

+ This is a schematic of your circuit.

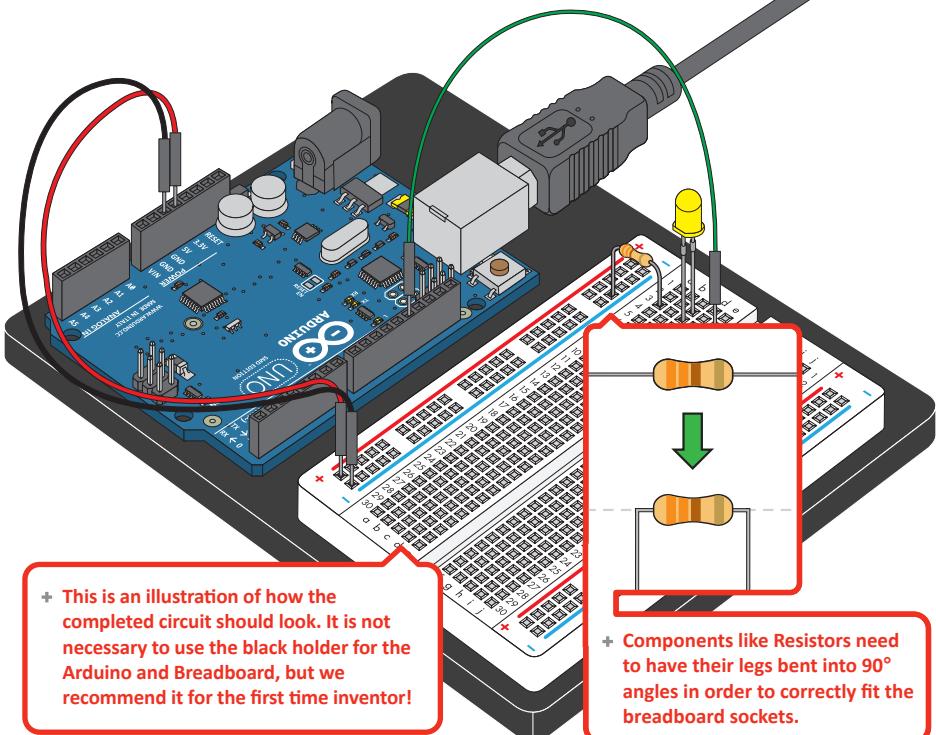
Blinking a LED

LEDs (light-emitting diodes) are small, powerful lights that are used in many different applications. To start off the SIK, we will work on blinking an LED. That's right - it's as simple as turning a light on and off. It might not seem like much, but establishing this important baseline will give you a solid foundation as we work toward more complex experiments.

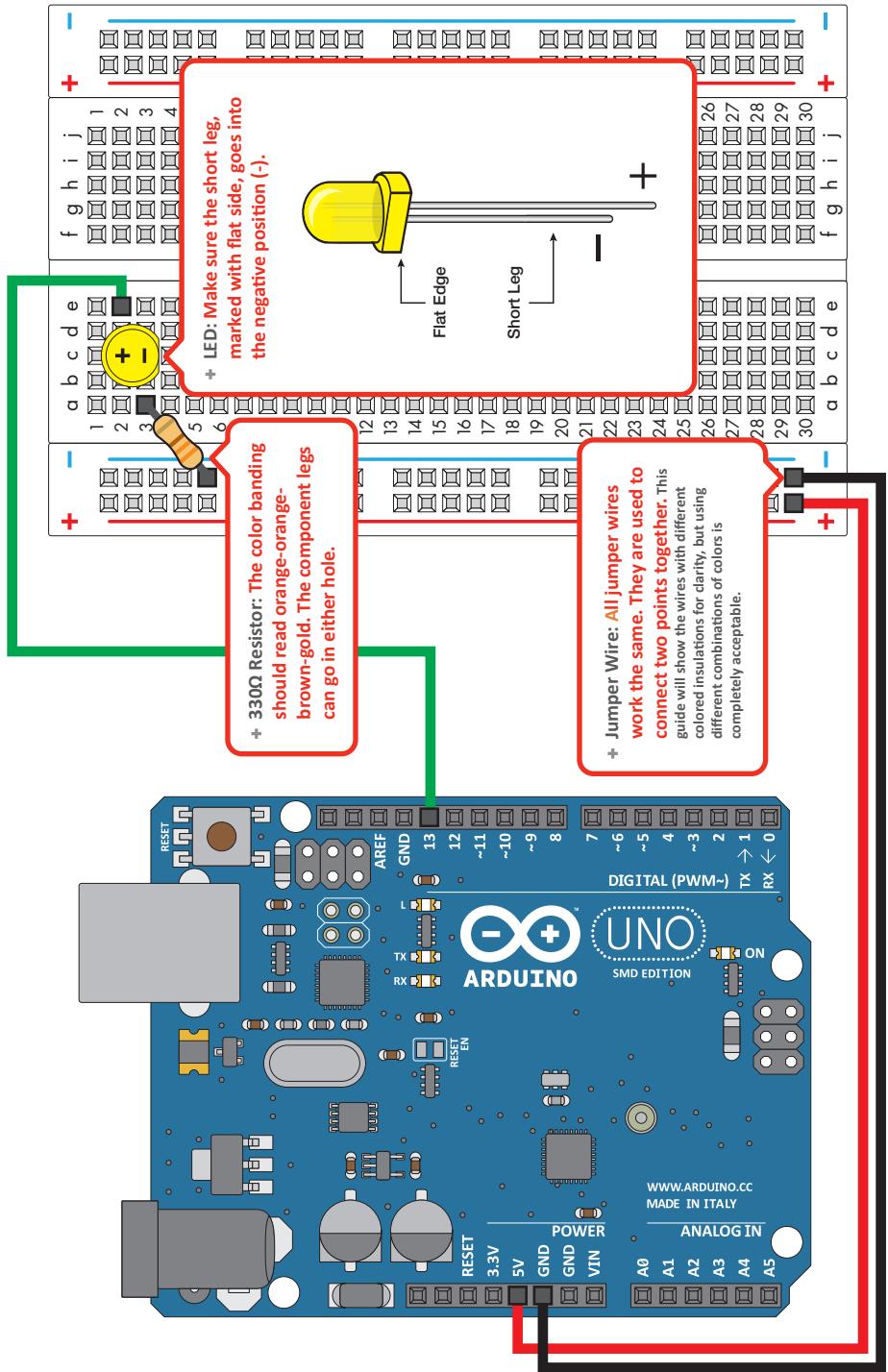
+ Each Circuit begins with a brief description of the what you are putting together and the expected result.



+ This section lists the parts you will need to complete the circuit.



Circuit 1: Blinking a LED



Component:	Image Reference:
LED (5mm)	
330Ω Resistor	
Jumper Wire	
Jumper Wire	
Jumper Wire	

+ Components like LEDs are inserted into the Breadboard sockets c2[long leg] / c3[short leg].

+ Resistors are placed in Breadboard sockets only. The “-” symbol represents any socket in its vertical column.

+ “GND” on the Arduino should be connected to the row marked “-” on the Breadboard.

+ “5V” on the Arduino connects to the row marked “+” on the Breadboard.

+ “Pin 13” on the Arduino connects to socket “e2” on the Breadboard.

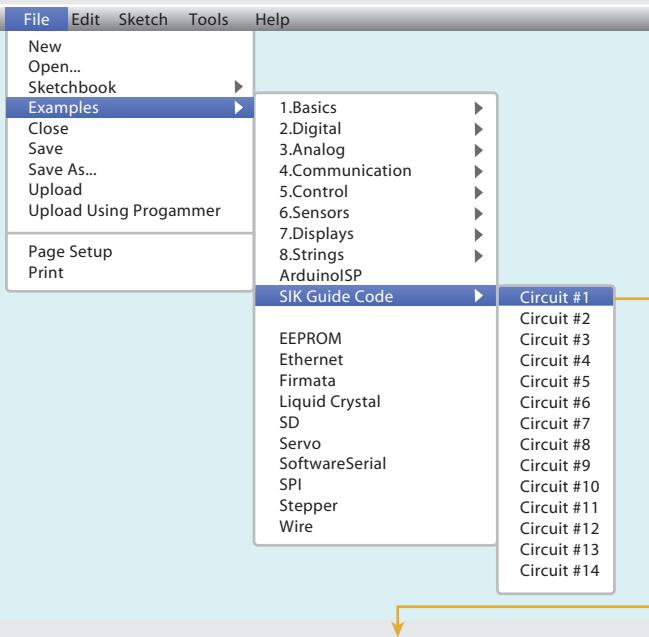
+ **Arduino:** The blue background represents a connection to one of the Arduino header pins.

+ **Breadboard:** The white background represents a connection to a breadboard socket.



Open Your First Sketch:

Open Up the Arduino IDE software on your computer. Coding in the Arduino language will control your circuit. Open the code for Circuit 1 by accessing the “SIK Guide Code” you downloaded and placed into your “Example” folder earlier.



// Circuit #1

```
/*
Blink

Turns on an LED on for one second,
then off for one second, repeatedly.

This example code is in the public domain.
*/

void setup() {
    // initialize the digital pin as an output.
    // Pin 13 has an LED connected on most Arduino boards
    pinMode(13, OUTPUT);
}

void loop() {
    digitalWrite(13, HIGH);      // set the LED on
    delay(1000);                // wait for a second
    digitalWrite(13, LOW);       // set the LED off
    delay(1000);                // wait for a second
}
```



Verify

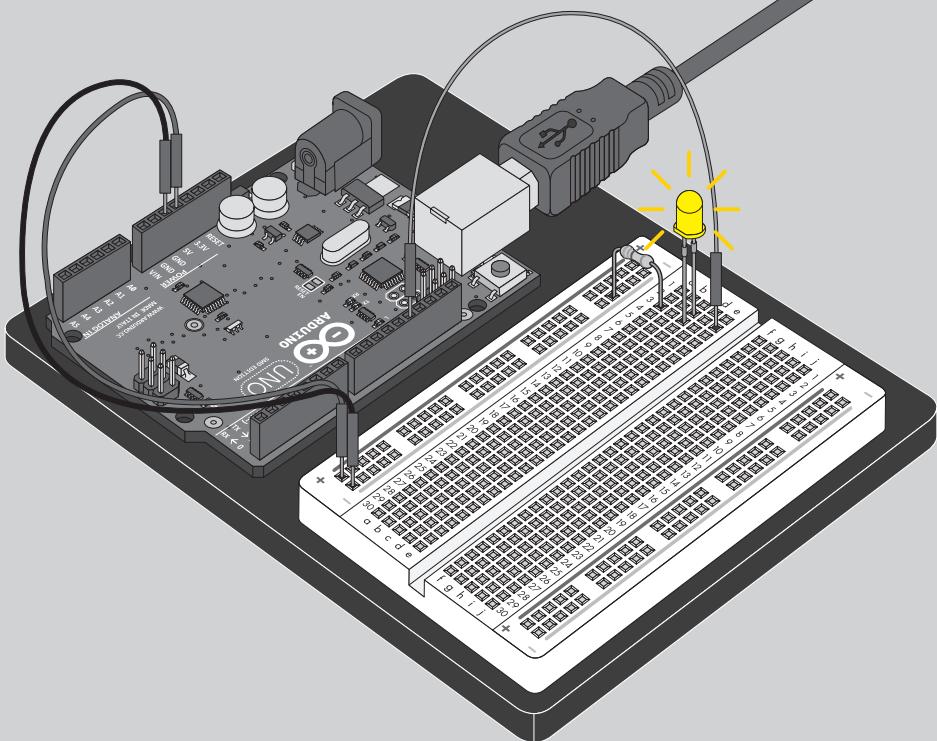
This compiles your code. The IDE changes it from text into instructions the computer can understand.



