

Installation

Hi! Welcome to our installation guide, we're super glad to have you here :)

This guide includes information as of June 2021, and we will explicitly include the software versions we are using.

We advise to install the versions we are using, and if there is any problem with the newer versions, please us know via email or an issue the repository.

For additional documentation, please visit the official Arduino docs website at docs.arduino.cc, and in particular the documentation of the Arduino Nano 33 BLE Sense microcontroller at docs.arduino.cc/hardware/nano-33-ble-sense.

Overview

Arduino IDE

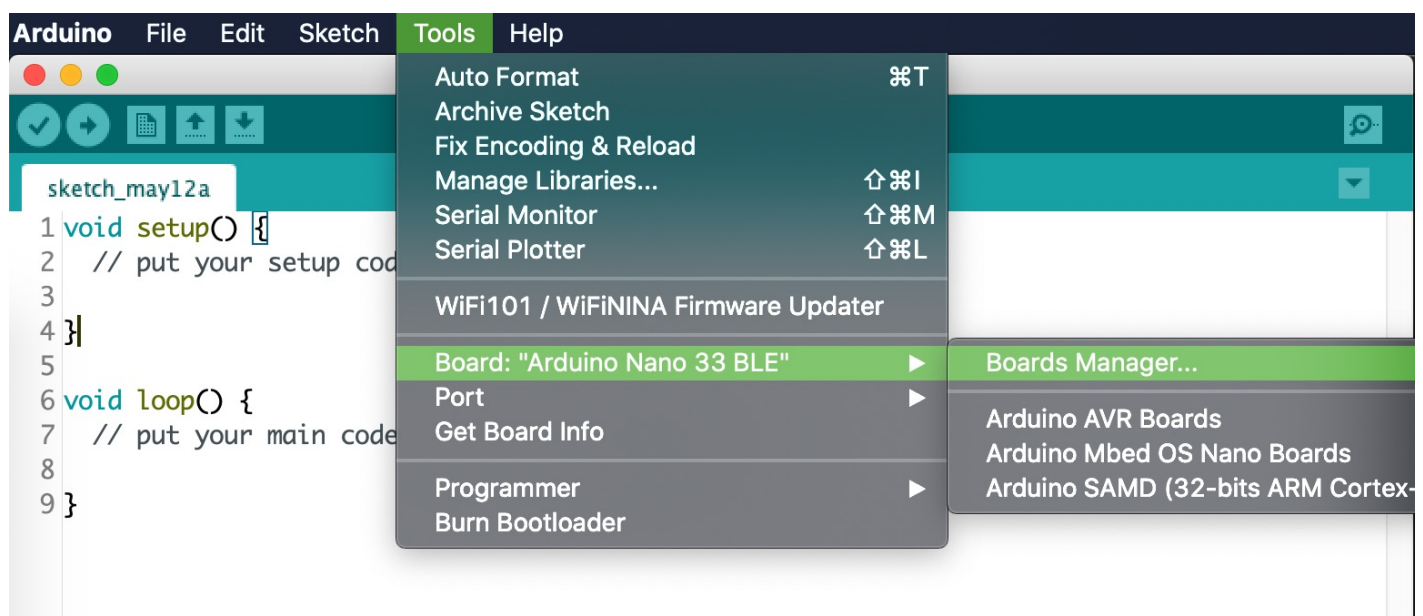
Download and install the Arduino Desktop IDE, available at <https://www.arduino.cc/en/software>. Select the stable release corresponding to your computer's operating system.

As of June 2021, we are using Arduino IDE 1.8.15.

