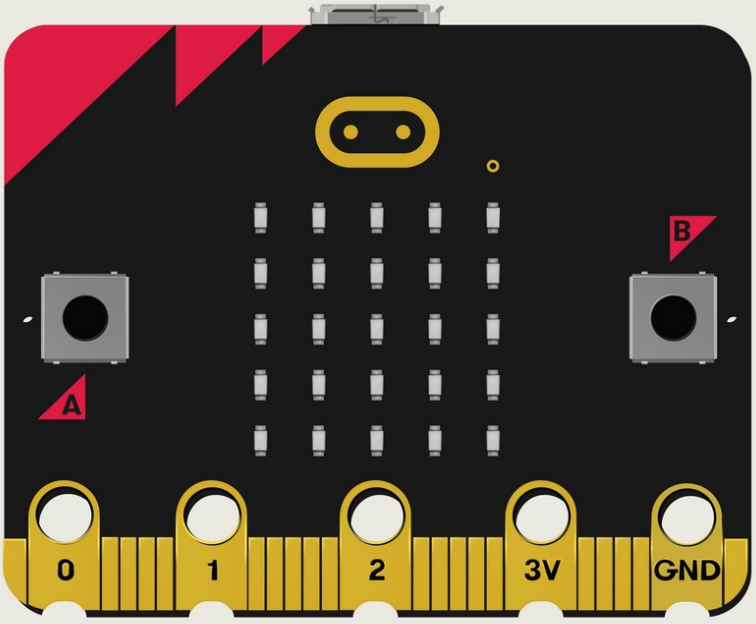
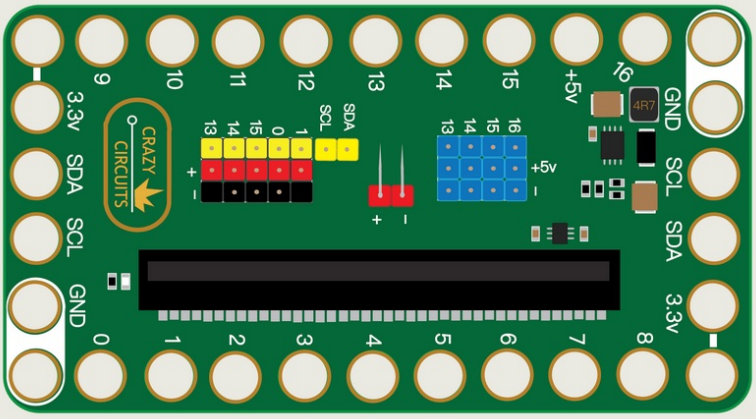
CH10-B - Press Picture

Use the two built-in buttons found on the micro:bit

Written By: Pete Prodoehl





© 2025

INTRODUCTION

Use the two built-in buttons found on the micro:bit

Take advantage of the built-in buttons found on the front of every micro:bit board.

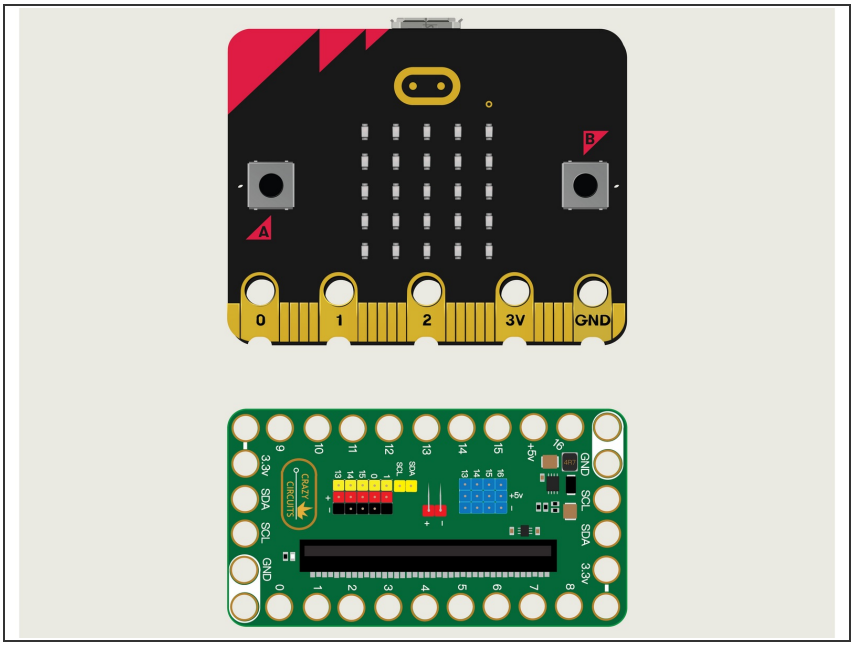
TOOLS:

- Computer (1)

PARTS:

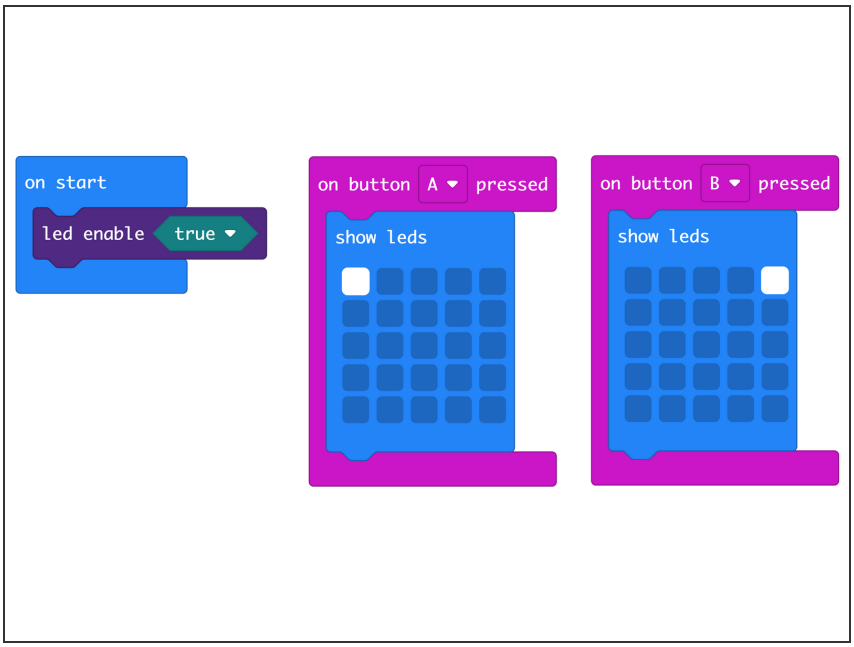
- Crazy Circuits Bit Board (1)
- micro:bit (1)

Step 1 — Prepare the micro:bit



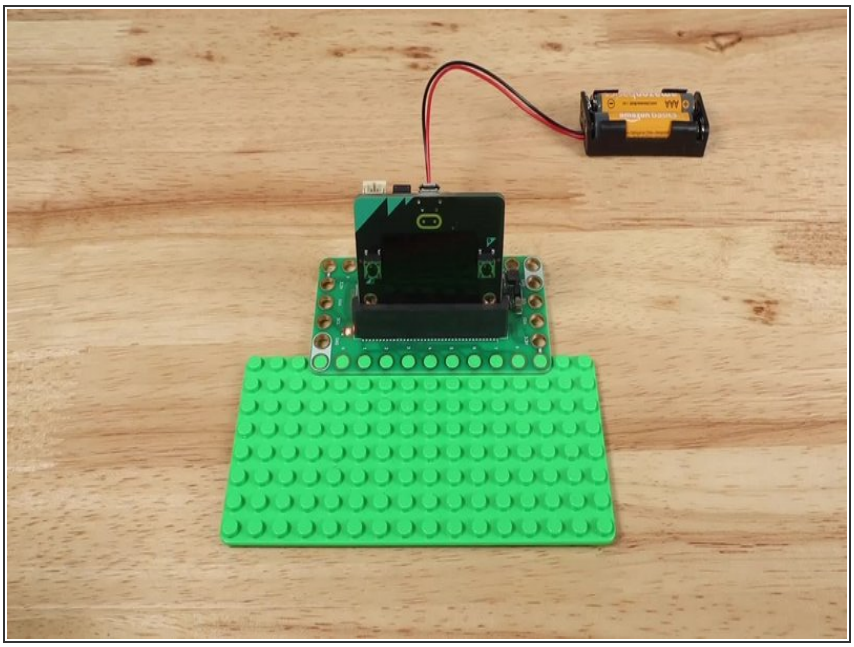
- For this guide we won't need Maker Tape or any components. We're just going to put the micro:bit into the Bit Board.
- We're only going to connect a USB cable and use the built-in A & B buttons on the front of the micro:bit
- We'll use the LED Matrix found on the front of the micro:bit as well, to react to our button presses.

