

# Adafruit 1.54" elnk Display Breakouts

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https://learn.adafruit.com/adafruit-1-54-eink-display-breakouts

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- Display shape/outline:
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## Overview



Easy e-paper finally comes to microcontrollers, with these breakouts, shields and friends that are designed to make it a breeze to add a tri-color elnk display. Chances are you've seen one of those new-fangled 'e-readers' like the Kindle or Nook. They have gigantic electronic paper 'static' displays - that means the image stays on the display even when power is completely disconnected. The image is also high contrast and very daylight readable. It really does look just like printed paper!

We've liked these displays for a long time, but they were never designed for makers to use. Finally, we decided to make our own!



### We have multiple 1.54" EPD displays:

- The tri-color have black and red ink pixels and a white-ish background. We have <u>a 152x152 Tri-Color display (older, lower res screen)</u> () and a <u>200x200 Tri-Color</u> <u>display (newer higher res screen)</u> ()
- The monochrome (black and white) display has 200x200 black pixels () on a white-ish background. The monochrome displays take a lot less time to update, only a couple seconds instead of 15 seconds!



Using our Arduino library, you can create a 'frame buffer' with what pixels you want to have activated and then write that out to the display. Most simple breakouts leave it at that. But if you do the math, using even the smallest 1.54" display:  $152 \times 152$  pixels  $\times 2$  colors = 5.7 KBytes. Which won't fit into many microcontroller memories. Heck, even if you do have 32KB of RAM, why waste 6KB?

So we did you a favor and tossed a small SRAM chip on the back. This chip shares the SPI port the elnk display uses, so you only need one extra pin. And, no more framebuffering! You can use the SRAM to set up whatever you want to display, then shuffle data from SRAM to elnk when you're ready. <u>The library we wrote does all the work for</u> you (), you can just interface with it as if it were an Adafruit\_GFX compatible display ().



For ultra-low power usages, the onboard 3.3V regulator has the Enable pin brought out so you can shut down the power to the SRAM, MicroSD and display.

We even added on a MicroSD socket so you can store images, text files, whatever you like to display. Everything is 3 or 5V logic safe so you can use it with any and all microcontrollers.

## Pinouts

Even though we have multiple 1.54" EPD displays, the pinouts and dimensions are the same for all of them!

This e-Paper display uses SPI to receive image data. Since the display is SPI, it was easy to add two more SPI devices to share the bus - an SPI SRAM chip and SPI-driven SD card holder. There's quite a few pins and a variety of possible combinations for control depending on your needs.



## **Power Pins**



- 3-5V / Vin this is the power pin, connect to 3-5VDC it has reverse polarity protection but try to wire it right!
- 3.3V out this is the 3.3V output from the onboard regulator, you can 'borrow' about 100mA if you need to power some other 3.3V logic devices
- GND this is the power and signal ground pin
- ENAble This pin is all the way on the right. It is connected to the enable pin on the onboard regulator that powers everything. If you want to really have the lowest possible power draw, pull this pin low! Note that if you do so you will cut power to the elnk display but also the SPI RAM (thus erasing it) and the SD card (which means you'll have to re-initialize it when you re-power

## Data Control Pins



- SCK this is the SPI clock input pin, required for e-Ink, SRAM and SD card
- MISO this is the SPI Microcontroller In Serial Out pin, its used for the SD card and SRAM. It isn't used for the e-Ink display which is write-only, however you'll likely be using the SRAM to buffer the display so connect this one too!
- MOSI this is the SPI Microcontroller Out Serial In pin, it is used to send data from the microcontroller to the SD card, SRAM and e-Ink display
- ECS this is the E-Ink Chip Select, required for controlling the display
- D/C this is the e-Ink Data/Command pin, required for controlling the display
- SRCS this is the SRAM Chip Select, required for communicating with the onboard RAM chip.
- SDCS this is the SD card Chip Select, required for communicating with the onboard SD card holder. You can leave this disconnected if you aren't going to access SD cards
- RST this is the E-Ink ReSeT pin, you may be able to share this with your microcontroller reset pin but if you can, connect it to a digital pin.
- BUSY this is the e-lnk busy detect pin, and is optional if you don't want to connect the pin (in which case the code will just wait an approximate number of seconds)

## Assembly



### Assembly

Cut the header down to length if necessary. It will be easier to solder if you insert it into a breadboard - long pins down





## Add the E-Ink Display

Place the board over the pins so that the short pins poke through the top of the breakout pads





### And Solder!

Be sure to solder all pins for reliable electrical contact.

(For tips on soldering, be sure to check out the Guide to Excellent Soldering ()).

OK, you're done!



# Wiring

### **Breakout Wiring**

Though it looks like a lot of connections, wiring up an elnk breakout is pretty straightforward! Below shows using hardware SPI to connect it to an Adafruit Metro M4.

- Vin connects to the microcontroller board's 5V or 3.3V power supply pin
- GND connects to ground
- CLK connects to SPI clock. It's easiest to connect it to pin 3 of the ICSP header.
- MOSI connects to SPI MOSI. It's easiest to connect it to pin 4 of the ICSP header.
- MISO connects to SPI MISO. It's easiest to connect it to pin 1 of the ICSP header.
- ECS connects to our e-Ink Chip Select pin. We'll be using Digital 9
- D/C connects to our e-Ink data/command select pin. We'll be using Digital 10.
- SRCS connects to our SRAM Chip Select pin. We'll be using Digital 6
- RST connects to our e-Ink reset pin. We'll be using Digital 8.
- BUSY connects to our e-Ink busy pin. We'll be using Digital 7.
- SDCS connects to our SD Card Chip Select pin. We'll be using Digital 5



fritzing

### Python Wiring

- Raspberry Pi 3.3 to display VIN
- Raspberry Pi GND to display GND
- Raspberry Pi SCLK to display SCK
- Raspberry Pi MOSI to display MOSI
- Raspberry Pi GPIO CE0 to display ECS
- Raspberry Pi GPIO 22 to display D/C
- Raspberry Pi GPIO 27 to display RST
- Raspberry Pi GPIO 17 to display BUSY



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## **Usage & Expectations**



One thing to remember with these small e-lnk screens is that its very slow compared to OLEDs, TFTs, or even 'memory displays'. It will take may seconds to fully erase and replace an image

There's also a recommended limit on refeshing - you shouldn't refresh or change the display more than every 3 minutes (180 seconds).

You don't have to refresh often, but with tri-color displays, the larger red ink dots will slowly rise, turning the display pinkish instead of white background. To keep the background color clear and pale, refresh once a day

Do not update more than once every 180 seconds or you may permanently damage the display

# Arduino Setup

To use the display, you will need to install the Adafruit\_EPD library (code on our github repository) (). It is available from the Arduino library manager so we recommend using that.

From the IDE open up the library manager...

