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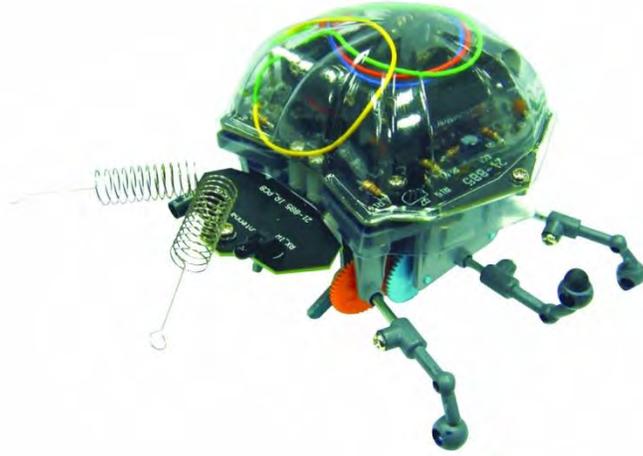
## idea packet

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## From Squishy Circuits to Robotics





## From Squishy Circuits to Robotics

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## Goals and Objectives:

- Students will learn about conductors, insulators, and resistance.
- Students will learn about open circuits, closed circuits, and short circuits.
- Students will learn about series circuits and parallel circuits.
- Students will learn that different circuit designs result in different electrical behaviors.
- Students will learn about current flow and the operational differences between series and parallel circuits.
- Students will learn to predict outcomes and draw conclusions.
- Students will learn about teamwork and working in groups.

## Common Core State Standards:

(<http://www.corestandards.org/>)

### English Language Arts Standards in Science & Technical Subjects for Grade 6-8- Reading

- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RST.6-8.1 Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of science and technical texts.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RST.6-8.2 Determine the central ideas or conclusions of a text; provide an accurate summary of the text distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RST.6-8.3 Follow precisely a multistep procedure when carrying out experiments, taking measurements, or performing technical tasks.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RST.6-8.4 Determine the meaning of symbols, key terms, and other domain-specific words and phrases as they are used in a specific scientific or technical context relevant to grades 6–8 texts and topics.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RST.6-8.6 Analyze the author’s purpose in providing an explanation, describing a procedure, or discussing an experiment in a text.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RST.6-8.7 Integrate quantitative or technical information expressed in words in a text with a version of that information expressed visually (e.g., in a flowchart, diagram, model, graph, or table).
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RST.6-8.9 Compare and contrast the information gained from experiments, simulations, video, or multimedia sources with that gained from reading a text on the same topic.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RST.6-8.10 By the end of grade 8, read and comprehend science/technical texts in the grades 6–8 text complexity band independently and proficiently.

### English Language Arts Standards in Science & Technical Subjects for Grade 6-8- Writing

- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.6-8.1 Write arguments focused on discipline-specific content.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.6-8.2 Write informative/explanatory texts, including the narration of historical events, scientific procedures/ experiments, or technical processes.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.6-8.4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.6-8.5 With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on how well purpose and audience have been addressed.
- CSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.6-8.6 Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and present the relationships between information and ideas clearly and efficiently.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.6-8.7 Conduct short research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question), drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions that allow for multiple avenues of exploration.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.6-8.8 Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.6-8.9 Draw evidence from informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.6-8.10 Write routinely over extended time frames (time for reflection and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.

### **English Language Arts Standards in Science & Technical Subjects for Grade 6-8- Speaking & Listening**

- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.8.1 Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 8 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.8.3 Delineate a speaker's argument and specific claims, evaluating the soundness of the reasoning and relevance and sufficiency of the evidence and identifying when irrelevant evidence is introduced.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.8.4 Present claims and findings, emphasizing salient points in a focused, coherent manner with relevant evidence, sound valid reasoning, and well-chosen details; use appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.8.5 Integrate multimedia and visual displays into presentations to clarify information, strengthen claims and evidence, and add interest.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.8.6 Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate. (See grade 8 Language standards 1 and 3 here for specific expectations.)

### **Sunshine State Standards:**

- MA.912.S.1.1: Formulate an appropriate research question to be answered by collecting data or performing an experiment.
- SC.6.P.11.1 Explore the Law of Conservation of Energy by differentiating between potential and kinetic energy. Identify situations where kinetic energy is transformed into potential energy and vice versa.

- SC.7.P.11.3 Cite evidence to explain that energy cannot be created nor destroyed, only changed from one form to another.
- SC.7.N.1.3 Distinguish between an experiment (which must involve the identification and control of variables) and other forms of scientific investigation and explain that not all scientific knowledge is derived from experimentation.
- SC.6.N.1.5 Recognize that science involves creativity, not just in designing experiments, but also in creating explanations that fit evidence.

### **National Science Education Standards Grades 5-8:**

- CONTENT STANDARD A: Science as Inquiry  
As a result of activities, all students should develop
  - Abilities necessary to do scientific inquiry
  - Understandings about scientific inquiry
- CONTENT STANDARD B: Physical Science  
As a result of their activities, all students should develop an understanding of
  - Transfer of energy
- CONTENT STANDARD E: Science and Technology  
As a result of activities, all students should develop
  - Understandings about science and technology

### **Standards for Technological Literacy- All Ages:**

- Design
  - Standard 8: Students will develop an understanding of the attributes of design.
  - Standard 9: Students will develop an understanding of engineering design.
  - Standard 10: Students will develop an understanding of the role of troubleshooting, research and development, invention and innovation, and experimentation in problem solving.

