

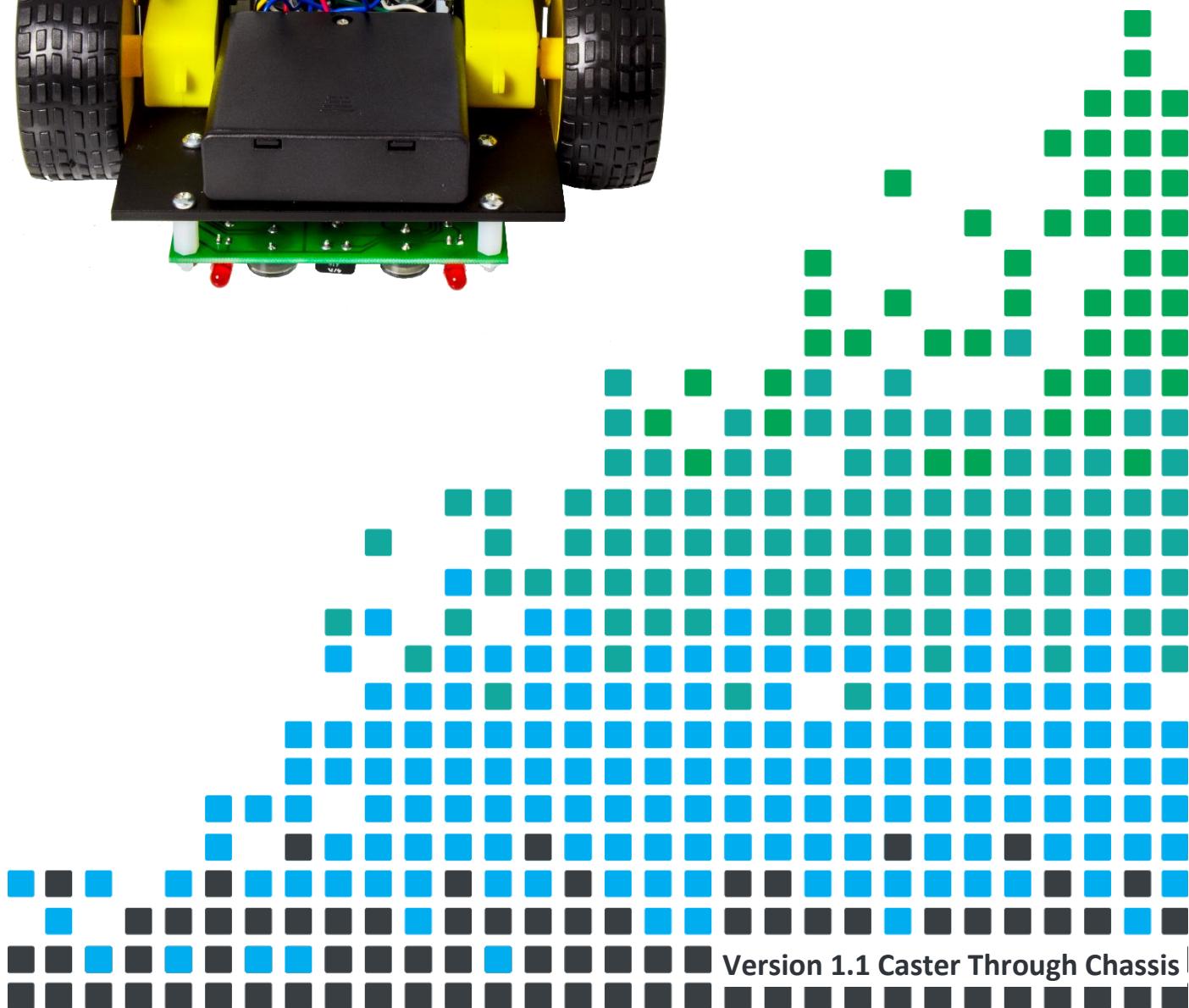
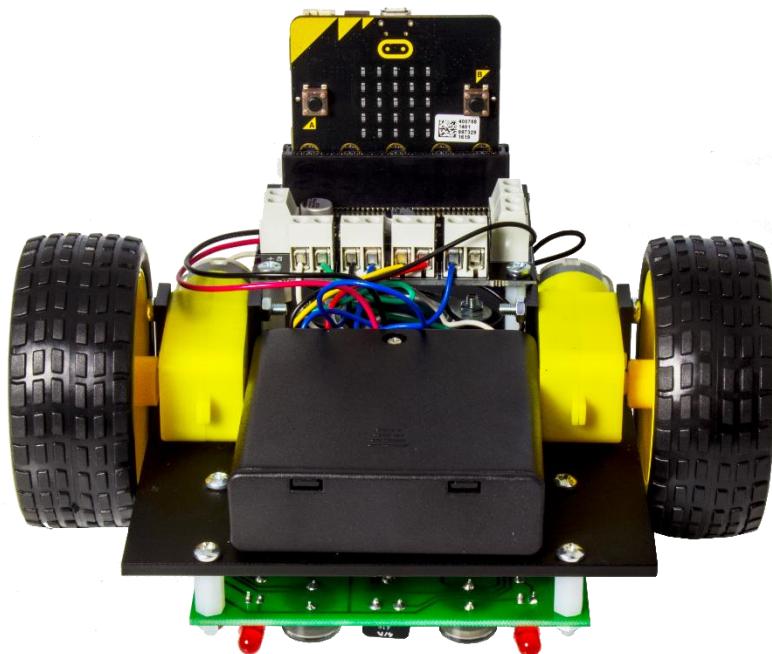


ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

BUILD INSTRUCTIONS
AN OVERVIEW OF HOW THE KIT WORKS

BUILD AND PROGRAM YOUR OWN BUGGY WITH THIS

Line Following Buggy Kit for the BBC microbit



Version 1.1 Caster Through Chassis |

Line Following Buggy Kit for the BBC microbit

www.kitronik.co.uk/5604



Build Instructions

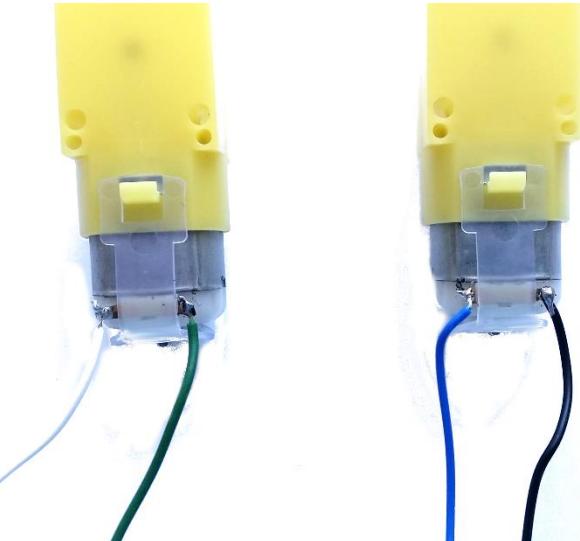
Tools required:

- A small flat head screwdriver.
- A wire stripper.
- A soldering iron and some solder.
- A pair of pliers.
- A Phillips screwdriver.

SOLDER THE WIRES ON TO THE TWO MOTORS

1

Using the four pieces of wire (red, green, blue and black) supplied with the chassis, strip and solder one end of each wire to each motor terminal (a small copper contact protruding from the end of the motor). This is done by putting the exposed wire through the hole on the contact and soldering into place.



The colours should be as shown in the picture which are:

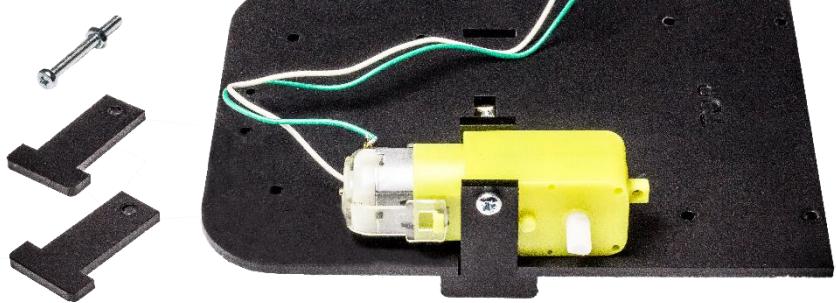
- Wire 1 on Motor 1 = White.
- Wire 2 on Motor 1 = Green.
- Wire 1 on Motor 2 = Blue.
- Wire 2 on Motor 2 = Black.

