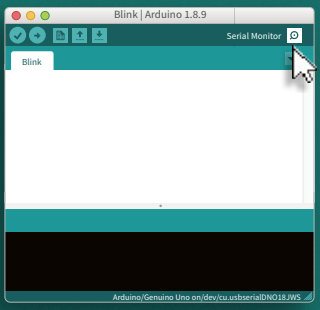
ARDUINO PRO TIP

ARDUINO SERIAL MONITOR: The Serial Monitor is one of the Arduino IDE's many great included features. When working with embedded systems, it helps to see and understand the values that your program is trying to work with, and it can be a powerful debugging tool when you run into issues where your code is not behaving the way you expected it to. This circuit introduces you to the Serial Monitor by showing you how to print the values from your potentiometer to it. To see these values, click the Serial Monitor button, found in the upper-right corner of the IDE in most recent versions. You can also select **Tools** > **Serial Monitor** from the menu.



Serial Monitor button in the upper-right of the Arduino IDE.

Serial Monitor printout and baud-rate menu.

You should see numeric values print out in the monitor. Turning the potentiometer changes the value as well as the delay between each print.

If you are having trouble seeing the values, ensure that you have selected 9600 baud and have auto scroll checked.

CODE TO NOTE

INTEGER VARIABLES:

```
int potPosition;
```

A variable is a placeholder for values that may change in your code. You must introduce, or "declare," variables before you use them. Here we're declaring a variable called **potPosition** of type **int** (integer). We will cover more types of variables in later circuits. Don't forget that variable names are case-sensitive!