EN: Elektronic building set

Set is powered by 4 AAA batteries (not included). Toy is meant for kids 8years old and older. Study the manual thorougly before the first use. Especially the category about what to be aware of and how to clean the contacts. Warning: Toy is unsuitable for kids up to 3 years of age because it contains small parts. Producer: 3Dsimo sr.o, Praha 9, KŽižkovu 282/9, 19800, www.boffinmagnetic.com Manual in the language of your preference on the link: boffinmagnetic.com/manual

CZ: Elektronická stavebnice

Stavebnice na 4x AAA baterie (nejsou součástí balení). Hračka je určena pro děti od 8 let. Před použitím si pečlivě prostudujte návod. Zejména kategorii, na co si dát pozor a jak provádět čištění. Upozornění: Hračka není určená pro děti do 3 let, protože obsahuje malé části. Výrobce: 3Dsimo sr.o., Praha 9, K Žižkovu 282/9, 19800, www.boffinmagnetic.com Manuál v příslušné jazykové mutaci naleznete online na odkazu: boffinmagnetic.com/manual



PL: Elektroniczny zestaw konstrukcyjny Zestaw na 4 baterie AAA (brak w zestawie). Zabawka przeznaczona jest dla dzieci od 8 lat. Przed użyciem przeczytaj uważnie instrukcję. Zwłaszcza rozdział, na co zwrócić uwagę i jak przeprowadzić czyszczenie.	Ostrzeżenie: Zabawka niejest przeznaczona dla dzieci poniżej 3 roku życia, ponieważ zawiera małe części. Producent: 3Dsimo s.r.o, Praha 9, K Žižkovu 282/9, 19800, www.boffinmagnetic.com Instrukcję w odpowiedniej wersji językowej można znaleźć online pod linkiem: boffinmagnetic.com/manual
DE: Elektronisches Kit Das Kit verwendet 4x AAA-Batterien (nicht enthalten), Baukasten ist konzipiert für Kinder ab 8 Jahre. Lesen Sie die Anweisungen vor dem Gebrauch gründlich durch. Besonders die Kategorie, worauf zu achten und wie die Reinigung durchzuführen.	Beachtung: Das Spielzeug ist nicht für Kinder bis 3 Jahre konzipiert. Hersteller: 3Dsimo s.r.o., Praha 9, K Žižkovu 282/9, 19800, www.boffinmagnetic.com Das Manual in der betreffenden Sprache finden Sie am Link: boffinmagnetic.com/manual
HU: Elektronikus építőkészlet Az építőkészlet működtetéséhez 4 AAA elem szükséges. A csomag elemet nem tartalmaz. A játék 8 éves kortól ajánlott Használat előtt olvassa el figyelmesen a használati útmutatót. Különösen a tisztítás és karbantartás kategóriát.	Figyelem! Nem alkalmas 3 éves kor alatti gyermekek számára. Fulladásveszélyes! Cyártó: 3Dsimo sr.o., Praha 9, K Žižkovu 282/9, 19800, www.boffinmagnetic.com A kézikönyvet a megfelelő nyelvi változatban online található ezen a linken: boffinmagnetic.com/manual
FR: Kít de construction électronique Le kit utilise 4 piles AAA (non inclus). Le jeu est destiné pour les enfants à partir de 8 ans. Lisez le mode d'emploi attentivement avant utilisation.	Attention: le jouet n'est pas destiné pour les enfants jusqu'à 3 ans. Fabricant: 3Dsimo s.r.o, Praha 9, K Žižkovu 282/9, 19800, www.boffinmagnetic.com

Notamment la categorie de ce qu'il faut fair attention et comment nettoyer le produit.

IT: Kit elettronico

l kit utilizza 4 batterie AAA (non incluso). Il giocattolo è destinato a bambini dagli 8 anni. Leggere attentamente le istruzioni prima dell'uso. Soprattutto le avvertenze e i consigli su come effettuare la pulizia. Le mode d'emploi dans la langue correspondante se trouve sur le lien: boffinmagnetic.com/manual

Avvertimentα: Il giocattolo non è destinato a bambini di età inferiore a 3 anni, poiché contiene piccole parti. Produtore: 3Dsimo s.r.o, Praha 9, K Žižkovu 282/9, 19800, www.boffinmagnetic.com Il manuale nella versione linguistica pertinente si trova al link: boffinmagnetic.com/manual

ES: Kit electrónico

Kit para 4 pilas AAA (no incluido). El juguete es para niños a partir de 8 años. Lea atentamente las instrucciones antes de usar. Especialmente la categoría de qué evitar y cómo realizar la limpieza. Advertencia: el juguete no está destinado a niños menores de 3 años, ya que contiene piezas pequeñas. Fabricante: 3Dsimo s.r.o., Praha 9, K Žižkovu 282/9, 19800, www.boffinmagnetic.com El manual se puede encontrar en línea en: boffinmagnetic.com/manual

HI!

You have received a unique electronic kit, with which you can build fun and sometimes even almost crazy projects.

In this book you will find 100 sample builds.

Every month we are going to add another 10 new projects to our official website. There are already more than 50 of them now.

You can find online projects at: www.boffinmagnetic.com/community/projects

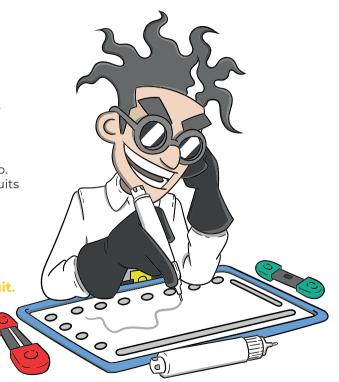


My name is Boffin Magnetic

I will accompany you throughout the book. From the simplest builds to the most complex ones. We can accomplish everything together and you will learn, too. I am going to teach you to understand electronic circuits and also how things work around us.

I am sure you can't wait to build your first circuit.

But before you start, turn to the next page!



WARNING!

Before you start building, read what you should definitely NOT do to avoid damaging the kit:

Battery type Use only AAA 1.5V batteries! (These batteries are not included in the kit.)

Battery polarity

Always insert the batteries with the correct polarity, i.e. plus to \oplus and minus to \bigcirc .

Replacing batteries

Replace AAA batteries regularly. Remove defective batteries. Do not mix old and new batteries.

Always!

Always make sure that the build is connected correctly according to the instructions. Never reverse the polarity of both batteries and other components where the contacts are marked with a \oplus and \bigcirc .

The package contains small parts.

There is a risk of swallowing. Not intended for children under 3 years.

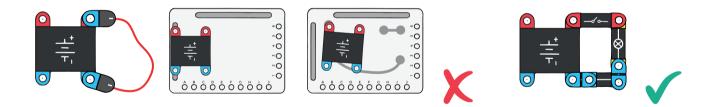


Never!

Never connect the circuit or any component to household electrical sockets (risk of electric shock).

Never connect the \oplus and \odot contacts directly on the battery component, otherwise a short-circuit will occur and damage the batteries (the batteries will start to heat up quickly).

Do not forget that you can connect the \oplus and \odot minus even with the conductive ink!



BASIC TROUBLESHOOTING:

1. Wrona build

Most problems are due to a wrong build. Therefore, always carefully check that the circuit built corresponds to the sample drawing.

2. Polarity \oplus and \bigcirc

Make sure that components with explicitly indicated positive / negative contacts are positioned in accordance with the sample drawing.

3. Bad contact

If the connection you have created does not havean adequate contact, you should gently move and push the components.

4. You may build your own projects at your discretion 3Dsimo s.r.o. cannot be held liable for any potential damage caused to components.



CLEANING:

Regularly clean magnetic contacts and the surfaces on which they rest.

Use the included pen with cleaning liquid or alternatively wet wipes for electronics or a piece of cloth soaked in alcohol or diluted dish detergent to clean components.

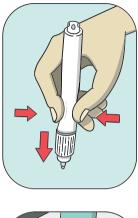
Over time, dirt or grease may adhere to the contacts, which may prevent the components from functioning properly (due to reduced conductivity).

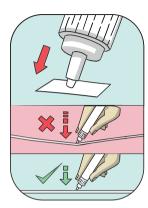
Magnetic pad cleaning:

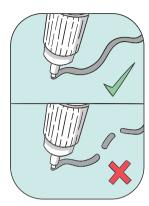
Clean the conductive ink off the pad with the cleaning brush you will find in the package and cloth or paper towel.

You can wash off the conductive ink with alcohol or an alcohol-based cleaner. Never use the rough side of the sponge to clean, as this may damage the magnetic pad.

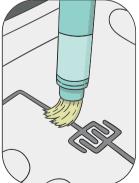






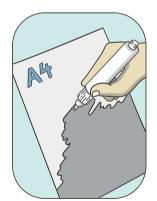












CONDUCTIVE PEN:

In this kit you will find a magical pen, with which you can draw electrically conductive circuits.

First, the pen should be shaken well (repeat before each use). Then just place it on paper or pad, gently press on the tip and squeeze the plastic case. Each time you draw a circuit, you must wait at least 5 minutes, so that the connection dries and becomes conductive.

Use the included cleaning brush to clean. The conductive pen refill should be sufficient to color up approximately one A4 paper.

ATTENTION!

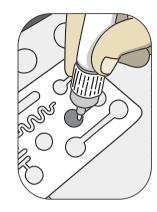
The ink in the conductive pen must never come into contact with the mucous membranes. If this happens, the area must be rinsed with watter immediately!



STENCIL:

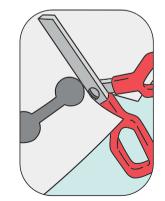
Use the included stencil to draw parts accurately.

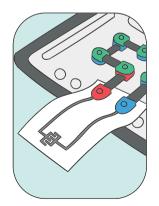


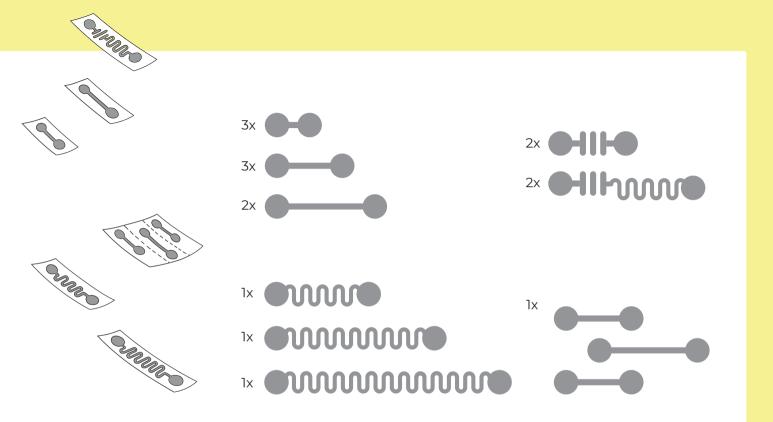












We recommend drawing the components on paper. You can then reuse them in various builds.







CONDUCTIVE TRACE

It is a simple component that is only used to interconnect the components with which you create a functional build. It consists only of a conductive track or path that should bring electricity from point A to point B.

(ON-OFF) SWITCH

It is a manually operated mechanical switch used to switch an electrical circuit on or off. In one position, a permanent conductive trace is made (ON), whereas in the other position the trace is open or broken (OFF).



BUTTON

It is a simple switch that is used to manually control electrical equipment. The circuit closes when the button is pressed.



POTENCIOMETER

It is a component that changes the resistance when its axis rotates; for this reason, it is used to directly control, for example, the volume or intensity of light. With the Boffin Magnetic kit, you will find that it can also be used as a steering wheel for controlling a racing game.



CAPACITOR

It is a component used in electrical circuits to temporarily store an electric charge, and thus to store electrical energy - charge.

REZISTOR



One of the basic components without which no circuit and build can do. Its basic property is electrical resistance. The main reason for including a resistor in an electrical circuit is to limit the flow of electrical current through the circuit or to obtain a certain voltage drop for measuring non-electrical quantities.

PHOTOREZISTOR



This is a light-sensitive component. This means that the more light shines on the component, the less resistance it will have. For example, a motor connected to a circuit will spin faster in high light. If you shade the photoresistor with your finger, a high resistance will cause the motor speed to decrease until it stops. With this component you can create a large number of interesting and experimental builds that will respond to illumination or its change, as the case may be.



DIODE

The purpose of the diode is to let electric current flow only in one direction, and this is why the diode symbol is similar to an arrow. The diode contains two transitions – P and N – referred to as the anode and the cathode, respectively.



LED (LIGHT-EMITTING DIODE)

The LED has the main task to light up as efficiently as possible. It is a semiconductor device that can be connected in the forward or the reverse direction. If you connect the diode in the reverse direction, no current will flow through it and it will not light up. Current can flow through a diode connected in the forward direction, and it then lights up.

BULB



A light bulb is a simple device used to convert electrical energy to light. It works on the principle of heating a thin conductor (mostly a tungsten filament) by an electric current flowing through it. At high temperatures, the filament of a light bulb glows, but consumes most of the energy to radiate heat instead of light. For this reason, we nowadays mostly used light sources that are much more economical and efficient. In one of the builds, you can compare both types of radiators and test how much they heat up, shine and consume energy.



NPN/PNP TRANSISTOR

The main feature of a transistor is its ability to amplify an electric current. This simply means that small changes in input voltage or current can cause large changes in output voltage or current.



BUZZER

Due to the piezoelectric effect, this component emits a squeaky tone. This phenomenon occurs due to changing voltage at its contacts, which is applied to the crystal.



MICROPHONE

A component enabling the conversion of an acoustic signal, or sound, to an electrical signal. Thanks to this, you can hear the singer at the concert even in the back rows.

BATTERY



Galvanic cells, which represent batteries or accumulators, supply electricity to a circuit through an electrochemical reaction inside the cell. The cells differ in size, chemical composition and, thus, the output voltage. Without this component, no circuit would work for you.



SYMBOLS

On each module you also have the electrotechnical symbol of the component, which is commonly used. For a better understanding, you will find below an explanation of which component, which brand it belongs to.

