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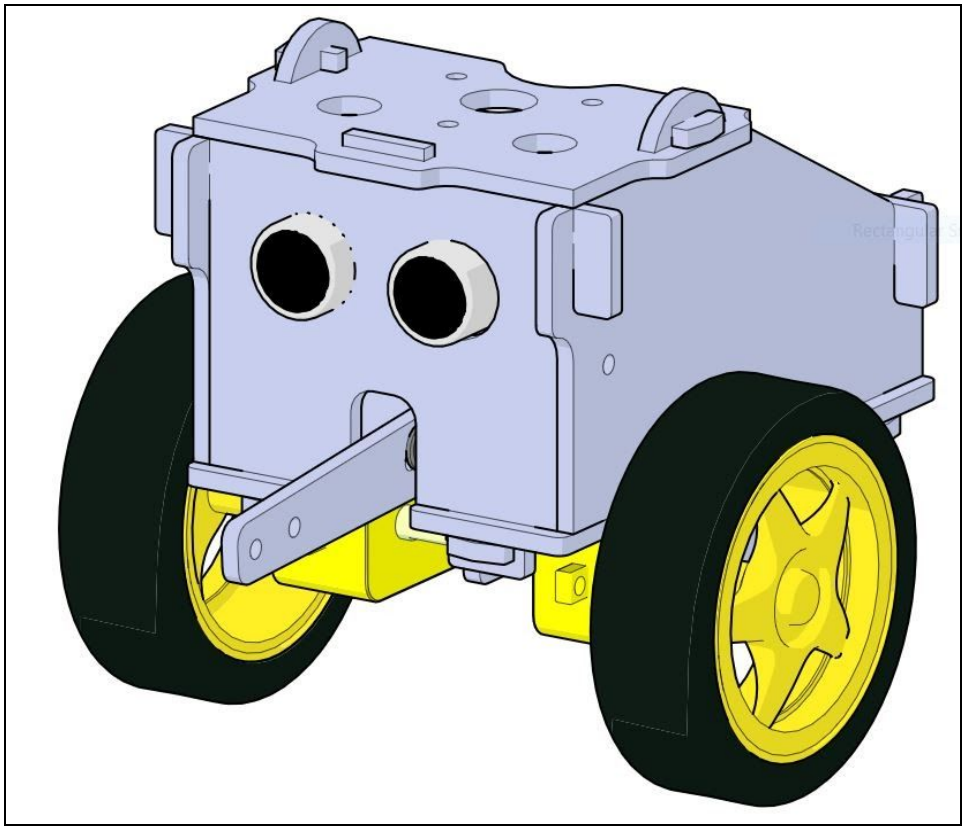
solutions