File Edit Sketch	Tools Help	
	Auto Format	ЖΤ
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	Fix Encoding & Reload	
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etup code here, to run	Serial Plotter	企業L
	WiFi101 / WiFiNINA Firmware Updater	

And type in adafruit EPD to locate the library. Click Install

		Library Manager	
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Adafruit EPD by Adafruit Version	4.3.0 INSTALLED		
ePaper display driv	er ePaper display driver		

If you would like to draw bitmaps, do the same with adafruit ImageReader, click Install

• •	Library Manager				
Туре	All 🔹 Topic All 🔹 Imagereader				
Ada by A Com the c <u>More</u>	Adafruit ImageReader Library by Adafruit Version 2.5.2 INSTALLED Companion Ilbrary for Addruit_GFX and Adafruit_EPD to load images from SD card. Install this library in addition to Adafruit_GFX and the display library for your hardware (e.g. Adafruit_ILI9341), plus the Adafruit_SPIFlash library and SdFat. More info				
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Do the same to install the latest adafruit GFX library, click Install

Library Manager					
Type All	Copic All		gfx		
Adafruit GFX Library by Ad Adafruit GFX graphics core to the display library for your <u>More info</u>	afruit library, this is the hardware.	'core' class that all our othe	ar graphics libraries	derive from. Install this I Version 1.3.4	ibrary in addition
Adafruit ImageReader Libr Companion library for Adaf your hardware (e.g. Adafruit_ More info	ary by Adafruit Ver ruit_GFX to load im ILI9341).	rsion 1.0.1 INSTALLED mages from SD card. Install t	his library in addition	to Adafruit_GFX and the d	lisplay library for

If using an earlier version of the Arduino IDE (pre-1.8.10), locate and install Adafruit\_Bu sIO (newer versions handle this prerequisite automatically).

# Arduino Usage

Here is where the differences in the tri-color/monochrome and chipset/ dimensions start mattering. Check carefully to make sure you are running the right example and creating the matching ThinkInk type for your display or you wont see anything happen on the EPD (or the image may be really weird looking)

## 1.54" Monochrome 200x200 Pixel Display

For the  $200 \times 200$  monochrome display () we will run a monochrome demo.



Adafruit 1.54" Monochrome elnk / ePaper Display with SRAM Easy e-paper finally comes to microcontrollers, with this breakout that's designed to make it a breeze to add an

elnk display. Chances are you've seen one of those new-fangled...

https://www.adafruit.com/product/4196

Open up File→Examples→Adafruit\_EPD→ThinkInk\_mono

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New Open Open Recent Sketchbook Examples Close Save Save Save As	#N #O ► ► #W #S û#S	Adafruit APDS9960 Library Adafruit BluefruitLE nRF51 Adafruit BME280 Library Adafruit BMP085 Unified Adafruit BMP085 Library Adafruit BN0055 Adafruit BusI0	
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		Adafruit LED Backpack Library Adafruit LIS3DH Adafruit LIS3MDL Adafruit LIS30DL	<ul> <li>ThinkInk_mono</li> <li>ThinkInk_partial</li> <li>ThinkInk_tricolor</li> </ul>

### 1.54" Tri-Color 152x152 OR 200x200 Pixel Display

For the 152x152 OR 200x200 Tri-Color display, we will run the tricolor demo.



### Adafruit 1.54" 152x152 Tri-Color eInk / ePaper Display with SRAM

Easy e-paper finally comes to microcontrollers, with this breakout that's designed to make it a breeze to add a tricolor elnk display. Chances are you've seen one of those...

https://www.adafruit.com/product/3625



# Adafruit 1.54" Tri-Color elnk / ePaper 200x200 Display with SRAM

Easy e-paper finally comes to microcontrollers, with this breakout that's designed to make it a breeze to add a tricolor elnk display. Chances are you've seen one of those...

https://www.adafruit.com/product/4868

Open up File→Examples→Adafruit\_EPD→ThinkInk\_tricolor

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New Open Open Recent Sketchbook Examples Close Save Save Save As	₩N ₩O ► ₩W ₩S ☆#S	Adafruit APDS9960 Library Adafruit BluefruitLE nRF51 Adafruit BME280 Library Adafruit BMP085 Unified Adafruit BMP280 Library Adafruit BN0055 Adafruit BN0055 Adafruit BusIO Adafruit Circuit Playaround	
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# **Configure Pins**

No matter what display you have, you will need to verify that your pins match your wiring. At the top of the sketch find the lines that look like:

EPD_DC	10
EPD_CS	9

#define SRAM\_CS 6
#define EPD\_RESET 8 // can set to -1 and share with microcontroller Reset!
#define EPD\_BUSY 7 // can set to -1 to not use a pin (will wait a fixed delay)

If you wired the display differently than on the wiring page, adjust the pin numbers accordingly.

## Configure Display Type & Size

Find the part of the script where you can pick which display is going to be used. The elnk displays are made up a combination of a Chipset and a Film in different sizes. We have narrowed it down to just a few choices between the size of the display, chipset, and film based on available combinations. In the sketch, we have sorted it by size, so it's easy to find your display.

You will need to uncomment the appropriate initializer and and leave any other type commented.

For the <u>1.54" 200x200 Monochrome breakout</u> () you will use <u>ThinkInk\_154\_Mono\_D2</u> 7 display initializer.

For the <u>1.54" 152x152 Tri-Color breakout</u> (), you will use the ThinkInk\_154\_Tricolor\_Z17 display initializer.

For the <u>1.54" 200x200 Tri-Color breakout</u> (), you will use the <u>ThinkInk\_154\_Tricolo</u> r\_Z90 display initializer.

For example, for the monochrome 200x200, uncomment this line, and comment any other line that is creating a ThinkInk display object

// 1.54" Monochrome displays with 200x200 pixels and SSD1608 chipset ThinkInk\_154\_Mono\_D27 display(EPD\_DC, EPD\_RESET, EPD\_CS, SRAM\_CS, EPD\_BUSY);

## Upload Sketch

Go ahead and upload the sketch to your board. Once it is done uploading, open the S erial Monitor.

The display should start running a series of monochrome tests





## Arduino Bitmaps



Not only can you draw shapes but you can also load images from the SD card, perfect for static images!

The 1.54" Monochrome display can show a max of 200x200 pixels and the Standard 1. 54" Tri-Color display can show a max of 152x152 pixels and the HD Tri-Color version

can show a max of 200x200 pixels. Let's use this Blinka bitmap for our demo. Select the one that is the correct size:



Download the blinka.bmp file and place it into the base directory of a microSD card and insert it into the microSD socket in the breakout.

Plug the MicroSD card into the display. You may want to try the SD library examples before continuing, especially one that lists all the files on the SD card

Open the file→examples→Adafruit\_ImageReader→ThinkInkDisplays example

File Edit Sketch Too	ls Help	🕰 🕀 🔅 (
New     %N       Open     %O       Open Recent     ▶       Sketchbook     ▶       Close     %W       Save     %S       Save As     0 %S       Page Setup     10 %P       Print     %P	Adafruit AHRS Adafruit APDS9960 Library Adafruit BluefruitLE nRF51 Adafruit BMP085 Unified Adafruit BMP085 Unified Adafruit BMP085 Unified Adafruit BN0055 Adafruit BUSIO Adafruit END Adafruit Circuit Playground Adafruit EPD Adafruit FXAS21002C Adafruit FXOS8700 Adafruit FXOS8700 Adafruit FXOS8700	
	Adafruit HX8357 Library Adafruit ImageReader Library Adafruit LED Backpack Library Adafruit LED Backpack Library Adafruit LS3DH Adafruit LSM3DL Adafruit LSM6DS Adafruit LSM9DS0 Library Adafruit LSM9DS1 Library Adafruit NeoMatrix Adafruit NeoMatrix Adafruit PixelDust Adafruit PixelDust Adafruit PixelDust Adafruit Sensor Calibration Adafruit SHT31 Library	<ul> <li>BreakoutSSD1331</li> <li>BreakoutSSD1351</li> <li>BreakoutST7735-128x128</li> <li>BreakoutST7735-160x128</li> <li>BreakoutST7735-160x80</li> <li>BreakoutST7789-320x240</li> <li>EinkBreakouts</li> <li>EinkGray29BmpButtonDemo</li> <li>FeatherWingHX8357</li> <li>FeatherWingLI9341</li> <li>FeatherWingST7735</li> <li>PyPortal</li> <li>ChickW02041</li> </ul>
	Adafruit SPIFlash Adafruit SSD1306 Adafruit SSD1331 OLED Driver Library for Arduino	<ul> <li>ShieldST7735</li> <li>TFTGizmo</li> <li>ThinkInkDisplays</li> </ul>

Upload to your board and you should see an image of Blinka appear.



