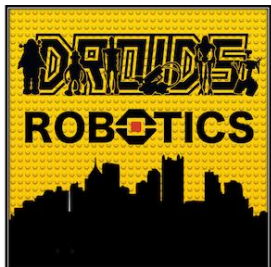


# INTERMEDIATE PROGRAMMING LESSON



Color Line Follower My Blocks with Inputs:  
Move for Distance



By: Droids Robotics

# LESSON OBJECTIVES

- 1) Learn how to write a line follower that takes multiple inputs
- 2) Learn how to write a line follower that stops after a certain number of degrees
- 3) Practice making a useful My Block

**Prerequisites: My Blocks with Inputs & Outputs, Data wires, Loops, Switches.**

*The code uses Blue Comment Blocks. Make sure you are running the most recent version of the EV3 Software. EV3Lessons has Quick Guides to help you.*

# WHY A MY BLOCK LINE FOLLOWER WITH INPUTS?

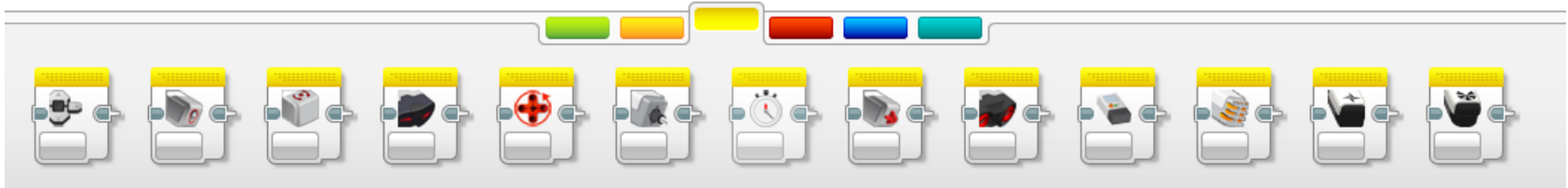
- Making a My Block out of your line follower reduces the length of your code and makes it reusable
- Learning to write a line follower that takes multiple inputs (power, degrees and color) can be very useful
  - Every time you want a line follower that goes a different distance, you just need to change the input!

# TIPS TO SUCCEED

- 1) You will need to know how to make a Simple Color Line Follower program and how to make a My Block with inputs
- 2) Since you will use your EV3 Color Sensor in Color Mode, you will not have to Calibrate your color sensor for this lesson
- 3) Check which ports you have your color sensor connected to and adjust the code as needed
- 4) You may have to adjust the speed or direction to work for your robot. Make sure that the the color sensor is in front of the wheels in the direction of travel.
- 5) Make sure you place the robot on the side of the line that you are following. The most common mistake is placing the robot on the wrong side of the line to begin with.
- 6) Follow along in the companion EV3 File.

# NEW BLOCK

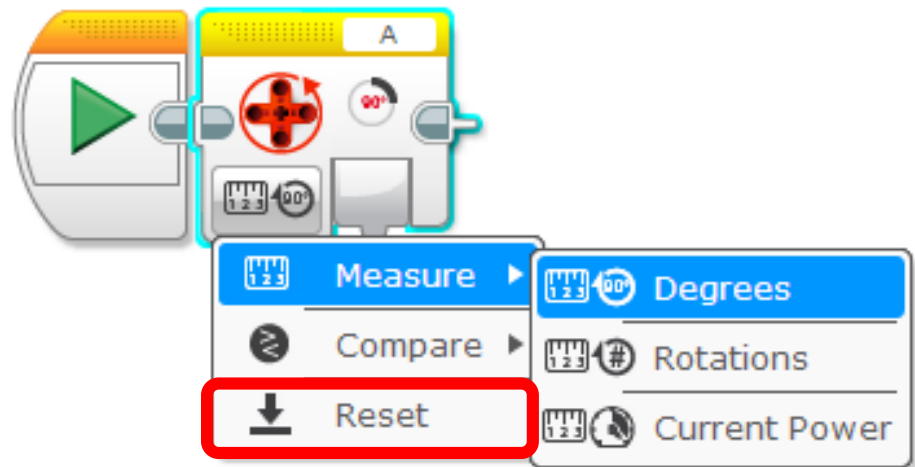
In this lesson, you will use the Sensor Block from the yellow tab for the first time.



