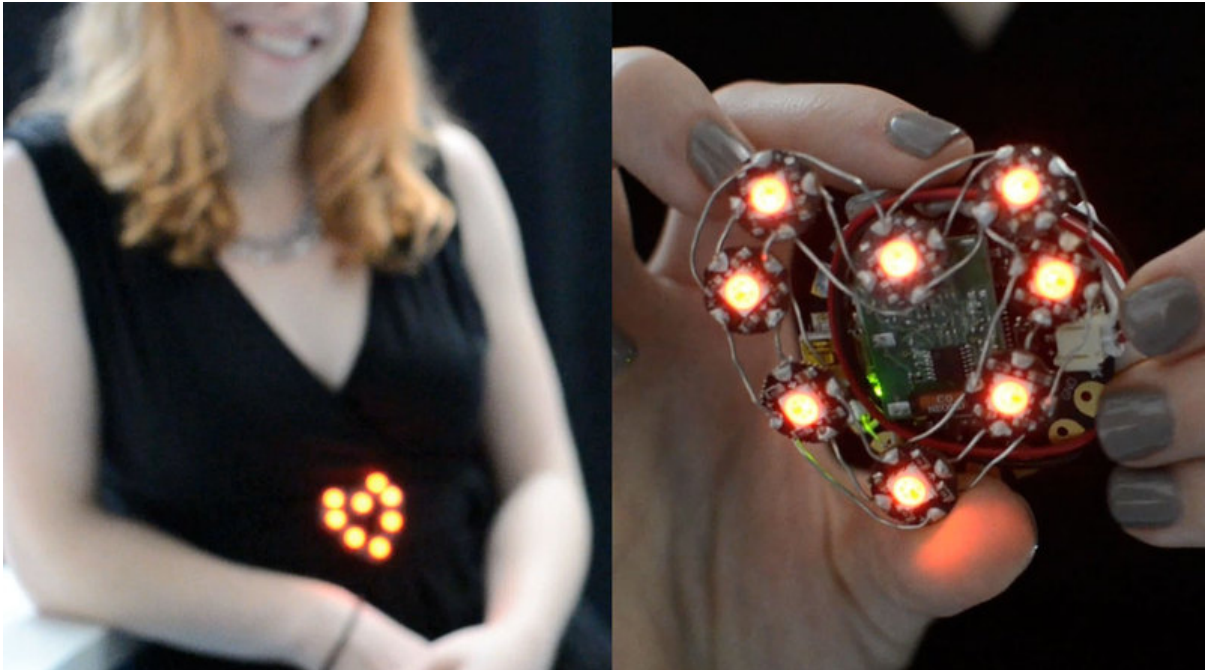




Heart Rate Badge

Created by Becky Stern



<https://learn.adafruit.com/heart-rate-badge>

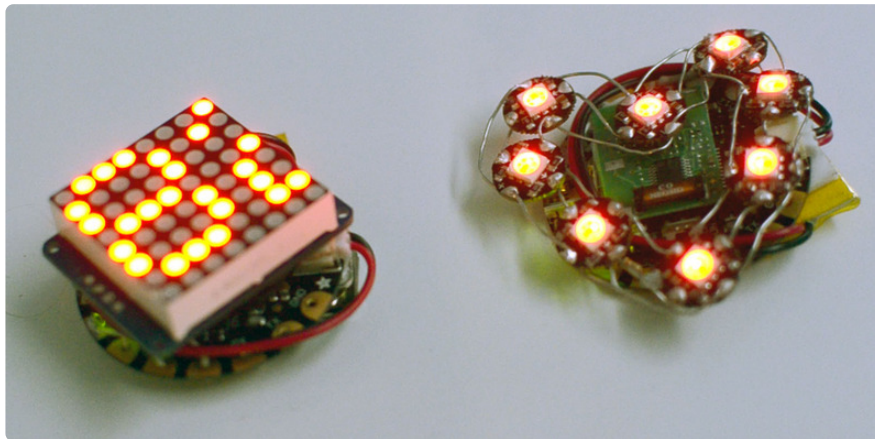
Last updated on 2024-06-03 01:21:04 PM EDT

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Overview

Build a badge to show the beat of your heart! This wearable project uses the Polar heart rate sensor, which you wear around your ribcage and it wirelessly transmits heart beats to the receiver chip included in our educational starter pack. The badge can be worn on your clothes or bag, and is held in place by a magnetic pin back. Make the heart-shaped NeoPixel version, or use one of our 8x8 LED matrices with i2c backpack to display your heart rate as a number or make your own bitmap animations.



