



Adafruit 2.4" PiTFT HAT with Resistive Touchscreen Mini Kit

Created by lady ada



<https://learn.adafruit.com/adafruit-2-4-pitft-hat-with-resistive-touchscreen-mini-kit>

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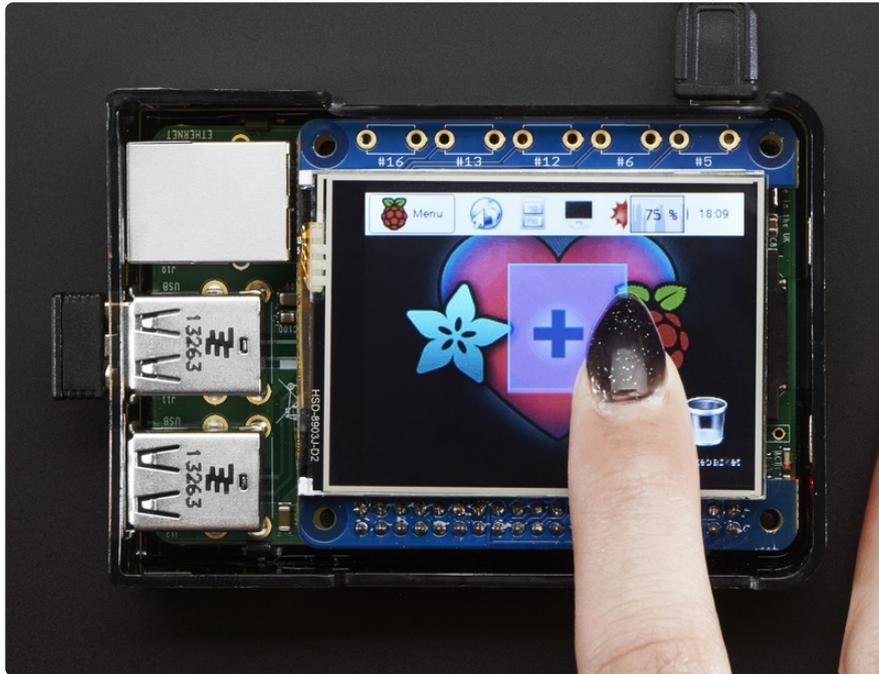
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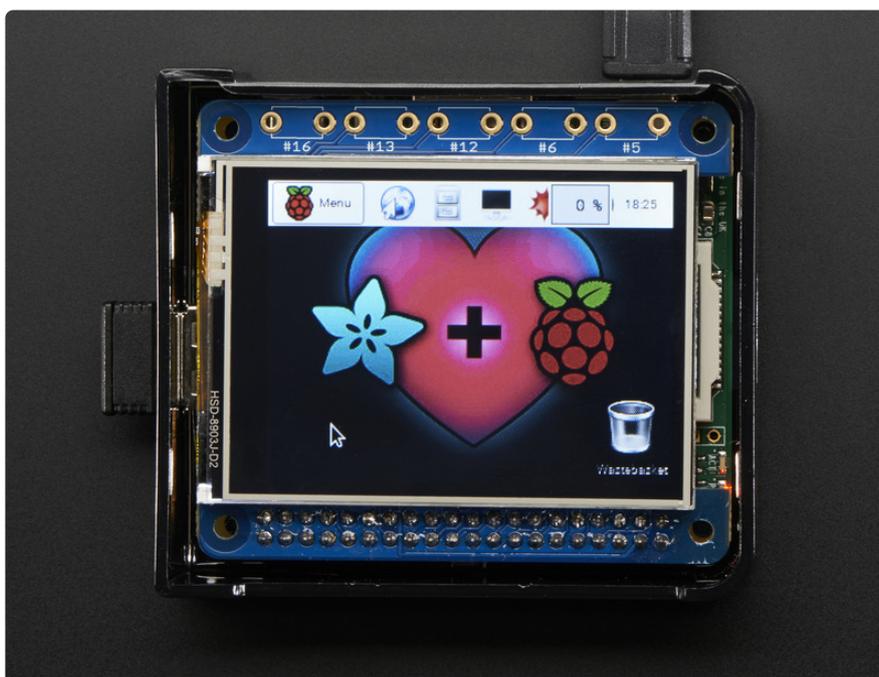
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Overview



Is this not the cutest little display for the Raspberry Pi? It features a 2.4" display with 320x240 16-bit color pixels and a resistive touch overlay. The HAT uses the high speed SPI interface on the Pi and can use the mini display as a console, X window port, displaying images or video etc. Best of all it plugs right in on top!

It's designed to fit nicely onto the Pi Model A+, B+ or Pi 2.



This design uses the hardware SPI pins (SCK, MOSI, MISO, CE0, CE1) as well as GPIO #25 and #24. All other GPIO are unused. Since we had a tiny bit of space, there's 5 spots for optional slim tactile switches wired to five GPIOs, that you can use if you want to make a basic user interface. For example, you can use one as a power on/off button.



We have a right-angle 26-pin connector off to the side. You can connect a classic 26-pin Raspberry Pi GPIO cable in order to access the rest of the GPIO through a Cobbler, etc.



To make it super easy for use: we've created a custom kernel package based of off Notro's awesome framebuffer work, so you can install it over your existing Raspbian (or derivative) images in just a few commands.

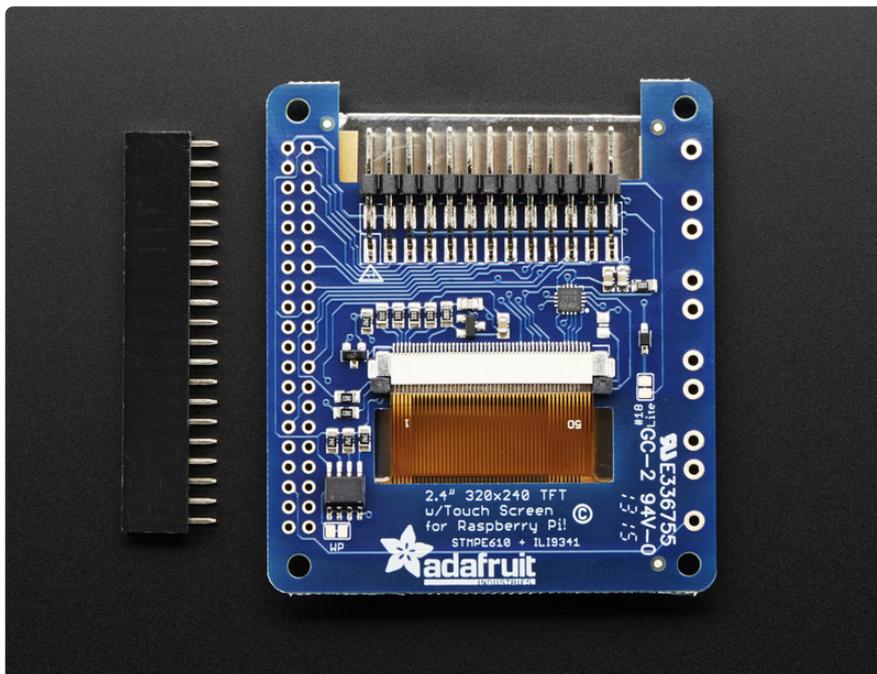
Each order ships with an assembled HAT with 2.4" TFT display with resistive touchscreen and a 2x20 female socket header. Some light soldering is required to attach the header but it is easy work for anyone with a soldering iron & solder. [Alternatively, you can use a stacking type header instead if you'd like to plug a 2x20 GPIO cable on top \(<http://adafru.it/2223>\)](http://adafru.it/2223)

Raspberry Pi, Pi enclosure, 26-pin GPIO cable, tactile switches are not included!

This tutorial series shows you how to install the software, as well as calibrate the touchscreen, splay videos, display images such as from your PiCam and more!

Assembly

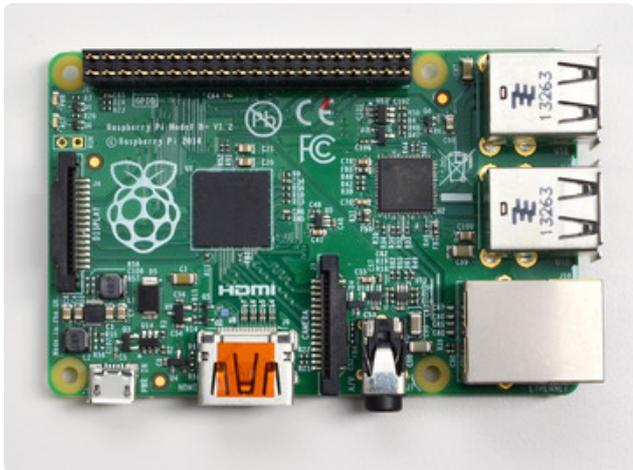
Before you start check that you have the parts you need: an assembled PiTFT 2.4" HAT with the 2.4" screen and 2 x 20 female header. Note that it is normal for the screen to be 'loose' - this is so its easier for you to solder the connector on!



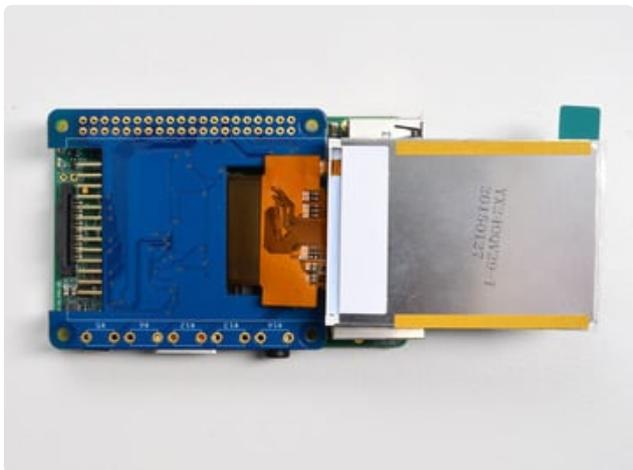
Check also on the back that the TFT is attached and that the flex connector is seated into the onboard FPC socket.



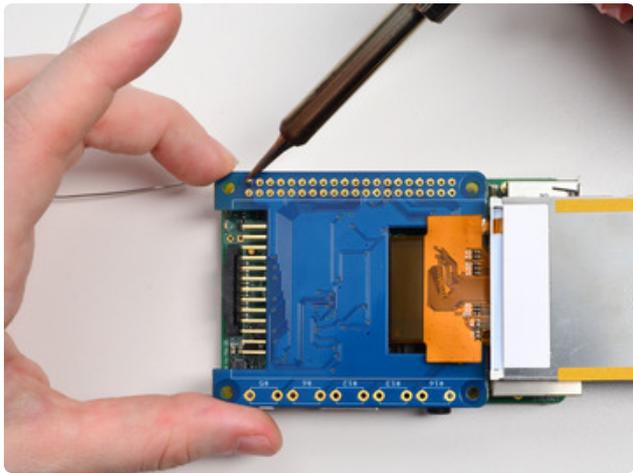
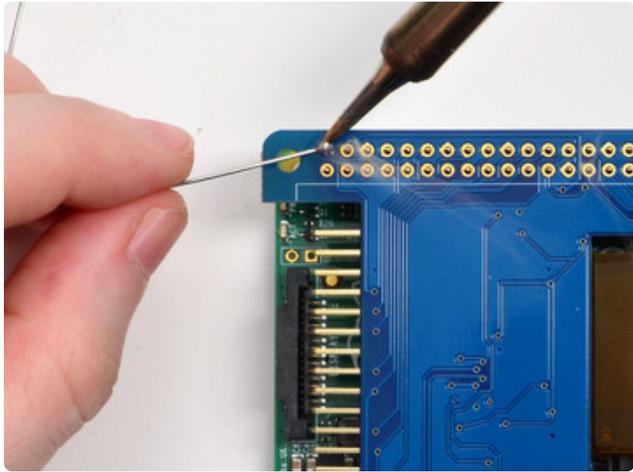
The easiest way to attach the header is if you have a Raspberry Pi as a 'stand' - make sure its powered off & unplugged!



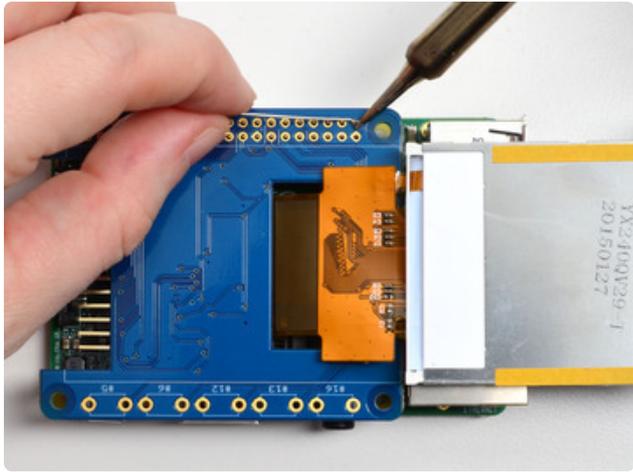
Plug the extra tall female header into the GPIO port on the Pi as shown. Make sure its seated nice and flat



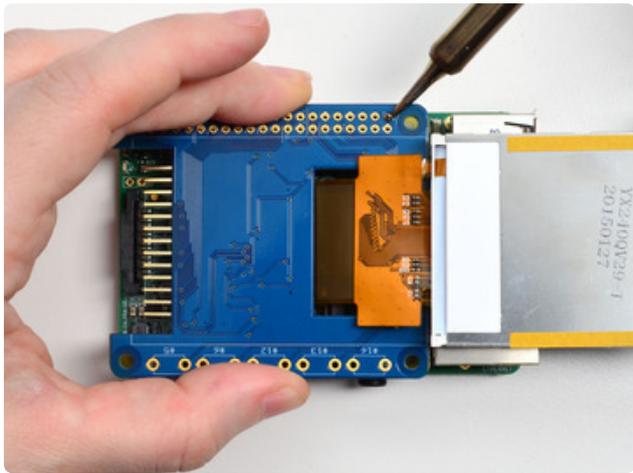
Place the PiTFT HAT on top so all the pins stick through the connector on the side. Gently flip the TFT so its off to the side and wont be in your way while you solder

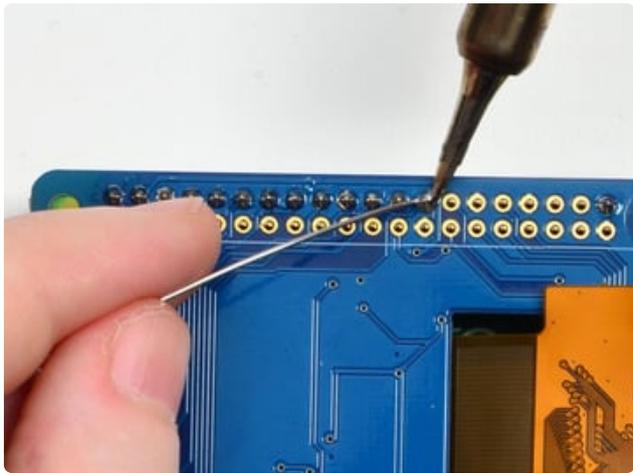
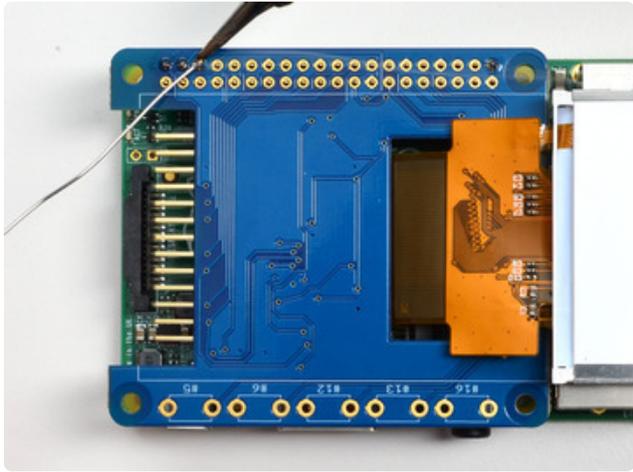


Heat up your soldering iron, and grab some solder. Start by tack-soldering one of the corners. Then you can re-heat that solder point and adjust the circuit board to make it sit flat.