SECURING THE MOTORS

2

Take two of the 'T' shape acrylic pieces, push one through the bottom of the board (start with the position shown in the image for Motor 1) and align the other one up the notch in the edge of the body of the buggy.

Place the Motor 1 (green and white wires) between the two pieces with the motor terminals pointing toward the rounded corners of the buggy and the axle pointing outwards. Ensure that the motor is placed on the side of the board marked **Top**.



Push an M3 30mm Pozi Pan Machine

Screw through the holes in the 'T' pieces and motor to secure it in place, and then fasten it with the M3 Full Width nut.

Repeat this for Motor 2 (blue and black) on the opposite side of the buggy, then push the wheels onto the motor axles.



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3 ATTACH THE CASTER

To attach the caster to the buggy, on the side marked top, place the provided acrylic spacer so that it lines up with the caster holes to the rear of the board. Place the caster so that the ball pokes through to the underside of the board.

Fix the caster in place using the 2 x 12mm M3 Machine Screws and 2 x M3 Full Width nuts.

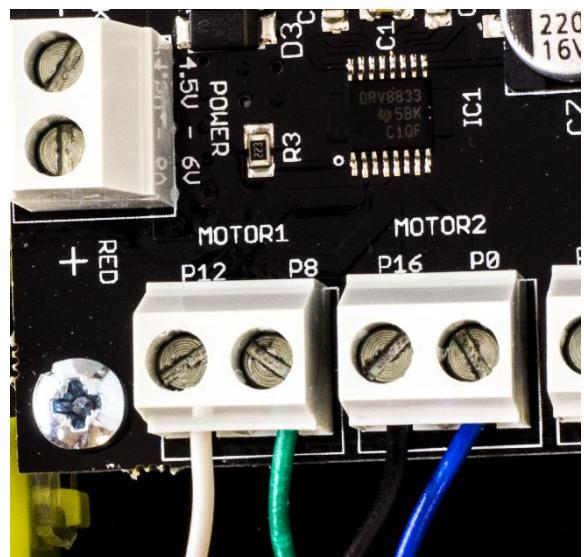


4 CONNECTING THE MOTORS TO THE MOTOR DRIVER BOARD

Attach the Motor Driver Board to the top of the chassis using the M3 20mm Plastic Spacers and M3 6mm Machine Screws. Make sure the terminal blocks are facing the centre of the board.

Take the wires from the motors and connect them to the terminal blocks on the motor driver board in the following configuration:

- Wire 1 on Motor 1 (White) goes into the 'P12' terminal.
- Wire 2 on Motor 1 (Green) goes into the 'P8' terminal.
- Wire 1 on Motor 2 (Blue) goes into the 'P0' terminal.
- Wire 2 on Motor 2 (Black) goes into the 'P16' terminal.



The next task is to build the line following PCB.

5 PLACE RESISTORS

Start with the six resistors:

The text on the PCB shows where R1, R2 etc go.

Ensure that you put the resistors in the right place.

| PCB Ref | Value | Colour Bands |
|-----------------|-------|-----------------------|
| R1, R2, R8 & R9 | 470Ω | Yellow, Purple, Brown |
| R3, R4 | 2.2kΩ | Red, Red, Red |



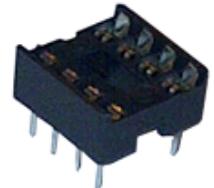
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6 SOLDER THE IC HOLDER

Solder the Integrated Circuit (IC) holder in to U1. When putting this into the board, be sure to get it the right way around. The notch on the top of the IC holder should line up with the notch on the lines marked on the PCB.



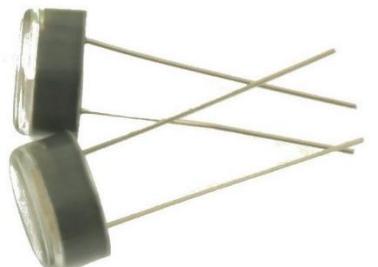
7 SOLDER THE POTENTIOMETER

Solder R7, the variable potentiometer, in to the PCB where it is labelled R7.



8 SOLDER THE LDR'S

Solder the two Light Dependant Resistors (or LDR's for short) into the board where it is marked R5 & R6.



