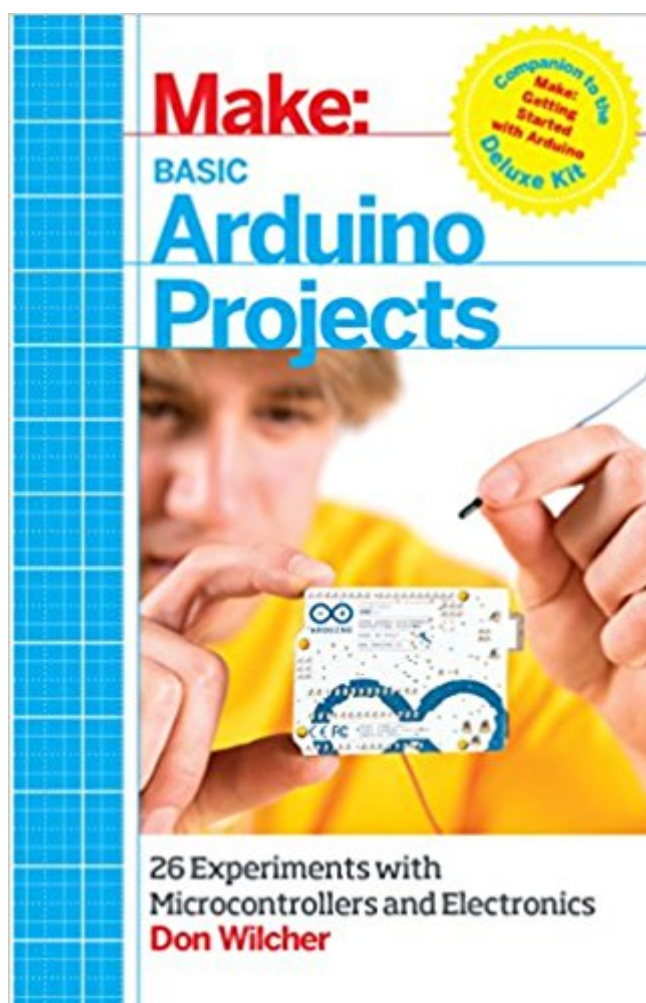


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# Basic Arduino Projects: 26 Experiments With Microcontrollers And Electronics



## Synopsis

This companion book to MakerShed's Ultimate Arduino Microcontroller Pack provides 26 clearly explained projects that you can build with this top-selling kit right away--including multicolor flashing lights, timers, tools for testing circuits, sound effects, motor control, and sensor devices. With the Ultimate Arduino Microcontroller Pack, you'll find everything from common components such as resistors and capacitors to specialized sensors and actuators like force-sensing resistors and motors. The kit also features the Arduino Uno Microcontroller and a MakerShield, the definitive prototyping shield for Arduino. Build 26 cool mini Arduino projects and gadgets. Work on projects that are both instructive and have practical application. Get circuit diagrams and detailed instructions for building each project. Understand circuit design and simulation with easy-to-use tools.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Don Wilcher is a passionate teacher of electronics technology and an electrical engineer with 26 years of experience. He's worked on industrial robotic systems, automotive electronic modules, systems, and embedded wireless controls for small consumer appliances. While at Chrysler Corporation, Don developed a weekend enrichment pre-engineering program for inner city kids. He is the Department Chair for the School of Electronics Technology of ITT Technical Institute at the Madison, AL campus.

I was very disappointed when I started to read through the activities and saw that the images describing how to build each project were of poor quality. White wires were used against a light colored breadboard and printed in greyscale. This makes it incredibly difficult to follow the diagrams. Actual schematics aren't shown until the end of the chapter. The circuit theory sections don't teach any theory. They just give a high level description of what a sensor does. The book has a little bit of encouragement for someone to explore related concepts in a chapter, but without much explanation.

Make sure you get a kit that has everything in the book and don't expect any foreword explanations of the Arduino or how things work. This is a straight up project book. Color photos would have been nice too since B&W is hard to understand when it's of a circuit board.

Sorry, I don't like to be negative. Unfortunately this book is a complete flop, so much so that I'm willing to write this review so you don't have to feel cheated. Technically weak, poorly explained. I'm going to recycle my copy instead of trying to find someone who might want it. Caveat emptor.

A great follow on for the Arduino 101 book.

Most of the projects are trivial, and teach little of electronics or the Arduino's programming capabilities. For example several projects use sensors, and include a bridge resistor (a pullup) to offset the sensor range, but there was no explanation of what an analog sensor actually is, or how to tune the range of a sensor by changing the values in the bridge circuit, or how to calibrate a sensor, or how an analog value is 'sensed' by the Arduino. Blindly following the detailed instructions might result in something that 'worked' but would leave the 'experimenter' with little understanding of why or how it worked, how to correct it if it didn't work, or how to extend the sample to a useful device. The chapters on "Processing" (A java app that facilitates comm between a pc and the Arduino, emulating an 80s era terminal) are almost pointless, since having an Arduino use a pc to display (awful) graphics defeats most purposes of the Arduino, forcing it to be tethered via USB to the pc. The book seems to have been written as an guide to a parts kit, but based on the projects in the book, the parts kit must be too sparse to do anything very interesting with an Arduino. There are far better books for beginning electronics, including "Make Electronics" (I believe from the same publisher.) You can't do much sensing or control with an Arduino until you have that basic understanding, and this book doesn't provide that. Nor is it very useful as a tutorial on the Arduino's

hardware, programming language, or libraries. The code for the examples (most obviously copied from public sources and the samples that come in the free IDE) is simply delivered as black boxes, with little explanation.

This has to be the absolute worst book for Arduino. Very little explanations. The pictures use 6 inch wires which makes it very difficult to see what is happening. Also, I found the way some circuits were laid out to be way more confusing than necessary. I had to modify some projects just to make them work. Don't waste your money on this! There are many better books to spend your money on. I can't believe that the Make: brand actually let this piece of crap get published with their name on it.

All things being equal, I would alter the title of the book to remove the word "Basic." The projects contained within are amazingly simple and easy to construct. A lot of value exists from simple building block projects. A few other reviewers have mentioned the lack of theory within the text... but I believe that other books do present a better teaching theory. So what?... This book is for builders and Makers - get it if you want down-and-dirty project instruction. You might find coding examples elsewhere on the web, but the book contains the Fritzing diagrams, code, block diagrams... everything you need to hit the ground running. I knocked it down a star for one reason - color diagrams would make the book better, but also more expensive. If you're an Arduino fan, or a Maker, you need this book in your library.

Each project is given with clear instructions, as well as a parts list. These would be wonderful projects for those interested in electronic circuits (maybe even for fun father/son time).

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