Learn to Solder with ArduTouch Music Synthesizer kit

and make music, sound, and noise!

Mitch Altman

Chief Scientist, Cornfield Electronics, San Francisco, CA

Inventor of TV-B-Gone universal remote controls

Co-founder of 3Ware (successful Silicon Valley startup)

Pioneer of VR (in the mid-1980s)

Founding mentor at HAX (1st and biggest hardware accelerator)

Co-founder of Noisebridge (San Francisco hackerspace)

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flickr: maltman23

WeChat: mitchaltman



Syllabus

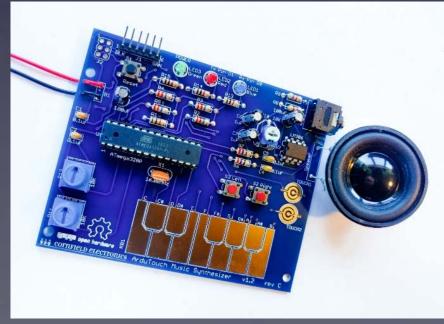
- Intro to ArduTouch music synthesizer kit
- Live demo of ArduTouch
- Intro to music synthesis / Digital Signal Processing
- How to solder
- How to program ArduTouch with Arduino software

Soldering Workshops / kits

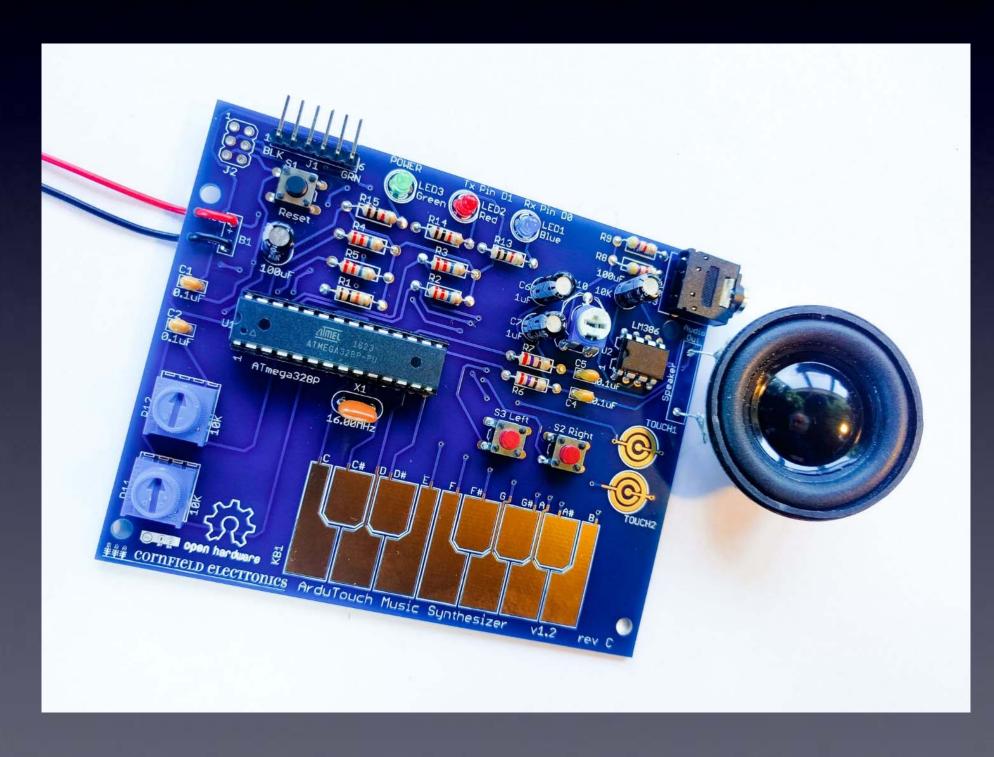




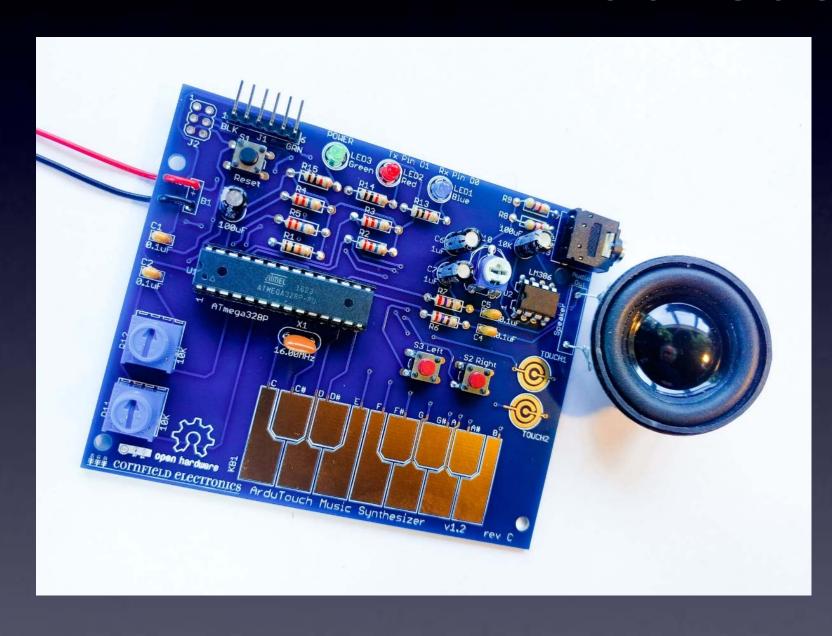




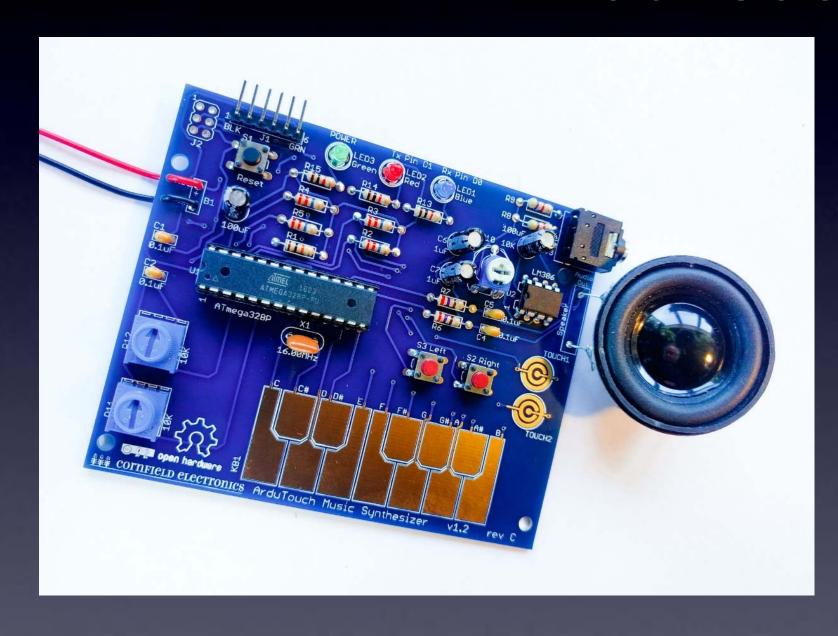
ArduTouch Music Synthesizer



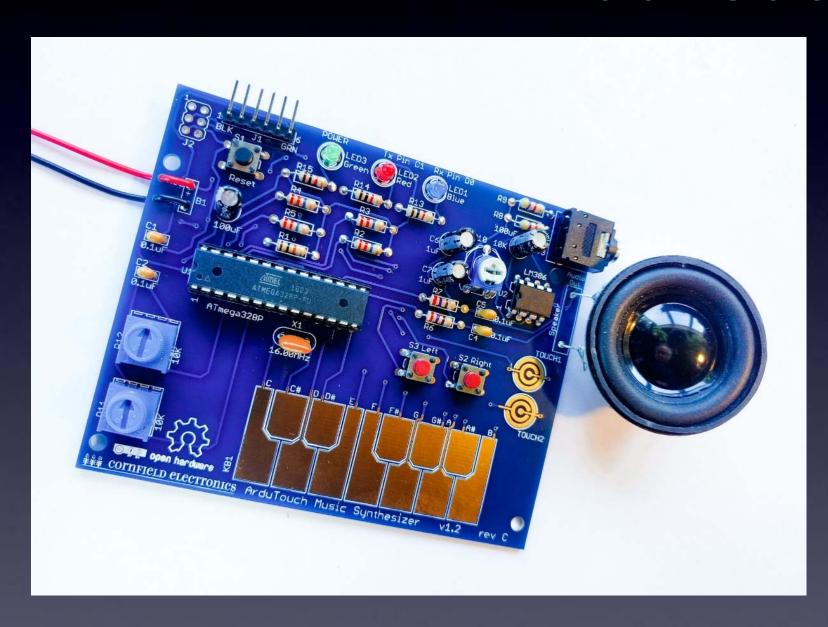
rev C







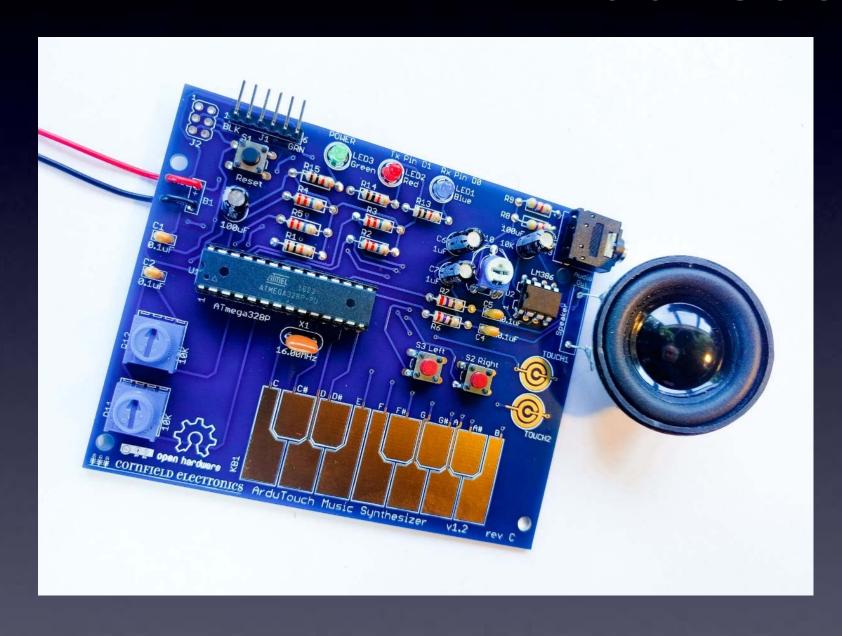
Great for learning to solder



Solder it together – and it works!

And you can also program

your own synthesizers



Solder it together – and it works!

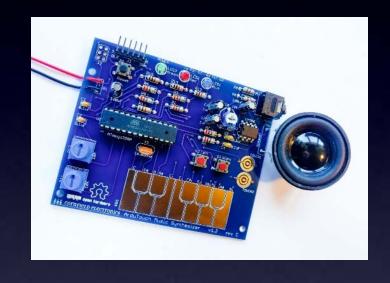
And you can also program

your own synthesizers

You can also

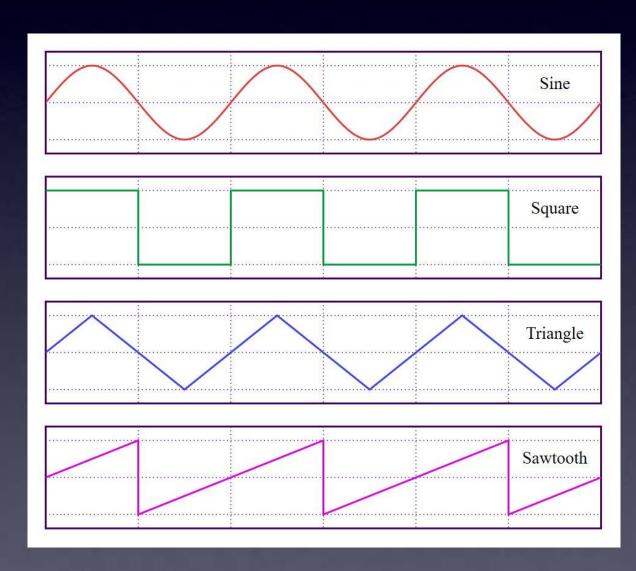
learn

Digital Signal Processing



Live demo

Some Types of Synthesizers Analog



Modular Analog Synthesizer:

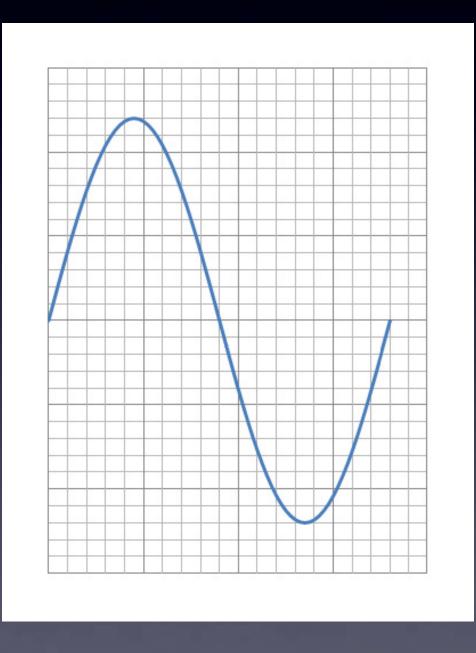
- Basic waveform oscillators
- Filters (to muck with sound)

Some Types of Synthesizers

Digital

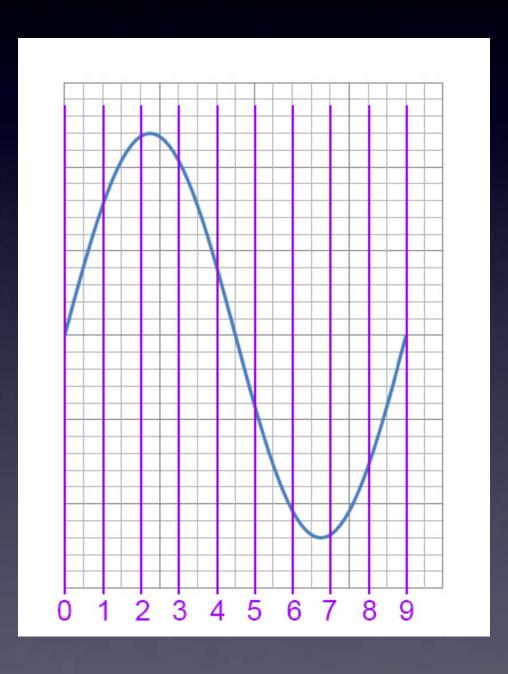
- Break things into little bits (or create little bits)
- Mess with it
- Put it back together again

Analog waveform



To record it digitally

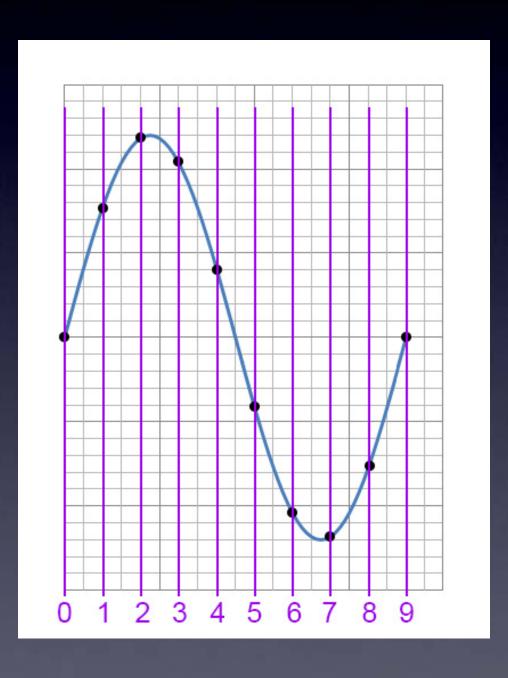
First slice it (equal time slices)



To record it digitally

First slice it

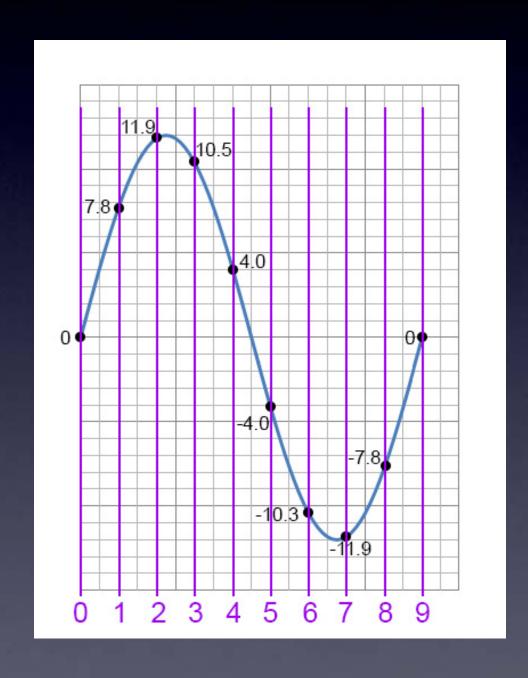
Then get the values



To record it digitally

First slice it

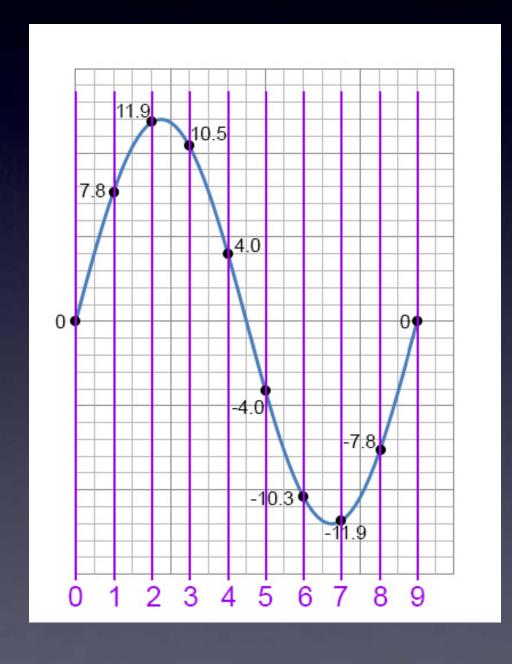
Then get the values



To record it digitally

First slice it
Then get the values

Then store the values



Sample #	Digitized Value
0	0.0
1	7.8
2	11.9
3	10.5
4	4.0
5	-4.0
6	-10.3
7	-11.9
8	-7.8
9	0.0
Nagarita-	
	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

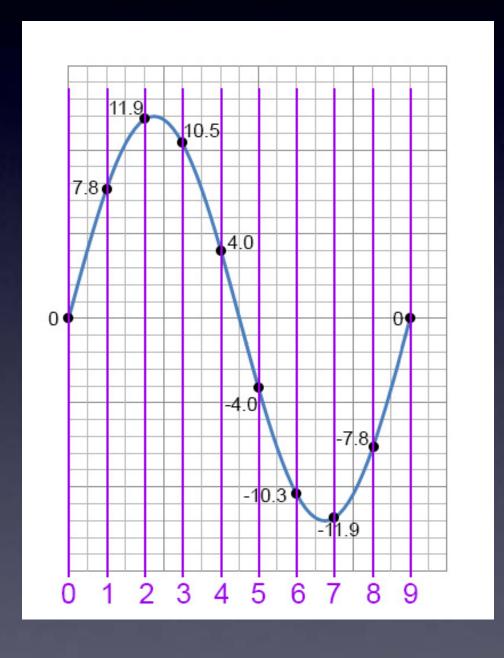
To record it digitally

First slice it

Then get the values

Then store the values

This is called: "Sampling"



Sample #	Digitized Value
0	0.0
1	7.8
2	11.9
3	10.5
4	4.0
5	-4.0
6	-10.3
7	-11.9
8	-7.8
9	0.0
144	
40.00	

Samples stored

in Memory

Digital Signal Processing

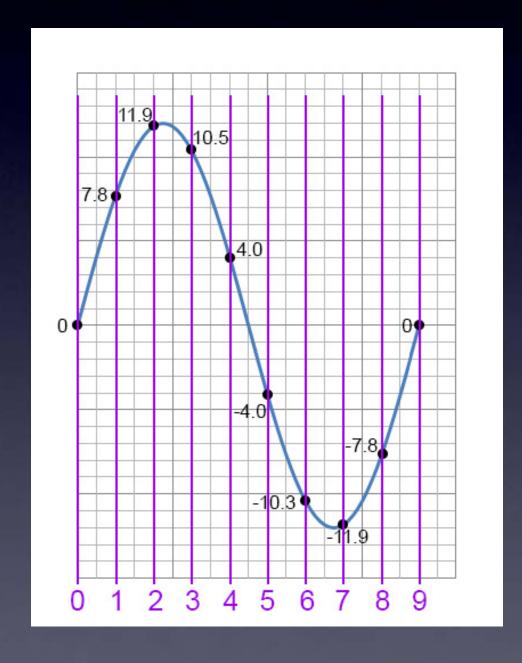
To record it digitally

First slice it

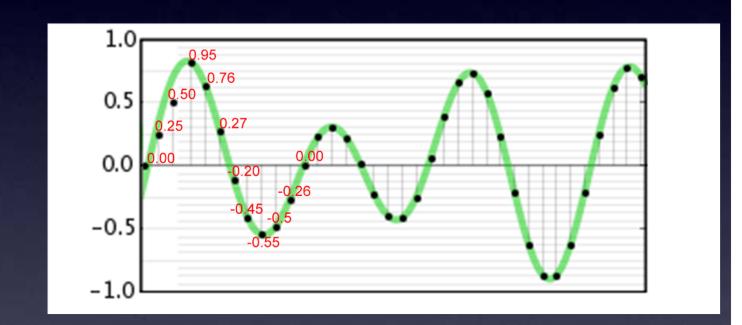
Then get the values

Then store the values

Waveform is: "Digitized"

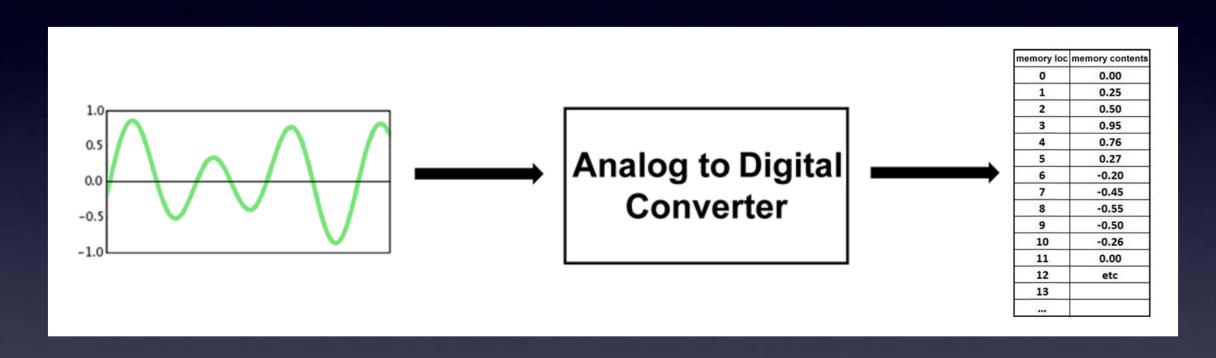


Memory loc	Memory contents
0	0.0
1	7.8
2	11.9
3	10.5
4	4.0
5	-4.0
6	-10.3
7	-11.9
8	-7.8
9	0.0
Tar Salar	
49 149 1	



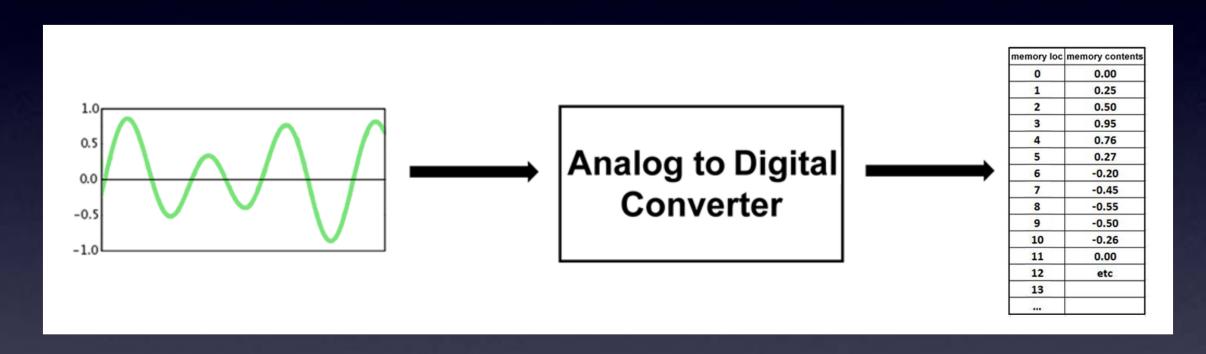
memory loc	memory contents
0	0.00
1	0.25
2	0.50
3	0.95
4	0.76
5	0.27
6	-0.20
7	-0.45
8	-0.55
9	-0.50
10	-0.26
11	0.00
12	etc
13	

Digitized waveform can be any soundwave



Analog to Digital Conversion:

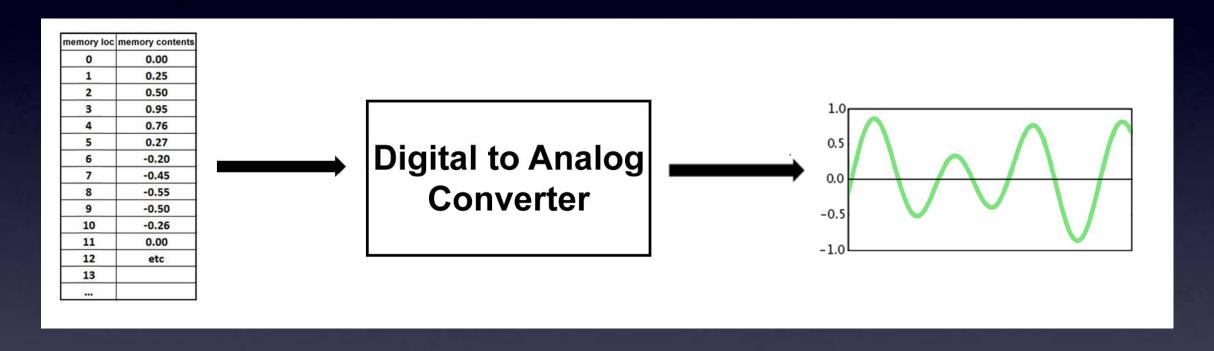
sampling an analog waveform to store it in digital memory



A/D

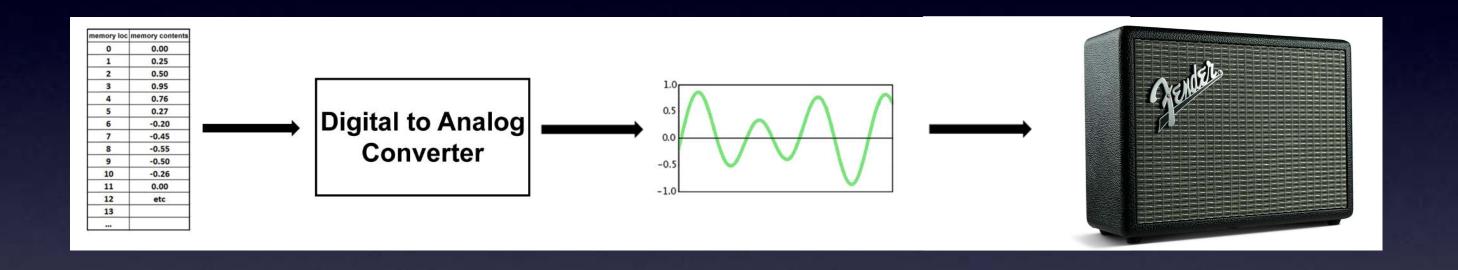
sampling an analog waveform to store it in digital memory

How do we play back a digitized waveform?



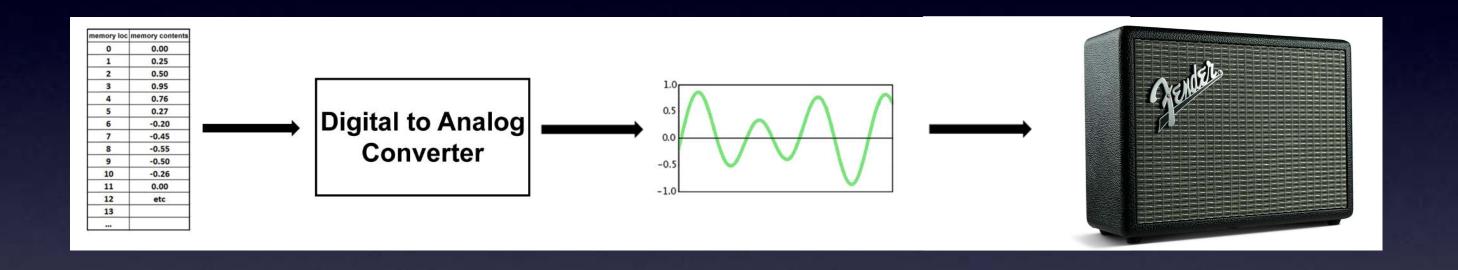
Digital to Analog Conversion:

Playing back the Digitized waveform



Digital to Analog Conversion:

Playing back the Digitized waveform



D/A

Playing back the Digitized waveform

How do you do D/A?

D/A chip (expensive)

or

PWM



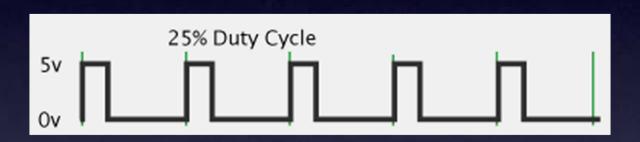
Square Wave:

ON half the time / OFF half of the time



Square Wave:

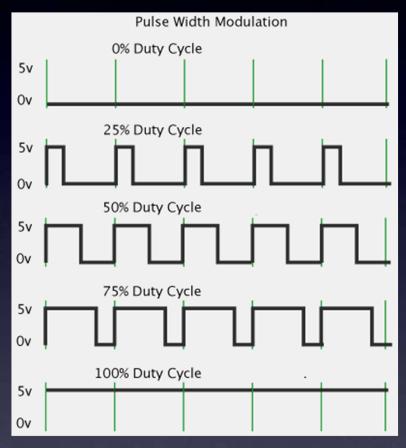
ON half the time / OFF half of the time (half the energy of ON all the time)



Pulse Wave:

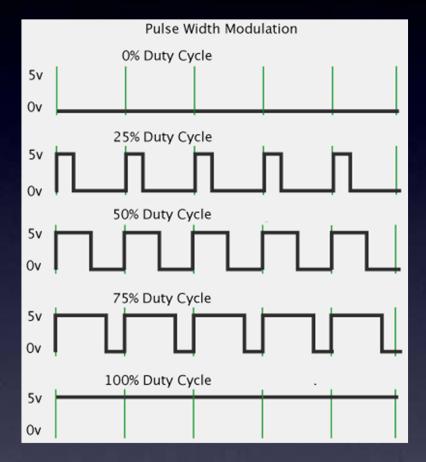
ON and OFF at any ratio you like

This waveform: ON for 25% of the time / OFF for 75% of the time

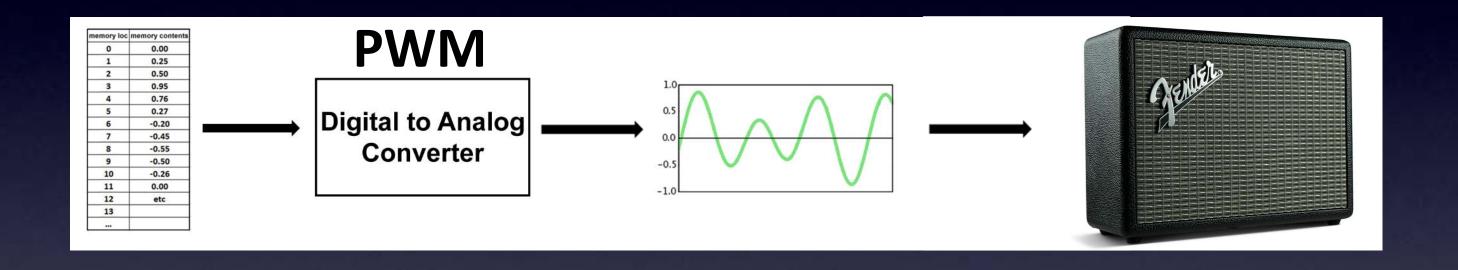


Pulse Wave:

ON and OFF at any ratio you like



PWM
Pulse Width Modulation



D/A
Using PWM for playing back the Digitized waveform

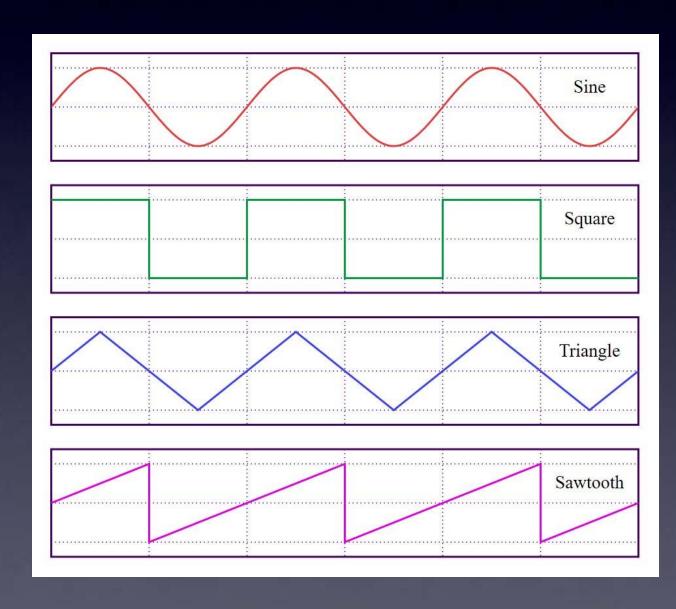
Kind of complicated to code

So, my ArduTouch software makes it easy

- Create "oscillators" with a couple lines of code
- Create "dynamics" with a couple lines of code

"Dynamics" make the sound interesting

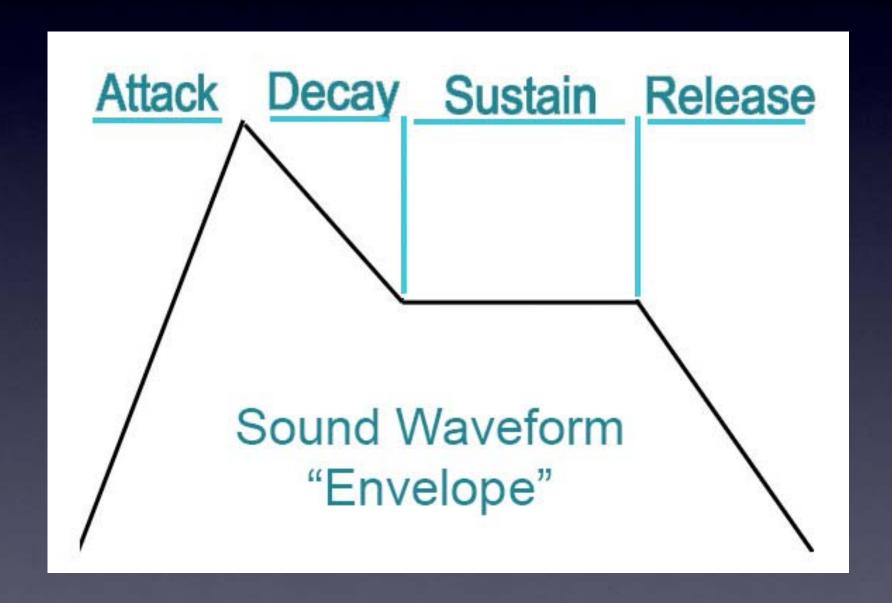
Some "Oscillators":



Some "Dynamics":

- ADSR
- Tremolo
- Portamento
- Envelopes
- Filters
- Effects

ADSR:



- ADSR
- Tremolo *constant changing volume*
- Portamento
- Envelopes
- Filters
- Effects

- ADSR
- Tremolo *constant changing volume*
- Portamento glide between notes
- Envelopes
- Filters
- Effects

- ADSR
- Tremolo constant changing volume
- Portamento glide between notes
- Envelopes beyond ADSR
- Filters
- Effects

- ADSR
- Tremolo constant changing volume
- Portamento glide between notes
- Envelopes beyond ADSR
- Filters like bass & treble subtle to crazy
- Effects

- ADSR
- Tremolo *constant changing volume*
- Portamento glide between notes
- Envelopes beyond ADSR
- Filters like bass & treble subtle to crazy
- Effects mess with the sound!

