



# THF OnMaking

## How-to

## Build Your Own Fruit Keyboard

This guide uses a cool little circuit board called the Makey Makey (pronounced may-kee may-kee) that allows you to hook up almost anything to a keyboard. The concept is simple. All you need to do is connect three things to the Makey Makey – a computer, a fun object and yourself. By touching the object, you close the circuit, and a signal is sent to the Makey Makey. The circuit board then translates the electronic signal into a keyboard signal, which is sent to your computer.

Your computer can't tell the difference between a signal coming from the Makey Makey and a signal coming from an actual keyboard. So this little chip basically allows you to transform any object that conducts even just a tiny bit of electricity into a keyboard key.

### MATERIALS

- **Computer** (with speakers)
- **Sound program:**  
Scratch (web-based): [LEARN MORE](https://scratch.mit.edu/projects/2728243/) at <https://scratch.mit.edu/projects/2728243/>  
OR  
Soundplant (downloadable): [LEARN MORE](http://soundplant.org/) at <http://soundplant.org/>
- **One Makey Makey:** [LEARN MORE](http://giftshop.thehenryford.org/makey-makey-invention-kit.html) at <http://giftshop.thehenryford.org/makey-makey-invention-kit.html>
- **A variety of produce** (fruit and vegetables both work)

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### HOW YOU DO IT

- 1 Connect the Makey Makey to the computer using the USB cable provided.
- 2 Connect the alligator clips to the Makey Makey. You need to connect at least one to "Earth" on your Makey Makey. This will ground your circuit. The other alligator clips would connect to whichever keys you want them to correspond on your computer keyboard.
- 3 Connect the other end of the alligator clips to your produce. Do not do this for the clip(s) connected to "Earth."
- 4 Complete the circuit. The last thing the circuit needs is you! Grab the other end of the alligator clip connected to "Earth" with one hand and touch a piece of produce with your other hand. The Makey Makey should light up, indicating you completed the circuit. You should also hear a sound coming from your computer.

Mix it up! Try different produce to see how conductive they are. Some fruits and vegetables only need a light touch with a single finger, while others need more surface area to conduct the electricity.

Get your own Makey-Makey from The Henry Ford.

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<http://giftshop.thehenryford.org/makey-makey-invention-kit.html>

