




Nextube Community User Guide



This is the user guide we wish had been provided, collected from the feedback of Nextube customers. This isn't an official guide provided by Rotrics and the information provided here is "as-is." There are no guarantees of accuracy, and your usage of the guide conveys no liability to the authors.

 Join the enthusiastic fans of Nextube at [facebook.com/groups/197056519103446](https://www.facebook.com/groups/197056519103446).



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This document is regularly updated. Get the latest version at the following locations:

- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/197056519103446/files>
- https://omnimediantw.com/nextube/Nextube_Community_User_Guide.pdf

Included in the box

- Nextube with six 0.96" IPS screens

 There are two white anti-skid pads on the bottom. Peel off the thin plastic coverings before use.



- Right angle USB-A to right angle USB-C cable



- USB-A 5V/1A charger (US version shown)



Software installation

To set up your Nextube, you must download the Nextube Studio software.

1. Download Rotrics Nextube Studio at rotrics.com/pages/downloads. A Windows and Mac desktop version is available.
2. Install the software on your computer and then open Nextube Studio. The file name for Windows is **Rotrics Nextube Setup 0.0.2.exe** and **Rotrics Nextube-0.0.2.dmg** for Mac.



SECURITY Your computer's operating system might display various notices that the site, publisher, or software is unknown, untrusted, or potentially malware. To this date, no one has reported an issue. However, installing the software remains at your own risk.

Windows: Click **Run**, **Run Anyway**, or **Allow**. For more information, see Windows help.

Mac: Open **System Preferences**, go to **Security & Privacy**, and then allow the app to be installed. For more information, see Mac help.


Linux customers

Although unsupported, the Windows version of Nextube Studio can be used with Wine for Ubuntu. Customers report that USB connections don't work, but Wi-Fi does.

Initial connection setup

There are two ways to initially set up your Nextube – wired USB (recommended) or wireless.

CONNECTION METHOD 1 – Wired USB (recommended)

 If you use the wired USB option for initial setup, you can enter your Wi-Fi network information so that all subsequent changes in Nextube Studio are made via a Wi-Fi connection. Customers report fewer issues when using the initial wired USB connection method.


1. Using the supplied USB-A to USB-C cable, connect your Nextube to a USB connector on your computer. Don't use a USB-C to USB-C cable.


2. In Nextube Studio, in the upper-left corner, click  Connect.

The **Connect Nextube** dialog box appears.

3. Click **Serial Port**.

4. Click in the **Choose a port** box, and then click the COM port.

 Multiple COM ports might appear. Try clicking one. If the blue **Connect** button turns gray and **Disconnect** turns blue, your Nextube is connected. If this doesn't happen, try another COM port until Nextube is successfully connected.

The  Connect button on the upper-left of the Nextube Studio window should appear orange to indicate connected.

5. On the **Connect Nextube** dialog title bar, click **X** to close the dialog box.


Optionally, enter your Wi-Fi information

1. In **Settings**, click **Wi-Fi Network**.

2. Enter your Wi-Fi (SSID) name and password. The Wi-Fi network name and password are *both* case-sensitive.

 Nextube only supports 2.4 GHz 802.11 b/g/n Wi-Fi networks. Most newer routers support both 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz. Older single band routers are typically 2.4 GHz.

3. On the **Settings** title bar, click **X** to close the **Settings** dialog box.

4. In the upper-right, click .

Your Nextube will update and connect via your Wi-Fi network.

Your Nextube clock is calibrated automatically by using NTP (network time protocol) and a RTC (real time clock) chip. The time will synchronize to the computer time after about 30 seconds to 5 minutes.

CONNECTION METHOD 2 – Wi-Fi AP


1. Using the supplied USB-A to USB-C cable, connect your Nextube to the supplied USB power adapter and plug the power adapter into an electrical outlet.
2. On your computer or mobile device, open Wi-Fi settings and connect to the network name (SSID) **nextube-ap-xxxxxxxxxxxx** where **xxxxxxxxxxxx** is the MAC address.
3. Enter **12345678** for the password.

A web page should open in a web browser. If it doesn't, open your web browser, and then in the address bar, enter **http://10.10.10.1** to open the Nextube configuration page.

4. Select the name of your Wi-Fi network, and then click **Next**.




Nextube only supports 2.4 GHz 802.11 b/g/n Wi-Fi networks. Most newer routers support both 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz. Older single band routers are typically 2.4 GHz.

5. Enter your Wi-Fi network password, and then click **Apply**.
6. In Nextube Studio, in the upper-left corner, click  **Connect**.

The **Connect Nextube** dialog box appears.

7. Click **Wi-Fi**.
8. Click **+** to open the **Wi-Fi connect manually** dialog box.
9. Enter the IP address of your Nextube, and then click **Confirm**.

On the **Connect Nextube** dialog box, if the blue **Connect** button turns gray and **Disconnect** turns blue, your Nextube is connected.

The  **Connect** button on the upper-left of the Nextube Studio window should appear orange to indicate connected.

10. On the **Connect Nextube** title bar, click **X** to close the dialog box.
11. In the upper-right, click .

Your Nextube will update and connect via your Wi-Fi network.

Your Nextube clock is calibrated automatically by using NTP (network time protocol) and a RTC (real time clock) chip. The time will synchronize to the computer time after about 30 seconds to 5 minutes.

How do I find my Nextube IP address?

Log in to your Wi-Fi router and look for the DHCP lease and IP address for the device. Nextube usually appears with a hostname containing **nextube**. Each router is different, so please refer to your router's manual for more instructions.


There are also apps for Windows, Mac, Android, and iOS that can help identify devices on your Wi-Fi network. Fing is a free app available for both Windows and Mac desktops, as well as Android and iOS mobile devices. Download Fing at fing.com/products/fing-app.

Customize your Nextube

Changes are uploaded to Nextube via a wired USB connection with the included USB cable or a Wi-Fi connection if you set it up in the **Initial connection setup** section.

WI-FI CONNECTION


 You should have already configured your Nextube Wi-Fi configuration. If not, go to the **Initial connection setup** section first.

