

Where to buy components

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Don't Buy These Components

Have you bought a component that was poor quality, broken or ineffective? Let us know and we can post it here so this doesn't happen to anyone else.

Top tip -- if you're on UAL Wifi (or VPN) go to the [checkout catalogue](#) and search for components, if you click the link you can see what we buy.

Servos

- We have had problems with: [XTVTX metal gear micro servo](#) -> some didn't work straight out of the box, with others the wires broke off, poorly made
- good: (the ones we buy) [FeeTech FS90 Mini Servo](#)

Where to buy materials & parts

Electronics, components

Bigger Shops - large and often complex catalogues

Supplier	Material	Website	Note
RS	electronics, components, tools	http://uk.rs-online.com/	Fast delivery, huge selection. Free delivery. Collection also possible from Bow
Rapid online	electronics, components, tools	https://www.rapidonline.com	Fast delivery, huge selection, student pricing + free delivery over £30
Mouser	electronics, consumer stuff	https://www.mouser.co.uk/	Fast delivery, some items overpriced, Free delivery over £33
Farnell	electronics, components, tools	http://www.farnell.co.uk	Free delivery over £20 (ex VAT)
CPC	electronics, components, tools	http://cpc.farnell.com/	Free delivery over £8 + VAT
Bitsbox		https://www.bitsbox.co.uk/	

Smaller Shops - stock products locally, so not shipping from the EU/US

Supplier	Material	Website	Note
Proto-Pic	electronics, components	https://www.proto-pic.co.uk/	Offers 10% student discount
Cool components	electronics, components	http://coolcomponents.co.uk/	
Pimoroni	electronics, robotics, kits	https://shop.pimoroni.com/	
Robotshop	electronics, robotics	https://www.robotshop.com/	
Active Robots	electronics, robotics	http://www.active-robots.com/	
Hobbytronics	electronics, components	http://www.hobbytronics.co.uk/	

Supplier	Material	Website	Note
Hobbyking	radio controlled electronics	https://hobbyking.com/	RC control, BLDC motors, battery packs etc
SKPang	electronics, componants	https://skpang.co.uk/	
#DigitalMeans	electronics, componants	http://digitalmeans.co.uk/	
Oomlout	electronics, componants	https://oomlout.co.uk/	
Spiratronics	electronics, componants	http://spiratronics.com/	
Bright Components	electronics, componants	http://bright-components.co.uk/	
Kitronik	electronics, robotics, kits	https://kitronik.co.uk/	

US/EU based

Supplier	Material	Website	Note
Arduino	kits	https://store.arduino.cc/	
Adafruit	electronics, componants, kits	https://www.adafruit.com/	
Sparkfun	electronics, kits	https://www.sparkfun.com/	
Seed studio	pcb and electronics componants	http://www.seeedstudio.com/depot/	
Digikey (USA)	electronics, componants, kits	http://www.digikey.co.uk/	

China based

Supplier	Material	Website	Note
Seedstudio (China)	electronics, componants, kits	https://seeedstudio.com/	
DF Robot (China)	electronics, componants, robotics	http://dfrobot.com/	
DealExtreme (China)	electronics, componants	http://dx.com/	
Ali Express (China)	electronics, componants	https://www.aliexpress.com/	

Machine Elements

Supplier	Material	Website	Note
Motionco	Machine elements	http://motionco.co.uk/	Great source of gears, pulleys, belts, chains, bearings etc
Model Fixings	Machine elements	http://www.modelfixings.co.uk	Poorly made website, but a great range of mechanical fixings and bearings
HPC Gears	Gears	http://www.hpcgears.com/	Gears and power transmission
RS	Machine elements	http://uk.rs-online.com/	
Spring Masters	Springs	https://www.springmasters.com/	
On Drives	Gear boxes	http://www.ondrives.com/	Med - Heavy duty gearboxes
Cross Morse	Transmissions	http://www.cross-morse.co.uk/	
SDP-SI	Transmissions	http://www.sdp-si.com/	Massive range, USA delivery only, but great for finding 3D CAD models of parts
Simply Bearings	Bearings	http://simplybearings.co.uk/shop/	Specialise in bearings, wide variety: miniature, loose, bushings, etc.
Igus	Plastic Bearings	https://www.igus.co.uk/	All things sliding, rolling and polymer. Expensive
Bearing Boys	Bearings	http://www.bearingboys.co.uk	
S3i	Wire ropes	https://www.s3i.co.uk/	Wire rope and attachments

Model shops

Shop	Material	Website	Address	Phone Number	Note
4D Model Shop	General Model Making and laser cutting services	http://www.modelshop.co.uk/	4D modelshop Ltd, The Arches, 120 Leman Street, London, E1 8EU	020 7264 1288	Best shop for model parts in London. Can be expensive
London Graphic Center	General Model Making				