9 SOLDER THE RED LED's

The two red LEDs are designed to point out of the back of the board so you can see them when the board is attached to the buggy. The leads of the red LED's need to be bent 90° before they are soldered in to the board where it is labelled LED3 and LED4.

The flat edge of the LED matches up with the LED outline on the PCB. Make sure the LEDs are soldered in the right way around.



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SOLDER THE CLEAR LED's

10

Solder in the two clear LEDs (LED1 and LED2) directly into the board. These LEDs don't need to be bent but again make sure the flat edge of the LED matches up with the LED outline on the PCB.



INSERT THE IC

11

Put the LM358 op amp IC into the holder labelled U1 ensuring the notch on the chip lines up with the notch on the PCB outline.

LINE FOLLOWING CONNECTING WIRES

12

Strip both ends of the blue, red, yellow and black wires and then solder one end of each the directly to the PCB as follows:

- **Out 1** = Blue
- **Out 2** = Yellow
- **+v** = Red
- **0v** = Black

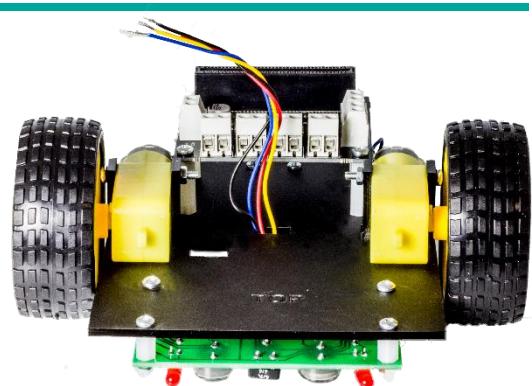
Note: The terminal block supplied should not be used.



ATTACH THE LINE FOLLOWING BOARD TO THE BUGGY

13

Placing the 4 x plastic Hex M-F Standoffs between the chassis and the line following board, attach the line following board to the bottom of the chassis with the red LEDs pointing out from under the front of the buggy. Use 4 x M3 screws to fix the line following board to the Standoffs and 4 x M3 Full Width Nuts to secure the chassis to the Standoffs. Feed through the four wires from the Line Following Board through the hole in the middle of the chassis of the buggy.



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CONNECT THE WIRES TO THE MOTOR DRIVER BOARD

Connect the wires from the Line Following Board into the terminals on the Motor Driver Board for the BBC microbit as follows:

- 'Out 1' (Blue) goes into 'INPUT2 - P2' terminal.
- 'Out 2' (Yellow) goes into 'INPUT1 - P1' terminal.
- '+v' (Red) goes into 'INPUT1 - 3V' terminal.
- '0v' (Black) goes into 'GND' terminal.

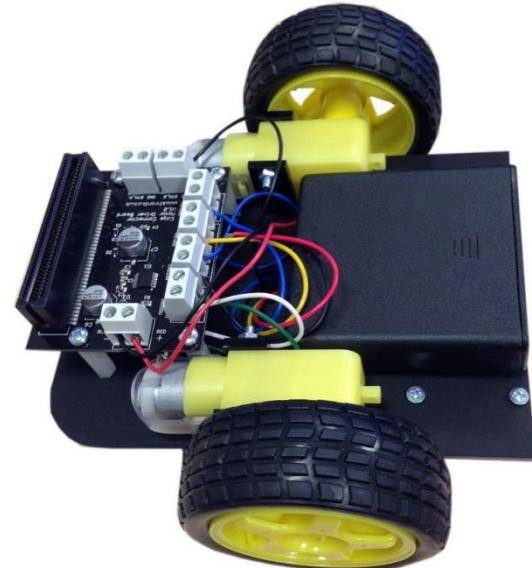


15

ATTACH THE BATTERY BOX

Using the sticky pad, attach the battery pack to the top of the buggy chassis with the switch poking through the rectangular cut-out.

Attach the red and black wires into the terminal on the Motor Driver Board for the BBC microbit labelled 'POWER'. Put the black wire in the left hand side of the terminal labelled 'BLACK' and the red wire in the right hand side of the terminal labelled 'RED'.



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16 TEST CODE

Download the code here: <https://www.microbit.co.uk/lapexp>.

