

Preface – Getting Started

Welcome to the world of Grove! Grove is a collection of various modular sensors and actuators that help you dive in and enjoy the electronics world with ease. Before we discuss our Grove modules in detail, we want to outline some basic tools and preparatory steps that you will need to complete first.

For more information go to: www.seeedstudio.com

Catalogue

1. What is Arduino?	1
2. Arduino IDE Installation	2
3. Language Reference	3

1. What is Arduino?

Arduino is a flexible and easy-to-learn open source, development platform that is very popular among makers, hobbyists, and interactive artists. It ignited the maker movement and enabled people to bring to life tons of creative projects. It also sparked a collaborative community that provides a supportive environment and thrives on further development and innovations, like our Grove system. Moreover, Arduino is the backbone of our Grove system and is the programming environment that will be used to enable your Grove modules.

To get started, you will need to purchase an Arduino, if you haven't already. Arduino and its clones are available on countless websites and can even be found in retail stores. You can buy them at the official [Arduino site](#) or follow the links on that site to purchase them from distributors, like Seeed Studio. Google search will turn up other options, as well.

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2. Arduino IDE Installation

Arduino IDE (integrated development environment) is C/C++ based developmental programming software for the Arduino board. After purchasing your Arduino, you will need to install the Arduino IDE on your computer. The IDE can be installed on Mac OS X, Windows XP, Windows Vista, Windows 7, and various Linux operating systems. Installation instructions are broken down by operating system and sometimes more detailed instructions are provided for a specific Arduino model. Thankfully the Arduino team provides us a detailed installation guide for most environments: <http://arduino.cc/en/Guide/HomePage>.



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Getting Started with Arduino

Introduction: What Arduino is and why you'd want to use it.

Installation: Step-by-step instructions for setting up the Arduino software and connecting it to an Arduino Uno, Mega2560, Duemilanove, Mega, or Diecimila.

- + [Windows](#)
- + [Mac OS X](#)
- + [Linux](#) (on the playground wiki)

Environment: Description of the Arduino development environment and how to change the default language.

Libraries: Using and installing Arduino libraries.

Instructions for other boards:

- + [Arduino BT](#)
- + [Arduino Due](#)
- + [Arduino Fio](#)
- + [Arduino Leonardo and Micro](#)
- + [LilyPad Arduino](#)
- + [Arduino Mini](#)
- + [Arduino Nano](#)
- + [Arduino Pro](#)
- + [Arduino Pro Mini](#)
- + [Ethernet shield](#)

3. Language Reference

What if you are unfamiliar with the programming language? The Arduino team provides a well thought-out, comprehensive web site that breaks down the commands into three different categories: structure, variables and functions. Each command is explained in simple terms and illustrated with sample code. In fact, the easiest way to learn Arduino is to start with the sample code and then modify for your specific needs. For more information please see <http://arduino.cc/en/Reference/HomePage>.



The screenshot shows the Arduino Reference website. At the top is the Arduino logo, which consists of two interlocking circles with a minus sign and a plus sign, and the word "ARDUINO" below it. To the right of the logo is a search bar with a "search" button. Below the logo is a navigation menu with links: Buy, Download, Getting Started, Learning, Reference, Products, FAQ, and Contact Us. The "Reference" link is highlighted. Below the navigation menu is a breadcrumb trail: Reference > Language > Libraries > Comparison > Changes. The main heading is "Language Reference". Below the heading is a paragraph: "Arduino programs can be divided in three main parts: *structure*, *values* (variables and constants), and *functions*." Below this paragraph are three columns of content. The first column is titled "Structure" and lists "+ [setup\(\)](#)" and "+ [loop\(\)](#)". Below this is a sub-heading "Control Structures" and lists "+ [if](#)" and "+ [if...else](#)". The second column is titled "Variables" and has a sub-heading "Constants" in orange. It lists "+ [HIGH](#) | [LOW](#)", "+ [INPUT](#) | [OUTPUT](#) | [INPUT_PULLUP](#)", "+ [true](#) | [false](#)", and "+ [integer constants](#)". The third column is titled "Functions" and has a sub-heading "Digital I/O" in orange. It lists "+ [pinMode\(\)](#)", "+ [digitalWrite\(\)](#)", and "+ [digitalRead\(\)](#)". Below this is a sub-heading "Analog I/O" in orange and lists "+ [analogReference\(\)](#)".

Now you are ready to explore the world of Grove!

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