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Getting Started With LittleBits: Prototyping And Inventing With Modular Electronics



Synopsis

littleBits are electronic building blocks with over 60 modules and trillions of combinations. With littleBits, anyone can harness the power of electronics, microcontrollers, and the cloud--regardless of age, gender, technical ability, or educational background. You can combine these simple, snap-together, magnetic bricks to make simple electronic circuits, or build robots and devices that combine sensors, microcontrollers, and cloud connectivity. This book, co-authored by littleBits founder Ayah Bdeir, along with top-selling author Matt Richardson (Getting Started with Raspberry Pi), teaches you just enough electronics to start making things with littleBits and takes you on up through connecting littleBits to the cloud and programming with its Arduino-compatible module.

Book Information

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Age Range: 11 - 17 years

Grade Level: 6 - 12

Customer Reviews

The Bits	View larger	View larger	View larger	View larger
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Power (Blue) Electronics need electricity, so every project you make with littleBits is going to start with a blue power module.

Output (Green) The green output are how your project will make stuff happen. It could be making light, motion, or sound. They let you see, feel, and hear your project.

Input (Pink) The pink modules act as the inputs to a project. They allow you to interact with it and let your project interpret its surroundings. They can be dimmers, switches, and motion triggers.

Wire (Orange) The orange wire modules expand the ways that you can connect Bits

together. They add flexibility to how you arrange the Bits and how they interact with each other.

Ayah Bdeir is the founder and CEO of littleBits, an award-winning library of electronics dubbed "LEGOs for the iPad generation." Bdeir is an engineer, interactive artist and one of the leaders of the open source hardware movement. Bdeir's career and education have centered on advancing open source hardware to make education and innovation more accessible to people around the world. She is a co-founder of the Open Hardware Summit, a TED Senior Fellow and an alumna of the MIT Media Lab. Bdeir was named one of Inc. Magazine's 35 Under 35, one of Fast Company's 100 Most Creative People in Business and one of Popular Mechanics 25 Makers Who Are Reinventing the American Dream. littleBits was named as one of CNN's top 10 Emerging Startups to watch. Originally from Lebanon and Canada, Ayah lives in New York City. Matt Richardson is a San Francisco-based creative technologist and contributing editor to Make: Magazine. He's the owner of Awesome Button Studios, a consultancy focused on blending creativity and technology. After graduating with a Master's from New York University's Interactive Telecommunications Program (ITP) in 2013, he continued his work there as a resident research fellow. Matt is the co-author of Getting Started with Raspberry Pi and the author of Getting Started with BeagleBone and Getting Started with Intel Galileo.

Summary: As a lover of Make Magazine, and a love/semi-hate relationship with littlebits, this book misses the mark. It reiterates everything that has been frustrating about littlebits. Littlebits are for kids, they need kidlike tutorials. Adults don't need a book to point them in the direction of the littlebits website. I reiterate the other reviewer, this is an advertisement for littlebits. Not for someone that currently owns them and is looking for basic knowledge and project tutorials. In Depth: It explains the basics of each module (kind of on a level for 8 year olds, but written more for adults). That is okay, but I assume that they will then give me basic projects. There are less than 10 projects in the book, none of which are cool, and only half that are basic. After they describe the basic premise of the modules it then shows you a project where you use a laser cutter. Huh? If you don't know how these bits work, you do not own a laser cutter. We own dozens of little bits, and the worst part about little bits is their project tutorials. Kids need to walk through some basic projects, and then use their creativity to make their own. Their website is terrible to search, and the tutorials are even worse. This book points you in the direction of their website for these projects. THERE ARE NO STEP BY STEP TUTORIALS IN THIS BOOK.

I had high hopes for this book and pre-ordered it. It would be a good guide for someone to create curriculum for teaching LittleBits, but there is almost nothing in the book that isn't already available on the LittleBits website. I was hoping for a book full of projects and creative ideas. I was very disappointed.

This is a bit over-priced for what you get. I get it, but you have to buy a tone of other more expensive stuff to make it really fun.

I am an adult hobbyist and I new to littleBits. I have been building robots most of my life so I know something about electronics. I thought this book might be a great reference to have, but after reading some of the reviews, I wasn't sure what to expect. I wasn't disappointed though, I think this book is great and I refer to it a lot. It goes into a lot of detail about how each of the Bits works and there are lots of examples. I found it especially helpful in setting up the CloudBit from the Smart Home Kit that I had initially purchased. I also purchased the Arduino Coding Kit and again this book was very helpful in getting the Arduino Bit set up. I have never used an Arduino before and the book goes over the basic commands for controlling the inputs and outputs as well as providing example code. I didn't have any problems and have been happily testing out the Arduino Bit to see what it can do. The book seems to be very well written and I would recommend it for anyone young or old who wants to get into littleBits.

This book is an advertisement for "little bits" electronics, not much in it but how he built his little bits design

Help parental units appreciate 7 yr old b-day present

I was not happy with this purchase. It was very elementary, and not very informative. A person could open a littleBits package and get more information than this book. Besides how poorly it's written, it's too expensive for what you get.

The book shelf reference.

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