Shop	Material	Website	Address	Phone Number	Note
Charles Cantrill	Cork	http://www.charlescantrill.com			
Atlantis Art Supplies	'Europes Largest Fine Art Supplies Retailer	http://www.atlantisart.co.uk	Britannia House, 68-80 Hanbury Street, London E1 5JL		
EMA Model Supplies	modeling shop	http://www.ema-models.co.uk			
Blueprintmodelshop	model shop and laser cutter	http://www.blueprintmodel.co.uk			really cheap but not good quality (20% off on material for students)
Cassart	modelshop	http://www.cassart.co.uk			10% for students. Lots of shops in London
Canonbury art supplies	art shop	http://www.globalartsupplies.co.uk			

Raw materials

Aluminum

Vendor	Material	Website	Address	Phone Number	Note
Dore Metals	Aluminium	https://www.doremotals.co.uk			Aluminium and non-ferrous metals.
Aalco	Metal	http://www.aalco.co.uk			
Park Side Style	Steel	http://www.parksidesteel.co.uk			Rod, tube, bar, sheet, plate, steel
Smiths Metal	Metal	http://www.smithsmetal.com			College has account

Vendor	Material	Website	Address	Phone Number	Note
Fays Metals			Unit 3, 37 Colville Road, South Acton, London, W3 8BL	020 8993 8883	A traditional metal warehouse situated a 10min walk from South Acton tube or on the 440 Bus route, Fays stock all different types of Steel, Aluminium, Brass etc in various forms of extrusion, sheet and billet. They're reasonably priced and if you talk to them nicely they'll let you look around for what you need. They also have a large shelf of various offcuts you can obtain for reduced prices.
Aluminium warehouse	Aluminium	https://www.aluminiumwarehouse.co.uk			Metal cut to order

Wood

Vendor	Material	Website	Address	Phone Number	Note
Moss&Co.	Wood	http://www.mosstimber.co.uk/		020 8748 8251	
Capital Crispin	Wood Veneer	http://www.capitalcrispin.com			Amazing stock of veneer, and cheap

Plastics

Vendor	Material	Website	Address	Phone Number	Note
Hamar Acrylics	acrylic, laser cut services	http://www.hamaracrylic.com			Sell cheap offcuts in shop

Vendor	Material	Website	Address	Phone Number	Note
Amari Plastics	large acrylic sheets	http://www.amariplastics.com/amariplastics/default.asp	2 Cumberland Ave., Park Royal, London NW10 7RL	020 8961 1961	
Hobart	acrylic and plastic	https://hobarts.com/			

Paper

Vendor	Material	Website	Address	Phone Number
John Purcell Paper	card and paper	http://www.johnpurcell.net	15 Rumsey Rd., London SW9 0TR	Tel: 020 7737 5199
PSG Group	Various Sheet Material incl. Nomex (Fire Retardent Paper)	http://www.psggroup.co.uk	Polymex House, 49-53 Glengall Road, London, SE15 6NF	

Foam

Vendor	Material	Website	Address	Phone Number
Pentonville rubber	Foam (upholstery)	http://www.pentonvillierubber.co.uk	104-106 Pentonville Road, London, N1 9JB	0207 837 7553
Foam supplier	foam cut to size and other type of foam	http://www.foamsupplierslondon.co.uk	26-27 Shepherds Bush Market London W12 8DF	07429 212 415 or 07411 653 301

Hardware

Vendor	Material	Website	Address	Phone Number	Note
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Margaret Mills			48 Gloucester Road, London, SW7 4QT		Small hardware store on Gloucester Road who carry a surprising amount of stock in the locality of Imperial. They carry the usual household items as well as tools, basic wood stock and PVC tube. They are however the most expensive for these items, so best used if convenience is a premium.
Leyland SDM	Wood	http://www.leylandsdm.co.uk/			Leyland are a large chain of hardware stores all over London
B&Q		http://www.diy.com/			
Homebase		http://www.homebase.co.uk/			

Resin

Vendor	Material	Website	Address	Phone Number
Tiranti	resins, molding, sculpting	http://www.tiranti.co.uk	27 Warren Street, London W1T 5NB	020 7380 0808
Notcutt	resins	http://www.notcutt.co.uk		
Mold life	resins and silicone	http://mouldlife.co.uk/		
John Burn	Resins	http://www.johnburn.co.uk		

Misc

Vendor	Material	Website	Address	Phone Number	Note
Arthur Beales	ropes, chandlery	http://www.arthurbeale.co.uk	194 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2H 8JP		
Inoxia	Wire Mesh	http://www.inoxia.co.uk/rw/section/1.aspx			
Metamark	vinyl	http://www.metamark.co.uk/pages_sv/7series.htm			
Clerkenwell screws	Screws			020 7405 1215	Really good screws wide range