Upload

This sends the instructions via the USB cable to the computer chip on the Arduino board. The Arduino will then begin running your code automatically.

// The result of a completed circuit with correct code after verified and uploaded.



1



Open Arduino IDE // File > Examples > SIK Guide > Circuit # 1

Code to Note:

- + Begin to understand how the Arduino code works. See below.

- + Remember to Verify and Upload your code.



pinMode(13, OUTPUT); →

Before you can use one of the Arduino's pins, you need to tell the Arduino whether it is an INPUT or OUTPUT. We use a built-in "function" called pinMode() to do this.

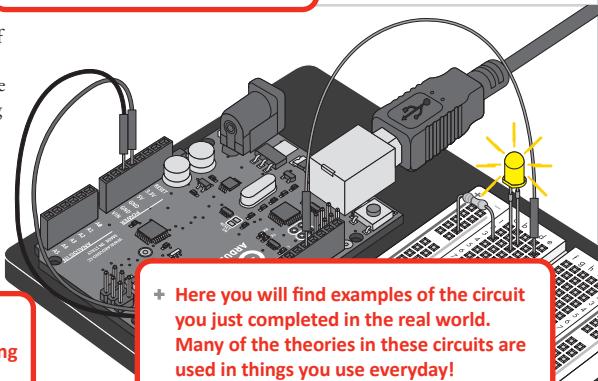
digitalWrite(13, HIGH); →

When you're using a pin as an OUTPUT, you can command it to be HIGH (output 5 Volts), or LOW (output 0 Volts).

What you Should See:

- + See if your circuit is complete and working in this section.

You should see your LED blink on and off. If it isn't, make sure you have assembled the circuit correctly and verified and uploaded the code to your board or see the troubleshooting tips below.



- + This is a section dedicated to the most common mistakes made while assembling the circuit.

- + Here you will find examples of the circuit you just completed in the real world. Many of the theories in these circuits are used in things you use everyday!

Troubleshooting:

LED Not Lighting Up?

LEDs will only work in one direction. Try taking it out and twisting it 180 degrees (no need to worry, installing it backwards does no permanent harm).

Program Not Uploading

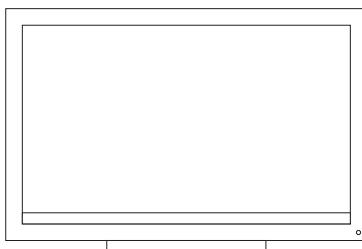
This happens sometimes, the most likely cause is a confused serial port, you can change this in tools>serial port>

Still No Success?

A broken circuit is no fun, send us an e-mail and we will get back to you as soon as we can: techsupport@sparkfun.com

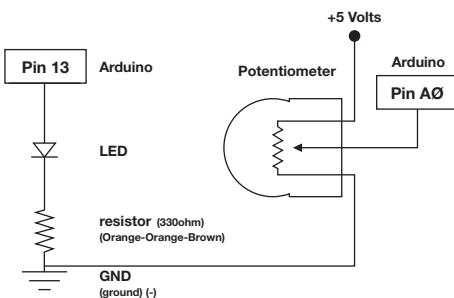
Real World Application:

Almost all modern flat screen televisions and monitors have LED indicator lights to show they are on or off.



Potentiometer

In this circuit you'll work with a potentiometer. A potentiometer is also known as a variable resistor. When it's connected with 5 volts across its two outer pins, the middle pin outputs a voltage between 0 and 5, depending on the position of the knob on the potentiometer. In this circuit, you'll learn how to use a potentiometer to control the brightness of an LED.



PARTS:



x1



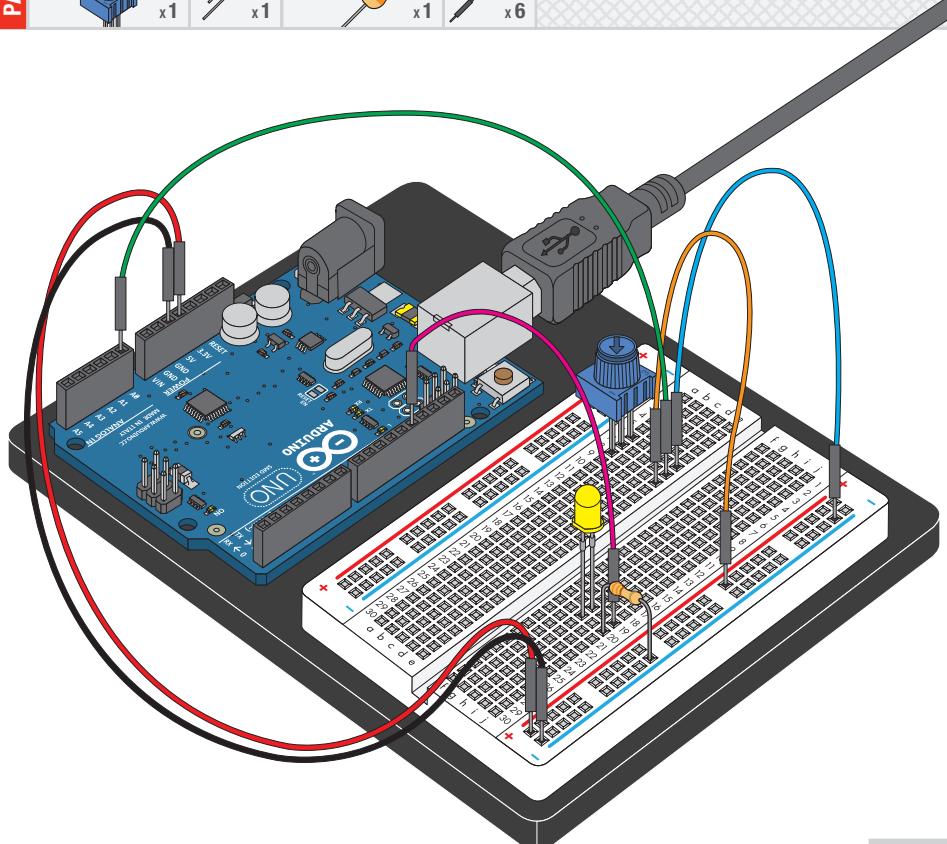
x1

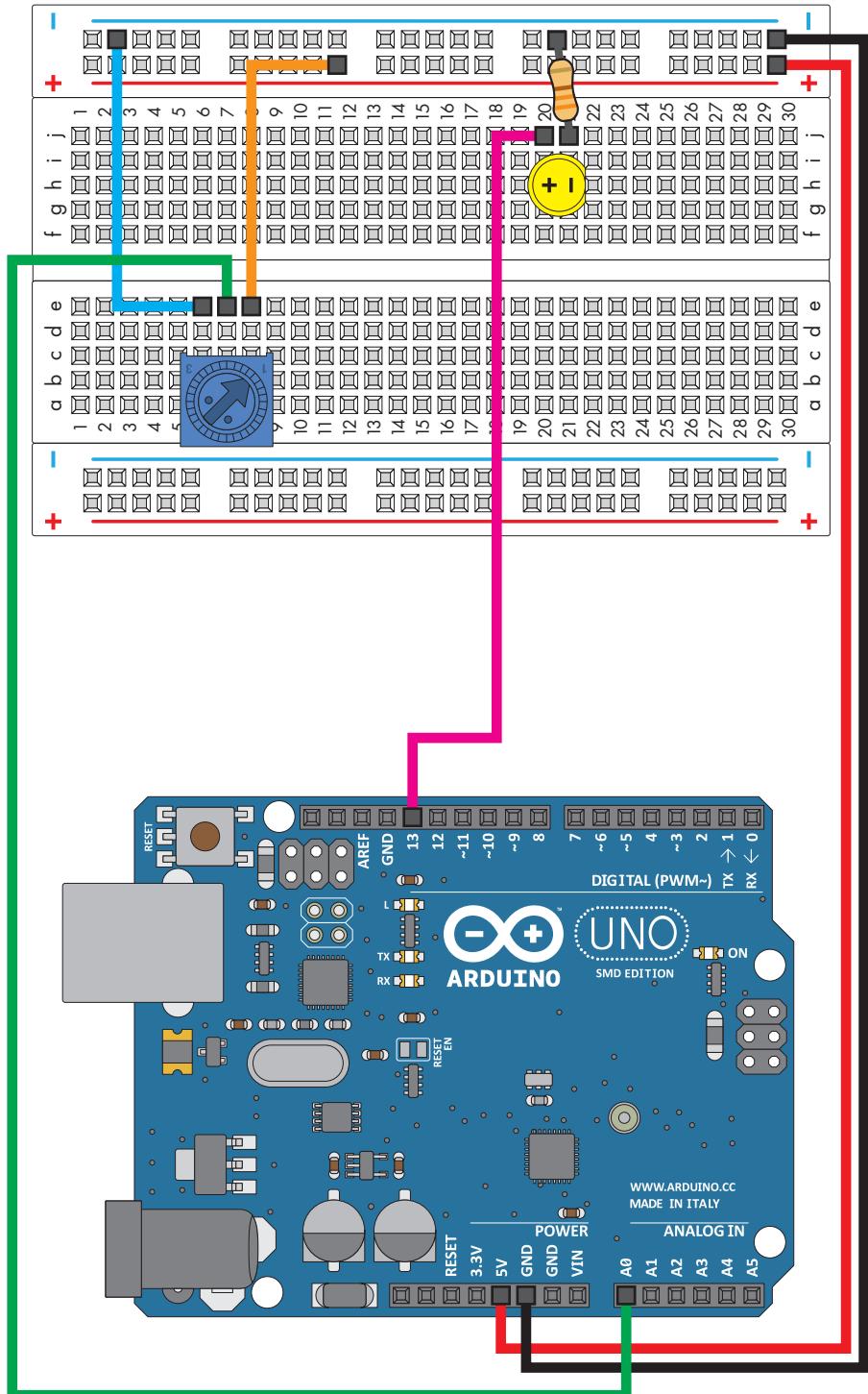


x1

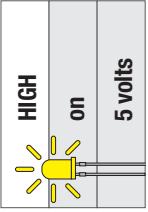
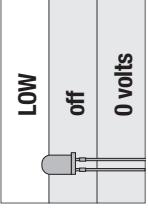


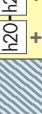
x6





Circuit 2: Potentiometer

Digital versus Analog:	
<p>Digital</p> 	<p>If you look closely at your Arduino, you'll see some pins labeled "DIGITAL", and some labeled "ANALOG". What's the difference?</p> <p>Many of the devices you'll interface to, such as LEDs and pushbuttons, have only two possible states: on and off, or as they're known to the Arduino, "HIGH" (5 Volts) and "LOW" (0 Volts). The digital pins on an Arduino are great at getting these signals to and from the outside world, and can even do tricks like simulated dimming (by blinking on and off really fast), and serial communications (transferring data to another device by encoding it as patterns of HIGH and LOW).</p>
<p>Analog</p> 	 <p>DIGITAL</p>  <p>HIGH to 5 volts</p> <p>LOW to 0 volts</p> <p>But there are also a lot of things out there that aren't just "on" or "off". Temperature levels, control knobs, etc. all have a continuous range of values between HIGH and LOW. For these situations, the Arduino offers six analog inputs that translate an input voltage into a number that ranges from 0 (0 Volts) to 1023 (5 Volts). The analog pins are perfect for measuring all those "real world" values, and allow you to interface the Arduino to all kinds of things.</p>

Component:	Image Reference:	Image
Potentiometer		
LED (5mm)		
330Ω Resistor		
Jumper Wire		
Jumper Wire		
Jumper Wire		
Jumper Wire		
Jumper Wire		
Jumper Wire		



Open Arduino IDE // File > Examples > SIK Guide > Circuit # 2

Code to Note:



int sensorValue;



A "variable" is a number you've given a name to. You must introduce, or "declare" variables before you use them; here we're declaring a variable called `sensorValue`, of type "int" (integer). Don't forget that variable names are case-sensitive!

sensorValue = analogRead(sensorPin);



We use the `analogRead()` function to read the value on an analog pin. `analogRead()` takes one parameter, the analog pin you want to use ("sensorPin"), and returns a number ("sensorValue") between 0 (0 Volts) and 1023 (5 Volts).

