

# Team 3176 White Paper

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## Abstract

The paper outlines effective ways of controlling the LED's via the Arduino IDE program and Arduino microcontroller, as well as controlling the lights from the RoboRio

## Definitions

Arduino- Microcontroller the assigns values to the LED's and is capable of powering and controlling them.

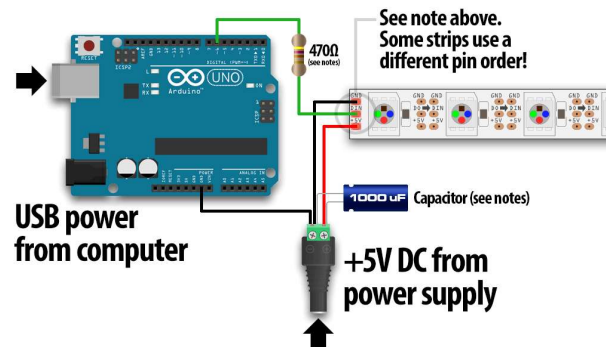
Arduino IDE- the program that will upload its code to the Arduino to control the LED's

## Wiring Outline

When connecting the wires be sure to

- Connect power from the power part of the NeoPixel strip to the positive end of the DC adapter (alternatively you can power the LED's from the five volt pin on the Arduino)
- Connect a ground wire from the ground part of the NeoPixel strip to the DC adapter, and from the adapter to one of the ground pins on the Arduino microcontroller.

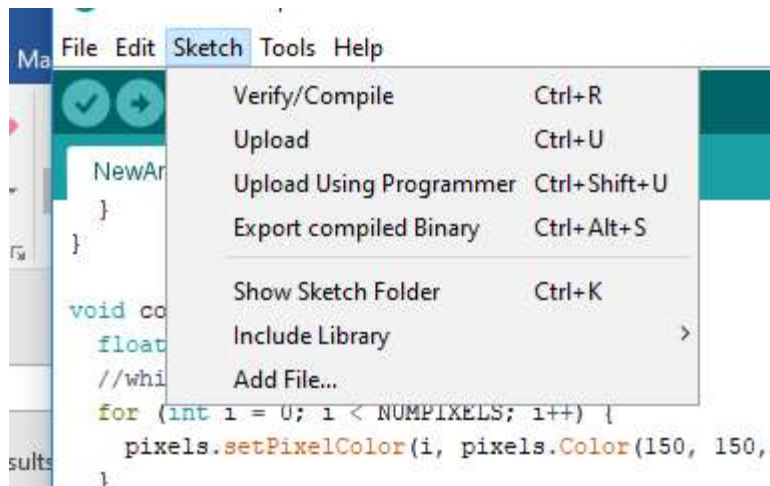
- Be sure to connect the 1000uF capacitor to the DC adapter if you use it (a diagram for a DC adapter show below)



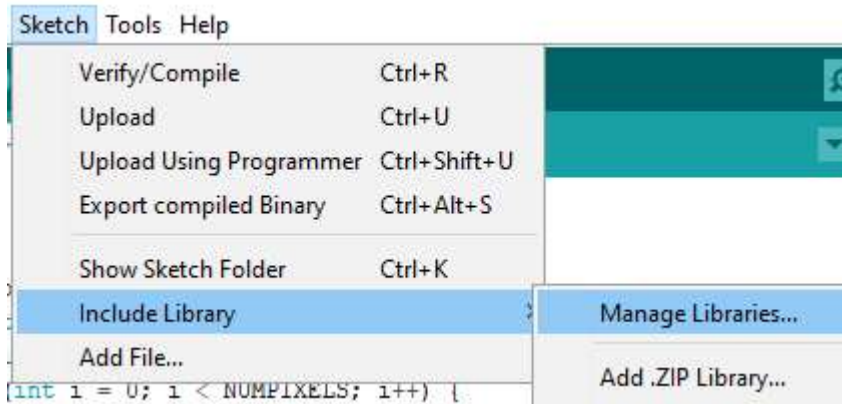
- Connect the DI wire to a 470 ohm resistor and plug that into whatever PIN you assign in the Arduino IDE
- Connect ground first and disconnect ground last

