

Arduino Boards and Model Railroads

J. Michael Dean, MD

Arduino Breakout Boards

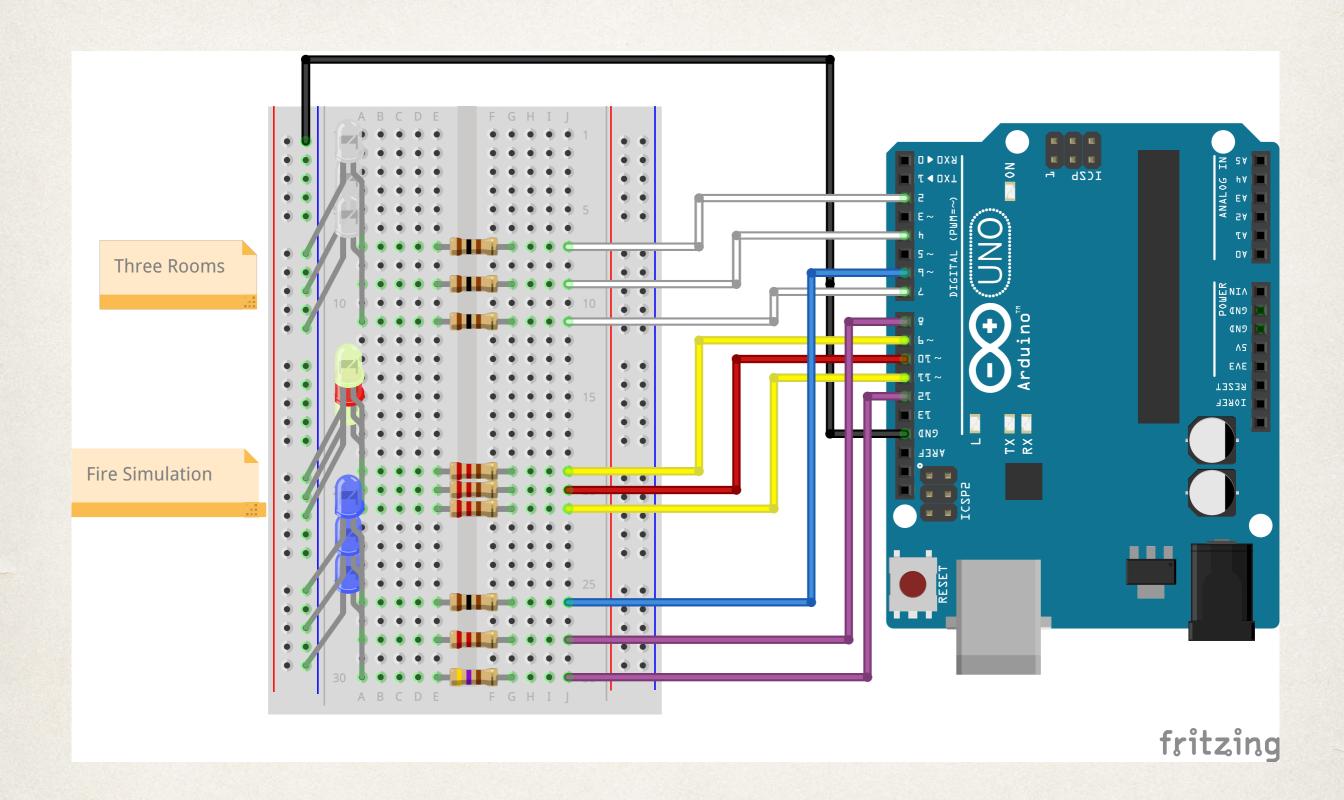
- * The microcontroller is a single chip. If you add a couple components, it will work.
- * Circuit is open source, so Chinese companies did not "steal" it, and generally any source is as good as the "genuine" board from Italy.
- Numerous footprints for these boards.

What is a microcontroller?

