

# Button Input: On/off state change

Living with the Lab  
Gerald Recktenwald  
Portland State University  
[gerry@pdx.edu](mailto:gerry@pdx.edu)

# User Input Features of the Fan

- Potentiometer for speed control
  - ❖ Continually variable input makes sense for speed control
  - ❖ Previously discussed
- Start/stop
  - ❖ Could use a conventional power switch
  - ❖ Push button (momentary) switch
- Lock or limit rotation angle
  - ❖ Button click to hold/release fan in one position
  - ❖ Potentiometer to set range limit

# Conventional On/Off switch

## Basic light switch or rocker switch

- ❖ Makes or breaks connection to power
- ❖ Switch stays in position: On or Off
- ❖ Toggle position indicates the state
- ❖ NOT in the Arduino Inventors Kit



Image from sparkfun.com



Image from lowes.

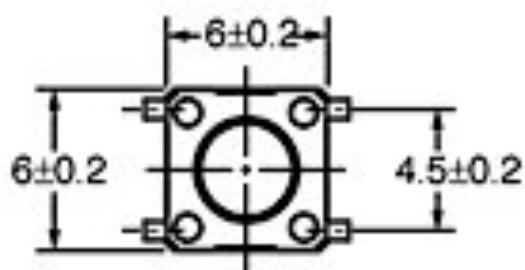
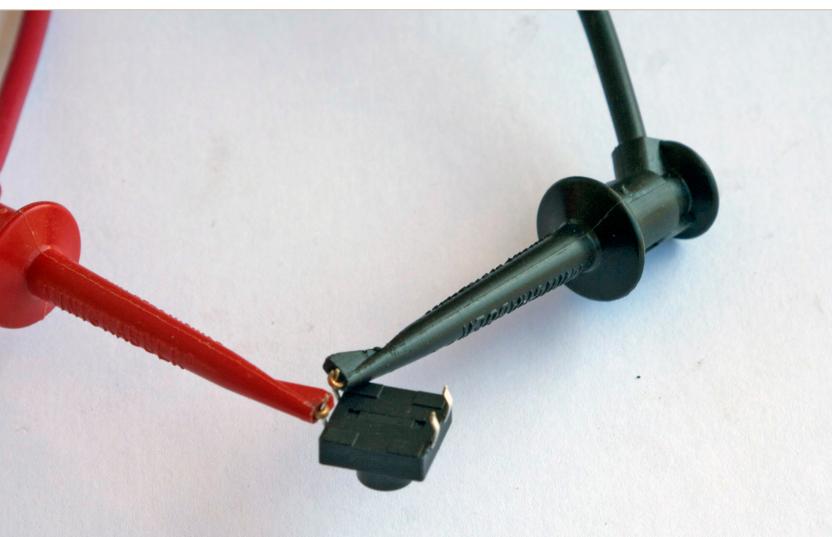
# How does a button work?

Simple switch schematic

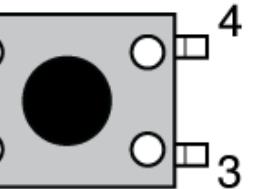
Use DMM to measure open/closed circuit

Map the pin states

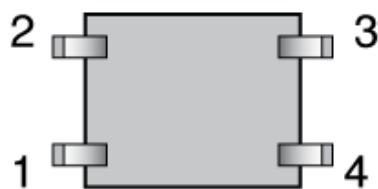
# Measure Open and Closed Circuits



Top View



Bottom View



Connect Pins	Measured Resistance ( $\Omega$ ) When not pressed	Measured Resistance ( $\Omega$ ) When pressed
1 and 2		
1 and 3		
1 and 4		
2 and 3		

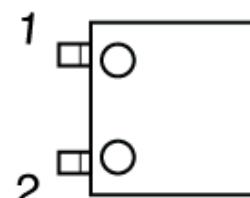
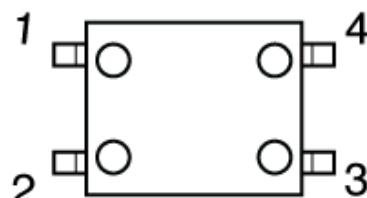
# Measure Open and Closed Circuits

