Q-PET Block Software Setup

The Q-pet block software runs as an add-on tool with the Arduino IDE. This is useful because it means you can run the Q-pet block software anywhere that the Arduino IDE runs, including Windows, Mac, and Linux. There is no installer for the Q-pet block software, so just follow these steps to put the software JAR file in the correct location.

1. Download and Install the Arduino IDE software.
To use the Q-pet block software, you need to first install the Arduino IDE software. For illustrated instructions on installing the Arduino IDE software on see these websites:
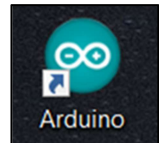For Windows   https://www.arduino.cc/en/Guide/Windows
For Mac OSX   https://www.arduino.cc/en/Guide/MacOSX

2. Download Q-pet Block Software. The name of the software is ardublock-xxxx.jar
You can find it in the member area of our Q-PET website: http://qpetprojects.com/
[NOTE: Q-PET Block Software (ardublock-all.jar) is attached to this email so no need to download]

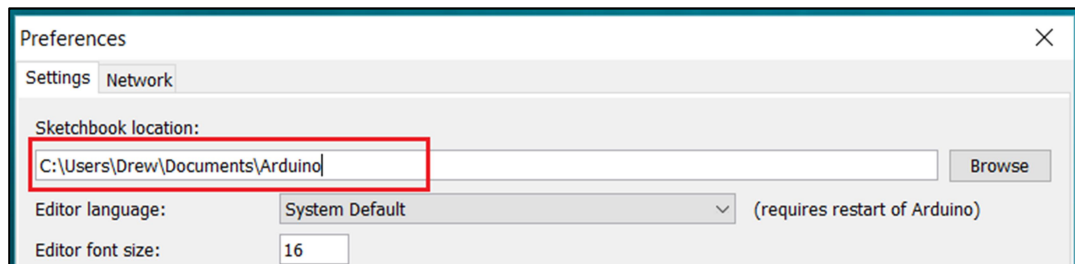3. Start the Arduino IDE by clicking on the icon on the desktop or in your start menu.

4. Find the Arduino "sketchbook location". To do this, run the Arduino IDE and look in File > Preferences. The top box will tell you the sketchbook location. Jot down that file location. Then close the Arduino IDE.
By Default the location is as follows:
  Windows: "Documents\Arduino" under user's home directory
  Mac OS: "Documents/Arduino" under user's home directory
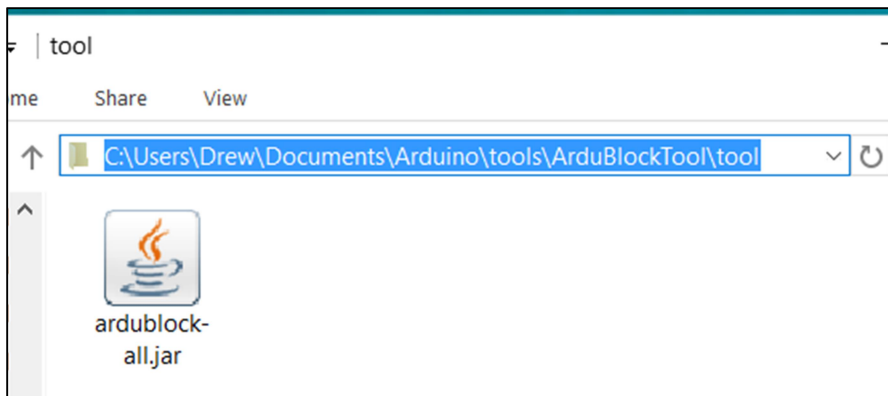 Linux: "sketchbook" under user's home directory

5. Go to that "sketchbook location" folder and make the following folders one by one: Tools > ArduBlockTool > tool (be very careful because the names are case sensitive)
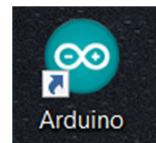
For the user named Drew, the entire directory path should look like this:
 Windows: C:\Users\Drew\Documents\Arduino\tools\ArduBlockTool\tool
 Mac OS: /Users/Drew/Documents/Arduino/tools/ArduBlockTool/tool/
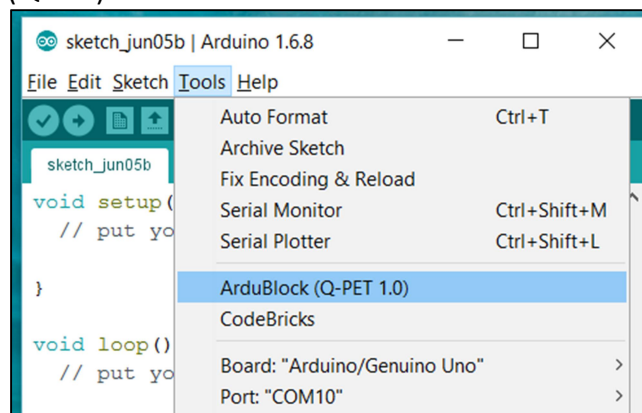 Linux: /home/Drew/sketchbook/tools/ArduBlockTool/tool/

6. Copy the ardublock-xxxx.jar (the Q-pet Block Software) file to the bottom tool directory that you just made.
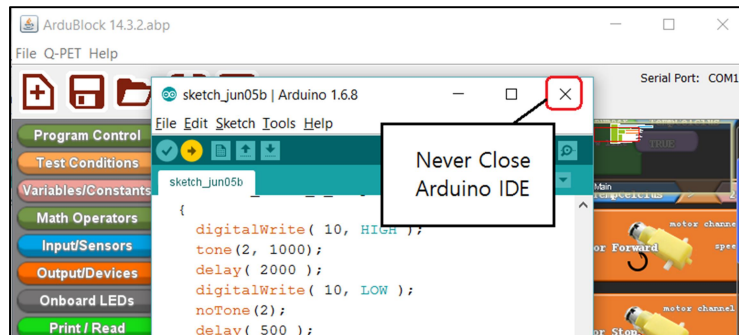

7. Close the Arduino IDE software and then restart it. You can use the icon on the desktop or in your start menu.

8. Open Ardublock (Q-PET) under the Tool menu

9. Important: The Q-PET block software runs inside the Arduino IDE, so never close the Arduino IDE while you are running the Q-PET block software. The Q-PET software saves your code automatically every time you upload, so you should be OK if you close it by accident, but better to just remember to never close the Arduino IDE.

The Block Program Workspace

The Q-PET Block Program software has three main areas.
Workspace: Where you build your block programs.
Bins: Which hold all of the building blocks.
Menu: For Saving and Uploading your programs.

To add a block to your program, you just drag the block from a bin to the workspace. To delete blocks, just drag them to the blank space under the bins. Every program starts with a Program block already added to the workspace and other blocks are added as you make your programs.