How to make a lightboard

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Hi! I'm Judoka, your pixel pal, and I'm going to help you build and code your own lightboard. **Ready? Let's go!** **Pixel Board**



1





Pixels and lights are everywhere



Inside them are tiny computers...



...telling the lights to blink on and off

Pick up the board



It has 128 lights



Turn it over

This is its brain

You can talk to the lightboard's brain using Kano App...



...and take control of the lights



They're called Light Emitting Diodes - LEDs

Take a closer look. What can you see?



Hidden within each LED are 3 tiny lights – a Red, a Green and a Blue

They work together to make colors



Soon you'll code the LEDs to create patterns, animations, games...

But first, you need buttons



The buttons send electrical signals to the brain when pressed





Push both red buttons firmly in place, like this

Great! Now let's add the joystick



It moves up, down, left, right and clicks

Plug it firmly onto the brain



Time for the mode dial



Each turn sends a signal to the brain, telling it what mode you want



You need the battery to power up the pixels



Inside there are trillions of moving electrons, which create electricity



Make sure it is this way up

Place the battery in, shiny connectors first



Great! Now, to keep it strong and safe...



...let's make a case

Put the front of the case on a flat surface











Let's bring it to life



Slide the switch down to turn it on

Awesome!



Turn the dial to 🔆





This is Light Mode

There are three lightshows



Move the <code>joystick</code> left and right (\triangleleft \bigcirc \Rightarrow) to choose between them

Select the one that looks like this





This is **Perlin Noise**



Perlin Noise is an algorithm. It's used to create textures and landscapes in animations, movies, and games like Minecraft.





Use your **joystick** to adjust the noise pattern

The **A** button morphs the colors



Select the second lightshow, Sound Visualizer, and press A to start



Sound Visualizer uses your Pixel Kit's microphone to turn sound into light



Now make some **noise**, and see how the device reacts

Change the colors with your **joystick**

Press B to go back to the Menu

The third lightshow is **Particle Flow**



These points of light drift across the lightboard leaving a trail of color like shooting stars





Use the **joystick** to control the flow of the particles **Up and Down** adjusts the speed

Now turn the dial to Game Mode, 🔛


Let's start with a classic - Super Snake



Snake was first released in 1978, but the same rules still apply today – eat the apples, don't hit your tail!



Move the snake around with your **joystick**

Press A to start and B when you're finished

Rainbow Runner is a space adventure



Switch lanes. Avoid white meteors. And grab the flashing fuel crystals! Swoosh!



Steer your ship using the **joystick**

Press B to go back to the Menu

Test your accuracy in **Breakout!**



Bounce the ball, using the paddle. And smash your way through the wall!



Move your paddle with the **joystick**

Now it's time to code your own creations...



... with modes 1, 2 and 3

You'll make your own games, animations and more



Let's fire up the Kano App

Go to www.kano.me/app on your home computer...



...and follow the instructions on screen

Once installed and connected...



...you'll activate the full power of your lightboard!

Beat the coding challenges to unlock...



Musical Heartbeat

Create amazing light displays that move in time with the beat



Weather Watcher

Live weather data to help you decide if you need an umbrella



Chatterbox

A face that talks when you talk

News Ticker

Draw Pixel Art

But wait! There's more...



Your lightboard will need to be charged from time to time



Plug the small end of the red cable into your lightboard...



...and the big end into a USB charger or computer

The holes on the back help you mount it to things



Even screw it onto tripods!



47

Let's make it easier to carry



Take off the back

Push the small end of the lanyard through the side hole



Now pull tight



Add a filter



It'll change the effect of the light

Email or tweet us a picture of what you make with your Pixel Kit...



...and we'll make you famous!

Want more?



help.kano.me Help with anything from kits to coding



kano.me/world Endless content by a friendly community



kano.me/shop More kits and sensors



/teamkano For tutorials, films and fun stuff



/kanocomputing Talk to us and get the latest news



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