MiiA.bit Robot

Robot and App Getting Started Guide



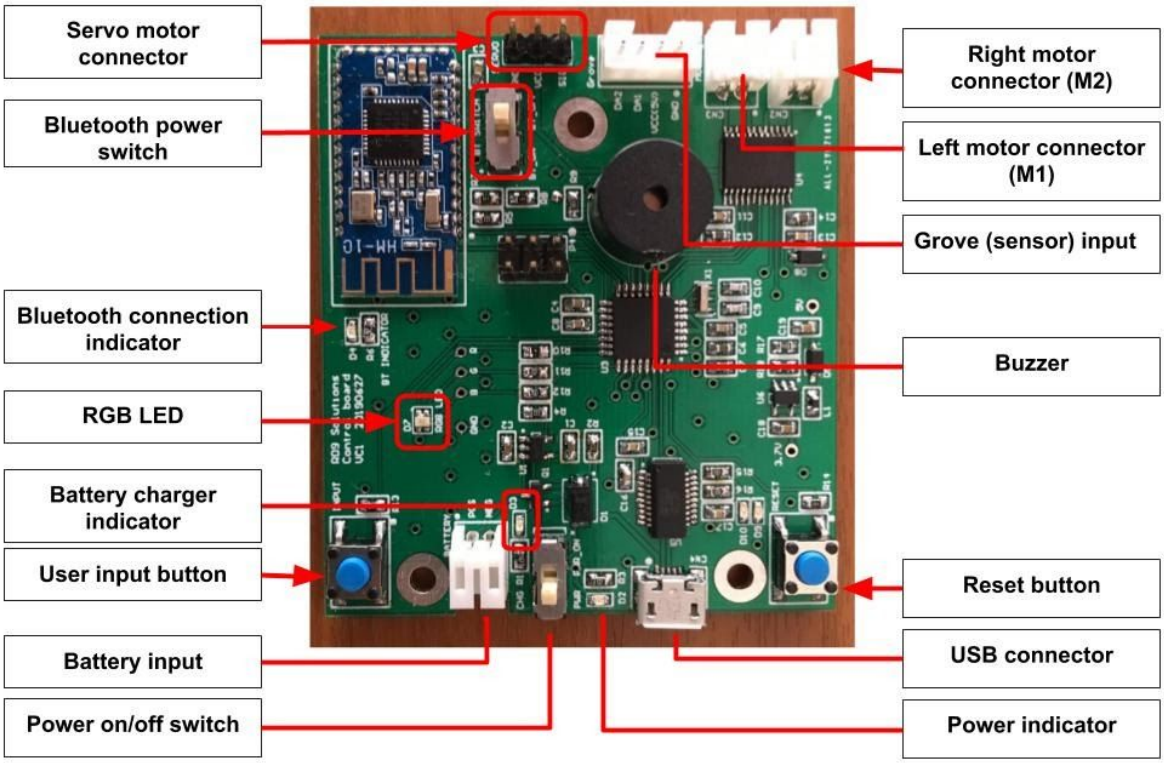
Hello! And congratulations on taking the first step in **future-proofing yourself** for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR)! This document will take you through everything you need to know about getting started on your journey! So without further ado, let's dive in! :)

Assembling your Robot

As you may have noticed, your robot comes disassembled. Therefore, the first step is building your robot. You can find the assembly instruction manuals in the Robot Support tab in the MiiCode mobile app. Download and follow the easy step-by-step instructions to get started!

MiiA.bit Control Board

Now that your robot is assembled, let's dive in and have a closer look at your MiiA.bit Control Board. This section outlines all the different components on the control board and how they function.



Bluetooth Module

Power Switch

The Bluetooth Module power switch is used to turn Bluetooth functionality on and off. During normal operation, when using your MiiA.bit Robot with the MiiCode mobile app, this switch should always be set to the ‘On’ position.

The Bluetooth module should only be turned off when uploading new firmware onto the control board.

Connection Indicator

The Bluetooth Connection Indicator is a green light. It shows the connection status of the Bluetooth Module. A flashing connection indicator means the Bluetooth Module, and therefore your robot, is not connected to any device. A steady connection indicator means that the Bluetooth Module, and your robot, is successfully paired with a device!

Power

On/off Switch

The Power On/Off Switch is used to turn your robot on. It should be noted that the switch **must** be in the off position when charging the robot.

Power Indicator

The Power Indicator light shows whether the robot is turned on or not. When the robot is powered on, and the Power On/off switch is in the on position, this light will be steadily on. When the robot is powered down, either when the Power On/off switch is in the off position or when the battery has been fully depleted, this light will be off.

Charging

Battery Input

The Battery Input Connector is used to connect the rechargeable Lithium Polymer (LiPo) battery to the robot control board. The LiPo battery must remain connected during operation and charging.

USB Connector

The USB Connecter allows you to plug in a Micro USB cable (typical Smartphone Cable). With a Micro USB cable, the USB Connector allows for two different functions:

- Charging the rechargeable battery - Connect a Micro USB cable to the USB Connector and use a Smartphone Charger or Computer/Laptop USB port to charge the battery. Note that the LiPo battery should remain connected to the Battery Input during charging.
- Uploading new firmware - Connect a Micro USB cable to the USB Connector and connect the robot to a Computer/Laptop. Using the Arduino IDE, new firmware may be uploaded to the robot's control board. This is covered further in an additional guide.

Battery Charge Indicator

The Battery Charge Indicator light indicates when the battery is being charged. While the battery is charging, the charging indicator will be fully on. When the battery is nearing its full capacity, the charging indicator will flash. When the charging indicator is fully off, your robot's battery is fully charged.