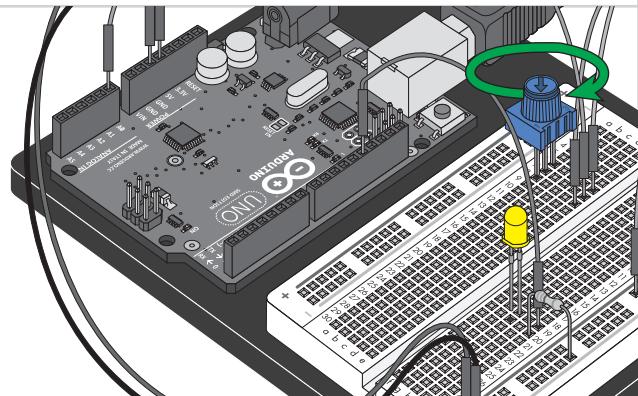
delay(sensorValue);



The Arduino is very very fast, capable of running thousands of lines of code each second. To slow it down so that we can see what it's doing, we'll often insert delays into the code. `Delay()` counts in milliseconds; there are 1000 ms in one second.

What you Should See:

You should see the LED blink faster or slower in accordance with your potentiometer. If it isn't working, make sure you have assembled the circuit correctly and verified and uploaded the code to your board or see the troubleshooting tips below.



Troubleshooting:

Sporadically Working

This is most likely due to a slightly dodgy connection with the potentiometer's pins. This can usually be conquered by holding the potentiometer down.

Not Working

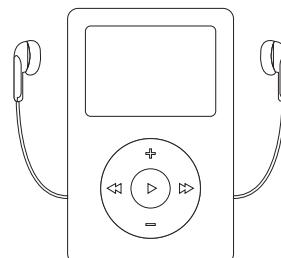
Make sure you haven't accidentally connected the potentiometer's wiper to digital pin 2 rather than analog pin 2. (the row of pins beneath the power pins).

Still Backward

You can try operating the circuit upside down. Sometimes this helps.

Real World Application:

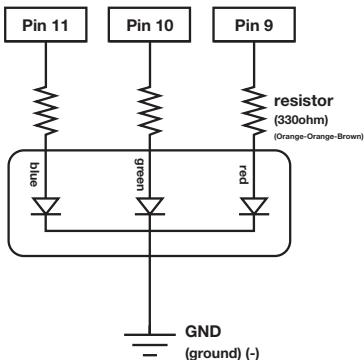
MP3 players' volume control is an example of a potentiometer in action.



CIRCUIT #3

3

RGB LED



You know what's even more fun than a blinking LED? A colored one. RGB, or red-green-blue, LEDs have three different color-emitting diodes that can be combined to create all sorts of colors. In this circuit, you'll learn how to use an RGB LED to create unique color combinations. Depending on how bright each diode is, nearly any color is possible!

PARTS:



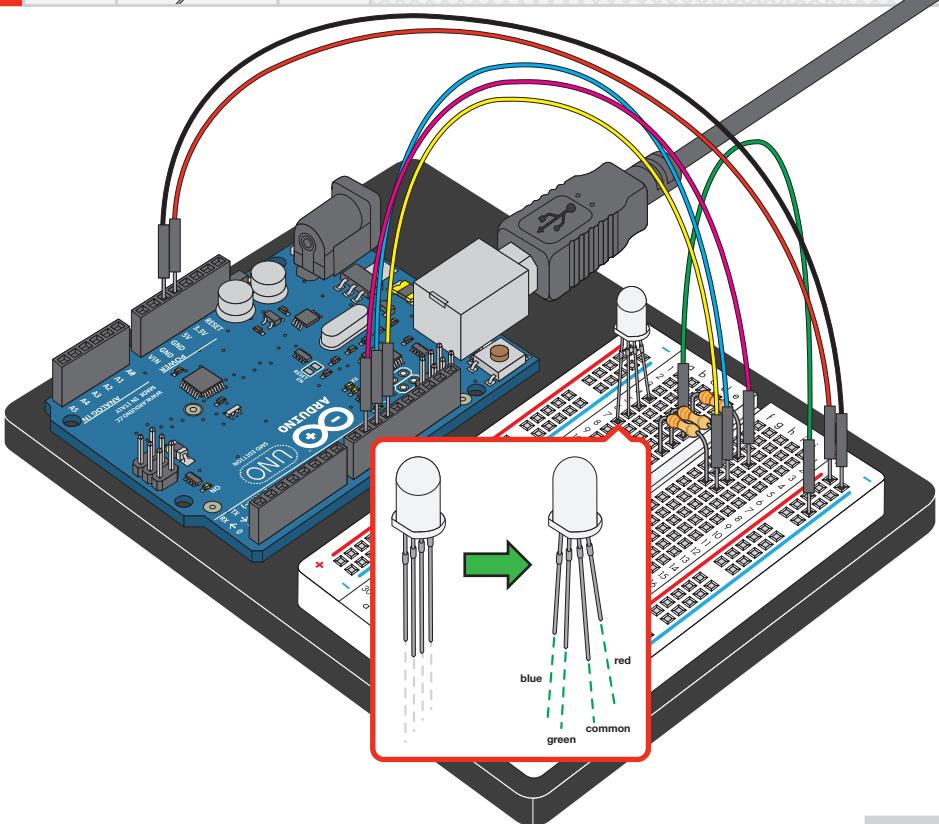
x 1



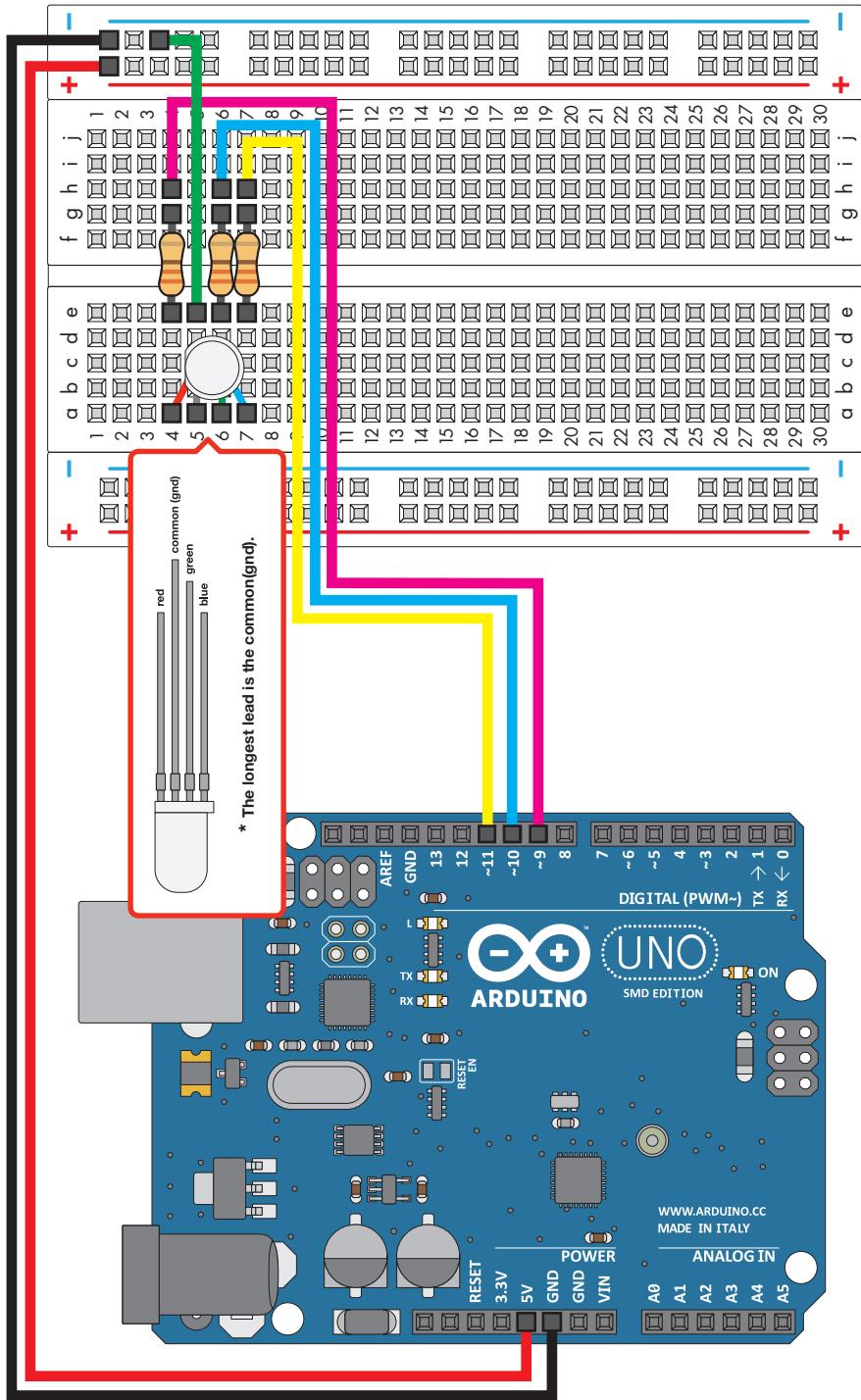
330Ω Resistor



Wire x 6



Circuit 3: RGB LED



The shocking truth behind analogWrite()



We've seen that the Arduino can read analog voltages (voltages between 0 and 5 Volts) using the `analogRead()` function. Is there a way for the Arduino to output analog voltages as well?

The answer is no... and yes. The Arduino does not have a true analog voltage output. But, because the Arduino is so fast, it can fake it using something called PWM ("Pulse-Width Modulation").

The Arduino is so fast that it can blink a pin on and off almost 1000 times per second. PWM goes one step further by varying the amount of time that the blinking pin spends HIGH vs. the time it spends LOW. If it spends most of its time HIGH, a LED connected to that pin will appear bright. If it spends most of its time LOW, the LED will look dim. Because the pin is blinking much faster than your eye can detect, the Arduino creates the illusion of a "true" analog output.



