

Some CircuitPython tricks, mostly reminders to myself

☆ 42 stars 🍴 4 forks

☆ Star

👁 Watch ▾

Code

Issues

Pull requests

Actions

Projects

Wiki

Security

Insights

🔗 main ▾

...



todbot ...

7 days ago



[View code](#)

☰ README.md

circuitpython-tricks

A small list of tips & tricks I find myself needing when working with CircuitPython.

(Note: most all of these assume CircuitPython 7)

Table of Contents

- [Inputs](#)
 - [Read an digital input as a Button](#)
 - [Read a Potentiometer](#)
 - [Read a Touch Pin / Capsense](#)
 - [Read a Rotary Encoder](#)
 - [Debounce a pin / button](#)
 - [Set up and debounce a list of pins](#)
- [Outputs](#)
 - [Output HIGH / LOW on a pin \(like an LED\)](#)
 - [Output Analog value on a DAC pin](#)
 - [Output a "Analog" value on a PWM pin](#)
 - [Control Neopixel / WS2812 LEDs](#)
- [Neopixels / Dotstars](#)

- Moving rainbow on built-in board.NEOPIXEL
 - Make moving rainbow gradient across LED strip
 - Fade all LEDs by amount for chase effects
- Audio
 - Audio out using PWM
 - Audio out using DAC
- USB
 - Rename CIRCUITPY drive to something new
 - Detect if USB is connected or not
 - Get CIRCUITPY disk size and free space
 - Programmatically reset to UF2 bootloader
- USB Serial
 - Print to USB Serial
 - Read user input from USB Serial, blocking
 - Read user input from USB Serial, non-blocking (mostly)
 - Read keys from USB Serial
 - Read user input from USB serial, non-blocking
- Computery Tasks
 - Formatting strings
 - Formatting strings with f-strings
 - Make and use a config file
 - Run different code.py on startup
- More Esoteric Tasks
 - Map an input range to an output range
 - Time how long something takes
 - Preventing Ctrl-C from stopping the program
 - Prevent auto-reload when CIRCUITPY is touched
 - Raspberry Pi Pico boot.py Protection
- Networking
 - Scan for WiFi Networks, sorted by signal strength (ESP32-S2)
 - Ping an IP address (ESP32-S2)
 - Fetch a JSON file (ESP32-S2)
 - What the heck is secrets.py?
- Displays (LCD / OLED / E-Ink) and displayio
 - Get default display and change display rotation
 - Display background bitmap
 - Image slideshow
 - Dealing with E-Ink "Refresh Too Soon" error

- I2C
 - Scan I2C bus for devices
 - Speed up I2C bus
- Board Info
 - Display amount of free RAM
 - Show microcontroller.pin to board mappings
 - Determine which board you're on
 - Support multiple boards with one code.py
- Hacks
 - Using the REPL
 - Display built-in modules / libraries
 - Use REPL fast with copy-paste multi-one-liners
- Python info
 - Display which (not built-in) libraries have been imported
 - List names of all global variables
- Host-side tasks
 - Installing CircuitPython libraries
 - Installing libraries with circup
 - Copying libraries by hand with cp

Inputs

Read an digital input as a Button

```
import board
from digitalio import DigitalInOut, Pull
button = DigitalInOut(board.D3) # defaults to input
button.pull = Pull.UP # turn on internal pull-up resistor
print(button.value) # False == pressed
```

Can also do:

```
button = DigitalInOut(board.D3)
button.switch_to_input(Pull.UP)
```

Read a Potentiometer

```
import board
import analogio
potknob = analogio.AnalogIn(board.A1)
```

```
position = potknob.value # ranges from 0-65535
pos = potknob.value // 256 # make 0-255 range
```

Read a Touch Pin / Capsense

```
import touchio
import board
touch_pin = touchio.TouchIn(board.GP6)
# on Pico / RP2040, need 1M pull-down on each input
if touch_pin.value:
    print("touched!")
```

Read a Rotary Encoder

```
import board
import rotaryio
encoder = rotaryio.IncrementalEncoder(board.GP0, board.GP1) # must be consecutive on
print(encoder.position) # starts at zero, goes neg or pos
```