Arduino Mbed OS Nano boards

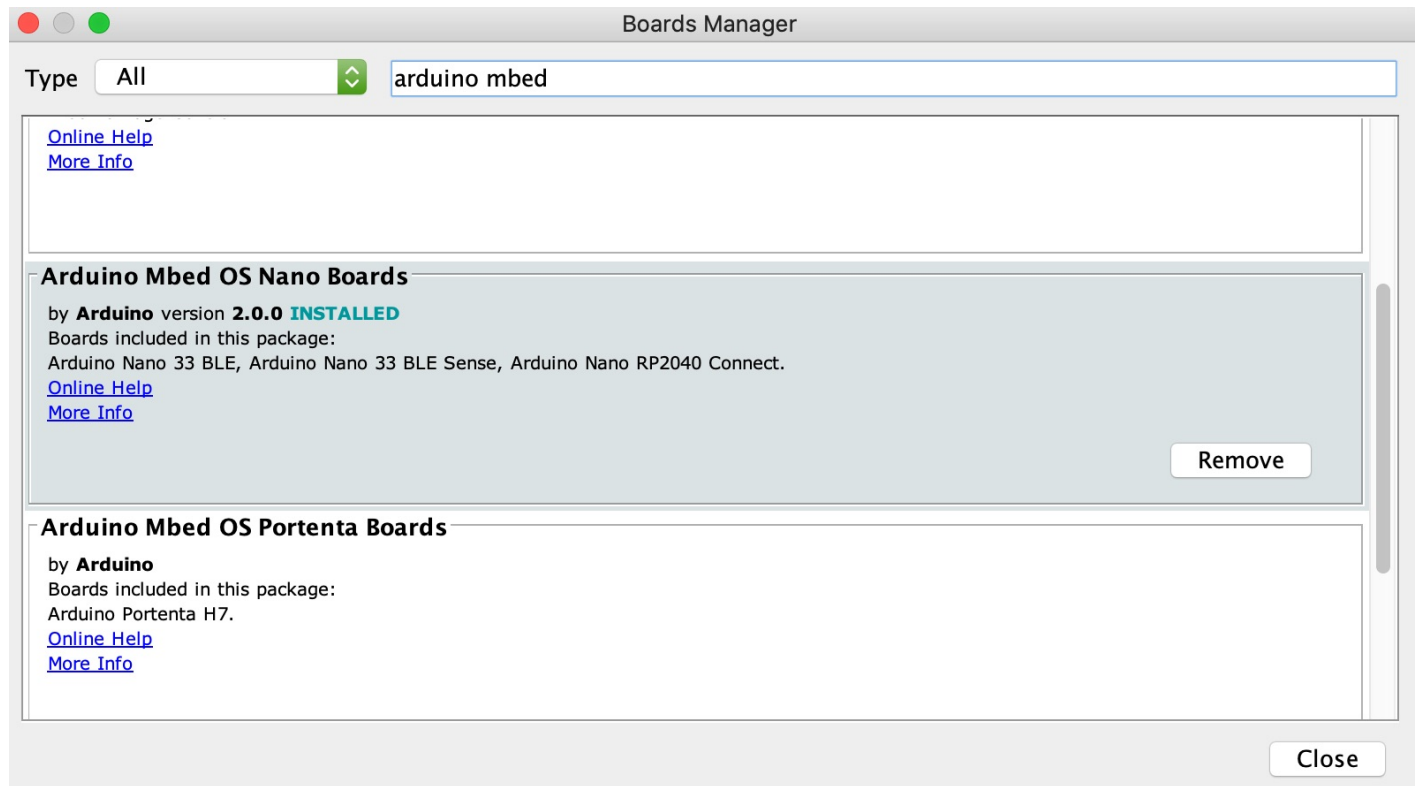
After installing the Arduino IDE, we need to install the core and necessary libraries for our microcontroller, the Arduino Nano 33 BLE Sense. Open the Arduino IDE and navigate on the menu to the **Boards Manager**:

Tools > Board: "<board_name>" > Boards Manager...



Use the search bar to find the option **Arduino Mbed OS Nano Boards** and install it, this might take a while.

As of June 2021, we are using version 2.2.0.



