



AdaBox 014

Created by John Park



<https://learn.adafruit.com/adabox014>

Last updated on 2021-11-15 07:53:36 PM EST

Table of Contents

Introduction	5
• Hi there!	5
• Who is this for?	5
• Who isn't this for?	6
• Who are you?	6
• Want to buy past AdaBoxes?	6
Unboxing AdaBox 014	10
• AdaBox 014 Contents	11
• Circuit Playground Bluefruit	11
• Circuit Playground Enclosure	12
• Lithium Polymer Battery	13
• USB LiPo Charger	14
• TFT Gizmo	15
• Snow Globe + Snowflakes Kit	16
• DIY Ornament	17
• Diffraction Glasses	17
• Bonus Extras!	18
• HackSpace Magazine	18
• Circuit Playground Plushie	19
Adafruit Circuit Playground Bluefruit	20
Adafruit Circuit Playground TFT Gizmo	20
TFT Gizmo Test	20
• Circuit Playground Express	20
• Circuit Playground Bluefruit	21
• Running Text Example UF2	21
Circuit Playground TFT Gizmo Ornament Snow Globe	21
TFT Gizmo Animated Eye	21
Cyberpunk Santa Eye	21
Wireless Image Transfer with Circuit Playground Bluefruit and TFT Gizmo	22
Bluefruit Playground Hide and Seek	22
Turtle Graphics in CircuitPython on TFT Gizmo	22
Snow Globe with Bluefruit	22
Bluetooth Turtle Bot with CircuitPython and Crickit	22
Circuit Playground-O-Phonor	22
3D Printed CPB Gizmo Ornaments	22

3D Print a Turtle Case for TFT Gizmo and Circuit Playground Bluefruit	22
Circuit Playground Bluefruit Pumpkin with Lights and Sounds	23
Luminary Lanterns	23
Getting Started with CircuitPython and Bluetooth Low Energy	23
NeoPixel Animation Remote Control	23
Bluefruit Playground App	23
TensorFlow Lite for CPB Quickstart	23
Circuit Playground TFT Gizmo Dreidel	23
ANCS Notifier Gizmo for iOS	23

Introduction

Hi there!

[If you're looking to subscribe to AdaBox, click here! \(https://adafru.it/tNC\)](https://adafru.it/tNC)

If you're here, it's because you were given the gift of electronics with an AdaBox! Perhaps you are a beginner who is getting started with your AdaBox. Or maybe you just want to relive what it's like being a beginner at electronics again. But most of all, you want to learn how to build and make creative, awesome stuff with electronics, graphics, and coding! ([If, rather than learn all that, you'd like to look at pictures of cats instead, please check https://www.adafruit.com/galleries/cats-of-engineering \(https://adafru.it/oAd\)](https://www.adafruit.com/galleries/cats-of-engineering))

And, you're in luck: there's never been a better time. Seriously. We're not just saying that. It's bonkers how great a time this is for you to learn electronics, graphics, coding, and wireless Bluetooth LE magic with images, lights, and sound!

Gone are the days where you need thousands of dollars of equipment and a physics/math background. Nowadays, if you want to learn to work with electronics and code microcontrollers, you can jump right in for \$100 or less and any sort of computer. And we're talking about learning a lot of electronics, graphics, coding, and Bluetooth LE wireless action - from the basics of setting up a microcontroller, to customizing your graphics on a beautiful TFT display, and doing it wirelessly! From making festive interactive snowglobes, to beaming images THROUGH THIN AIR to your custom made ornaments!!

Who is this for?

Anyone who is interested in learning how to program and build interactive projects, and with access to a modern web browser. That's pretty much the minimum. Remember, this guide is specifically for people who have purchased or received an AdaBox subscription!

You don't need to know a lot of physics or math, and just like an Art Degree isn't required for making art and being creative, you don't need to have a computer science or mechanical engineering degree. It helps if you're comfortable using computers but that's a skill most people pick up through life.

If you know how to program already - great! If not, don't worry, we'll teach you enough to be dangerous.

Who isn't this for?

While you can follow along without an AdaBox, it will not make as much sense unless you have all of the components and more which either came as a gift or purchased yourself - remember, the goal is helping beginners!

This guide is also not for crows. Corvids are awesome, [but they prefer analog tools](https://adafru.it/CBc) (<https://adafru.it/CBc>).

If you're an expert, please visit our hundreds other tutorials and jump right in at [learn.adafruit.com](https://adafruit.com) (<https://adafru.it/dlu>)

Who are you?