## **Course Outline/Overview**

The STEM Elective offered at David Lawrence Jr. K8 Center is a hands-on, project-oriented, interdisciplinary introductory engineering course. The class is a one credit course designed to address national educational standards in Science, Technology, Engineering, Math, and the Arts. Most of the activities which take place in the classroom during the first part of the school year are centered around the Miami-Dade County SECME Competition. So, my students learn about the engineering design process and the concepts of mechanical energy while building mousetrap cars. In addition, the students learn about electrical energy and robotics while preparing for the robotic hand competition. This lesson plan was used to get students ready to build the robotic hand.

This project was inspired by a lesson plan found online by Perry Roth-Johnson & Chris Nguyen at BEAM UCLA ([http://beam.ucla.edu/sites/default/files/docs/Squishy\\_Circuits.pdf](http://beam.ucla.edu/sites/default/files/docs/Squishy_Circuits.pdf)). Electrical Circuits are the foundation of our modern, technology-driven lives. Everything from simple light bulbs to complex devices like iPhones depend on electrical circuits in order to function. The main point of this lesson is to give students in my STEM Electives a hands-on experience with circuits. Students will work with a non-traditional circuit technology, learn to solder, and finally build a robot with their new soldering skills. This experience includes an introduction to circuits using conductive playdough and insulating playdough, followed by the use of learn- to-solder kits and ladybug soldering robot kits.

### **Lesson Plans & Step-By-Step Implementation Guide:**

The following implementation guide is a summary of the lessons I followed during the curricular unit for a group of middle school students enrolled in a STEM/Critical Thinking Elective. Each lesson plan can be adapted to meet the desired objectives or available time.

## Lesson 1: Engineering in Our Daily Lives

**Kick-Off:** In order to get students to start thinking about how important Engineering is as a career, ask them to think about how different their world is today from those of their parents and grandparents. Share with them a story about how teenagers enjoying music at home has changed over time. For example, younger students of today are not familiar with a cassette tape. Show pictures of music players from different periods of time.



### Materials & Resources:

- Computer
- Projector
- Internet

***Activities and Strategies:***

1. Ask students to list 5 items that they own or use on a daily basis that they cannot imagine living without.
2. Next, ask them to describe how they believe the items evolved into their current forms. Students can sketch or give written descriptions.
3. Now, ask the students to list all of the different types of people who influenced the creation, design, and evolution of each item.
4. Students should be encouraged to imagine the backgrounds, careers, education, and lifestyles of the people who were involved in the evolution of their items.
5. After being given time to work on their responses without the use of the Internet, students should be allowed to go on the Internet and research any missing gaps in their responses.

***Assessment:*** Students will be given the opportunity to present their findings to the rest of the class and will be graded with a rubric.

***Extension:*** As an extension to this activity, students are encouraged to bring in pictures or items from their homes which exemplify one of the items they listed in their responses.

## Lesson 2: Squishy Circuits

This lesson is available online from the University of St. Thomas at

<http://courseweb.stthomas.edu/apthomas/SquishyCircuits/PDFs/Squishy%20Circuits%20Classroom%20Guide.pdf> and from BEAM UCLA at [http://beam.ucla.edu/sites/default/files/docs/Squishy\\_Circuits.pdf](http://beam.ucla.edu/sites/default/files/docs/Squishy_Circuits.pdf).

### Background Information:

This lesson plan includes recipes for two kinds of playdough: conductive dough and insulating dough.

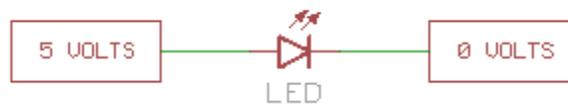
These two kinds of playdough can be used together to introduce kids to the fundamental concepts that make electrical circuits work. Sparkfun.com has an excellent introduction to circuits as well as a

simulation of current flowing through a simple circuit. The link for the website is

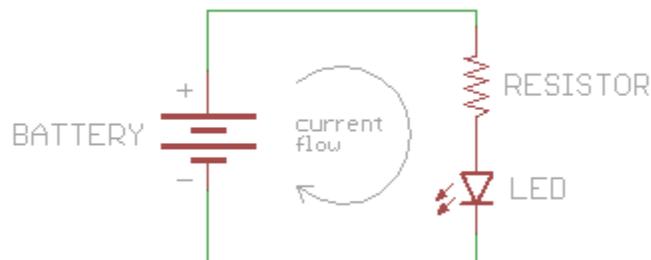
<https://learn.sparkfun.com/tutorials/what-is-a-circuit>.

