Led strips

An LED is the acronym for Light Emitting Diode. Unlike a regular incandescent light bulb, there is no filament that produces the light. Almost all of the electricity is used for making light, which makes the LED more efficient. On the other hand, think of an incandescent light as a heater that happens to emit light as well. Incandescents and fluorescents emit light with very high beam angles. Since LEDs are small and powerful with a *definite* beam angle, it is important when using them to have them arranged in a way that the emitted light is even upon the surface you desire to light.

An LED strip, tape, or ribbon light is a flexible circuit board populated by surface-mount light-emitting diodes (SMD LEDs) and other components that can come with an adhesive backing. Traditionally, strip lights had been used solely in accent lighting, backlighting, task lighting, and decorative lighting applications and art.

- Everything you need to know about ledstrips
- smart LED string & app (phone)
- WLED
- Controlling LEDstrips with Arduino

Everything you need to know about ledstrips

LED strip lights are new and versatile forms of lighting. Unlike regular LED strips, addressable LED strips allow you to control each individual LED, creating a wide range of color and animation possibilities. There are many variants and exceptions, but for the most part, they have the following characteristics:

- Consist of many individual LED emitters mounted on a narrow, flexible circuitboard.
- Each LED (or each group) on the strip has its own integrated circuit that communicates with the control circuit, allowing for precise control over the color and brightness of each LED.
- Operate on low-voltage DC power
- Are available in a wide range of fixed and variable color and brightness
- Bought in a long reel (typically 5 meters), can be cut to length, can include double-sided adhesive for mounting
- LEDstrips can be tints of 'white' , RGB(W), various colours controlled with an app/remote or even (individually) addressable & controlled by software.

How do I know if my LED strips are addressable?

1) Check whether there is IC or not. There are two kinds of IC, external IC, and internal IC. If has IC, then it is an addressable LED Strip Light.

2) Check the cable, if there are signal data cable, then it is addressable LED Strip Light.

Regular LED Strip without IC

Addressable LED Strip with external IC

Addressable LED Strip with built-in IC

Educate yourself before buying the wrong strip!

Of course there is much more to learn and know about LED strips check out these resources for in-depth info:

https://aidiwattlighting.com/the-ultimate-guide-to-addressable-led-strip/
everthing you need to know about the various kinds of ledstrips, controllers and drivers

https://www.waveformlighting.com/led-strip-lights
another great, comparable, source of info on led strips

https://www.youtube.com/embed/LdpvCepML-E

COB ledstrips:

https://www.aliexpress.com/p/wiki/article.html?keywords=aliexpress-leds

smart LED string & app (phone)

At the BBox Jk you can borrow LED strings that connect to a powerbank through USB
The lights (5/10 meters, 50/100 LEDS) can be individually controlled through an app. (multiple strings simoutaneously)

android: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.tech.idealled&hl=nl

iphone: https://apps.apple.com/us/app/idealled/id1568029498

WLED

WLED is one of the most popular packages for controlling LED strips with, or example, the WS2812B through cable & wifi.

The software also supports some other types, such as the WS2811 and WS2815, both on 12 volts. The first step is to flash the software on, for example, an ESP32.

The ULTIMATE WLED Beginners Guide!

https://www.youtube.com/embed/exAWzMfmwQ8

Resources

website: https://kno.wled.ge/

community: https://wled.discourse.group/

A tool to stream video to WLED matrix displays: https://github.com/fieldOfView/WLED-video :

A Python application to stream videos, images, and animations directly to your WLED-powered LED video wall: https://github.com/BradyMeighan/WLED-Studio :

WLED & Touchdesigner:

https://www.youtube.com/embed/R3U0_gic4fE

Another instruction for connecting a WLED controller and TouchDesigner

The following instruction below wil walk you through the steps to connect TouchDesigner with a WLED LEDstrip controller.

