

Basic Electronics and Breadboards

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Chapter 1

Class Structure

Student groups should be no more than two. Ideally each student has their own kit of supplies. In our testing sometimes one student in a pair would tend to dominate the supplies. This seemed to be due to an uneven amount of interest between the students. Slightly less interested students will tend to sit-back and let the more dominant student do the work. This denies that student the opportunity to develop interest and self-engage. Careful pairing or having them take turns for each activity may help.

Chapter 2

Materials

For each group:

- Breadboards (1)
- Jumper wires (several)
- RGB LED (1)
- Red LED (1)
- 10 k Ω resistors (2)
- 555 Timer (1)

Chapter 3

Introduction

This lesson will show you how to build various circuits using a breadboard and some electronics components.

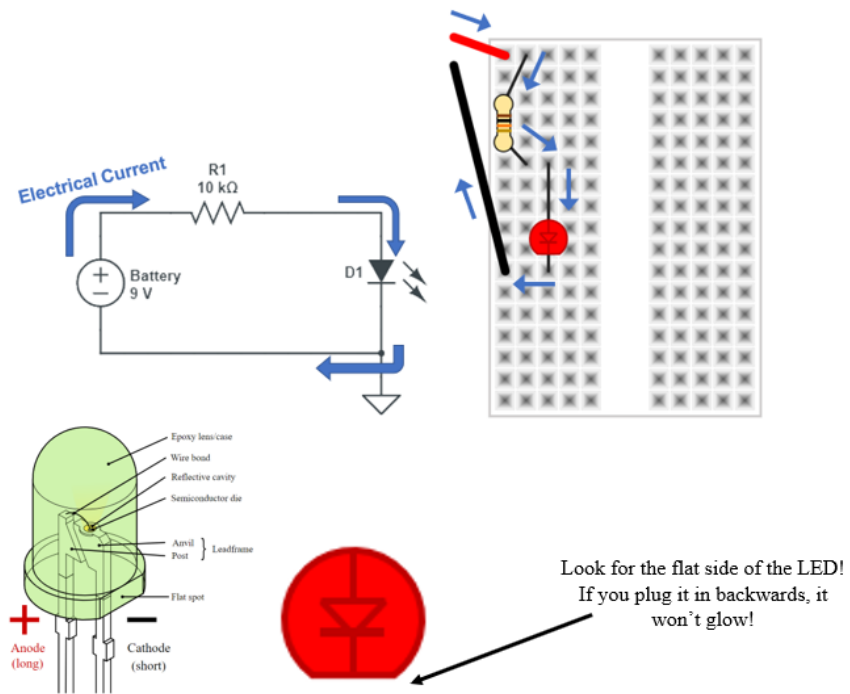
Chapter 4

The Light Emitting Diode (LED)

Build the circuit below using the 9-Volt Battery, a 10 k Ω resistor, and a red LED.

After building the circuit, **ask an instructor to check it before flipping the power switch on the battery.**

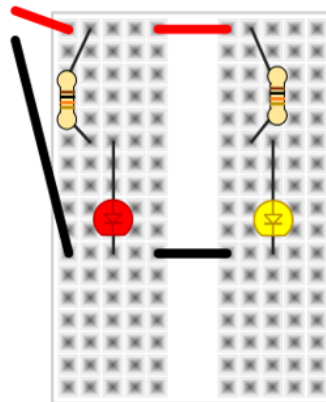
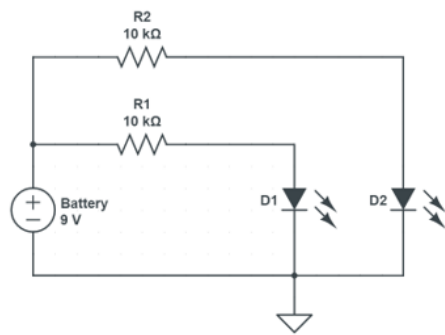
After flipping the power switch, electrical current will flow from the battery's red wire, through the resistor and red LED, and back to the battery through the black wire. The red LED should start to glow if you did everything correctly. Ask for help if the red LED does not turn on.



