



Scannable Links with NFC

Created by Erin St Blaine



<https://learn.adafruit.com/scannable-links-with-nfc>

Last updated on 2024-06-03 03:54:31 PM EDT

Table of Contents

Overview	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parts	
Program your Tag	5
Decorate your Tag	8

Overview

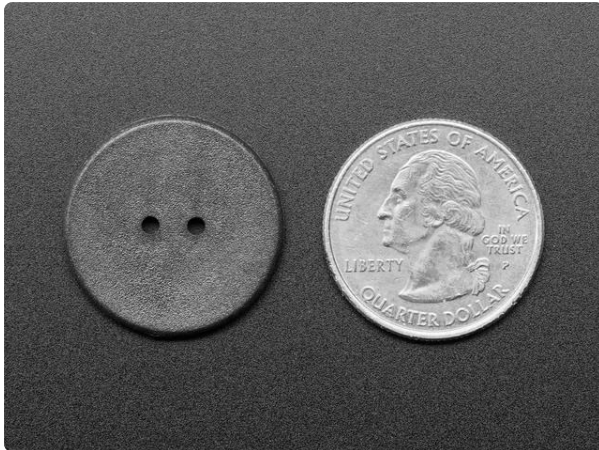
Are you a connector? Are you always handing out business cards, sending people to your Etsy store, your blog, or your product? Do you meet people at festivals or conventions and need an easy way to connect, and stay connected? This tutorial is for you.

With an NFC tag and a few clicks in a smartphone app, you can create a necklace, necktie, hat or costume piece that not only makes you look sharp, but also helps you connect with your people. Simply tap your necklace to a smart phone with NFC technology (which is most of them, these days) and your contact info will appear on their screen like magic.

Or, set up a Venmo link on your NFC tag to make a tap-to-pay sign that's even easier for your customers to use than a QR code. NFC tags offer so many possibilities.



Parts



13.56MHz RFID/NFC Black Sewable Button - NTAG213

This is a blank 13.56MHz RFID/NFC Laundry Tag Button with an NTAG213 chip - often used for laundry or garment identification,...

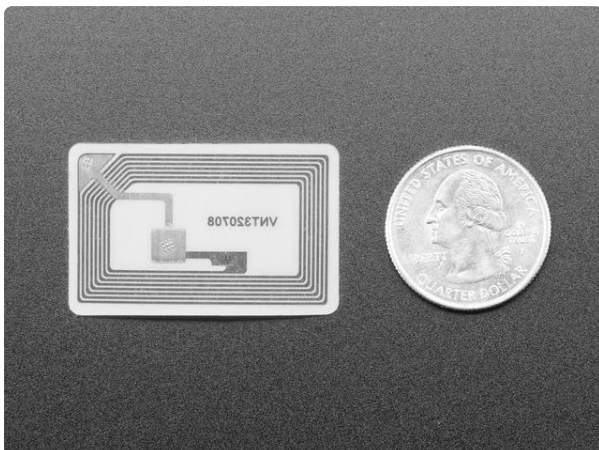
<https://www.adafruit.com/product/4429>



13.56MHz RFID/NFC White Tag - NTAG203 Chip

This is a blank 13.56MHz RFID/NFC Tag with an NTAG203 chip - often used for train/bus passes, information sharing, contactless...

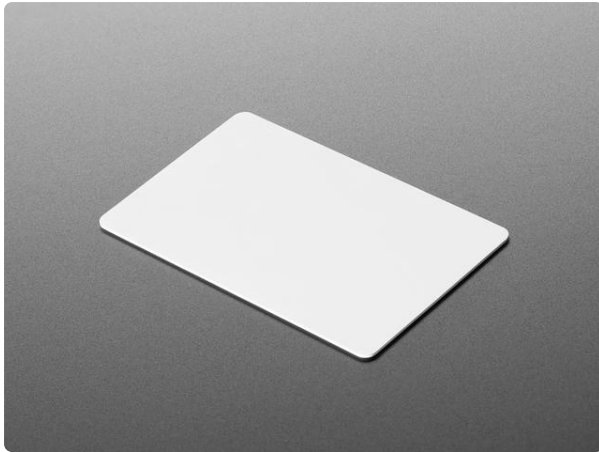
<https://www.adafruit.com/product/4033>



13.56MHz RFID/NFC Sticker - NTAG213 Tag

This is a blank 13.56MHz RFID/NFC Sticker with an NTAG213 chip - often used for train/bus passes, information sharing, and...