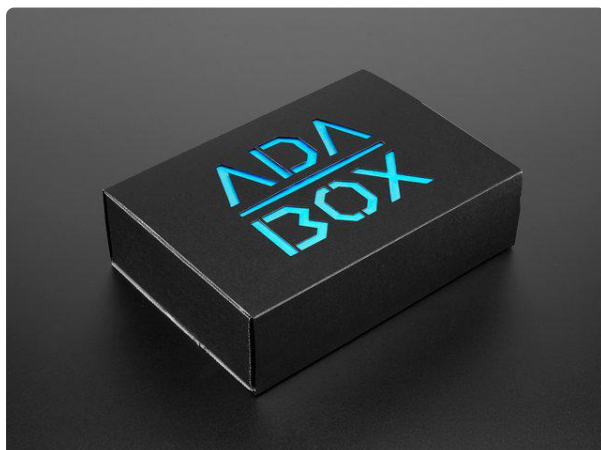
Great question. This is me:

I'm Ladyada, and I love to teach people how to build stuff and how they can be creative with technology.

So, are you ready?

Let's do this thing!

Want to buy past AdaBoxes?



[AdaBox001 - Welcome to the Feather Ecosystem](#)

Please note! This is NOT the subscription version of AdaBox! This is ONLY AdaBox001 that shipped out to AdaBox subscribers in September of 2016. This...

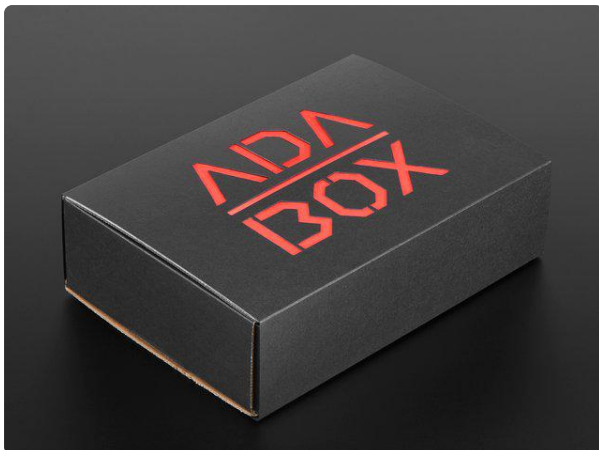
<https://www.adafruit.com/product/3193>



[AdaBox002 – Making Things Move](#)

AdaBox002 - Making Things Move with our Feather Bluetooth LE Mini Robot Rover is the perfect gift for folks who are just getting started in the...

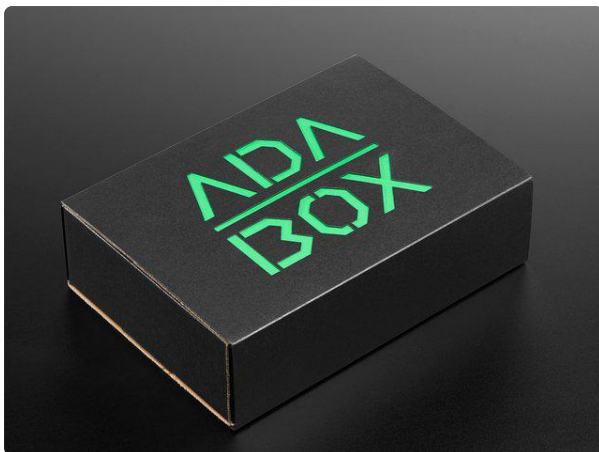
<https://www.adafruit.com/product/3235>



[AdaBox003 – The World of IoT – Curated by Digi-Key](#)

AdaBox003 – The World of IoT (Curated by Digi-Key) is the perfect gift for folks who are just getting started in the world of DIY electronics. It's an...

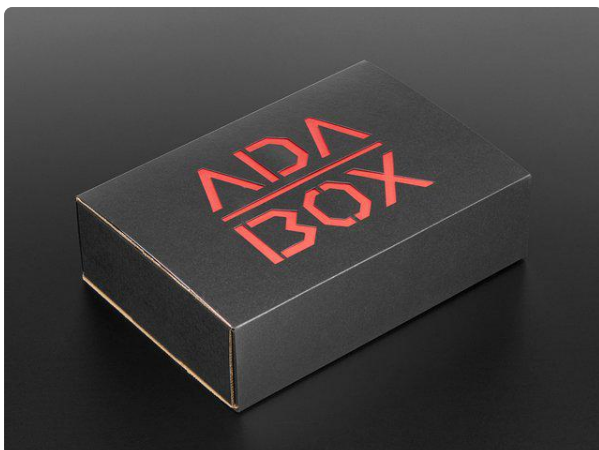
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[AdaBox004 – Making Things Dance](#)

AdaBox004 – Making Things Dance is the perfect gift for folks who are just getting started in the world of DIY electronics. It's an excellent...