ArduTouch Arduino-Compatible

```
∞ _01_Empty_Synth | Arduino 1.8.5
File Edit Sketch Tools Help
                                                                                      Q
#include "ArduTouch.h"
                                              // use the ArduTouch library
// the following line is required for every ArduTouch sketch
about_program ( Empty Synth, 1.00 )
                                             // specify sketch name & version
class EmptySynth : public Synth
                                             // define your synthesizer
  // this synthesizer has no contents and therefore makes no sound
} mySynth;
// every ArduTouch sketch has only one line in the setup() section
// with a pointer to your synthesizer -- in this case: mySynth
void setup()
  ardutouch_setup( &mySynth );
                                             // initialize ArduTouch resources
// every ArduTouch sketch has exactly this loop() section
void loop()
  ardutouch loop();
                                             // perform ongoing ArduTouch tasks
```

With Tutorial examples

ArduTouch Arduino-Compatible

```
∞ _01_Empty_Synth | Arduino 1.8.5
File Edit Sketch Tools Help
#include "ArduTouch.h"
                                              // use the ArduTouch library
// the following line is required for every ArduTouch sketch
about program ( Empty Synth, 1.00 )
                                              // specify sketch name & version
class EmptySynth : public Synth
                                              // define your synthesizer
   // this synthesizer has no contents and therefore makes no sound
// every ArduTouch sketch has only one line in the setup() section
// with a pointer to your synthesizer -- in this case: mySynth
void setup()
  ardutouch setup ( &mySynth );
                                              // initialize ArduTouch resources
// every ArduTouch sketch has exactly this loop() section
void loop()
  ardutouch loop();
                                              // perform ongoing ArduTouch tasks
```

With Tutorial examples

Follow examples
01 through 09
to easily learn
to code your own
synthesizers

ArduTouch Arduino-Compatible

```
    06_OneVoxSynth | Arduino 1.8.5

File Edit Sketch Tools Help
#include "ArduTouch.h"
                                          // use the ArduTouch library
about_program( OneVoxSynth, 1.00 )
                                          // specify sketch name & version
class SawToothSynth : public OneVoxSynth // output a sawtooth waveform using a OneVoxSynth
  public:
  // newOsc() is called by the system during setup.
  // This is where you specify what oscillator to use.
  // In this example we use a SawTooth.
  Osc* newOsc( byte nth )
                                          // (the argument "nth" isn't really used here, but is useful for when we have more than one voice)
     return new SawTooth();
                                          // use a SawTooth oscillator
} mySynth;
                                          // instantiate synthesizer
void setup()
   ardutouch_setup( &mySynth );
                                          // initialize ArduTouch resources
void loop()
  ardutouch_loop();
                                          // perform ongoing ArduTouch tasks
```

With extensive Arduino library for ArduTouch

to make it easy to create your own synths

ArduTouch

Arduino/Genuino Uno on COM3

```
∞ _06_OneVoxSynth | Arduino 1.8.5
                                                                                                                                      File Edit Sketch Tools Help
 _06_OneVoxSynth
#include "ArduTouch.h"
                                          // use the ArduTouch library
about_program( OneVoxSynth, 1.00 )
                                          // specify sketch name & version
class SawToothSynth : public OneVoxSynth // output a sawtooth waveform using a OneVoxSynth
  public:
  // newOsc() is called by the system during setup.
  // This is where you specify what oscillator to use.
  // In this example we use a SawTooth.
  Osc* newOsc( byte nth )
                                          // (the argument "nth" isn't really used here, but is useful for when we have more than one voice)
                                          // use a SawTooth oscillator
                                          // instantiate synthesizer
} mySynth;
void setup()
                                          // initialize ArduTouch resources
  ardutouch_setup( &mySynth );
void loop()
  ardutouch_loop();
                                          // perform ongoing ArduTouch tasks
```

Complete code for:

- sawtooth waves
- play with keyboard
- change octaves
- volume control

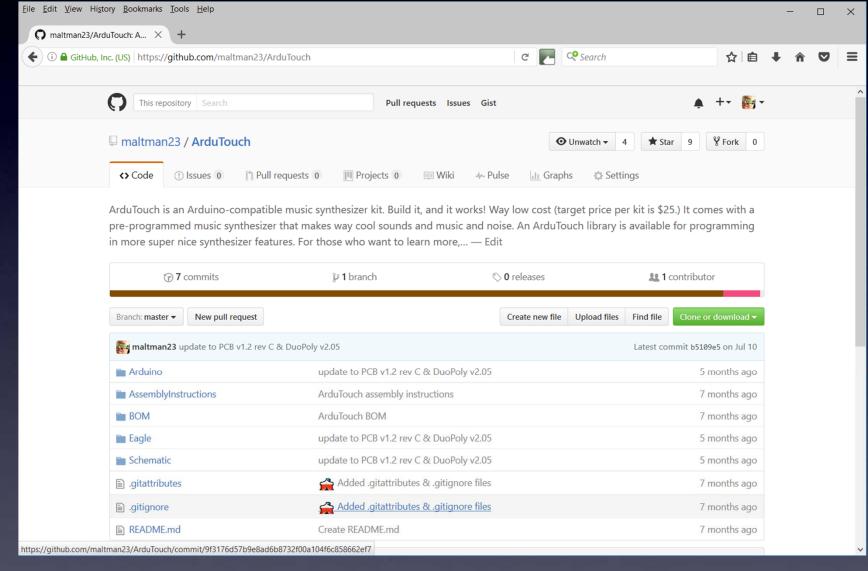
ArduTouch

```
∞ _06_OneVoxSynth | Arduino 1.8.5
                                                                                                                                       File Edit Sketch Tools Help
 _06_OneVoxSynth
#include "ArduTouch.h"
                                          // use the ArduTouch library
about_program( OneVoxSynth, 1.00 )
                                          // specify sketch name & version
class SawToothSynth : public OneVoxSynth // output a sawtooth waveform using a OneVoxSynth
  public:
  // newOsc() is called by the system during setup.
  // This is where you specify what oscillator to use.
  // In this example we use a SawTooth.
  Osc* newOsc( byte nth )
                                          // (the argument "nth" isn't really used here, but is useful for when we have more than one voice)
      return new SawTooth();
                                          // use a SawTooth oscillator
                                          // instantiate synthesizer
} mySynth;
void setup()
                                          // initialize ArduTouch resources
  ardutouch_setup( &mySynth );
void loop()
  ardutouch_loop();
                                          // perform ongoing ArduTouch tasks
                                                                                                                            Arduino/Genuino Uno on COM3
```

Easy to add:

- Tremolo
- Portamento
- Envelopes
- Filters
- Effects
- Other waveforms

ArduTouch

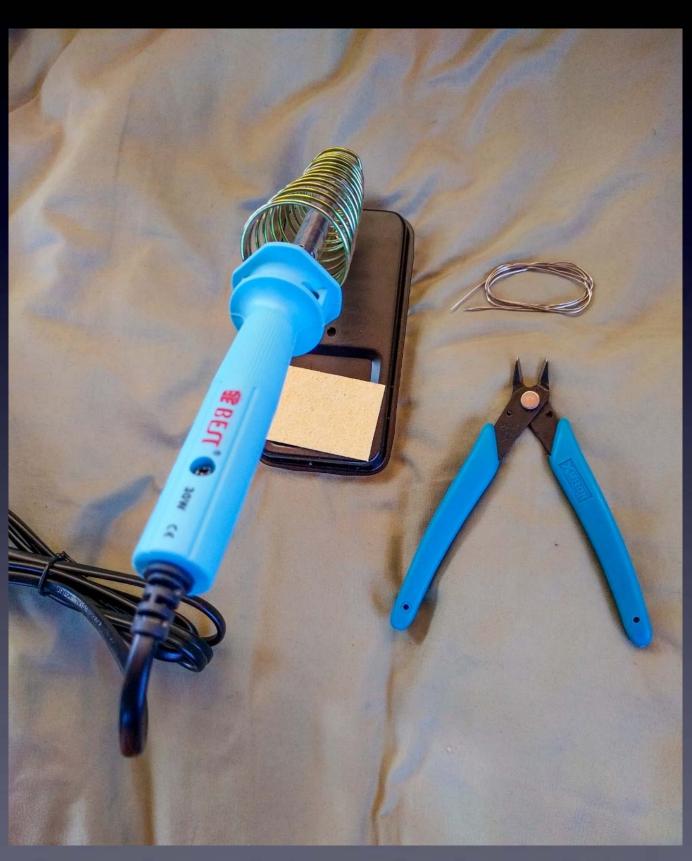


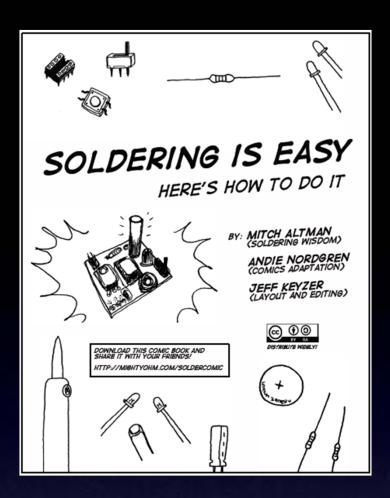
Open Hardware – everything is on Github maltman23



(Don't bring these home)

Tools



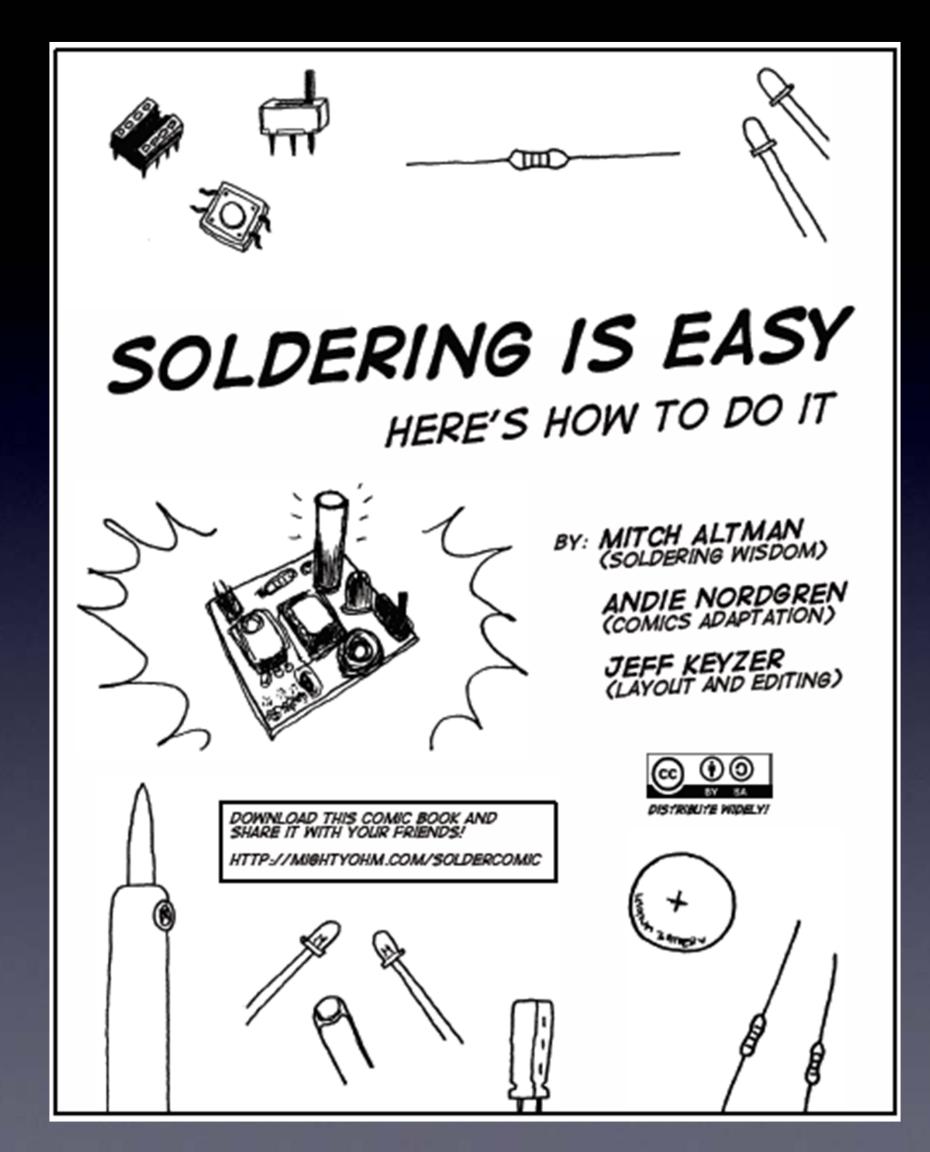


The following photos will show you how to solder.

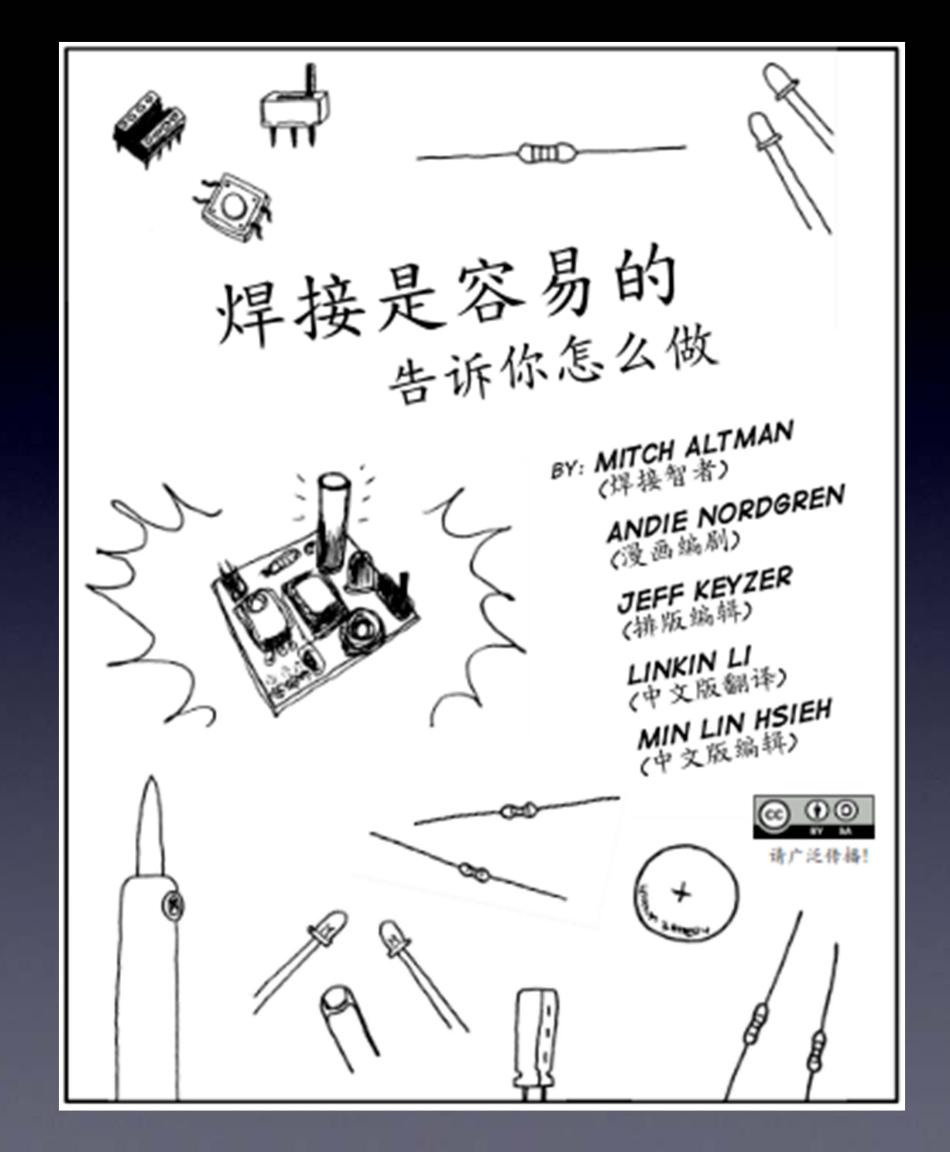
But feel free to download the "Soldering Is Easy" comic book for free!

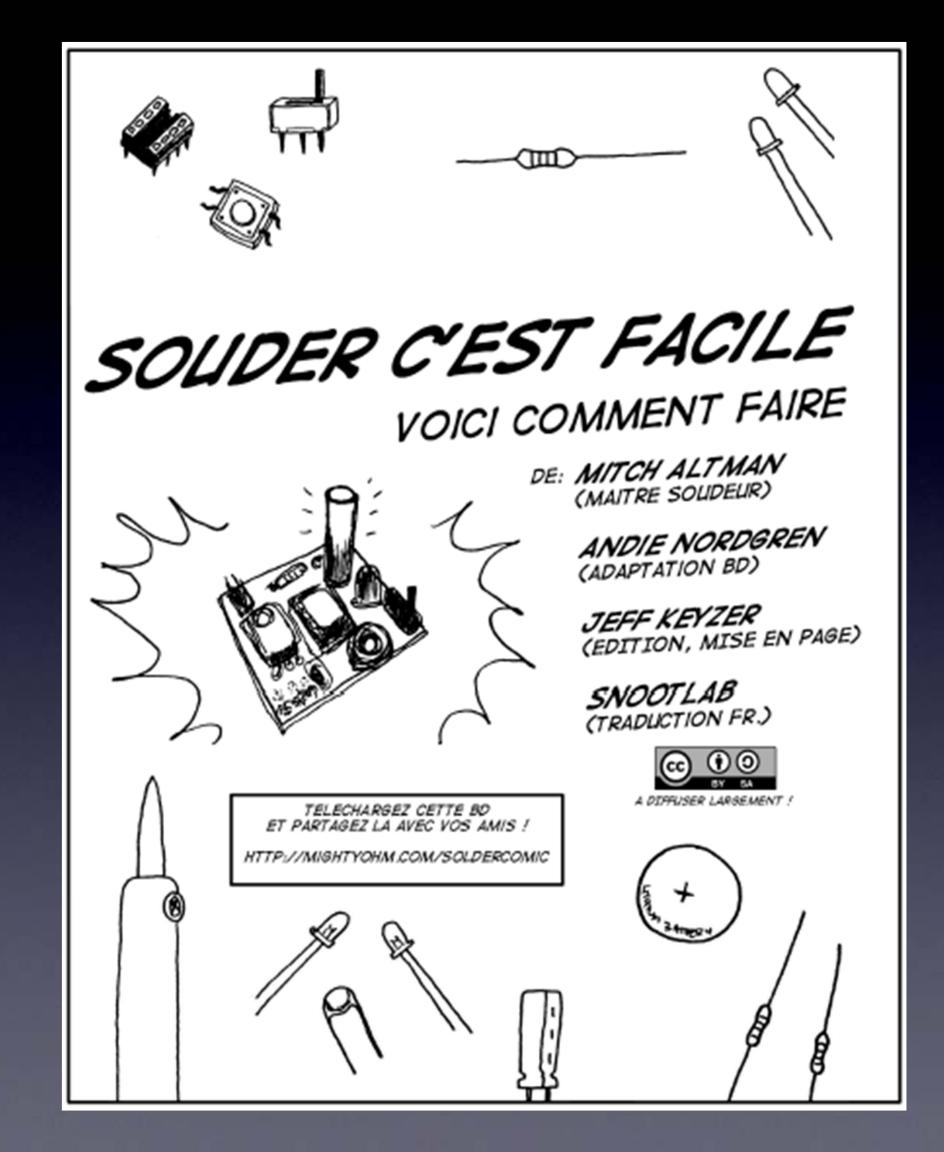
(In many different languages.)

download for free at: http://mightyohm.com/soldercomic



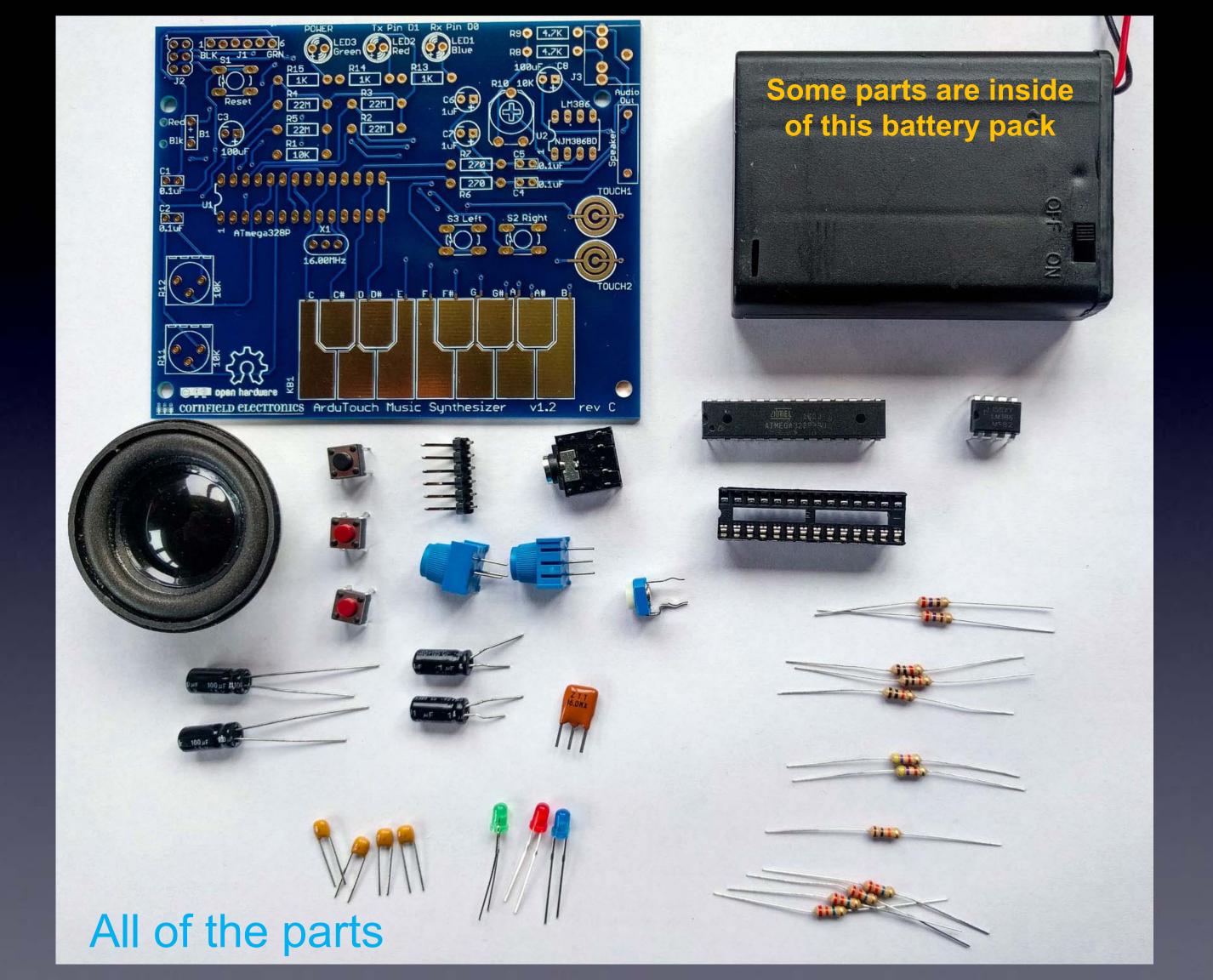
http://mightyohm.com/soldercomic download for free at:

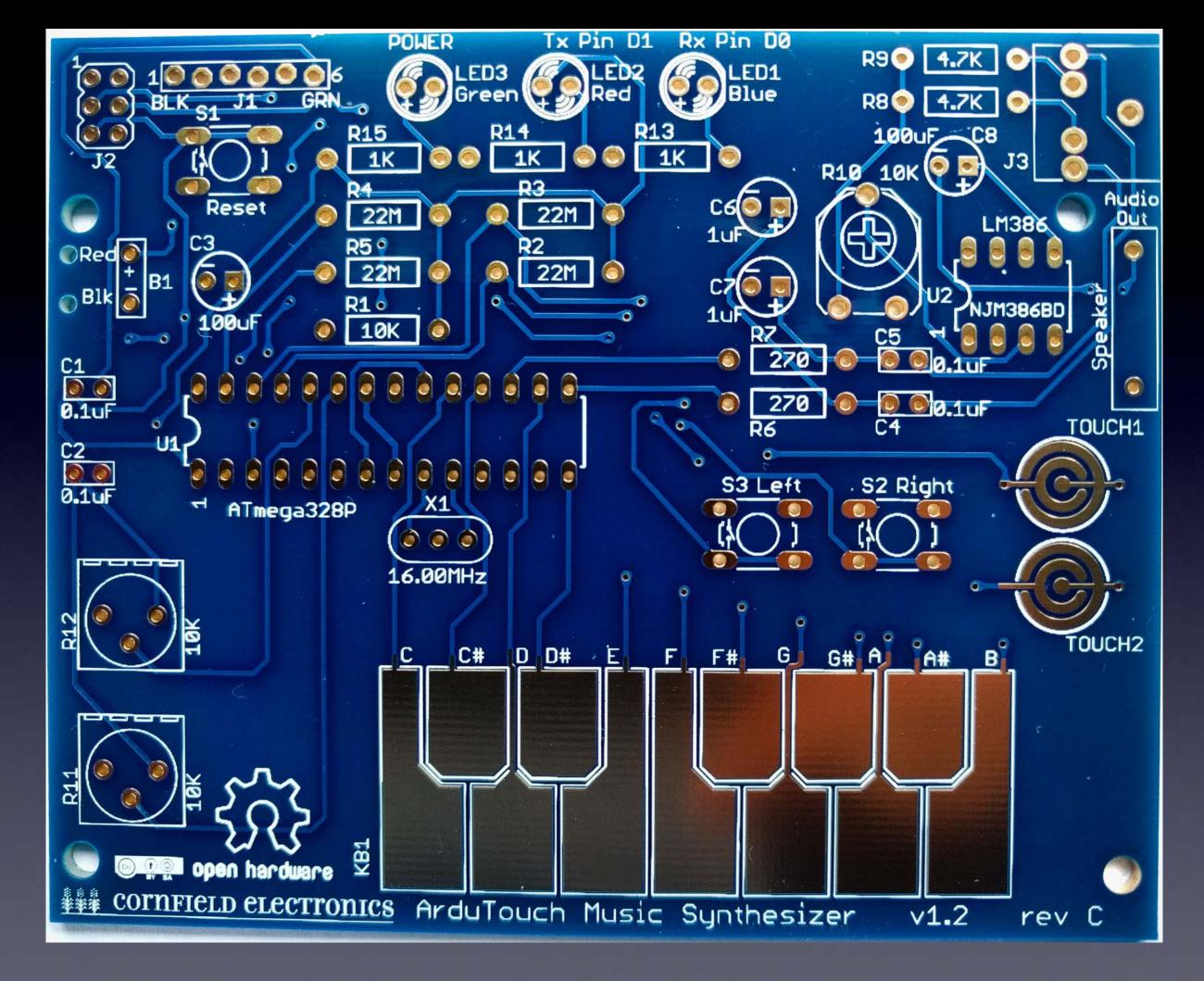










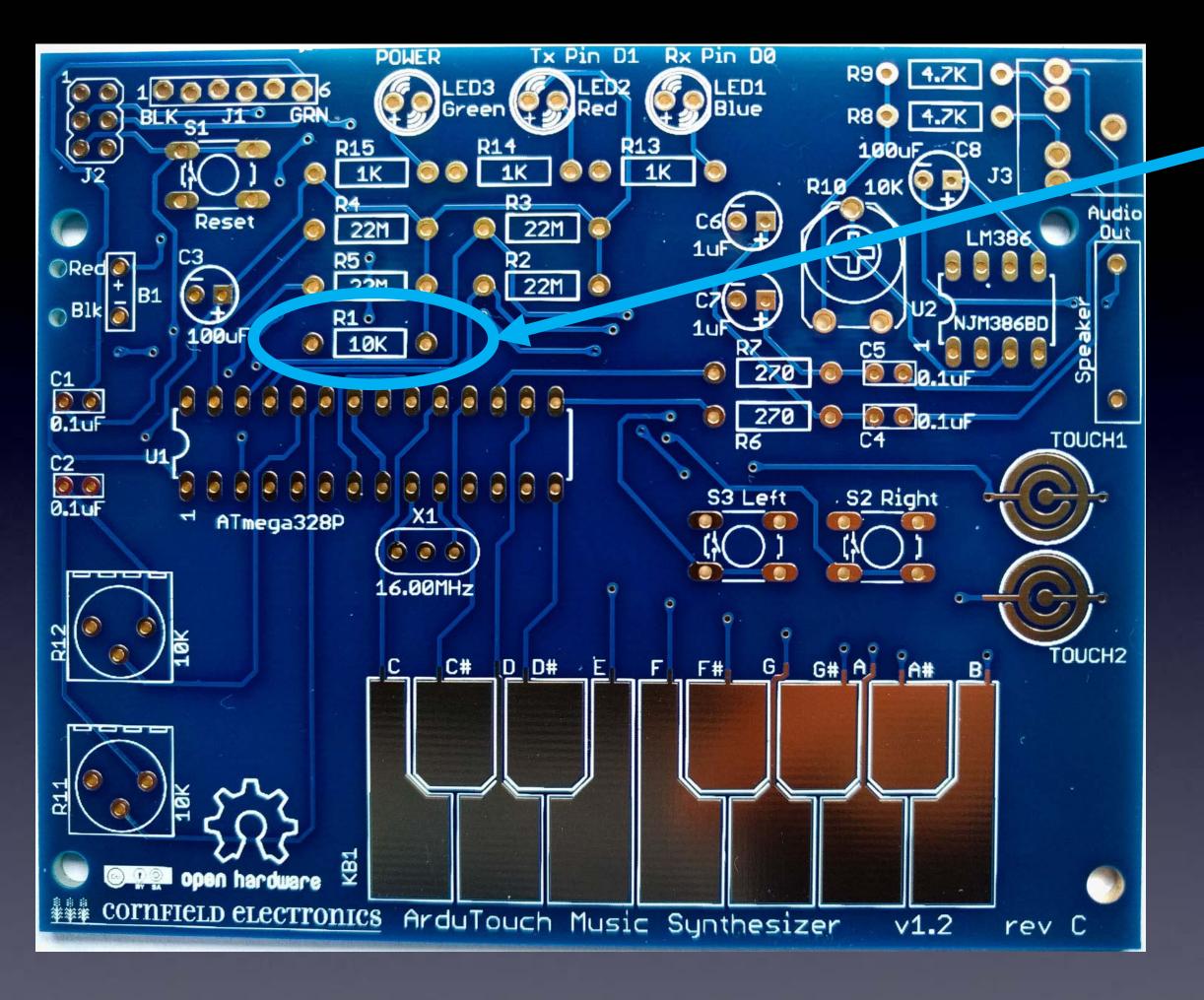


The board we'll solder the parts to

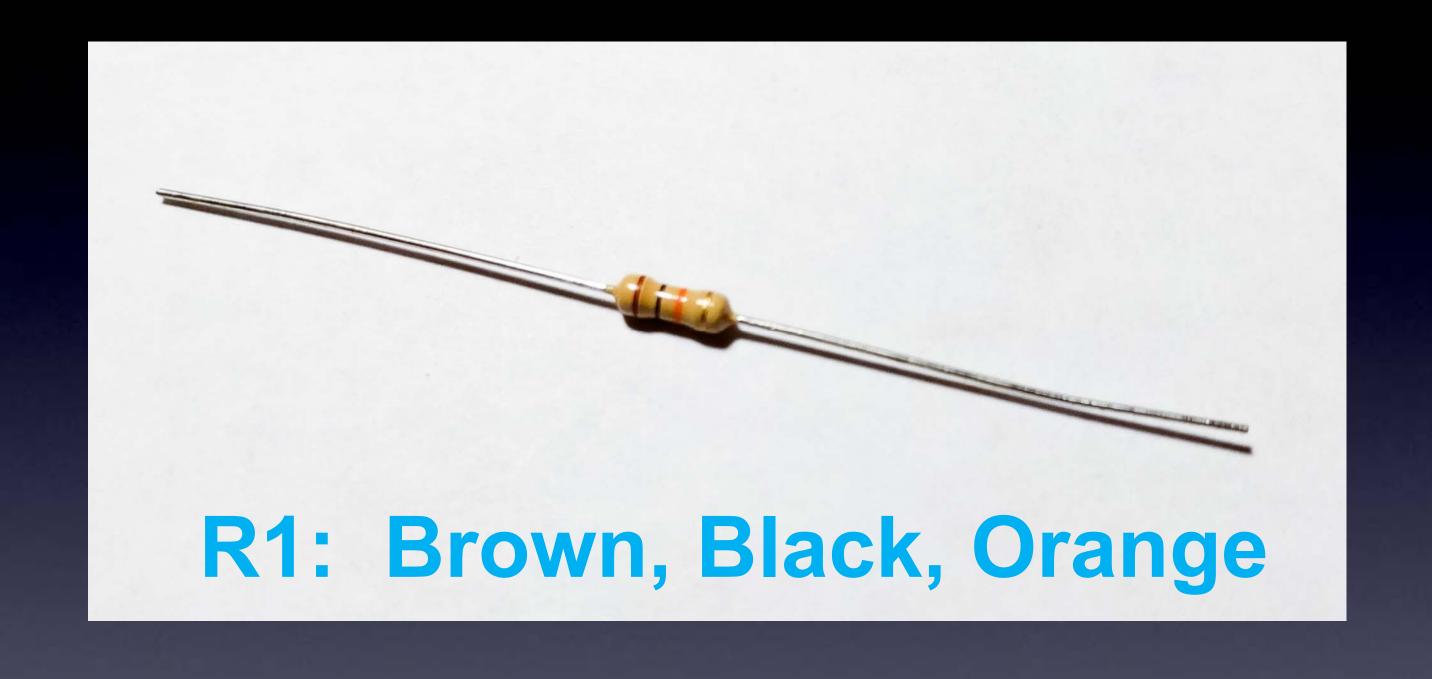


has very poisonous fumes, will need:

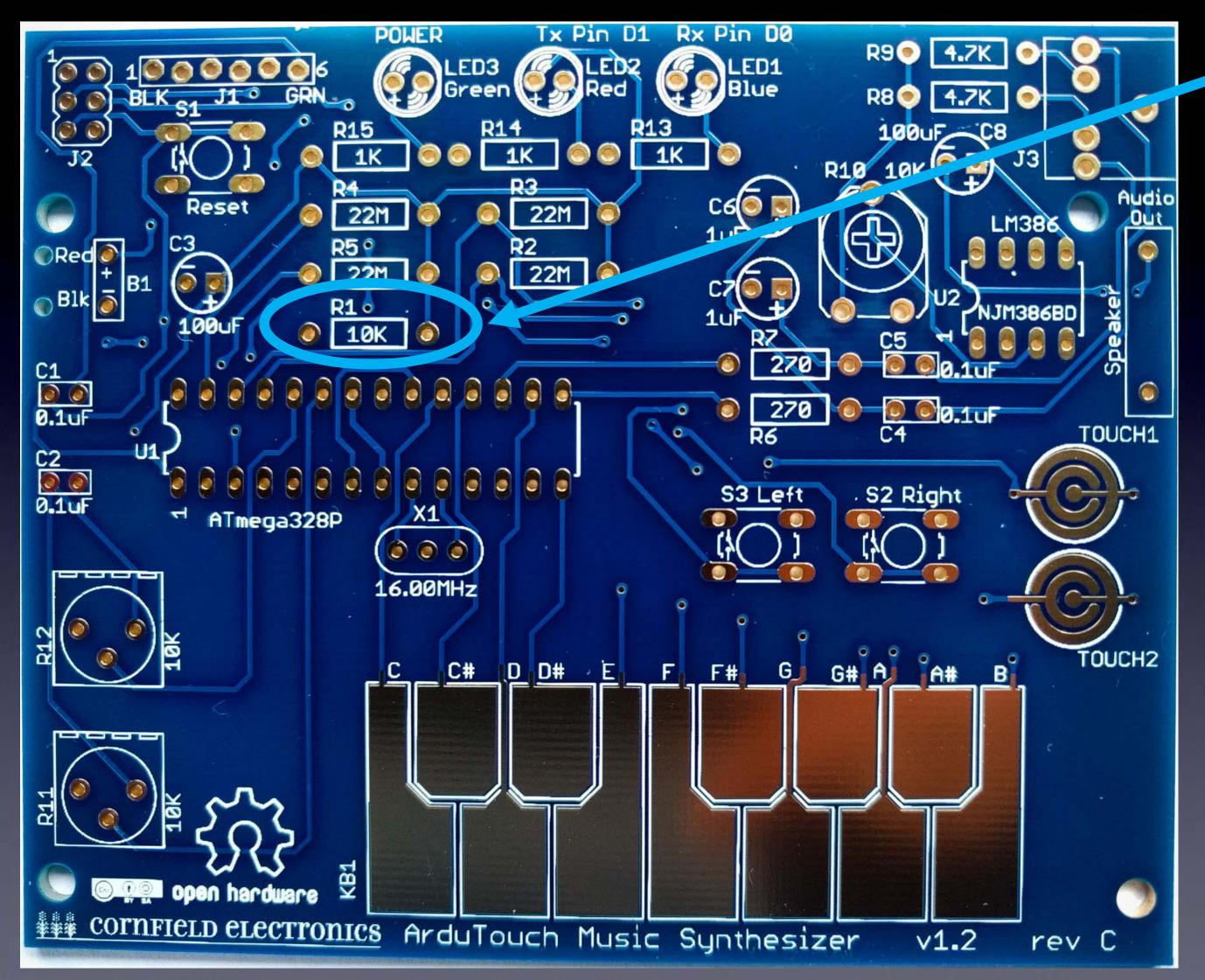
- The tools you'll need:
- soldering Iron (35W or less)
- solder (60/40 Sn/Pb, rosin core, 0.031" diameter or less)
- soldering iron stand
- cellulose kitchen sponge (not plastic!)
- small wire cutter

