

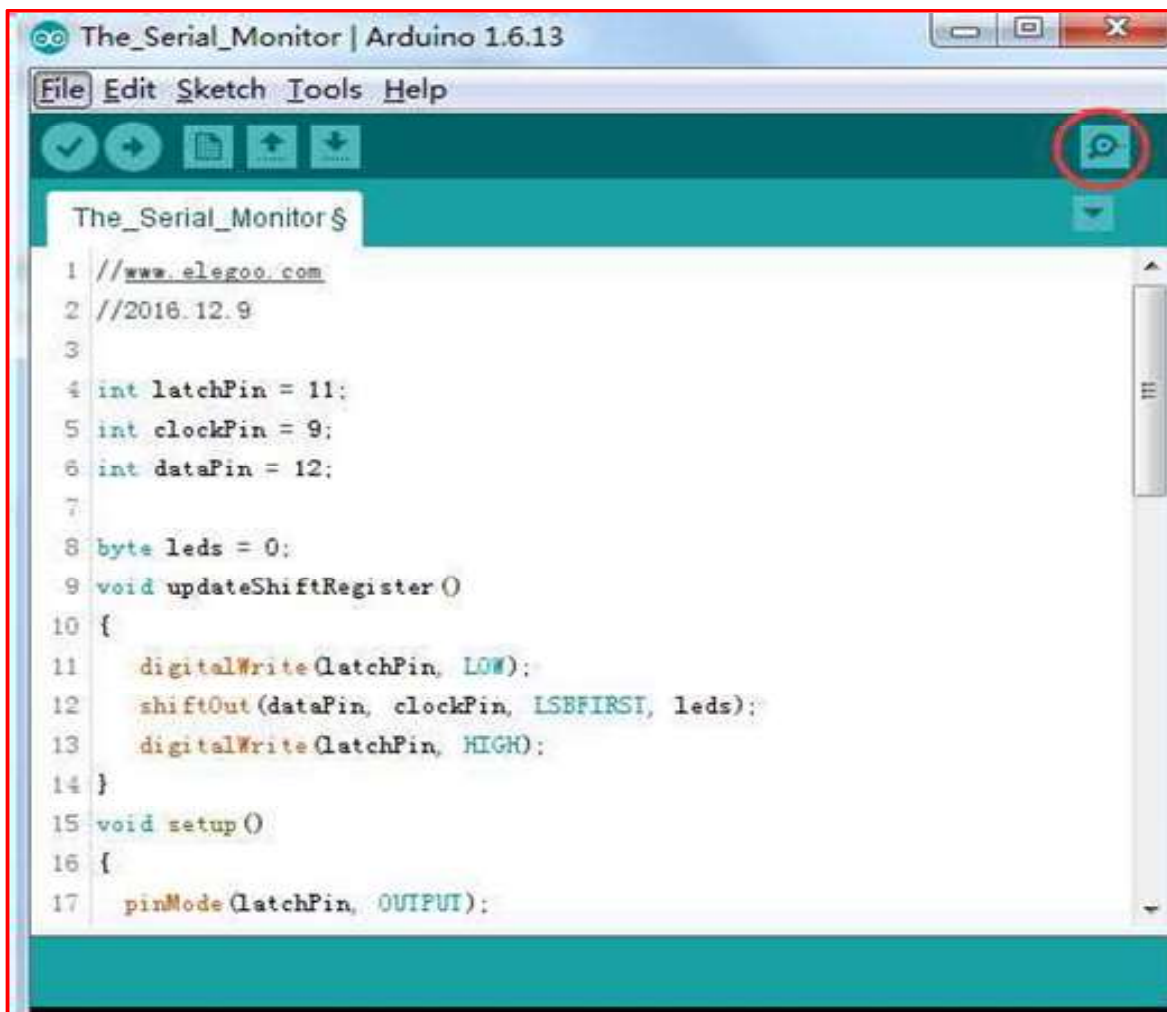
The Serial Monitor

1. Overview:

In this lesson, you will build on Lesson 18, adding the facility to control the LEDs from your computer using the Arduino Serial Monitor. The serial monitor is the 'tether' between the computer and your UNO. It lets you send and receive text messages, handy for debugging and also controlling the UNO from a keyboard! For example, you will be able to send commands from your computer to turn on LEDs. In this lesson, you will use exactly the same parts and a similar breadboard layout as Lesson 18. So, if you have not already done so, follow Lesson 18 now.