After the installation is complete, select the board we are going to work with (Arduino Nano 33 BLE) selecting the following options from the **Tools** menu:

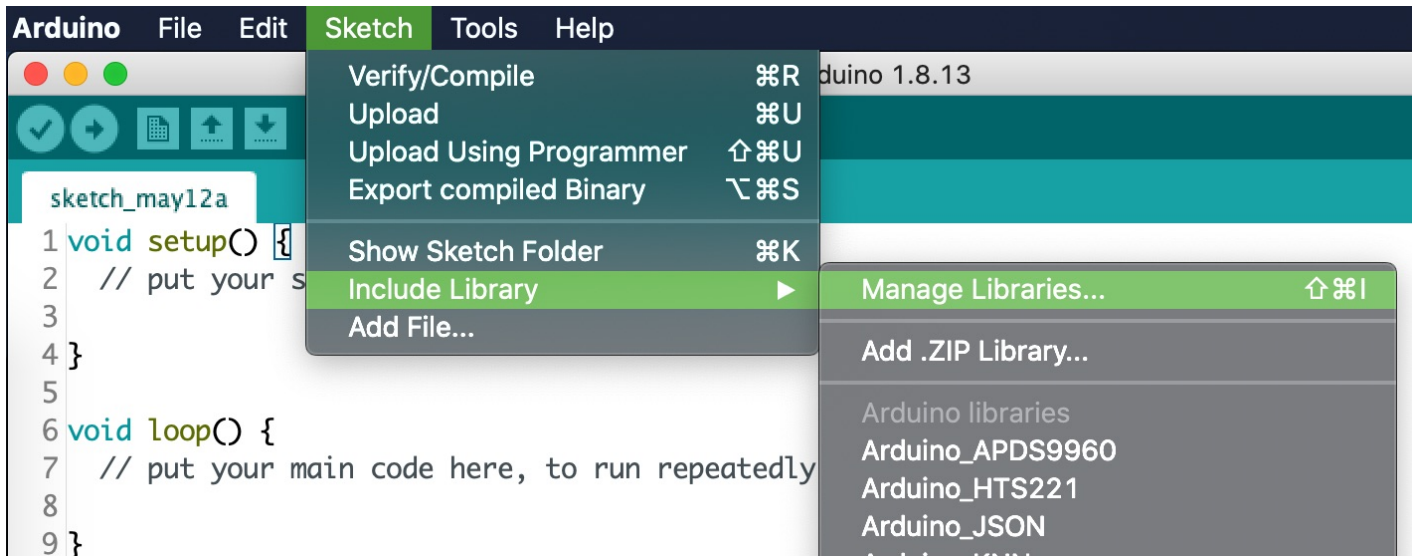
Tools > Board: "<board_name>" > Arduino Mbed OS Nano Boards > Arduino Nano 33 BLE

Please note that this option is valid for both Arduino Nano 33 BLE, and for the board we are using, the Arduino Nano 33 BLE Sense.

Arduino libraries

Next we will install all the libraries needed for this project. On the Arduino IDE, navigate on the menu to

Tools > Manage Libraries... >



Go to the search bar of the Libraries Manager and type **TinyTrainable**. This installation will give you the option to also install its dependencies, select **Install all** to also download all the necessary libraries.

- Libraries for using the embedded sensors of our microcontroller:
 - Arduino_APDS9960**: color, proximity
 - Arduino_LSM9DS1** acceleration, magnetic field, gyroscope orientation
- Libraries for machine learning:
 - Arduino_KNN**: k-nearest neighbor algorithm.
 - Arduino_TensorFlowLite**: microcontroller version of the TensorFlow machine learning library.
Please download the latest non-precompiled version.
- Libraries for multimedia output:
 - Adafruit GFX Library**: for output with screen.
 - Adafruit SSD1306**: for output with screen.
 - Adafruit Thermal Printer Library**: for outputs with thermal printer.
 - Servo**: for output with servo motors.

Test Arduino installation

To test if all dependencies were installed successfully, we will run our first code example. Please note that we will follow the same steps for all the other examples :) First connect your Arduino Nano 33 BLE Sense to your computer with a USB micro cable, and navigate to:

File > Examples > TinyTrainable > check_serial.

We will use two buttons on the Arduino IDE with our code: **Compile** and **Upload**. It is recommended to first click on **Compile**, which will translate our source code to machine code that the Arduino microcontroller understands, and save that result in our computer. Then, we can click the button **Upload**, which will send this machine code to the Arduino microcontroller.