1. Using the supplied USB-A to USB-C cable, connect your Nextube to the supplied USB power adapter and plug the power adapter into an electrical outlet.
2. In Nextube Studio, in the upper-left corner, click  **Connect**.

The **Connect Nextube** dialog box appears.

3. Click **Wi-Fi**.
4. Click the **+** icon to open the **Wi-Fi connect manually** dialog box.
5. Enter the IP address of your device, and then click **Confirm**.

On the **Connect Nextube** dialog box, if the blue **Connect** button turns gray and **Disconnect** turns blue, your Nextube is connected.

The  **Connect** button on the upper-left of the Nextube Studio window should appear orange to indicate connected.


6. On the **Connect Nextube** title bar, click **X** to close the dialog box.

How do I find my Nextube IP address?

Log in to your Wi-Fi router and look for the DHCP lease and IP address for the device. Nextube usually appears with a hostname containing **nextube**. Each router is different, so please refer to your router's manual for more instructions.

There are also apps for Windows, Mac, Android, and iOS that can help identify devices on your Wi-Fi network. Fing is a free app available for both Windows and Mac desktops, as well as Android and iOS mobile devices. Download Fing at fing.com/products/fing-app.

WIRED USB CONNECTION


1. Using the supplied USB-A to USB-C cable, connect your Nextube to a USB connector on your computer. Don't use a USB-C to USB-C cable.
2. In Nextube Studio, in the upper-left corner, click  Connect.

The **Connect Nextube** dialog box appears.

3. Click **Serial Port**.
4. Click in the **Choose a port** box, and then click the COM port.



Multiple COM ports might appear. Try clicking one. If the blue **Connect** button turns gray and **Disconnect** turns blue, your Nextube is connected. If this doesn't happen, try another COM port until Nextube is successfully connected.

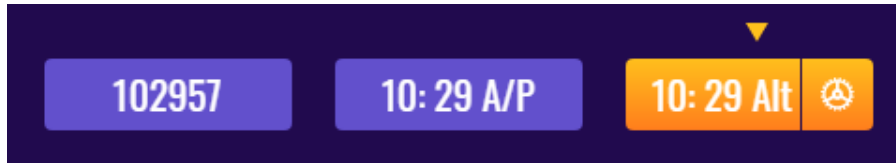
The  Connect button on the upper-left of the Nextube Studio window should now appear orange to indicate a connected.

5. On the **Connect Nextube** title bar, click **X** to close the dialog box.

Set clock mode


In Nextube Studio, there are three clock modes for the default clock app.

Mode	Clock type	Display
102957	24-hour clock	Hours Minutes Seconds
10:29 A/P	12-hour clock	Hours Minutes AM/PM
10:29 Alt	24-hour clock	Hours Minutes Information




If you use **10:29 Alt**, there are additional options that can be set.

- Weather conditions
- Week/Date
- Indoor High/Low temperature
- Current temperature
- Display duration of each information item

1. Click the display format that you want.
2. With the clock plugged in and connected (wired or Wi-Fi), in the upper-right, click . Your Nextube updates and restarts.


Set clock style

 To use custom created styles that you've created or downloaded from other customers (for example, in the Facebook group), see the [Custom clock styles](#) section.



The default Clock app can be customized with 12 different display character sets that are included with Nextube Studio.

1. Click the Nextube illustration to open the **Pick your style** dialog box.



2. Click one of the character styles.
3. On the **Pick your style** title bar, click **X** to close the dialog box.
4. With the clock plugged in and connected (wired or Wi-Fi), in the upper-right, click . Your Nextube updates and restarts.

Set display brightness

1. In the upper-right of Nextube Studio, click .
2. Click Screen Brightness.
3. Click on the **Screen Brightness** bar to set the brightness level between 0 and 100.
4. On the **Settings** title bar, click **X** to close the **Settings** dialog box.
5. With the clock plugged in and connected (wired or Wi-Fi), in the upper-right, click . Your Nextube updates and restarts.


Set backlight


Each Nextube tube contains a LED backlight on the rear side of the side. These backlights can be used to provide ambient background lighting as an enhancement to your Nextube.

In addition to **Off**, there are four backlight settings.




- **Solid**
- **Breathing** (about a one-second interval)
- **Marquee** (set the LED color of each tube and the color changes in a loop one by one)
- **Neon** (the LED color will be random)

The **Solid**, **Breathing**, and **Marquee** options allow you to specify the color.

1. In the upper-right of Nextube Studio, click .
2. Click **Backlight**.
3. Select the backlight type.
4. If you selected the **Solid**, **Breathing**, or **Marquee** options, click on one of the six default base colors. Choose any color by clicking on the color palette.



5. On the **Settings** title bar, click **X** to close the **Settings** dialog box.
6. With the clock plugged in and connected (wired or Wi-Fi), in the upper-right, click . Your Nextube updates and restarts.

Set weather configuration

1. In the upper-right of Nextube Studio, click .
2. Click **Weather Config**.
3. For **Location**, enter a city name.
 A bug exists where multiple cities appear without unique state or districts. For example, "Dallas" shows repeated "**Dallas, US**" entries. You must find the correct entry for your location.
4. For **Temperature Format**, select °F or °C.
5. On the **Settings** title bar, click **X** to close the **Settings** dialog box.
6. With the clock plugged in and connected (wired or Wi-Fi), in the upper-right, click . Your Nextube updates and restarts.

 The city name isn't saved. If you enter the **Weather Config** settings later, you must re-enter the city.

Set volume



1. In the upper-right of Nextube Studio, click .
2. Click **Sound**.
3. Click on the **Sound** bar to set the volume level between 0 and 100.
4. On the **Settings** title bar, click **X** to close the **Settings** dialog box.
5. With the clock plugged in and connected (wired or Wi-Fi), in the upper-right, click . Your Nextube updates and restarts.

Install apps

There are seven apps provided in Nextube Studio. Rotrics has said that additional apps are planned in the future. Up to 16 apps can be installed at any time on your Nextube.

