

# CLUE BLE MIDI Glove

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# Overview

Send wireless MIDI continuous controller (CC) messages over the air to your favorite BLE synthesizer or synth app on iOS or mac os! This project uses the CLUE's built-in accelerometer and proximity sensor to send three different CC signals as you tilt and roll your hand.

Use the CLUE's TFT screen, buttons, and touch pads to select different CC numbers, and even pause/restart sending data while maintaining the BLE MIDI connection.

You can also change the sound of your synth entirely at the tap of a CLUE touchpad by sending Bank/Preset Program Change messages.

## Parts

Your browser does not support the video tag.

[Adafruit CLUE - nRF52840 Express with Bluetooth LE](#)

\$39.95  
IN STOCK

Add To Cart



[3 x AAA Battery Holder with On/Off Switch and 2-Pin JST](#)

\$1.95  
IN STOCK

Add To Cart



Alkaline AAA batteries - 3 pack

\$1.50  
IN STOCK

Add To Cart



USB cable - USB A to Micro-B

\$2.95  
IN STOCK

Add To Cart

## Other Materials

In addition to the parts above you'll also need:

- Glove/mitten/fingerless glove or wrist strap
- Velcro or other material to adhere the CLUE to the glove/strap

# CircuitPython on CLUE

CircuitPython (<https://adafru.it/tB7>) is a derivative of MicroPython (<https://adafru.it/BeZ>) designed to simplify experimentation and education on low-cost microcontrollers. It makes it easier than ever to get prototyping by requiring no upfront desktop software downloads. Simply copy and edit files on the **CIRCUITPY** flash drive to iterate.

The following instructions will show you how to install CircuitPython. If you've already installed CircuitPython but are looking to update it or reinstall it, the same steps work for that as well!

## Set up CircuitPython Quick Start!

Follow this quick step-by-step for super-fast Python power :)

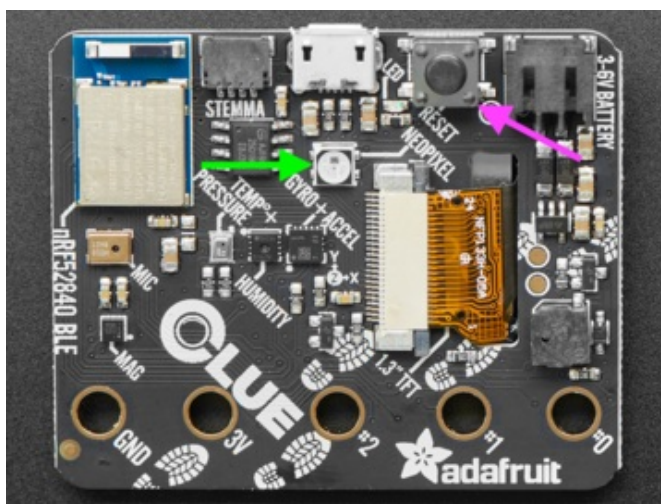
<https://adafru.it/IHF>

<https://adafru.it/IHF>



Click the link above to download the latest version of CircuitPython for the CLUE.

Download and save it to your desktop (or wherever is handy).

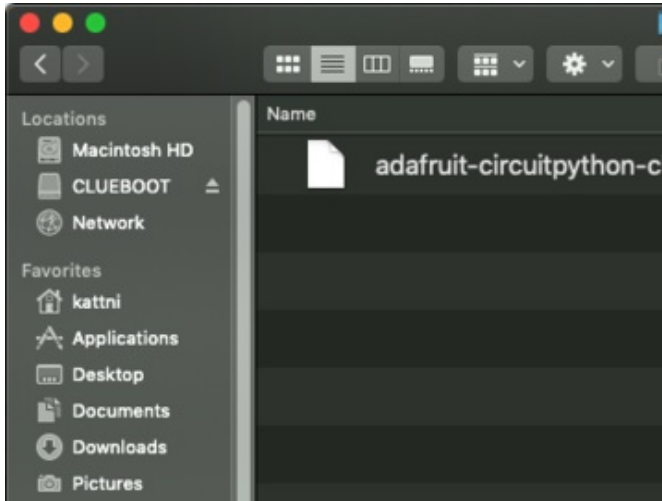


Plug your CLUE into your computer using a known-good USB cable.