Chapter 5

Two LEDs

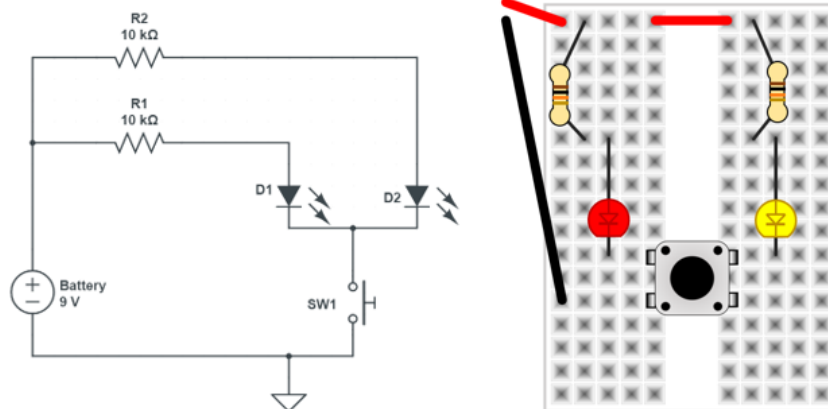
Upgrade the circuit from Exercise 1 by placing a red jumper wire, another 10 k Ω resistor, a yellow LED, and a black jumper wire.



Chapter 6

Two LEDs with a Button

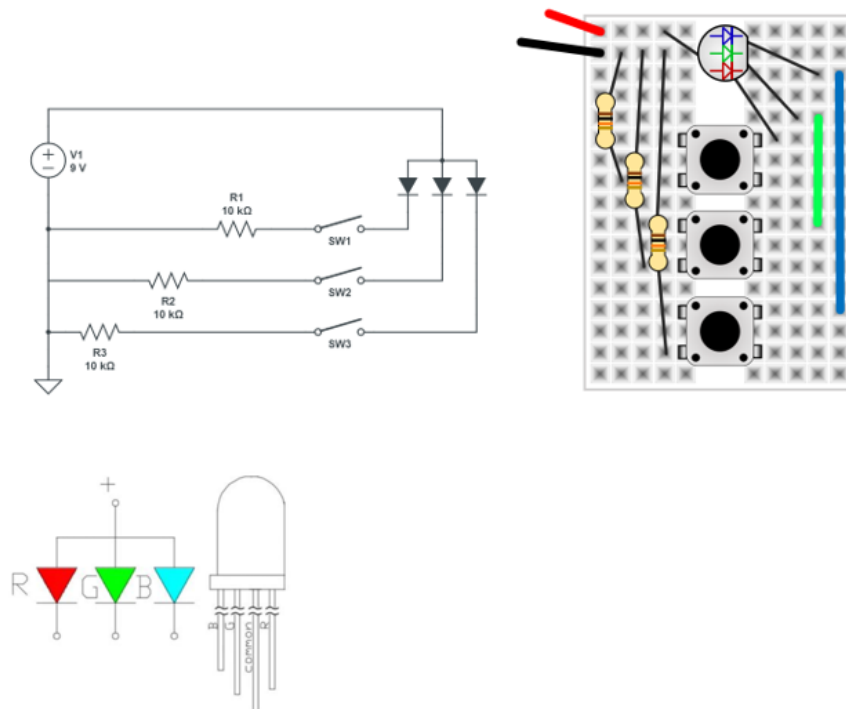
Move the battery's black wire and place a push button as shown below. The push button allows electrical current to flow through it when it is pushed but blocks electrical current when it is not pushed.