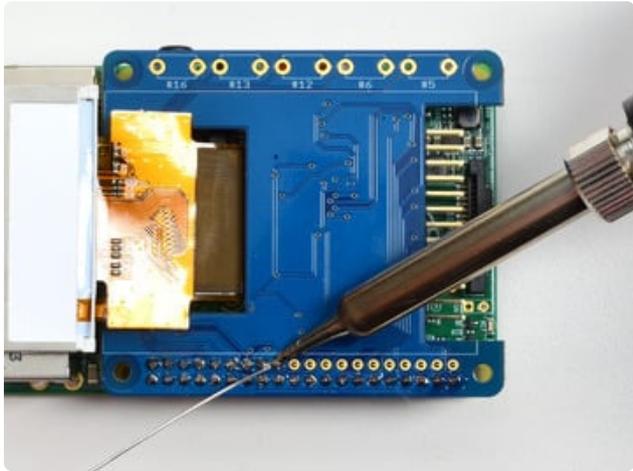
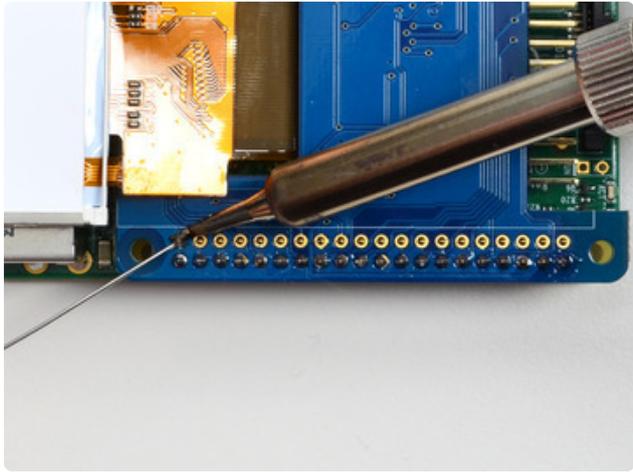


Do the same for the other end, to stabilize the header mechanically

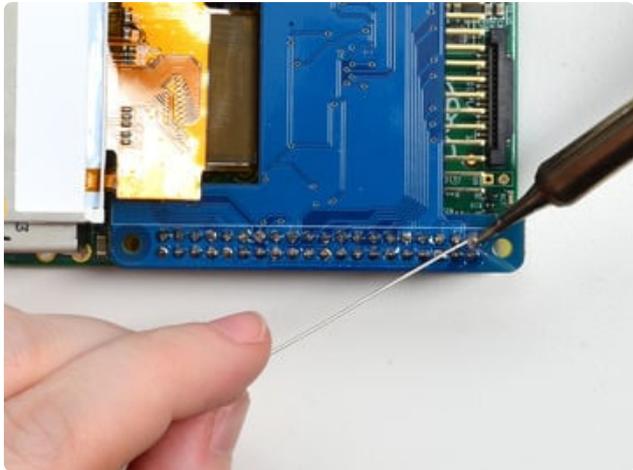


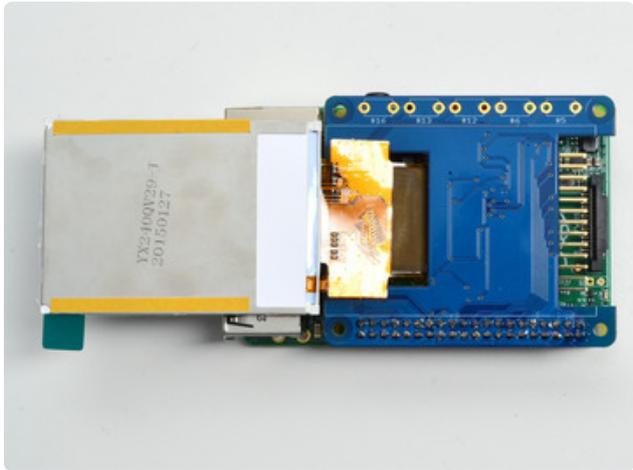


Once you have those two pins done you can continue to solder each of the pins. Do one row first

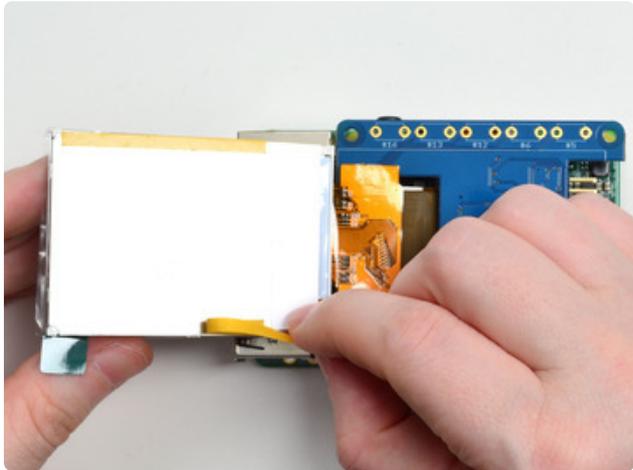


Then do the other row!

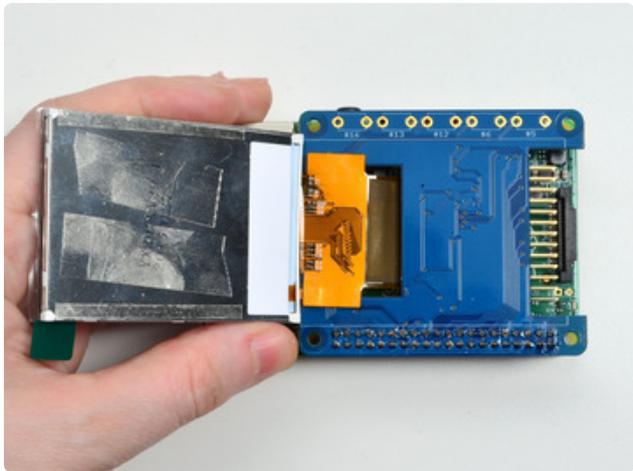




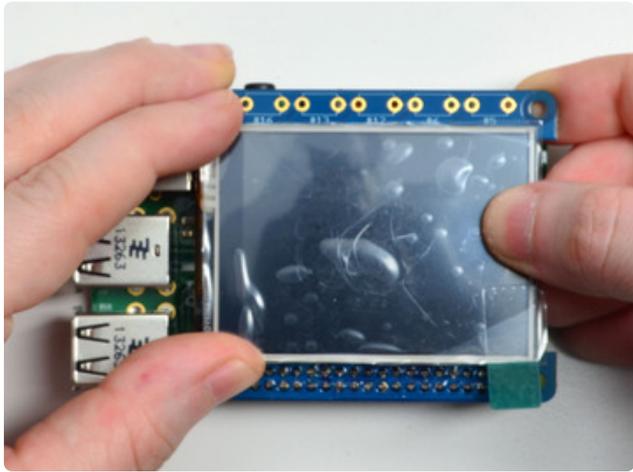
Before attaching the display, check that all the pins are soldered nicely and there's no bridging, cold solder, shorts, or unsoldered pins.



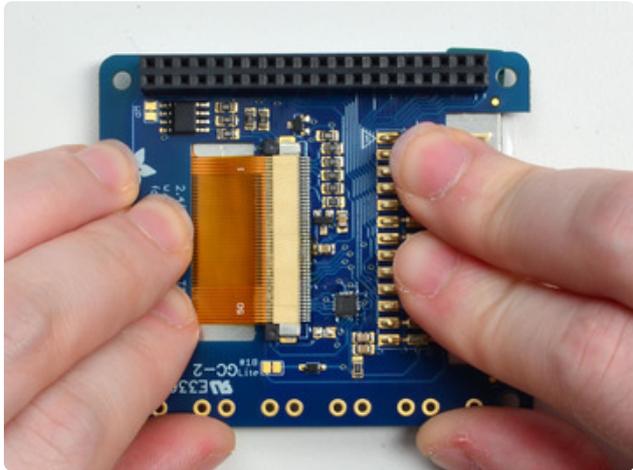
Now we can attach the screen. Remove the two thin tape cover strips.



You may find that some extra double-sided tape will keep the screen in place better than the two little tape strips! Put a piece or two on the back.



Line up the TFT screen so it matches the white outline and press it down to stick it to the circuit board



Turn the board over and press gently on the back to get the TFT stuck-on well!

Easy Install



The PiTFT requires some device tree support and a couple other things to make it a nice stand-alone display. If you just want to get going, check out the following for easy-install instructions!

The same installer is used for all PiTFTs, you will pick and configure the setup during installation!

Install Raspberry Pi OS on an SD Card

You'll need to start with Raspberry Pi OS or Raspberry Pi OS Lite.

The last known for-sure tested-and-working version is Dec 11, 2023 (https://downloads.raspberrypi.org/raspios_lite_arm64/images/raspios_lite_arm64-2023-12-11/) from https://downloads.raspberrypi.org/raspios_lite_arm64/images/ (<https://adafru.it/19OC>)

Raspberry Pi OS does often 'break' stuff when new versions come out so to be safe, if you are having problems try this version!

Setup Virtual Environment

If you are installing on the Bookworm version of Raspberry Pi OS or later, you will need to install your python modules in a virtual environment. You can find more information in the [Python Virtual Environment Usage on Raspberry Pi \(https://adafru.it/19a5\)](https://adafru.it/19a5) guide. To install and activate the virtual environment, use the following commands:

```
sudo apt install python3-venv
python -m venv env --system-site-packages
```

To activate the virtual environment:

```
source env/bin/activate
```

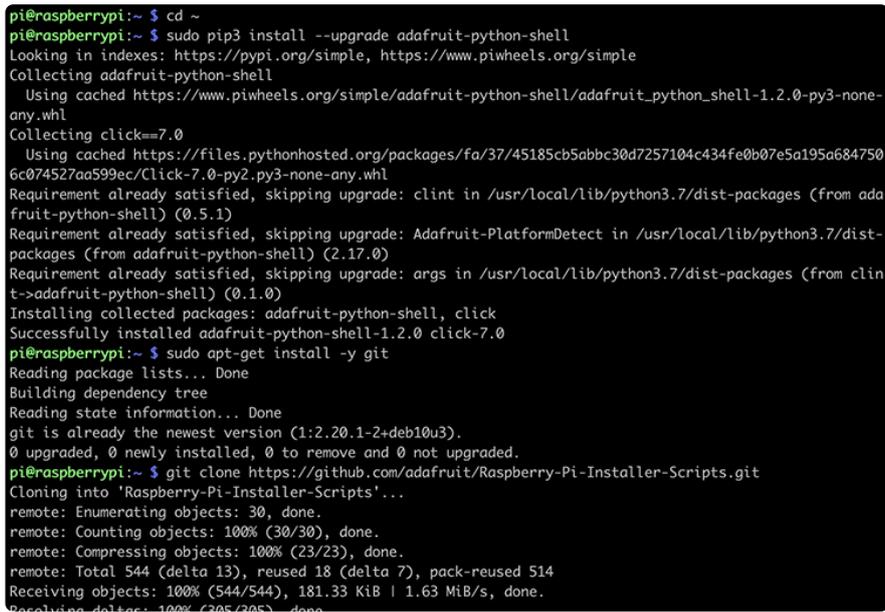
Installer script

This script will do all the work for you, and install both device tree overlay support as well as configure rotation and any HDMI mirroring. PiTFT no longer needs any custom kernels or modules, so you can continue to update/upgrade your Pi and it will work with the most recent releases.

Here's the commands to run. Make sure your Pi has network access, it needs to download the software!

The latest installer script was rewritten in Python, so it can be installed with just a few commands. First, start by installing a few dependencies and downloading the repo:

```
cd ~
sudo apt-get update
sudo apt-get install -y git python3-pip
pip3 install --upgrade adafruit-python-shell click
git clone https://github.com/adafruit/Raspberry-Pi-Installer-Scripts.git
cd Raspberry-Pi-Installer-Scripts
```



```
pi@raspberrypi:~ $ cd ~
pi@raspberrypi:~ $ sudo pip3 install --upgrade adafruit-python-shell
Looking in indexes: https://pypi.org/simple, https://www.piwheels.org/simple
Collecting adafruit-python-shell
  Using cached https://www.piwheels.org/simple/adafruit-python-shell/adafruit_python_shell-1.2.0-py3-none-any.whl
Collecting click==7.0
  Using cached https://files.pythonhosted.org/packages/fa/37/45185cb5abb30d7257104c434fe0b07e5a195a6847506c074527aa599ec/Click-7.0-py2.py3-none-any.whl
Requirement already satisfied, skipping upgrade: clint in /usr/local/lib/python3.7/dist-packages (from adafruit-python-shell) (0.5.1)
Requirement already satisfied, skipping upgrade: Adafruit-PlatformDetect in /usr/local/lib/python3.7/dist-packages (from adafruit-python-shell) (2.17.0)
Requirement already satisfied, skipping upgrade: args in /usr/local/lib/python3.7/dist-packages (from clint->adafruit-python-shell) (0.1.0)
Installing collected packages: adafruit-python-shell, click
Successfully installed adafruit-python-shell-1.2.0 click-7.0
pi@raspberrypi:~ $ sudo apt-get install -y git
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree
Reading state information... Done
git is already the newest version (1:2.20.1-2+deb10u3).
0 upgraded, 0 newly installed, 0 to remove and 0 not upgraded.
pi@raspberrypi:~ $ git clone https://github.com/adafruit/Raspberry-Pi-Installer-Scripts.git
Cloning into 'Raspberry-Pi-Installer-Scripts'...
remote: Enumerating objects: 30, done.
remote: Counting objects: 100% (30/30), done.
remote: Compressing objects: 100% (23/23), done.
remote: Total 544 (delta 13), reused 18 (delta 7), pack-reused 514
Receiving objects: 100% (544/544), 181.33 KiB | 1.63 MiB/s, done.
Resolving deltas: 100% (305/305), done.
```

Easy Single Command Install Options

The latest script allows you to specify all of your options within the command so you can sit back and watch the installation. We'll cover interactive installation below if you want to answer each prompt for a customized installation.

“Console Mode” Install Commands

If you just want a Linux text console to appear on the display, use one of the following commands:

For the **PiTFT 2.4", 2.8", or 3.2" Resistive touchscreens**, use the following command:

```
sudo -E env PATH=$PATH python3 adafruit-pitft.py --display=28r --rotation=90 --install-type=console
```

For the **PiTFT 2.8" Capacitive touchscreen**, use the following command:

```
sudo -E env PATH=$PATH python3 adafruit-pitft.py --display=28c --rotation=90 --install-type=console
```

For the **PiTFT 2.2" Display**, use the following command:

```
sudo -E env PATH=$PATH python3 adafruit-pitft.py --display=22 --rotation=90 --install-type=console
```

For the **PiTFT 3.5" Resistive touchscreen**, use the following command:

```
sudo -E env PATH=$PATH python3 adafruit-pitft.py --display=35r --rotation=90 --install-type=console
```

For the **Mini PiTFT 1.3", BrainCraft HAT, 1.3" Color TFT Bonnet, or 1.5" Display**, use the following command:

```
sudo -E env PATH=$PATH python3 adafruit-pitft.py --display=st7789_240x240 --rotation=0 --install-type=console
```

For the **Mini PiTFT 1.14" Display**, use the following command:

```
sudo -E env PATH=$PATH python3 adafruit-pitft.py --display=st7789_240x135 --rotation=270 --install-type=console
```

Mirrored Install Commands

If you want to **mirror the HDMI output to the display**, known as “FrameBuffer Copy” or FBCP for short, use one of the following commands:

For the **PiTFT 2.4", 2.8", or 3.2" Resistive touchscreens**, use the following command:

```
sudo -E env PATH=$PATH python3 adafruit-pitft.py --display=28r --rotation=90 --install-type=mirror
```

For the **PiTFT 2.8" Capacitive touchscreen**, use the following command:

```
sudo -E env PATH=$PATH python3 adafruit-pitft.py --display=28c --rotation=90 --install-type=mirror
```

For the **PiTFT 2.2" Display**, use the following command:

```
sudo -E env PATH=$PATH python3 adafruit-pitft.py --display=22 --rotation=90 --install-type=mirror
```

For the **PiTFT 3.5" Resistive touchscreen**, use the following command:

```
sudo -E env PATH=$PATH python3 adafruit-pitft.py --display=35r --rotation=90 --install-type=mirror
```

For the **Mini PiTFT 1.3", BrainCraft HAT, 1.3" Color TFT Bonnet, or 1.5" Display**, use the following command:

```
sudo -E env PATH=$PATH python3 adafruit-pitft.py --display=st7789_240x240 --rotation=0 --install-type=mirror
```

For the **Mini PiTFT 1.14" Display**, use the following command:

```
sudo -E env PATH=$PATH python3 adafruit-pitft.py --display=st7789_240x135 --rotation=270 --install-type=mirror
```

Rebooting

When it asks you to **reboot**, then choose yes because the setting won't take full effect until you do so.

```
removing old section...
##### UPGRADING KERNEL #####
Updating packages...
Upgrading packages...
Installing Kernel Headers...
PITFT make: Entering directory '/usr/src/linux-headers-5.4.51-v7l+'
PITFT Building modules, stage 2.
PITFT MODPOST 2 modules
PITFT LD [M] /home/pi/Raspberry-Pi-Installer-Scripts/st7789_module/fb_st7789v.ko
PITFT LD [M] /home/pi/Raspberry-Pi-Installer-Scripts/st7789_module/st7789v_ada.ko
PITFT make: Leaving directory '/usr/src/linux-headers-5.4.51-v7l+'
PITFT Success!

Settings take effect on next boot.

REBOOT NOW? [Y/n] y
```

Interactive Installation

For an interactive install, you can just run the script without any options:

```
sudo -E env PATH=$PATH python3 adafruit-pitft.py
```

Once you run it you will be presented with menus for configuration.