We will use the Motor Rotation block. This is the rotation sensor.

The block has many useful modes.

In this lesson, we learn to use it in reset mode so that the value in the sensor will be set to 0.



# COLOR FOLLOWER FOR DISTANCE IN 3 EASY STEPS

**STEP 1:** Create a simple color line follower program

**STEP 2:**

A. Include a “reset the rotation” sensor block to delete any prior readings

B. Exit the line follower loop when the robot has moved certain degrees

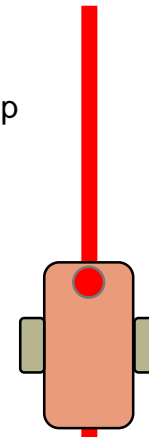
**STEP 3:**

A. Create a My Block with the code in Step 2 with inputs for degrees, power and color.

B. Wire the inputs in the My Block

Challenge: Write a line follower My Block that follows a colored line and stops after moving a certain number of degrees. The line follower should take three inputs (degrees, power and color to follow).

Goal: Stop after 720 degrees



# STEP 1: SIMPLE COLOR LINE FOLLOWER

Goal: To create a Line Follower with Color as the input.

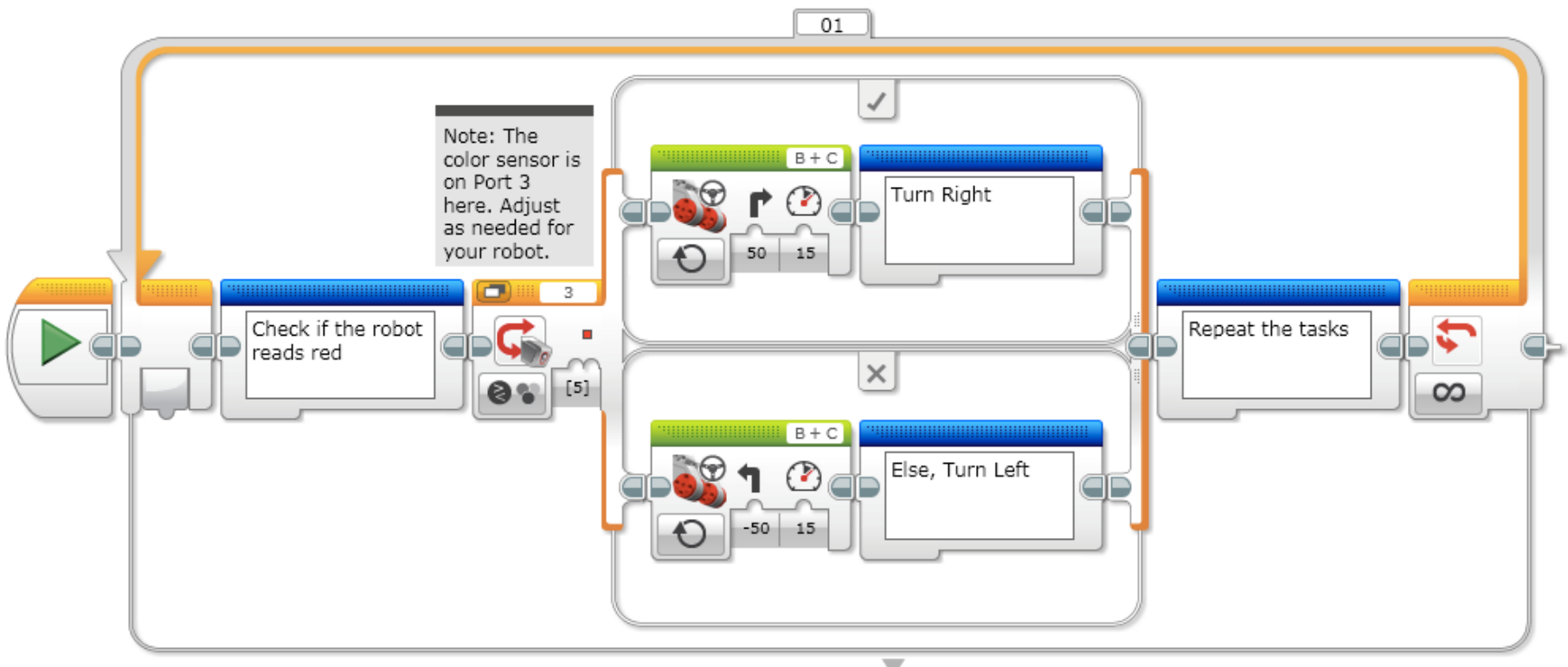
Step 1: Create a simple color line follower that follows the right side of the line.