The following background information is from the Sparkfun website:

- A battery or a wall outlet has a certain number of **volts**. This is a measurement of the electrical **potential** produced by the battery, or the utility grid connected to the wall outlet.
- **In order for electricity to do any work, it needs to be able to move.** It's kind of like a blown-up balloon; if you pinch it off, there is air in there that could do something if it's released, but it won't actually do anything until you let it out.
- Electricity can only flow through materials that can conduct electricity, such as copper wire.
- **Electricity wants to flow from a higher voltage to a lower voltage.**
- If you create a conductive path between a higher voltage and a lower voltage, electricity will flow along that path. And if you insert something useful into that path like an LED, the flowing electricity will do some work for you, like lighting up that LED. Huzzah!

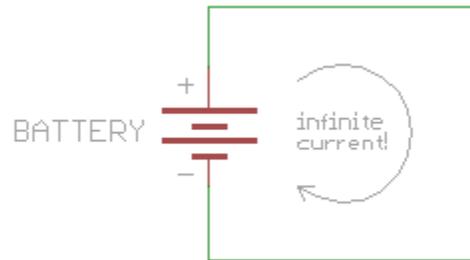


- **Every source of electricity has two sides.** You can see this on batteries, which have metal caps on both ends, or your wall outlet that has two (or more) holes. In batteries and other DC (Direct Current) voltage sources, these sides (often called **terminals**) are named **positive** (or "+"), and **negative** (or "-").
- **A circuit is a circular path, which is always required to get electricity to flow and do something useful.** A circuit is a path that starts and stops at the same place.

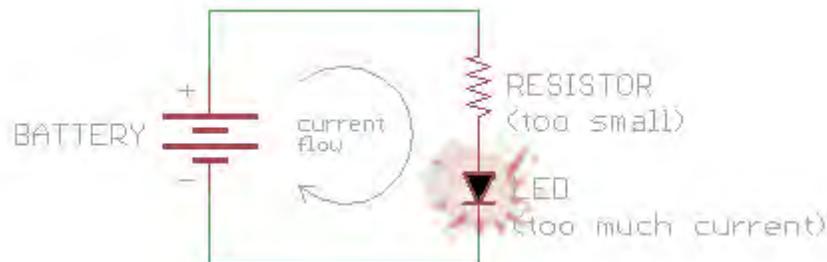


- The reason we want to build circuits is to make electricity do useful things for us. The way we do that is by putting things in the circuit that use the current flow to light up, make noise, run programs, etc.

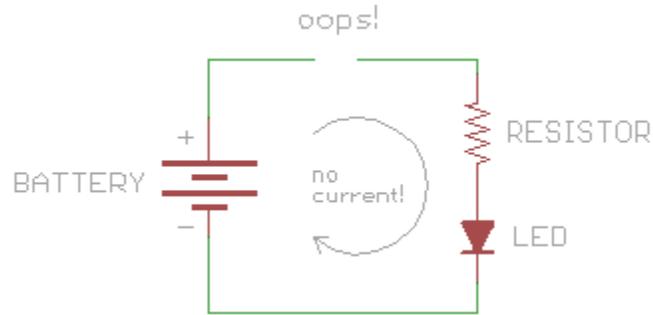
- These things are called **loads**, because they “load down” the power supply, just like you’re “loaded down” when you’re carrying something. The same way you could be loaded down with too much weight, it’s possible to load down a power supply too much, which will slow down the current flow. But unlike you, it’s also possible to load down a circuit too little - this may let too much current flow (imagine running too fast if you weren’t carrying any weight), which can burn out your parts or even the power supply.
- Short Circuit-DON’T DO THIS, but if you connect a wire directly from the positive to the negative side of a power supply, you’ll create what is called a **short circuit**. This is a very bad idea.



- If you DON’T put anything in to restrict the current flow, there won’t be anything to slow down the current, and it will try to be infinite! Your power supply can’t provide infinite current, but it will provide as much as it can, which may be a lot. This could cause your wire to burn up, damage the power supply, drain your battery, or other exciting things. Most of the time your power supply will have some sort of safety mechanism built into it to limit the maximum current in the event of a short circuit, but not always. This is the reason all homes and buildings have circuit breakers, to prevent fires from starting in the event of a short circuit somewhere in the wiring.
- A closely related problem is accidentally letting too much current flow through part of your circuit, causing a part to burn up. This isn’t quite a short circuit, but it’s close. This most often happens when you use the incorrect **resistor** value, which lets too much current flow through another component such as an LED.



- The bottom line: **if you notice that things are suddenly becoming hot or a part suddenly burns out, immediately turn off the power and look for possible short circuits.**
- Open Circuit- The opposite of a short circuit is an **open circuit**. This is a circuit where the loop isn’t fully connected (and therefore this isn’t really a circuit at all).



- Unlike the short circuit above, nothing will get hurt by this “circuit”, but your circuit won’t work either. If you’re new at circuits, it can often be hard to find where the break is, especially if you’re using breadboards where all the conductors are hidden.
- **If your circuit doesn’t work, the most likely cause is an open circuit.** This is usually due to a broken connection or a loose wire. (Short circuits can steal all the power from the rest of your circuit, so be sure to look for those as well.)
- **TIP:** if you can’t easily find where your circuit is open, a multimeter can be very useful tool. If you set it to measure volts, you can use it to check the voltage at various points in your powered circuit, and eventually find the point where voltage isn’t getting through.

