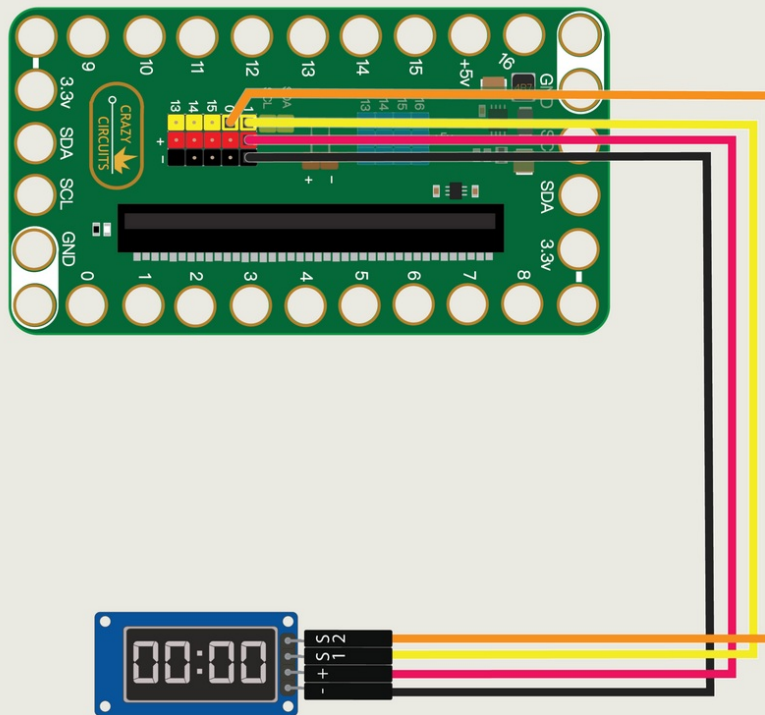




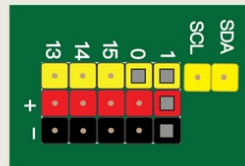
CH30-E - 7 Segment Intensity

Connect a 7 Segment Display to a Bit Board and control it with code.

Written By: Pete Prodoehl



7SEG	Bit Board
CLK	-> Pin 0 (S2)
DI0	-> Pin 1 (S1)
VCC	-> + (Positive) Pin
GND	-> - (Negative) Pin



INTRODUCTION

Connect a 7 Segment Display to a Bit Board and control it with code.

We'll explore code to control a 7 Segment Digital Display that can show numbers up to 9999.



TOOLS:

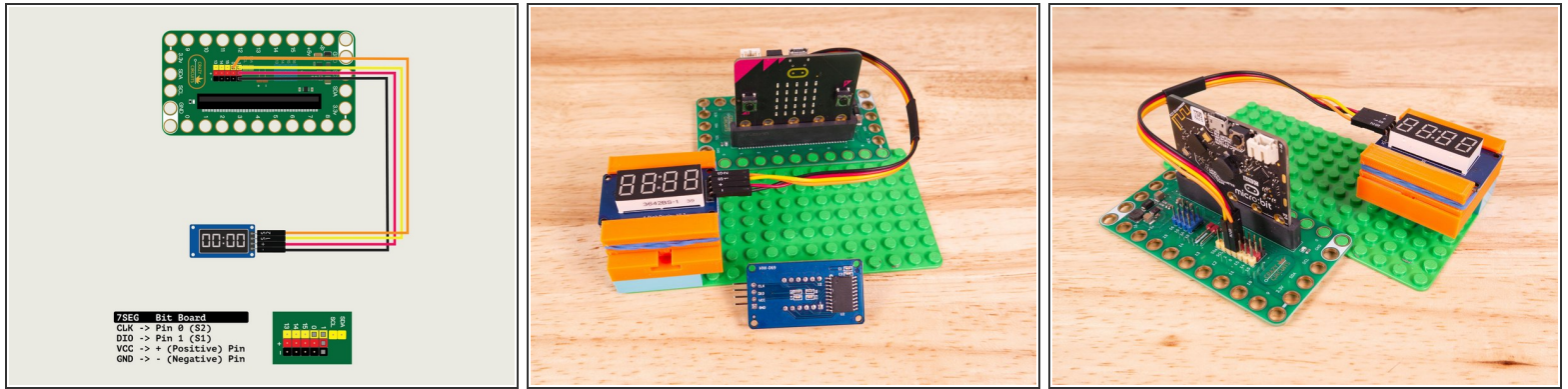
- [Computer](#) (1)



PARTS:

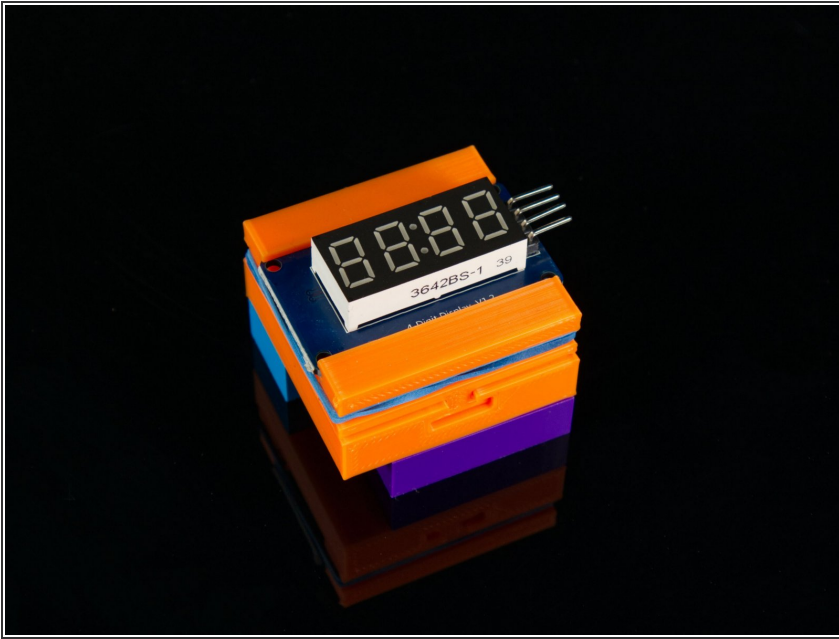
- [Crazy Circuits Bit Board](#) (1)
- [micro:bit](#) (1)
- [7 Segment Display](#) (1)
- [Crazy Circuits Ribbon Cable](#) (1)

Step 1 — Connect the 7 Segment Display



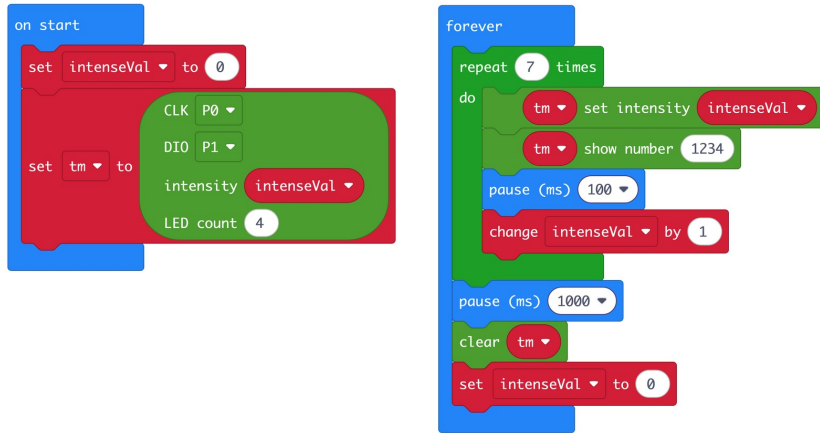
- We'll connect the **7 Segment Display** with a **Crazy Circuits Ribbon Cable** using all four wires.
 - Start by plugging the connector with the three wires in it (Black, Red, Yellow) into the **Pin 1** row of the Bit Board. (Make sure the Black wire is in - and the Yellow wire labeled **S1** is closest to the number **1** on the Bit Board.)
 - We can then plug the Orange wire labeled **S2** into **Pin 0** on the Bit Board.
 - Now we'll connect the other end of the Ribbon Cable to the **7 Segment Display**.
 - The pin labels are on the back of the 7 Segment Display PCB. From top to bottom it's **CLK**, **DIO**, **VCC**, **GND**.
 - **CLK** stands for **Clock** and **DIO** stands for **Data Input/Output**. **VCC** is the **Positive (+)** and **GND** is the **Ground (-)** or **Negative**.
 - **S2** (Orange) goes to **CLK**, **S1** (Yellow) goes to **DIO**, and then **+** (Positive) goes to **VCC** and **-** (Ground or Negative) goes to **GND**.
- ☑ Make sure every wire is connected in the correct place, or our display will not work!