	_~ ~	
Conductive Trace	(On-Off) Switch	Button
Bulb	Diode	LED



NPN

Transistor

Changeover Capacitor Switch



PNP Transistor



Buzzer

Polarized Resistor Capacitor



Microphone



W



joystick

Photoresistor Potentiometer



Battery

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		LL290 Smooth brightness change II.	43
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1 LIGHT		LL320 Human body conductivity detector	44
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LL30 Switch vs. button	25	LL360 Carbon potenciometer	48
LL40 Serial connection of LEDs	25	LL370 NPN amplifier with LED	49
LL50 LED lights up in one direction	26	LL380 NPN amplifier with LED in reverse direction	5C
LL60 Low luminosity with 10k Ω resistance	26	LL390 Switching with button II.	51
LL70 Overly high resistance	27	LL400 Common emitter PNP amplifier with LED and bulb	52
LL80 Switching with button I.	27	LL410 PNP amplifier with LED in reverse direction	52
LL90 Drawn button	28	LL420 PNP amplifier with common collector I.	53
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LL110 Drawn resistance	30	LL440 PNP amplifier with common collector I.	54
LL120 Different kinds of resistance	30	LL450 PNP amplifier with common collector II.	54
LL130 Resistance comparison	31	LL460 Common emitter amplifier with NPN and bulb	55
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LL150 High luminosity with resistor connected in parallel	32	LL480 Button - brighter light with PNP	56
LL160 Controlling by photoresistor	33	LL490 Button - bulb doesn't light up	57
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LL180 Connection on paper	34	LL510 Light alarm	58
LL190 Drawn switch and button	35	LL520 Intensive light alarm	58
LL200 Drawn switch and LED	35	LL530 Brightness control	59
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4 FUNCTIONS

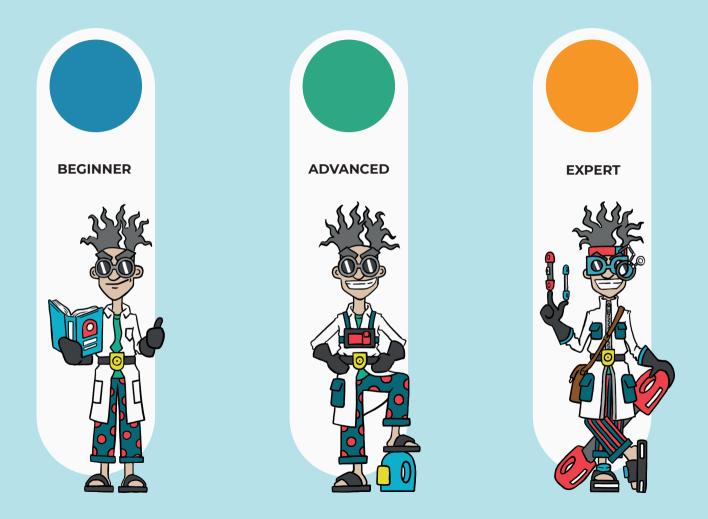
LF10 Portable conductivity detector	81
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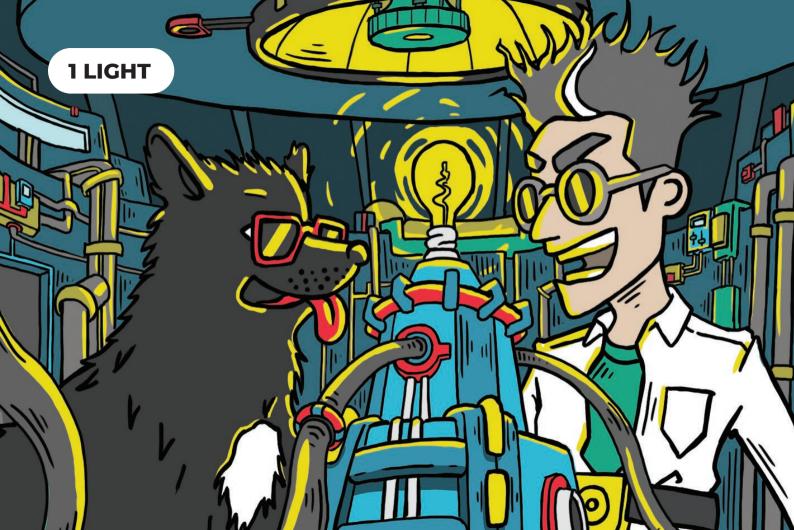
PROJECTS



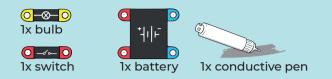


First, fill in the the areas on the magnetic pad (as shown in the picture) with the conductive pen. These parts will serve as connecting lines for \oplus and \bigcirc . Be sure to wait at least 5 to 10 minutes for the ink to dry. When you're done you can start having fun with all the exciting builds.



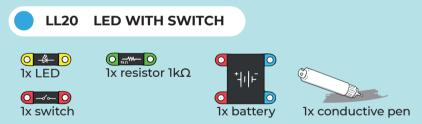


LL10 LIGHTBULB WITH SWITCH



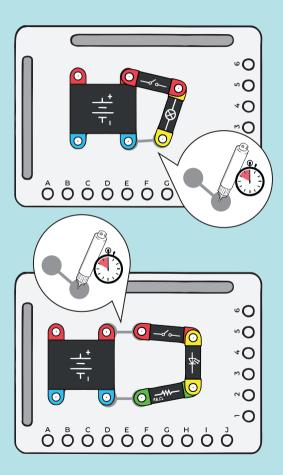
A basic build that demonstrates how the electronic circuit in principle works. The switch acts as a circuit breaker, the bulb generates light and the drawn conductive path closes the circuit, so that electric current can flow through it. The battery is an integral part of the circuit and serves as a source of energy for the light bulb.

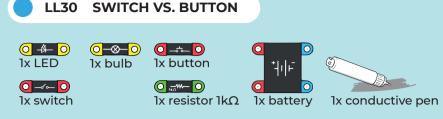
ATTENTION: First draw the connecting path on the pad using the conductive pen. Let it dry for at least 5 minutes. Then you can continue building the circuit.



A basic build with an LED as a light source. LEDs are not adjusted to the soupply voltage of a battery, therefore it is necessary to add a serial resistor to the build. That will lower the curent flow in the circuit. Othewise the LED would be destroyed.

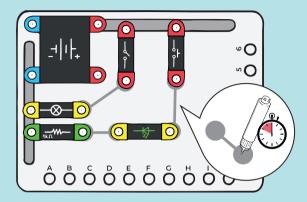
ATTENTION: First draw the connecting path on the pad using the conductive pen. Let it dry for at least 5 minutes. Then you can continue building the circuit.





The basic components in the circuit include switches and buttons that control the current flow. The switch has two stable positions (ON and OFF) and the current flows only in the ON position. The current flows through the button only when it is pressed.

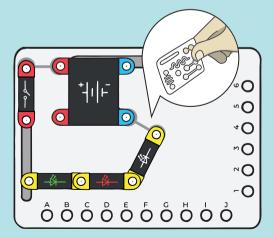
ATTENTION: First draw the connecting paths on the pad using the conductive pen. Let them dry for at least 5 minutes. Then you can continue building the circuit.

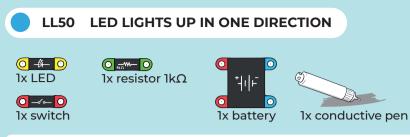


LL40 SERIAL CONNECTION OF LEDS

The objective is to test that by connecting 3 LEDs in series, none of them will light up. That is because the voltage drop across each of the diodes is in total greater than the supply voltage of the batteries, which is 6V. Here you do not need to worry about destroying the LEDs by not adding a resistor since almost no current will flow through them.

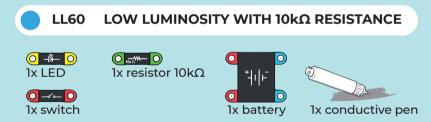
ATTENTION: First draw the connecting path on the pad using the conductive pen. Let it dry for at least 5 minutes. Use the stencil to draw precisely.



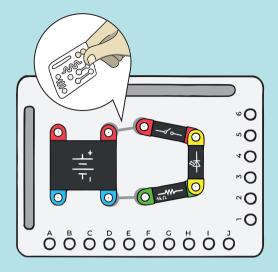


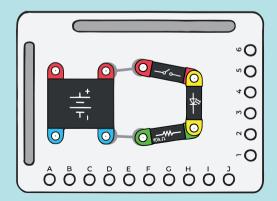
A LED is a semiconductor device (made up of two transitions called P and N) that conducts an electric current in only one forward direction - from the cathode (N) to the anode (P). For this reason, the LED can only light up if connected in the forward direction, which is not the case in this circuit as the LED is connected in the reverse direction.

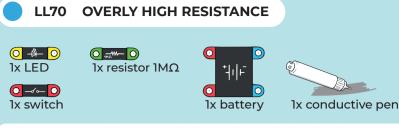
ATTENTION: First draw the connecting path on the pad using the conductive pen. Let it dry for at least 5 minutes. Use the stencil to draw precisely.



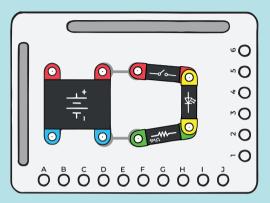
The LED light intensity is determined by the amount of current flowing through the circuit. A resistor included in the circuit blocks the current from flowing. This allows you to adjust the current flow. The smaller the resistance you insert into the circuit, the greater the current that will flow through the circuit and the brighter the LED light will be.

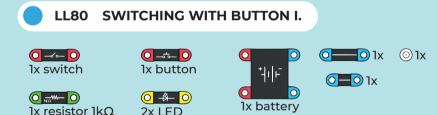




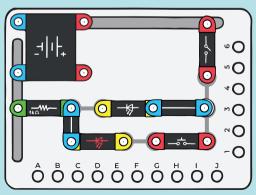


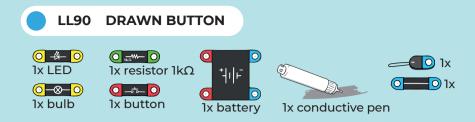
If the resistor we add in series with the LED has too high value, the current flowing through the circuit will be so small that the LED diode will not light up. The ballast resistor to the LED must always be selected so that the current flowing through the circuit is high enough to turn on the LED and at the same time doesn't exceed the maximum value specified by the manufacturer. Exceeding the maximum value of the electric current flowing through the destruction of the LED. The LED modules therefore have protection resistors integrated directly into them.





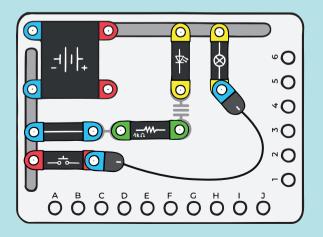
In this circuit red and white LEDs are connected in parallel with a common resistor. When the switch is closed, the white LED lights up. If you press the button, you connect the red LED to the white LED in parallel. Since the white LED needs higher voltage than the red one to light up, connecting the red LED to the white LED goes out and the red LED lights up. In this case the button visually acts as a changeover switch even though it does not have a changeover contact.

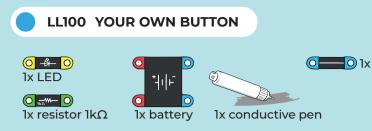




You do not have to use the electrical component button. You can draw it with the conductive pen on either the magnetic pad or a paper. Draw the button using the stencil so that all the proportions are correct. Allow the drawn button to dry for at least 5 minutes and then assemble the entire circuit acording to the picture. The button you just drew works on a simple principle that uses your body's natural conductivity.

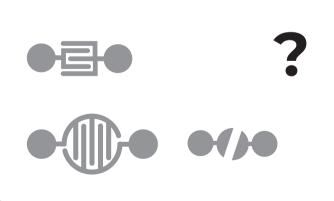
TIP: If you want the button to work the best, draw a conductive circle on your finger. After drying, try touching the button again.

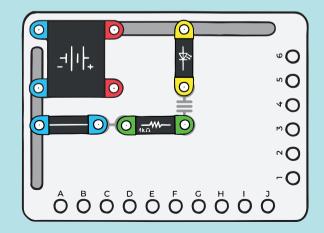


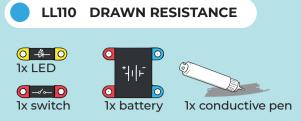


In the previous project, you drew the button using the stencil. Now it's time to give way to your creativity and start creating buttons of all sorts of shapes and sizes. Remember that functionality is affected not only by size and shape but also by the number of layers you draw on top of each other.

TIP: The more complex the button and the smaller the gap between the conductive parts, the better it will work.

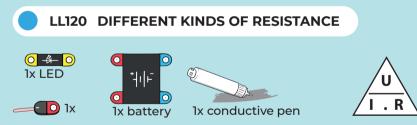






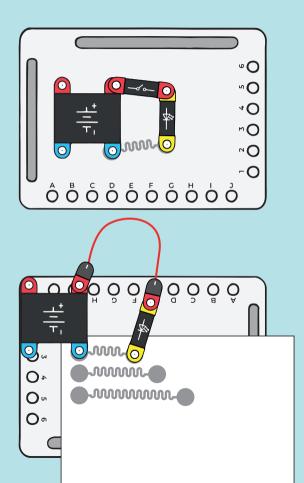
Before you start drawing a component called Resistor, let's talk about what electrical resistance is. Electrical resistance is a physical quantity characterizing the ability of a conductor to prevent the passage of electric current. The value of electrical resistance depends on the material, shape, length but also on the temperature.

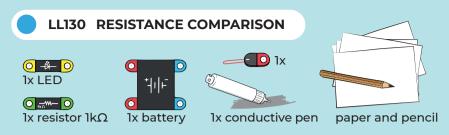
TIP: If you draw 4 waves according to the stencil, the value of the resistance is between 100 and 150 $\Omega.$



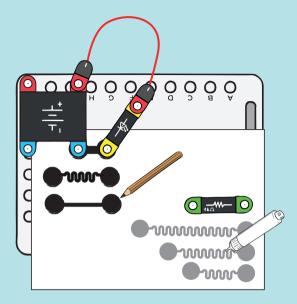
In the previous project you tried to draw a resistor. Now let's demonstrate the relation between the value the resistance and its length. The longer the path, the greater the resistance. If you want to calculate how the voltage applied to the diode drops, you can use Ohm's law, which is shown graphically on the right.

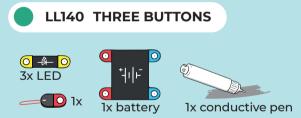
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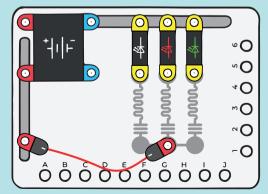
As we have said in previous projects, the value of the resistance also depends on the material. This project will show you how. Draw one type of resistors with an ordinary pencil (the inside of a pencil is made of graphite which is conductive) draw the other type of resistors with our conductive marker. Then connect the circuit with the LED diode and find out how much difference there is in the brightness LED between the two variants.





Draw 3 touch buttons, each button will light up a different color of LED. You can press the button with your finger or other conductive object. In this project 50% of the components are drawn.

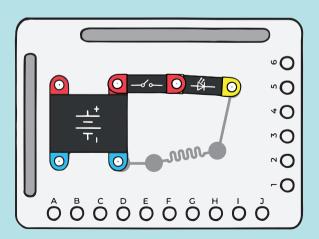
TIP: If you want the button to work the best, draw a conductive circle on your finger. After drying, try touching the button again.