### Setting Up the NeoPixel Library

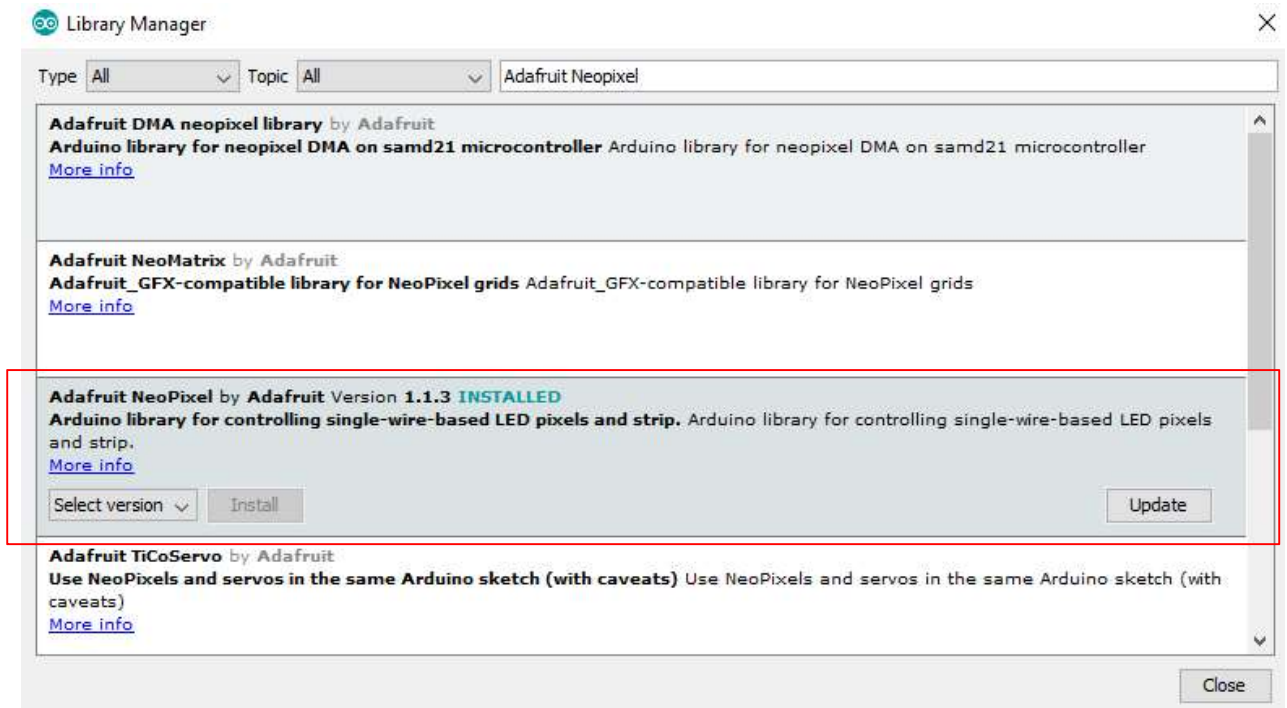
- The first thing to do when creating a NeoPixel program on a computer is to import the NeoPixel library with the following steps:
- Click the “Sketch” tab



- Mouse over “Include Library” and click “Manage Library”



- Search “Adafruit NeoPixel” and click on the library



### Important Methods and Practices for the Arduino IDE

- `#define PIN`      `X` Defines a PIN to use on the microcontroller(Replace X with the pin you choose)
- `#define NUMPIXELS`    `X`      Defines a number of pixels X that are on the strip
- `#ifdef __AVR__`

```
#include <avr/power.h>
```

```
#endif
```

These lines initialize the language

This is an example of the initialization of those lines

```
#include <Adafruit_NeoPixel.h>
```

```
#include <Wire.h>
```

```
#ifdef __AVR__
```

```
#include <avr/power.h>
```

```
#endif
```

```
#define PIN      8
```

```
#define NUMPIXELS 150
```

```
Adafruit_NeoPixel pixels = Adafruit_NeoPixel(NUMPIXELS, PIN, NEO_GRB +  
NEO_KHZ800);
```

- The following method is a replacement for the delay() method:

```
void wait(long x) {  
    long currentTime = millis();  
    long goTime = millis() + x;  
    while (currentTime < goTime) {  
        currentTime = millis();  
    }  
}
```

```
}
```

- The issue with the delay() method is that it pauses the processor so it cannot accept inputs.

This method serves as a solution for this problem.

- This line gives each pixel an ID:

```
Adafruit_NeoPixel pixels = Adafruit_NeoPixel(NUMPIXELS, PIN, NEO_GRB +  
NEO_KHZ800);
```

- This method sets a pixel to a color:

```
pixels.setPixelColor(<pixelID>, pixels.Color(<Red Value>, <Green Value>, <Blue  
Value>);
```

- This method initializes the pixel library:

```
pixels.begin();
```

- When attempting to light a strip, it is bad practice to light up LED's line by line. Instead, use the following code segments to achieve the same effect in a cleaner way.

```
//Every other LED beginning with the first
```

```
for (int i = 0; i < NUMPIXELS; i += 2) {  
    pixels.setPixelColor(i, pixels.Color(0, 0, 0));  
}
```

```
//Every other LED beginning with the second
```

```
for (int i = 1; i < NUMPIXELS; i += 2) {  
    pixels.setPixelColor(i, pixels.Color(150, 0, 150));  
}  
  
pixels.show();
```

```
//Every LED

for (int i = 0; i < NUMPIXELS; i++) {

    pixels.setPixelColor(i, pixels.Color(150, 150, 150));

}

pixels.show();
```

```
//Cycle through LED's

for (int i = 0; i < NUMPIXELS; i++) {

    pixels.setPixelColor(i, pixels.Color(150, 0, 150));

    pixels.show();

    wait(10);

    pixels.setPixelColor(i, pixels.Color(0, 0, 0));

    pixels.show();

}
```