- * Each pin can be an input or an output
- * Think of the input as a voltmeter that can measure voltage, and if it is very low, then it is a digital zero, and if it is close to 5V, then it is a one.
- * Think of the output as a 5V battery that you turn on and off.
- We are only using pins as outputs today. The board controls whether there is a 5V battery on the LED, or not.

Review what you did

- * Blink sketch to LED on the board tests the board
- LED 3 blue blinks to show three at once
- Using PWM to fade and brighten blue LED
- Flickering to simulate fire
- Lighting multiple rooms in a structure



Uses for Arduino

- Control light emitting diodes (LEDs) today's topic!
- Control servo motors use to move turnouts, other animation
- Current detection and signaling systems
- Create DCC system on the cheap

My Audience Includes

- People who want to experiment with all kinds of circuits on a breadboard and devise new applications.
- People who want to figure out how to stick an Arduino under their baseboard or in a building to light up things
- People who came today out of curiosity, but frankly, when they go home, it will go on a shelf

My Goal

- * If you leave here with a working Arduino that can go on your layout, then I succeeded for most of you.
- If this works, then you may be motivated to go further.
- Hopefully nobody gets disappointed and gives up, unless you were just curious and don't care to use them.

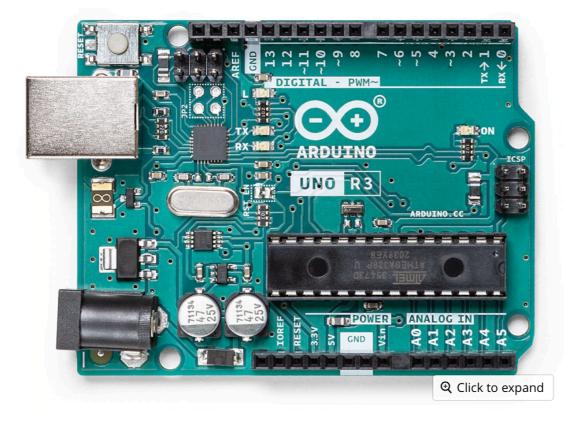


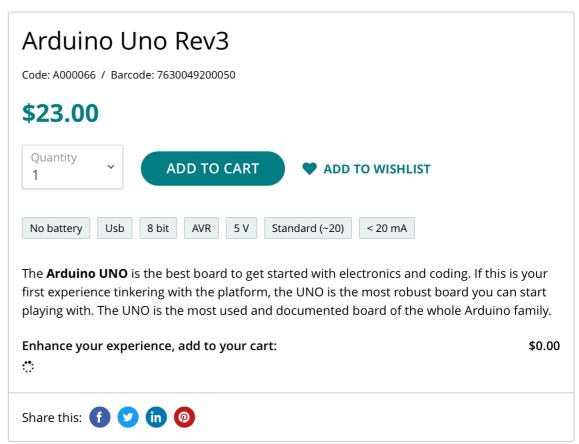
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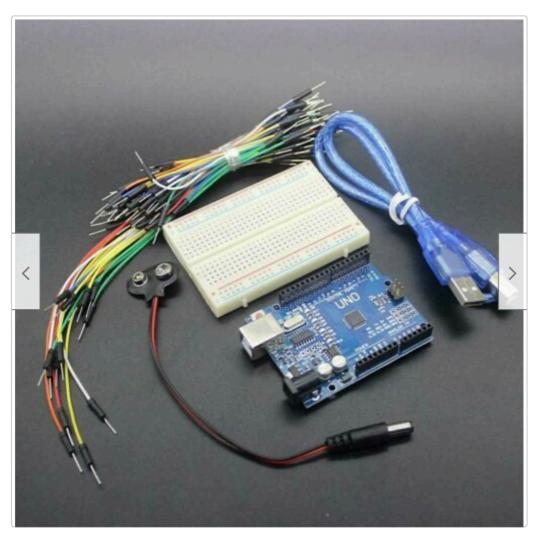
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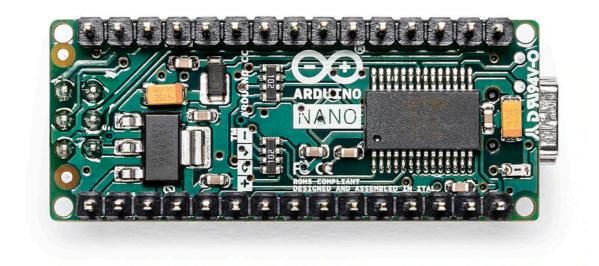
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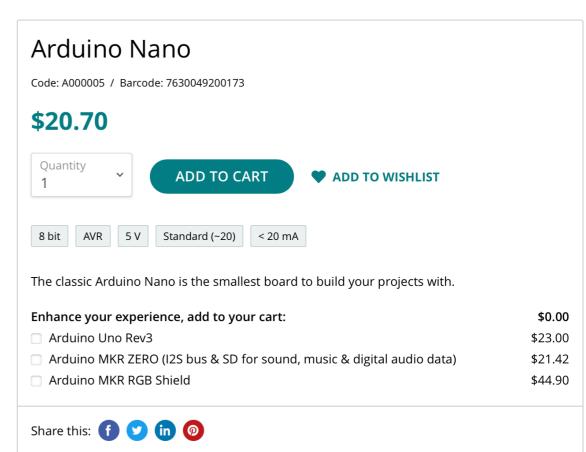














