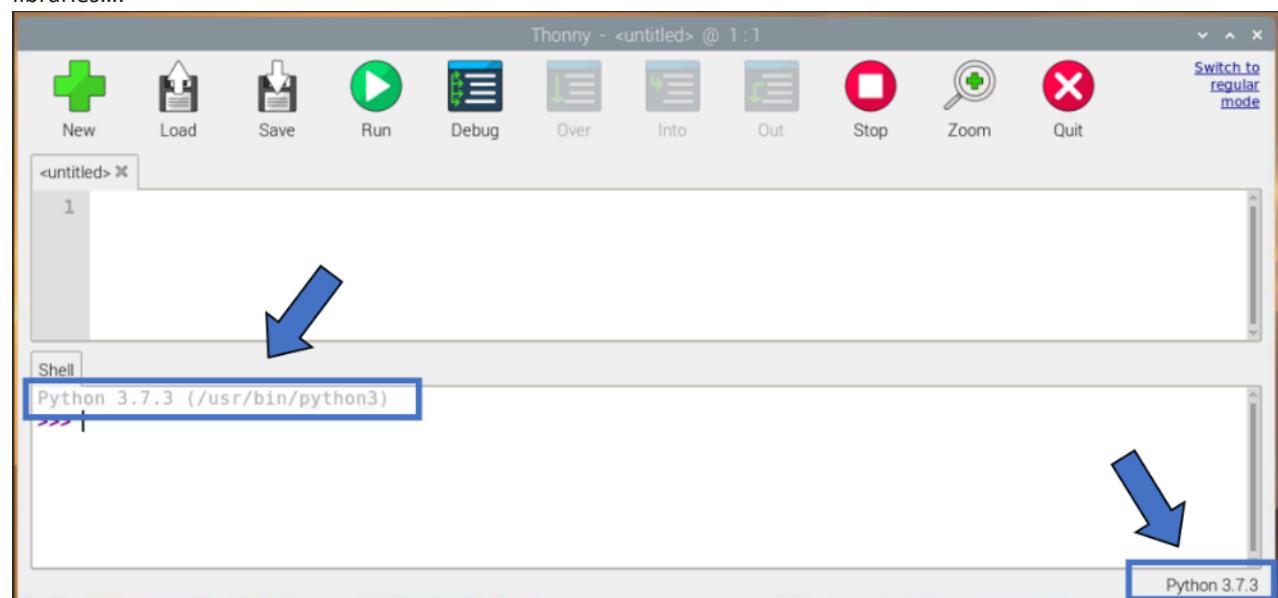
Thonny is part of the Raspberry Pi installation (according to the ‘Setting up Raspberry Pi’ procedure):

1. Access the Raspberry Pi via VNC, for instance via VNC Viewer
2. At Raspberry Pi, open the applications menu
3. Select Programming
4. Choose Thonny Python IDE

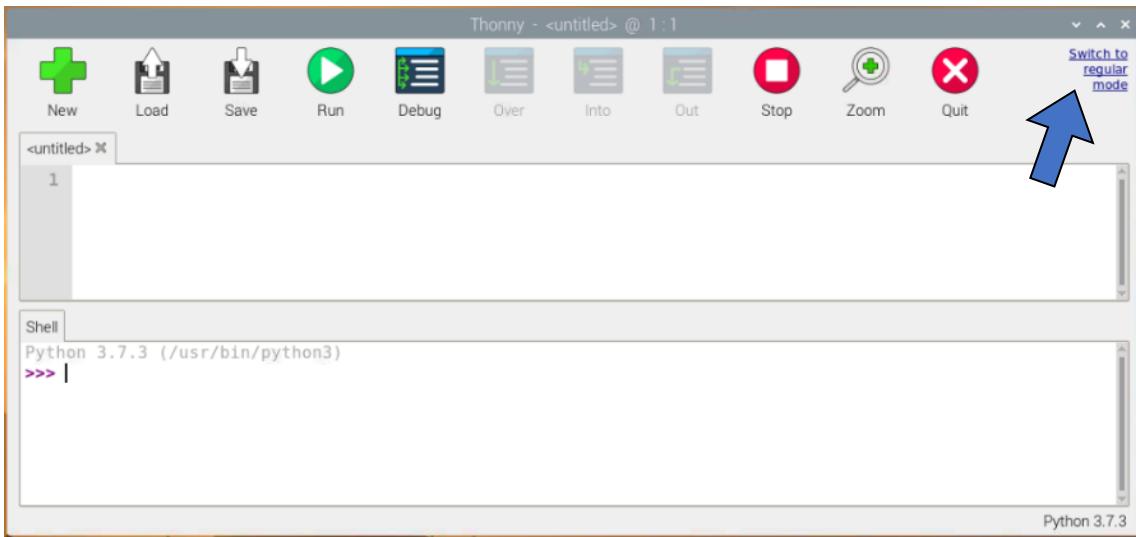


Setting up Thonny IDE interpreter, to work with the venv, it will be handy to tune the parameters hard-coded in the scripts.

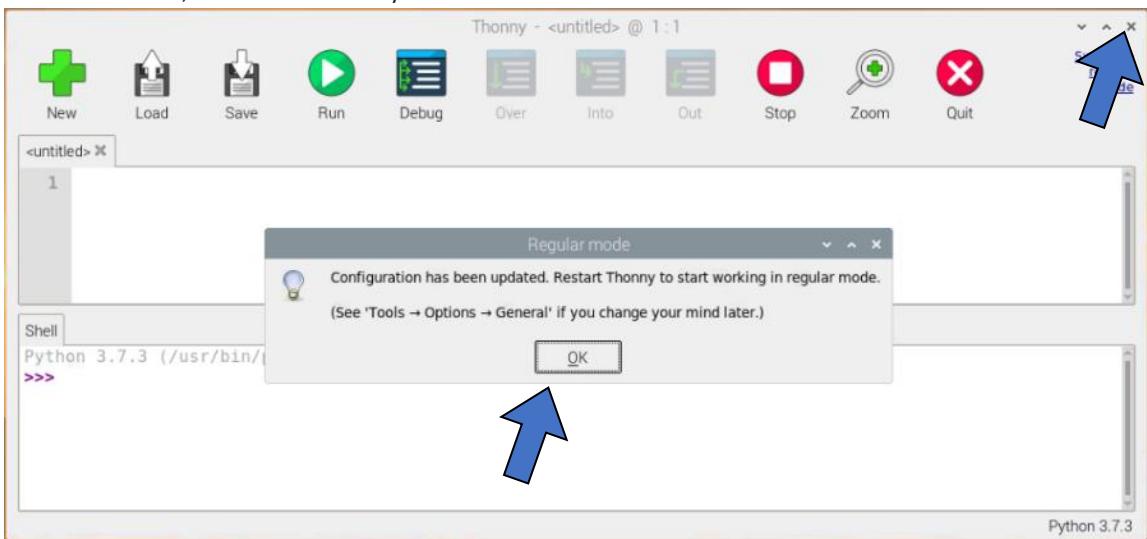
Thonny opens with the standard interpreter (/usr/bin/python3), and if you run Cubotino\_T.py it won't find the libraries....



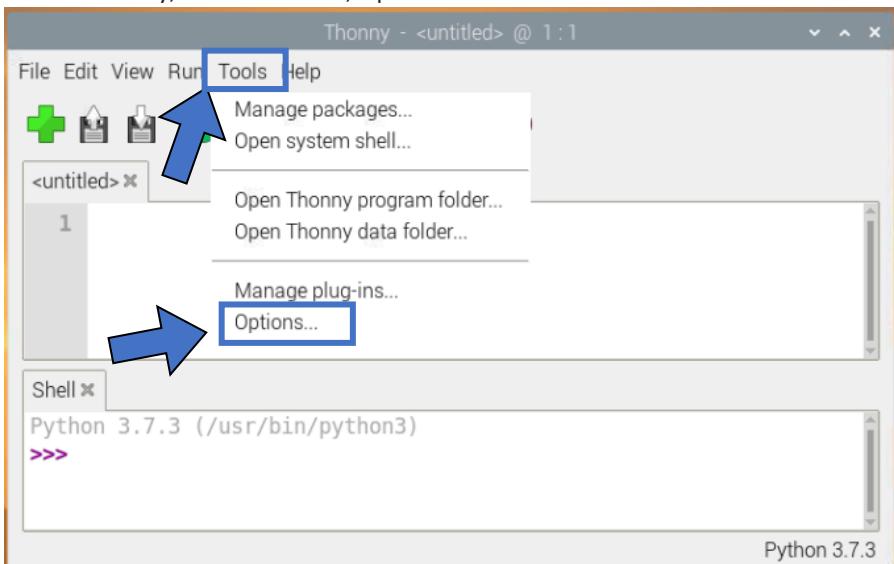
In order to have the Option menu, it is necessary to change the mode:



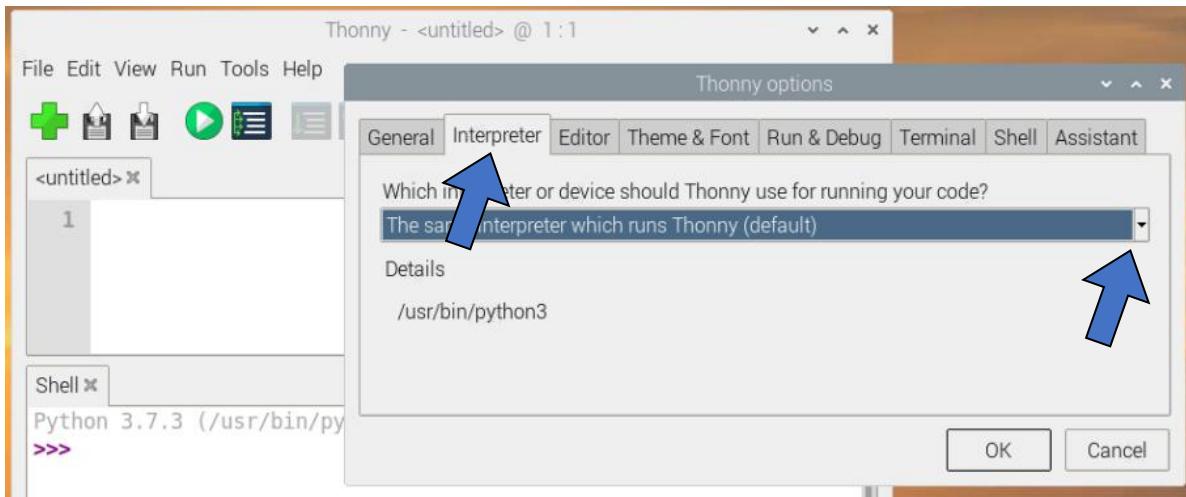
Confirm the info, and restart Thonny



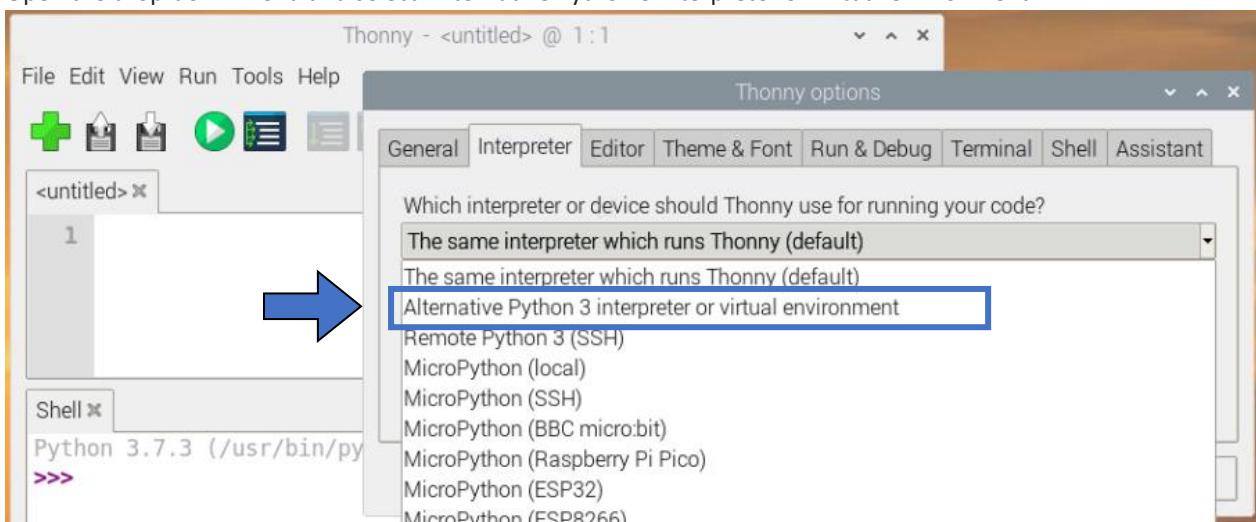
Restart Thonny, and select Tool, Option



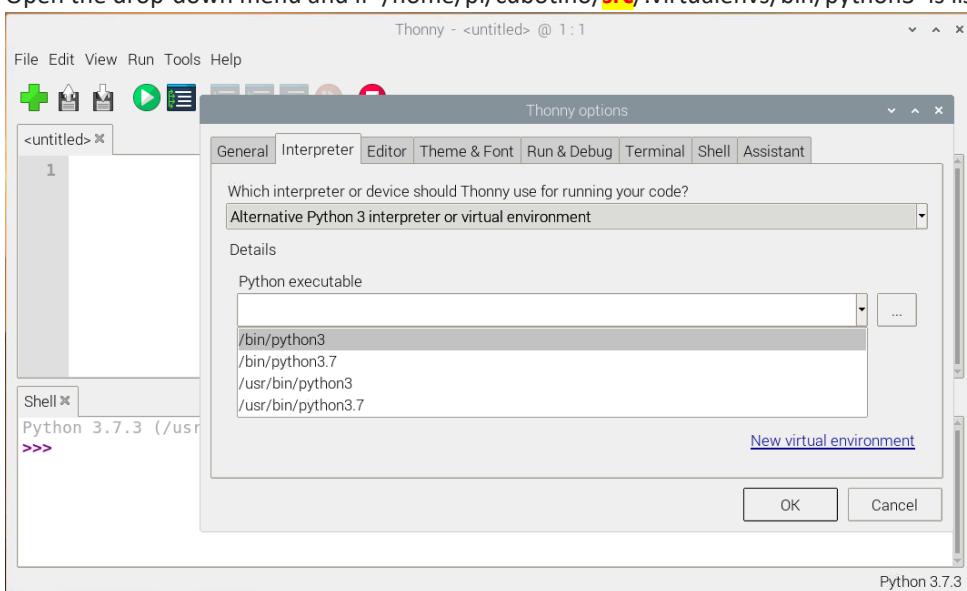
Select Interpreter where it is shown the default setting, pointing to /usr/bin/python3.



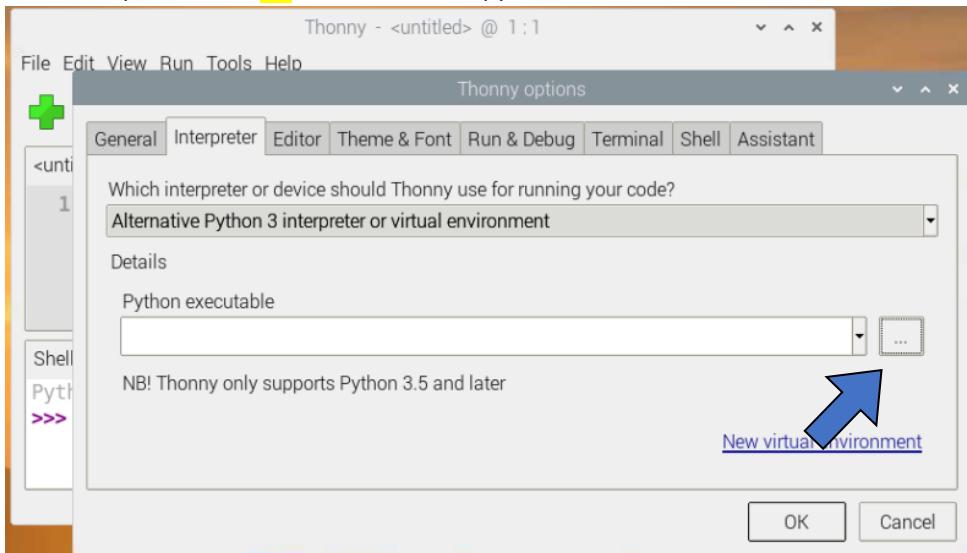
Open the drop-down menu and select 'Alternative Python 3 interpreter or virtual environment':



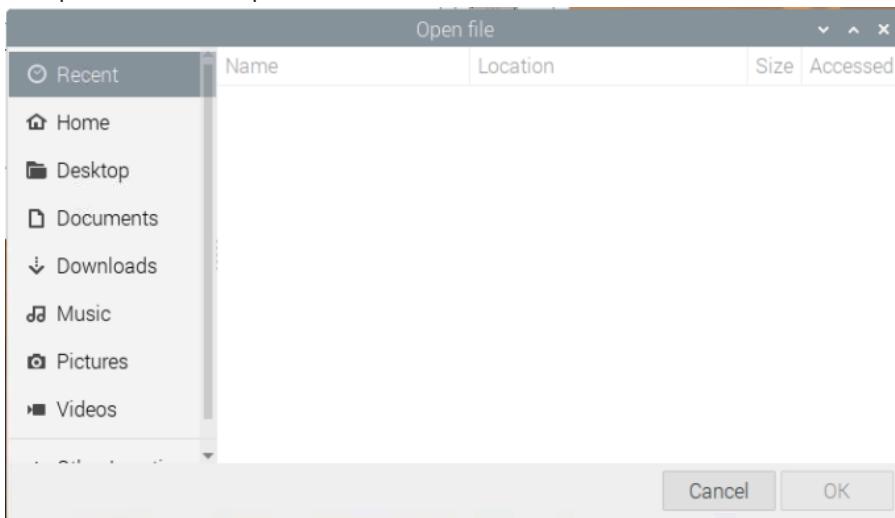
Open the drop-down menu and if '/home/pi/cubotino/src/.virtualenvs/bin/python3' is listed just select it



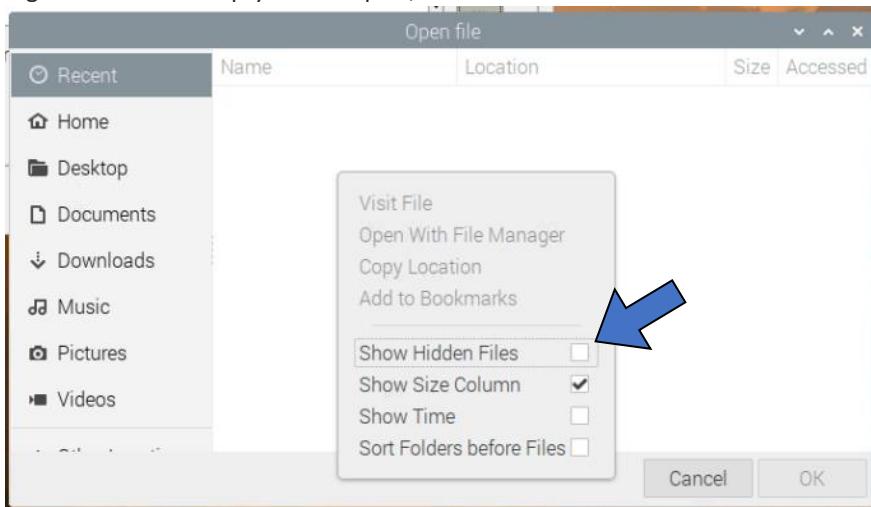
If “/home/pi/cubotino/src/.virtualenvs/bin/python3’ is not listed, select the browse button:



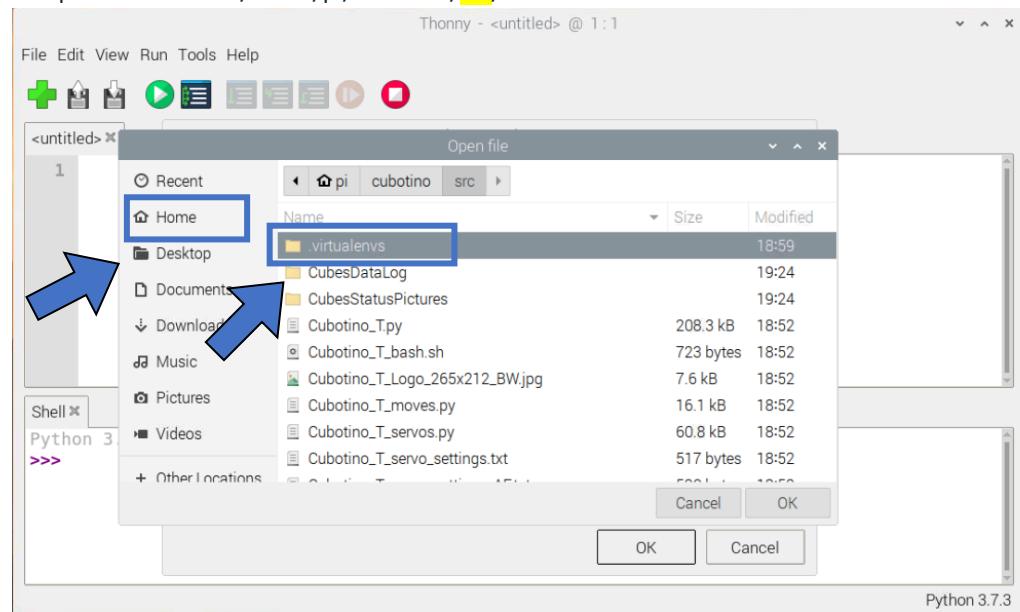
An Open file window opens:



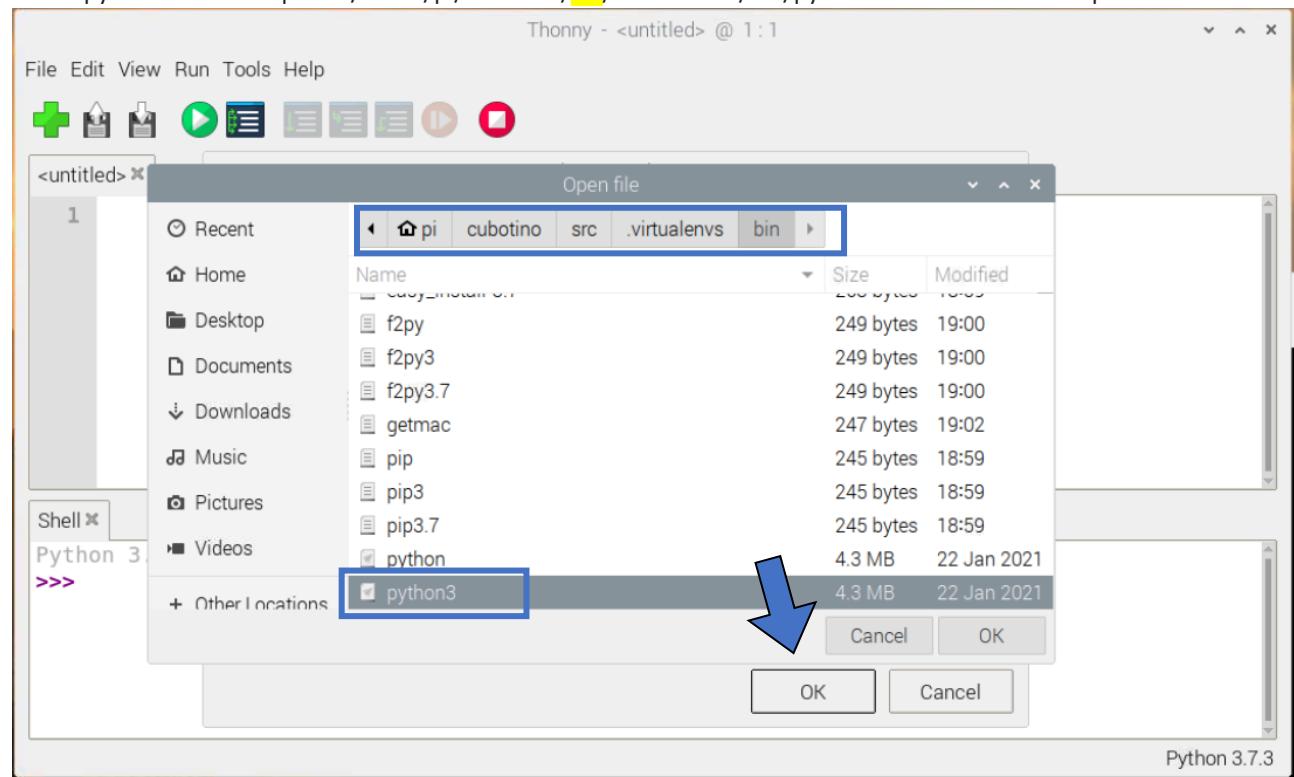
Right click on the empty window part, and check ‘Shows Hidden Files’:



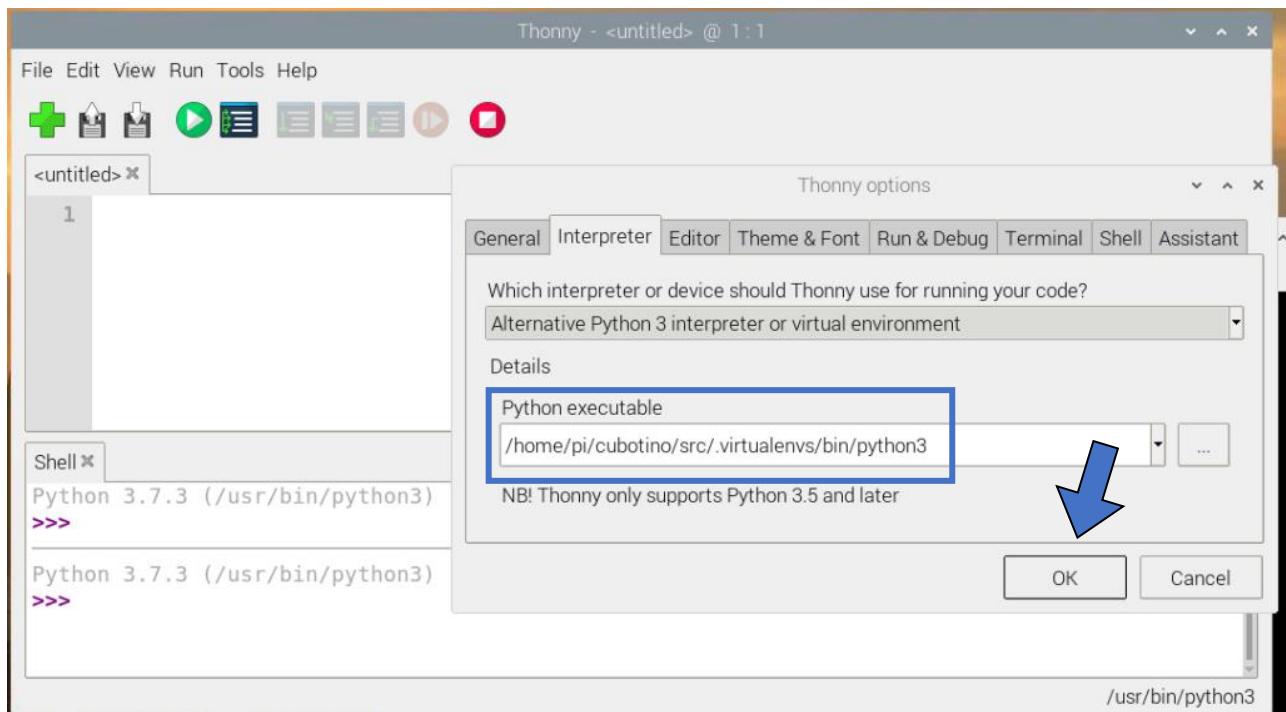
Select Home, .virtualenvs should appears (Note: all folders and files starting with a dot are hidden type)  
The path should be “/home/pi/cubotino/**src**/virtualenvs’