If you want to later use your own image, use an image editing tool and crop your image to no larger than 152 pixels wide and 152 pixels high on the standard display and no larger than 200 pixels wide and 200 pixels high on the HD display. Save it as a 24-bit color BMP file - it must be 24-bit color format to work, even if it was originally a 16-bit color image - because of the way BMPs are stored and displayed!

## CircuitPython Usage

Here is where the differences in the tri-color/monochrome and chipset/ dimensions start mattering. Check carefully to make sure you are running the right example and creating the matching library type for your display or you wont see anything happen on the EPD (or the image may be really weird looking)

### CircuitPython eInk displayio Library Installation

To use displayio, you will need to install the appropriate library for your display.

First make sure you are running the <u>latest version of Adafruit CircuitPython</u> () for your board. You will need the latest version of CircuitPython.

Next you'll need to install the necessary libraries to use the hardware--carefully follow the steps to find and install these libraries from <u>Adafruit's CircuitPython library bundle</u> (). Our introduction guide has <u>a great page on how to install the library bundle</u> () for both express and non-express boards.

You will need to copy the appropriate displayio driver from the bundle lib folder to a li b folder on your CIRCUITPY drive. The displayio driver contains the initialization codes specific to your display that are needed to for it to work. Since there is more than one driver, you will need to copy the correct file over. Here is a list of each of the displays and the correct driver for that display.

To use the elnk displays with displayio, you will need to use the latest version of CircuitPython and a board that can fit `displayio`. See the Support Matrix to determine if `displayio` is available on a given board: <u>https://</u>circuitpython.readthedocs.io/en/latest/shared-bindings/support\_matrix.html

### Adafruit\_CircuitPython\_SSD1608

The 200x200 monochrome display with SSD1608 driver () uses the Adafruit\_CircuitPy thon\_SSD1608 library. Copy the <a href="mailto:adafruit\_ssd1608.mpy">adafruit\_ssd1608.mpy</a> file from the bundle to the I ib folder on your CIRCUITPY drive.



Adafruit 1.54" Monochrome elnk / ePaper Display with SRAM

Easy e-paper finally comes to microcontrollers, with this breakout that's designed to make it a breeze to add an elnk display. Chances are you've seen one of those new-fangled... https://www.adafruit.com/product/4196

### Adafruit\_CircuitPython\_IL0373

The 152x152 Tri-Color display with IL0373 () uses the Adafruit\_CircuitPython\_IL10373 library. Copy the adafruit\_il0373.mpy file from the bundle to the lib folder on your CIRCUITPY drive.



### Adafruit 1.54" 152x152 Tri-Color elnk / ePaper Display with SRAM

Easy e-paper finally comes to microcontrollers, with this breakout that's designed to make it a breeze to add a tricolor elnk display. Chances are you've seen one of those...

https://www.adafruit.com/product/3625

Adafruit\_CircuitPython\_SSD1681

The 200x200 Tri-Color display with SSD1681 driver () uses the Adafruit\_CircuitPython \_SSD1681 library. Copy the adafruit\_ssd1681.mpy file from the bundle to the lib folder on your CIRCUITPY drive.



#### Adafruit 1.54" Tri-Color elnk / ePaper 200x200 Display with SRAM

Easy e-paper finally comes to microcontrollers, with this breakout that's designed to make it a breeze to add a tricolor elnk display. Chances are you've seen one of those...

https://www.adafruit.com/product/4868

## Image File

To show you how to use the elnk with displayio, we'll show you how to draw a bitmap onto it. First start by downloading display-ruler.bmp

### Download display-ruler.bmp

Copy display-ruler.bmp into the root directory of your CIRCUITPY drive.

### Monochrome Display Usage

In the examples folder for your SSD1608 displayio driver, there should be a test for your display which we have listed here:

```
# SPDX-FileCopyrightText: 2021 ladyada for Adafruit Industries
# SPDX-License-Identifier: MIT
"""Simple test script for 1.54" 200x200 monochrome display.
Supported products:
   Adafruit 1.54" Monochrome ePaper Display Breakout
    * https://www.adafruit.com/product/4196
  .....
import time
import board
import displayio
import adafruit_ssd1608
displayio.release displays()
# This pinout works on a Feather M4 and may need to be altered for other boards.
spi = board.SPI() # Uses SCK and MOSI
epd cs = board.D9
epd_dc = board.D10
epd_reset = board.D5
epd_busy = board.D6
display_bus = displayio.FourWire(
    spi, command=epd_dc, chip_select=epd_cs, reset=epd_reset, baudrate=1000000
)
time.sleep(1)
display = adafruit_ssd1608.SSD1608(
    display_bus, width=200, height=200, busy_pin=epd_busy, rotation=180
)
g = displayio.Group()
with open("/display-ruler.bmp", "rb") as f:
    pic = displayio.OnDiskBitmap(f)
    # CircuitPython 6 & 7 compatible
    t = displayio.TileGrid(
        pic, pixel_shader=getattr(pic, "pixel_shader", displayio.ColorConverter())
    # CircuitPython 7 compatible only
    # t = displayio.TileGrid(pic, pixel shader=pic.pixel shader)
    g.append(t)
    display.show(g)
    display.refresh()
    print("refreshed")
    time.sleep(120)
```

### Configure and Upload

You will want to change the **epd\_reset** and **epd\_busy** to the correct values. If you wired it up as shown on the Wiring page, you will want to change it to these values:

```
epd_reset = board.D8
epd_busy = board.D7
```

Save it to your CIRCUITPY drive as code.py and it should automatically run. Your display will look something like this:



## Tri-Color Display Usage

### HD Tri-Color Display

In the examples folder for your SSD1681 displayio driver, there should be a test for your display which we have listed here:

```
# SPDX-FileCopyrightText: 2017 Scott Shawcroft, written for Adafruit Industries
# SPDX-FileCopyrightText: Copyright (c) 2021 Melissa LeBlanc-Williams for Adafruit
Industries
#
# SPDX-License-Identifier: Unlicense
"""Simple test script for 1.54" 200x200 tri-color display.
Supported products:
  * Adafruit 1.54" Tri-Color Display Breakout
        * https://www.adafruit.com/product/4868
"""
```

```
import time
import board
import displayio
import adafruit_ssd1681
displayio.release_displays()
# This pinout works on a Feather M4 and may need to be altered for other boards.
spi = board.SPI() # Uses SCK and MOSI
epd_cs = board.D9
epd_dc = board.D10
epd reset = board.D5
epd_busy = board.D6
display_bus = displayio.FourWire(
    spi, command=epd_dc, chip_select=epd_cs, reset=epd_reset, baudrate=1000000
time.sleep(1)
display = adafruit ssd1681.SSD1681(
    display_bus,
    width=200,
    height=200,
    busy_pin=epd_busy,
    highlight color=0xFF0000,
    rotation=180,
)
g = displayio.Group()
with open("/display-ruler.bmp", "rb") as f:
    pic = displayio.OnDiskBitmap(f)
    # CircuitPython 6 & 7 compatible
    t = displayio.TileGrid(
        pic, pixel_shader=getattr(pic, "pixel_shader", displayio.ColorConverter())
    )
    # CircuitPython 7 compatible only
    # t = displayio.TileGrid(pic, pixel_shader=pic.pixel_shader)
    g.append(t)
    display.show(g)
    display.refresh()
    print("refreshed")
    time.sleep(120)
```