## Data from Measurements:

	Measured Resistance ( $\Omega$ )	
	When not pressed	When pressed
Connect 1		
Pad 2		
Pad 3		
Pad 4		
Pad 5		

## Sketch Connection

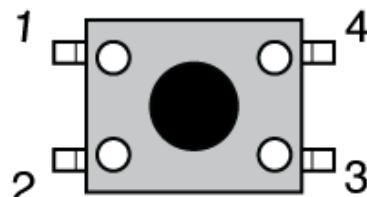
Draw lines between connectors



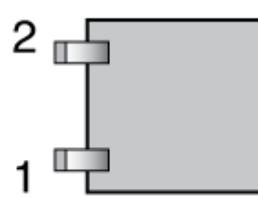
When not pressed

When pressed

Top View



Bottom View



# Push Button Switches

A momentary button is a “Biased Switch”

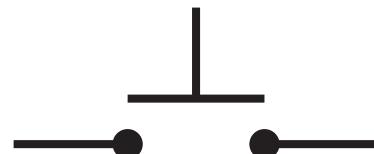
Pushing the button changes state

State is reversed (return to biased position) when button is released

Two types

- NO: normally open
- NC: normally closed

Normally Open

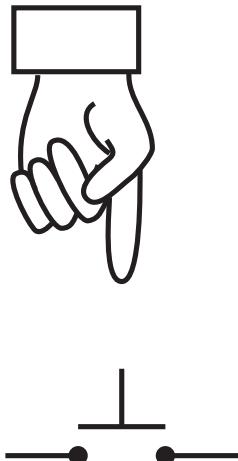


Normally Closed

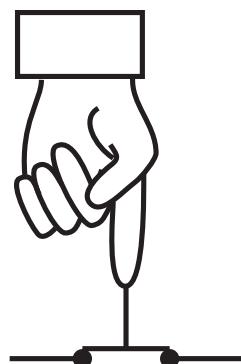


# Monolithic or push-button switches

- Normally open
  - ❖ electrical contact is made when button is pressed
- Normally closed
  - ❖ electrical contact is broken when button is pressed
- Internal spring returns button to its un-pressed state



Open



Closed



Image from [sparkfun.com](http://sparkfun.com)