Debounce a pin / button

```
import board
from digitalio import DigitalInOut, Pull
from adafruit_debouncer import Debouncer
button_in = DigitalInOut(board.D3) # defaults to input
button_in.pull = Pull.UP # turn on internal pull-up resistor
button = Debouncer(button_in)
while True:
    button.update()
    if button.fell:
        print("press!")
    if button.rose:
        print("release!")
```

Set up and debounce a list of pins

```
import board
from digitalio import DigitalInOut, Pull
from adafruit_debouncer import Debouncer
pins = (board.GP0, board.GP1, board.GP2, board.GP3, board.GP4)
buttons = [] # will hold list of Debouncer objects
for pin in pins: # set up each pin
    tmp_pin = DigitalInOut(pin) # defaults to input
    tmp_pin.pull = Pull.UP # turn on internal pull-up resistor
    buttons.append( Debouncer(tmp_pin) )
```

```

while True:
    for i in range(len(buttons)):
        buttons[i].update()
        if buttons[i].fell:
            print("button",i,"pressed!")
        if buttons[i].rose:
            print("button",i,"released!")

```

Outputs

Output HIGH / LOW on a pin (like an LED)

```

import board
import digitalio
ledpin = digitalio.DigitalInOut(board.D2)
ledpin.direction = digitalio.Direction.OUTPUT
ledpin.value = True

```

Can also do:

```

ledpin = digitalio.DigitalInOut(board.D2)
ledpin.switch_to_output(value=True)

```

Output Analog value on a DAC pin

Different boards have DAC on different pins

```

import board
import analogio
dac = analogio.AnalogOut(board.A0) # on Trinket M0 & QT Py
dac.value = 32768 # mid-point of 0-65535

```

Output a "Analog" value on a PWM pin

```

import board
import pwmio
out1 = pwmio.PWMOut(board.MOSI, frequency=25000, duty_cycle=0)
out1.duty_cycle = 32768 # mid-point 0-65535 = 50 % duty-cycle

```

Control Neopixel / WS2812 LEDs

```

import neopixel
leds = neopixel.NeoPixel(board.NEOPIXEL, 16, brightness=0.2)

```

```

leds[0] = 0xff00ff # first LED of 16 defined
leds[0] = (255,0,255) # equivalent
leds.fill( 0x00ff00 ) # set all to green

```

Neopixels / Dotstars

Moving rainbow on built-in `board.NEOPIXEL`

Uses built-in `colorwheel()` function part of `_pixelbuf` or `adafruit_pypixelbuf`: This function returns an (R,G,B) tuple given a single 0-255 hue. Here's one way to use it. This will also work for `adafruit_dotstar` instead of `neopixel`.

Note: In CircuitPython 7, `colorwheel()` is now in the `rainbowio` module.

```

import time
import board
import neopixel
led = neopixel.NeoPixel(board.NEOPIXEL, 1, brightness=0.4)
while True:
    led.fill( neopixel._pixelbuf.colorwheel((time.monotonic()*50)%255) )
    time.sleep(0.05)

```

Make moving rainbow gradient across LED strip

See [demo of it in this tweet](#).

```

import time, random
import board, neopixel
num_leds = 16
leds = neopixel.NeoPixel(board.D2, num_leds, brightness=0.4, auto_write=False )
delta_hue = 256//num_leds
speed = 10 # higher numbers = faster rainbow spinning
i=0
while True:
    for l in range(len(leds)):
        leds[l] = neopixel._pixelbuf.colorwheel( int(i*speed + l * delta_hue) % 255 )
    leds.show() # only write to LEDs after updating them all
    i = (i+1) % 255
    time.sleep(0.05)

```

Fade all LEDs by amount for chase effects

```

import time, random
import board, neopixel
num_leds = 16
leds = neopixel.NeoPixel(board.D2, num_leds, brightness=0.4, auto_write=False )

```

```

my_color = (55,200,230)
dim_by = 20 # dim amount, higher = shorter tails
pos = 0
while True:
    leds[pos] = my_color
    leds[0:] = [[max(i-dim_by,0) for i in l] for l in leds] # dim all by (dim_by,dim_by)
    pos = (pos+1) % num_leds # move to next position
    leds.show() # only write to LEDs after updating them all
    time.sleep(0.05)

