



# LAB 120

## Introduction to Arduino and Electronics

### Class 2

16 June 2009 - AS220 Labs - John Duksta

# What's for Today

- Random Behavior
- RGB LEDs
- Color mixing
- Analog input with variable resistors
- Potentiometers & photocells
- Playing sound with speakers
- Basic serial input & output

# Recap: Blinky LED

Make sure things still work

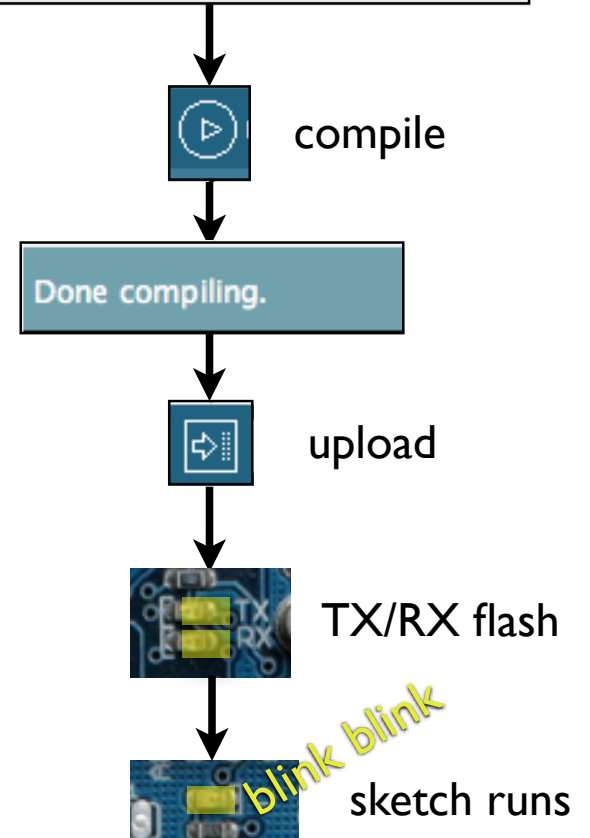
```
int ledPin = 13;           // LED connected to digital pin 13

void setup()
{
  pinMode(ledPin, OUTPUT); // sets the digital pin as output
}

void loop()
{
  digitalWrite(ledPin, HIGH); // sets the LED on
  delay(1000);                // waits for a second
  digitalWrite(ledPin, LOW);  // sets the LED off
  delay(1000);                // waits for a second
}
```

Load “File/Sketchbook/Examples/Digital/Blink”

```
void setup() {
  pinMode(ledPin, OUTPUT); // sets t
}
void loop() {
  digitalWrite(ledPin, HIGH); // sets t
  delay(1000);                // waits
  digitalWrite(ledPin, LOW);  // sets t
  delay(1000);                // waits
}
```



# Known Good Configuration

*Rule #1 of experimenting:*

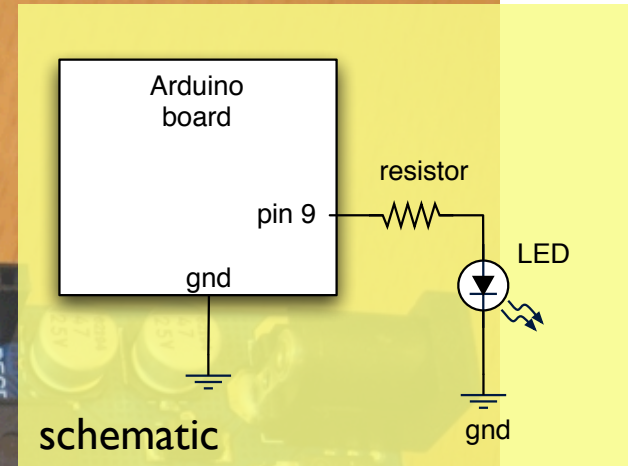
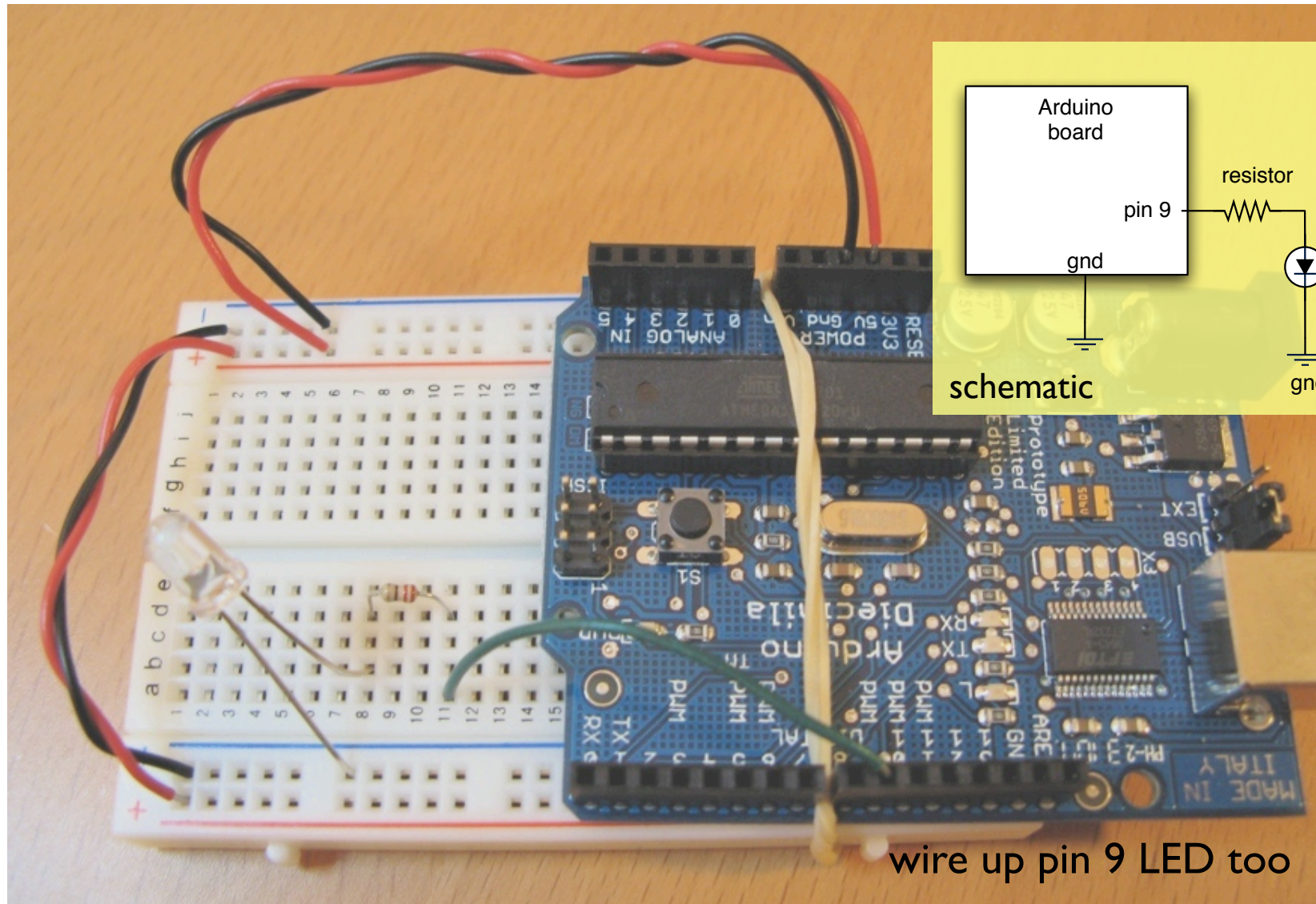
Before trying anything new,

Get back to a known working state

*So spend a few minutes & get “Blink” working again*



# Getting the Board Set Up



wire up pin 9 LED too

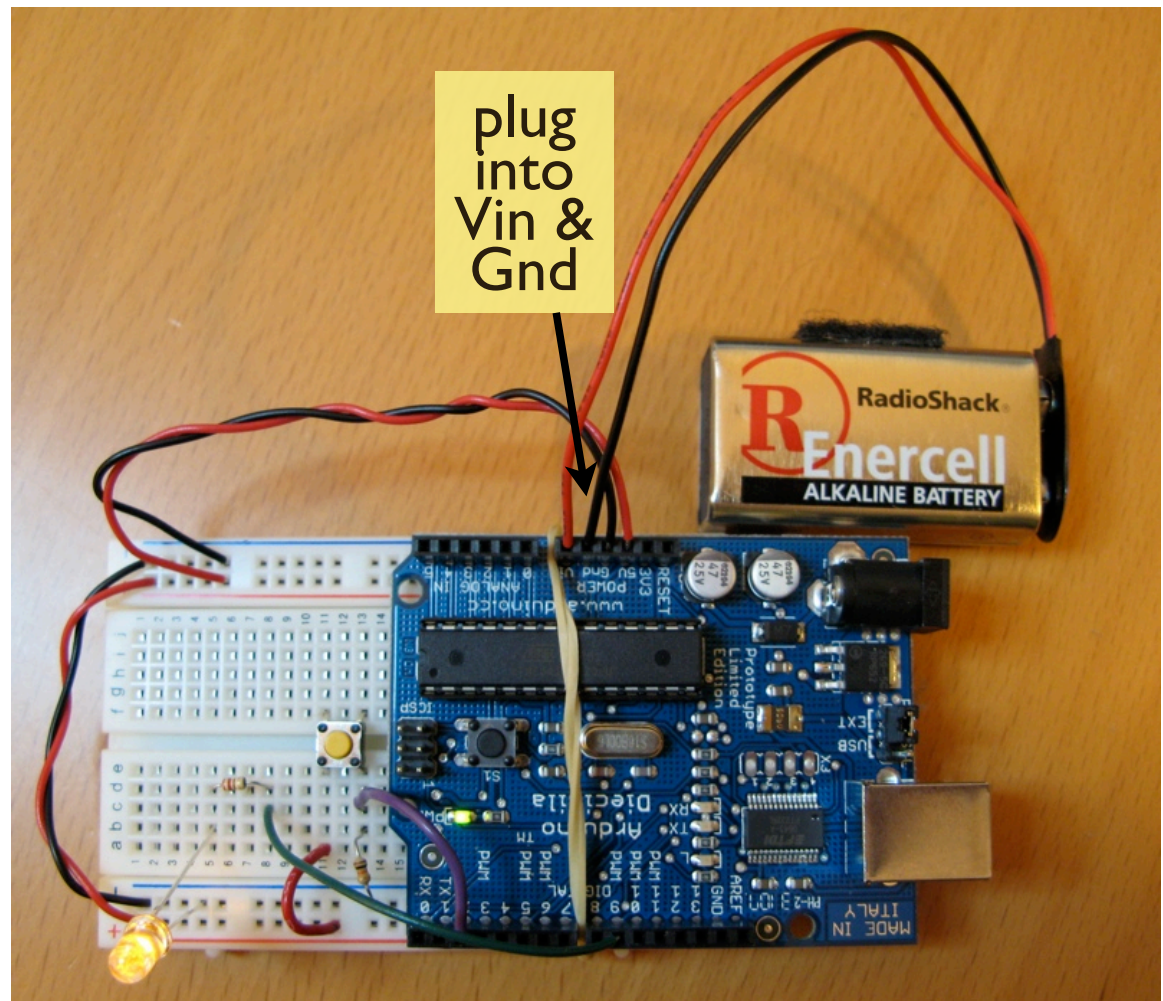
# Questions / Review

Any questions, comments, or problems?

# Battery Power

Arduino can work totally stand-alone. It's easy

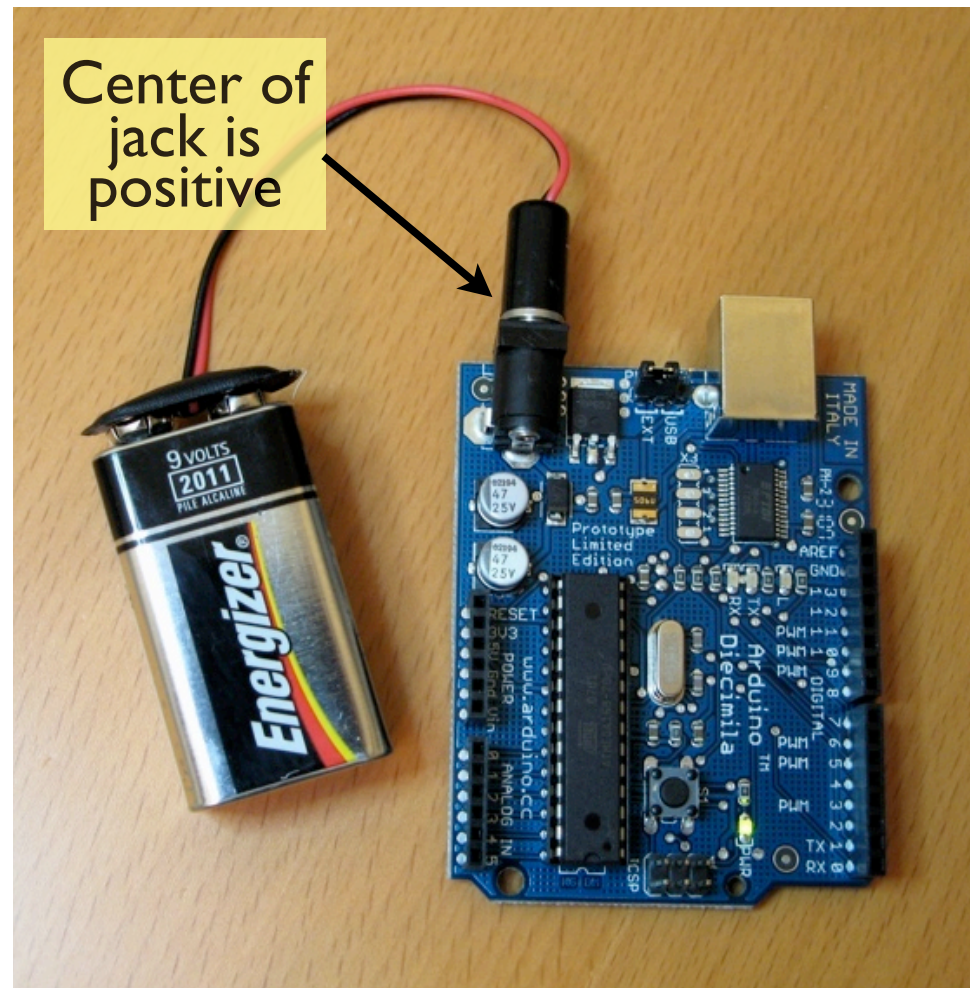
- First, program sketch into Arduino
- Unplug USB cable
- Plug in power (7-12VDC)
- Power LED lights up. It works!
- Reverse steps to reprogram





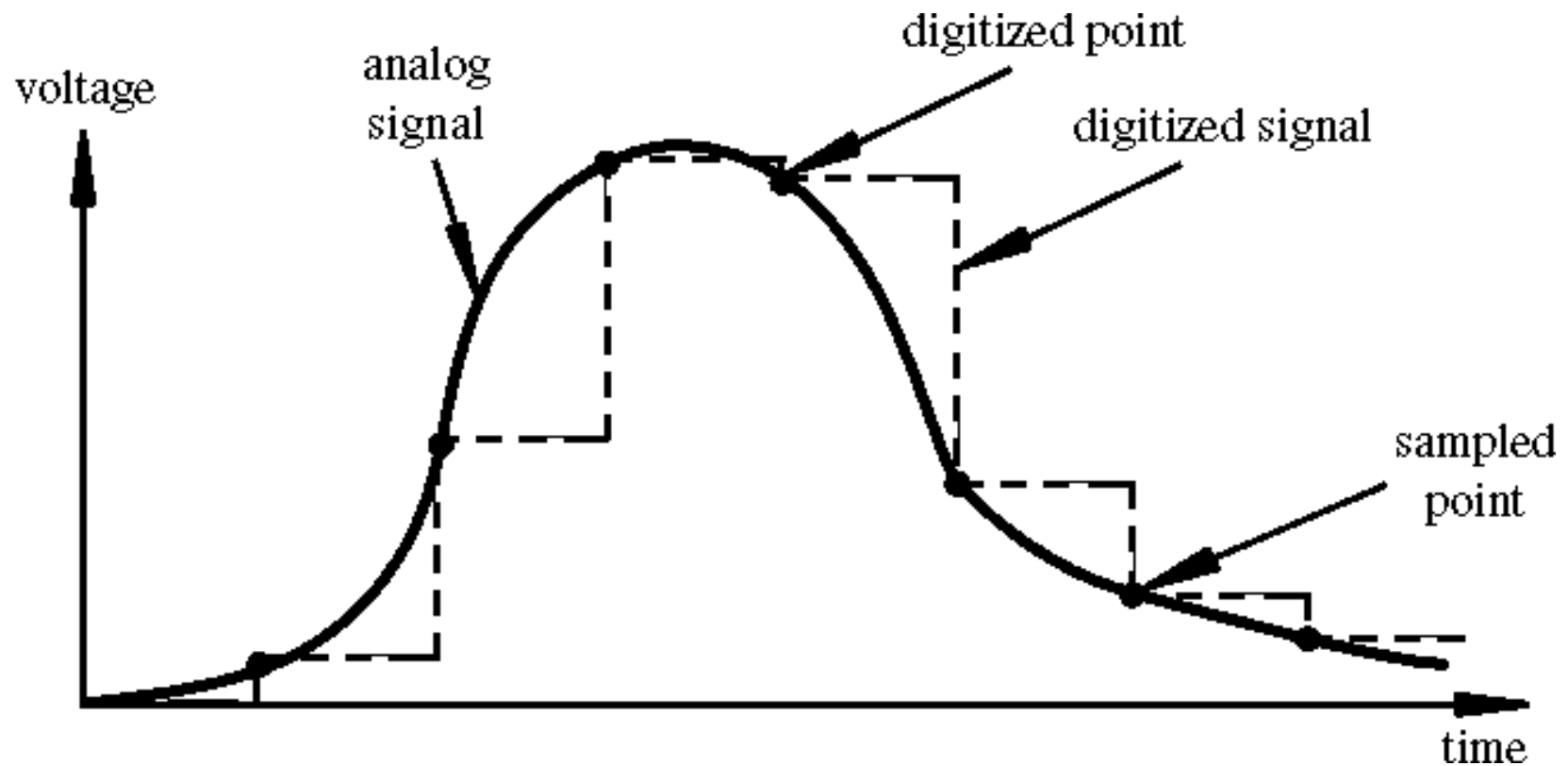
# Battery Power

- Plugging into the sockets is kind of fiddly
- Better to plug into the power jack
- Works great, but requires a little soldering