#### Standard Tri-Color Display

In the examples folder for your ILI0373 displayio driver, there should be a test for your display which we have listed here:

```
# SPDX-FileCopyrightText: 2021 ladyada for Adafruit Industries
# SPDX-License-Identifier: MIT
"""Simple test script for 1.54" 152x152 tri-color display.
Supported products:
    * Adafruit 1.54" Tri-Color Display Breakout
    * https://www.adafruit.com/product/3625
"""
import time
```

```
import board
import displayio
import adafruit_il0373
displayio.release_displays()
# This pinout works on a Feather M4 and may need to be altered for other boards.
spi = board.SPI() # Uses SCK and MOSI
epd_cs = board.D9
epd_dc = board.D10
epd_reset = board.D5
epd_busy = board.D6
display_bus = displayio.FourWire(
    spi, command=epd_dc, chip_select=epd_cs, reset=epd_reset, baudrate=1000000
time.sleep(1)
display = adafruit il0373.IL0373(
    display bus,
    width=152,
    height=152,
    busy_pin=epd_busy,
    highlight color=0xFF0000,
    rotation=180,
)
g = displayio.Group()
with open("/display-ruler.bmp", "rb") as f:
    pic = displayio.OnDiskBitmap(f)
    # CircuitPython 6 & 7 compatible
    t = displayio.TileGrid(
        pic, pixel_shader=getattr(pic, "pixel_shader", displayio.ColorConverter())
    # CircuitPython 7 compatible only
    # t = displayio.TileGrid(pic, pixel_shader=pic.pixel_shader)
    g.append(t)
    display.show(g)
    display.refresh()
    print("refreshed")
    time.sleep(120)
```

#### Configure and Upload

For either display, you will want to change the epd\_reset and epd\_busy to the correct values. If you wired it up as shown on the Wiring page, you will want to change it to these values:

```
epd_reset = board.D8
epd_busy = board.D7
```

Save it to your CIRCUITPY drive as code.py and it should automatically run. Your display will look something like this:



# Python Setup

It's easy to use elnk breakouts with Python and the Adafruit CircuitPython EPD () librar y. This library allows you to easily write Python code to control the display.

Since there are dozens of Linux computers/boards you can use, we will show wiring for Raspberry Pi. For other platforms, <u>please visit the guide for CircuitPython on Linux</u> to see whether your platform is supported ().

Note this is not a kernel driver that will let you have the console appear on the elnk. However, this is handy when you want to use the elnk display purely from 'user Python' code!

You can only use this technique with Linux/computer devices that have hardware SPI support, and not all single board computers have an SPI device, so check before continuing

You'll need to install the Adafruit\_Blinka library that provides the CircuitPython support in Python. This may also require enabling SPI on your platform and verifying you are running Python 3. Since each platform is a little different, and Linux changes often, please visit the CircuitPython on Linux guide to get your computer ready ()!

### Python Installation of EPD Library

Once that's done, from your command line run the following command:

sudo pip3 install adafruit-circuitpython-epd

If your default Python is version 3 you may need to run 'pip' instead. Just make sure you aren't trying to use CircuitPython on Python 2.x, it isn't supported!

If that complains about pip3 not being installed, then run this first to install it:

sudo apt-get install python3-pip

### Download font5x8.bin

This library also requires a font file to run! You can download it below. Before continuing, make sure the folder you are running scripts from contains the font5x8.bin file.

Download font5x8.bin

Alternatively, you can use wget to directly download the file to your pi:

```
wget https://github.com/adafruit/Adafruit_CircuitPython_framebuf/raw/main/examples/
font5x8.bin
```

## DejaVu TTF Font

Raspberry Pi usually comes with the DejaVu font already installed, but in case it didn't, you can run the following to install it:

sudo apt-get install fonts-dejavu

This package was previously calls ttf-dejavu, so if you are running an older version of Raspberry Pi OS, it may be called that.

### **Pillow Library**

Some of the examples also use PIL, the Python Imaging Library, to allow graphics and using text with custom fonts. There are several system libraries that PIL relies on, so installing via a package manager is the easiest way to bring in everything:

```
sudo apt-get install python3-pil
```

That's it. You should be ready to go.

# Python Usage

Note this is not a kernel driver that will let you have the console appear on the elnk. However, this is handy when you want to use the elnk display purely from 'user Python' code!

You can only use this technique with Linux/computer devices that have hardware SPI support, and not all single board computers have an SPI device, so check before continuing

To demonstrate the usage of the display, we'll initialize it and draw some lines from the Python REPL.

Run the following code to import the necessary modules and set up the pin assignments. We set the SRAM CS pin to **None** because the Raspberry Pi has lots of RAM, so we don't really need it.

```
import digitalio
import busio
import board
from adafruit_epd.epd import Adafruit_EPD
spi = busio.SPI(board.SCK, MOSI=board.MOSI, MISO=board.MISO)
ecs = digitalio.DigitalInOut(board.CE0)
dc = digitalio.DigitalInOut(board.D22)
rst = digitalio.DigitalInOut(board.D27)
busy = digitalio.DigitalInOut(board.D17)
srcs = None
```

Depending on the exact E-Ink display you're using, the driver and object initialization will differ a bit because we have to tell Python what the chip driver is, and what the size of the display is!

Run the following code to initialize the Monochrome display:



#### Adafruit 1.54" Monochrome elnk / ePaper Display with SRAM

Easy e-paper finally comes to microcontrollers, with this breakout that's designed to make it a breeze to add an elnk display. Chances are you've seen one of those new-fangled... https://www.adafruit.com/product/4196

from adafruit\_epd.ssd1608 import Adafruit\_SSD1608

```
display = Adafruit_SSD1608(200, 200, spi, cs_pin=ecs, dc_pin=dc, sramcs_pin=srcs,
rst_pin=rst, busy_pin=busy)
```

Run the following code to initialize the lower-res Tri-Color display:



#### Adafruit 1.54" 152x152 Tri-Color elnk / ePaper Display with SRAM

Easy e-paper finally comes to microcontrollers, with this breakout that's designed to make it a breeze to add a tricolor elnk display. Chances are you've seen one of those...

https://www.adafruit.com/product/3625

```
from adafruit_epd.il0373 import Adafruit_IL0373
display = Adafruit_IL0373(152, 152, spi, cs_pin=ecs, dc_pin=dc, sramcs_pin=srcs,
rst_pin=rst, busy_pin=busy)
```

Run the following code to initialize the newer high-res Tri-Color display:



# Adafruit 1.54" Tri-Color elnk / ePaper 200x200 Display with SRAM

Easy e-paper finally comes to microcontrollers, with this breakout that's designed to make it a breeze to add a tricolor elnk display. Chances are you've seen one of those...

https://www.adafruit.com/product/4868

from adafruit\_epd.ssd1681 import Adafruit\_SSD1681

display = Adafruit\_SSD1681(200, 200, spi, cs\_pin=ecs, dc\_pin=dc, sramcs\_pin=srcs, rst\_pin=rst, busy\_pin=busy)

### Monochrome Example

Now we can clear the screens buffer and draw some shapes. Once we're done drawing, we need to tell the screen to update using the display() method.

```
display.rotation = 2
display.fill(Adafruit_EPD.WHITE)
display.fill_rect(20, 20, 50, 60, Adafruit_EPD.BLACK)
display.hline(80, 30, 60, Adafruit_EPD.BLACK)
display.vline(80, 30, 60, Adafruit_EPD.BLACK)
display.display()
```

### Tri-Color Example

The Tri-Color example is almost the same as the monochrome example, except we added another color in. Once we're done drawing, we need to tell the screen to update using the display() method.

```
display.rotation = 2
display.fill(Adafruit_EPD.WHITE)
display.fill_rect(20, 20, 50, 60, Adafruit_EPD.RED)
display.hline(80, 30, 60, Adafruit_EPD.BLACK)
display.vline(80, 30, 60, Adafruit_EPD.BLACK)
display.display()
```

Your display will look something like this:



That's all there is to drawing simple shapes with elnk displays and CircuitPython!