Component:	Image Reference:		
RGB LED (5mm)			
330Ω Resistor			
330Ω Resistor			
330Ω Resistor			
Jumper Wire		Pin 9	h4
Jumper Wire		Pin 10	h6
Jumper Wire		Pin 11	h7
Jumper Wire		+	
Jumper Wire		-	
Jumper Wire		5V	
Jumper Wire		GND	
Jumper Wire			

3



Arduino Code:

Code to Note:

for (x = 0; x < 768; x++)
{} →

A for() loop is used to step a number across a range, and repeatedly runs code within the brackets {}. Here the variable "x" starts at 0, ends at 767, and increases by one each time ("x++").

if (x <= 255)
{}
else
{} →

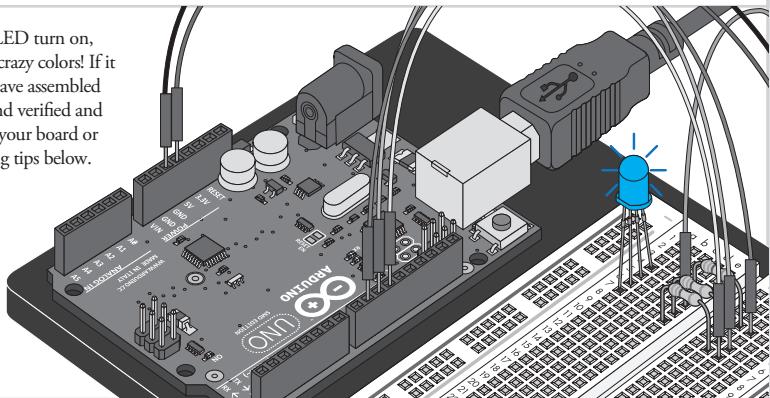
"If / else" statements are used to make choices in your programs. The statement within the parenthesis () is evaluated; if it's true, the code within the first brackets {} will run. If it's not true, the code within the second brackets {} will run.

delay(sensorValue); →

The Arduino is very very fast, capable of running thousands of lines of code each second. To slow it down so that we can see what it's doing, we'll often insert delays into the code. Delay() counts in milliseconds; there are 1000 ms in one second.

What you Should See:

You should see your LED turn on, but this time in new, crazy colors! If it isn't, make sure you have assembled the circuit correctly and verified and uploaded the code to your board or see the troubleshooting tips below.



Troubleshooting:

LED Remains Dark or Shows Incorrect Color

With the four pins of the LED so close together, it's sometimes easy to misplace one. Double check each pin is where it should be.

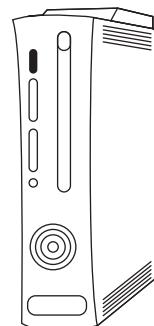
Seeing Red

The red diode within the RGB LED may be a bit brighter than the other two. To make your colors more balanced, use a higher ohm resistor. Or adjust in code.

```
analogWrite(RED_PIN, redIntensity);
to
analogWrite(RED_PIN, redIntensity/3);
```

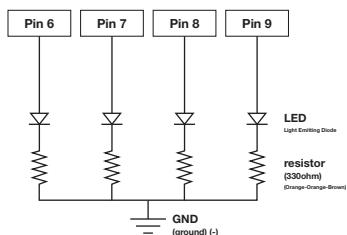
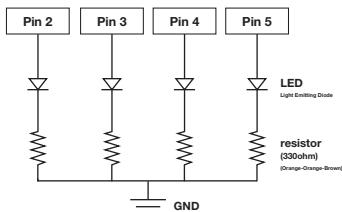
Real World Application:

Many electronics such as videogame consoles use RGB LEDs to have the versatility to show different colors in the same area. Often times the different colors represent different states of working condition.



CIRCUIT #4

4



Multiple LEDs

So you have gotten one LED to blink on and off – fantastic! Now it's time to up the stakes a little bit – by connecting EIGHT LEDs AT ONCE. We'll also give our Arduino a little test by creating various lighting sequences. This circuit is a great setup to start practicing writing your own programs and getting a feel for the way Arduino works.

Along with controlling the LEDs, you'll learn about a couple programming tricks that keep your code neat and tidy:

for() loops - used when you want to run a piece of code several times

arrays[] - used to make managing variables easier by grouping them together

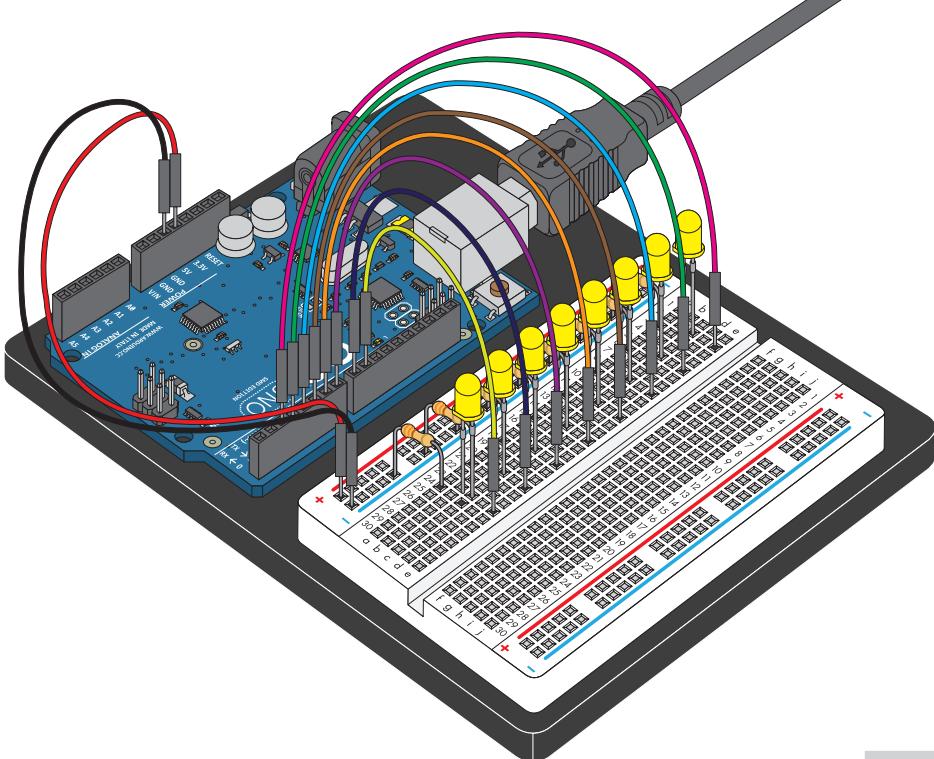
PARTS:

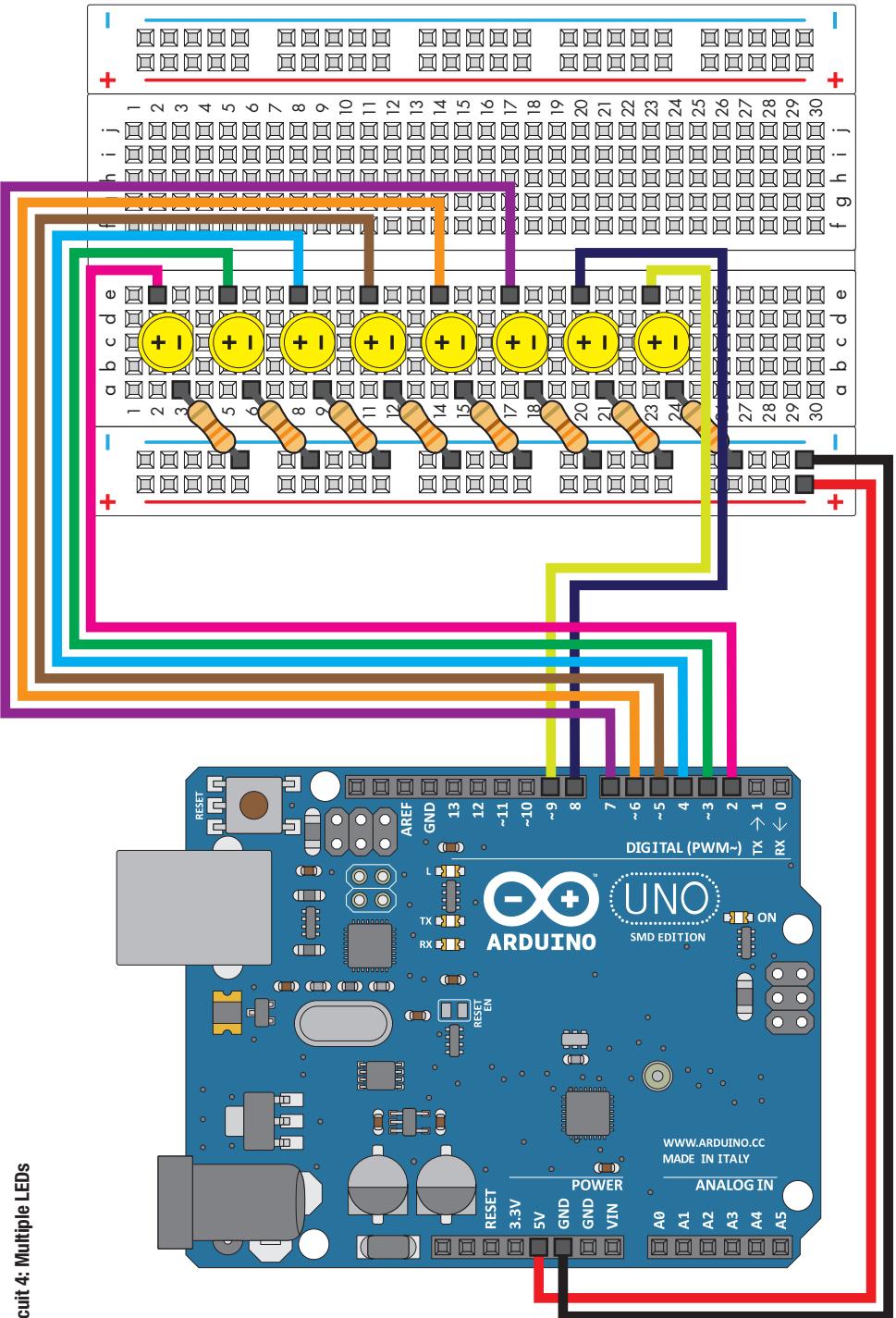


330Ω Resistor



Wire





Circuit 4: Multiple LEDs

Component:	Image Reference:	Component:	Image Reference:
LED (5mm)		c2 [c3] + -	330Ω Resistor
LED (5mm)		c5 [c6] + -	330Ω Resistor
LED (5mm)		c8 [c9] + -	330Ω Resistor
LED (5mm)		c11 [c12] + -	Jumper Wire
LED (5mm)		c14 [c15] + -	Jumper Wire
LED (5mm)		c17 [c18] + -	Jumper Wire
LED (5mm)		c20 [c21] + -	Jumper Wire
LED (5mm)		c23 [c24] + -	Jumper Wire
330Ω Resistor		c23 [c24] + -	Jumper Wire
330Ω Resistor		GND [a6] + -	Jumper Wire
330Ω Resistor		GND [a9] + -	Jumper Wire
330Ω Resistor		GND [a12] + -	Jumper Wire
330Ω Resistor		GND [a15] + -	Jumper Wire
			GND



Code to Note:

`int ledPins[] = {2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9};`

When you have to manage a lot of variables, an "array" is a handy way to group them together. Here we're creating an array of integers, called ledPins, with eight elements.