The following background information is from the BEAM UCLA website referring to the dough which will be used to make the circuit models:

- A conductor allows electricity to easily flow through it.
- The conductive dough contains salt, which helps electricity flow through the dough because the salt (sodium chloride, or NaCl) dissociates into sodium (Na+) and chlorine (Cl-) ions.
- An insulator does not let electricity flow through it easily. Because of this, they act as a wall to electricity and the electricity must go around them. If a path around the insulator is not available, the circuit cannot be completed. The insulating dough recipe does not use salt, so no ions are available to allow electricity to flow.
- The insulating dough also uses distilled water that contains little or no ions, whereas the conductive dough uses tap water that usually contains some ions.
- All materials have a property called resistance, which is related to how easily it allows electricity to flow through it.
- Insulators have a high resistance.
- Conductors have a low resistance.
- Insulators act as “walls” that block electricity from flowing.
- Conductors act as “roads” that allow electricity to easily travel along them.
- In order to build a circuit, we must provide a continuous path for electricity to flow from a power source (for example, a battery), through a conductor, into a device that uses the power (for example, a light bulb), and back through another conductor to the power source. This is called a closed circuit.
- If this continuous path is broken anywhere, electricity will not flow and the light bulb will not work. This is called an open circuit.
- If the conductors in a closed circuit are touched together, it forms a new type of undesirable circuit called a short circuit. Electricity will still flow through the circuit, but the light bulb will not work. This is because the light bulb has a higher resistance than the conductors, and the electricity is “lazy” – it would rather travel through the conductors when they are touching than exert extra effort to travel through the light bulb.
- There are two types of closed circuits: series and parallel circuits.

- *Series circuits only provide one path for electricity to flow.*
- *Parallel circuits provide multiple paths for electricity to flow.*

**Materials & Resources :**

Flour , salt, cream of tartar, vegetable oil, food coloring, sugar, deionized or distilled water, granulated (powdered) alum, 9V batteries, heavy-duty 9V snap connectors, 10 mm LED assortment (Evil Mad Science <http://evilmadscience.com/productsmenu/partsmenu/368>), tap water, hot plate, non-stick pan, plastic spatula, sturdy spoon, worksheet,

**Activities and Strategies:**

1. Teacher or students make the dough according to the recipe listed below:
  - a. Conductive dough recipe [<http://youtu.be/cpUFL5LZpv4>]
    - i. 1 cup (tap) water
    - ii. 1 1/2 cups flour
    - iii. 1/4 cup salt
    - iv. 3 Tbsp. cream of tartar
    - v. 1 Tbsp. vegetable oil
    - vi. food coloring (optional)
  - b. Insulating dough recipe [<http://youtu.be/Wz8rGnt-iEQ>]
    - i. 1 1/2 cup flour
    - ii. 1/2 cup sugar
    - iii. 3 Tbsp. vegetable oil
    - iv. 1/2 cup deionized (or distilled) water
    - v. 1 tsp. granulated alum (optional)
2. Students follow along on worksheet and build Squishy Circuits
3. Students design and build their own circuits. For example, they can build circuit sculptures. First, have the students sketch their designs on paper. Then, they can build and test their designs.

**Assessment:**

Informal assessment takes place while students are working with the dough and building the Squishy Circuits. Informal discussions continue afterwards. Discuss which types of circuits worked and which didn't, ask students what is the difference between a series and parallel circuit is, and why one dough conducts electricity and the other doesn't. A formal assessment could be in the form of a test or quiz or presentation.

**Tips from BEAM UCLA:**

- *Don't connect the 9V battery directly to the LED, it may burn the LED out.*
- *Try not to mash the two types of dough into each other. This makes it difficult to separate them for future classes.*
- *The LED only works in one direction. This is called polarity. Notice how one "leg" of the LED is slightly longer than the other one. The longer leg should always be attached to the positive (red) wire from the battery.*

- *Sometimes, thin strands of insulating dough will still conduct some electricity, and the LED will become dimly lit. If this happens, use it as an opportunity to discuss resistance!*
- *Don't cross the wires on the battery connectors – this will short out the battery! It may heat up and explode.*
- *Warn students to always be careful when experimenting with electricity. High voltages and high currents can be deadly. For example, they should never stick wires or other objects into wall sockets. It's best to always do these activities with adult supervision.*

### **Extensions:**

If you are comfortable with taking the next step with this lesson, you can introduce the basics of soldering to your students by ordering ELENCO Learn-to-Solder Kits from Amazon.com. After the students have practiced with the kits, they can try out their new skills by making a Ladybug Robot Kit which requires soldering. Volunteers from the community or parent organizations are often available to come into your classrooms to assist with these types of activities. This is also a possible extension for an afterschool club.