The apps include the following:

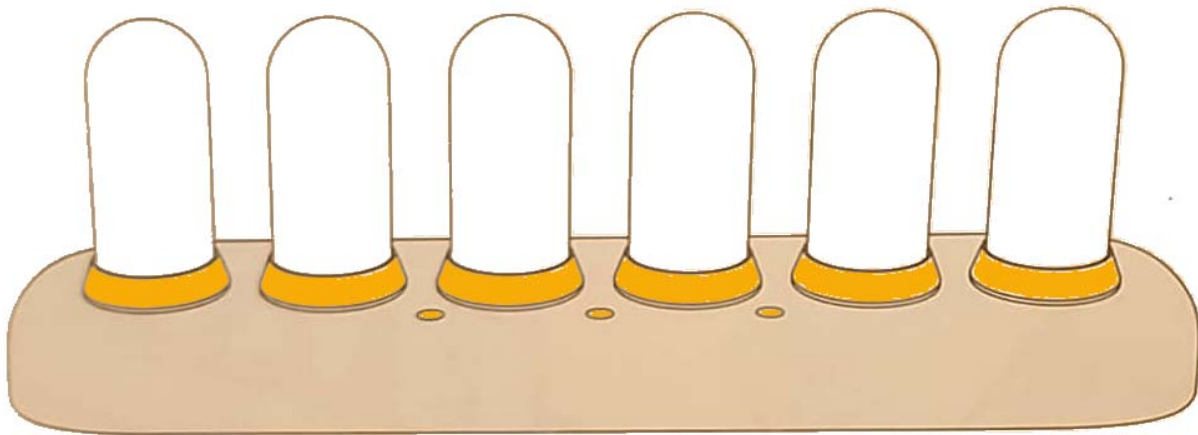
- **Clock** – The default Nextube clock.
- **Custom Clock** – Clocks that you can customize with your custom styles.


- **Pomodoro Timer** – A timer that you can start using the buttons on Nextube.
 - **Timer** – A pre-defined time duration.
 - **Subscribe** – Currently, supports subscriber counts for a YouTube channel.
 - **Alarm** – An alarm clock function.
 - **Album** – Display your own pictures on Nextube.
1. In the top-center of Nextube Studio, click  to open the **App Library**.
 2. To add an app, click and drag the app icon to the dock below the library.
 3. To re-arrange the order of the apps, click an app icon in the dock and drag it left or right.
 4. To remove an app from the dock, right-click the app icon, and then click **Delete**.
 5. On the **Settings** title bar, click **X** to close the **Settings** dialog box.
 6. With the clock plugged in and connected (wired or Wi-Fi), in the upper-right, click . Your Nextube updates and restarts.

Select app on Nextube

One app at a time can be displayed on your Nextube.

- To switch between apps, press the *first* or *third* button to display the previous or next app, respectively.



 If your apps use the same display style, the switching time between apps is minimized. Using different display styles for loaded apps increases the time to switch apps.

Custom clocks

Up to five custom clocks can be uploaded to your Nextube. Customers are sharing custom clock styles in the Nextube Facebook group files section.

facebook.com/groups/197056519103446/files/docs



 **Want to design your own custom clock styles?**
See the [Create custom clock style graphics](#) section.

Preview of clock styles















See available clock styles, including the Nextube default styles and customer created files for custom clocks.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/18NGcr-SCZzCia6doiqDfmKMfYdlrEh2eHhnPBDkqfW8>

Nextube clock styles

Facebook group:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/197056519103446>


To insert an image, click in the cell, and on the Insert menu, click Image > Insert image in cell.

Name	3 digit	Creator/Uploader	Files	Sample	Width/Height	Notes
Frontage		Will Austin	link (Facebook)		80x160	
Gotham		Robert Deckman	link (Facebook)		80x160	
HP41		Paul Grace	link (Facebook)		80x160	
Nixiefied		Scott Dau	link (Facebook)		80x160	Popular replacement for the Clock default style. More accurate look to a nixie tube.
Nixiereal		Paul Grace	link (Facebook)		980x2485	
Numechron-ish		Paul Williams	link (Dropbox)		300x300	
Numitron		Will Austin	link (Facebook)		300x300	

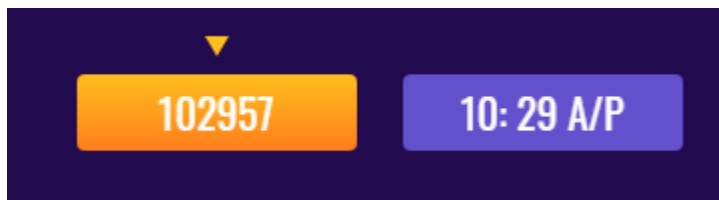


To use a custom clock style from the Facebook group, download the file to your computer and rename the file extension (usually .zipper) to .zip (due to Facebook file upload workaround). For .tgz files, the free 7-Zip app available at 7-zip.org will open the compressed file.

To install a custom clock style, do the following:

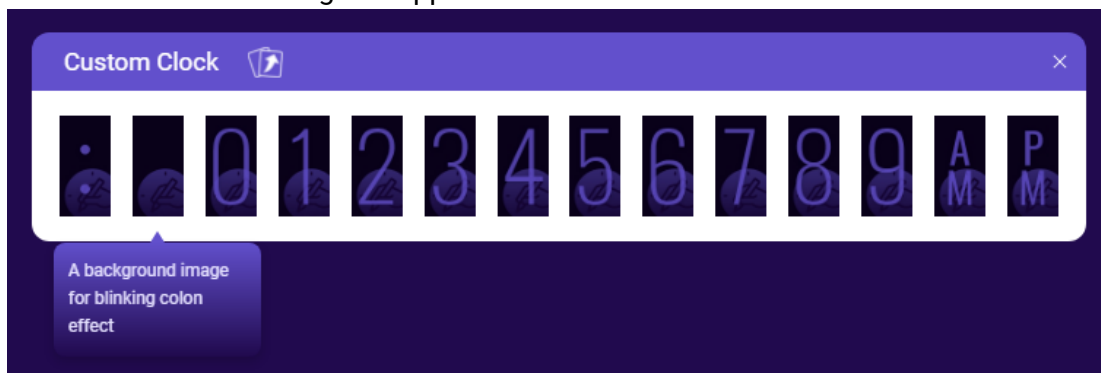
1. In the .zip or .tgz file, extract the folder containing the files to a location on your computer like the Desktop or the Downloads folder.
2. In the top-center of Nextube Studio, click  to open the **App Library**.
3. Click and drag the **Custom Clock** app icon to the dock below the library.
4. To re-arrange the order of the apps, click an app icon in the dock and drag it left or right.
5. To remove an app from the dock, right-click the app icon, and then click **Delete**.
6. Click the Custom Clock app icon in the dock.
7. There are two clock modes available for the Custom Clock app. Select a clock mode.