Input

User Input Button

This button accepts user input, by pressing the button, and can be programmed and used for different things within the MiiCode mobile app.

Reset Button

This button is used to reset the program running on the board. Resetting the board puts the robot in a default, known-state.

Grove (sensor) Input

This connector is used to connect a variety of different sensors as supported by the MiiCode mobile app. For example, the Ultrasonic Distance Sensor supplied with MiiA.bit is connected to the Grove Input connector. Follow connection procedure outlined in the MiiA.bit assembly instructions.

Output

Buzzer

The Buzzer can be used to create sounds of varying tones. It is controlled via the MiiCode mobile app.

RGB LED

The Red, Green, Blue Light Emitting Diode (RGB LED) is a small light situated on the robot control board that is capable of displaying various colours. The colour displayed is controlled by adjusting how much ‘red’, ‘blue’ and ‘green’ light is activated in the diode. This is controlled via the MiiCode mobile app.

DC Motor Connectors

Direct Current Motors, or DC Motors, are used to drive your MiiA.bit robot. The DC Motor Connectors are the points to which the two DC motors must be connected. Ensure that you follow the MiiA.bit Assembly Instructions such that the Left and Right motors are connected correctly!

Servo Motor Connector

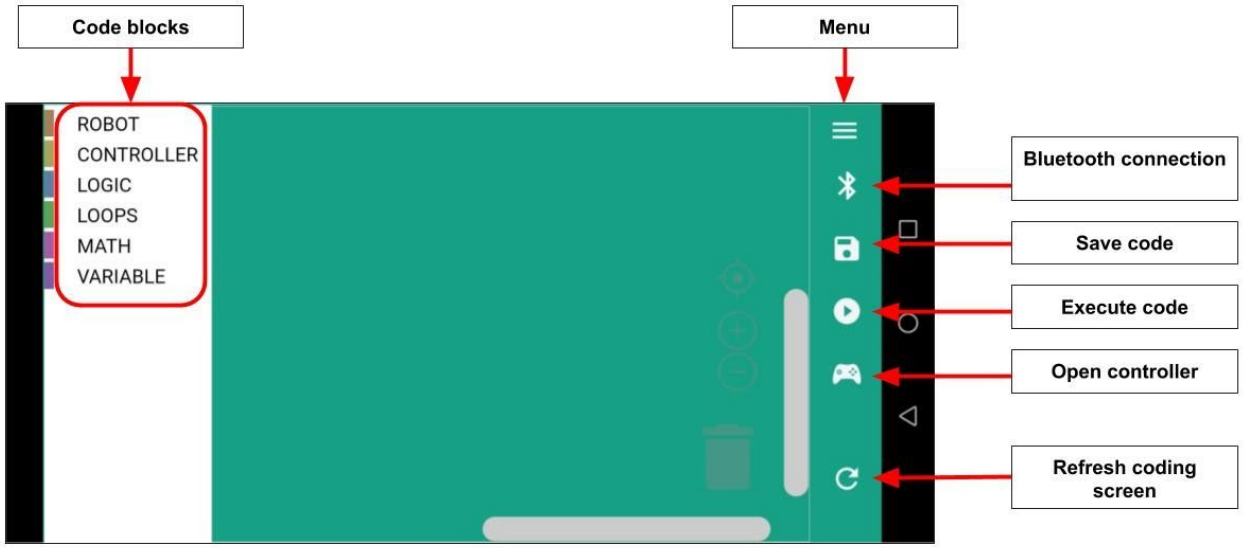
The Servo Motor Connector allows for the connection, and control, of a compatible Servo Motor. This motor allows for precise, position controlled motion. Connect the Servo Motor to the control board as shown in the MiiA.bit Assembly Instructions.

MiiCode Mobile App

The MiiCode Mobile App is used to not only interact with your MiiA robot, but also contains a wealth of useful information and plenty of features that will aid you on your journey through the wonderful world of robotics!

Main Screen and Menu Items

This section details Main Screen of the Mobile App and explores the various Menu Item options available.