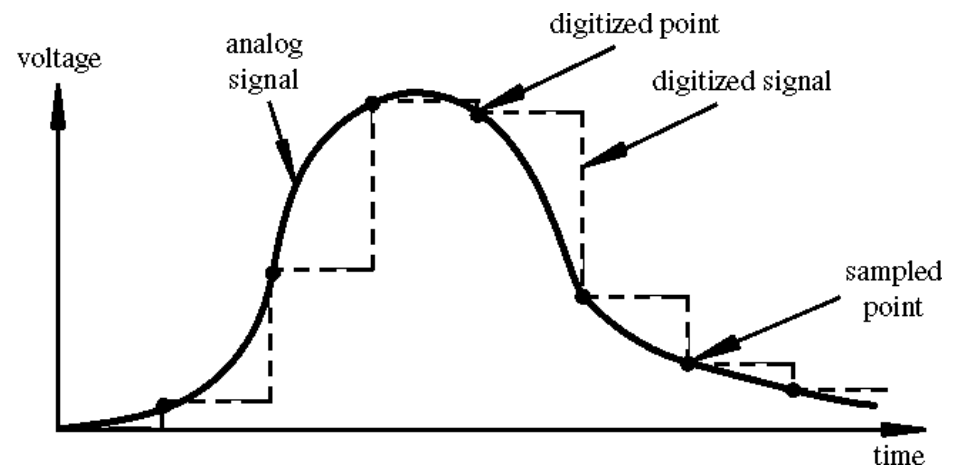
# Analog Input

To computers, analog is chunky



# Analog Input

- Many states, not just two (HIGH/LOW)
- Number of states (or values, or “bins”) is *resolution*
- Common computer resolutions:
  - 8-bit = 256 values
  - 16-bit = 65,536 values
  - 32-bit = 4,294,967,296 values



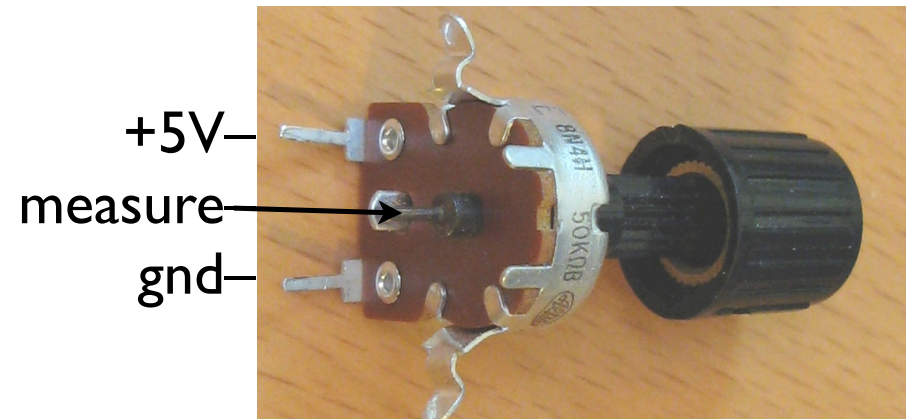
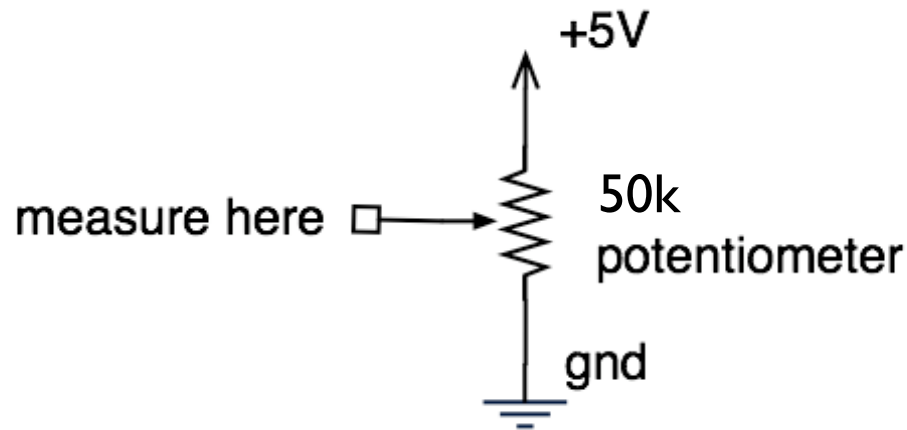
# Analog Input

- Arduino (ATmega328) has six ADC inputs
- (ADC = Analog to Digital Converter)
- Reads voltage between 0 to 5 volts
- Resolution is 10-bit (1024 values)
- In other words,  $5/1024 = 4.8$  mV smallest voltage change you can measure

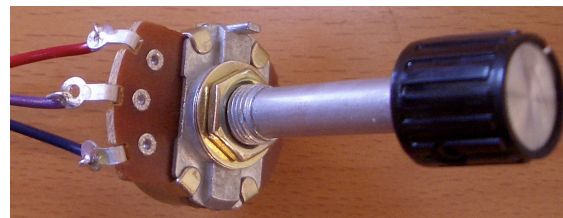
# Analog Input

Sure sure, but how to make a varying voltage?

With a *potentiometer*. Or just *pot*.



The pot you have



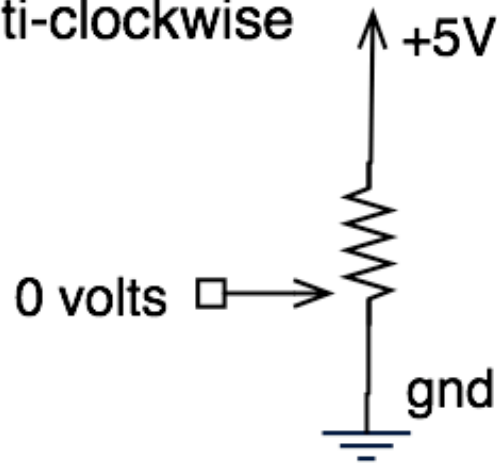
pots also look like this



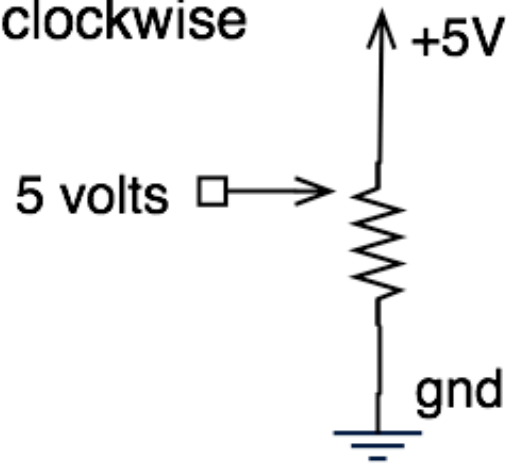
# Potentiometers

Moving the knob is like moving where the arrow taps the voltage on the resistor

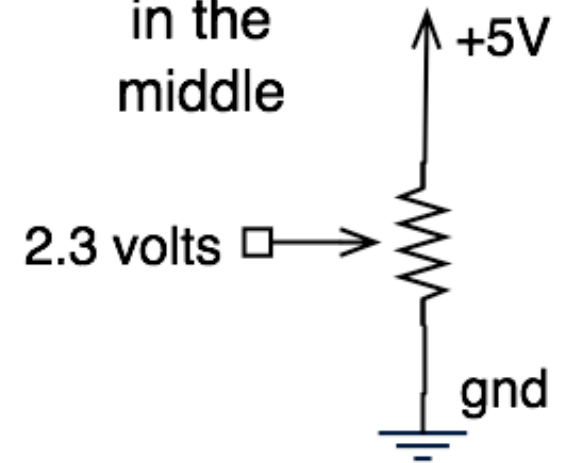
turned  
anti-clockwise



turned  
clockwise



somewhere  
in the  
middle



# What good are pots?

- Anytime you need a ranged input
  - (we're used to knobs)
- Measure rotational position
  - steering wheel, robotic joint, etc.
- But more importantly for us, potentiometers are a good example of a *resistive sensor*

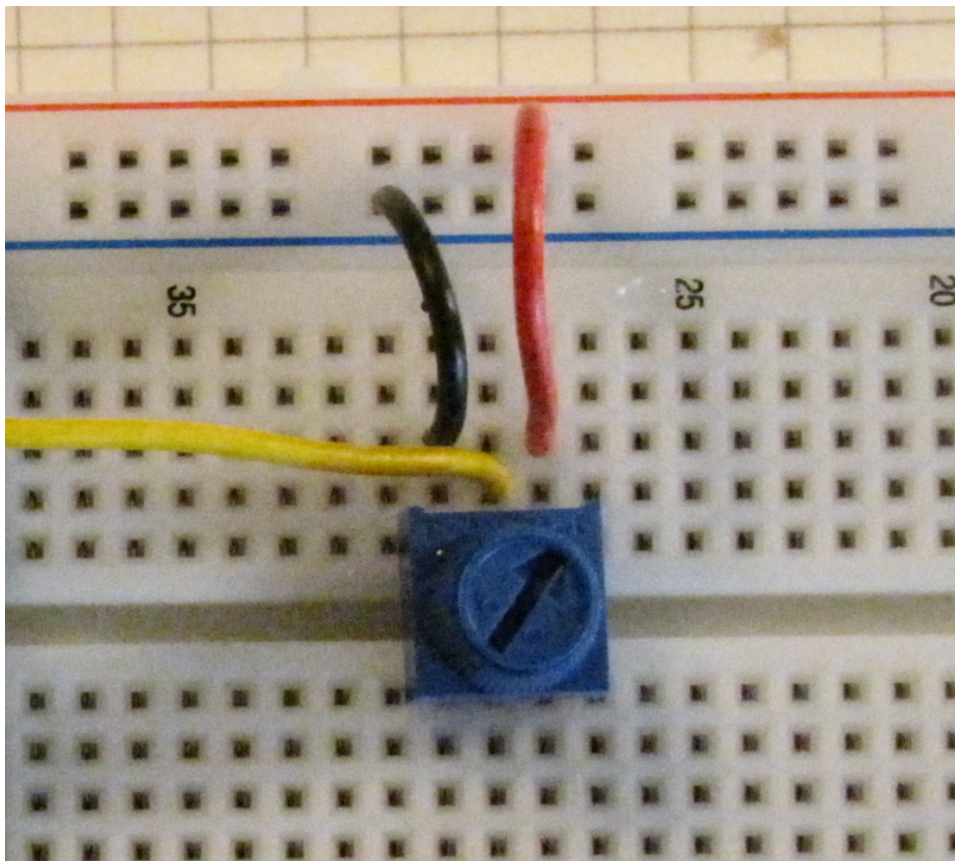
# Arduino Analog Input

Plug pot directly into breadboard

Two outer “legs” plug into +5V & Gnd (red + & blue -) buses

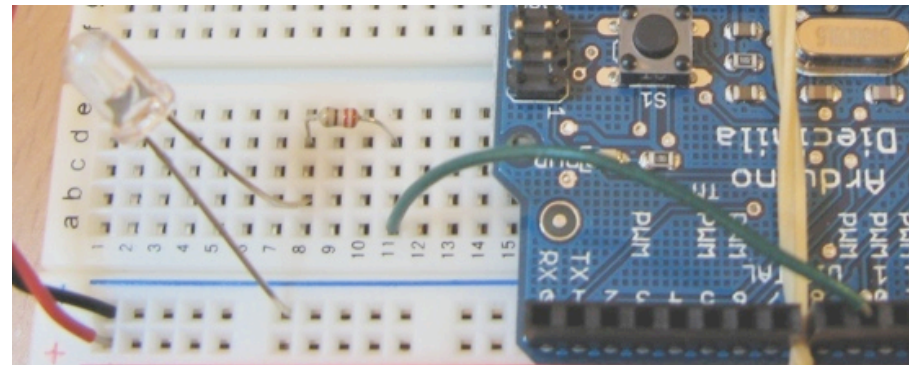
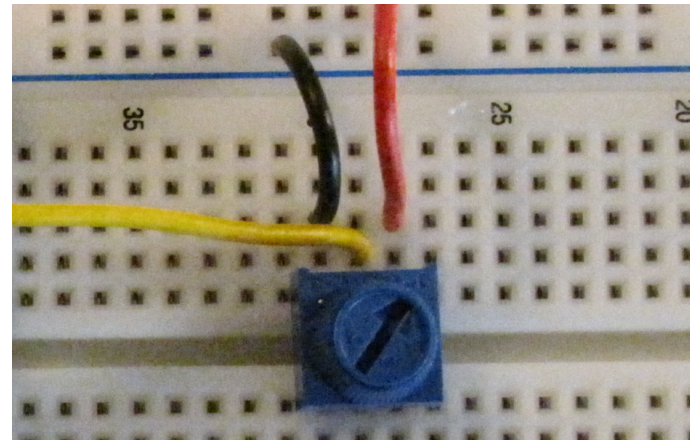
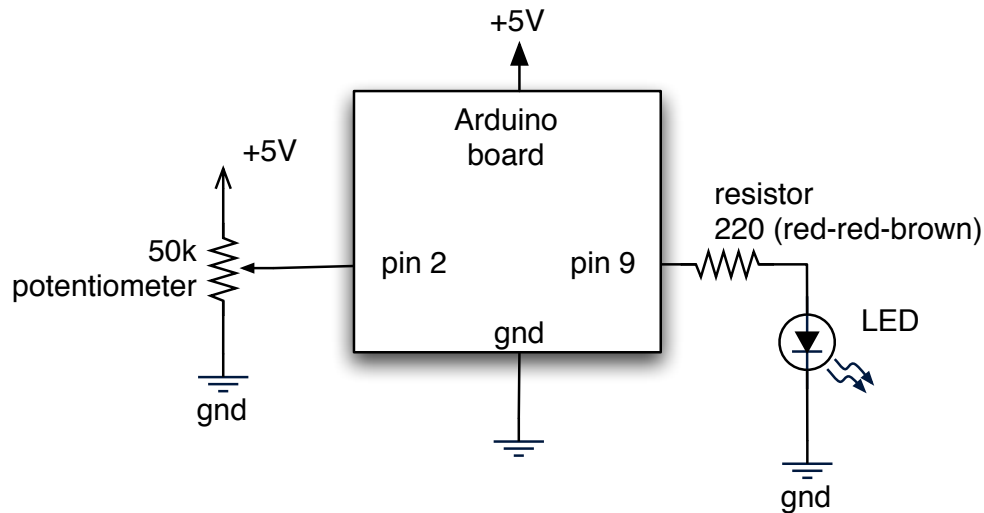
Middle “post” plugs into a row

Run a wire from that row to Analog In 2



# Pot & LED Circuit

This is what your board should have on it now



In schematics, inputs are usually on the left, outputs on the right  
Also, more positive voltages are on the top, more negative on the bottom