```

Audio

Audio out using PWM

This uses the `audiopwmio` library, only available for Raspberry Pi Pico (or other RP2040-based boards) and NRF52840-based boards like Adafruit Feather nRF52840 Express. On RP2040-based boards, any pin can be PWM Audio pin. See the [audiopwmio Support Matrix](#) for details.

```

import time, board
from audiocore import WaveFile
from audiopwmio import PWMAudioOut as AudioOut
wave_file = open("laser2.wav", "rb")
wave = WaveFile(wave_file)
audio = AudioOut(board.TX) # must be PWM-capable pin
while True:
    print("audio is playing:", audio.playing)
    if not audio.playing:
        audio.play(wave)
        wave.sample_rate = int(wave.sample_rate * 0.90) # play 10% slower each time
    time.sleep(0.1)

```

Note: Sometimes the `audiopwmio` driver gets confused, particularly if there's other USB access, so you may have to reset the board to get PWM audio to work again.

Note: WAV file should be "16-bit Unsigned PCM" format. Sample rate can be up to 44.1 kHz, and is parsed by `audiocore.WaveFile`.

Note: PWM output must be filtered and converted to line-level to be usable. Use an RC circuit to accomplish this, see [this twitter thread for details](#).

Audio out using DAC

Some CircuitPython boards have one or more built-in DACs. These are on specific pins. The code is the same as above, with just the import line changing.

```

import time, random, board
from audiocore import WaveFile
from audioio import AudioOut as AudioOut # only DAC
wave_file = open("laser20.wav", "rb")
wave = WaveFile(wave_file)
audio = AudioOut(board.A0) # must be DAC-capable pin, A0 on QTPy Haxpress
while True:
    print("audio is playing:", audio.playing)
    if not audio.playing:
        audio.play(wave)
        wave.sample_rate = int(wave.sample_rate * 0.90) # play 10% slower each time
        time.sleep(0.1)

```

USB

Rename CIRCUITPY drive to something new

For instance, if you have multiple of the same device. The `label` can be up to 11 characters. This goes in `boot.py` not `code.py` and you must powercycle board.

```

# this goes in boot.py not code.py!
new_name = "TRINKEYPY0"
import storage
storage.remount("/", readonly=False)
m = storage.getmount("/")
m.label = new_name
storage.remount("/", readonly=True)

```

Detect if USB is connected or not

```

def is_usb_connected():
    import storage
    try:
        storage.remount('/', readonly=False) # attempt to mount readwrite
        storage.remount('/', readonly=True) # attempt to mount readonly
    except RuntimeError as e:
        return True
    return False
is_usb = "USB" if is_usb_connected() else "NO USB"
print("USB:", is_usb)

```

Get CIRCUITPY disk size and free space

```

import os
fs_stat = os.statvfs('/')

```



```
print("Disk size in MB", fs_stat[0] * fs_stat[2] / 1024 / 1024)
print("Free space in MB", fs_stat[0] * fs_stat[3] / 1024 / 1024)
```

Programmatically reset to UF2 bootloader

```
import microcontroller
microcontroller.on_next_reset(microcontroller.RunMode.BOOTLOADER)
microcontroller.reset()
```

USB Serial

Print to USB Serial

```
print("hello there") # prints a newline
print("waiting...", end='') # does not print newline
```

Read user input from USB Serial, blocking

```
while True:
    print("Type something: ", end='')
    my_str = input() # type and press ENTER or RETURN
    print("You entered: ", my_str)
```

Read user input from USB Serial, non-blocking (mostly)

```
import time
import supervisor
print("Type something when you're ready")
last_time = time.monotonic()
while True:
    if supervisor.runtime.serial_bytes_available:
        my_str = input()
        print("You entered:", my_str)
    if time.monotonic() - last_time > 1: # every second, print
        last_time = time.monotonic()
        print(int(last_time), "waiting...")
```

Read keys from USB Serial

```
import time, sys, supervisor
print("type characters")
while True:
    n = supervisor.runtime.serial_bytes_available
```

```

if n > 0: # we read something!
    s = sys.stdin.read(n) # actually read it in
    # print both text & hex version of recv'd chars (see control chars!)
    print("got:", " ".join("{:s} {:02x}".format(c,ord(c)) for c in s))
time.sleep(0.01) # do something else