Pseudocode:

If the robot reads red, turn right

If the robot sees any other color, turn left

Repeat these two tasks

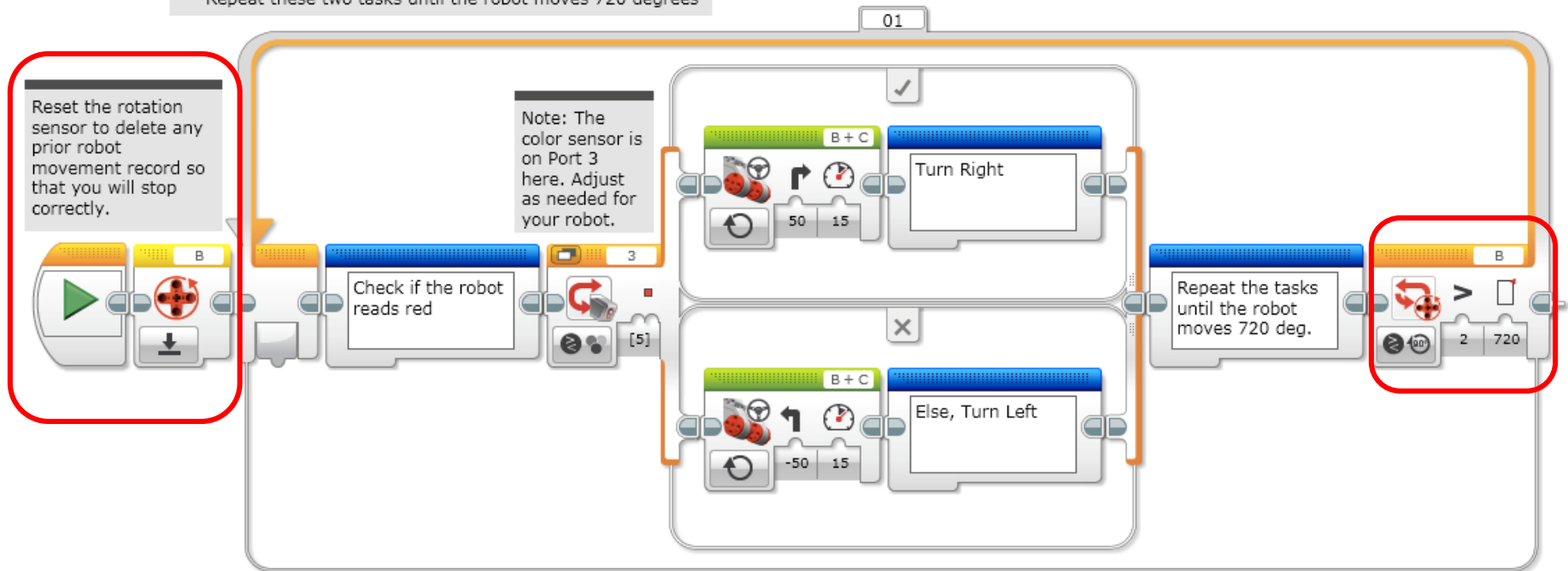


# STEP 2: ADD A RESET & LOOP EXIT CONDITION

This program is the same as step 1 except it stops after 720 degrees (Which you can change to suit your needs).

Pseudocode:

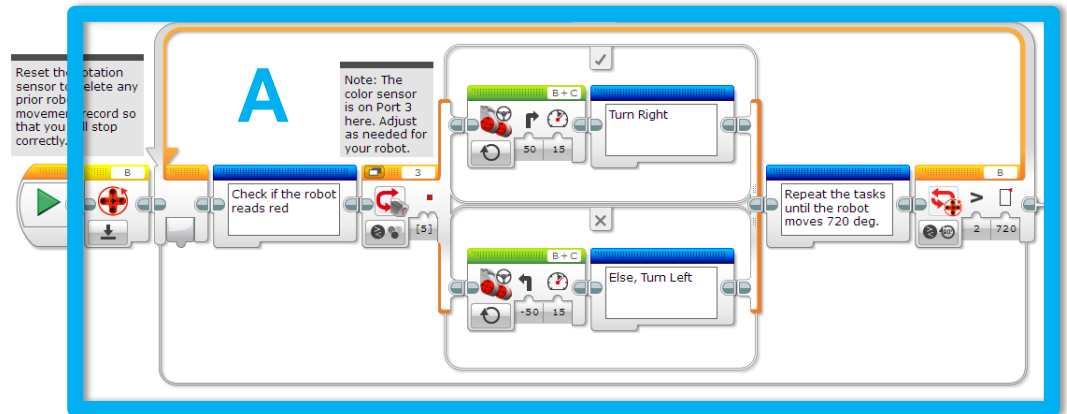
Reset the rotation sensor  
If the robot reads red, turn right  
If the robot sees any other color, turn left  
Repeat these two tasks until the robot moves 720 degrees