Code Blocks

The MiiCode App uses a block-based programming language. This means that you construct programs for your robot by connecting different blocks together. All the available code blocks are contained in these sections. Simply drag the desired blocks from the Code Blocks menus onto the Work Area. Using these blocks, you can build interesting programs that will make your MiiA.bit perform some amazing actions.

Bluetooth Connection

Tap this icon to navigate to the Bluetooth Connection page. The Bluetooth Connection icon will turn blue when your robot is successfully paired with your smart mobile device.

Save Code

Tapping this icon will allow you to save any code you are currently busy assembling. You will be prompted to give your project a name. Tapping on this icon again after already first saving your code will save any changes you made since the last save.

Execute Code / Play Button

After you've assembled a program with code blocks in the Work Area, you can run your code on your robot by tapping the Play Button. After tapping the Play Button, your code is sent to your robot continuously, in real-time! This means that your can make changes and see the results instantly.

After tapping the Play Button, it changes to a Stop Button. Tapping this will stop the sending of your code to your robot.

Open Controller

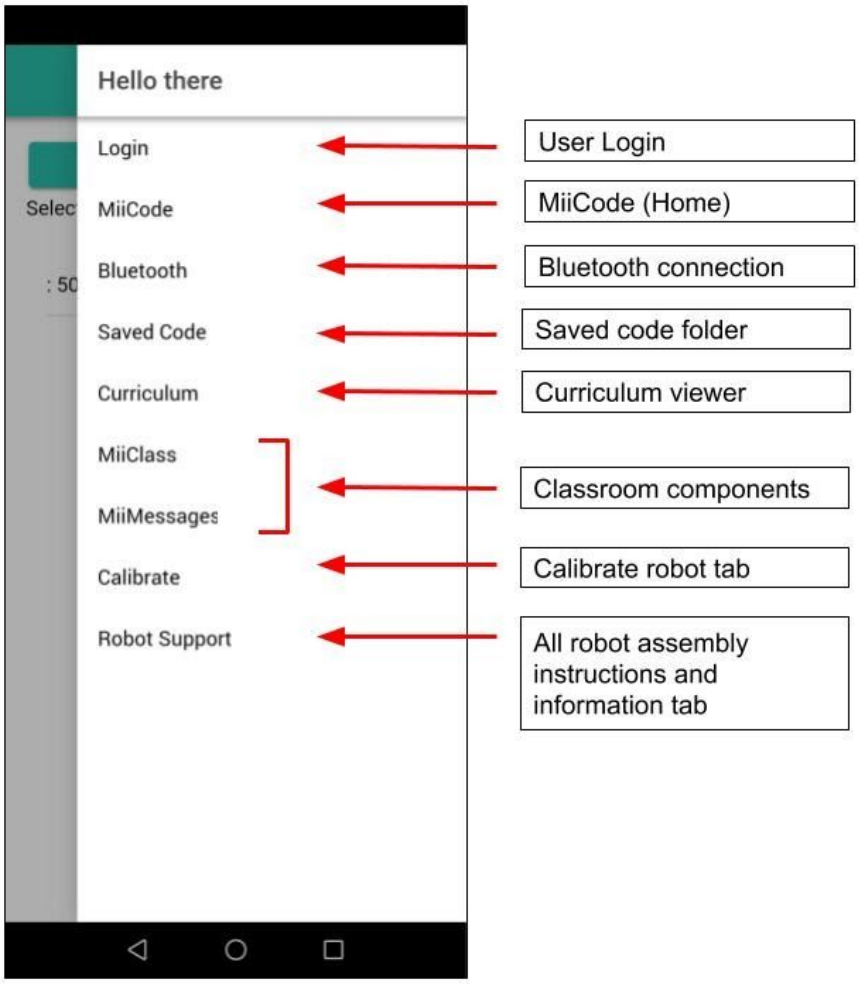
Tapping the controller icon will open the Controller Screen. This screen contains a controller with various buttons that you can program to achieve different results. You can program these buttons but using blocks from "Controller" code blocks section.

Refresh Coding Screen

There may be times when you you'd like nothing more than a fresh start. Tapping this icon will refresh the entire app. However, with great power, comes great responsibility: tapping this icon will cause everything to be reset to the default state. This means that you'll lose any unsaved code still present in the Work Area and you'll also lose connection to your robot. Ensure that you saved any code you wish to keep before using this button.