Display Selection

Start by selecting the board that best corresponds with your PiTFT. There's lots of options and we will likely be adding more in the future.

```
This script downloads and installs
PiTFT Support using userspace touch
controls and a DTO for display drawing.
one of several configuration files.
Run time of up to 5 minutes. Reboot required!

Select configuration:
[1] PiTFT 2.4", 2.8" or 3.2" resistive (240x320) (320x240)
[2] PiTFT 2.2" no touch (320x240)
[3] PiTFT 2.8" capacitive touch (320x240)
[4] PiTFT 3.5" resistive touch (480x320)
[5] PiTFT Mini 1.3" or 1.54" display (240x240) - WARNING! WILL UPGRADE YOUR KERNEL TO LATEST
[6] ST7789V 2.0" no touch (320x240) - WARNING! WILL UPGRADE YOUR KERNEL TO LATEST
[7] MiniPiTFT 1.14" display (240x135) - WARNING! WILL UPGRADE YOUR KERNEL TO LATEST
[8] Uninstall PiTFT
[9] Quit without installing
```

Rotation

Next you will be asked for the rotation you want, don't worry if you're not 100% sure which you want, you can always change this later by re-running the script

```
Select rotation:
[1] 90 degrees (landscape)
[2] 180 degrees (portrait)
[3] 270 degrees (landscape)
[4] 0 degrees (portrait)
```

It will take a few minutes to install the software and download all the things...

```
Select rotation:
[1] 90 degrees (landscape)
[2] 180 degrees (portrait)
[3] 270 degrees (landscape)
[4] 0 degrees (portrait)

1
PITFT Checking init system...
Found systemd
/boot is mounted
PITFT System update
Updating apt indexes.....
Reading package lists...
.....
PITFT Installing Python libraries & Software...
Installing Pre-requisite Software...This may take a few minutes!
```

Configuring what shows where

You have a few different ways to set up the PiTFT, we ask 2 questions to figure out what you want

PiTFT as Text Console (best for Raspberry Pi OS 'Lite')

This is the simplest to set-up type of use. Its great if you have a simple text based or pygame/SDL based interface. If you want the PiTFT to act as a text console you can expect:

- HDMI will be 'deactivated' - nothing appears on the HDMI output but a black screen
- The login prompt appears on the Pi
- The Pi is all text, not a GUI (no PIXEL desktop)
- Keyboard and mouse are used only by the PiTFT interface
- Framebuffer-capable software (such as **fbi** for displaying images, **mplayer** for videos, or pygame software, etc) appear on the PiTFT
- OpenGL accelerated software will not appear on the PiTFT (it is unaccelerated framebuffer only)
- But, non-OpenGL-accelerated graphics software is a bit faster than using HDMI mirroring (not tons faster but you're not running **fbcp** which will always make it faster)

If you want that, say **Yes** to the question **Would you like the console to appear on the PiTFT display**

```
PiTFT python-pip is already the newest version (18.1-5+rpt1).
PiTFT python-spidev is already the newest version (20190221~182651-1).
PiTFT 0 upgraded, 0 newly installed, 0 to remove and 0 not upgraded.
PiTFT Looking in indexes: https://pypi.org/simple, https://www.piwheels.org/simple
PiTFT Requirement already satisfied: evdev in /usr/local/lib/python3.7/dist-packages (1.3.0)
PiTFT Updating /boot/config.txt...
Already have an adafruit-pitft-helper section in /boot/config.txt.
Removing old section...
PiTFT Updating SysFS rules for Touchscreen...
PiTFT Updating tslib default calibration...
Would you like the console to appear on the PiTFT display? [y/n] █
```

Then simply reboot. Once rebooted you will not see anything on HDMI, but the console will appear on the PiTFT. That's it!

PiTFT as HDMI Mirror (Best for Raspberry Pi OS with Desktop)

This option is easier to understand. This works more like a monitor, though slightly different depending on which desktop environment you are running.

As of Bookworm with the Wayland Graphical Environment, this operates a little different than it previously did. It works more in the way that multiple monitors do on

desktop systems. The display is set up as its own monitor and will extend the desktop in addition to the HDMI.

With X11, this worked more as a mirror: whatever appears on the HDMI display will be 'mirrored' to the PiTFT. Note that HDMI is much higher resolution so it's not like it turns the PiTFT into a 1080p display. This is great for when you want to run OpenGL-optimized software, PIXEL desktop software, or really anything. The down-side is its a little slower than drawing directly to the framebuffer. You may not notice it but it's worth us mentioning!

- HDMI will be 'activated' but at a lower resolution - you can change this later but it looks best at 320x240 (PiTFT 2.2", 2.4", 2.8" and 3.2") or 480x320 (PiTFT 3.5")
- The login prompt or GUI appears on both HDMI and PiTFT at the same time
- Keyboard and mouse are shared, since the display is mirrored
- All graphics appear on both HDMI and PiTFT, thanks to **fbcp**

If you want that, say **Yes** to the question **Would you like the HDMI display to mirror to the PiTFT display?** (or in the case of Wayland it will ask **Would you like the to use the PiTFT as a desktop display?**)

```
PiTFT Making sure console doesn't use PiTFT
Removing console fbcon map from /boot/cmdline.txt
Screen blanking time reset to 10 minutes
Would you like the HDMI display to mirror to the PiTFT display? [y/n]
```

PiTFT as Raw Framebuffer Device

For advanced users who are comfortable using framebuffer devices, it is possible to have the PiTFT and HDMI graphics be both active and display different data.

- HDMI will be active and act like a normal Pi
- The login prompt or GUI (PIXEL) appears on the HDMI
- PiTFT appears black, nothing appears on it
- Keyboard and mouse are used by the HDMI interface but can, in theory, be captured and used to change graphics on PiTFT through programming
- Framebuffer-capable software (such as **fb**i for displaying images, **mplayer** for videos, or pygame software, etc) can appear on the PiTFT if you set it up to display to **/dev/fb1**
- OpenGL accelerated software will never appear on the PiTFT (it is unaccelerated framebuffer only)

If you want that, say **No** to both of the configuration questions!

You can always change your mind after setting up one of the configurations, depending on your needs! Just re-run the script

Creating Your Own Automated Command

Under the **Easy Single Command Install Options** section, there are a bunch of different installation flags that you can choose between. If you want to create your own command, you can find the latest options by typing:

```
sudo python3 adafruit-pitft.py --help
```

```
pi@raspberrypi:~/Raspberry-Pi-Installer-Scripts $ sudo python3 adafruit-pitft.py
--help
Usage: adafruit-pitft.py [OPTIONS]

Options:
  -V, --version          Print version information
  -u, --user TEXT        Specify path of primary user's home
                        directory [default: /home/pi]
  --display TEXT         Specify a display option (1-7) or type
                        ['28r', '22', '28c', '35r',
                        'st7789_240x240', 'st7789_240x320',
                        'st7789_240x135']
  --rotation INTEGER     Specify a rotation option (1-4) or degrees
                        (0, 90, 180, 270)
  --install-type [fbcp|console|uninstall]
                        Installation Type
  --reboot [yes|no]      Specify whether to reboot after the script
                        is finished
  --help                Show this message and exit.
```

The main options to pay attention to are the `--display`, `--rotation`, and `--install-type` arguments.

For the **display**, you can either choose the number you type for the options or the display type, which has the options listed under help. For instance, to use the 2.8" Resisitive display you could use

```
--display=1 or --display=28r
```

For the **rotation**, you can either choose the number you type for the options or the angle, which has the options also listed under help. To use 90 degrees, you could use

```
--rotation=1 or --rotation=90
```

For **install type**, You can either choose **mirror**, **console** or **uninstall**. To mirror, you would simply supply

```
--install-type=mirror
```

Automated Reboot Option

To go with a fully automated installation, you can provide a `--reboot` flag. To always reboot, use:

```
--reboot=yes
```

This is useful if you want to use the display right after running the script. To never reboot immediately, use

```
--reboot=no
```

This is useful if you want it as part of a larger script that installs many things.

Custom User Directory

By default, it is installed under the current user directory, but you can provide the `-u` or `--user` flag along with the folder that you want to install to.

Uninstalling The Driver

To uninstall, you would either run the script interactively and choose Uninstall or you can provide the uninstall flag:

```
--install-type=uninstall
```

Unsupported Full Images

Historically, we provided full 'images' of Raspbian, which is now called Raspberry Pi OS. This worked OK until Raspbian started doing releases every few months. These are no longer supported, and won't even boot on Pi 3B+, so we recommend the script above.

There's the larger 'classic Jessie' image that will boot into X by default, and requires a 8G image, it has a lot more software installed. There's also the smaller 'Jessie Lite' that will boot into the command line, and can be burned onto a 2G card! Click below to download and install into a new SD card. [Unzip and follow the classic SD card burning tutorials \(https://adafru.it/aMW\)](https://adafru.it/aMW)

PiTFT 2.2" Images

- [Raspbian Jessie 2016/10/23-based image \(https://adafru.it/sbg\)](https://adafru.it/sbg)
- [Raspbian Jessie Lite 2016/10/23-based image \(https://adafru.it/sbh\)](https://adafru.it/sbh)
- [Raspbian Jessie 2016/03/25-based image \(https://adafru.it/mAe\)](https://adafru.it/mAe)
- [Raspbian Jessie Lite 2016/03/25-based image \(https://adafru.it/mAf\)](https://adafru.it/mAf)
- [Raspbian Jessie 2015/09/24-based image \(https://adafru.it/iDC\)](https://adafru.it/iDC)
- [Raspbian Wheezy 2015/09/09-based image \(https://adafru.it/idt\)](https://adafru.it/idt)

PiTFT 2.4"/2.8"/3.2" Resistive Images

- [Raspbian Jessie 2016/9/23-based image \(https://adafru.it/s7f\)](https://adafru.it/s7f)
- [Raspbian Jessie Lite 2016/9/23-based image \(https://adafru.it/s7A\)](https://adafru.it/s7A)
- [Raspbian Jessie 2016/03/25-based image \(https://adafru.it/mA9\)](https://adafru.it/mA9)
- [Raspbian Jessie Lite 2016/03/25-based image \(https://adafru.it/mAa\)](https://adafru.it/mAa)
- [Raspbian Jessie 2015/09/24-based image \(https://adafru.it/iDA\)](https://adafru.it/iDA)
- [Raspbian Wheezy 2015/09/09-based image \(https://adafru.it/idJ\)](https://adafru.it/idJ)
- [Raspbian 2014/06/20-based image \(https://adafru.it/dSM\)](https://adafru.it/dSM)
- [Raspbian 2014/09/09-based image \(https://adafru.it/e12\)](https://adafru.it/e12)

PiTFT 2.8" Capacitive

- [Raspbian Jessie 2016-09-23-based image \(https://adafru.it/saM\)](https://adafru.it/saM)
- [Raspbian Jessie Lite 2016-09-23-based image \(https://adafru.it/saN\)](https://adafru.it/saN)
- [Raspbian Jessie 2016-03-25-based image \(https://adafru.it/mAc\)](https://adafru.it/mAc)
- [Raspbian Jessie Lite 2016-03-25-based image \(https://adafru.it/mAd\)](https://adafru.it/mAd)
- [Raspbian Jessie 2015/09/24-based image \(https://adafru.it/iDy\)](https://adafru.it/iDy)
- [Raspbian Wheezy 2015/09/24-based image \(https://adafru.it/idz\)](https://adafru.it/idz)
- [Raspbian 2014/09/18-based image \(https://adafru.it/e11\)](https://adafru.it/e11)
- [Raspbian 2014/06/20-based image \(https://adafru.it/dSO\)](https://adafru.it/dSO)
- [Raspbian image from 2015/03/03 \(https://adafru.it/eUI\)](https://adafru.it/eUI)

PiTFT 3.5" Images

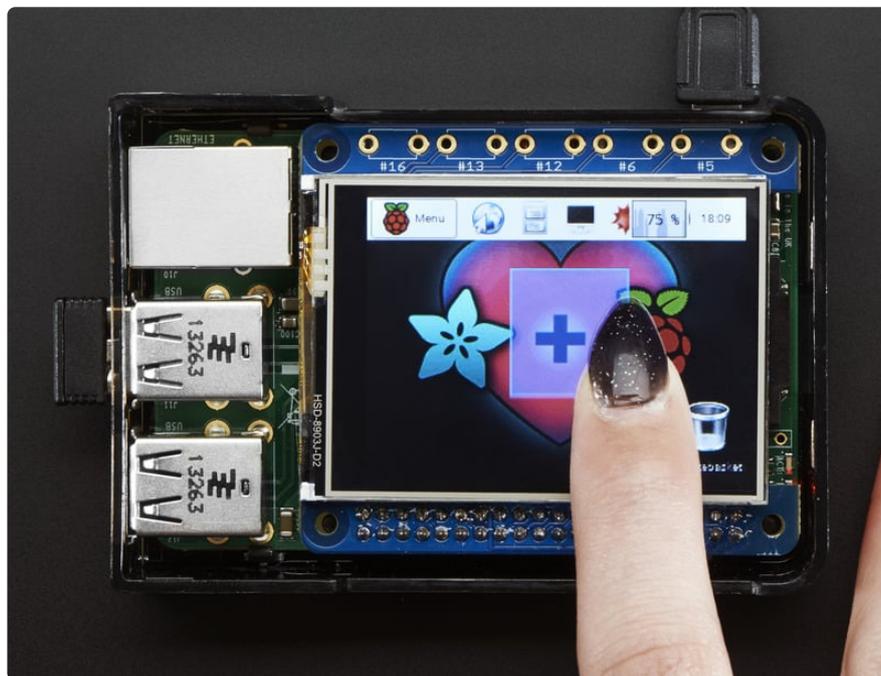
- [Raspbian Jessie 2016/9/23-based image \(https://adafru.it/siF\)](https://adafru.it/siF)
- [Raspbian Jessie Lite 2016/9/23-based image \(https://adafru.it/sja\)](https://adafru.it/sja)
- [Raspbian Jessie 2016/03/25-based image \(https://adafru.it/mAb\)](https://adafru.it/mAb)
- [Raspbian Jessie 2016/03/25-based image \(https://adafru.it/mAG\)](https://adafru.it/mAG)
- [Raspbian Jessie 2015/09/24-based image \(https://adafru.it/iDD\)](https://adafru.it/iDD)
- [Raspbian Wheezy 2015/09/24-based image \(https://adafru.it/idy\)](https://adafru.it/idy)

- [Raspbian 2014/09/09-based image \(https://adafru.it/e10\)](https://adafru.it/e10)
- [Raspbian 2015/03/12 image \(https://adafru.it/eUE\)](https://adafru.it/eUE)

Resistive Touchscreen Manual Install & Calibrate

If you've grabbed our Easy Install image, or used the installer script, this step is not required, it's already done! This is just for advanced users who are curious on how to configure and customize the touchscreen

This procedure is identical for the 2.4", 2.8", 3.2" and 3.5" Resistive PiTFTs. Not for use with the Capacitive PiTFT!



Setting up the Touchscreen

Now that the screen is working nicely, we'll take care of the touchscreen. There's just a bit of calibration to do, but it isn't hard at all.

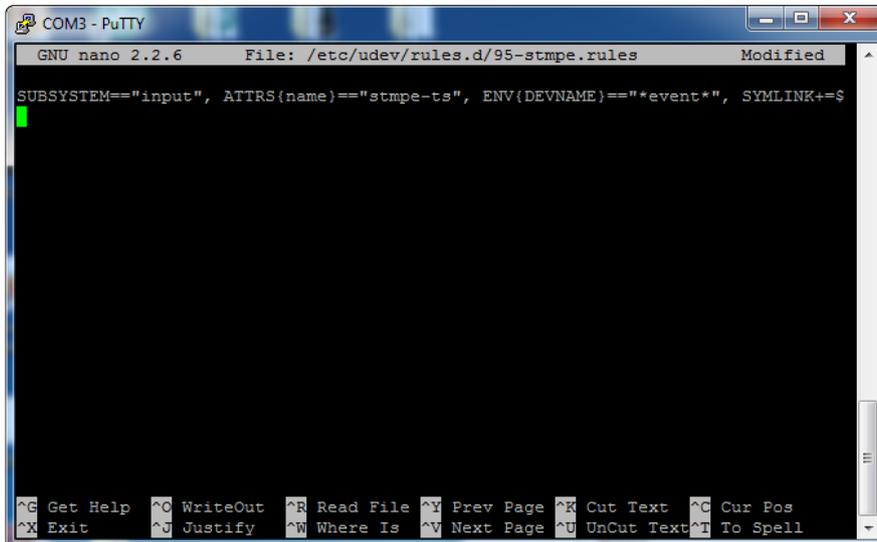
Before we start, we'll make a **udev** rule for the touchscreen. That's because the **eventX** name of the device will change a lot and its annoying to figure out what its called depending on whether you have a keyboard or other mouse installed.