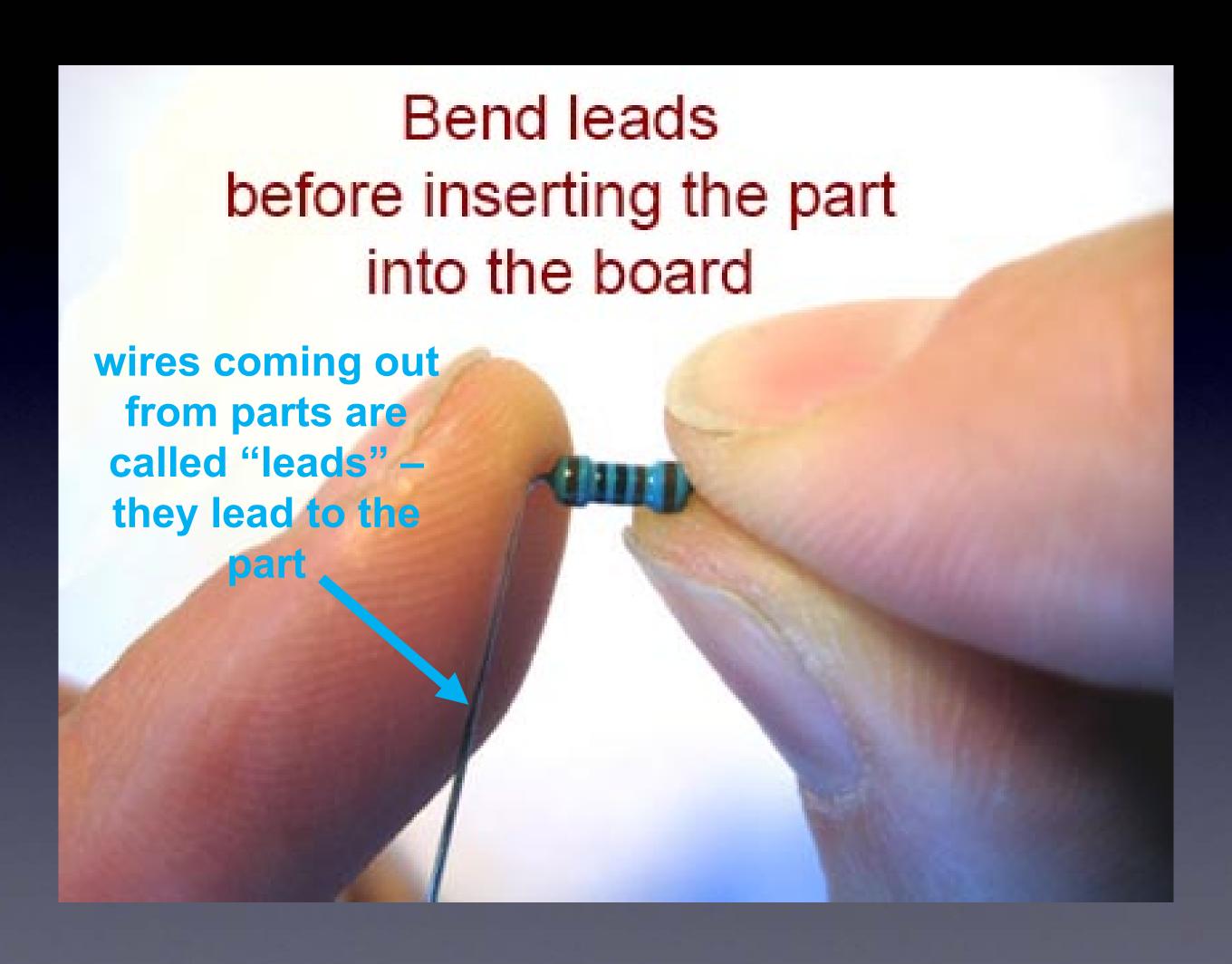


R1 – this is where it goes



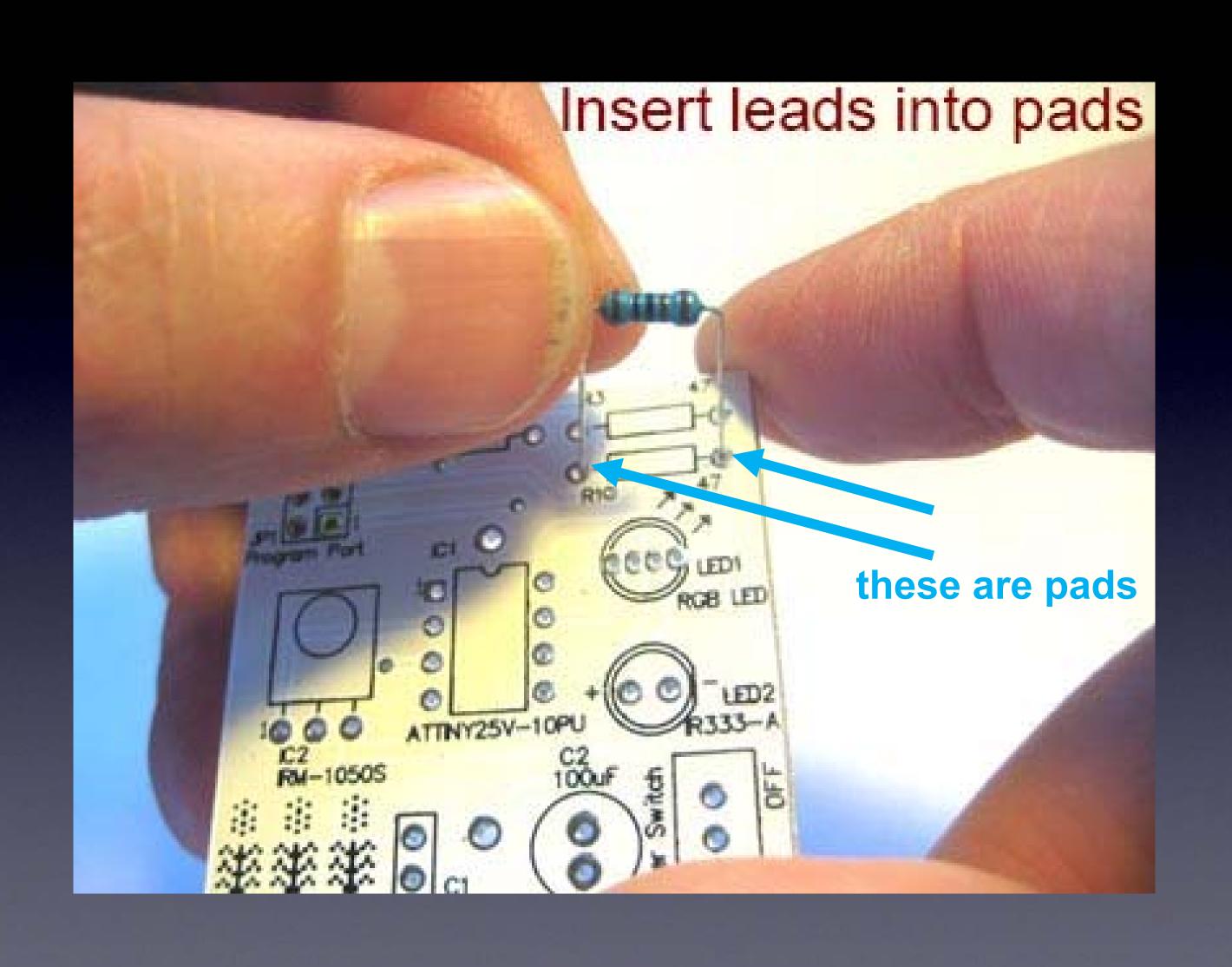
(not Brown, Black, Red)

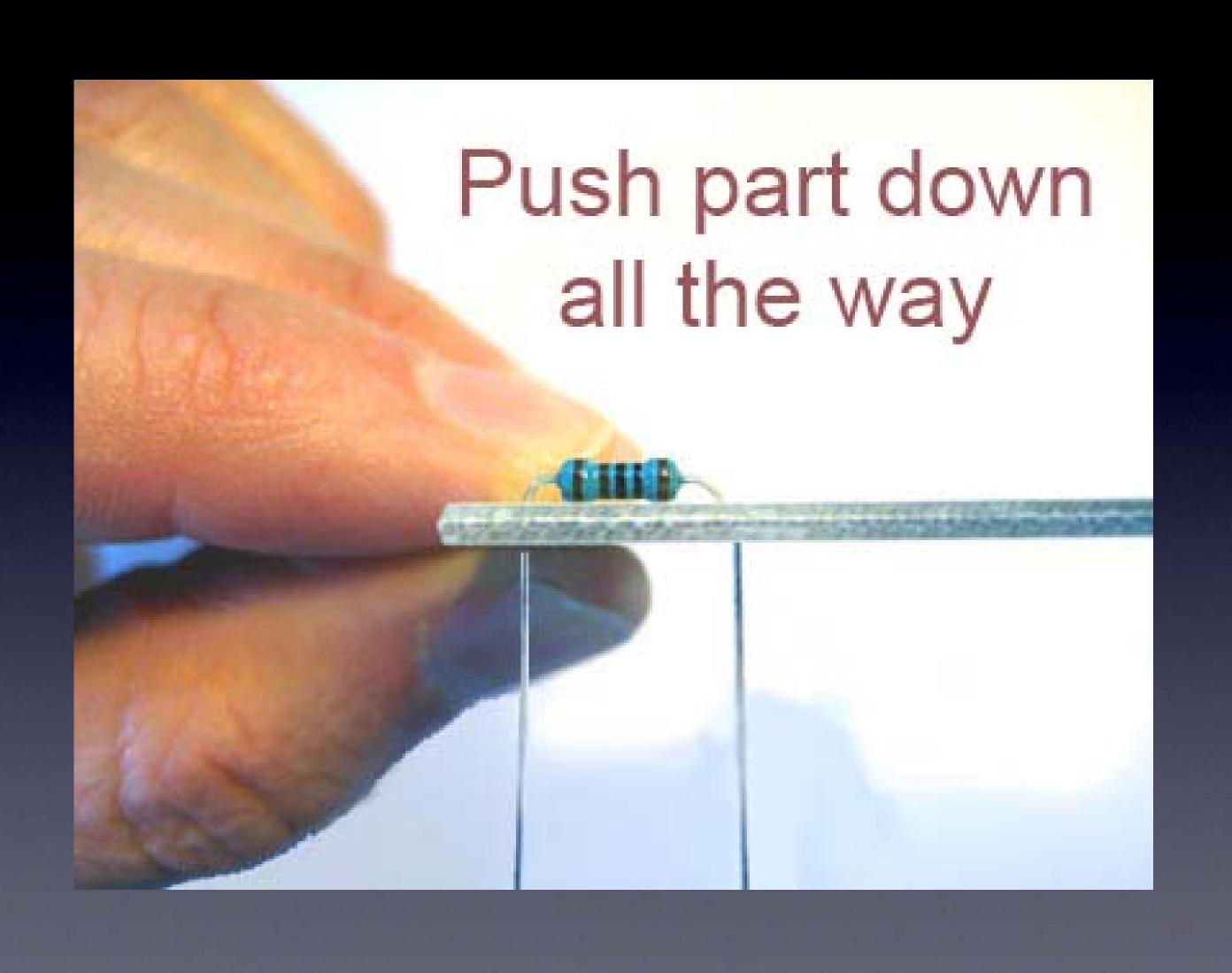


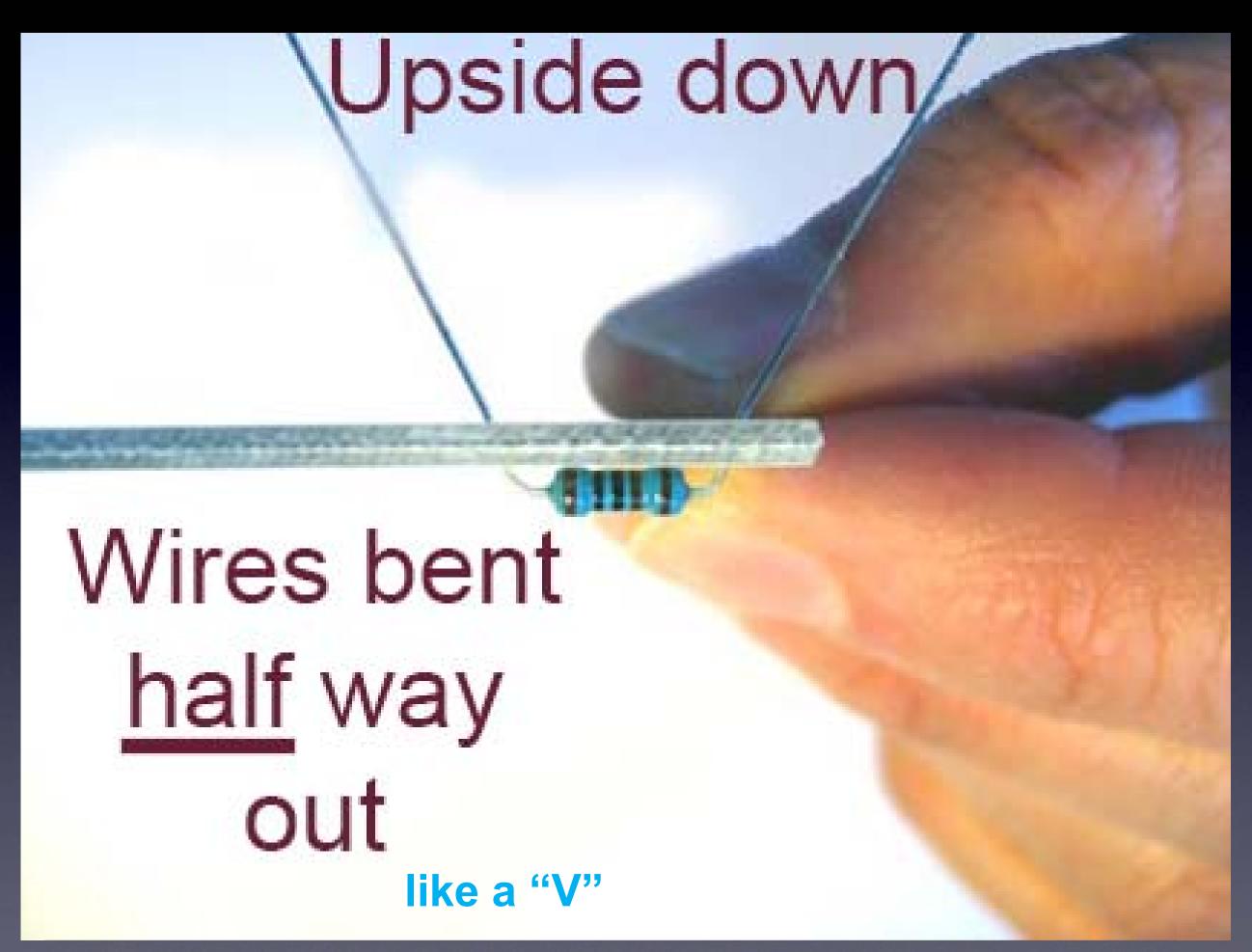




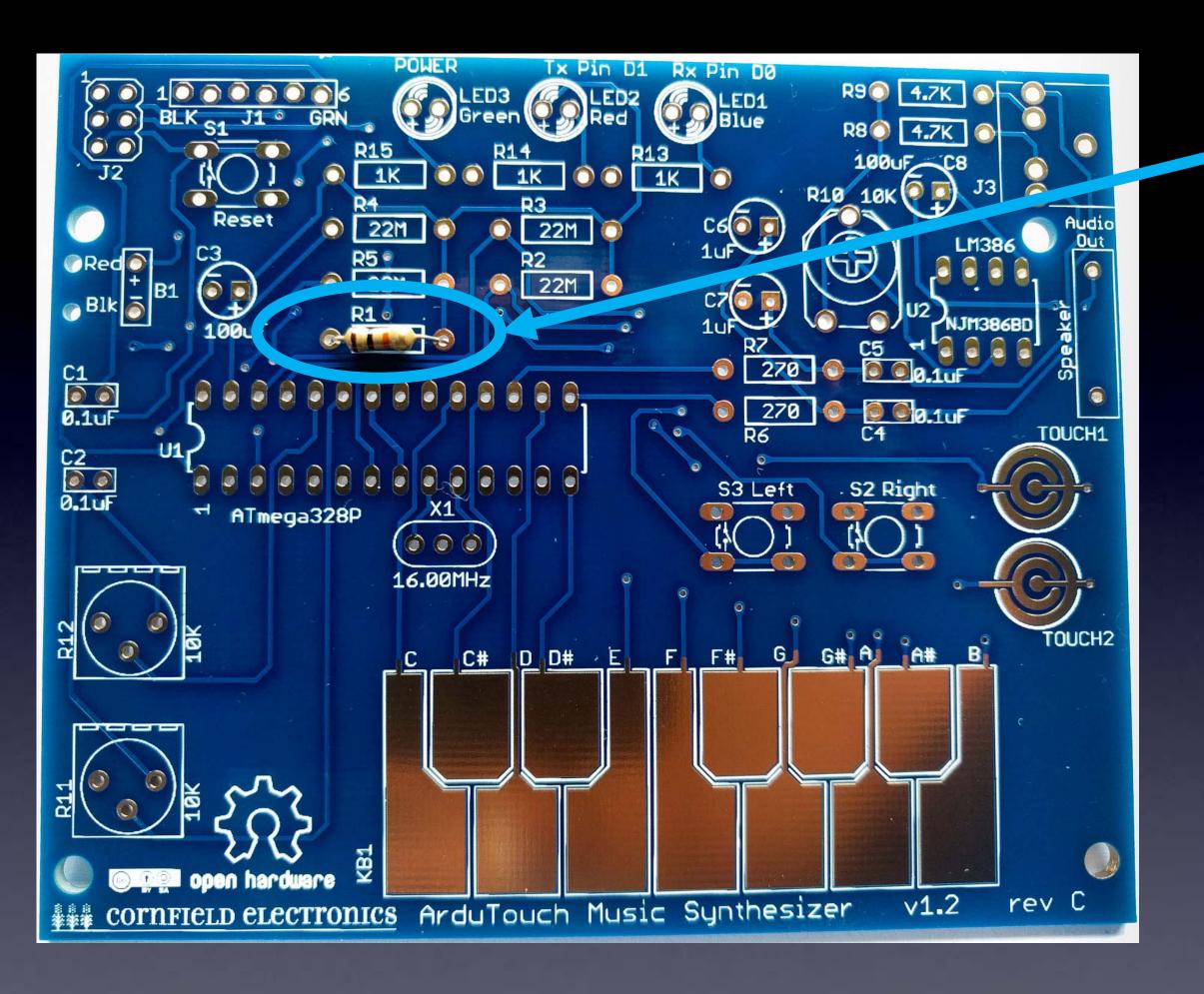
R1 – this is how it will look *before* inserting it into the board







so that the part won't fall out while soldering it



R1 – inserted into the board



How to hold a soldering iron

(Like a pencil – held from underneath)



The perfect kind of solder for electronics:

60/40 rosin core, is also goog

0.031" diameter (or smaller)

Important:

Use solder WITH lead (Pb) !!
lead-free solder
has very poisonous fumes!

3 Safety Tips...

Safety Tip #1:

Hot!!

(When you touch the tip, you will let go quickly every time!)

Safety Tip #2:

Lead (Pb) is toxic

But it easily washes off your hands with soap and water

Safety Tip #3:

(coming soon)

2 secrets to good soldering...

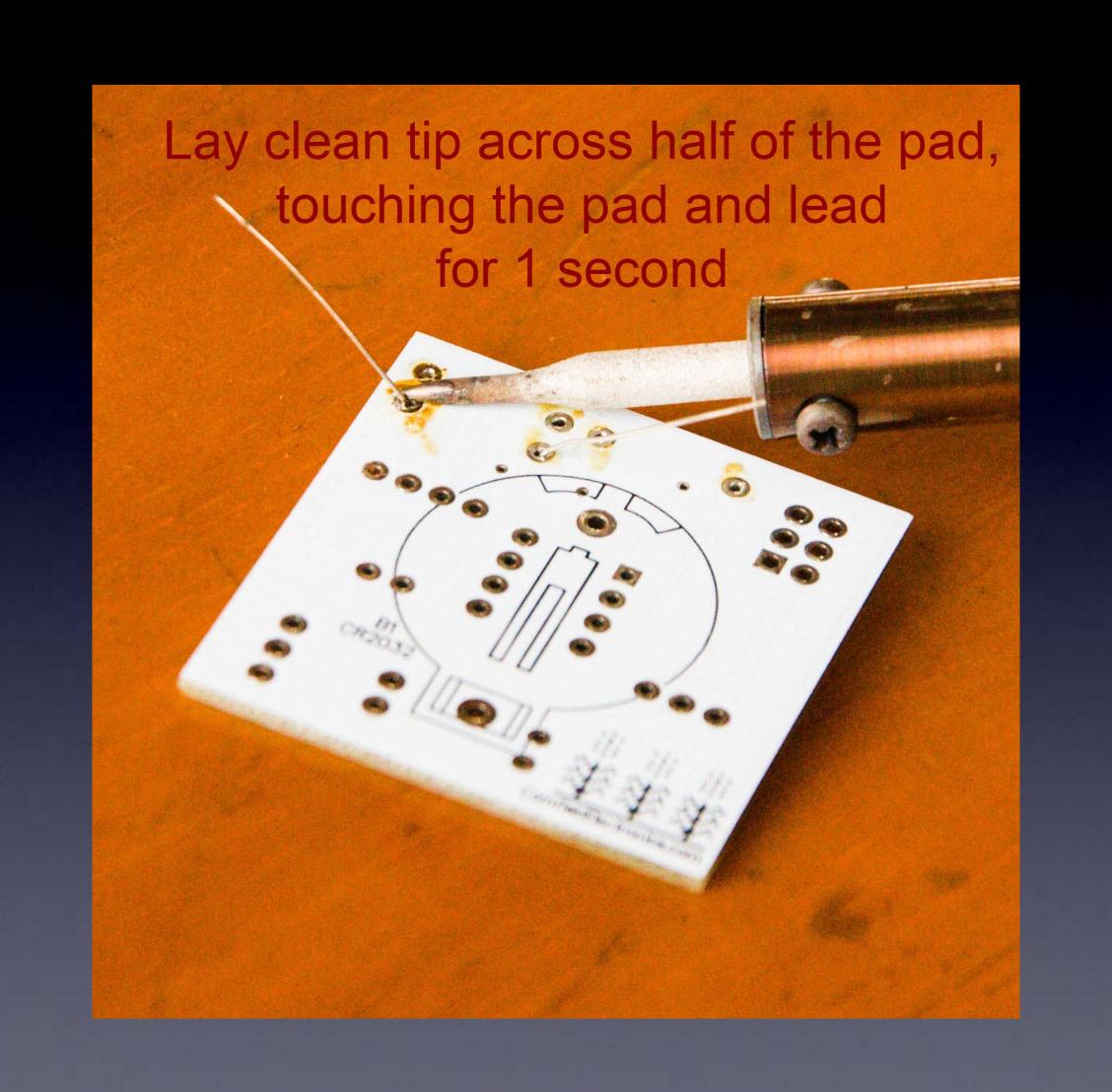
Secret #1:

Clean the tip!

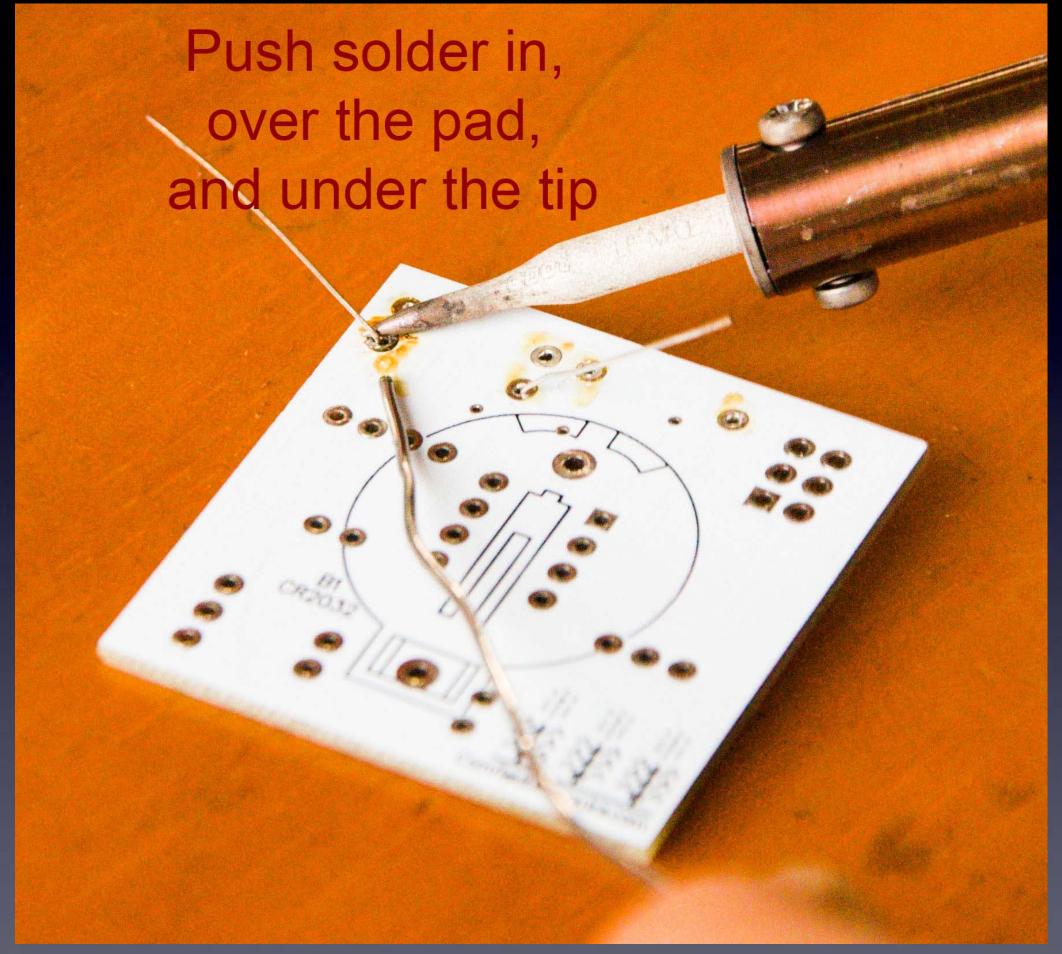
(before every solder connection)

Bang (lightly) 3 times, Swipe, Rotate, Swipe (on the sponge):

Keep the tip shiny silver!

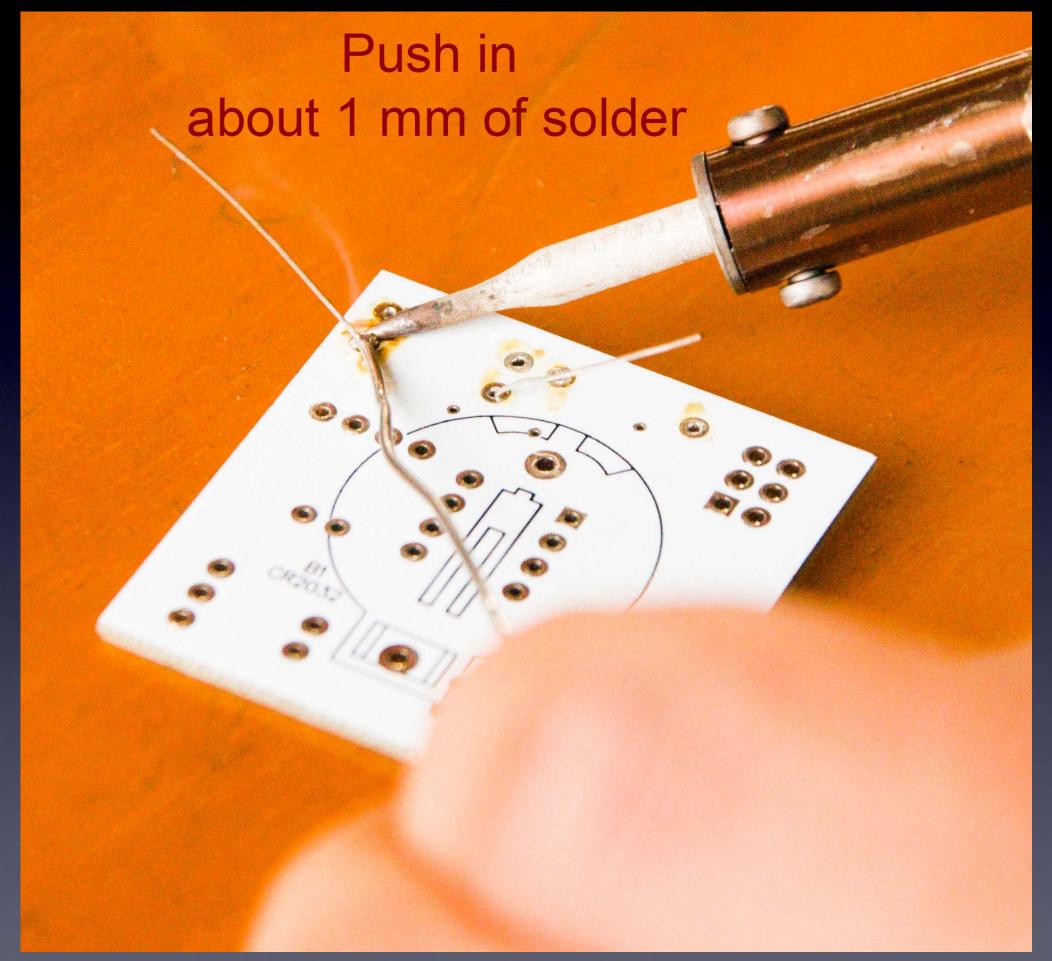


Do this quickly (slowly doesn't work well) – solder in & out in about 1 second

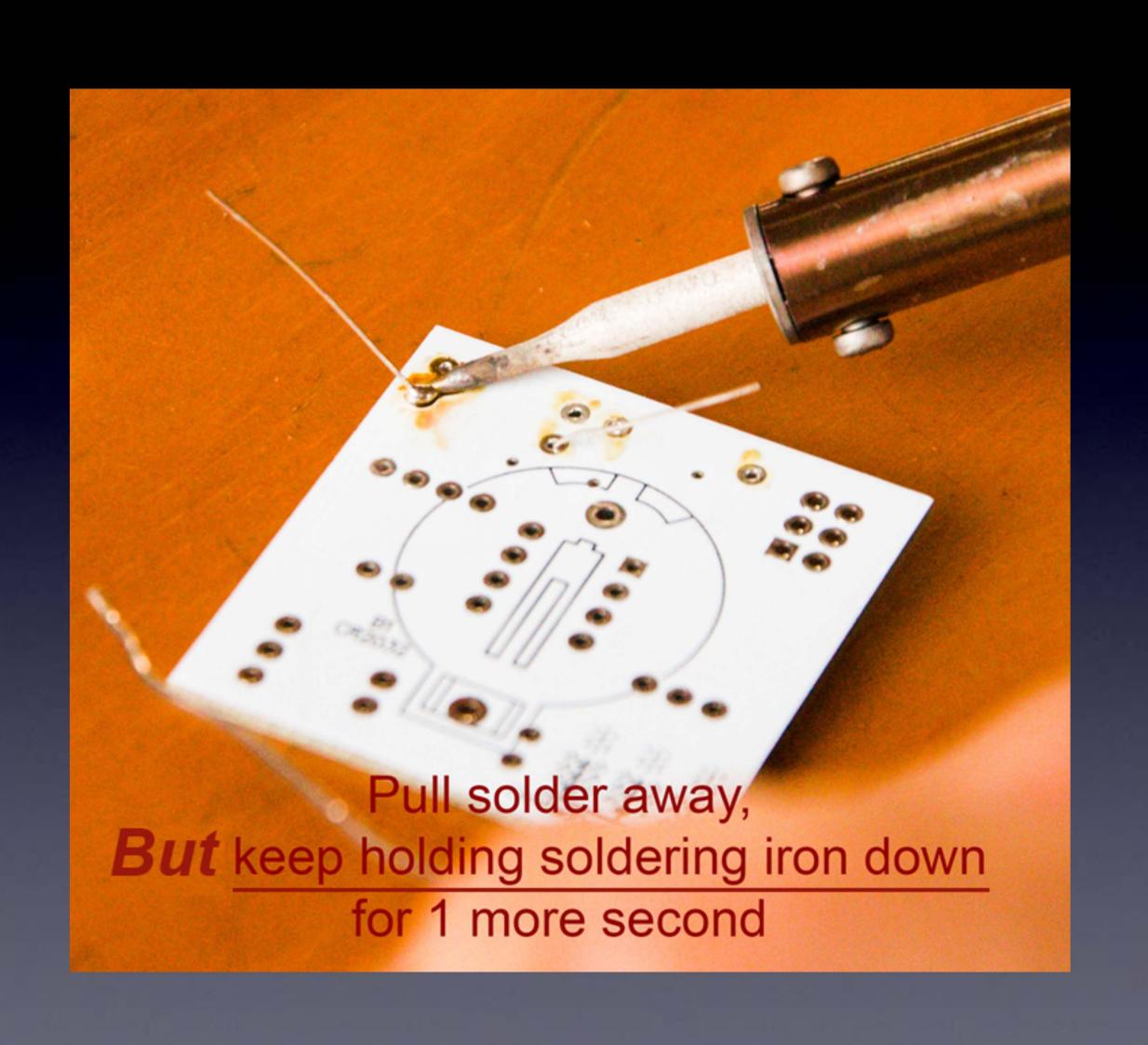


Make sure solder melts on the <u>underside</u> of the soldering iron tip (not the side or top of the soldering iron tip)!

