

Flash the LED Ex1

Jun 2026



Introduction

In our first Micro Python example, we saw how to turn on and off the onboard LED on the Pi Zero. But what is really cool to do is to flash the LED on and off. This means we can use the LED as an indicator of an error, or that something is running etc.

Lets write some more code in Thonny

A screenshot of the Thonny IDE window. The title bar reads 'Thonny - C:\Users\wildw\Desktop\PI\project1\led_flash_chatgpt.py @ 22 : 20'. The menu bar includes 'File', 'Edit', 'View', 'Run', 'Tools', and 'Help'. The toolbar contains icons for file operations and running code. The editor shows a Python script for flashing an LED on a Raspberry Pi Pico. The code includes imports for 'pico_led' and 'sleep', and a 'while True' loop that turns the LED on and sleeps for 0.25 seconds. The bottom panel shows the MicroPython shell output, indicating the version (v1.28.0) and board (Raspberry Pi Pico with RP2040).

```
Thonny - C:\Users\wildw\Desktop\PI\project1\led_flash_chatgpt.py @ 22 : 20
File Edit View Run Tools Help
[led_on.py] * led_flash_chatgpt.py *
2 from picozero import pico_led
3
4 # Import the time module for delays
5 from time import sleep
6
7 # Create an LED object for the onboard LED
8 led = pico_led
9
10 # Run forever
11 while True:
12
13     # Turn the LED on
14     led.on()
15
16     # Wait for 0.25 second
17     sleep(0.25)
18
19     # Turn the LED off
20     led.off()
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1051   # Turn the LED off
1052   led.off()
1053
1054   # Wait for 0.25 second
1055   sleep(0.25)
1056
1057   # Turn the LED on
1058   led.on()
1059
1060   # Wait for 0.25 second
1061   sleep(0.25)
1062
1063   # Turn the LED off
1064   led.off()
1065
1066   # Wait for 0.25 second
1067   sleep(0.25)
1068
1069   # Turn the LED on
1070   led.on()
1071
1072   # Wait for 0.25 second
1073   sleep(0.25)
1074
1075   # Turn the LED off
1076   led.off()
1077
1078   # Wait for 0.25 second
1079   sleep(0.25)
1080
1081   # Turn the LED on
1082   led.on()
1083
1084   # Wait for 0.25 second
1085   sleep(0.25)
1086
1087   # Turn the LED off
1088   led.off()
1089
1090   # Wait for 0.25 second
1091   sleep(0.25)
1092
1093   # Turn the LED on
1094   led.on()
1095
1096   # Wait for 0.25 second
1097   sleep(0.25)
1098
1099   # Turn the LED off
1100   led.off()
1101
1102   # Wait for 0.25 second
1103   sleep(0.25)
1104
1105   # Turn the LED on
1106   led.on()
1107
1108   # Wait for 0.25 second
1109   sleep(0.25)
1110
1111   # Turn the LED off
1112   led.off()
1113
1114   # Wait for 0.25 second
1115   sleep(0.25)
1116
1117   # Turn the LED on
1118   led.on()
1119
1120   # Wait for 0.25 second
1121   sleep(0.25)
1122
1123   # Turn the LED off
1124   led.off()
1125
1126   # Wait for 0.25 second
1127   sleep(0.25)
1128
1129   # Turn the LED on
1130   led.on()
1131
1132   # Wait for 0.25 second
1133   sleep(0.25)
1134
1135   # Turn the LED off
1136   led.off()
1137
1138   # Wait for 0.25 second
1139   sleep(0.25)
1140
1141   # Turn the LED on
1142   led.on()
1143
1144   # Wait for 0.25 second
1145   sleep(0.25)
1146
1147   # Turn the LED off
1148   led.off()
1149
1150   # Wait for 0.25 second
1151   sleep(0.25)
1152
1153   # Turn the LED on
1154   led.on()
1155
1156   # Wait for 0.25 second
1157   sleep(0.25)
1158
1159   # Turn the LED off
1160   led.off()
1161
1162   # Wait for 0.25 second
1163   sleep(0.25)