Run

```
sudo nano /etc/udev/rules.d/95-stmpe.rules
```

to create a new **udev** file and copy & paste the following line in:

```
SUBSYSTEM=="input", ATTRS{name}=="stmpe-ts", ENV{DEVNAME}=="*event*",  
SYMLINK+="input/touchscreen"
```



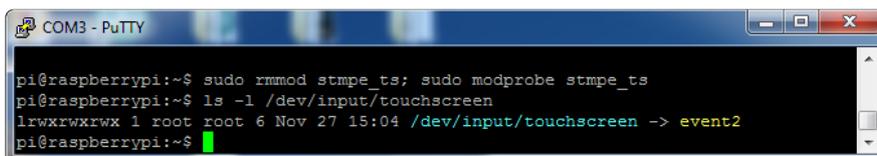
```
COM3 - PuTTY  
GNU nano 2.2.6 File: /etc/udev/rules.d/95-stmpe.rules Modified  
SUBSYSTEM=="input", ATTRS{name}=="stmpe-ts", ENV{DEVNAME}=="*event*", SYMLINK+=$  
^G Get Help ^O WriteOut ^R Read File ^Y Prev Page ^K Cut Text ^C Cur Pos  
^X Exit ^J Justify ^W Where Is ^V Next Page ^U UnCut Text ^T To Spell
```

Remove and re-install the touchscreen with

```
sudo rmmod stmpe_ts; sudo modprobe stmpe_ts
```

Then type `ls -l /dev/input/touchscreen`

It should point to **eventX** where X is some number, that number will be different on different setups since other keyboards/mice/USB devices will take up an event slot



```
COM3 - PuTTY  
pi@raspberrypi:~$ sudo rmmod stmpe_ts; sudo modprobe stmpe_ts  
pi@raspberrypi:~$ ls -l /dev/input/touchscreen  
lrwxrwxrwx 1 root root 6 Nov 27 15:04 /dev/input/touchscreen -> event2  
pi@raspberrypi:~$
```

There are some tools we can use to calibrate & debug the touchscreen. Install the "event test" and "touchscreen library" packages with

```
sudo apt-get install evtest tslib libts-bin
```

```
COM3 - PuTTY
pi@raspberrypi:~$
pi@raspberrypi:~$ sudo apt-get install evtest tslib libts-bin
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree
Reading state information... Done
Note, selecting 'libts-0.0-0' instead of 'tslib'
libts-0.0-0 is already the newest version.
The following NEW packages will be installed:
  evtest libts-bin
0 upgraded, 2 newly installed, 0 to remove and 0 not upgraded.
Need to get 0 B/55.0 kB of archives.
After this operation, 219 kB of additional disk space will be used.
Do you want to continue [Y/n]? Y
Selecting previously unselected package libts-bin.
(Reading database ... 62285 files and directories currently installed.)
Unpacking libts-bin (from ../libts-bin_1.0-11_armhf.deb) ...
Selecting previously unselected package evtest.
Unpacking evtest (from ../evtest_1:3a1.30-1_armhf.deb) ...
Processing triggers for man-db ...
Setting up libts-bin (1.0-11) ...
Setting up evtest (1:1.30-1) ...
pi@raspberrypi:~$
```

Running evtest

Now you can use some tools such as

```
sudo evtest /dev/input/touchscreen
```

which will let you see touchscreen events in real time, press on the touchscreen to see the reports.

```
COM3 - PuTTY
pi@raspberrypi:~$ sudo evtest /dev/input/touchscreen
Input driver version is 1.0.1
Input device ID: bus 0x18 vendor 0x0 product 0x0 version 0x0
Input device name: "stmpe-ts"
Supported events:
  Event type 0 (EV_SYN)
  Event type 1 (EV_KEY)
    Event code 330 (BTN_TOUCH)
  Event type 3 (EV_ABS)
    Event code 0 (ABS_X)
      Value      0
      Min        0
      Max       4095
    Event code 1 (ABS_Y)
      Value      0
      Min        0
      Max       4095
    Event code 24 (ABS_PRESSURE)
      Value      0
      Min        0
      Max       255
Properties:
Testing ... (interrupt to exit)
```

```
COM3 - PuTTY
Event: time 1385565357.639692, type 3 (EV_ABS), code 24 (ABS_PRESSURE), value 149
Event: time 1385565357.639699, ----- SYN_REPORT -----
Event: time 1385565357.645965, type 3 (EV_ABS), code 0 (ABS_X), value 1580
Event: time 1385565357.645973, type 3 (EV_ABS), code 1 (ABS_Y), value 1846
Event: time 1385565357.645980, ----- SYN_REPORT -----
Event: time 1385565357.652293, type 3 (EV_ABS), code 0 (ABS_X), value 1634
Event: time 1385565357.652301, type 3 (EV_ABS), code 1 (ABS_Y), value 1864
Event: time 1385565357.652305, type 3 (EV_ABS), code 24 (ABS_PRESSURE), value 143
Event: time 1385565357.652310, ----- SYN_REPORT -----
Event: time 1385565357.658614, type 3 (EV_ABS), code 0 (ABS_X), value 1658
Event: time 1385565357.658622, type 3 (EV_ABS), code 1 (ABS_Y), value 1877
Event: time 1385565357.658626, type 3 (EV_ABS), code 24 (ABS_PRESSURE), value 139
Event: time 1385565357.658631, ----- SYN_REPORT -----
Event: time 1385565357.664919, type 3 (EV_ABS), code 0 (ABS_X), value 1748
Event: time 1385565357.664928, type 3 (EV_ABS), code 1 (ABS_Y), value 1888
Event: time 1385565357.664935, ----- SYN_REPORT -----
Event: time 1385565357.671199, type 3 (EV_ABS), code 0 (ABS_X), value 1778
Event: time 1385565357.671207, type 3 (EV_ABS), code 1 (ABS_Y), value 1895
Event: time 1385565357.671211, type 3 (EV_ABS), code 24 (ABS_PRESSURE), value 134
Event: time 1385565357.671216, ----- SYN_REPORT -----
Event: time 1385565357.698600, type 3 (EV_ABS), code 24 (ABS_PRESSURE), value 0
Event: time 1385565357.698607, type 1 (EV_KEY), code 330 (BTN_TOUCH), value 0
Event: time 1385565357.698610, ----- SYN_REPORT -----
```

AutoMagic Calibration Script

If you rotate the display you need to recalibrate the touchscreen to work with the new screen orientation. You can manually run the calibration processes in the next section, or you can re-run the installer script and select a new rotation:

```
SELECT 1-5: 2
Select rotation:
1. 90 degrees (landscape)
2. 180 degrees (portrait)
3. 270 degrees (landscape)
4. 0 degrees (portrait)
SELECT 1-4: 1
```

Try using this default calibration script to easily calibrate your touchscreen display. Note that the calibration values might not be exactly right for your display, but they should be close enough for most needs. If you need the most accurate touchscreen calibration, follow the steps in the next section to manually calibrate the touchscreen.

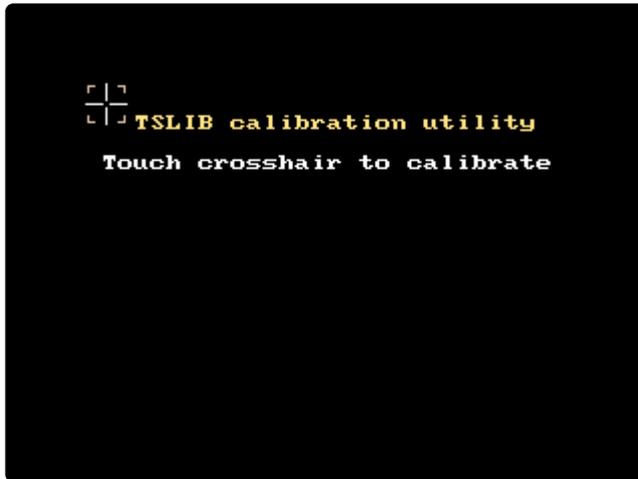
Manual Calibration

If the "automagic" calibration technique isn't working for you, or you have some other setup where you need to carefully calibrate you can do it 'manually'

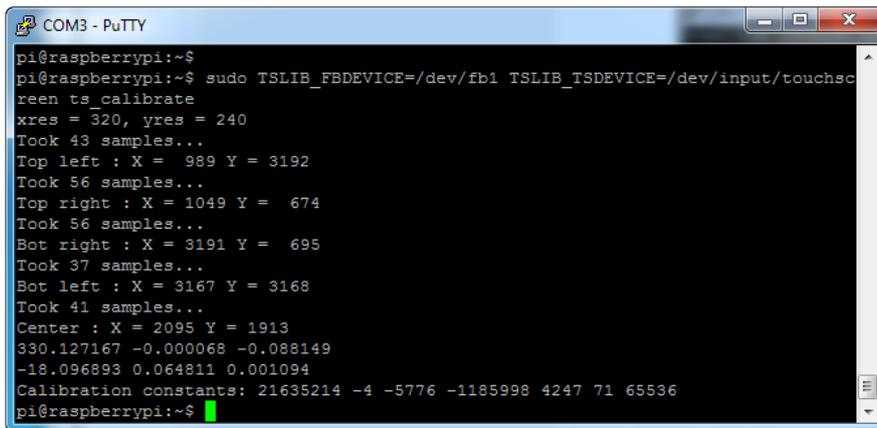
You will want to calibrate the screen once but shouldn't have to do it more than that. We'll begin by calibrating on the command line by running

```
sudo TSLIB_FBDEVICE=/dev/fb1 TSLIB_TSDEVICE=/dev/input/touchscreen
ts_calibrate
```

follow the directions on the screen, touching each point. Using a stylus is suggested so you get a precise touch. Don't use something metal, plastic only!



You should see five crosshair targets. If you see less than that, the touchscreen probably generated multiple signals for a single touch, and you should try calibrating again.



Next you can run

```
sudo TSLIB_FBDEVICE=/dev/fb1 TSLIB_TSDEVICE=/dev/input/touchscreen ts_test
```

which will let you draw-test the touch screen. Go back and re-calibrate if you feel the screen isn't precise enough!



X Calibration

You can also calibrate the X input system but you have to use a different program called `xtcal` (`xinput_calibrator` no longer works)

You can do this if the calibration on the screen isn't to your liking or any time you change the `rotate=XX` module settings for the screen. Since the screen and touch driver are completely separated, the touchscreen doesn't auto-rotate

Download and compile it with the following:

```
sudo apt-get install libxaw7-dev libxxf86vm-dev libxaw7-dev libxft-dev
git clone https://github.com/KurtJacobson/xtcal
cd xtcal
make
```

You must be running PIXEL (the GUI) while calibrating.

Before you start the calibrator you will need to 'reset' the old calibration data so run

```
DISPLAY=:0.0 xinput set-prop "stmpe-ts" 'Coordinate
Transformation Matrix' 1 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1
```

Now you'll have to run the calibrator while also running X. You can do this by opening up the terminal program and running the the `xtcal` command (which is challenging to do on such a small screen) OR you can do what we do which is create an SSH/ Terminal shell and then run the calibrator from the same shell, which requires the following command:

```
DISPLAY=:0.0 xtcal/xtcal -geometry 640x480
```

Note that the `geometry` may vary!

If you are using a 2.4"/2.8"/3.2" 320x240 display with landscape orientation, use 640x480. If you're in portrait, use 480x640.

If you are using a 3.5" display with landscape, use 720x480, portrait is 480x720

Follow the directions on screen



Once complete you'll get something like:

```
pi@raspberrypi:~$ DISPLAY=:0.0 xtcgal/xtcal -geometry 480x720
fullscreen not supported
Calibrate by issuing the command below, substituting <device name> with the name found using 'xinput list'.
xinput set-prop <device name> 'Coordinate Transformation Matrix' -1.098888 -0.020058 1.059195 -0.000054 -1.092957 1.031326 0 0 1
pi@raspberrypi:~$
```

Run `sudo nano /usr/share/X11/xorg.conf.d/20-calibration.conf` and copy the 9 numbers into the TransformationMatrix option so it looks like:

```
Section "InputClass"
    Identifier "STMPE Touchscreen Calibration"
    MatchProduct "stmpe"
    MatchDevicePath "/dev/input/event*"
    Driver "libinput"
    Option "TransformationMatrix" "-0.000087 1.094214 -0.028826 -1.091711
-0.004364 1.057821 0 0 1"
EndSection
```

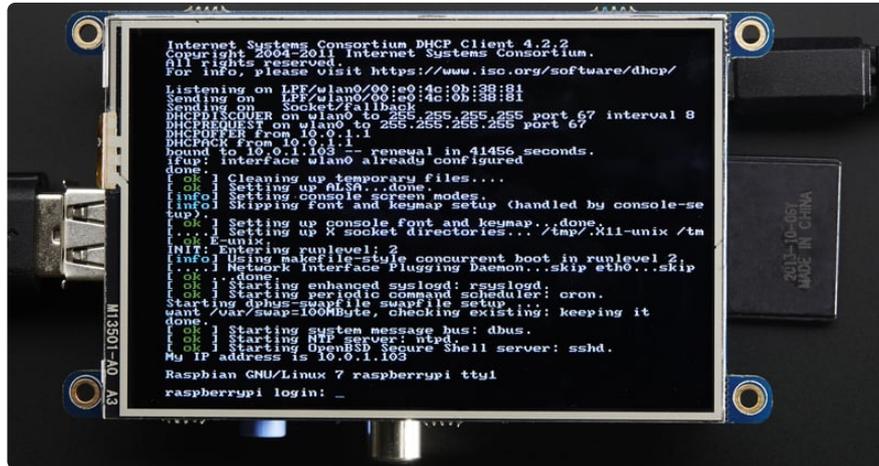
or whatever you got, into there.

You will want to reboot your Pi to verify you're done

Your touchscreen is now super calibrated, hurrah!

Console Configuration

If you've used our installer script, this step is not required, it's already done! This is just for advanced users who are curious on how to configure and customize the console



One fun thing you can do with the display is have it as your main console instead of the HDMI/TV output. Even though it is small, with a good font you can get 20 x 40 of text. For more details, check out <https://github.com/notro/fbtf/wiki/Boot-console> (<https://adafru.it/cXQ>)

First up, we'll update the boot configuration file to use the TFT framebuffer `/dev/fb1` instead of the HDMI/TV framebuffer `/dev/fb0`

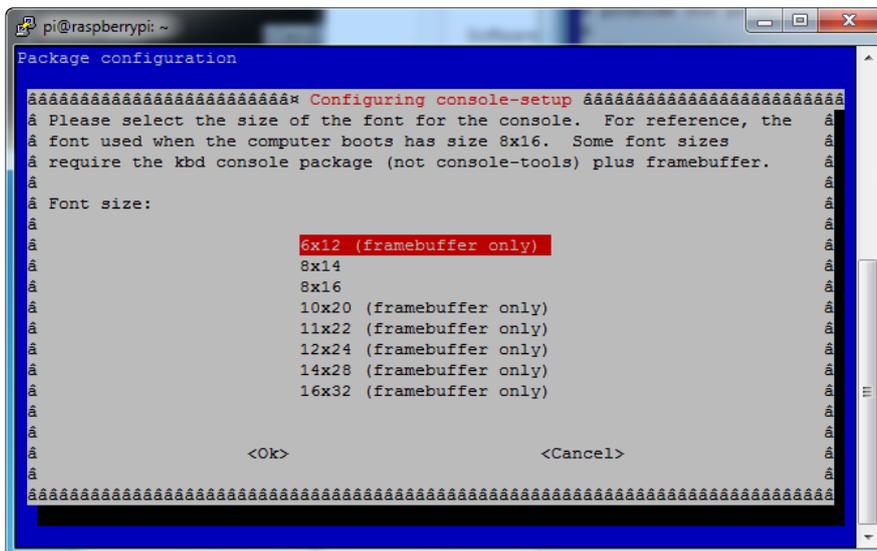
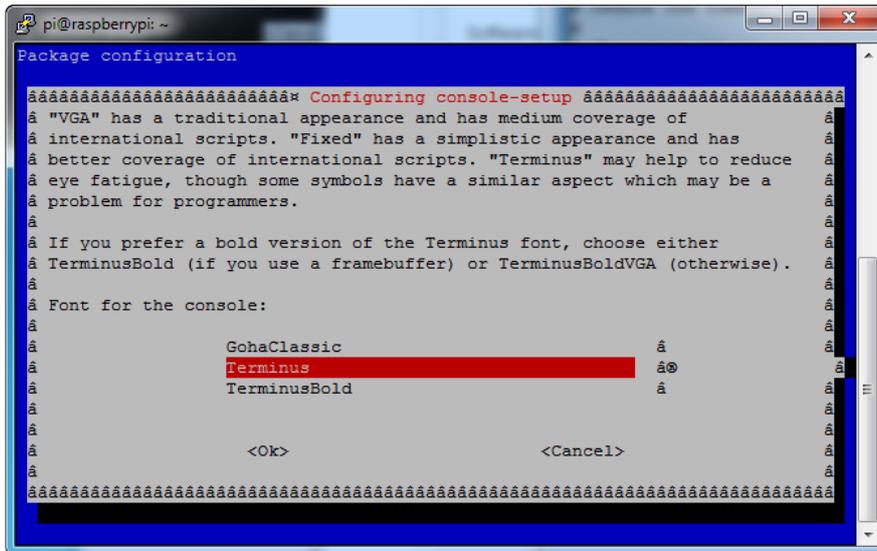
```
sudo nano /boot/cmdline.txt
```

you can also edit it by putting the SD card into a computer and opening the same file.

At the end of the line, find the text that says `rootwait` and right after that, enter in: `fbcon=map:10 fbcon=font:VGA8x8` then save the file.

On the next boot, it will bring up the console.