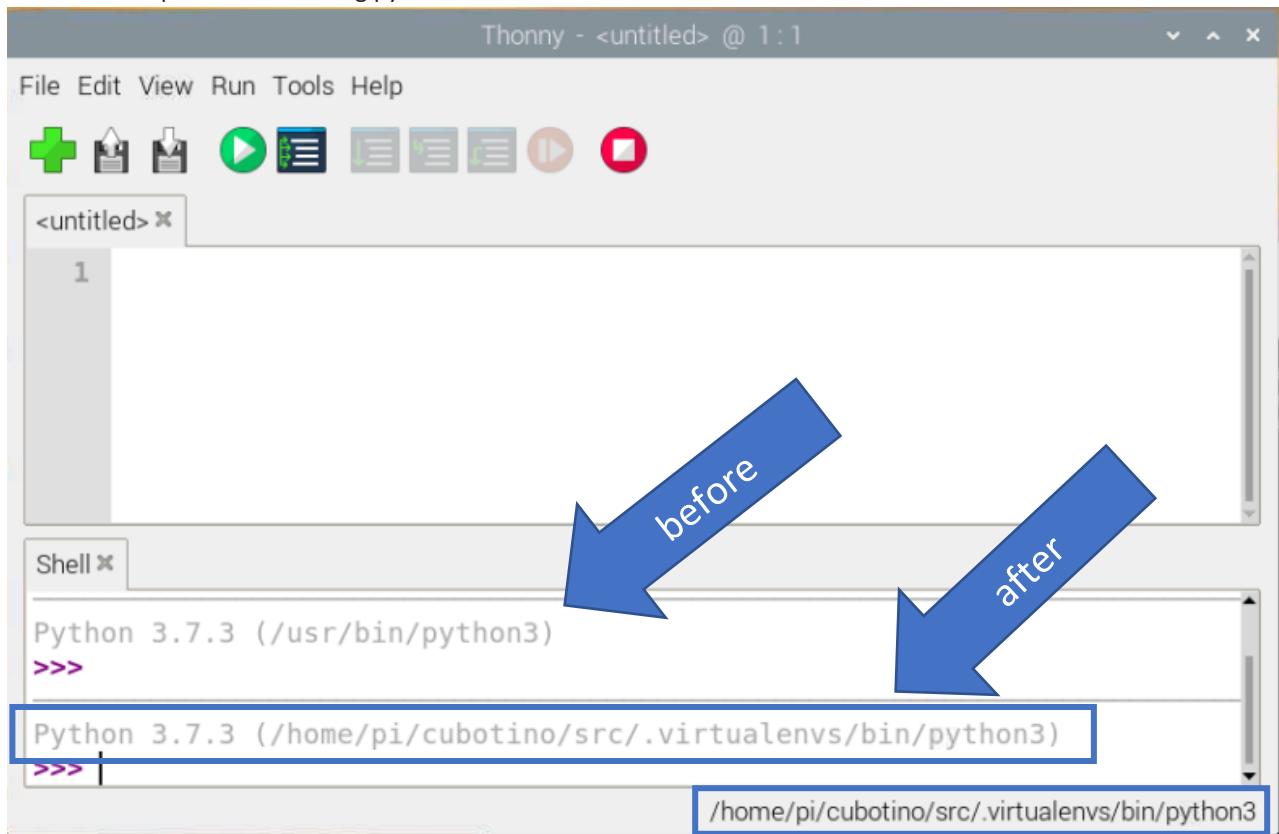
Select python3 from the path: '/home/pi/cubotino/**src**/virtualenvs/bin/python3' and confirm a couple of times



Confirm one more time



Note the interpreter is now using python3 from the venv



Notes, to get this change proposed as default:

- Do not open any python file
- Close and re-open Thonny

## 21) Assembly steps:

Before assembling the robot:

- Make the connections board
- Setup the Raspberry Pi
- Install all the libraries, and copy the needed files
- **Position the two servos output gear to their middle position (see Tuning chapter)**

Assembly order (for the details see Assembly details, toward the document end):

3. Screw the bottom servo to the structure
4. Prepare the sandwich Servo\_axis\_inf / servo lever / Servo\_axis\_inf
5. Assemble the Cube\_holder to the Servo\_axis assembly
6. Assemble the Cube\_holder assembly to the bottom servo
7. Assemble the Hinge to the Structure
8. Assemble the "T25" servo arm to the upper servo.
9. Insert the Top\_servo assembly into the Top\_cover slot
10. Assemble the Top\_cover assembly to the Hinge
11. Complete the top servo assembly to the Hinge
12. Assemble the Lifter to the Top\_cover

Starting from here, the steps are different from the Base version

13. Position the cables, and assemble the Baseplate\_rear
14. Connect the PiCamera flex cable to Raspberry Pi Zero2 board, and fix it to the Structure
15. Fix the Touch\_sensor to the PCB cover
16. Connect the servos, LED breakout board and Touch sensor
17. dress the cable and connect the display
18. Assemble the PCB\_cover
19. Assemble the Baseplate\_front to the Structure)
20. Assemble the PiCamera holder frame to the Top\_cover
21. Assemble the LED breakout board
22. Stick the PiCamera to its board, via the self-adhesive tape underneath the camera.
23. Assemble the PiCamera holder to the PiCamera holder frame
24. Connect the flex cable
25. Personalize the formal Stop plate, transformed to a personalization plate in this robot vesion

**Tools necessary:** Allen keys 3mm, 2.5mm and 2mm



## 22) How to operate the robot:

### 1. Before starting:

At the robot start, the Top\_cover will ‘suddenly’ open: Do not let kids to stick their nose right on top of robot!

### 2. Use a uniform-coloured table:

Part of the table around the robot will be captured on cube face images.

Keep some free space around, and use a uniform-coloured base, to prevent cables or other objects to be eventually detected as facelets.

### 3. Power up the servos:

This considers an independent power supply for the servos

Connect a 5V power source to the microUSB connector where the servos are connected.

In my case the servos work flawless with a phone charger rated 2A, but I had inconsistent movements when using a phone smart-charger rated 2A, and with a normal phone charger rated 1A.

Notes

- a. Do not energize the servos once the SBC is up and running, if you aren’t sure whether the cube holder is positioned to home.
- b. If the servos are already connected (or at least energized before the Raspberry Pi boots), [Cubotino\\_T.py](#) script takes care to position the servos according a pre-defined order.

### 4. Power up Raspberry Pi Zero 2:

Connect a 5V power source to the remoted microUSB connector where Raspberry Pi is connected.

Do not connect phone smart-charger, those that can deliver a voltage higher than 5.1V.

In my case the SBC works flawless with a phone charger rated 1A (note the official documentation suggest higher current).

### 5. Start a solving cycle:

- a. Position the cube on the cube holder; any cube orientation is accepted.
- b. Cube layers should be reasonably aligned.
- c. Shortly touch the PCB\_cover in front to the touch sensor (the circle suggests the touch sensor location).
- d. The robot reacts by energizing the LED, and by indicating CAMERA SETUP on the display.

### 6. Raspberry Pi shut down:

Please be noted Raspberry Pi, like normal PC, cannot be unpowered when it is working.

To shut it down, there are few possibilities:

- a. Connect to the Raspberry Pi via SSH, and type [sudo halt -p](#)  
The SBC closes the open applications and files  
When the SBC activity is almost done, the led at Connections board will goes off  
Wait additional 10 seconds and the power supply can be safely removed.
- b. If the robot has proved to work without errors, un-comment last row at Cubotino\_T\_bash.sh file ([halt -p](#)).  
This means the SBC will automatically shut down when the [Cubotino\\_T.py](#) file ends.

In order to quit the [Cubotino\\_T.py](#) script, touch the Touch\_button long enough (ca 6 seconds) until the ‘SHUT DOWN’ appears on display; The SBC will close the open applications and files.

Differently, if the touch sensor is released as soon as the display shows ‘SURE TO QUIT?’, then the robot will consider it as a stop request instead of a shut-down request.

When the SBC shut-down process is almost done, the led at Connections board will goes off.  
Wait additional 10 seconds and the power supply can be safely removed.

If the cover\_self\_close parameter has been changed to ‘true’, the top cover will be closed automatically at the Raspberry Pi shutdown (at python script closure).

This action is anticipated by some info on the display: Please be aware this might pause a risk to your kids if they have their hand on the way while the cover closes!

## 7. Un-power the servos:

This considers an independent power supply for the servos.

Servos can be unpowered at any moment.

Un-power the servo before shutting down Rpi, if you experience strange servo behaviour when Rpi goes off; The script takes care to set the servo PWM related GPIO to a fix level (low), at the shut-down, but it does not work on 100% of the times.

## 8. Running the robot from VNC Viewer:

Here is explained how to run the robot from VNC Viewer, when the python script has been started via the Bash file at Raspberry Pi boot, and 'halt -p' command is uncommented in the bash file.

Under these circumstances:

- it is not an option to quit the script from the robot, by keeping the touch button pressed long, as the Raspberry Pi will shut down
- it is not possible to run a 'new' script over the first one , as will conflict with Camera resources; It is necessary to quit the running python scrip first.

Steps to do:

- a. Connect VNC Viewer to the robot
- b. Open a terminal
- c. Folder is not relevant
- d. List all the running processes via *ps aux*

USER	PID	%CPU	%MEM	VSZ	RSS	TTY	STAT	START	TIME	COMMAND
pi	624	0.0	0.2	4488	808	?	Ss	16:24	0:00	/usr/bin/ssh-ag
pi	638	0.9	0.3	8760	1296	tty1	S+	16:24	0:00	-bash
pi	642	0.2	0.9	43400	3692	?	Ssl	16:24	0:00	/usr/lib/gvfs/a
root	657	0.0	0.2	7676	1048	?	S	16:24	0:00	bash -l /home/p
pi	664	0.2	0.9	56752	3384	?	S1	16:24	0:00	/usr/lib/gvfs/g
root	674	33.2	27.3	360008	102152	?	Rl1	16:24	0:13	python Cubotino
pi	684	1.2	2.1	62392	8132	?	S	16:24	0:00	openbox --cont1

- e. Search for python Cubotino process, and note the ID (674 on the above example); This is by far the process that takes more CPU and memory resources, making easier to find it.
- f. Search for bash command, from root user, located above python Cubotino, and note the ID (657 on the above example)
- g. First kill the bash process *sudo kill -9 ThePIDNumberForBash* (by using the above example the command will be *sudo kill -9 657*)
- h. After kill the python process *sudo kill -9 ThePIDNumberForPythonCubotino* (by using the above example the command will be *sudo kill -9 674*)

```
pi@raspberry:~ $ sudo kill -9 657
pi@raspberry:~ $ sudo kill -9 674
pi@raspberry:~ $
```

Note: by reversing the order on steps g and h, the Raspberry Pi will shuts off , right after the Cubotino python process is killed ☺

## 23) Tuning:

### 1. General:

There are parameters that are expected to be differently tuned on each robot; These are grouped into two (json) text files. See Parameters and settings chapters.

Some of those parameters are quite likely to require tuning, because each robot will slightly differ from others:

- a) Servo angles, and servo timers
- b) Frame Cropping, as Top\_cover angle dependent and PiCamera assembly angle dependent

Other parameters in the json files, aren't so likely to be tuned, but it might be something you'd like play with 😊.

### 2. Setting servos angles:

The servos at supplies list have 180° of rotation, that is more than sufficient for the lifter and Top\_cover angle of this robot, and it should be right sufficient to the Cube\_holder; I don't suggest buying 270° servo as this will affect the angle resolution.

Apart from tolerances between different servos, one variation source is the connection between the servo arms, and the servo's outlet gear, having many possible positions (I believe there are 25 teeth).

This means the reference angles set on Cubotino\_T\_servo\_settings.txt working fine on my robot, are not necessarily the best choice on other systems: **These parameters must be tuned on each system!**

Servos are controlled on angle, via a PWM signal ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Servo\\_control](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Servo_control))

The servos at supplies list, accept a Pulse Width signal from 1ms to 2ms, wherein 1.5ms is the mid angle.

It is anyhow possible to use servos with different pulse width range, in that case adjust the min\_pulse\_width and max\_pulse\_width parameters for the related servo, see Parameters and setting for more info.

The Cubotino\_T\_servos.py uses gpiozero library to manage the servo PWM.

This library uses a target servo position/angle with a parameter ranging from -1 to 1 (0 is the mid angle, value is a float), based on the Pulse Width range (i.e. from 1 to 2 ms, or from 500 to 2500us).

**Before assembling the robot, the servos rotation range must be checked:**

- Check if both servos have 180° rotation; In case only one servo rotates 180° or slightly more, use this servo for the cube holder.
- **Set both the servos on their mid angle position, prior to the robot assembly.**

### **Check the servo rotation angle, and to set them to their mid position:**

1. Connect a connection arm to the non-assembled servos.
2. Connect the servos to the Connections board.

Argument set, and related value, can be passed to `Cubotino_T_servos.py`, to play with the servos angle and especially to set them to the mid position before the assembling.

3. Enter home/pi/cubotino/src folder: `cd ~home/pi/cubotino/src`
4. Activate the venv: `source .virtualenvs/bin/activate`
5. Set the servos to the mid position: `python Cubotino_T_servos.py --set 0` (Attention to the double '-' without space in between, and the space before the zero).
6. To check the rotation angle of the servos, you can type a different value (float value between -1 and 1) after the double '-'; Once the script has been started with the “—set” argument, followed by a value, further values can be entered without closing the script.

### **Detailed info on servo management:**

1. On Parameters and settings chapter are listed the involved variables and the default values.
2. The `gpiozero` library is used to control the servo, with a (float) parameter ranging from -1 to 1.
3. The float value entered on the ‘—set’ argument, represent a normalized rotation; The applied rotation is based on the Pulse Width range. Be considered your servos might have a different Pulse Width range...
4. Value -1 is the max CCW servo rotation; The library sends the minimum Pulse Width to the servo.
5. Value 1 is the max CW servo rotation; The library sends the maximum Pulse Width to the servo.
6. CW and CCW notations used in this document are from the servo point of view; When you stand in front of the servo it will be the other way around.
7. Changing from a smaller value to a larger one it results to a CW rotation of the servo outlet.
8. On servos with a Pulse Width ranging from 1 to 2ms, every 0.02 step in the “—set” argument determines a rotation of 1.8 degrees: -0.02 rotates the servo outlet of 1.8deg CCW, while 0.02 rotates the servo outlet of 1.8deg CW.
9. It is convenient checking the servo rotation range before the assembly, therefore prior to have mechanical constrains on the servo rotation
10. In case your servos don’t make 180 degrees rotation, when the ‘—set’ parameter is changed from -1 to 1 (or the other way around), it might be the case those servos have a Pulse Width ranging from 0.5ms to 2.5ms (default range considered is from 1 to 2ms).

In this case it is necessary to change the minimum and maximum pulse width parameter at the `Cubotino_T_servo_settings.txt` file (`t_min_pulse_with`, `t_max_pulse_with`, `b_min_pulse_with`, `b_max_pulse_with`) with values that best fit your servos.

Save the text file and re-launch the `Cubotino_T_servo.py` (pulse width parameters are uploaded when this script is started)

Re-check the servo angle range: If 180 degrees are now covered set the servos to their mid position.

11. In case the servo for the cube\_holder makes less than 180° rotation, despite you’ve tried to enlarge the Pulse Width range, it is necessary to increase the rotation range to slightly more than 180° in order to get the robot working properly.

There are tutorials in internet on how to increase the rotation angle, by adding some resistors in series with the servo potentiometer (servo must be opened for this eventual change).

2k2 Ω resistors were used by Jonesee (reference <https://www.thingiverse.com/make:1034575>).

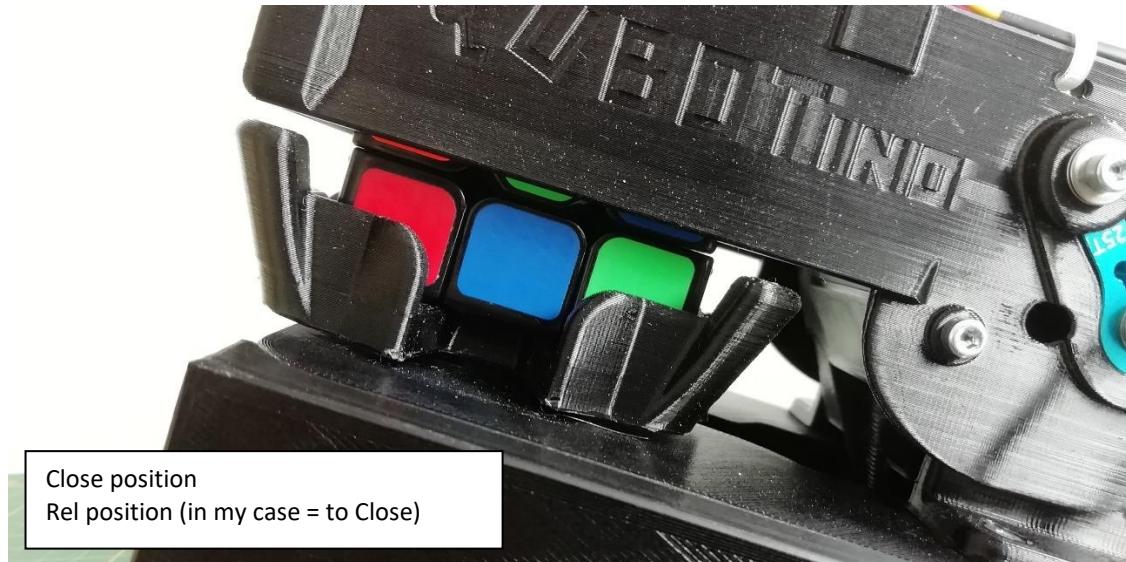
Andy (search for G7UHN at <https://www.instructables.com/CUBOTino-a-Small-Simple-3D-Printed-Inexpensive-Rub/#discuss>) has reported ‘my servos had only about 90° range of motion out of the box (despite being advertised as 180° servos) so I had to modify them, adding 3k resistors to both ends of the internal (5k) potentiometer’.

## Top\_cover (t\_servo) angles:

Working angles for the servos, are set in a (json) text file: Cubotino\_T\_servo\_settings.txt

There are 5 defined angles (most of time mentioned as positions):

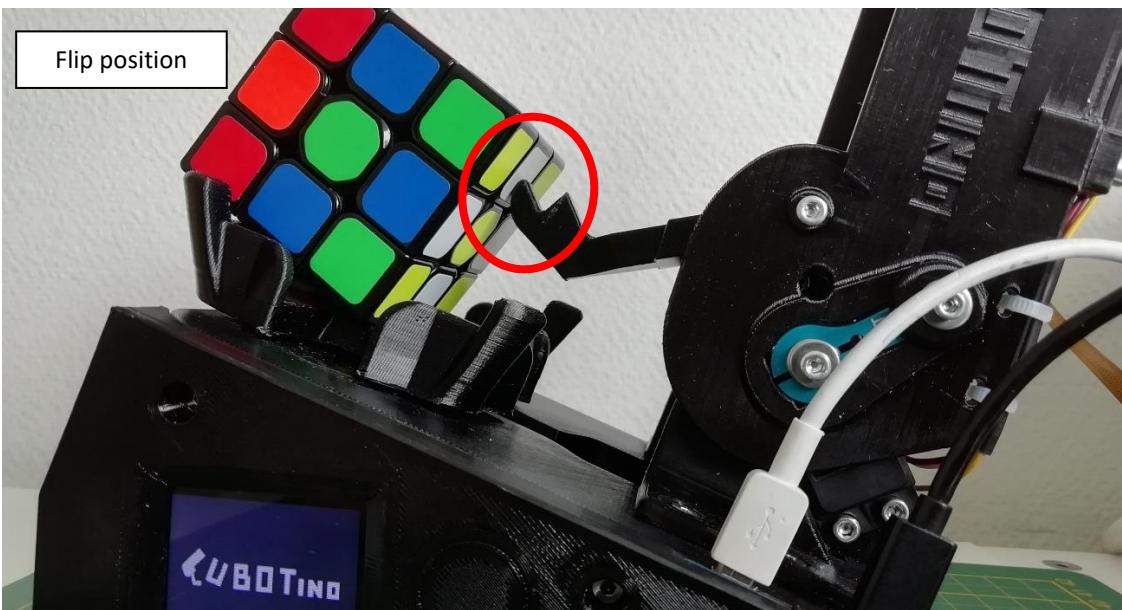
- a. Close: position to constrain the top and mid cube layers
- b. Rel: position to release tension, from cube, at Close position
- c. Open: position without interferences with the cube and Cube\_holder
- d. Read: position for camera reading, with the Lifter almost touching the cube  
(and unfortunately constraining the Cube\_holder)
- e. Flip: position for the Lifter to flip the cube (about 2 cube layers height)



Read position



Flip position



### Cube\_holder (b\_servo) angles:

There are 3 (+4) defined angles (most of time mentioned as positions):

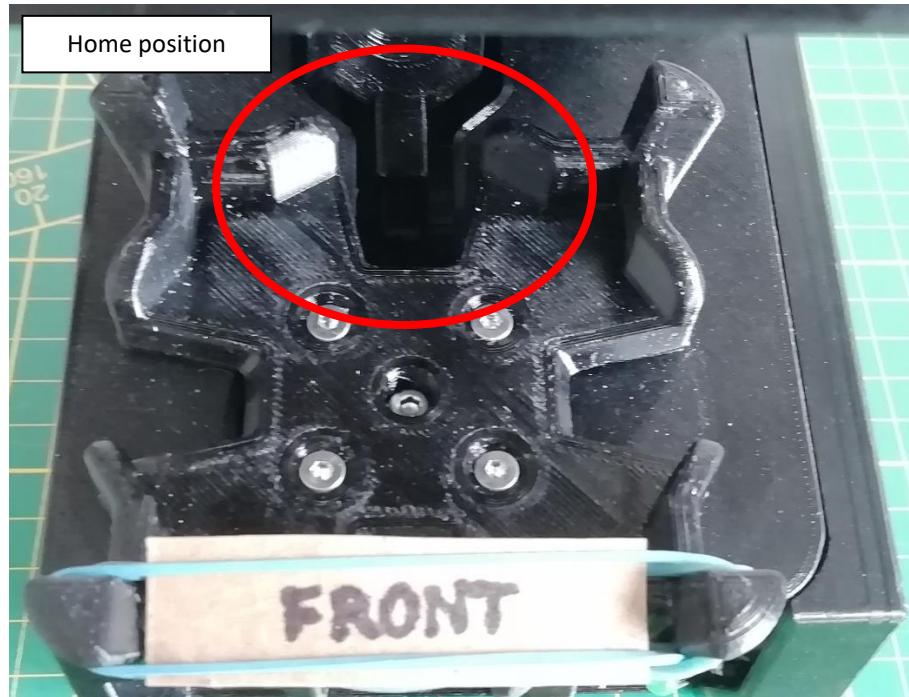
- a. CCW: position to spin or rotate the Cube\_holder >90° CCW from Home (Direction according to the motor point of view)
- b. CW: position to spin or rotate the Cube\_holder >90° CW from Home (Direction according to the motor point of view)
- c. Home: mid position between CCW and CW
- d. Rel from CW CCW: position(s) to release cube tension from Top\_Cover at CW and CCW
- e. Rel from home: position(s) to release cube tension from Top\_Cover at Home

Be noted the CCW and CW angles are slightly more than 90° apart from the Home position

This is needed in order to turn ~90° to the cube, after recovering the radial plays: There is play in between the cube and the Cube\_holder, and again there is play between the cube and the Top\_cover



The Home position has to be well centered.