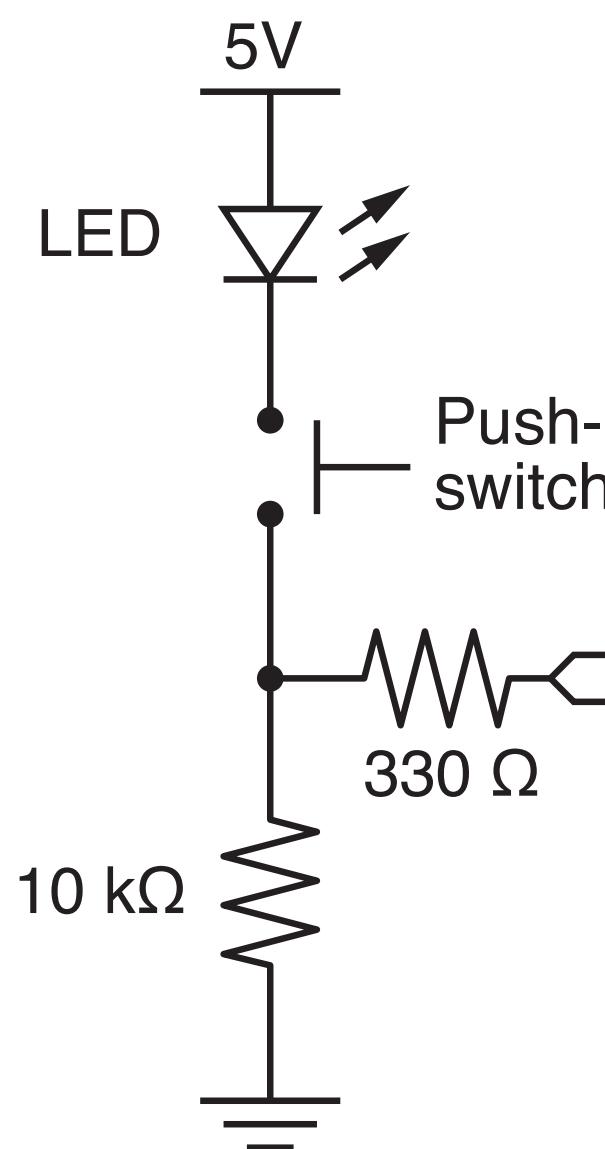
# Putting Buttons into action

1. Build the circuit: same one is used for all examples
  - a. Test with LED on/off
  - b. LED is only controlled by the button, not by Arduino code
2. Create a “wait to start” button
  - a. Simplest button implementation
  - b. Execution is blocked while waiting for a button click
3. Use an interrupt handler
  - a. Most sophisticated: Don’t block execution while waiting for button input
  - b. Most sophisticated: Requires good understanding of coding
  - c. Requires “de-bouncing”
  - d. Not too hard to use as a black box

# Potentiometer, Button and LED Circuit

## Digital input with a *pull-down resistor*

- ❖ When switch is open (button not pressed):
  - ▶ Digital input pin is tied to ground
  - ▶ No current flows, so there is no voltage difference from input pin to ground
  - ▶ Reading on digital input is LOW
- ❖ When switch is closed (button is pressed):
  - ▶ Current flows from 5V to ground, causing LED to light up.
  - ▶ The 10k resistor limits the current draw by the input pin.
  - ▶ The  $330\Omega$  resistor causes a large voltage drop between 5V and ground, which causes the digital input pin to be closer to 5V.
  - ▶ Reading on digital input is HIGH

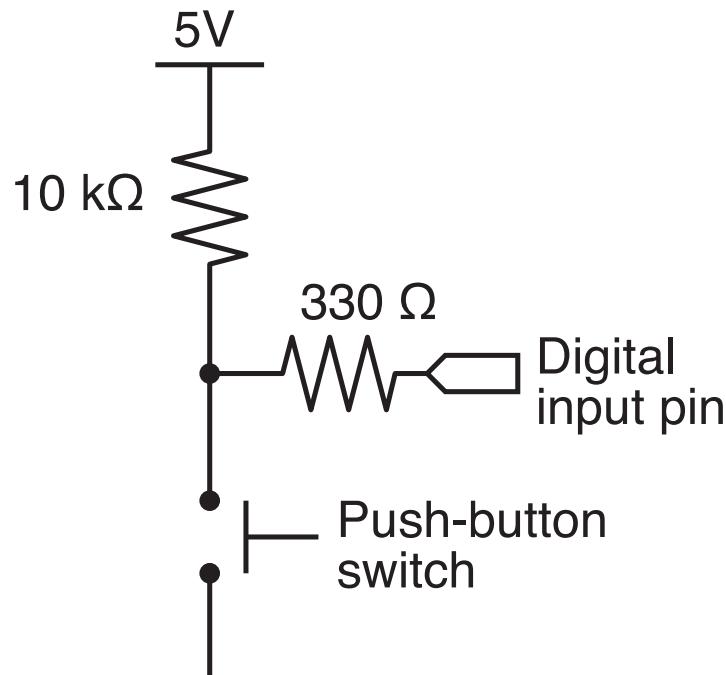


# Technical Note

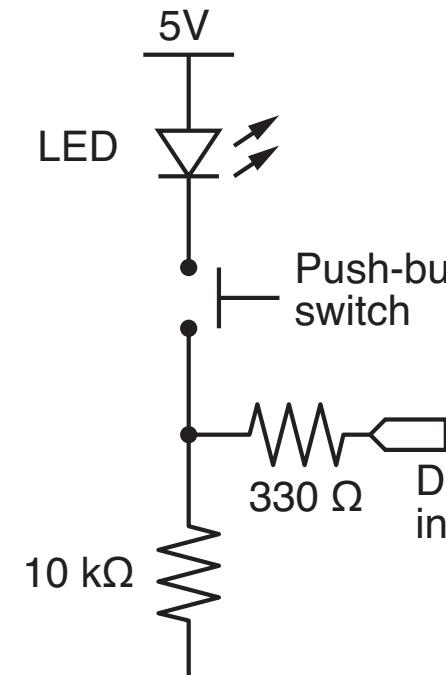
Usually we do not include an LED directly in the button circuit. The following diagrams show plan button circuits with pull-up and pull-down resistors. In these applications, the pull-up or pull-down resistors should be 10k. Refer to Lady Ada Tutorial #5:

- ❖ <http://www.ladyada.net/learn/arduino/lesson5.html>

Pull-up  
resistor:



Pull-down  
resistor:



# Programs for the LED/Button Circuit

## . Continuous monitor of button state

- ❖ Program is completely occupied by monitoring the button
- ❖ Used as a demonstration — not practically useful

## 2. Wait for button input

## 3. Interrupt Handler

## 4. All three programs use the same electrical circuit

# Continuous monitor of button state

```
int button_pin = 4;                      // pin used to read the button

void setup() {
  pinMode( button_pin, INPUT );
  Serial.begin(9600);                    // Button state is sent to host

  void loop() {
    int button;
    button = digitalRead( button_pin );

    if ( button == HIGH ) {
      Serial.println("on");
    } else {
      Serial.println("off");
    }
  }
}
```



LED

10 kΩ

Serial monitor shows a continuous stream of “on” or “off”

This program does not control the LED

# Programs for the LED/Button Circuit

- . Continuous monitor of button state
  - ❖ Program is completely occupied by monitoring the button
  - ❖ Used as a demonstration — not practically useful
2. Wait for button input
  - ❖ Blocks execution while waiting
  - ❖ May be useful as a start button
3. Interrupt Handler
4. All three programs use the same electrical circuit

# Wait for Button Input

```
int button_pin = 4; // pin used to read the button

void setup() {
    int start_click = LOW; // Initial state: no click yet
    pinMode( button_pin, INPUT );
    Serial.begin(9600);

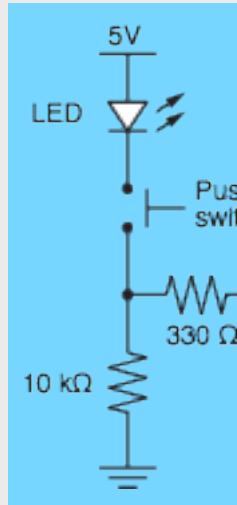
    while ( !start_click ) {
        start_click = digitalRead( button_pin );
        Serial.println("Waiting for button press");
    }
}
```

```
void loop() {
    int button;
```

Same loop() function as  
in the preceding sketch

```
    button = digitalRead( button_pin );
    if ( button == HIGH ) {
        Serial.println("on");
    } else {
        Serial.println("off");
    }
}
```

while loop continues  
as long as start\_click  
is FALSE



# Programs for the LED/Button Circuit

## 1. Continuous monitor of button state

- ❖ Program is completely occupied by monitoring the button
- ❖ Used as a demonstration — not practically useful

## 2. Wait for button input

- ❖ Blocks execution while waiting
- ❖ May be useful as a start button

## 3. Interrupt Handler

- ❖ Most versatile
- ❖ Does not block execution
- ❖ Interrupt is used to change a flag that indicates state
- ❖ Regular code in loop function checks the state of the flag

## 4. All three programs use the same electrical circuit

# Interrupt Handler for Button Input

```
button_interrupt = 0;      // Interrupt 0 is on pin 2 !!
toggle_on = false;         // Button click switches state

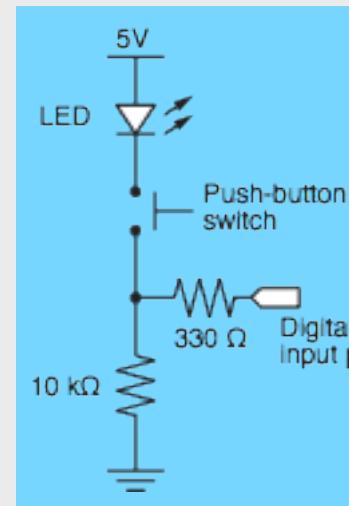
setup() {
  Serial.begin(9600);
  attachInterrupt( button_interrupt, handle_click, RISING); // Register handler

loop() {
  if ( toggle_on ) {
    Serial.println("on");
  } else {
    Serial.println("off");
  }
}

handle_click() {

  static unsigned long last_interrupt_time = 0;          // Zero only at start
  unsigned long interrupt_time = millis();                // Read the clock

  if ( interrupt_time - last_interrupt_time > 200 ) { // Ignore when < 200 ms
    toggle_on = !toggle_on;
    last_interrupt_time = interrupt_time;
  }
}
```