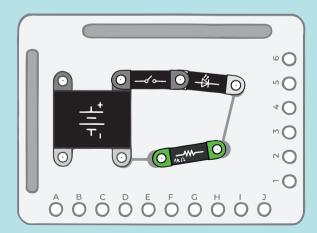
$\begin{array}{c} \textcircled{\begin{tabular}{c} \bullet & \bullet \\ 1x \ LED \\ \hline \hline \hline \hline \\ 1x \ switch \end{array} \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \textcircled{\begin{tabular}{c} \bullet & \bullet \\ 1x \ resistor \ 1k\Omega \end{array}} \begin{array}{c} \textcircled{\begin{tabular}{c} \bullet & \bullet \\ 1x \ battery \end{array}} \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \overbrace{\begin{tabular}{c} \bullet & \bullet \\ 1x \ conductive \ pen \end{array}} \end{array}$

LL150 HIGH LUMINOSITY WITH RESISTOR CONNECTED IN PARALLEL

You can find the resistor as a component in the package in several values. It is possible to connect them in parallel (next to one another) or in series (in a row). When resistors are connected in parallel, the total resistance value decreases. This is used in cases where we do not have the required value or it is not produced. In the case of two identical resistors, the resistance is halved, thus increasing the LED light brightness. In our case, the botton resistor is drawn.

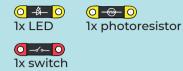


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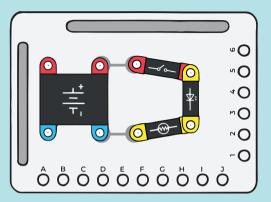
LL160 CONTROLLING BY PHOTORESISTOR

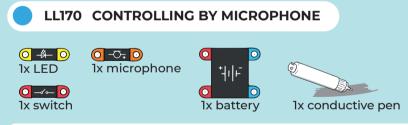




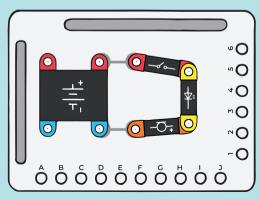


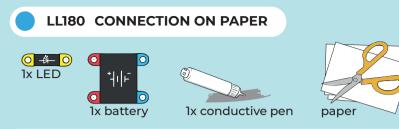
There are electronic components that respond to light. One of them is a photoresistor – its resistance changes with the intensity of incoming light. When you cover the photoresistor with your finger, its resistance increases. This reduces the current flowing through the circuit, which decreases the light intensity of the LED.



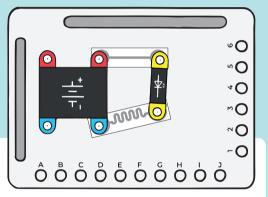


A microphone is a component that converts sound into an electrical signal. As a rule, the sound is converted into a diaphragm vibration, which is further evaluated as a change in resistance or capacitance. In the presented circuit, the microphone changes the current in the LED, whose light brightness reacts to the sound interacting with the microphone diaphragm.

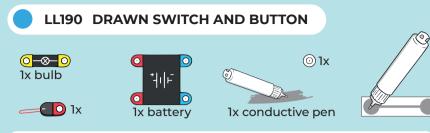




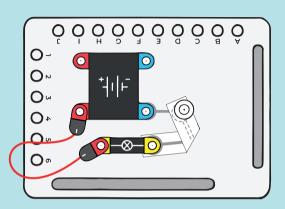
In previous projects, you drew a conductive connection directly on the magnetic pad. However, it is better to draw the connecting components on hard paper. Then you can use them repeatedly and in multiple projects. First, draw a classic conductive path of medium size and resistance (resistor). This makes it easy to connect a circuit with an LED that lights up.

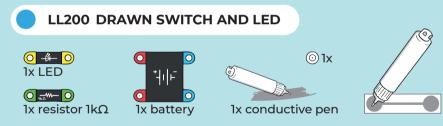




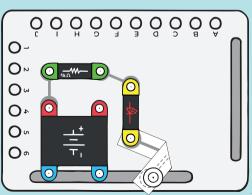


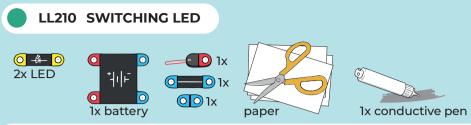
The electrical switch does not need to be just a manually operated component. A magnetic reed switch can sever as an alternative. It consists of two thin flexible steel contacts, usually in a glass flask. When the magnet approaches, the two contacts are magnetized and connect. This closes the electrical circuit and turns on the light bulb. After the magnet is moved away, the contacts open by their own elasticity. This interrupts the flow of electricity and the light goes out.



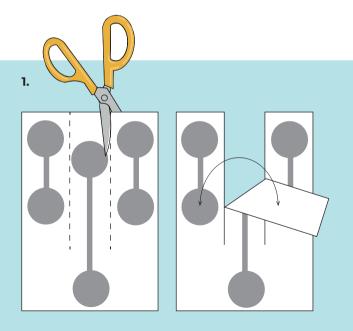


The magnetic reed switch can be used to directly switch a wide range of appliances. However, it is not suitable for large appliances with high current consumption as the contacts may slowly get burned or lose flexibility due to overheating. Although our small bulb represents a marginal load even for a small reed contact, it is always advantageous to minimize the current through the reed contact. Instead of a light bulb, we use a LED diode since it needs rather low current flow values to function.

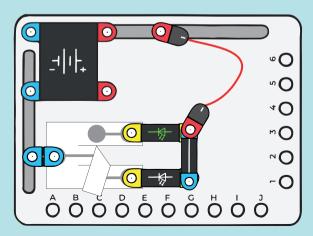


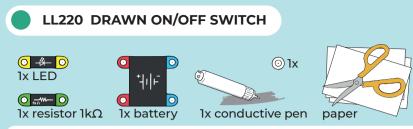


Follow the picture below to draw 3 connecting components on a piece of paper and cut in the middle. This makes it easy to draw the switch with conductive ink. The function of such switch is to simply switch between circuit A and circuit B, when one of the circuits is closed the other must be open. Both of these circuits have a common terminal under the designation COM.



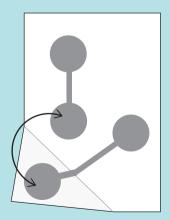
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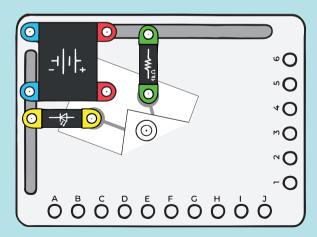


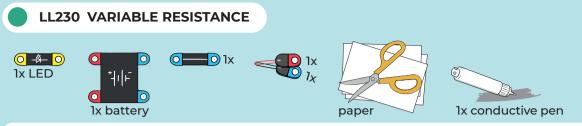


As shown below, draw 2 interconnecting components on a piece of paper and fold the lower left corner to connect the contacts. You can use this drawn component as a button. For keeping the button pressed, use a single-pin white component at the point where the two contacts meet. Each switch always has two positions, OFF and ON.

1.

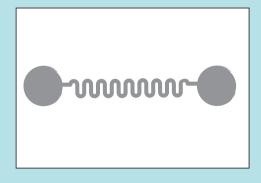


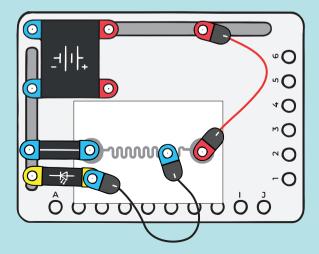


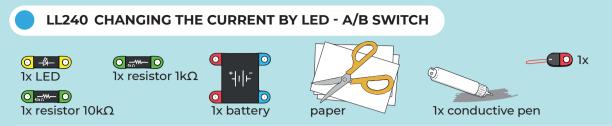


Use the stencil to draw a long path. You can use this drawn part as a resistor or as a variable resistor (a resistor that changes its value). By moving the blue wire connection over the drawn variable resistance, you change its resistance and thus the voltage that flows into the diode. You will notice a change in resistance when the LED intensity changes.

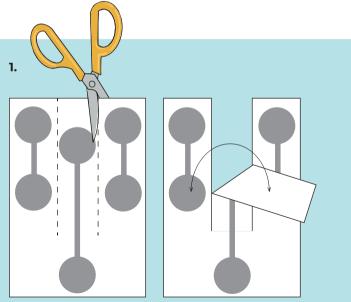
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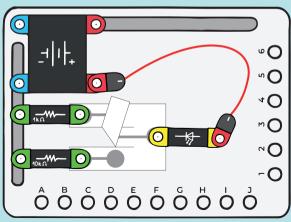






We can use the switch to select two sizes of current flowing through the circuit, which will affect the change in brightness of the LED. In our case, the switch is a conductive layer on the paper as a movable contact, which we alternately apply to the fixed contacts connected to the resistors. We select a resistor that will be included with the LED in series and thus define the amount of current flowing through the circuit.

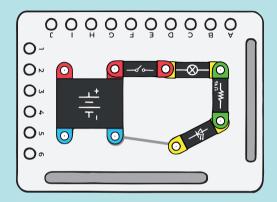




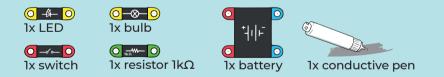
LL250 CONNECTING A LIGHT BULB AND LED IN SERIES



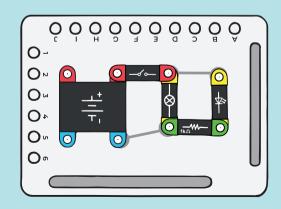
Connecting multiple appliances in a row. The same current flows through both appliances, but the battery voltage is divided between the two appliances. In our circuit, it is reflected in a low brightness of the bulb. In practice, a connection in series is used for the same appliances with the same consumption. One big disadvantage of connecting appliances in series is that the failure of any component will open the circuit, which you can simulate by unscrewing the bulb - the LED goes out.

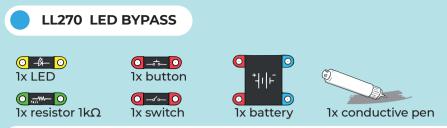


LL260 CONNECTING A LIGHT BULB AND LED IN PARALLEL



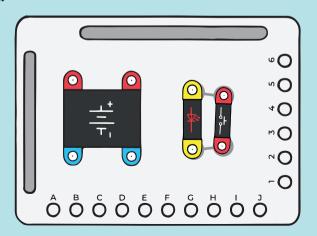
Connecting multiple appliances side by side. The total current drawn from the source is a sum of the partial currents taken. The voltage on both appliances is the same. If one appliance is disconnected from the circuit, it will not affect the rest, only the value of the current flowing through the circuit will decrease. Electricity is distributed to appliances individually in this way.

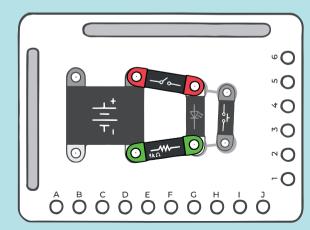


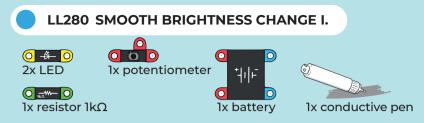


A button connected in parallel to the LED. When the button is not pressed, i.e. it is open, the LED light is on. If you press the button, you short-circuit the LED diode and it goes out. It stays off as long as the button is pressed and lights up again when the button is released. The ballast resistor not only protects the LED from excessive current, but also ensures that the button does not short-circuit the battery directly. The resistor thus limits the short-circuit current and protects the battery as well as the button from excessive current.

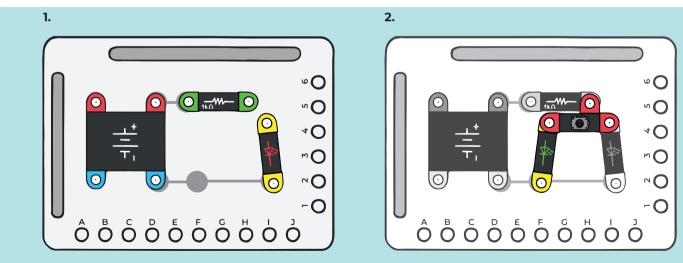
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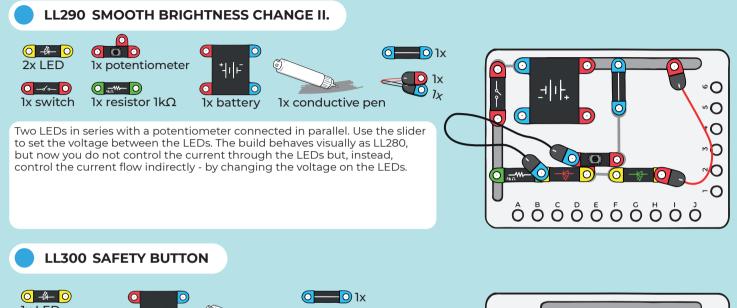


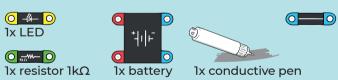




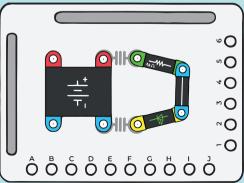
If you want to change the LED current continuously and without step changes, you can use a variable resistor, also called potentiometer, for which the resistance corresponds to the angle of rotation of the small shaft. Structurally, it is a fixed resistor that has an exposed resistance layer, along which the collector travels. By turning the slider you select how much of the resistance path will be included in the circuit. When being turned, it moves away from one end (the resistance of this end increases). Due to the shaft rotation, the brightness "spills" from one LED to the other as the resistance decreases on one side and increases on the other.

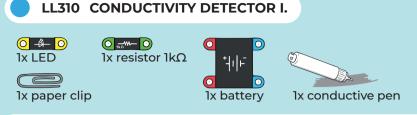




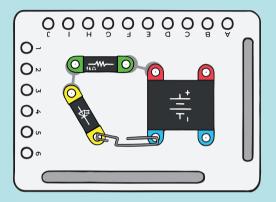


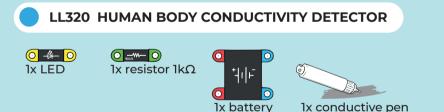
Two buttons connected in series close the circuit only if both buttons are pressed. The circuit closure is indicated by the LED. In practice, this connection is used as a safety element for dangerous machines (e.g. when material needs to be loaded manually under a press) where the operator must press two buttons with both hands to activate the machine. This ensures that both hands are out of the dangerous parts of the machine, which prevents injuries.



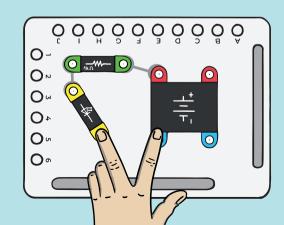


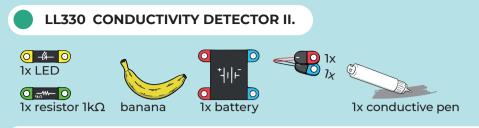
Connect the circuit as shown on the right so that you can test how different objects conduct or do not conduct electricity. For example, you can try to find a metal paper clip or teaspoon and place it on the contacts. If the object is conductive, the circuit will be closed and the LED will light up. In this case, the object has a similar function to a switch.