Now, let's try the code out! Click on the red button labelled Edit and you will be taken to the code. Press compile and after a few moments the code should appear as a download in your browser. If you plug your BBC microbit into a USB port it will show up as a storage device. Simply drag and drop the .hex file you just downloaded onto the BBC microbit. The file might not show up on the BBC microbit in the file explorer but it is there! Once the file has been transferred (the light on the BBC microbit will stop blinking rapidly) remove the BBC microbit from your computer.

17 TEST SETUP

On a white board or surface mark out an oval or similar shape using black insulation tape. Make sure the track is quite thick (roughly 2cms). Or alternatively draw the line on a large piece of paper using a black marker pen.

18 TRY IT OUT!

Insert your coded BBC microbit into the connector on the Motor Driver Board for the BBC microbit (it can be inserted either way around) and switch on the buggy (with batteries in) using the on/off switch on the bottom. Your buggy should now be working.

When one of the sensors on the Line Following Board passes over the black line it will cause the buggy to turn back towards the line. The red LED's on the Line Following Board light up when the corresponding sensor passes over the black line and can be used for visual feedback when developing and testing your own code.

Note: R7 on the Line Following board is used to adjust the sensitivity of the LDR sensors. It is adjusted by turning the trimmer dial with a small flat head screwdriver. Try starting with R7 in the central position and then adjust it if needed.



Fault Finding

If the buggy doesn't work as expected then check the following:

- Check that the motor wires have been connected to the Motor Driver board as specified.
- Check that the batteries are not flat.
- Check the two power wires are connected the correct way around.
- Check the wiring between the Motor Driver board and the Line Following board has been made as specified.

Check the bottom of the Line Following board to ensure that:

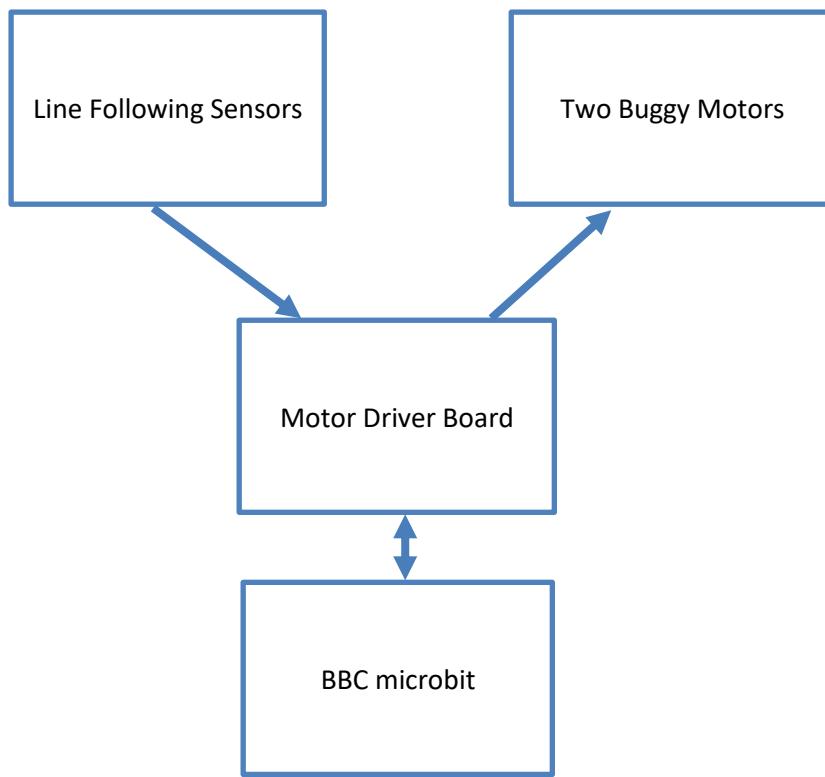
- All holes except the 4 large 3 mm mounting holes in corners are filled with the lead of a component.
- All these leads are soldered.
- Pins next to each other are not soldered together.

Check the top of the Line Following board to ensure that:

- The notch on the IC holder / IC matches the outline on the PCB.
- The colour bands on R3 and R4 are red, red, red.
- The flat edge on all four LED's matches the corresponding outline on the PCB.



How the Buggy Works - Overview



The outputs of the two line following sensors are fed, via the Motor Driver board, directly through to the BBC microbit. The Motor Driver board does not alter these signal in any way, but simply acts as a simple way of connecting the two parts together.