**A lot of people end up using charge-only USB cables and it is very frustrating! So make sure you have a USB cable you know is good for data sync.**

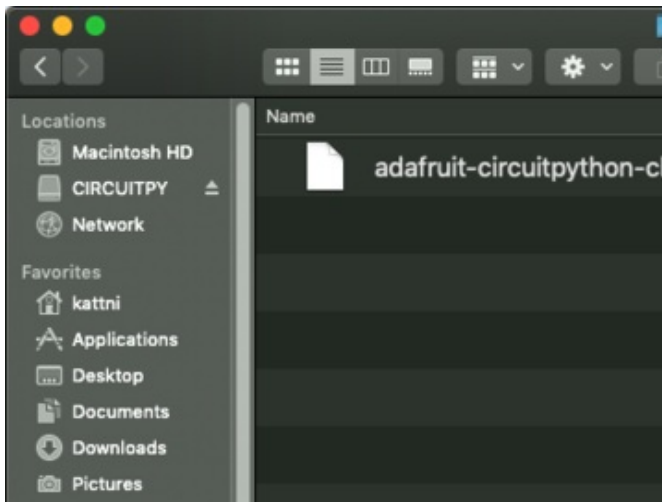
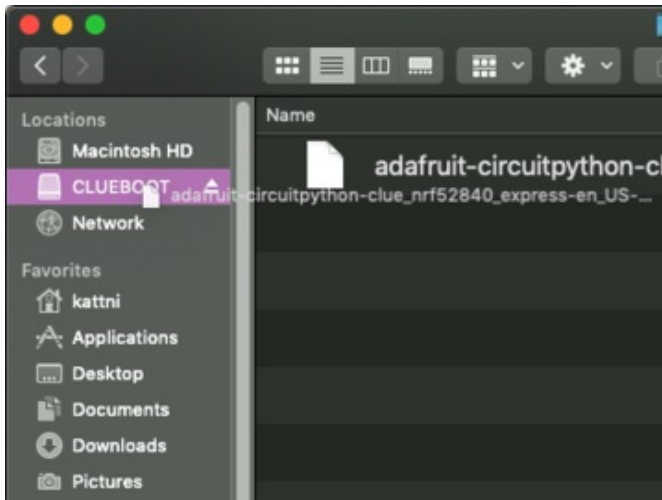
Double-click the **Reset** button on the top (magenta arrow) on your board, and you will see the NeoPixel RGB LED (green arrow) turn green. If it turns red, check the USB cable, try another USB port, etc. **Note:** The little red LED next to the USB connector will pulse red. That's ok!

If double-clicking doesn't work the first time, try again. Sometimes it can take a few tries to get the rhythm right!



You will see a new disk drive appear called **CLUEBOOT**.

Drag the **adafruit-circuitpython-clue-etc.uf2** file to **CLUEBOOT**.



The LED will flash. Then, the **CLUEBOOT** drive will disappear and a new disk drive called **CIRCUITPY** will appear.

If this is the first time you're installing CircuitPython or you're doing a completely fresh install after erasing the filesystem, you will have two files - **boot\_out.txt**, and **code.py**, and one folder - **lib** on your **CIRCUITPY** drive.

If CircuitPython was already installed, the files present before reloading CircuitPython should still be present on your **CIRCUITPY** drive. Loading CircuitPython will not create new files if there was already a CircuitPython filesystem present.

That's it, you're done! :)

# CLUE CircuitPython Libraries

The CLUE is packed full of features like a display and a ton of sensors. Now that you have CircuitPython installed on your CLUE, you'll need to install a base set of CircuitPython libraries to use the features of the board with CircuitPython.