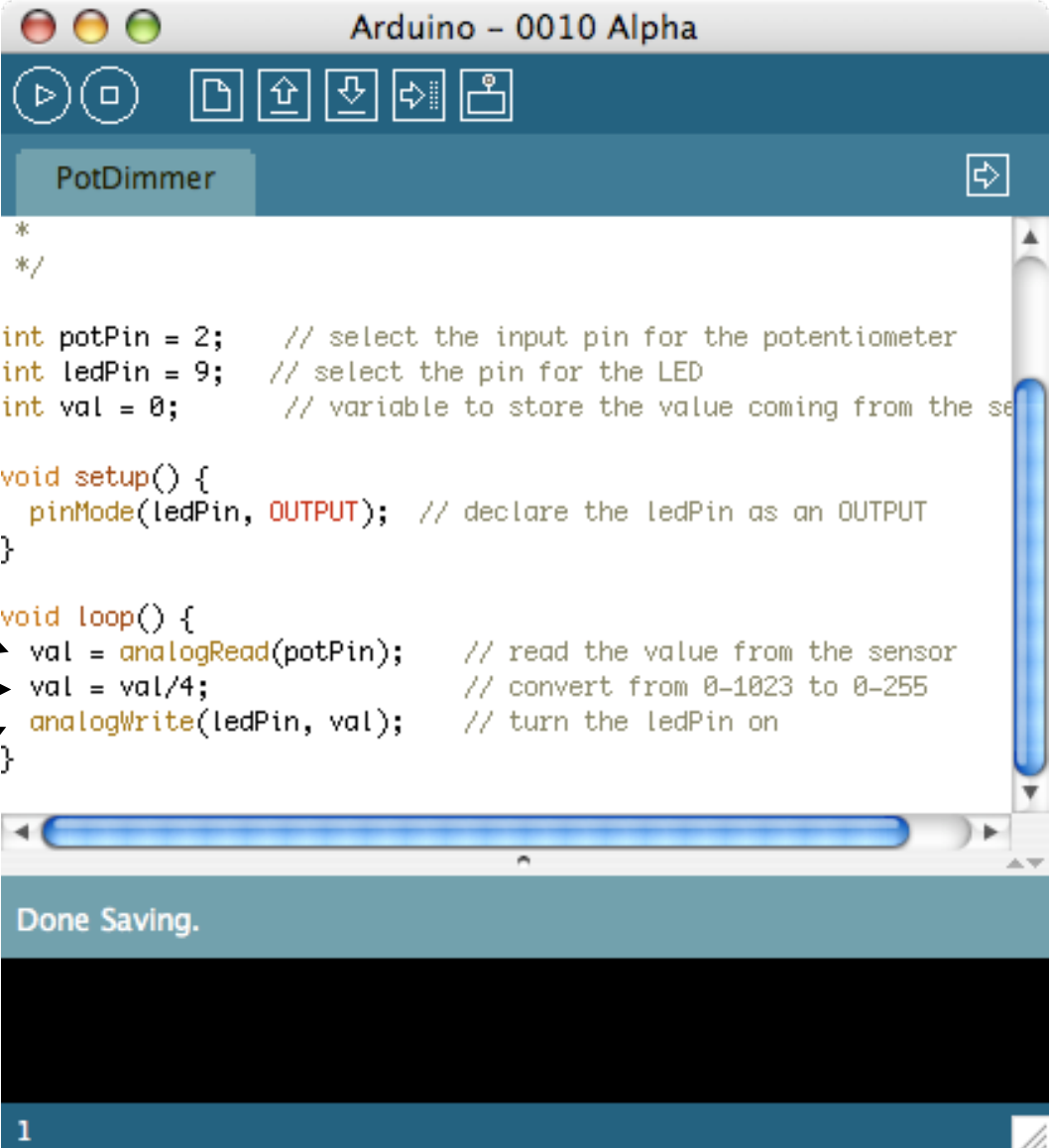
# Varying Brightness by Hand

“PotDimmer”

Turn the knob to  
change LED  
brightness

input →  
process the  
input data →  
output

Most all embedded  
systems have a  
input → process → output  
loop



```
Arduino - 0010 Alpha

PotDimmer

*/
*/

int potPin = 2; // select the input pin for the potentiometer
int ledPin = 9; // select the pin for the LED
int val = 0; // variable to store the value coming from the sensor

void setup() {
  pinMode(ledPin, OUTPUT); // declare the ledPin as an OUTPUT
}

void loop() {
  val = analogRead(potPin); // read the value from the sensor
  val = val/4; // convert from 0-1023 to 0-255
  analogWrite(ledPin, val); // turn the ledPin on
}

Done Saving.

1
```

# Two Ways to Hook up LEDs



To turn ON: `digitalWrite(9, HIGH)`

To turn OFF: `digitalWrite(9, LOW)`

To set brightness: `analogWrite(9, val)`

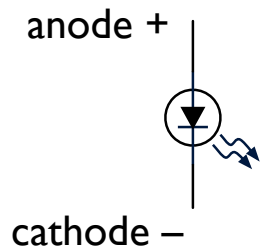
To turn ON: `digitalWrite(9, LOW)`

To turn OFF: `digitalWrite(9, HIGH)`

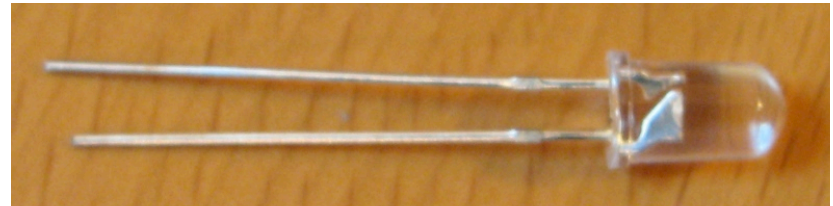
To set brightness: `analogWrite(9, 255-val)`

# RGB LEDs

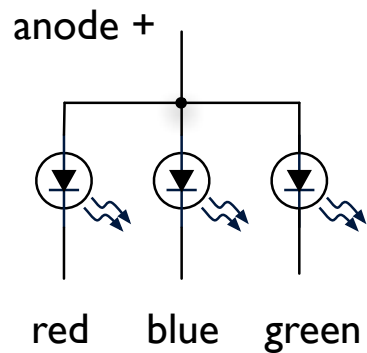
## Normal LED



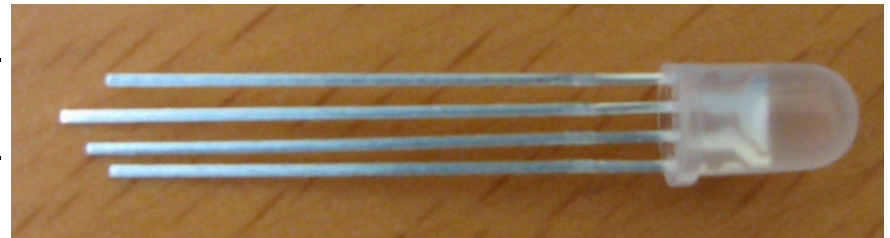
anode +  
cathode -



## RGB LED



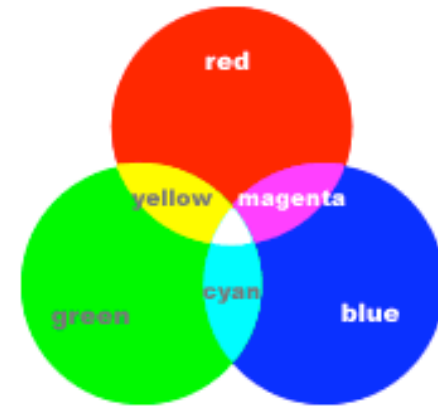
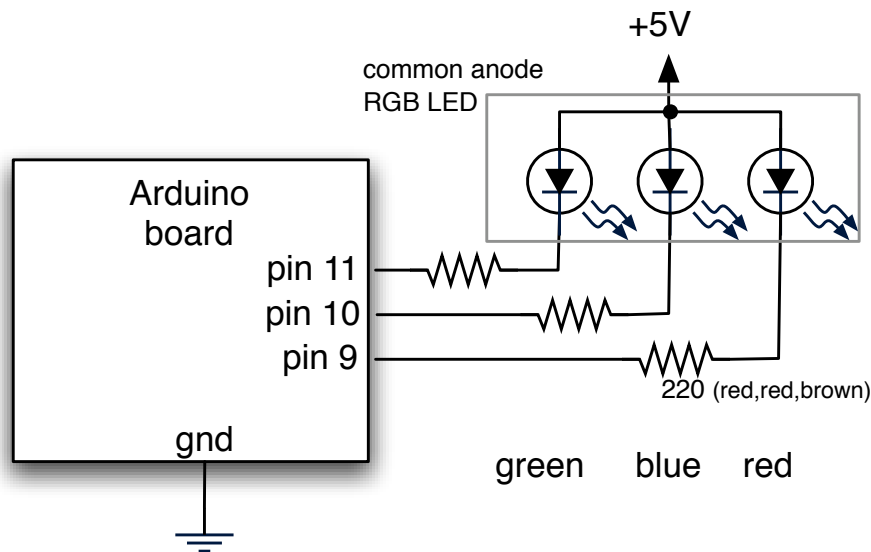
red cathode -  
anode +  
green cathode -  
blue cathode -



actually 3 LEDs in one package

# Color Mixing

With just 3 LEDs you can make any\* color

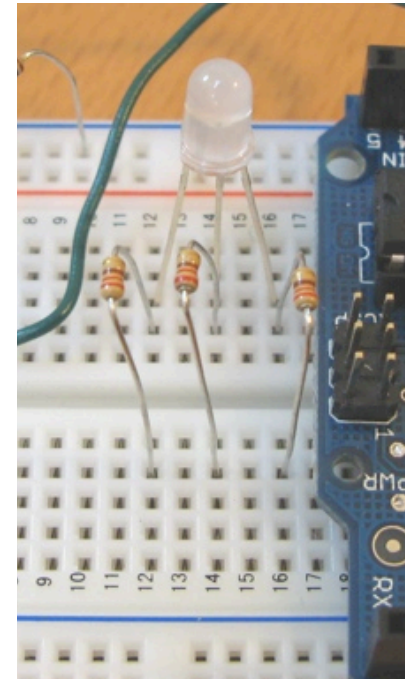
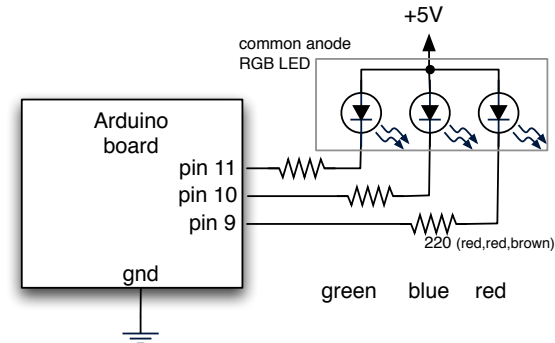
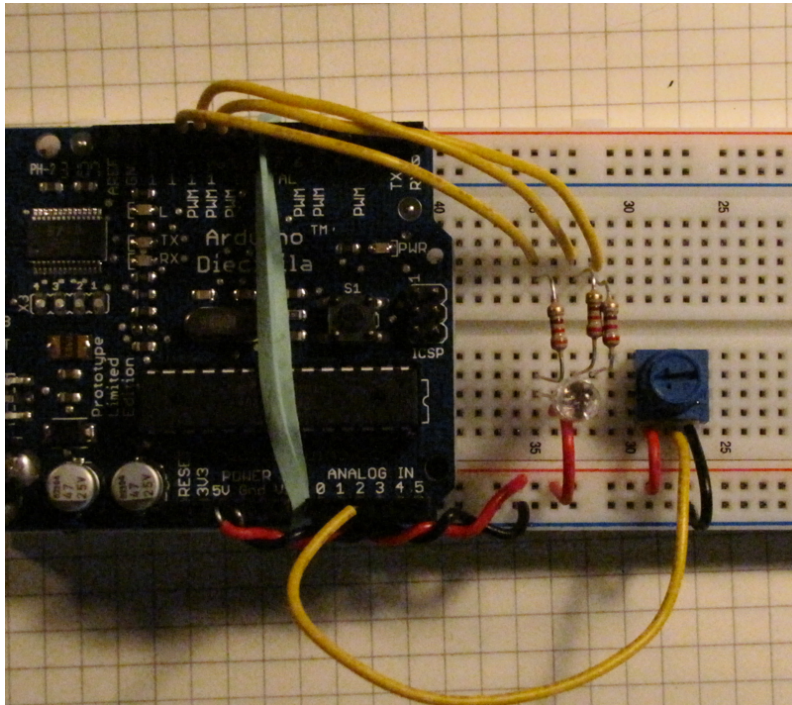


With RGB you can  
make any color  
(except black)

Mixing light is the additive color model  
(paint is subtractive color, and can give you brown)



# Laying out RGB LED Circuit



slightly bend the longest lead and plug it into the +5v (red) bus  
plug remaining leads into rows (12,14,&16 here)

connect 220 (red-red-brown) resistors across middle to matching rows

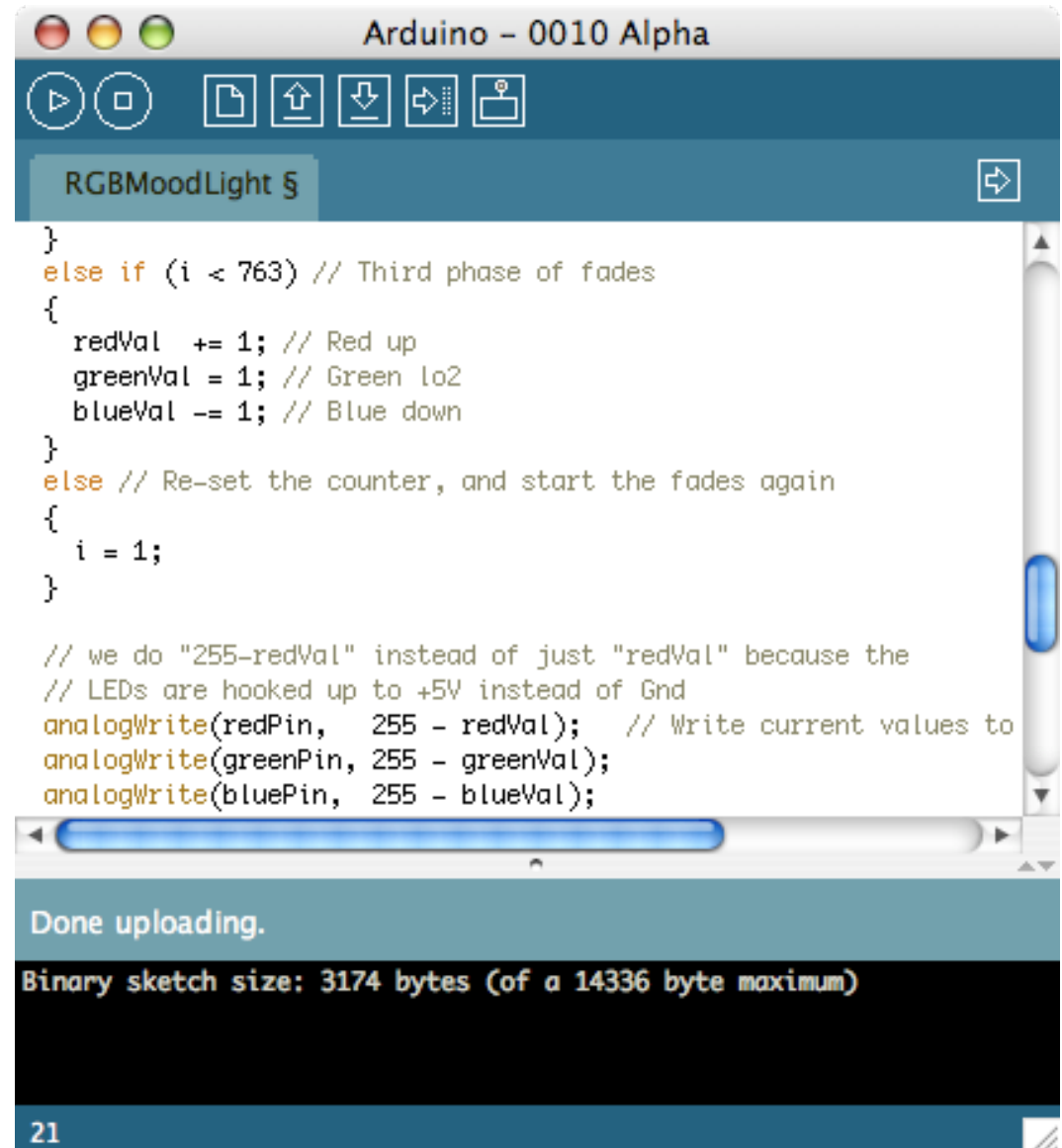
run wires from resistors to pins 9,10,11 of Arduino, can color-code if you want

# RGB Color Fading

“RGBMoodLight”