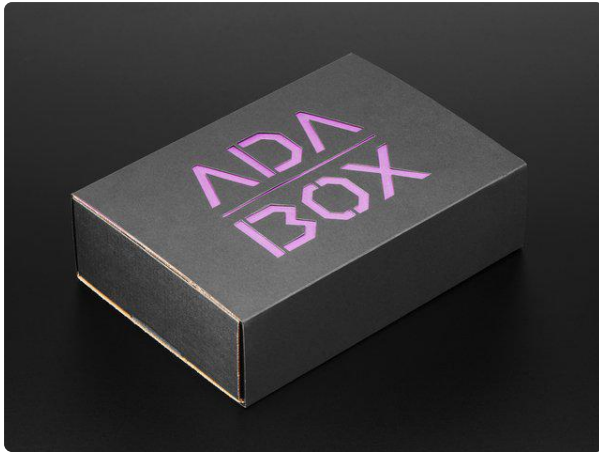
<https://www.adafruit.com/product/3370>



[AdaBox005 – Break for Pi](#)

AdaBox005 – Break for Pi is the perfect gift for folks who are just getting started in the world of DIY electronics. It's an excellent...

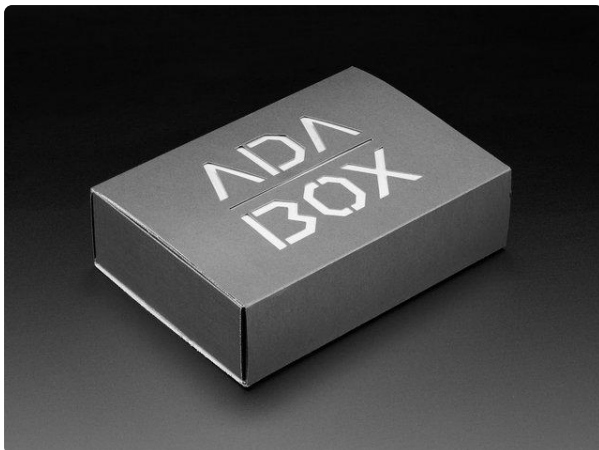
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[AdaBox006 – CircuitPython](#)

AdaBox006 – CircuitPython is the perfect gift for folks who are just getting started in the world of DIY electronics. It's an excellent addition to our...

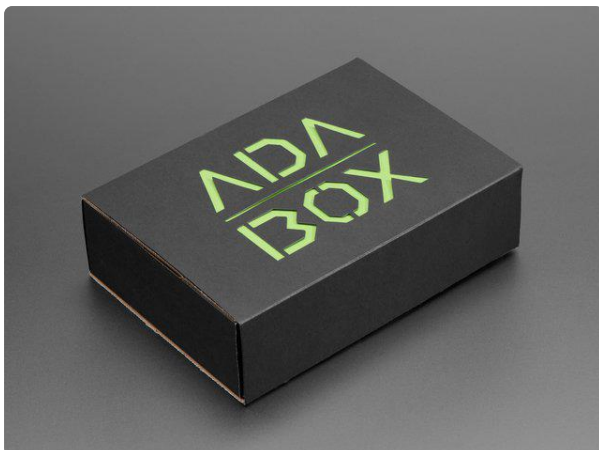
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[AdaBox007 - SPY](#)

Discontinued - you can grab AdaBox...

<https://www.adafruit.com/product/3778>

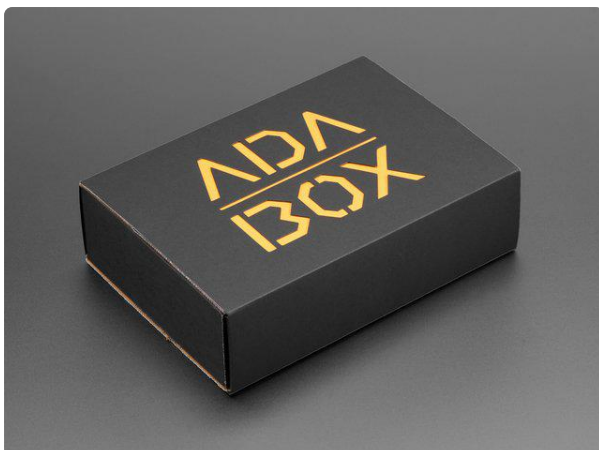


[AdaBox008 - Octo Crickit](#)

[#MakeRobotFriend](#)

Sometimes we wonder if robotics engineers ever watch movies. If they did, they'd know that making robots into slaves always ends up in a robot rebellion. Why even go down that...

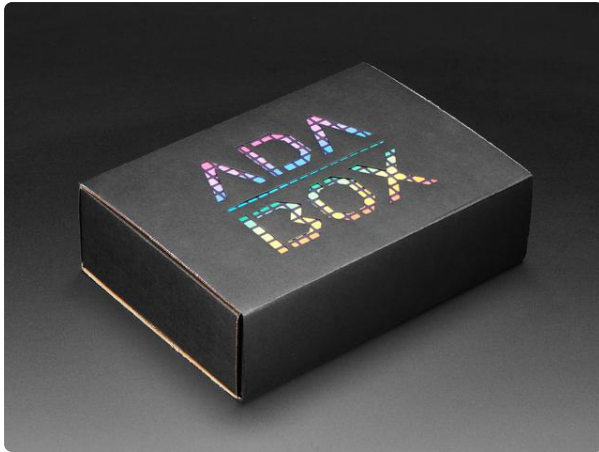
<https://www.adafruit.com/product/3906>



[AdaBox009 - HalloWing](#)

Are you the kind of person who doesn't like taking down the skeletons and spiders until after January? Well, we've got the ADABOX for you. This is electronics at...