`digitalWrite(ledPins[0], HIGH);`

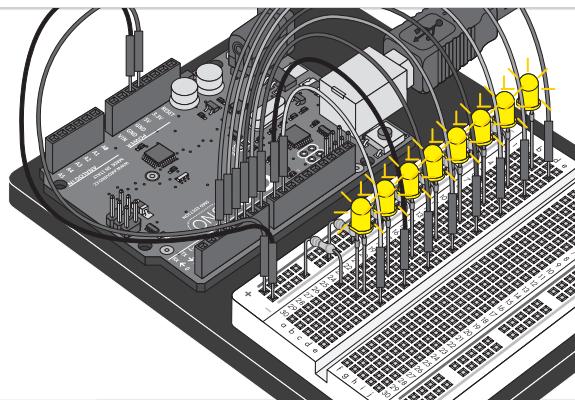
You refer to the elements in an array by their position. The first element is at position 0, the second is at position 1, etc. You refer to an element using "ledPins[x]" where x is the position. Here we're making digital pin 2 HIGH, since the array element at position 0 is "2".

`index = random(8);`

Computers like to do the same things each time they run. But sometimes you want to do things randomly, such as simulating the roll of a dice. The random() function is a great way to do this. See <http://arduino.cc/en/Reference/Random> for more information.

What you Should See:

This is similar to circuit number one, but instead of one LED, you should see all the LEDs blink. If they aren't, make sure you have assembled the circuit correctly and verified and uploaded the code to your board or see the troubleshooting tips below.



Troubleshooting:

Some LEDs Fail to Light

It is easy to insert an LED backwards. Check the LEDs that aren't working and ensure they are the right way around.

Operating out of sequence

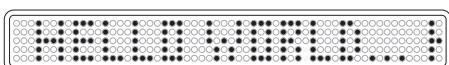
With eight wires it's easy to cross a couple. Double check that the first LED is plugged into pin 2 and each pin thereafter.

Starting Afresh

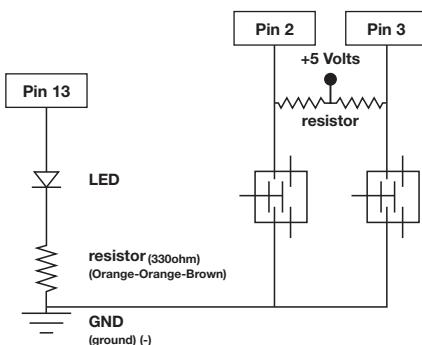
It's easy to accidentally misplace a wire without noticing. Pulling everything out and starting with a fresh slate is often easier than trying to track down the problem.

Real World Application:

Scrolling marquee displays are generally used to spread short segments of important information. They are built out of many LEDs.



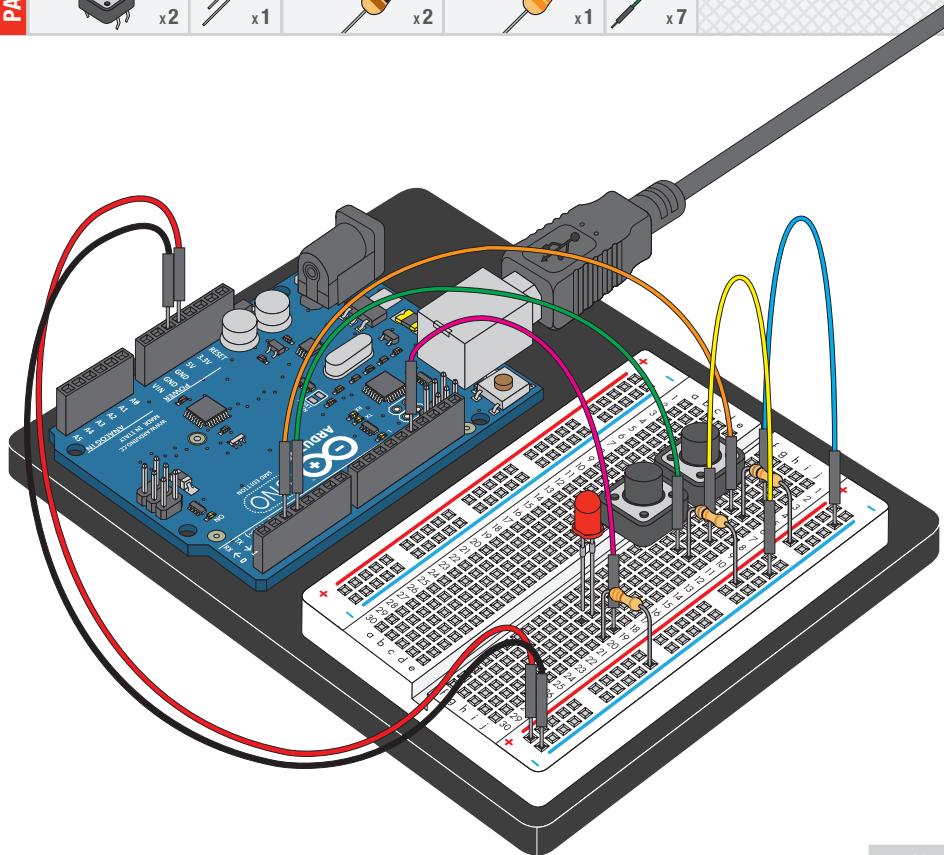
Push Buttons

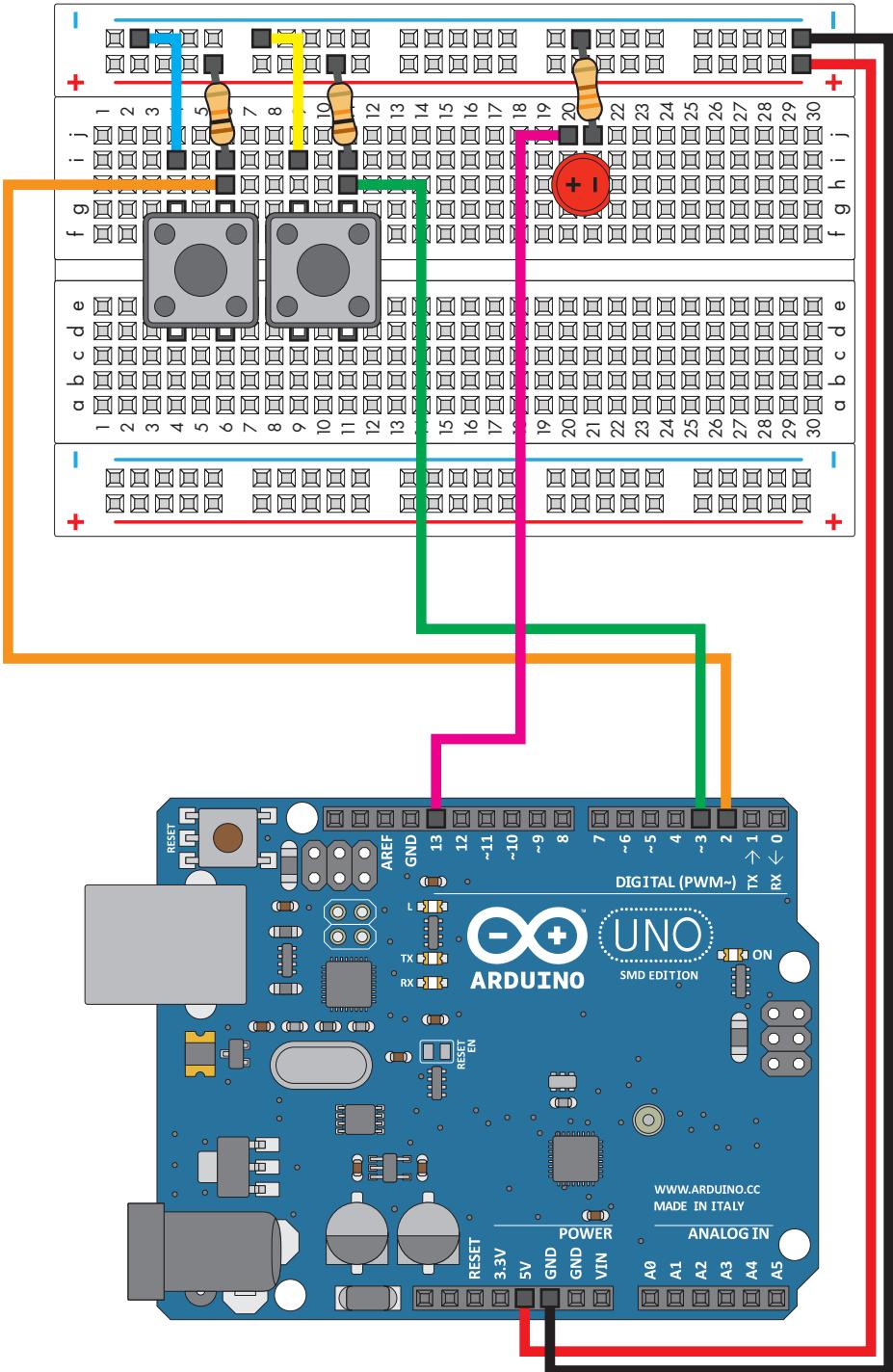


Up until now, we've focused solely on outputs. Now we're going to go to the other end of spectrum and play around with inputs. In this circuit, we'll be looking at one of the most common and simple inputs – a push button. The way a push button works with Arduino is that when the button is pushed, the voltage goes LOW. The Arduino reads this and reacts accordingly. In this circuit, you will also use a pull-up resistor, which helps clean up the voltage and prevents false readings from the button.

PARTS:

Push Button		x2	LED		x1	10KΩ Resistor		x2	330Ω Resistor		x1	Wire		x7
-------------	--	----	-----	--	----	---------------	--	----	---------------	--	----	------	--	----





Circuit 5: Push Buttons

How to use logic like a Vulcan:		
One of the things that makes the Arduino so useful is that it can make complex decisions based on the input it's getting. For example, you could make a thermostat that turns on a heater if it gets too cold, a fan if it gets too hot, waters your plants if they get too dry, etc.		
In order to make such decisions, the Arduino provides a set of logic operations that let you build complex "if" statements. They include:		
==	EQUIVALENCE	A == B is true if A and B are the SAME .
!=	DIFFERENCE	A != B is true if A and B are NOT THE SAME .
&&	AND	A && B is true if BOTH A and B are TRUE .
 	OR	A B is true if A or B or BOTH are TRUE .
!	NOT	!A is TRUE if A is FALSE , and FALSE if A is TRUE .
You can combine these functions to build complex if() statements.		
<i>For example:</i>		
<pre>if ((mode == heat) && ((temperature < threshold) (override == true))) { digitalWrite(HEATER, HIGH); }</pre>		
...will turn on a heater if you're in heating mode AND the temperature is low, OR if you turn on a manual override. Using these logic operators, you can program your Arduino to make intelligent decisions and take control of the world around it!		

Component:	Image Reference:	
Push Button		d4 d6 g9 d11 g11
Push Button		[h20] - [h21] + -
LED (6mm)		i6 + [i1] + [21] - i4 - i9 - Pin 2 Pin 3 Pin 13
10KΩ Resistor		Jumper Wire
330Ω Resistor		Jumper Wire
Jumper Wire		



Code to Note:

`pinMode(button2Pin, INPUT);`

The digital pins can be used as inputs as well as outputs. Before you do either, you need to tell the Arduino which direction you're going.