# STEP 3A: CREATE A MY BLOCK

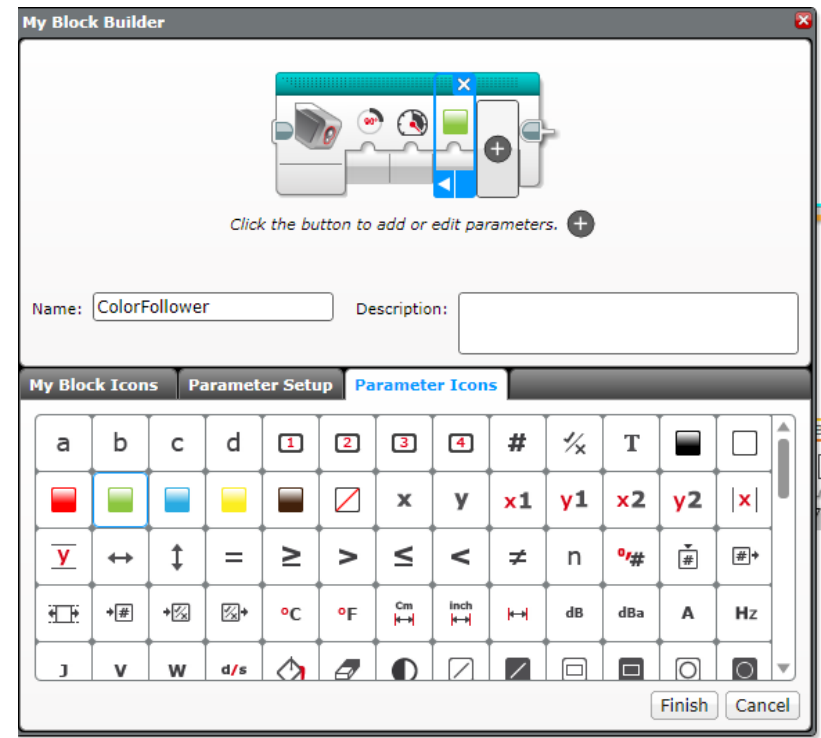
A. Highlight all the blocks then go to My Block Builder



