

New to Electronics F.A.Q.

Revision 1.0

So you have suddenly been bit by the urge to push electrons across a semiconductor. New to electronics and just starting out, and not sure how to get started? Well this may be a good starting point :)

Note: All links and suggestions are a compilation of post by many forum members. A list of credits is at the end of this document.

Q? I don't know anything about electronics, where should I start looking?

A: The internet is a massive compendium of information pertaining to electronics. This entire section could take up pages and pages to list all the resources available on line, but just to get you going, here are a few links to some electronic websites.

<http://www.electronicsteacher.com/tutorial/>

<http://www.hobbyprojects.com/tutorial.html>

<http://www.allaboutcircuits.com/>

<http://science-ebooks.com/electronic...lectronics.htm>

http://www.williamson-labs.com/480_555.htm

http://www.williamson-labs.com/480_xtor.htm

<http://www.discovercircuits.com/reso...tutorials.html>

http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/Bill_Bowden/

<http://www.play-hookey.com/>

Q? Those links were useful, but I want to get a few books too. Do you have any suggestions?

A: Follow this link, how much time do you have to spare?

<http://www.electro-tech-online.com/electronic-books/>

Q? Okay, I now know what a resistor and cap is, but what is that circle thing with an arrow in it?

Schematic symbols:

<http://www.kpsec.freeuk.com/symbol.htm>

Q? Hey this looks fun, I am ready to get started, but where do I get all those parts?

A: You're just full of questions aren't you? There are many places for obtaining parts to fill up your junk box. I will try to list a few, I am sure this list will grow over time.

Digi-Key:

Official website

www.digikey.com/

Digi-Key UK

<http://uk.digikey.com/>

Digi-Key Canada

<http://ca.digikey.com/>

Digi-Key Denmark

<http://de.digikey.com/>

Digi-Key International (This one contains all above links amongst Digi-Key locations.

<http://dkc1.digikey.com/US/MKT/International.html>

Farnell:

<http://www.farnell.com/>

RS Electronics:

<http://www.rselectronics.com/>

Newark:

<http://www.newark.com/>

Jameco:

www.jameco.com/

Mouser Electronics:

<http://www.mouser.com/>

Q: I got this part, but I am not sure which pin is what. So now what I do?

A: You need a data sheet for your part.

Q: Umm, what's a data sheet and where can I get it?

A: A data sheet lists all parameters of an electronic part such as, min max current ratings, voltage ratings, etc. The data sheet also provides pin out information such as power, ground, inputs, and outputs.

For locating data sheets, your first line of defense is www.google.com/
Just enter your part number as a search parameter and away you go. You can also go to a few of the links below.

<http://www.alldatasheet.com/>

<http://www.datasheetarchive.com/>

Q: Well slap me like a data sheet and call me Suzy! I am ready to get going here, I know how the parts work, I have a schematic, all my parts and I am ready to go, but what tools do I need and how should I put all the parts together?

A: Sick of links yet? Here are a few more.

This site looks like a pretty good one.

<http://www.morsex.com/building/atoz.htm>

A few more links.

<http://electronicdesign.com/Articles...ArticleID=6105>

<http://www.ciphersbyritter.com/RADEL...BD/BREADBD.HTM>

<http://w7zoi.net/bboard.pdf>

Q? I am getting pretty good at this stuff, I think I want to do something fancy like a microprocessor. Are there any tutorials out there?

A: There always is. Here is couple to get you started.

From one of our forum moderators and mentor 3V0.

<http://www.rocklore.com/3v0/>

From the makers of the world famous PIC.

http://www.microchip.com/stellent/idcplg?IdcService=SS_GET_PAGE&nodeId=2551

Q: Where can I get a programmer for my Pic?

These seem to be pretty popular amongst the locals.

<http://www.bluroomelectronics.com/>

Programmer also available from Microchip.

http://www.microchip.com/stellent/idcplg?IdcService=SS_GET_PAGE&nodeId=81