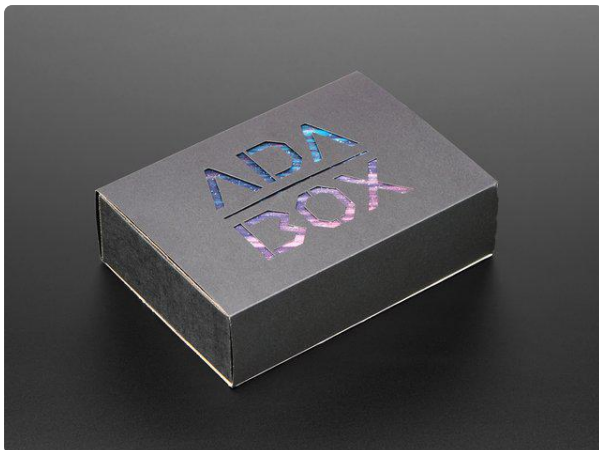
<https://www.adafruit.com/product/3863>



AdaBox010 - Rainbow Trellis

This ADABOX is a multi-sensory feast - Lights! Sound! Squishy buttons! This box comes with a NeoTrellis M4. It's a grid of 4x8 silicone buttons, with a...

<https://www.adafruit.com/product/4018>



AdaBox011 - PyPortal

Reach out beyond your desk - to the stars and beyond - with PyPortal! This ADABOX features a new, easy-to-use IoT device that allows you to customize and create your...

<https://www.adafruit.com/product/4061>



AdaBox012 - PyGamer

Oh! Hello! If you're here, (and we suspect you are) it's because you want to reward yourself with the gift of handheld gaming development and coding with an AdaBox!...

<https://www.adafruit.com/product/4185>



AdaBox013 - THE MONSTER M4SK

I was hacking in the lab quite late one night - soldering pins and debugging the bytesWhen suddenly a bang exploded with sparks, and a figure emerged from the hazy dark!

<https://www.adafruit.com/product/4281>

Unboxing AdaBox 014

It's beginning to look like Ada-BOX-mas

Everywhere you go

Let all your ideas flow, for projects you want to show

With buttons and LEDs all aglow

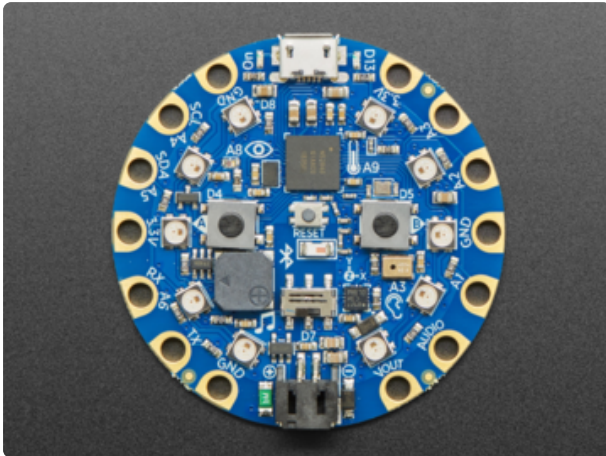
Exactly two years ago, Adafruit released ADABOX 006 featuring the Circuit Playground Express and CircuitPython. It was a revolution in how to program electronics, and our first attempt at seeing how ADABOXians would adapt to the transition from Arduino-programmed boxes. And it was a hit! People loved the easy all-in-one Circuit Playground and programming circuits in Python.

Now, two years later, we're going further - with the Circuit Playground Bluefruit with Bluetooth LE support so now we can make our projects wireless! We've also added a colorful 'TFT Gizmo' graphical display, a rechargeable battery and USB charger, as well as a few cases and enclosures to help you craft a beautiful holiday decoration.

Thanks to Digi-Key and Nordic Semiconductor for their support of AdaBox and the development of the Circuit Playground Bluefruit. We could not have created such an awesome box without their help!

