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Getting started in the world of Arduino by Ewan Fisher

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For devoted technology addicts or casual hobbyists, an Arduino starter kit offers all of the tools you need to start using its programmable interface.

Arduino multi-controllers, the hardware and software designed for them, and the whole concept of the open-source based platform originated in Italy in 2005.

The brainchild of Massimo Banzi and David Cuartielles, an Arduino board is a member of the Programmable Interface Controller (PIC) family.

Essentially, the Arduino platform uses intelligent hardware and software to perform a variety of functions, from flashing a single LED light to more complicated tasks such as telling you when your drink isnâ€™t set down on a coaster.

The beauty of Arduino is its flexibility. Youâ€™re able to programme numerous different functions into the controller and sensors will pick up physical information that even allows communication with other devices.

Find the right kit!

An Arduino starter kit is a relatively inexpensive set of equipment that allows you to begin your journey into a world of coding and multi-functional experimentation.

The complete kit will include a board, different coloured LEDs and all the capacitors and resistors youâ€™ll need to get going.

Once assembled, you can then begin to download open-source software and play around until you turn your controller into an ingenious time-saving solution, perhaps one that is even capable of reminding you of important tasks that need completing such as watering a plant. Or, you could simply build a collection of flashing lights, itâ€™s up to you.

Modules, or â€˜shieldsâ€™ compatible with the device can then be added to enhance functionality and you be able to find plenty of programmes, otherwise known as â€˜sketchesâ€™, on the various web pages dedicated to the technology.

The software you need runs in Java and is compatible with Mac OS X, Windows and Linux. There will be example â€˜sketchesâ€™ included however for those familiar with programming in the Wiring language, these may not be necessary. From then on, you just need to hook up your Arduino board to your computer through the USB port and the code compiled will be loaded and programmes ready to run.

Just think of Arduino as the smart small computer you can use to receive and transmit information; it also includes the ability to communicate with other devices. In addition, with a starter kit you get the self-satisfaction of building a useful tool and endless hours of creative fun afterwards.

With cheap and easy to run software, boosted by a large online community, even beginners can find and download a multitude of programmes for the board.

In essence, an Arduino starter kit offers a unique platform to develop your own PIC from scratch and

explore new facets of robotic technology.

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Proto-PIC is the best option for electronics enthusiasts when it comes to purchasing electronic components like a Arduino Starter Kit for creating their home electronics. Their range is cost-effective.

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