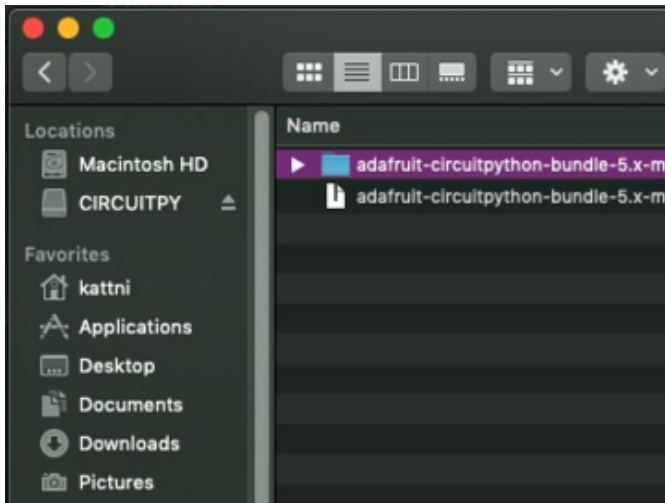
Follow these steps to get the necessary libraries installed.

## Installing CircuitPython Libraries on your CLUE

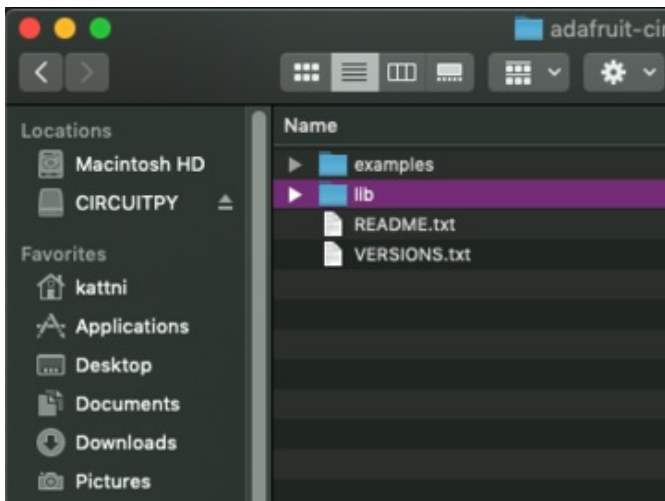
If you do not already have a **lib** folder on your **CIRCUITPY** drive, create one now.

Then, download the CircuitPython library bundle that matches your version of CircuitPython from CircuitPython.org.

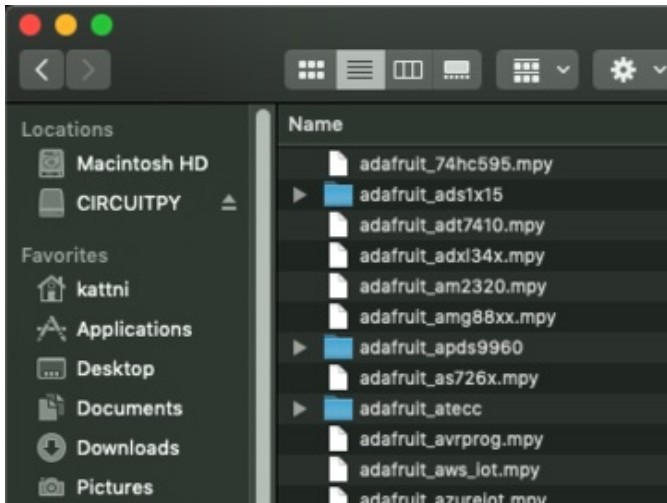
<https://adafru.it/ENC>  
<https://adafru.it/ENC>



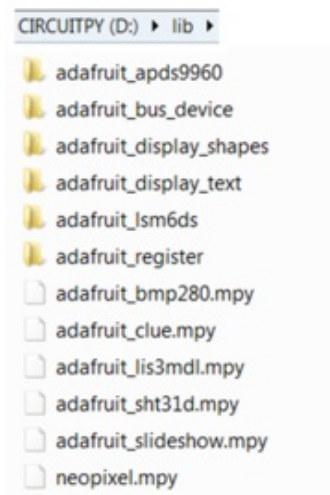
The bundle downloads as a .zip file. Extract the file. Open the resulting folder.



Open the **lib** folder found within.



Once inside, you'll find a lengthy list of folders and .mpy files. To install a CircuitPython library, you drag the file or folder from the **bundle lib** folder to the **lib** folder on your **CIRCUITPY** drive.