Do this quickly (slowly doesn't work well) – solder in & out in about 1 second

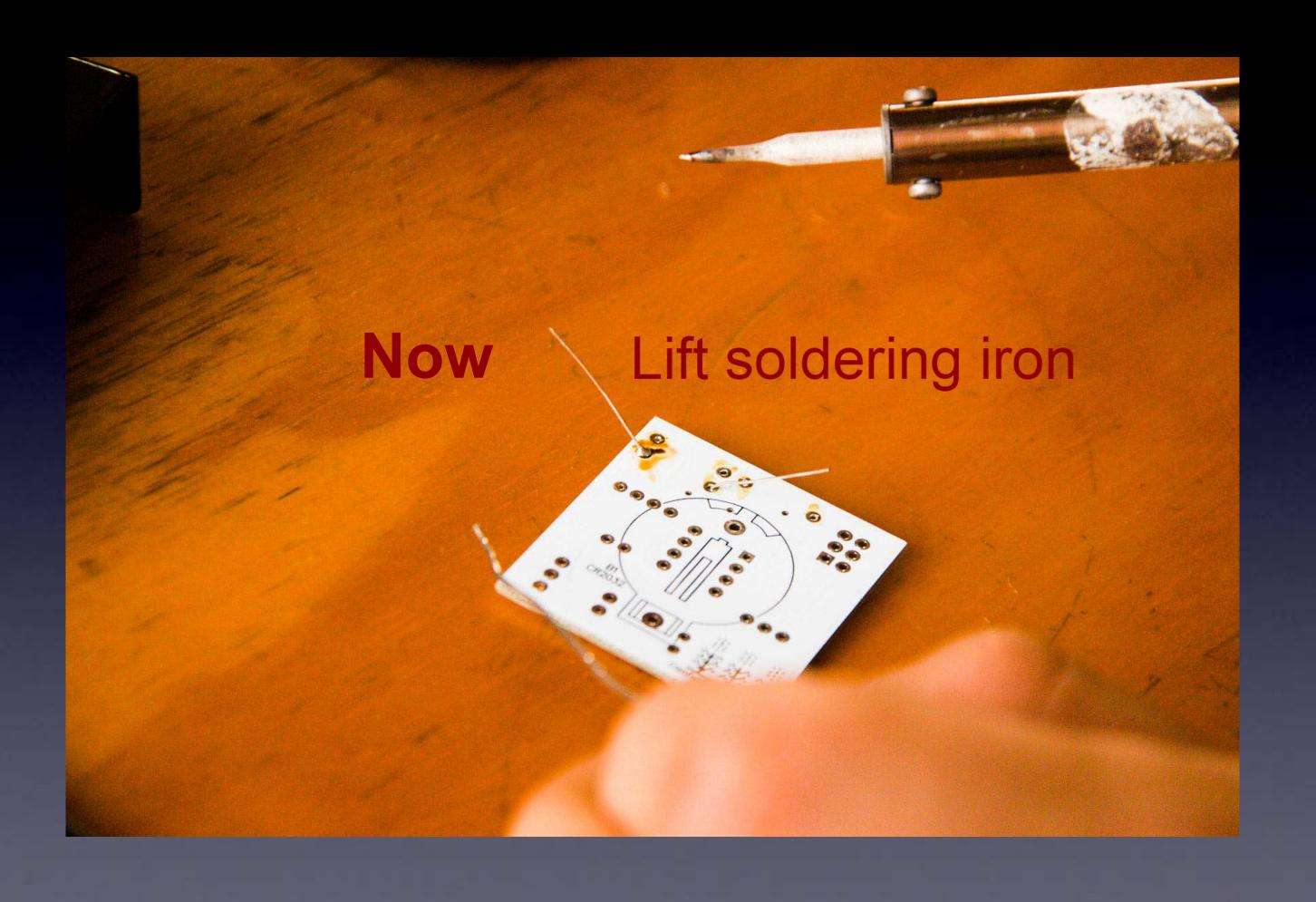


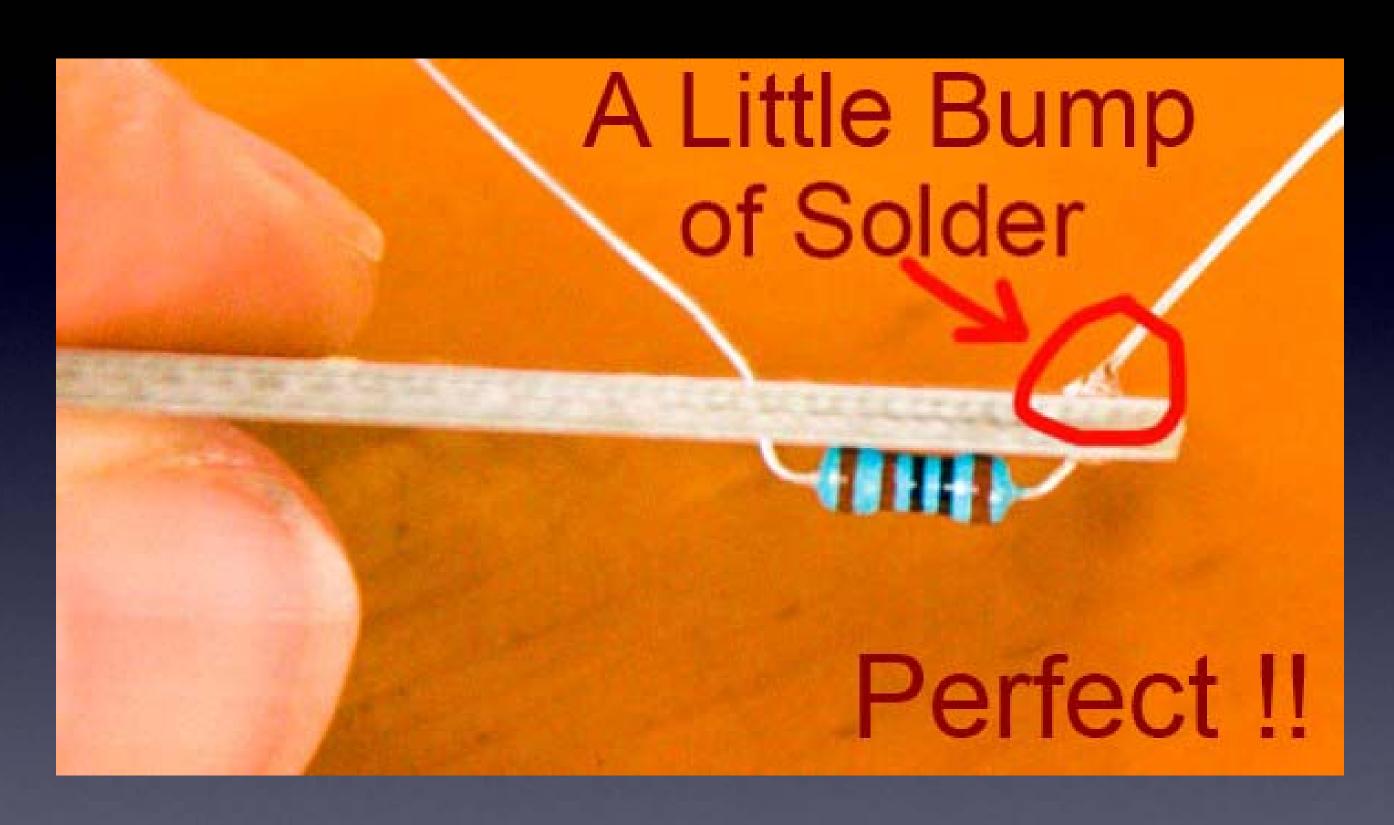
Make sure solder melts on the <u>underside</u> of the soldering iron tip (not the side or top of the soldering iron tip)!



Secret #2:

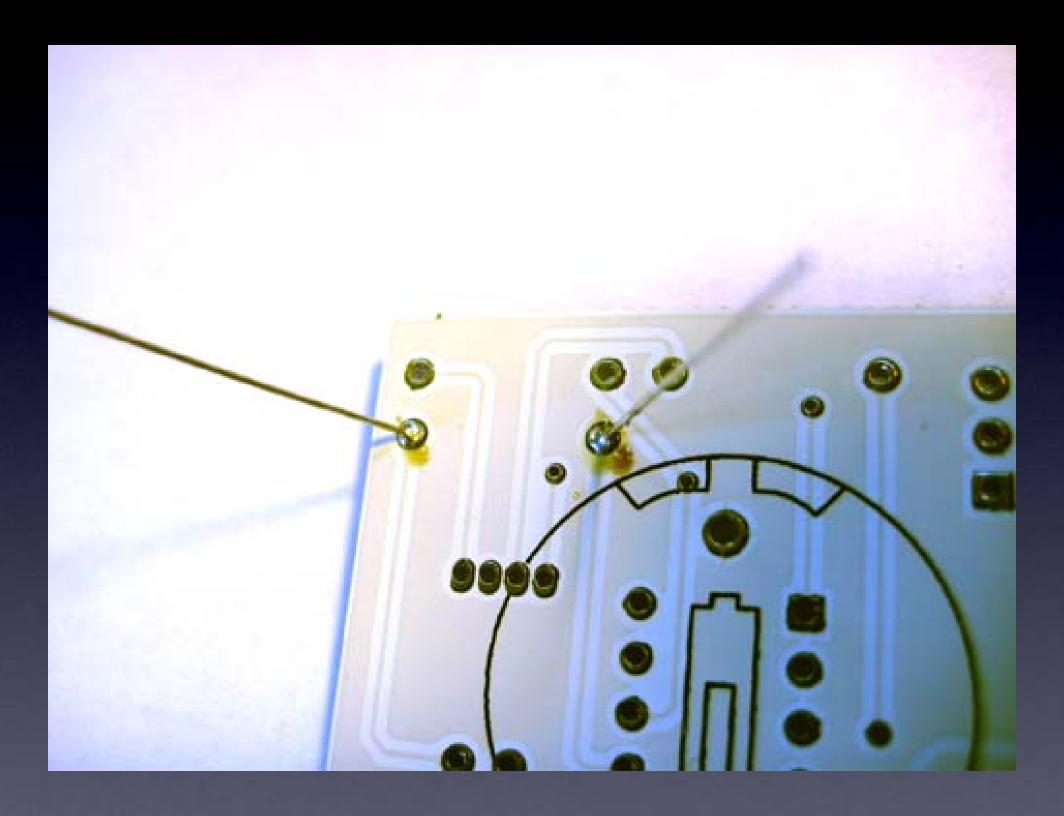
Keep hot tip down
1 second
for solder to flow!!





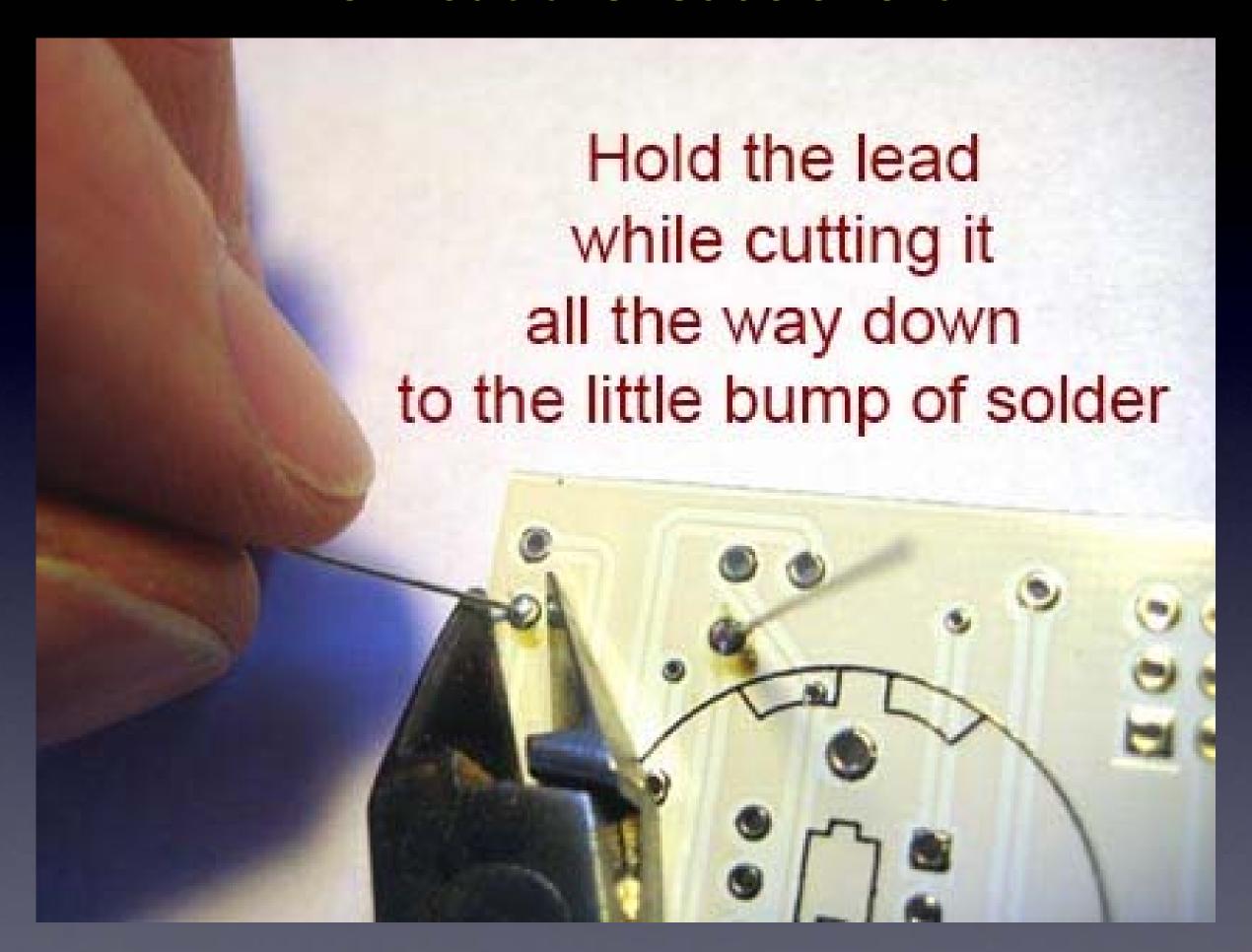
If you can see any of the pad, or the hole, you need more solder – so, just do all the steps again to make it perfect.

Solder all of the leads of the part to the board



For this part, there are two leads
Here you can see two good solder connections

Now cut the leads short



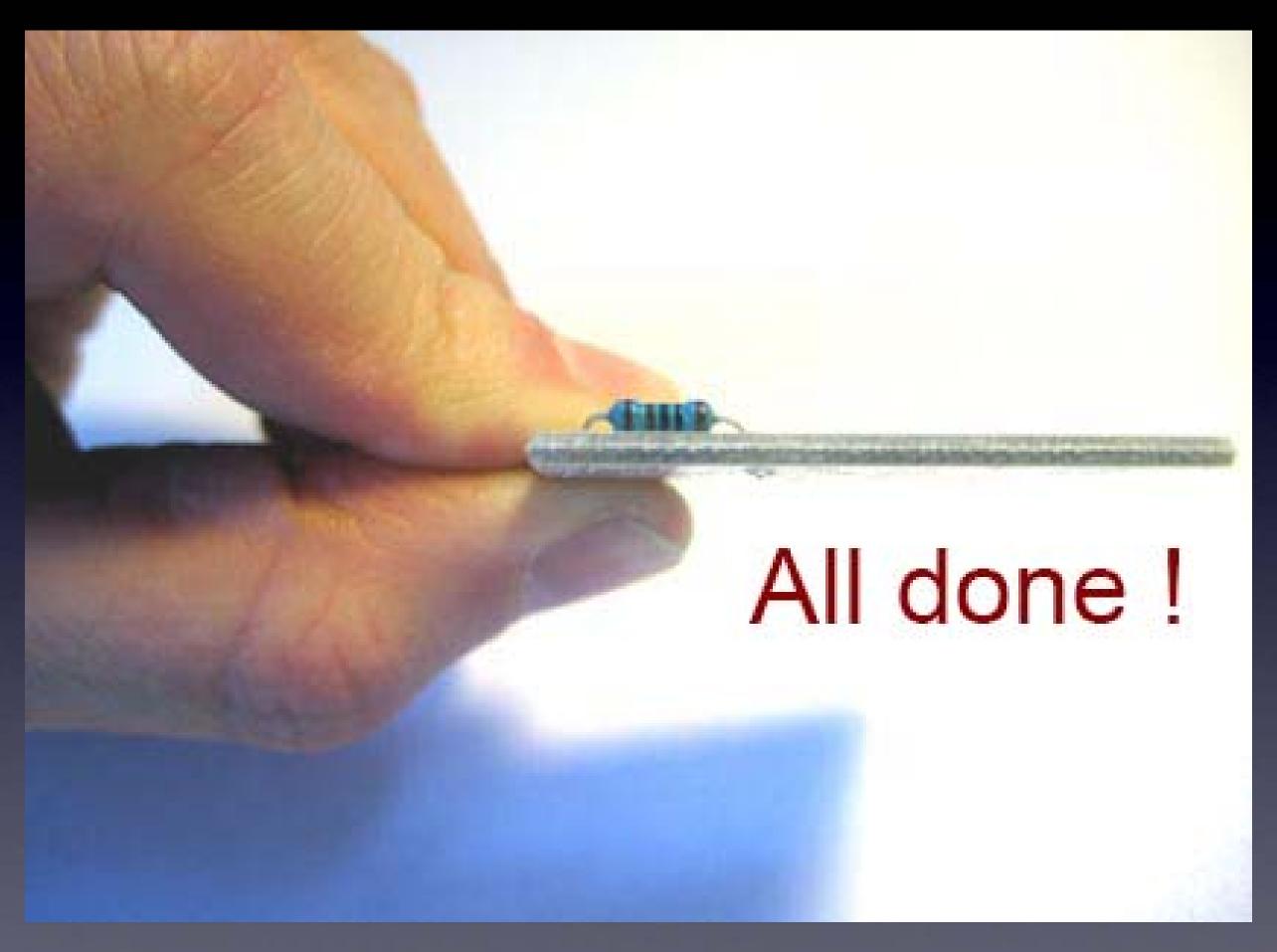
Cutting with the tip of the wire cutter gives you more control

Safety Tip #3:

Hold or cover the lead!

(or it will fly into your eye!)

(They like doing that – so please hold or cover the lead when you cut.)



No wires sticking out



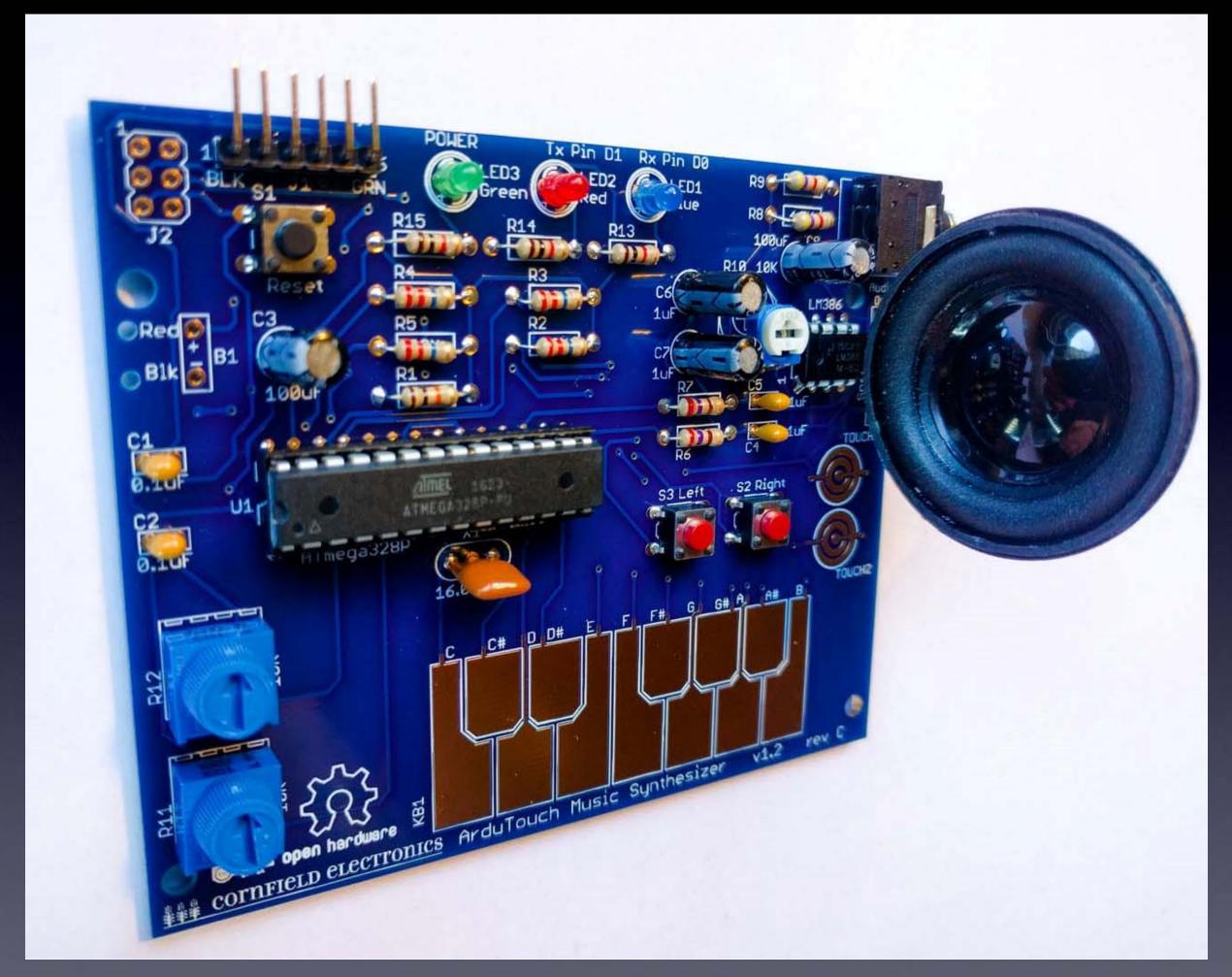
R1 soldered to the board

Notice that:

- each connection is a small bump (not flat)
- you cannot see any pad (it's totally covered with solder)
- you cannot see the hole (it's totally covered with solder)

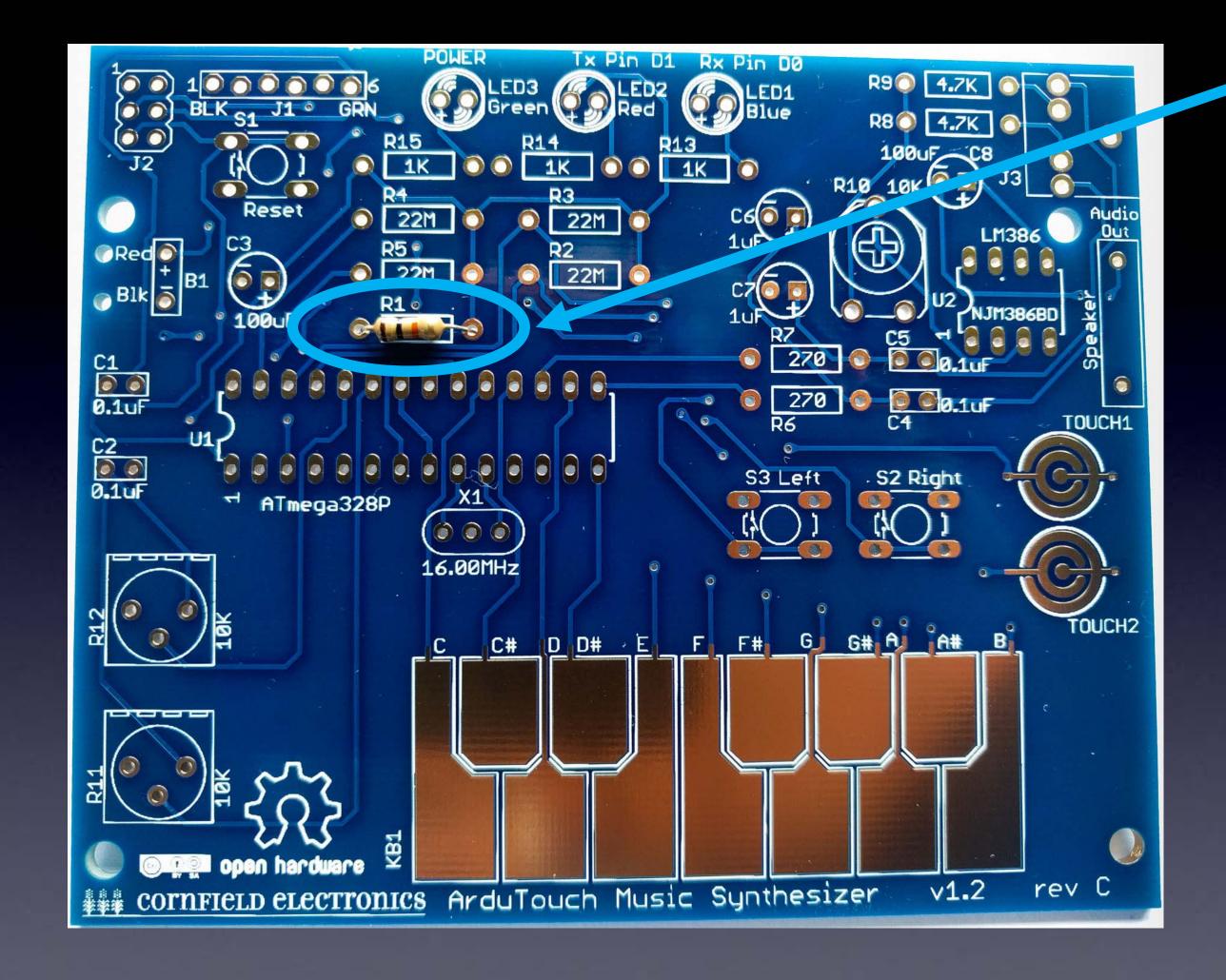
One part at a time

Till all the parts are soldered



And it will look like this when you're done.

Let's start!



If you haven't done so already, solder R1: brown, black, orange

R1:

10K: Brown, Black, Orange

R2, R3, R4, R5:

22M: Red, Red, Blue

R6, R7:

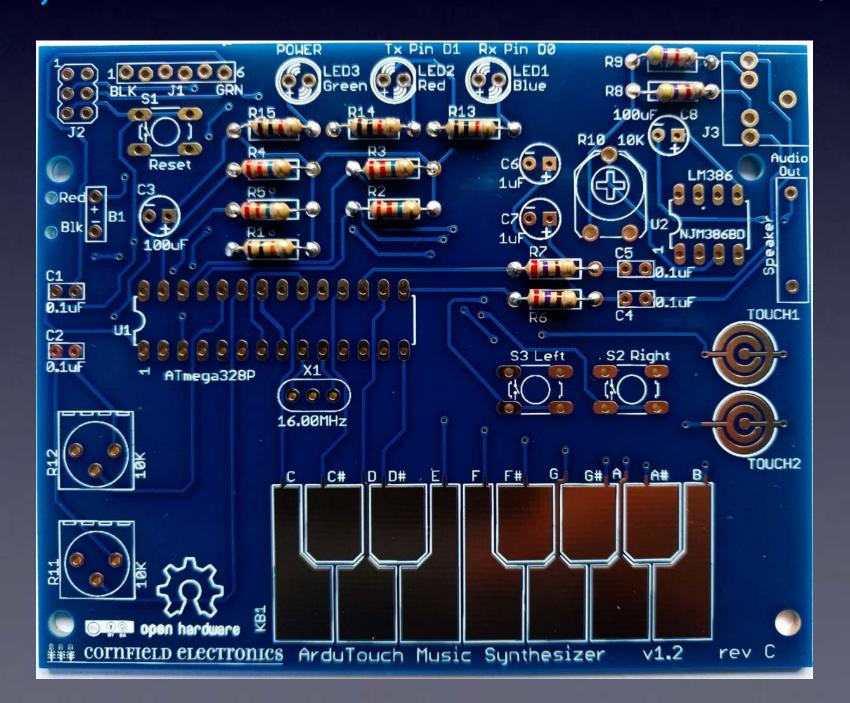
270: Red, Violet, Brown

R8, R9:

4.7K: Yellow, Violet, Red

R13, R14, R15:

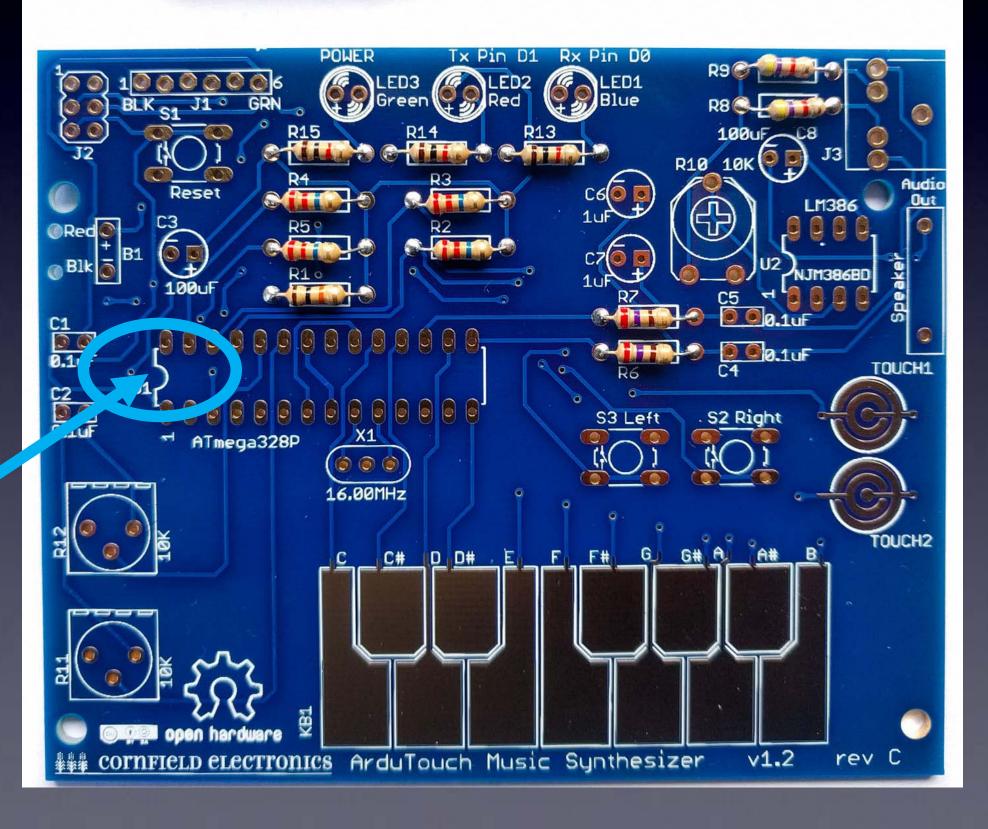
1K: Brown, Black, Red



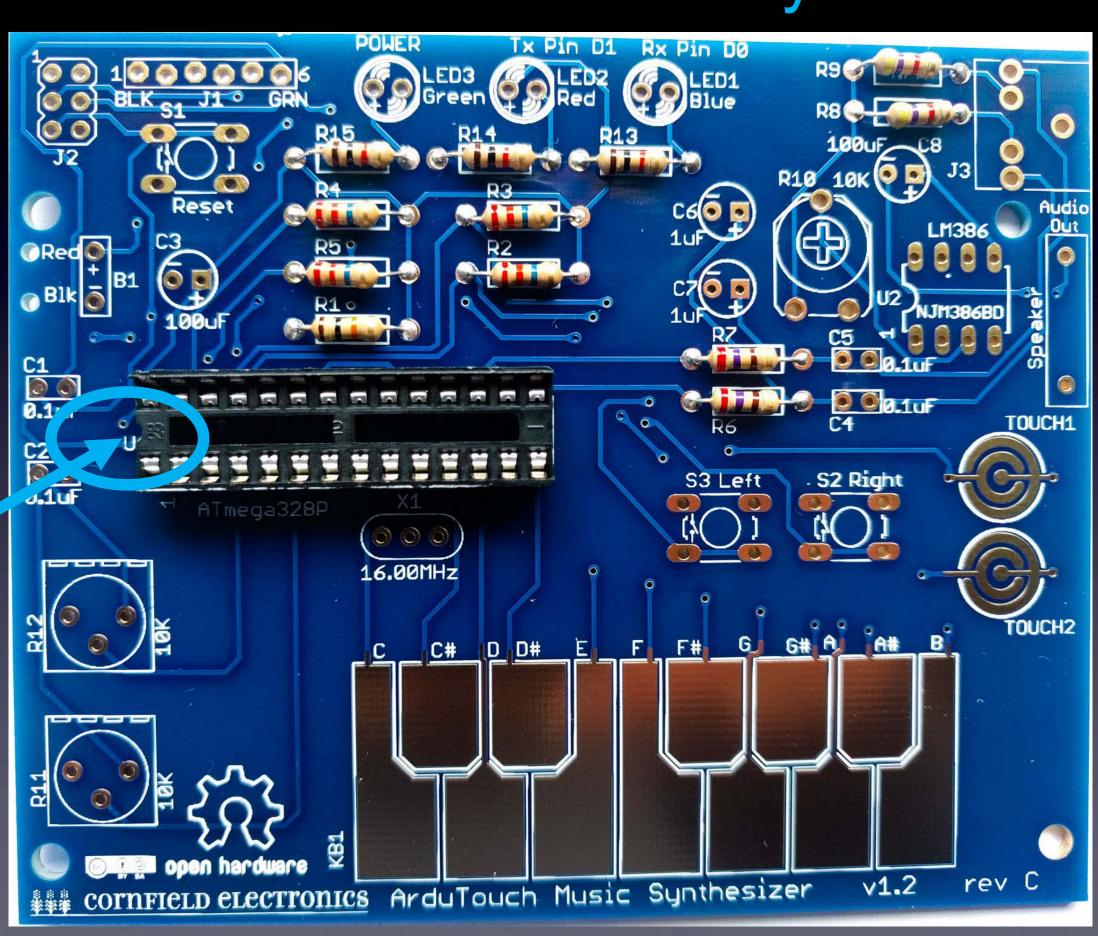
U1: microcontroller socket



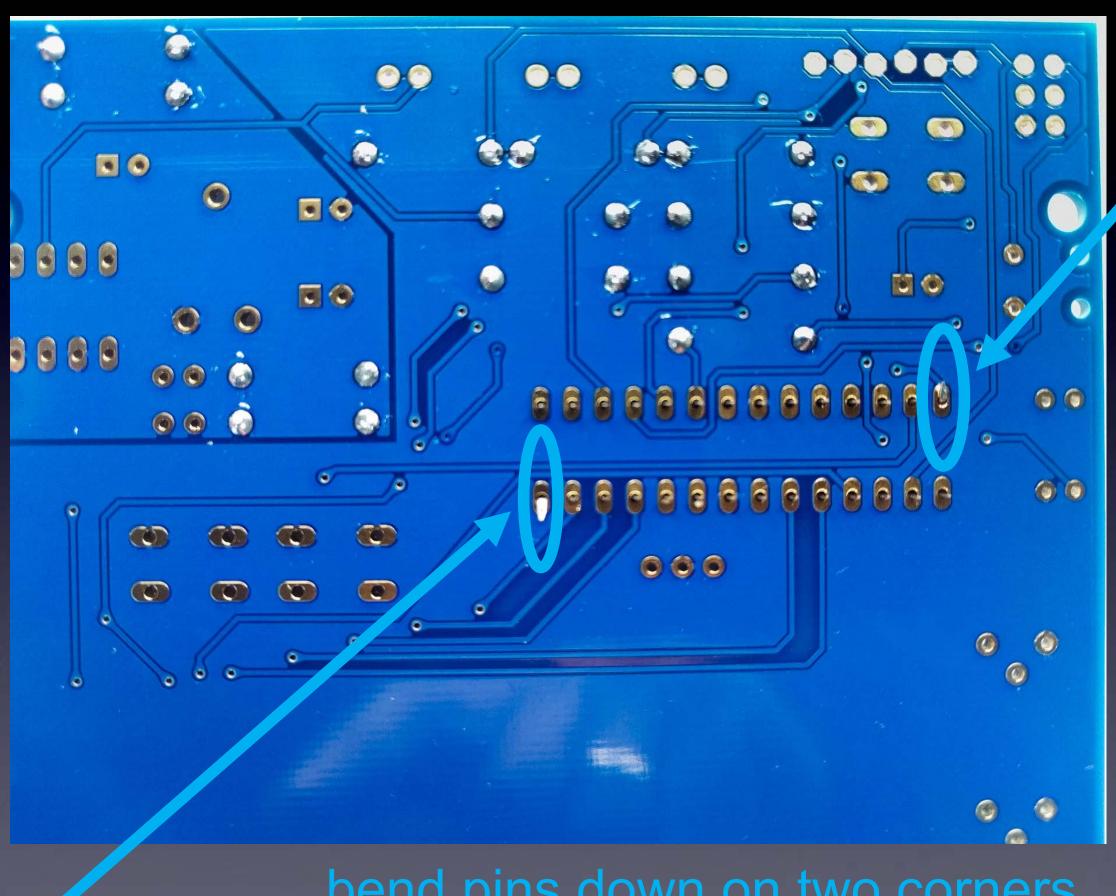
proper orientation



U1: microcontroller socket: inserted correctly

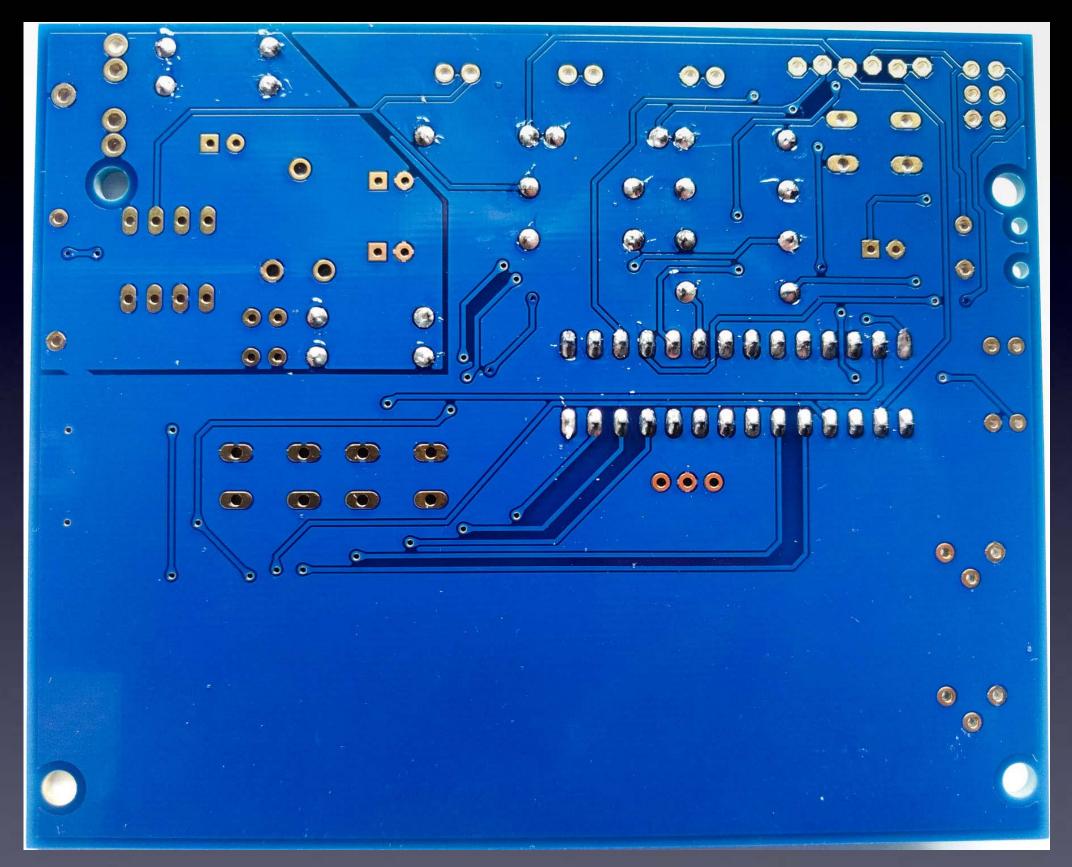


U1: microcontroller socket



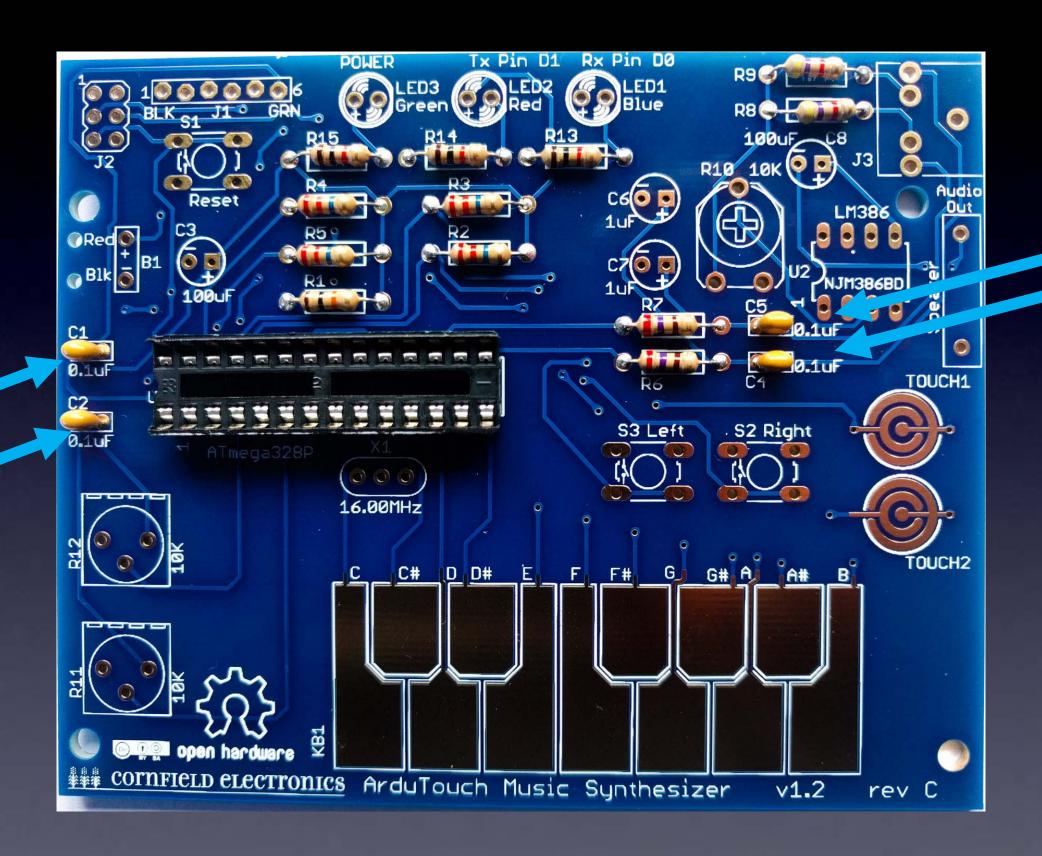
bend pins down on two corners, and solder all 28 leads to the board