Textiles

Vendor	Material	Website	Address	Phone Number	Note
Alma Leather	leather offcuts/ leather supplier (apparel & upholstery)	http://www.almahome.co.uk/alma-leather.htm	12-14 Greatorex St, London E1 5NF	020 7377 0762	
Gold hawk road (many shops)	fabric, pvc sheets	https://www.google.co.uk/search?q=goldhawk+road+fabric+shops&oeq=goldhawk&aq=chrome.4.69i57j0I5.8836j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8	Gold Hawk Road		Price can be negotiated if you are canny, and its cheaper than Berwick street
Berwick Street (many shops)	Fabric, sewing supplies	http://www.borovickfabricsltd.co.uk	16 Berwick Street, W1F 0HP	020 7437 2180/0520	Nice fabrics, buttons, thread, sewing materials. This is just one store but there are some nicer places on the same street.
MacCulloch + Walis	haberdashery (high quality)	http://www.macculloch-wallis.co.uk	25-26 Poland Street, London, W1F 8QN		

Vendor	Material	Website	Address	Phone Number	Note
Bag of Love	Digital print	https://www.bagsoflove.co.uk			
Fabrika	pattern cutting and toiling	http://www.fabrikalondon/			
London pattern bureau	Design/product development, CAD sketches, Pattern cutting, Toiling, Fittings, Sampling, Design & manufacturing consultancy, Womenswear, Menswear, Outerwear, Tailoring, Separates, Sportswear, Childrenswear, Wovens & knits	http://www.londonpatternbureau.co.uk			
The sampling studio	Pattern Cutting, Toiles, Sampling, Grading, CMT, Production, Design	https://www.thesamplingstudio.com			
William Gee	Haberdashery	https://www.williamgee.co.uk	520-522 Kingsland Road, London E8 4AH		

Glass & Ceramics

Vendor	Material	Website	Address
Dixon Glass	Borosilicate Glassware	http://www.dixonglass.co.uk	
London Glasswork Ltd		http://www.londonglassworks.co.uk	545 Garratt Lane, London, SW18 4SR
Ceramic studio co-op	Ceramic work	http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/chemistry/people/operation_infrastructure/technicalresearch/stephenramsey	14, 17, Block C, Juno Way, New Cross, London, SE14 5RW
Stephen Ramsey	glass blower		Imperial College

Painting

Vendor	Material	Website	Address	Phone Number	Note
Stockwell Motor Accessories	cellulose paint	http://www.capitalcrispin.com	226-236 Clapham Road London SW9 0PZ	0207 582 3666	
Colorite paint		http://www.colorite.co.uk/colourmatching.html	169 Boston Road, London, W7 3QJ	0208 579 3381	
Armourtex Ltd.	-powder coating		16 Rowe La, London, E9 6EL	020 8986 2028	
Purpose Powder Coating	powder coating		Old Kent Road		Pick up and drop off in person. Can drop your parts into existing production runs if small, and you're OK with standard colour (white or yellow) and charge the minimum cost. Say you're a student.

Where to buy components

The following list is of common suppliers, other than eBay...

Electronics

UK

Arduino boards, shields, etc...

- [Proto-Pic](#)
Offers 10% student discount
- [SKPang](#)
- [#DigitalMeans](#)
- [Cool Components](#)
- [HobbyTronics](#)
- [Kitronik](#)
- [Oomlout](#)
- [Pimoroni](#)
- [Spiratronics](#)
- [Bright Components](#)

Components

- [Rapid](#)
Student pricing + free delivery over £30
- [CPC](#)
Free delivery over £8 + VAT
- [Farnell](#)
Free delivery over £20
- [RS](#)
Collect from Bow or free next day delivery
- [Mouser](#)
Free delivery over £33
- [Bitsbox](#)

Robotics + components

- [Technobots](#)
- [Active Robots](#)
- [Robot Shop](#)
- [MakerBeam](#) (European)

International

- [Adafruit](#) (USA)
- [Sparkfun](#) (USA)
- [Seedstudio](#) (China)
- [DF Robot](#) (China)
- [DealExtreme](#) (China)
- [Digikey](#) (USA)
- [Ali Express](#) (China)

Materials

- [Hamar Acrylic](#)
- [Hindleys](#)
- [Mindsets](#)

Craft materials

- [Cass Art](#)
- [London Graphic Centre](#)

Model shop

- [EMA Model Supplies](#)
- [4D Modelshop](#)

Mechanical parts

- [Davall](#)
- [HPC](#)
- [SDP/SI](#)
- [McMaster-Carr](#)

- [Belting Online](#)
- [ondrives](#)
- [Bearing Station](#)
- [Direct Bearings](#)
- [Technobots](#)
- [Transdev](#)