


Trossen Robotics

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 We will be closed Monday, September 7th
 in observation of Labor Day.
 No orders will be shipped that day.
 Have a safe holiday weekend!

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Welcome to Trossen Robotics, your source for Hobby and Educational Robotics!

Providing customers with a one stop robot shop and superior customer service since 2005.

Why Robotics? Robotics offers an interactive learning experience that is both fun and rewarding. Robotics teaches us essential skills such as electronics, programming, mechanics, mathematics, critical thinking, problem solving and teamwork.

No matter if you're looking for [robot kits](#), [robot parts](#), [educational robotics](#) or [RFID](#) products, our robotics store has what you need! To get the latest up-to-date news in the Robotics world or to check out the latest product releases and sales at Trossen Robotics, read our articles below or visit the [Trossen Robotics Blog](#). To join in on some exciting discussions on robotics and see what all the buzz is about, check out the [Trossen Robotics Community \(TRC\)](#); one of the most active and friendly robotics communities online. The TRC members have experience in a wide range of backgrounds: from animation to cinematography, EE to programming, mechanics to interactive arts, woodworking to machining. Whether you're just starting out or a veteran hobbyist, we're confident that you'll have a blast hanging out in the TRC.

We hope that you enjoy your visit, and if at any time you run into questions, please feel free to [contact us](#) or [post in the TRC](#).

Trossen Robotics - the World's leading one stop robot shop for hobby and educational robot kits and robot parts!

FRONT PAGE NEWS

arbotiX – Advanced Robocontroller for the Bioloid System

We're good friends with the folks over at [Vanadium Labs](#); some very talented people who have been in the robotics game for quite awhile but have just now established their official company. This is great news for the robotics community however, as they have some pretty amazing products on the horizon. One product in particular is the new [arbotiX Robocontroller](#), an advanced Open Source microcontroller tailored for the [Bioloid system](#) and [AX-12+ servos](#).



The arbotiX robocontroller is an advanced control solution for small-to-medium size robots. It incorporates a powerful AVR microcontroller, XBEE wireless radio, dual motor drivers, and 3-pin servo-style headers for IO.

The arbotiX robocontroller is specifically designed to control robots built using Bioloid servos, although it is also a very high-end solution for powerful rovers. It is not intended to be a drop-in replacement for a CM-5, rather it is intended as a high level development tool for building more sophisticated robots.

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3pi Robot Starter Kit

Price: \$119.99

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high level development tool for building more sophisticated robots.

So what we have here is an [Arduino IDE](#) compatible microcontroller with a plethora of I/O, plug and play capable with AX-12 servos, and an [Xbee Wireless](#) Link to your PC. It's also worth mentioning that this was the controller used in the robot that won Year 1 of [Mech Warfare](#), [Issydneyet](#). For more information on the controller check out the [Vanadium Labs](#) website.

Trossen Robotics will be exclusively distributing this exciting and powerful new Robocontroller with an estimated release date of Mid-October 2009. We'll have more details in the near future, stay tuned!

Want to see the arbotiX in action? Here is a quick video showing a basic Inverse Kinematics demonstration on [Issydneyet](#)!



Tutorial Contest Winners Announced!

In March we announced that our contest would go in a different direction this time and with even bigger prizes:

This round is going to be a [Tutorial Contest](#), and is quite a bit different from our previous contests. Think of it as an [Instructables](#) meets [How Stuff Works](#) style contest: We want you to submit entries in the form of a detailed step by step 'How-To' or Informative Tutorials.

We had a good amount of solid entries in our [first Tutorial Contest](#) so picking our winners was a not an easy ordeal. Our entries covered many different topics, from electrical and soldering basics to more advanced robotics navigation tutorials. We highly suggest that you take a look at our [Tutorials Section](#), there is a lot to be learned and if you have knowledge to share we highly encourage it.

Without further ado, here are our winners!

3rd Place goes to [Jes1510](#)!