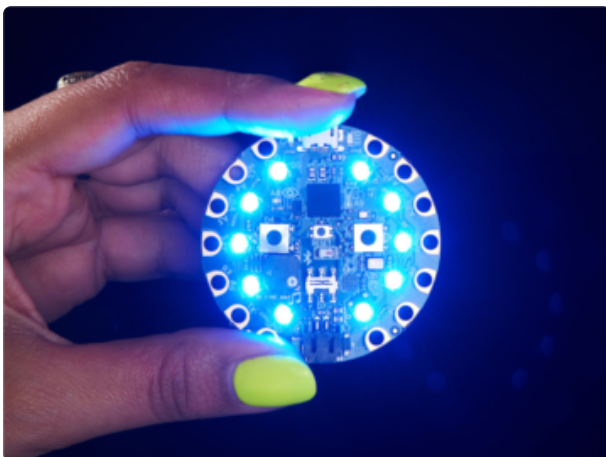
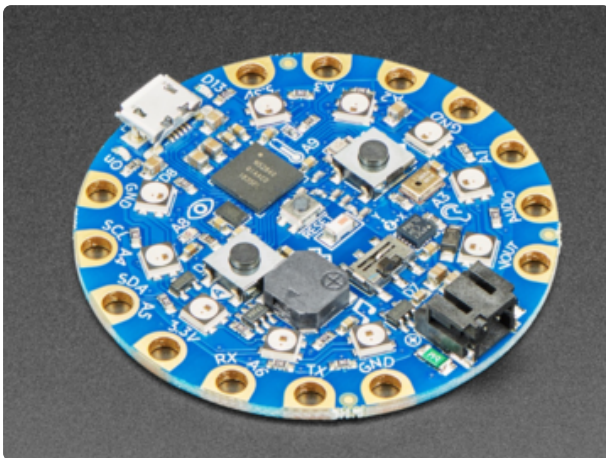


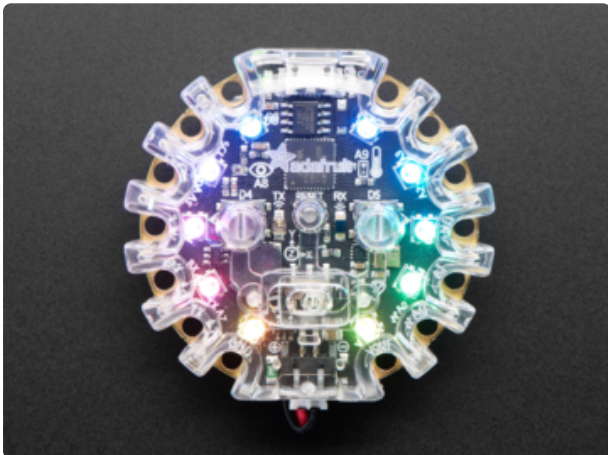
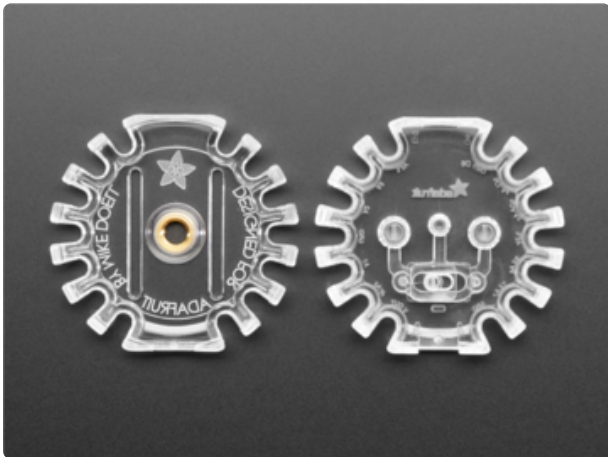
AdaBox 014 Contents



Circuit Playground Bluefruit

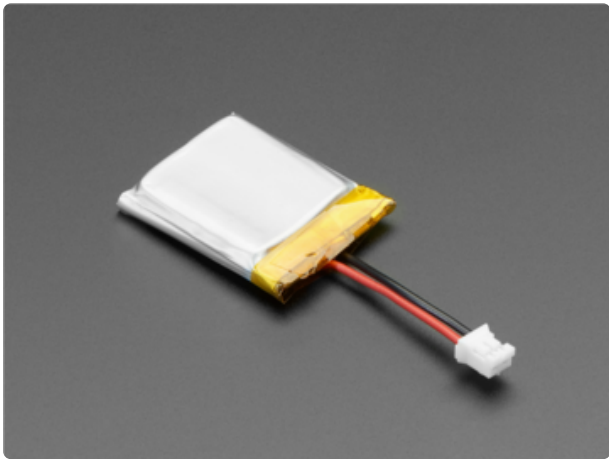
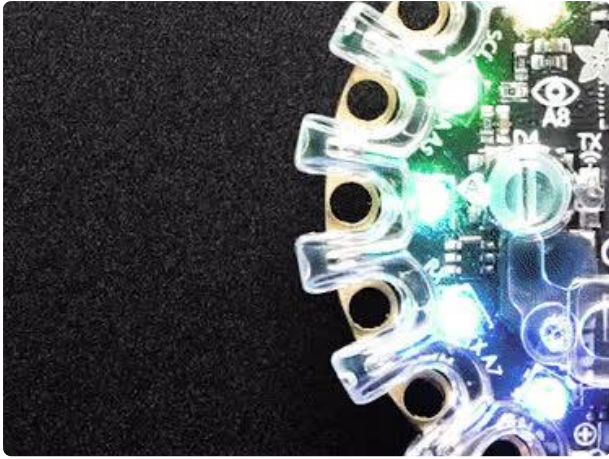
It looks a lot like the 'Express you know so well: built-in motion, light and temperature sensors, microphone, speaker, 10 NeoPixels, and capacitive-touch pads. But now, the brain of the Playground is the powerful Nordic nRF52840 with Bluetooth Low Energy support.





