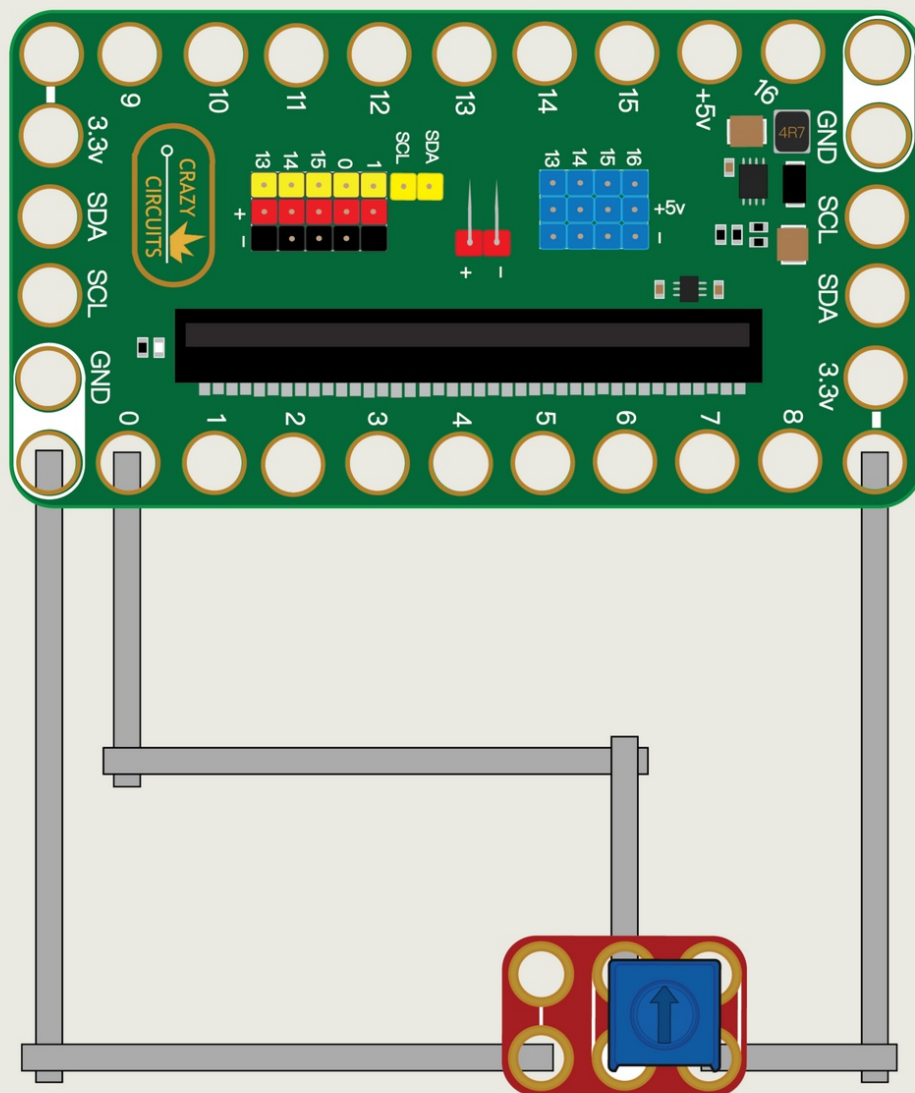




CH11-C - Potentiometer Pixel Move

Connect a potentiometer to a Bit Board and control the micro:bit's built-in LED matrix.

Written By: Pete Prodoehl



INTRODUCTION

Connect a potentiometer to a Bit Board and control the micro:bit's built-in LED matrix.

We'll explore how we can use a potentiometer as an input for the micro:bit



TOOLS:

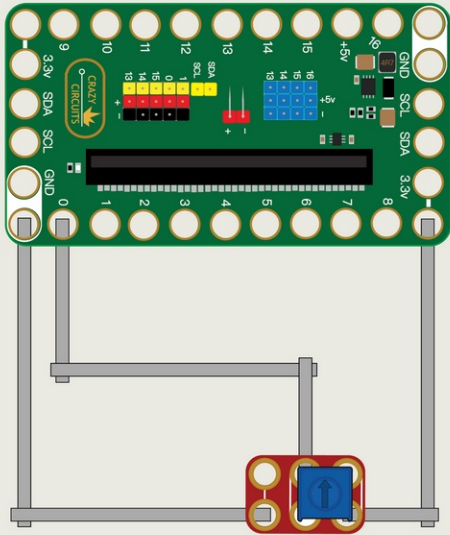
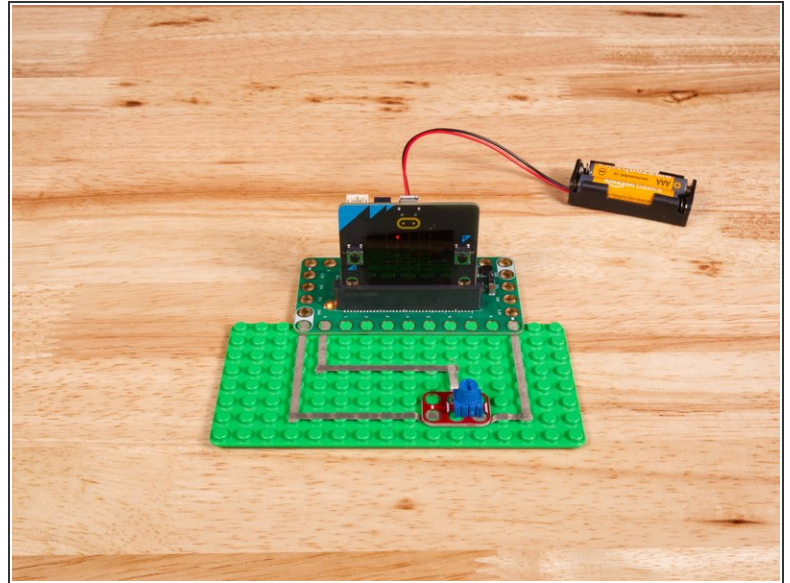
- [Computer](#) (1)
- [Scissors](#) (1)



PARTS:

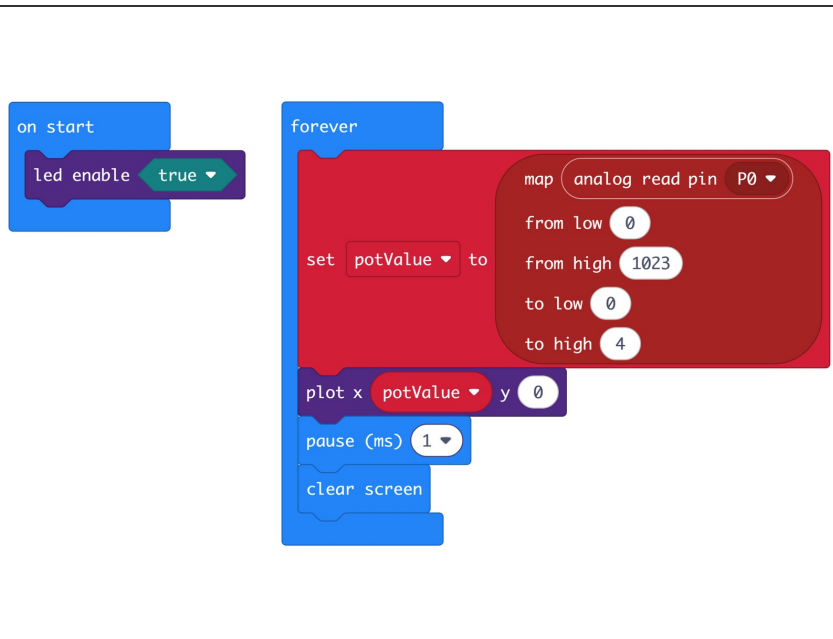
- [Crazy Circuits Bit Board](#) (1)
- [micro:bit](#) (1)
- [Maker Tape](#) (1)
1/8" Wide
- [Crazy Circuits Potentiometer Chip](#) (1)