Mode	Clock type	Display
102957	24-hour clock	Hours Minutes Seconds
10:29 A/P	12-hour clock	Hours Minutes AM/PM



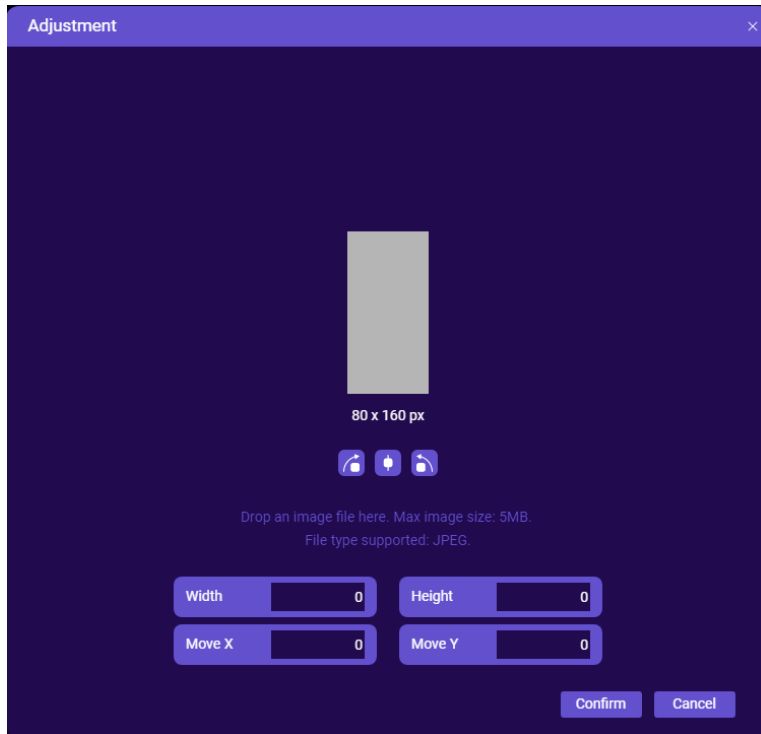
8. You must add a new icon for each digit, colon, blank, AM, and PM. Start by clicking anywhere on the Nextube illustration.

The **Custom Clock** dialog box appears.



9. Click one of the characters.

The **Adjustment** dialog box appears.




10. Open the folder on your computer that contains the custom fonts and then drag the corresponding .jpg graphic file to the gray box in the **Adjustment** dialog box. Alternatively, click the gray box to open a file browser window, and then select the file.
11. Graphics that are 300x300 with the clock face image correctly placed within the image shouldn't require adjustment and you can go to step 12.


Image files that are 80x160 require adjustment. Click in the **Width** box, replace the value with **40**, press Tab *twice*, enter **0** (for **Move X**), press Tab, enter **0** (for **Move Y**). It's important that you use Tab *twice* after entering the **Width** instead clicking to other boxes.

 The software changes your **Height** and **Width** values as you tab ending with the correct values of **Width** of 80 and **Height** of 160.

Images of other dimensions must also be adjusted for scale and positioning.

12. Click **Confirm**.
13. Repeat steps 9–12 for each of the other digits, colon, etc.

 There are two images for the colon – a blank image and the image of the colon. Nextube switches between the two images. If you don't want the colon to “blink,” select the colon image for both blank and colon.

14. On the **Adjustment** title bar, click **X** to close the dialog box.
15. With the clock plugged in and connected (wired or Wi-Fi), in the upper-right, click . Your Nextube updates and restarts.

DEFAULT CLOCK STYLE FILES

The graphics for the default 12 styles available for the Clock app are saved on your computer. Note that modifying these files won't change your Nextube display. For custom clock displays, you must use the Custom clock app and use your own image files.

Windows

```
c:\Users\username\AppData\Local\Programs\rotrics-nextube\resources\static\data\images\themes
```

Mac

Go to **Applications** and right-click on the Rotrics Nextube app. Click **Show Package Contents**.

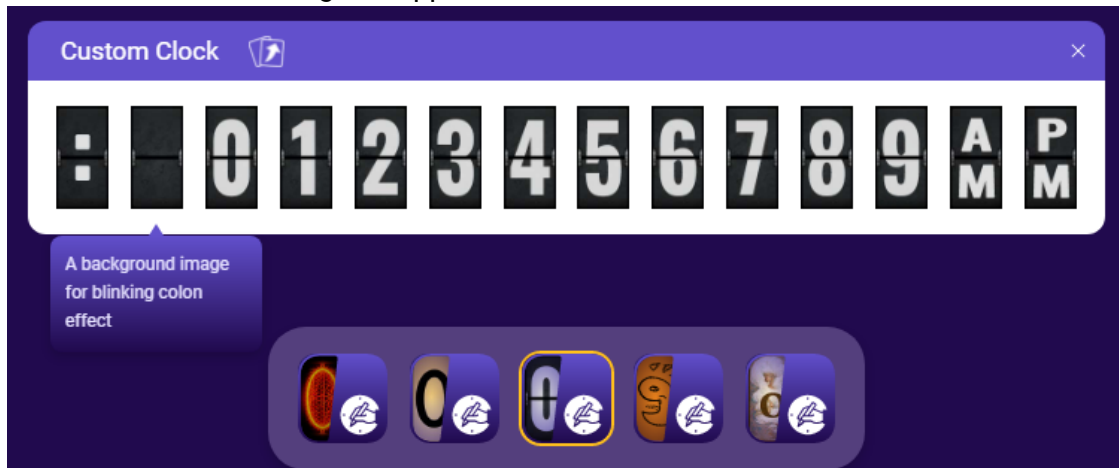
```
\Applications\Rotrics  
Nextube.app\Contents\Resources\static\data\images\themes
```


Export custom clock

To install a custom clock style you need the graphics files. If for some reason, you've lost the original files, it's possible to export them if installed on your Nextube.