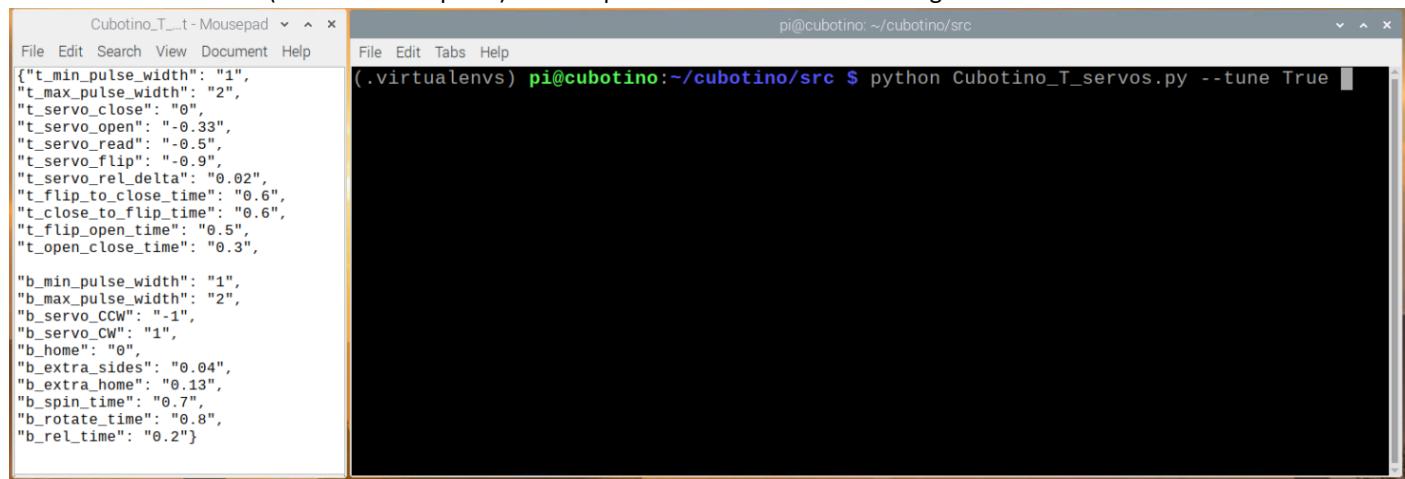


In order to center the Home position, it might be necessary to adjust the below parameters:

- b\_min\_pulse\_width
- b\_max\_pulse\_width
- b\_home

**3. Fine tuning servos angles (changed on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2022):**

- a. set the Servos to the mid angle (see above)
- b. assemble the robot
- c. enter the cube folder (`cd cubotino/src`) and activate the venv (`source .virtualenvs/bin/activate`); Attention to the dot in front of virtualenvs
- d. run the script `python Cubotino_T_servos.py --tune True`; Attention to the space in between '-'
- e. some info will be printed on the Terminal, to guide this process
- f. it is possible to recall the settings stored at Cubotino\_T\_servo\_settings.txt as well as to enter different target values (value should be a float ranging from -1.000 to 1.000)
- g. After the 'Enter command:' type the below commands to test the servos positions:
  - `t_servo = t_servo_close`
  - `t_servo = t_servo_open`
  - `t_servo = t_servo_read`
  - `t_servo = t_servo_flip`
  - `b_servo = b_home`
  - `b_servo = b_servo_CCW`
  - `b_servo = b_servo_CW`
- h. To adjust the Top\_cover and/or the Cube\_holder positions, you might enter the value instead of the saved parameters; Check the example below.
- i. Once the position(s) are satisfactory, edit the `Cubotino_T_servo_settings.txt` and save the file to apply the new settings; It is suggested to keep open the Cubotino\_T\_servo\_settings.txt file at the side, to copy paste the command (use shift Ins to paste) and to update and save the new settings



The screenshot shows two windows side-by-side. The left window is a text editor titled 'Cubotino.T... - Mousepad' containing the contents of the 'Cubotino\_T\_servo\_settings.txt' file. The right window is a terminal window titled 'pi@cubotino: ~ /cubotino /src' showing the command `python Cubotino_T_servos.py --tune True` being run.

```
File Edit Search View Document Help
File Edit Tabs Help
pi@cubotino: ~ /cubotino /src
(.virtualenvs) pi@cubotino: ~ /cubotino /src $ python Cubotino_T_servos.py --tune True
```

```
{"t_min_pulse_width": "1",
 "t_max_pulse_width": "2",
 "t_servo_close": "0",
 "t_servo_open": "-0.33",
 "t_servo_read": "-0.5",
 "t_servo_flip": "-0.9",
 "t_servo_rel_delta": "0.02",
 "t_flip_to_close_time": "0.6",
 "t_close_to_flip_time": "0.6",
 "t_flip_open_time": "0.5",
 "t_open_close_time": "0.3",

 "b_min_pulse_width": "1",
 "b_max_pulse_width": "2",
 "b_servo_CCW": "-1",
 "b_servo_CW": "1",
 "b_home": "0",
 "b_extra_sides": "0.04",
 "b_extra_home": "0.13",
 "b_spin_time": "0.7",
 "b_rotate_time": "0.8",
 "b_rel_time": "0.2"}
```

- j. If you type `init`, instead of a command after the 'Enter command:', the python script reloads the new settings from Cubotino\_T\_servo\_settings.txt, so to verify if everything goes well.



```

Cubotino_T_servo_s.ings.txt - Mousepad
File Edit Search View Document Help
{"t_min_pulse_width": "0",
 "t_max_pulse_width": "2",
 "t_servo_close": "0",
 "t_servo_open": ".033",
 "t_servo_read": ".05",
 "t_servo_flip": ".01",
 "t_servo_rel_delta": ".02",
 "t_flip_to_close_time": ".06",
 "t_close_to_flip_time": ".06",
 "t_flip_open_time": ".05",
 "t_open_close_time": ".03",
 "b_min_pulse_width": "1",
 "b_max_pulse_width": "2",
 "b_servo_CCW": "-1",
 "b_servo_CW": "1",
 "b_home": "0",
 "b_extra_home": ".13",
 "b_spin_time": ".07",
 "b_rotate_time": ".08",
 "b_rel_time": ".02"
}

pi@cubotino: ~/cubotino/src
File Edit Tabs Help
Code to check the individual servos positions.
It is possible to recall the values stored at the Cubotino_T_servo_settings.txt , or to manually enter different values (float from -1.000 to 1.000)
Top servo name is t_servo, Bottom servo name is b_servo.
Top servo positions: t_servo_close, t_servo_open, t_servo_read, t_servo_flip
Bottom servo positions: b_home, b_servo_CCW, b_servo_CW
When t_servo_close, b_home, b_servo_CW and b_servo_CCW the release rotation is also applied
Min variation leading to servo movement is (+/-)0.02 or 0.03, depending on the servos.
Smaller values for servo CCW rotation, by considering the servo point of view !!!
ATTENTION: Check the cube holder is free to rotate BEFORE moving the bottom servo from home.
Example 1: t_servo = t_servo_close --> to recall the top cover close position
Example 2: t_servo = 0.04 --> to test value 0.04, different from the default 0
Example 3: b_servo = b_servo_CW --> to recall the cube holder CW position
Enter 'init' to reload the settings from the last saved Cubotino_T_servo_settings.txt
Enter 'q' to quit
Enter command: 

```

- k. run the script `python Cubotino_T_servos.py`, without any argument, to test the robot manoeuvring the cube like during a solving process; Take a close look to check if the cube handling is ok.
- l. If the cube layers don't align well, it is suggested to apply some stickers on the cube holder: When the cube holder is home place an 'F' on the cube holder front side, 'L' on the cube holder left side and 'R' on the cube holder right side. Take a movie while the robot manoeuvres a cube and watch it back to see in which position the misalignment is generated.
- m. Re-adjust the setting for the position that leads to the cube layers misalignment.

#### **Example:**

When the command `t_servo = t_servo_close` is entered, the variable `t_servo_close` is assigned to the top\_servo position.

Based on the Parameters and settings table (next chapter), the default value for the `t_servo_close` is 0 (zero).

In case the Top\_cover is too far from the cube (reference pictures a few pages above), then the servo position requires to increase the CW position (CW and CCW are from the servo point of view).

To increase the CW rotation is requested a larger value ; If the needed variation is small (i.e. 1.8deg), the increment can be of 0.02.

Considering the default value for `t_servo_close` is zero, you might want to try 0.02 ( 0 + 0.02) by typing  
`'t_servo = 0.02'`.

In case the Top\_cover is too close to the cube then the servo position requires to decrease the CW position (CW and CCW are from the servo point of view).

To decrease the CW rotation is requested a smaller value ; If the needed variation is of about 3.6degrees, the decrement shall be of 0.04.

Considering the default value for `t_servo_close` is zero, you might want to try -0.04 ( 0 - 0.04) by typing  
`'t_servo = -0.04'`.

On the `Cubotino_T_servo_settings.txt` file, use your defined values to better cope with your robot characteristics.

#### **4. Timers for servos:**

Servos don't provide feedback when they have completed the requested angular rotation; It's necessary to set appropriate waiting time in the script, to allow sufficient time for the servo to complete the action.

It will be convenient to use larger delays at the beginning, and progressively reduce them once the servo angles are adjusted to your system: The default values I've set for the default should be more than sufficient to allow the servos intended rotations.

Once your robot runs smoothly, and in case you'd like to reduce the solving time, then you might start reducing those timers. As reference you can check on "Parameters and settings" for the values I'm using on my robot.

Timers for the servos, are set in a (json) text file: Cubotino\_T\_servo\_settings.txt

## 5. Frame cropping:

Cropping parameters are set in a (json) text file: Cubotino\_T\_settings.txt

PiCamera position, and its FoV, are likely to read both top and back cube faces.

Cubotino\_T.py file is delivered with no cropping effect (variables set to zero): this to help the camera assembly angle to be set to get the cube top face centered: First picture below as example.

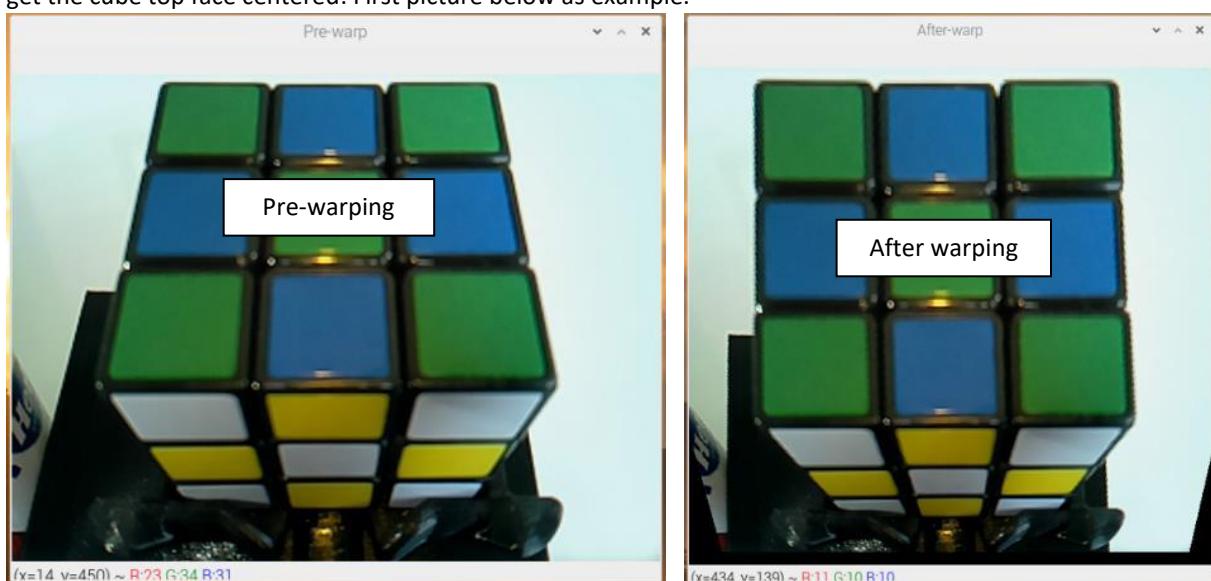


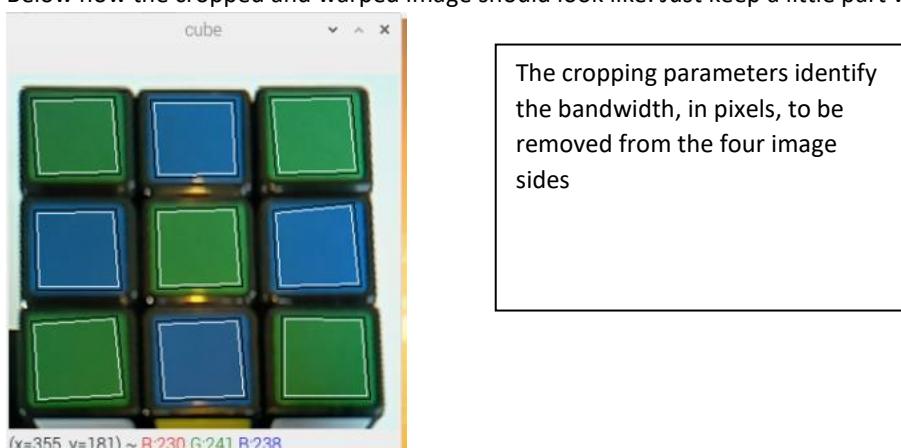
Image cropping has to be tuned, to reduce the image to the region of interest (ROI).

Be noted the image cropping is made before warping it; Pictures on this page have been made by inverting these processes, to better show the potential problem.

Image warping does not prevent the risk to have some of facelets at back face, to be detected as part of the top face;

Another reason to set proper cropping parameters is to reduce the image size, and gaining process speed.

Below how the cropped and warped image should look like: Just keep a little part visible of the back face:



The cropping parameters identify the bandwidth, in pixels, to be removed from the four image sides

6. Frameless cube:



The cube facelets detection algorithm has been initially developed for the classic cubes, those having the black frame around the facelets.

Starting from 6th August 2022, it is also possible to use the frameless type of cubes

At Cubotino\_T\_settings.txt there is a “frameless\_cube” parameter, with below options:

- ‘false’ for the classic cube type (default value)
- ‘true’ for the frameless type
- ‘auto’ for both types,

The ‘auto’ mode is computationally more demanding, therefore it will take slightly longer (about 1 to two seconds more for the six cube faces).

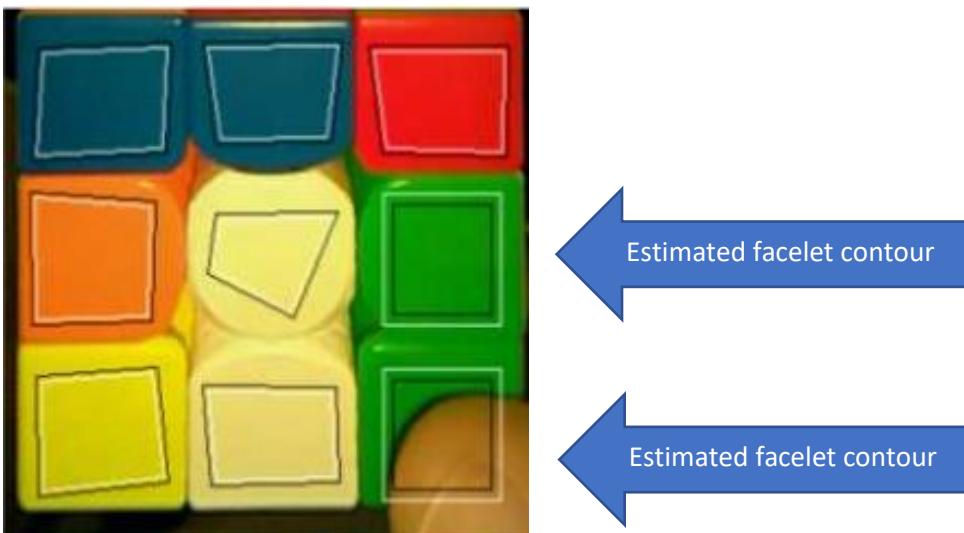
In the case the Cubotino\_T\_settings.txt doesn’t have the key “frameless\_cube”, because you are re-using an old setting files, then the new Cubotino\_T.py file version will simply consider the classic cube type.

You might argue on the reason ‘auto’ is not the default choice for the cube facelets detection method.

The reason is that the used strategy for the frameless cube is less robust: With facelets\_cube set ‘true’ or ‘auto’, as soon as there are 7 facelets positions identified, the remaining two will be estimated on their position.

This helps a lot when two adjacent facelets have the same colour, but it doesn’t prevent your finger (or cube logo) to get captured: See below image, with my finger not been evaluated by the algorithm, as it was on the “last two” facelets, and later leading o wrong colour detection from that facelet (likely cube status detection error)

Estimated facelets have the white contour placed outside the black one.



7. Display initialization and test:

For installation up to 6<sup>th</sup> August 2022, the display was initialized twice; This wasn't pleasant to be seen, and potentially leading to hardware race by the code

Starting from 6<sup>th</sup> August 2022, thanks to Yannick solution, the display is initialized once making the display management better.

The new solution requires one more file: Cubotino\_T\_display.py to the project.

The new file can be used to test the display after its connection:

- a. enter the cube folder (`cd ~/cubotino/src`)
- b. activate the venv (`source .virtualenvs/bin/activate`); Attention to the dot in front of virtualenvs
- c. run the script `python Cubotino_T_display` ; Attention to the space in between '-'

For 20 seconds, on the display should alternate the Cubotino logo to "DISPLAY TEST" text placed into three rectangles:



## 24) Parameters and settings

Parameters that are more likely to differ on each system, are into two json files:

- Cubotino\_T\_settings.txt and Cubotino\_T\_servo\_settings.txt

In order to provide a reference, the below json files capture the settings used on my robot:

- Cubotino\_T\_settings\_AF.txt and Cubotino\_T\_servo\_settings\_AF.txt

On below tables are listed these parameters, with the proposed value to start the tuning, the value that work on my Cubotino, and some little information.

Cubotino\_T\_settings.txt (and Cubotino\_T\_settings\_AF.txt):

Parameter (dict key)	Default value	AF value	Data type	Info
frameless_cube	false	auto	string	Set the facelets edge detection according to the cube. If the parameter key is missed (i.e. old setting files) is classic cube.
disp_width	130	132	Int	Display width (in pixels)
disp_height	160	162	Int	Display height (in pixels)
disp_offsetL	0	-4	Int	Display offset on width Left (in pixels)
disp_offsetT	0	-2	int	Display offset on height Top (in pixels)
camera_width_res	640	640	Int	Picamera resolution on width
camera_height_res	480	480	int	Picamera resolution on height
kl	0.95	0.95	float	Coefficient for PiCamera stability acceptance. Lower values are more permissive (range 0 to 1).
X_l	0	60	Int	Image cropping at the left, before warping (in pixels)
x_r	0	80	Int	Image cropping at the right, before warping (in pixels)
y_u	0	0	Int	Image cropping at the top, before warping (in pixels)
y_b	0	110	int	Image cropping at the bottom, before warping (in pixels)
warp_fraction	7	7	float	Image warping index. Larger values increase the warping)
warp_slicing	1.5	1.5	float	Image cropping index at bottom (black bandwidth) after warping. Larger values reduce the cropping
square_ratio	1	1	float	Facelet contour squareness check filter. Larger values are more permissive (0 is perfect square).
Rhombus_ratio	0.3	0.3	float	Facelet contour rhombus check filter. Smaller values are more permissive (1 is perfect Rhombus)
delta_area_limit	0.7	0.7	float	Facelet area deviation from median. Larger values are more permissive (0 means no deviation)
sv_max_moves	20	20	int	Max number of moves requested to the Kociemba solver
sv_max_time	2	2	float	Timeout, in seconds, for the Kociemba solver
collage_w	1024	1024	int	Image width for the unfolded cube file
marg_coef	0.1	0.06	float	Cropping margin (%) around the faces images to generate the unfolded cube collage
cam_led_bright	0.1	0.1	float	PWM for the 3W led at Top_cover. Range 0 (no PWM) to 1 (PWM=100%)
detect_timeout	40	40	int	Timeout, in second, for the cube status detection
show_time	7	7	int	Time, in seconds, to keep showing the unfolded cube image on screen
warn_time	1.5	1.5	float	Time from touching the touch button (after 0.5s filter), after which a warning appears on display.
quit_time	4.5	4.5	float	Time from touching the touch button (after 0.5s filter), after which the script starts the quit procedure.
cover_self_close	false	true	string	Top_cover auto closing at shut down. If the parameter key is missed (i.e. old setting files) the cover_self_close is set false.

## Cubotino\_T\_servo\_settings.txt (and Cubotino\_T\_servo\_settings\_AF.txt)

Notes:

1. 't\_' refers to Top\_servo while 'b\_' refers to Bottom\_servo
2. Angles are in gpiozero range for the Servo class (range from -1 to 1, with 0 as mid angle)
3. Time is in seconds

Parameter (dict key)	Default value	AF value	Data type	Info
t_min_pulse_width	1	1	float	Min pulse width, in ms
t_max_pulse_width	2	2	float	Max pulse width, in ms
t_servo_close	0	0	float	Angle for Top_cover to constrain the top and mid cube layers
t_servo_open	-0.33	-0.33	float	Angle for Top_cover not constraining the cube and Cube_holder
t_servo_read	-0.5	-0.5	float	Angle for Top_cover for PiCamera reading. Lifter almost touching the bottom cube face
t_servo_flip	-0.9	-0.9	float	Angle for Top_cover to flip the cube (~2 cube layers)
t_servo_rel_delta	0.02	0	float	Delta angle for Top_cover to retract after closing
t_flip_to_close_time	0.6	0.38	float	Time for t_servo to move from Flip to Close position
t_close_to_flip_time	0.6	0.42	float	Time for t_servo to move from Close to Flip position
t_flip_open_time	0.5	0.33	float	Time for t_servo to move from Flip to Open position and viceversa
t_open_close_time	0.3	0.1	float	Time for t_servo to move from Close to Open position and viceversa
b_min_pulse_width	1	0.98	float	Min pulse width, in ms
b_max_pulse_width	2	1.98	float	Max pulse width, in ms
b_servo_CCW	-1	-1	float	Angle for the Cube_holder at ~90° CCW from Home. CCW is from motor point of view
b_servo_CW	1	1	float	Angle for the Cube_holder at ~90° CW from Home. CW is from motor point of view
b_home	0	0	float	Angle for the Cube_holder in between CW and CCW positions
b_extra_sides	0.04	0	float	Delta angle for the Cube_holder to retract from CCW or CW
b_extra_home	0.13	0.13	float	Delta angle for the Cube_holder to do before retracting Home
b_spin_time	0.7	0.45	float	Time for the Cube_holder to spin ~90° (cube not constrained)
b_rotate_time	0.8	0.55	float	Time for the Cube_holder to rotate ~90° (cube constrained)
b_rel_time	0.2	0	float	Time for the Cube_holder rotate back, at CCW, CW and Home

Note:

On Cubotino\_T.py and Cubotino\_T\_servos.py, the string '#(AF' is placed as comment start, on where the above listed aparameters are used.

This because those variables weren't initially collected in json file, and later I decided to 'comment those rows instead of cancelling them.

## 25) Troubleshooting

Some of the below aspects were encountered during the robot development, other were posted at Instructables, and remaining are hypothetical:

1. Servos rotation angle of about 90 deg, when you've ordered 180deg
2. Servos rotation angle of about 270deg
3. Servos not moving smoothly
4. Bottom cube layer doesn't align nicely
5. Top cover usage to flat the cube
6. Cube status detection error
7. Robot stuck on reading the same face
8. Cube's facelet and light reflection (cube status detection)
9. Displayed text and images are un-readable
10. Program doesn't work as intended

- Servos rotate about 90deg while you've ordered 180deg servos; This has probably to do with the Pulse Width of the received servos, ranging from 500µs to 2500µs.

This project uses as default a Pulse Width range from 1m to 2ms, yet you can adjust some parameters and get your servos working fine; At Cubotino\_T\_servo\_settings.txt change:

- b\_min\_pulse\_width from 1 to 0.5 (from 1ms to 0.5ms)
- b\_max\_pulse\_width from 2 to 2.5 (from 2ms to 2.5ms)
- t\_min\_pulse\_width from 1 to 0.5 (from 1ms to 0.5ms)
- t\_max\_pulse\_width from 2 to 2.5 (from 2ms to 2.5ms)

- In case you've got servos with 270deg rotation, it shouldn't be of a problem.

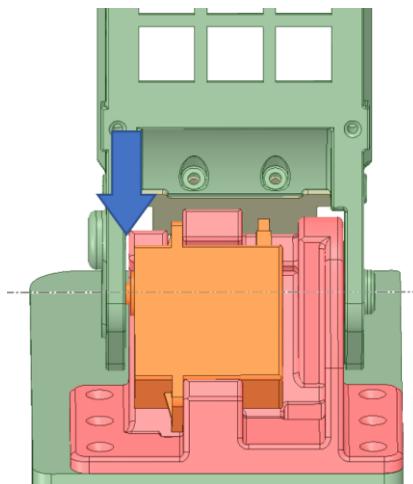
If the Pulse Width is from 500µs to 2500µs, then the angle resolution will be acceptable; In this case correct the Pulse Width parameters as per previous Troubleshooting point.

In case of Pulse Width from 1ms to 2ms I don't know if the angle resolution will be acceptable for this robot.

After adjusting the Pulse Width parameters, in case servos aren't from 1ms to 2ms, the default values for servos positions should be scaled by a 0.67 factor, to scale down from 270 to 180 degrees of rotation.

- Servos don't move smoothly

- Don't use jumper wires, or use quality jumper wires
- Don't use bread boards, make the Connections board instead.
- Add the capacitors, to prevent voltage drops when servos are activated.
- Use an at least 2A power supply for the servos.
- Use a 20 to 25Kg/cm servo.
- Minimize Top\_cover rotation friction:
  - Ensure the hole for the M4 screw (pivot) has some gap on the Top\_cover hole ( $\varnothing 4.1$  to  $\varnothing 4.3$ mm).
  - Rub some candle wax on the screw.
  - Ensure the M4 screw head is not pushing toward the Top\_cover; 1mm gap is suggested
  - Ensure gap presence between Top\_cover inner surface and the Hinge at the servo gear outlet side, as per below arrow:



In case your robot has little or no gap:

- Unscrew the M3 screws holding the top servo, and place some little spacers (0.5 max 1.0mm), in between the servo and the Hinge (possibly close to the screws location); Tighten again the screws.
- Rub some candle wax on the Hinge surface toward the Top-cover and the Top\_cover inner surface toward the Hinge.

4. Bottom cube layer doesn't align nicely:

Bear in mind CW and CCW notations are from the servos point of view: This means it will be the other way around for the person watching the cube\_holder.

1. Verify if the cube Holder makes an extra rotation, at both CCW and CW directions, before stopping; If this doesn't happens:
  - i. Increase the timers, as too small time don't give sufficient time to the servo to make the stroke visible when testing the cube holder position.
  - ii. Adapt the PWM release CCW/CW value.
  - iii. Place the PWM release CCW/CW at zero, and test if the CCW and CW position have a slightly overstroke from the 90°. If this is not the case, check if the other servo has a larger rotation range. If still not the case:
    1. Try to enlarge the Pulse Width range by 0.02 or 0.04 (increase b\_max\_pulse\_width if the cube\_holder doesn't make enough rotation at CW location, decrease b\_min\_pulse\_width if the cube\_holder doesn't make enough rotation at CCW location)
    2. Check in internet how to (slightly) increase the servo rotation angle (additional resistors must be soldered into the servo)
2. Verify if the cube Holder makes an extra rotation, before stopping Home; If this doesn't happen, adapt the PWM release home value.

5. The Top\_cover isn't intended to keep pushing the cube when it's in the close position; In case the cube layers don't align nicely, by playing with the cube\_Holder settings, it's possible to use the Top\_cover to level the cube. By lower the Top\_cover close position to have a little interference with the cube, will improve the cube layer alignment in particular after flipping the cube. In this case it will be convenient to set one or few units on *PWM release from close setting*. Via this setting is possible to release the tension between the Top\_cover and the cube, after pressing it, to allow the cube\_Holder to rotate with less effort.

