

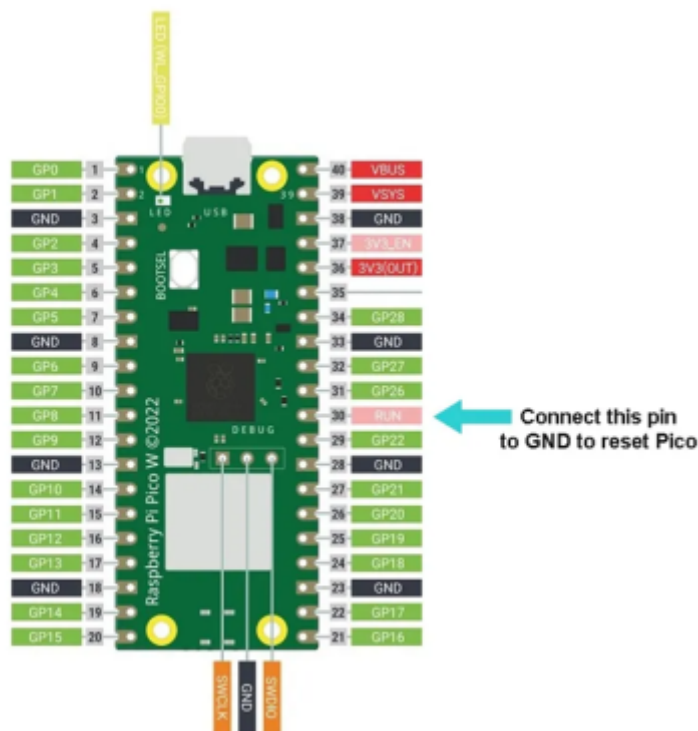
Using the Pico RUN Pin

Jul 2026

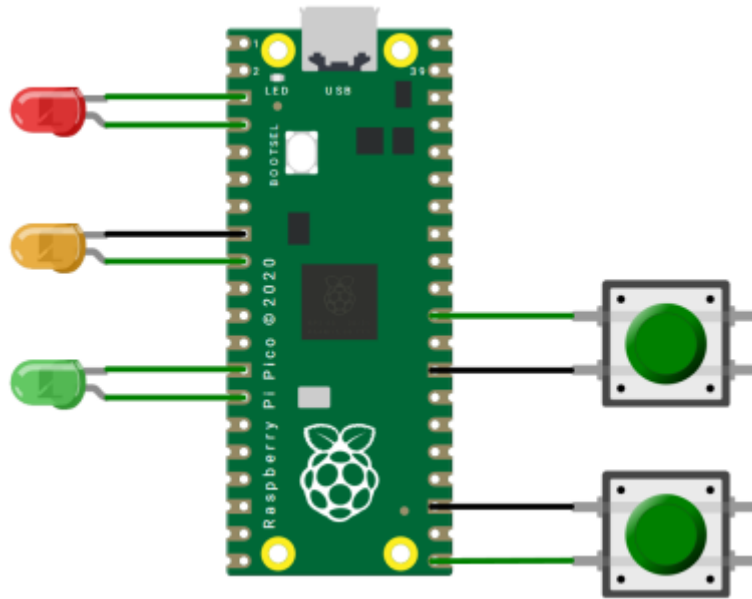


Introduction

The Raspberry Pi Pico has a RUN pin, see below.



Connecting this Pin to GND starts (or if it is already running restarts) the Raspberry Pi Pico. For this example I am going connect a button from the RUN pin (30) to the GND Pin (28).



The code I am going to use is our traffic light code, with the breakout button. And I am using this code for a very specific reason.

- 1. The code runs as main.py so when the Pico starts (boots) the code runs.
- 2. There is a button to 'breakout' of the code, for a detailed explanation see [here](#).
- 3. Once the breakout button has been used, the cable has to be removed and plugged back in, this causes unnecessary wear.
- By using the RUN pin, I can start/restart the Pico very simply.

[download](#)

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==== The Code ====
\\
Below is the full code with all of the changes, there are two blocks that have been added. We will
cover these in the next section below this code block.
\\
<code:python | download>
#Traffic light LEDs using an array

from machine import Pin
import time

##### ADD BREAKOUT BUTTON #####
# Configure the button on GPIO16
# PULL_UP means the pin reads HIGH (1) until the button connects it to GND
button = Pin(16, Pin.IN, Pin.PULL_UP)
##### ADD BREAKOUT BUTTON #####

# Define GPIO pins for the LEDs
RED = Pin(2, Pin.OUT)
AMBER = Pin(6, Pin.OUT)
GREEN = Pin(10, Pin.OUT)

# Put them in an array
lights = [RED, AMBER, GREEN]

# Helper function to turn all lights off
def all_off():
    for light in lights:
        light.off()

# checks to see if the button has been pressed.
def check_breakout():
    if button.value() == 0: # Button pressed
        print("Button pressed - stopping program.")
        all_off()
```

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        return True
    return False

# define a function wait_with_break. This function waits 1 second in 0.1s slices. If you pass
# it the value 3, it will wait 3 seconds in 30 x .1s slices. This is so it can check the
# button state every 0.1s rather than waiting 8 whole seconds.
def wait_with_break(seconds):
    for _ in range(int(seconds * 10)): # 0.1s slices in a loop
        if check_breakout():
            return True
        time.sleep(0.1)
    return False

while True:

    # Red
    all_off()
    RED.on()
    # passes the value 3 to the function above causing a 3s second delay in 0.1s steps
    if wait_with_break(3): break
    # Red + Amber
    AMBER.on()
    # passes the value 1 to the function above causing a 1s second delay in 0.1s steps
    if wait_with_break(1): break

    # Green
    all_off()
    GREEN.on()
    # passes the value 3 to the function above causing a 3s second delay in 0.1s steps
    if wait_with_break(3): break

    # Amber
    all_off()
    AMBER.on()
    # passes the value 1 to the function above causing a 1s second delay in 0.1s steps
    if wait_with_break(1): break

# Code End
```

</code>

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