`button1State = digitalRead(button1Pin);`

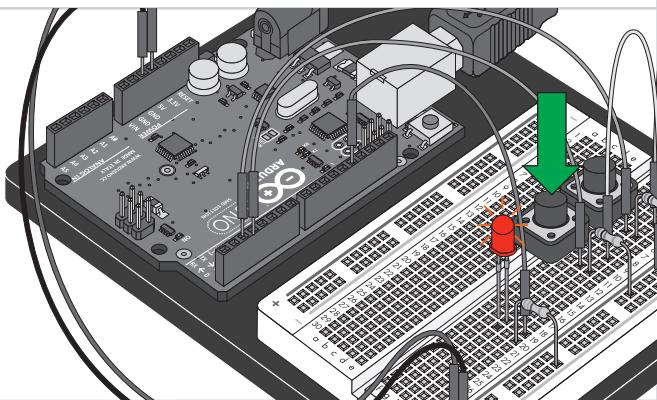
To read a digital input, you use the `digitalRead()` function. It will return HIGH if there's 5V present at the pin, or LOW if there's 0V present at the pin.

`if (button1State == LOW)`

Because we've connected the button to GND, it will read LOW when it's being pressed. Here we're using the "equivalence" operator ("`==`") to see if the button is being pressed.

What You Should See:

You should see the LED turn on and off as you press the button. If it isn't working, make sure you have assembled the circuit correctly and verified and uploaded the code to your board or see the troubleshooting tips below.



Troubleshooting:

Light Not Turning On

The pushbutton is square, and because of this it is easy to put it in the wrong way. Give it a 90 degree twist and see if it starts working.

Light Not Fading

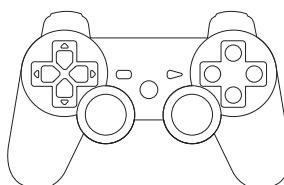
A bit of a silly mistake we constantly made, when you switch from simple on off to fading, remember to move the LED wire from pin 13 to pin 9.

Underwhelmed

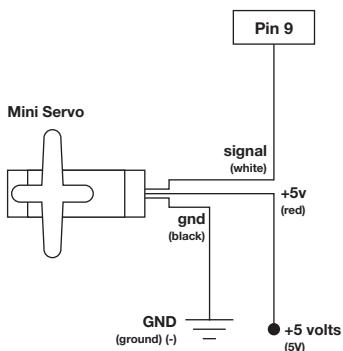
No worries, these circuits are all super stripped down to make playing with the components easy, but once you throw them together the sky is the limit.

Real World Application:

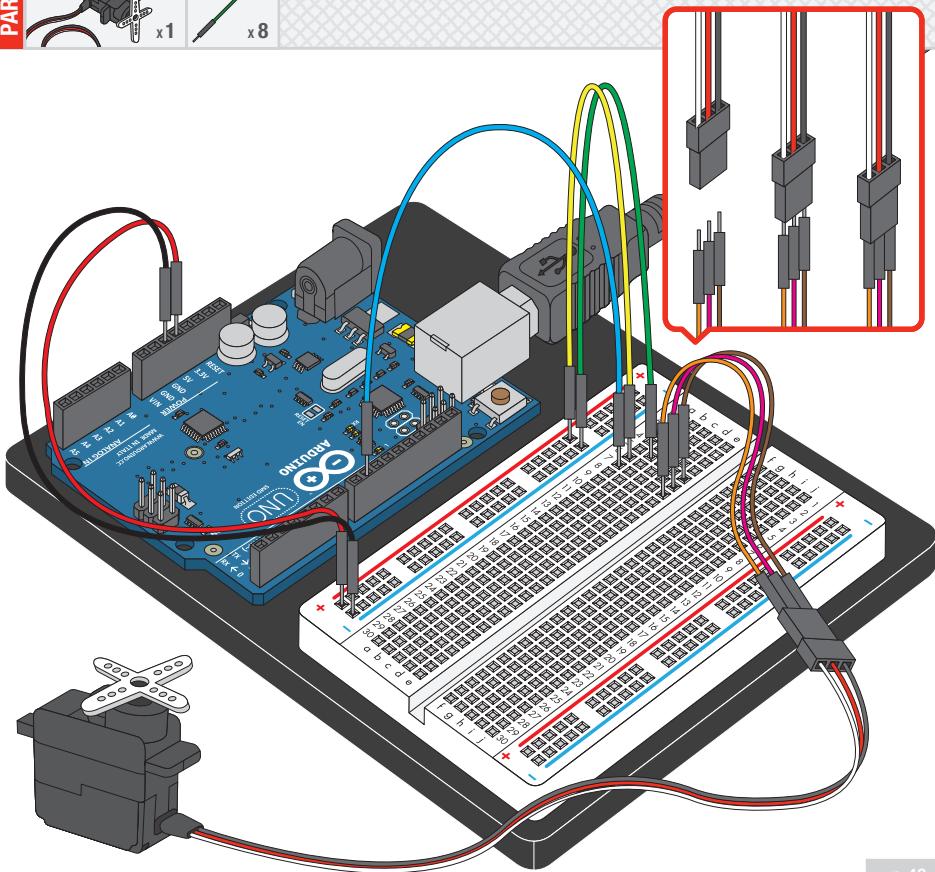
The buttons we used here are similar to the buttons in most videogame controllers.

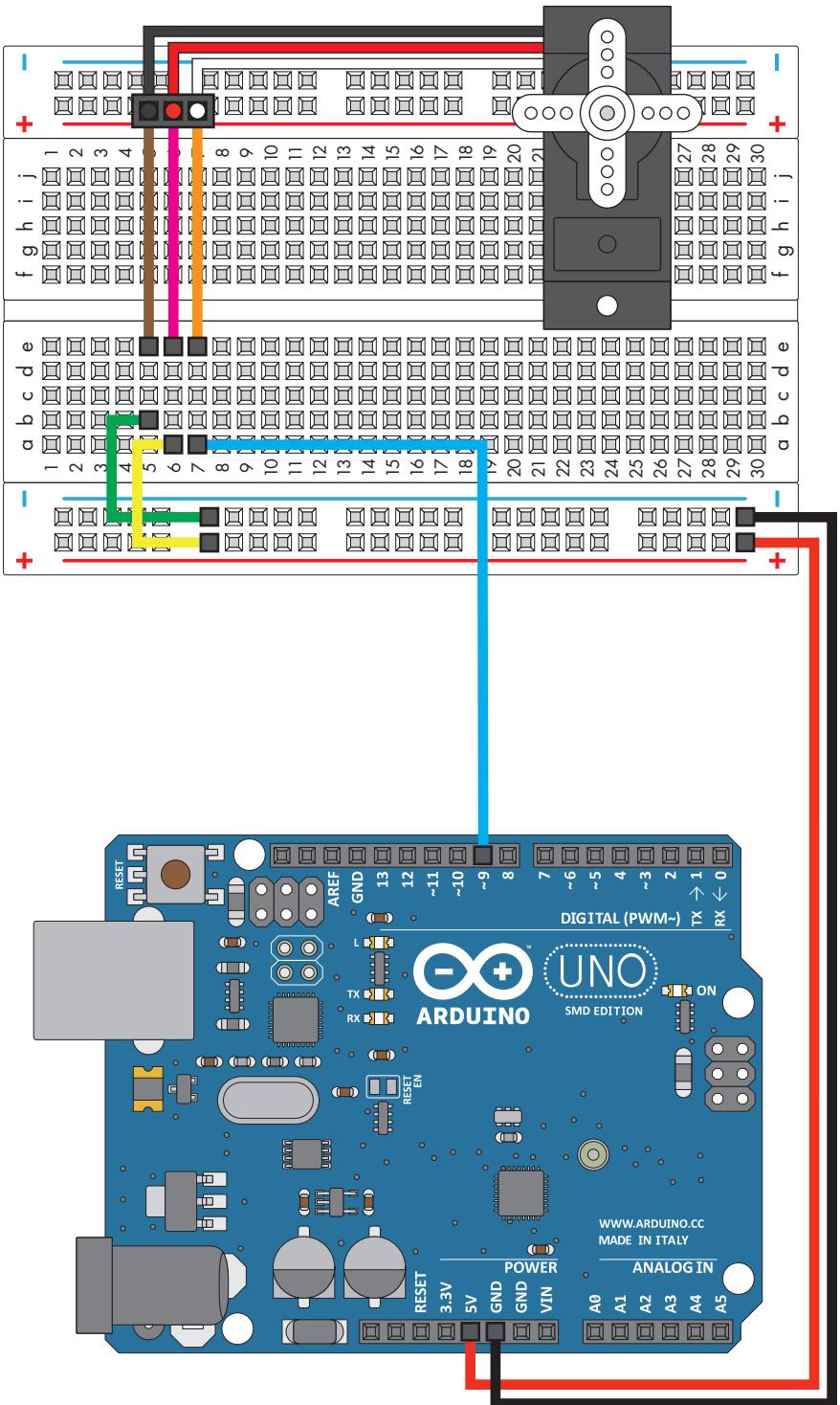


A Single Servo



Servos are ideal for embedded electronics applications because they do one thing very well that spinning motors cannot – they can move to a position accurately. By varying the pulse of voltage a servo receives, you can move a servo to a specific position. For example, a pulse of 1.5 milliseconds will move the servo 90 degrees. In this circuit, you'll learn how to use PWM (pulse width modulation) to control and rotate a servo.

PARTS:

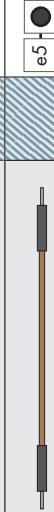


Circuit 8: A Single Servo

Expand your horizons using Libraries:



Servo



Jumper Wire



Jumper Wire



Jumper Wire



Pin 9



Jumper Wire



Jumper Wire



5V

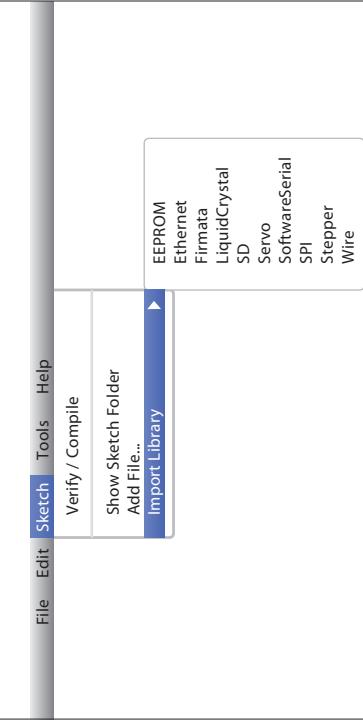


GND

See <http://arduino.cc/en/Reference/Libraries> for a list of the standard libraries and information on using them.

But anyone can create a library, and if you want to use a new sensor or output device, chances are that someone out there has already written one that interfaces that device to the Arduino. Many of SparkFun's products come with Arduino libraries, and you can find even more using Google and the Arduino Playground at <http://arduino.cc/playground/>. And when YOU get the Arduino working with a new device, consider making a library for it and sharing it with the world!

To use a library in a sketch, select it from Sketch > Import Library.





Open Arduino IDE // File > Examples > SIK Guide > Circuit #8

Code to Note:



`#include <Servo.h>`



`#include` is a special "preprocessor" command that inserts a library (or any other file) into your sketch. You can type this command yourself, or choose an installed library from the "sketch / import library" menu.

`Servo servo1;`



`servo1.attach(9);`

The servo library adds new commands that let you control a servo. To prepare the Arduino to control a servo, you must first create a Servo "object" for each servo (here we've named it "servo1"), and then "attach" it to a digital pin (here we're using pin 9).