Slow color fading  
and mixing

Also outputs the current  
color values to the serial port

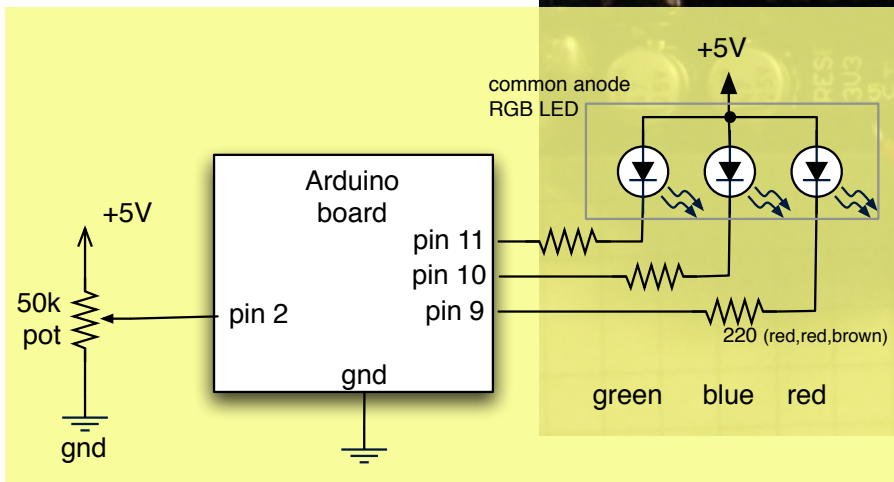
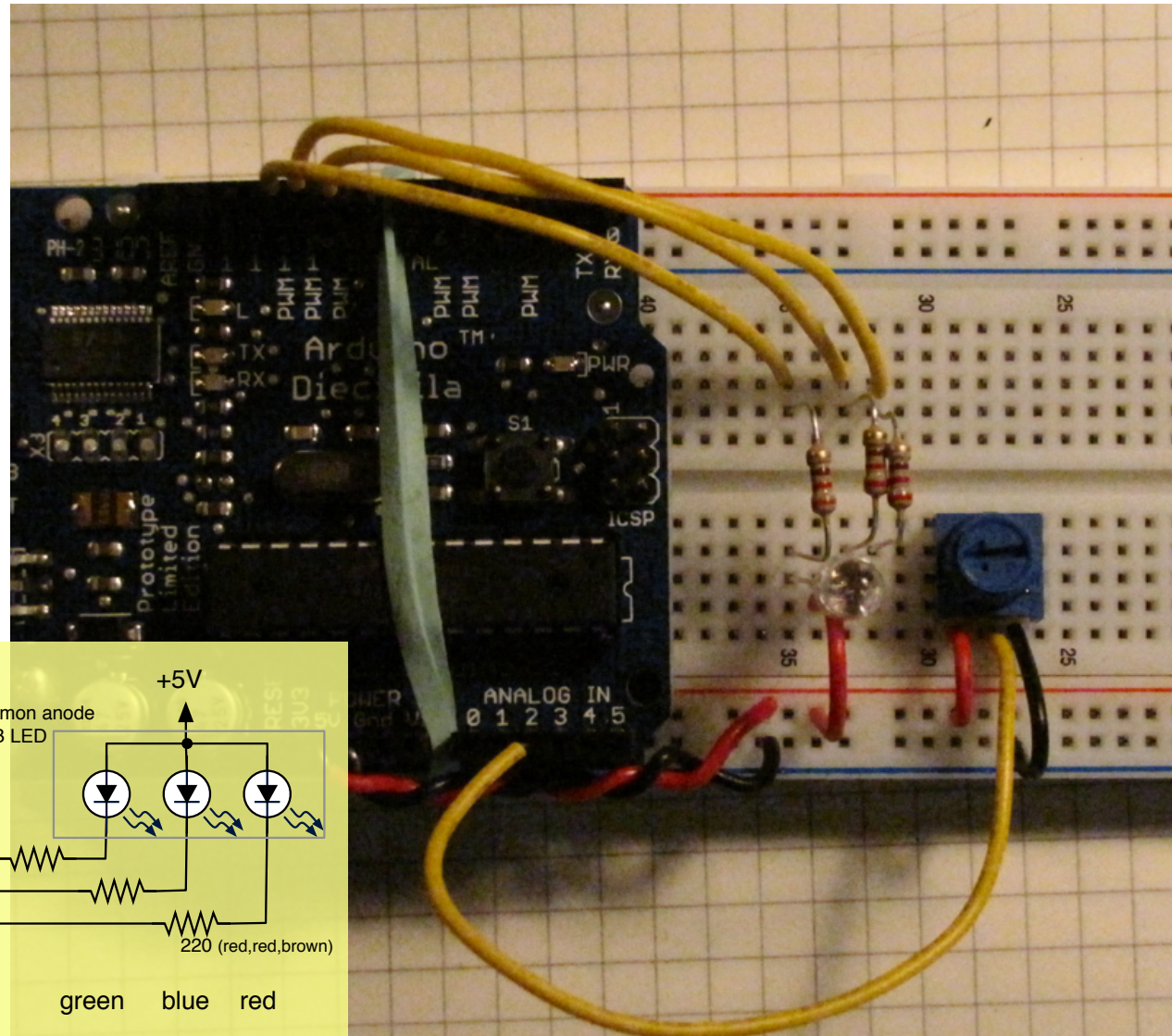


```
Arduino - 0010 Alpha
RGBMoodLight 5
}
else if (i < 763) // Third phase of fades
{
  redVal += 1; // Red up
  greenVal = 1; // Green lo2
  blueVal -= 1; // Blue down
}
else // Re-set the counter, and start the fades again
{
  i = 1;
}

// we do "255-redVal" instead of just "redVal" because the
// LEDs are hooked up to +5V instead of Gnd
analogWrite(redPin, 255 - redVal); // Write current values to
analogWrite(greenPin, 255 - greenVal);
analogWrite(bluePin, 255 - blueVal);

Done uploading.
Binary sketch size: 3174 bytes (of a 14336 byte maximum)
21
```

# Pot-controlled RGB

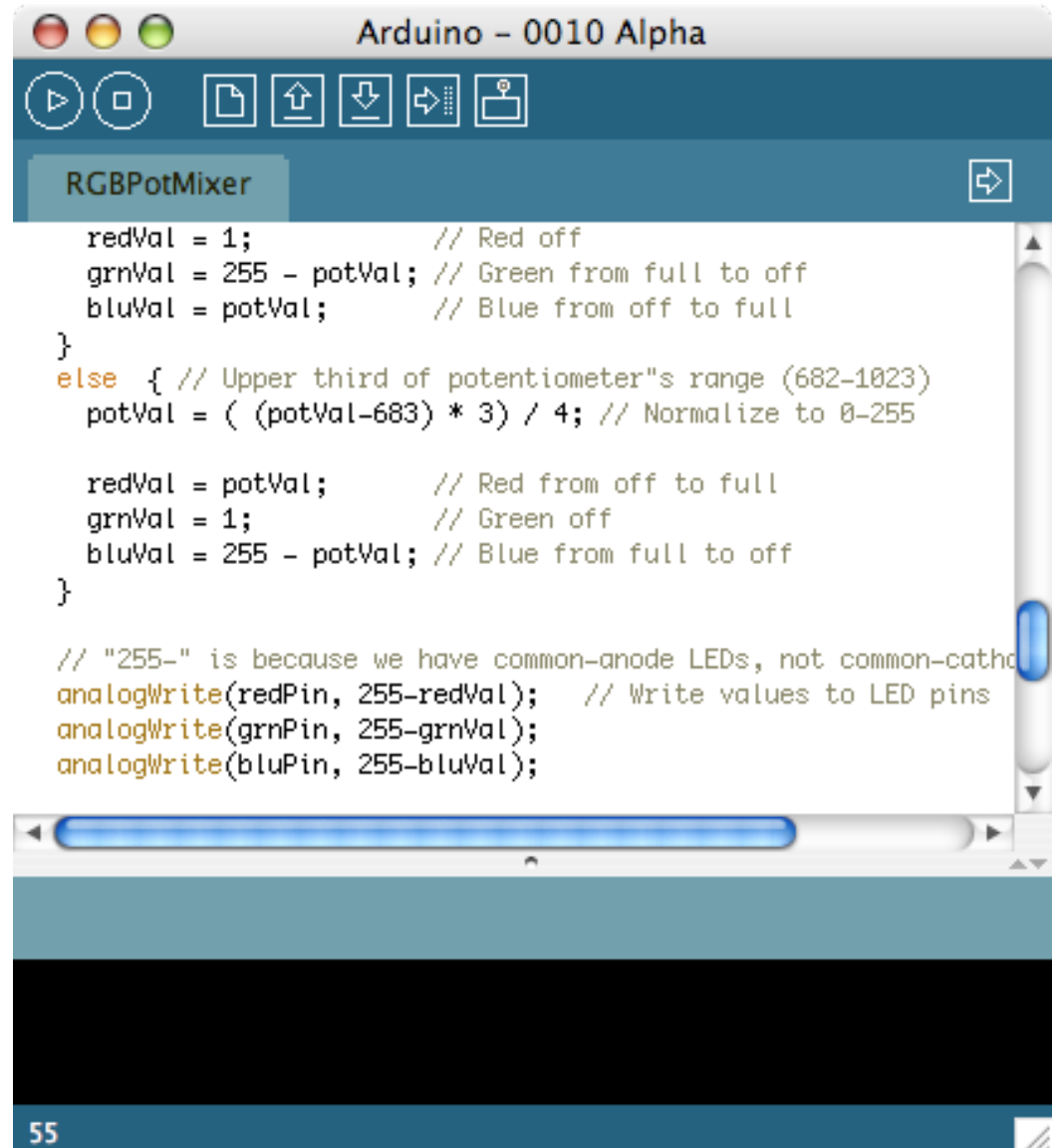


# Pot-controlled RGB

“RGBPotMixer”

Use the pot from before to control the color mix

The code turns the single ranged input value into “sectors” where each sector is a color

A screenshot of the Arduino IDE window titled "Arduino - 0010 Alpha". The code editor shows the "RGBPotMixer" sketch. The code defines three sectors for a potentiometer: a red sector (0-682), a green sector (682-1023), and a blue sector (1023-2047). The red sector has red at 1 and green/blue at 255. The green sector has red at 255, green at 1, and blue at 255 - potVal. The blue sector has red at 255 - potVal, green at 1, and blue at 1. The code uses analogWrite to output to common-anode LEDs. The IDE interface includes a toolbar with icons for play, stop, save, upload, download, and serial monitor, and a status bar at the bottom showing the line number 55.

```
Arduino - 0010 Alpha
RGBPotMixer
redVal = 1;           // Red off
grnVal = 255 - potVal; // Green from full to off
bluVal = potVal;      // Blue from off to full
}
else { // Upper third of potentiometer's range (682-1023)
  potVal = ( (potVal-683) * 3) / 4; // Normalize to 0-255

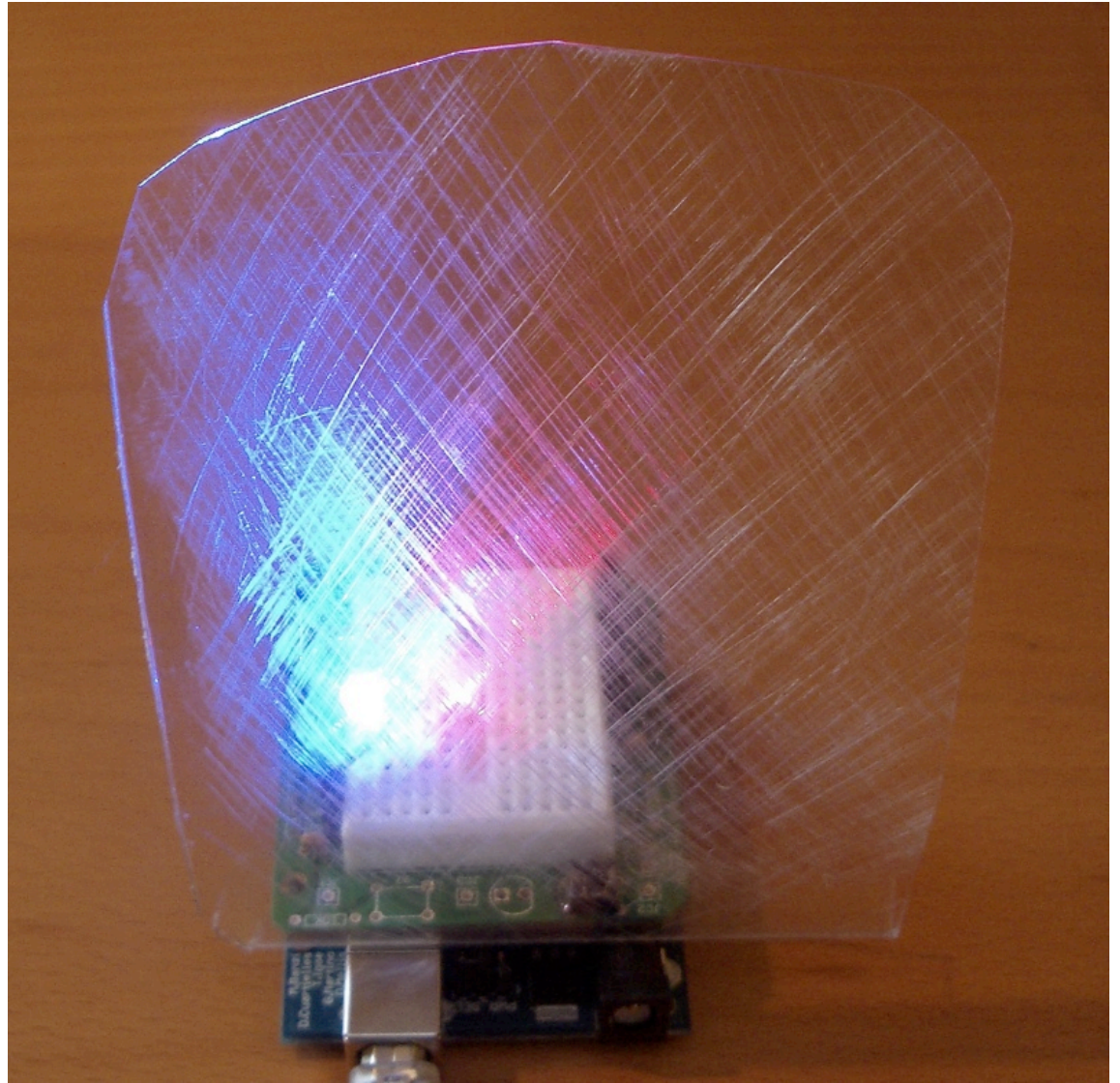
  redVal = potVal;      // Red from off to full
  grnVal = 1;          // Green off
  bluVal = 255 - potVal; // Blue from full to off
}

// "255-" is because we have common-anode LEDs, not common-cathode
analogWrite(redPin, 255-redVal); // Write values to LED pins
analogWrite(grnPin, 255-grnVal);
analogWrite(bluPin, 255-bluVal);
55
```



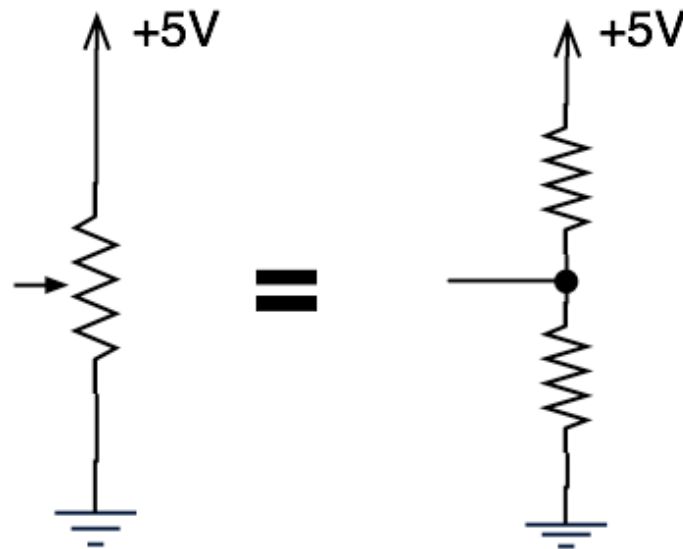
# Mood Light

Diffuser made from  
piece of plastic  
scratched with  
sandpaper



# Sensing the Dark

- Pots are example of a *voltage divider*
- Voltage divider splits a voltage in two
- Same as two resistors, but you can vary them