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Pro Mini Module Atmega168 5V 16M For Arduino Compatible Nano (WeiJie Chen)

\$ 1.45

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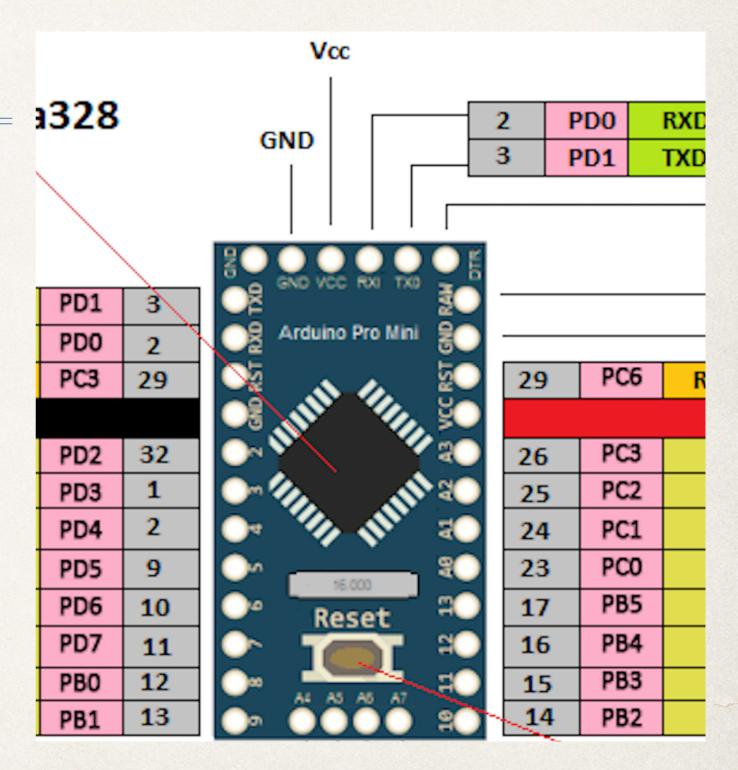
Ask

Arduino Pro Mini

- * Tiny board that can fit in a building, even N scale
- Essentially identical to the Uno you have used
- Does not have a USB port so we have to set up a cable to program it.