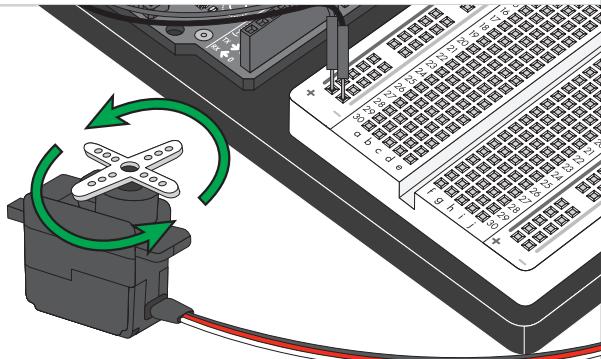
`servo1.write(180);`



Servos don't spin all the way around, but they can be commanded to move to a specific position. We use the servo library's `write()` command to move a servo to a specified number of degrees(0 to 180). Remember that the servo requires time to move, so give it a short `delay()` if necessary.

What You Should See:

You should see your servo motor move to various locations at several speeds. If the motor doesn't move, check your connections and make sure you have verified and uploaded the code, or see the troubleshooting tips below.



Troubleshooting:

Servo Not Twisting

Even with colored wires it is still shockingly easy to plug a servo in backward. This might be the case.

Still Not Working

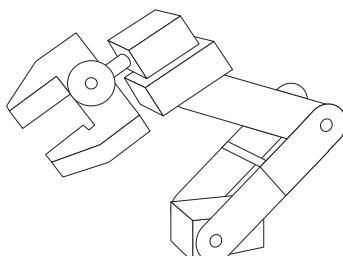
A mistake we made a time or two was simply forgetting to connect the power (red and brown wires) to +5 volts and ground.

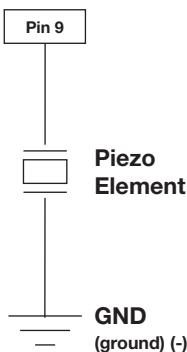
Fits and Starts

If the servo begins moving then twitches, and there's a flashing light on your Arduino board, the power supply you are using is not quite up to the challenge. Using a wall adapter instead of USB should solve this problem.

Real World Application:

Robotic arms you might see in an assembly line or sci-fi movie probably have servos in them.



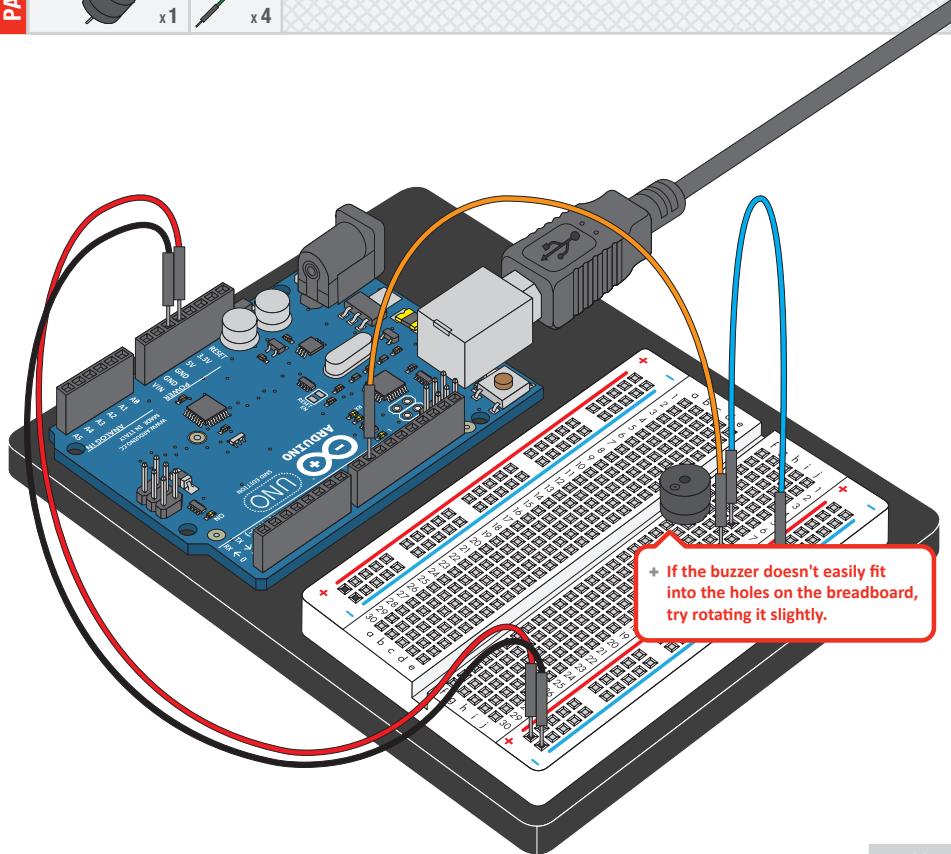
Buzzer

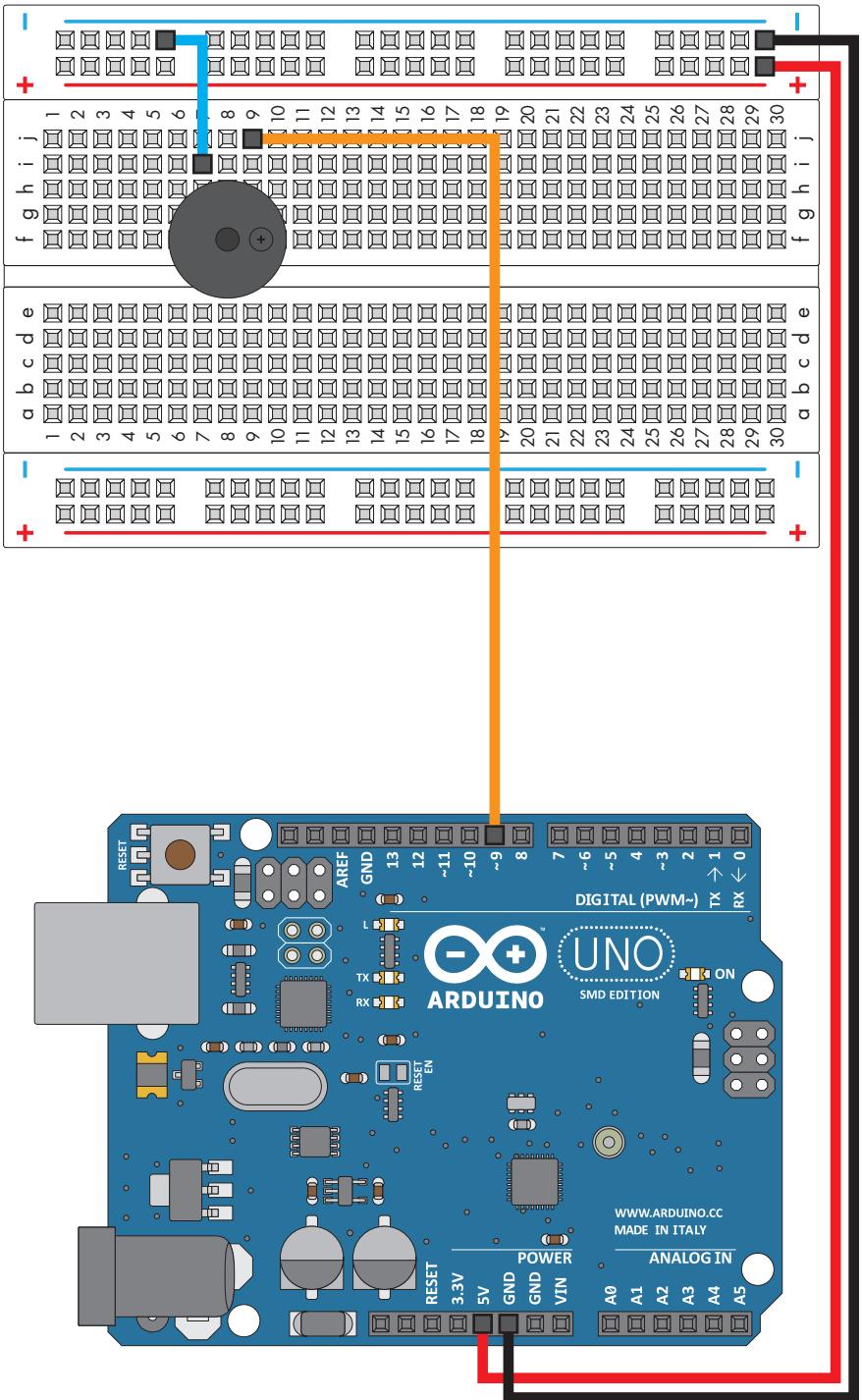
In this circuit, we'll again bridge the gap between the digital world and the analog world. We'll be using a buzzer that makes a small "click" when you apply voltage to it (try it!). By itself that isn't terribly exciting, but if you turn the voltage on and off hundreds of times a second, the buzzer will produce a tone. And if you string a bunch of tones together, you've got music! This circuit and sketch will play a classic tune. We'll never let you down!

PARTS:

Piezo Element
x1

Wire
x4





Circuit 11: Piezo Elements

Creating your own functions:

Arduino contains a wealth of built-in functions that are useful for all kinds of things. (See <http://arduino.cc/en/Reference> for a list). But you can also easily create your own functions. Here's a simple example named "add", which adds two numbers together and returns the result. Let's break it down.

```
int add(int parameter1, int parameter2)
{
    int x;
    x = parameter1 + parameter2;
    return(x);
}
```

Your functions can take in values ("parameters"), and return a value, as this one does. But you can also do either or none of those things, if you wish.

If you'll be passing parameters *to* your function, put them (and their types) in the parentheses after the function name. If you won't be giving your function any parameters, just use an empty parenthesis () after the name.

If you'll be returning a value *from* your function, put the type of the return value in front of the function name. Then in your function, when you're ready to return the value, put in a **return()** statement. If you won't be returning a value, put "void" in front of the function name (just like you've already seen for the **setup()** and **loop()** functions).

When you write your own functions, you make your code neater and easier to re-use.

Component:	Image Reference:		
Piezo Element			
Jumper Wire			
Jumper Wire			
Jumper Wire			



Open Arduino IDE // File > Examples > SIK Guide > Circuit # 11

Code to Note:



```
char notes[] = "cdfda ag cdfdg gf ";
```



```
char names[] = {'c','d','e','f','g','a','b','C'};
```

```
tone(pin, frequency, duration);
```

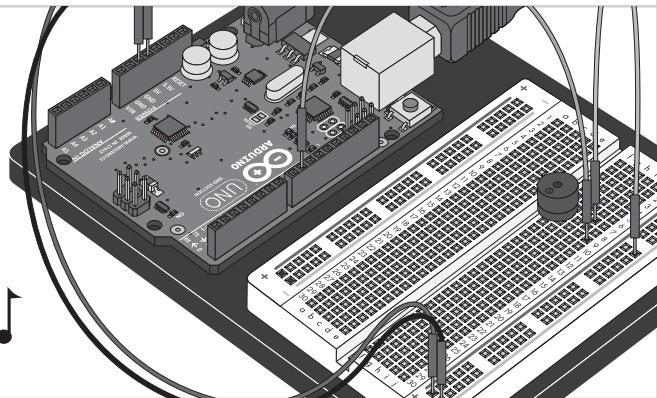


Up until now we've been working solely with numerical data, but the Arduino can also work with text. Characters (single, printable, letters, numbers and other symbols) have their own type, called "char". When you have an array of characters, it can be defined between double-quotes (also called a "string"), OR as a list of single-quoted characters.