6. Cube detection error:

It is returned when the interpreted cube status isn't coherent, meaning not having 9 facelets per colour or other inconsistencies. Possible causes:

1. Table background; Objects on the table can form square like contour, interpreted as facelets by the cv. This can be solved by positioning the robot to a uniform-coloured surface, without cables and objects in for 30cm around the robot. Another good way to solve this problem is to tune the cropping parameters.
2. Light reflection. Try to orient the robot with external light source (i.e. window) coming from the side or to use a cube with less glossy facelets.
3. In case the cube has some prints (i.e. brand), typically on the white center, it is suggested to carefully scratch out.
4. In case a frameless cube type is used (facelets without the black frame around the facelets), while at Cubotino\_T\_settings.txt the frameless\_cube parameter is not 'true' or 'auto'.

7. Robot stuck on reading the same face, until timeout:

The cube status detection algorithm has to find 9 facelets with given characteristics before changing face; If the robot doesn't change the cube face, it is because some of the pre-conditions aren't met (at least 9 facelets, areas of the facelets, distance between the facelets, etc)

To troubleshooting is important to visualize what the camera sees; This is possible via below steps:

- 1) Connect to the Rpi via VNC Viewer.
  - 2) If the robot has automatically started at the boot, two processes need to be killed as per "How to operate the robot" Step8.
  - 3) Resize the terminal to no more than half screen, and move it to the right part of the screen.
  - 4) Run the script from the terminal
- ```
4_1) cd ~cubotino/src  
4_2) source .virtualenvs/bin/activate  
4_3) python Cubotino_T.py
```
- 5) Press start to let the robot working, and a windows will show what the camera sees.

A contour will be drawn, over the camera image, on every location interpreted as facelet (excess of contours are filtered out, lack of contours is critic...)

This should help to have an understanding on the reason, or reasons, the robot stuck on the first cube face.

Possible reasons for the facelets detection failure:

- A)** the camera doesn't see the complete top face of the cube: In this case change the camera orientation angle, via the 2 screws on the camera\_support, to have margin around the top cube face.
- B)** facelets on the back cube side are also detected (detected means that on the image contours are drawn on the back cube facelets): Apply the cropping as explained for "frame cropping" in the "Tuning" chapter
- C)** the critic face has a logo on the central facelet: Carefully scratch that out or cover it.
- D)** too low ambient light conditions: Increase ambient light.
- E)** light reflection: Avoid localized light source from the ceiling, better from the side or even better if diffused. Consider the option to make matt the facelets.
- F)** cube without black frame around the facelets: I don't have a cube without the black frame around the facelets, and I expect some parameters change needed in that case. Please try with a cube having black frame around the facelets.

## 8. Cube's facelet and light reflection (cube status detection):

Detection of edges, as well as colours, can be largely affected by light reflection made by the facelets.

I have two cubes available, one with in-moulded coloured facelets, and the other with glossy stickers.

On the cube with plastic facelet, I made the surface matt by using a fine grit sandpaper (grit 1000); This makes the cube status detection much more unsensitive to the light situations.

Cube with in-moulded coloured facelet, that I've made matt with sandpaper (grit 1000)

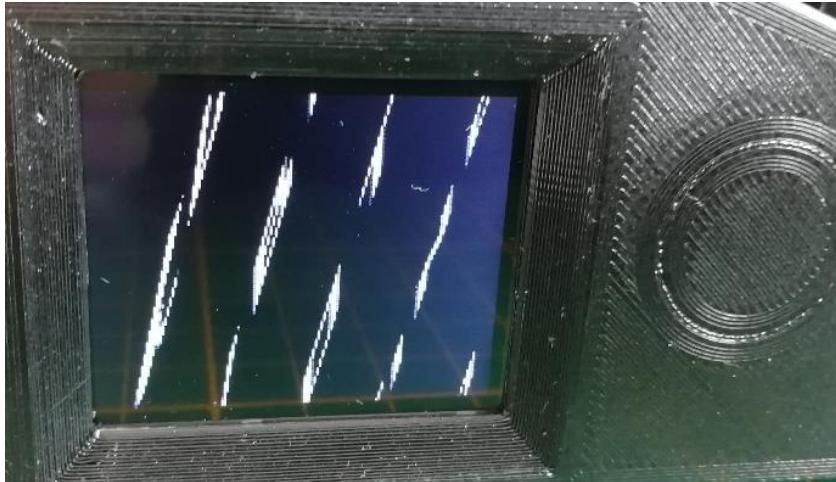
Cube with glossy stickers (after taking this picture I made matt these facelets too)



9. Display: Text and images are weird, simply un-readable:

Display parameters are set in a (json) text file: Cubotino\_T\_settings.

The display I've received, from the supplies list, wasn't working as intended:



I took me some time to realize a sort of drifting.... And to find the fix.

By slightly changing the dimensions of just a couple of pixels on the display width parameter (in my case I had to set 128 instead of 130 pixels), the display was working.

Once that problem was solved, a second one became apparent: On two sides there were some 'tiny death bandwidth', again for just a couple pixels.

By checking the ST7735.py code, I discovered it provides offset parameters, for the two display directions, suggesting these issues to be well known.....

By playing with both the display dimensions and the offsets, the display start working simply fine.

I don't expect all the display to have the same issue, yet in case the parameters variables are already in the code, and ready to be properly tuned.

10. Program doesn't work as intended:

This is a difficult topic, as my coding skills are rather limited .....

A good starting point is to get some feedbacks from the script:

- a. Edit Cubotino\_T.py
- b. At \_\_main\_\_ change the Boolean "debug" to True. This variable is used by many functions to print out info to the terminal.
- c. Run Cubotino\_T.py
- d. Check the prints
- e. If the print out doesn't suggest much to you, share it at the Instructable chat

When the problem seems more related to the servo program:

- a. Edit Cubotino\_T\_servos.py
- f. At about row 85 change the Boolean “s\_debug” to True. This variable is used by many functions to print out info to the terminal.
- g. Run Cubotino\_T\_servos.py (activate the venv first, and recall to type python in front).This code activates the servos like solving a predefined scrambled cube.
- h. Check the prints.
- i. Run Cubotino\_T.py and let it call the Cubotino\_T\_servos.py.
- j. Check the prints
- k. If the prints out don't suggest much to you, share it at the Instructable chat

## 26) Computer vision part

From [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Computer\\_vision](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Computer_vision), computer vision is an interdisciplinary scientific field that deals with how computers can gain high-level understanding from digital images or videos. From the perspective of engineering, it seeks to understand and automate tasks that the human visual system can do.

In this little robot, the computer vision part is achieved by combining the below elements:

- **Raspberry Zero 2 SBC** (the computer part)
- **OpenCV** (an open source library for computer vision; From <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/OpenCV>: OpenCV is a library of programming functions mainly aimed at real-time computer vision).
- **PiCamera** (a camera module, highly integrated with Raspberry Pi)

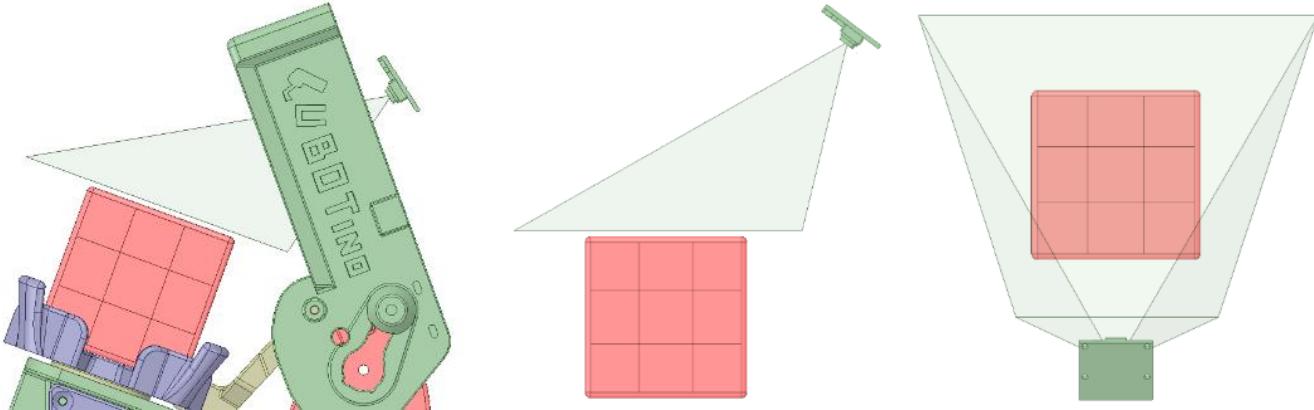
In which the python script '**Cubotino\_T.py**' is responsible for the interaction with these elements.

Below listed aspects, are presented on the next pages:

1. Camera positioning
2. Taking consistent images
3. Image analysis
4. Contour analysis
5. Colour retrieved
6. Is all of this really needed?

Colours detection strategy is described on a dedicated chapter, as in my case it has proved to be the more challenging part

- A. To get images, everything starts with positioning the camera on the right location:



The initial idea was to position the camera parallel to the cube upper face, yet I ended up with the solution depicted by above pictures. The reasons are:

1. The flex cable for Raspberry Pi Zero is max 30cm long; This prevented the possibility to mount the camera on an extension of the Top\_cover (like I've done on my first robot).
2. Need to move the camera as far as possible, to have sufficient Field of View (FOV); Obviously a complete cube face has to fully visible by the camera

This construction gives some drawbacks:

1. the Top\_Cover easily produces shadow on the cube; This affects the facelet color uniformity, therefore the robustness to always read (and assign) the correct colors.
2. the cube facelets have a relevant perspective; This makes more difficult to evaluate if a detected contour is really a facelet, by evaluating if fitting a square shape.

To solve the above problems:

1. A controllable LED has been placed close to the camera; This removes the shadows generated by the Top\_cover, and it reduces the overall sensitivity to the ambient light conditions.
2. The cube image is artificially warped, prior the facelet edge analysis, below an example

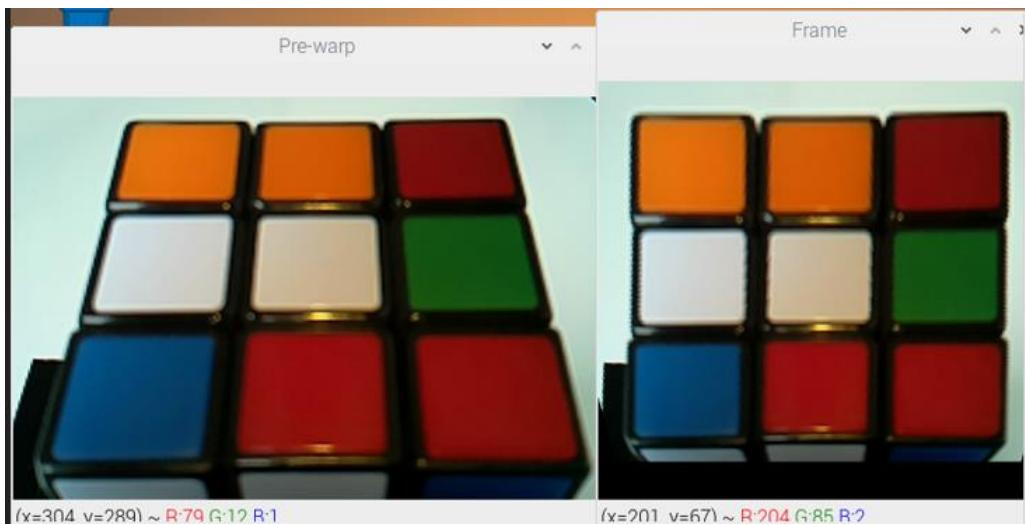


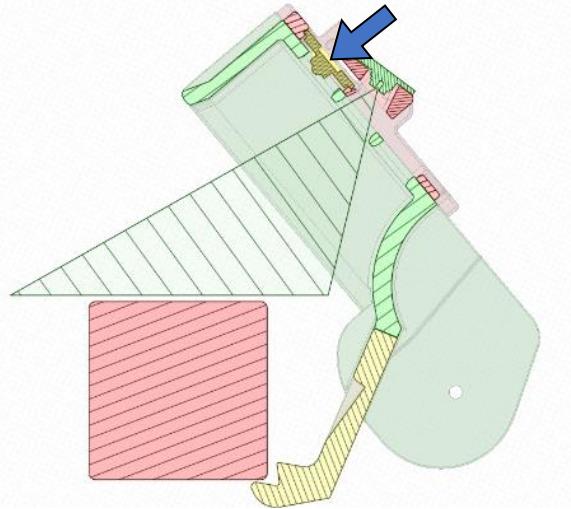
Image warping requires some computation power, but It does not affect the overall timing.

## B. Taking consistent images

This is a crucial aspect for proper colour analysis.

The light source addition is a good way to mitigate the environment light conditions, typically out of our control.

On below an image it is visible the position of a 3W LED light source:

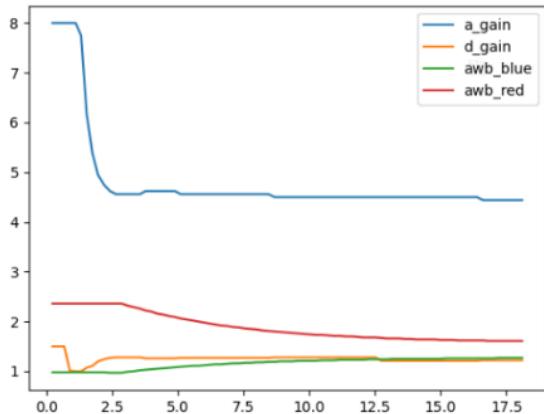


Notes on the chosen LED module:  
It has 120-140 deg angle  
It is controllable by the MCU  
Used a fraction of the 3W

When the robot is requested to detect the cube status, the LED and Camera are both activated.

The camera is initially set in auto mode, and inquired on series of parameters: Analog gain, Digital gain, AWB (Auto White Balance) and Exposition time.

Below the variability of these parameters in time (X axis is in secs), based on measurements made on the robot:



PiCamera gains (range 0 to 8), and AWB, are plotted versus time (secs).

In this case the cube was placed after 2 secs from pressing robot start-button; This means the camera was initially adjusting the gains on the black cube support, and right after it had to adjust on the cube (with some white facelets): **It's clear that AWB adjustment takes quite some time to get stable**

Differently, if the cube is placed on the cube support few secs before pressing the button, then the gains are already well set.

To cover these situations, a so called ‘warm-up’ function is implemented in Cubotino\_T.py script: Once all these parameters are within 2% from the average value, then the camera is switch to manual mode and the average parameters values are set to the camera; This process takes typically a couple of seconds, but it can take up to 20 seconds if large parameters variation occurs.

This procedure is only done on the first cube face, and it gives a first good estimation about the ambient light conditions. Afterward, the cube is flipped four times and the exposition time measured.

The camera is then set to fix shutter time, with the average value detected on 4 out of 6 faces; Of course, it will be even better to measure the exposition time on all 6 cube faces, but only 4 faces are quick to get because of the robot construction.

The camera is now set to take consistent images

Having the LED and camera angled, has turned out to be beneficial to reduce the light reflection

### C. Image analysis:

The approach uses a similar technic as explained at <https://medium.com/swlh/how-i-made-a-rubiks-cube-color-extractor-in-c-551ccea80f0>

1. The warped image is converted to gray scale: `gray = cv2.cvtColor(frame, cv2.COLOR_BGR2GRAY)`
2. The grayscale image is filtered with a low pass filter to reduce noise:
  - on classic cube types (frameless\_cube set 'false'): `blurred = cv2.GaussianBlur(gray, ...)`
  - on frameless cube type (parameter\_cube set 'true'): `blurred = cv2.bilateralFilter(gray, ..., ...)`
3. The de-noised grayscale image is analysed with a Canny filter; This function transform the image to binary, assigning 1 (white) the pixels detected as edges: `canny = cv2.Canny(blurred, ...)`
  - when parameter\_cube is set 'auto' the canny filter is applied on both blurred images, and the two results are (OR) combined in a single canny `canny = cv2.bitwise_or(canny_01, canny_02, ...)`
4. The binary image is analysed with Dilate, a morphological operation, aimed to join eventual interruptions of the thin edges returned by the Canny filter: `dilated = cv2.dilate(canny, ...)`

The edges are now thicker (or much thicker) according to the kernel definition. Having Thicker edges is a way to reduce the quantity of edges, and gain speed.
5. The "Dilated" binary image, is analysed with Erode, a morphological operation that works opposite of Dilate: `eroded = cv2.erode(dilated, ...)`

Anyhow I preferred to use a different kernel than Dilate, and still keep rather thick edges
6. The Eroded binary image is now used to find contours: `cv2.findContours(image, cv2.RETR_TREE, cv2.CHAIN_APPROX_SIMPLE)`

### D. Contour analysis:

Despite the image preparation, it is very common to get many more, and unwanted, contours; This requires filtering out the contours not having the potential to be a facelet.

1. To facilitate the contours selection, it is convenient to approximate them (those with more than 4 vertices).
2. From the approximated contours, those not having 4 vertices are discharged.
3. The remaining contours are ordered to have the first vertex on top-left.
4. The approximated and ordered contours are then evaluated on
  - a) Area, that should be within pre-defined thresholds
  - b) Max area deviation, from the median one
  - c) Max sides length difference, from a pre-defined threshold
  - d) Max diagonals length difference, from a pre-defined threshold
  - e) Max distance from the central one; This step includes ordering the 9 contours, according to their center coordinates.
  - f) Quantity of contours left, after discharging those not ok
5. The first 9 contours, passing through this process, are then used as masks; These masks are applied on the coloured warped image, as guidance for the facelets position.

In case the frameless\_cube is set 'true' or 'auto', as soon as 7 contours are detected the remaining two are estimated for their position.
6. The 'accepted' contours are plot over the coloured warped image, as visual feedback.

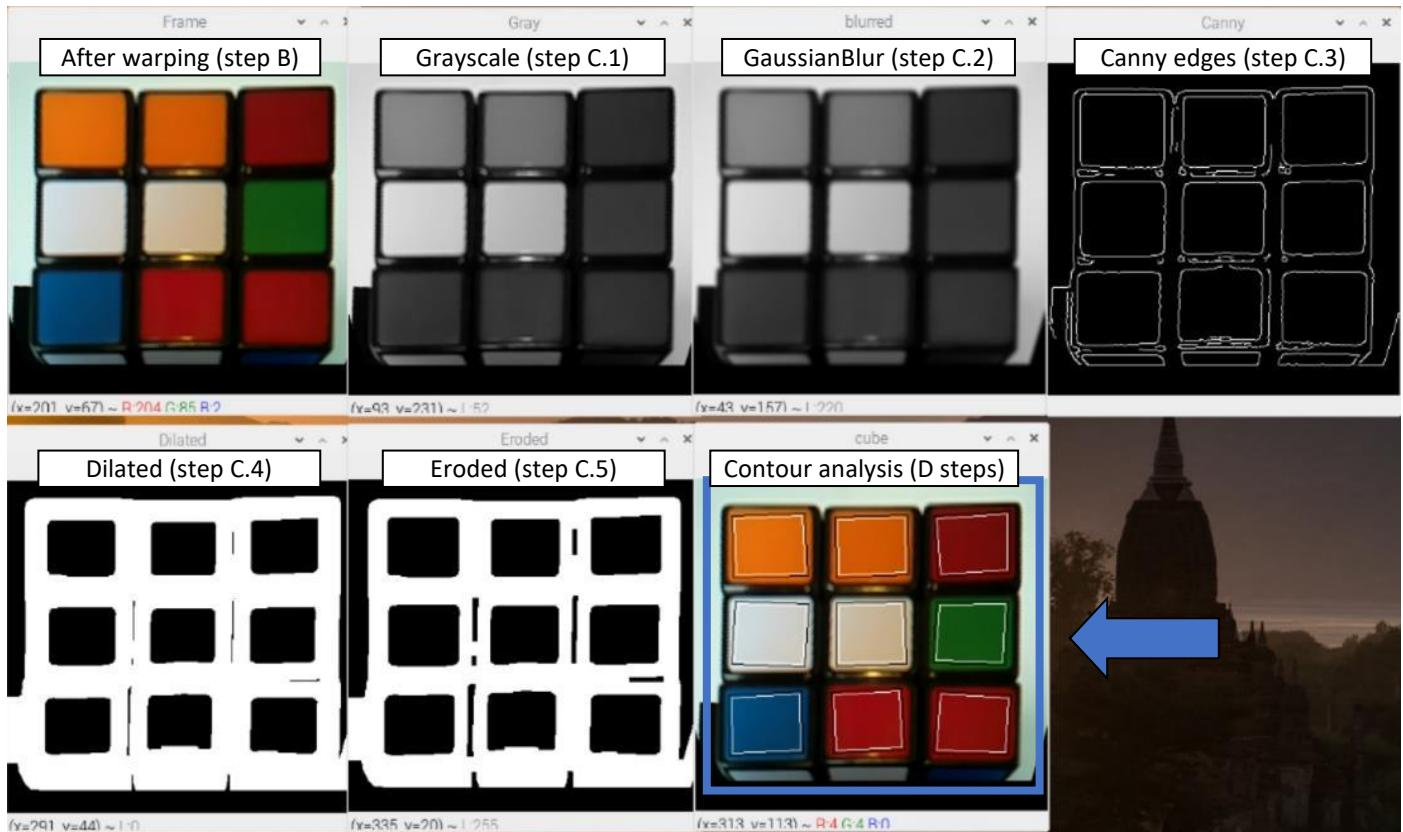
#### E. Colours retrieved:

On each facelet, are the retrieved 2 main info:

1. Average BGR, for a portion of the facelet around the detected contour center.
2. Average HSV, based on the average BGR.

Below a screenshot, showing how a cube face looks like along the image manipulation:

(If you'd like to see these images on screen, change the Boolean "cv\_wow" at \_\_main\_\_ to True)

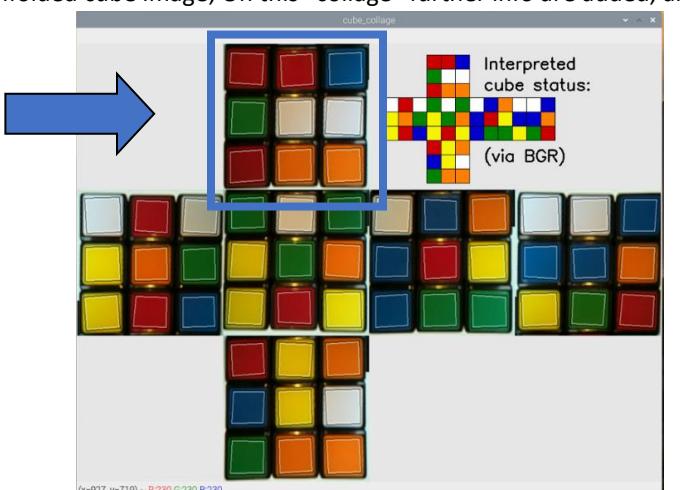


Not all images are oriented as per user point of view: Sides UBDF are 180deg rotated.

The described image analysis process is repeated for the 6 cube faces.

The last processed image of each side, the one with the 'accepted' contours, are stored in RAM.

Once the full cube status is detected, these images are further cropped (based on the detected contours) to generate an unfolded cube image; On this "collage" further info are added, and the whole saved to the microSD.



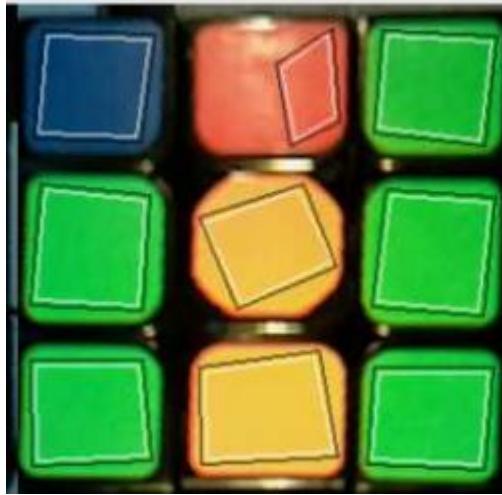
The U side, highlighted, is the image used above to describe the image analysis

F. Is all of this really needed?

You might argue there is no need to search for the facelets contours, and hard coded coordinates to be sufficient.

I haven't tried the 'simpler' approach; Below the below reasons I like to stick to the more complex approach:

1. The robot construction is rather basic, and the cube/camera positions cannot be expected to be very repetitive
2. Below picture shows one extreme case, in which the edge detection excluded a large area affected by light reflection; This cube face was correctly interpreted!



Notes:

Light reflection drastically affect the colour interpretation.

The accepted contour is on the very low contour acceptable area, yet sufficiently large to don't be noise

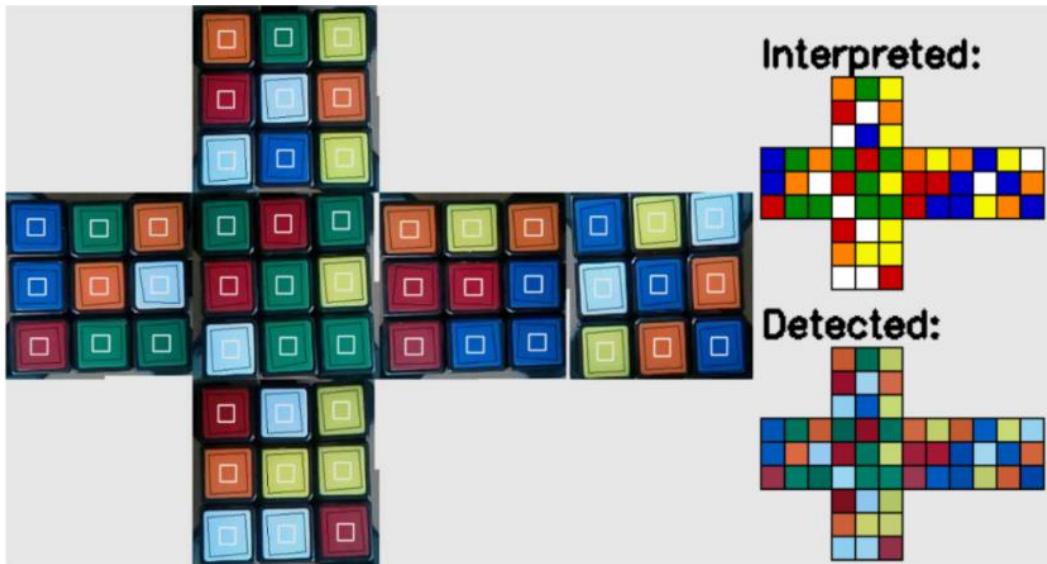
3. There is one more reason: Fun.... Having the facelets detected by a piece of AI is quite cool

## 27) Colour's detection strategy:

1. Cube facelets location are detected as described in the computer vision chapter

Based on the identified contours:

- The outer one, in black on below picture, shows the simplified contour retrieved by the edge analysis; This analysis is used to find the 9 facelets per each cube, and to know the contour center coordinates.
- The inner one, in white on below picture, depicts a smaller square area centred on the outer contour; This smaller area is used to:
  - Measure the BGR average value, used for the colour interpretation according to the 1<sup>st</sup> method (BGR colour distance)
  - calculate the HSV average colours, used for colour interpretation according to the 2<sup>nd</sup> method (Hue value).