Programming

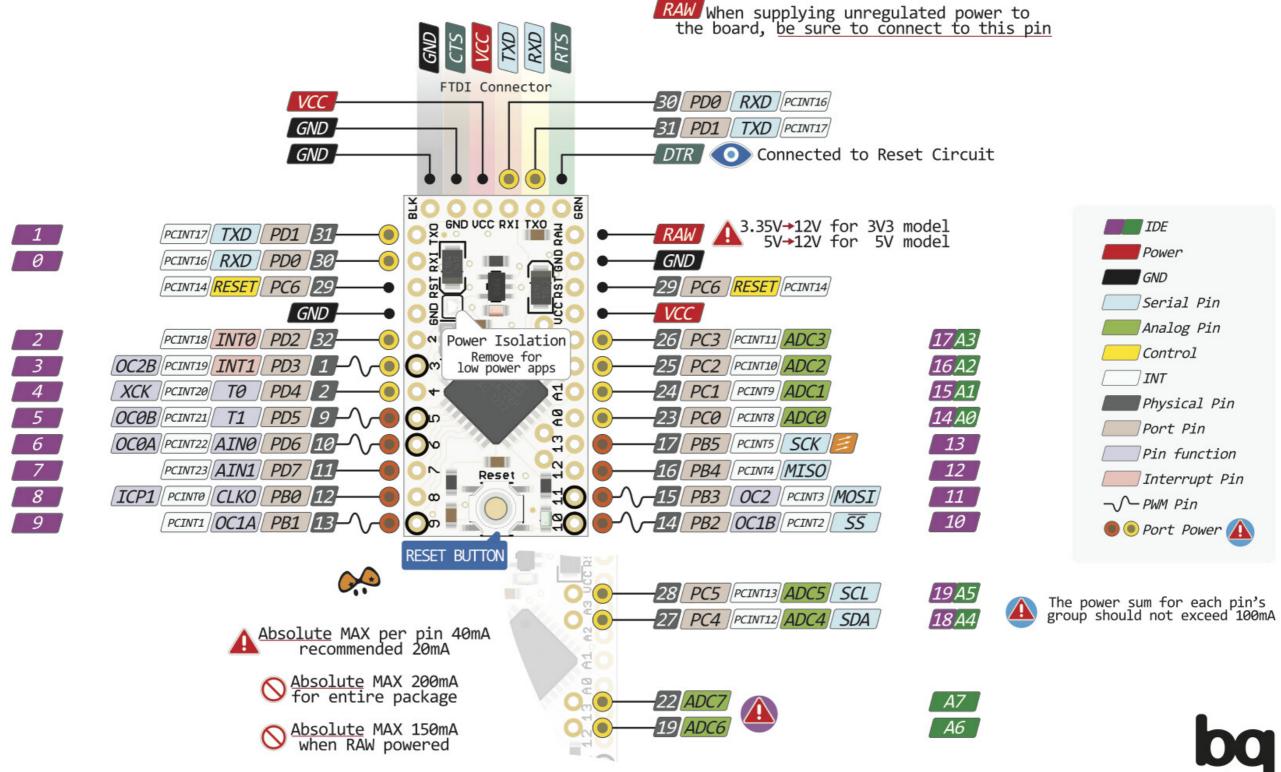
- Cable with red adaptor board
- Look at the red board to make sure you connect it correctly to Arduino
- GND to GND, and DTR to DTR

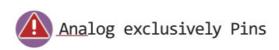


Brief LED Lesson

- White and blue LEDs drop 3 volts, and red and yellow LEDs drop 2 volts
- Arduino output is 5 volts, so we need a resistor to limit the remaining current to below 20 mA
- I used 100 Ohm for white, and 220 Ohm for yellow and red LEDs
- ❖ White will have 20 mA, and others will have 9 mA
- DON'T CONNECT THESE TO A 9VOLT BATTERY.. WHY?