### **Resource List**

- [http://beam.ucla.edu/sites/default/files/docs/Squishy\\_Circuits.pdf](http://beam.ucla.edu/sites/default/files/docs/Squishy_Circuits.pdf)
- <http://www.tryengineering.org/sites/default/files/lessons/serpar.pdf>
- <http://courseweb.stthomas.edu/apthomas/SquishyCircuits/PDFs/Squishy%20Circuits%20Classroom%20Guide.pdf>
- <http://youtu.be/cpUFL5LZpv4>
- <http://youtu.be/Wz8rGnt-iEQ>
- <http://shop.evilmadscientist.com/productsmenu/partsmenu/368>
- [http://www.teachengineering.org/view\\_lesson.php?url=collection%2Fumo\\_%2Flessons%2Fumo\\_robotsandhumans\\_lessons%2Fumo\\_robotsandhumans\\_less2.xml&state=Common+Core+State+Standards+for+Mathematics#objectives](http://www.teachengineering.org/view_lesson.php?url=collection%2Fumo_%2Flessons%2Fumo_robotsandhumans_lessons%2Fumo_robotsandhumans_less2.xml&state=Common+Core+State+Standards+for+Mathematics#objectives)
- [http://www.ted.com/talks/annmarie\\_thomas\\_squishy\\_circuits.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/annmarie_thomas_squishy_circuits.html)

# Squishy Circuits

## - Classroom Guide -

Squishy Circuits are a great way to introduce electronics education into your curriculum by using two different doughs as circuit building materials. Because of the playful nature of the dough, this activity is suitable for children of all ages. The doughs are made with readily available ingredients such as flour and salt.

This teacher's guide contains the dough recipes, basic instructions, helpful hints and sample worksheets. All of this material is free and open-source, courtesy of the University of St. Thomas.

If any questions, comments, or concerns arise, we urge you to contact us via our website:

[www.StThomas.edu/SquishyCircuits](http://www.StThomas.edu/SquishyCircuits)

We also have how-to videos and other support materials located there.

We ask that you join our Squishy Circuits community by sharing your experiences and photos of your creations online:

[www.Facebook.com/SquishyCircuits](http://www.Facebook.com/SquishyCircuits)

Thank you -

The Squishy Circuits Team

[www.StThomas.edu/SquishyCircuits](http://www.StThomas.edu/SquishyCircuits)

# Squishy Circuits

## - Conductive Dough -

A conductor allows electricity to easily flow through it. In this recipe, the salt helps electricity flow because it dissociates into  $\text{Na}^+$  and  $\text{Cl}^-$  ions.

### Ingredients:

1 cup Water

1 1/2 cups Flour

(A gluten free version of this dough can be made by replacing the flour with gluten-free flour.)

1/4 cup Salt

3 Tbsp. Cream of Tartar

1 Tbsp. Vegetable Oil

Food Coloring (optional)

### Step 1:

Mix water, 1 cup of flour, salt, cream of tartar, vegetable oil, and food coloring in a medium sized pot.



### Step 2:

Cook over medium heat and stir continuously. The mixture will begin to heat and start to get chunky.



# Squishy Circuits

## - Conductive Dough -



### Step 3:

Keep stirring the mixture until it forms a ball in the center of the pot.



### Step 4:

Once a ball forms, place the ball on a lightly floured surface.

**WARNING:** The ball will be very hot. We suggest flattening it out and letting it cool for a couple minutes before handling.



### Step 5:

Slowly knead the remaining flour into the ball until you've reached a desired consistency.



### Step 6:

Store in an airtight container or plastic bag. While in the bag, water from the dough will create condensation. This is normal. Just knead the dough after removing it from the bag, and it will be as good as new.

# Squishy Circuits

## - Insulating Dough -

An insulator does not let electricity flow through it easily. Because of this, they act as a wall to electricity and the electricity must go around them. If a path around the insulator is not available, the circuit cannot be completed.

### Ingredients:

1 1/2 cup Flour

1/2 cup Sugar

3 Tbsp. Vegetable Oil

1 tsp. Granulated Alum (optional)

(The alum helps preserve the dough.)

1/2 cup Deionized (or Distilled) Water

(Regular tap water can be used, but the resistance of the dough will be lower.)

### Step 1:

Mix solid ingredients and oil in a pot or large bowl, setting aside 1/2 cup flour to be used later.



### Step 2:

Mix with this mixture a small amount of deionized water (about 1 Tbsp.) and stir. Repeat this step until a majority water is absorbed by the mixture.



# Squishy Circuits

## - Insulating Dough -



### Step 3:

Once your mixture is at this consistency, knead the mixture into one “lump”.



### Step 4:

Knead more water into the dough until it has a sticky, dough-like texture.



### Step 5:

Now, knead in flour to the dough, until a desired texture is reached.

Store in an airtight container or plastic bag. While in the bag, water from the dough will create condensation. This is normal. Just knead the dough after removing it from the bag, and it will be as good as new.

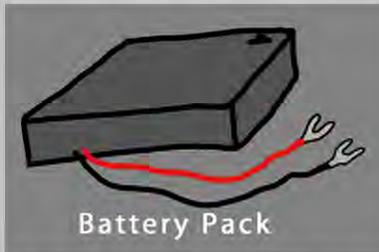
# Squishy Circuits

## - Basic Components -

Our website has a list of our favorite suppliers, but many components will work for Squishy Circuits! We encourage you to experiment with your own components.