App Menu

Tapping the Menu Button will open up the App Menu. This menu provides access to a whole range of other features!



Login

The Login Page allows you to register and log into the MiiCode app to unlock the full potential of your MiiCoding experience. While much of the functionality is available without logging you, you won't be able to save any code that you've created.

MiiCode (Home)

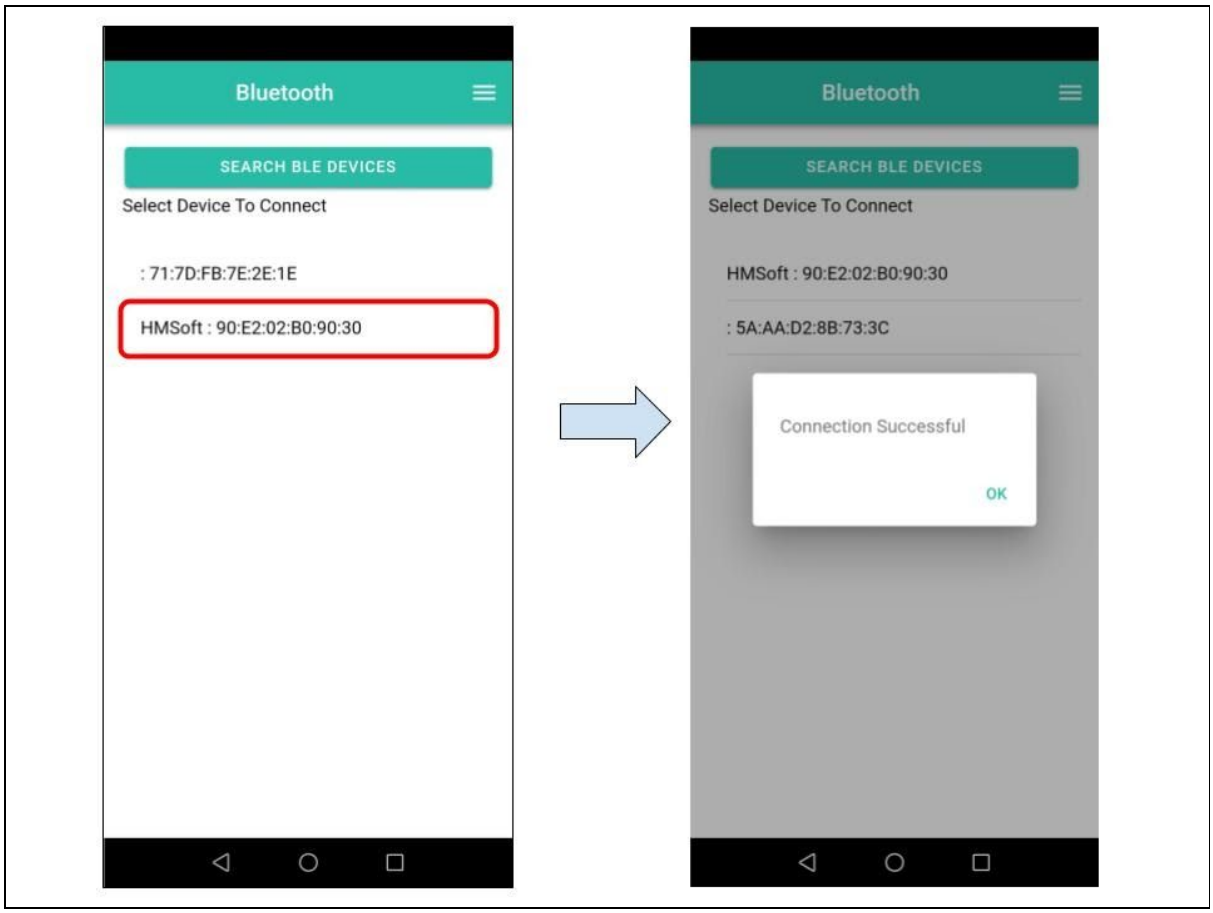
The MiiCode menu item will return you to the Main Screen and Work Area.