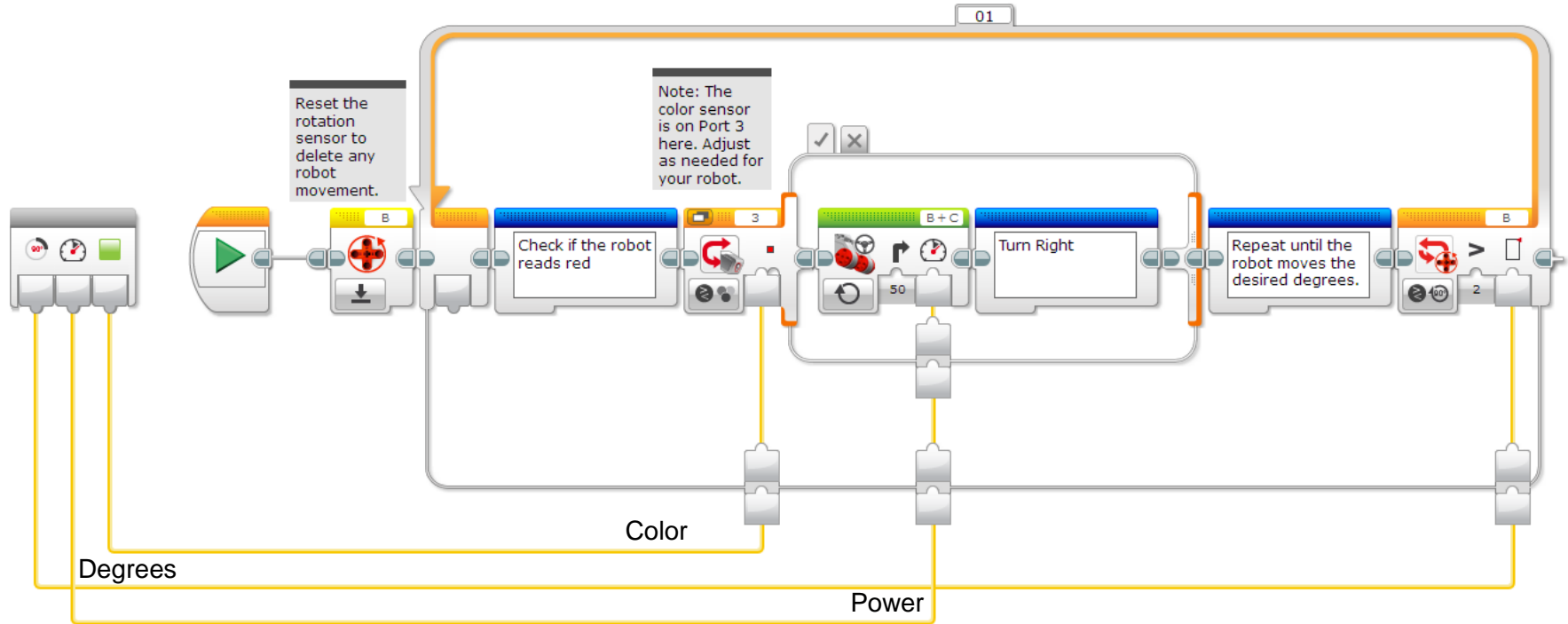
B. Add 3 inputs: one for power and one for color, and one for degrees

- Refer to the My Blocks with Inputs & Outputs lesson if you need help setting up the My Block

B



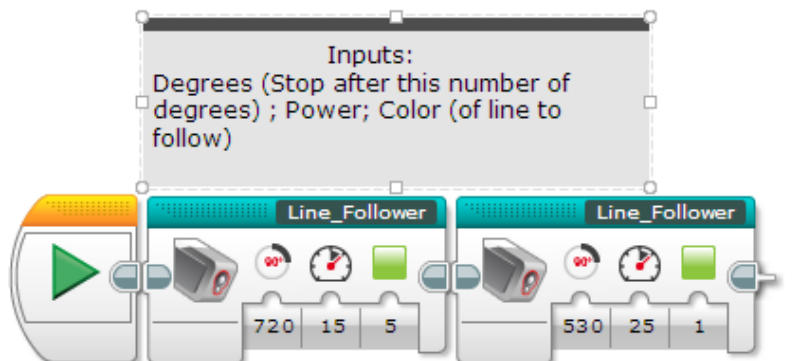
# STEP 3B: WIRE THE MY BLOCK



- The degrees input goes into loop exit condition
- The power input goes into power input on the steering block
- The color input goes into color input for the switch

# STEP 3C: USING THE MY BLOCK

This program is the same as step 2, but is converted into a My block.  
Process:



**Inputs:**  
Degrees (Stop after this number of degrees) ; Power; Color (of line to follow)

**Color Key**  
0 - No Color  
1 - Black  
2 - Blue  
3 - Green  
4 - Yellow  
5 - Red  
6 - White  
7 - Brown

This block follows a red line for 720 degrees.

This uses the same My Block but with different inputs. It now follows a green line for 530 degrees using a different power.

Note: The green square is just the icon that was picked. Even though #5 (Red) or #1 (Black) is picked, you still see the same green square icon. Don't get confused by this.

- Now the My Block appears in the turquoise tab and the same My Block can be used again and again with new inputs (see left)
- The first block alone solves the challenge of line following for 720 degrees.
- The second block in this code is to show that the same block can be used with different inputs to follow a different line for a different distance.
- If you want to learn smoother line followers, proceed to the proportional control lesson in Advanced.

# CREDITS

This tutorial was created by Sanjay Seshan and Arvind Seshan from Droids Robotics.

More lessons are available at [www.ev3lessons.com](http://www.ev3lessons.com)

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