```

Read user input from USB serial, non-blocking

```

class USBSerialReader:
    """ Read a line from USB Serial (up to end_char), non-blocking, with optional ech
    def __init__(self):
        self.s = ''
    def read(self,end_char='\n', echo=True):
        import sys, supervisor
        n = supervisor.runtime.serial_bytes_available
        if n > 0:
            # we got bytes!
            s = sys.stdin.read(n) # actually read it in
            if echo: sys.stdout.write(s) # echo back to human
            self.s = self.s + s # keep building the string up
            if s.endswith(end_char): # got our end_char!
                rstr = self.s # save for return
                self.s = '' # reset str to beginning
                return rstr
        return None # no end_char yet

usb_reader = USBSerialReader()
print("type something and press the end_char")
while True:
    mystr = usb_reader.read() # read until newline, echo back chars
    #mystr = usb_reader.read(end_char='\t', echo=False) # trigger on tab, no echo
    if mystr:
        print("got:",mystr)
    time.sleep(0.01) # do something time critical

```

Computery Tasks

Formatting strings

```

name = "John"
fav_color = 0x003366
body_temp = 98.65
fav_number = 123
print("name:%s color:%06x temp:%2.1f num:%d" % (name,fav_color,body_temp,fav_number))
# 'name:John color:ff3366 temp:98.6 num:123'

```

Formatting strings with f-strings

(doesn't work on 'small' CircuitPythons like QTPy M0)

```
name = "John"
fav_color = 0x003366
body_temp = 98.65
print(f"name:{name} color:{color:06x} temp:{body_temp:2.1f} num:{fav_number:%d}")
# 'name:John color:ff3366 temp:98.6 num:123'
```

Make and use a config file

```
# my_config.py
config = {
    "username": "Grogue Djarin",
    "password": "ig88rules",
    "secret_key": "3a3d9bfaf05835df69713c470427fe35"
}

# code.py
from my_config import config
print("secret:", config['secret_key'])
# 'secret: 3a3d9bfaf05835df69713c470427fe35'
```

Run different code.py on startup

Use `microcontroller.nvm` to store persistent state across resets or between `boot.py` and `code.py`, and declare that the first byte of `nvm` will be the `startup_mode`. Now if you create multiple `code.py` files (say) `code1.py`, `code2.py`, etc. you can switch between them based on `startup_mode`.

```
import time
import microcontroller
startup_mode = microcontroller.nvm[0]
if startup_mode == 1:
    import code1      # runs code in `code1.py`
if startup_mode == 2:
    import code2      # runs code in `code2.py`
# otherwise runs 'code.py`
while True:
    print("main code.py")
    time.sleep(1)
```

Note: in CircuitPython 7+ you can use `supervisor.set_next_code_file()` to change which .py file is run on startup. This changes only what happens on reload, not hardware reset or powerup. Using it would look like:

```
import supervisor
supervisor.set_next_code_file('code_awesome.py')
# and then if you want to run it now, trigger a reload
supervisor.reload()
```

More Esoteric Tasks

Map an input range to an output range

```
# simple range mapper, like Arduino map()
def map_range(s, a1, a2, b1, b2):
    return b1 + ((s - a1) * (b2 - b1) / (a2 - a1))

# example: map 0-1023 value to 0.0-1.0 value
val = 768
outval = map_range( val, 0,1023, 0.0,1.0 )
# outval = 0.75
```

Time how long something takes

```
import time
start_time = time.monotonic() # fraction seconds uptime
do_something()
elapsed_time = time.monotonic() - start_time
print("do_something took %f seconds" % elapsed_time)
```

Preventing Ctrl-C from stopping the program

Put a `try / except KeyboardInterrupt` to catch the Ctrl-C on the inside of your main loop.

```
while True:
    try:
        print("Doing something important...")
        time.sleep(0.1)
    except KeyboardInterrupt:
        print("Nice try, human! Not quitting.")
```

Also useful for graceful shutdown (turning off neopixels, say) on Ctrl-C.

```
import time, random
import board, neopixel, adafruit_pypixelbuf
leds = neopixel.NeoPixel(board.NEOPIXEL, 1, brightness=0.4 )
while True:
    try:
```

```

    rgb = adafruit_pypixelbuf.colorwheel(int(time.monotonic()*75) % 255)
    leds.fill(rgb)
    time.sleep(0.05)
except KeyboardInterrupt:
    print("shutting down nicely...")
    leds.fill(0)
    break # gets us out of the while True

```

Prevent auto-reload when CIRCUITPY is touched

Normally, CircuitPython restarts anytime the CIRCUITPY drive is written to. This is great normally, but is frustrating if you want your code to keep running, and you want to control exactly when a restart happens.

```

import supervisor
supervisor.disable_autoreload()

```

With this, to trigger a reload, do a Ctrl-C + Ctrl-D in the REPL or reset your board.