One of Arduino's many useful built-in commands is the tone() function. This function drives an output pin at a certain frequency, making it perfect for driving buzzers and speakers. If you give it a duration (in milliseconds), it will play the tone then stop. If you don't give it a duration, it will keep playing the tone forever (but you can stop it with another function, noTone()).

What You Should See:

You should see - well, nothing! But you should be able to hear your piezo element playing "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" (or possibly, "The ABCs"). If it isn't working, make sure you have assembled the circuit correctly and verified and uploaded the code to your board or see the troubleshooting tips below.



Troubleshooting:

No Sound

Given the size and shape of the piezo element it is easy to miss the right holes on the breadboard. Try double checking its placement.

Can't Think While the Melody is Playing

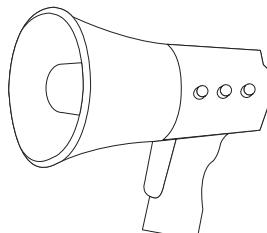
Just pull up the piezo element whilst you think, upload your program then plug it back in.

Tired of Twinkle Twinkle Little Star

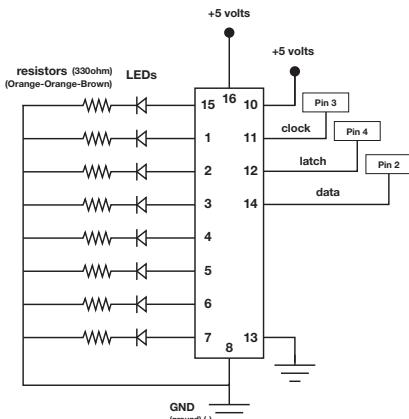
The code is written so you can easily add your own songs.

Real World Application:

Many modern megaphones have settings that use a loud amplified buzzer. They are usually very loud and quite good at getting people's attention.

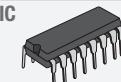


Shift Register



Now we are going to step into the world of ICs (integrated circuits). In this circuit, you'll learn all about using a shift register (also called a serial-to-parallel controller). The shift register will give your Arduino an additional eight outputs, using only three pins on your board. For this circuit, you'll practice by using the shift register to control eight LEDs.

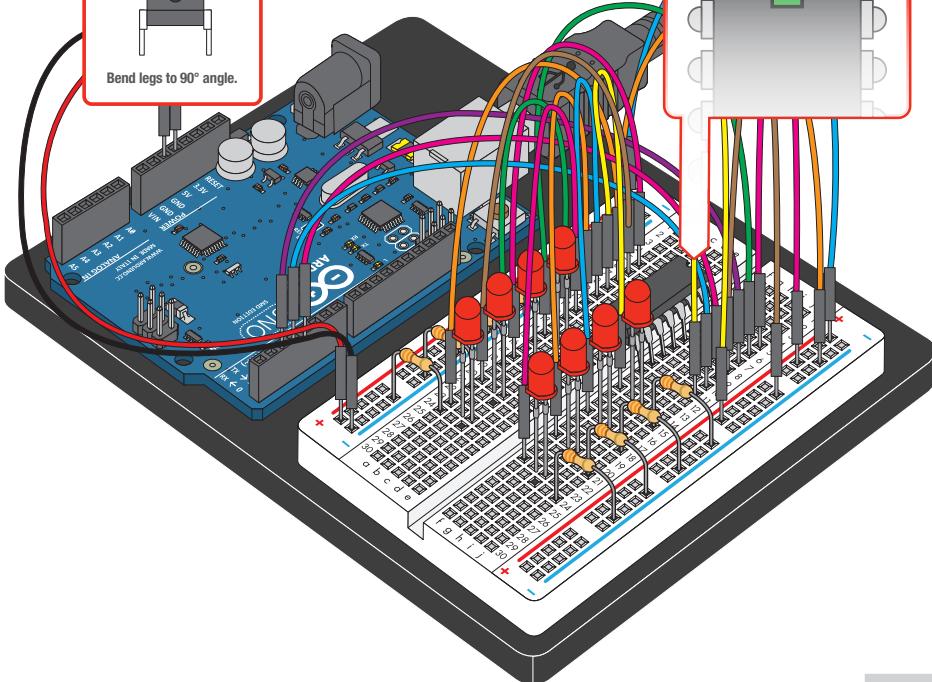
PARTS:



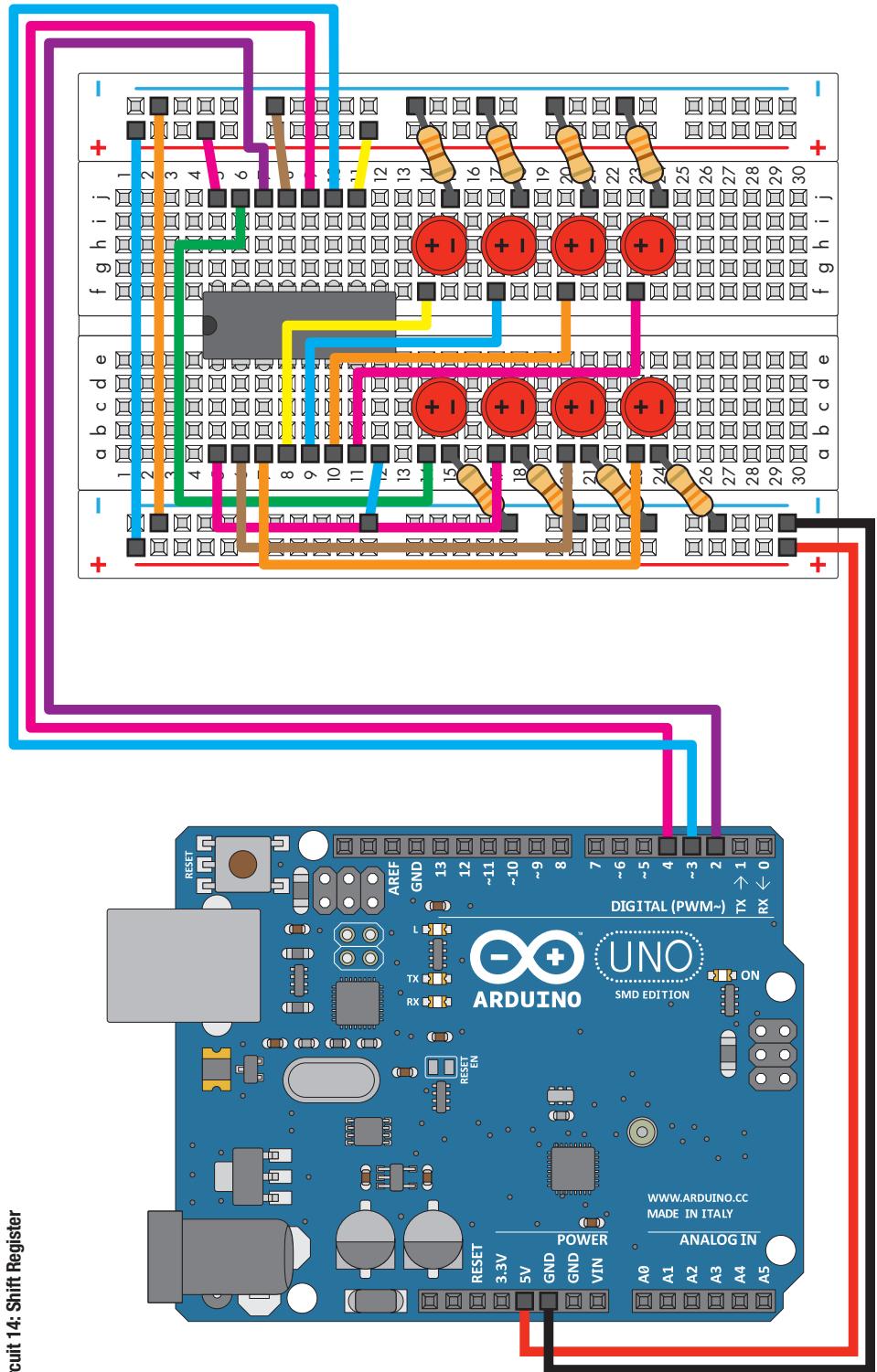
330Ω
Resistor



Bend legs to 90° angle.



Align notch on top,
inbetween "e5" and "f5" on
the breadboard.



Circuit 14: Shift Register

Component:	Image Reference:	Component:	Image Reference:
IC		Jumper Wire	
LED (5mm)		Jumper Wire	
LED (5mm)		Jumper Wire	
LED (5mm)		Jumper Wire	
LED (5mm)		Jumper Wire	
LED (5mm)		Jumper Wire	
LED (5mm)		Jumper Wire	
LED (5mm)		Jumper Wire	
330Ω Resistor		Jumper Wire	
330Ω Resistor		Jumper Wire	
330Ω Resistor		Jumper Wire	
330Ω Resistor		Jumper Wire	
330Ω Resistor		Jumper Wire	
330Ω Resistor		Jumper Wire	
5V		-	
GND		-	



Code to Note:

**shiftOut(datapin, clockpin, MSBFIRST, data);**

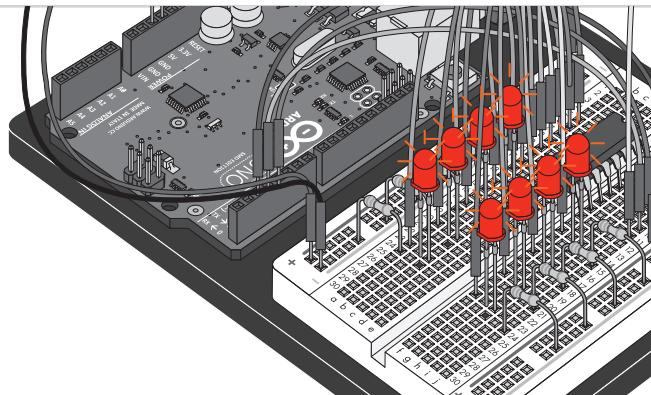
You'll communicate with the shift register (and a lot of other parts) using an interface called SPI, or Serial Peripheral Interface. This interface uses a data line and a separate clock line that work together to move data in or out of the Arduino at high speed. The MSBFIRST parameter specifies the order in which to send the individual bits, in this case we're sending the Most Significant Bit first.

bitWrite(data,desiredPin,desiredState);

Bits are the smallest possible piece of memory in a computer; each one can store either a "1" or a "0". Larger numbers are stored as arrays of bits. Sometimes we want to manipulate these bits directly, for example now when we're sending eight bits to the shift register and we want to make them 1 or 0 to turn the LEDs on or off. The Arduino has several commands, such as `bitWrite()`, that make this easy to do.

What You Should See:

You should see the LEDs light up similarly to in circuit 4 (but this time, you're using a shift register). If they aren't, make sure you have assembled the circuit correctly and verified and uploaded the code to your board, or see the troubleshooting tips below.



Troubleshooting:

The Arduino's power LED goes out

This happened to us a couple of times, it happens when the chip is inserted backward. If you fix it quickly nothing will break.

Not Quite Working

Sorry to sound like a broken record but it is probably something as simple as a crossed wire.

Frustration

Shoot us an e-mail, this circuit is both simple and complex at the same time. We want to hear about problems you have so we can address them in future editions: techsupport@sparkfun.com

Real World Application:

Similar to circuit #4, a scrolling marquee display delivers a message with multiple LEDs. Essentially the same task the shift register achieves here in Circuit #14.

