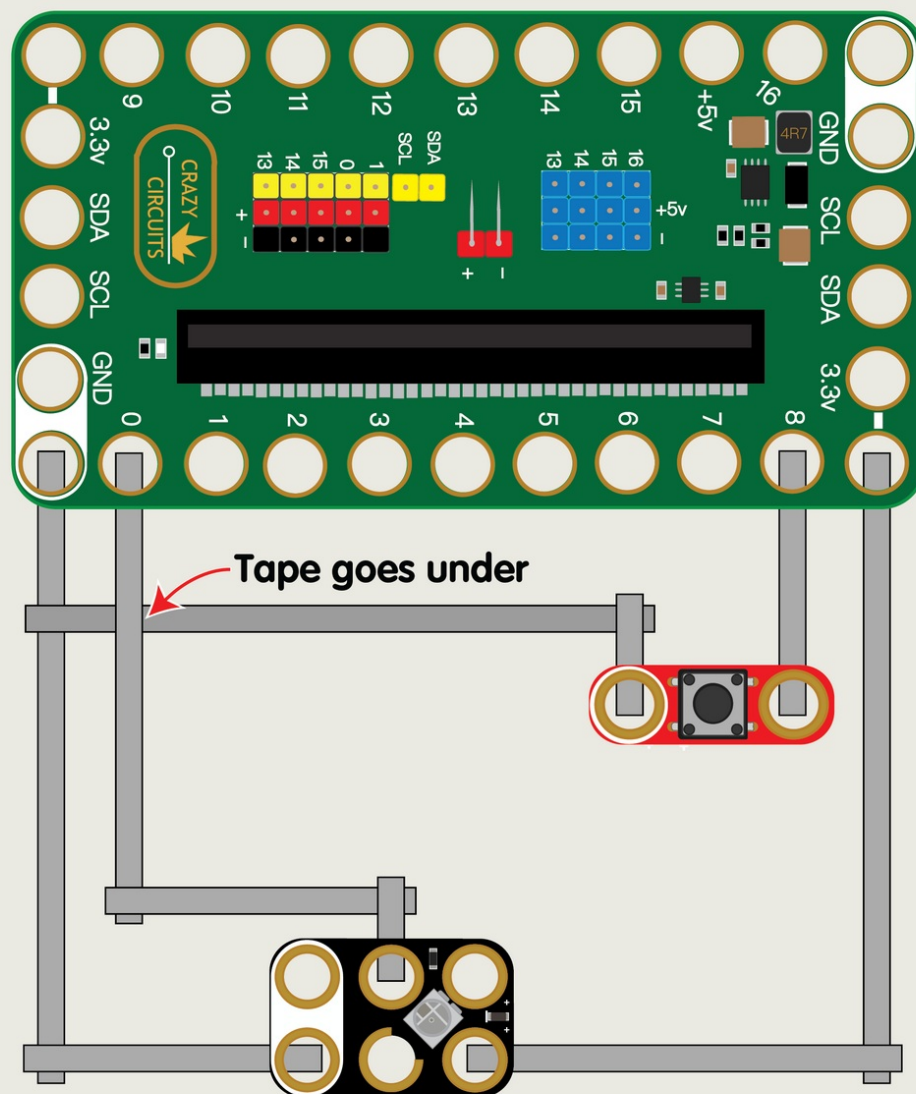




CH18-B - NeoPixel Button Better

Connect a Crazy Circuits NeoPixel and a Push Button to a Bit Board and control them with code.

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INTRODUCTION

Connect a Crazy Circuits NeoPixel and a Push Button to a Bit Board and control them with code.

We'll explore how to control an RGB LED (a "NeoPixel") using a push button.