1. In the apps dock, click the Custom Clock you want to export.

The **Custom Clock** dialog box appears.





2. Click .
3. Enter a file name and save the compressed .zip file to your computer.

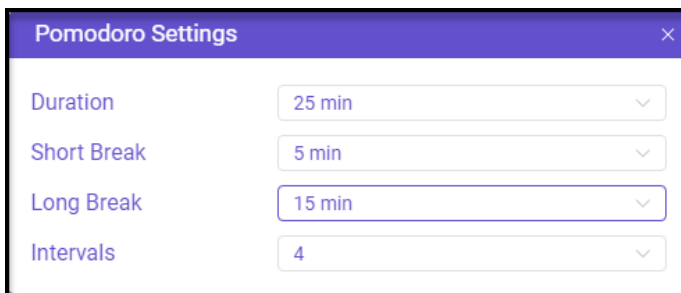
The exported images will have degraded quality from the original upload and an image dimension of 80x160.


App: Pomodoro Timer

This timer is based on the Pomodoro Technique, a time management method developed by Francesco Cirillo. Derived from the Italian word for tomato, each interval is known as a pomodoro. Why a tomato? Cirillo used a tomato-shaped timer as a student.

A task or interval (25 minutes) is followed by a short break (5 minutes). After the defined number of intervals (usually 4), there's a long break (15 minutes). The pattern then restarts. Although these are the standard values, you can customize them in Nextube Studio.

1. In the top-center of Nextube Studio, click  to open the **App Library**.
2. Click and drag the **Pomodoro Timer** app icon to the dock below the library.
3. In the tray, click the Pomodoro Timer app icon.
4. Click  to open the **Pomodoro Settings** dialog box.



5. Set the **Duration**, **Short Break**, **Long Break**, and **Intervals** settings.
6. On the **Pomodoro Settings** title bar, click **X** to close the dialog box.
7. With the clock plugged in and connected (wired or Wi-Fi), in the upper-right, click . Your Nextube updates and restarts.


To use the app, when selected on your Nextube:

- A short press of the *middle* button starts and stops the timer.
- A long press of the *middle* button resets the timer.

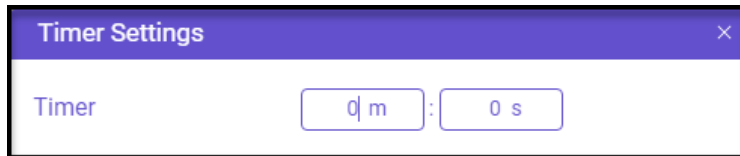
 If you switch apps, the timer resets.


App: Timer

This is a a timer with a pre-defined time duration.

1. In the top-center of Nextube Studio, click  to open the **App Library**.
2. Click and drag the **Timer** app icon to the dock below the library.

3. In the tray, click the Timer app icon.



4. Set the **Timer** setting for minutes and seconds.
5. On the **Timer Settings** title bar, click **X** to close the dialog box.
6. With the clock plugged in and connected (wired or Wi-Fi), in the upper-right, click . Your Nextube updates and restarts.


To use the app, when selected on your Nextube:

- A short press of the *middle* button starts and stops the timer.
- A long press of the *middle* button resets the timer.


 If you switch apps, the timer resets.

App: Subscribe

See a live count of social media subscribers. Currently, only YouTube channels are supported.

1. In the top-center of Nextube Studio, click  to open the **App Library**.
2. Click and drag the **Subscribe** app icon to the dock below the library.
3. In the tray, click the Subscribe app icon.




4. Enter the **Youtube channel ID**.
5. With the clock plugged in and connected (wired or Wi-Fi), in the upper-right, click . Your Nextube updates and restarts.

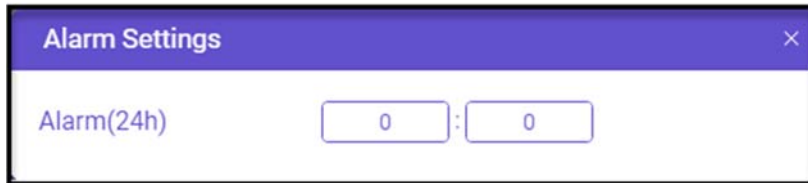
App: Alarm


Your Nextube can be used as an alarm clock with an audio alert. Up to six alarms can be added.

 Your Nextube must be on the Alarm app at the specified time, or the alarm will not sound.

1. In the top-center of Nextube Studio, click  to open the **App Library**.
2. Click and drag the **Alarm** app icon to the dock below the library.

3. In the tray, click the Alarm app icon.
4. Click **Add an alarm**.




5. In the **Alarm Settings** dialog box, enter the hours and minutes. Enter hours using a 24-hour clock format.
6. Alarms can be turned on or off by toggling the control for each alarm.
7. If you have multiple alarms configured, you can enter a custom display name for convenience. Click **Alarm**, and then in the box enter the custom name. When you click away from the box, the entry is saved.
8. On the **Alarm Settings** title bar, click **X** to close the dialog box.
9. With the clock plugged in and connected (wired or Wi-Fi), in the upper-right, click . Your Nextube updates and restarts.

To silence the alarm, press the *center* button.

App: Album

Display your own images on Nextube. You can add three groups of images. Each group can contain six images (one for each tube).

Nextube supports standard image files like .gif, .jpg, and .png.

1. In the top-center of Nextube Studio, click  to open the **App Library**.
2. Click and drag the **Album** app icon to the dock below the library.
3. In the tray, click the Album app icon.
4. Click **Album#1**, **Album#2**, or **Album#3**.
5. In the **Album Settings** dialog box, click one of the six slots.
6. Select an image.
7. To adjust the image, click the image thumbnail and make changes in the **Adjustment** dialog box. Adjust the size using the **Width** and **Height** boxes values.