U1: microcontroller socket

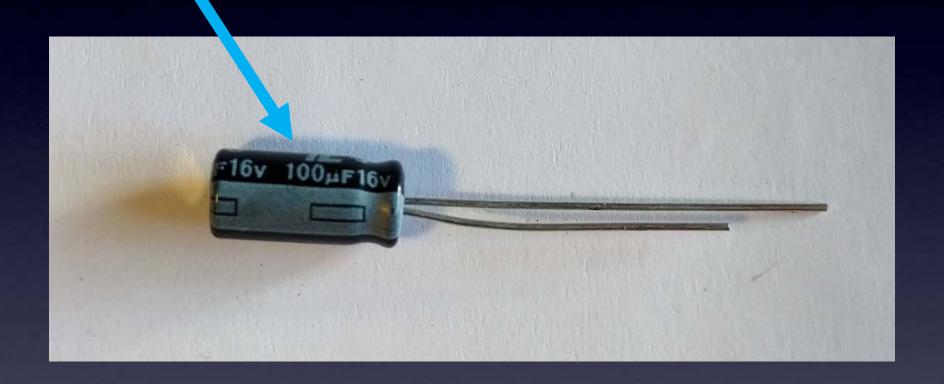


All 28 leads soldered to the board:

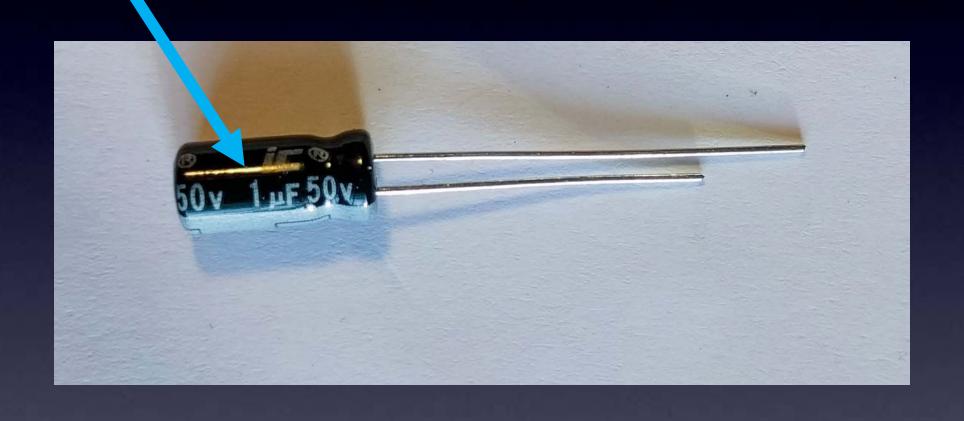
→ Notice that each has a little bump of solder (not flat). ←



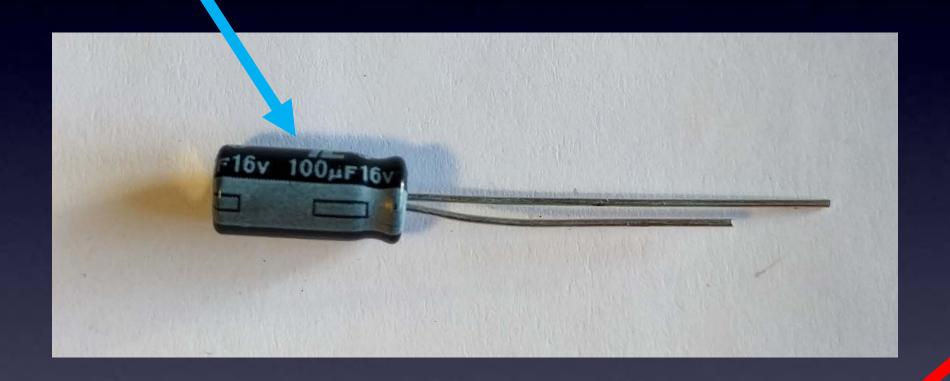
C1, C2, C4, C5



C3, C8: 100uF

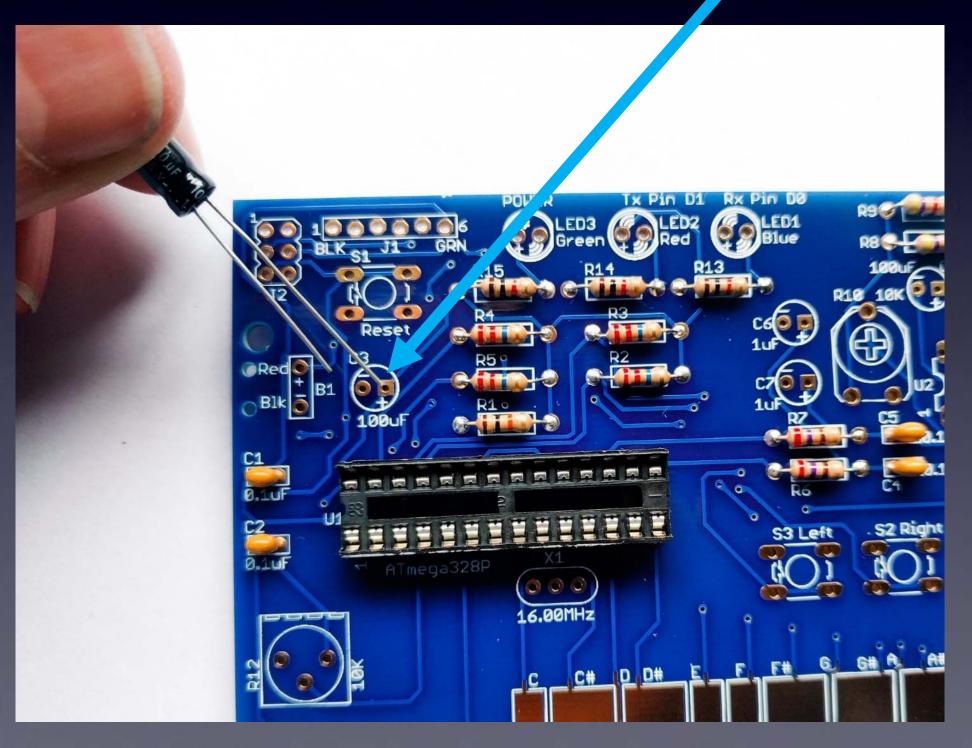


Different than C3, C8!
C6, C7: 1uF

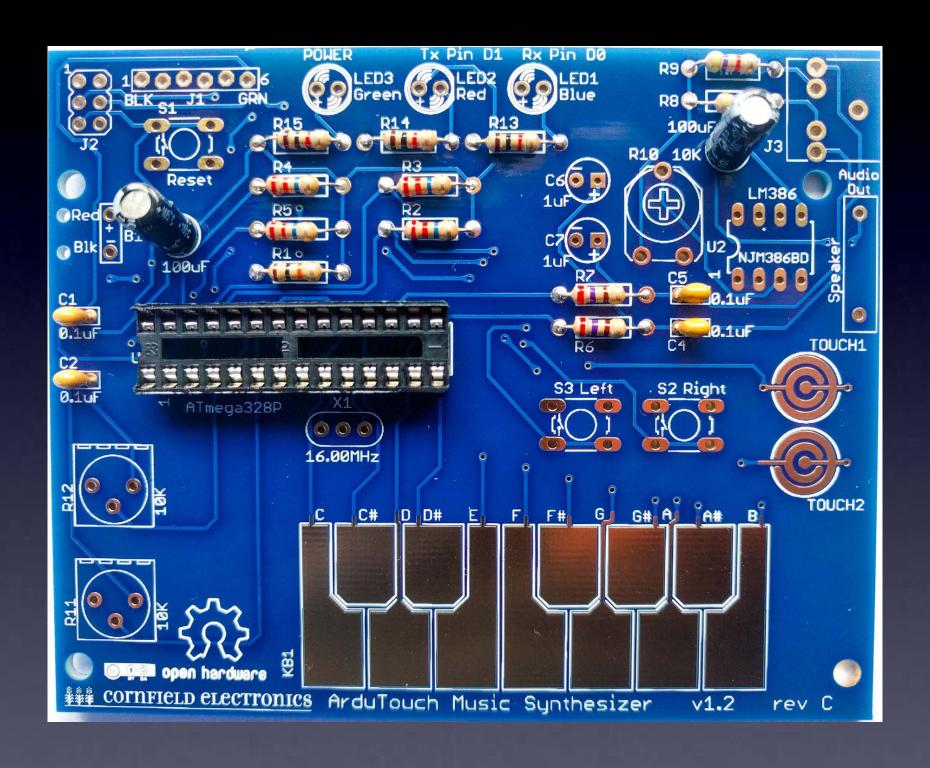


C3, C8: 100uF

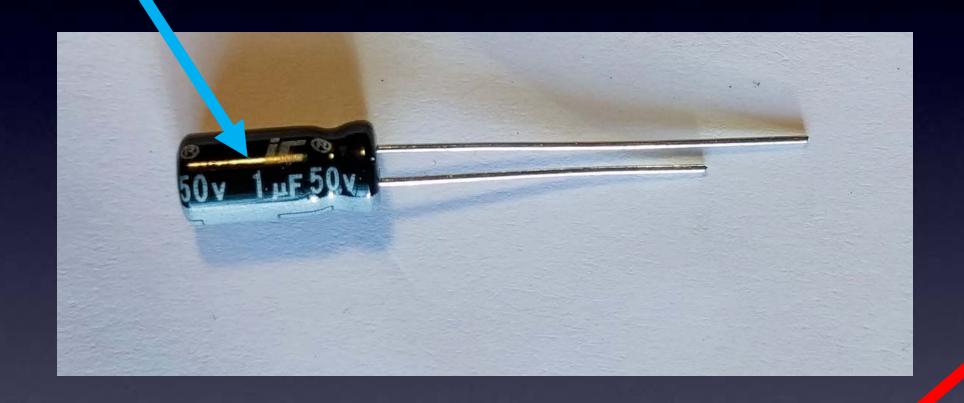
C3, C8: Long Lead "+"



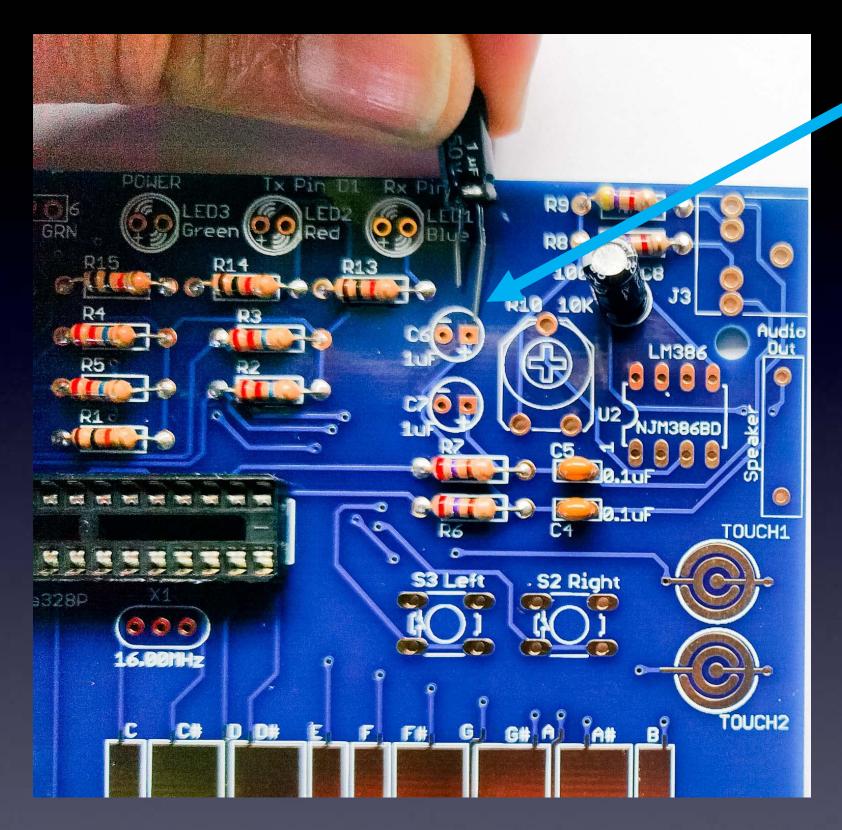




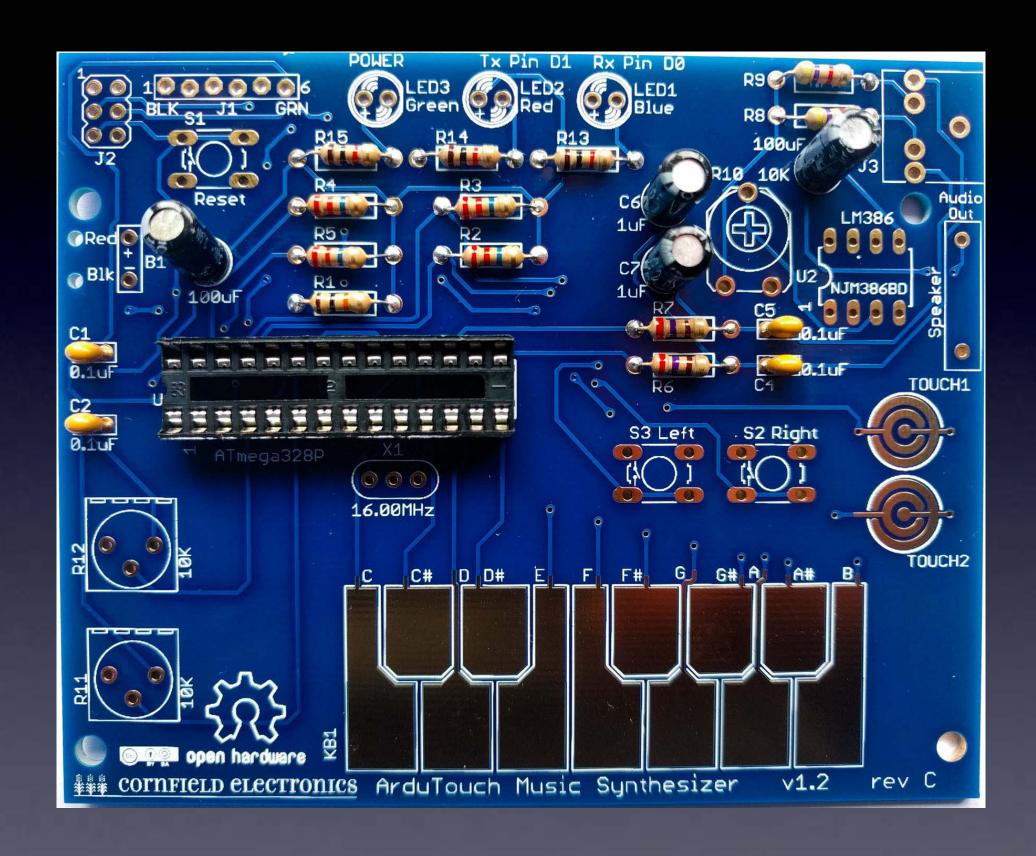
C3, C8: 100uF - soldered to board



C6, C7: 1uF

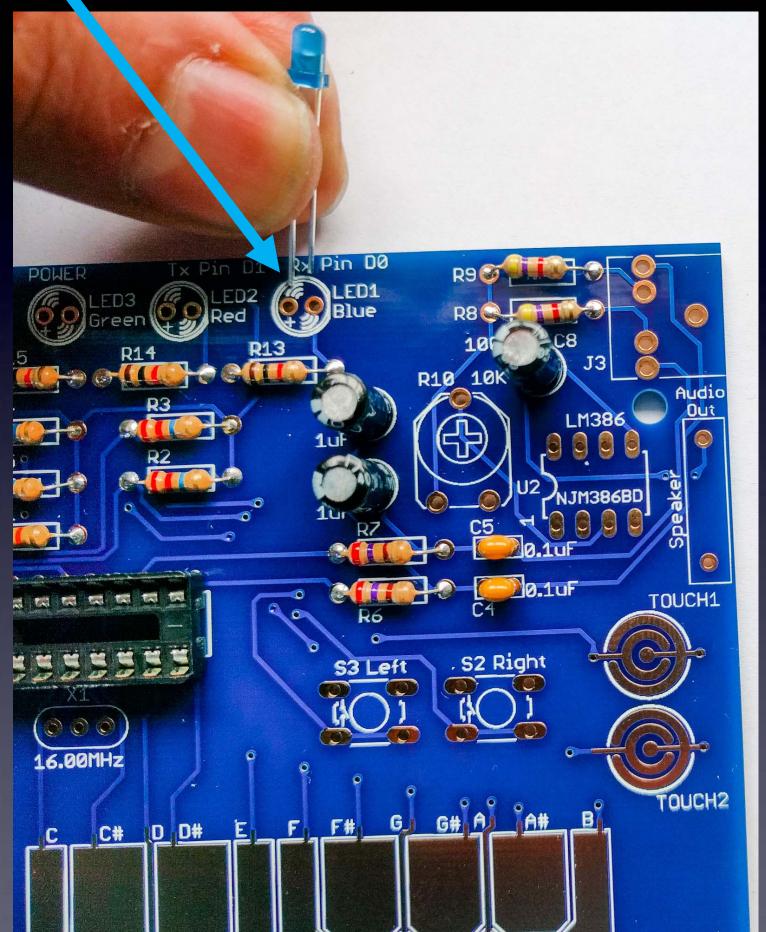


C6, C7: Long Lead "+"



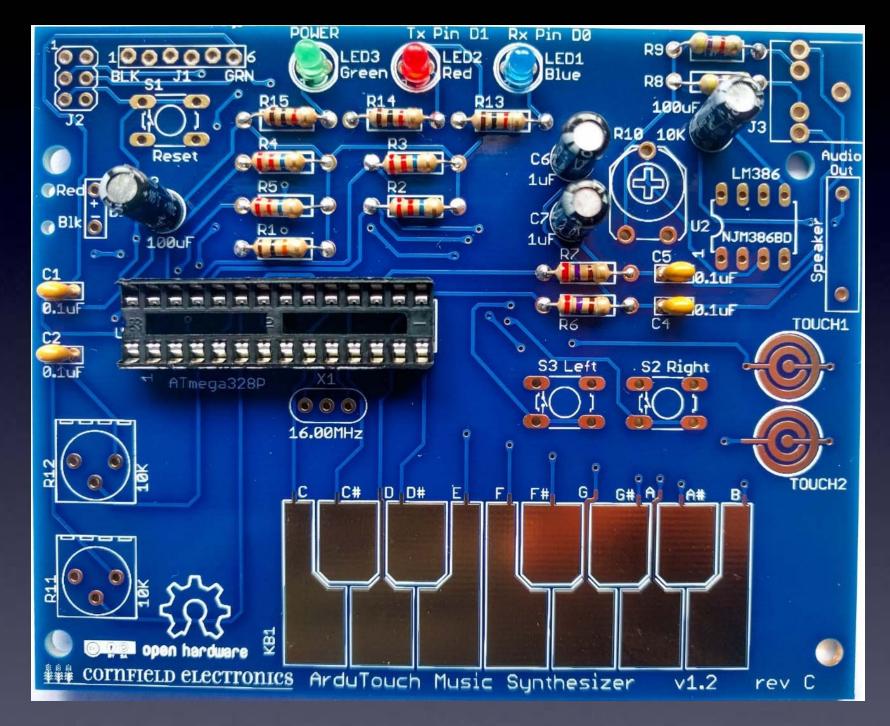
C6, C7: 1uF – soldered to board

LED1, LED2, LED3: Long Lead "+"

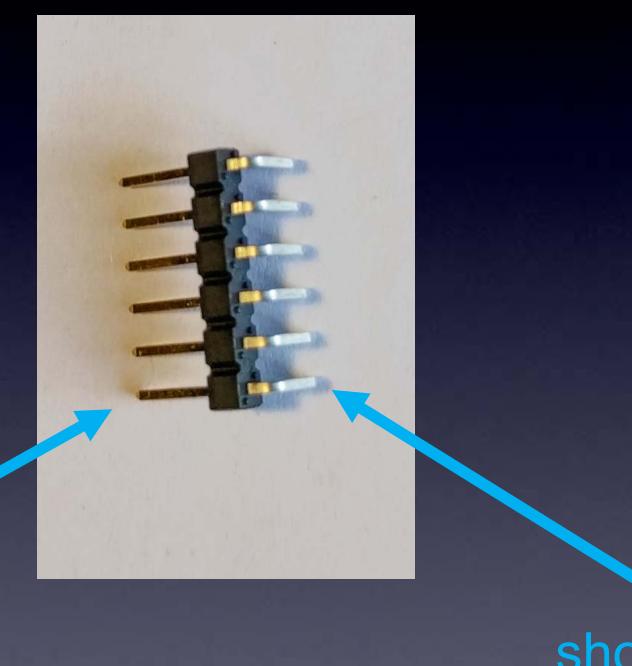




We'll use them for the speaker



LED1, LED2, LED3 Green, Red, Blue – soldered to board

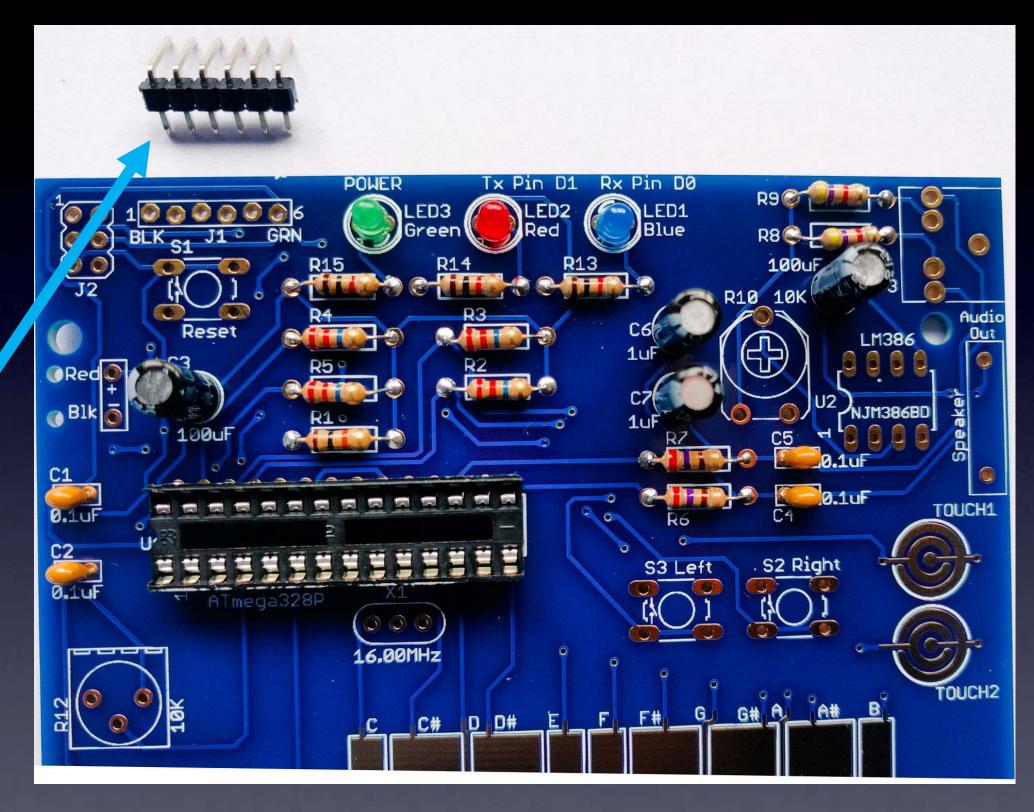


long leads

short leads

J1

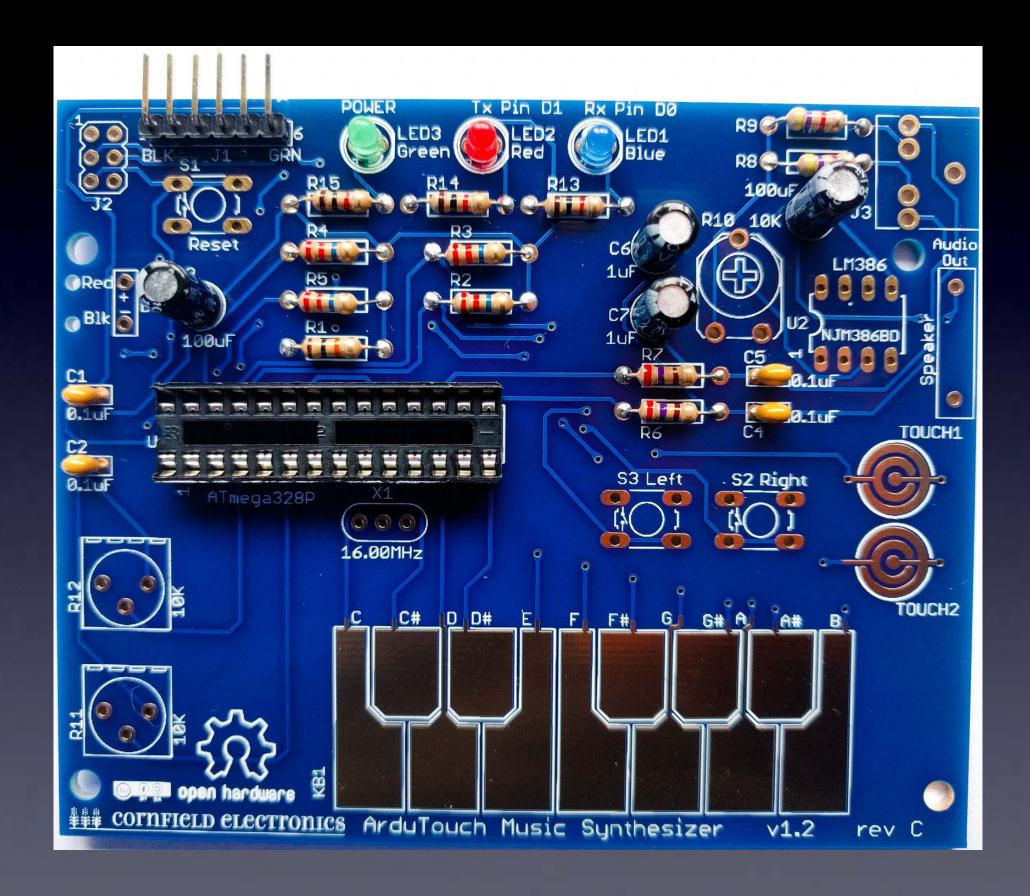
Short leads into board

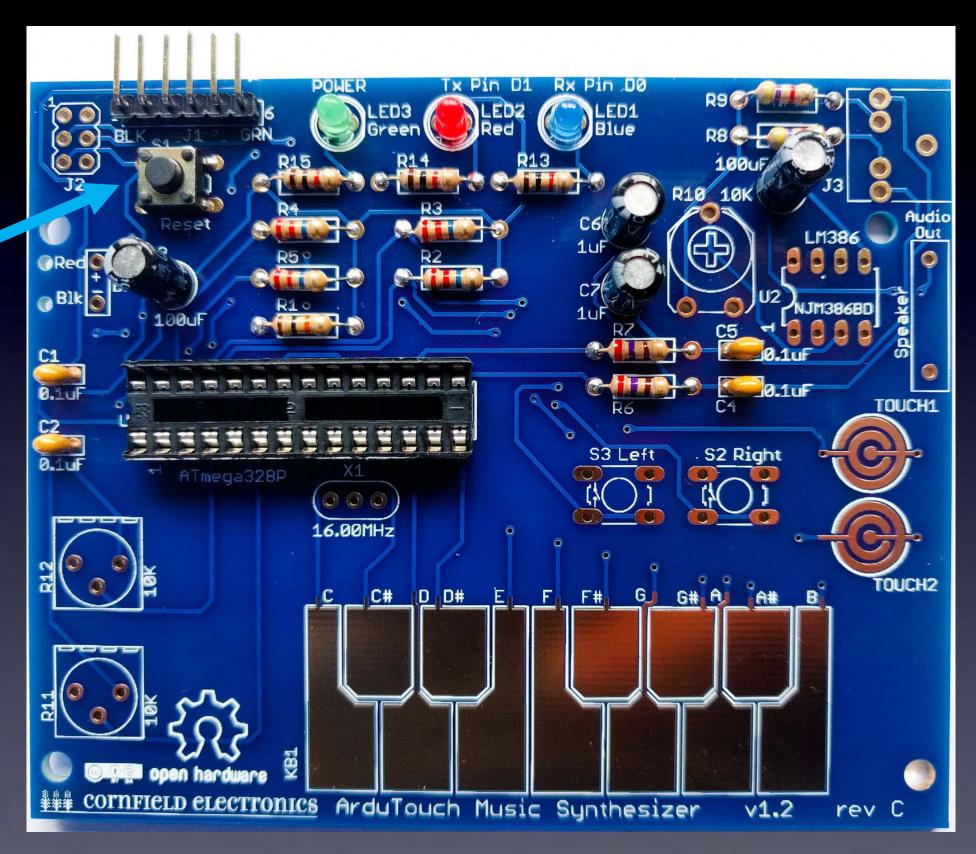


J1

short leads go into the board

→ long leads sticking out from board



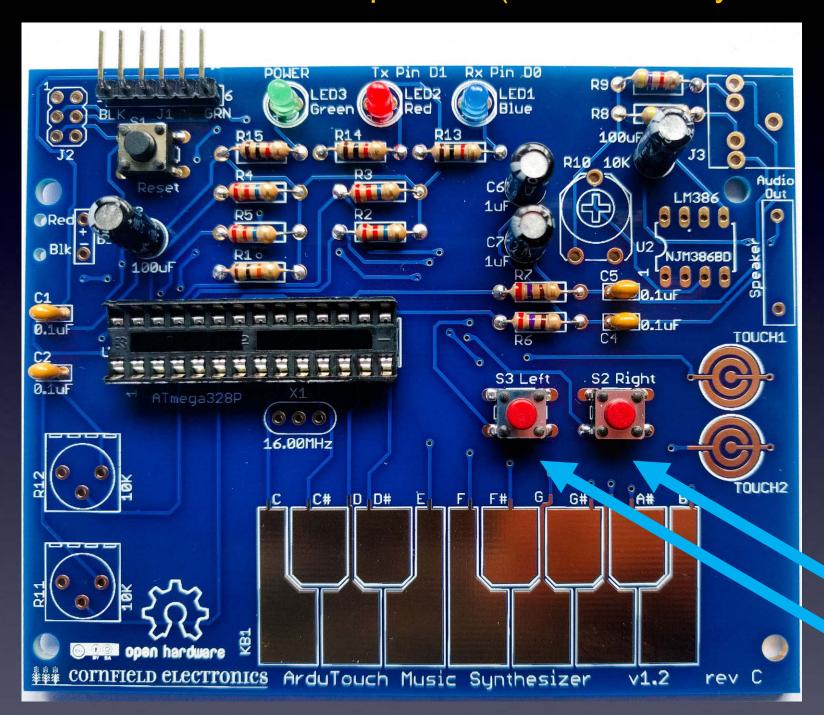


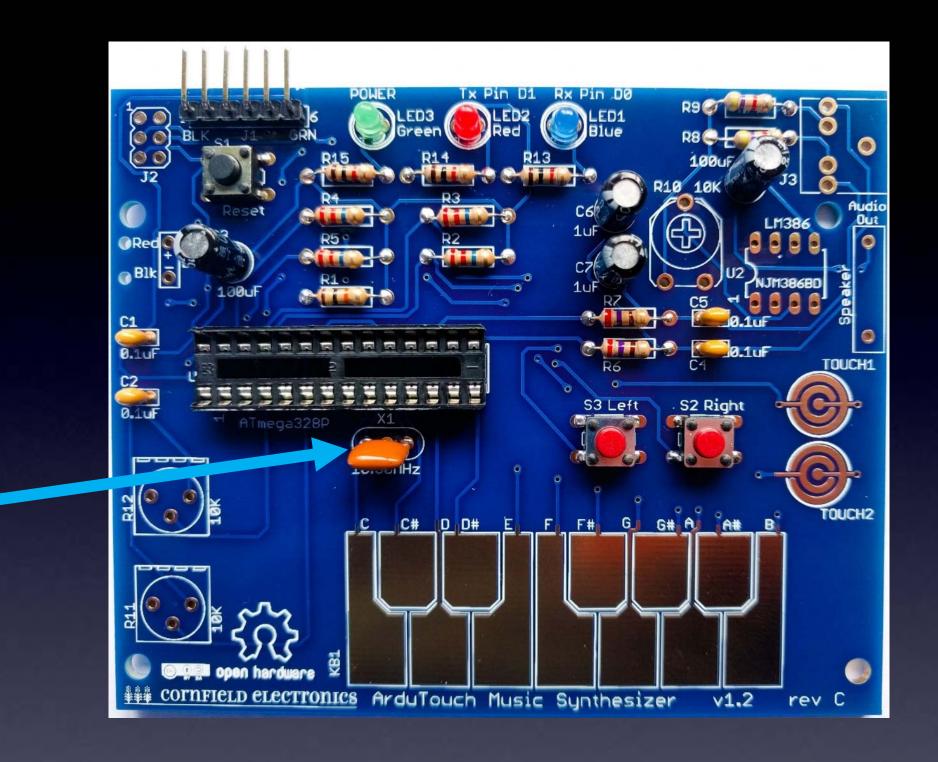
S1: black Reset button

Note: The color of this switch is not important (some kits may have different colors).