Step 1 — Connect the Potentiometer



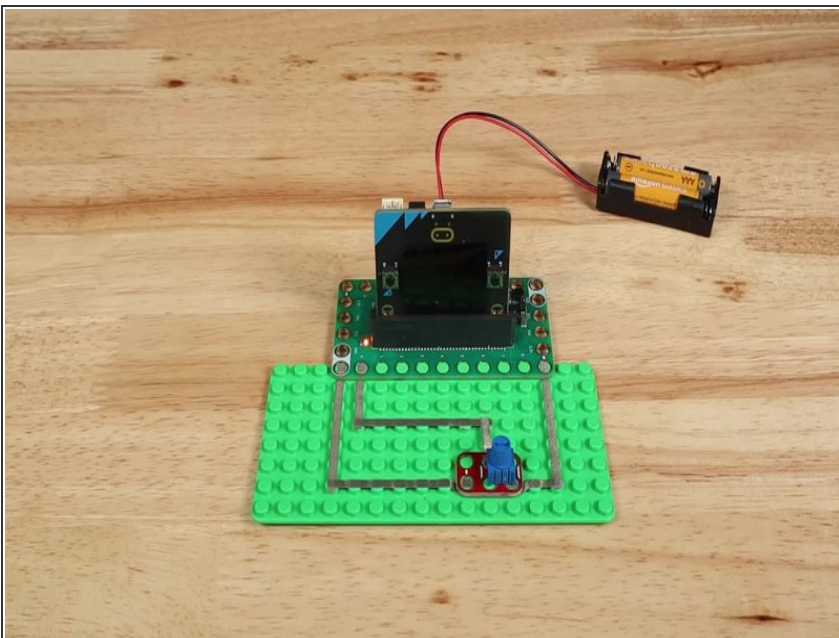
- We'll use **Maker Tape** to connect the Potentiometer to the Bit Board on a LEGO baseplate.
- We'll need to connect one side of the Potentiometer to **Ground** (GND) and the other side to **3.3v**
- We will then connect the center of the Potentiometer to **Pin 0**. (Note that **Pin 0** is an **analog** pin, which we'll need for the Potentiometer.)
 - The other analog pins are **1, 2, 3, 4, and 10**. See this chart for a pinout diagram:
<https://makecode.microbit.org/device/pin...>
- ☑ You'll notice the **Ground** on the Bit Board is color coded **White**.
- The **3.3v** hole on the Bit Board is labeled and is actually two holes right next to each other on the Bit Board. (There is a small line showing the connection between them.)

Step 2 — Load the Code



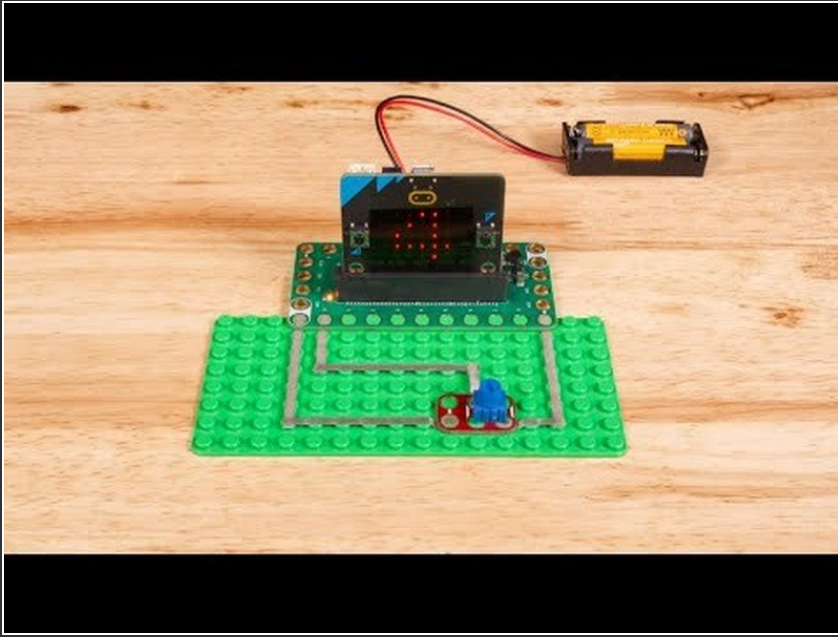
- If you've never used a micro:bit before you'll want to check out this guide: [Bit Board V2 Setup and Use](#)
- We're going to load the following code for our **Potentiometer Pixel Move** program: https://makecode.microbit.org/_JkFUA4Hgv...
- This code will light up a single pixel of the LED matrix and move it left and right to match the movement of the Potentiometer.

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.
- Turn the small blue knob on the Potentiometer and you should see a single pixel move left or right.
- ☑ We first plot the pixel, then wait 1 millisecond, and clear the screen to simulate the appearance of the pixel moving. It's not very smooth but we'll fix that in the next guide!

Step 4 — Follow Along



- Follow along with our recorded Live Stream!

- ① You can watch the full video of us walking through this project, along with explaining and exploring the code:
<https://youtube.com/live/jN7oP8TrU8k>