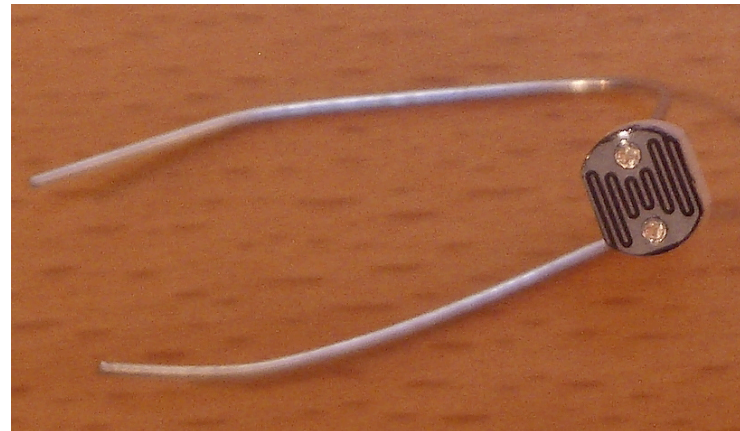


# Sensing the Dark: Photocells

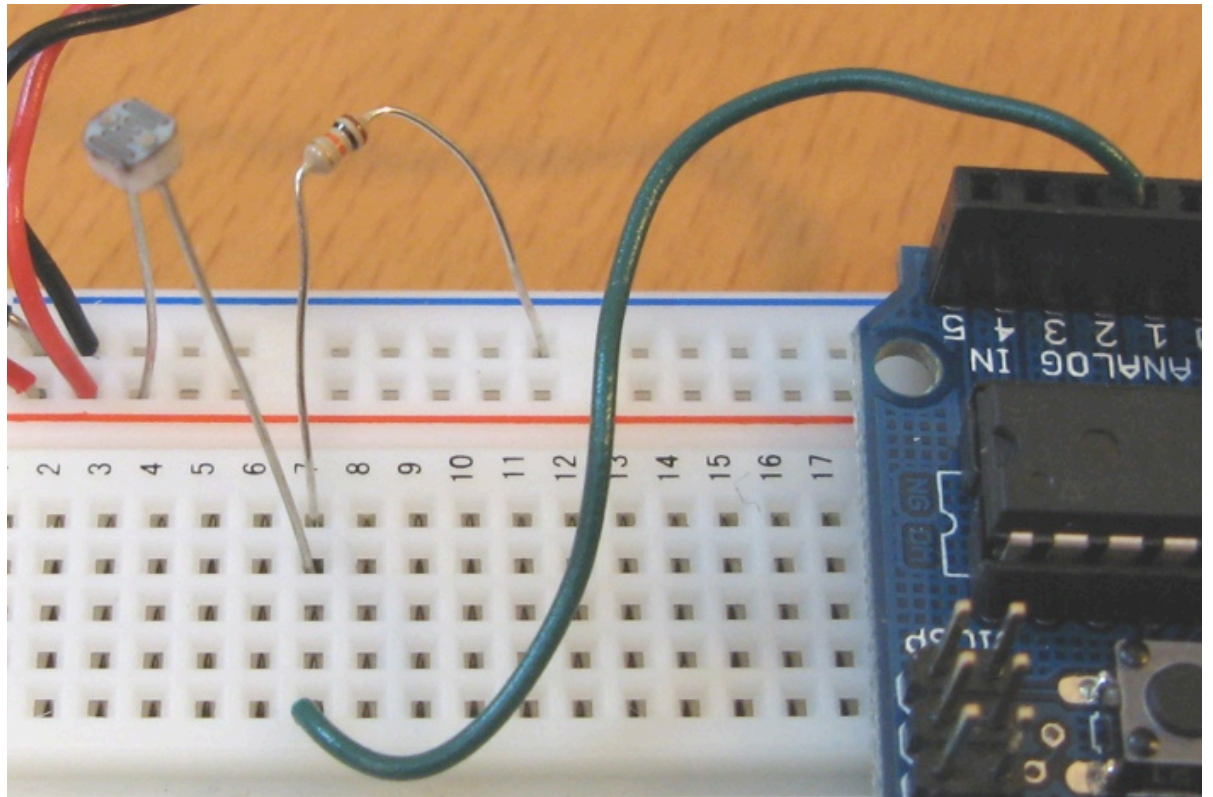
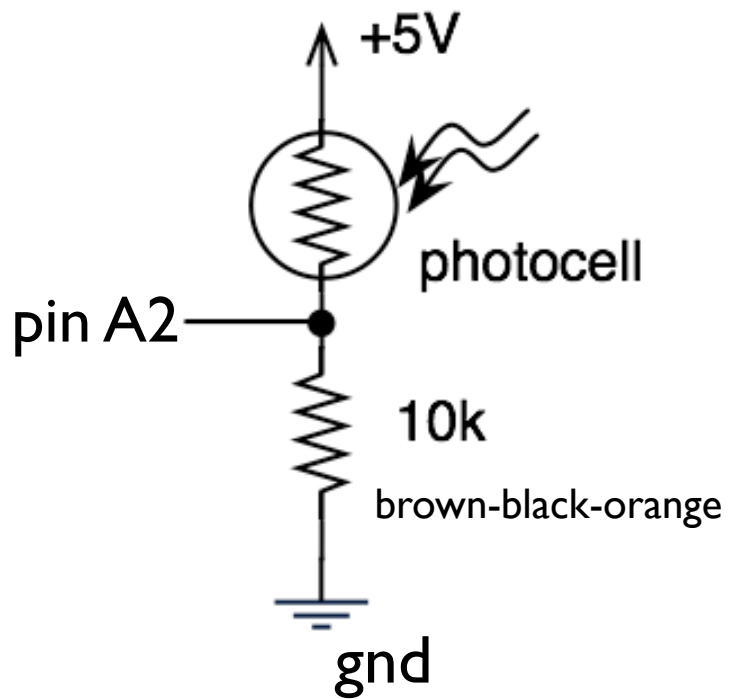
- aka. photoresistor, light-dependent resistor
- *A variable resistor*
- Brighter light == lower resistance
- Photocells you have range approx. 0-10k-1M



schematic symbol



# Photocell Circuit



Try it with RGBPotMixer from before

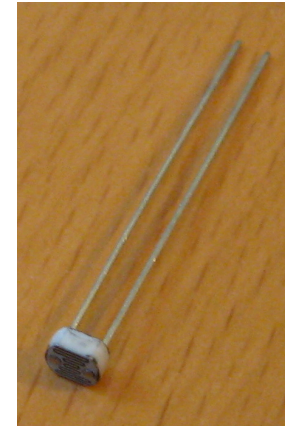
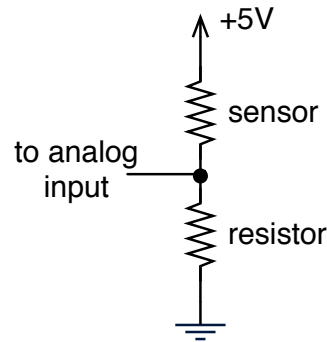


# Resistive sensors



thermistor  
(temperature)

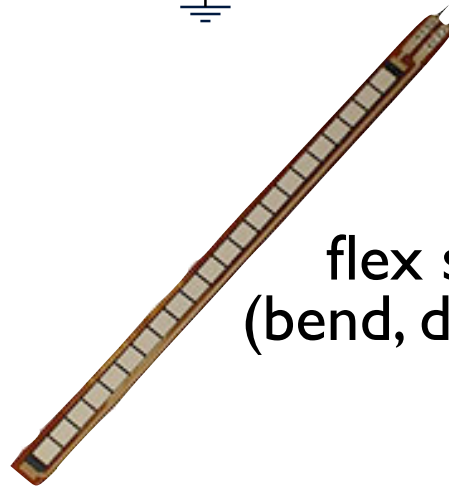
circuit is the same  
for all these



photocell  
(light)



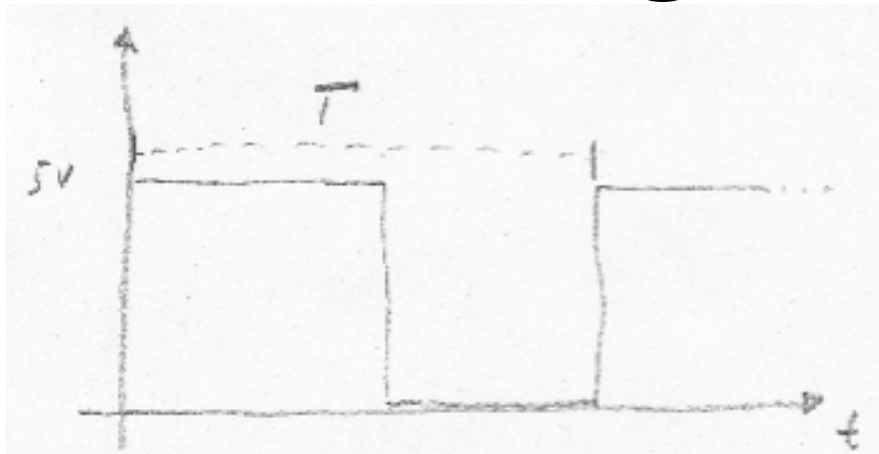
force sensors  
(pressure)



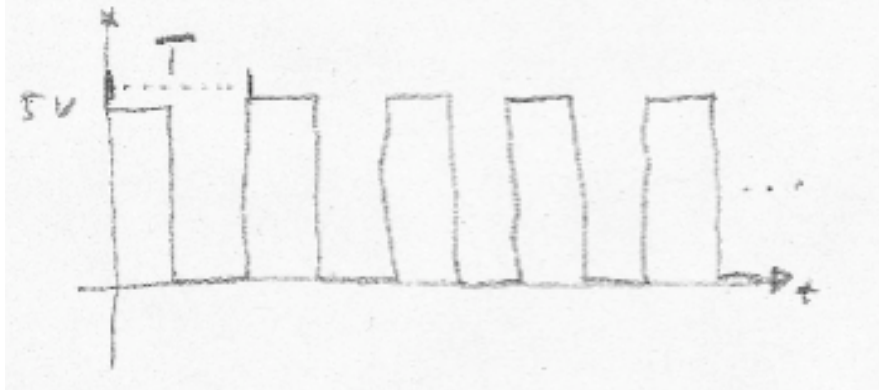
flex sensor  
(bend, deflection)

also air pressure  
and others

# Simulating Soundwave



Low pitched tone – long period  $T$



High pitched tone – short period  $T$

Note: For a 20Hz sound wave we have  $T = 50\text{ms}$ ,  
for a 200Hz sound wave we have  $T = 5\text{ms}$ .

# Make a Theremin

“ooo-weee-ooooo”

The original spooky  
sound machine

Works by measuring your  
body's electric field

No touching needed!

We'll use light in lieu of RF

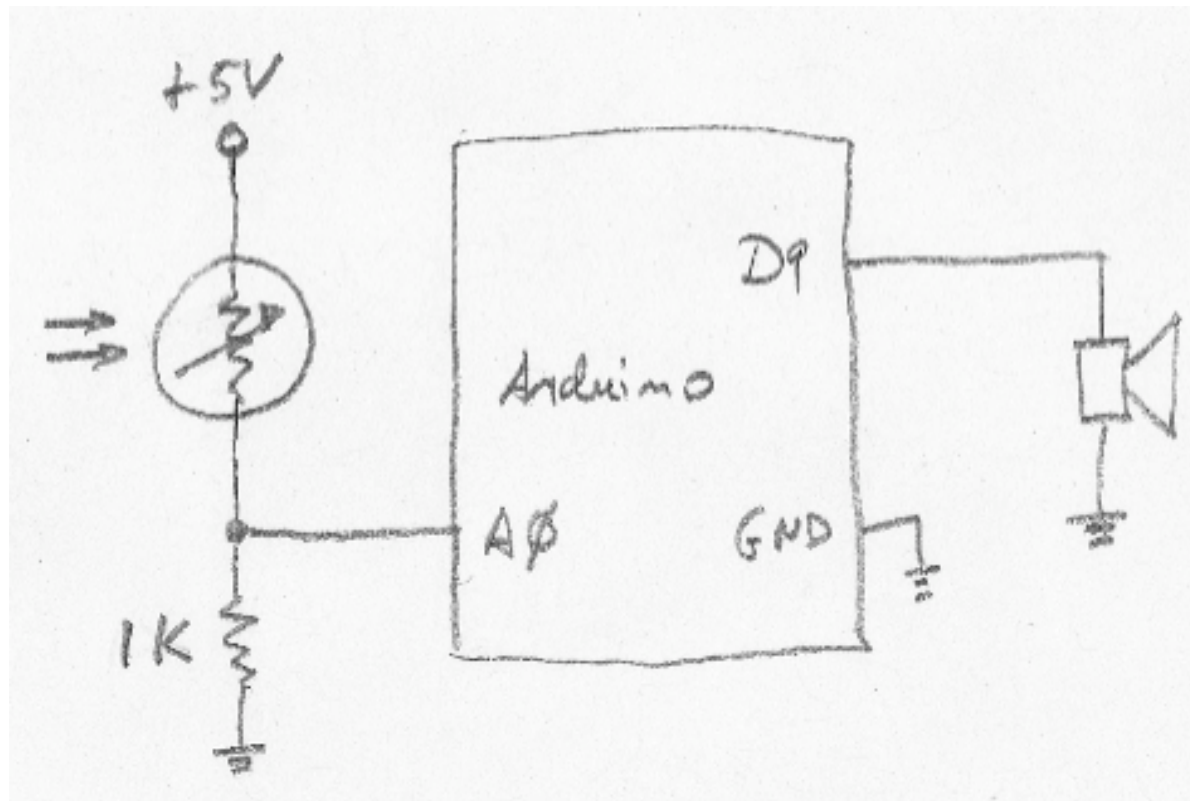


*Leon Theremin*

# Optical Theremin

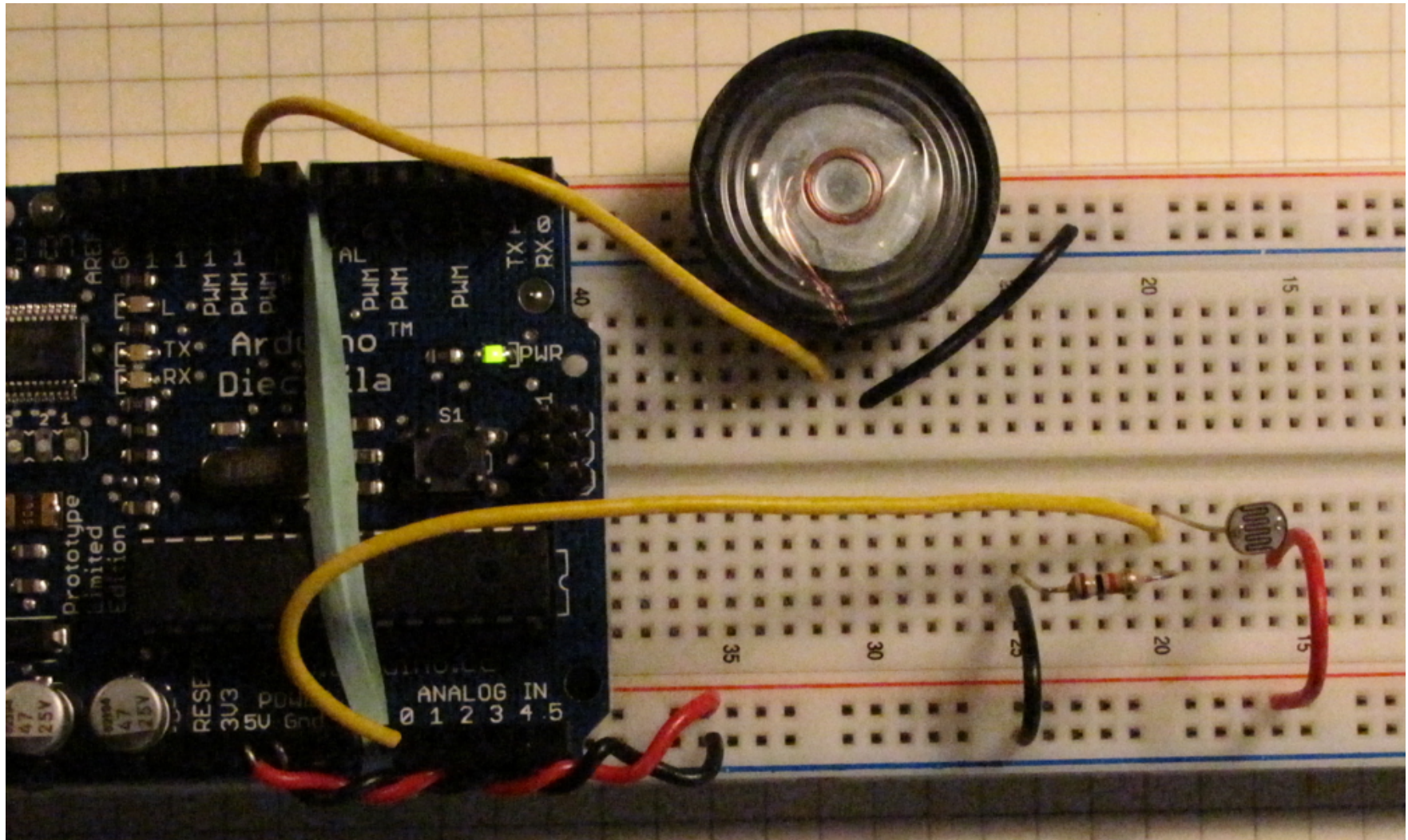
- Read an analog signal generated through a photoresistor
- We interpret the digitized value from the A/D conversion as the period of the sound wave we want to generate
- Generate one period of the sound wave, output it to the speaker and then sample the input again