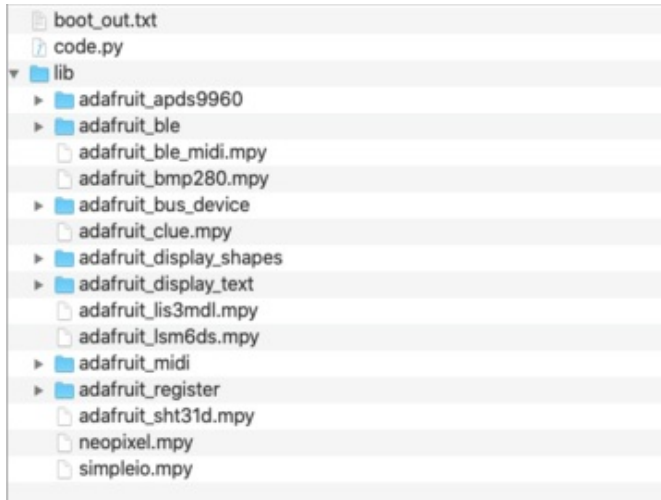


Copy the following folders and files from the **bundle lib** folder to the **lib** folder on your **CIRCUITPY** drive:

- adafruit\_apds9960
- adafruit\_bmp280.mpy
- adafruit\_bus\_device
- adafruit\_clue.mpy
- adafruit\_display\_shapes
- adafruit\_display\_text
- adafruit\_lis3mdl.mpy
- adafruit\_lsm6ds
- adafruit\_register
- adafruit\_sht31d.mpy
- adafruit\_slideshow.mpy
- neopixel.mpy

Your lib folder should look like the image on the left. These libraries will let you run the demos in the CLUE guide.

# Make the CLUE MIDI Glove



## Libraries

We'll need to make sure we have these libraries installed. (Check out this [link \(https://adafru.it/ABU\)](https://adafru.it/ABU) on installing libraries if needed.)

- adafruit\_apds9960
- adafruit\_ble
- adafruit\_ble\_midi
- adafruit\_bmp280.mpy
- adafruit\_bus\_device
- adafruit\_clue.mpy
- adafruit\_display\_shapes
- adafruit\_display\_text
- adafruit\_lis3mdl.mpy
- adafruit\_lsm6ds.mpy
- adafruit\_midi
- adafruit\_register
- adafruit\_sht31d.mpy
- neopixel.mpy
- simpleio.mpy

## Text Editor

Adafruit recommends using the Mu editor for editing your CircuitPython code. You can get more info in [this guide \(https://adafru.it/ANO\)](https://adafru.it/ANO).

Alternatively, you can use any text editor that saves files.

## Code

Copy the code from the code-block below and paste it into the Mu editor and save it to your CLUE as **code.py** (or copy **code.py** from the zip file and place on the **CIRCUITPY** drive).

```

"""
CLUE BLE MIDI
Sends MIDI CC values based on accelerometer x & y and proximity sensor
Touch #0 switches Bank/Preset patches
Touch #1 picks among the three CC lines w A&B buttons adjusting CC numbers
Touch #2 starts/stops sending CC messages (still allows Program Change)
"""

import time
from adafruit_clue import clue
import adafruit_ble
from adafruit_ble.advertising.standard import ProvideServicesAdvertisement
import adafruit_ble_midi
import adafruit_midi
from adafruit_midi.control_change import ControlChange