S2, S3: Red buttons

Note: The color of these switches is not important (some kits may have different colors).

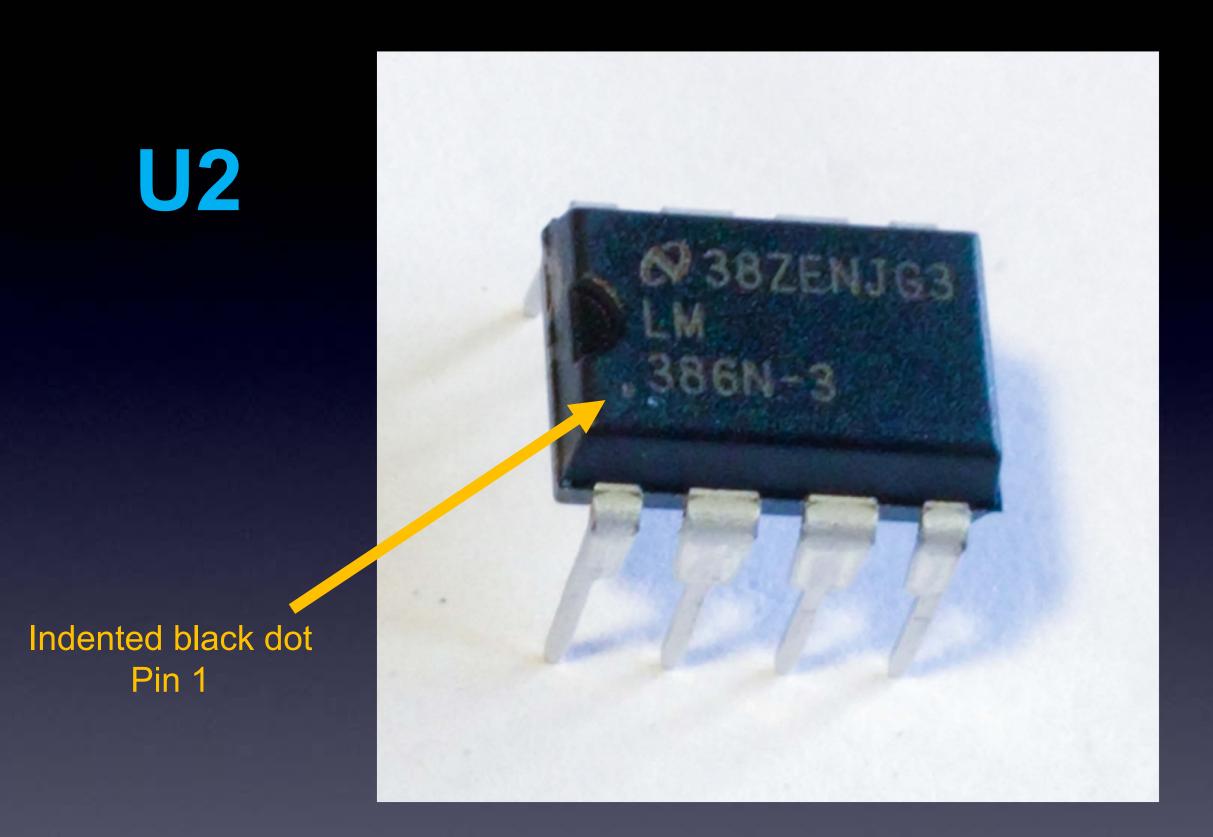




X1

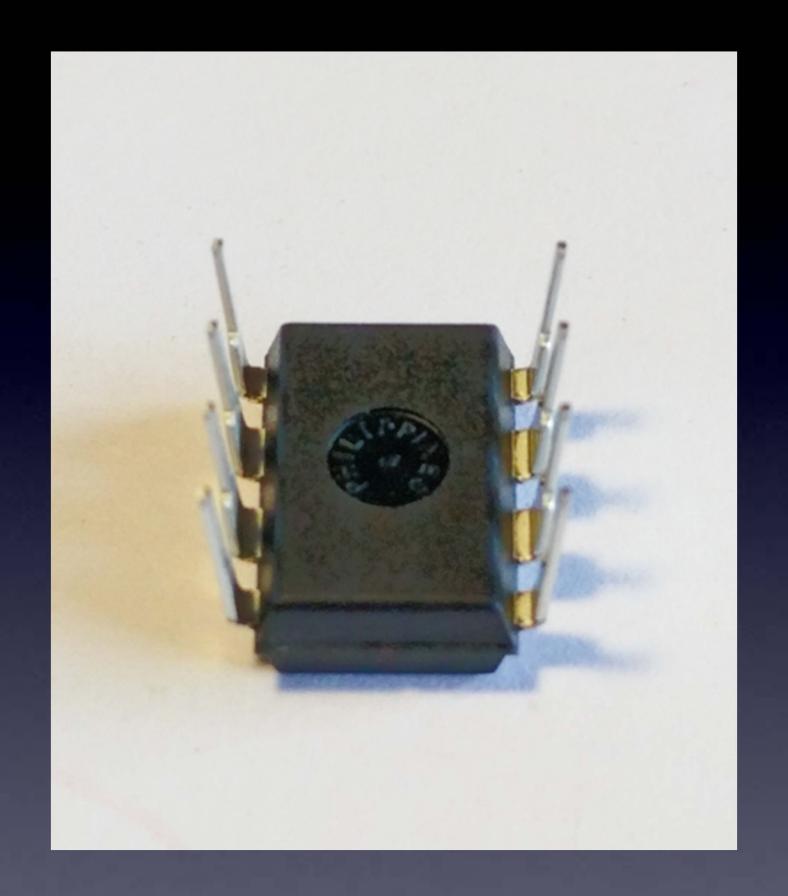
The orientation of X1 does not matter.

Note: X1 may be yellow or blue.

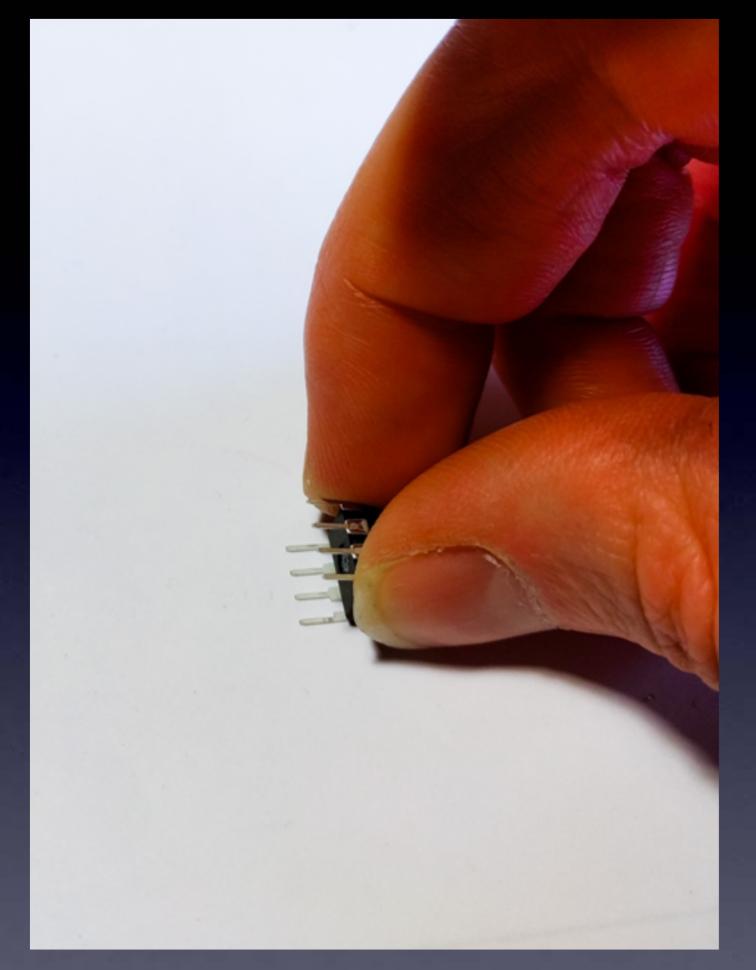


Note: Your chip may be marked differently, but "386" will be printed on it somewhere.

Note: Your chip may or may not have the indented half-moon at the left, it may have a black indented dot at the lower-left corner showing Pin 1.

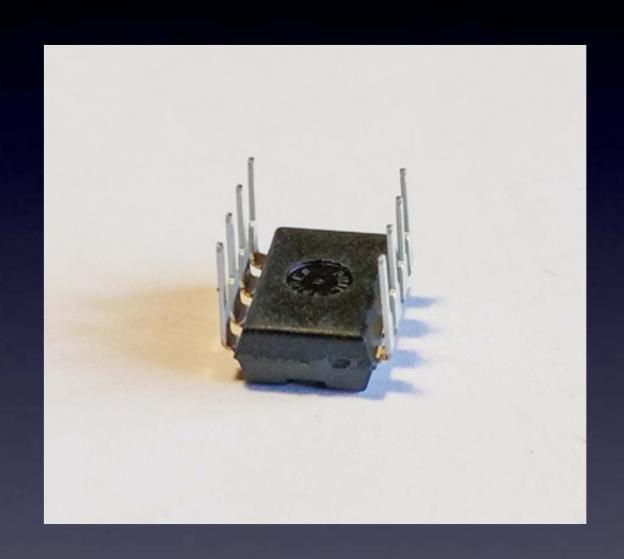


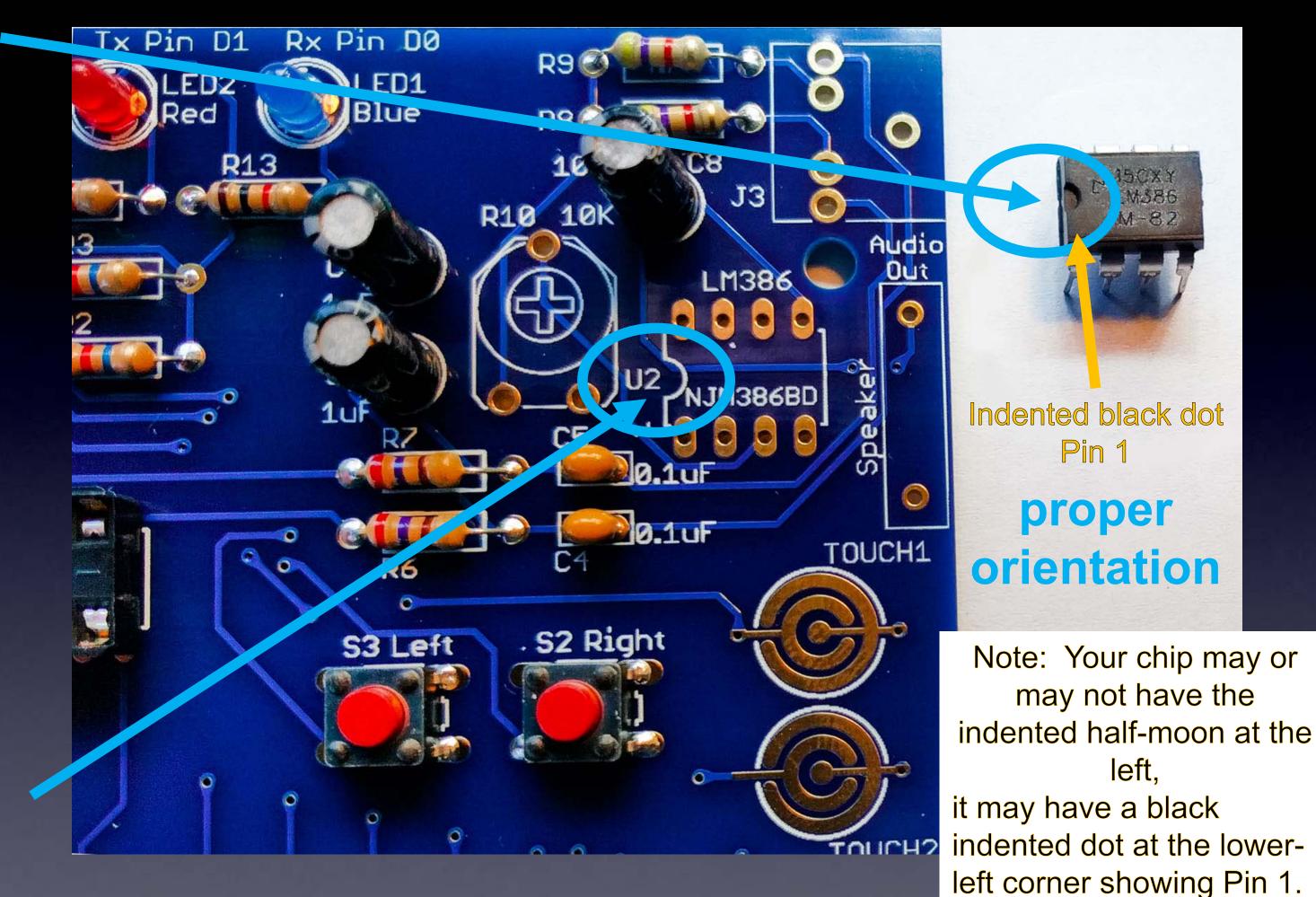
When chips are new, their pins are bent out.



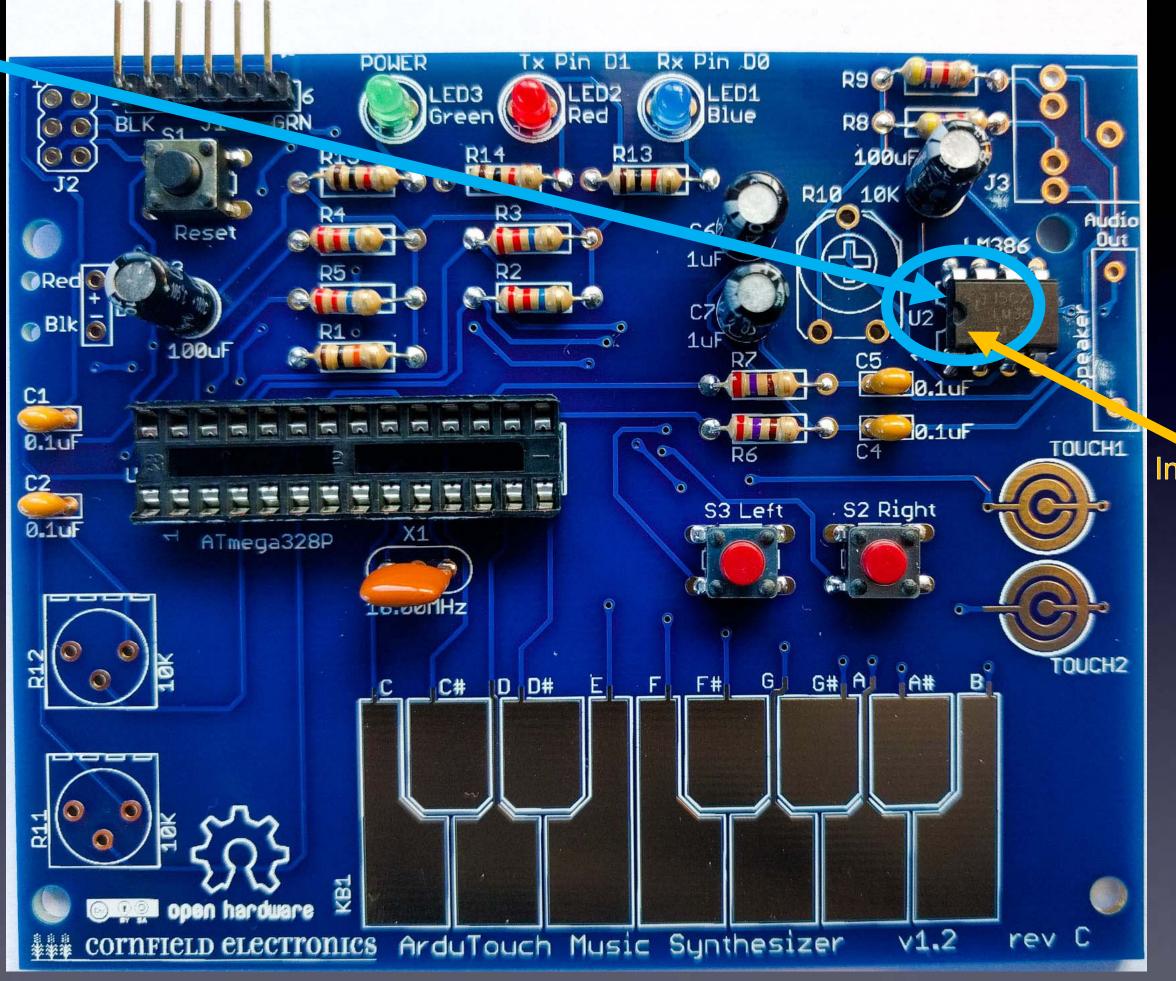
We need the pins bent straight and parallel. Use your work table to (gently) bend the leads.

Gently
bend leads
so they're straight
and parallel



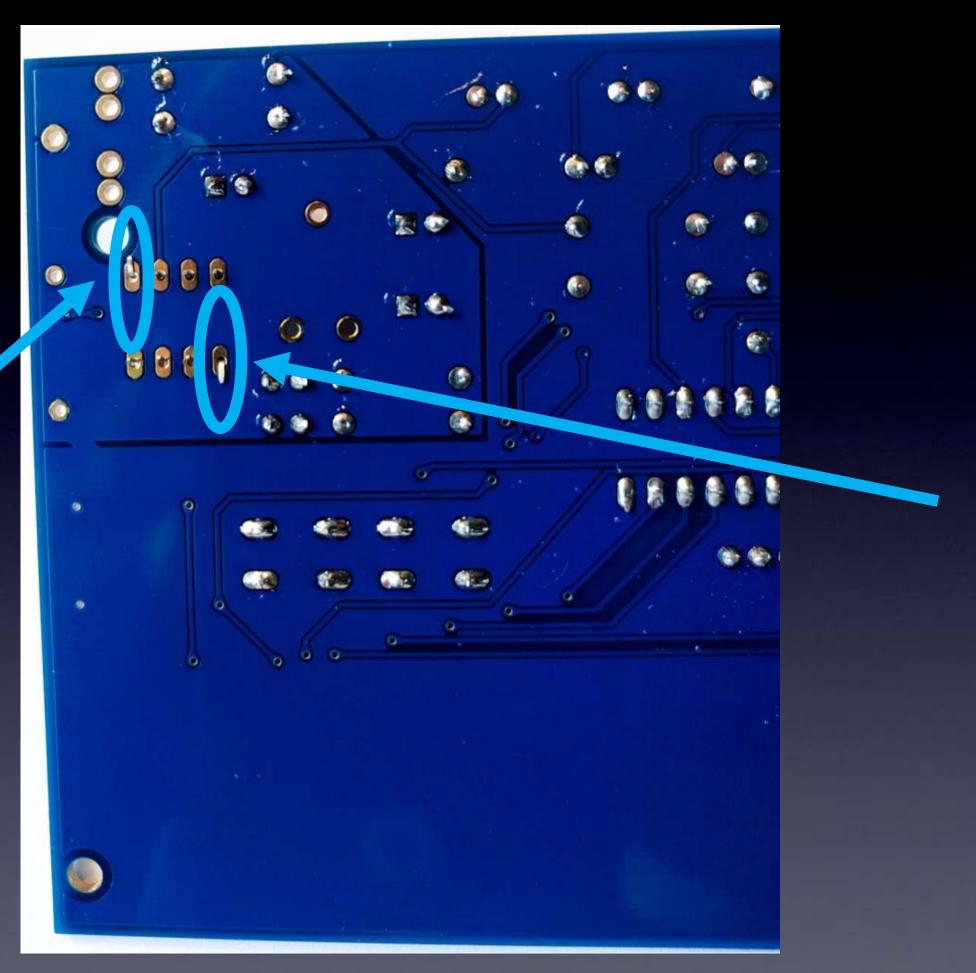


U2: audio amp chip

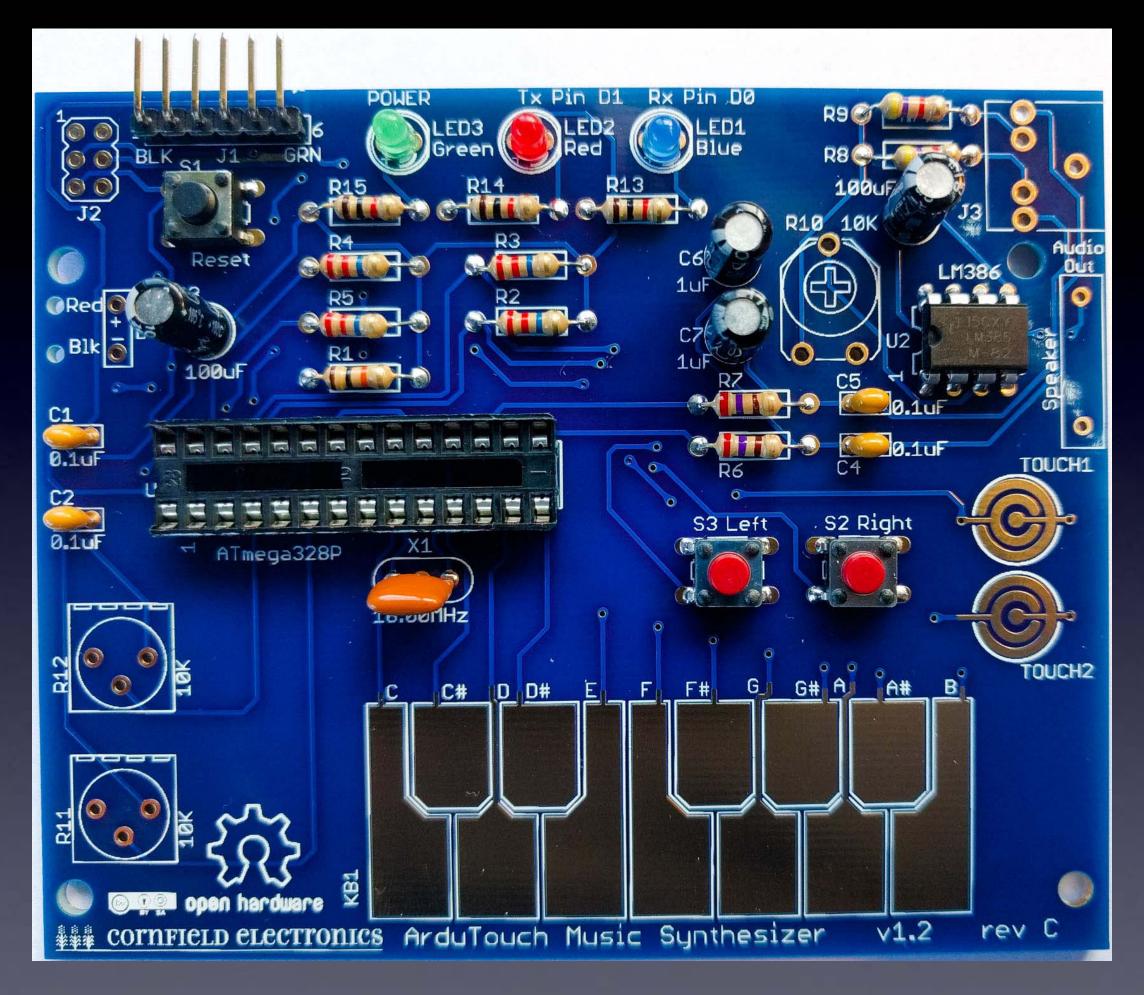


U2: inserted correctly

Indented black dot Pin 1

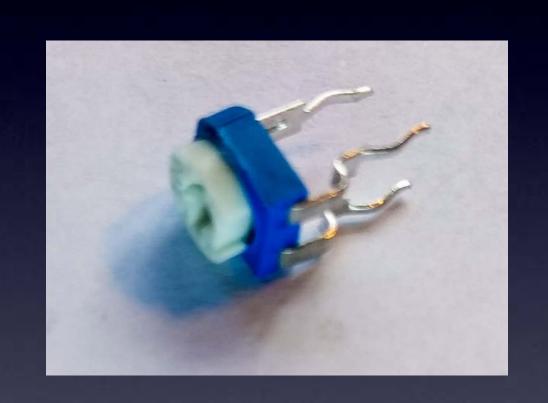


bend pins down on two corners, and solder all 8 leads to the board



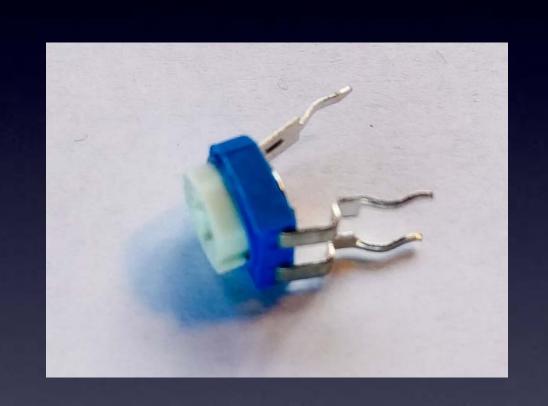
U2 – soldered to board

R10: volume control



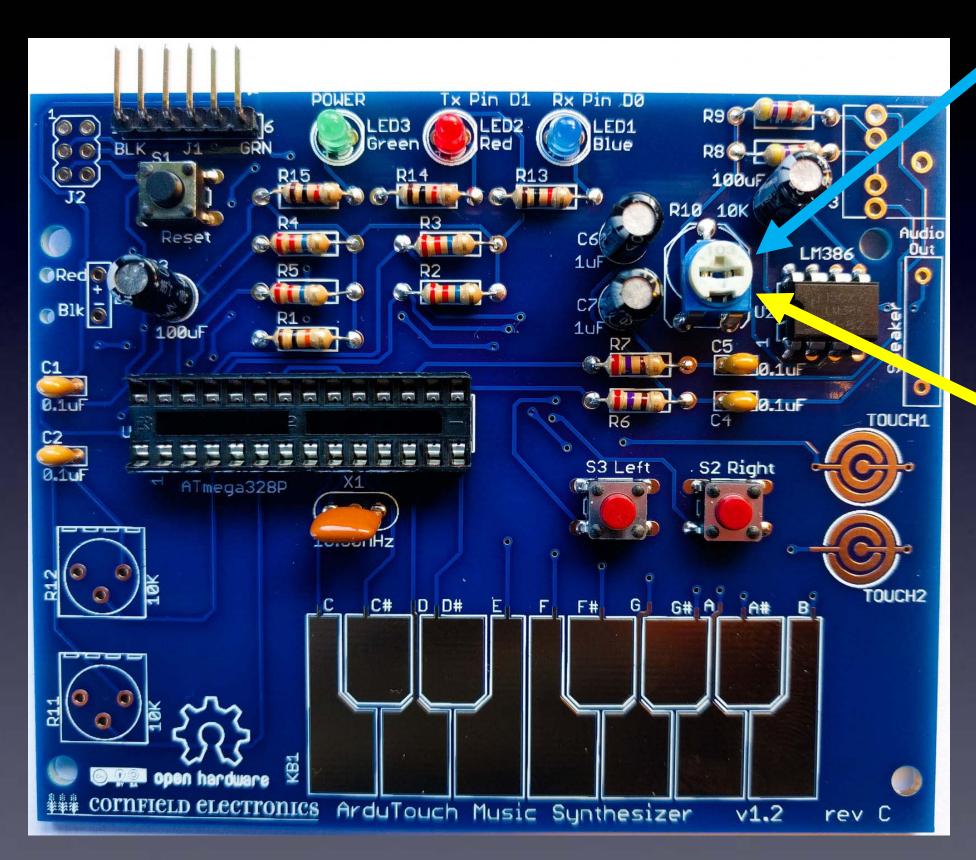
When new, the pins point straight down.

R10: volume control

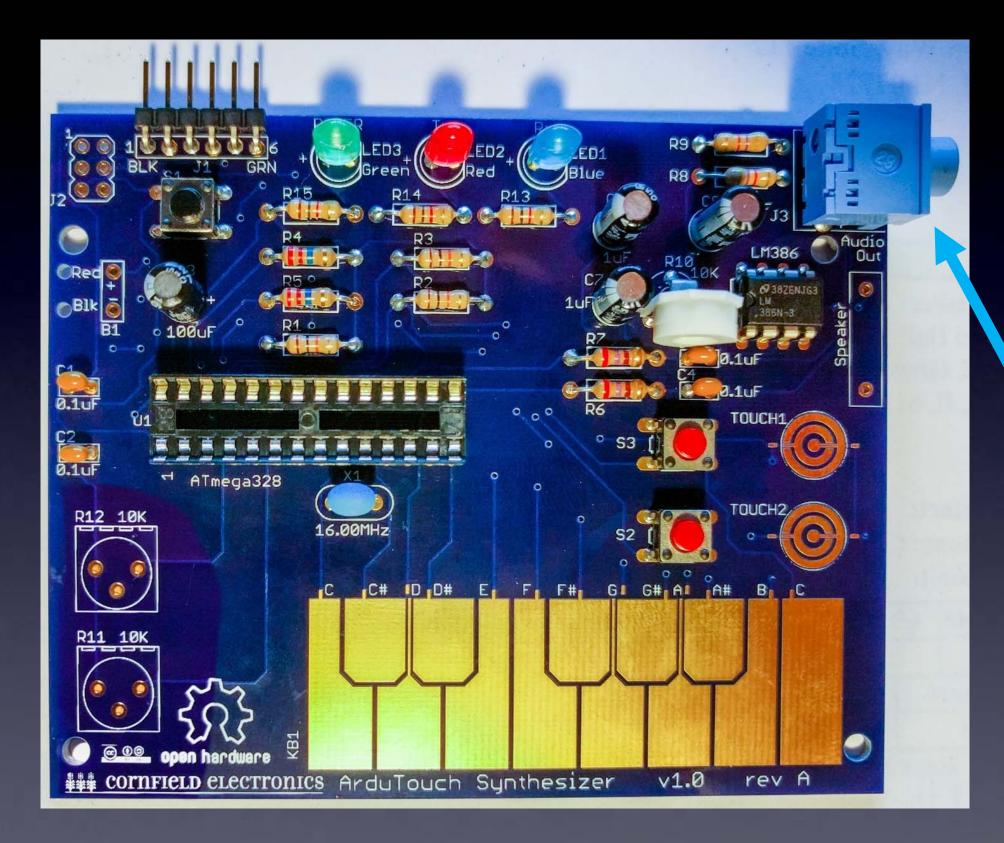


We need to bend them out a little to fit into the board.

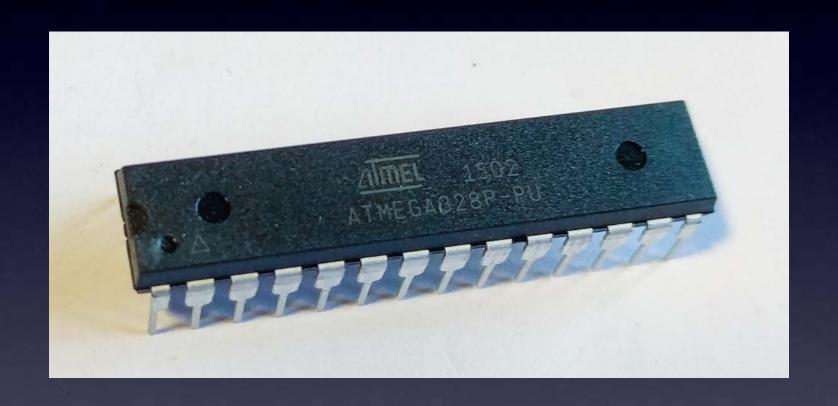
R10: volume control



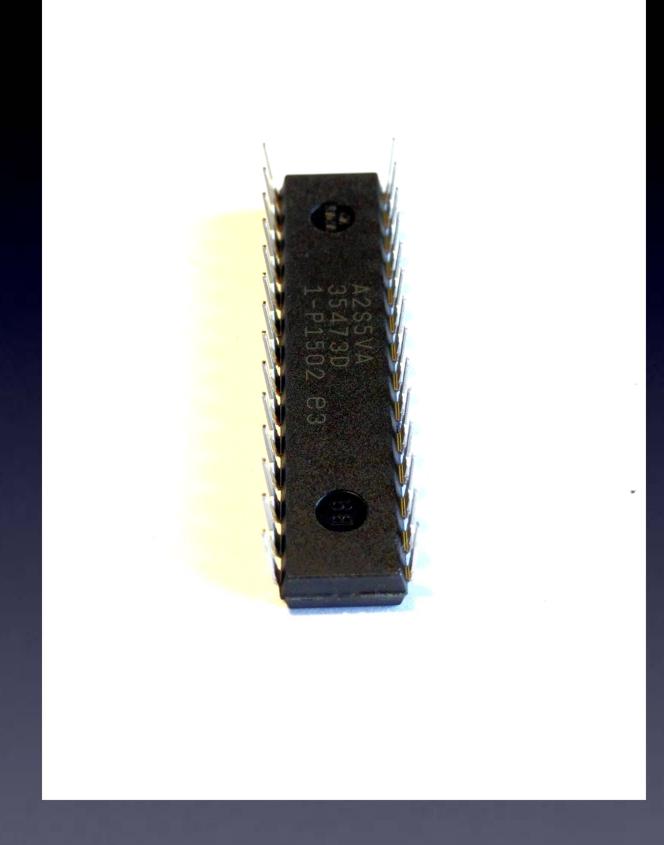
If necessary,
rotate the white top
so that it looks
like this photo
(rotated half-way)



J3: headphone / output jack



U1: microcontroller

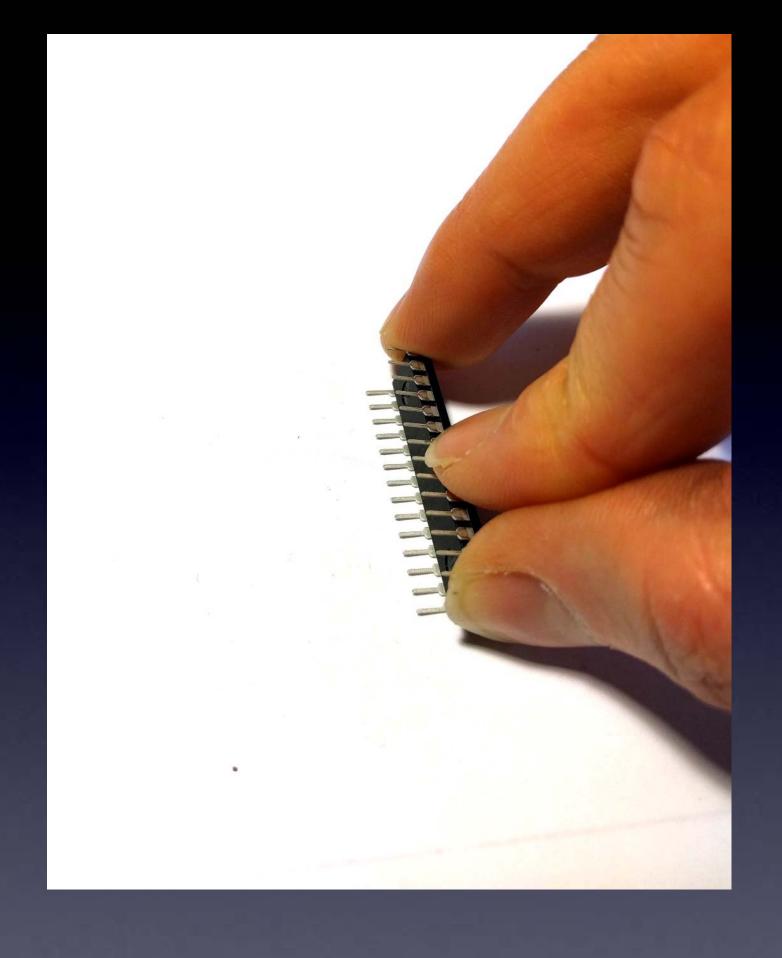


When chips are new, their pins are bent out.

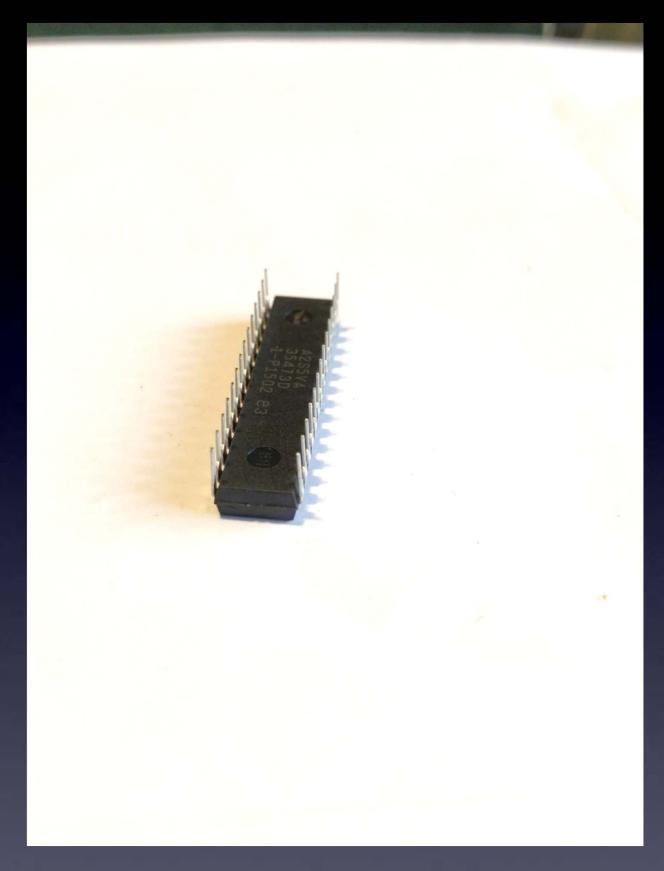
Note: Your kit's U1 chip may or may not have its pins already bent straight and parallel. If not, you need to bend them, as shown in the next picture.