Circuit Playground Enclosure

Keep your Circuit Playground Bluefruit (CPB for short) safe in this snap-together enclosure.

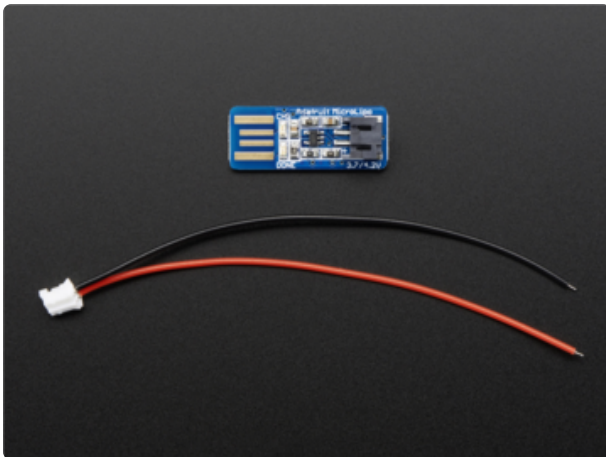
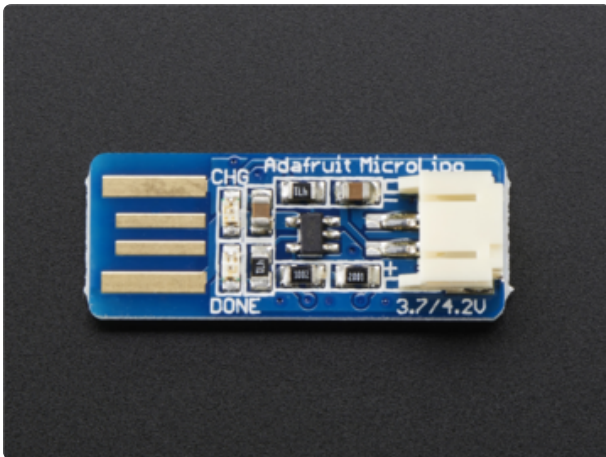


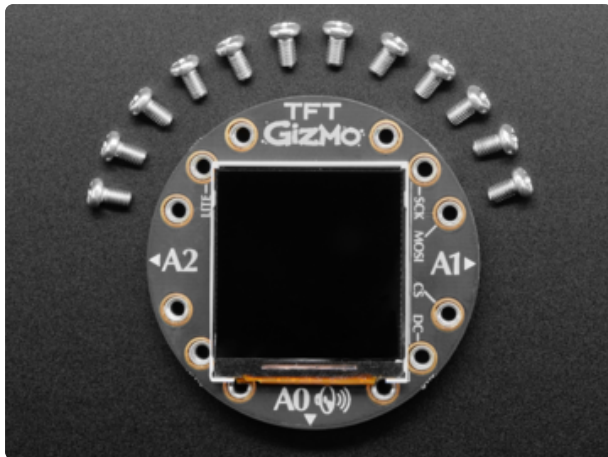
Lithium Polymer Battery

The CPB can be powered with this battery for portable use, so it's truly wireless.