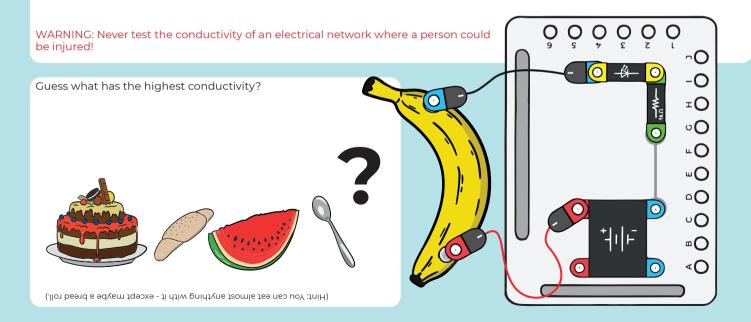


You can use a simple electrical circuit to test the conductivity of your body. The human body is made up mostly of water; however, the human skin is dry and poses high resistance to electrical current. The resistance of the skin decreases when the skin is moist. A moist skin has such a low resistance that enough current flows through the circuit for the LED to give a dim light (this can be best demonstrated with the white LED).



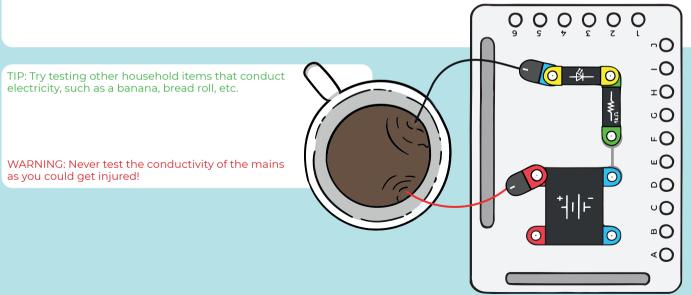


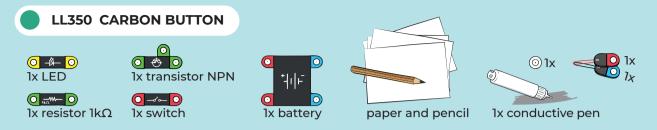
In addition to the human body, which has a high water content, you can test the conductivity of other water-containing things, such as various fruits and vegetables.



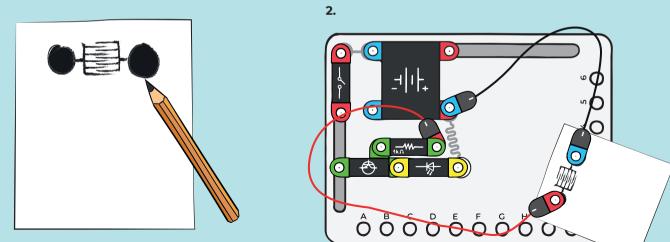


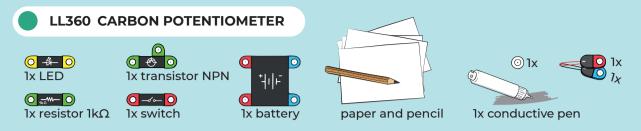
Test that pure water, tea, or any other liquid is conductive enough to light up the LED in the circuit. Take conductive parts with magnets and connect them to kitchen utensils – you can test the conductivity of water.



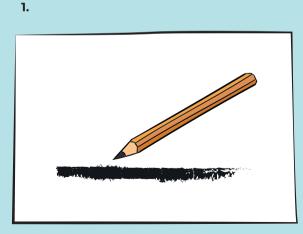


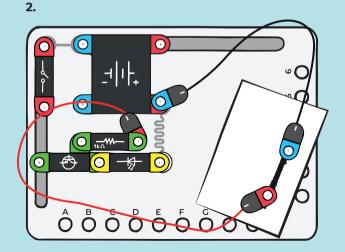
You can create a button using a graphite drawing - a set of two separate conductive parts that you connect with the touch of a finger. The current flow through the button is very small, so it is advisable to amplify it with a transistor. This graphic representation of the button is actually used in practice. For example, calculators or remote controls have the same pattern etched on a printed circuit board, and the conductive traces are connected by a graphite layer on the underside of a rubber button. It is a very simple and working solution that does not require separate buttons as additional components.

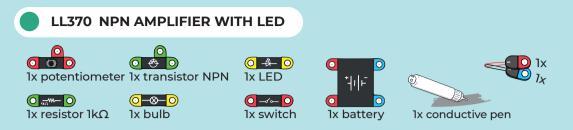




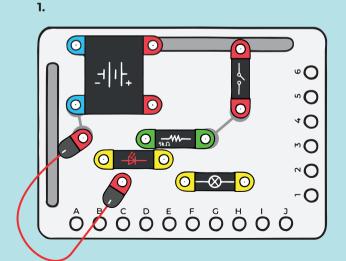
The material from which the resistance layer of the potentiometer is made is graphite. It is the same material that forms the ordinary pencil lead. If you draw a thick line on paper with a pencil, a resistance path is created that you can then connect to the conductors in the circuit. The longer the line, the higher the resistance at its ends. The thicker the line, the less resistance there is. Since the resistance value may be too high to turn on the LED directly, we will use a transistor in connection with a common emitter, where we will use the voltage gain to light up the LED. If you fasten one conductive component firmly to one edge of the line and move the other, you will get a variable resistance, i.e. a potentiometer.

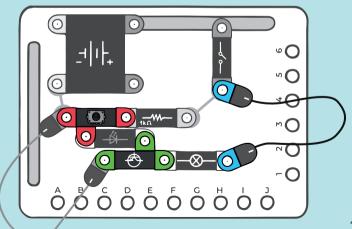


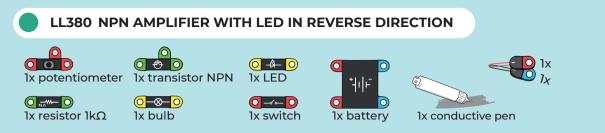




The circuit demonstrates the ability of a transistor to amplify an electric current. Use a potentiometer to control the current flowing through a LED diode to the transistor base. A low current that is barely sufficient to turn on the LED will cause the transistor to open and cause a high current to flow through the bulb as the partial opening of the transistor will increase the voltage on the bulb. This build is called a common emitter circuit because the emitter of the transistor is connected to a common power supply.

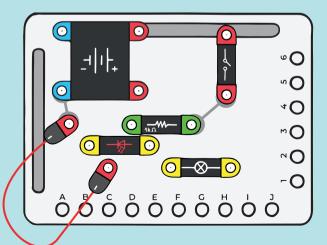




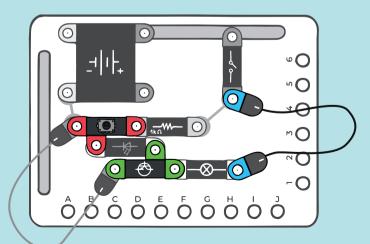


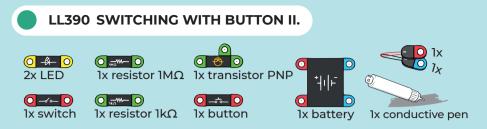
This build uses the same circuit as the previous one, just with the LED connected in the reverse direction. Therefore, no current flows into the transistor base and the bulb does not give light.



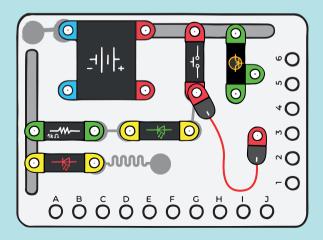




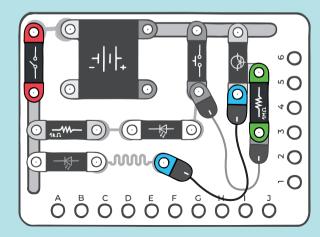


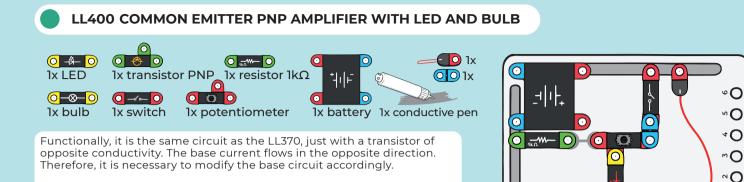


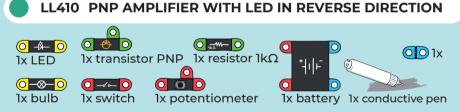
To switch between the red and the white LEDs, we used significantly different properties of both LEDs (different lighting voltages). However, if you want to switch similar or the same LEDs, you need to choose a different solution. You can use a PNP transistor. In this case, it acts as a switch that opens (and thus the corresponding LED goes out) if you press the button. At the same time, the button switches the second LED on, and it should light up when the button is pressed.



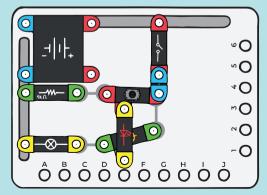
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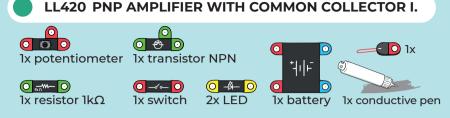


Use a potentiometer to control the current flowing through a LED diode to the transistor base. However, the LED is in the reverse direction, and so no current flows through the base and there is nothing to amplify. The bulb cannot light up because the transistor is closed.

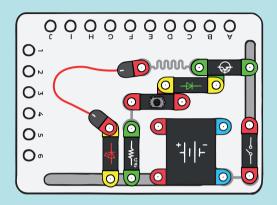


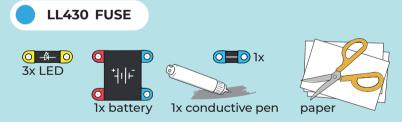
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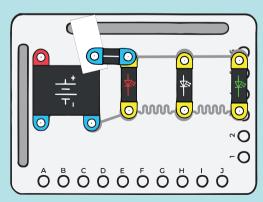


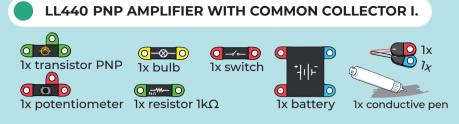
The circuit demonstrates the ability of a transistor to amplify the electric current. Use a potentiometer to control the current flowing through LED diode to the transistor base. A low current that is barely sufficient to turn on the LED will cause the transistor to open to the extent that the voltage on the LED is sufficient to light it up.



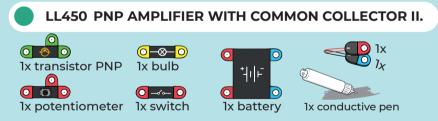


The kit's own magnetic contacts can serve as a switching element. If we insert a non-conductive material, such as paper, between the joints, we will temporarily interrupt the flow of electricity. By removing the paper, the contact between the magnetic contacts is restored, the electrical circuit is closed and the LEDs light up.

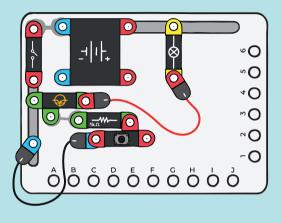


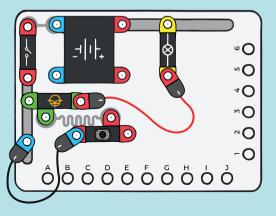


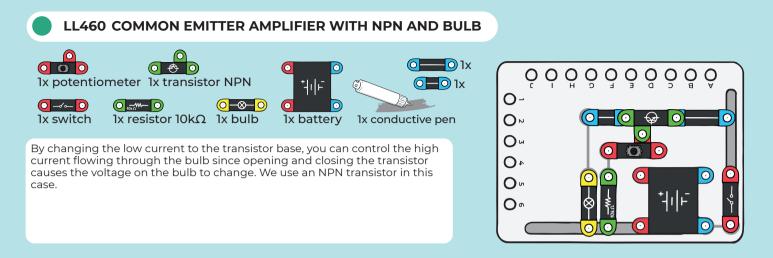
Functionally, it is the same circuit as the emitter follower with NPN, just with a transistor of opposite conductivity. The base current flows in the opposite direction. Therefore, it is necessary to modify the base circuit accordingly.



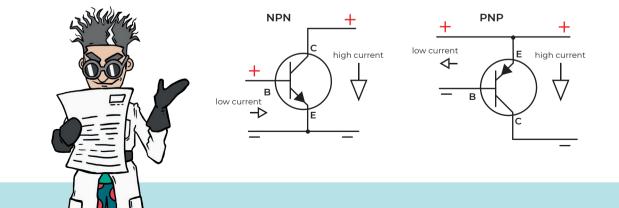
Changing the base resistor to a low value of 100 Ω will increase the current flowing to the transistor base, but the bulb brightness remains almost constant. This is because the voltage on the bulb still corresponds to that on the potentiometer slider although the circuit would be able to supply more current. However, since the load is still just one bulb, the amount of current consumed does not increase, so changing the resistor has virtually no effect.

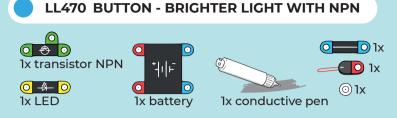




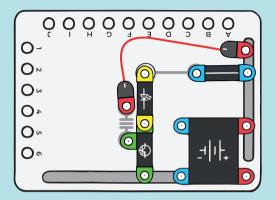


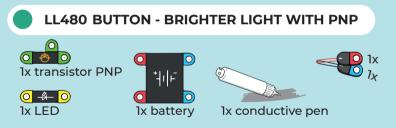
We control a high collector current with a low current to base B. NPN and PNP transistors differ in the direction of the base current.



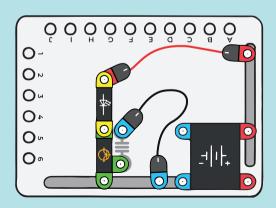


The NPN transistor is connected here as a transistor current amplifier. The very small current flowing through the contact pads to the base of the transistor is amplified by the transistor. The LED connected in the collector circuit of the transistor thus lights up much brighter than if it were switched directly by the contact pads.

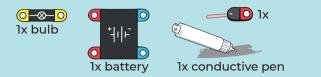




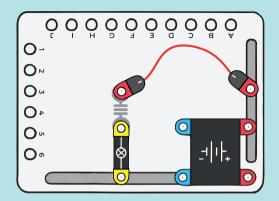
We can also use a PNP transistor as a transistor amplifier and, in addition to the collector, we can also connect the LED to the emitter circuit. Using a PNP transistor, the direction of the base current is reversed, when the touch button is switched to ground. The connection of an LED diode in the emitter circuit means that the current through the LED diode is not an amplified current flowing through the touch button, but is defined only by the amplification of the transistor.