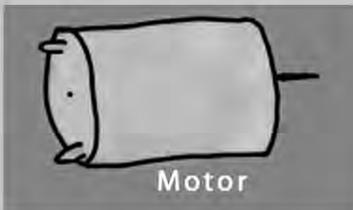
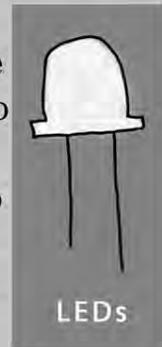
We recommend adding terminals to the end of your components (other than LEDs) to increase the electrical contact surface area. Instructions for doing this are available on our website.

Also, it is important to note that the salt in the conductive dough tends to corrode the terminals. Wiping the components and terminals with a wet cloth may help prolong their life.



We use a 4 AA Battery Pack with attached terminals, however Squishy Circuits can be used with other battery packs.

LEDs (Light Emitting Diodes) produce light. They are more energy efficient and durable than light bulbs because they do not have a filament. They come in many sizes and colors, but we prefer the 10mm size because they are the easiest to work with. They also have polarity, meaning one terminal must connect to the battery pack's positive (red) side. This is usually the longer lead.



A motor converts electrical energy into mechanical energy or motion. They do not have polarity, but switching red and black will reverse the motor's direction. We have found that motors used for Squishy Circuits should have terminals attached and a low current rating (~30mA or .030 Amps).

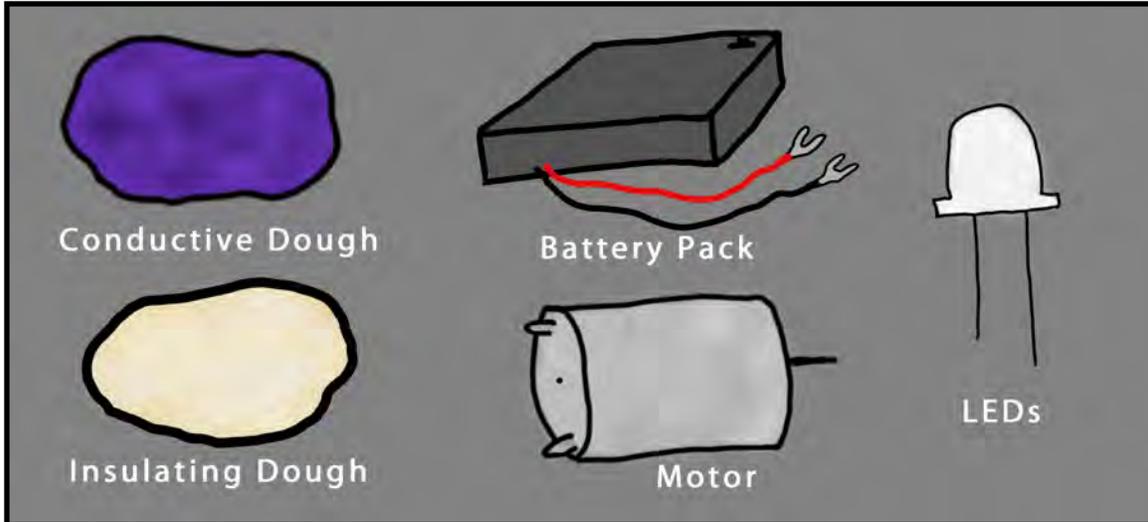


Buzzers are also great Squishy Circuits components, but can get noisy! Most buzzers (both mechanical and piezoelectric) need less than 30mA to operate, so common buzzers can be used.

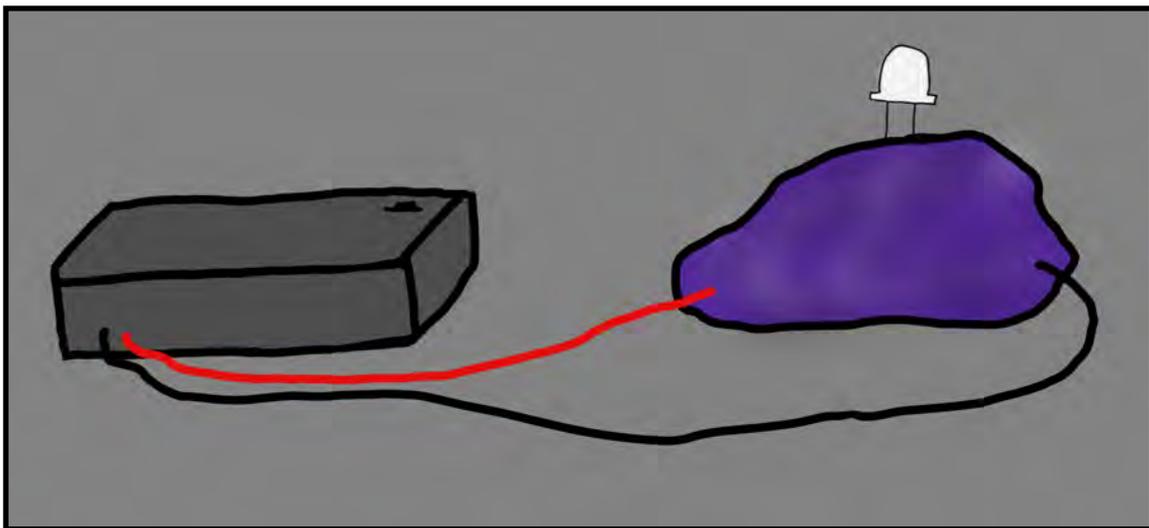
# Squishy Circuits Basics

University of St. Thomas - Squishy Circuits Program  
[www.StThomas.edu/SquishyCircuits](http://www.StThomas.edu/SquishyCircuits)