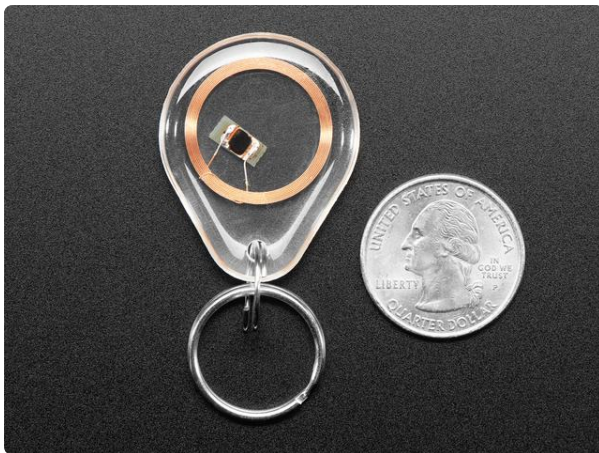
<https://www.adafruit.com/product/4032>



13.56MHz RFID/NFC Card - NTAG213 Chip

This is a blank 13.56MHz RFID/NFC Card with an NTAG213 chip - often used for train/bus passes, information sharing, contactless payment, but also...

<https://www.adafruit.com/product/4034>



NTAG213 (13.56MHz RFID/NFC) Clear Keychain Fob

This is a clear 13.56MHz RFID/NFC Keychain Fob with an NTAG213 chip - often used for train/bus passes, information sharing, and...

<https://www.adafruit.com/product/5459>

Adafruit carries a lot of different NFC tags in various formats. For this tutorial, be sure you're getting one that's labeled NTAG2** instead of "Classic" -- the newer NTAG2 devices work with modern smart phone apps and the classic tags don't.

Program your Tag

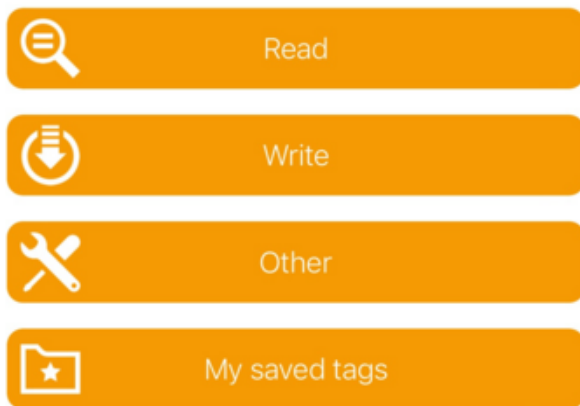
LinkTree

I have four Instagram accounts, three Facebook pages, two websites and an Etsy store. When I meet someone and want to share contact info it can get tricky to send them to the right place.

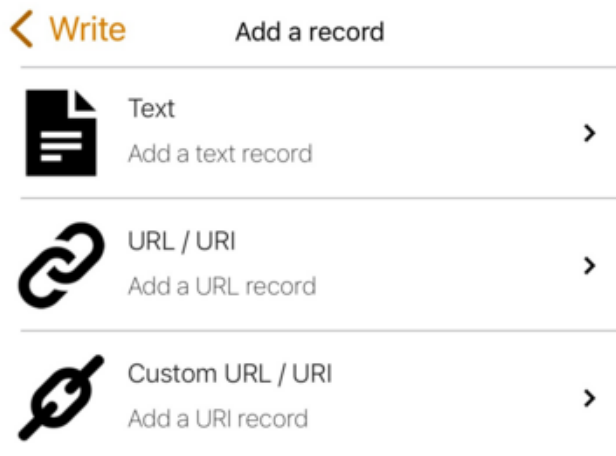
I use a free service called [LinkTree \(https://adafru.it/18Ya\)](https://adafru.it/18Ya) to solve this problem. Sign up for a free LinkTree account and you can create a simple mobile-friendly web page with a custom list of links, so folks can follow whichever account you want, or get a quick Venmo link.

Using a service like LinkTree means your tag(s) won't require re-programming as social media platforms come and go; your LinkTree "parking space" stays put, you just curate the links there.

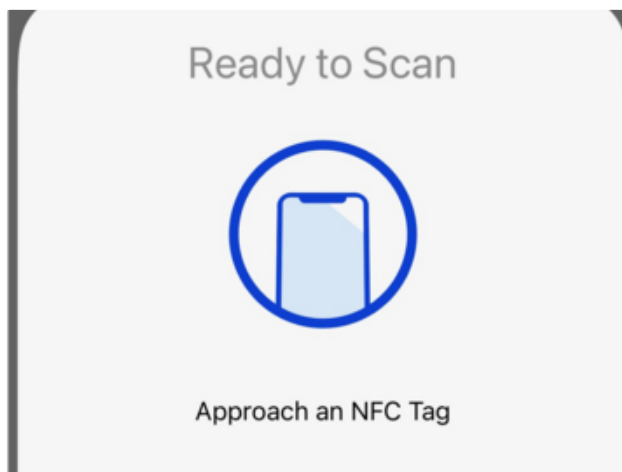
Go to the App Store (for iPhone) or the Google Play store (for Android) and download the **NFC Tools** app. There are several apps available for writing to NFC chips, but this is the one I had the most success with after testing a few.



