# Arduino - Overview

Arduino is a prototype platform (open-source) based on an easy-to-use hardware and software. It consists of a circuit board, which can be programed (referred to as a microcontroller) and a ready-made software called Arduino IDE (Integrated Development Environment), which is used to write and upload the computer code to the physical board.

The key features are −

- Arduino boards are able to read analog or digital input signals from different sensors and turn it into an output such as activating a motor, turning LED on/off, connect to the cloud and many other actions.
- You can control your board functions by sending a set of instructions to the microcontroller on the board via Arduino IDE (referred to as uploading software).
- Unlike most previous programmable circuit boards, Arduino does not need an extra piece of hardware (called a programmer) in order to load a new code onto the board. You can simply use a USB cable.
- Additionally, the Arduino IDE uses a simplified version of C++, making it easier to learn to program.
- Finally, Arduino provides a standard form factor that breaks the functions of the micro-controller into a more accessible package.
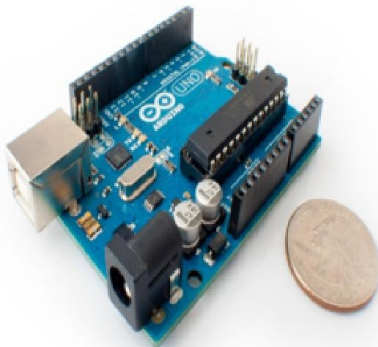
Board Types

Various kinds of Arduino boards are available depending on different microcontrollers used. However, all Arduino boards have one thing in common: they are programed through the Arduino IDE.

The differences are based on the number of inputs and outputs (the number of sensors, LEDs, and buttons you can use on a single board), speed, operating voltage, form factor etc. Some boards are designed to be embedded and have no programming interface (hardware), which you would need to buy separately. Some can run directly from a 3.7V battery, others need at least 5V.

Here is a list of different Arduino boards available.

Arduino boards based on ATMEGA328 microcontroller

Board Name	Operating Volt	Clock Speed	Digital i/o	Analog Inputs	PWM	UART	Programming Interface
Arduino Uno R3	5V	16MHz	14	6	6	1	USB via ATMega16U2
Arduino Uno R3 SMD	5V	16MHz	14	6	6	1	USB via ATMega16U2
Red Board	5V	16MHz	14	6	6	1	USB via FTDI
Arduino Pro 3.3v/8 MHz	3.3V	8MHz	14	6	6	1	FTDI-Compatible Header
Arduino Pro 5V/16MHz	5V	16MHz	14	6	6	1	FTDI-Compatible Header
Arduino mini 05	5V	16MHz	14	8	6	1	FTDI-Compatible Header
Arduino Pro mini 3.3v/8mhz	3.3V	8MHz	14	8	6	1	FTDI-Compatible Header
Arduino Pro mini 5v/16mhz	5V	16MHz	14	8	6	1	FTDI-Compatible Header
Arduino Ethernet	5V	16MHz	14	6	6	1	FTDI-Compatible Header
Arduino Fio	3.3V	8MHz	14	8	6	1	FTDI-Compatible Header
LilyPad Arduino 328 main board	3.3V	8MHz	14	6	6	1	FTDI-Compatible Header
LilyPad Arduino simple board	3.3V	8MHz	9	4	5	0	FTDI-Compatible Header

Arduino boards based on ATMEGA32u4 microcontroller

Board Name	Operating Volt	Clock Speed	Digital i/o	Analog Inputs	PWM	UART	Programming Interface
Arduino Leonardo	5V	16MHz	20	12	7	1	Native USB

Board Name	Operating Volt	Clock Speed	Digital i/o	Analog Inputs	PWM	UART	Programming Interface
Pro micro 5V/16MHz	5V	16MHz	14	6	6	1	Native USB
Pro micro 3.3V/8MHz	5V	16MHz	14	6	6	1	Native USB
LilyPad Arduino USB	3.3V	8MHz	14	6	6	1	Native USB

Arduino boards based on ATMEGA2560 microcontroller

Board Name	Operating Volt	Clock Speed	Digital i/o	Analog Inputs	PWM	UART	Programming Interface
Arduino Mega 2560 R3	5V	16MHz	54	16	14	4	USB via ATMega16U2B
Mega Pro 3.3V	3.3V	8MHz	54	16	14	4	FTDI-Compatible Header
Mega Pro 5V	5V	16MHz	54	16	14	4	FTDI-Compatible Header
Mega Pro Mini 3.3V	3.3V	8MHz	54	16	14	4	FTDI-Compatible Header

Arduino boards based on AT91SAM3X8E microcontroller

Board Name	Operating Volt	Clock Speed	Digital i/o	Analog Inputs	PWM	UART	Programming Interface
Arduino Mega 2560 R3	3.3V	84MHz	54	12	12	4	USB native