Bluetooth

Selecting the Bluetooth menu item opens that same page as tapping the Bluetooth Connection Icon in the Main Screen. This page allows you to search for and pair with your robot. Ensure your robot is turned on and that the Bluetooth Module is powered on. Then, select ‘Search BLE Devices’ and wait for your MiiA.bit’s unique name to pop up.

All MiiA.bit names are in the form *miiabitABCD* where *ABCD* is the unique serial number of your robot. This serial number can be found in the box or on the control board.

Once found, select your MiiA.bit Bluetooth Device from the list to begin pairing A connection successful indicator will pop up once your robot is successfully connected to the MiiCode app!



Saved Code

This menu item takes you to a folder where all your previously saved projects are stored. Once registered, your saved projects it tied to your unique profile, so you can log in to MiiCode from another device and access your projects and continue working on them!

Curriculum Viewer

This menu item allows you to view all the learning material, fun projects and challenges associated with MiiA.bit and MiiCode. The Curriculum comprises various modules focusing on different aspects of the MiiA.bit Robot. Everyone gets access to introductory content to get you started, and later when you decide you want a bit more, you can upgrade to a Premium Account to access more specialized content. This section is also constantly updated with new challenges and learning material, so check in regularly.

Classroom components

This is where things get interesting, These components are used to interact with your teacher in a classroom setting. With this feature, you will be able to receive assignments straight from your teacher, complete it and then send it back. You can also monitor any messages sent within your class, that way you will always be updated!

Calibration (Robot tuning)

As the name suggests, this is where you get the option of getting more control. Fine tune your robot to exactly the way you like it. You will be able to calibrate the different motors for the forward and reverse directions. Also, if you want to see exactly what is being sent back from your robot, I'd have a look at the bottom of this page.

Robot Support

This section is where all robot support documents are stored. This included Instruction Manuals, Getting Started Guides, Calibration Sheets, and much more. If you're ever in need of help, check this section out!

Robot Calibration

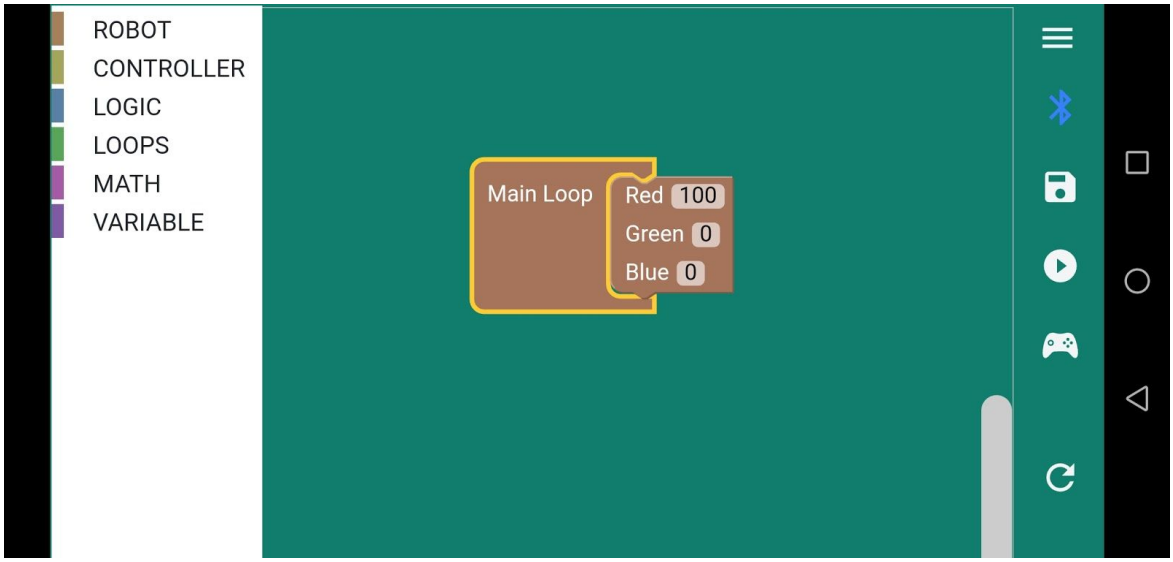
Just as individual humans are unique, no two motors are exactly alike and there are often times variations between motors. These variations may cause your robot to move in a ways that you'd not expect. To account for this, you're able to calibrate your robot's motors. Using the supplied Calibration Sheet, you're able to compensate for variations in your motors and get your robot calibrated. Once calibrated, your robot should be capable of following a straight line!