Tools & Supplies



You will need the following items:

- [Polar Wireless heart sensor educational starter pack](http://adafru.it/1077) (<http://adafru.it/1077>)
- [FLORA main board](http://adafru.it/659) (<http://adafru.it/659>)
- [150 mAh lipoly battery](http://adafru.it/1317) (<http://adafru.it/1317>) (with [charger](http://adafru.it/1304) (<http://adafru.it/1304>))

- Eight [FLORA NeoPixels](http://adafru.it/1260) (<http://adafru.it/1260>) or [8x8 LED matrix w i2c backpack](http://adafru.it/1049) (<http://adafru.it/1049>)
- [Magnetic pin back](http://adafru.it/1170) (<http://adafru.it/1170>)
- [Sugru](http://adafru.it/437) (<http://adafru.it/437>)
- Thin stranded wire
- Double-stick tape or foam



Any entry level 'all-in-one' soldering iron that you might find at your local hardware store should work. As with most things in life, you get what you pay for.

Upgrading to a higher end soldering iron setup, like the [Hakko FX-888](http://adafru.it/180) that we stock in our store (<http://adafru.it/180>), will make soldering fun and easy.

Do not use a "ColdHeat" soldering iron!
They are not suitable for delicate electronics work and can damage the Flora ([see here \(https://adafru.it/aOo\)](https://adafru.it/aOo)).



[Click here to buy our entry level adjustable 30W 110V soldering iron. \(http://adafru.it/180\)](http://adafru.it/180)

[Click here to upgrade to a Genuine Hakko FX-888 adjustable temperature soldering iron. \(http://adafru.it/303\)](http://adafru.it/303)

[Learn how to solder with tons of tutorials! \(https://adafru.it/aTk\)](https://adafru.it/aTk)



You will want rosin core, 60/40 solder. Good solder is a good thing. Bad solder leads to bridging and cold solder joints which can be tough to find.

[Click here to buy a spool of leaded solder \(recommended for beginners\).](http://adafru.it/145) (<http://adafru.it/145>)

[Click here to buy a spool of lead-free solder.](http://adafru.it/734) (<http://adafru.it/734>)

You will need a good quality basic multimeter that can measure voltage and continuity.



[Click here to buy a basic multimeter.](http://adafru.it/71) (<http://adafru.it/71>)

[Click here to buy a top of the line multimeter.](http://adafru.it/308) (<http://adafru.it/308>)

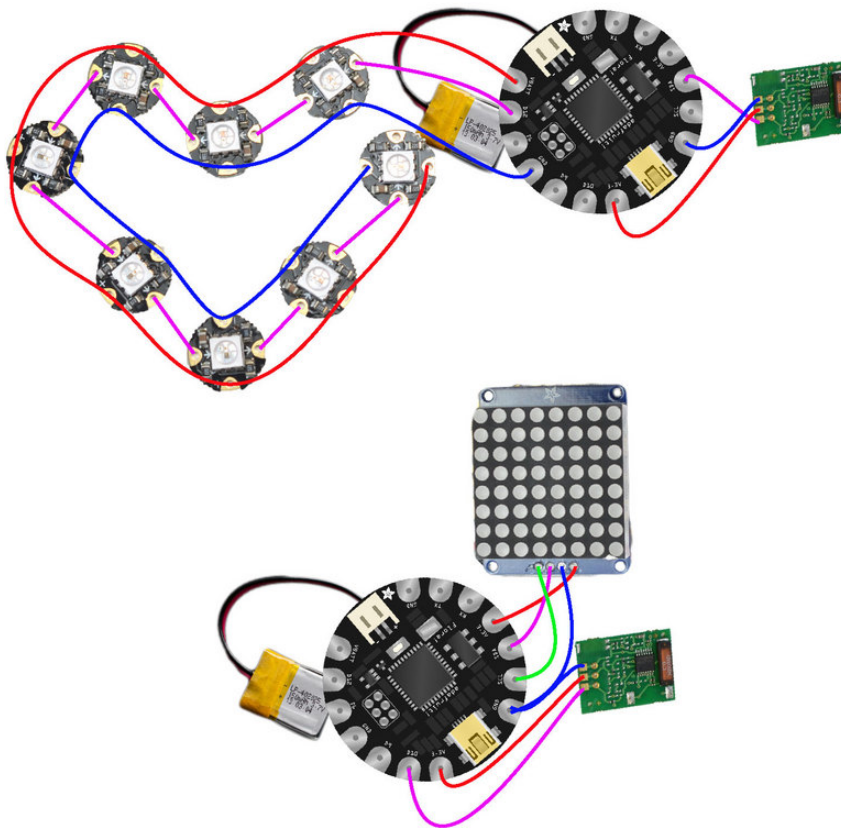
[Click here to buy a pocket multimeter.](http://adafru.it/850) (<http://adafru.it/850>)

