Arduino Resources

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Where to Buy Arduinos and Accessories

If you don't mind waiting 2-4 weeks for delivery, you will find that the Asian suppliers on eBay have the lowest prices. Quality is fine and I have never had any problems with them. If you can't wait so long, choose "US Only" in the search options. Try searching for "Arduino starter kit" and you can find Arduino UNOs packaged with everything that you need to get started. Other good sources for parts are Amazon, Adafruit, and SparkFun .

Installing the IDE

The first thing you will want to do is install the Arduino IDE (Integrated Development Environment) on the computer where you will be creating your programs ("sketches"). You can download the IDE from https://www.arduino.cc/en/Main/Software . If you are running Windows, choose the "Windows Installer" option. This will automatically install the USB drivers you will need to communicate with your Arduino UNO. Once the IDE is installed don't forget to choose your board type and USB port from the Tools menu! (You may not be able to choose a port until you connect your UNO to the computer.)

Online Resources

https://www.arduino.cc/ I can't overstate how useful this, the official Arduino site is! Check out the Learning section and the Forums.

https://learn.adafruit.com/category/learn-arduino My favorite maker site! Besides selling parts, Adafruit offers useful lessons and interesting projects. They also design some useful accessories and modules that you cannot find anywhere else. The founder, Limor Fried (aka "Ladyada") holds amateur radio license AC2SN.

http://www.instructables.com/howto/arduino/ Another site with many interesting Arduino projects.

Paul Darlington, M0XPD, has a very interesting blog (Shack Nasties) where he documents his experiments with incorporating microcontrollers into amateur radio.

There are several Arduino programming cheat sheets floating around. The best I've found is this one.

Recommended Books

Programming Arduino: Getting Started With Sketches, by Simon Monk. Excellent for beginners.

Exploring Arduino: Tools and Techniques for Engineering Wizardry, by Jeremy Blum. Covers basics but also delves into more advanced topics. Highly recommended! He complements the book with an excellent series of Arduino tutorials on YouTube.

Arduino for Ham Radio This book from the ARRL has many interesting projects, including the CW decoder I demonstrated at the October 2016 NKARC meeting.