Packaging Robot

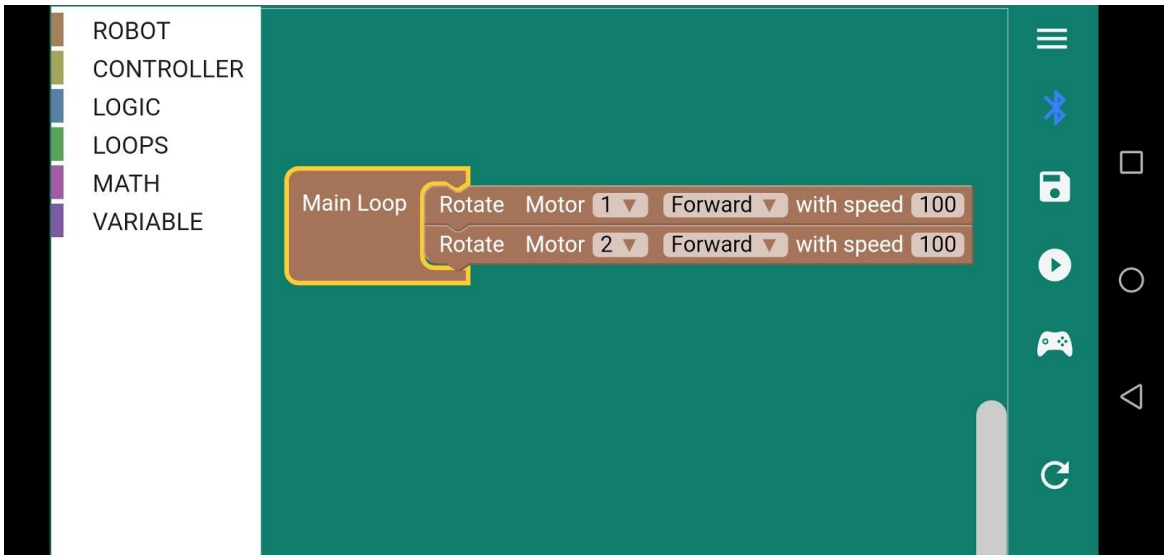
The box your MiiA.bit came in not only houses the disassembled robot components, but also serves as a convenient way to transport your robot! Your MiiA.bit robot can be stored in the original packaging as shown in the image below. Just remove the wheels and place them next to the robot as shown.

Sample Code

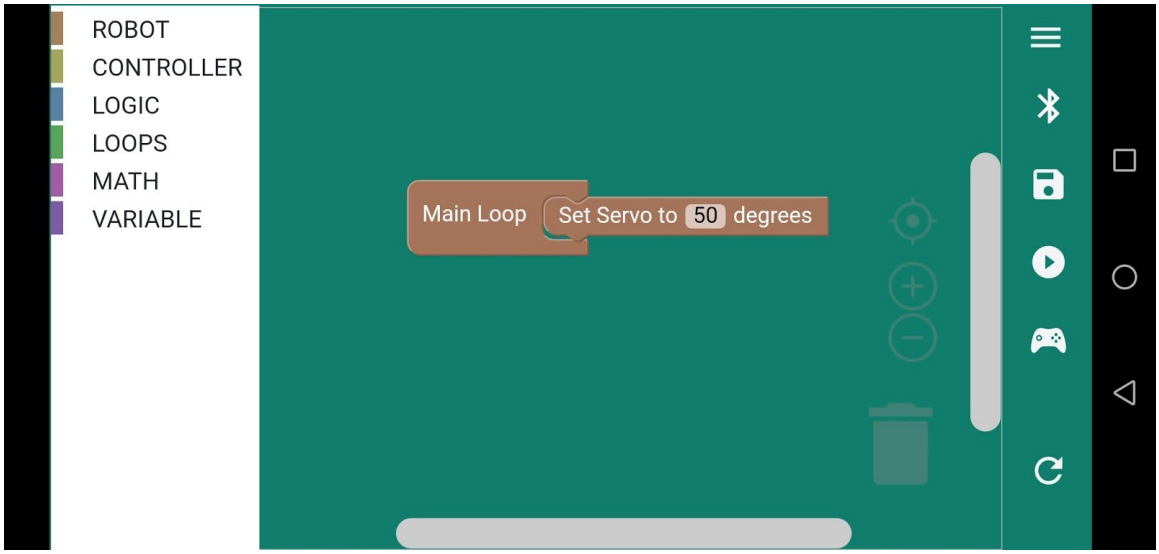
Now that you're all set up with your robot and are familiar with the MiiCode app, let's get into some coding! Below are some examples of code snippets that perform some of the more basic functions of the MiiA.bit robot. The aim of these snippets is to introduce you to the blocks and give you a taste of what's possible.