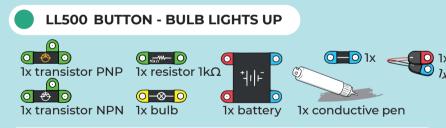


LL490 BUTTON - BULB DOESN'T LIGHT UP



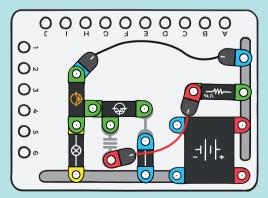
Current-intensive appliances, such as a light bulb, cannot be switched directly by a touch button. Its resistance is so great that not enough current can flow through the circuit to turn on the light bulb.

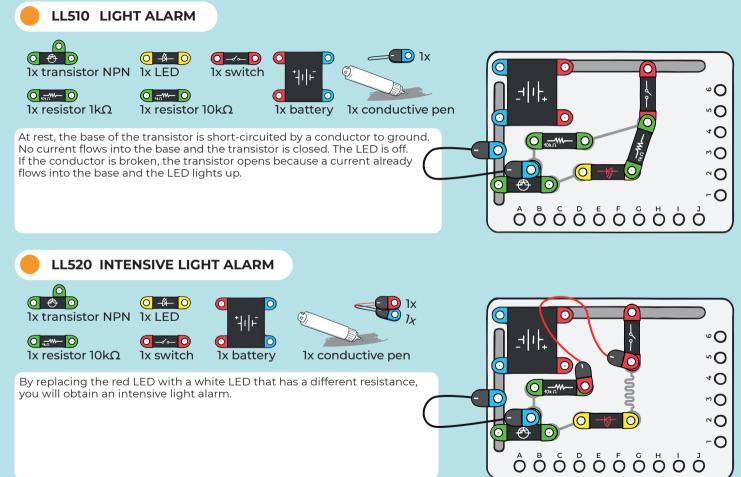


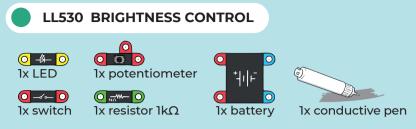


Using a pair of transistor amplifiers, we can turn on the light bulb also with a touch button. With the NPN transistor, we amplify the contact current through the button and we amplify it again with the PNP transistor. When the button is touched, the bulb lights up at full brightness, as if it were connected directly to the battery.

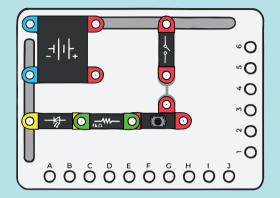
CAUTION: the PNP transistor may become hot during operation, so it is not advised to leave the bulb on for a long time.

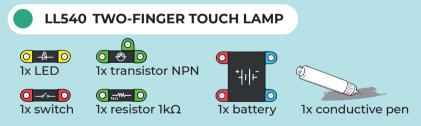




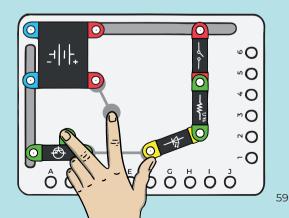


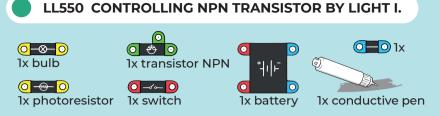
With the potentiometer you can directly control the current flowing through the LED diode and thus change its brightness. A small resistor in series serves as a current limiter when the potentiometer is set to the extreme position where it has zero resistance.



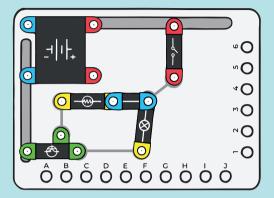


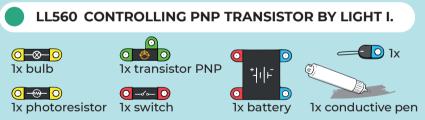
In addition to the graphite potentiometer, you can use your own fingers to turn on the transistor. Just touch the base terminal with one finger and the power supply contact with the other finger. For NPN it is the positive contact of the power supply, for PNP it is the negative contact. A very low current flows through the hand, which is then amplified by the transistor to a value that is enough to light up the LED diode.



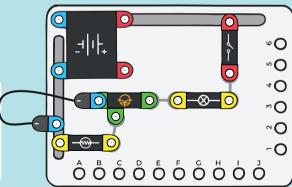


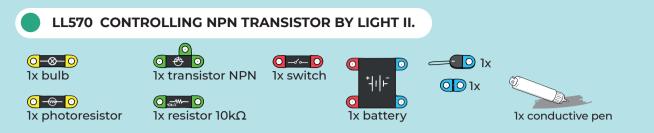
The more the photoresistor is illuminated, the more light the bulb emits since the transistor opens. The build is functionally the same as LL160, however the direct series combination of a photoresistor and bulb would have such a high resistance that the bulb would not light up on battery power. That is why we will use the transistor as a voltage amplifier for the bulb.



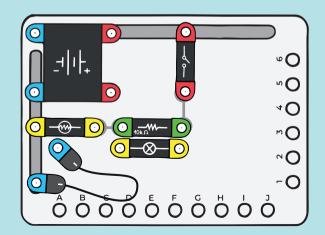


Functionally, this is the same build as LL550, but with a transistor of opposite conductivity. The direction of the base current is opposite, so it is necessary to modify the base circuit. The bulb is connected in the emitter circuit (see LL460), so the bulb reacts with lower brightness because the voltage on the bulb is low as it copies the voltage on the photoresistor.

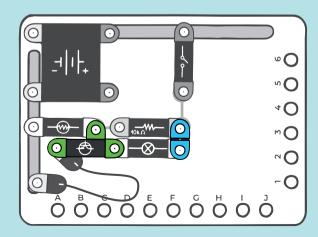


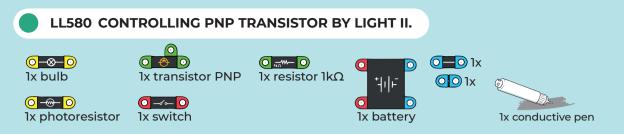


The photoresistor together with the resistor form a voltage divider, the output voltage of which depends inversely on the degree of illumination. The less the photoresistor is illuminated, the more the transistor opens, the voltage on the bulb and the current through the bulb increase until the bulb lights up. When illuminated, the current to the transistor base drops and the bulb goes out as the transistor closes.



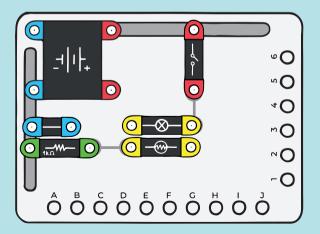
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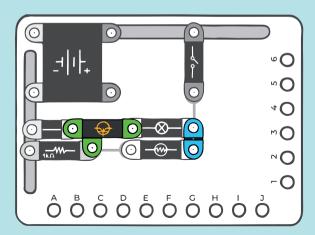




Functionally, this is the same build as LL570 but with a transistor of opposite conductivity. The direction of the base current is opposite, so it is necessary to modify the base circuit. The bulb lights up again when the photoresistor is darkened, but because it is again connected in the emitter circuit, the voltage on the bulb is low and the bulb responds with lower brightness.

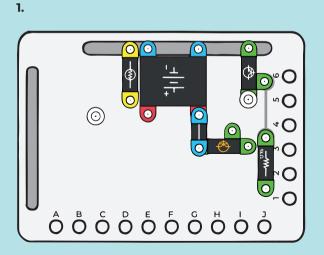


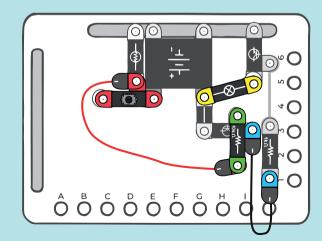


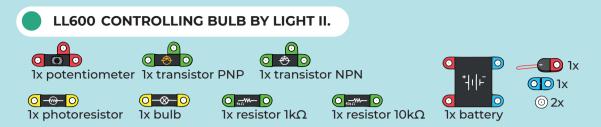




With the help of a double transistor amplifier we can increase the sensitivity of the whole circuit to light and the higher amplification also allows a much wider possibility of setting the sensitivity of the reaction to light with a potentiometer. This is achieved by not switching the appliance directly through the PNP transistor, but by another NPN transistor, which essentially acts as the appliance's power switch. With the unshaded photoresistor, turn the potentiometer all the way to the left and slowly turn it to the right to find the point where the light bulb lights up. When the photoresistor is obscured, the bulb goes out. The project thus serves as an indicator of sufficient lighting.

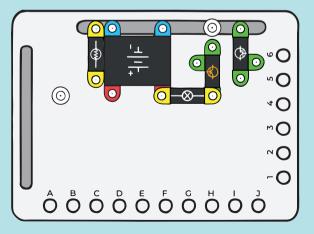


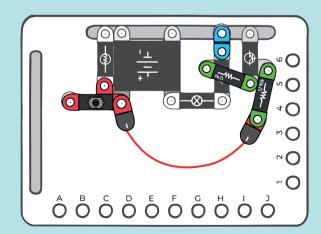


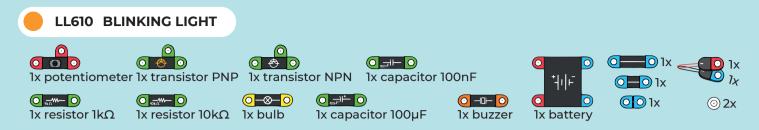


By swapping transistors, we get a circuit that works in the opposite to the previous project. The bulb will not light up when the photoresistor is lit, but on the contrary when it is shaded. Turn the potentiometer to the left and slowly turn it to the right to find the moment when the bulb goes out (with the photoresistor uncovered). Subsequently, when the photoresistor is covered by hand, the lamp lights up.



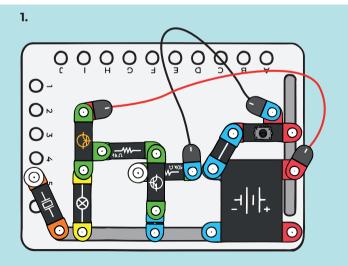


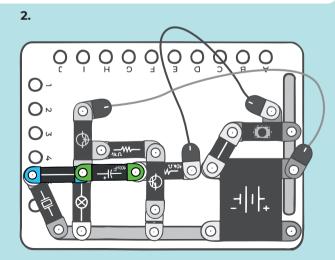


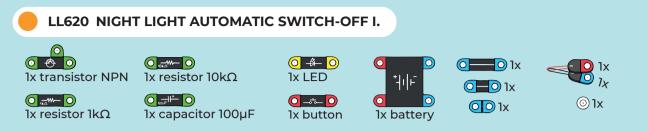


A pair of transistors functioning as switches can be used to build a simple oscillator, ie a circuit that generates a periodic signal by constantly opening and closing the transistors. Turn the potentiometer to the left when the bulb is lit, then slowly turn it to the right to find the position when the bulb just goes out. Leave the potentiometer in this position and the switched off light bulb should light up after a while and the flashing mode should start. This puts the circuit in an oscillating state - regular opening and closing of the transistors. By replacing the 100 µF capacitor with 100 nF, the circuit starts to oscillate faster and we hear a continuous tone from the piezoelectric transducer.



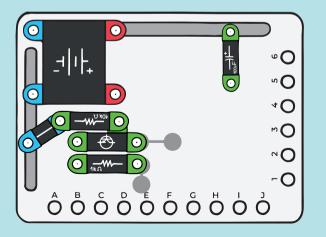


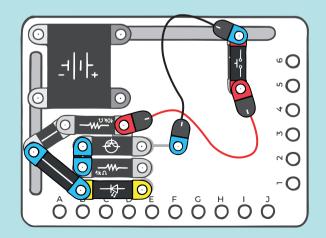


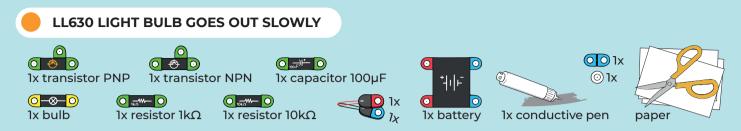


When the switch is turned to the ON position, the capacitor starts charging. As the capacitor charges, the current flowing through it decreases. This also closes the transistor and the LED slowly dims until it goes out. Press the button to discharge the capacitor and the LED will light up again and slowly dim until the capacitor is fully charged again.



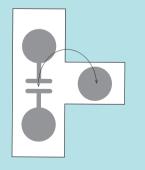


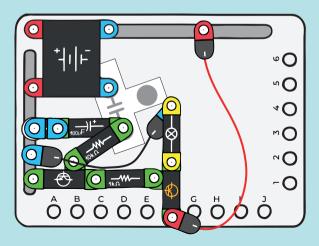




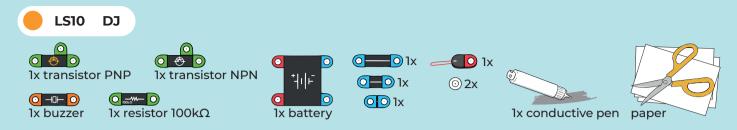
When the button is pressed, the capacitor is charged and the bulb lights up. When the button is released, the capacitor discharges and the bulb goes out slowly. The function is similar to the LL620, but slow dimming of the bulb is undesirable.

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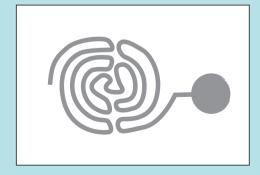


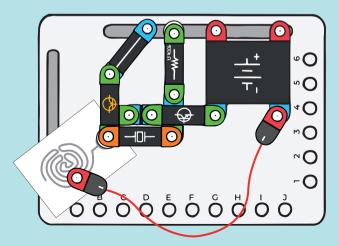


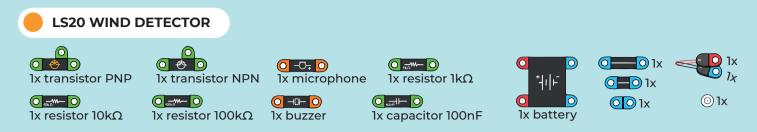


Buzzer equipped with a variable resistor in the form of a drawn conductive path. By moving the wire along the path of the resisto, the tone of the buzzer changes. By periodically repeating the movement, you can create any melody.

