

# Open Source Software Development

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## Reduce pins for a 4 Digit 7 Segment Display that Counts

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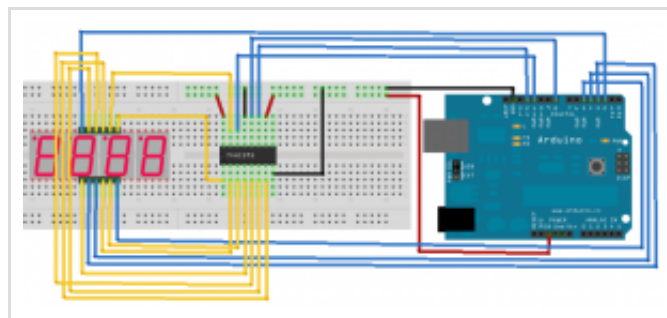
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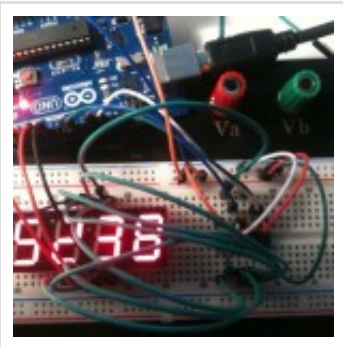
In a previous set of posts consisted of [wiring](#) and [programming](#) a 4 digit 7 segment display. Time to reduce the number of pins by using a 74HC595 Shift Register, just like I have with the [single digit 7 segment display](#).

The pins on the display are numbered top-right-to-left (1-6) and then bottom-left-to-right (7-12). In this tutorial, I will use the shift register in order to set the segments. The digits will be set by pins 2-5 of the Arduino.

Wire the Arduino, IC and 4 Digit 7 Segment display as per below (refer to the [wiring of the display](#) without the IC for a refresh, if necessary)



With a few modifications to some code, and taking the [previous 4 digit controller](#) as a guide, we have a 4 digit display that counts... and reduced the number of precious pins from 12 to 7. The end result is the same as [4 Digit 7 Segment Display that Counts – Programming](#), however requires 5 less pins! yes 5 less!!



Code for using the shift register and 4 digit 7 segment display is available on [github](#).

When I get my hands on another shift register I can remove the need for the 4 pins to control the digits, and therefore reducing the pins down to 3. More pins to do more cool stuff... NICE!

This entry was posted in **7seg** and tagged **7segmentdisplay**, **arduino**, **shiftregister**, **wiring** by **dspinoz**. Bookmark the **permalink** [<http://spinoz.com.au/archives/282>] .