Don't forget to learn how to use your multimeter too! (<https://adafru.it/aOy>)



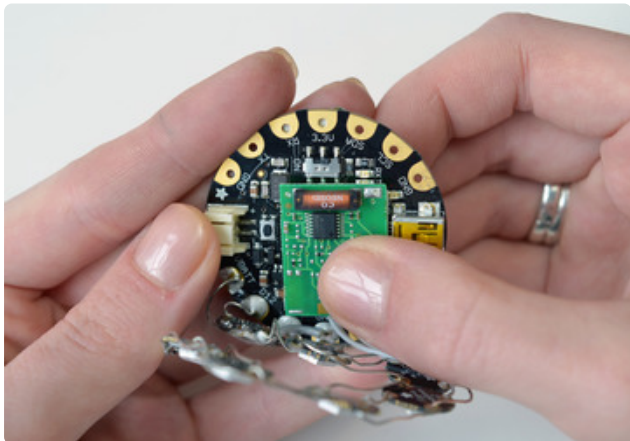
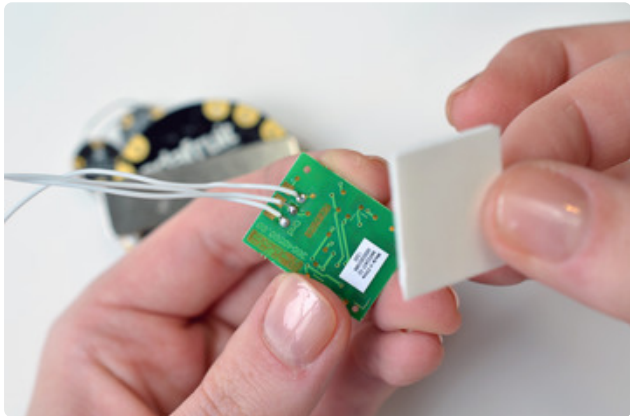
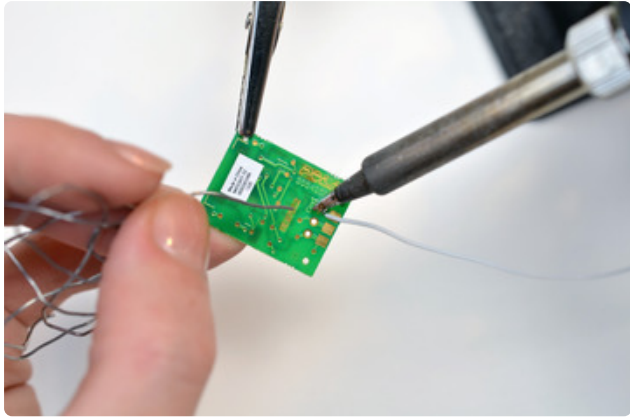
Don't forget your [wire strippers \(http://adafru.it/527\)](http://adafru.it/527), [pliers \(http://adafru.it/146\)](http://adafru.it/146), and [flush snips \(http://adafru.it/152\)](http://adafru.it/152)!