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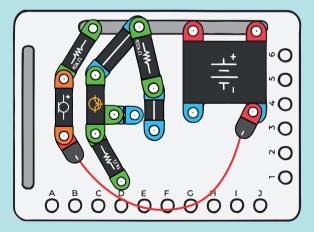


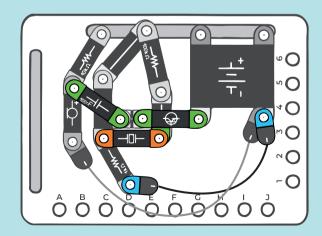


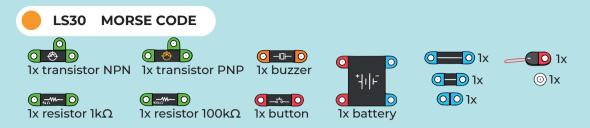


The buzzer tone is affected by the microphone. At rest, the buzzer oscillator generates a stable tone. When the sound is captured by the microphone, the tone changes to lower values. When blowing into the microphone, the stable tone breaks down into very short tones, reminiscent of an amplified wind sound. The circuit can thus capture even a light breeze.

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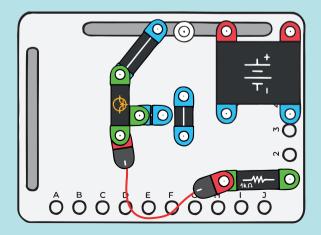


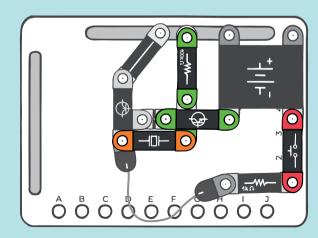


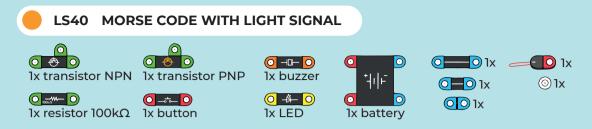


Electronic buzzer with a characteristic tone for Morse code training. The pair of transistors forms an oscillator and the piezo transducer also functions as a capacitor. By pressing the button, we connect the power supply to the oscillator and the buzzer works only when the button is pressed.

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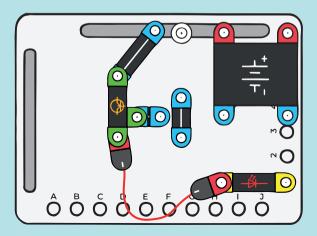


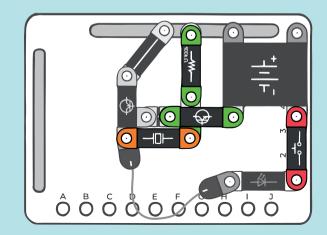




Electronic buzzer with a characteristic tone for Morse code training, equipped with an optical indication. The LED lights up when the buzzer is working. Its tone is accompanied by the light of an LED diode.

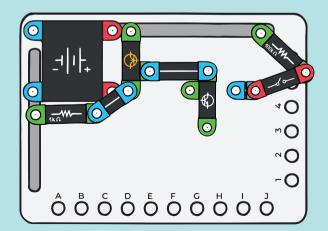
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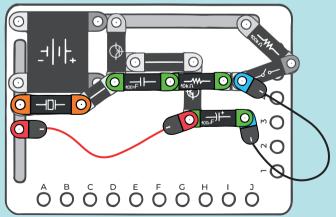




Modified buzzer, which changes the pitch and duration of the tone itself. When the switch is turned on, a 100 uF capacitor is charged via a resistor and the buzzer sounds with a basic tone. However, this discharges the capacitor, the tone decreases until it stops completely. By stopping the buzzer, the capacitor starts charging again and the tone sounds again. Because the whole cycle is fast and to some extent irregular, the resulting effect resembles the chirping of a cicada.

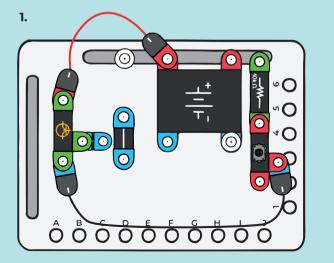


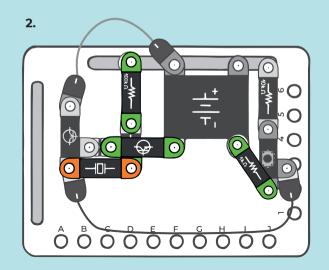
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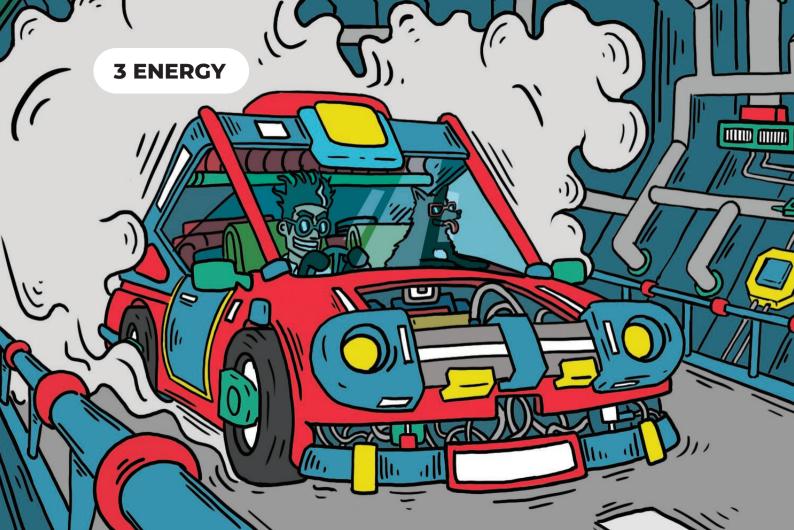




The adjustable buzzer can function as a musical instrument, the potentiometer influences the frequency of the oscillator and thus changes the pitch depending on its angle of rotation. By a quick change of rotation, which we repeat rhythmically, we can achieve a repetitive melody.

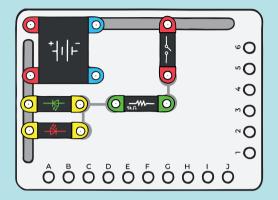








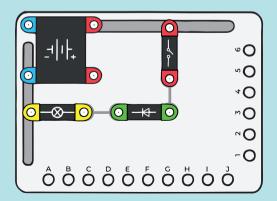
Two anti-parallel LEDs indicate the polarity of the power supply. The LEDs light up alternately depending on the battery orientation.Try connecting the battery the other way – you will see that the second LED lights up.



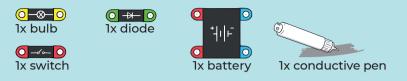
LE20 HOW A SEMICONDUCTOR DIODE WORKS IN THE FOREWARD DIRECTION



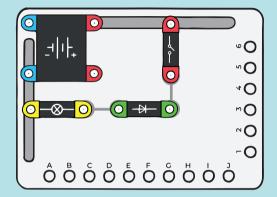
A semiconductor diode is a component through which an electric current can pass in only one direction. If we put a diode in series with a light bulb and a switch, then the light bulb will only light up if the switch is closed and if the source is of the correct polarity. The diode conducts electric current, only if its anode is connected to the positive pole of the source. In connection, this requirement is met. That means when the switch is pressed, the diode is open, current can flow and the light bulb can light up.

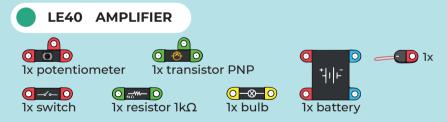


LE30 HOW A SEMICONDUCTOR DIODE WORKS IN THE REVERSE DIRECTION

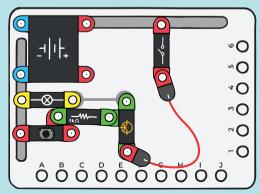


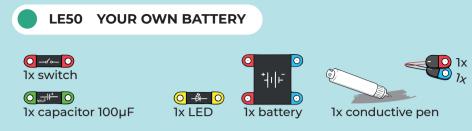
The semiconductor diode in the reverse direction is closed, current cannot flow through it and the light bulb cannot light up after pressing the switch. We can turn on the bulb again by turning the diode, as in the previous build, or by turning the polarity of the battery.



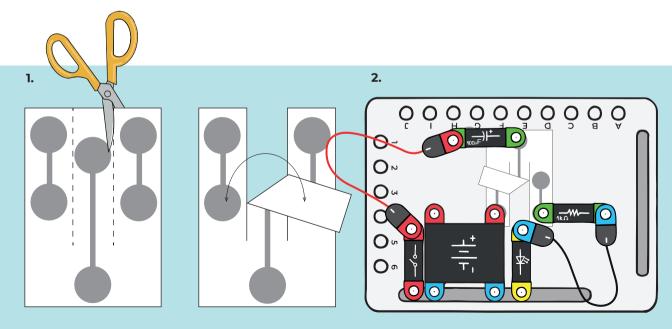


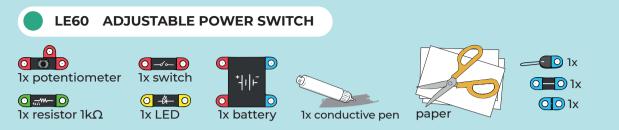
By changing the low current to the transistor base, you can control the high current flowing through the bulb since opening and closing the transistor causes the voltage on the bulb to change. We use a PNP transistor in this case.





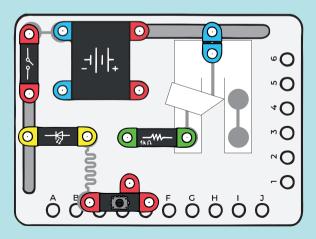
The connection demonstrates the ability of the capacitor to accumulate the electric charge. By switching the capacitor to the battery, we store electrical energy in the capacitor in the form of an electric charge. When we switch to the LED, the energy in the capacitor is released in the form of electric current flowing into the LED. The LED lights up briefly.



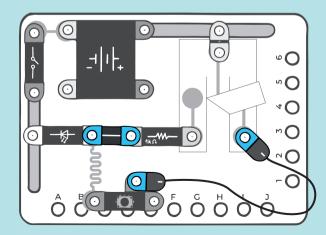


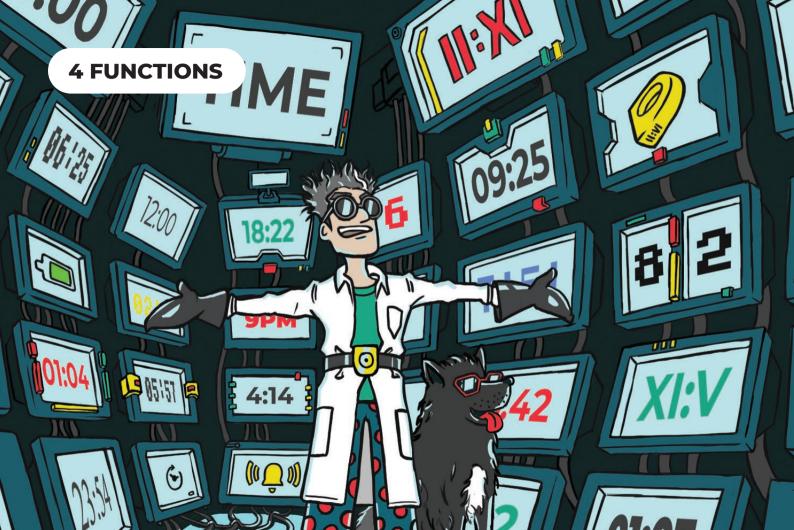
By combining a switch and a potentiometer, you can build a circuit where the switch can be used to select a constant brightness, or continuous LED brightness control with a potentiometer.

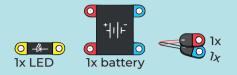




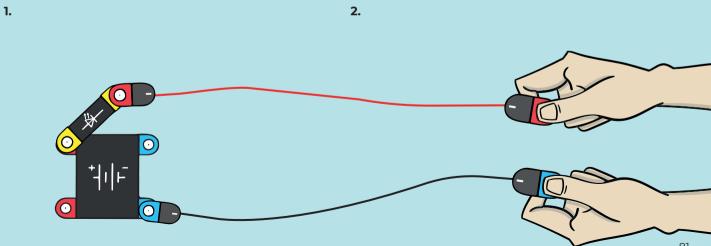






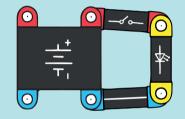


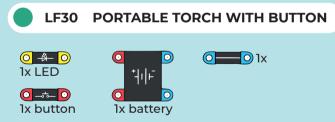
The basic electrical circuit can be used directly as a conductivity detector. If the object is conductive, i.e. it is able to conduct electric current, the conductive object is indicated by the LED light. Since a relatively small current is enough to light up the LED, we can even detect the less conductive objects. The best result is achieved by using a white LED diode, which has a high brightness and even its low light is so noticeable.



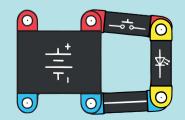


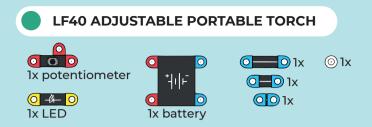
A simple flashlight consisting of a battery, a switch and a LED. When the switch is turned on, the LED lights up and stays on until we turn it off.



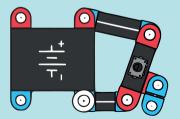


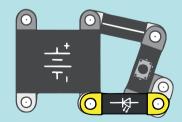
A simple flashlight consisting of a battery, a button and a LED. By pressing the button, the LED lights up and remains lit as long as we hold the button. At the touch of a button, we can emit various light signals. The button ensures that the flashlight stays off when we don't need it. This saves the battery life.

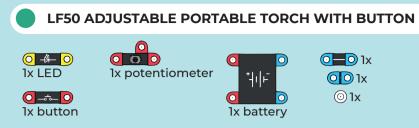




A variable resistor connected as a voltage divider can be used to control the brightness of the LED. Because we change the voltage on the LED from zero to the supply voltage, we have the full range of brightness of the LED. This method of controlling the brightness of the LED is not very efficient and stable, usually the brightness of the LED changes by changing the current flowing. E.g. using a rheostat (variable resistor in series with the LED, as a current divider).

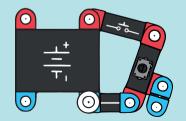


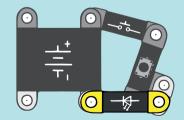


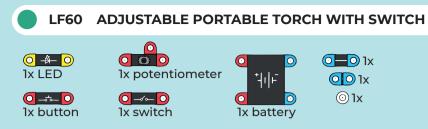


Simple flashlight with button and adjustable brightness. The lamp only lights up when the button is held and the potentiometer here functions as a rheostat, i.e. as a current regulator passing through the LED.



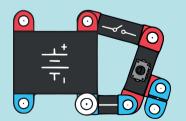


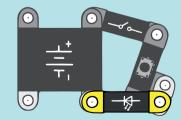


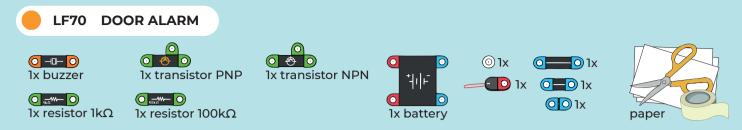


A flashlight that has a button replaced by a switch, so we don't have to hold a button to turn it on, which is much more convenient. We just must not forget to turn off the flashlight.