Raspberry Pi Pico boot.py Protection

Also works on other RP2040-based boards like QTPy RP2040. From <https://gist.github.com/Neradoc/8056725be1c209475fd09ffc37c9fad4>

```

# Copy this as 'boot.py' in your Pico's CIRCUITPY drive
# Useful in case Pico locks up (which it's done a few times on me)
import board
import time
from digitalio import DigitalInOut, Pull

led = DigitalInOut(board.LED)
led.switch_to_output()

safe = DigitalInOut(board.GP14) # <-- choose your button pin
safe.switch_to_input(Pull.UP)

def reset_on_pin():
    if safe.value is False:
        import microcontroller
        microcontroller.on_next_reset(microcontroller.RunMode.SAFE_MODE)
        microcontroller.reset()

led.value = False
for x in range(16):
    reset_on_pin()
    led.value = not led.value # toggle LED on/off as notice
    time.sleep(0.1)

```

Networking

Scan for WiFi Networks, sorted by signal strength (ESP32-S2)

```
import wifi
networks = []
for network in wifi.radio.start_scanning_networks():
    networks.append(network)
wifi.radio.stop_scanning_networks()
networks = sorted(networks, key=lambda net: net.rssi, reverse=True)
for network in networks:
    print("ssid:",network.ssid, "rssi:",network.rssi)
```

Ping an IP address (ESP32-S2)

```
import time
import wifi
import ipaddress
from secrets import secrets
ip_to_ping = "1.1.1.1"

wifi.radio.connect(ssid=secrets['ssid'],password=secrets['password'])

print("my IP addr:", wifi.radio.ipv4_address)
print("pinging ",ip_to_ping)
ip1 = ipaddress.ip_address(ip_to_ping)
while True:
    print("ping:", wifi.radio.ping(ip1))
    time.sleep(1)
```

Fetch a JSON file (ESP32-S2)

```
import time
import wifi
import socketpool
import ssl
import adafruit_requests
from secrets import secrets
wifi.radio.connect(ssid=secrets['ssid'],password=secrets['password'])
print("my IP addr:", wifi.radio.ipv4_address)
pool = socketpool.SocketPool(wifi.radio)
session = adafruit_requests.Session(pool, ssl.create_default_context())
while True:
    response = session.get("https://todbot.com/tst/randcolor.php")
    data = response.json()
    print("data:",data)
    time.sleep(5)
```

What the heck is `secrets.py` ?

It's a config file that lives next to your `code.py` and is used (invisibly) by many Adafruit WiFi libraries. You can use it too (as in the examples above) without those libraries

It looks like this for basic WiFi connectivity:

```
# secrets.py
secrets = {
    "ssid": "Pretty Fly for a WiFi",
    "password": "donthackme123"
}
# code.py
from secrets import secrets
print("your WiFi password is:", secrets['password'])
```

Displays (LCD / OLED / E-Ink) and `displayio`

`displayio` is the native system-level driver for displays in CircuitPython. Several CircuitPython boards (FunHouse, MagTag, PyGamer, CLUE) have `displayio`-based displays and a built-in `board.DISPLAY` object that is preconfigured for that display. Or, you can add your own [I2C](#) or [SPI](#) display.

Get default display and change display rotation

Boards like FunHouse, MagTag, PyGamer, CLUE have built-in displays. `display.rotation` works with all displays, not just built-in ones.

```
import board
display = board.DISPLAY
print(display.rotation) # print current rotation
display.rotation = 0    # valid values 0,90,180,270
```