Circuit Diagram

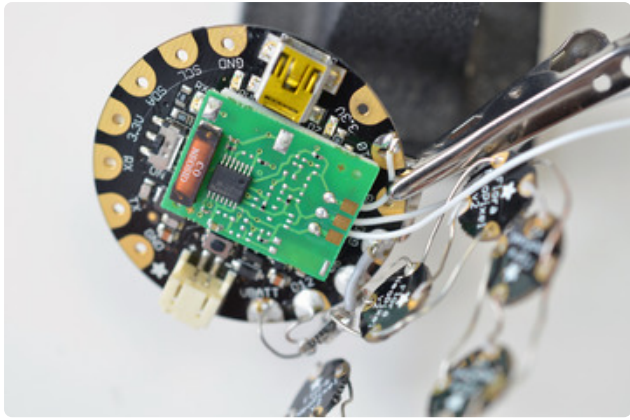


Two versions! Make a heart-shaped display with eight FLORA NeoPixels, or use an 8x8 LED matrix with i2c backpack.

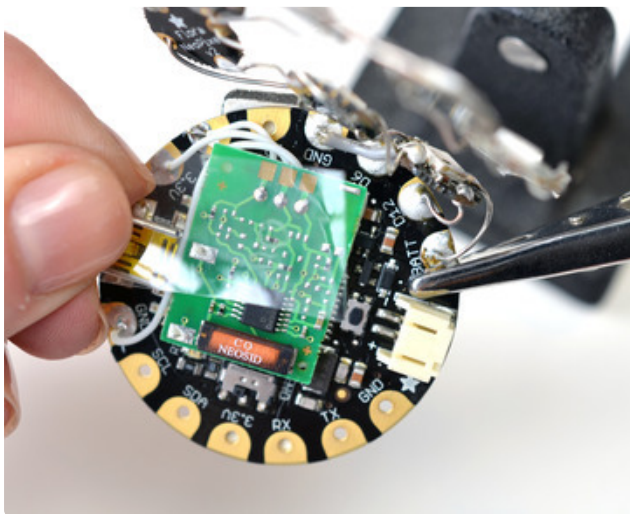
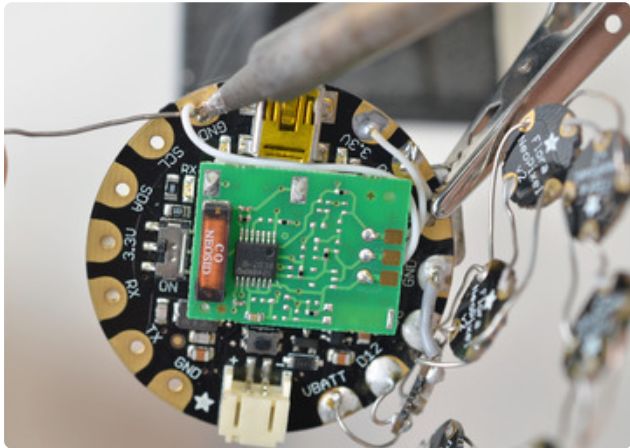
Build Circuit



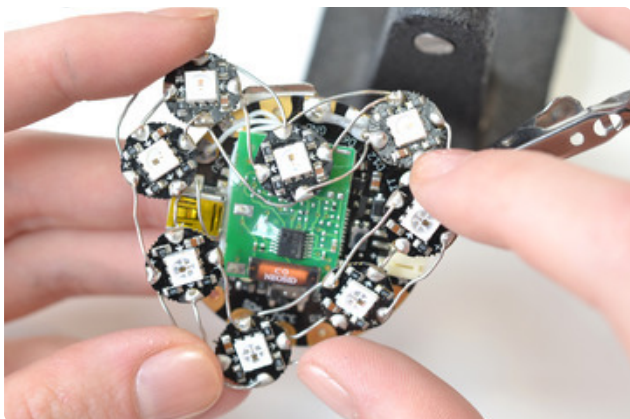
Solder three small wires to the Polar heart rate receiver, and stick it to the FLORA main board with a piece of double-stick tape or foam.