WLED installation: https://wled-install.github.io/

For the tinytronics Universal Digital LEDstrip Controller V1.1:
Board type / software version:
ESP32-S3 (4MB Flash, with Audio reactive Usermod)

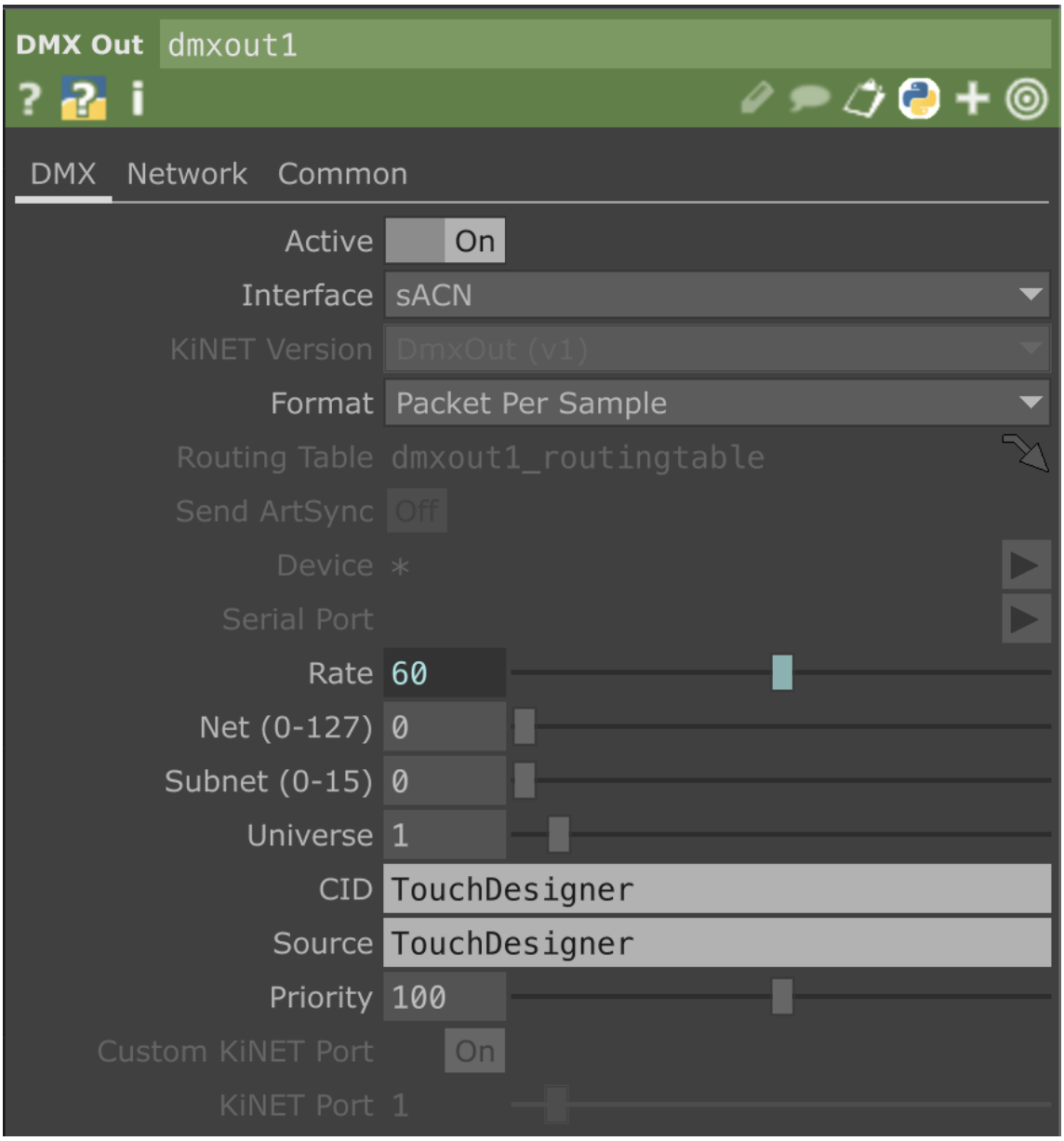
(Connect the controller to USB-C while holding down the 'Boot' button. Otherwise, it won't enter update mode and the WLED installation won't be able to upload.)