Note that the kernel has to load up the display driver module before it can display anything on it so you won't get the rainbow screen, a NooBs prompt, or a big chunk of the kernel details since the module is loaded fairly late in the boot process.



Turn off Console Blanking

You may notice the console goes black after 30 minutes, this is a sort of 'power saving' or 'screensaver' feature.

Raspbian Jessie

Add the following line to /etc/rc.local

```
sudo sh -c "TERM=linux setterm -blank 0 >/dev/tty0"
```

on the line before the final `exit 0`

Raspbian Wheezy

You can disable this by editing `/etc/kbd/config` and looking for

```
BLANK_TIME=30
```

and setting the blank time to 0 (which turns it off)

```
BLANK_TIME=0
```



HELP! (FAQ)

My PiTFT used to work, now it doesn't!

If you messed with `/boot/config.txt` or `/etc/rc.local` you may have removed or disabled some of the elements required for the PiTFT to work. Try re-running the Easy Installer script!

I have a Pi 4 or Pi 400 and my HDMI output looks very weird

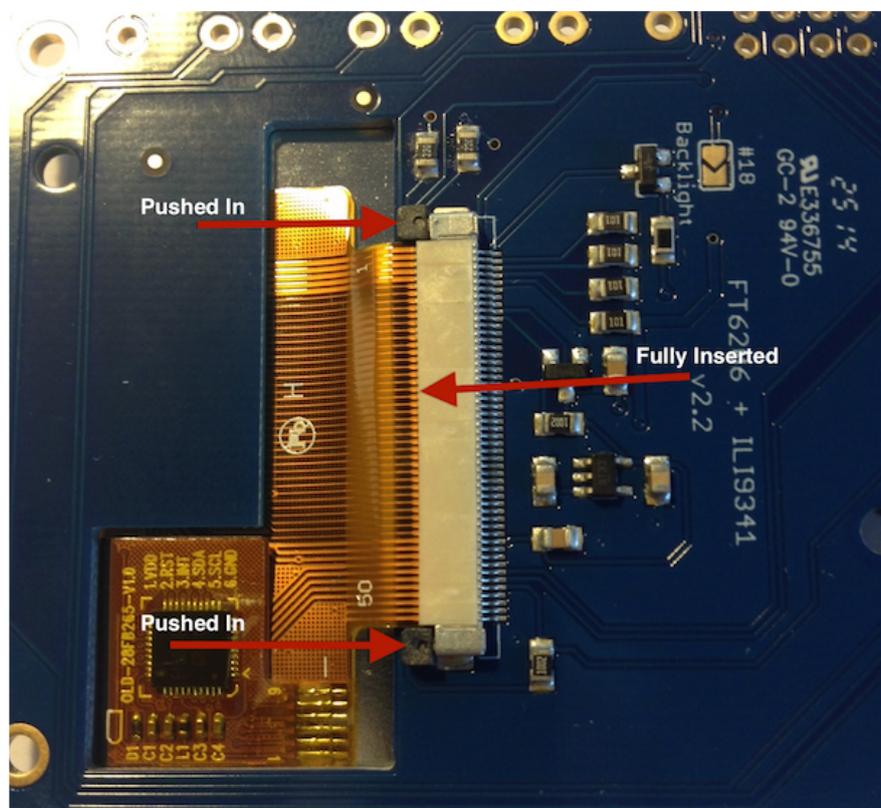
The Raspberry Pi 4 and the Raspberry Pi 400 have dual HDMI outputs. However, only one of those is a primary port. The is likely caused by connecting to HDMI1. Please try connecting the display to the other HDMI port and rebooting.

For the Pi 4, HDMI 0 is closer to the USB-C port. For the Pi 400, it's the port closer to the MicroSD Card slot.

I'm booting my Pi with the PiTFT and the HDMI output 'locks up' during boot!

It looks like the Pi is 'halting' or 'locking' up during boot but what is really happening is the console is switching from the HDMI output to the PiTFT console output.

Check your PiTFT connections, particularly make sure you seated the PiTFT on the Pi properly, nothing is in the way, and the TFT flex connector is seated properly.



My PiTFT works for a bit and then I get a black screen with a short line of white pixels in one corner

Sounds like you tried to configure your Pi to 'boot straight to X', that is, start up the graphics interface on boot. This doesn't work by default because the Pi operating system is not expecting a PiTFT so it boots to the HDMI output. See below for how to set up your Pi to boot to X on the PiTFT

To 'fix' this, you can either connect an HDMI monitor, then in a terminal window run **sudo raspi-config** and configure the Pi to boot to the command line not X! If you do not have an HDMI monitor, you can also try a console cable

I'm trying to run startx and I get FATAL: Module g2d_23 not found.

don't forget you have to remove the turbo file!

```
sudo mv /usr/share/X11/xorg.conf.d/99-fbturbo.conf ~
```

How come OMX-Player and Minecraft and other programs don't appear on the PiTFT display?

Some programs are graphics-optimized, particularly the video playback tools and some other programs like Minecraft. They write 'directly' to the HDMI output, and cannot write to the PiTFT so there is no way to directly make them work. However, you can have the output go to HDMI and then mirror the HDMI onto the PiTFT with **fbcp**. Using the Easy Installer, select **Mirror HDMI**

Why doesn't the tactile button on GPIO #21 work?

On some older PiTFTs we had one of the buttons labeled #21 - that's the original RasPi name for that pin. If you're using a V2 (chance is, you are!) that is now called #27.

All the PiTFT's we ship now have the button labeled #21 and #27

I want better performance and faster updates!

You can change the SPI frequency (overclock the display) by editing **/boot/config.txt** and changing the **dtoverlay** options line to:

```
dtoverlay=pitft28r,rotate=90,speed=62000000,fps=25
```

Or whatever you like for speed, rotation, and frames-per-second. BUT, here's the thing, the Pi only supports a fixed number of SPI frequencies. So tweaking the number a little won't do anything. The kernel will round the number to the closest value. You will always get frequencies that are 250MHz divided by an even number. Here's the only SPI frequencies this kernel supports

- 15,625,000 (a.k.a 16000000 = 16 MHz)
- 17,857,142 (a.k.a. 18000000 = 18 MHz)
- 20,833,333 (a.k.a 21000000 = 21 MHz)

- 25,000,000 (= 25 MHz)
- 31,250,000 (a.k.a 32000000 = 32MHz)
- 41,666,666 (a.k.a 42000000 = 42MHz)
- 62,500,000 (a.k.a 62000000 = 62MHz)

So if you put in 48000000 for the speed, you won't actually get 48MHz, you'll actually only get about 42MHz because it gets rounded down. We tested this display nicely with 32MHz and we suggest that. But you can put in 42MHz or even try 62MHz and it will update faster

You can tweak fps (frames per second) from 20 to 60 and frequency up to 62MHz for tradeoffs in performance and speed. Reboot after each edit to make sure the settings are loaded properly. There's a trade off that if you ask for higher FPS you're going to load the kernel more because it's trying to keep the display updated.

How can I take screenshots of the little screen?

We took the screenshots for this tutorial with <https://adafru.it/diV> [b](https://adafru.it/diV) (<https://adafru.it/diV>)

```
wget http://fbgrab.monells.se/fbgrab-1.2.tar.gz (https://adafru.it/diW)
tar -zxvf fbgrab*.gz
cd fbgrab/
make
./fbgrab screenshot.png
```

```
COM3 - PuTTY
pi@raspberrypi:~$ wget http://fbgrab.monells.se/fbgrab-1.2.tar.gz
--2014-04-21 19:26:22-- http://fbgrab.monells.se/fbgrab-1.2.tar.gz
Resolving fbgrab.monells.se (fbgrab.monells.se)... 66.33.214.148
Connecting to fbgrab.monells.se (fbgrab.monells.se)|66.33.214.148|:80... connect
ed.
HTTP request sent, awaiting response... 200 OK
Length: 12836 (13K) [application/x-tar]
Saving to: `fbgrab-1.2.tar.gz'

100%[=====>] 12,836 --.-K/s in 0.03s

2014-04-21 19:26:22 (497 KB/s) - `fbgrab-1.2.tar.gz' saved [12836/12836]

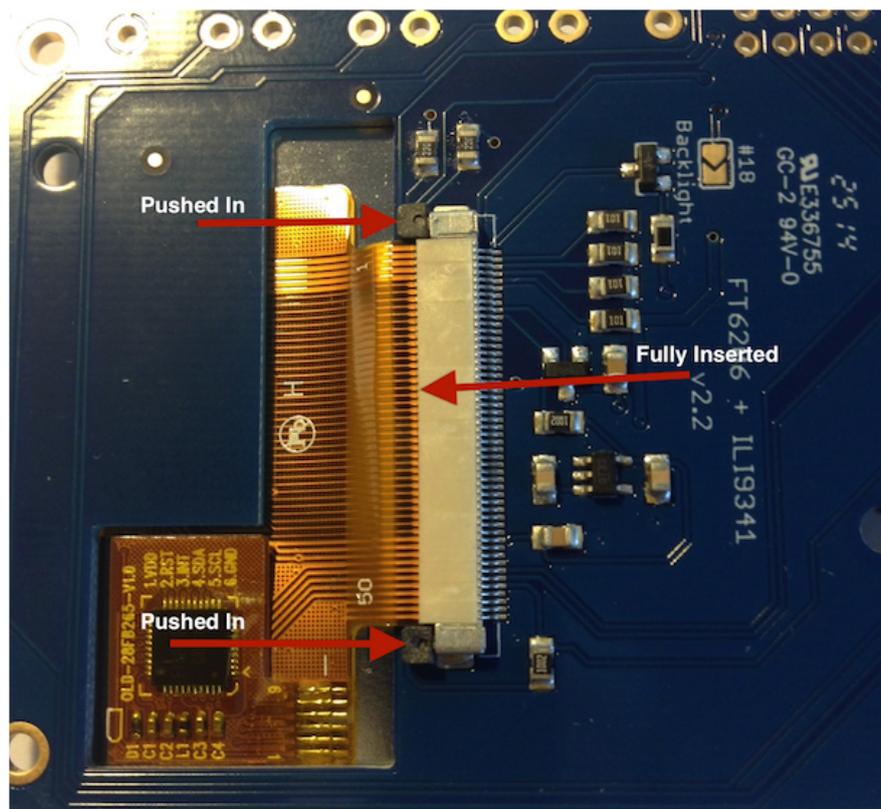
pi@raspberrypi:~$ tar -zxvf fbgrab-1.2.tar.gz
fbgrab/
fbgrab/fbgrab.c
fbgrab/INSTALL
fbgrab/fbgrab.1.man
fbgrab/COPYING
fbgrab/Makefile
pi@raspberrypi:~$ cd fbgrab/
pi@raspberrypi:~/fbgrab$ make
cc -g -Wall fbgrab.c -lpng -lz -o fbgrab
gzip --best --to-stdout fbgrab.1.man > fbgrab.1.gz
pi@raspberrypi:~/fbgrab$ ./fbgrab
Usage: ./fbgrab [-hi] [-C[c] vt] [-d dev] [-s n] [-z n]
          [-f fromfile -w n -h n -b n] filename.png
pi@raspberrypi:~/fbgrab$ ./fbgrab filemanager.png
Resolution: 320x240 depth 16
Converting image from 16
Now writing PNG file (compression -1)
```

How do I automatically boot to X windows on the PiTFT?

Make sure your Pi boots to the graphical PIXEL desktop on the HDMI output monitor, then using the Easy Installer, select **Mirror HDMI**

My screen isn't working/works erratically/looks funny

Check to make sure that the flat flex cable is fully seated in the connector and the 'ears' are pushed in to secure it. See the picture for what it should look like:



On my first run of startx I get a window saying "GDBus Error.org.Freedesktop Policy Kit1 Error: Failed Cannot determine user of subject"

This happens on the Raspberry Pi the first time you run startx, no matter what display. You can just re-start X and it won't appear again.

Can I get a right-click from the touch-screen?

Yes! Please see this post:

<https://forums.adafruit.com/viewtopic.php?f=47&t=77528&p=393280#p393322> (<https://adafru.it/fH3>)

I'm having difficulties with the STMPE resistive touch screen controller

Here's a hack for the device tree overlay that can force different SPI modes, sometimes that helps! (<https://adafru.it/fEw>)

My PiTFT's rotation/calibration isn't working in X11

X11 (the graphical system) has changed how it gets touchscreen input, so if you rotate the display and the calibration isn't being picked up:

Check `/usr/share/X11/xorg.conf.d` for a file called `10-evdev.conf`

If you don't see that file

1. You need to `sudo apt-get install xserver-xorg-input-evdev`, and then...
2. If you do have a `40-libinput.conf` in that same directory, you must remove it even if/once `evdev` is installed, since it will override the `10-evdev.conf` otherwise.

Thanks to cerebrate in the forums for the hint! (<https://adafru.it/fEw>)

White Screen Issue

A small number of Adafruit PiTFT - Touchscreen Display for Raspberry Pi were manufactured in error in 2018. If you have a display from that era with a white screen issue, see [this forum post \(https://adafru.it/19LE\)](https://adafru.it/19LE) for diagnosis and remedy.

Playing Videos



How To Play Videos

You can play many types of videos on the screen, using mplayer you don't even need to run X and you can script the movies to play using Python. We'll show you how to just play one video for now.

To demo, we'll use an mp4 of Big Buck Bunny for 320 pixel wide screens. Below we show you how to create/resize videos, but to make it easy, just download our version with:

```
wget http://adafruit-download.s3.amazonaws.com/bigbuckbunny320p.mp4 (https://adafru.it/cXR)
```

The video is 30MB which is a lot if you haven't expanded your SD card yet. Before you do this, run `sudo raspi-config` to expand the SD card so you don't run out of space!

If you don't have `mplayer` yet, run

```
sudo apt-get update
```

```
sudo apt-get install mplayer
```

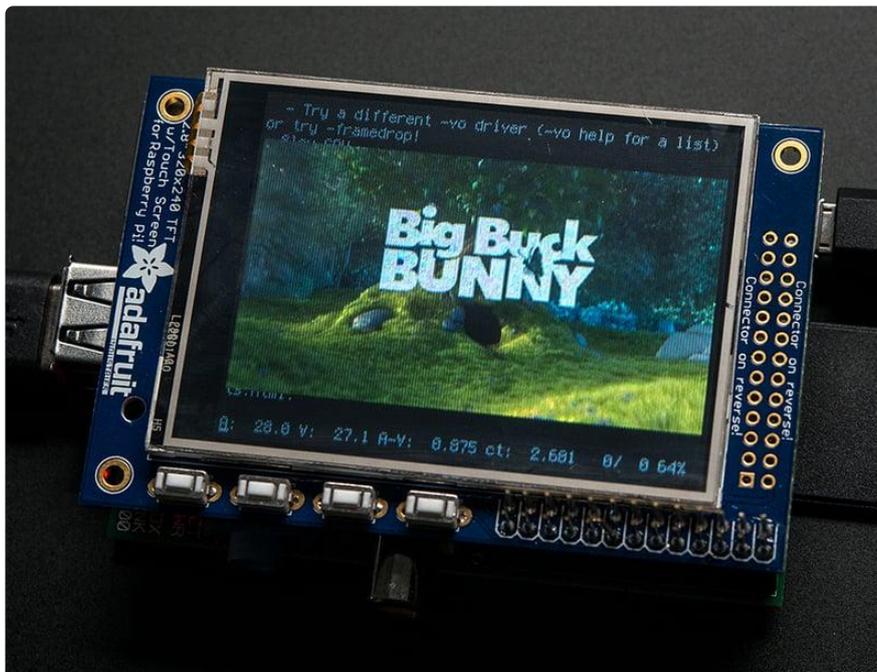
to install it. It may take a few minutes to complete

```
pi@raspberrypi: ~  
pi@raspberrypi ~$ sudo apt-get install mplayer  
Reading package lists... Done  
Building dependency tree  
Reading state information... Done  
The following extra packages will be installed:  
  esound-common libaa1 libaudiofile1 libavcodec53 libavformat53 libavutil151  
  libcdparanoia0 libdca0 libdirac-encoder0 libdvdnav4 libdvdread4 libenca0  
  libesd0 libfaad2 libfribidi0 libgpm2 libgsm1 libjack-jackd2-0 liblircclient0  
  liblzo2-2 libmp3lame0 libmpeg2-4 libopenal-data libopenal1 libpostproc52  
  libschroedinger-1.0-0 libspeex1 libswscale2 libtheora0 libva1 libvpx1  
  libx264-123 libxvidcore4 libxvnc1  
Suggested packages:  
  libdvdcss2 pulseaudio-esound-compat gpm jackd2 lirc libportaudio2  
  libroar-compat2 speex mplayer-doc netselect fping  
The following NEW packages will be installed:  
  esound-common libaa1 libaudiofile1 libavcodec53 libavformat53 libavutil151  
  libcdparanoia0 libdca0 libdirac-encoder0 libdvdnav4 libdvdread4 libenca0  
  libesd0 libfaad2 libfribidi0 libgpm2 libgsm1 libjack-jackd2-0 liblircclient0  
  liblzo2-2 libmp3lame0 libmpeg2-4 libopenal-data libopenal1 libpostproc52  
  libschroedinger-1.0-0 libspeex1 libswscale2 libtheora0 libva1 libvpx1  
  libx264-123 libxvidcore4 libxvnc1 mplayer  
0 upgraded, 35 newly installed, 0 to remove and 52 not upgraded.  
Need to get 9,296 kB of archives.  
After this operation, 20.6 MB of additional disk space will be used.  
Do you want to continue [Y/n]?
```