# Theremin Setup





# Theremin Setup

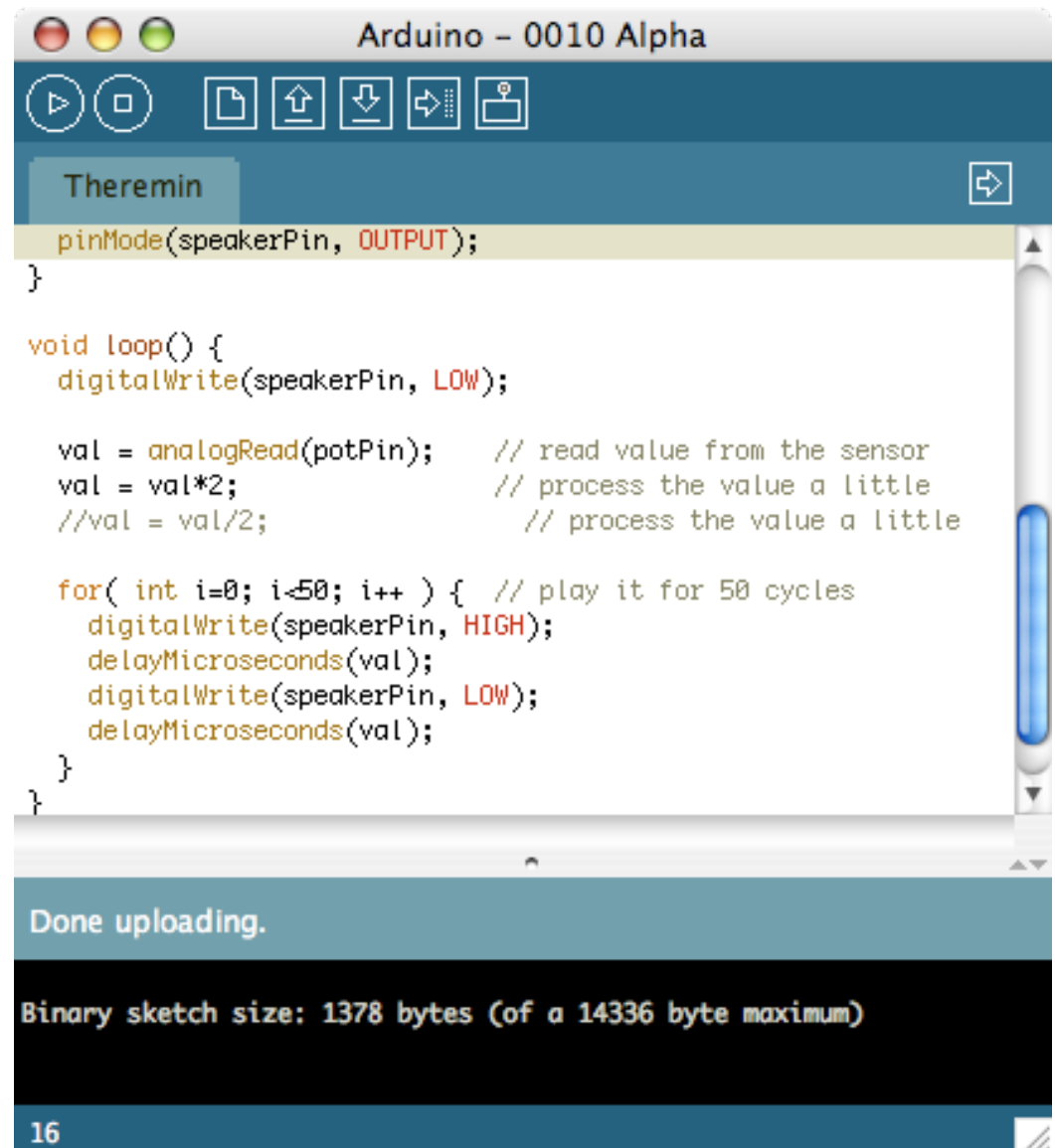


# Light Theremin

“Theremin”

Move hand over  
photocell to  
change pitch

Play with val processing & cycles count  
to alter sensitivity, pitch and timbre



```
Arduino - 0010 Alpha

Theremin

pinMode(speakerPin, OUTPUT);
}

void loop() {
  digitalWrite(speakerPin, LOW);

  val = analogRead(potPin); // read value from the sensor
  val = val*2; // process the value a little
  //val = val/2; // process the value a little

  for( int i=0; i<50; i++ ) { // play it for 50 cycles
    digitalWrite(speakerPin, HIGH);
    delayMicroseconds(val);
    digitalWrite(speakerPin, LOW);
    delayMicroseconds(val);
  }
}

Done uploading.

Binary sketch size: 1378 bytes (of a 14336 byte maximum)

16
```

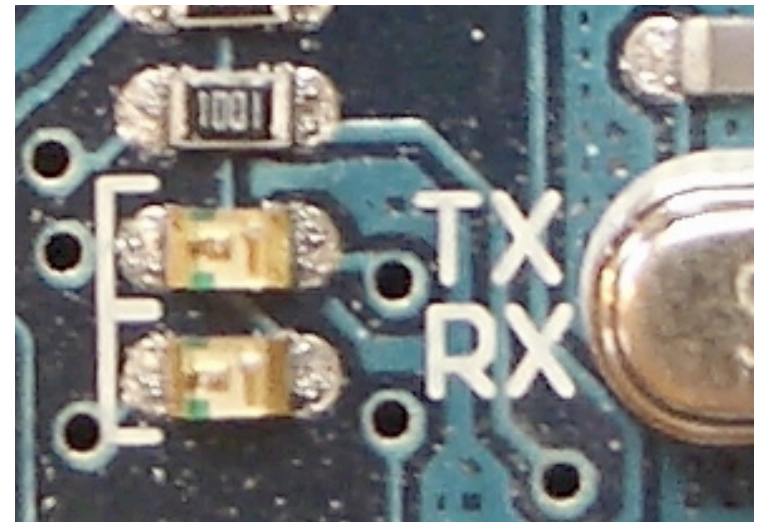
# Communicating with Others

- Arduino can use same USB cable for programming and to talk with computers
- Talking to other devices uses the “Serial” commands
  - `Serial.begin()` – prepare to use serial
  - `Serial.print()` – send data to computer
  - `Serial.read()` – read data from computer



# Watch the TX/RX LEDs

- TX – sending to PC
- RX – receiving from PC
- Used when programming or communicating



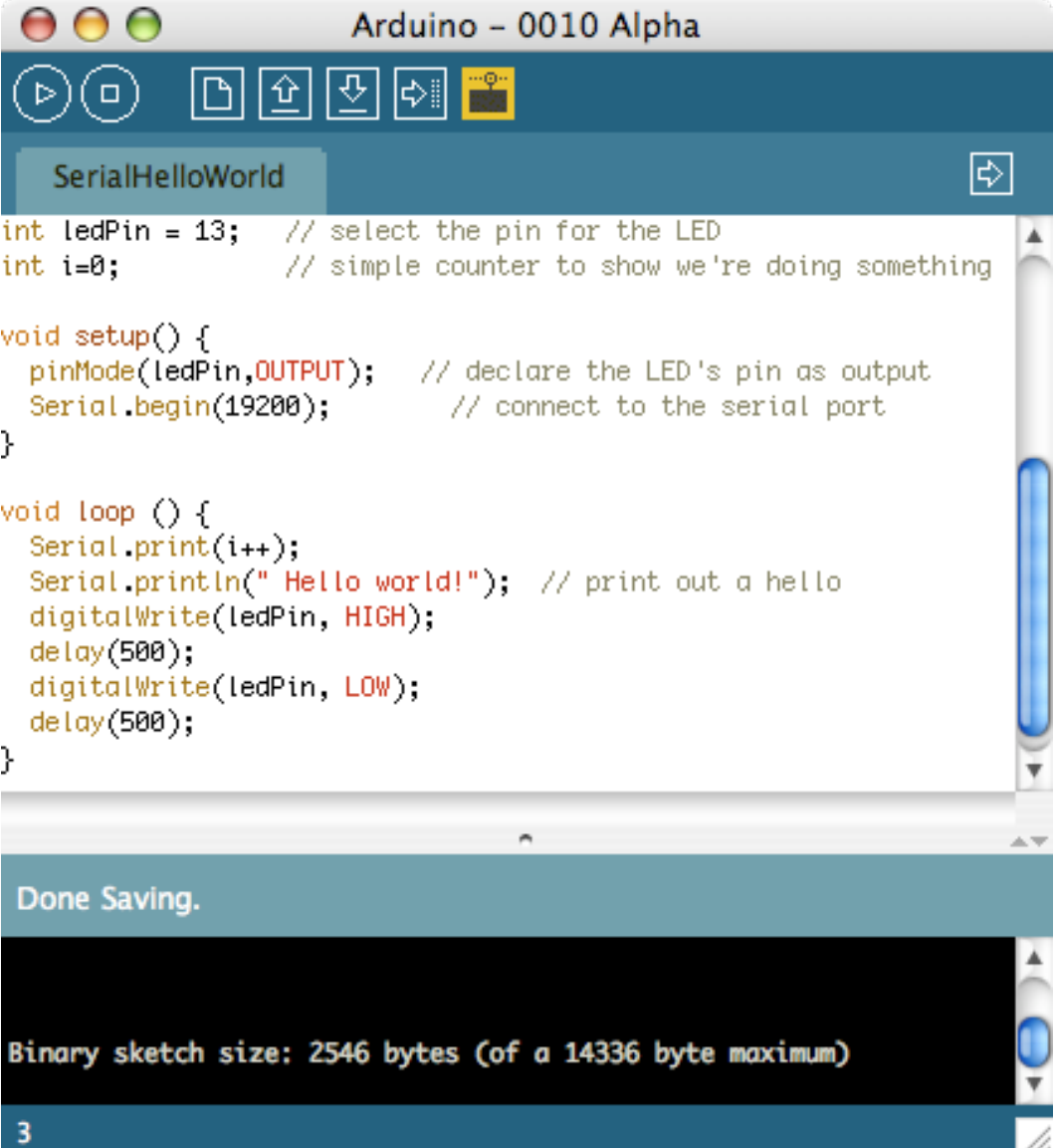
# Arduino Says “Hi”

“SerialHelloWorld”

Sends “Hello world!”  
to your computer

Click on “Serial  
Monitor” button to  
see output

Watch TX LED compared  
to pin 13 LED



The screenshot shows the Arduino IDE interface. The title bar reads "Arduino - 0010 Alpha". The menu bar includes icons for Run, Stop, Save, Upload, Download, and Serial Monitor. The main editor window displays the following code:

```
SerialHelloWorld

int ledPin = 13; // select the pin for the LED
int i=0;        // simple counter to show we're doing something

void setup() {
  pinMode(ledPin,OUTPUT); // declare the LED's pin as output
  Serial.begin(19200);    // connect to the serial port
}

void loop () {
  Serial.print(i++);
  Serial.println(" Hello world!"); // print out a hello
  digitalWrite(ledPin, HIGH);
  delay(500);
  digitalWrite(ledPin, LOW);
  delay(500);
}
```

Below the code editor, a status bar shows "Done Saving." and "Binary sketch size: 2546 bytes (of a 14336 byte maximum)". The bottom status bar shows the number "3".

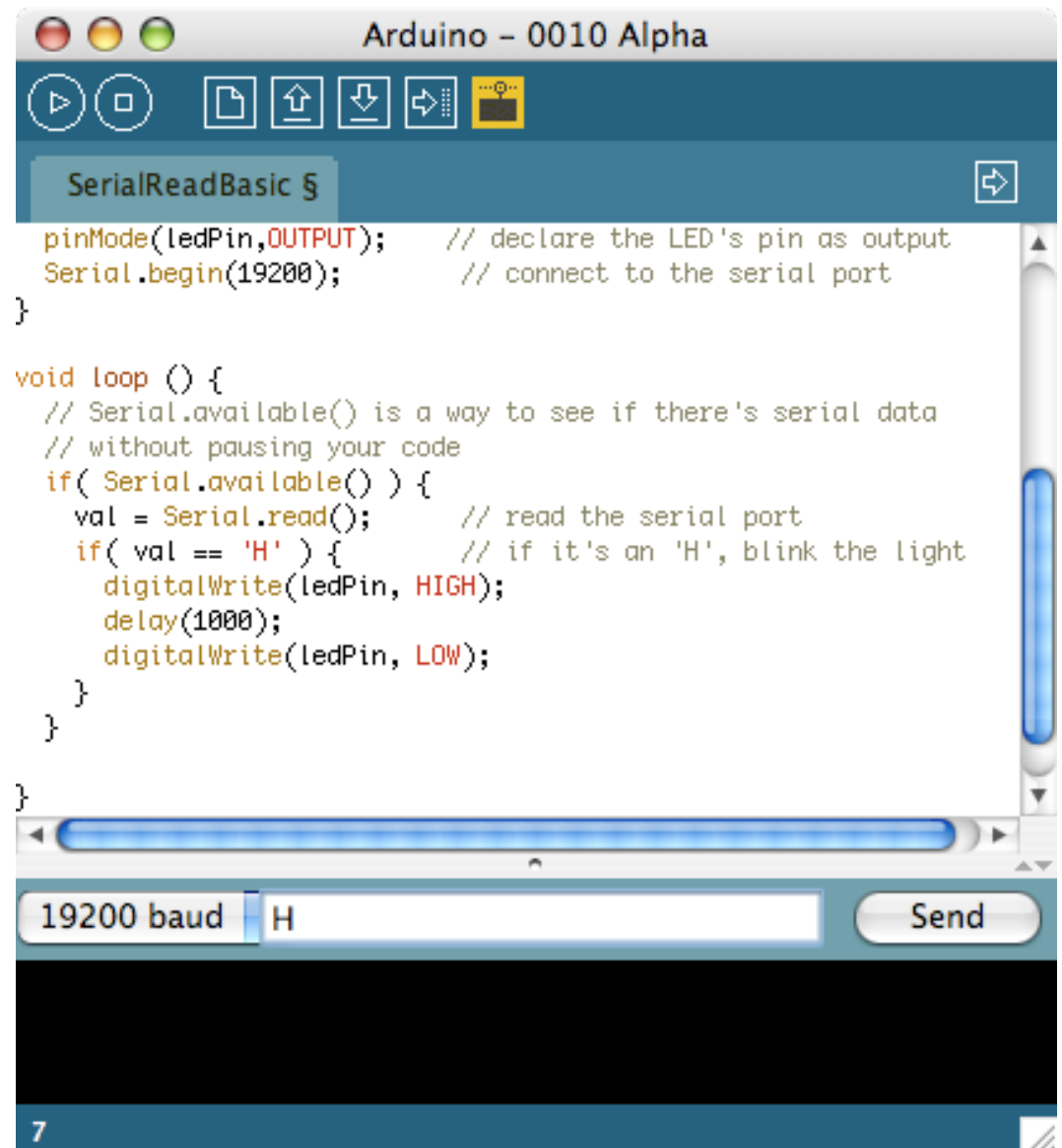
# Telling Arduino What To Do

“SerialReadBasic”

You type “H”, LED blinks

In “Serial Monitor”,  
type “H”, press Send

`Serial.available()` tells  
you if data present to read



The screenshot shows the Arduino IDE interface. The main window displays the sketch "SerialReadBasic 5" with the following code:

```
pinMode(ledPin,OUTPUT); // declare the LED's pin as output
Serial.begin(19200); // connect to the serial port
}

void loop () {
  // Serial.available() is a way to see if there's serial data
  // without pausing your code
  if( Serial.available() ) {
    val = Serial.read(); // read the serial port
    if( val == 'H' ) { // if it's an 'H', blink the light
      digitalWrite(ledPin, HIGH);
      delay(1000);
      digitalWrite(ledPin, LOW);
    }
  }
}
}
```

Below the code editor is the Serial Monitor window, which is set to 19200 baud. The input field contains the character 'H', and the Send button is visible. The output area is currently empty.

# Arduino Communications

is just serial communications

- Psst, Arduino doesn't really do USB
- It really is “serial”, like old RS-232 serial
- All microcontrollers can do serial
- Not many can do USB
- Serial is easy, USB is hard



serial terminal from the olde days

# Serial Communications

- “Serial” because data is broken down into bits, each sent one after the other down a single wire.