Positioning can be changed with the three alignment buttons (rotate left, center, rotate right), the **Move X** and **Move Y** boxes values, or dragging the image with your mouse pointer.

8. When you're done adding images, on the **Album Settings** title bar, click **X** to close the dialog box.

To change the order of albums, click and drag the  icon.

To change the duration that an image is shown, click the number in **Duration** row.


After an image is added, it can be replaced, but the slot can't be cleared entirely from a group.

1. Open the album.
2. Click the image thumbnail.
3. Click one of the three alignment buttons (rotate left, center, rotate right).
4. Click **Cancel**.
5. Click the blank thumbnail.
6. Select an image, make any adjustments, and then click **Confirm**.
7. On the **Album Settings** title bar, click **X** to close the dialog box.

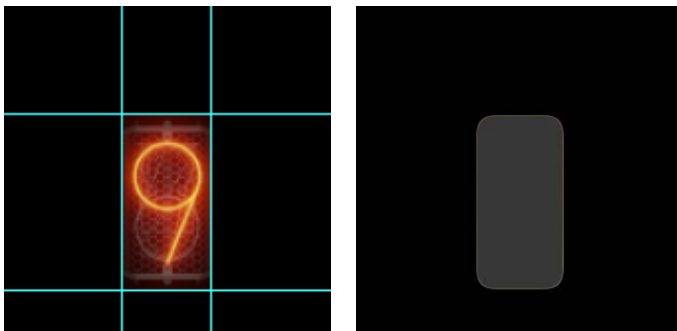
To completely remove an image from a slot within any of the three albums, you must remove the Album app from the dock, re-add the app to the dock, and then add images again.


Create custom clock style graphics

Each clock style consists multiple .jpg file format graphic files. To create the files, use any graphics program like Microsoft Paint, Adobe Photoshop, GIMP, or Paint.NET.

 See the Photoshop [Nextube Artwork Template.psd](#) and [Template grey.jpg](#) templates in the Facebook group [Files](#) section. These 300x300 templates help you create .jpg images that require no scaling or positioning adjustments in Nextube Studio.

Your images should be 80x160 pixels. For ease of importing into Nextube Studio, it's recommended that you place the 80x160 image on a 300x300 background with the graphic positioned 100 pixels from the top edge and 110 pixels from the left edge. See the green guidelines in the Photoshop template or the gray area in the Template grey.jpg file below.



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CLOCK GRAPHIC FILES

A complete set should consist of the following folders and files:

- **Numbers** 0.jpg, 1.jpg, 2.jpg, 3.jpg, 4.jpg, 5.jpg, 6.jpg, 7.jpg, 8.jpg, 9.jpg
- **AMPM** am.jpg, pm.jpg, colon.jpg, blank.jpg

The **MultInfo** folder is used with the default Clock app, not the Custom Clock app. You don't need to create these folders or files. They are listed below for reference only.

- **Humidity** degree.jpg, humidity.jpg
- **Temperature** degree.jpg, degree.jpg, minus.jpg

- **Weather** fewClouds.jpg, fog.jpg, overcastClouds.jpg, rain.jpg, sand.jpg, snow.jpg, squalls.jpg, sun.jpg, thunderstorm.jpg, tornado.jpg, volcanicAsh.jpg
- **WeekDate**
 - **date** 0.jpg, 1.jpg, 2.jpg, 3.jpg, 4.jpg, 5.jpg, 6.jpg, 7.jpg, 8.jpg, 9.jpg
 - **week** sunday.jpg, monday.jpg, tuesday.jpg, wednesday.jpg, thursday.jpg, friday.jpg, saturday.jpg

To use your custom clock style, see the **Custom clock styles** section.

Share your custom clock files with Nextube Facebook group's file library at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/197056519103446/files/docs> by uploading a compressed .zip file. Facebook doesn't allow the upload of .zip files, so change the file extension to .zipper.

Create an uploadable .zipper file on Windows 10, Windows 8, and Windows 7

1. Open File Explorer (Windows 10 or Windows 8) or Windows Explorer (Windows 7).
2. Right-click the folder that contains your custom clock style files.
3. Do one of the following:
 - In Windows 11, click **Compress to ZIP file**.
 - In Windows 10 and Windows 8, point to **Send to**, and then click **Compressed (zipped) folder**.

A new compressed zip folder is created and named the same as the folder, but with a .zip extension.

4. By default, Windows hides filename extensions. If file extensions aren't shown, you must turn on file extensions display by using one the following steps:
 - In Windows 11, on the **View** menu, point to **Show**, and then click **File name extensions**.
 - In Windows 10 or Windows 8, on the **View** tab, in the **Show/hide** group, select the **File name extensions** check box.

5. Select the compressed zip folder, and press **F2**.
6. Rename the file extension from .zip to .zipper and press Enter when done editing.

A dialog box appears warning you about consequences of changing a file extension. Click **Yes** to make the change.

Create uploadable .zipper files on a Mac

1. Go to Finder and find the folder containing your custom clock style files.

2. Right-click the folder and choose **Compress**.
3. A new compressed zip folder is created and named the same, but with a .zip extension.
4. By default, filename extensions are hidden in macOS. Select the file, then choose **File > Get Info**, or press **Command-I**.
5. Click the arrow next to **Name & Extension** to expand the section.
6. To show the filename extension, select the **Hide extension** check box.
7. Change **.zip** to **.zipper**, and then in the confirmation dialog box, click **Use .zipper**.

Update firmware




WARNING Installing the wrong firmware or a data/power interruption during the update process can damage your device and, at worst, permanently disable it. Only update your firmware if advised by the manufacturer and you're comfortable doing so.

1. Download the Rotrics Nextube firmware at rotrics.com/pages/downloads. The firmware file (**firmware.bin**) will be contained in a compressed .zip file. The current version as of this writing is 1.2.1.