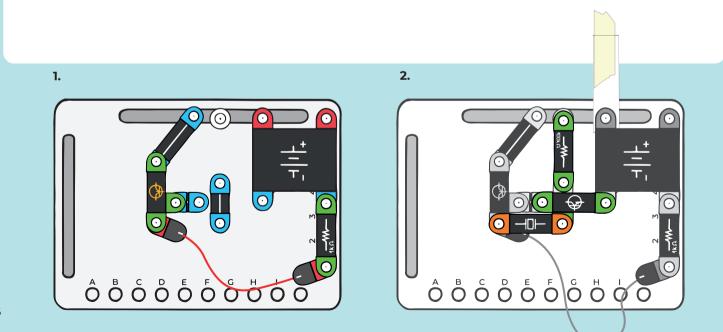
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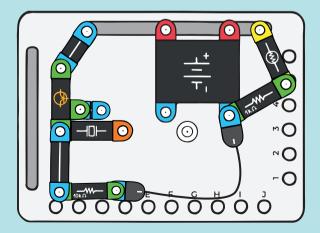
The disconnecting contact in the buzzer power supply can serve as an indicator of the door opening. Pulling out the paper strip separating the connection between the battery and the buzzer oscillator connects the battery to the oscillator, and when the strip is pulled out, a tone is heard from the buzzer. Stick the paper strip on the door so that the strip is pulled out by opening the door.

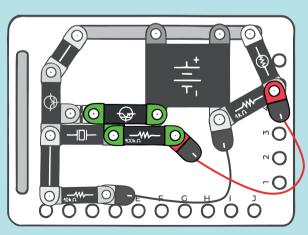


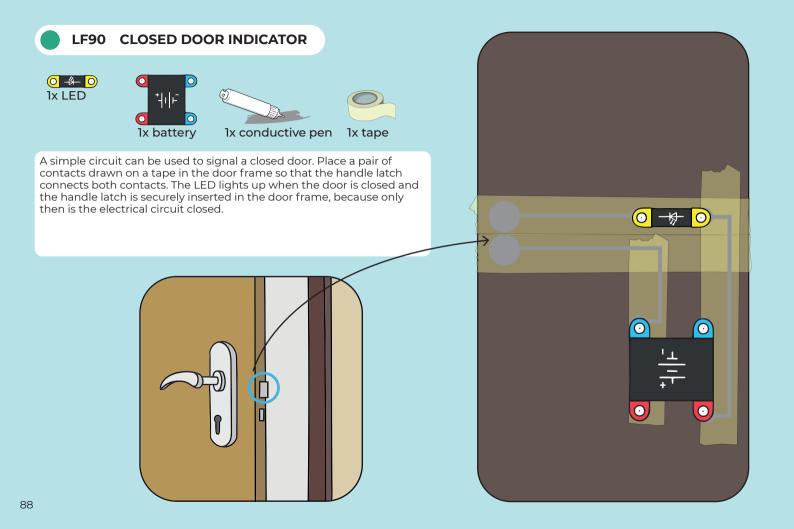


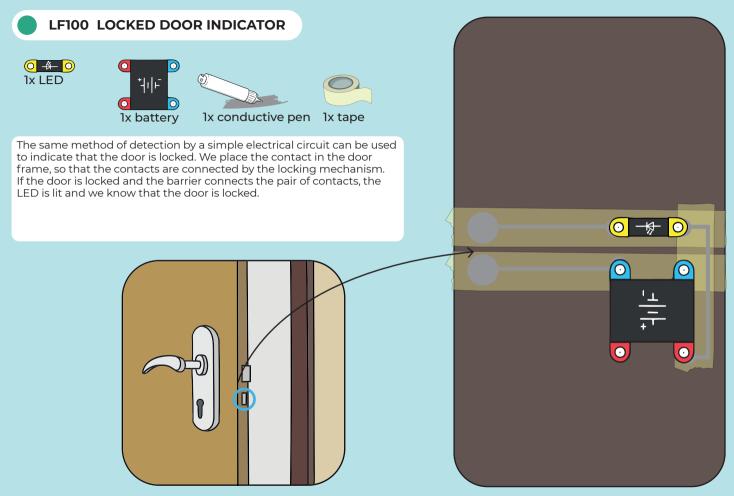
Electronic buzzer, the pitch of which depends on the level of illumination of the photoresistor. A photoresistor with a 1 k Ω resistor forms a voltage divider whose output voltage is directly proportional to the degree of illumination. The voltage then affects the frequency of the oscillator and thus the pitch.

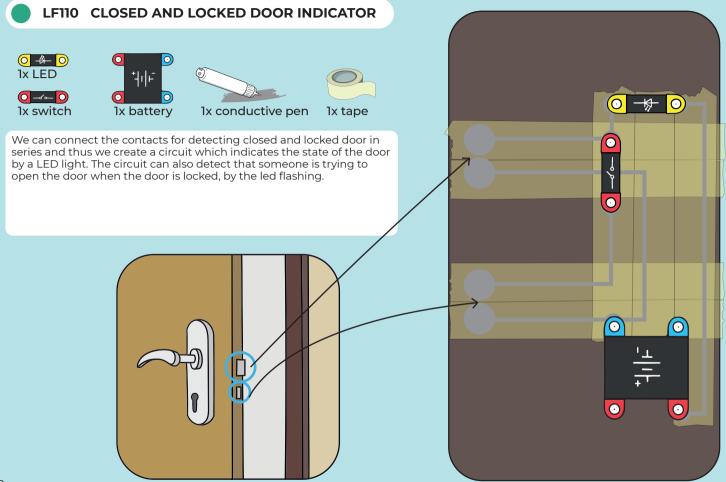


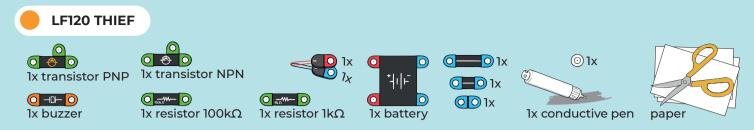




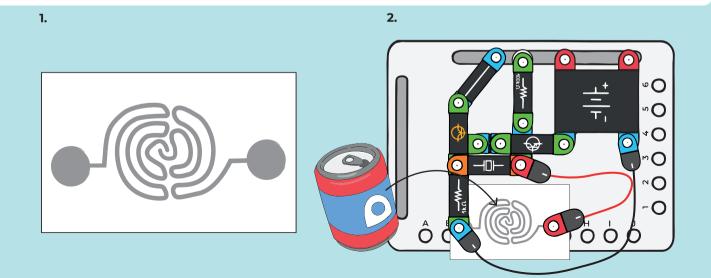


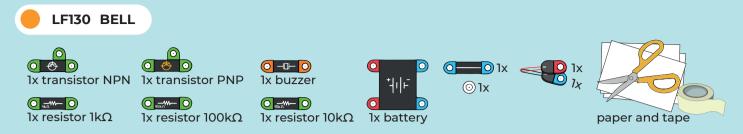






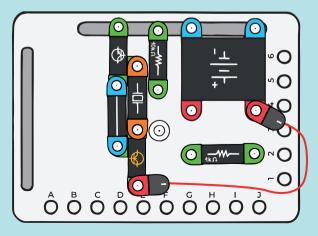
When a conductive object is placed on the drawn part, connection is made that blocks the buzzer, when someone lifts the object, the buzzer starts making sound. This warning sound alerts us that the guarded object has been stolen, or prevents someone from stealing it. The connection can only be made with electrically conductive object. If you would like to use non-conductive object, wrap its bottom in aluminium foil.

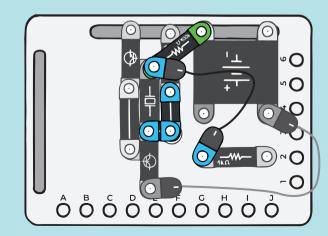


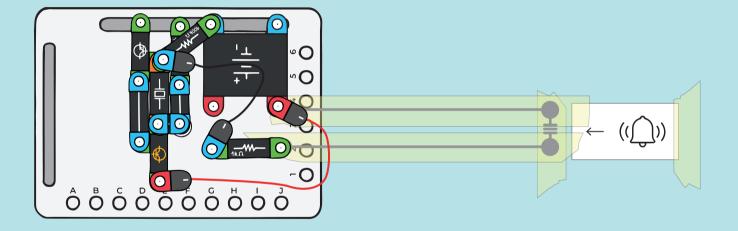


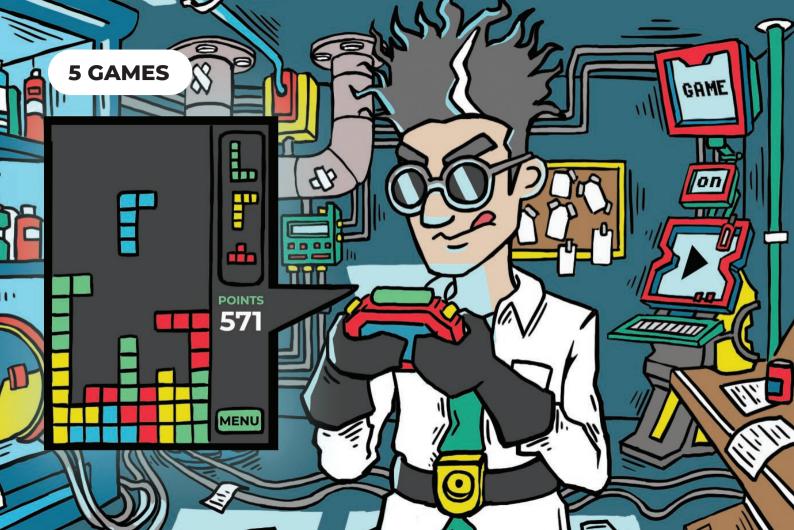
Electronic buzzer with a contactless button, which can serve as a replacement for the bell. The button consists of two contacts. By connecting them with your finger, the buzzer is activated. The NPN transistor is used here as a part of the current-generating oscillator and as a contact current amplifier, so that the connection responds well to dry fingers.

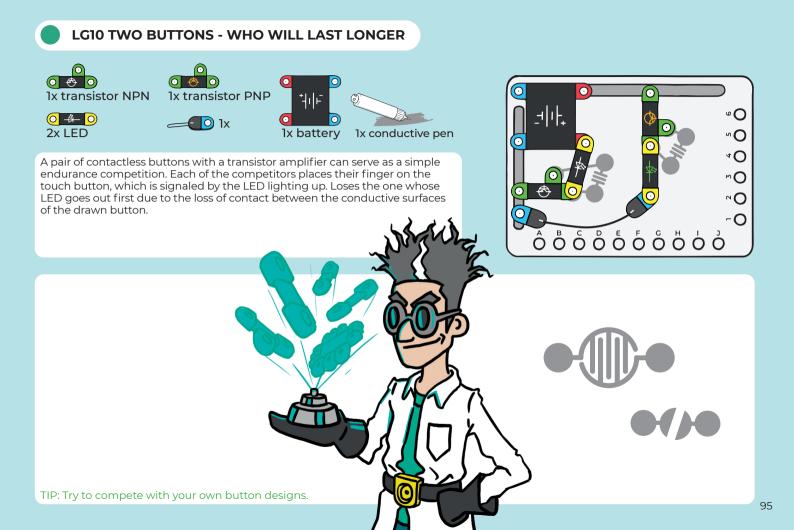


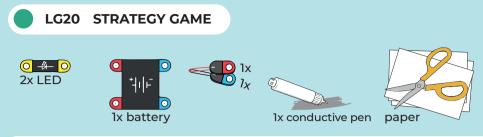






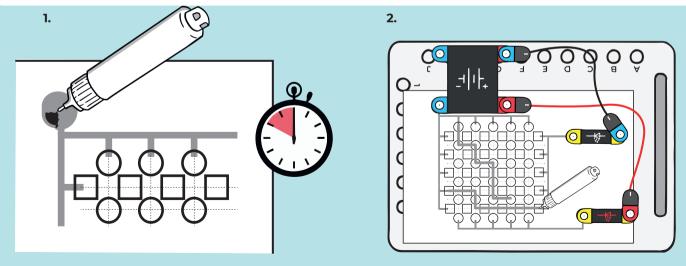


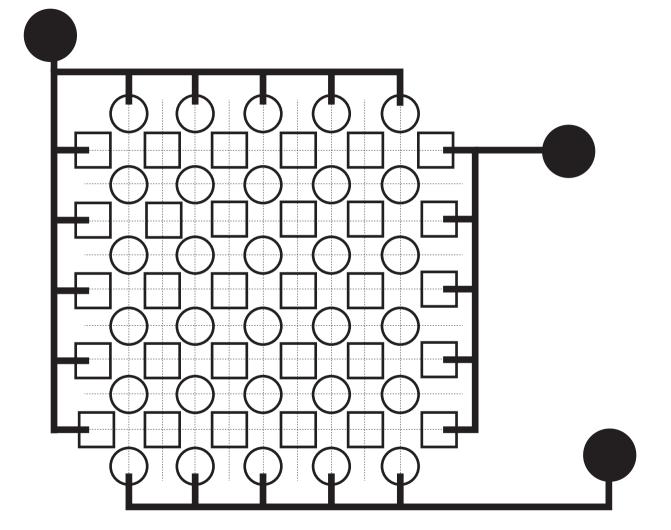


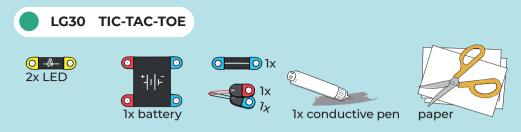


At the beginning of the game, players choose the shape they will play for. The winner is the one who lights up his LED first when he connects the opposite sides of the square. In each turn, the player can draw only one line connecting the two shapes. Players' routes cannot intersect. The winning player closes the electrical circuit on his way using the drawn route and his LED can light up with the last turn.

TIP: Copy the game on a clean piece of paper from the picture on the following page.

