



Circuits Curriculum

MaKey MaKey Troubleshooting

Problem: The key is not pressing.

- Make sure your MaKey MaKey is plugged in properly.
- Try disconnecting and reconnecting it.
- The MaKey MaKey should have a red light on the back showing that the power is on. If the light is not on, there are three primary options: 1. Something is wrong with the computer, 2. Something is wrong with the USB cable or 3. Something is wrong with the circuit board. Try switching these out for new ones.
- When making a project with everyday materials they need to be conductive in order to complete the circuit. Any of the conductive materials that students have used in prior weeks will work great. Others, like paper, plastic, and most fabrics, will not conduct but can be used for other purposes within a project, such as the mechanism of the switch. See the sample image for an example of a switch made with everyday materials and copper tape.

Problem: One of the keys will not stop pressing.

- Try unplugging the MaKey MaKey from the computer and plug it back in.
- Disconnect all of the alligator clips from the MaKey MaKey board then reattach them one by one to see if there was an issue with one of the connections.
- Look at all your connections and see if some of them are accidentally touching.
- Is it raining? Extremely humid? Are you in a rainforest? This can sometimes cause porous materials, such as paper or clothing to become conductive.

Problem: Sometimes it works and sometimes it does not.

- Check all materials and make sure they are conductive enough. For example, if you are using your hand try licking your finger and try again.
- If you are using graphite make sure it is very heavy and very dark.