- The single ASCII character ‘B’ is sent as:

‘B’ = 0 1 0 0 0 0 1 0

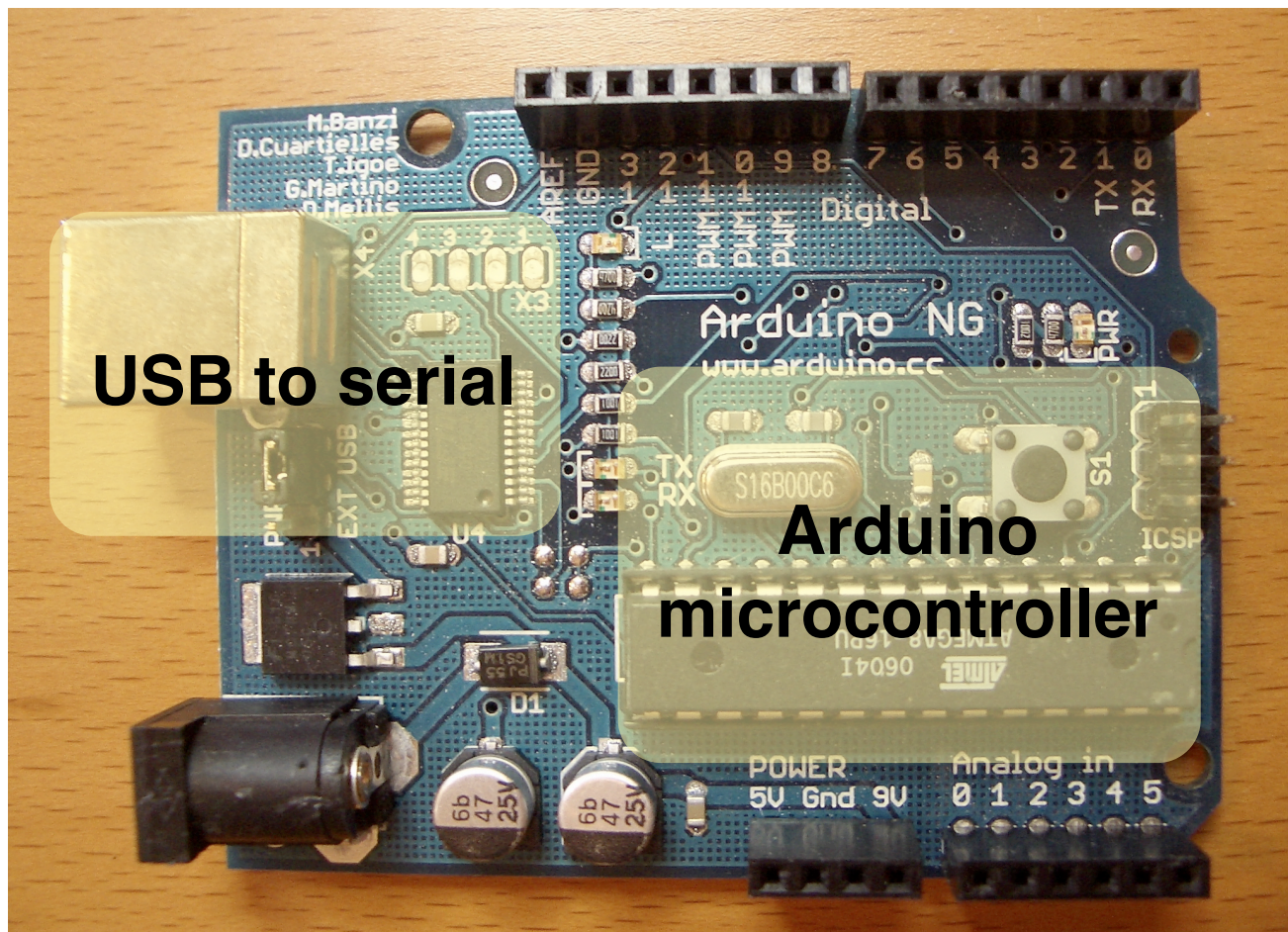
= L H L L L L H L



- Toggle a pin to send data, just like blinking an LED
- You could implement sending serial data with `digitalWrite()` and `delay()`
- A single data wire needed to send data. One other to receive.

# Arduino & USB-to-serial

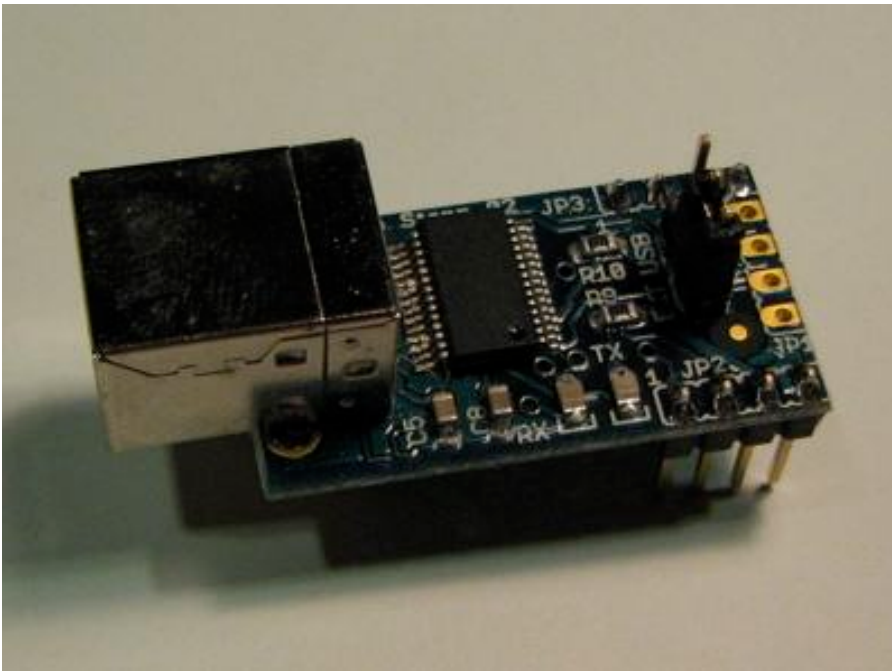
Arduino board is really two circuits



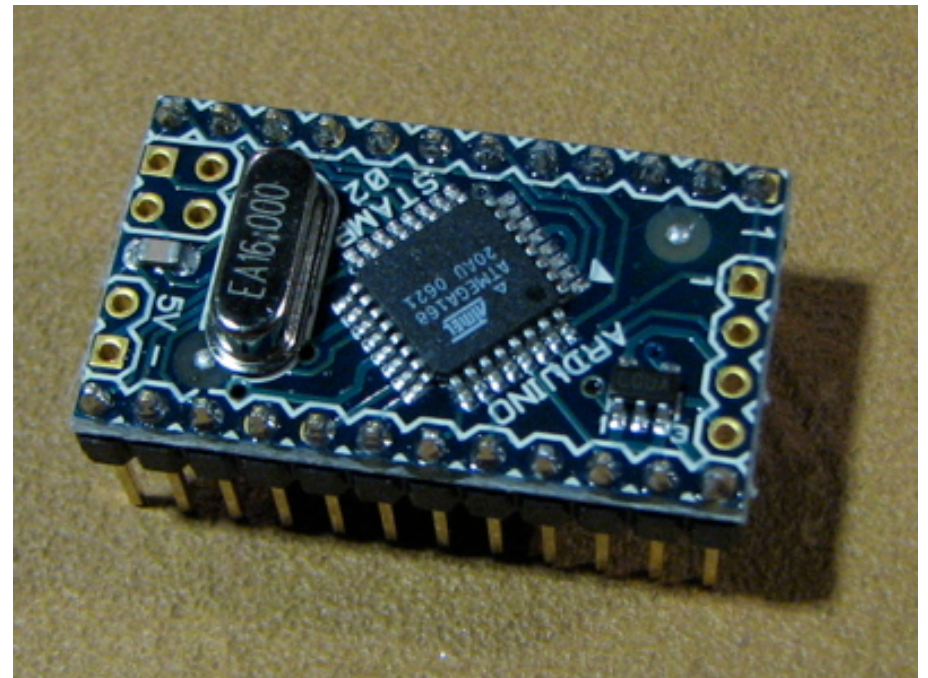


# Arduino Mini

Arduino Mini separates the two circuits



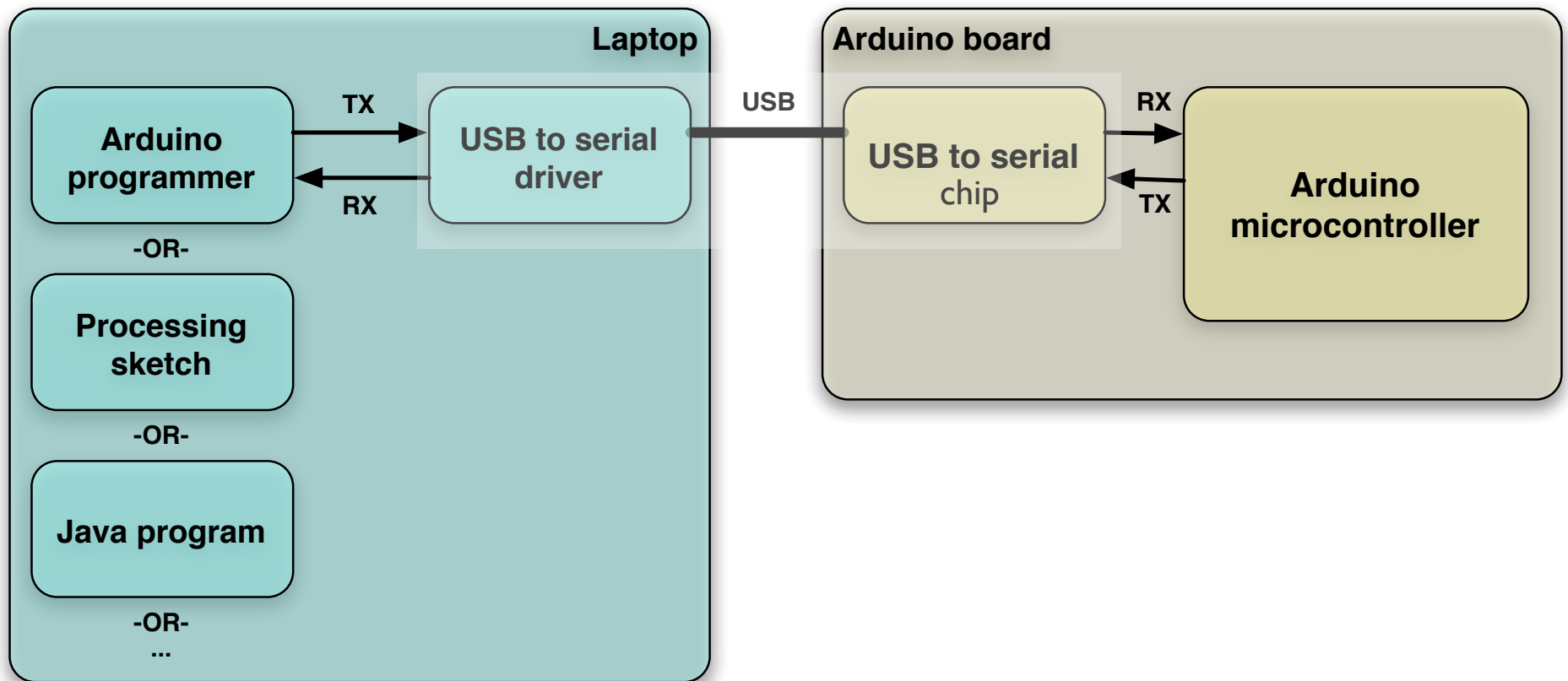
Arduino Mini USB adapter



Arduino Mini



# Arduino to Computer



USB is totally optional for Arduino  
But it makes things easier

# Arduino & USB

- Since Arduino is all about serial
- And not USB,
- Interfacing to things like USB flash drives, USB hard disks, USB webcams, etc. is *not* possible

# Controlling the Computer

- Can send sensor data from Arduino to computer with `Serial.print()`
- There are many different variations to suite your needs:

```
int val = 123;
Serial.print(val);           // sends 3 ASCII chars "123"
Serial.print(val,DEC);       // same as above
Serial.print(val,HEX);       // sends 2 ASCII chars "7B"
Serial.print(val,BIN);       // sends 8 ASCII chars "01111011"
Serial.print(val,BYTE);      // sends 1 byte, the verbatim value
```

# Controlling the Computer

You write one program on Arduino, one on the computer

In Arduino: read sensor, send data as byte

```
void loop() {  
  val = analogRead(analogInput); // read the value on analog input  
  Serial.print(val/4,BYTE);      // print a byte value out  
  delay(50);                     // wait a bit to not overload the port  
}
```

In Processing: read the byte, do something with it

```
import processing.serial.*;  
  
Serial myPort; // The serial port  
  
void setup() {  
  String portname = "/dev/tty.usbserial-A3000Xv0";  
  myPort = new Serial(this, myPort, 9600);  
}  
  
void draw() {  
  while (myPort.available() > 0) {  
    int inByte = myPort.read();  
    println(inByte);  
  }  
}
```

# Controlling the Computer

- Receiving program on the computer can be in any language that knows about serial ports
- C/C++, Perl, PHP, Java, Max/MSP, Python, Visual Basic, etc.
- Pick your favorite one, write some code for Arduino to control

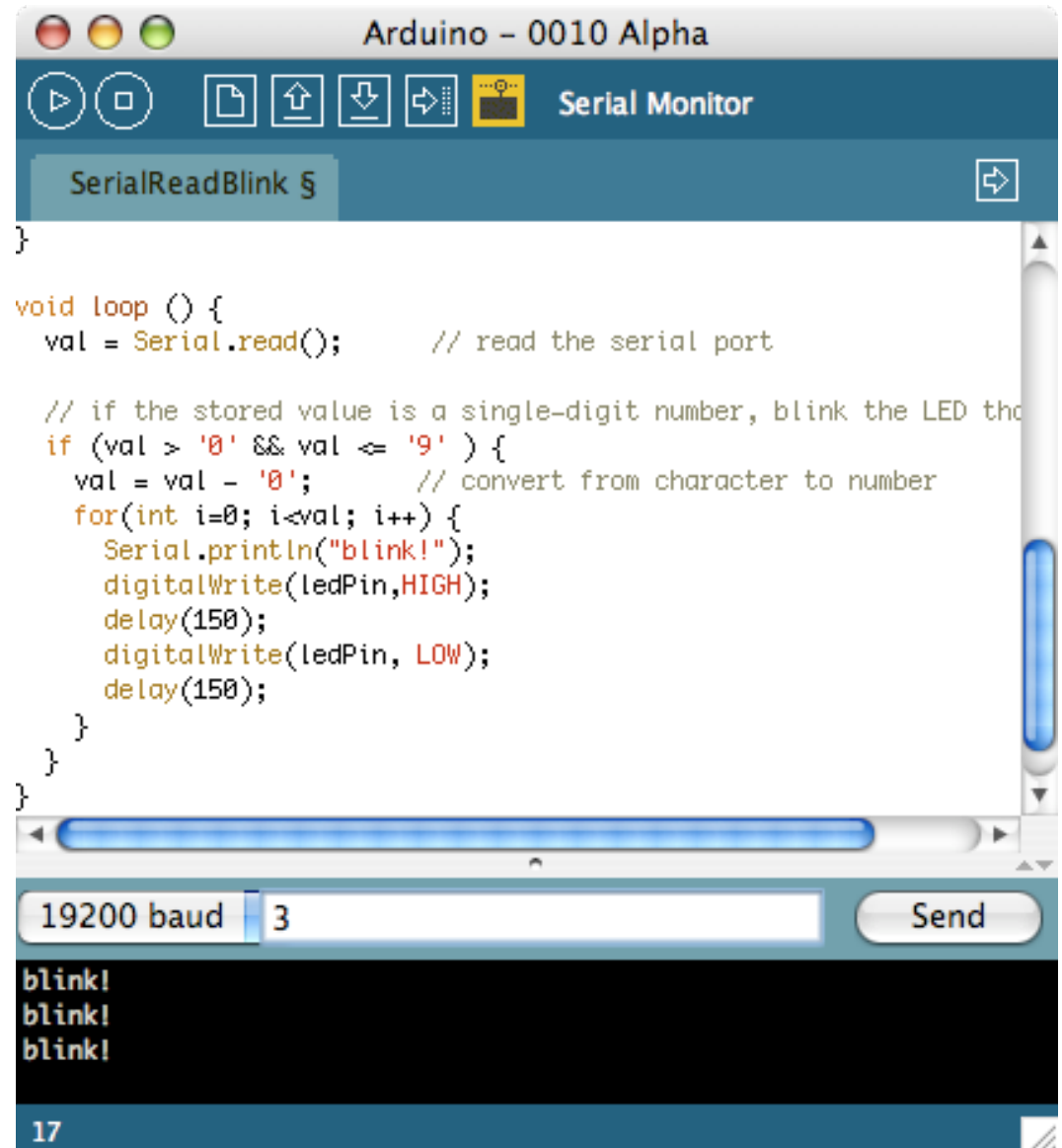
# Controlling Arduino, Again

"SerialReadBlink"