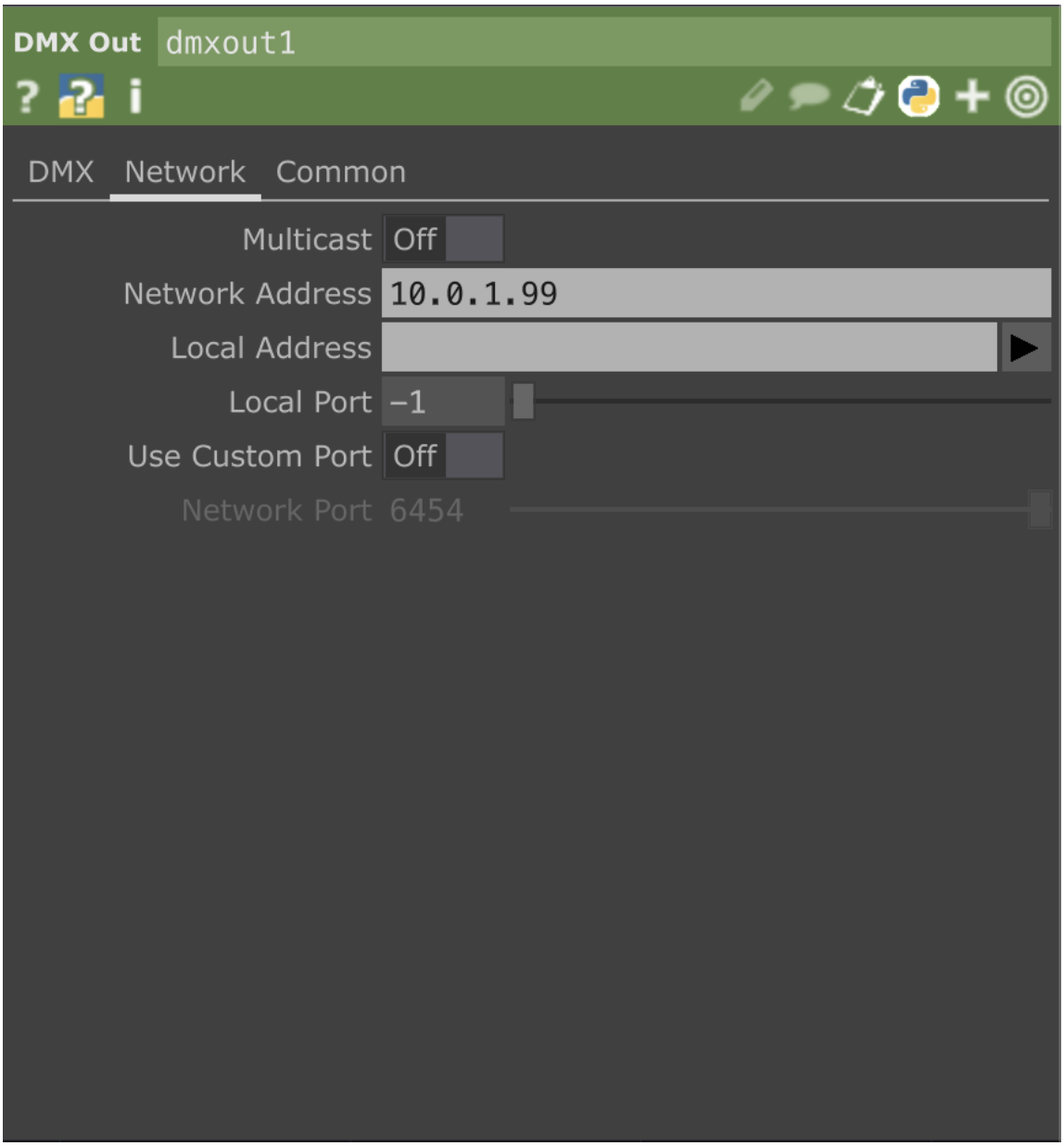
After installation, manually use the RST button to reset.

WLED-AP (AP = Access Point) will appear under Wi-Fi networks. The default password is wled1234.

The WLED console will open automatically. You can change the settings here to your local AP. (for example the workshop is in the 10.0.1.xx range, so it's useful to set a fixed IP to, for example, 10.0.1.99.)
Continuing to use the dedicated AP mode directly also works, of course.

TouchDesigner, DMX Out CHOP Interface on sACN, in the network tab Multicast Off and set the IP address of the WLED controller.