2. Properties of the faces center facelet:

On a 3x3x3 Rubik's cube, the 6 center's facelets have useful properties:

- These facelets don't move (fix facelets number)
- These facelets have (obviously) 6 different colours
- Opposite faces have known colours couples, white-yellow, red-orange, green-blue (Western colour code).

This means we can make use of these 6 facelets as colour reference

3. The average HSV, detected on the 6 centers, is used to determine which colour is located on the 6 centers:

- White facelet is the one having the largest V-S delta (difference between Value, or Brightness, and Saturation), while the yellow one is located at opposite face.
- Remaining 4 centers are evaluated according to their Hue, and the Hue at opposite face.
- Orange has very low Hue, and red should be very high (almost 180); Depending on light condition, the red's Hue could "overflow" and resulting very low (few units). The red is expected to be much higher than Orange, unless it overflows ... in this case both red and orange are rather small with red smaller than orange.
- Out of the two remaining centers, blue is the one with highest Hue, and consequently the green is also known.

4. Based on previous step, the 6 cube colours (at least their centers) have a known average HVS and therefore an average BGR colour; This also informs on the cube orientation (colours) as placed on the cube-holder.

6. Facelets colour interpretation is made, by using two methods, via a tentative approach:
  - a. The first method compares the average RGB colour of each facelet, in comparison with the one at the 6 centers, and the colour decision is based on the smallest colour distance. The Euclidian distance of RGB per each facelet is calculated toward the 6 centers.
  - b. In the second method the Hue value of each coloured (non-white) facelet are compared to the Hue of the 5 reference centers; White facelets are retrieved according to 3 parameters (Hue, Saturation, Value), in comparison to the white center HSV.

First method is in general better than the second one, yet the second one “wins” when there is lot of light; The second method is only used (called) when the first one fails.

As result both methods are used, to get reliable cube status detection under different light situations.

## 28) Robot solver algorithm:

On this chapter it's explain the approach used to convert the cube solution manoeuvres into robot moves; This part is embedded in the Cubotino\_T\_moves.py file.

It is clear this robot has very limited degrees of freedom, as it can only rotate the bottom face (from -90° to +90°), farther than flipping the cube around the L-R horizontal axis; This obviously requires an algorithm that prevents additional cube movements to those (many) that are strictly necessary.

The Kociemba solver provides a string with the rotations to be applied on the 6 faces, like U2 F1 R3 etc (I will refer to these three moves as example on the below explanation).

The precondition for the cube solution is that the cube orientation doesn't change, meaning the U (upper) side remains up oriented and the F (front) side remains front oriented during the solving process; This pre-condition is clearly not fulfilled by the robot.

The robot solver follows instead the below approach:

1. All the 18 possible cube moves (U1, U2, U3, .... , B1, B2, B3) the solver can return, are used as keys in a dictionary; There are 18 sets of robot movements (hard coded) associated to these keys. These robot movements consider the cube as ideally positioned: U side facing up and F side facing front.
2. When the robot moves the cube, its orientation is tracked per each applied movement (i.e. after the first U2 move, to follow above example).
3. When the next move must be applied, F1 in our example, the robot solver simply swaps the requested move (F1) to an adapted move; The adapted move reflects the real F side location at that moment in time. Based on the above example, the F1 move will be done by using the servo sequence associated to B1, simply because the F side is located at B side at that moment in time.
4. Above points are considered when the cube solution string is parsed, to generate a string with all the servo movements.

## 29) Python main scripts, high level info:

1. *Cubotino\_T.py* is the main python script on the robot; This scripts imports other custom files.
2. *Cubotino\_T.py* and *Cubotino\_T\_servos.py* scripts use parameters with settings from two json files; This choice to group the parameters has been made for easier management, setting, communication.
3. When the script *Cubotino\_T.py* is started (eventually automatically at the Raspberry pi boots), the script checks if there are monitors connected. The monitor can also be via VNC, i.e. with VNC Viewer. The presence/absence of a monitor is needed to use/skip commands requiring graphical screen communication. This prevents errors, further than having a better experience.
4. Kociemba solver is tentatively imported from different locations; venv, active folder and ‘twophase’ sub-folder under active folder.
5. The script uses a “tentative” approach, on a couple of analysis:
  - a. (See Colour detection strategy chapter for more info ) When the image is analysed, it returns contours of facelets and many unwanted ones; This happens in the function *get\_facelets()*. Afterward, consecutive filters are applied to only keep contours having cube facelet’s requisites. This process ends when 9 facelets, all matching the filters criteria, are retrieved from a single image
  - b. (See Computer Vision chapter for more info) When determining the cube status, according to the facelets colour; The analysis starts with a first method determining each (side and corner) facelet colour, based on the colour distance from the colours of the 6 centers. In case the cube status obtained with this first method is not coherent, then a second method is called. The second method uses the Hue value of each (non-white) facelet, by comparing it to expected (predefined) Hue ranges, adapted upon the Hue measured on the 6 centers. In case also the second method doesn’t provide a coherent cube status, then an error message is returned, and relevant info logged in a text file.
6. Kociemba solver:

Kociemba solver is uploaded at the start; In case of multiple cube solving, no need to reload it  
The detected cube status, with URF notations, is sent to the Kociemba solver.  
The solver, with the chosen parameters, returns the best-found solution within the time-out; The solver doesn’t provide the absolute best solution, as it is too computational (and time) expensive, yet it typically returns a solution with 20 movements or less. Very rarely, the solution has 21 movements, mostly because of the chosen time-out of ‘only’ two seconds.  
The solver returns an error if the cube status is not coherent; This info is then used to attempt the second color assignment method, or to stop by providing error feedback to the display.
7. From cube cube solution to robot movements:

(see Robot solver algorithm chapter for more info) Cube solutions, in Singmaster notation, sent to *Cubotino\_T\_moves.py* that returns a (long) string with the sequence robot movements. Movements are Spin, Rotate, Flip.
8. From cube robot solution to robot movements:

Robot solution string, in Cubotino notation, is sent to *Cubotino\_T\_servos.py* that operates the servos to actuate all the intended movements.

9. Data logged:

Each time the robot solves a cube, or when it gets stopped, the below data is logged in a text file:

| Column name                       | Info                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Date                              | Date and time (yyyymmdd_hhmmss), i.e. 20220428_213439                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| ColorAnalysisWinner               | The approach that has returned a coherent cube status; Possible strings are 'BGR', 'HSV' and 'Error' (when both approaches did not provide a coherent cube status)                                                                          |
| TotRobotTime(s)                   | Time, in seconds, from pressing the start button, until the cube is solved or until the robot is stopped                                                                                                                                    |
| CameraWarmUpTime(s)               | Time, in seconds, from pressing the button, until the robot ends all the camera settings                                                                                                                                                    |
| FaceletsDetectionTime(s)          | Time, in seconds, from pressing the button                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| CubeSolutionTime(s)               | Time, in seconds, used by the Kociemba solver to return the solution                                                                                                                                                                        |
| RobotSolvingTime(s)               | Time, in seconds, to solve the cube from when the cube solution is available                                                                                                                                                                |
| CubeStatus(BGR or HSV or BGR,HSV) | Dictionary with the average colours per each facelet, according to the colour space of the winner detecting method; In case both the detecting methods have failed, then the average colour returned by both the colour spaces are reported |
| CubeStatus                        | Cube status, in URF notation:<br>i.e. RLFDUUDBBLFRURRBDDDRDDFLURULDRFDLUFDLBRLRFLBUBFUBBLBU                                                                                                                                                 |
| CubeSolution                      | Cube solution string, in Singmaster notations:<br>i.e. D2 L2 F2 R3 F2 L1 D2 F2 R3 U2 F1 L1 F3 R1 B2 F3 D3 L2 F2 (19f)                                                                                                                       |

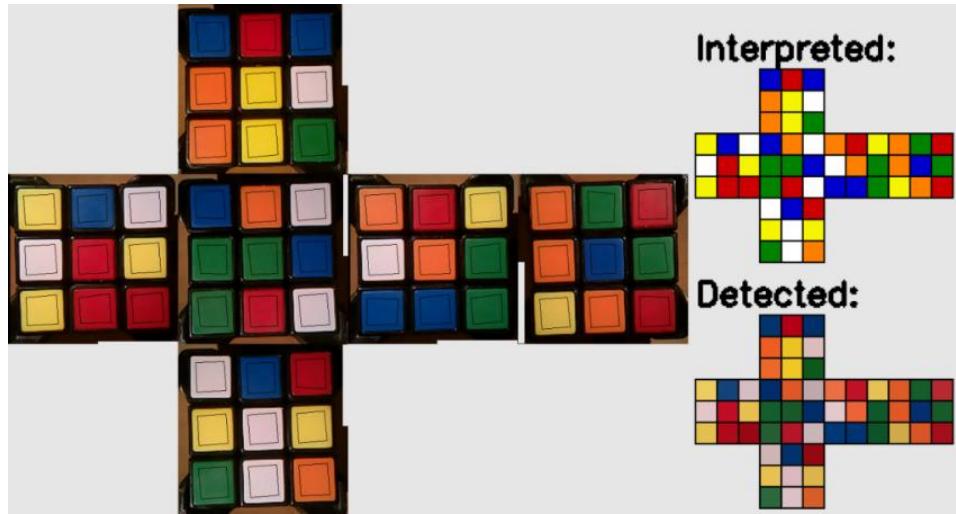
Notes:

1. The folder `Cube_data_log` is made from the folder where `Cubotino_T.py` is running.
2. The logged data is saved in the `Cubotino_solver_log.txt` file.
3. Text file uses tab as separator.

Further than saving data in the text file, a picture of the unfolded cube status is also saved

Folder: CubesStatusPictures

Images: cube\_collage\_date\_time.png



10. Date, and especially time, are used by the robot:

Raspberry pi doesn't have an integrated RTC, therefore when the robot isn't connected to a PC and/or internet, this info could be inaccurate.

If the robot establishes a connection to the Wi-Fi, the system time gets updated, yet this will alter the robot time calculation if the update comes when the robot is solving a cube.

To prevent this problem from happening, the robot script checks at the start-up if there is an internet connection, and in that case, it waits until the system time is updated before proceeding.

In case there aren't internet connections, the robot simply proceeds with the non-updated system time.

In my view this approach is sufficient for reliably timing the robot performances.

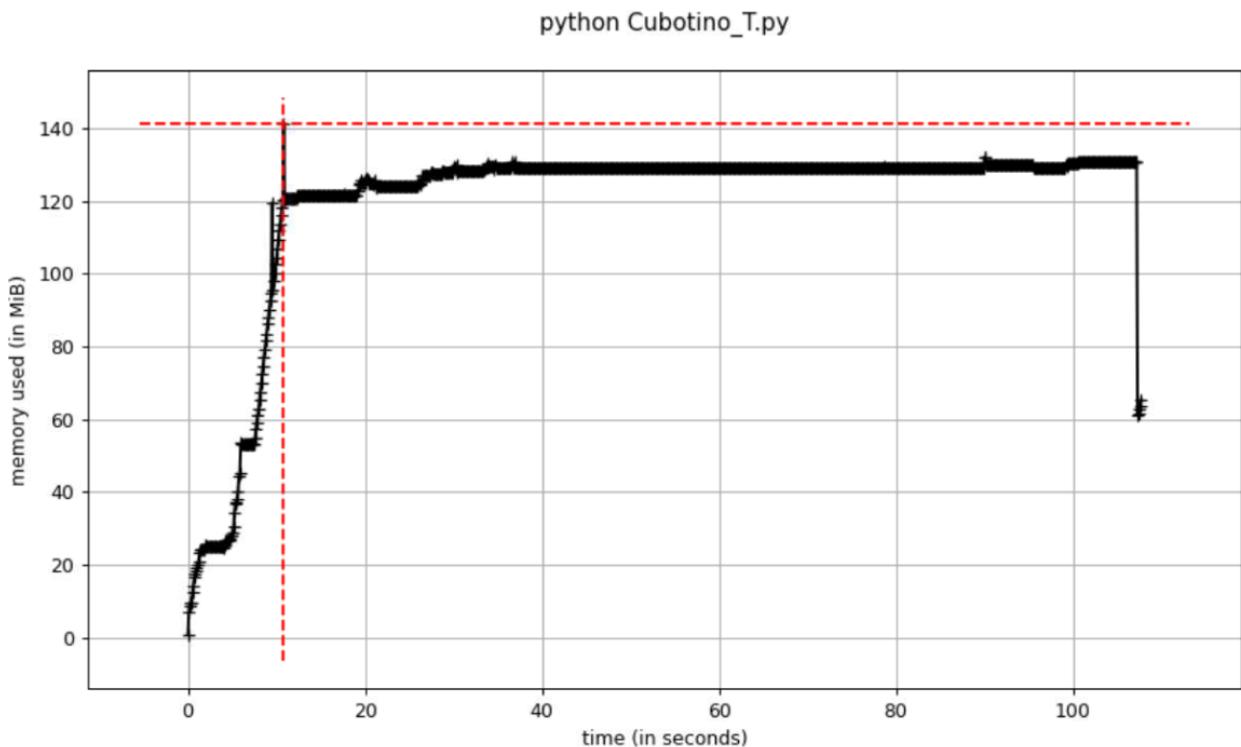
11. Memory profiling

Before running Cubotino\_T.py, the available memory is ~ 180Mb (with some little swapping):

```
(cv) pi@raspberry:~/cube $ free -h
              total        used        free      shared  buff/cache   available
Mem:       364Mi       114Mi      133Mi        21Mi       116Mi      179Mi
Swap:      99Mi        86Mi        13Mi
(cv) pi@raspberry:~/cube $
```

Without VNC Viewer there is somehow lower memory usage; Below plot includes a full cycle:

- import libraries
- read and solve a scrambled cube
- quit the script



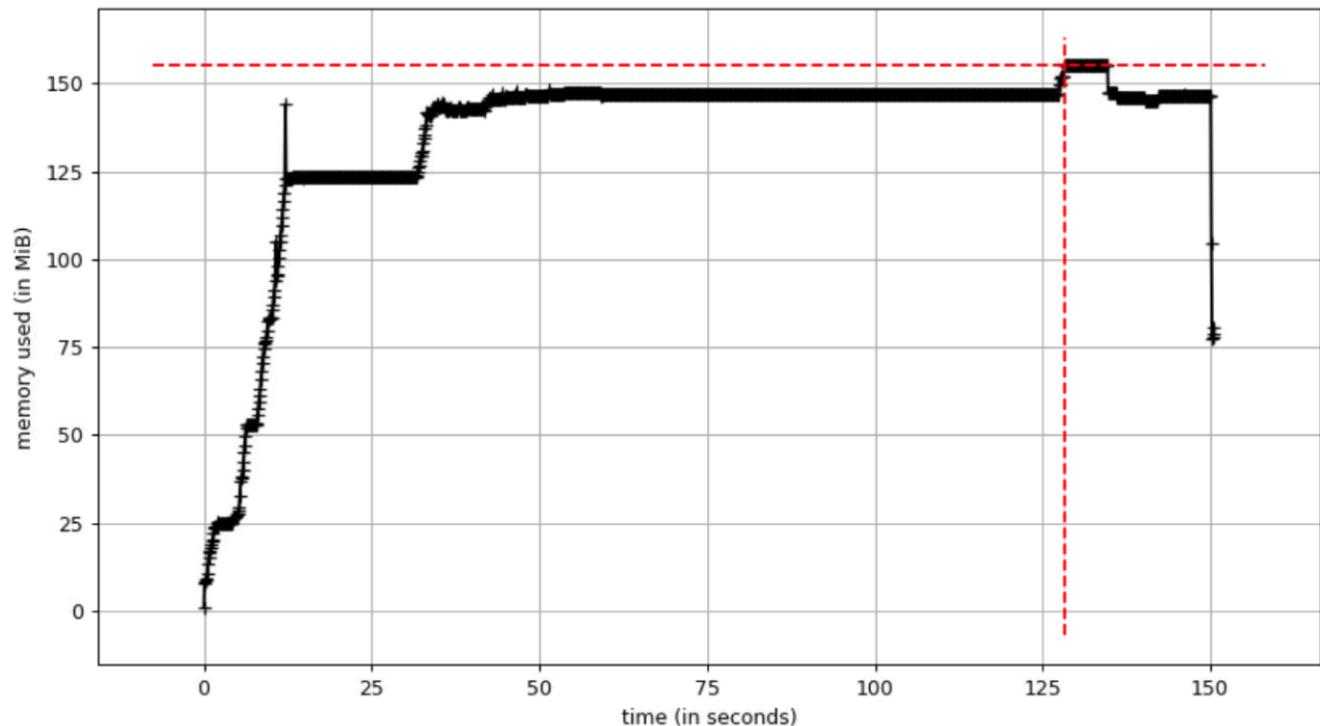
Results:

- 1) There is a peak of about 140Mb at the end of the library import
- 2) Free memory will be on the order of 40 to 50Mb

With VNC Viewer there is somehow larger memory usage; Below plot includes a full cycle:

- import libraries
- sharing of graphical information on PC screen, via VNC
- read and solve a scrambled cube
- quit the script

python Cubotino\_T.py



Results:

- 1) There is a peak of about 155Mb, when the unfolded cube picture collage is shared on screen
- 2) After uninstalling mprof, the memory situation at the unfolded cube picture collage isn't critical, because of the swap memory:

```
pi@raspberry:~ $ free -h
              total        used        free      shared  buff/cache   available
Mem:    364Mi       198Mi       26Mi       13Mi      139Mi      102Mi
Swap:   99Mi        80Mi       19Mi
```

- 3) The swap memory is left on its default value of 100Mb
- 4) the swapiness is also left to its default value of 60.

## 30) Credits

- to Mr. Kociemba, that further than developing the two-phase-algorithm solver, he also wrote a python version of it
- Hans Andersson, with his Tilted Twister ([Tilted Twister 2.0](#)) Lego robot, so inspiring: Very simple yet effective mechanic concept.

Credits in particular for the people I've emailed with along this project:

- Jacques, who triggered me on the colour's sensors direction.
- Richard and Scott, for their keen check of this document and precious feedbacks.
- Yannick, and his initiative to simplify the installation via GitHub repo, further than other improvements to the code.
- Chad, and his initiative to draw the connections board in CAD and sharing the Gerber files with us.
- Kevin, and his extensive availability to test the nightly versions.
- Martin, and his cross testing with other servo types and feeding all of us back.
- all the people who have provided feedbacks.

## 31) Revisions

| Rev | Date       | Notes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 0   | 01/06/2022 | First release.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 1   | 06/06/2022 | <p>Rather large revision, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Modified Structure.stl by adding a hole (to see Raspberry Pi integrated LED)</li><li>• Modified Cubotino_T.py and Cubotino_T_servos.py to upload settings from json files</li><li>• Integrated the list of files to be copied to Raspberry Pi</li><li>• Added a few chapters on this document<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ how to set Thonny</li><li>◦ Parameters and settings</li></ul></li><li>• Improved the Tuning chapter</li><li>• Corrected a mistake at 'setup Raspberry pi interfaces'</li><li>• Made more complete the 'how to use the robot'</li><li>• Modified Rpi setting to include mac address</li></ul> |
| 1.1 | 07/06/2022 | Correct an error on this doc, for the display pin numbers                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 2.0 | 14/6/2022  | <p>Modified Cubotino_T.py</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• to tentatively import Kociemba solver from multiple locations</li><li>• to visualize/save the manipulated images to detect the facelets</li></ul> <p>Added:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Kociemba installation chapter</li><li>• Memory usage info</li></ul> <p>Updated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Troubleshooting, with more details for the Top_cover &lt; -- &gt; Hinge gap and friction</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 2.1 | 17/6/2022  | Corrected typo on the Connections_board                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 2.2 | 18/6/2022  | Added: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 3 stl files, acting as spacers to use Raspberry Pi 3b or 4b instead of Zero 2</li><li>• Info related these new (optional) parts</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 2.3 | 22/6/2022  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Removed the additions made with rev 2.2</li><li>• Modified Cubotino_T.py due to a bug, throwing an error under some rare, yet possible, conditions</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

| Rev | Date       | • Notes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-----|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.0 | 25/6/2022  | <p>Since today, is available a simplified setup for the Raspberry Pi<br/> With this approach, few other changes were necessary, resulting in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modified Cubotino_T.py to better managing permissions on folders and files creation</li> <li>• Updated instruction</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 3.1 | 30/06/2022 | <p>GitHub:<br/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moved the robot specific files into a (src) folder; The folder structure is maintained at Raspberry Pi for easy future updates.</li> </ul> Updated files:<br/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cubotino_T.py due to a bug and to make backups of the settings files</li> <li>• Cubotino_T_bash.sh to point the right folder</li> <li>• setup.sh</li> </ul> Instructions:<br/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removed the Manual installation part (to setup the Raspberry Pi)</li> <li>• Further explained the Simplified installation via GitHub</li> </ul> </p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 3.2 | 06/07/2022 | <p>Modified Cubotino_T.py to be used with Raspberry Pi Zero (not 2) without crashing.<br/> Added some minor improvements</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 3.3 | 09/07/2022 | <p>Modified:<br/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cubotino_T_servos.py to upload the settings when used with the argument ‘—set’, to cover servos having pulse width different from the common 1 to 2ms</li> <li>• Baseplate_front.stl for taller servos (up to 31mm protrusion under the flange)</li> </ul> Instruction:<br/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better covered the usage of servos with different pulse width range</li> <li>• Corrected typos on Cubotino_T_servos.py (the ‘s’ was missed)</li> <li>• Better explained how to set the servos 72positions</li> <li>• Added notes on the max protrusion from the flange, when ‘taller’ servos</li> </ul> </p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 3.4 | 13/07/2022 | <p>Instructions:<br/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corrected typos</li> <li>• Better explained the servos settings</li> </ul> </p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 3.5 | 25/07/2022 | <p>Modified Cubotino_T_servos.py to check and play with the servos positions directly from the command line (additionally from the REPL, as it was so far possible)<br/> At the instructions, better explained how to verify the servos positions.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 3.6 | 06/08/2022 | <p>Modified Cubotino_T.py:<br/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• display is initialized once (thanks Yannick for the nice solution)</li> <li>• frameless cubes can now be detected</li> </ul> Modified Cubotino_T_settings.txt and Cubotino_T_settings_AF.txt, by adding<br/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• frameless_cubes parameter</li> <li>• cover_self_close parameter</li> </ul> Improved or modified the instructions:<br/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alternative servos that can be used</li> <li>• Gerber files for the connections board (thanks to Chad)</li> <li>• frameless_cube parameter</li> <li>• cover_self_close parameter</li> <li>• Troubleshooting for servos</li> <li>• Troubleshooting for cube status detection</li> <li>• Display init and test</li> <li>• Sticking the PiCamera with its self-adhesive tape to the board</li> <li>• Location for the step files</li> </ul> </p> |

## 32) APPENDIX 1: Raspberry Pi setup via GitHub

Terminal printout during Raspberry Pi setup with the simplified method  
(GitHub repository <https://github.com/AndreaFavero71/cubotino.git>)

```
login as: pi
pi@XXX.XXX.X.XX's password:
Linux cubotino 5.10.103-v7+ #1529 SMP Tue Mar 8 12:21:37 GMT 2022 armv7l
```

The programs included with the Debian GNU/Linux system are free software;  
the exact distribution terms for each program are described in the  
individual files in /usr/share/doc/\*copyright.