USB LiPo Charger

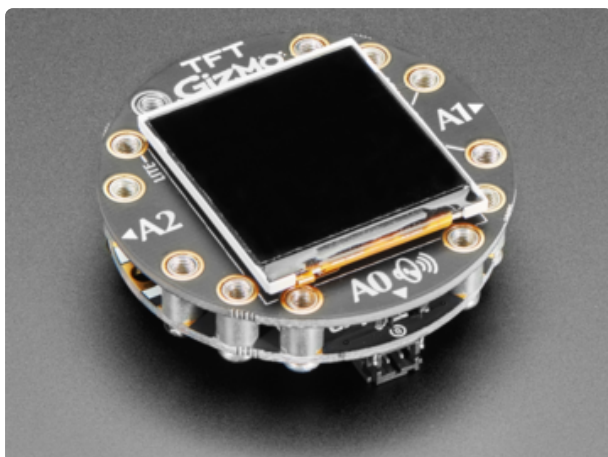
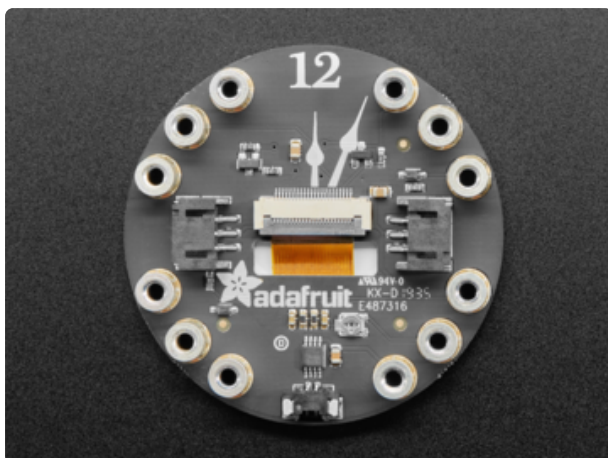
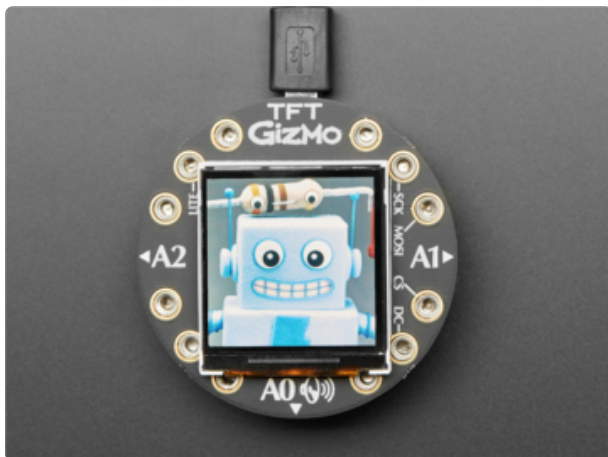
The CPB doesn't have built-in charging support. So use this simple charger board to keep your battery topped-up.





TFT Gizmo

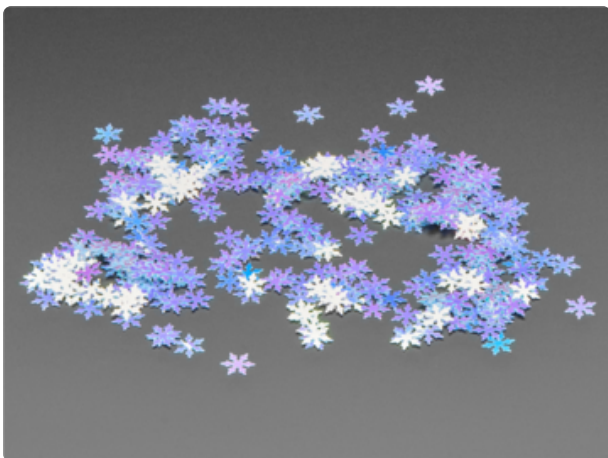
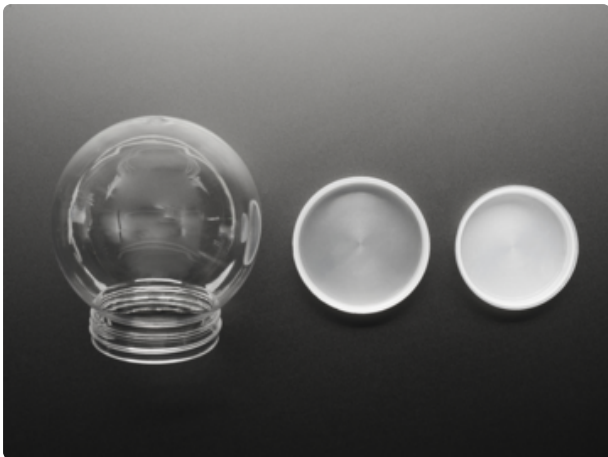
Bolt on this 240x240 pixel color IPS TFT LCD display for bright images, GIFs and animations. You can even fit the LiPoly battery in between the two layers formed by the Gizmo and the Circuit Playground Bluefruit when they are screwed together.





Snow Globe + Snowflakes Kit

This large empty container fits the CPB plus battery in its base. Decorate the globe with figurines or art, then fill with water and the sparkly snowflakes. Now you have an electronic snow globe that can react to motion or wireless control.





DIY Ornament

These clear plastic spheres are just large enough to fit a CPB plus the TFT Gizmo to make a cute electronic ornament.



Diffraction Glasses

Holiday lights are even more dazzling with these grated glasses that make points of light sparkle and shimmer.

Bonus Extras!



HackSpace Magazine

Curl up on a cold day with a copy of HackSpace by the Raspberry Pi Foundation. Get inspired by cool builds, and creative folks in the making community.





Circuit Playground Plushie

This AdaBox is our largest yet - literally! We had to get a bigger box to fit everything, including a plushie from our Circuit Playground video series.



Adafruit Circuit Playground Bluefruit

[Adafruit Circuit Playground Bluefruit \(https://adafru.it/GYc\)](https://adafru.it/GYc)

Adafruit Circuit Playground TFT Gizmo

[Adafruit Circuit Playground TFT Gizmo \(https://adafru.it/Gfi\)](https://adafru.it/Gfi)

TFT Gizmo Test



Once you've assembled the TFT Gizmo onto your Circuit Playground you can test it by loading one of these pre-made UF2 onto your Circuit Playground with the TFT Gizmo attached - it will perform a graphics test so you know that the Gizmo's attached!