```



```

from adafruit_midi.control_change import ControlChange
from adafruit_midi.program_change import ProgramChange

# from adafruit_midi.note_on import NoteOn
# from adafruit_midi.pitch_bend import PitchBend
import simpleio
import displayio
import terminalio
from adafruit_display_text import label
from adafruit_display_shapes.rect import Rect

# --- Pick your midi out channel here ---
midi_channel = 1
# --- Pick your MIDI CC numbers here ---
cc_x_num = 71
cc_y_num = 72
cc_prox_num = 73
# --- Pick Bank & Preset pairs here ---
touch_patch = [ # first number is the Bank, second is the Preset
    (4, 16), # minimoog: Leads > Original MINI
    (5, 8), # Pads > Intergalactic Pass
    (0, 13), # Bass > Kraft Bass
    (6, 9), # Percussion > Space Hat
]

patch_count = len(touch_patch)
patch_index = (
    patch_count - 1
) # start on the last one so first time it is pressed it goes to first

cc_x = 0
cc_y = 0
cc_prox = 0

# Use default HID descriptor
midi_service = adafruit_ble_midi.MIDIService()
advertisement = ProvideServicesAdvertisement(midi_service)

ble = adafruit_ble.BLERadio()
if ble.connected:
    for c in ble.connections:
        c.disconnect()

midi = adafruit_midi.MIDI(midi_out=midi_service, out_channel=midi_channel - 1)

print("advertising")
ble.name = "CLUE BLE MIDI"
ble.start_advertising(advertisement)

clue.display.brightness = 1.0
clue.pixel.brightness = 0.2
screen = displayio.Group(max_size=17)

ORANGE = 0xCE6136
GRAY = 0x080808
BLACK = 0x121212
BLUE = 0x668190
SILVER = 0xAAAAAA
BROWN = 0x805D40

```

```

# --- Setup screen ---
# BG
color_bitmap = displayio.Bitmap(240, 240, 1)
color_palette = displayio.Palette(1)
color_palette[0] = GRAY
bg_sprite = displayio.TileGrid(color_bitmap, x=0, y=0, pixel_shader=color_palette)
screen.append(bg_sprite)
column_a = 20
column_b = 168
# positions that are distributed relative to cc_x and cc_prox y positions
row_a = 80
row_c = 170
row_b = int(row_a + ((row_c - row_a) / 2))
line_row_a = int(row_a + ((row_b - row_a) / 2))
line_row_b = int(row_b + ((row_c - row_b) / 2))
picker_box_row = [row_a, row_b, row_c]

# trim
top_trim_box = Rect(0, 0, 240, 8, fill=BROWN, outline=None)
screen.append(top_trim_box)
bottom_trim_box = Rect(0, 232, 240, 8, fill=BROWN, outline=None)
screen.append(bottom_trim_box)

# title text
title_label = label.Label(
    terminalio.FONT, text="MIDI CLUE", scale=4, color=SILVER, max_glyphs=14
)
title_label.x = 14
title_label.y = 27
screen.append(title_label)

# title box
title_box = Rect(0, 54, 240, 8, fill=BROWN, outline=None)
screen.append(title_box)

# cc x num
cc_x_num_label = label.Label(
    terminalio.FONT,
    text=("CC {}".format(cc_x_num)),
    scale=3,
    color=ORANGE,
    max_glyphs=6,
)
cc_x_num_label.x = column_a
cc_x_num_label.y = row_a
screen.append(cc_x_num_label)

# cc x value
cc_x_label = label.Label(
    terminalio.FONT, text=(cc_x), scale=3, color=ORANGE, max_glyphs=3
)
cc_x_label.x = column_b
cc_x_label.y = row_a
screen.append(cc_x_label)

# picker box
picker_box = Rect(3, row_a, 6, 6, fill=ORANGE, outline=None)
screen.append(picker_box)

# mid line

```

```

mid_line_a = Rect(0, line_row_a, 240, 2, fill=SILVER, outline=None)
screen.append(mid_line_a)

# cc y num
cc_y_num_label = label.Label(
    terminalio.FONT, text=("CC {}".format(cc_y_num)), scale=3, color=BLUE, max_glyphs=6
)
cc_y_num_label.x = column_a
cc_y_num_label.y = row_b
screen.append(cc_y_num_label)

# cc y value text
cc_y_label = label.Label(terminalio.FONT, text=cc_y, scale=3, color=BLUE, max_glyphs=3,)
cc_y_label.x = column_b
cc_y_label.y = row_b
screen.append(cc_y_label)

# mid line
mid_line_b = Rect(0, line_row_b, 240, 2, fill=SILVER, outline=None)
screen.append(mid_line_b)

# cc prox num text
cc_prox_num_label = label.Label(
    terminalio.FONT,
    text=("CC {}".format(cc_prox_num)),
    scale=3,
    color=SILVER,
    max_glyphs=6,
)
cc_prox_num_label.x = column_a
cc_prox_num_label.y = row_c
screen.append(cc_prox_num_label)

# cc prox value text
cc_prox_label = label.Label(
    terminalio.FONT, text=cc_prox, scale=3, color=SILVER, max_glyphs=3,
)
cc_prox_label.x = column_b
cc_prox_label.y = row_c
screen.append(cc_prox_label)

# footer line
footer_line = Rect(0, 192, 240, 2, fill=SILVER, outline=None)
screen.append(footer_line)

# patch label
patch_label = label.Label(
    terminalio.FONT, text=("Patch _"), scale=2, color=BLUE, max_glyphs=12,
)
patch_label.x = 4
patch_label.y = 216
screen.append(patch_label)

# footer label
footer_label = label.Label(
    terminalio.FONT, text=("connect BLE"), scale=2, color=ORANGE, max_glyphs=14
)
footer_label.x = 102

