

Basic servo control

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Hardware and software required

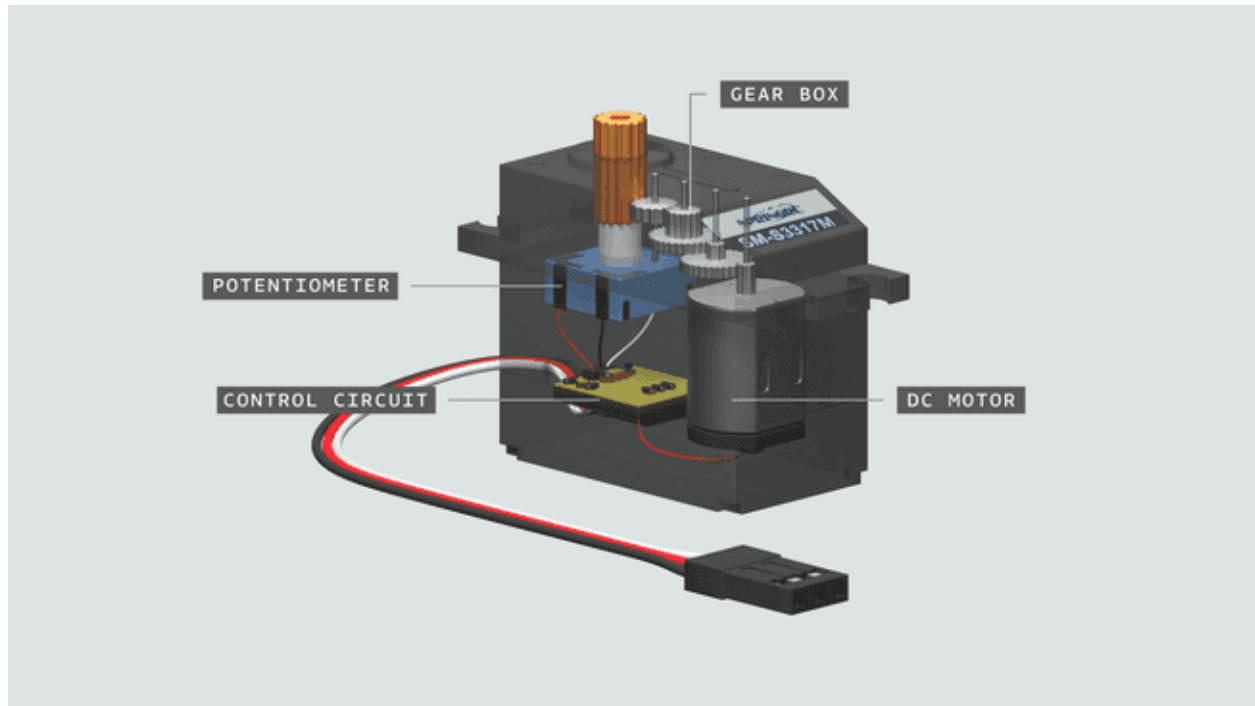
Arduino IDE ([online](#) or [offline](#))
Arduino UNO ([Link to store](#))
Servo motor 4.8V - 6V ([Link to store](#))
Jumper wires.

Standard servo motors

1. Standard servo motors are actuators that allow for precise control of position (angle).
2. A typical characteristic is that the angle of the motor is 0 - 180 degrees.
3. A standard servo motor, just as other motors, are essentially just a **DC motor**, but with some extra features:
 - **Control circuit** for controlling the motor, e.g. setting the angle.

- **Gears** that transform speed into torque, which makes it capable of doing "heavy lifting" at a slower speed, as opposed to a regular DC motor that just spins very fast!
- **Potentiometer** that keeps track of its angle. This makes it possible for the servo to "know where it is".

Take a look at the image below to see how a Servo looks like inside:



The different wires

Almost all servos come with a set of **3 wires**.

These are **PWR**, **GND** and **Signal**. For a very simple circuit, all that is needed is to connect each of these two pins on the Arduino:

PWR (RED) - connects to 5V on the Arduino.

GND (BLACK) - connects to GND on the Arduino.

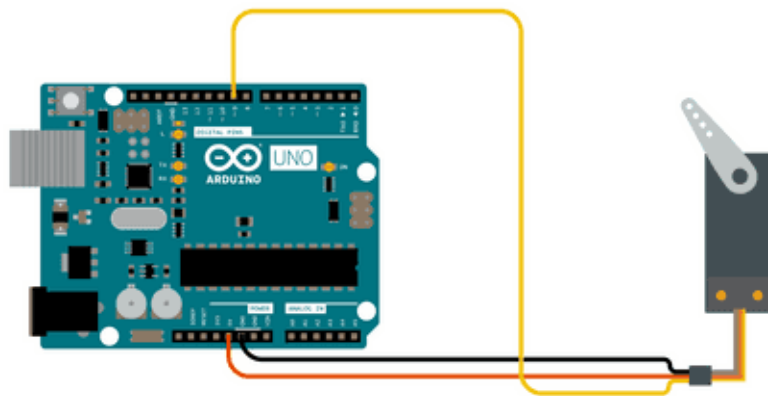
Signal (WHITE) - connects to a digital pin on the Arduino (typically 9).

Note: The color combination varies from servo to servo, but typically the red and black remains.

Note: Depending on what Arduino you are using, the signal pin may vary.

Circuit

Simply connect the standard servo motor to the Arduino, following the circuit below:



circuit

Programming the board

To program the board, you will need to have installed the offline editor, or use the online editor. There's no need to install any external libraries.

Before we begin, let's take a look at some of the core functions in the program:

- `#include <Servo.h>` - includes the Servo library.
- `Servo myservo` - create a servo object.
- `myservo.attach(9)` - attach the servo to a pin.
- `myservo.write(pos)` - write a value to the servo (0-180).

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```
#include <Servo.h>

Servo myservo; // create servo object to control a servo
// twelve servo objects can be created on most boards

int pos = 0;    // variable to store the servo position

void setup() {

  myservo.attach(9); // attaches the servo on pin 9 to the servo
  object

}

void loop() {

  for (pos = 0; pos <= 180; pos += 1) { // goes from 0 degrees to
  180 degrees

    // in steps of 1 degree

    myservo.write(pos); // tell servo to go to
    position in variable 'pos'

    delay(15); // waits 15ms for the servo
    to reach the position

  }

  for (pos = 180; pos >= 0; pos -= 1) { // goes from 180 degrees
  to 0 degrees
```

```
myservo.write(pos);           // tell servo to go to
position in variable 'pos'

delay(15);                    // waits 15ms for the servo
to reach the position

}

}
```

Testing it out

After we have successfully uploaded the code to the board, the standard servo should now start moving from 0 - 180, and then start moving from 180 - 0. This is due to the two for loops in the program, which gradually increases the

`pos` variable, which is written to the servo.