Step 2 — Mounting the Display



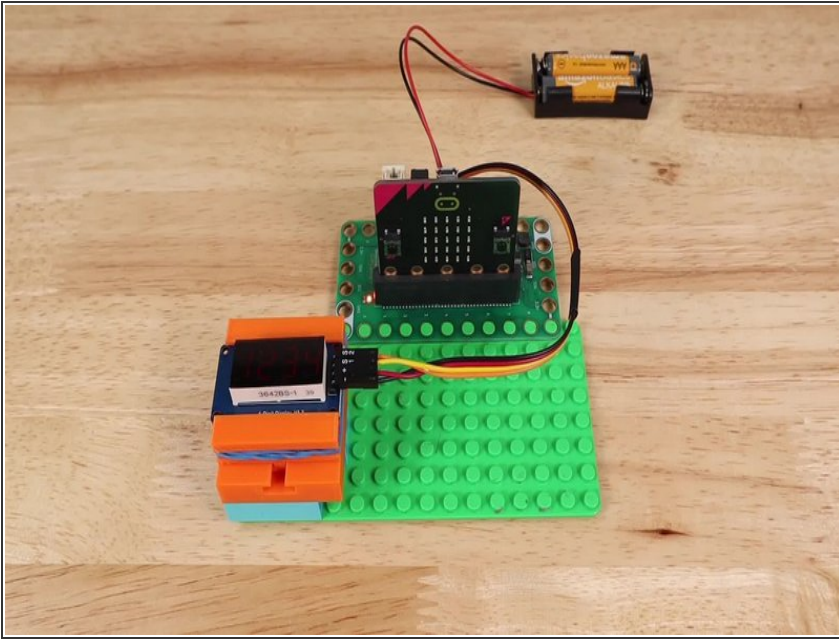
- We used a 3D printed holder we designed to hold the 7 Segment Display in place on the LEGO baseplate.
- You can find the guide for the holder here: [7 Segment Display Holder](#)
- Alternately you can use some LEGO bricks and a rubber band or tape to hold the display in place.

Step 3 — Load the Code



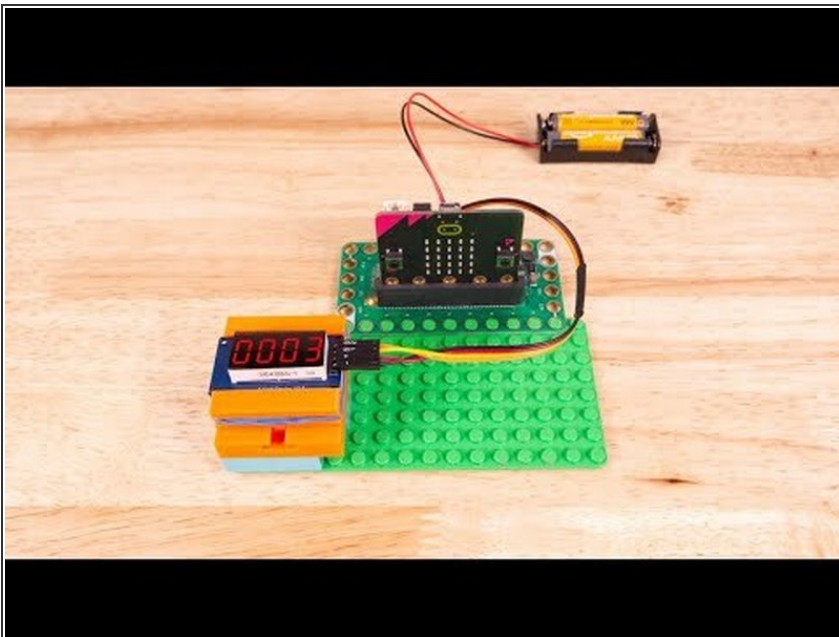
- If you've never used a micro:bit before you'll want to check out this guide: [Bit Board V2 Setup and Use](#)
- We're going to load the following code for our **7 Segment Intensity** program:
https://makecode.microbit.org/_bLzFwm8uf...
- In the on start block we'll set up our display using the pins we've connected. **CLK** to **Pin 0** and **DIO** to **Pin 1**.
- This time our on start block contains a variable called **intenseVal** which we'll use when setting up the 7 Segment Display. (Setting it to **0** initially.)
- In our forever loop we'll do a repeat loop 7 times and with each iteration we'll increase the intensity. This will have the effect of showing the numbers dimly, and then brightening them up.
- We'll then use clear to blank the screen before we repeat the process again.

Step 4 — Test it Out!



- Once the code is loaded it should start running immediately.
- ① 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.
- The display will start blank and then show **1234** dimly, and slowly increase the brightness.
- After **1234** is shown at full brightness it will then blank the display and repeat the process.

Step 5 — 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/DI-rLHZK86g>