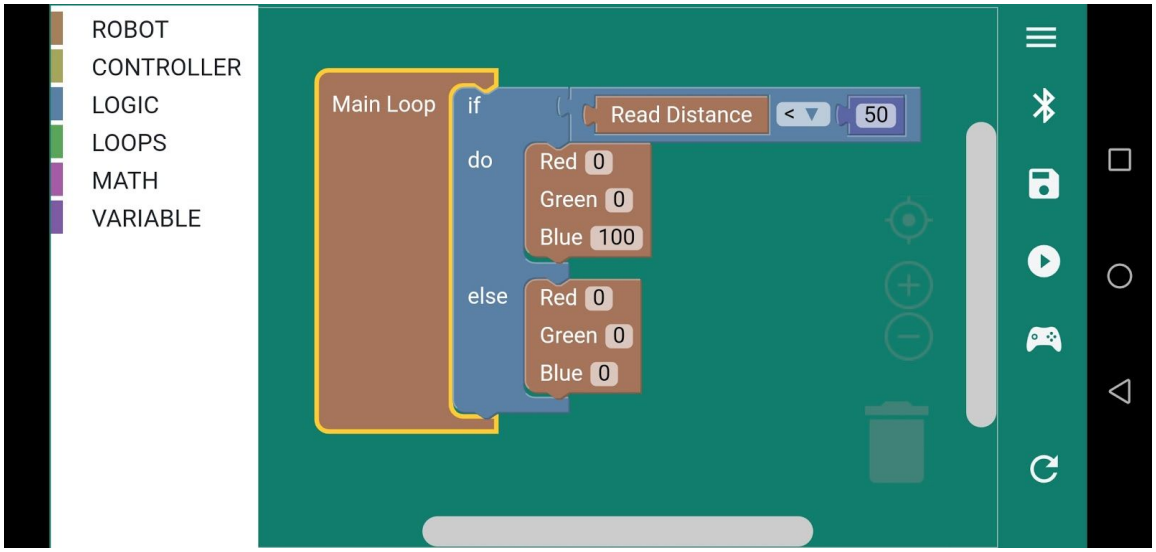
The code above turns the Red LED on.



The code above moves both motors forward at a 100% power.



The code above moves the servo to a position of 50 degrees.



The code above turns on the Blue LED when an object is less than 50 cm from the distance sensor. When the object is further than 50 cm away, the LED is turned off.

And that's it! You've officially Gotten Started with your MiiA.bit Robot and MiiCode. If you require additional information, consult the Robot Support section in the MiiCode app. Or if you're feeling social, connect with us on one of our platforms or drop us an email. We're always happy to help!

Contact information

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Email: info@rd-9.co.za

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FAQs

1. What is Firmware?

Firmware is the program that runs on a Microcontroller device. In this case it's the code that runs on the Microcontroller that powers your MiiA.bit robot. The original MiiA.bit Firmware enables you to use MiiCode to program your robot.

2. I am not able to zoom in or out on the MiiCode Mobile App

When opening the MiiCode app and the zoom functions don't work, simply refresh the app by tapping the Refresh button at the bottom right of the screen. Remember though, you'll lose all unsaved code and your connection to your robot. So use with caution!