1164
1165   # Turn the LED on
1166   led.on()
1167
1168   # Wait for 0.25 second
1169   sleep(0.25)
1170
1171   # Turn the LED off
1172   led.off()
1173
1174   # Wait for 0.25 second
1175   sleep(0.25)
1176
1177   # Turn the LED on
1178   led.on()
1179
1180   # Wait for 0.25 second
1181   sleep(0.25)
1182
1183   # Turn the LED off
1184   led.off()
1185
1186   # Wait for 0.25 second
1187   sleep(0.25)
1188
1189   # Turn the LED on
1190   led.on()
1191
1192   # Wait for 0.25 second
1193   sleep(0.25)
1194
1195   # Turn the LED off
1196   led.off()
1197
1198   # Wait for 0.25 second
1199   sleep(0.25)
1200
1201   # Turn the LED on
1202   led.on()
1203
1204   # Wait for 0.25 second
1205   sleep(0.25)
1206
1207   # Turn the LED off
1208   led.off()
1209
1210   # Wait for 0.25 second
1211   sleep(0.25)
1212
1213   # Turn the LED on
1214   led.on()
1215
1216   # Wait for 0.25 second
1217   sleep(0.25)
1218
1219   # Turn the LED off
1220   led.off()
1221
1222   # Wait for 0.25 second
1223   sleep(0.25)
1224
1225   # Turn the LED on
1226   led.on()
1227
1228   # Wait for 0.25 second
1229   sleep(0.25)
1230
1231   # Turn the LED off
1232   led.off()
1233
1234   # Wait for 0.25 second
1235   sleep(0.25)
1236
1237   # Turn the LED on
1238   led.on()
1239
1240   # Wait for 0.25 second
1241   sleep(0.25)
1242
1243   # Turn the LED off
1244   led.off()
1245
1246   # Wait for 0.25 second
1247   sleep(0.25)
1248
1249   # Turn the LED on
1250   led.on()
1251
1252   # Wait for 0.25 second
1253   sleep(0.25)
1254
1255   # Turn the LED off
1256   led.off()
1257
1258   # Wait for 0.25 second
1259   sleep(0.25)
1260
1261   # Turn the LED on
1262   led.on()
1263
1264   # Wait for 0.25 second
1265   sleep(0.25)
1266
1267   # Turn the LED off
1268   led.off()
1269
1270   # Wait for 0.25 second
1271   sleep(0.25)
1272
1273   # Turn the LED on
1274   led.on()
1275
1276   # Wait for 0.25 second
1277   sleep(0.25)
1278
1279   # Turn the LED off
1280   led.off()
1281
1282   # Wait for 0.25 second
1283   sleep(0.25)
1284
1285   # Turn the LED on
1286   led.on()
1287
1288   # Wait for 0.25 second
1289   sleep(0.25)
1290
1291   # Turn the LED off
1292   led.off()
1293
1294   # Wait for 0.25 second
1295   sleep(0.25)
1296
1297   # Turn the LED on
1298   led.on()
1299
1300   # Wait for 0.25 second
1301   sleep(0.25)
1302
1303   # Turn the LED off
1304   led.off()
1305
1306   # Wait for 0.25 second
1307   sleep(0.25)
1308
1309   # Turn the LED on
1310   led.on()
1311
1312   # Wait for 0.25 second
1313   sleep(0.25)
1314
1315   # Turn the LED off
1316   led.off()
1317
1318   # Wait for 0.25 second
1319   sleep(0.25)
1320
1321   # Turn the LED on
1322   led.on()
1323
1324   # Wait for 0.25 second
```

```
# Create an LED object for the onboard LED
led = pico_led

# Run forever
while True:

    # Turn the LED on
    led.on()

    # Wait for 0.25 second
    sleep(0.25)

    # Turn the LED off
    led.off()

    # Wait for 0.25 second
    sleep(0.25)
```

In this code we are using a **Loop**. The While True: runs forever, and loops around the four lines of code. The comments should make this Micro Python code very easy to understand.

Here we can see there is an on time of 0.25 seconds and an off time of 0.25 seconds, so each on/off cycle is 0.5 seconds so every second the LED goes on and off twice.

[led-flash-001.mp4](#)

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