## Bitmap Example

Here's a complete example of how to display a bitmap image on your display. Note that any .bmp image you want to display must be exactly the size of your display. We will be using the image below on the 1.54" display. Click the button below to download the image and save it as blinka.bmp on your Raspberry Pi. We will be using a Tri-Color bitmap, but it should still work on a monochrome display.

Click here to download blinka for the 1.54" Low Res Tri-Color display

Click here to download blinka for the 1.54" High Res Tri-Color and Mono displays

Save the following code to your Raspberry Pi as epd\_bitmap.py.

```
# SPDX-FileCopyrightText: 2021 ladyada for Adafruit Industries
# SPDX-License-Identifier: MIT
import digitalio
import busio
import board
from adafruit_epd.epd import Adafruit_EPD
from adafruit_epd.il0373 import Adafruit_IL0373
from adafruit_epd.il91874 import Adafruit_IL91874 # pylint: disable=unused-import
from adafruit_epd.il0398 import Adafruit_IL0398 # pylint: disable=unused-import
```

```
from adafruit_epd.ssd1608 import Adafruit_SSD1608  # pylint: disable=unused-import
from adafruit_epd.ssd1675 import Adafruit_SSD1675  # pylint: disable=unused-import
from adafruit_epd.ssd1680 import Adafruit_SSD1680 # pylint: disable=unused-import
from adafruit_epd.ssd1681 import Adafruit_SSD1681 # pylint: disable=unused-import
from adafruit_epd.uc8151d import Adafruit_UC8151D # pylint: disable=unused-import
# create the spi device and pins we will need
spi = busio.SPI(board.SCK, MOSI=board.MOSI, MISO=board.MISO)
ecs = digitalio.DigitalInOut(board.D10)
dc = digitalio.DigitalInOut(board.D9)
srcs = digitalio.DigitalInOut(board.D7) # can be None to use internal memory
rst = digitalio.DigitalInOut(board.D11) # can be None to not use this pin
busy = digitalio.DigitalInOut(board.D12) # can be None to not use this pin
# give them all to our driver
print("Creating display")
# display = Adafruit_SSD1608(200, 200,
                                                  # 1.54" HD mono display
# display = Adafruit_SSD1675(122, 250,
                                                 # 2.13" HD mono display
                                                 # 2.13" HD Tri-color display
# display = Adafruit_SSD1680(122, 250,
# display = Adafruit_SSD1681(200, 200,
                                                 # 1.54" HD Tri-color display
# display = Adafruit_IL91874(176, 264,
# display = Adafruit_IL0373(152, 152,
# display = Adafruit_UC8151D(128, 296,
# display = Adafruit_IL0373(128, 296,
                                                  # 2.7" Tri-color display
                                                  # 1.54" Tri-color display
                                                  # 2.9" mono flexible display
                                                 # 2.9" Tri-color display
# display = Adafruit IL0398(400, 300,
                                                 # 4.2" Tri-color display
display = Adafruit_IL0373(
    104,
    212, # 2.13" Tri-color display
    spi,
    cs_pin=ecs,
    dc_pin=dc,
    sramcs_pin=srcs,
    rst_pin=rst,
    busy_pin=busy,
)
# IF YOU HAVE A 2.13" FLEXIBLE DISPLAY uncomment these lines!
# display.set_black_buffer(1, False)
# display.set_color_buffer(1, False)
# IF YOU HAVE A 2.9" FLEXIBLE DISPLAY uncomment these lines!
# display.set_black_buffer(1, True)
# display.set_color_buffer(1, True)
display.rotation = 0
FILENAME = "blinka.bmp"
def read_le(s):
    # as of this writting, int.from_bytes does not have LE support, DIY!
    result = 0
    shift = 0
    for byte in bytearray(s):
         result += byte << shift
         shift += 8
    return result
class BMPError(Exception):
    pass
def display bitmap(epd, filename): # pylint: disable=too-many-locals, too-many-
branches
    trv:
         f = open(filename, "rb") # pylint: disable=consider-using-with
    except OSError:
```

```
print("Couldn't open file")
        return
    print("File opened")
    try:
        if f.read(2) != b"BM": # check signature
            raise BMPError("Not BitMap file")
        bmpFileSize = read_le(f.read(4))
        f.read(4) # Read & ignore creator bytes
        bmpImageoffset = read le(f.read(4)) # Start of image data
        headerSize = read_le(f.read(4))
        bmpWidth = read_le(f.read(4))
        bmpHeight = read_le(f.read(4))
        flip = True
        print(
            "Size: %d\nImage offset: %d\nHeader size: %d"
            % (bmpFileSize, bmpImageoffset, headerSize)
        )
        print("Width: %d\nHeight: %d" % (bmpWidth, bmpHeight))
        if read le(f.read(2)) != 1:
            raise BMPError("Not singleplane")
        bmpDepth = read_le(f.read(2)) # bits per pixel
        print("Bit depth: %d" % (bmpDepth))
        if bmpDepth != 24:
            raise BMPError("Not 24-bit")
        if read_le(f.read(2)) != 0:
            raise BMPError("Compressed file")
        print("Image OK! Drawing...")
        rowSize = (bmpWidth * 3 + 3) & ~3 # 32-bit line boundary
        for row in range(bmpHeight): # For each scanline...
            if flip: # Bitmap is stored bottom-to-top order (normal BMP)
                pos = bmpImageoffset + (bmpHeight - 1 - row) * rowSize
            else: # Bitmap is stored top-to-bottom
                pos = bmpImageoffset + row * rowSize
            # print ("seek to %d" % pos)
            f.seek(pos)
            rowdata = f.read(3 * bmpWidth)
            for col in range(bmpWidth):
                b, g, r = rowdata[3 * col : 3 * col + 3] # BMP files store RGB in
BGR
                if r < 0x80 and g < 0x80 and b < 0x80:
                    epd.pixel(col, row, Adafruit EPD.BLACK)
                elif r >= 0 \times 80 and g >= 0 \times 80 and b >= 0 \times 80:
                    pass # epd.pixel(row, col, Adafruit_EPD.WHITE)
                elif r \ge 0x80:
                    epd.pixel(col, row, Adafruit_EPD.RED)
    except OSError:
        print("Couldn't read file")
    except BMPError as e:
        print("Failed to parse BMP: " + e.args[0])
    finally:
        f.close()
    print("Finished drawing")
# clear the buffer
display.fill(Adafruit EPD.WHITE)
display_bitmap(display, FILENAME)
display.display()
```

Before running it, we need to change a few pin definitions though. Find the section of code that looks like this:

```
ecs = digitalio.DigitalInOut(board.D10)
dc = digitalio.DigitalInOut(board.D9)
srcs = digitalio.DigitalInOut(board.D7)  # can be None to use internal memory
rst = digitalio.DigitalInOut(board.D11)  # can be None to not use this pin
busy = digitalio.DigitalInOut(board.D12)  # can be None to not use this pin
```