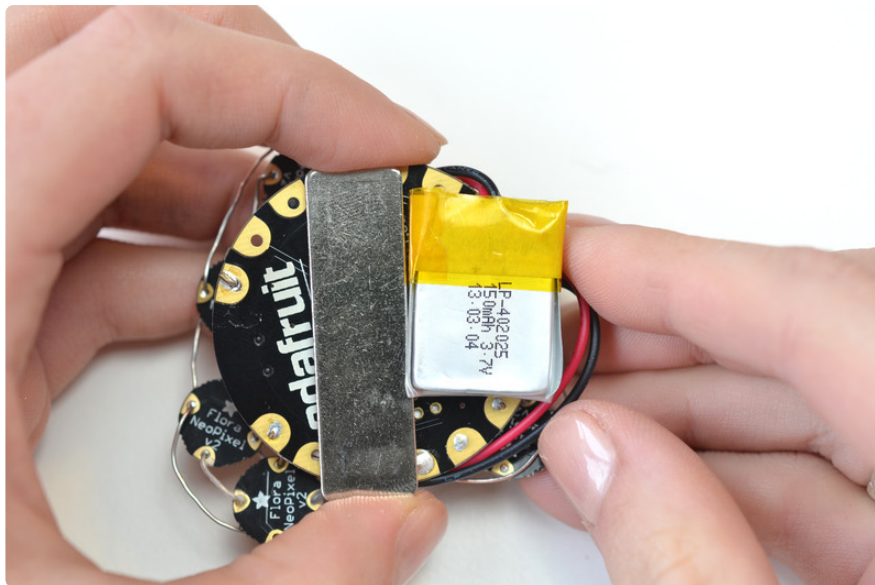
Wire up and solder the sensor to the FLORA main board according to the circuit diagram on the previous page.



Place a piece of tape over the sensor to prevent the pixel display from shorting its contacts. Lay out and solder together your heart-shaped pixel display according to the circuit diagram on the previous page, then solder the heart shape to VBATT, GND, and D12 on the FLORA main board.



If using the LED matrix instead, solder it up according to the [LED Backpack guide \(https://adafruit.it/aW8\)](https://adafruit.it/aW8), then wire it to FLORA's 3.3v, SCL, SDA, and GND pins according to the circuit diagram.



Stick the metal bar of the magnetic pin back on the back of the board, and use another piece of double-stick tape to attach the small lipoly battery right next to it.

Program it

Eight FLORA NeoPixels, arranged in the shape of a heart, are controlled by the following code according to incoming beats from the heart rate sensor. The LEDs flash brightly with each beat, visually representing your beating heart. Make sure you've got the [NeoPixel library \(https://adafru.it/aZU\)](https://adafru.it/aZU) installed, then copy and paste the following code into the [Adafruit Arduino IDE \(https://adafru.it/aVE\)](https://adafru.it/aVE):

```
/*
Heart Rate Badge with heart-shaped neopixel display
written by Becky Stern for Adafruit Industries
Based on sample code from http://learn.parallax.com/KickStart/28048
*/

#include <Adafruit_NeoPixel.h>;

// Parameter 1 = number of pixels in strip
// Parameter 2 = pin number (most are valid)
// Parameter 3 = pixel type flags, add together as needed:
//   NEO_RGB    Pixels are wired for RGB bitstream
//   NEO_GRB    Pixels are wired for GRB bitstream
//   NEO_KHZ400 400 KHz bitstream (e.g. FLORA pixels)
//   NEO_KHZ800 800 KHz bitstream (e.g. High Density LED strip)
Adafruit_NeoPixel strip = Adafruit_NeoPixel(8, 12, NEO_GRB + NEO_KHZ800);

//Definitions
const int HR_RX = 2;
byte oldSample, sample;

void setup() {
  strip.begin();
  strip.show(); // Initialize all pixels to 'off'
  colorWipe(strip.Color(20, 0, 0), 50); // Red

  Serial.begin(9600);
  pinMode (HR_RX, INPUT); //Signal pin to input
```

```

    Serial.println("Waiting for heart beat...");

    // Wait until a heart beat is detected
    while (!digitalRead(HR_RX)) {};
    Serial.println ("Heart beat detected!");
}

void loop() {
    sample = digitalRead(HR_RX); //Store signal output
    if (sample && (oldSample != sample)) {
        Serial.println("Beat");
        heartBeat();
    }
    oldSample = sample;          //Store last signal received

    for (volatile int i=0; i<strip.numPixels(); i++){
        strip.setPixelColor(i, strip.Color(20, 0, 0));
    }
    strip.show();
}

// Fill the dots one after the other with a color
void colorWipe(uint32_t c, uint8_t wait) {
    for(uint16_t i=0; i<strip.numPixels(); i++) {
        strip.setPixelColor(i, c);
        strip.show();
        delay(wait);
    }
}

void heartBeat (){
    Serial.println("heartbeat");
    for (volatile int i=0; i<strip.numPixels(); i++){
        strip.setPixelColor(i, strip.Color(255, 0, 0));
    }
    strip.show();
    delay(10);
}