OK now you just have to run:

```
sudo SDL_VIDEODRIVER=fbcon SDL_FBDEV=/dev/fb1 mplayer -vo sdl -  
framedrop bigbuckbunny320p.mp4
```

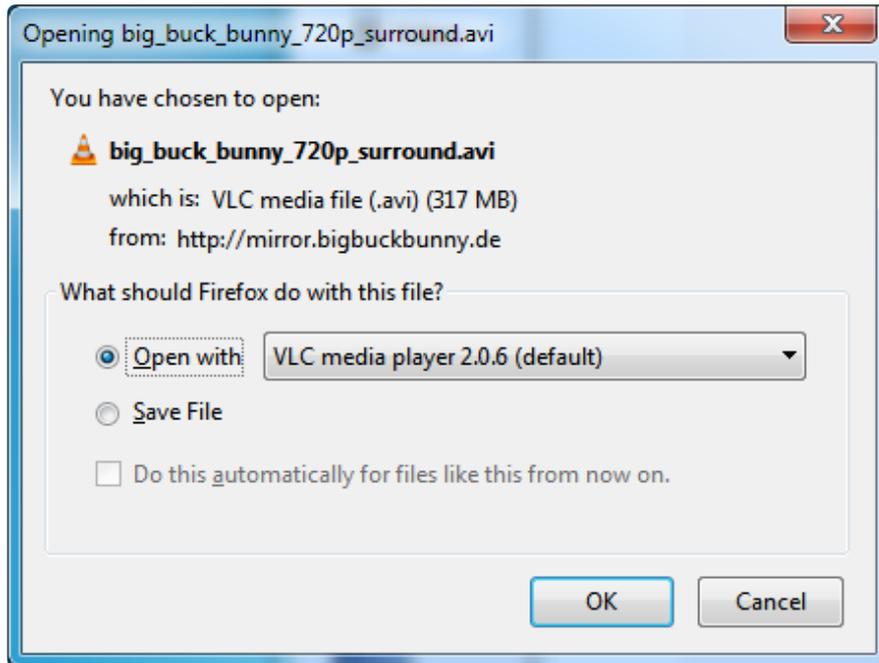
If your video is not sized for 320 wide, you may need to add a `-zoom` after `-framedrop` so that it will resize - note that this is quite taxing for the Pi, so it may result in a choppy or mis-synced video!



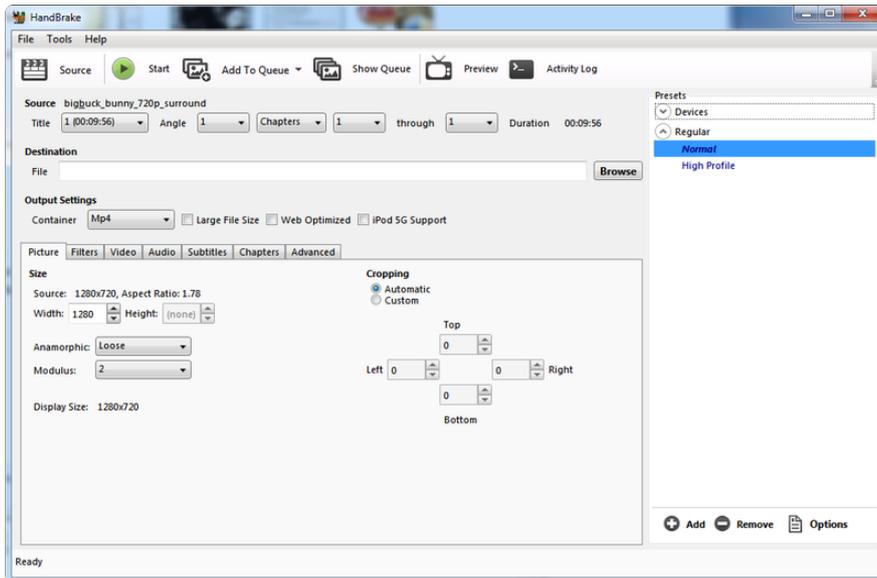
Converting/Resizing Videos

It's possible to play full length videos on the TFT plate, but since the screen is small and the Pi cant use hardware accelleration to play the videos its best to scale them down to 320x240 pixels. This will be easier for the Pi to play and also save you tons of storage space. For this demo, we'll be using the famous [Big Buck Bunny \(https://adafru.it/cXS\)](https://adafru.it/cXS) video, which is creative commons and also very funny!

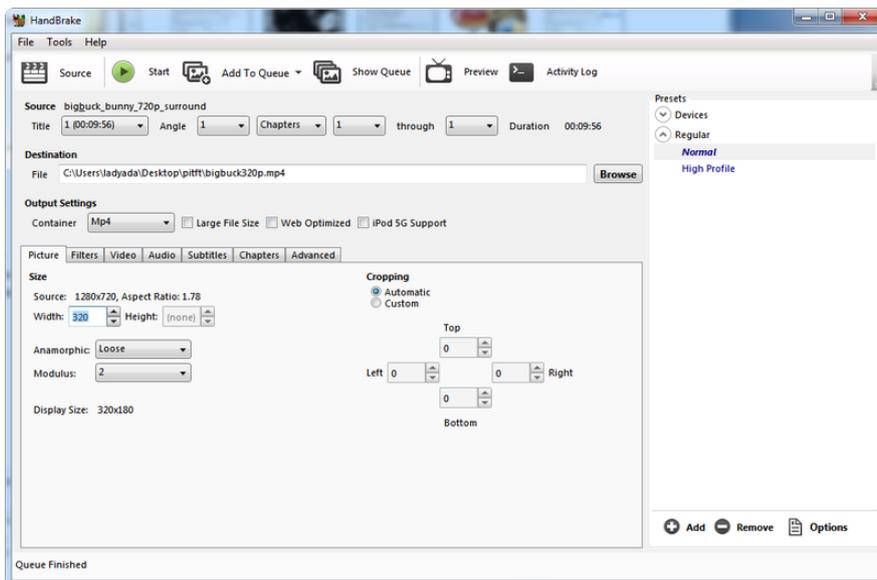
You can download it from the link above, we'll be using the 720p AVI version.



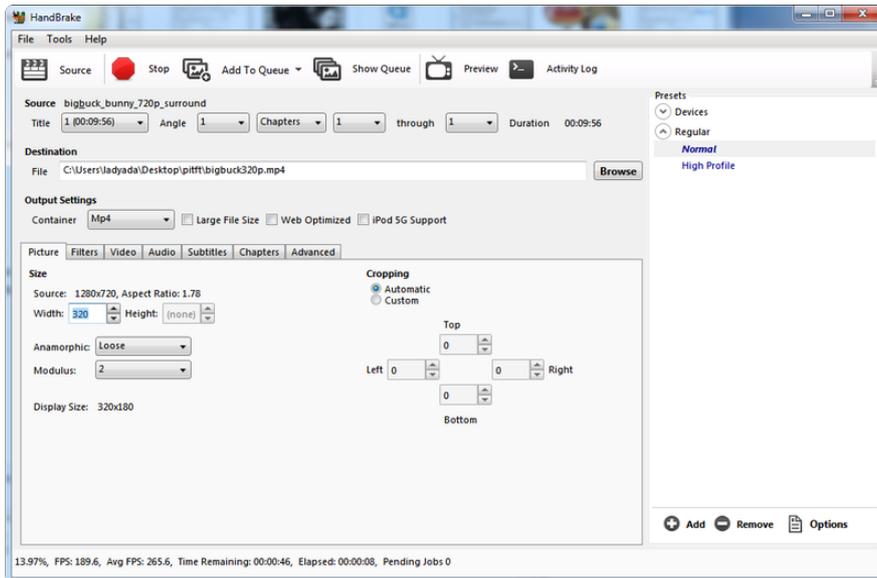
To do the conversion itself, we suggest [HandBrake \(https://adafru.it/cXT\)](https://adafru.it/cXT) which works great and is open source so it runs on all operating systems! Download and install from the link. Then run the installed application and open up the AVI file from before. The app will pre-fill a bunch of information about it.



Under **Destination** click **Browse...** to select a new MP4 file to save. Then under **Picture** change the **Width** to 320 (the height will be auto-calculated)



Click **START** to begin the conversion, it will take a minute or two.

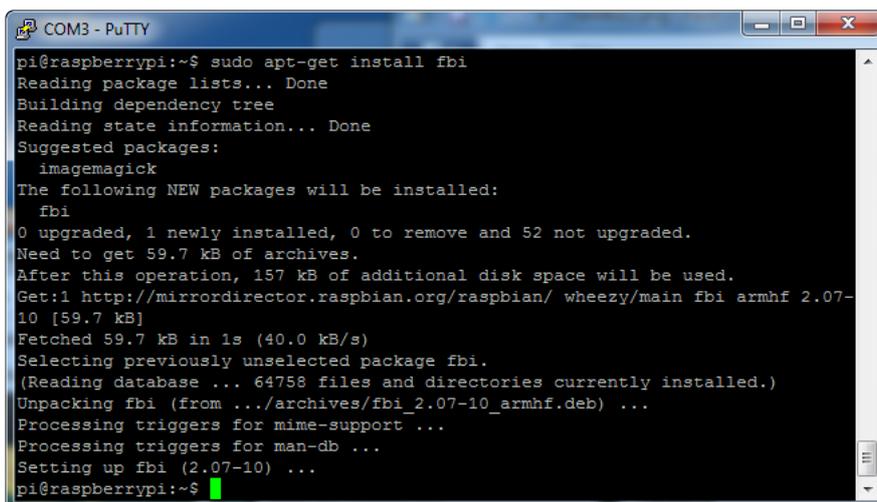


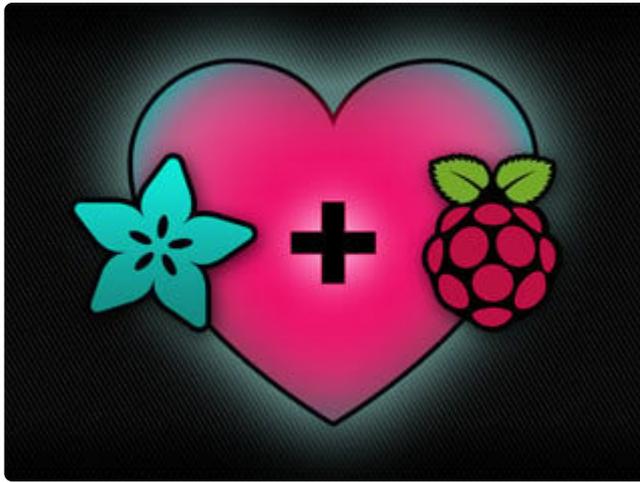
That's it! You now have a smaller file. Don't forget to play it on your computer to make sure it plays right before copying it to your Pi

Displaying Images

You can display every day images such as GIFs, JPGs, BMPs, etc on the screen. To do this we'll install **fbi** which is the **frame buffer image** viewer (not to be confused with the FBI agency!)

`sudo apt-get install fbi` will install it





Grab our lovely wallpapers with

```
wget http://adafruit-download.s3.amazonaws.com/adapiluv320x240.jpg
```

```
wget http://adafruit-download.s3.amazonaws.com/adapiluv480x320.png (https://adafru.it/cXU)
```

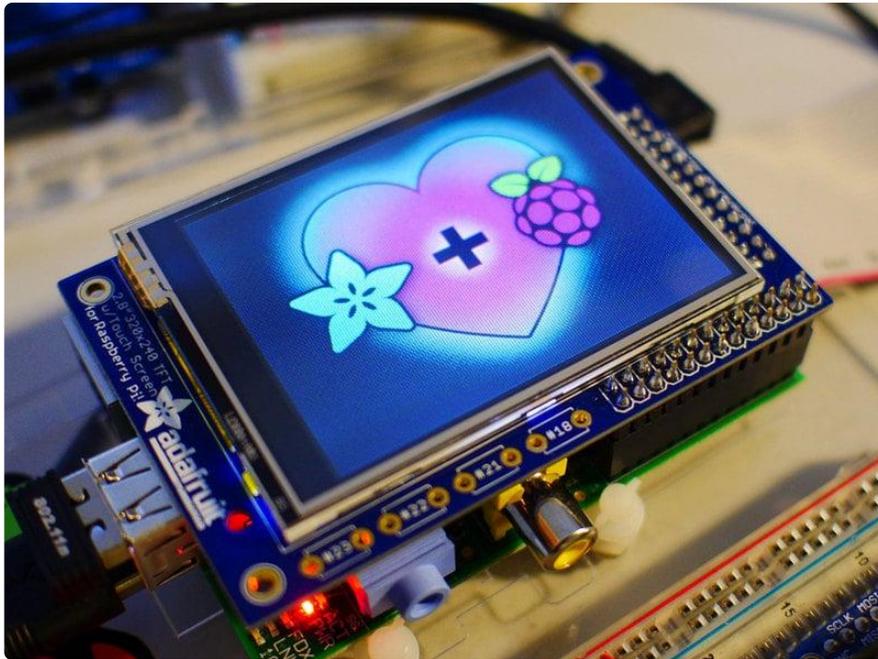
For 320x240 PiTFTs (2.2", 2.4", 2.8" or 3.2") view it with

```
sudo fbi -T 2 -d /dev/fb1 -noverbose -a adapiluv320x240.jpg
```

or for 3.5" PiTFTs:

```
sudo fbi -T 2 -d /dev/fb1 -noverbose -a adapiluv480x320 (https://adafru.it/cXU).png
```

That's it!



Using FBCP



The Ideal: Adafruit's PiTFT displays are razor sharp. Whereas small composite screens on the Raspberry Pi usually require some video scaling (resulting in blurriness), PiTFT uses the GPIO header, digitally controlled pixel-by-pixel for a rock steady image. Though not a lot of pixels, it works great for retro gaming (and the display neatly stacks above the board, no side protuberances for video cables).

The Downside: this GPIO link entirely bypasses the Pi's video hardware, including the graphics accelerator. Many games and emulators depend on the GPU for performance gains. So the PiTFT has traditionally been limited to just a subset of specially-compiled emulators that can work and run well enough without the GPU.

The Solution: our latest PiTFT drivers, along with a tool called fbcv (framebuffer copy), careful system configuration, and (optionally) the more potent Raspberry Pi 2 board open the doors to many more gaming options. Existing emulator packages (such as RetroPie, with dozens of high-performance emulators and ports) — previously off-limits to the PiTFT — can run quite effectively now!

Click here to go to our FBCP tutorial!

<https://adafru.it/fbe>

Backlight Control

The backlight of the 2.8" PiTFT has 4 LEDs in series and it draws ~75mA at all times, controlled by a transistor. The PiTFT 3.5" display has 6 LEDs in a row, and we use a boost converter to get the 5V from the Pi up to the ~20V needed to light up all the LEDs.

There might be times you'd like to save some power and turn off the backlight. The screen and touchplate will still work, you just can't see anything. We designed the board with the STMPE610 touchscreen controller which has 2 extra GPIO and tied one of them to control the backlight. You can use the command line to control the backlight.

By default, the backlight's on...but you can control it in two ways!

PWM Backlight Control with GPIO 18

If you want precise control, you can use the PWM output on GPIO 18. There's python code for controlling the PWM but you can also just use the kernel module and shell commands.

You'll need to make sure the STMPE control is not 'active' as the STMPE GPIO overrides the PWM output.

```
sudo sh -c 'echo "0" > /sys/class/backlight/soc\:backlight/brightness'
```

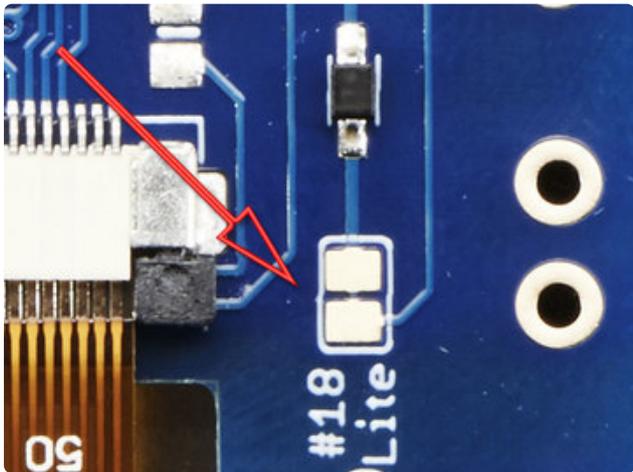
(Or if you are running an old kernel before the backlight object, try `sudo sh -c "echo 'in' > /sys/class/gpio/gpio508/direction"`)

OK now you can set the GPIO #18 pin to PWM mode using WiringPi's `gpio` command

With these basic shell commands, you can set the GPIO #18 pin to PWM mode with 1000 Hz frequency, set the output to 100 (out of 1023, so dim!), set the output to 1023 (out of 1023, nearly all the way on) and 0 (off)

```
gpio -g mode 18 pwm
gpio pwmc 1000
gpio -g pwm 18 100
gpio -g pwm 18 1023
gpio -g pwm 18 0
```

Disabling Backlight Control



If you'd like to not have #18 control the backlight, simply cut the solder jumper, the tiny trace between the two large gold pads marked **Lite #18**

On / Off Using STMPE GPIO

Another option is to just turn it on and off using the extra GPIO created by the touchscreen driver

Thanks to the raspberry Pi overlay system, this GPIO is already set up for you in a file called `/sys/class/backlight/soc:backlight/brightness`

STMPE is only installed on resistive touchscreen displays. Look further down in the guide for some alternatives for the capacitive touchscreen.