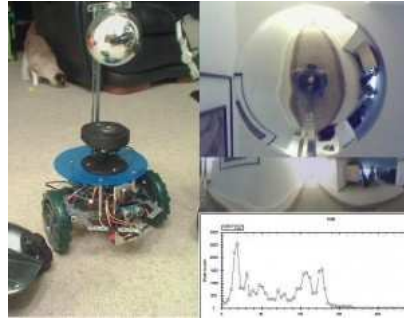


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Jes1510 submitted some 'back to the basics' tutorials which were well documented, easy to read through, and really helpful for the beginning robot hobbyist! He'll be walking away with an [Ollo Bug Kit!](#)

Tutorials:

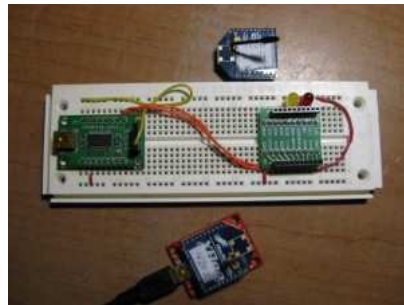
- [Cheap Battery Monitor Using Resistive Voltage Divider](#)
- [Prototyping a PCB with Desoldering Braid](#)
- [Get position feedback from a standard hobby servo](#)
- [Project documentation for the hobbyist](#)

2nd Place goes to Pi Robot!

Pi Robot amazed us with two extremely detailed, professional tutorials that cover some very advanced robotics applications by breaking it down into more digestible bite sized pieces. Both are excellent pieces of literature, definitely worth a read through! Pi Robot will be walking away with a [Bioloid Beginner Kit](#) for his contributions!

Tutorials:

- [Obstacle Avoidance in the Real World](#)
- [Where Am I? Place Recognition Using Omni-directional Images and Color Histograms](#)

1st Place goes to Inxfergy!

Inxfergy was determined to win 1st prize! He submitted awesome tutorial after awesome tutorial covering some pretty major aspects of robotics. All of these tutorials are very helpful for beginners and even more advanced builders can take something from them. From practical navigation systems to controlling AX-12 servos, Inxfergy demonstrated an amazing grasp of current hobby robotics technology, and was kind enough to share that knowledge with us. For his massive effort, he will be awarded with a [Bioloid Comprehensive Kit!](#)

Tutorials:

- [So You Want To Build A Robot?](#)
- [An Introduction to Interrupts](#)
- [Choosing Sensors for Your Robot](#)
- [Materials for your Robot](#)
- [Introduction to Encoders](#)
- [Power Supply Basics](#)
- [XBEE Basics](#)
- [AVR Basics](#)
- [An Introduction to Mapping and Localization](#)
- [Controlling AX-12 Servos](#)
- [Following a Wall](#)

We want to thank everyone involved with our first Tutorial Contest! Determining the winners was not easy, as there were many great tutorials to browse through. Again, we highly recommend you check out our Tutorials section, as there is a lot to be learned! Stay tuned for an announcement on our next round of contests!

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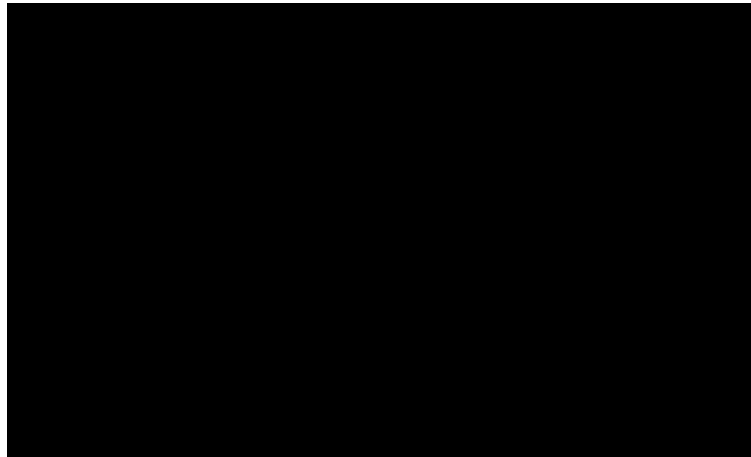
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Robogames 2009 Highlights

Here is a quick recap of some of the awesome robots and people we met at [Robogames 2009!](#) We had the opportunity to show off some of our creations as well as check out the innovative stuff others brought along to Robogames, to say it was merely inspirational would be an understatement. We'll see you at Robogames 2010!