Note: Your kit's U1 chip may or may not have its pins already bent straight and parallel.

If not, you need to bend them, as shown in this picture.



We need the pins bent straight and parallel. Use your work table to (gently) bend the leads.

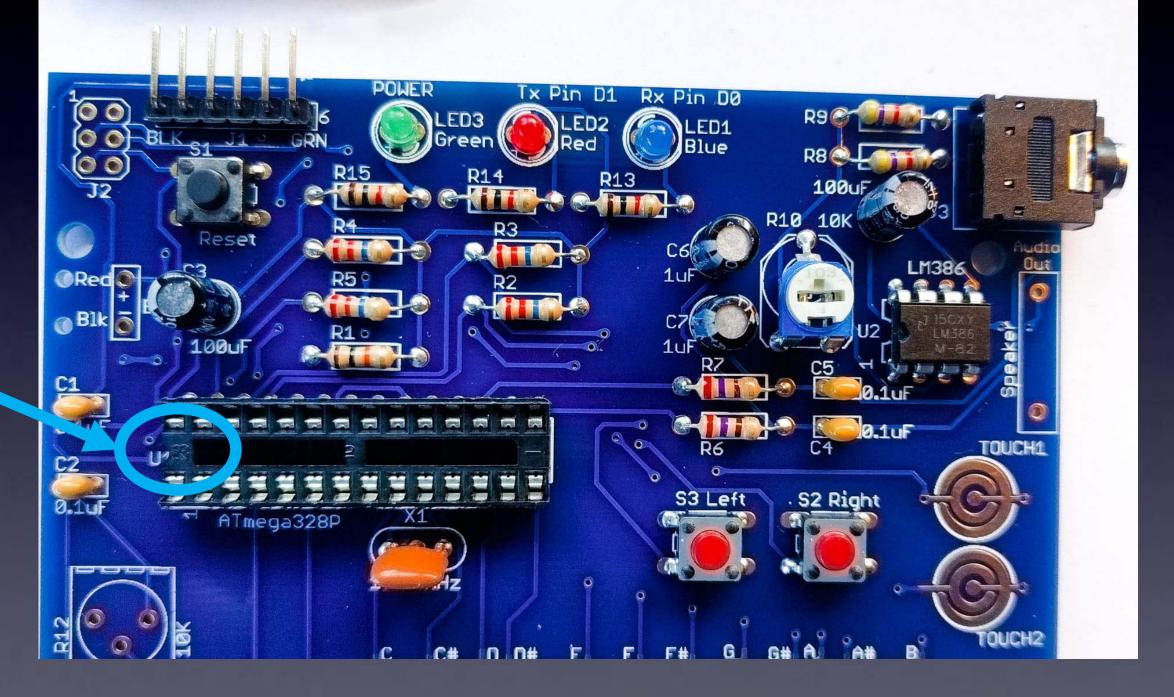


U1: microcontroller

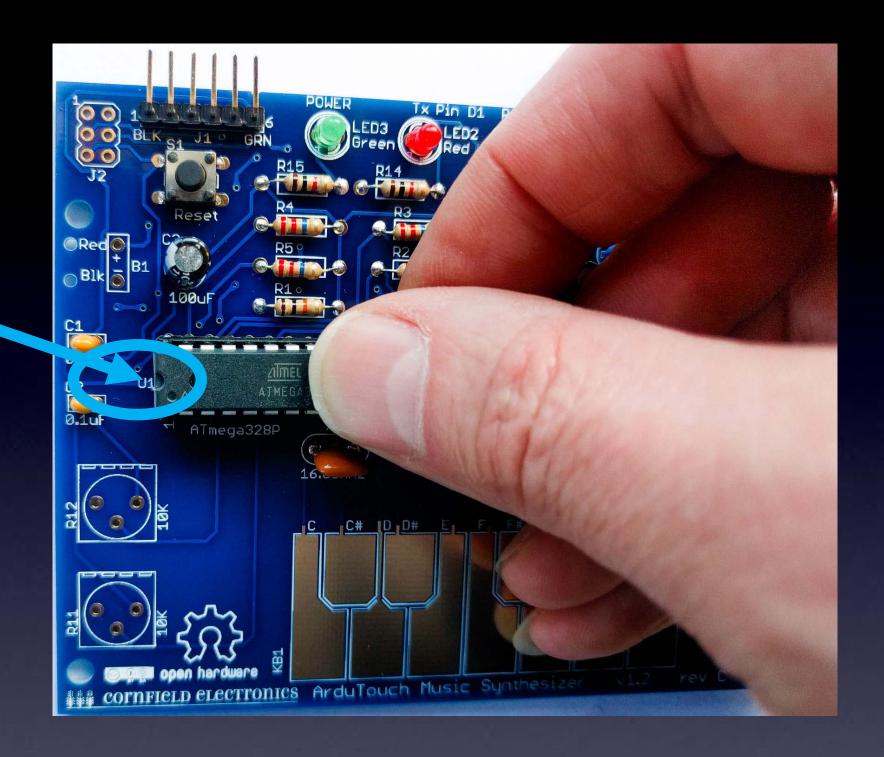
These pins must be straight and parallel



proper orientation



U1: microcontroller



U1: microcontroller

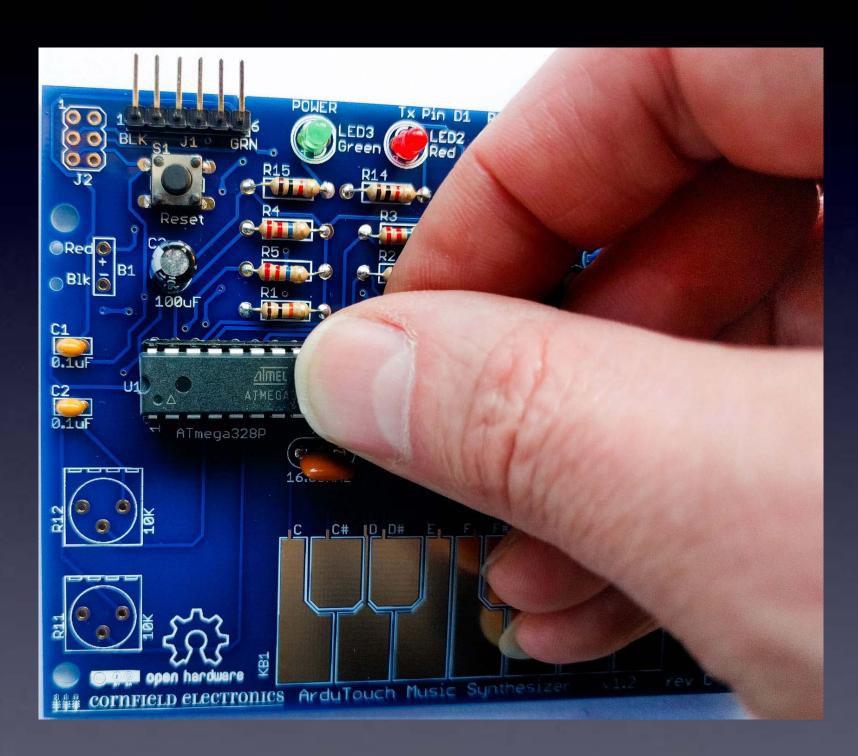
make sure each pins rests in its hole in the socket

→ with the proper orientation

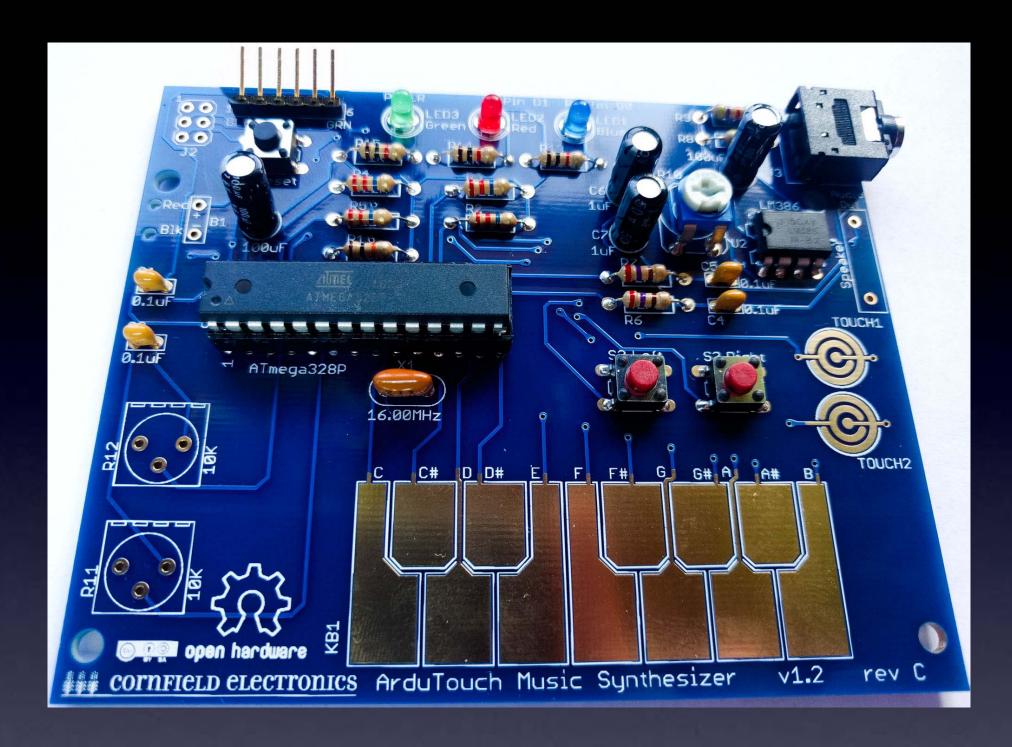
Use two thumbs to push microcontroller into the socket

Make sure all 28 pins are in place, and push it into its socket.

(This is actually way easier with 2 thumbs.)



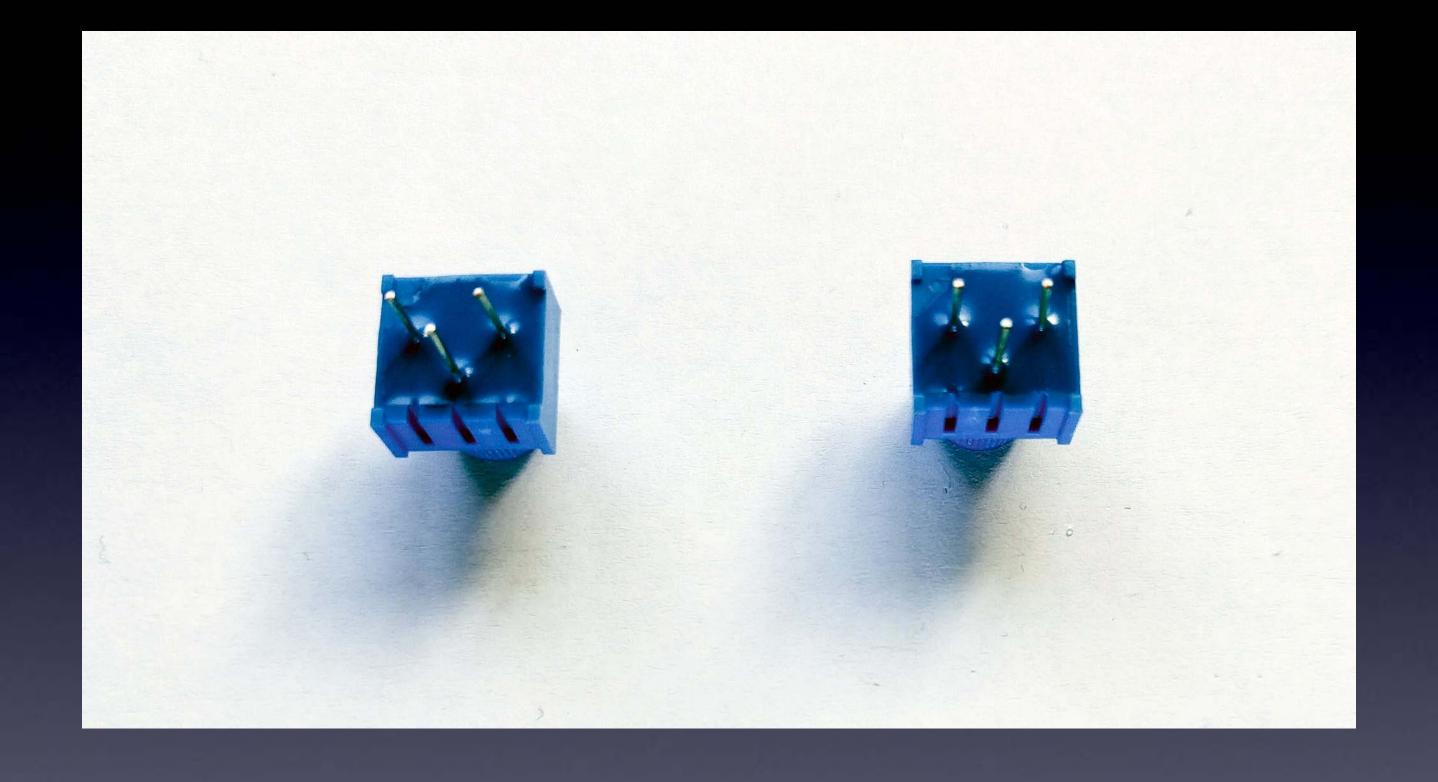
U1: microcontroller



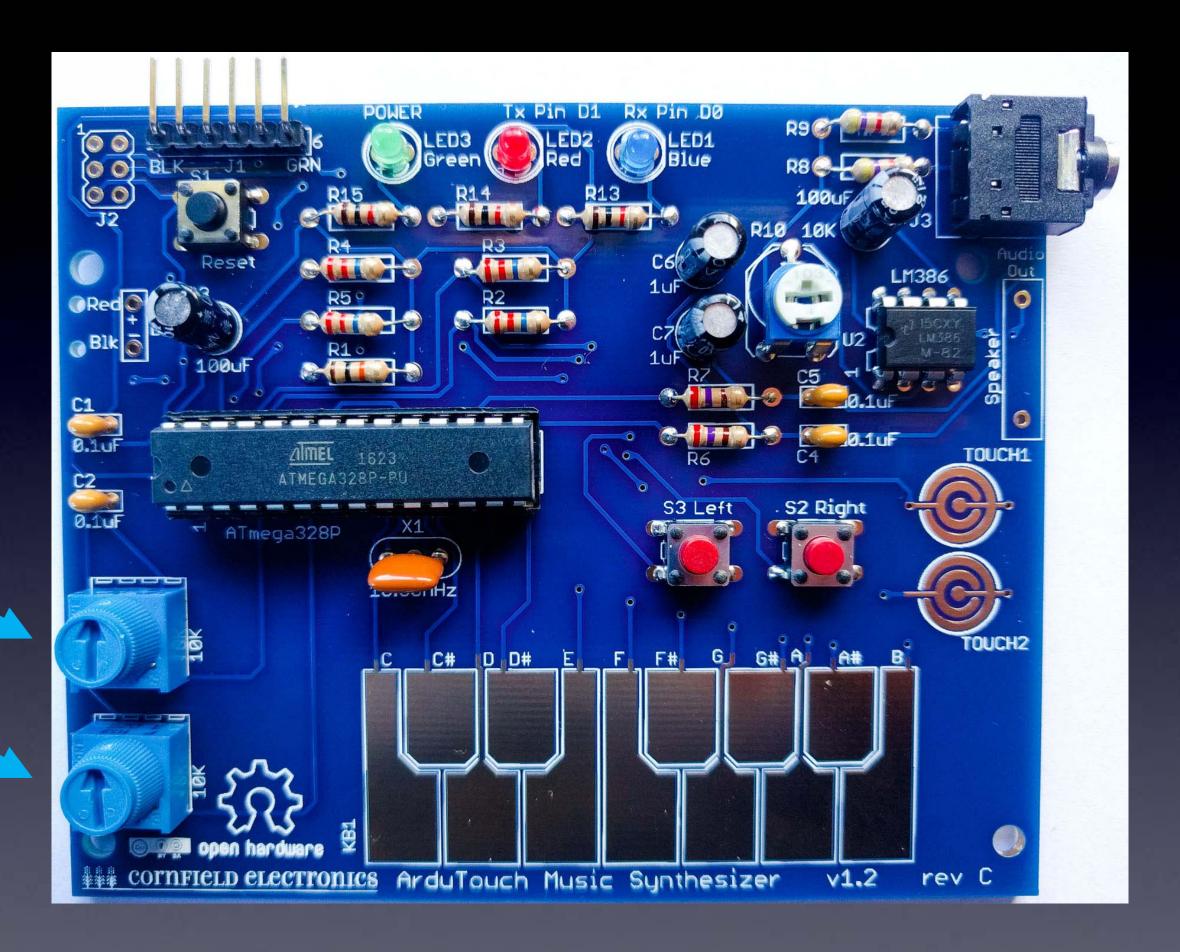
U1: microcontroller

Inspect all pins, and be sure each went into its hole in the socket – not bent.

If any pins are bent, (gently) pry out chip, straighten pins, and insert again.



R11 & R12: potentiometers



R11 & R12: potentiometers



Some kits have a speaker that looks like this



We'll add leads to the speaker



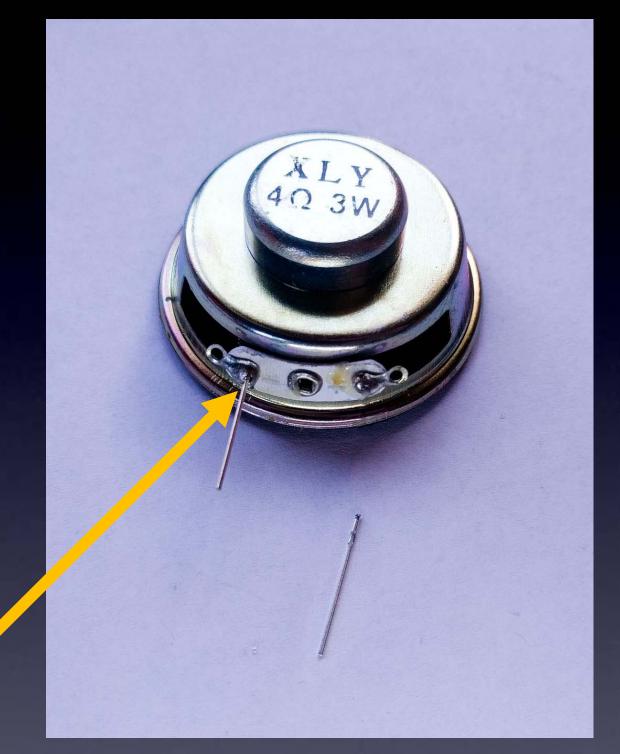
from the LEDs

Tin one side of each lead

(i.e., cover with thin film of melted solder)

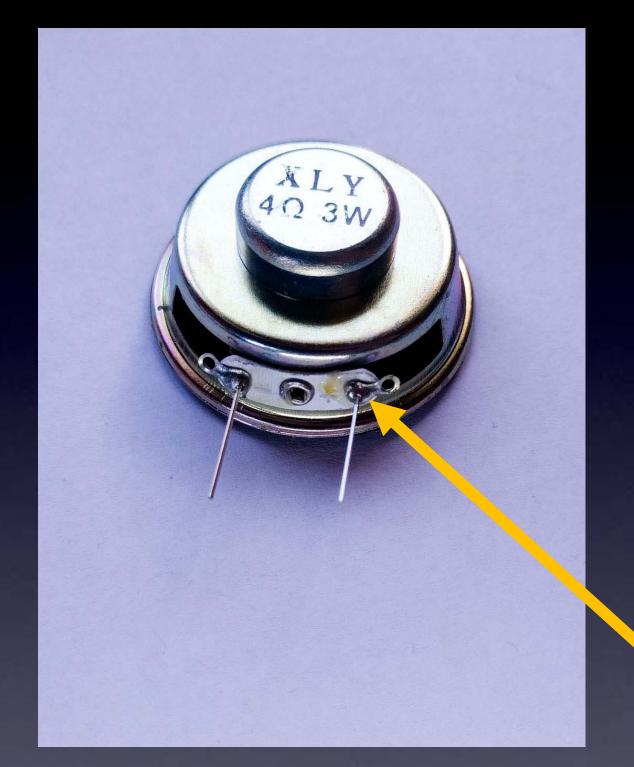


Solder one lead to speaker



Notice the correct place to solder the wire

Solder next lead to speaker



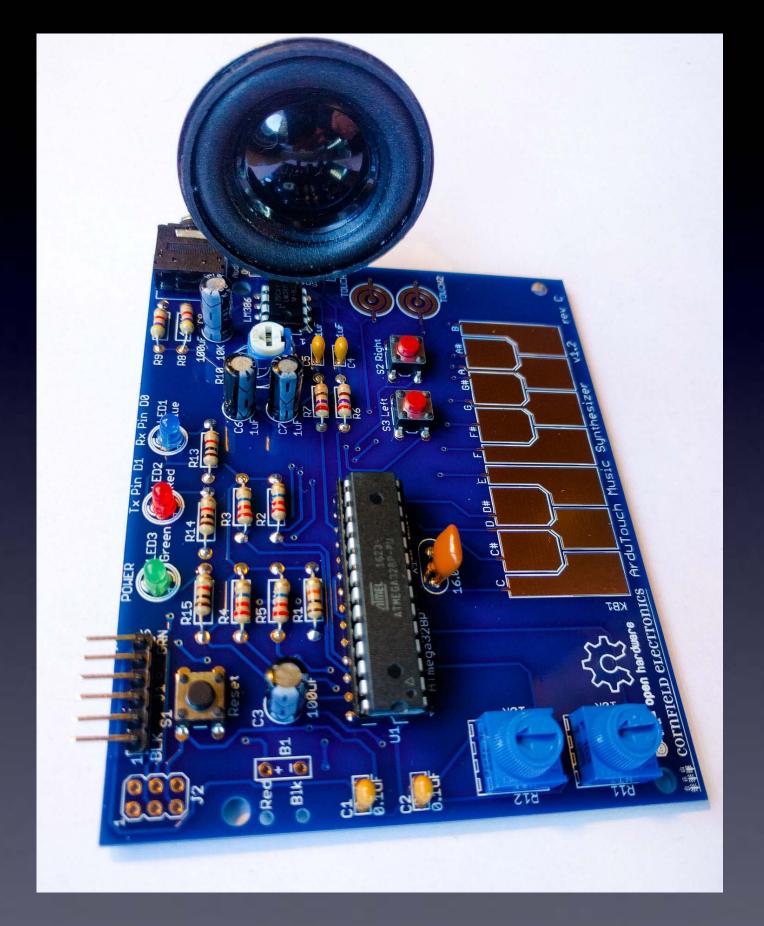
Speaker

Notice the correct place to solder the wire

Some kits have a speaker that looks like this

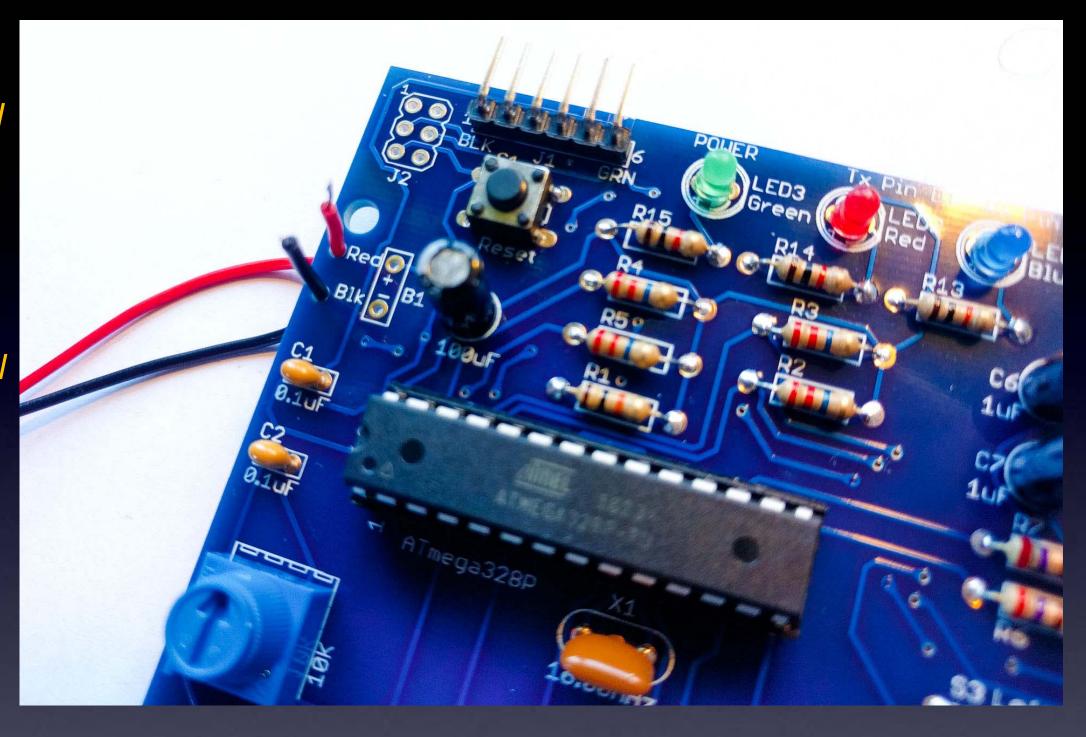
Notice the correct place to solder the wires

Insert
speaker into board
and solder
both leads to board.



Note: Some battery pack wires have thicker red and black plastic coatings.

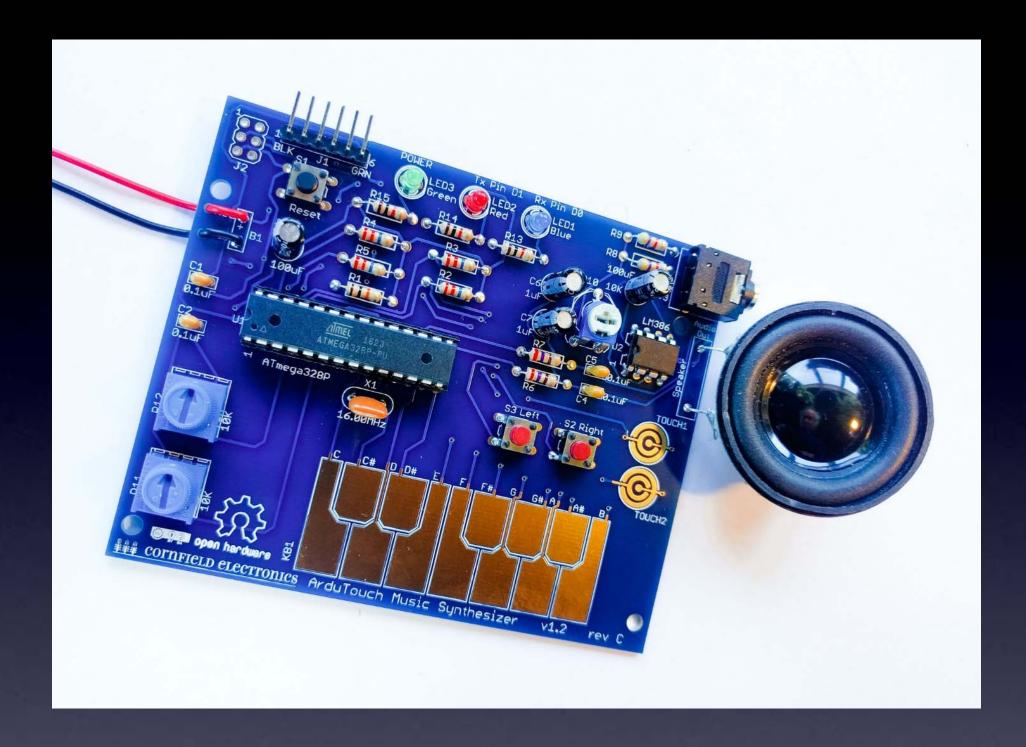
If so,
you can widen the these
two holes by gently
rotating a scissors or small
knife or small Phillips
screwdreiver on the top
and bottom of these two
holes.



Push battery pack leads through holes.

Make sure Red and Black go through their correct holes!

Battery pack

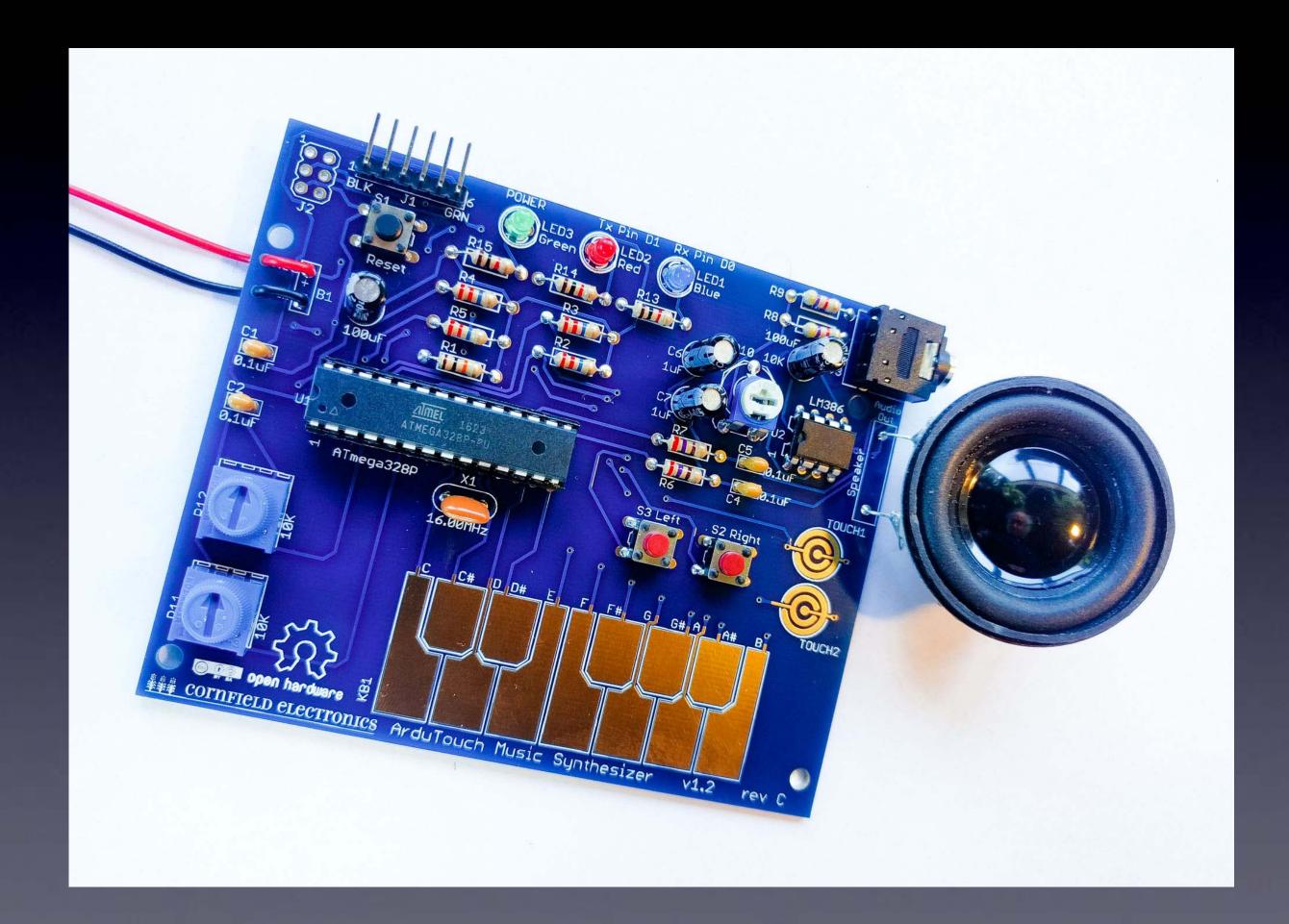


Loop one lead into its pad, and solder.

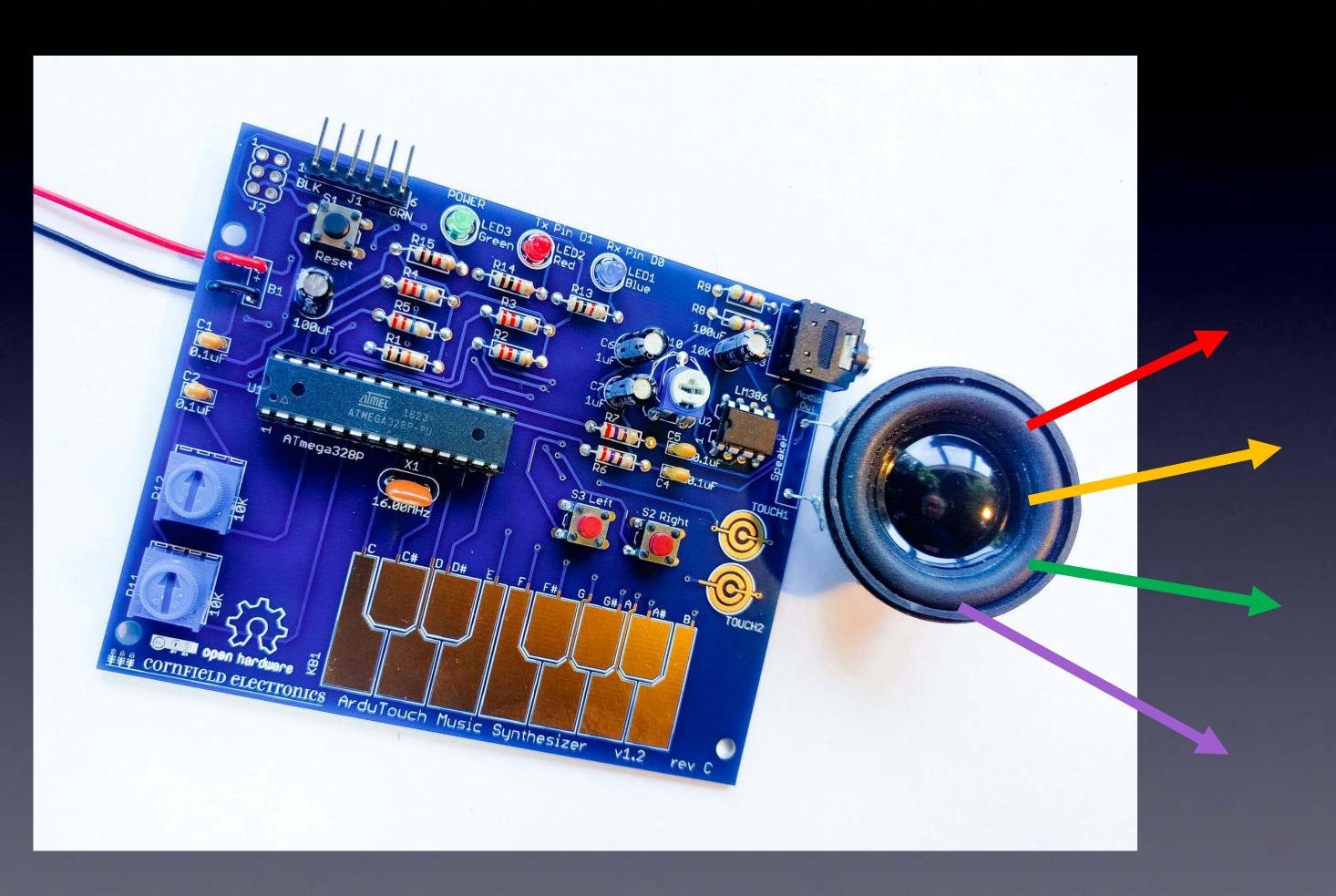
Then loop the other lead into its pad, and solder.

Battery pack

Done!



Let's make noise!