What you have in front of you

- Arduino pro mini on a breadboard
- * Cable and adaptor for programming Arduino
- Three white, two yellow and one red LED with resistors already soldered in place
- The lead with the resistor in it is the NEGATIVE lead and needs to be connected to ground
- Additional Dupont connectors, LEDs and resistors

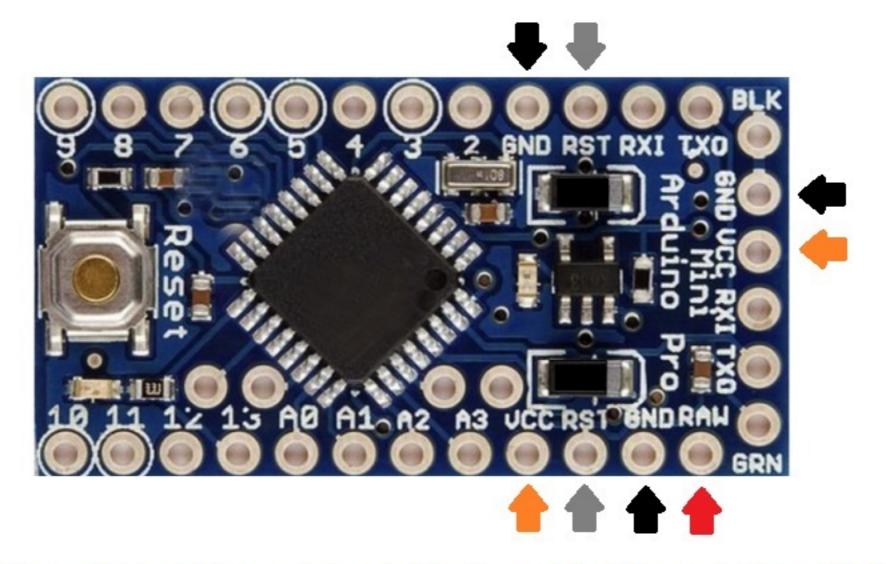
What we are going to do

- Connect to the computer with the cable and follow my instructions
- Demonstrate how to program the Pro Mini with the adaptor cable to blink the on board LED
- Program the Arduino with the combined sketch
- Add the LEDs to the breadboard and verify that the fire and room sketches are working
- Show you how to get rid of the breadboard

Couple Technical Details

- Your boards are 5 volt boards; there ARE 3.3 v Arduino boards. Be careful what you buy.
- * RAW can be 6V to 12V; VCC must be 5.0V or you will fry the board.
- * You can run out of ground connections to the Arduino if you don't use a breadboard.
- * Each output can only put out 40 mA and entire board should be kept below 200 mA.

Arduino Pro Mini Power Pins



- ➡ Vcc Pins: Regulated Voltage (either 5V or 3.3V)
- GND Pins: Ground (0V)
- RAW Pin: Raw Voltage (Ranges from 5V to 12V)
- RST Pins: Reset Pins (LOW signal will reset Mini)

Two Kinds of Boards

- I ran out of the old boards so some of you have newer boards
- ATMega168 versus ATMega328 the adaptor connections are reversed!
- * Everything else is the same. But you have to set the IDE correctly to communicate.
- I have attached all the adaptors correctly for your board.
- Remember, DTR to DTR, and GND to GND.
- * LOOK AT YOUR BOARDS when you buy them. They vary on the programming edge of the board in the order. You may have to flip your adaptor.

If we had a lot of people....

- Two of the boards need to have their reset button pushed during upload of software.
- I don't know why they came in the same box of 50 units from China. But they still work.
- * Your board will be labeled if this is true.

What we are NOT going to do.

- * The sketches are written in the IDE that I have been demonstrating and will demonstrate. You can download this on your computer.
- Sketches are computer programs written in C++, but I am not teaching programming.
- * I have written your programs. The code is in your handout.
- * The Arduino IDE has tons of examples if you aren't a programmer, just copy the examples.

What is the combined sketch?

- I have combined the fire sketch and the three light room sketch so that they both run at the same time.
- You can hook up three white LEDs and stick in a building, or you can use the yellow and red LEDs and simulate fire, OR you can do both.
- No need to reprogram the board if you want to do one or both of these things on your layout.