Chapter 7

Red Green Blue (RGB) LED with Buttons

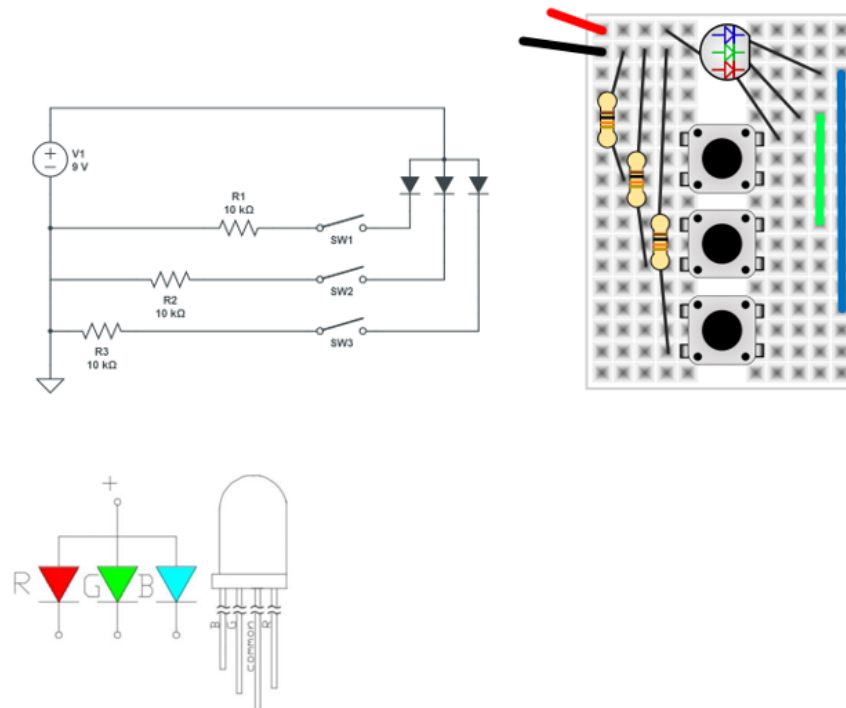
Build the new circuit below using the 9-Volt battery, three 10 k Ω resistors, an RGB LED, three push buttons, a green wire, and a blue wire.



Chapter 8

The Color Orange

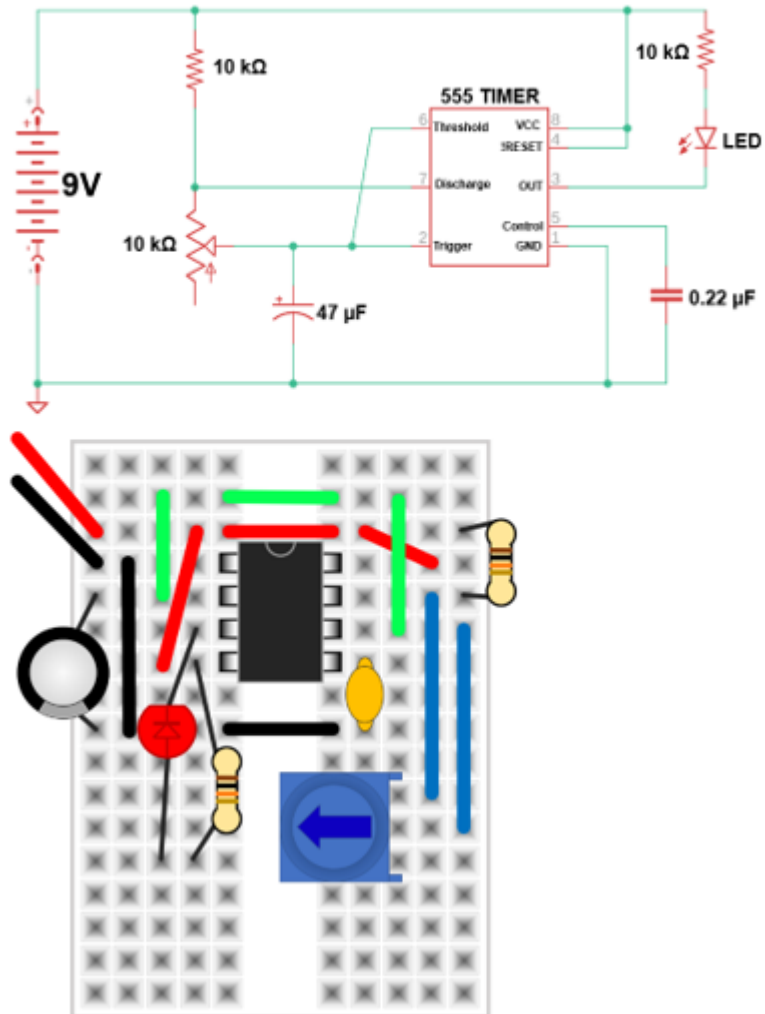
Build the new circuit below using the 9-Volt battery, a 10 k Ω resistor, an RGB LED, and a blue potentiometer. Turn the knob of the potentiometer until you create the color orange.