Now we will open our Serial Monitor, to read the messages that the Arduino will send us, and also see its LEDs which will cycle through different colors.

If you still have questions about setting up the microcontroller, the full startup guide is available [here](#).

Python for machine learning

For input-color, you only need Arduino libraries.

For input-gesture and speech, you either need to install specific Python libraries on your computer, or use the free Google Colab service, because we will create databases and train algorithms on a computer.

For beginners, we suggest using Google Colab, because it will be an easier installation, and the algorithms will run faster.

If you decide to run the algorithms on your machine, you will need Python, TensorFlow and Jupyter.

These are the versions we will be using, as of June 2021:

- Python 3.8.6
- TensorFlow 2.3.2
- Jupyter Lab 3.0.5

Your computer might have Python already installed, but it might be one that is not compatible with the TensorFlow version we are using, so we suggest using a Python version manager, like the tool pyenv <https://github.com/pyenv/pyenv>.

After installing pyenv, open the terminal and go to this repository. If you don't know how to download a repository to your machine, follow this [tutorial](#) about cloning repositories from GitHub.

```
cd tiny-trainable-instruments/
```

Check that pyenv is able to read the .python-version file

```
pyenv versions
```

You should see a list, with the version we are using and an asterisk, to highlight that this is the Python version we will use. If there is no asterisk and it says that the required version of Python is not installed, use the command:

```
pyenv install <python version number>
```

If you are using an old version of pyenv, there's a chance that the install won't work; copy the entire command pyenv gives you (including the &&'s) and enter it into the terminal. Then once pyenv is updated, try the above command again.

Now that you have the correct version of Python, create a virtual environment (which we will name `env`) using the Python package `venv`. Most dependency problems can be solved by using a virtualenv; we can't support issues not using a virtualenv due to the huge variety of system configurations. On your terminal type:

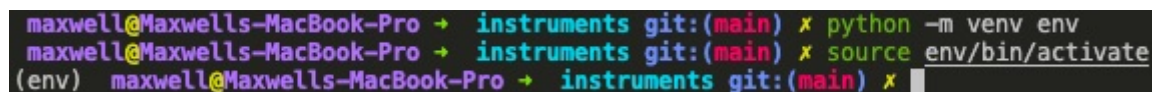
```
python -m venv env
```

Activate the virtual environment with this command, which you will use every time you want to enter the `venv`:

```
source env/bin/activate
```

Now your terminal should have every new line starting with `(env)`. Your command prompt should look something like this:

```
../docs/images/1-arduino-boards-manager
```

A terminal window screenshot showing the steps to create and activate a virtual environment. The prompt is 'maxwell@Maxwells-MacBook-Pro' and the directory is 'instruments git:(main)'. The commands entered are 'python -m venv env' and 'source env/bin/activate'. The output shows the prompt changing to '(env) maxwell@Maxwells-MacBook-Pro'.

The `pip` of your Python virtual environment might need updating; you can update to the latest version with the command

```
pip install --upgrade pip
```

Then use `pip` to install the Jupyter packages, along with their dependencies:

```
pip install -r requirements.txt
```

Now you can run the Jupyter Lab tool with `jupyter-lab`. This will open a tab on your browser to navigate through the files in your computer and allow you run code and read the documentation.

The code for `input-gesture` and `input-speech` is written using Jupyter notebooks, which have the extension `.ipynb`, and are located on the folder `instruments/`. The documentation is written in several Markdown files with extension `.md`. These files are on the folder `docs/`, which includes an index on `README.md`.

If you double click on a Markdown file, it will open an Editor window with the Markdown code. To view the rendered text you can right click and select "Open with Markdown Preview". If you have internet connection, it might be more convenient to access the online documentation on the online repository.

To close the Jupyter notebook server, press `ctrl+c` in the terminal (even on OSX; it's not `cmd`) and confirm with `y`.

To exit the virtual environment once you're done, use the command `deactivate`. Note that the command `jupyter-lab` will not work until you reactive the virtual environment.