Step 2 — Load the Code



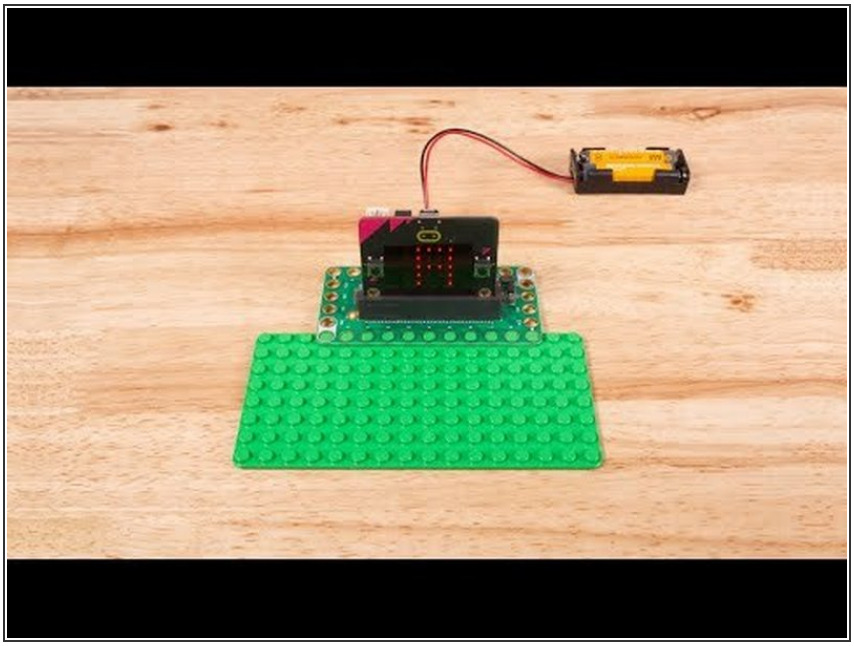
- If you've never used a micro:bit before you'll want to check out this guide: Bit Board V2 Setup and Use
- We're going to load the following code for our **Press Picture** program: https://makecode.microbit.org/_MwfVf3J0j...
- Notice this code does not have a forever loop! Instead it uses **event handlers** to react to specific input, in this case, pressing a button.
- Even though we're just turning on a single pixel at a time we'll still call this a **Picture** because we are using the show leds function and can draw an image on the entire matrix if we want to.

Step 3 — Test it Out!



- Once the code is loaded it should start running immediately.
- ⓘ You can power the micro:bit via the USB cable you used to load the code or you can use a battery pack plugged into the Bit Board.
- Press the **A Button**, then press the **B Button**. You'll get one LED in the matrix to light up with each button press.
- Try pressing the buttons rapidly, alternating between **A** and **B**. What happens?
- The micro:bit may be slow to switch between the two LEDs since we're using the show leds function, and we've learned that it adds a slight delay when it runs.

Step 4 — Follow Along



- Follow along with our recorded Live Stream!

ⓘ You can watch the full video of us walking through this project, along with explaining and exploring the code: https://youtube.com/live/1WLUYItlSTY