Chapter 9

Blinker

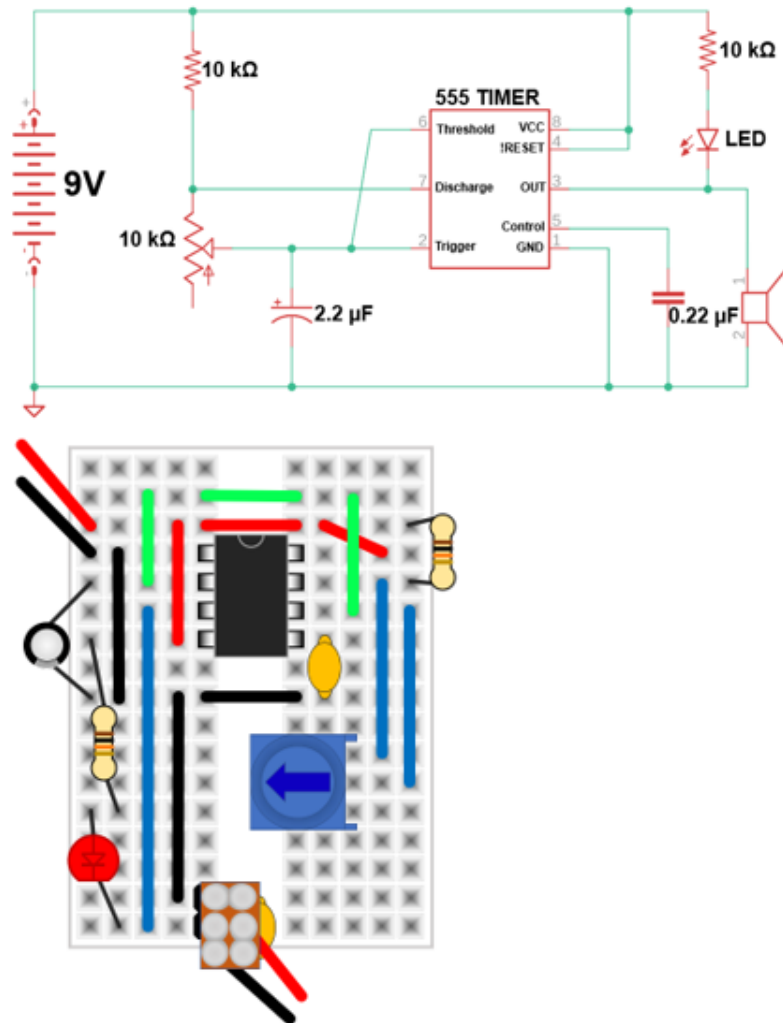
Build the complicated circuit below using the 9-Volt Battery, two 10 k Ω resistors, the 555 Timer, a red LED, a blue 10 k Ω potentiometer, the yellow capacitor, and the large black capacitor. Ask an instructor to check your circuit before you flip the power switch to ON.



Chapter 10

Cricket

Modify the previous circuit by replacing the large black capacitor with a small black capacitor, moving the LED and the 10 k Ω resistor connected to it, and adding the speaker connector as shown. As an instructor to check your circuit before you flip the power switch to ON.



Chapter 11

Lonely Cricket

Remove the blue potentiometer, and add the black 330Ω resistor, the clear infrared-LED, and black phototransistor. Bend the infrared-LED and black phototransistor so that they both point to the right.

Find another team that has finished building this circuit or wait for them to finish. When they do, point their infrared-LED at your phototransistor and vice-versa to make the crickets begin chirping.