Debian GNU/Linux comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY, to the extent  
permitted by applicable law.  
Last login: Mon Apr 4 16:04:41 2022

SSH is enabled and the default password for the 'pi' user has not been changed.  
This is a security risk - please login as the 'pi' user and type 'passwd' to set a new password.

```
pi@cubotino:~ $ git clone https://github.com/AndreaFavero71/cubotino.git
Cloning into 'cubotino'...
remote: Enumerating objects: 235, done.
remote: Counting objects: 100% (167/167), done.
remote: Compressing objects: 100% (145/145), done.
remote: Total 235 (delta 96), reused 36 (delta 16), pack-reused 68
Receiving objects: 100% (235/235), 90.74 MiB | 2.02 MiB/s, done.
Resolving deltas: 100% (102/102), done.
Checking out files: 100% (52/52), done.
```

```
pi@cubotino:~ $ cd cubotino/src
pi@cubotino:~/cubotino/src $ sudo ./install/setup.sh
```

*Deactivating graphical login*

*configuring config file*

*Updating packages*

```
Get:1 http://raspbian.raspberrypi.org/raspbian buster InRelease [15.0 kB]
Get:2 http://archive.raspberrypi.org/debian buster InRelease [32.6 kB]
Get:3 http://raspbian.raspberrypi.org/raspbian buster/main armhf Packages [13.0 MB]
Get:4 http://archive.raspberrypi.org/debian buster/main armhf Packages [391 kB]
Fetched 13.4 MB in 14s (983 kB/s)
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree
Reading state information... Done
58 packages can be upgraded. Run 'apt list --upgradable' to see them.
The following package was automatically installed and is no longer required:
libdav1d3
Use 'sudo apt autoremove' to remove it.
The following NEW packages will be installed:
libva-wayland2
The following packages will be upgraded:
cifs-utils cups cups-client cups-common cups-core-drivers cups-daemon cups-ipp-utils cups-ppdc cups-server-common dpkg dpkg-dev ffmpeg
gzip libavcodec58 libavdevice58 libavfilter7
```

libavformat58 libavresample4 libavutil56 libcups2 libcupsimage2 libdpkg-perl libjavascriptcoregtk-4.0-18 libldap-2.4-2 libldap-common liblzma5  
libntfs-3g883 libopenexr23 libperl5.28  
libpostproc55 libssl1.1 libswresample3 libswscale5 libvlc-bin libvlc5 libvlccore9 libwebkit2gtk-4.0-37 libxml2 ntfs-3g openssl perl perl-base perl-modules-5.28 rsyslog tzdata vlc  
vlc-bin vlc-data vlc-l10n vlc-plugin-base vlc-plugin-notify vlc-plugin-qt vlc-plugin-samba vlc-plugin-skins2 vlc-plugin-video-output vlc-plugin-video-splitter vlc-plugin-visualization  
xz-utils  
58 upgraded, 1 newly installed, 0 to remove and 0 not upgraded.  
Need to get 62.8 MB of archives.  
After this operation, 3,554 kB of additional disk space will be used.  
apt-listchanges: Reading changelogs...  
Extracting templates from packages: 100%  
Preconfiguring packages ...  
(Reading database ... 98959 files and directories currently installed.)  
Preparing to unpack .../archives/dpkg\_1.19.8\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking dpkg (1.19.8) over (1.19.7) ...  
Setting up dpkg (1.19.8) ...  
(Reading database ... 98959 files and directories currently installed.)  
Preparing to unpack .../gzip\_1.9-3+deb10u1\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking gzip (1.9-3+deb10u1) over (1.9-3) ...  
Setting up gzip (1.9-3+deb10u1) ...  
(Reading database ... 98959 files and directories currently installed.)  
Preparing to unpack .../libperl5.28\_5.28.1-6+deb10u1\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking libperl5.28:armhf (5.28.1-6+deb10u1) over (5.28.1-6) ...  
Preparing to unpack .../perl\_5.28.1-6+deb10u1\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking perl (5.28.1-6+deb10u1) over (5.28.1-6) ...  
Preparing to unpack .../perl-base\_5.28.1-6+deb10u1\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking perl-base (5.28.1-6+deb10u1) over (5.28.1-6) ...  
Setting up perl-base (5.28.1-6+deb10u1) ...  
(Reading database ... 98959 files and directories currently installed.)  
Preparing to unpack .../perl-modules-5.28\_5.28.1-6+deb10u1\_all.deb ...  
Unpacking perl-modules-5.28 (5.28.1-6+deb10u1) over (5.28.1-6) ...  
Preparing to unpack .../rsyslog\_8.1901.0-1+deb10u2\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking rsyslog (8.1901.0-1+deb10u2) over (8.1901.0-1+deb10u1) ...  
Preparing to unpack .../ntfs-3g\_1%3a2017.3.23AR.3-3+deb10u2\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking ntfs-3g (1:2017.3.23AR.3-3+deb10u2) over (1:2017.3.23AR.3-3+deb10u1) ...  
Preparing to unpack .../libntfs-3g883\_1%3a2017.3.23AR.3-3+deb10u2\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking libntfs-3g883 (1:2017.3.23AR.3-3+deb10u2) over (1:2017.3.23AR.3-3+deb10u1) ...  
Preparing to unpack .../libldap-common\_2.4.47+dfsg-3+rpi1+deb10u7\_all.deb ...  
Unpacking libldap-common (2.4.47+dfsg-3+rpi1+deb10u7) over (2.4.47+dfsg-3+rpi1+deb10u6) ...  
Setting up libldap-common (2.4.47+dfsg-3+rpi1+deb10u7) ...  
(Reading database ... 98959 files and directories currently installed.)  
Preparing to unpack .../libldap-2.4-2\_2.4.47+dfsg-3+rpi1+deb10u7\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking libldap-2.4-2:armhf (2.4.47+dfsg-3+rpi1+deb10u7) over (2.4.47+dfsg-3+rpi1+deb10u6) ...  
Setting up libldap-2.4-2:armhf (2.4.47+dfsg-3+rpi1+deb10u7) ...  
(Reading database ... 98959 files and directories currently installed.)  
Preparing to unpack .../liblzma5\_5.2.4-1+deb10u1\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking liblzma5:armhf (5.2.4-1+deb10u1) over (5.2.4-1) ...  
Setting up liblzma5:armhf (5.2.4-1+deb10u1) ...  
(Reading database ... 98959 files and directories currently installed.)  
Preparing to unpack .../00-tzdata\_2021a-0+deb10u5\_all.deb ...  
Unpacking tzdata (2021a-0+deb10u5) over (2021a-0+deb10u4) ...  
Preparing to unpack .../01-xz-utils\_5.2.4-1+deb10u1\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking xz-utils (5.2.4-1+deb10u1) over (5.2.4-1) ...  
Preparing to unpack .../02-cifs-utils\_2%3a6.8-2+deb10u1\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking cifs-utils (2:6.8-2+deb10u1) over (2:6.8-2) ...  
Preparing to unpack .../03-libcupsimage2\_2.2.10-6+deb10u6\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking libcupsimage2:armhf (2.2.10-6+deb10u6) over (2.2.10-6+deb10u5) ...  
Preparing to unpack .../04-cups-ipp-utils\_2.2.10-6+deb10u6\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking cups-ipp-utils (2.2.10-6+deb10u6) over (2.2.10-6+deb10u5) ...  
Preparing to unpack .../05-cups-daemon\_2.2.10-6+deb10u6\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking cups-daemon (2.2.10-6+deb10u6) over (2.2.10-6+deb10u5) ...  
Preparing to unpack .../06-cups-core-drivers\_2.2.10-6+deb10u6\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking cups-core-drivers (2.2.10-6+deb10u6) over (2.2.10-6+deb10u5) ...

Preparing to unpack .../07-cups-server-common\_2.2.10-6+deb10u6\_all.deb ...  
Unpacking cups-server-common (2.2.10-6+deb10u6) over (2.2.10-6+deb10u5) ...  
Preparing to unpack .../08-cups-common\_2.2.10-6+deb10u6\_all.deb ...  
Unpacking cups-common (2.2.10-6+deb10u6) over (2.2.10-6+deb10u5) ...  
Preparing to unpack .../09-cups-client\_2.2.10-6+deb10u6\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking cups-client (2.2.10-6+deb10u6) over (2.2.10-6+deb10u5) ...  
Preparing to unpack .../10-cups\_2.2.10-6+deb10u6\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking cups (2.2.10-6+deb10u6) over (2.2.10-6+deb10u5) ...  
Preparing to unpack .../11-libcups2\_2.2.10-6+deb10u6\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking libcups2:armhf (2.2.10-6+deb10u6) over (2.2.10-6+deb10u5) ...  
Preparing to unpack .../12-cups-ppdc\_2.2.10-6+deb10u6\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking cups-ppdc (2.2.10-6+deb10u6) over (2.2.10-6+deb10u5) ...  
Preparing to unpack .../13-dpkg-dev\_1.19.8\_all.deb ...  
Unpacking dpkg-dev (1.19.8) over (1.19.7) ...  
Preparing to unpack .../14-libdpkg-perl\_1.19.8\_all.deb ...  
Unpacking libdpkg-perl (1.19.8) over (1.19.7) ...  
Preparing to unpack .../15-ffmpeg\_7%3a4.1.9-0+deb10u1+rpt1\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking ffmpeg (7:4.1.9-0+deb10u1+rpt1) over (7:4.1.8-0+deb10u1+rpt1) ...  
Preparing to unpack .../16-libavdevice58\_7%3a4.1.9-0+deb10u1+rpt1\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking libavdevice58:armhf (7:4.1.9-0+deb10u1+rpt1) over (7:4.1.8-0+deb10u1+rpt1) ...  
Preparing to unpack .../17-libavfilter7\_7%3a4.1.9-0+deb10u1+rpt1\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking libavfilter7:armhf (7:4.1.9-0+deb10u1+rpt1) over (7:4.1.8-0+deb10u1+rpt1) ...  
Preparing to unpack .../18-libswscale5\_7%3a4.1.9-0+deb10u1+rpt1\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking libswscale5:armhf (7:4.1.9-0+deb10u1+rpt1) over (7:4.1.8-0+deb10u1+rpt1) ...  
Preparing to unpack .../19-libavformat58\_7%3a4.1.9-0+deb10u1+rpt1\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking libavformat58:armhf (7:4.1.9-0+deb10u1+rpt1) over (7:4.1.8-0+deb10u1+rpt1) ...  
Preparing to unpack .../20-libavcodec58\_7%3a4.1.9-0+deb10u1+rpt1\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking libavcodec58:armhf (7:4.1.9-0+deb10u1+rpt1) over (7:4.1.8-0+deb10u1+rpt1) ...  
Preparing to unpack .../21-libswresample3\_7%3a4.1.9-0+deb10u1+rpt1\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking libswresample3:armhf (7:4.1.9-0+deb10u1+rpt1) over (7:4.1.8-0+deb10u1+rpt1) ...  
Preparing to unpack .../22-libpostproc55\_7%3a4.1.9-0+deb10u1+rpt1\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking libpostproc55:armhf (7:4.1.9-0+deb10u1+rpt1) over (7:4.1.8-0+deb10u1+rpt1) ...  
Preparing to unpack .../23-libavresample4\_7%3a4.1.9-0+deb10u1+rpt1\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking libavresample4:armhf (7:4.1.9-0+deb10u1+rpt1) over (7:4.1.8-0+deb10u1+rpt1) ...  
Preparing to unpack .../24-libavutil56\_7%3a4.1.9-0+deb10u1+rpt1\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking libavutil56:armhf (7:4.1.9-0+deb10u1+rpt1) over (7:4.1.8-0+deb10u1+rpt1) ...  
Preparing to unpack .../25-libxml2\_2.9.4+dfsg1-7+deb10u4\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking libxml2:armhf (2.9.4+dfsg1-7+deb10u4) over (2.9.4+dfsg1-7+deb10u3) ...  
Preparing to unpack .../26-libwebkit2gtk-4.0-37\_2.36.3-1~deb10u1+rpi1\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking libwebkit2gtk-4.0-37:armhf (2.36.3-1~deb10u1+rpi1) over (2.34.6-1~deb10u1+rpi1) ...  
Preparing to unpack .../27-libjavascriptcoregtk-4.0-18\_2.36.3-1~deb10u1+rpi1\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking libjavascriptcoregtk-4.0-18:armhf (2.36.3-1~deb10u1+rpi1) over (2.34.6-1~deb10u1+rpi1) ...  
Preparing to unpack .../28-libopenexr23\_2.2.1-4.1+deb10u1\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking libopenexr23:armhf (2.2.1-4.1+deb10u1) over (2.2.1-4.1) ...  
Preparing to unpack .../29-libssl1.1\_1.1.1n-0+deb10u2\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking libssl1.1:armhf (1.1.1n-0+deb10u2) over (1.1.1n-0+deb10u1) ...  
Selecting previously unselected package libva-wayland2:armhf.  
Preparing to unpack .../30-libva-wayland2\_2.4.0-1\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking libva-wayland2:armhf (2.4.0-1) ...  
Preparing to unpack .../31-libvlccore9\_3.0.17.4-0+deb10u1\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking libvlccore9:armhf (3.0.17.4-0+deb10u1) over (3.0.12-0+deb10u1+rpt3) ...  
Preparing to unpack .../32-vlc-plugin-skins2\_3.0.17.4-0+deb10u1\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking vlc-plugin-skins2:armhf (3.0.17.4-0+deb10u1) over (3.0.12-0+deb10u1+rpt3) ...  
Preparing to unpack .../33-vlc\_3.0.17.4-0+deb10u1\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking vlc (3.0.17.4-0+deb10u1) over (3.0.12-0+deb10u1+rpt3) ...  
Preparing to unpack .../34-vlc-plugin-qt\_3.0.17.4-0+deb10u1\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking vlc-plugin-qt:armhf (3.0.17.4-0+deb10u1) over (3.0.12-0+deb10u1+rpt3) ...  
Preparing to unpack .../35-vlc-plugin-video-output\_3.0.17.4-0+deb10u1\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking vlc-plugin-video-output:armhf (3.0.17.4-0+deb10u1) over (3.0.12-0+deb10u1+rpt3) ...  
Preparing to unpack .../36-vlc-l10n\_3.0.17.4-0+deb10u1\_all.deb ...  
Unpacking vlc-l10n (3.0.17.4-0+deb10u1) over (3.0.12-0+deb10u1+rpt3) ...  
Preparing to unpack .../37-vlc-plugin-base\_3.0.17.4-0+deb10u1\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking vlc-plugin-base:armhf (3.0.17.4-0+deb10u1) over (3.0.12-0+deb10u1+rpt3) ...  
Preparing to unpack .../38-vlc-data\_3.0.17.4-0+deb10u1\_all.deb ...

Unpacking vlc-data (3.0.17.4-0+deb10u1) over (3.0.12-0+deb10u1+rpt3) ...  
Preparing to unpack .../39-libvlc5\_3.0.17.4-0+deb10u1\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking libvlc5:armhf (3.0.17.4-0+deb10u1) over (3.0.12-0+deb10u1+rpt3) ...  
Preparing to unpack .../40-vlc-bin\_3.0.17.4-0+deb10u1\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking vlc-bin (3.0.17.4-0+deb10u1) over (3.0.12-0+deb10u1+rpt3) ...  
Preparing to unpack .../41-libvlc-bin\_3.0.17.4-0+deb10u1\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking libvlc-bin:armhf (3.0.17.4-0+deb10u1) over (3.0.12-0+deb10u1+rpt3) ...  
Preparing to unpack .../42-openssl\_1.1.1n-0+deb10u2\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking openssl (1.1.1n-0+deb10u2) over (1.1.1n-0+deb10u1) ...  
Preparing to unpack .../43-vlc-plugin-notify\_3.0.17.4-0+deb10u1\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking vlc-plugin-notify:armhf (3.0.17.4-0+deb10u1) over (3.0.12-0+deb10u1+rpt3) ...  
Preparing to unpack .../44-vlc-plugin-samba\_3.0.17.4-0+deb10u1\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking vlc-plugin-samba:armhf (3.0.17.4-0+deb10u1) over (3.0.12-0+deb10u1+rpt3) ...  
Preparing to unpack .../45-vlc-plugin-video-splitter\_3.0.17.4-0+deb10u1\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking vlc-plugin-video-splitter:armhf (3.0.17.4-0+deb10u1) over (3.0.12-0+deb10u1+rpt3) ...  
Preparing to unpack .../46-vlc-plugin-visualization\_3.0.17.4-0+deb10u1\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking vlc-plugin-visualization:armhf (3.0.17.4-0+deb10u1) over (3.0.12-0+deb10u1+rpt3) ...  
Setting up perl-modules-5.28 (5.28.1-6+deb10u1) ...  
Setting up cups-server-common (2.2.10-6+deb10u6) ...  
Setting up libssl1.1:armhf (1.1.1n-0+deb10u2) ...  
Setting up cups-common (2.2.10-6+deb10u6) ...  
Setting up rsyslog (8.1901.0-1+deb10u2) ...  
Setting up cifs-utils (2:6.8-2+deb10u1) ...  
Setting up libjavascriptcoregtk-4.0-18:armhf (2.36.3-1~deb10u1+rpi1) ...  
Setting up libntfs-3g883 (1:2017.3.23AR.3-3+deb10u2) ...  
Setting up libopenexr23:armhf (2.2.1-4.1+deb10u1) ...  
Setting up vlc-l10n (3.0.17.4-0+deb10u1) ...  
Setting up ntfs-3g (1:2017.3.23AR.3-3+deb10u2) ...  
Setting up libavutil56:armhf (7:4.1.9-0+deb10u1+rpt1) ...  
Setting up tzdata (2021a-0+deb10u5) ...

Current default time zone: 'Europe/Amsterdam'  
Local time is now: Sat Jun 25 21:32:14 CEST 2022.  
Universal Time is now: Sat Jun 25 19:32:14 UTC 2022.  
Run 'dpkg-reconfigure tzdata' if you wish to change it.

Setting up xz-utils (5.2.4-1+deb10u1) ...  
Setting up libpostproc55:armhf (7:4.1.9-0+deb10u1+rpt1) ...  
Setting up libperl5.28:armhf (5.28.1-6+deb10u1) ...  
Setting up libvlccore9:armhf (3.0.17.4-0+deb10u1) ...  
Setting up libva-wayland2:armhf (2.4.0-1) ...  
Setting up libcups2:armhf (2.2.10-6+deb10u6) ...  
Setting up vlc-plugin-qt:armhf (3.0.17.4-0+deb10u1) ...  
Setting up libswscale5:armhf (7:4.1.9-0+deb10u1+rpt1) ...  
Setting up openssl (1.1.1n-0+deb10u2) ...  
Setting up libxml2:armhf (2.9.4+dfsg1-7+deb10u4) ...  
Setting up vlc-data (3.0.17.4-0+deb10u1) ...  
Setting up vlc-plugin-notify:armhf (3.0.17.4-0+deb10u1) ...  
Setting up vlc-plugin-samba:armhf (3.0.17.4-0+deb10u1) ...  
Setting up cups-ipp-utils (2.2.10-6+deb10u6) ...  
Setting up cups-ppdc (2.2.10-6+deb10u6) ...  
Setting up vlc-plugin-skins2:armhf (3.0.17.4-0+deb10u1) ...  
Setting up vlc-plugin-video-splitter:armhf (3.0.17.4-0+deb10u1) ...  
Setting up libvlc5:armhf (3.0.17.4-0+deb10u1) ...  
Setting up libswresample3:armhf (7:4.1.9-0+deb10u1+rpt1) ...  
Setting up libavresample4:armhf (7:4.1.9-0+deb10u1+rpt1) ...  
Setting up libcupsimage2:armhf (2.2.10-6+deb10u6) ...  
Setting up vlc-plugin-visualization:armhf (3.0.17.4-0+deb10u1) ...  
Setting up perl (5.28.1-6+deb10u1) ...  
Setting up cups-daemon (2.2.10-6+deb10u6) ...  
Setting up libdpkg-perl (1.19.8) ...  
Setting up libwebkit2gtk-4.0-37:armhf (2.36.3-1~deb10u1+rpi1) ...  
Setting up libvlc-bin:armhf (3.0.17.4-0+deb10u1) ...  
Setting up libavcodec58:armhf (7:4.1.9-0+deb10u1+rpt1) ...

```
Setting up vlc-plugin-video-output:armhf (3.0.17.4-0+deb10u1) ...
Setting up cups-core-drivers (2.2.10-6+deb10u6) ...
Setting up libavformat58:armhf (7:4.1.9-0+deb10u1+rpt1) ...
Setting up vlc-bin (3.0.17.4-0+deb10u1) ...
Setting up cups-client (2.2.10-6+deb10u6) ...
Setting up dpkg-dev (1.19.8) ...
Setting up libavfilter7:armhf (7:4.1.9-0+deb10u1+rpt1) ...
Setting up vlc-plugin-base:armhf (3.0.17.4-0+deb10u1) ...
Setting up vlc (3.0.17.4-0+deb10u1) ...
Setting up cups (2.2.10-6+deb10u6) ...
Updating PPD files for cups ...
Updating PPD files for cups-filters ...
Updating PPD files for escpr ...
Updating PPD files for gutenprint ...
Updating PPD files for hpcups ...
Updating PPD files for postscript-hp ...
Setting up libavdevice58:armhf (7:4.1.9-0+deb10u1+rpt1) ...
Setting up ffmpeg (7:4.1.9-0+deb10u1+rpt1) ...
Processing triggers for desktop-file-utils (0.23-4) ...
Processing triggers for mime-support (3.62) ...
Processing triggers for initramfs-tools (0.133+deb10u1) ...
Processing triggers for hicolor-icon-theme (0.17-2) ...
Processing triggers for gnome-menus (3.31.4-3) ...
Processing triggers for libc-bin (2.28-10+rpt2+rpi1) ...
Processing triggers for systemd (241-7~deb10u8+rpi1) ...
Processing triggers for man-db (2.8.5-2) ...
Processing triggers for install-info (6.5.0.dfsg.1-4+b1) ...
Processing triggers for libvlc-bin:armhf (3.0.17.4-0+deb10u1) ...
```

### *Removing old packages*

The following packages were automatically installed and are no longer required:

```
libdav1d3 librtimulib-dev librtimulib-utils librtimulib7 python-olefile python-pil python-rtimulib python-sense-hat python3-rtimulib
Use 'sudo apt autoremove' to remove them.
```

The following packages will be REMOVED:

```
python3-microdotphat python3-numpy python3-pgzero python3-picamera python3-pygame python3-scrollphathd python3-sense-hat python3-unicornhathd sense-hat
```

0 upgraded, 0 newly installed, 9 to remove and 0 not upgraded.

After this operation, 13.9 MB disk space will be freed.

(Reading database ... 98972 files and directories currently installed.)

```
Removing python3-microdotphat (0.2.1) ...
Removing python3-unicornhathd (0.0.4) ...
Removing python3-pgzero (1.2.post4+dfsg-2) ...
Removing python3-pygame (1.9.4.post1+dfsg-3) ...
Removing sense-hat (1.2) ...
Removing python3-sense-hat (2.2.0-1) ...
Removing python3-picamera (1.13) ...
Removing python3-scrollphathd (1.2.1) ...
Removing python3-numpy (1:1.16.2-1) ...
Processing triggers for man-db (2.8.5-2) ...
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree
Reading state information... Done
```

The following packages will be REMOVED:

```
libdav1d3 librtimulib-dev librtimulib-utils librtimulib7 python-olefile python-pil python-rtimulib python-sense-hat python3-rtimulib
0 upgraded, 0 newly installed, 9 to remove and 0 not upgraded.
```

After this operation, 2,954 kB disk space will be freed.

(Reading database ... 98295 files and directories currently installed.)

```
Removing libdav1d3:armhf (0.5.1-1~bpo10~1) ...
Removing librtimulib-dev (7.2.1-5) ...
Removing librtimulib-utils (7.2.1-5) ...
Removing python3-rtimulib (7.2.1-5) ...
Removing python-sense-hat (2.2.0-1) ...
Removing python-rtimulib (7.2.1-5) ...
```



Selecting previously unselected package libjasper-runtime.  
Preparing to unpack .../11-libjasper-runtime\_1.900.1-debian1-2.4+deb8u1\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking libjasper-runtime (1.900.1-debian1-2.4+deb8u1) ...  
Selecting previously unselected package qtcore4-l10n.  
Preparing to unpack .../12-qtcore4-l10n\_4%3a4.8.7+dfsg-18+rpi1+deb10u1\_all.deb ...  
Unpacking qtcore4-l10n (4:4.8.7+dfsg-18+rpi1+deb10u1) ...  
Selecting previously unselected package libqtcore4:armhf.  
Preparing to unpack .../13-libqtcore4\_4%3a4.8.7+dfsg-18+rpi1+deb10u1\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking libqtcore4:armhf (4:4.8.7+dfsg-18+rpi1+deb10u1) ...  
Selecting previously unselected package libqt4-xml:armhf.  
Preparing to unpack .../14-libqt4-xml\_4%3a4.8.7+dfsg-18+rpi1+deb10u1\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking libqt4-xml:armhf (4:4.8.7+dfsg-18+rpi1+deb10u1) ...  
Selecting previously unselected package libqtdbus4:armhf.  
Preparing to unpack .../15-libqtdbus4\_4%3a4.8.7+dfsg-18+rpi1+deb10u1\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking libqtdbus4:armhf (4:4.8.7+dfsg-18+rpi1+deb10u1) ...  
Selecting previously unselected package qtchooser.  
Preparing to unpack .../16-qtchooser\_66-2\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking qtchooser (66-2) ...  
Selecting previously unselected package qdbus.  
Preparing to unpack .../17-qdbus\_4%3a4.8.7+dfsg-18+rpi1+deb10u1\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking qdbus (4:4.8.7+dfsg-18+rpi1+deb10u1) ...  
Selecting previously unselected package libqt4-dbus:armhf.  
Preparing to unpack .../18-libqt4-dbus\_4%3a4.8.7+dfsg-18+rpi1+deb10u1\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking libqt4-dbus:armhf (4:4.8.7+dfsg-18+rpi1+deb10u1) ...  
Selecting previously unselected package libqt4-test:armhf.  
Preparing to unpack .../19-libqt4-test\_4%3a4.8.7+dfsg-18+rpi1+deb10u1\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking libqt4-test:armhf (4:4.8.7+dfsg-18+rpi1+deb10u1) ...  
Selecting previously unselected package libqtgui4:armhf.  
Preparing to unpack .../20-libqtgui4\_4%3a4.8.7+dfsg-18+rpi1+deb10u1\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking libqtgui4:armhf (4:4.8.7+dfsg-18+rpi1+deb10u1) ...  
Selecting previously unselected package python3-numpy.  
Preparing to unpack .../21-python3-numpy\_1%3a1.16.2-1\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking python3-numpy (1:1.16.2-1) ...  
Selecting previously unselected package python3-h5py.  
Preparing to unpack .../22-python3-h5py\_2.8.0-3\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking python3-h5py (2.8.0-3) ...  
Selecting previously unselected package qt-at-spi:armhf.  
Preparing to unpack .../23-qt-at-spi\_0.4.0-9\_armhf.deb ...  
Unpacking qt-at-spi:armhf (0.4.0-9) ...  
Setting up libjpeg8:armhf (8d1-2) ...  
Setting up libmng1:armhf (1.0.10+dfsg-3.1) ...  
Setting up libatlas3-base:armhf (3.10.3-8+rpi1) ...  
update-alternatives: using /usr/lib/arm-linux-gnueabihf/atlas/libblas.so.3 to provide /usr/lib/arm-linux-gnueabihf/libblas.so.3 (libblas.so.3-arm-linux-gnueabihf) in auto mode  
update-alternatives: using /usr/lib/arm-linux-gnueabihf/atlas/liblapack.so.3 to provide /usr/lib/arm-linux-gnueabihf/liblapack.so.3 (liblapack.so.3-arm-linux-gnueabihf) in auto mode  
Setting up freeglut3:armhf (2.8.1-3) ...  
Setting up libatlas-base-dev:armhf (3.10.3-8+rpi1) ...  
update-alternatives: using /usr/lib/arm-linux-gnueabihf/atlas/libblas.so to provide /usr/lib/arm-linux-gnueabihf/libblas.so (libblas.so-arm-linux-gnueabihf) in auto mode  
update-alternatives: using /usr/lib/arm-linux-gnueabihf/atlas/liblapack.so to provide /usr/lib/arm-linux-gnueabihf/liblapack.so (liblapack.so-arm-linux-gnueabihf) in auto mode  
Setting up libaec0:armhf (1.0.2-1) ...  
Setting up libaudio2:armhf (1.9.4-6) ...  
Setting up python3-numpy (1:1.16.2-1) ...  
Setting up libjasper1:armhf (1.900.1-debian1-2.4+deb8u1) ...  
Setting up libglu1-mesa:armhf (9.0.0-2.1) ...  
Setting up qtchooser (66-2) ...  
Setting up libsz2:armhf (1.0.2-1) ...  
Setting up qtcore4-l10n (4:4.8.7+dfsg-18+rpi1+deb10u1) ...  
Setting up libjasper-runtime (1.900.1-debian1-2.4+deb8u1) ...  
Setting up libhdf5-103:armhf (1.10.4+repack-10) ...  
Setting up python3-h5py (2.8.0-3) ...  
Setting up libqtcore4:armhf (4:4.8.7+dfsg-18+rpi1+deb10u1) ...

```
Setting up libqtgui4:armhf (4:4.8.7+dfsg-18+rpi1+deb10u1) ...
Setting up libqt4-xml:armhf (4:4.8.7+dfsg-18+rpi1+deb10u1) ...
Setting up libqt4-test:armhf (4:4.8.7+dfsg-18+rpi1+deb10u1) ...
Setting up libqtdbus4:armhf (4:4.8.7+dfsg-18+rpi1+deb10u1) ...
Setting up qdbus (4:4.8.7+dfsg-18+rpi1+deb10u1) ...
Setting up libqt4-dbus:armhf (4:4.8.7+dfsg-18+rpi1+deb10u1) ...
Setting up qt-at-spi:armhf (0.4.0-9) ...
Processing triggers for man-db (2.8.5-2) ...
Processing triggers for libc-bin (2.28-10+rpt2+rpi1) ...
```