DMX Out
dmxout1
DMX
Network
Common
Active
On
Interface
sACN
KiNET Version
DmxOut (v1)
Format
Packet Per Sample
Routing Table
dmxout1_routingtable
Send ArtSync
Off
Device
*
Serial Port
Rate
60
Net (0-127)
0
Subnet (0-15)
0
Universe
1
CID
TouchDesigner
Source
TouchDesigner
Priority
100
Custom KiNET Port
On
KiNET Port
1



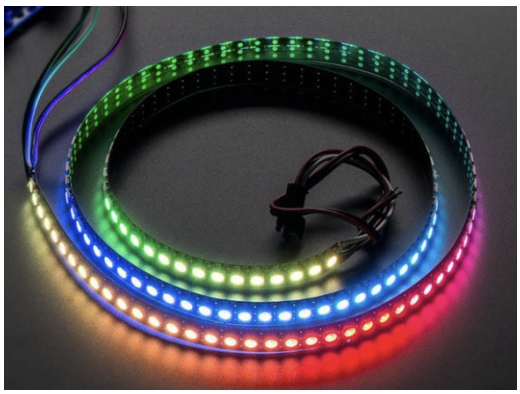
Here's a preset for Touchdesigner WLED.tox

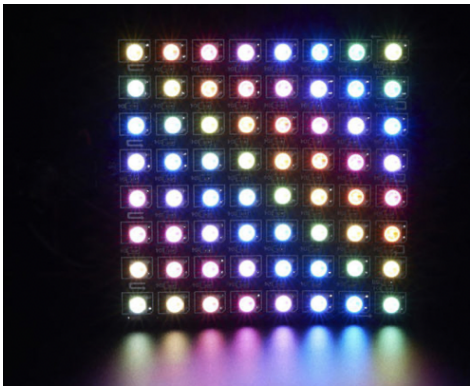
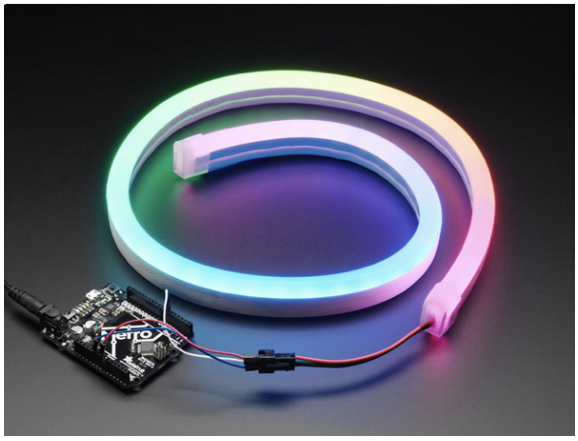
Controlling LEDstrips with Arduino

LED Strips and Arduino

With the Adafruit Neopixel library, it is very easy to work with controlling different types of LED's using Arduino. Adafruit has a very extensive "Adafruit NeoPixel Überguide" available online, where you can follow a step-by-step guide for controlling LED strips, panels and individual led's.

NeoPixel options:

	
Strips	**Rings**

	
Matrices	**Pins**
	ETC... ^^ link to more options available via kiwi electronics
Neon-Like Stips	Images from Adafruit