What you will need for this activity:

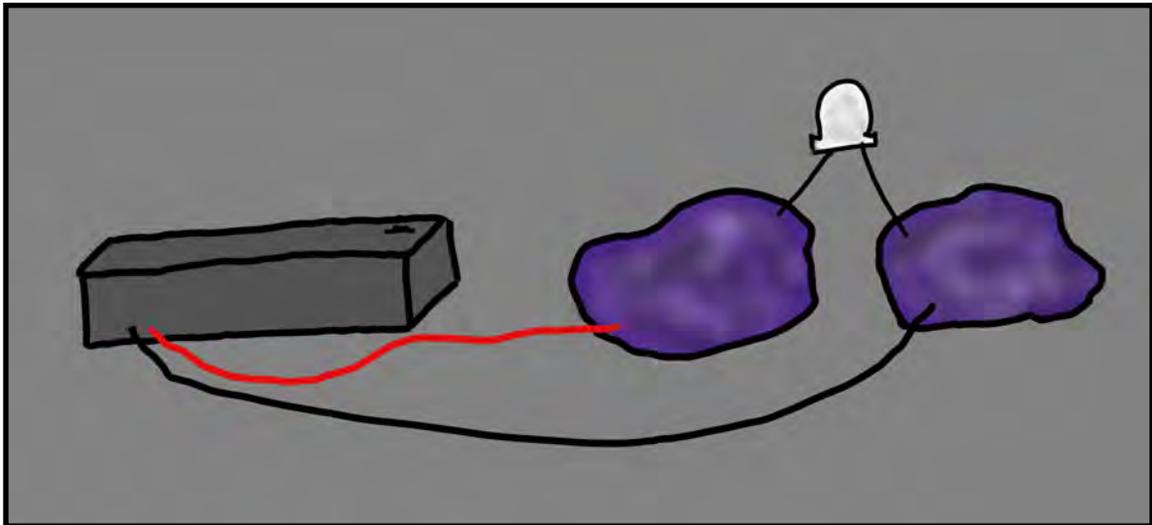


Begin with one lump of the conductive dough. Insert the battery pack's wires into the dough on opposite sides. Next, insert a LED into the dough.



Does the LED light up?    Yes    No

Separate the conductive dough into two pieces. Plug one wire from the battery pack into each piece and bridge the gap with a LED.



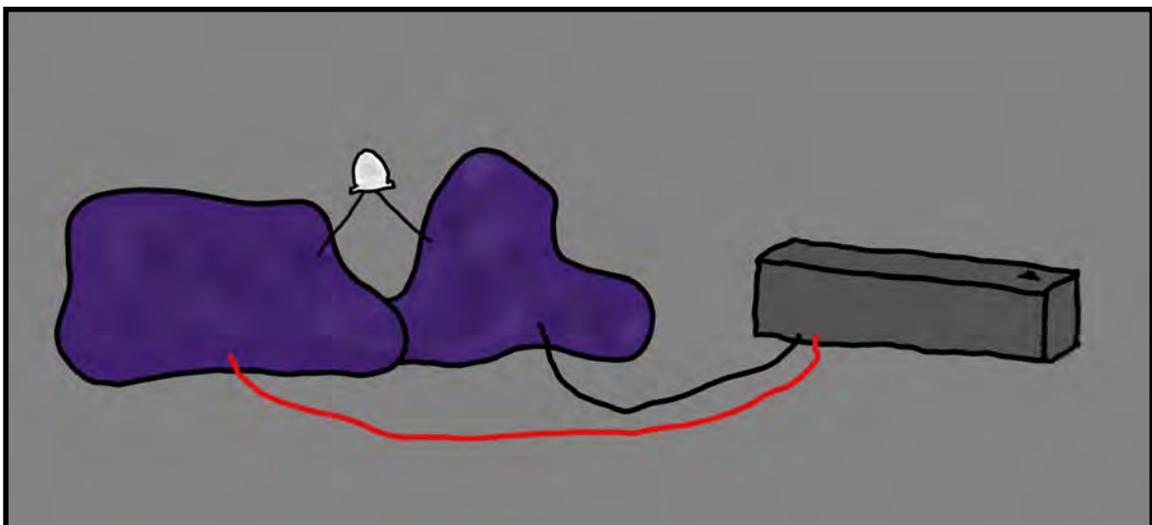
**Does the LED light up?    Yes    No**

Now take the LED out and flip it around so that each “leg” or terminal is in the opposite piece of conductive dough.

**Does the LED light up?    Yes    No**

The LED only works in one direction. This is called polarity. Take the LED out. Notice how one “leg” is slightly longer than the other one. The longer terminal should be attached to the positive or red wire from the battery pack.