```

```

footer_label.y = 216
screen.append(footer_label)

# show the screen
clue.display.show(screen)

cc_num_pick_toggle = 0 # which cc to adjust w buttons
cc_send_toggle = True # to start and stop sending cc

debug = False # set debug mode True to test raw values, set False to run BLE MIDI

while True:
    if debug:
        accel_data = clue.acceleration # get accelerometer reading
        accel_x = accel_data[0]
        accel_y = accel_data[1]
        prox_data = clue.proximity
        print("x:{} y:{}".format(accel_x, accel_y,))
        print("proximity: {}".format(clue.proximity))
        time.sleep(0.2)

    else:
        print("Waiting for connection")
        while not ble.connected:
            pass
        print("Connected")
        footer_label.x = 80
        footer_label.color = BLUE
        footer_label.text = "BLE Connected"
        time.sleep(2)
        footer_label.x = 110
        footer_label.color = SILVER
        footer_label.text = "sending CC"

        while ble.connected:
            # Clue sensor readings to CC
            accel_data = clue.acceleration # get accelerometer reading
            accel_x = accel_data[0]
            accel_y = accel_data[1]
            prox_data = clue.proximity

            # Remap analog readings to cc range
            cc_x = int(simpleio.map_range(accel_x, -9, 9, 0, 127))
            cc_y = int(simpleio.map_range(accel_y, 0, 9, 0, 127))
            cc_prox = int(simpleio.map_range(prox_data, 0, 255, 0, 127))

            # send all the midi messages in a list
            if cc_send_toggle:
                midi.send(
                    [
                        ControlChange(cc_x_num, cc_x),
                        ControlChange(cc_y_num, cc_y),
                        ControlChange(cc_prox_num, cc_prox),
                    ]
                )
            cc_x_label.text = cc_x
            cc_y_label.text = cc_y
            cc_prox_label.text = cc_prox

            # If you want to send NoteOn or Pitch Bend, here are examples:

```

```

# midi.send(NoteOn(44, 1column_a)) # G sharp 2nd octave
# a_pitch_bend = PitchBend(random.randint(0, 16383))
# midi.send(a_pitch_bend)

if clue.button_a:
    if cc_num_pick_toggle == 0:
        cc_x_num = cc_x_num - 1
        cc_x_num_label.text = "CC {}".format(cc_x_num)
        time.sleep(0.05) # Debounce
    elif cc_num_pick_toggle == 1:
        cc_y_num = cc_y_num - 1
        cc_y_num_label.text = "CC {}".format(cc_y_num)
        time.sleep(0.05)
    else:
        cc_prox_num = cc_prox_num - 1
        cc_prox_num_label.text = "CC {}".format(cc_prox_num)
        time.sleep(0.05)

if clue.button_b:
    if cc_num_pick_toggle == 0:
        cc_x_num = cc_x_num + 1
        cc_x_num_label.text = "CC {}".format(cc_x_num)
        time.sleep(0.05)
    elif cc_num_pick_toggle == 1:
        cc_y_num = cc_y_num + 1
        cc_y_num_label.text = "CC {}".format(cc_y_num)
        time.sleep(0.05)
    else:
        cc_prox_num = cc_prox_num + 1
        cc_prox_num_label.text = "CC {}".format(cc_prox_num)
        time.sleep(0.05)

if clue.touch_0:
    patch_index = (patch_index + 1) % patch_count
    midi.send( # Bank select
        [
            ControlChange(0, 0), # MSB
            ControlChange(32, touch_patch[patch_index][0]), # LSB
        ]
    )
    midi.send(ProgramChange(touch_patch[patch_index][1])) # Program Change
    patch_label.text = "Patch {}".format(patch_index + 1)
    time.sleep(0.2)

if clue.touch_1:
    cc_num_pick_toggle = (cc_num_pick_toggle + 1) % 3
    picker_box.y = picker_box_row[cc_num_pick_toggle]
    time.sleep(0.1)

if clue.touch_2:
    cc_send_toggle = not cc_send_toggle
    if cc_send_toggle:
        footer_label.x = 110
        footer_label.color = SILVER
        footer_label.text = "sending CC"
    else:
        footer_label.x = 114
        footer_label.color = ORANGE
        footer_label.text = "CC paused"
    time.sleep(0.1)