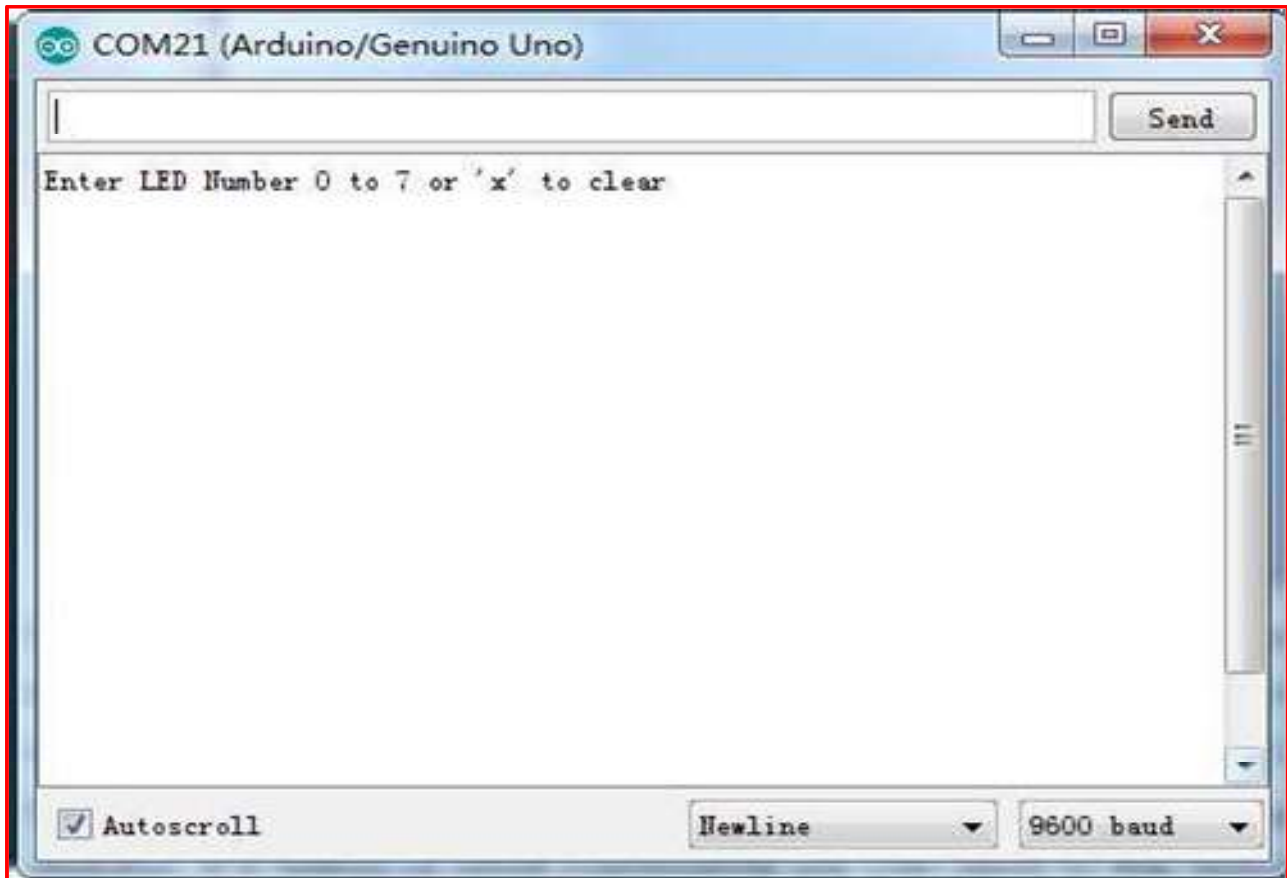
2. Steps Taken:

After you have uploaded this sketch onto your UNO, click on the right-most button on the toolbar in the Arduino IDE. The button is circled below.



The following window will open.