Next, with your LED on, take the two pieces of conductive dough and push them together or add some dough to connect them.

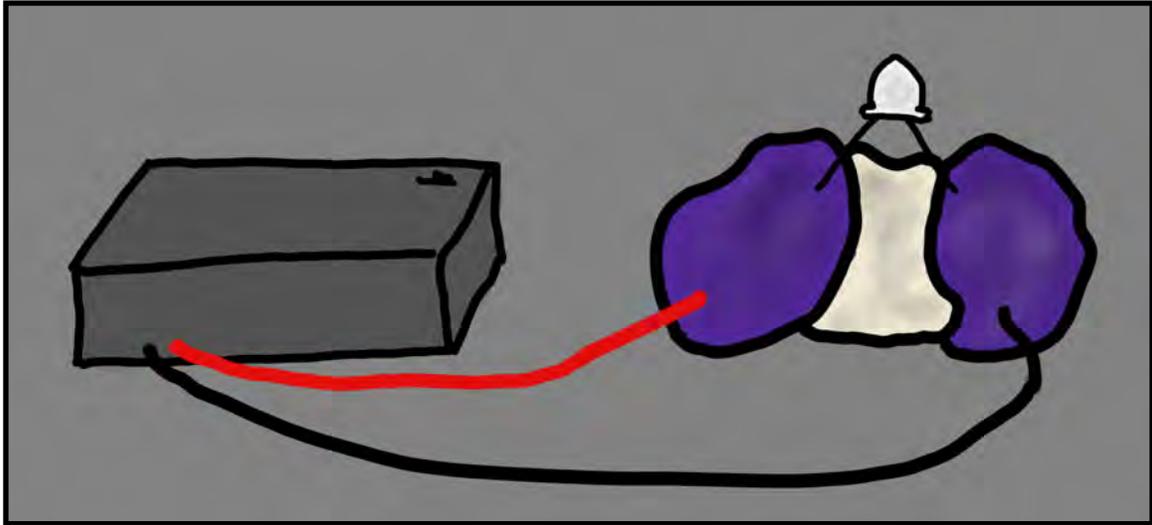


**Does the LED light up?    Yes    No**

In the last step, the LED went out. This is because a short circuit was created. Electricity flows in a loop called a circuit which begins and ends at the battery pack. Electricity takes the path of least resistance, meaning it goes through whatever loop is easiest to flow through. In this case, the conductive dough is less resistive than the LED, so the electricity chooses to go around the LED and through the dough.

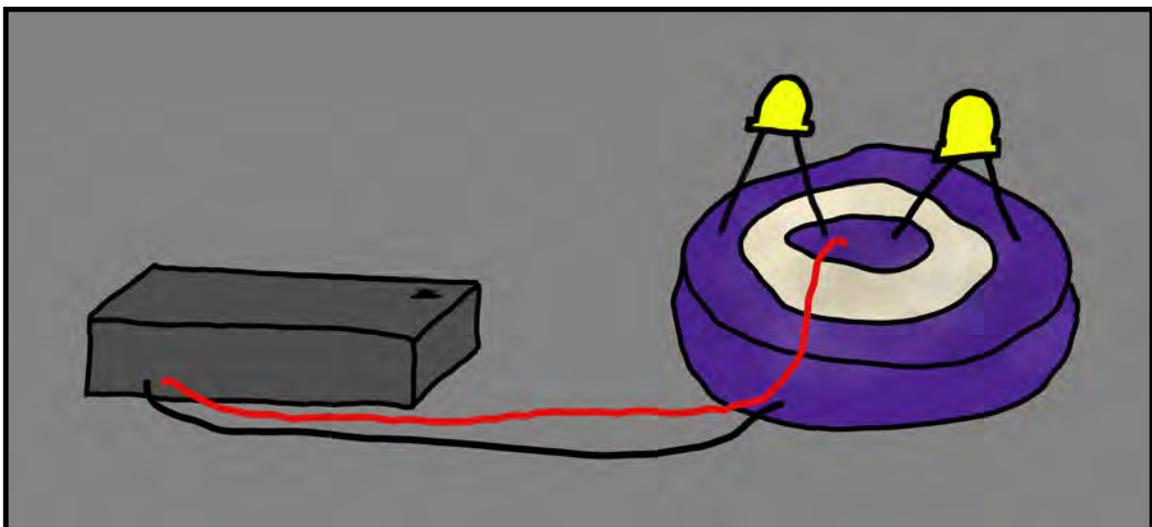
Separate the two pieces, the LED should once again light up because the electricity must go through the LED to complete the circuit.

Create a “sandwich” with the insulating dough between two pieces of conducting dough.



**Does the LED light up?    Yes    No**

The insulating dough does not let electricity flow through it easily. It acts like a wall to electricity. Therefore, the electricity has to go around the insulating dough and through the LED which lights the LED. Now we can create Squishy Circuits that do not have to be separated.



Create your own Squishy Circuits by combining multiple LEDs, a motor to create motion, or perhaps a buzzer for sound! Share your creations with our online community at:

[www.Facebook.com/SquishyCircuits](http://www.Facebook.com/SquishyCircuits)



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