To turn the backlight off run

```
sudo sh -c 'echo "0" > /sys/class/backlight/soc\:backlight/
brightness'
```

To turn it back on, run

```
sudo sh -c 'echo "1" > /sys/class/backlight/soc\:backlight/  
brightness'
```

On / Off Using GPIO for the Capacitive Display

If you installed the capacitive display, you may notice that `/sys/class/backlight` isn't available. This is because the capacitive display uses a different touchscreen driver than the STMPE. You can however still control it using GPIO 18. Start by getting access to the GPIO by making a device link:

```
echo 18 >/sys/class/gpio/export
```

Check that the **gpio18** was created:

```
ls /sys/class/gpio/
```

Set the direction to out with:

```
echo out >/sys/class/gpio/gpio18/direction
```

The backlight should turn off. You can turn it on with:

```
echo 1 >/sys/class/gpio/gpio18/value
```

or back off again with

```
echo 0 >/sys/class/gpio/gpio18/value
```

For older versions of PiTFT Kernel

On older versions of the PiTFT kernel/overlay, the GPIO was not tied to the backlight device. Start by getting access to the GPIO by making a device link

```
sudo sh -c "echo 508 > /sys/class/gpio/export"  
ls -l /sys/class/gpio
```

For some really old versions, the GPIO pin was #252 not #508 so substitute that if you're running something from 2014 or earlier

```
pi@raspberrypi: ~
pi@raspberrypi ~ $ sudo sh -c "echo 508 > /sys/class/gpio/export"
pi@raspberrypi ~ $ ls -l /sys/class/gpio
total 0
-rwxrwx--- 1 root gpio 4096 Mar 13 21:15 export
lrwxrwxrwx 1 root gpio 0 Mar 13 21:15 gpio508 -> ../../devices/soc/3f204000.spi/spi_master/spi0/spi0.1/stmpe-gpio/gpio/gpio508
lrwxrwxrwx 1 root gpio 0 Jan 1 1970 gpiochip0 -> ../../devices/soc/3f200000.gpio/gpiochip0
lrwxrwxrwx 1 root gpio 0 Jan 1 1970 gpiochip506 -> ../../devices/soc/3f204000.spi/spi_master/spi0/spi0.1/stmpe-gpio/gpio/gpiochip506
-rwxrwx--- 1 root gpio 4096 Jan 1 1970 unexport
pi@raspberrypi ~ $
```

Once you verify that you see GPIO #508, then you can set it to an output, this will turn off the display since it will output 0 by default

```
sudo sh -c "echo 'out' > /sys/class/gpio/gpio508/direction"
```

Then turn the display back on with

```
sudo sh -c "echo '1' > /sys/class/gpio/gpio508/value"
```

or back off

```
sudo sh -c "echo '0' > /sys/class/gpio/gpio508/value"
```

```
pi@raspberrypi: ~
pi@raspberrypi ~ $ sudo sh -c "echo 'out' > /sys/class/gpio/gpio508/direction"
pi@raspberrypi ~ $ sudo sh -c "echo '1' > /sys/class/gpio/gpio508/value"
pi@raspberrypi ~ $ sudo sh -c "echo '0' > /sys/class/gpio/gpio508/value"
pi@raspberrypi ~ $ sudo sh -c "echo '1' > /sys/class/gpio/gpio508/value"
pi@raspberrypi ~ $
```

Python Backlight Control with Blinka

You can also control the backlight using Python. With Blinka, you can use it to turn the backlight off or on or even use PWM to control the level of the backlight. Since Python is such a flexible language, you can add some effects such as fading the backlight in or fading it out. First make sure you have Blinka installed. For the Raspberry Pi, you can follow our [CircuitPython Libraries on Linux and Raspberry Pi \(https://adafruit.it/BSN\)](https://adafruit.it/BSN) guide. To turn the backlight on, you can use this simple demo script:

```
import board
import digitalio
backlight = digitalio.DigitalInOut(board.D18)
backlight.switch_to_output()
backlight.value = True
```

To turn it off, you can use this script:

```
import board
import digitalio
backlight = digitalio.DigitalInOut(board.D18)
backlight.switch_to_output()
backlight.value = False
```

To use PWM and demonstrate the fading in and fading out effect, you can try running this script:

```
import time
import board
import pwmio

led = pwmio.PWMOut(board.D18, frequency=5000, duty_cycle=0)

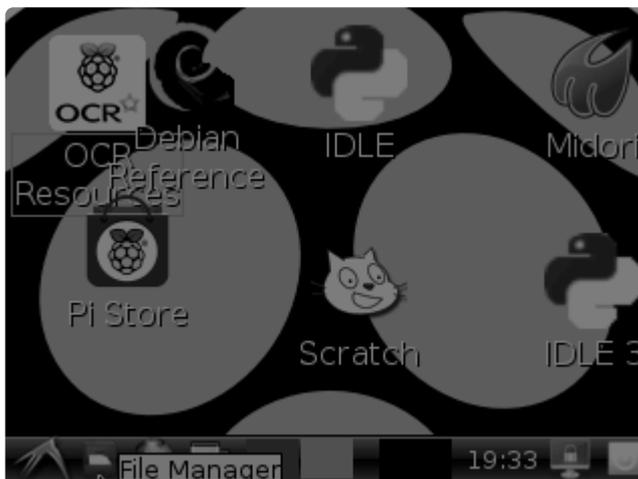
while True:
    for i in range(101):
        led.duty_cycle = int(i * 65535 / 100) # Up
        time.sleep(0.01)
    time.sleep(1)
    for i in range(100, -1, -1):
        led.duty_cycle = int(i * 65535 / 100) # Down
        time.sleep(0.01)
    time.sleep(1)
```

Extras!

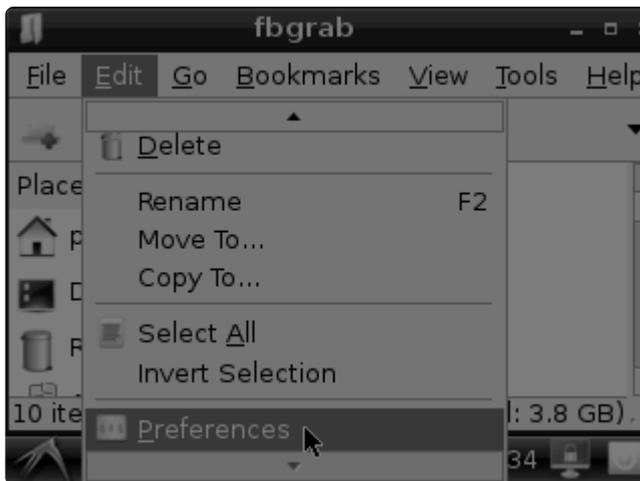
Making it easier to click icons in X

If you want to double-click on icons to launch something in X you may find it annoying to get it to work right. In LXDE you can simply set it up so that you only need to single click instead of double.

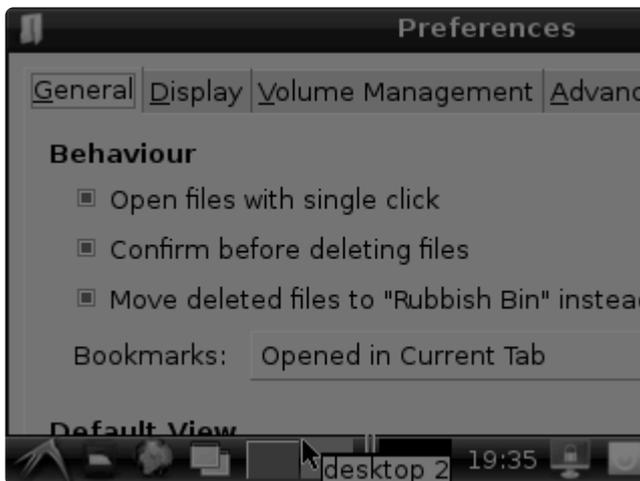
From LXDE launch the file manager (sorry these pix are grayscale, still figuring out how to screenshot the framebuffer!)



Then under the **Edit** menu, select **Preferences**



Then select **Open files with single click** and close the window (you'll need to drag it over to get to the X button)



Right-click on a touchscreen

Obviously if you have a touchscreen, it cannot tell what finger you are pressing with. This means that all 'clicks' are left clicks. But if you want a right-click, you can do it.

Just add the following lines into your InputClass of `/etc/X11/xorg.conf.d/99-calibration.conf` after the calibration section

```
Option "EmulateThirdButton" "1"  
Option "EmulateThirdButtonTimeout" "750"  
Option "EmulateThirdButtonMoveThreshold" "30"
```

So for example your file will look like:

```
Section "InputClass"  
    Identifier "calibration"
```

```
MatchProduct "stmpe-ts"
Option "Calibration" "3800 120 200 3900"
Option "SwapAxes" "1"
Option "EmulateThirdButton" "1"
Option "EmulateThirdButtonTimeout" "750"
Option "EmulateThirdButtonMoveThreshold" "30"
EndSection
```

This makes a right mouse click emulated when holding down the stylus for 750 ms.

([Thx adamaddin! \(https://adafru.it/fH3\)](https://adafru.it/fH3))

Python Button Inputs with Blinka

If you would like to use the buttons on the TFT, Python is the easiest way to receive input. With Blinka, you can wait for input and run system processes or control other hardware. Since Python is such a flexible language, you can add some effects such as fading the backlight in or fading it out. First make sure you have Blinka installed. For the Raspberry Pi, you can follow our [CircuitPython Libraries on Linux and Raspberry Pi \(https://adafru.it/BSN\)](https://adafru.it/BSN) guide. To receive input and display the button that was pressed, you can use this simple demo script:

```
import time
import board
from digitalio import DigitalInOut, Pull

buttons = []
for pin in (board.D17, board.D22, board.D23, board.D27):
    button = DigitalInOut(pin)
    button.switch_to_input(pull = Pull.UP)
    buttons.append(button)

while True:
    for i, button in enumerate(buttons):
        if not button.value:
            print(f"Button {i + 1} pressed")
            time.sleep(0.01)
```

Gesture Input

With the PiTFT touchscreen and [xstroke \(https://adafru.it/dD0\)](https://adafru.it/dD0) you can enter text in applications by drawing simple character gestures on the screen! Check out the video below for a short demonstration and overview of gesture input with xstroke:

Installation

Unfortunately xstroke hasn't been actively maintained for a few years so there isn't a binary package you can directly install. However compiling the tool is straightforward and easy with the steps below. Credit for these installation steps goes to [mwilliams03 at ozzmaker.com \(https://adafru.it/dD1\)](https://adafru.it/dD1).

First install a few dependencies by opening a command window on the Pi and executing:

```
sudo apt-get -y install build-essential libxft-dev libxpm-dev libxtst-dev
```

Now download, compile, and install xstroke by executing:

```
cd ~
wget http://mirror.egtvedt.no/avr32linux.org/twiki/pub/Main/XStroke/
xstroke-0.6.tar.gz
tar xfv xstroke-0.6.tar.gz
cd xstroke-0.6
./configure
sed -i '/^X_LIBS = / s/$/ -lXrender -lX11 -lXext -ldl/' Makefile
make
sudo make install
```

If the commands above execute successfully xstroke should be installed. If you see an error message, carefully check the dependencies above were installed and try again.

Once xstroke is installed you will want to add a couple menu shortcuts to start and stop xstroke. Execute the following commands to install these shortcuts:

```
wget https://github.com/adafruit/PiTFT_Extras/raw/master/xstroke.desktop
wget https://github.com/adafruit/PiTFT_Extras/raw/master/xstrokekill.desktop
sudo cp xstroke*.desktop /usr/share/applications/
```

Usage

To use xstroke I highly recommend using a plastic stylus instead of your finger. Also [calibrate the touchscreen for X-Windows \(https://adafru.it/dD2\)](https://adafru.it/dD2) so you have the best control over the cursor possible.

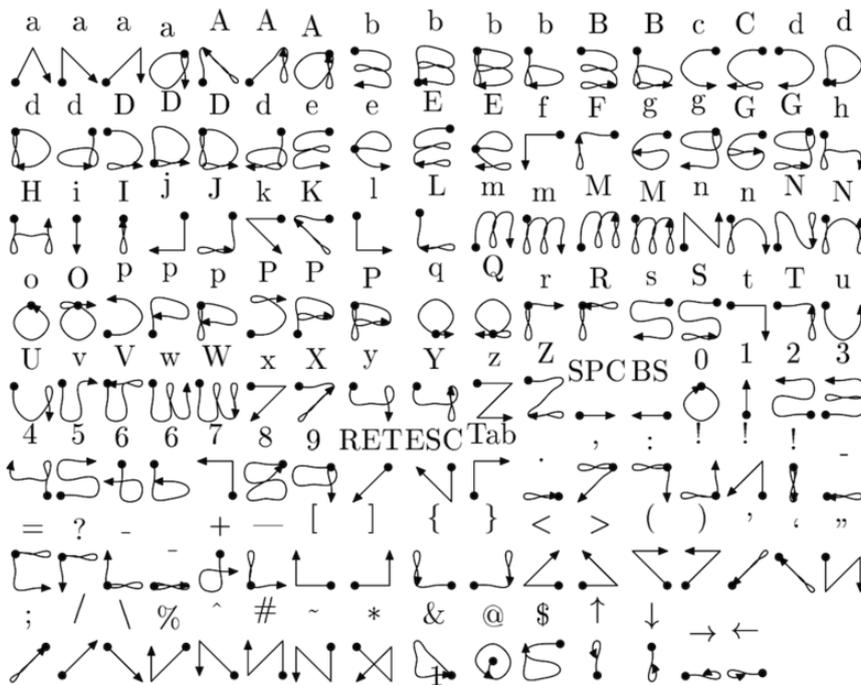
Don't use a ballpoint pen or sharp metal stylus as it could scratch or damage the touchscreen!

Start X-Windows on the PiTFT and open the LXDE menu by clicking the icon in the lower left corner. Scroll up to the **Accessories** menu at the top and notice the new **XStroke** and **XStroke Kill** commands.

Click the **XStroke** menu option to start xstroke. You should see a small pencil icon appear on the bottom right side of the screen. The pencil icon means xstroke is running, however by default it's not yet looking for gesture input.

Open an application that takes text input, such as LXTerminal. To enable gesture input click the xstroke pencil icon. You should see the pencil turn green and the text 'abc' written over top of the icon. You might need to click the icon a few times to get the click to register in the right spot.

When xstroke is looking for gesture input you can drag the mouse cursor in a gesture anywhere on the screen to send specific key strokes. Here's a picture of the possible gestures you can send:



(credit to Carl Worth for the image above)

To draw a gesture from the above image, press anywhere on the screen, start from the circle in the gesture, and follow the gesture pattern towards the arrow. As you draw a gesture you should see a blue line displayed that shows what you've drawn. Lift up the stylus when you get to the end of the gesture at the arrow. If xstroke recognizes the gesture it will send the appropriate key press to the active window. Try drawing a few characters from the image above to get the hang of writing gestures.

A few very useful gestures are backspace (which deletes a character), return/enter, and space. To draw a backspace gesture just draw a line going from the right side of

the screen to the left side. The gesture for return/enter is a diagonal line from the top right to bottom left. Finally a space is a straight line from the left to the right.

Note that when xstroke is looking for gestures you might not be able to click or control the cursor as you normally would expect. To stop xstroke's gesture recognition carefully press the xstroke pencil icon again until the 'abc' text disappears. I've found this process can be a little finicky as the icon is very small and any movement will be interpreted as a gesture. Use a light touch and try a few times to click the icon.

If you get stuck completely and can't disable xstroke by clicking the icon, connect to the Raspberry Pi in a terminal/SSH connection and run 'killall xstroke' (without quotes) to force xstroke to quit. The normal way to stop xstroke is to navigate to the **Accessories** -> **XStroke Kill** command, but you might not be able to do that if xstroke is listening for gesture input.

Have fun using xstroke to control your Pi by writing gestures on the PiTFT screen!