The BBC microbit then decides what action should be taken depending on the state of the two LDR readings. Options could be choices such as, carry on forward, turn left, turn right or brake.

To control the buggy the BBC microbit alters the state of four control lines connected to the Motor Driver board. There are two for each motor as follows (forward and reverse directions can vary depending on how the motors are connected):

| P8 | P12 | Motor 1 Function |
|----|-----|------------------|
| 0 | 0 | Coast |
| 1 | 0 | Forward |
| 0 | 1 | Reverse |
| 1 | 1 | Brake |

| P0 | P16 | Motor 2 Function |
|----|-----|------------------|
| 0 | 0 | Coast |
| 1 | 0 | Forward |
| 0 | 1 | Reverse |
| 1 | 1 | Brake |

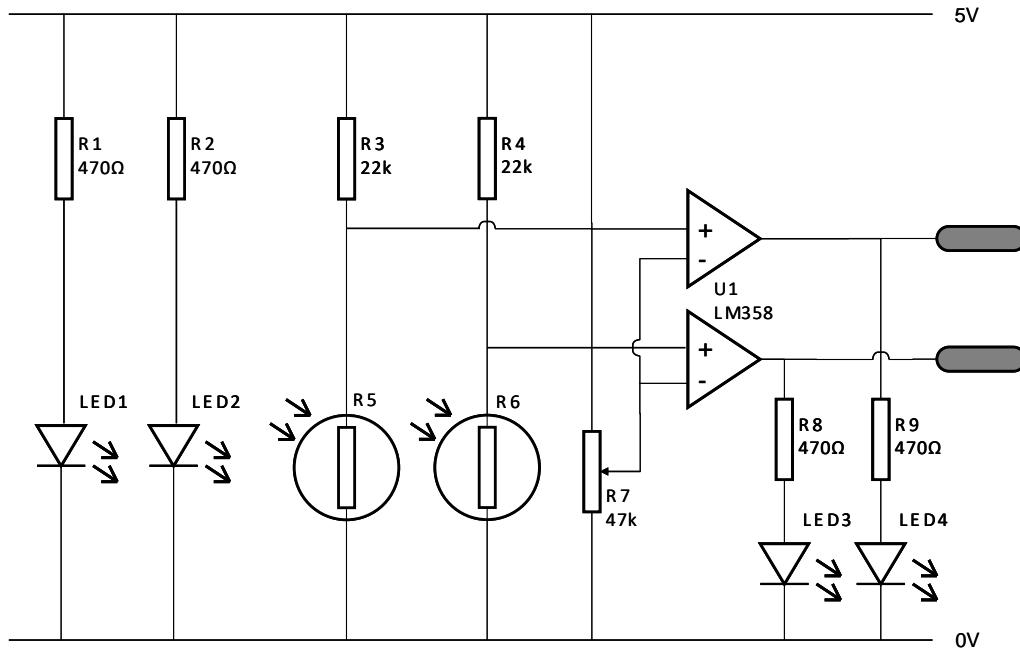


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How the Line Following Board Works



The two white LEDs (LED1 & LED2) on the left of the circuit are present to make sure that the light level remains consistent next to each LDR. The resistors (R1 & R2) are included to limit the current in to the LED and control the brightness.

Both LDRs (R5 & R6) work in the same way, in that the LDR with an additional resistor (R3 / R4) make up a potential divider. As the light on the LDR changes, its resistance changes and in turn the voltage at the centre of the potential divider changes. This voltage which changes with light level is then fed in to the op amp. The op amp is set up as a comparator, which means that the voltage from the LDR is compared to the voltage set by the trimmer potentiometer (R7). If the LDR voltage is bigger than the pre-set voltage then the output of the op amp goes high, when the LDR voltage is lower than the pre-set voltage the output goes low.

When the output is high the LED (LED3 / LED4) is on and this is signaled back to the main board that controls the Buggy. Once again a current limit resistor (R8 / R9) is present to control the brightness of the LED.

When a black line is being followed, normally the LDR will be light and the output will be off. When the LDR is over the line it will be dark and the output will be on.

How the Motor Driver Board Works

Detailed information on how the Motor Driver board works can be found under the resource section of its product page which can be found at www.kitronik.co.uk/5602



Online Information

This guide can be downloaded from the product page where the kit can also be reordered from:

www.kitronik.co.uk/5604



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