Be sure to use the correct UF2 file for the Circuit Playground board you have.

Circuit Playground Express

If you have a [Circuit Playground Express \(https://adafru.it/wpF\)](https://adafru.it/wpF), download this UF2 file by clicking below:

Circuit_Playground_Express_TFT_Giz

<https://adafru.it/IEA>

Circuit Playground Bluefruit

If you have a [Circuit Playground Bluefruit \(https://adafru.it/Gpe\)](https://adafru.it/Gpe), download this UF2 file by clicking below:

Circuit_Playground_Bluefruit____TFT_

<https://adafru.it/HDt>

Running Text Example UF2

Once you've downloaded the appropriate UF2 file from above, plug in your Circuit Playground to your computer with a data/sync cable.

Double-click the reset button so that the boot drive folder shows up. This folder should be called CPLAYBOOT for the CP Express and CPLAYBTBOOT for the CP Bluefruit.

Drag-n-drop the downloaded UF2 onto CPLAYBOOT or CPLAYBTBOOT folder.

Press reset button to launch the code. If you don't get graphics on the TFT, check [the assembly instructions on this page \(https://adafru.it/Hb9\)](https://adafru.it/Hb9)

This sketch is in Arduino, so after you've run this UF2, [if you want to go back to CircuitPython, you'll need to re-install the CircuitPython UF2 \(https://adafru.it/Em8\)](https://adafru.it/Em8)

Circuit Playground TFT Gizmo Ornament Snow Globe

[Circuit Playground TFT Gizmo Ornament Snow Globe \(https://adafru.it/Hcw\)](https://adafru.it/Hcw)

TFT Gizmo Animated Eye

[TFT Gizmo Animated Eye \(https://adafru.it/Hcy\)](https://adafru.it/Hcy)

Cyberpunk Santa Eye

[Cyberpunk Santa Eye \(https://adafru.it/Hgf\)](https://adafru.it/Hgf)

Wireless Image Transfer with Circuit Playground Bluefruit and TFT Gizmo

[Wireless Image Transfer with Circuit Playground Bluefruit and TFT Gizmo \(https://adafru.it/GXa\)](https://adafru.it/GXa)

Bluefruit Playground Hide and Seek

[Bluefruit Playground Hide and Seek \(https://adafru.it/HjC\)](https://adafru.it/HjC)

Turtle Graphics in CircuitPython on TFT Gizmo

[Turtle Graphics in CircuitPython on TFT Gizmo \(https://adafru.it/GYd\)](https://adafru.it/GYd)

Snow Globe with Bluefruit

[Snow Globe with Bluefruit \(https://adafru.it/HgA\)](https://adafru.it/HgA)

Bluetooth Turtle Bot with CircuitPython and Crickit

[Bluetooth Turtle Bot with CircuitPython and Crickit \(https://adafru.it/Hcx\)](https://adafru.it/Hcx)

Circuit Playground-O-Phonor

[Circuit Playground-O-Phonor \(https://adafru.it/Hcz\)](https://adafru.it/Hcz)

3D Printed CPB Gizmo Ornaments

[3D Printed CPB Gizmo Ornaments \(https://adafru.it/HgB\)](https://adafru.it/HgB)

3D Print a Turtle Case for TFT Gizmo and Circuit Playground Bluefruit

[3D Print a Turtle Case for TFT Gizmo and Circuit Playground Bluefruit \(https://adafru.it/HcA\)](https://adafru.it/HcA)

Circuit Playground Bluefruit Pumpkin with Lights and Sounds

[Circuit Playground Bluefruit Pumpkin with Lights and Sounds](https://adafru.it/HcB) (<https://adafru.it/HcB>)

Luminary Lanterns

[Luminary Lanterns](https://adafru.it/HgC) (<https://adafru.it/HgC>)

Getting Started with CircuitPython and Bluetooth Low Energy

[Getting Started with CircuitPython and Bluetooth Low Energy](https://adafru.it/FxH) (<https://adafru.it/FxH>)

NeoPixel Animation Remote Control

[NeoPixel Animation Remote Control](https://adafru.it/HE0) (<https://adafru.it/HE0>)

Bluefruit Playground App

[Bluefruit Playground App](https://adafru.it/HCE) (<https://adafru.it/HCE>)

TensorFlow Lite for CPB Quickstart

[TensorFlow Lite for CPB Quickstart](https://adafru.it/HCF) (<https://adafru.it/HCF>)

Circuit Playground TFT Gizmo Dreidel

[Circuit Playground TFT Gizmo Dreidel](https://adafru.it/HCG) (<https://adafru.it/HCG>)

ANCS Notifier Gizmo for iOS

[ANCS Notifier Gizmo for iOS](https://adafru.it/IAG) (<https://adafru.it/IAG>)

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