

Remote Control: Learning Activities

Note to the teacher

This learning activity provides two parallel lessons on remote control. The first lesson utilizes a simple remote control test bed, while the second uses the Squarebot that is seen throughout the programming material. Since the lessons are almost exactly the same, it would not be appropriate for students to complete each one. Instead, the teachers must select the one that best fits their schedule and classroom goals.

The test bed was designed to be assembled quickly. Therefore, the lesson is best suited for teachers who only have limited class time. This lesson is also favorable for students who are less interested in construction; it gets to the material on remote control as quickly as possible.

Squarebot, on the other hand, takes a considerable amount of time to build, so this lesson would be preferable for instructors who have more class time available. There are two benefits to teaching remote control with Squarebot rather than with the test bed. First, many of the control options taught in the lesson were created specifically for a vehicular robot. At times, these options are not equally useful or engaging when applied to the test bed. Second, the Squarebot is used in many of the programming lessons, which means that the investment of time can prove useful beyond the scope of this particular lesson.