# Interrupt Handler for Button Input

```
button_interrupt = 0;          // Interrupt 0 is on pin 2 !!
toggle_on = false;             // Button click switches state

setup() {
    Serial.begin(9600);
    attachInterrupt(button_interrupt, handle_click, RISING); // Register handler
}

// The interrupt is triggered when the button is pressed
void loop() {
    if ( toggle_on ) {
        Serial.println("on");
    } else {
        Serial.println("off");
    }
}

handle_click() {

    static unsigned long last_interrupt_time = 0;           // Zero only at start
    unsigned long interrupt_time = millis();                // Read the clock

    if ( interrupt_time - last_interrupt_time > 200 ) {   // Ignore when < 200 ms
        toggle_on = !toggle_on;
        last_interrupt_time = interrupt_time;
    }
}
```

Interrupt handler must be registered when program starts

Interrupt is the ID or number of the interrupt. It must be 0 or 1.

A RISING interrupt occurs whenever the pin changes from LOW to HIGH.

The interrupt handler, handle\_click(), is a user-written function that is called when an interrupt is detected.

# Interrupt Handler for Button Input

```
button_interrupt = 0;           // Interrupt 0 is on pin 2 !!
toggle_on = false;             // Button click switches state

setup() {
  Serial.begin(9600);
  attachInterrupt( button_interrupt, handle_click, RISING); // Register handler

loop() {
  if ( toggle_on ) {
    Serial.println("on");
  } else {
    Serial.println("off");
  }
}

handle_click() {

  static unsigned long last_interrupt_time = 0;           // Zero only at start
  unsigned long interrupt_time = millis();                // Read the clock

  if ( interrupt_time - last_interrupt_time > 200 ) { // Ignore when < 200 ms
    toggle_on = !toggle_on;
    last_interrupt_time = interrupt_time;
  }
}
```

toggle\_on is a global variable that remembers the "state". It is either true or false (1 or 0).

The loop() function only checks the state of toggle\_on. The value of toggle\_on is set in the interrupt handler, handle\_click.

The value of toggle\_on is flipped when a *true* interrupt even occurs. Debouncing is described in the next slide.

# Interrupt Handler for Button Input

```
button_interrupt = 0;      // Interrupt 0 is on pin 2 !!
toggle_on = false;         // Button click switches state

setup() {
  Serial.begin(9600);
  attachInterrupt( button_interrupt, handle_click, RISING); // Register handle

loop() {
  if ( toggle_on ) {
    Serial.println("on");
  } else {
    Serial.println("off");
  }
}

handle_click() {
  static unsigned long last_interrupt_time = 0;
  unsigned long interrupt_time = millis();

  if ( interrupt_time - last_interrupt_time > 200 ) { // Ignore when < 200 ms
    toggle_on = !toggle_on;
  }

  last_interrupt_time = interrupt_time;
}
```

Value of a static variable is always retained

Use *long*: the time value in milliseconds can become large

Clock time when current interrupt occurs

Ignore events that occur in less than 200 msec from each other. Buttons are likely to be mechanical based.

Save current time as the new “last” time

# Other References

## Ladyada tutorial

- ❖ Excellent and detailed
- ❖ <http://www.ladyada.net/learn/arduino/lesson5.html>

## Arduino reference

- ❖ Minimal explanation
  - ▶ <http://www.arduino.cc/en/Tutorial/Button>
- ❖ Using interrupts
  - ▶ <http://www.uchobby.com/index.php/2007/11/24/arduino-interrupts/>
  - ▶ <http://www.arduino.cc/en/Reference/AttachInterrupt>