### *Creating python virtual env*

#### *Installing required python packages*

```
Looking in indexes: https://pypi.org/simple, https://www.piwheels.org/simple
Collecting numpy==1.21.4
  Downloading https://www.piwheels.org/simple/numpy/numpy-1.21.4-cp37-cp37m-linux_armv7l.whl (12.3MB)
    100% |██████████| 12.3MB 18kB/s
Installing collected packages: numpy
  Found existing installation: numpy 1.16.2
    Not uninstalling numpy at /usr/lib/python3/dist-packages, outside environment /home/pi/cubotino/.virtualenvs
      Can't uninstall 'numpy'. No files were found to uninstall.
Successfully installed numpy-1.21.4
Looking in indexes: https://pypi.org/simple, https://www.piwheels.org/simple
Collecting picamera[array]
  Downloading https://www.piwheels.org/simple/picamera/picamera-1.13-py3-none-any.whl (154kB)
    100% |██████████| 163kB 932kB/s
Requirement already satisfied: numpy; extra == "array" in ./virtualenvs/lib/python3.7/site-packages (from picamera[array]) (1.21.4)
Installing collected packages: picamera
Successfully installed picamera-1.13
Looking in indexes: https://pypi.org/simple, https://www.piwheels.org/simple
Collecting opencv-contrib-python==4.1.0.25
  Downloading https://www.piwheels.org/simple/opencv-contrib-python/opencv_contrib_python-4.1.0.25-cp37-cp37m-linux_armv7l.whl (15.7MB)
    100% |██████████| 15.7MB 14kB/s
Requirement already satisfied: numpy>=1.16.2 in ./virtualenvs/lib/python3.7/site-packages (from opencv-contrib-python==4.1.0.25) (1.21.4)
Installing collected packages: opencv-contrib-python
Successfully installed opencv-contrib-python-4.1.0.25
Looking in indexes: https://pypi.org/simple, https://www.piwheels.org/simple
Collecting st7735==0.0.4.post1
  Downloading https://www.piwheels.org/simple/st7735/ST7735-0.0.4.post1-py3-none-any.whl
Requirement already satisfied: spidev>=3.4 in /usr/lib/python3/dist-packages (from st7735==0.0.4.post1) (3.5)
Installing collected packages: st7735
Successfully installed st7735-0.0.4.post1
Looking in indexes: https://pypi.org/simple, https://www.piwheels.org/simple
Collecting RubikTwoPhase==1.0.9
  Downloading https://files.pythonhosted.org/packages/67/2c/a364a9f603f1165ad34f0f914a7fdfe1939d873d39017540c19346ccde5b/RubikTwoPhase-1.0.9-py3-none-any.whl (53kB)
    100% |██████████| 61kB 615kB/s
Installing collected packages: RubikTwoPhase
Successfully installed RubikTwoPhase-1.0.9
Looking in indexes: https://pypi.org/simple, https://www.piwheels.org/simple
Collecting getmac==0.8.3
  Downloading https://files.pythonhosted.org/packages/ea/ad/7821cbe819079c037a1e1a89a41d9e43b767052307fa474ed0b425394fc/getmac-0.8.3-py2.py3-none-any.whl
Installing collected packages: getmac
Successfully installed getmac-0.8.3
```

### *Configuring pigpiod to start on boot*

Created symlink /etc/systemd/system/multi-user.target.wants/pigpiod.service → /lib/systemd/system/pigpiod.service.

*Configuring vnc server to run at startup and prepare setup for cubotino*

*Reboot now? (y/n)*

### 33) APPENDIX 2: Assembly details

**Step4** (Mount the bottom servo to the structure):

4x M3x12mm cylindrical head

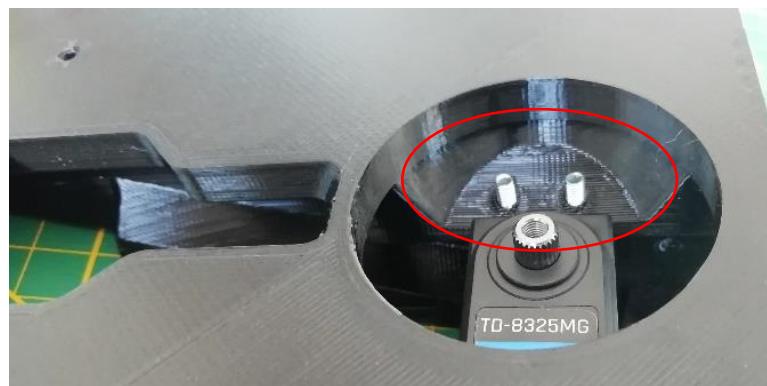
Couple of washers

To reach these screws it's necessary to use a narrow Allen key:



Couple of notes:

- Before tightening the four screws, checks if the servo output gear is well centred to the Structure hole.
- To limit the protrusion of the below two screws, add a couple of washers to these screws; This to prevent eventual interference with the servo\_axis\_inf part.



**Step5** (sandwich Servo\_axis\_inf / servo arm / Servo\_axis\_inf):

4x M3x12mm conical head

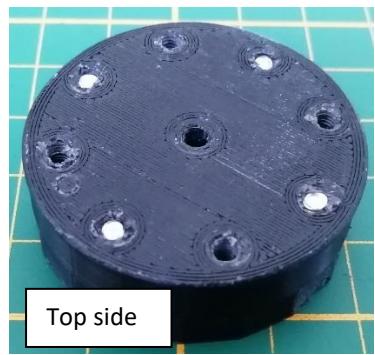
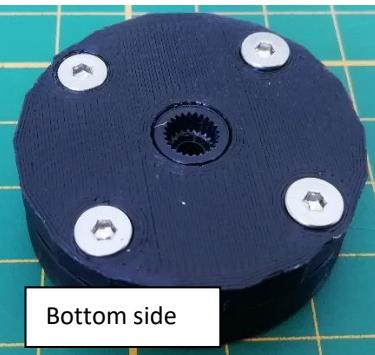


Check if the supplied X arm fits with the indentation of Servo\_axis\_inf part:



If you don't have a X arm to make it fit, please print the alternative parts (Servo\_axis\_inf and Servo\_axis\_sup) designed to fit the aluminium "T25" arm (arm has to be reduced in length).

Make the sandwich



**Step5a Alternative servo axis assembly:**



Cut the protruding part of the "T25" arm

Adjust its screws to be able to enter the servo outlet gear



Make the sandwich as per Step5

4x M3x12mm conical head



**Step6** (Assemble the Cube\_holder to Servo\_axis assembly):

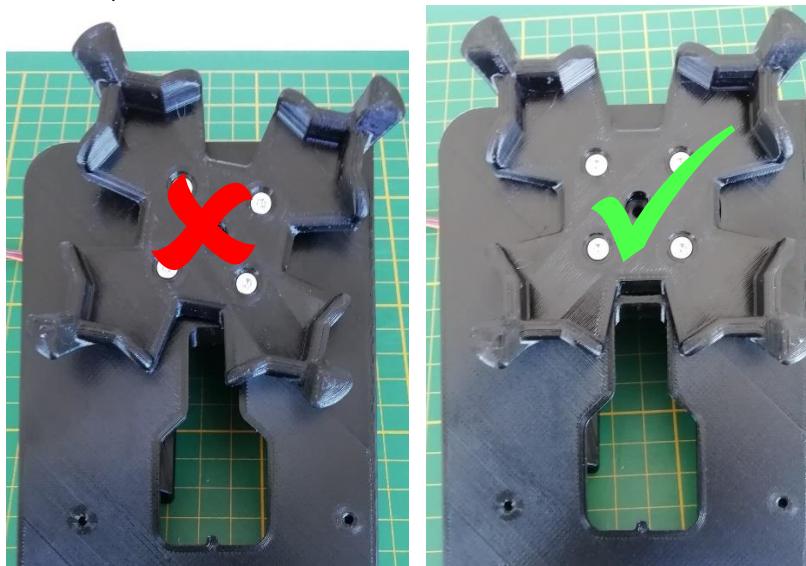
4x M3x12mm conical head



**Step7** (Assemble the Cube\_holder assembly to the bottom servo):

Try to not rotate the Servo output gear during this step: Gently try to feel the teeth coupling, and if the Cube\_holder is not well aligned, retract it, rotate the Cube\_holder by about 90 degrees and check again.

Servo output, and Servo arm, have even number of teeth: For sure there is one good coupling

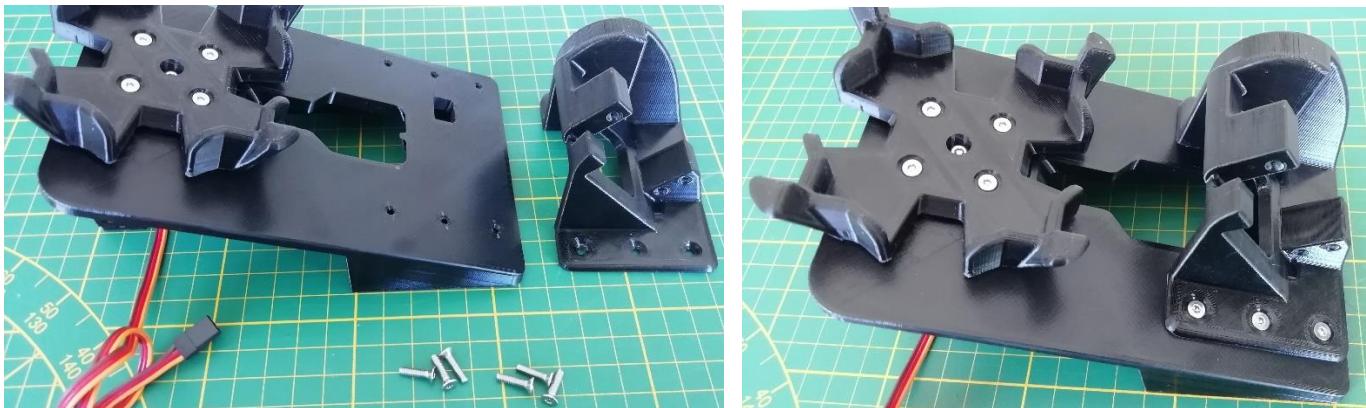


1x M3x12mm cylindrical head



**Step8** (Assemble the Hinge to the Structure):

6x M3x12mm conical head



Note: three screws will slightly protrude underneath the Structure; If screws of 12mm then this won't be a problem.



**Step9** (Assemble the "T25" servo arm to the upper servo):

Place the "T25" arm along the main Servo axis (Servo should be prepared upfront with the gear at middle angle).

Close the two arm tiny screws



**Step10** (Insert the Top\_servo assembly into the Top\_cover slot):

1x M3x12mm cylindrical head

The slot for the "T25" arm might be tight; Remove eventual excess of material if needed

Ensure the hole for the M4 screw doesn't not constrain the screw (it should have  $\varnothing 4.1$  to  $\varnothing 4.3$ mm)



Note: The screw should not protrude from the Structure plane; Add some washers under the screw head if needed

Rotate the servo by about 45deg, to facilitate next steps



**Step11** (Assemble the Top\_cover assembly to the Hinge):

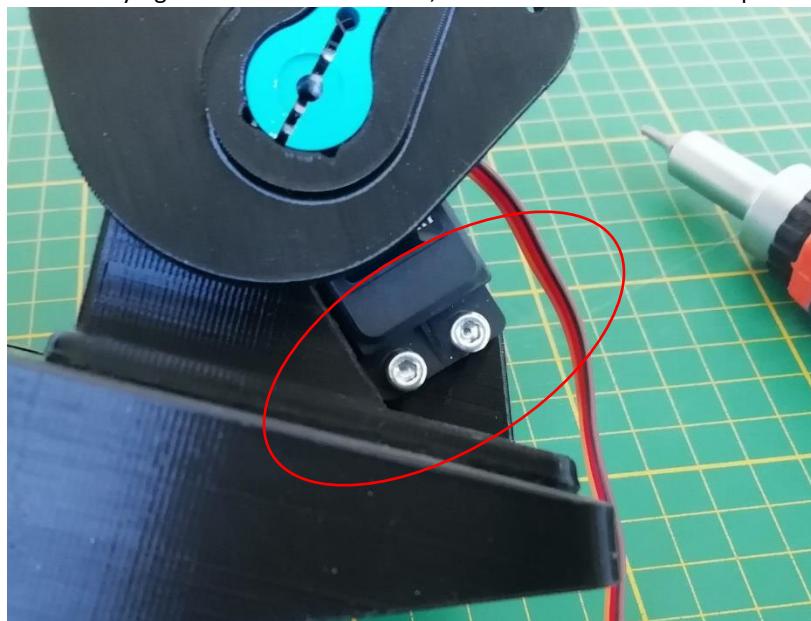
1x M4x20mm cylindrical head

3x M3x12mm cylindrical head

Ensure the hole for the M4 screw doesn't constrain the screw (it should have  $\varnothing 4.1$  to  $\varnothing 4.3$ mm)

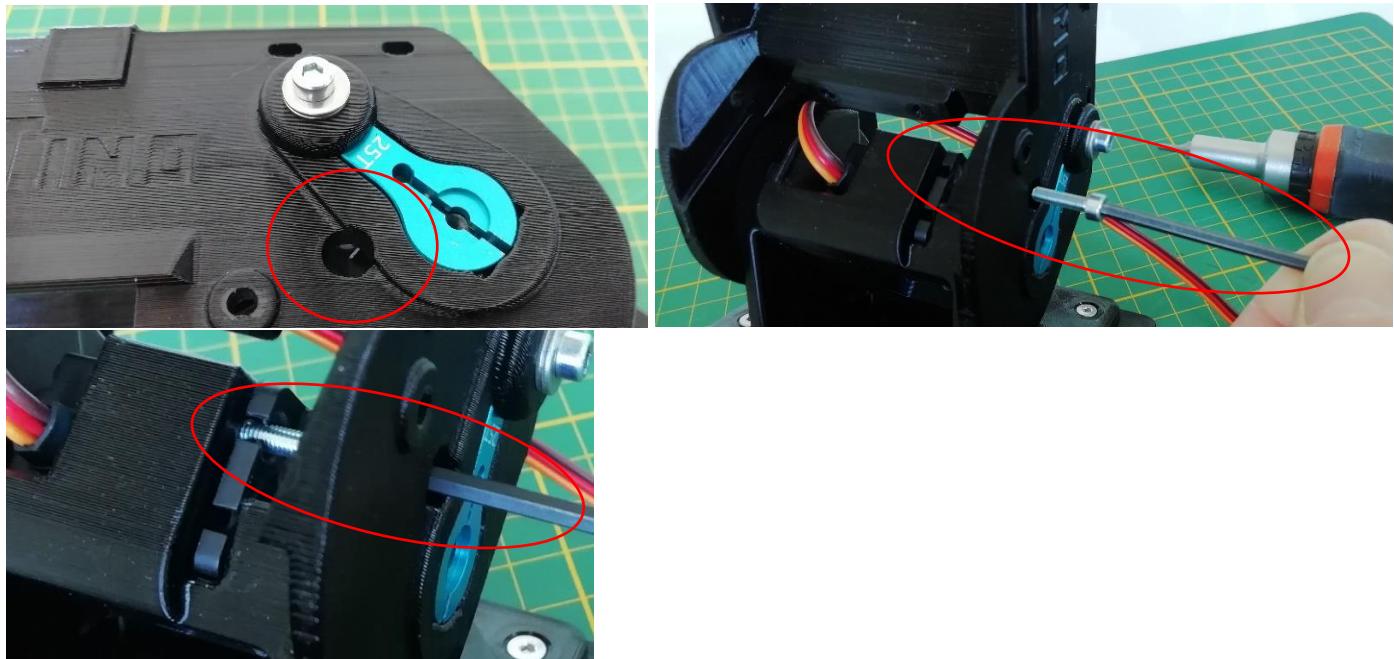


Do not fully tighten the two M3x12mm, until also the third screw is positioned

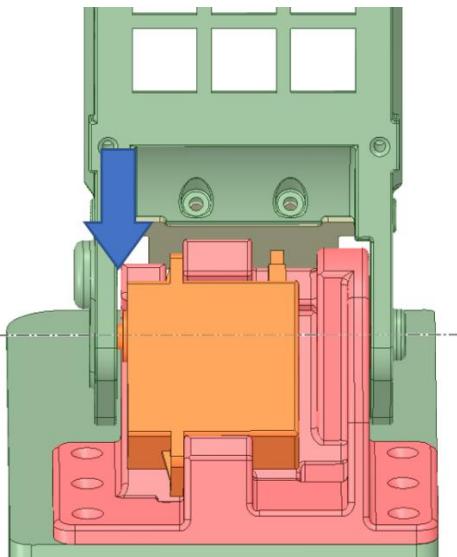
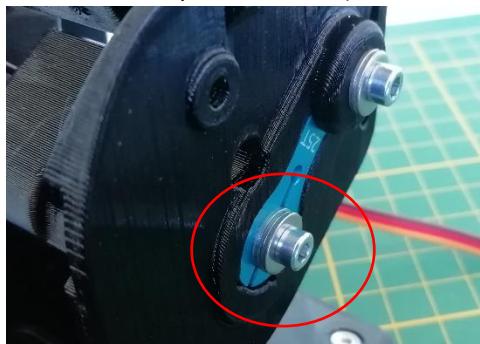


**Step12** (Complete the top servo assembly to the Hinge):

Rotate the Top\_cover to have the hole facing the third screw accessible



1x M3x12mm cylindrical head (add washers if the screws doesn't push on the "T25"Arm)



Verify gap presence in between the Top\_cover and the Hinge, at the servo output gear side (arrow at the side).

In case there is little or no gap, unscrew the M3 screws of the servo, and place some little spacers (0.5 to max 1mm) in between the servo and the Hinge (preferably close to the screws locations);

Tighten the M3 screws and re-check the gap between the Top\_cover and the Hinge.

**Step13** (Assemble the Lifter to the Top\_cover):

4x M3x12mm cylindrical head

Slide the Lifter into the Top\_cover slots

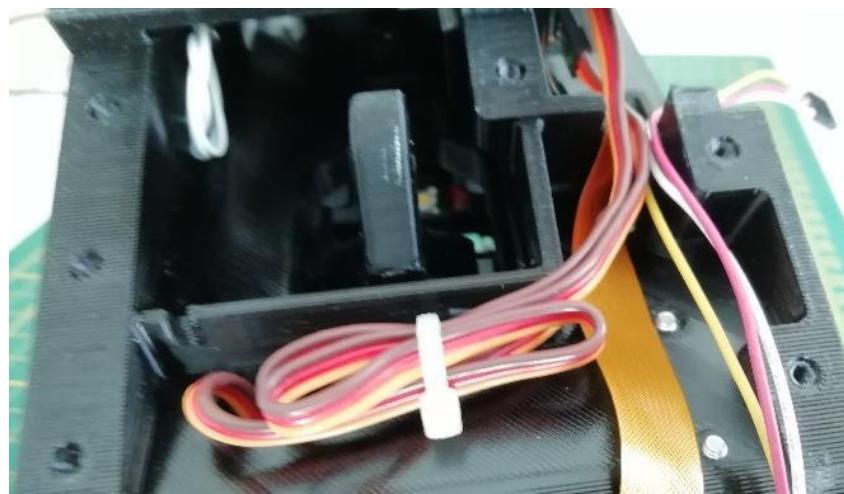
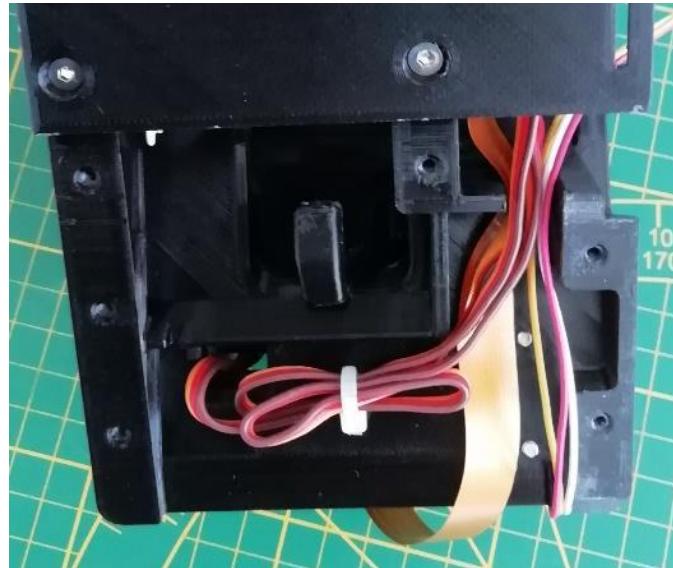
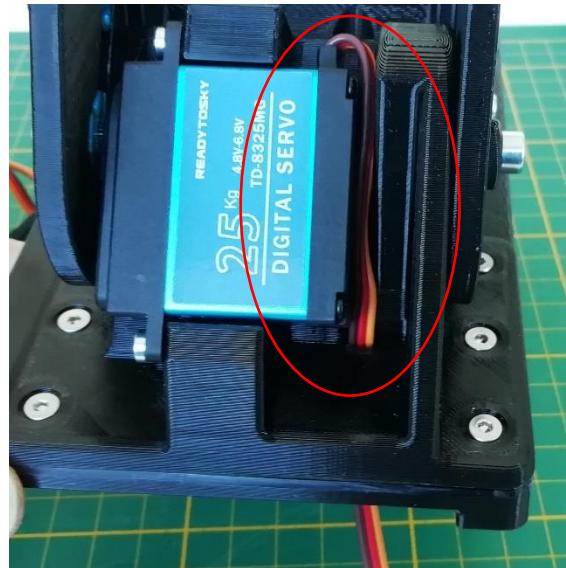


**Step14 (Position the cables, and assemble the Baseplate\_rear):**

6x M3x12mm conical head (4 screws at corners are sufficient)

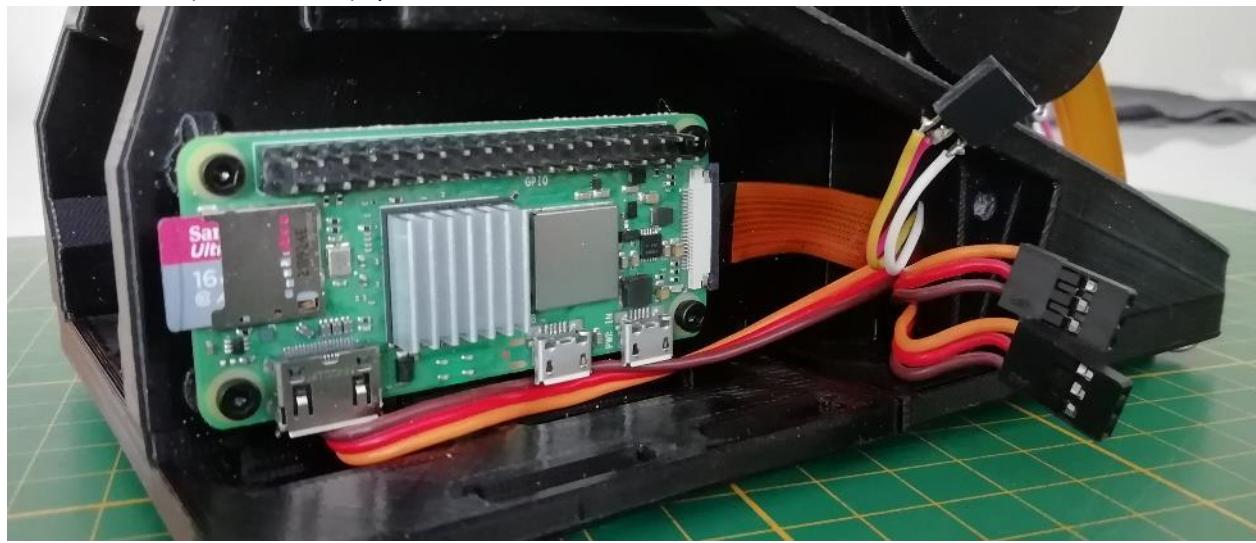
Note: It will be convenient to 'store' the excess of cable length as per below picture, as there is very little space left at the board location

Dress the cables and close the Baseplate\_rear.