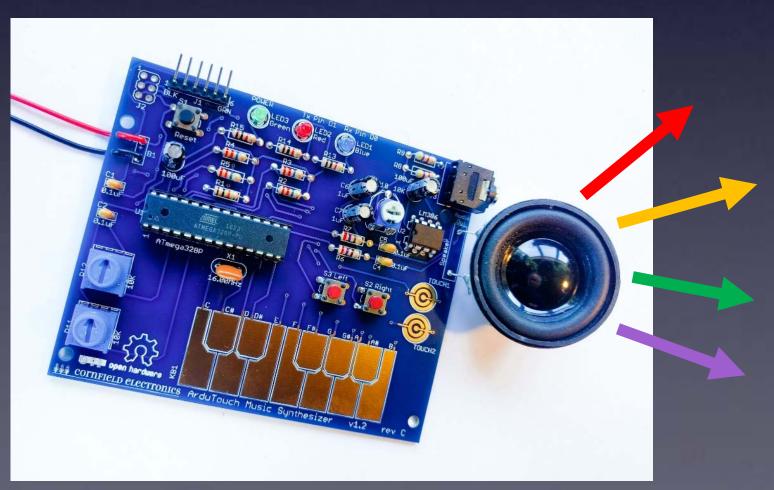


Let's make noise!

Your ArduTouch comes pre-programmed with a really cool synthesizer, called "Thick".

"Thick" plays 4 sawtooth waves at once.

- the left and right buttons change octaves
- long press the left and right buttons to change sounds
- the Bottom knob controls the glide rate
- the Top knob controls how each of the 4 notes glide separately
- Try playing with these and see!

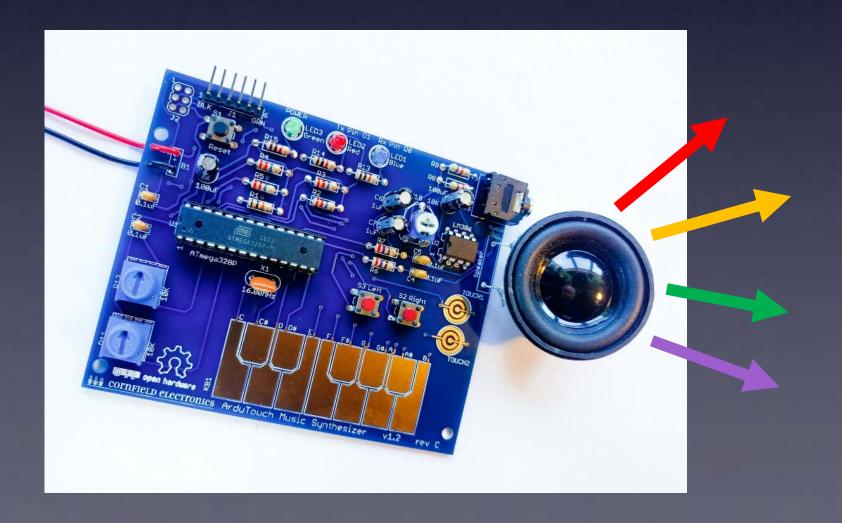


Let's make noise!

Your ArduTouch comes pre-programmed with a really cool synthesizer, called "Thick".

If you are happy playing with "Thick" then no need to re-program your ArduTouch.

But if you want to program other synths into your ArduTouch, the next pages show you how...

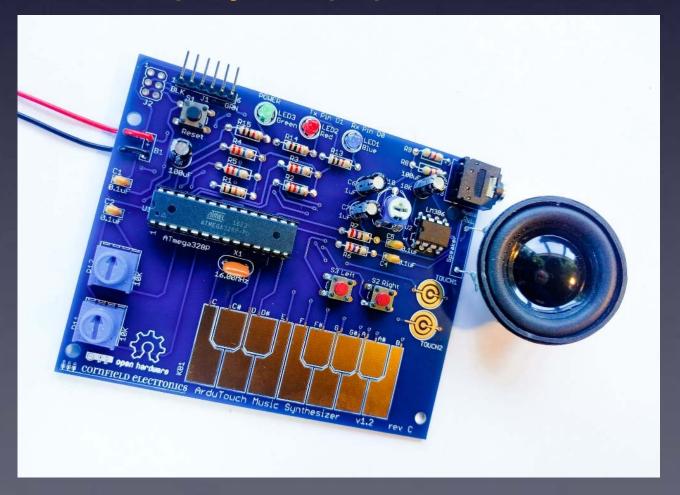


Re-programming the ArduTouch

We have written several way cool synthesizers for ArduTouch! Each is unique, and each way different than the others.

To program in a new synth in your ArduTouch, you will need:

- the Arduino software http://arduino.cc
- a USB-Serial adapter cable (such as an FTDI, or equivalent)
 a nice one is available at
 - https://cornfieldelectronics.com/cfe/products/buy.php?productId=usbcable
- a synth sketch and the ArduTouch Arduino library
 http://cornfieldelectronics.com/cfe/projects.php#ardutouch



Arduino is a very powerful tool!

But it is very easy to use.

It was designed for total beginners to use successfully.

I won't give a complete tutorial here – just some basics.

For more info, there are many good Arduino tutorials online.

A good place to start is:

https://www.arduino.cc/en/Tutorial/HomePage



First:

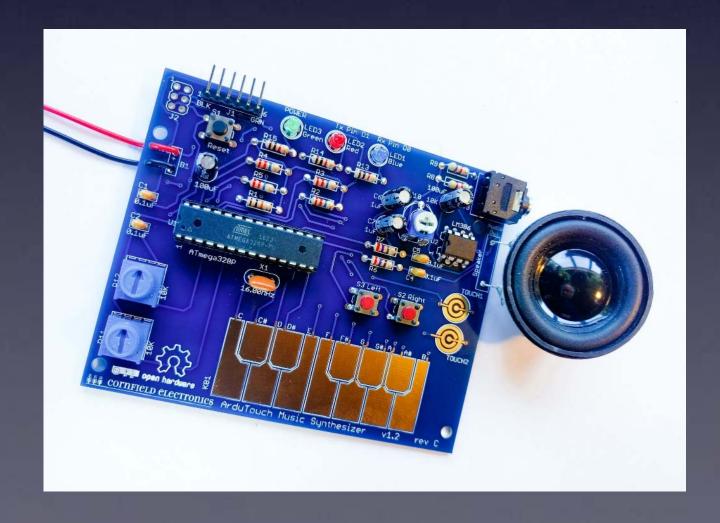
Download and install the Arduino software < http://arduino.cc >



Re-programming the ArduTouch

Second:

Download and install the ArduTouch Arduino library http://cornfieldelectronics.com/cfe/projects.php#ardutouch>

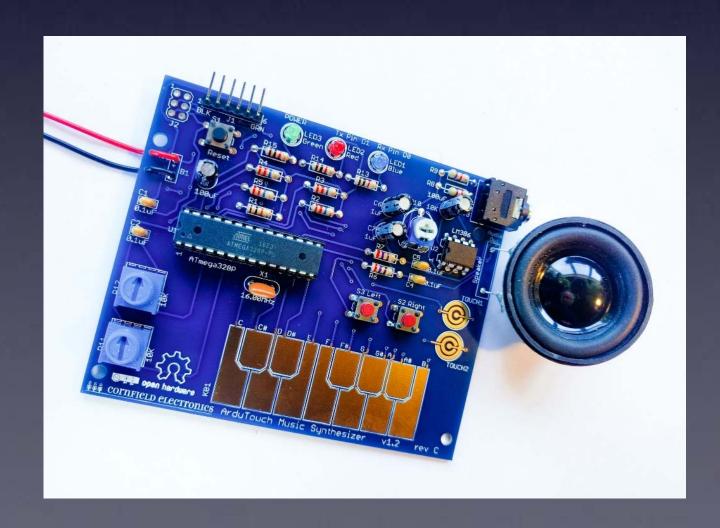


Re-programming the ArduTouch

Third:

Download ArduTouch synth sketches http://cornfieldelectronics.com/cfe/projects.php#ardutouch>

Store them on your computer anywhere you like.



Connecting your ArduTouch to your computer

USB-Serial adapter cable

Ones available from Cornfield Electronics look like this:

https://cornfieldelectronics.com/cfe/products/buy.php?productId=usbcable



Connecting your ArduTouch to your computer

USB-Serial adapter cable

Ones available from Cornfield Electronics look like this:

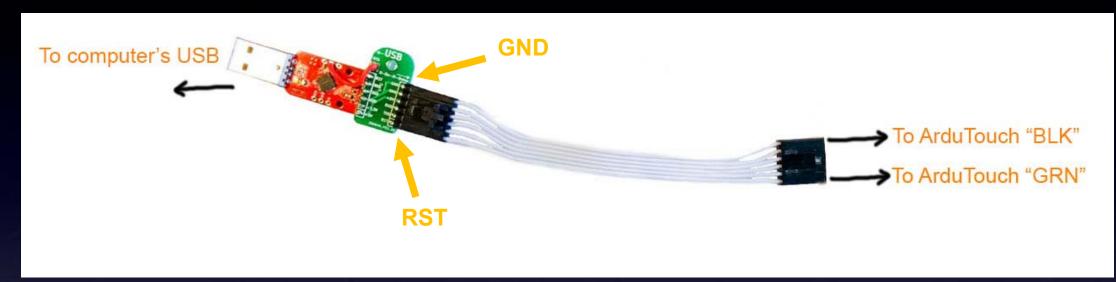
https://cornfieldelectronics.com/cfe/products/buy.php?productId=usbcable



You will need to download and install a driver for your Operating System (Windows, MacOS, or Linux):

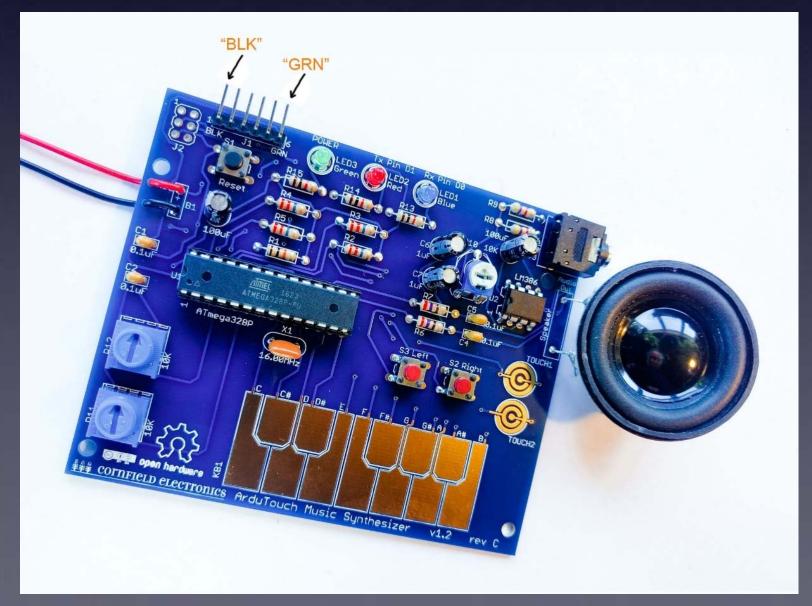
https://www.silabs.com/products/development-tools/software/usb-to-uart-bridge-vcp-drivers

Connecting your ArduTouch to your computer

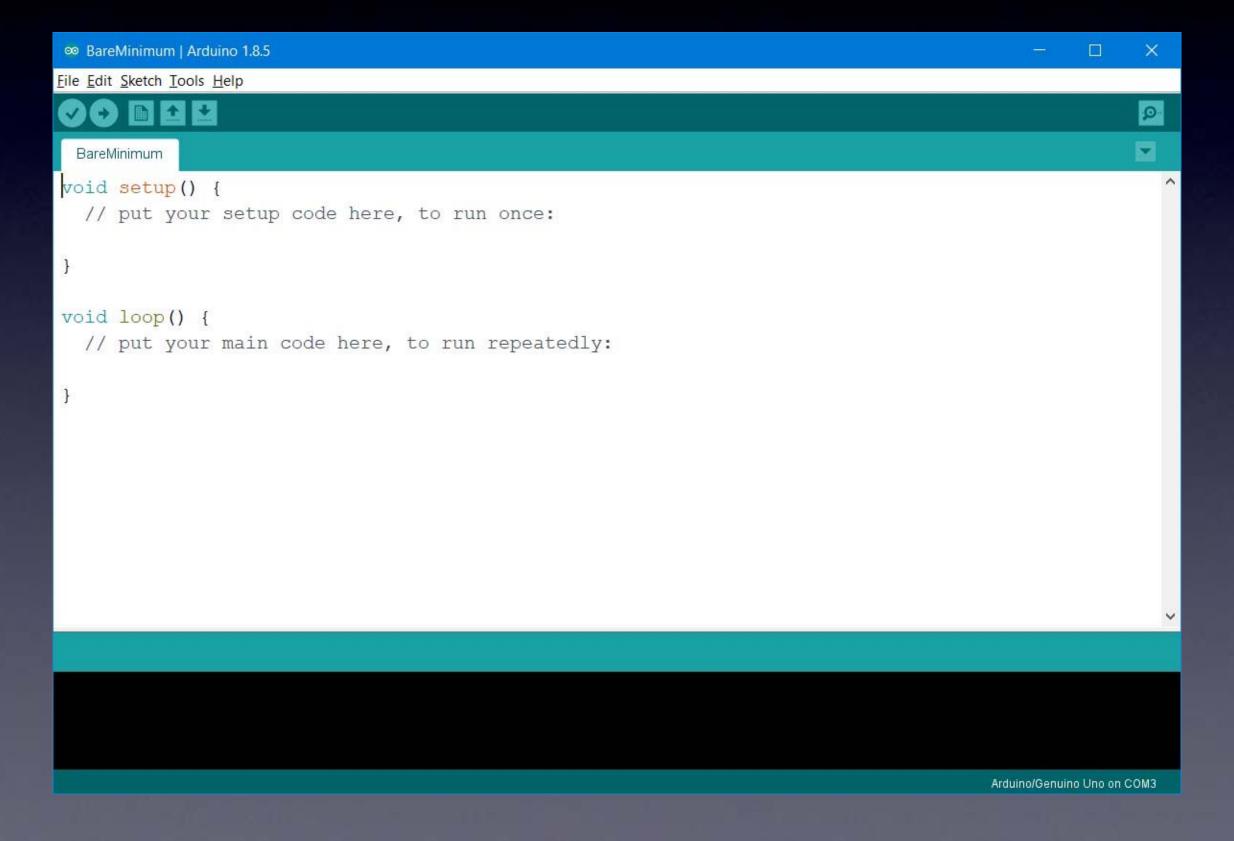


IMPORTANT:

Make sure the battery pack on your ArduTouch is OFF



After you download and install the Arduino software start it, and you will see a screen that looks like this:

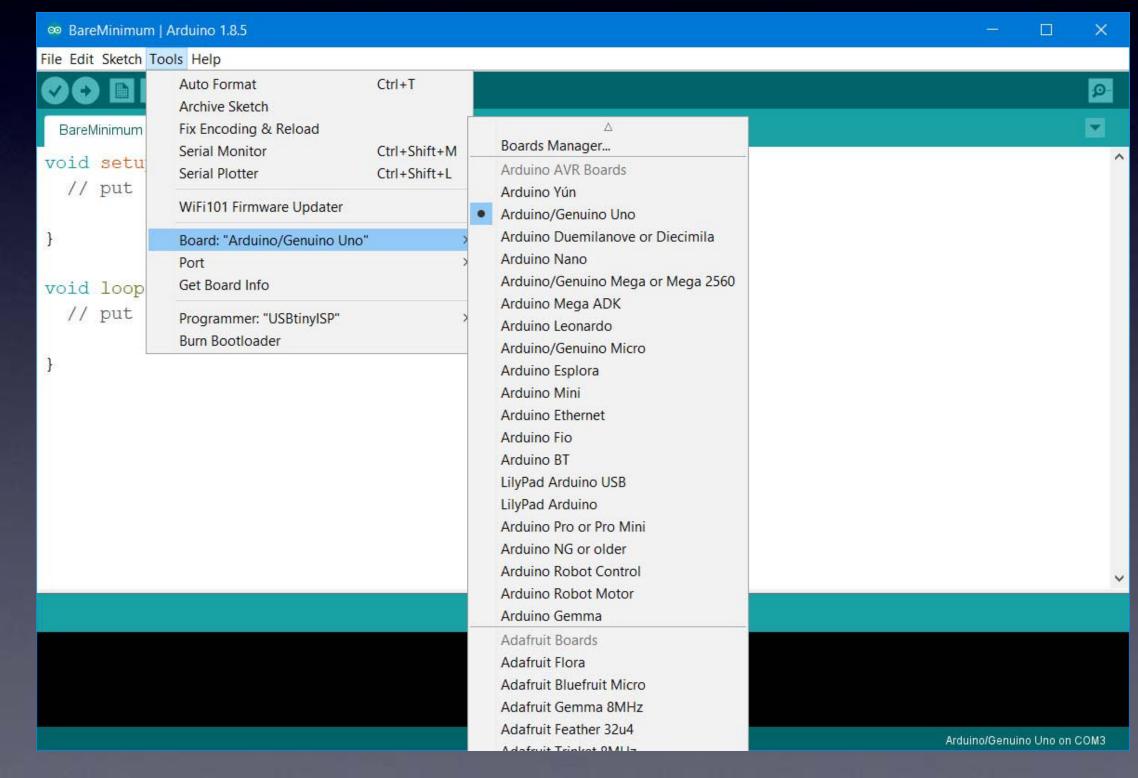


The first time you start your Arduino software you need to do two things to set things up

(1)
Choose
"Genuino Uno"
as the Board

(Your
ArduTouch board

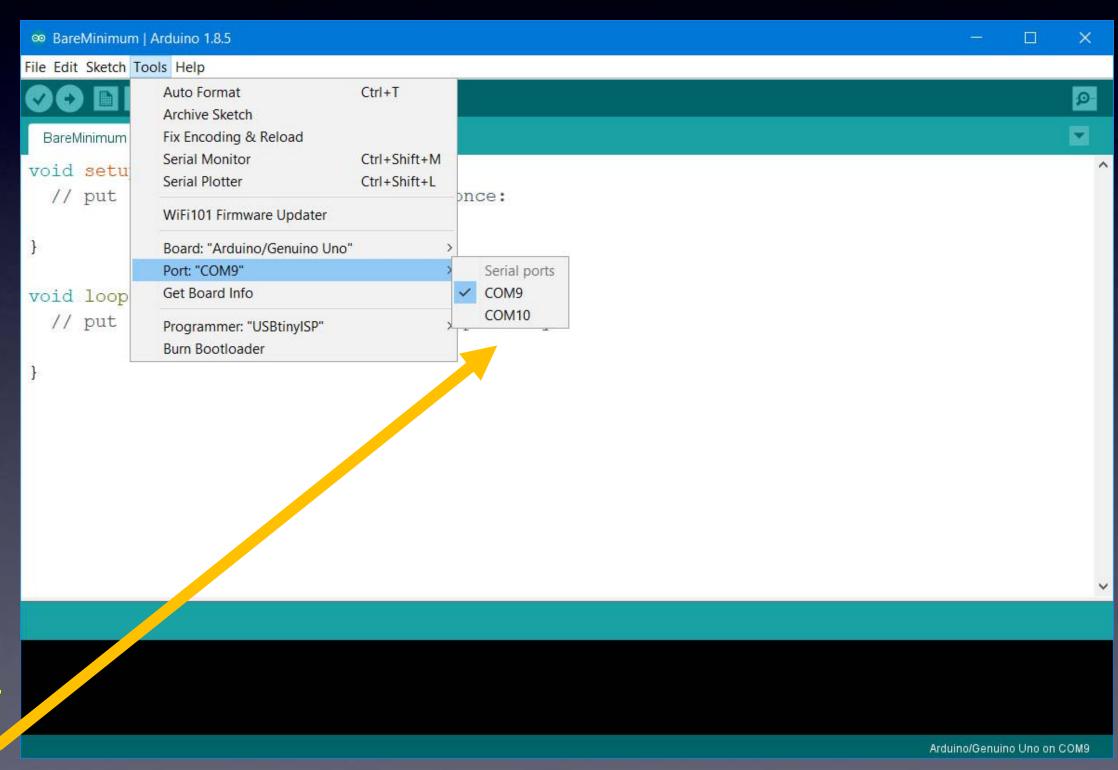
acts
just like
an
Arduino Uno board)



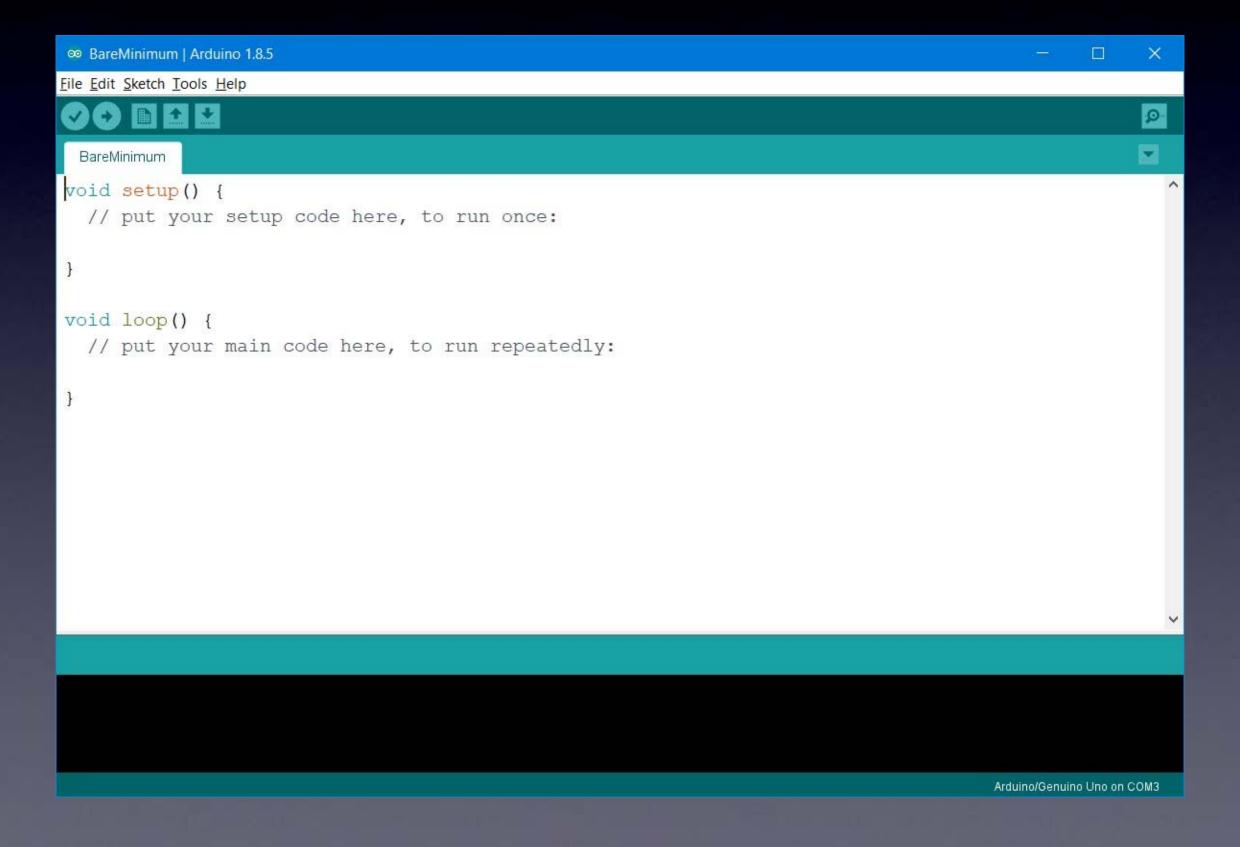
The first time you start your Arduino software you need to do two things to set things up

Choose
the Port
(this will be
different
depending on
your Operating
System)

(After installing
the driver
for your USB-Serial
cable,
with your USB-Serial
cable plugged in,
your operating system
will see a serial port
and it appears here.)

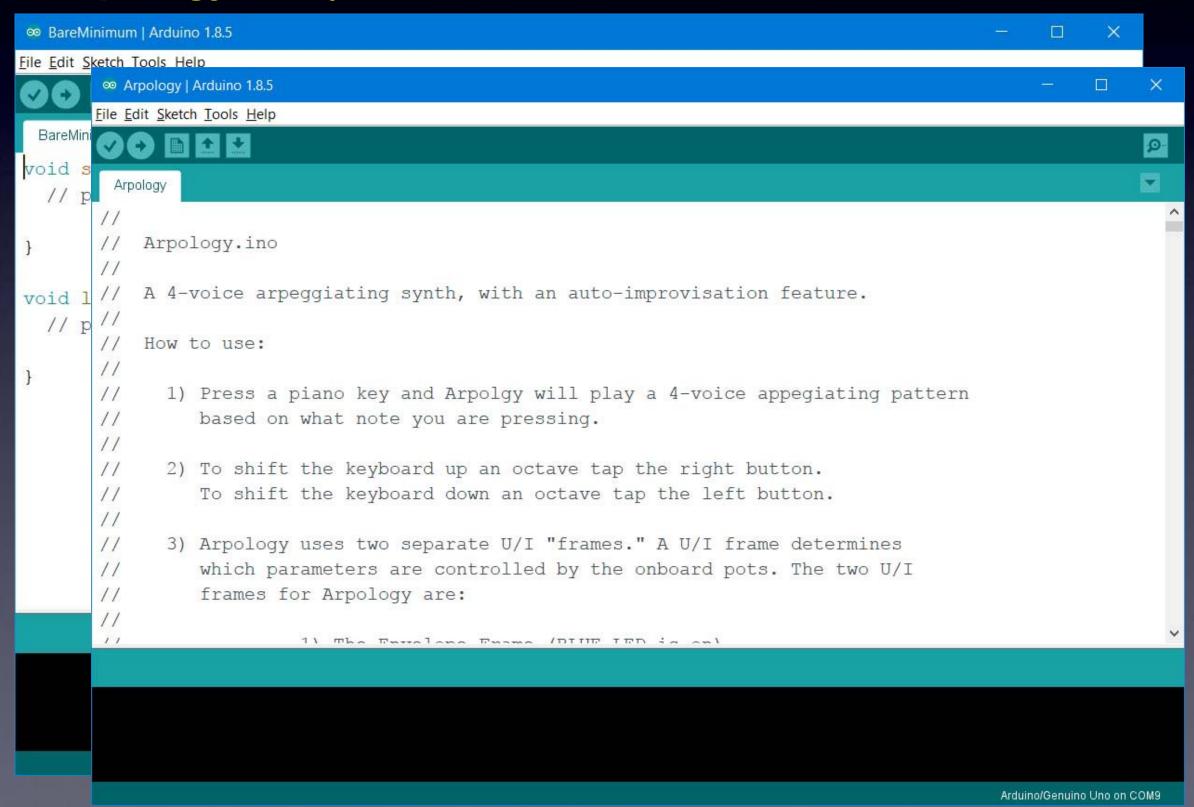


Your Arduino software is now ready to program your ArduTouch!

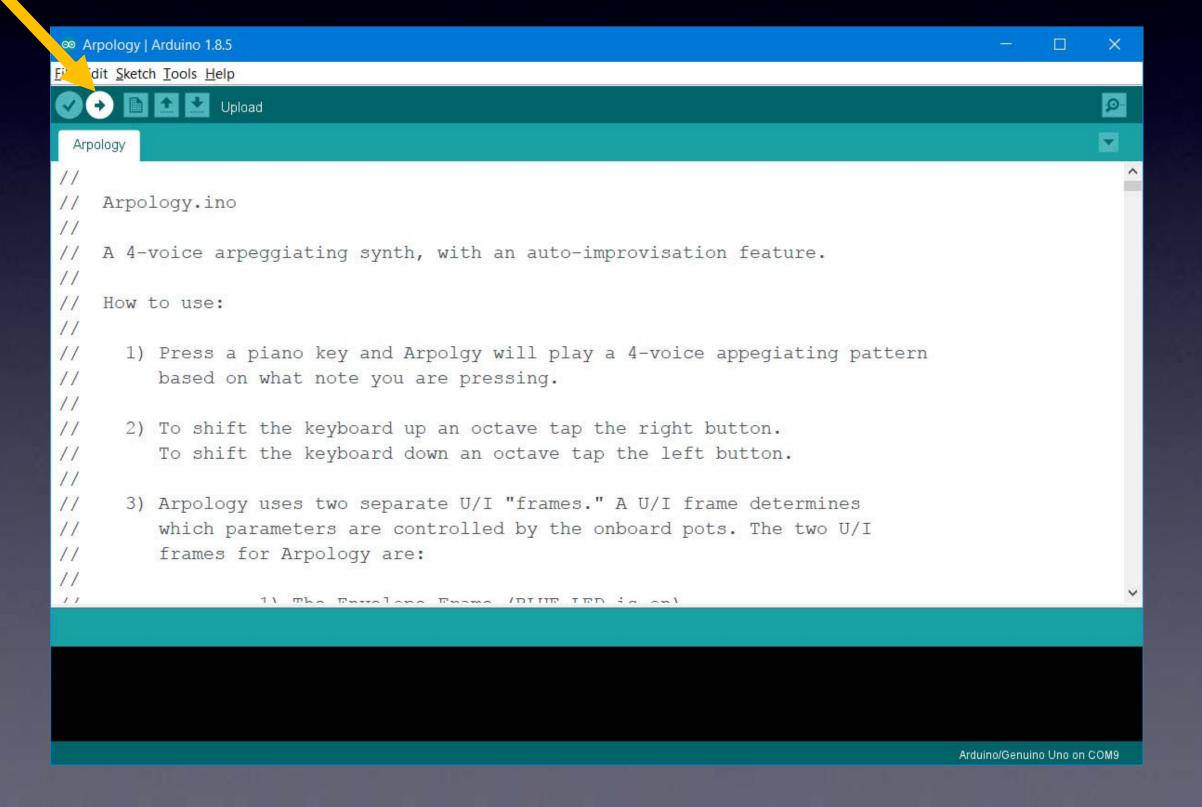


You can open an ArduTouch synth sketch from: File → Open...

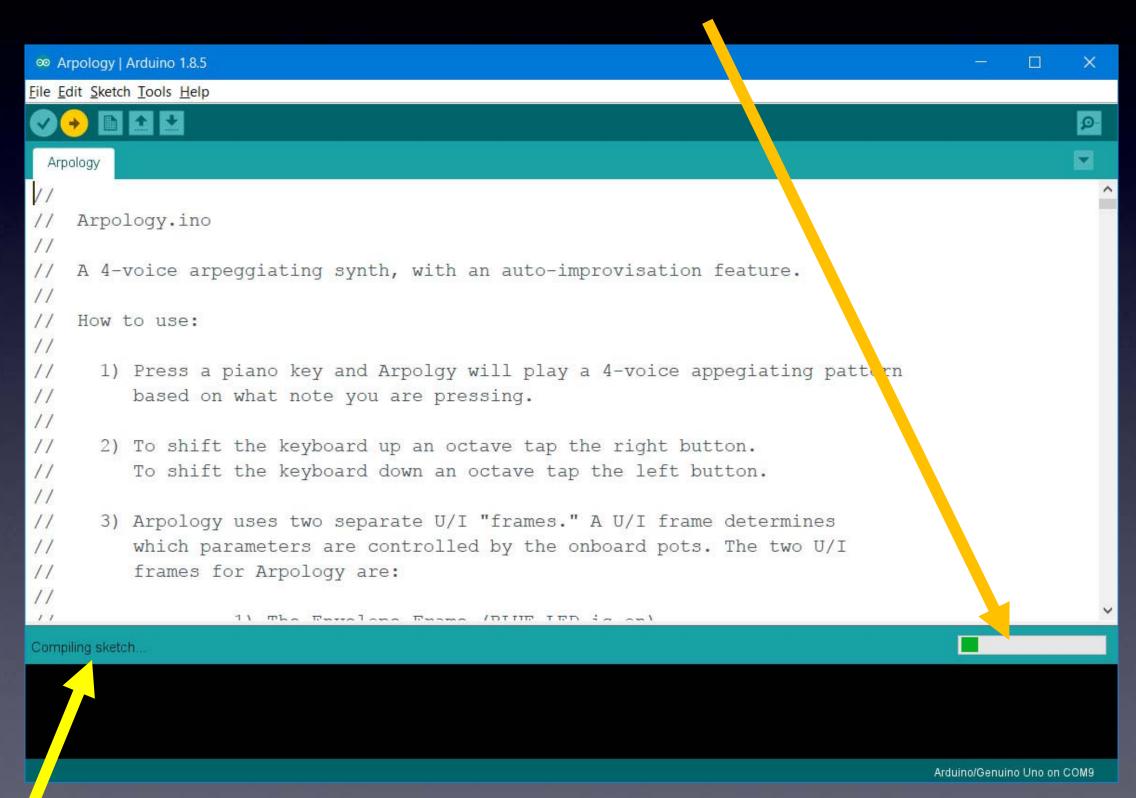
(I opened "Arpology here)



With the USB-Serial cable connected to your ArduTouch board press the Upload button



While uploading, you will see a progress bar...



...and when it's completed successfully, it says: "Upload done"

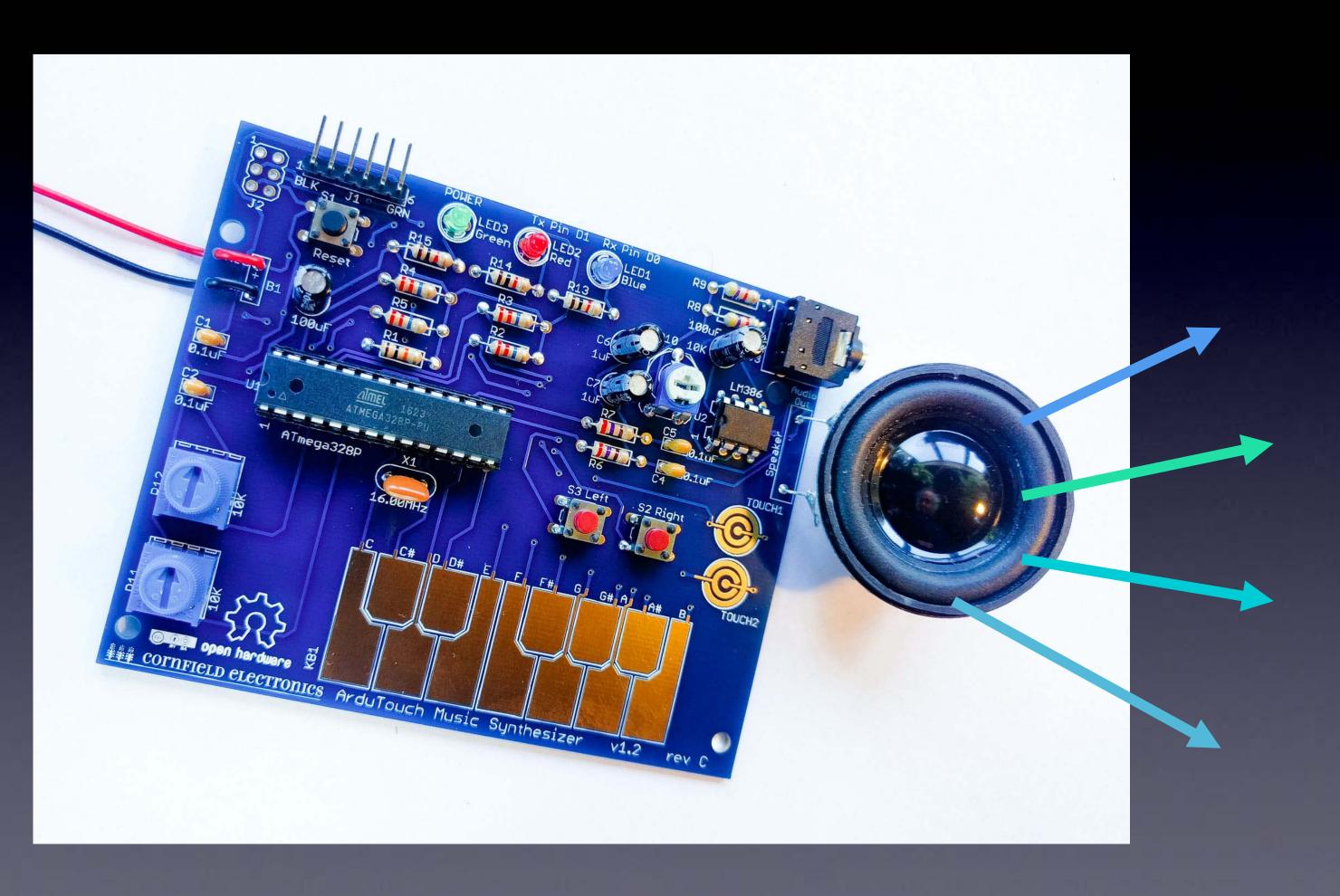
ArduTouch

Disconnect your ArduTouch board from the USB-Serial cable,

turn on your battery pack,

And...

Let's make new noise!



Learn to Solder with ArduTouch Music Synthesizer kit

and make music, sound, and noise!

Mitch Altman

Chief Scientist, Cornfield Electronics, San Francisco, CA

Inventor of TV-B-Gone universal remote controls

Co-founder of 3Ware (successful Silicon Valley startup)

Pioneer of VR (in the mid-1980s)

Founding mentor at HAX (1st and biggest hardware accelerator)

Co-founder of Noisebridge (San Francisco hackerspace)

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twitter: @maltman23

flickr: maltman23

WeChat: mitchaltman