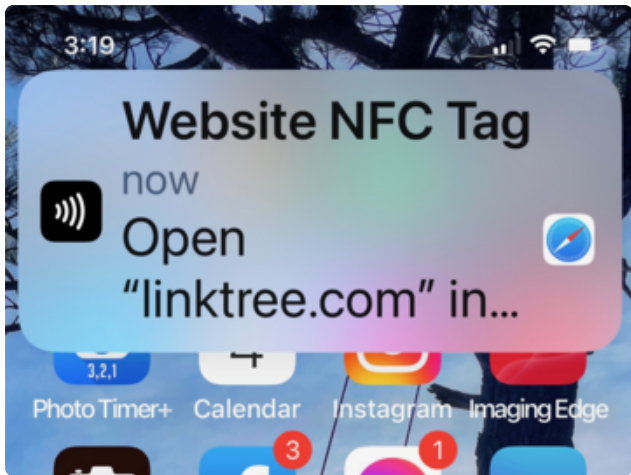
Open the app and click the "Write" button, then click "Add a record".



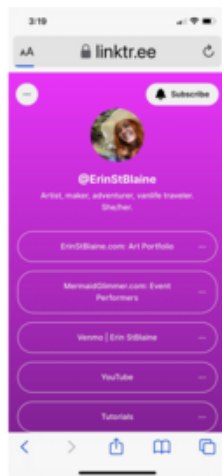
You have a lot of options here, so feel free to explore. For this guide, click "URI" to add a URI record. This will pop up whatever link you'd like on your new friend's phone when you tap it with your necklace.



Once you've entered your URI, click "Write" and bring your NFC tag close to the top of your phone. The phone will scan the tag and program it with the URI you've chosen.



Now, take your NFC tag and tap it on the top of your smart phone. If everything worked, you'll see a notification with a clickable link that opens up a web browser and displays your URI. Success! That was easy.



The user clicks the link and your site appears like magic!

Troubleshooting

If you're not having success, here are a few things to try:

1. Do you have an NTAG2 device? These apps don't work with the classic tags.
2. Try a different app. I had more success with NFC Tools than with some of the others available, but your results may vary.
3. Bluetooth NFC connections are not allowed on iPhone devices -- Apple has blocked this avenue. Disappointing, but iPhone users can still create links or use many of the other available features.

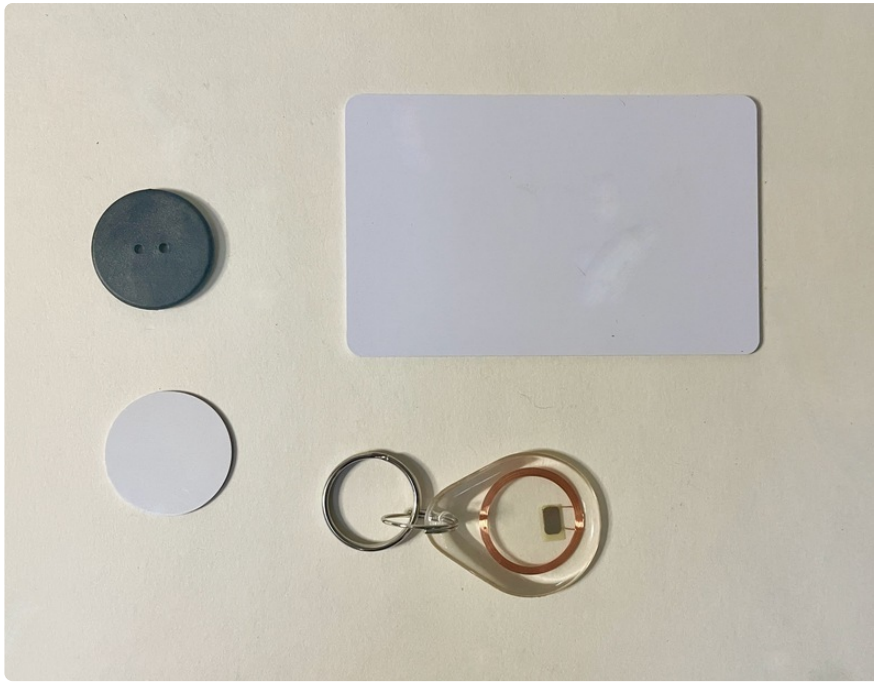
Decorate your Tag



These tags are small and light and can be attached to almost anything. The NFC stickers are flexible and can be wrapped around a pen or stuck to your festival totem. Our NFC buttons can be sewn onto any piece of clothing or a purse. My favorite is the NFC dots: a small round disc about the size of a quarter. These can be easily hidden inside a necklace or other costume piece, or hidden under a sticker on your backpack.

You can also go old-school and use a credit card sized NFC, to replace the classic stack of business cards in your wallet.

The one thing you'll want to avoid is placing them in or near anything made of metal. The metal will block the signal and the tag reader won't work.



And that's really all there is to it! Straightforward once you have the walk-through; all those acronyms and frequencies only make it seem complex.