Change the pins to the following to match the wiring on the Raspberry Pi:

```
ecs = digitalio.DigitalInOut(board.CE0)
dc = digitalio.DigitalInOut(board.D22)
srcs = None
rst = digitalio.DigitalInOut(board.D27)
busy = digitalio.DigitalInOut(board.D17)
```

Next, find the section that looks like this:

```
# 1.54" HD mono display
# display = Adafruit_SSD1608(200, 200,
# display = Adafruit_SSD1605(120, 200,
# display = Adafruit_SSD1675(122, 250,
# display = Adafruit_SSD1681(200, 200,
# display = Adafruit_IL91874(176, 264,
# display = Adafruit_IL0373(152, 152,
# display = Adafruit_IL0373(128, 296,
                                                                       # 2.13" HD mono display
                                                                        # 1.54" HD Tri-color display
                                                                        # 2.7" Tri-color display
# 2.9" Tri-color display
# 2.9" Tri-color display
# display = Adafruit_IL0398(400, 300,
                                                                        # 4.2" Tri-color display
display = Adafruit IL0373(
       104,
       212,
       spi, # 2.13" Tri-color display
       cs pin=ecs,
      dc pin=dc,
       sramcs_pin=srcs,
      rst_pin=rst,
      busy_pin=busy,
)
```

Comment out these lines:

display = Adafruit\_IL0373(
 104,
 212, # 2.13" Tri-color display

and uncomment the line that corresponds with your display.

Next we tell the display the rotation setting we want to use. This can be a value between 0-3. For the 1.54" displays, a value of 2 seems to work well.

```
display.rotation = 2
```

Now go to the command prompt on your Raspberry Pi and run the script with the following command:

#### python3 epd\_bitmap.py

After a few seconds, your display should show an image like this:



## Full Example Code

Here is the full example code.

To run the code sample below, you will need to change the pins the same way as you did in the Tri-color Bitmap Example.

```
# SPDX-FileCopyrightText: 2021 ladyada for Adafruit Industries
# SPDX-License-Identifier: MIT
import digitalio
import busio
import board
from adafruit_epd.epd import Adafruit_EPD
from adafruit_epd.il0373 import Adafruit_IL0373
from adafruit_epd.il0374 import Adafruit_IL0378 # pylint: disable=unused-import
from adafruit_epd.il0398 import Adafruit_IL0398 # pylint: disable=unused-import
from adafruit_epd.sdl608 import Adafruit_SSD1608 # pylint: disable=unused-import
from adafruit_epd.ssdl608 import Adafruit_SSD1608 # pylint: disable=unused-import
from adafruit_epd.ssdl675 import Adafruit_SSD1675 # pylint: disable=unused-import
from adafruit_epd.ssdl680 import Adafruit_SSD1680 # pylint: disable=unused-import
from adafruit_epd.ssdl681 import Adafruit_SSD1681 # pylint: disable=unused-import
from adafruit_epd.uc8151d import Adafruit_UC8151D # pylint: disable=unused-import
# create the spi device and pins we will need
```

```
spi = busio.SPI(board.SCK, MOSI=board.MOSI, MISO=board.MISO)
ecs = digitalio.DigitalInOut(board.D12)
dc = digitalio.DigitalInOut(board.D11)
srcs = digitalio.DigitalInOut(board.D10) # can be None to use internal memory
rst = digitalio.DigitalInOut(board.D9) # can be None to not use this pin
busy = digitalio.DigitalInOut(board.D5) # can be None to not use this pin
# give them all to our drivers
print("Creating display")
# display = Adafruit_SSD1608(200, 200,
                                                     # 1.54" HD mono display
# display = Adafruit_SSD1675(122, 250,
                                                     # 2.13" HD mono display
# display = Adafruit_SSD1680(122, 250,
                                                    # 2.13" HD Tri-color display
                                                    # 1.54" HD Tri-color display
# display = Adafruit_SSD1681(200, 200,
                                                    # 2.7" Tri-color display
# display = Adafruit_IL91874(176, 264,
                                                  # 1.54" Tri-color display
# 2.9" mono flexible display
# 2.9" Tri-color display
# display = Adafruit_IL0373(152, 152,
# display = Adafruit_UC8151D(128, 296,
# display = Adafruit_IL0373(128, 296,
# display = Adafruit_IL0373(128, 296,
# display = Adafruit_IL0398(400, 300,
# display = Adafruit_IL0398(400, 300,
# 4.2" Tri-color display
display = Adafruit IL0373(
     104,
           # 2.13" Tri-color display
     212,
    spi,
     cs_pin=ecs,
    dc pin=dc,
     sramcs_pin=srcs,
     rst pin=rst,
    busy_pin=busy,
)
# IF YOU HAVE A 2.13" FLEXIBLE DISPLAY uncomment these lines!
# display.set_black_buffer(1, False)
# display.set_color_buffer(1, False)
# IF YOU HAVE A 2.9" FLEXIBLE DISPLAY uncomment these lines!
# display.set_black_buffer(1, True)
# display.set_color_buffer(1, True)
display.rotation = 1
# clear the buffer
print("Clear buffer")
display.fill(Adafruit EPD.WHITE)
display.pixel(10, 100, Adafruit_EPD.BLACK)
print("Draw Rectangles")
display.fill_rect(5, 5, 10, 10, Adafruit_EPD.RED)
display.rect(0, 0, 20, 30, Adafruit_EPD.BLACK)
print("Draw lines")
display.line(0, 0, display.width - 1, display.height - 1, Adafruit EPD.BLACK)
display.line(0, display.height - 1, display.width - 1, 0, Adafruit_EPD.RED)
print("Draw text")
display.text("hello world", 25, 10, Adafruit_EPD.BLACK)
display.display()
```

## Image Drawing with Pillow

In this image, we will use Pillow to resize and crop the image automatically and draw it the the ePaper Display. Pillow is really powerful and with it you can open and render additional file formats such as PNG or JPG. Let's start with downloading a PNG of blinka that has been adjusted down to 3 colors so it prints nicely on an ePaper Display. We are using PNG for this because it is a lossless format and won't introduce unexpected colors in.