Software download page

2. After downloading the firmware file, you must extract the **firmware.bin** file from the .zip file. Double-click the .zip file. You can then either drag the **firmware.bin** file to your computer's desktop, or another convenient folder, like Downloads.
3. In the upper-right of Nextube Studio, click  Settings.
4. Click the **General** dropdown list.

Your Nextube firmware, software, and hardware version appears. If you downloaded a later version firmware version in step 2 above, you may update your Nextube.

5. Click **Update** next to the firmware entry, and then select the file (**firmware.bin**) that you downloaded.

Wait for the update to complete.



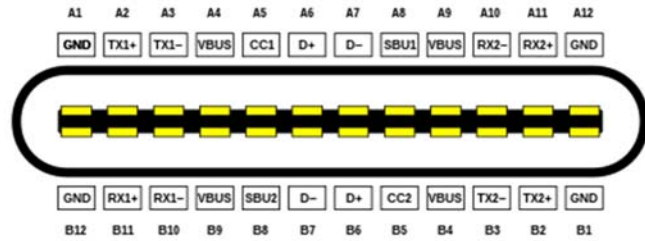
WARNING Don't disconnect the USB cable or shut down your computer until the firmware update process completes.

There will not be a version listed after the firmware update is complete like the current v0.0.2 that appears in the software. If you uploaded the master firmware file folder and not the internal file, your Nextube will go black and must restart.

Troubleshoot Nextube and Nextube Studio

Why can't I use a USB-C to USB-C cable?

The wrong cable probably won't work. The USB Type-C specification describes how a Type-C upstream-facing port (UFP) applies Pull-Down resistors (R_d) on Configuration Channel pins CC1 and CC2 to signify that it's a device and the Type-C downstream-facing port (DFP) is required to have Pull-Up resistors (R_p) on CC1 and CC2. Without these resistors the "host" won't recognize the device and send power. It appears that Nextube isn't a true USB-C device, but only a device using a USB-C connector.



If you have a computer that only has USB-C ports, use a USB-C to USB-A adapter.

One or more of the displays/rear LEDs aren't working

- Make sure you are using the USB-A charger and cable that came with your Nextube. You can also try another known-good USB-A charger and/or USB-A to USB-C power cable.
- Verify that the display boards are firmly seated in the circuit board sockets.
 1. Unplug your Nextube from the USB-A charger.
 2. Gently twist and pull the glass covers out of the brass holder.
 3. The display module boards can be removed and inserted like a USB thumb drive. Make sure you note the direction the LED faces (toward the back).

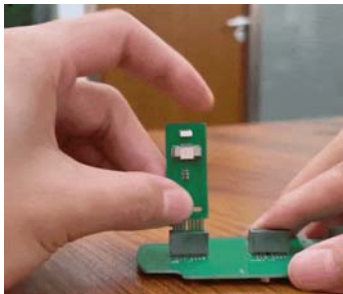


Image courtesy Rotrics

Note: Although this illustration shows the circuit board without the case, you don't need to remove.

4. Reconnect your Nextube with the USB-A charger.

If the display modules are firmly seated and you still encounter issues, unfortunately, you're going to need a replacement of the display module, the base, or both.

- To further troubleshoot which part is defective, carefully try swapping the bad display modules with a good one. This helps you identify whether the problem is the display module or the circuit board.



You must contact Rotrics for assistance or a replacement. There is no other source for parts.

How can I make my Nextube not move around so easily?



Peel off the plastic coverings on the two white anti-skid pads on the bottom of your Nextube.

What happens if the Update stops at 99%?

If this happens, try the following:

1. Click  Connect, and then **Disconnect**.
2. Close Nextube Studio.
3. Power cycle your Nextube by removing cable from the rear USB-C connector, waiting 10 seconds, and then reconnecting power.
4. Restart Nextube Studio.
5. Click the  Connect button and reconnect via **Serial Port** or **Wi-Fi**.

If the problem continues, try removing or adding an app.

1. Close Nextube Studio.
2. Power cycle your Nextube by removing cable from the rear USB-C connector, waiting 10 seconds, and then reconnecting power.
3. Restart Nextube Studio.
4. Click the  Connect button and reconnect via **Serial Port** or **Wi-Fi**.
5. In the top-center of Nextube Studio, click  to open the **App Library**.
6. Click and drag an app icon to the dock below the library.
7. Click **Upload**.

How do I reset the Wi-Fi information on Nextube to factory default (AP mode)?

1. Using the supplied USB-A to USB-C cable, connect your Nextube to the supplied USB power adapter and plug the power adapter into an electrical outlet.
2. Long press the *left* button for two seconds until you hear a beep.
3. Quick press the *middle* button twice. You should hear a beep.
Your Nextube will restart.
4. Repeat the initial connection configuration. See the **Initial connection setup** section.

Why does my Nextube continue to show the wrong local time?

Your Nextube clock is calibrated automatically by using NTP (network time protocol) and a RTC (real time clock) chip. The time synchronizes to the local time after about 30 seconds to 5 minutes, after you've completed the **Initial connection setup** steps.

If the clock is wrong, the most likely problem is that your Nextube can't connect to the Internet and establish a connection to a NTP server.



1. Check your Wi-Fi credentials in Nextube Studio. Even if you're updating Nextube via the USB connection method, Nextube uses your Wi-Fi network to connect to the Internet. **The Wi-Fi network name and password are *both* case-sensitive.**
2. Make sure your Nextube is connected to a 2.4 GHz Wi-Fi network. The newer 5 GHz Wi-Fi networks aren't supported.

Why is the time no longer accurate (off slightly)?

The Wi-Fi connection of Nextube might go offline when left alone for longer periods of time. The device's Wi-Fi connection is required to keep the clock time accurate.

- Power cycle your Nextube by removing cable from the rear USB-C connector, waiting 10 seconds, and then reconnecting power.