TOOLS:

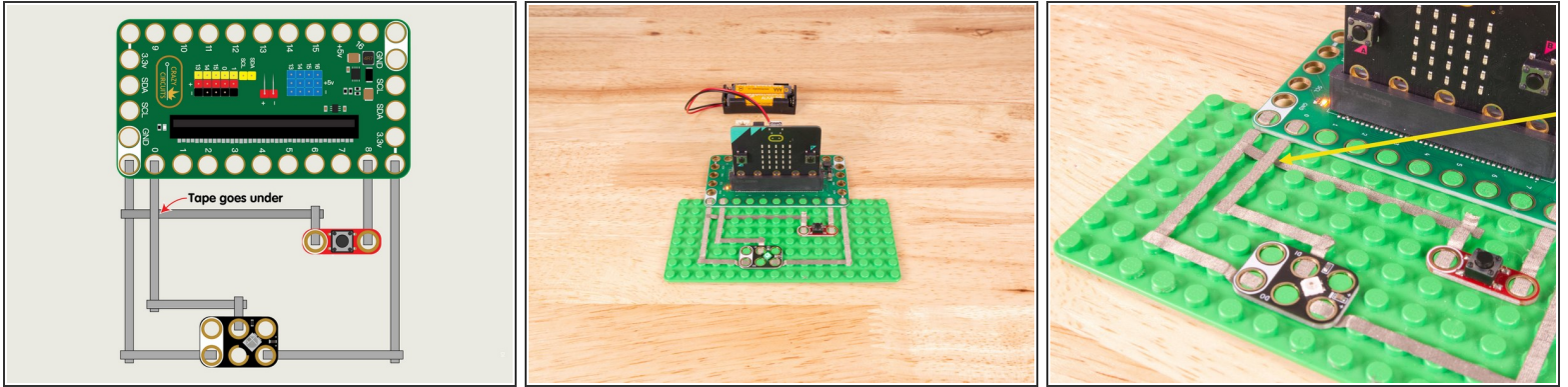
- [Computer](#) (1)
- [Scissors](#) (1)



PARTS:

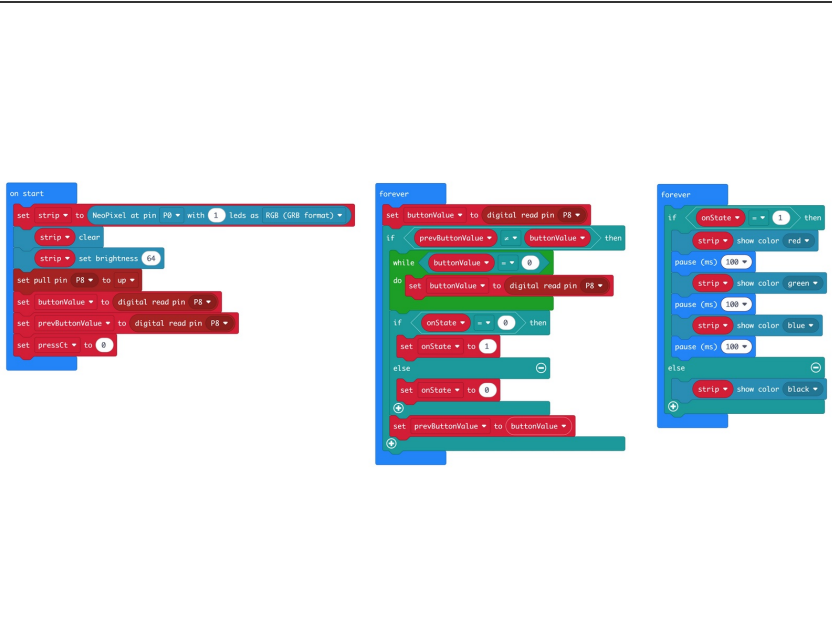
- [Crazy Circuits Bit Board](#) (1)
- [micro:bit](#) (1)
- [Maker Tape](#) (1)
1/8" Wide
- [NeoPixel Chip](#) (1)
- [Standard Pushbutton Chip](#) (1)