Make sure you save it as blinka.png and place it in the same folder as your script. Here's the code we'll be loading onto the Raspberry Pi. Go ahead and copy it onto your Raspberry Pi and save it as epd\_pillow\_image.py. We'll go over the interesting parts.

```
# SPDX-FileCopyrightText: 2019 Melissa LeBlanc-Williams for Adafruit Industries
# SPDX-License-Identifier: MIT
Image resizing and drawing using the Pillow Library. For the image, check out the
associated Adafruit Learn guide at:
https://learn.adafruit.com/adafruit-eink-display-breakouts/python-code
.....
import digitalio
import busio
import board
from PIL import Image
from adafruit_epd.ilo373 import Adafruit_IL0373
from adafruit_epd.il91874 import Adafruit_IL91874 # pylint: disable=unused-import
from adafruit epd.il0398 import Adafruit IL0398 # pylint: disable=unused-import
from adafruit_epd.ssd1608 import Adafruit_SSD1608 # pylint: disable=unused-import
from adafruit_epd.ssd1605 import Adafruit_SSD1675  # pylint: disable=unused-import
from adafruit_epd.ssd1680 import Adafruit_SSD1680  # pylint: disable=unused-import
from adafruit_epd.ssd1681 import Adafruit_SSD1681  # pylint: disable=unused-import
from adafruit_epd.uc8151d import Adafruit_UC8151D  # pylint: disable=unused-import
# create the spi device and pins we will need
spi = busio.SPI(board.SCK, MOSI=board.MOSI, MISO=board.MISO)
ecs = digitalio.DigitalInOut(board.CE0)
dc = digitalio.DigitalInOut(board.D22)
srcs = None
rst = digitalio.DigitalInOut(board.D27)
busy = digitalio.DigitalInOut(board.D17)
# give them all to our driver
```

```
# 1.54" HD mono display
# 2.13" HD mono display
# 2.13" HD Tri-color or mono display
# 1.54" HD Tri-color display
# 2.7" Tri-color display
# 1 54" Tri
# display = Adafruit_SSD1608(200, 200,
# display = Adafruit_SSD1675(122, 250,
# display = Adafruit_SSD1680(122, 250,
# display = Adafruit_SSD1681(200, 200,
# display = Adafruit_IL91874(176, 264,
                                                    # 1.54" Tri-color display
# display = Adafruit_IL0373(152, 152,
                                                # 2.9" mono flexible display
# 2.9" Tri-color display
# 4.2" Tri-color display
# display = Adafruit_UC8151D(128, 296,
# display = Adafruit_IL0373(128, 296,
# display = Adafruit_IL0398(400, 300,
display = Adafruit_IL0373(
     104,
           # 2.13" Tri-color display
     212,
    spi,
     cs_pin=ecs,
    dc_pin=dc,
    sramcs_pin=srcs,
     rst_pin=rst,
     busy_pin=busy,
)
# IF YOU HAVE A 2.13" FLEXIBLE DISPLAY uncomment these lines!
# display.set_black_buffer(1, False)
# display.set_color_buffer(1, False)
# IF YOU HAVE A 2.9" FLEXIBLE DISPLAY uncomment these lines!
# display.set_black_buffer(1, True)
# display.set_color_buffer(1, True)
display.rotation = 1
image = Image.open("blinka.png")
# Scale the image to the smaller screen dimension
image_ratio = image.width / image.height
screen ratio = display.width / display.height
if screen_ratio < image_ratio:
     scaled_width = image.width * display.height // image.height
     scaled_height = display.height
else:
     scaled_width = display.width
    scaled height = image.height * display.width // image.width
image = image.resize((scaled_width, scaled_height), Image.BICUBIC)
# Crop and center the image
x = scaled_width // 2 - display.width // 2
y = scaled_height // 2 - display.height // 2
image = image.crop((x, y, x + display.width, y + display.height)).convert("RGB")
# Convert to Monochrome and Add dithering
# image = image.convert("1").convert("L")
# Display image.
display.image(image)
display.display()
```

So we start with our usual imports including a couple of Pillow modules and the ePaper display drivers.

```
import digitalio
import busio
import board
from PIL import Image, ImageDraw
from adafruit_epd.il0373 import Adafruit_IL0373
from adafruit_epd.il91874 import Adafruit_IL91874
from adafruit_epd.il0398 import Adafruit_IL0398
from adafruit_epd.ssd1608 import Adafruit_SSD1608
```

from adafruit\_epd.ssd1675 import Adafruit\_SSD1675
from adafruit\_epd.ssd1681 import Adafruit\_SSD1681

That is followed by initializing the SPI bus and defining a few pins here. The reason we chose these is because they allow you to use the same code with the EPD bonnets if you chose to do so.

```
spi = busio.SPI(board.SCK, MOSI=board.MOSI, MISO=board.MISO)
ecs = digitalio.DigitalInOut(board.CE0)
dc = digitalio.DigitalInOut(board.D22)
srcs = None
rst = digitalio.DigitalInOut(board.D27)
busy = digitalio.DigitalInOut(board.D17)
```

We wanted to make these examples work on as many displays as possible with very few changes. The 2.13" Tri-color display is selected by default. For other displays, go ahead and comment out the following lines:

```
display = Adafruit_IL0373(
    104,
    212, # 2.13" Tri-color display
```

and uncomment the line appropriate for your display.

```
#display = Adafruit_SSD1608(200, 200,
                                                 # 1.54" HD mono display
#display = Adafruit_SSD1675(122, 250, # 2.13" HD mono display
#display = Adafruit_SSD1681(200, 200, # 1.54" HD Tri-color display
                                                  # 2.7" Tri-color display
# 1.54" Tri-color display
# 2.9" Tri-color display
# 4.2" Tri-color display
                                                   # 2.7" Tri-color display
#display = Adafruit_IL91874(176, 264,
#display = Adafruit_IL0398(400, 300,
display = Adafruit_IL0373(
    104,
    212,
           # 2.13" Tri-color display
    spi,
    cs_pin=ecs,
    dc_pin=dc,
    sramcs_pin=srcs,
    rst pin=rst,
    busy_pin=busy
)
```

Next change the rotation setting to 2.

display.rotation = 2

Next we open the Blinka image, which we've named blinka.png, which assumes it is in the same directory that you are running the script from. Feel free to change it if it doesn't match your configuration. Here's where it starts to get interesting. We want to scale the image so that it matches either the width or height of the display, depending on which is smaller, so that we have some of the image to chop off when we crop it. So we start by calculating the width to height ration of both the display and the image. If the height is the closer of the dimensions, we want to match the image height to the display height and let it be a bit wider than the display. Otherwise, we want to do the opposite.

Once we've figured out how we're going to scale it, we pass in the new dimensions and using a Bicubic rescaling method, we reassign the newly rescaled image back to **image**. Pillow has quite a few different methods to choose from, but Bicubic does a great job and is reasonably fast.

Nearest actually gives a little better result with the Tri-color elnks, but loses detail with displaying a color image on the monochrome display, so we decided to go with the best balance.

```
image_ratio = image.width / image.height
screen_ratio = display.width / display.height
if screen_ratio < image_ratio:
    scaled_width = image.width * display.height // image.height
scaled_height = display.height
else:
    scaled_width = display.width
    scaled_height = image.height * display.width // image.width
image = image.resize((scaled_width, scaled_height), Image.BICUBIC)
```

Next we want to figure the starting x and y points of the image where we want to begin cropping it so that it ends up centered. We do that by using a standard centering function, which is basically requesting the difference of the center of the display and the center of the image. Just like with scaling, we replace the image vari able with the newly cropped image.

```
x = scaled_width // 2 - display.width // 2
y = scaled_height // 2 - display.height // 2
image = image.crop((x, y, x + display.width, y + display.height))
```

Finally, we take our **image**, draw it to the frame buffer and **display** it. At this point, the image should have the exact same dimensions at the display and fill it completely.

```
display.image(image)
display.display()
```

Now go to the command prompt on your Raspberry Pi and run the script with the following command:

#### python3 epd\_pillow\_image.py



After a few seconds, your display should show this image:

## **Drawing Shapes and Text with Pillow**

In the next example, we'll take a look at drawing shapes and text. This is very similar to the displayio example, but it uses Pillow instead. Go ahead and copy it onto your Raspberry Pi and save it as epd\_pillow\_demo.py. Here's the code for that.

```
# SPDX-FileCopyrightText: 2019 Melissa LeBlanc-Williams for Adafruit Industries
# SPDX-License-Identifier: MIT
"""
ePaper Display Shapes and Text demo using the Pillow Library.
"""
import digitalio
import busio
import board
from PIL import Image, ImageDraw, ImageFont
from adafruit_epd.il0373 import Adafruit_IL0373
from adafruit_epd.il0373 import Adafruit_IL91874  # pylint: disable=unused-import
from adafruit_epd.il0398 import Adafruit_IL0388  # pylint: disable=unused-import
from adafruit_epd.sd1608 import Adafruit_SD1608  # pylint: disable=unused-import
from adafruit_epd.sd1680 import Adafruit_SD1675  # pylint: disable=unused-import
from adafruit_epd.sd1680 import Adafruit_SD1680  # pylint: disable=unused-import
from adafruit_epd.sd1681 import Adafruit_SD1681  # pylint: disable=unused-import
from adafruit_epd.sd1681 import Adafruit_SD1681  # pylint: disable=unused-import
from adafruit_epd.uc8151d import Adafruit_UC8151D  # pylint: disable=unused-import
```

```
# First define some color constants
WHITE = (0 \times FF, 0 \times FF, 0 \times FF)
\mathsf{BLACK} = (0 \times 00, 0 \times 00, 0 \times 00)
\mathsf{RED} = (0 \times \mathsf{FF}, 0 \times 00, 0 \times 00)
# Next define some constants to allow easy resizing of shapes and colors
BORDER = 20
FONTSIZE = 24
BACKGROUND_COLOR = BLACK
FOREGROUND_COLOR = WHITE
TEXT_COLOR = RED
# create the spi device and pins we will need
spi = busio.SPI(board.SCK, MOSI=board.MOSI, MISO=board.MISO)
ecs = digitalio.DigitalInOut(board.CE0)
dc = digitalio.DigitalInOut(board.D22)
srcs = None
rst = digitalio.DigitalInOut(board.D27)
busy = digitalio.DigitalInOut(board.D17)
# give them all to our driver
# display = Adafruit_SSD1608(200, 200,
# display = Adafruit_SSD1675(122, 250,
# display = Adafruit_SSD1680(122, 250,
                                                   # 1.54" HD mono display
                                                   # 2.13" HD mono display
                                                   # 2.13" HD Tri-color or mono display
# display = Adafruit_SSD1681(200, 200,
                                                   # 1.54" HD Tri-color display
                                                   # 2.7" Tri-color display
# display = Adafruit_IL91874(176, 264,
                                                   # 1.54" Tri-color display
# display = Adafruit_IL0373(152, 152,
                                                   # 2.9" mono flexible display
# display = Adafruit_UC8151D(128, 296,
# display = Adafruit_IL0373(128, 296,
# display = Adafruit_IL0398(400, 300,
                                                   # 2.9" Tri-color display
                                                   # 4.2" Tri-color display
display = Adafruit_IL0373(
    104,
    212, # 2.13" Tri-color display
    spi,
    cs_pin=ecs,
    dc_pin=dc,
    sramcs_pin=srcs,
    rst_pin=rst,
    busy_pin=busy,
)
# IF YOU HAVE A 2.13" FLEXIBLE DISPLAY uncomment these lines!
# display.set_black_buffer(1, False)
# display.set_color_buffer(1, False)
# IF YOU HAVE A 2.9" FLEXIBLE DISPLAY uncomment these lines!
# display.set_black_buffer(1, True)
# display.set_color_buffer(1, True)
display.rotation = 1
image = Image.new("RGB", (display.width, display.height))
# Get drawing object to draw on image.
draw = ImageDraw.Draw(image)
# Draw a filled box as the background
draw.rectangle((0, 0, display.width - 1, display.height - 1), fill=BACKGROUND_COLOR)
# Draw a smaller inner foreground rectangle
draw.rectangle(
    (BORDER, BORDER, display.width - BORDER - 1, display.height - BORDER - 1),
    fill=FOREGROUND COLOR,
)
# Load a TTF Font
font = ImageFont.truetype("/usr/share/fonts/truetype/dejavu/DejaVuSans.ttf",
FONTSIZE)
```

```
# Draw Some Text
text = "Hello World!"
(font_width, font_height) = font.getsize(text)
draw.text(
        (display.width // 2 - font_width // 2, display.height // 2 - font_height // 2),
        text,
        font=font,
        fill=TEXT_COLOR,
)
# Display image.
display.image(image)
display.display()
```

Just like in the last example, we'll do our imports, but this time we're including the **ImageDraw** and **ImageFont** Pillow modules because we'll be drawing some text this time.

```
import digitalio
import busio
import board
from PIL import Image, ImageDraw, ImageFont
from adafruit_epd.il0373 import Adafruit_IL0373
from adafruit_epd.il0398 import Adafruit_IL01874
from adafruit_epd.il0398 import Adafruit_IL0398
from adafruit_epd.ssd1608 import Adafruit_SSD1608
from adafruit_epd.ssd1675 import Adafruit_SSD1675
from adafruit_epd.ssd1681 import Adafruit_SSD1681
```

Next we define some colors that can be used with Pillow.

WHITE =  $(0 \times FF, 0 \times FF, 0 \times FF)$ BLACK =  $(0 \times 00, 0 \times 00, 0 \times 00)$ RED =  $(0 \times FF, 0 \times 00, 0 \times 00)$ 

After that, we create some parameters that are easy to change. If you had a smaller display for instance, you could reduce the FONTSIZE and BORDER parameters. The BORDER will be the size in pixels of the green border between the edge of the display and the inner purple rectangle. The FONTSIZE will be the size of the font in points so that we can adjust it easily for different displays. You could play around with the colors as well. One thing to note is that on monochrome displays, the RED will show up as BLACK.

For the 1.54" display, a **BORDER** value of 10 and a **FONTSIZE** value of 20 looks good.

BORDER = 10 FONTSIZE = 20 BACKGROUND\_COLOR = BLACK FOREGROUND\_COLOR = WHITE TEXT\_COLOR = RED After that, the initializer and rotation sections are exactly the same as in the previous example. If you have are using a different display than the 2.13" Tri-color, go ahead and adjust your initializer as explained in the previous example. After that, we will create an **image** with our dimensions and use that to create a **draw** object. The **draw** object will have all of our drawing functions.

```
image = Image.new('RGB', (display.width, display.height))
draw = ImageDraw.Draw(image)
```

Next we clear whatever is on the screen by drawing a rectangle using the **BACKGROUN D\_COLOR** that takes up the full screen.

draw.rectangle((0, 0, display.width, display.height), fill=BACKGROUND\_COLOR)

Next we will draw an inner rectangle using the **FOREGROUND\_COLOR**. We use the **BORDER** parameter to calculate the size and position that we want to draw the rectangle.

Next we'll load a TTF font. The **DejaVuSans.ttf** font should come preloaded on your Pi in the location in the code. We also make use of the **FONTSIZE** parameter that we discussed earlier.

```
font = ImageFont.truetype('/usr/share/fonts/truetype/dejavu/DejaVuSans.ttf',
FONTSIZE)
```

Now we draw the text Hello World onto the center of the display. You may recognize the centering calculation was the same one we used to center crop the image in the previous example. In this example though, we get the font size values using the gets ize() function of the font object.

Finally, just like before, we display the image.

```
display.image(image)
display.display()
```

Now go to the command prompt on your Raspberry Pi and run the script with the following command:

#### python3 epd\_pillow\_demo.py



After a few seconds, your display should show this image:

## Downloads

## Files

- Fritzing object in Adafruit Fritzing Library ()
- IL0376F E-Ink interface chip datasheet ()
- SSD1608 E-Ink interface chip datasheet ()
- SSD1681 Datasheet ()
- PCB Files on GitHub ()

## Display shape/outline:



## Schematic



## **Fabrication Print**