This should re-activate the Nextube's Wi-Fi connection. If the time doesn't correct within a few minutes, proceed to the following steps:

1. Close Nextube Studio.
2. Power cycle your Nextube by removing cable from the rear USB-C connector, waiting 10 seconds, and then reconnecting power.
3. Restart Nextube Studio.
4. Click the  Connect button and reconnect via **Serial Port** or **Wi-Fi**.
5. In the top-center of Nextube Studio, click  to open the **App Library**.
6. Click and drag an app icon to the dock below the library.
7. Click **Upload**.

The time won't update immediately, but should correct within a few minutes.

How do I adjust the clock for going to/from daylight saving time/summer time?

Try the steps in the **Why is the time no longer accurate** section above. Those steps address multiple possible time issues, including restoring the Nextube Wi-Fi connection, time accuracy, and time offset.

Why is my Nextube stuck in a reboot?

One of the common causes of a reboot loop is a malformed custom clock style.

To correct this, you can either:

- Connect your Nextube to your computer with a USB connection, and then in Nextube Studio, remove the display style you added, and then click **Upload**.
- Reset your Nextube to default AP mode and then set up again using the steps in the Initial connection setup section.

Is there a way to make my Nextube get the same IP address on my Wi-Fi network every time?

Yes. Most networks are configured to dynamically assign IP addresses. This means that when a device requests an IP address assignment or after a pre-defined time limit, a DHCP server assigns an IP address. Sometimes it could be the same, sometimes it could be different.

Most DHCP servers whether on a computer network or a Wi-Fi router allow you to create DHCP reservations. This allows you to specify that when a device with a unique MAC address connects, always assign it a specific IP address.

Each server and router are different, so please refer to your manual for more instructions.

Why are some of my changes not appearing on my Nextube?

Some customers report that changes like background LED colors don't change when they upload to Nextube via Wi-Fi connection. If this happens, try connecting using the wired USB method and uploading your changes.

Where is the Rhythm Analyzer app?

Rotrics hid this function from the software because it wasn't ready for deployment. In a Kickstarter update on July 31, 2022, Rotrics said that they intend to release the feature in the future.

How do I make the colon not flash when using custom clock styles?

There are two images for the colon – a blank image and the image of the colon. Nextube switches between the two images. When loading a custom clock style, select the colon image for both blank and colon. See the **Custom clock styles** section for more information.



How can I turn off the Nextube display without disconnecting the power?

There is no power off switch or command. You could create a custom clock black with black panels for numbers and symbols. Then, using the buttons, switch to that custom clock. Thanks to Frank Boecherer for this tip.

How can I make a dimmer display for night, dark environments, or chill evenings?

One way is to create a custom clock with images at half or less brightness. Then, using the buttons, switch to that custom clock. Thanks to Frank Boecherer for this tip.

Nextube modifications

A wiki and file repository is available on GitHub that contains additional technical information about Nextube and APIs.

At this time, Rotrics hasn't released the Nextube software code or provided official developer documentation. Modification of your Nextube is at your own risk and isn't intended for people who aren't comfortable working with software development and APIs.

<https://github.com/dgl/nextube/wiki>

Technical specifications

Model: NXT10B

SoC: Espressif Systems ESP32-D0WD-V3

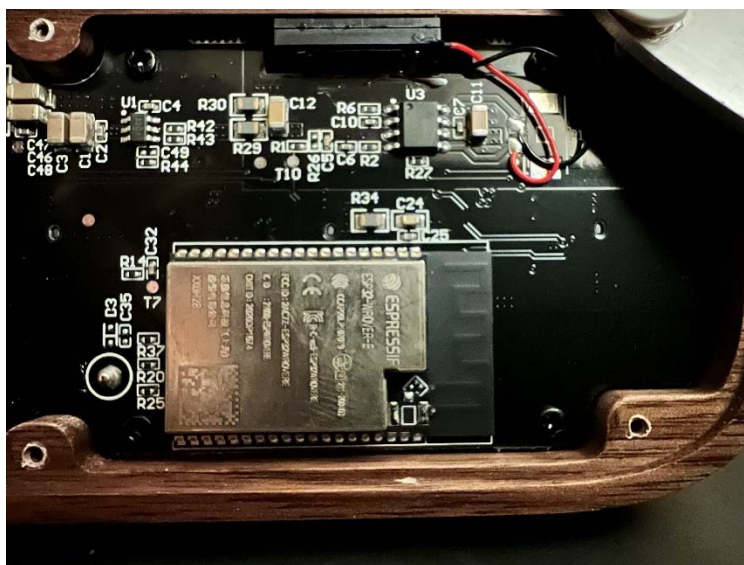
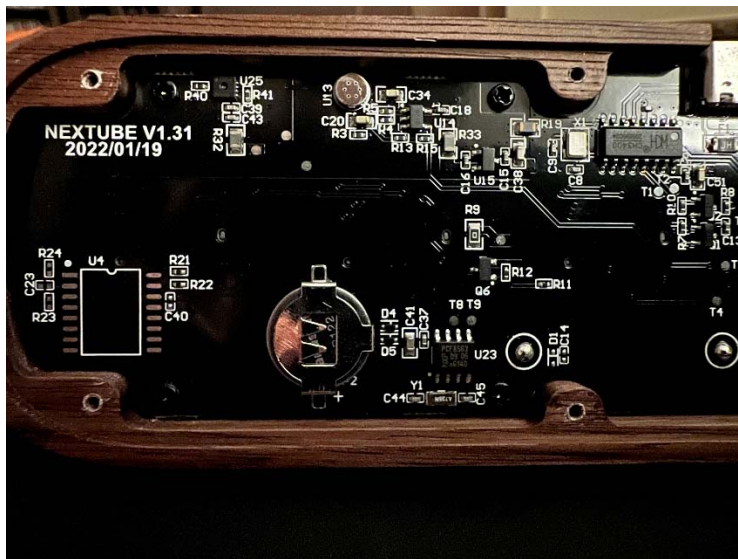
CPU: Xtensa dual-core 32-bit LX6 microprocessors, wafer version 3, 240 MHz

Flash: 16 MB

Bluetooth: v4.2 BR/EDR and BLE specifications

Wi-Fi: 802.11 b/g/n (2.4 GHz)

Power: 3.3 V DC



Images courtesy Andy Piper



Nextube



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