Display background bitmap

Useful for display a solid background color that can be quickly changed.

```
import time, board, displayio
display = board.DISPLAY # get default display (FunHouse,Pygamer,etc)
# Create a main group to hold everything and put it on the display
screen = displayio.Group()
display.show(screen)
# make background bitmap that spans the entire display, with 3 colors
background = displayio.Bitmap(display.width, display.height, 3)
# make a 3 color palette to match
mypal = displayio.Palette(3)
```

```

mypal[0] = 0x000000 # set up those four colors (black)
mypal[1] = 0x999900 # dark yellow
mypal[2] = 0x009999 # dark cyan
# Put background into main group, using palette to map palette ids to colors
screen.append(displayio.TileGrid(background, pixel_shader=mypal))
time.sleep(2)
background.fill(2) # change background to dark cyan (mypal[2])
time.sleep(2)
background.fill(1) # change background to dark yellow (mypal[1])

```

Can also use `adafruit_display_shapes` to make this easier:

```

import time, board, displayio
from adafruit_display_shapes.rect import Rect
display = board.DISPLAY
screen = displayio.Group() # a main group that holds everything
display.show(screen)       # add main group to display
background = Rect(0,0, display.width, display.height, fill=0x000000 ) # background co
screen.append(background)

```

Image slideshow

```

import time, board, displayio
import adafruit_imageload

display = board.DISPLAY # get display object (built-in on some boards)
screen = displayio.Group() # main group that holds all on-screen content
display.show(screen)      # add it to display

file_names = [ '/images/cat1.bmp', '/images/cat2.bmp' ] # list of filenames

screen.append(displayio.Group()) # placeholder, will be replaced w/ screen[0] below
while True:
    for fname in file_names:
        image, palette = adafruit_imageload.load(fname)
        screen[0] = displayio.TileGrid(image, pixel_shader=palette)
        time.sleep(1)

```

Note: images must be in palettized BMP3 format. If you have [ImageMagick](#) installed, you can use its `convert` command to take any image format to proper BMP3 format:

```
convert cat1.jpg -type palette -colors 256 BMP3:cat1.bmp
```

To make images smaller (and load faster), reduce number of colors from 256. If your image is a monochrome (or for use with E-Ink displays like MagTag), use 2 colors. The ["-dither" options](#) are really helpful for monochrome:


```
convert cat.jpg -dither FloydSteinberg -colors 2 -type palette BMP3:cat.bmp
```

Dealing with E-Ink "Refresh Too Soon" error

E-Ink displays are damaged if refreshed too frequently. CircuitPython enforces this, but also provides `display.time_to_refresh`, the number of seconds you need to wait before the display can be refreshed. One solution is to sleep a little longer than that and you'll never get the error. Another would be to wait for `time_to_refresh` to go to zero, as show below.

```
import time, board, displayio, terminalio
from adafruit_display_text import label
mylabel = label.Label(terminalio.FONT, text="demo", x=20,y=20,
                      background_color=0x000000, color=0xffffffff )
display = board.DISPLAY # e.g. for MagTag
display.show(mylabel)
while True:
    if display.time_to_refresh == 0:
        display.refresh()
    mylabel.text = str(time.monotonic())
    time.sleep(0.1)
```

I2C

Scan I2C bus for devices

from: <https://learn.adafruit.com/circuitpython-essentials/circuitpython-i2c#find-your-sensor-2985153-11>

```
import board
i2c = board.I2C() # or busio.I2C(pin_scl,pin_sda)
while not i2c.try_lock(): pass
print("I2C addresses found:", [hex(device_address)
    for device_address in i2c.scan()])
i2c.unlock()
```

Speed up I2C bus

CircuitPython defaults to 100 kHz I2C bus speed. This will work for all devices, but some devices can go faster. Common faster speeds are 200 kHz and 400 kHz.

```
import board
import busio
# instead of doing
# i2c = board.I2C()
```

```
i2c = busio.I2C( board.SCL, board.SDA, frequency=200_000)
# then do something with 'i2c' object as before, like:
oled = adafruit_ssd1306.SSD1306_I2C(width=128, height=32, i2c=i2c)
```

Board Info

Display amount of free RAM

from: <https://learn.adafruit.com/welcome-to-circuitpython/frequently-asked-questions>

```
import gc
print( gc.mem_free() )
```

Show microcontroller.pin to board mappings

from <https://gist.github.com/anecdata/1c345cb2d137776d76b97a5d5678dc97>

```
import microcontroller
import board

for pin in dir(microcontroller.pin):
    if isinstance(getattr(microcontroller.pin, pin), microcontroller.Pin):
        print("".join(("microcontroller.pin.", pin, "\t")), end=" ")
        for alias in dir(board):
            if getattr(board, alias) is getattr(microcontroller.pin, pin):
                print("".join((" ", "board.", alias)), end=" ")
        print()
```