Trossen Robotics Community Lounge @ Robogames 2009

We had a blast at [Robogames 2009](#) and had quite a few of our [Community](#) members show up and hang out in our lounge. Robots were battled, discussed, and otherwise shared! We cannot wait until next year, and we hope to see more of you there. Here is a quick highlight video showing some of the lounge and the attending members, as well as some of our member's robots interacting with the crowd.



iBotz Beginner Robot Kits!

The [iBotz line of educational robot kits](#) are an ideal introduction for children ages 8 and up

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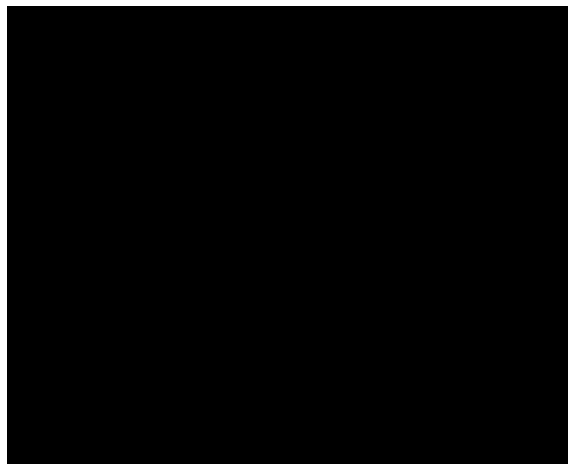
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wanting to investigate the fascinating world of electronics and intelligent machines. Developed with the help of the Open University in the United Kingdom, these kits have a strong focus on teaching not only how to build the robot, but how the robot works. Detailed explanations of the circuitry driving the robot are examined, as well as what role the individual components play in the robot's functionality.

New Phoenix Demonstration Videos!

We've been a bit quiet on the blog front as we are getting ready for [Robogames 2009](#) in a little over a week and are furiously working away to finish up projects for demonstration. Our video production crew has been keeping busy also, and just finished up some new demonstration videos for the [Phoenix Hexapod](#), showcasing its numerous features. This Hexapod continues to be one of our most popular sellers, definitely [check it out!](#)

