

How to connect to Pico

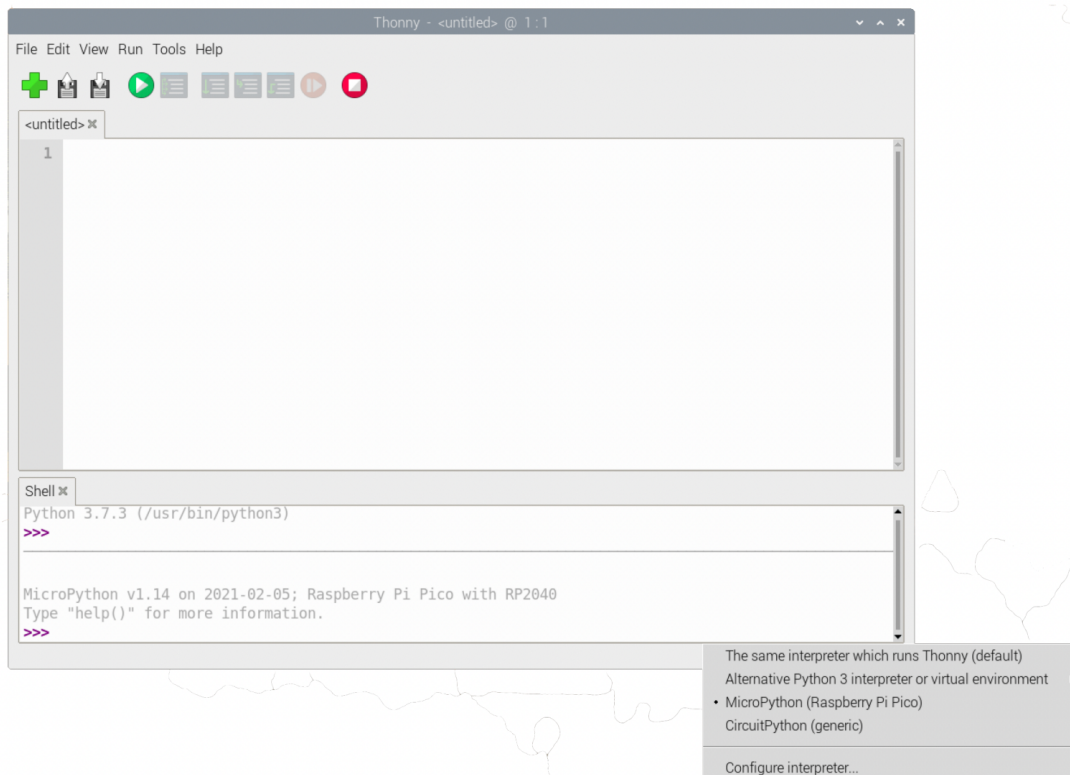
Prerequisites:

1. Install homebrew on your computer, or make sure it is installed.
 - a. See “Install Homebrew” section on this page: <https://brew.sh/>
 - b. Newer Mac computers may need to run [these two commands](https://apple.stackexchange.com/questions/148901/why-does-my-brew-installation-not-work/430904#430904) (<https://apple.stackexchange.com/questions/148901/why-does-my-brew-installation-not-work/430904#430904>) after installing homebrew:

```
echo 'eval "$(/opt/homebrew/bin/brew shellenv)"' >> ~/.zprofile
eval "$(/opt/homebrew/bin/brew shellenv)"
```
2. Install MicroPython on the pico (if someone hasn't installed it on there before)
 - a. [Follow these instructions](https://www.raspberrypi.com/documentation/microcontrollers/micropython.html) (<https://www.raspberrypi.com/documentation/microcontrollers/micropython.html>) under “Drag and Drop Python” section

Steps to run your own programs: adapted from [page 28 of this document](https://datasheets.raspberrypi.com/pico/raspberry-pi-pico-python-sdk.pdf) (<https://datasheets.raspberrypi.com/pico/raspberry-pi-pico-python-sdk.pdf>)

1. Install [Thonny](https://thonny.org/) (<https://thonny.org/>)
2. Switch to MicroPython interpreter by clicking in the bottom right and selecting “MicroPython”



3. Read [the reference](https://docs.micropython.org/en/latest/rp2/quickref.html) (<https://docs.micropython.org/en/latest/rp2/quickref.html>)
4. Write your own programs for the pico!

Misc. Tips

- You can install micropython repeatedly without damaging the pico (i.e. it's safe to drop the uf2 file more than once if you aren't sure it worked)
- To make a script run on startup, name it main.py and save it to the pico
 - o If you do this and your script doesn't let you stop the code / write new code / effectively renders the pico unusable, see [this page](https://forums.raspberrypi.com/viewtopic.php?t=305432) (<https://forums.raspberrypi.com/viewtopic.php?t=305432>) and use the uf2 file there to fix this