Determine which board you're on

```
import os
print(os.uname().machine)
'Adafruit ItsyBitsy M4 Express with samd51g19'
```

Support multiple boards with one code.py

```
import os
board_type = os.uname().machine
if 'QT Py M0' in board_type:
    tft_clk = board.SCK
    tft_mosi = board.MOSI
    spi = busio.SPI(clock=tft_clk, MOSI=tft_mosi)
elif 'ItsyBitsy M4' in board_type:
    tft_clk = board.SCK
    tft_mosi = board.MOSI
```

```

spi = busio.SPI(clock=tft_clk, MOSI=tft_mosi)
elif 'Pico' in board_type:
    tft_clk = board.GP10 # must be a SPI CLK
    tft_mosi= board.GP11 # must be a SPI TX
    spi = busio.SPI(clock=tft_clk, MOSI=tft_mosi)
else:
    print("supported board", board_type)

```

Hacks

Using the REPL

Display built-in modules / libraries

```

Adafruit CircuitPython 6.2.0-beta.2 on 2021-02-11; Adafruit Trinket M0 with
samd21e18
>>> help("modules")
__main__          digitalio          pulseio            supervisor
analogio          gc                 pwmio              sys
array             math               random             time
board             microcontroller   rotaryio           touchio
builtins          micropython        rtc                usb_hid
busio             neopixel_write    storage            usb_midi
collections       os                 struct
Plus any modules on the filesystem

```

Use REPL fast with copy-paste multi-one-liners

(yes, semicolons are legal in Python)

```

# load most common libraries
import time; import board; from digitalio import DigitalInOut, Pull; import analogio;

# print out board pins and objects (like 'I2C' and 'display')
import board; dir(board)

# print out microcontroller pins (chip pins, not the same as board pins)
import microcontroller; dir(microcontroller.pin)

# release configured / built-in display
import displayio; displayio.release_displays()

# turn off auto-reload when CIRCUITPY drive is touched
import supervisor; supervisor.disable_autoreload()

# make all neopixels purple
import board; import neopixel; leds = neopixel.NeoPixel(board.D3, 8, brightness=0.2);

```

Python info

Display which (not built-in) libraries have been imported

```
import sys
print(sys.modules.keys())
# 'dict_keys([])'
import board
import neopixel
import adafruit_dotstar
print(sys.modules.keys())
prints "dict_keys(['neopixel', 'adafruit_dotstar'])"
```

List names of all global variables

```
a = 123
b = 'hello there'
my_globals = sorted(dir)
print(my_globals)
# prints "['__name__', 'a', 'b']"
if 'a' in my_globals:
    print("you have a variable named 'a'!")
if 'c' in my_globals:
    print("you have a variable named 'c'!")"
```

Host-side tasks

Installing CircuitPython libraries

The below examples are for MacOS / Linux. Similar commands are used for Windows

Installing libraries with `circup`

`circup` can be used to easily install and update modules

```
$ pip3 install --user circup
$ circup install adafruit_midi
$ circup update    # updates all modules
```

Freshly update all modules to latest version (e.g. when going from CP 6 -> CP 7) (This is needed because `circup update` doesn't actually seem to work reliably)

```
circup freeze > mymodules.txt
rm -rf /Volumes/CIRCUITPY/lib/*
```

```
circup install -r mymodules.txt
```

And updating circup when a new version of CircuitPython comes out:

```
$ pip3 install --upgrade circup
```

Copying libraries by hand with `cp`

To install libraries by hand from the [CircuitPython Library Bundle](#) or from the [CircuitPython Community Bundle](#) (which circup doesn't support), get the bundle, unzip it and then use `cp -rX .`

```
cp -rX bundle_folder/lib/adafruit_midi /Volumes/CIRCUITPY/lib
```

Note: on limited-memory boards like Trinkey, Trinket, QTPy, you must use the `-x` option on MacOS to save space. You may also need to omit unused parts of some libraries (e.g. `adafruit_midi/system_exclusive` is not needed if just sending MIDI notes)

Releases

No releases published

Packages

No packages published