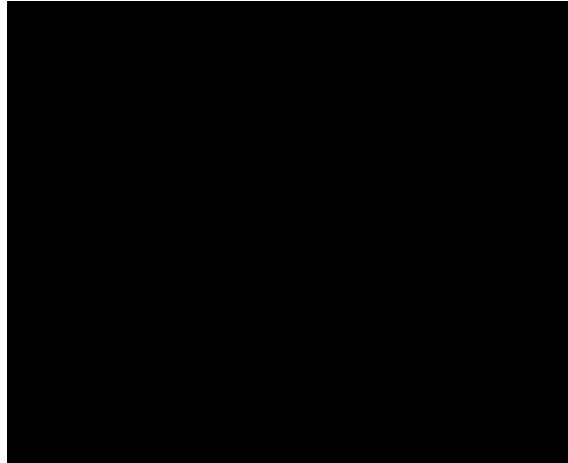
Walking Gait Demo



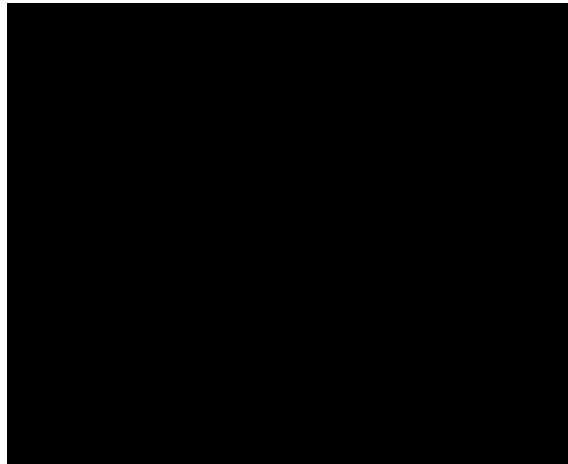
Remote Control Demo

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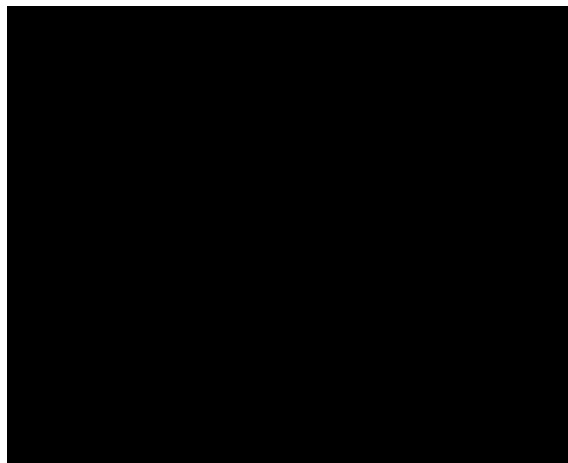
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Body Control Demo



All Metal Construction Demo



The Roboard is Back in Stock!

This has to be one of our hottest selling Robotics controllers yet. Our initial stock sold out almost immediately, the 2nd shipment sold out before we even received it in, and the third shipment received today is already half way gone! Get 'em while they're hot!

The [Roboard RB-100](#) is a new breed of robotics controller: a fusion of a traditional microcontroller and a full function computer. Think of it as an OS capable microcontroller on steroids, boasting a 32bit x86 CPU running at 1000MHz and 256MB DRAM. The ability to load an operating system of your choice and have direct access to I/O, Comm ports, USB, and networking opens this controller up to a wide range of robotics based applications. Our Roboard Starter Kit comes with just about everything you need to implement this feature rich controller in your next robotics project! All you need to supply is a 1-2gb Micro-SD card to load an OS onto, 6-24v, and a robot!



Hexbugs and Bioloids, Oh My!

Our video crew has been hard at work showcasing our various robotic products, and recently highlighted the Bioloid and Hexbug robots.

Is your house tidy? Are you lacking pesky insects in your kitchen? [HEXBUGS](#) are your solution!

Why deal with real insects when you can fill that void with these cute little robobugs! [Hexbugs](#) are tiny, cute, and make the perfect gift or desktoy for a geek near you! You can pick these up at our online store, as well as at our booth at Robogames 2009 in San Fransisco!

The [Bioloid Comprehensive Kit](#) is a tried and true humanoid kit, literally one of the most popular robot kits on the market. We put together a quick video highlighting some custom motions that

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can be easily programmed into the robot, as well as the new [Zig-100 wireless controller](#). Stay tuned to our blog for an upcoming tutorial on how to make your Bioloid humanoid robot completely remote controlled and competition ready!

RX-64: Just one more weapon in Skynet's arsenal

I remember being blown away at how strong my first hobby servos were when I built my Hexapod 2 from Lynxmotion about 12 years ago. In comparison, they were literally just a fraction of the strength of modern digital servos, and the gap widens even further when put up against a [robotic actuator](#) such as the [RX-64 Smart Actuator](#).

I was working on my mech [Hagetaka](#) the other night and made the mistake of grabbing at the robot to stabilize it while it was moving, and managed to graze my finger in one of the joints. It drew blood and immediately reminded me that working with these types of servos was an entirely different ballgame than your standard hobby servo. With that in mind, we put together a little demonstration video of just how powerful these servos can be! Enjoy!

Robotis Ollo Bug Kit

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[OLLO](#) is a reconfigurable robot construction kit for beginners of any age. Using an easy to build plates and rivets system you'll be on your way to making your own robot in no time! The [OLLO Bug Kit](#) has very detailed and well illustrated instructions to build 4 different types of robotic bugs that can trace lines, detect objects, or be controlled via wireless remote. The modular and simple building system allows you to build custom robots very quickly; your imagination is the limit!



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