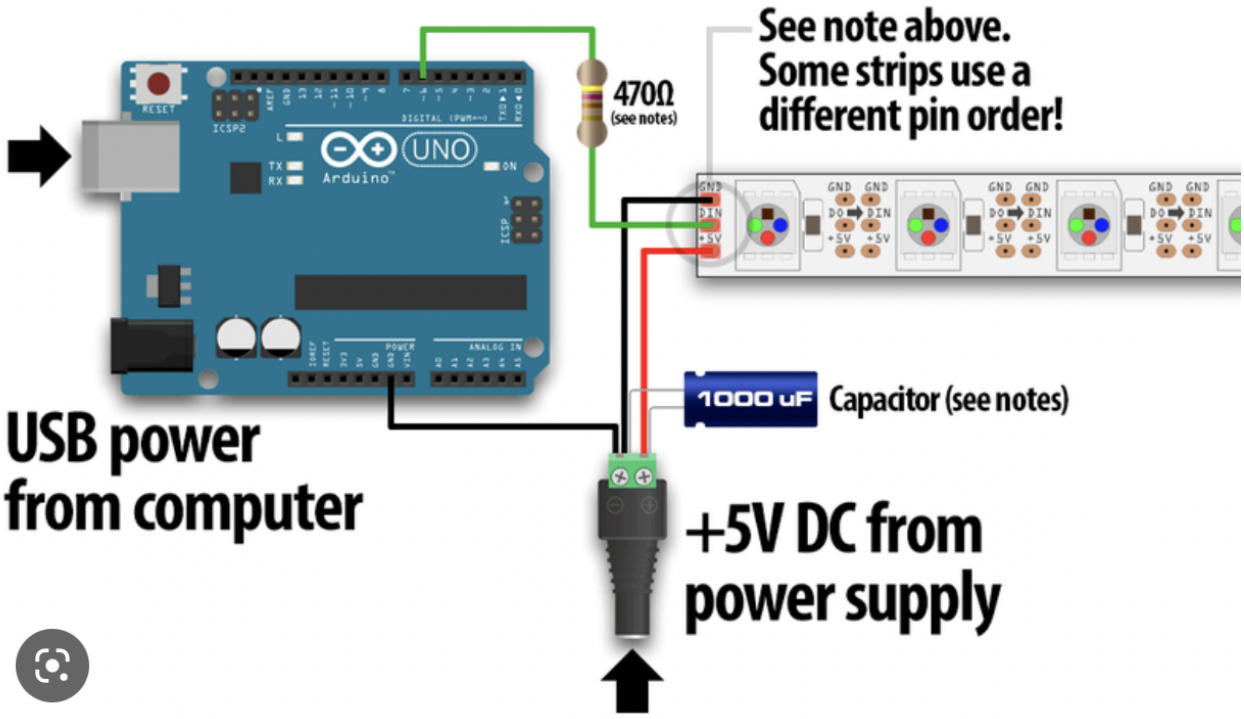
Basic NeoPixel LED strip setup

HARDWARE

Materials needed:

- Arduino Uno (or other available Arduino, but Nano is most beginner friendly)
- 1x 300 to 500 Ohm Resistor
- 5V power supply (this type is recommended for simple setup)
- 1x 500–1000 µF Capacitor

For controlling LED strips and Arduino you can build the following hardware:



Usefull video until 3:50

SOFTWARE

Launch the Arduino IDE.

If you have not installed the NeoPixel Library for Arduino, first make sure to do that first.

Video

https://learn.adafruit.com/adafruit-neopixel-uberguide/arduino-library-installation

> If you want to understand more about Arduino and Libraries? Read more here...

From the **File** menu, select

Examples→Adafruit NeoPixel→strandtest

Powering NeoPixels in different ways

Other methods for powering ledstrips beside the simple standard power supply are:

- DC wall wart adapters (5v)
- lithium-polymer battery (Lithium Ion Polymer Battery - 3.7v 2500mAh)

- Three alkaline cells (such as AA batteries)
- Four nickel-metal hydride (NiMH) rechargeable cells

You must use a 3-5V DC power supply to power these strips, do not use higher than 6V or you can destroy the entire strip– yikes!
Example 1 AA or AAA = 1,5 V

LED Power calculator here!

When choosing any option for powering the ledstrips, always take into account that you have enough amperage provided for the strips. Checkout the Adafruit page for more details regarding power options.

Powering Arduino in different ways

If you want to use a powerbank in some cases depending on how much power the arduino needs from the bank it might turn off after 1 - a few minutes even though the powerbank is fully charged. It depends on the kind of powerbank. Some have a safety built in. But most of the time it is not mentioned in the description.
Try different types of powerbanks or use info from these links:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I7MrL5Q7zvY

https://forum.arduino.cc/t/simplest-battery-power-to-arduino-nano-solution/530242

Im still experimenting with this myself once i find more info i add it to this book.
At the moment i have tried 2 powerbanks (5000 & 10000 mAh) for Arduino Nano with seperate power for my small Neopixel Jewel (7 leds). Both dont work. Using batterypack 4xAA atm.