```

Here's some code for a different version of the badge, using our i2c 8x8 matrix display. It scrolls your current beats per minute across the display, great for taking with you on your workout. You will need the [GFX Library \(https://adafru.it/aJa\)](https://adafru.it/aJa), [Adafruit BusIO \(https://adafru.it/GxD\)](https://adafru.it/GxD) and the [LED Backpack Library \(https://adafru.it/aLI\)](https://adafru.it/aLI).

```

/*
Heart Rate Badge with 8x8 i2c matrix
displays beats per minute
written by Becky Stern for Adafruit Industries
BPM calculation adapted from http://randomcontent.wolfnexus.net/RandomSite/arduino-hrm/
*/

#include <Wire.h>;
#include "Adafruit_LEDBackpack.h"
#include "Adafruit_GFX.h"

volatile int diff1 = 0;
volatile int diff2 = 0;
volatile int diff3 = 0;
volatile int diff4 = 0;

```

```

volatile int diff5 = 0;
volatile int diff6 = 0;
volatile int diff7 = 0;
volatile int diff8 = 0;
volatile int diff9 = 0;
volatile int diff10 = 0;
int BPM, BPMforDisplay;
unsigned long iterationCounter;
int animationPosition = 4;
byte oldSample, sample;
long pulsetime, lastpulsetime;

Adafruit_8x8matrix matrix = Adafruit_8x8matrix();

void setup() {
  Serial.begin(9600);
  Serial.println("8x8 LED Matrix Test");
  pinMode(10, INPUT);
  Serial.println("Waiting for heart beat...");

  //Wait until a heart beat is detected
  while (!digitalRead(10)) {};
  Serial.println ("Heart beat detected!");
  matrix.begin(0x70); // pass in the address
  matrix.setTextSize(1);
  matrix.setTextWrap(false); // we dont want text to wrap so it scrolls nicely
  matrix.setTextColor(LED_ON);
}

void loop() {
  /*
  sample = digitalRead(10); //Store signal output
  if (sample && (oldSample != sample)) {
    Serial.print("Beat: ");
    Serial.println(BPM);
    HRpulse();
  }
  oldSample = sample; //Store last signal received
  */
  if (animationPosition < -20){
    animationPosition = 6;
    BPMforDisplay = BPM;
  }
  sample = digitalRead(10); //Store signal output
  if (sample && (oldSample != sample)) {
    Serial.print("Beat: ");
    Serial.println(BPM);
    HRpulse();
  }
  oldSample = sample; //Store last signal received
  if (iterationCounter % 900 == 0){

    matrix.clear();
    matrix.setCursor(animationPosition,0);
    matrix.print(BPMforDisplay);
    matrix.writeDisplay();
    //delay(100);
    animationPosition--;
  }

  iterationCounter++;
  //Serial.println(iterationCounter % 1200);
}

void HRpulse()
{
  pulsetime = millis();
  rollBuffer();
  diff1 = pulsetime - lastpulsetime;
}

```

```
    if (diff10 != 0) {  
        BPM = 60000 / ((diff1 + diff2 + diff3 + diff4 + diff5 + diff6 + diff7 + diff8 +  
diff9 + diff10)/10);  
    }  
    lastpulsetime = pulsetime;  
}  
  
void rollBuffer()  
{  
    diff10 = diff9;  
    diff9 = diff8;  
    diff8 = diff7;  
    diff7 = diff6;  
    diff6 = diff5;  
    diff5 = diff4;  
    diff4 = diff3;  
    diff3 = diff2;  
    diff2 = diff1;  
    diff1 = 0;  
}
```

Wear it!



The LEDs are bright enough to shine through a layer of fabric, so diffuse with your favorite fashions or wear as-is!