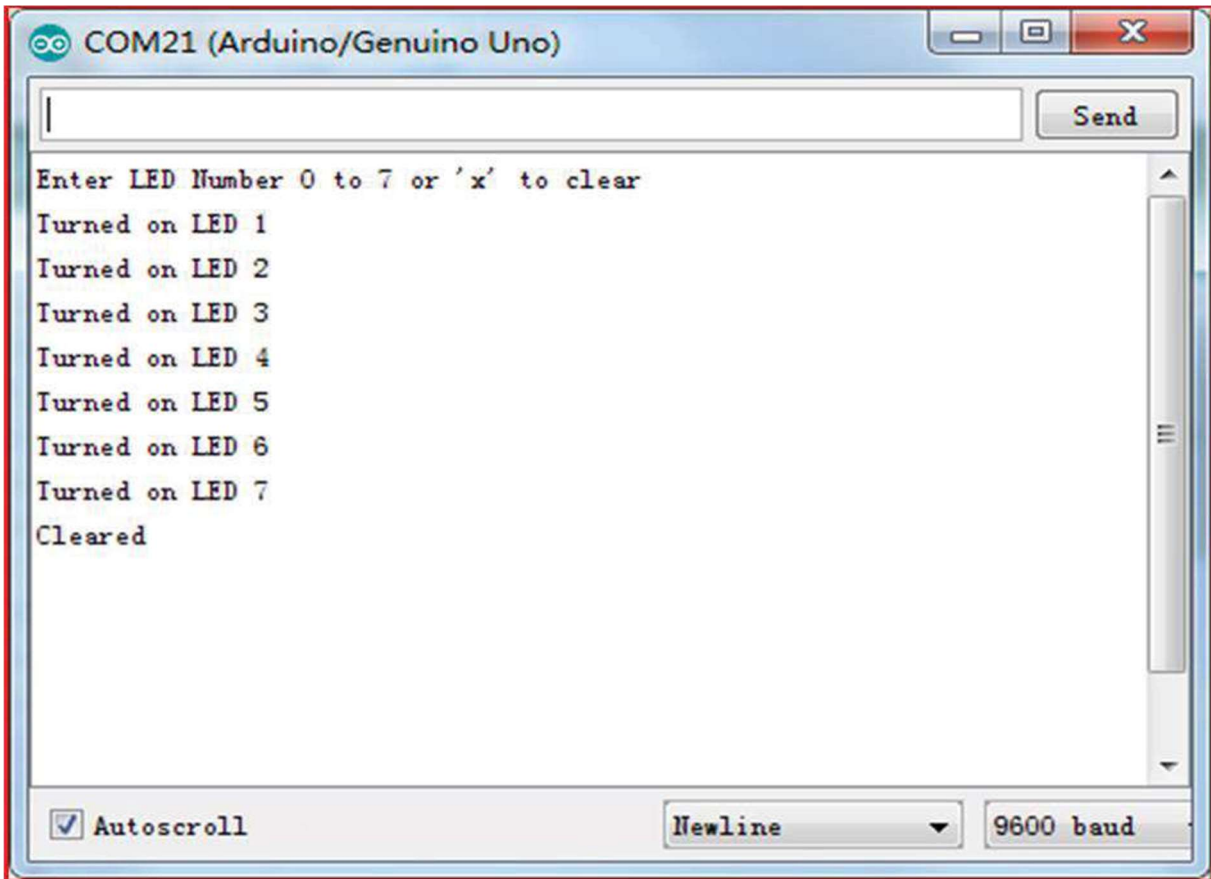
Click the [Serial Monitor](#) button to turn on the serial monitor. The basics about the serial monitor are introduced in details in [Lesson 1](#).



This window is called the Serial Monitor and it is part of the Arduino IDE software. Its job is to allow you to both send messages from your computer to an UNO board (over USB) and also to receive messages from the UNO.

The message “Enter LED Number 0 to 7 or 'x' to clear” has been sent by the Arduino. It is telling us what commands we can send to the Arduino: either send the 'x' (to turn all the LEDs off) or the number of the LED you want to turn on (where 0 is the bottom LED, 1 is the next one up, all the way to 7 for the top LED).

Try typing the following commands into the top area of the Serial Monitor that is level with the 'Send' button. Press 'Send', after typing each of these characters: x 0 3 5
Typing x will have no effect if the LEDs are already all off, but as you enter each number, the corresponding LED should light and you will get a confirmation message from the UNO board. The Serial Monitor will appear as shown below.



Type x again and press 'Send' to turn off all LEDs.