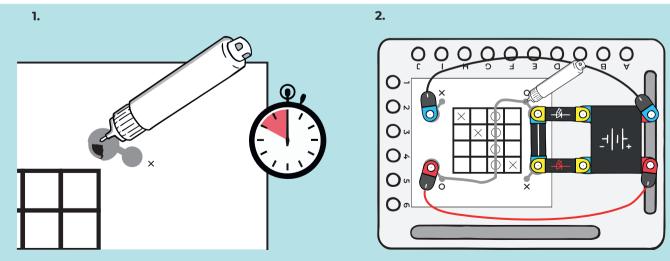


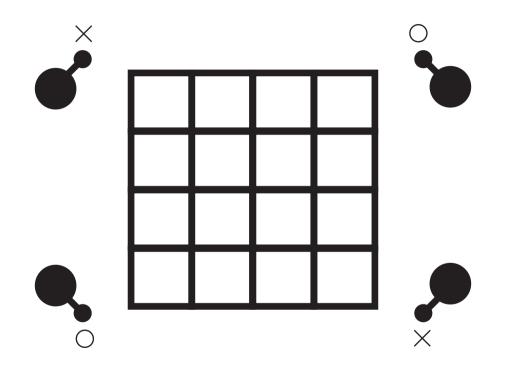


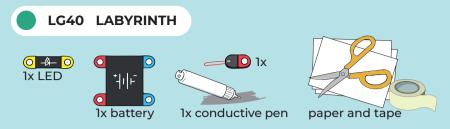


Classic Tic-Tac-Toe, where the winning player closes the electrical circuit by crossing out the winning four and confirms his victory by lighting the LED diode.

TIP: Copy the game on a clean piece of paper from the picture on the following page.

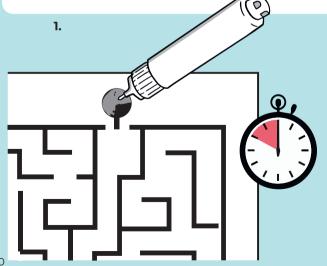


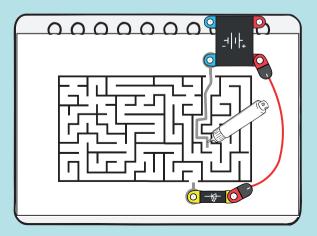


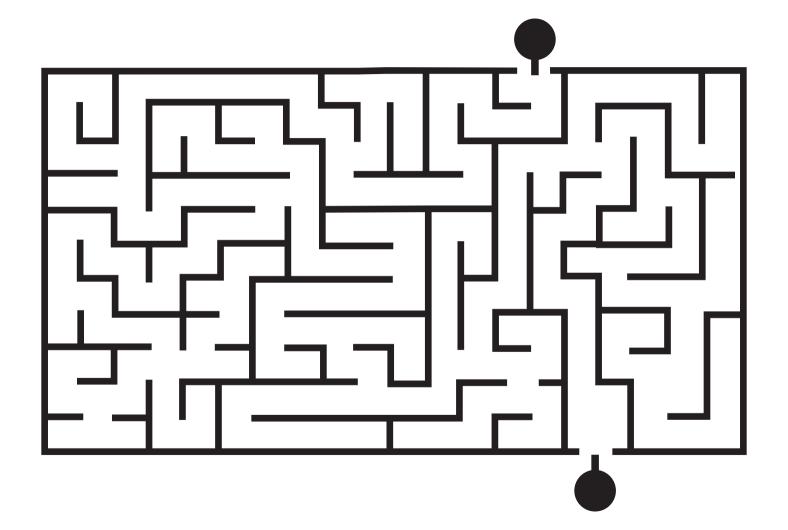


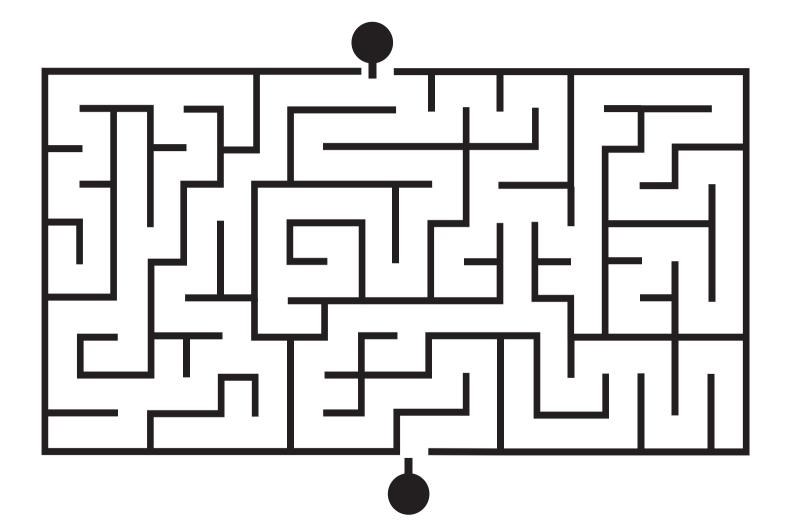
A simple electrical circuit can be used as an indication of successful passage through the maze. The starting point is the pole of the battery, the route with a conductive marker through the maze forms a switch, the destination point is connected to the appliance. If we connect the start and end points of the maze with a conductive route, the successful passage through the maze is indicated as we close the electrical circuit. The LED lights up to signal a successful passage.

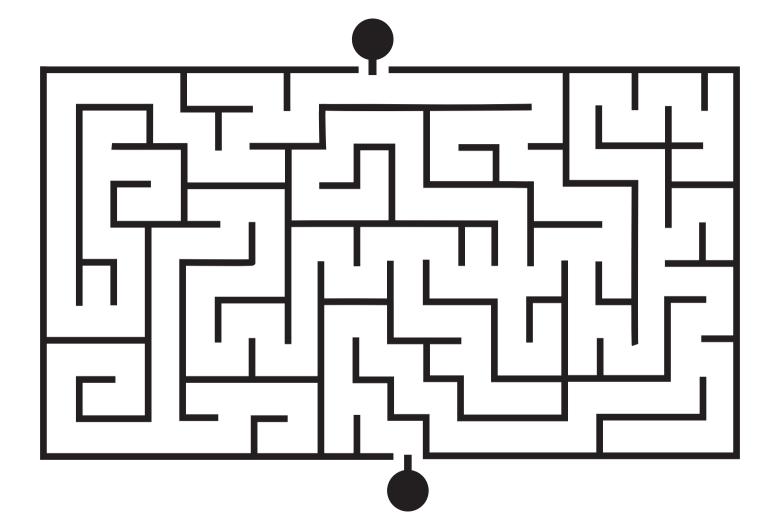
TIP: Copy the maze on a clean piece of paper from the picture on the following page.

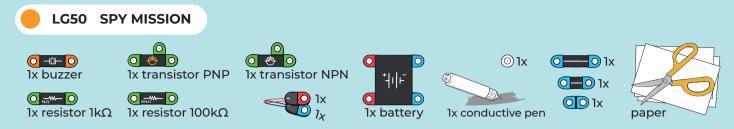






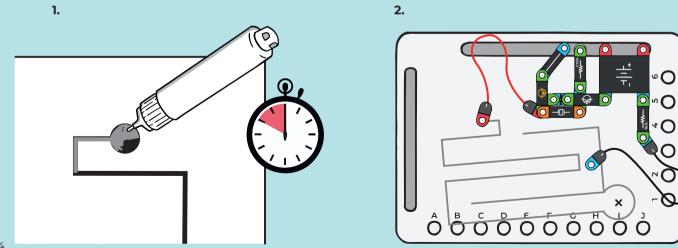


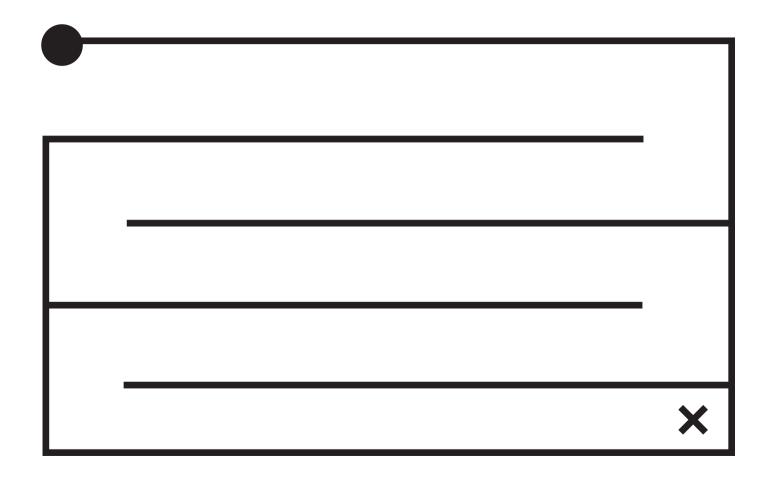


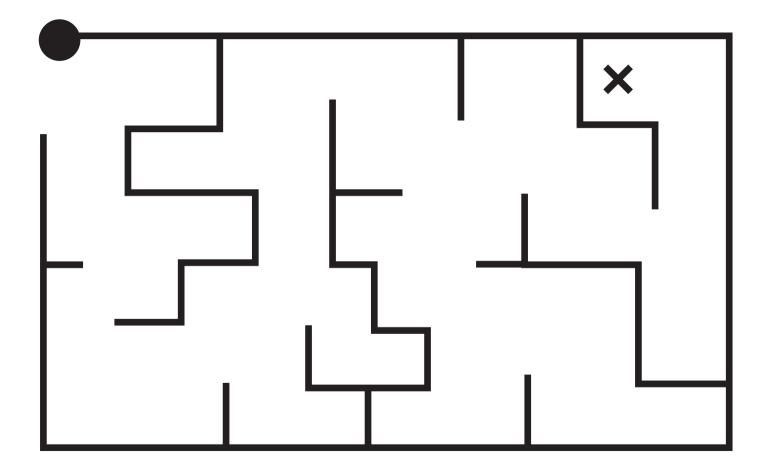


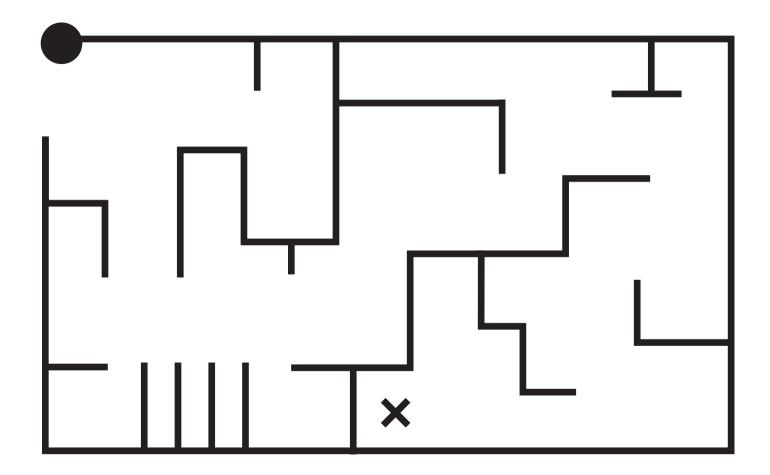
Take on the role of a secret agent. The aim of this game is to go through the corridor, drawn with conductive ink, without touching its walls. When the wire connection touches the wall, it closes a simple electrical circuit and sounds the buzzer. The aim of this game is to go through the maze carefully, so the alarm does not go off and the agent is not detected. You can get a harder variant of the game by narrowing the corridor or adding obstacles.

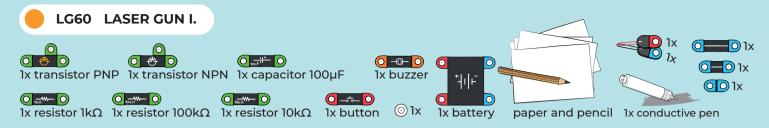
TIP: Copy the path on a clean piece of paper from the picture on the following page.



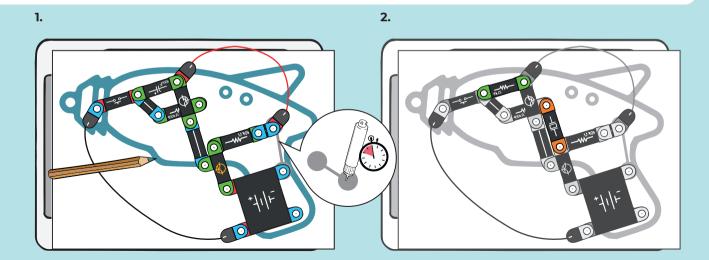


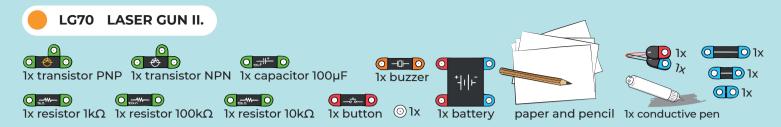




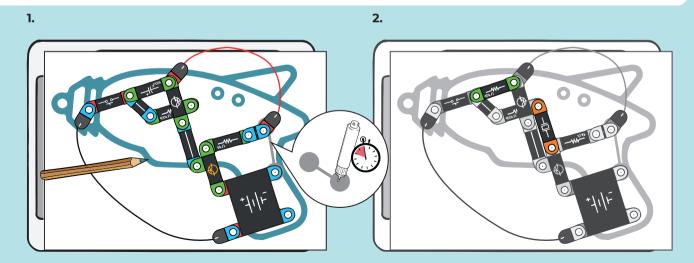


A buzzer with a variable pitch can be used as the sound effect of a laser gun shot. The tone depends on the charge level of the capacitor 100 uF. By pressing the button, we charge the capacitor and thus generate the highest tone. As the capacitor discharges through the 1 k Ω resistor, the tone decreases until it disappears. The same repeats by pressing the button again.





By increasing the tone drop time, we can change the sound effect of the shot. While in the first case the sound of the shot was very short, by increasing the resistance value of the resistor discharging the capacitor 100 uF to 10 k Ω we achieve a longer lasting effect of the shot, which is suitable as a stronger weapon effect.

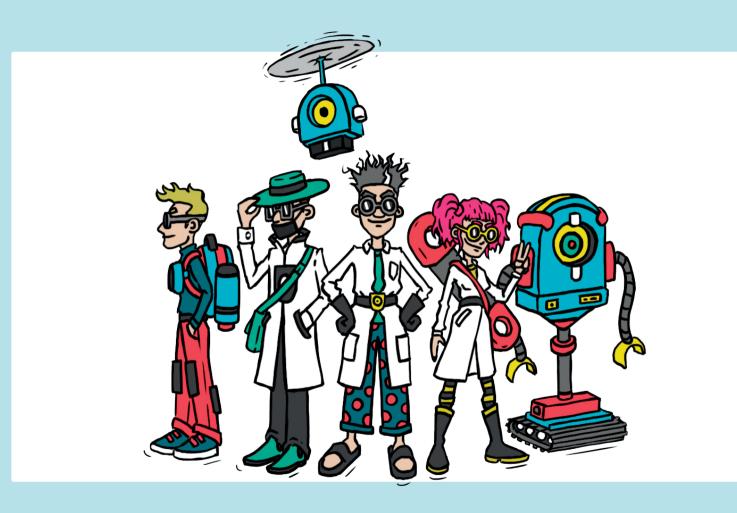


You have made it!

I hope you have had a great time. If you do not have enough yet (and I hope you don't), do not forget that you can find more projects on our website!

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