PiTFT PyGame Tips

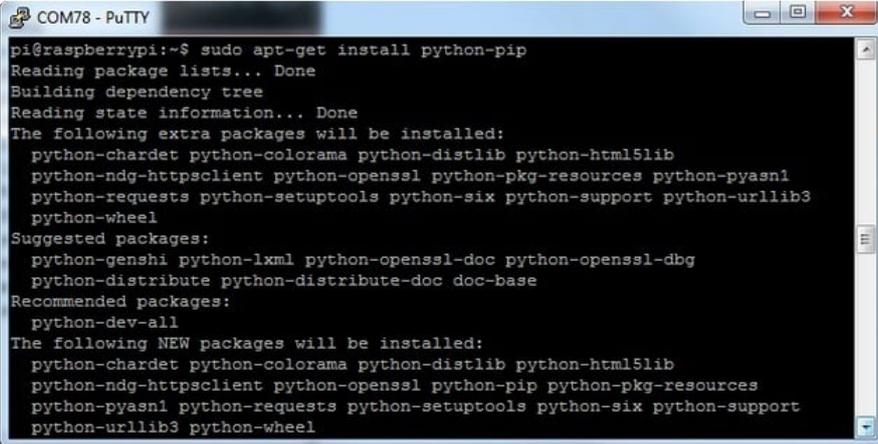
Since the PiTFT screen is fairly small, you may need to write custom UI programs. Pygame is the easiest way by far to do this.

[Jeremy Blythe has an excellent tutorial here on getting started. \(https://adafru.it/saw\)](https://adafru.it/saw)

However, before you follow that link you'll want to set up pygame for the best compatibility:

Install pip & pygame

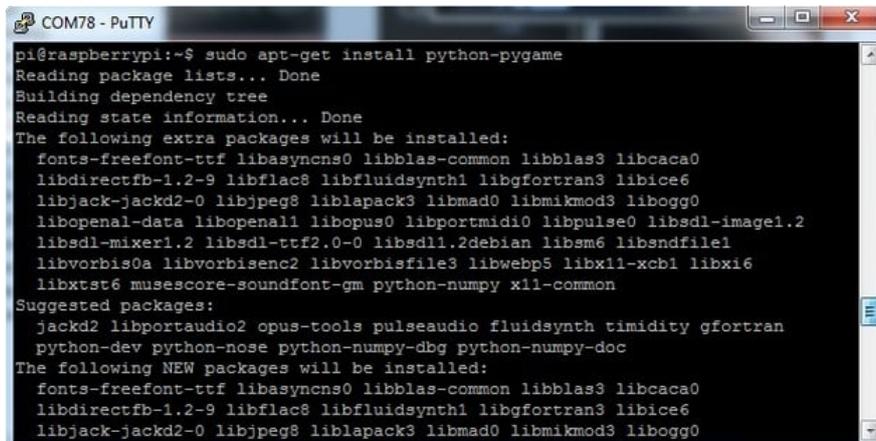
Install Pip: `sudo apt-get install python3-pip`



```
COM78 - PuTTY
pi@raspberrypi:~$ sudo apt-get install python3-pip
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree
Reading state information... Done
The following extra packages will be installed:
python-chardet python-colorama python-distlib python-html5lib
python-ndg-httpsclient python-openssl python-pkg-resources python-pyasn1
python-requests python-setuptools python-six python-support python-urllib3
python-wheel
Suggested packages:
python-genshi python-lxml python-openssl-doc python-openssl-dbg
python-distribute python-distribute-doc doc-base
Recommended packages:
python-dev-all
The following NEW packages will be installed:
python-chardet python-colorama python-distlib python-html5lib
python-ndg-httpsclient python-openssl python-pip python-pkg-resources
python-pyasn1 python-requests python-setuptools python-six python-support
python-urllib3 python-wheel
```

Install Pygame: `sudo apt-get install python3-pygame`

(this will take a while)



```
COM78 - PuTTY
pi@raspberrypi:~$ sudo apt-get install python-pygame
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree
Reading state information... Done
The following extra packages will be installed:
 fonts-freefont-ttf libasyncls0 libblas-common libblas3 libcac0
 libdirectfb-1.2-9 libflac8 libfluidsynth1 libgfortran3 libice6
 libjack-jackd2-0 libjpeg8 liblapack3 libmad0 libmikmod3 libogg0
 libopenal-data libopenal1 libopus0 libportmidi0 libpulse0 libSDL-image1.2
 libSDL-mixer1.2 libSDL-ttf2.0-0 libSDL1.2debian libsm6 libsndfile1
 libvorbis0a libvorbisenc2 libvorbisfile3 libwebp5 libx11-xcb1 libxi6
 libxtst6 musescore-soundfont-gm python-numpy x11-common
Suggested packages:
 jackd2 libportaudio2 opus-tools pulseaudio fluidsynth timidity gfortran
 python-dev python-nose python-numpy-dbg python-numpy-doc
The following NEW packages will be installed:
 fonts-freefont-ttf libasyncls0 libblas-common libblas3 libcac0
 libdirectfb-1.2-9 libflac8 libfluidsynth1 libgfortran3 libice6
 libjack-jackd2-0 libjpeg8 liblapack3 libmad0 libmikmod3 libogg0
```

Running SDL 1.2

If you experience issues with the current version of SDL, you can try running an older version.

Some versions of SDL 2.x and SDL 1.2.15-10 have some serious incompatibilities with touchscreen. You can force SDL 1.2 by running a script. ([Thanks to heine in the forums! \(https://adafru.it/sax\)](https://adafru.it/sax))

Edit a new file with `sudo nano installsdl.sh`

and paste in the following text:

```
#!/bin/bash

# enable wheezy package sources
echo "deb http://legacy.raspbian.org/raspbian wheezy main
" > /etc/apt/sources.list.d/wheezy.list

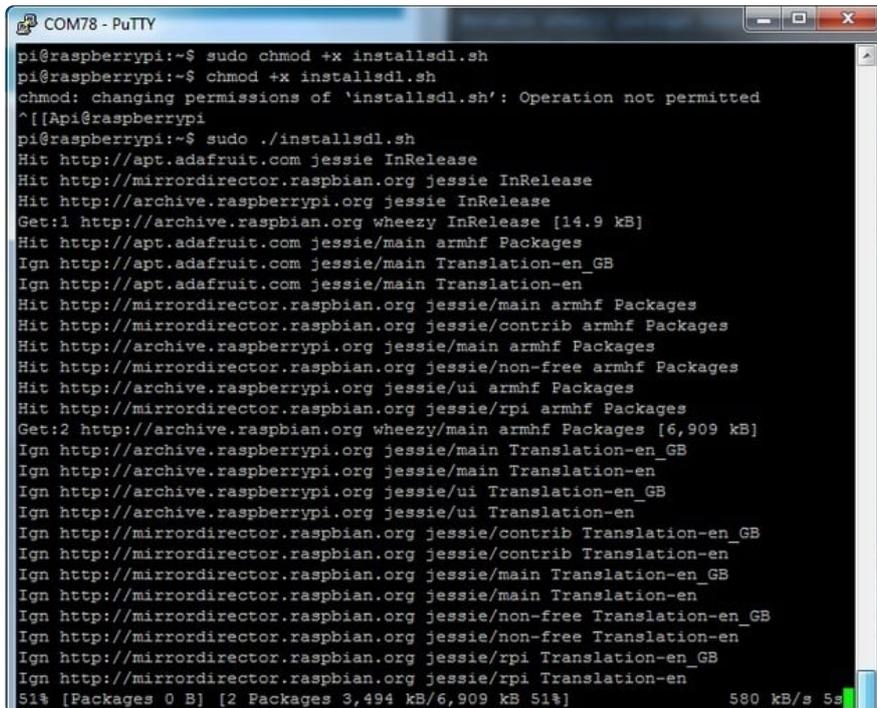
# set stable as default package source (currently buster)
echo "APT::Default-release \"stable\";
" > /etc/apt/apt.conf.d/10defaultRelease

# set the priority for libSDL from wheezy higher than the buster package
echo "Package: libSDL1.2debian
Pin: release n=buster
Pin-Priority: -10
Package: libSDL1.2debian
Pin: release n=wheezy
Pin-Priority: 900
" > /etc/apt/preferences.d/libSDL

# install
apt-get update
apt-get -y --allow-downgrades install libSDL1.2debian/wheezy
```

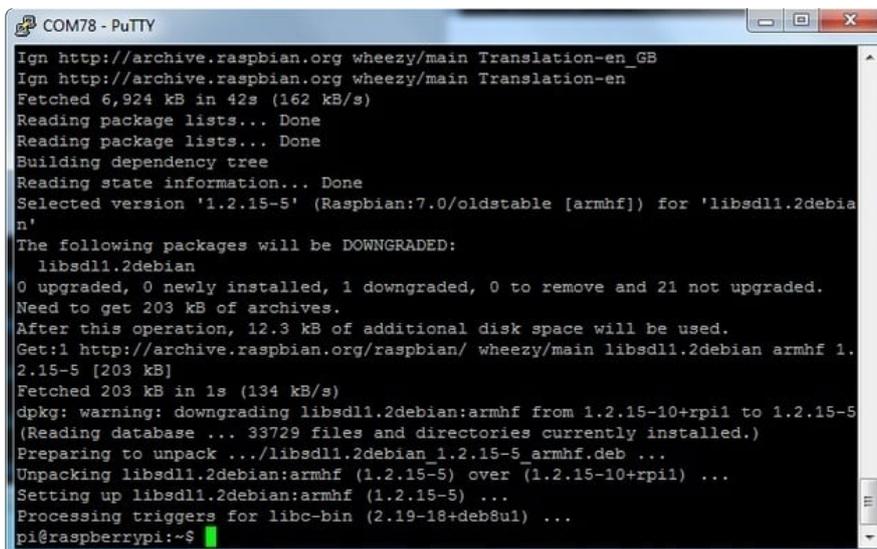
run

sudo sh ./installsdl.sh



```
pi@raspberrypi:~$ sudo chmod +x installsdl.sh
pi@raspberrypi:~$ chmod +x installsdl.sh
chmod: changing permissions of 'installsdl.sh': Operation not permitted
^[[Api@raspberrypi
pi@raspberrypi:~$ sudo ./installsdl.sh
Hit http://apt.adafruit.com jessie InRelease
Hit http://mirrordirector.raspbian.org jessie InRelease
Hit http://archive.raspberrypi.org jessie InRelease
Get:1 http://archive.raspbian.org wheezy InRelease [14.9 kB]
Hit http://apt.adafruit.com jessie/main armhf Packages
Ign http://apt.adafruit.com jessie/main Translation-en_GB
Ign http://apt.adafruit.com jessie/main Translation-en
Hit http://mirrordirector.raspbian.org jessie/main armhf Packages
Hit http://mirrordirector.raspbian.org jessie/contrib armhf Packages
Hit http://archive.raspberrypi.org jessie/main armhf Packages
Hit http://mirrordirector.raspbian.org jessie/non-free armhf Packages
Hit http://archive.raspberrypi.org jessie/ui armhf Packages
Hit http://mirrordirector.raspbian.org jessie/rpi armhf Packages
Get:2 http://archive.raspbian.org wheezy/main armhf Packages [6,909 kB]
Ign http://archive.raspberrypi.org jessie/main Translation-en_GB
Ign http://archive.raspberrypi.org jessie/main Translation-en
Ign http://archive.raspberrypi.org jessie/ui Translation-en_GB
Ign http://archive.raspberrypi.org jessie/ui Translation-en
Ign http://mirrordirector.raspbian.org jessie/contrib Translation-en_GB
Ign http://mirrordirector.raspbian.org jessie/contrib Translation-en
Ign http://mirrordirector.raspbian.org jessie/main Translation-en_GB
Ign http://mirrordirector.raspbian.org jessie/main Translation-en
Ign http://mirrordirector.raspbian.org jessie/non-free Translation-en_GB
Ign http://mirrordirector.raspbian.org jessie/non-free Translation-en
Ign http://mirrordirector.raspbian.org jessie/rpi Translation-en_GB
Ign http://mirrordirector.raspbian.org jessie/rpi Translation-en
51% [Packages 0 B] [2 Packages 3,494 kB/6,909 kB 51%] 580 kB/s 5s
```

it will force install SDL 1.2



```
Ign http://archive.raspbian.org wheezy/main Translation-en_GB
Ign http://archive.raspbian.org wheezy/main Translation-en
Fetched 6,924 kB in 42s (162 kB/s)
Reading package lists... Done
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree
Reading state information... Done
Selected version '1.2.15-5' (Raspbian:7.0/oldstable [armhf]) for 'libsdl1.2debian'
The following packages will be DOWNGRADED:
  libsdl1.2debian
0 upgraded, 0 newly installed, 1 downgraded, 0 to remove and 21 not upgraded.
Need to get 203 kB of archives.
After this operation, 12.3 kB of additional disk space will be used.
Get:1 http://archive.raspbian.org/raspbian/ wheezy/main libsdl1.2debian armhf 1.2.15-5 [203 kB]
Fetched 203 kB in 1s (134 kB/s)
dpkg: warning: downgrading libsdl1.2debian:armhf from 1.2.15-10+rp1 to 1.2.15-5
(Reading database ... 33729 files and directories currently installed.)
Preparing to unpack ../libsdl1.2debian_1.2.15-5_armhf.deb ...
Unpacking libsdl1.2debian:armhf (1.2.15-5) over (1.2.15-10+rp1) ...
Setting up libsdl1.2debian:armhf (1.2.15-5) ...
Processing triggers for libc-bin (2.19-18+deb8u1) ...
pi@raspberrypi:~$
```

OK now you can continue with pygame

Using the Capacitive touch screen in PyGame

The 2.8" Capacitive touch screen driver may not work by default in pygame, but this handy script shows how you can capture the device messages in python to create a UI

- <https://github.com/nift4/pigame> (<https://adafru.it/CYv>)

For examples:

- <https://github.com/nift4/Raspberry-Pi-Testing> (<https://adafru.it/CYA>)
-

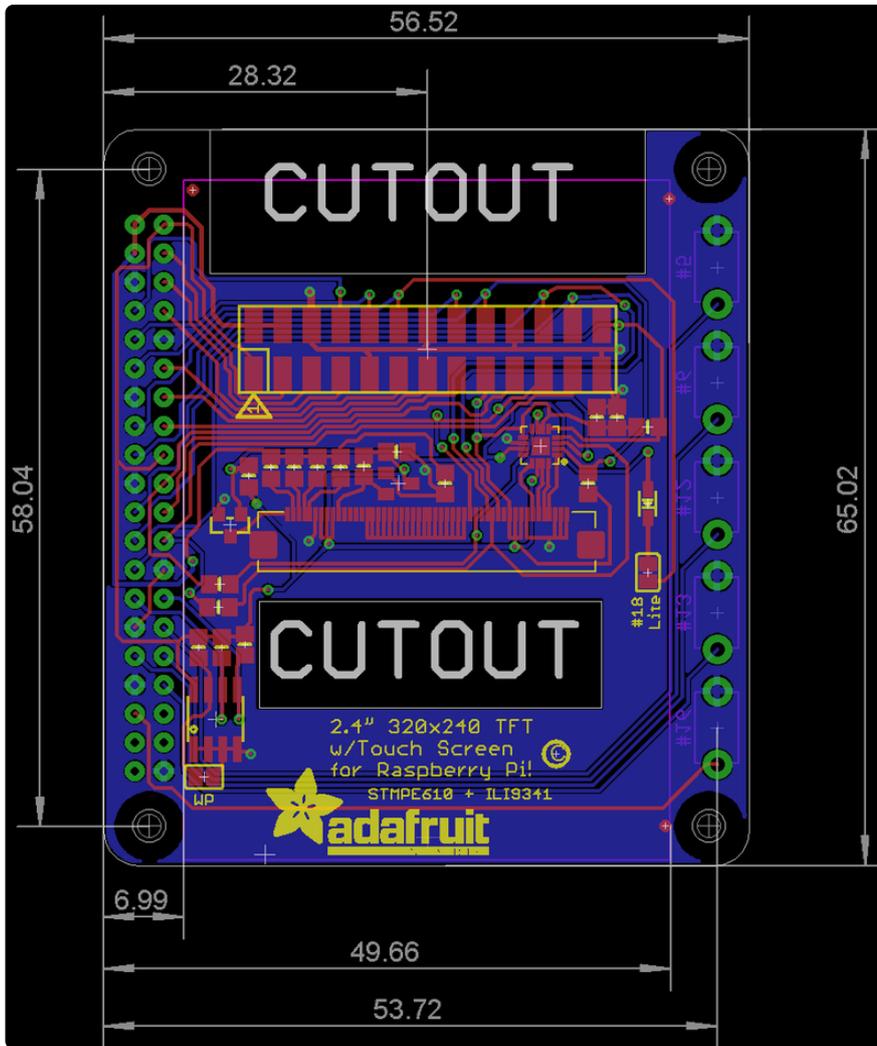
Downloads

Files

- [Github repository for the PiTFT Helper installer](https://adafru.it/eIn) (<https://adafru.it/eIn>)
- [Github repository for auto-calibrator](https://adafru.it/f3T) (<https://adafru.it/f3T>)
- [Our branch of the 3.18 Pi Kernel with support for all the PiTFT stuff!](https://adafru.it/aPa) (<https://adafru.it/aPa>)
- [Fritzing object in the Adafruit Fritzing Library](https://adafru.it/aP3) (<https://adafru.it/aP3>)
- [EagleCAD PCB files](https://adafru.it/rF3) (<https://adafru.it/rF3>)

Fabrication Layout

Dimensions in mm, [same layout as the official Raspbery Pi HAT spec](https://adafru.it/f3U) (<https://adafru.it/f3U>)



Schematic