```

```
time.sleep(0.1)

print("Disconnected")
print()
ble.start_advertising(advertisement)
```

## How It Works

The code does a few key things at startup:

- Import necessary libraries, including the `adafruit_ble_midi` and `adafruit_midi` libraries
- Creates variables to store:
  - output MIDI channel (can be set to 1-16)
  - three CC numbers (e.g. CC#1 = modulation)
  - list of MIDI Band/Preset pairs for changing patches
- Advertises the CLUE BLE MIDI peripheral over BLE so devices can connect to it
- Uses `displayio` to lay out the screen text and dividers
- Checks the two buttons and three touch pads to make any adjustments to variables and UI
- Waits for a BLE connection

## Sending Data

Once a connection has been established between the CLUE and a BLE MIDI device, here's what takes place:

- CLUE accelerometer readings on x- and y-axis are read and remapped using `simpleio.map_range()` command. Each axis reading ranges from **-9 to 9** and needs to re-map to MIDI **CC** ranges which is **0-127**. Depending on how you want to tilt your hand, you can pick and subset of the accelerometer's range per axis
- CLUE proximity sensor is remapped from **0-255** to **0-127**
- The remapped sensor data is sent as CC data over MIDI
- Similarly, when the CLUE's touch sensor #0 is pressed, a MIDI message is sent to toggle among the pre-selected **Bank/Patch** pairs. Note, the **Bank** choice is sent via **CC0** and/or **CC32** (Most Significant Bit and/or Least Significant Bit for Bank select varies by MIDI device manufacturer). The **Patch** choice is sent via **ProgramChange**

## CLUE UI

The CLUE's buttons and touch pads act as user inputs to adjust these things:

- **Touch #0** toggles between **Bank/Preset patches**
- **Touch #1** selects between the three **CC lines** on the screen (look for the small dot next to the selected line) to enable adjusting the CC numbers over which to send the sensor data
- **Buttons A** and **B** decrease and increase the MIDI **CC number** of the selected CC line
- **Touch #2** toggles **on/off** the sending of CC data (to give your arm a rest!)

## Build the Glove

Now that the CLUE is coded, you'll want to attach it to a glove back. You can use some double-stick foam tape or adhesive Velcro to attach it, or even a few stitches of strong thread.

You can also attach the battery pack the same way, or simply hold it in your hand during use.

## Use the MIDI Glove

To use the Power Glove MIDI controller with a mac os machine, [follow these setup instructions \(https://adafru.it/Ksa\)](https://adafru.it/Ksa).

On iOS devices, you can use the [MIDI Wrench app \(https://adafru.it/Ksb\)](https://adafru.it/Ksb) to create and test the BLE MIDI connection, and then use it to "port" the MIDI messages to other apps, such as [AudioKit Synth One \(https://adafru.it/C-6\)](https://adafru.it/C-6) and [Moog Minimoog \(https://adafru.it/Ksc\)](https://adafru.it/Ksc) which you can see in action below:

Most of these software synths will provide a way to map CC values to any function you like, often with a "MIDI learn" mode as well as explicit number entry.

You can also use BLE MIDI with some hardware synthesizers, as well as with BLE MIDI add-on dongles, such as [this one from Yamaha \(https://adafru.it/Ksd\)](https://adafru.it/Ksd) which adds BLE MIDI to synths with classic DIN-5 MIDI.