Type a number 1-9  
and LED blinks that  
many times

Converts typed ASCII value  
into usable number

Most control issues are  
data conversion issues



The screenshot shows the Arduino IDE Serial Monitor window for a sketch named "SerialReadBlink §". The code in the loop function reads a character from the serial port, checks if it's a digit (0-9), and then blinks the LED a number of times corresponding to the digit. The output in the Serial Monitor shows "blink!" being printed three times, indicating that the number 3 was typed into the serial port.

```
Arduino - 0010 Alpha  
Serial Monitor  
SerialReadBlink §  
}  
  
void loop () {  
  val = Serial.read();    // read the serial port  
  
  // if the stored value is a single-digit number, blink the LED the  
  if (val > '0' && val <= '9') {  
    val = val - '0';      // convert from character to number  
    for(int i=0; i<val; i++) {  
      Serial.println("blink!");  
      digitalWrite(ledPin,HIGH);  
      delay(150);  
      digitalWrite(ledPin, LOW);  
      delay(150);  
    }  
  }  
}
```

19200 baud 3 Send  
blink!  
blink!  
blink!  
17

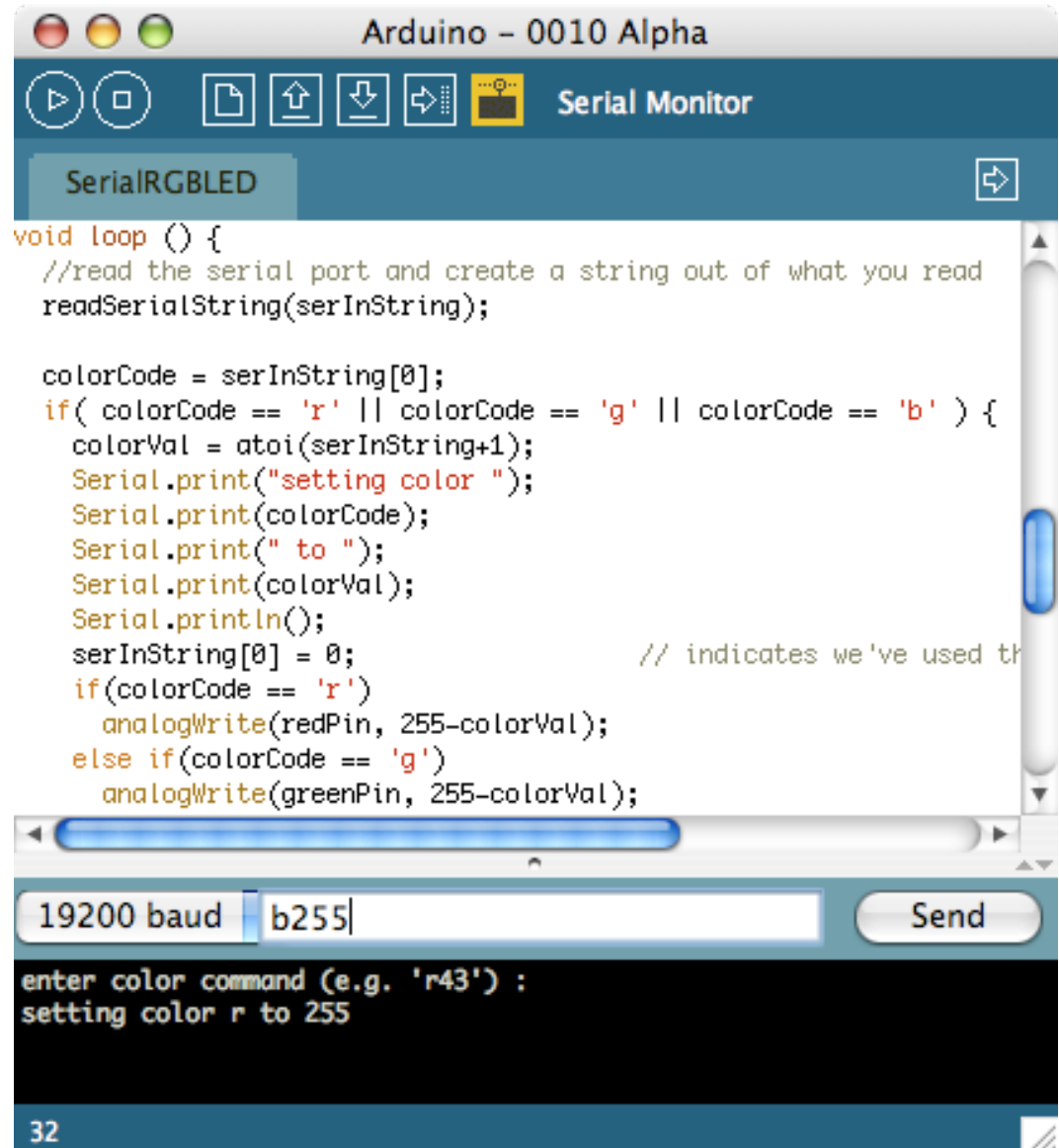
# Serial-controlled RGB

“SerialRGBLED”

Send color commands  
to Arduino

e.g. “r200”, “g50”, “b0”

Sketch parses what you  
type, changes LEDs



The screenshot shows the Arduino IDE Serial Monitor window for a sketch named "SerialRGBLED". The window title is "Arduino - 0010 Alpha". The code in the sketch is as follows:

```
void loop () {  
  //read the serial port and create a string out of what you read  
  readSerialString(serInString);  
  
  colorCode = serInString[0];  
  if( colorCode == 'r' || colorCode == 'g' || colorCode == 'b' ) {  
    colorVal = atoi(serInString+1);  
    Serial.print("setting color ");  
    Serial.print(colorCode);  
    Serial.print(" to ");  
    Serial.print(colorVal);  
    Serial.println();  
    serInString[0] = 0; // indicates we've used the character  
    if(colorCode == 'r')  
      analogWrite(redPin, 255-colorVal);  
    else if(colorCode == 'g')  
      analogWrite(greenPin, 255-colorVal);  
  }  
}
```

The Serial Monitor shows the following output:

```
19200 baud | b255| Send  
enter color command (e.g. 'r43') :  
setting color r to 255
```

The page number 32 is visible in the bottom left corner of the IDE window.



# Reading Serial Strings

- The function “Serial.available()” makes reading strings easier
- Can use it to read all available serial data from computer
- The “readSerialString()” function at right takes a character string and sticks available serial data into it

```
//read a string from the serial and store it in an array
//you must supply the array variable
void readSerialString (char *strArray) {
  int i = 0;
  if(!Serial.available()) {
    return;
  }
  while (Serial.available()) {
    strArray[i] = Serial.read();
    i++;
  }
  strArray[i] = 0; // indicate end of read string
}
```

# Play a Melody

“SoundSerial”

Play the Speaker with  
the Serial Monitor

Type multiple letters  
from “cdefgabC” to  
make melodies



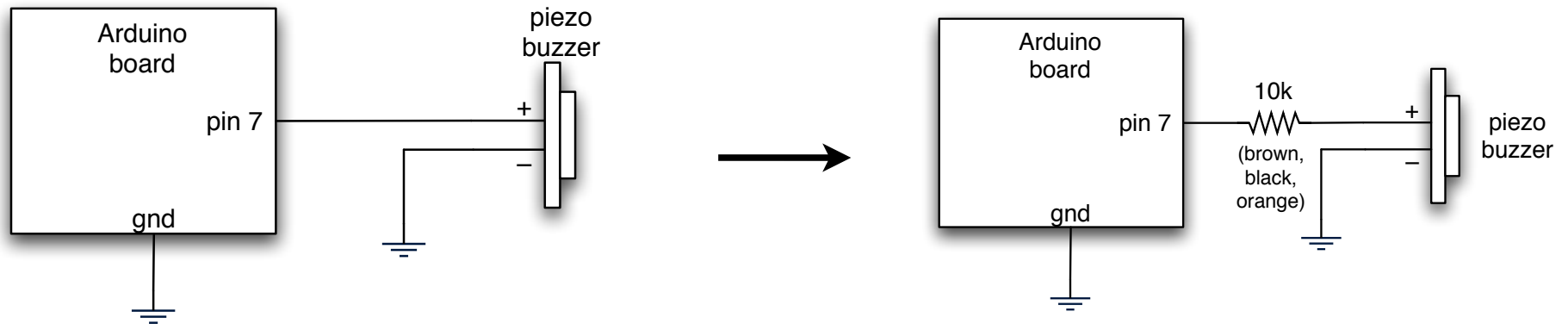
The screenshot shows the Arduino IDE Serial Monitor window titled "Arduino - 0010 Alpha". The window contains a code editor with the following C++ code:

```
void loop() {  
  digitalWrite(speakerPin, LOW);  
  serByte = Serial.read();  
  if (serByte != -1) {  
    Serial.print(serByte, BYTE);  
    ledState = !ledState; // flip the LED state  
    digitalWrite(ledPin, ledState); // write to LED  
  }  
  for (count=0; count<=8; count++) { // look for the note  
    if (names[count] == serByte) { // ahh, found it  
      for( int i=0; i<50; i++ ) { // play it for 50 cycles  
        digitalWrite(speakerPin, HIGH);  
        delayMicroseconds(tones[count]);  
        digitalWrite(speakerPin, LOW);  
        delayMicroseconds(tones[count]);  
      }  
    }  
  }  
}
```

Below the code editor, the Serial Monitor shows a baud rate of 19200 and a "Send" button. The output area displays the text "ready" followed by "aafbbegbdfabcdefgab". The page number "31" is visible in the bottom left corner of the IDE window.

# Making it Quieter

Easiest way: add a resistor

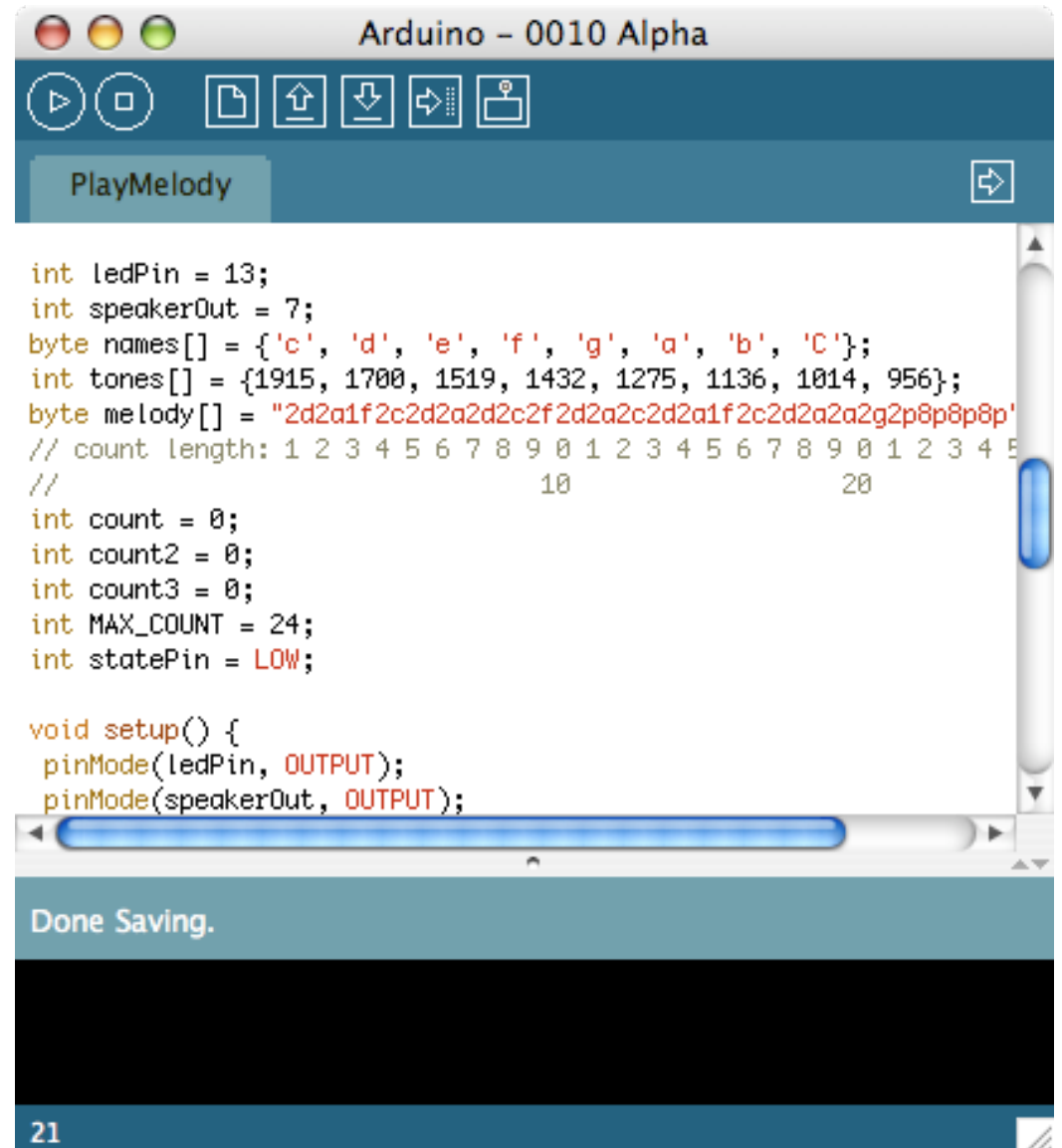


# Play a Stored Melody

“PlayMelody”

Plays a melody stored  
in the Arduino

Could be battery-powered, play  
melody on button trigger, control  
playback speed with photocell, etc.



```
Arduino - 0010 Alpha
PlayMelody

int ledPin = 13;
int speakerOut = 7;
byte names[] = {'c', 'd', 'e', 'f', 'g', 'a', 'b', 'C'};
int tones[] = {1915, 1700, 1519, 1432, 1275, 1136, 1014, 956};
byte melody[] = "2d2a1f2c2d2a2d2c2f2d2a2c2d2a1f2c2d2a2a2g2p8p8p'
// count length: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5
//                               10                20
int count = 0;
int count2 = 0;
int count3 = 0;
int MAX_COUNT = 24;
int statePin = LOW;

void setup() {
  pinMode(ledPin, OUTPUT);
  pinMode(speakerOut, OUTPUT);
}
```

Done Saving.

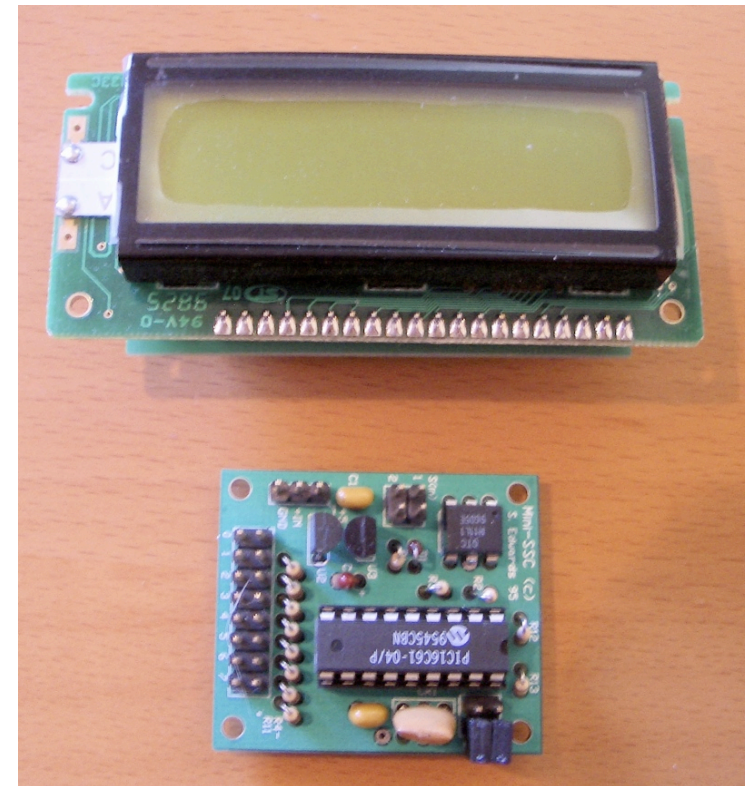
21

# Other Serial Devices



to Wi-Fi

to Ethernet



to graphic LCD

to 8-servo controller

# Serial Examples



to Roomba



# Going Further

- Can hook up multiple speakers for polyphonic sound
- Can play waves other than just square waves using PWM techniques
- Can also be used as input devices (we'll cover that later)



# Going Further

- Serial communications
  - Not just for computer-to-Arduino communications
  - Many other devices speak serial
  - Older keyboards & mice speak are serial (good for sensors!)
  - Interface boards (graphic LCDs, servo drivers, RFID readers, Ethernet, Wi-Fi)

# Going Further

- RGB LEDS
  - You can pretty easily replicate the Ambient Orb (\$150) functionality
  - Make a status display for your computer
  - Computer-controlled accent lighting (a wash of color against the walls)



# END Class 2

<http://duksta.org/electronics/arduinooclass>

John Duksta

[john@duksta.org](mailto:john@duksta.org)

# Giving Credit

This courseware is a mashup of Tod E. Kurt's Bionic Arduino course, taught at Machine Project in LA and Lutz Hamel's Intro to Arduino course taught here at AS220