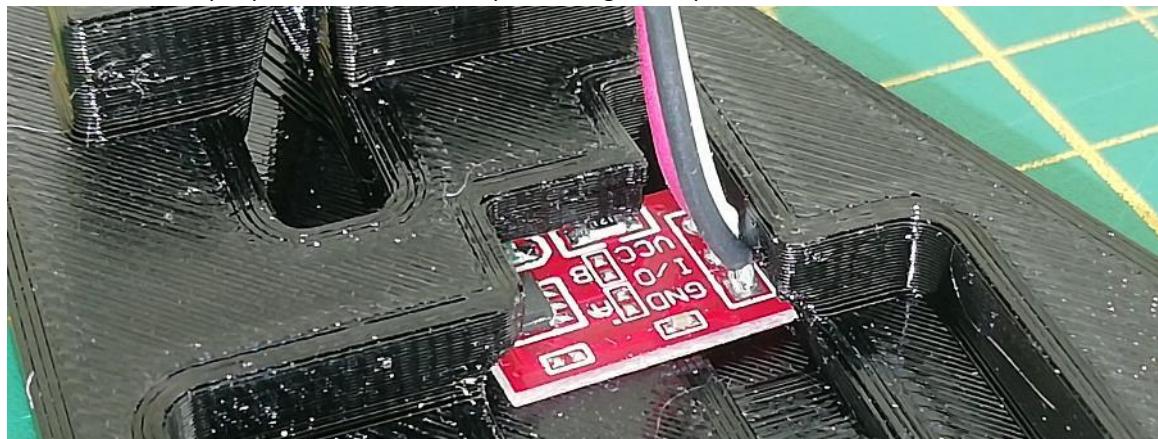
**Step15** (Connect the PiCamera flex cable to Raspberry Pi Zero2 board, and fix it to the Structure)

4x M2.5x10mm (or M2.5x8mm) cylindrical head



**Step16** (Fix the Touch\_sensor to the PCB cover):

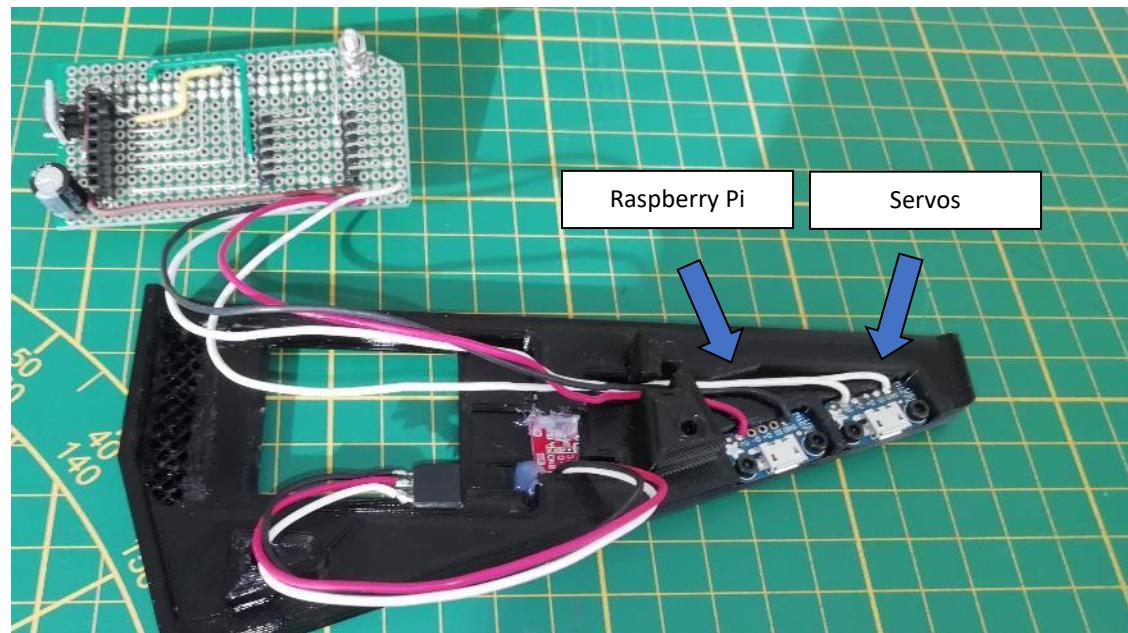
Insert the board as per picture, and add a couple of hot glue droplets



**Step17** (Fix the microUSB breakout board to the PCB\_cover):

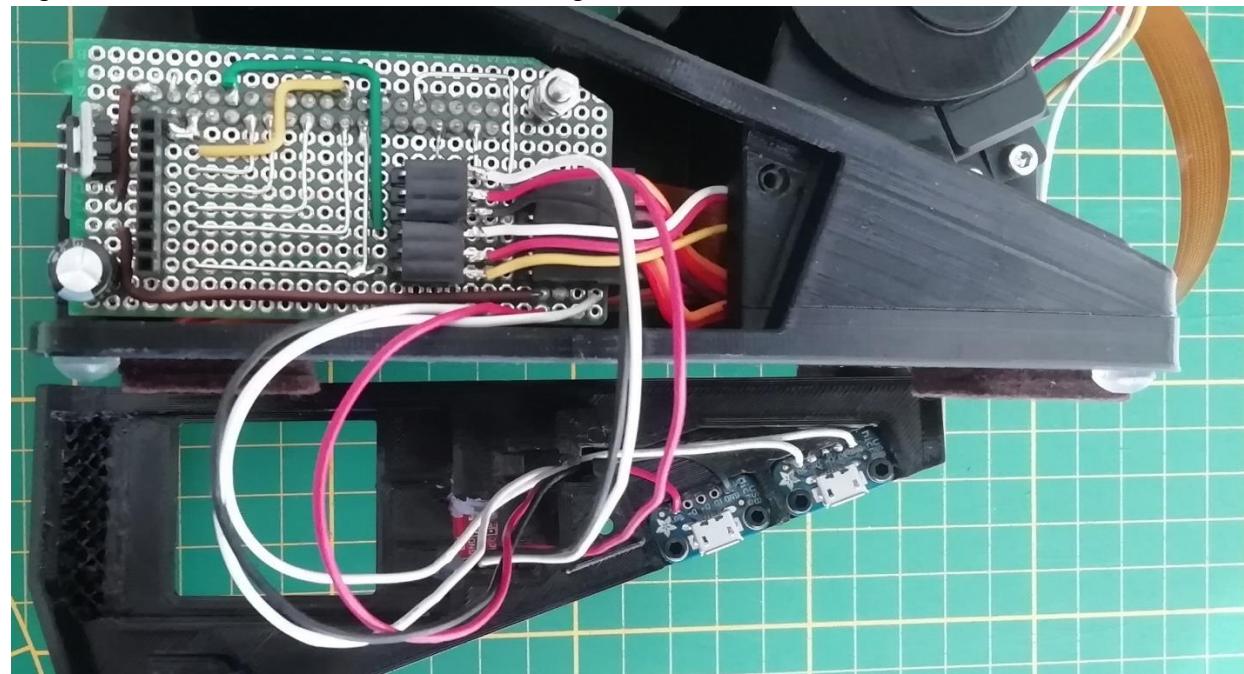
2x M2.5x4mm cylindrical head

The order of the two boards is not critic, below just a proposal



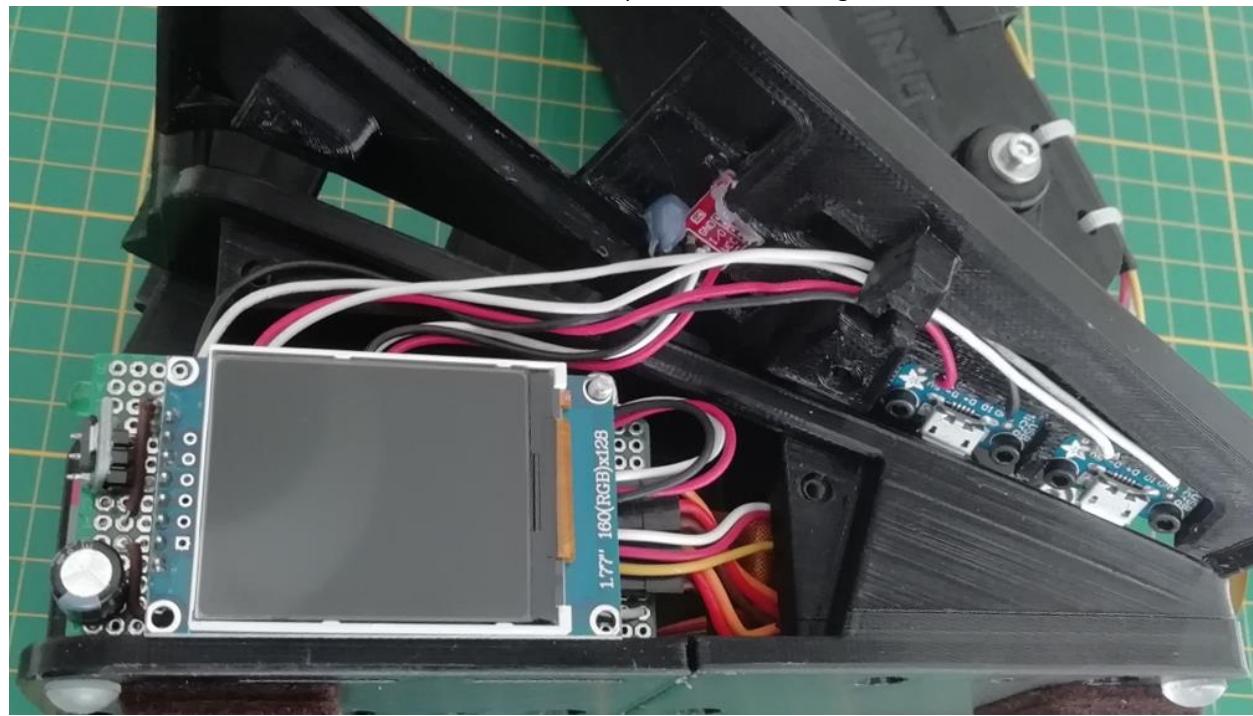
**Step18** (Connect the servos, LED breakout board and Touch sensor):

In general the brown wire of servo connector is the ground, therefore to be oriented toward the bottom



**Step19** (dress the cable and connect the display):

Cables at the microUSB breakout boards have to be well positioned into the groove



**Step20** (Assemble the PCB\_cover):

2x M3x12mm conical head

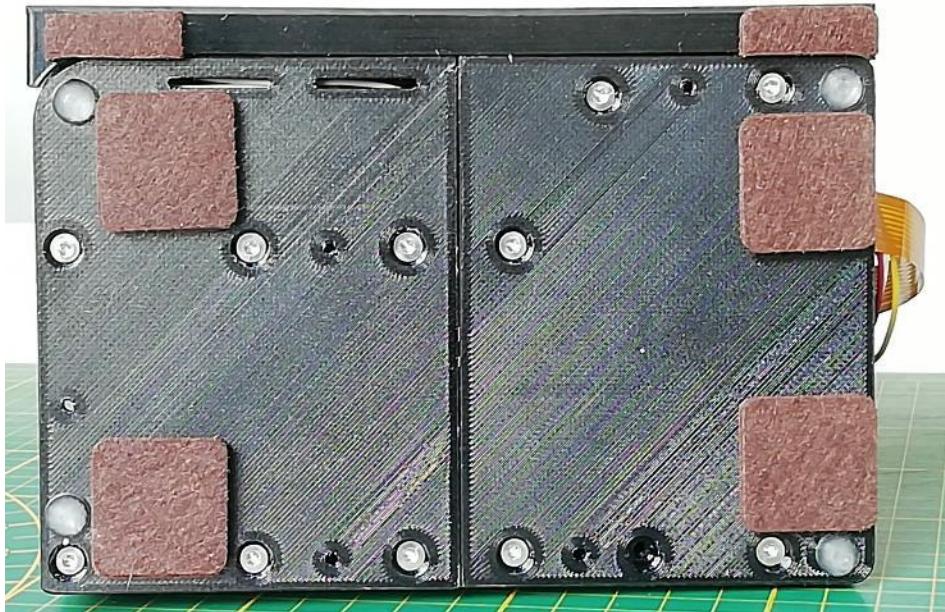
Attention to don't squeeze cables against the Structure



**Step21** (Assemble the Baseplate\_front to the Structure):

6x M3x12mm conical head (at the bottom, 4 screws at corners are sufficient)

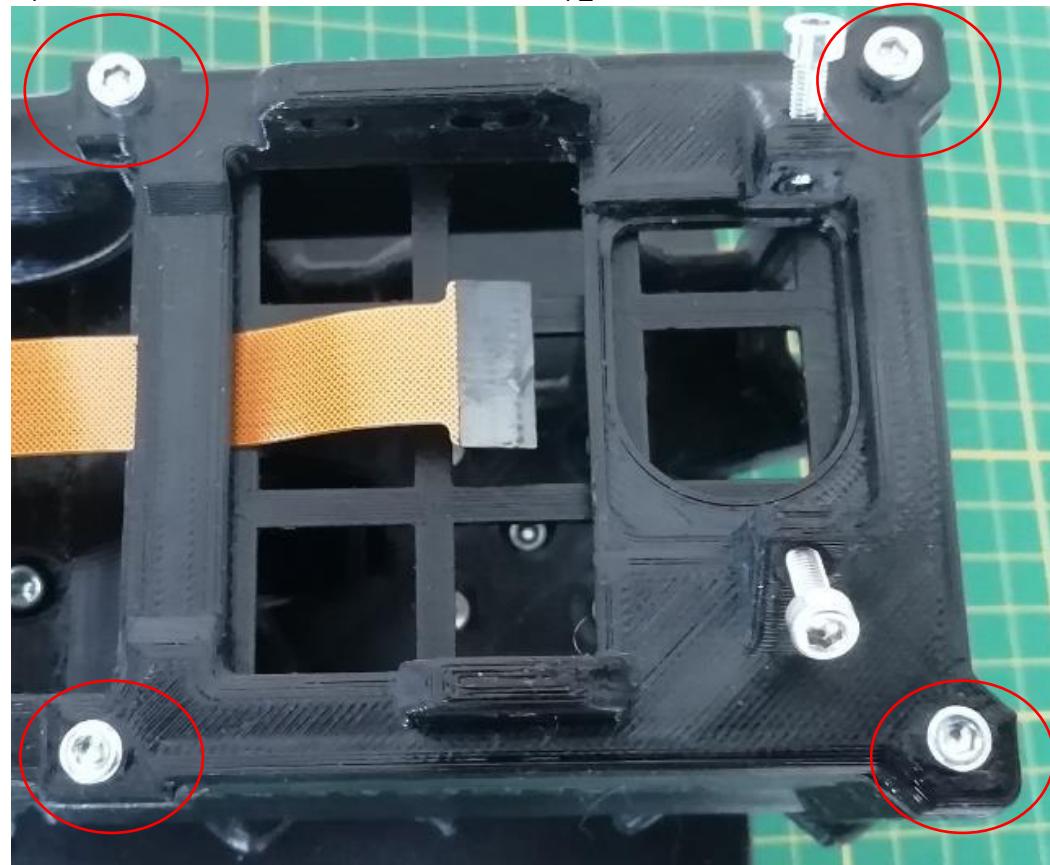
Stick self-adhesive rubber feet (or felt pads) to the baseplate; Those at the back should be placed as close as possible to the corners



**Step22** (Assemble the PiCamera holder frame to the Top\_cover):

4x M3x12mm cylindrical head

Squeeze the PiCamera flex cable in between the Top\_cover and the PiCamera holder frame

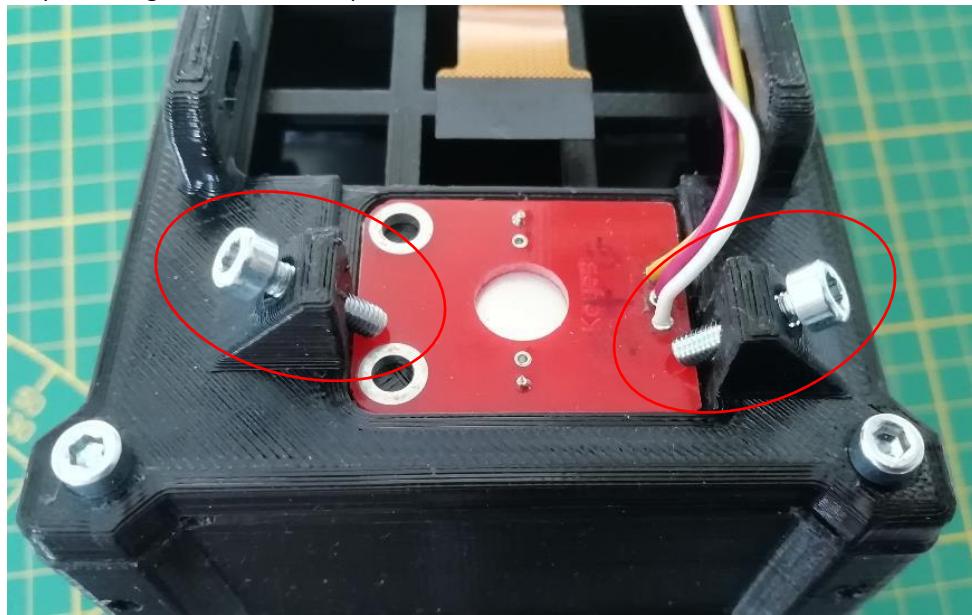


**Step23** (Assemble the LED breakout board):

Add 2x M3x12mm cylindrical head

Because of limited space, it will be convenient to solder the wires instead of the connector at the board.

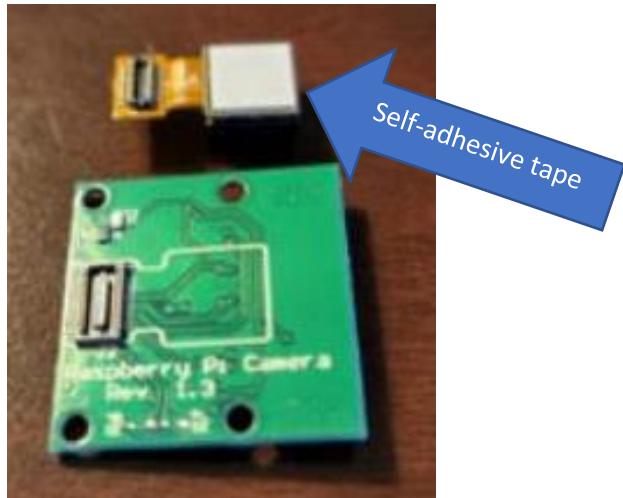
Stop screwing once the screw tip touches the board



**Step24** (Stick the PiCamera to the board):

Underneath the picamera there is a little piece of self-adhesive tape.

Make use of that tape to secure the camera to the board, to prevent the camera oscillating on its flexible cable (blurred images)



#### **Step25 (Assemble the PiCamera to the PiCamera holder):**

Necessary some little pieces of filament Ø1.75mm.

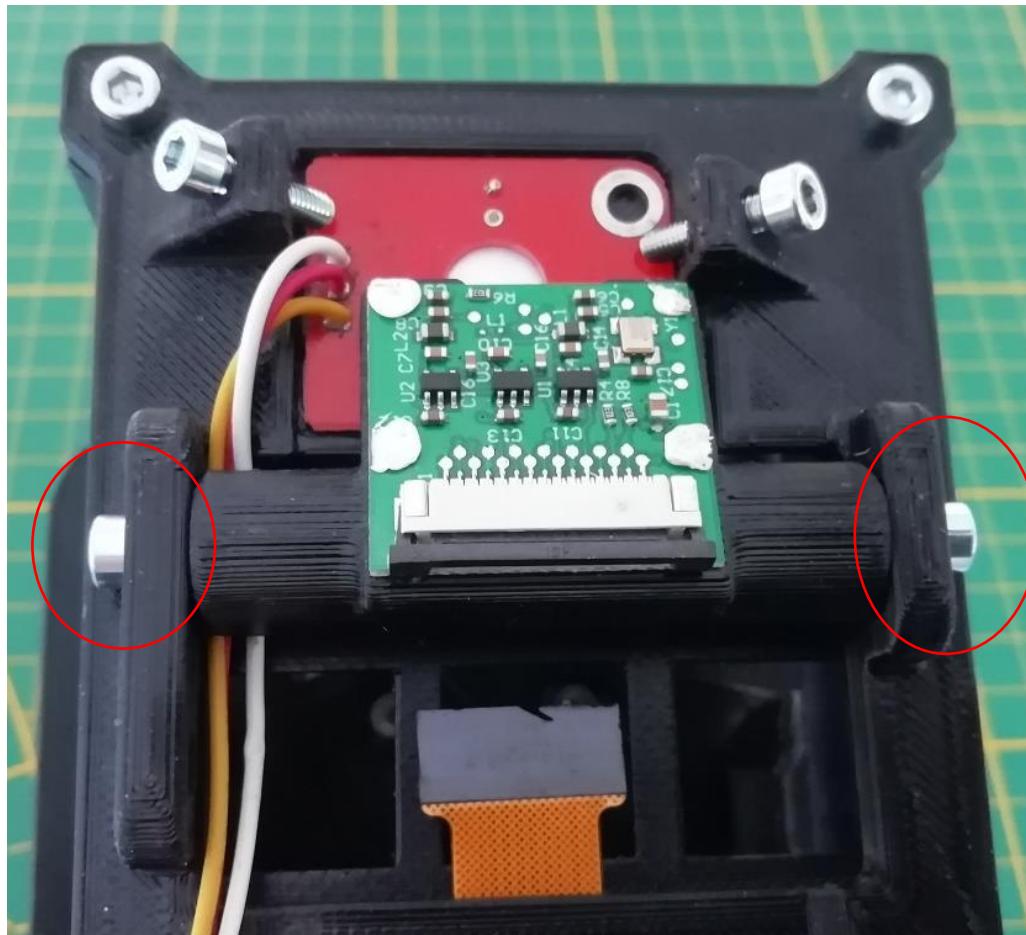
Force 4 pieces into the holder, slide the board over, with hot blade deform the filament.

Alternatively, 4xM2x3mm screws can be used; In this case self-thread the slots via the screw without the camera first

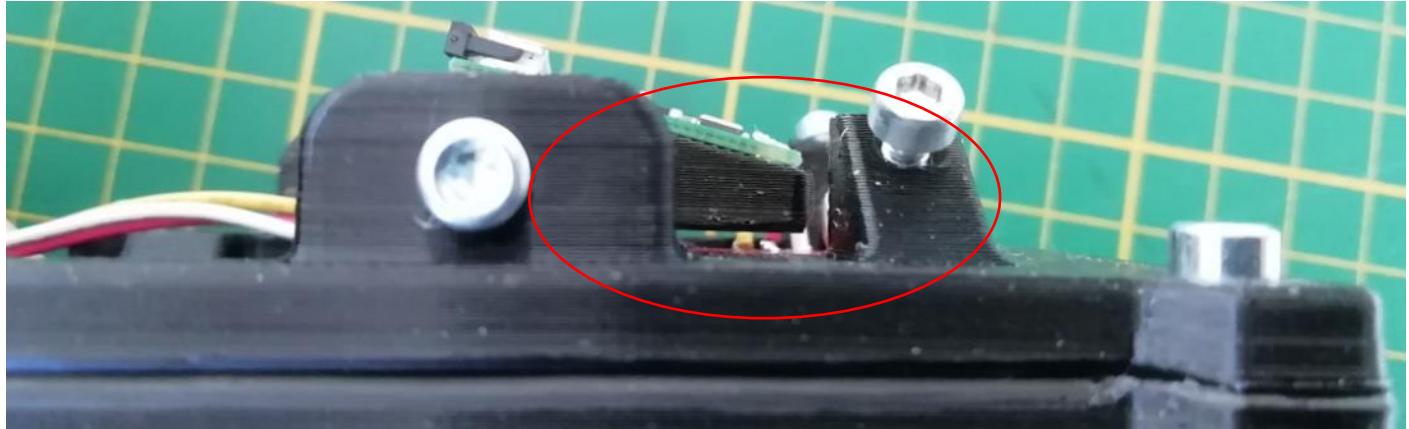


#### **Step25 (Assemble the PiCamera holder to the PiCamera holder frame):**

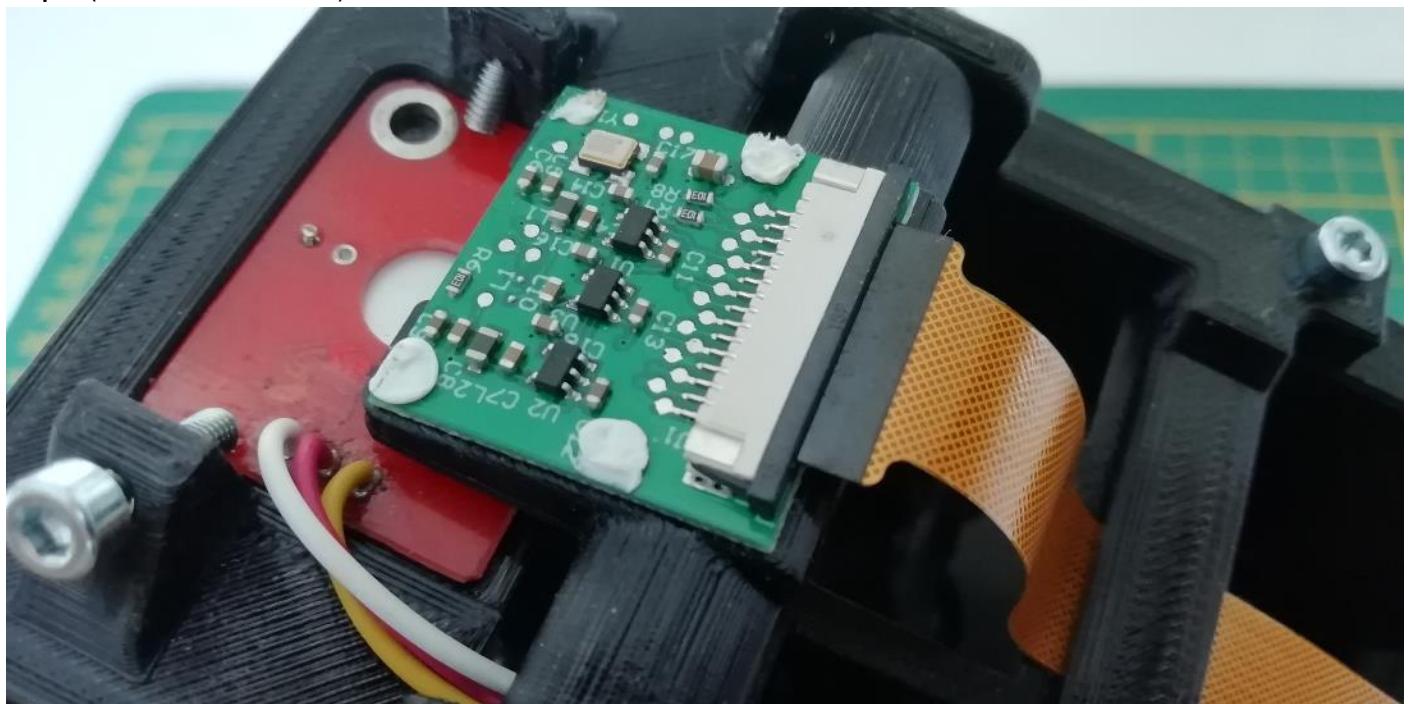
2x M3x12mm cylindrical head



Keep the PiCamera holder parallel to the Top\_cover, while thightening the screws:  
Be considered this angle might be later adjusted, to orient the camera to the the cube top face



**Step26** (Connect the flex cable):



**Step27** (Personalize the formal Stop plate):

The Structure has a recess, meant to hold a metal plate working as a Stop touch sensor on the Base version.  
On this version, the stop function is available on the PCB\_cover, making that recess quite useless and unesthetic.  
I made available two alternative stl files of a plate to 3D printed as cover such a recess; One plate is neutral, the second one has 'Magic CUBE' words engraved.  
Of course, you might consider using the neutral one as baseline to personalize your own Cubotino 😊.

34) APPENDIX 3: Collection of robot's pictures