Step 1 — Connect the NeoPixel and Button



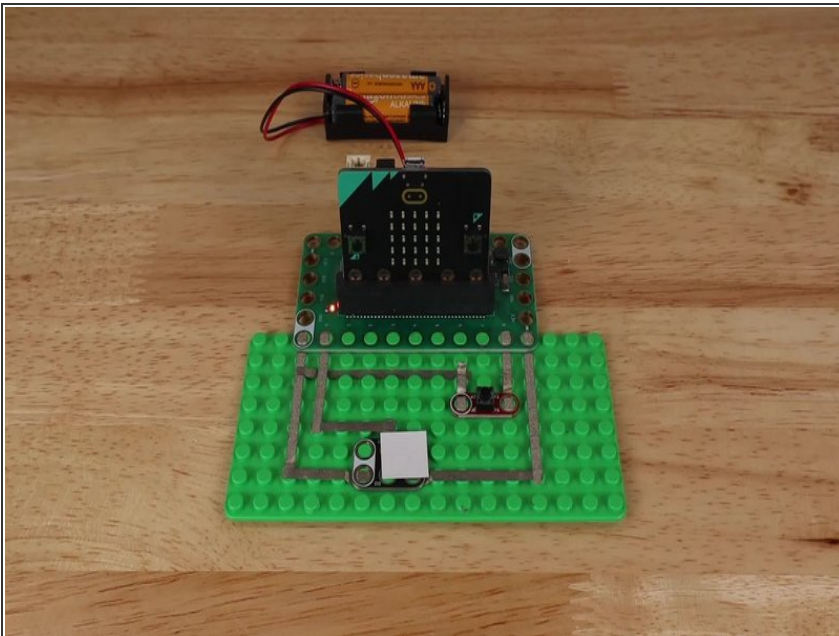
- We'll use **Maker Tape** to connect the NeoPixel and the Button to the Bit Board on a LEGO baseplate.
- We'll connect our **Button** to **Pin 8** and to **Ground** (GND) **BUT!** We're going to use the "gutter" between the LEGO baseplate studs so we can have **two layers of tape** that do not touch.
 - See the photos to show how this works. It's a technique we'll use for certain projects. It can also be used when you're tight on space for tape paths.
- Once the Button is connected we'll need to connect the NeoPixel. One side goes to **Ground** (GND) and the other side to **3.3v**
- We'll then connect the center pin labeled **DI** (for **Digital Input**) to **Pin 0**, which will control the NeoPixel. *Run the tape on top of the studs so it does not touch the tape connected to the Button.*
- ☑ You'll notice the **Ground** on the Bit Board (as well as the NeoPixel and other Crazy Circuits components we'll use) 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



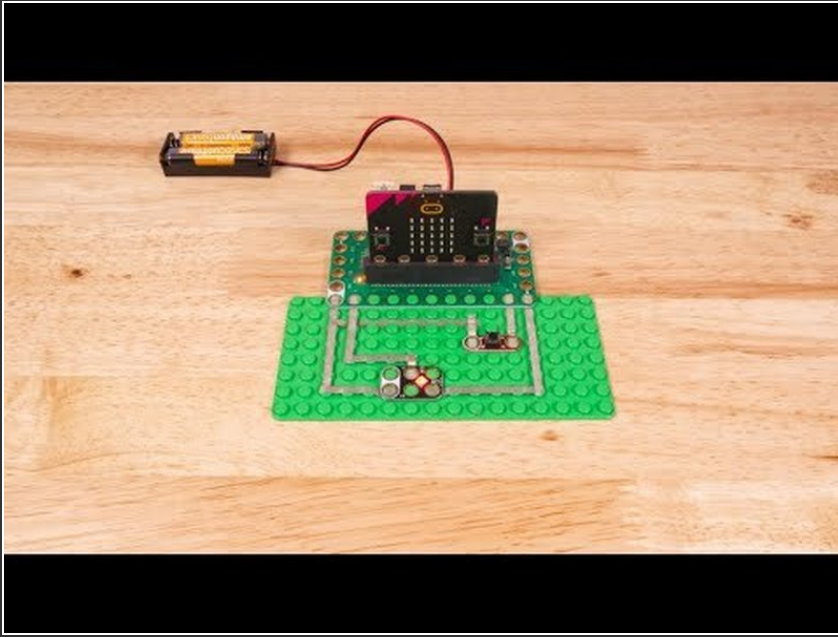
- If you've never used a micro:bit before you'll want to check out this guide: [Bit Board V2 Setup and Use](#)
- We're going to load the following code for our **NeoPixel Button Better** program: https://makecode.microbit.org/_VF76gvKWv...
- We'll use the Button to start a loop where the NeoPixel will cycle through the colors red, green, and blue repeatedly.

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 Button and the NeoPixel will start to cycle through colors. Press the Button again to stop cycling.
- ⚠ We've added a small piece of paper on top of the NeoPixel so you can see it better in video.

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/9q4F1wQKCTs>