



# Grove - Alcohol Sensor User Manual

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Wiki: [http://garden.seeedstudio.com/index.php?title=Twig\\_-\\_Alcohol\\_Sensor](http://garden.seeedstudio.com/index.php?title=Twig_-_Alcohol_Sensor)

Bazaar: [http://www.seeedstudio.com/depot/Grove-Alcohol-Sensor-p-764.html?cPath=25\\_127](http://www.seeedstudio.com/depot/Grove-Alcohol-Sensor-p-764.html?cPath=25_127)

## Document Revision History

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Revision	Date	Author	Description
1.0	Sep 22, 2015	Loovee	Create file

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*Under the supervision of Seeed Technology Inc., this manual has been compiled and published which covered the latest product description and specification. The content of this manual is subject to change without notice.*

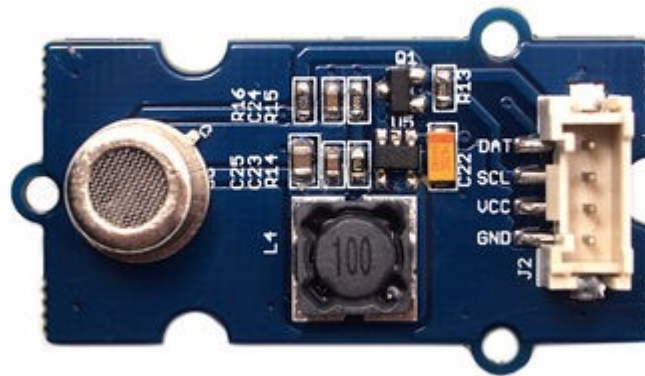
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## 1. Introduction

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Grove - Alcohol Sensor is a complete alcohol sensor module for Arduino or Seeeduino. It is built with [MQ303A](#) semiconductor alcohol sensor. It has good sensitivity and fast response to alcohol. It is suitable for making Breathalyzer. This Grove implements all the necessary circuitry for MQ303A like power conditioning and heater power supply. This sensor outputs a voltage inversely proportional to the alcohol concentration in air.



## 2. Features

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- Input Voltage: 5V
- Working Current: 120mA
- Detectable Concentration: 20-1000ppm
- Grove Compatible connector
- Highly sensitive to alcohol.
- Fast response and resumes quickly after alcohol exposure.
- Long life.
- Compact form factor.

## 3. Usage

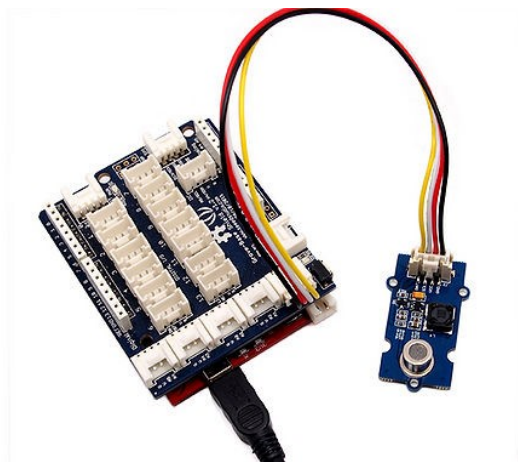
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### 3.1 Hardware Installation

Grove products have an eco system and all have a same connector which can plug onto the [Base Shield](#). Connect this module to the A0 port of Base Shield, however, you can also connect Gas sensor to Arduino without Base Shield by jumper wires.

Arduino UNO	Alcohol Sensor
5V	VCC
GND	GND
Analog A1	SCL
Analog A0	DAT

You can gain the present voltage through the DAT pin of sensor. Sensitivity can be regulated by rotating the potentiometer. **Please note the best preheat time of the sensor is above 48 hours.** For the detailed information about the Alcohol sensor please refer to the datasheet.



### 3.2 Download Code and Upload

There're two steps you need to do before getting the concentration of gas.

First, connect the module with Grove Shield using A0 like the picture above. And put the sensor in a clear air and use the program below.

```
#define heaterSelPin 15

void setup() {
  Serial.begin(9600);
```

```

    pinMode(heaterSelPin, OUTPUT); // set the heaterSelPin as digital output.
    digitalWrite(heaterSelPin, LOW); // Start to heat the sensor
}

void loop() {
    float sensor_volt;
    float RS_air; // Get the value of RS via in a clear air
    float sensorValue;

    /*--- Get a average data by testing 100 times ---*/
    for(int x = 0 ; x < 100 ; x++)
    {
        sensorValue = sensorValue + analogRead(A0);
    }
    sensorValue = sensorValue/100.0;
    /*-----*/

    sensor_volt = sensorValue/1024*5.0;
    RS_air = sensor_volt/(5.0-sensor_volt); // omit *R16
    Serial.print("sensor_volt = ");
    Serial.print(sensor_volt);
    Serial.println("V");
    Serial.print("RS_air = ");
    Serial.println(RS_air);
    delay(1000);
}

```

Then, open the monitor of Arduino IDE, you can see some data are printed, write down the value of RS<sub>air</sub> and you need to use it in the following program. During this step, you may pay a while time to test the value of RS<sub>air</sub>.

```

#define heaterSelPin 15

void setup() {
    Serial.begin(9600);
    pinMode(heaterSelPin, OUTPUT); // set the heaterSelPin as digital output.
    digitalWrite(heaterSelPin, LOW); // Start to heat the sensor
}

void loop() {

    float sensor_volt;
    float RS_gas; // Get value of RS in a GAS
    float ratio; // Get ratio RS_GAS/RS_air

```



```

int sensorValue = analogRead(A0);
sensor_volt=(float)sensorValue/1024*5.0;
RS_gas = sensor_volt/5.0-sensor_volt; // omit *R16

/*-Replace the name "R0" with the value of R0 in the demo of First Test -*/
ratio = RS_gas/RS_air; // ratio = RS/R0
/*-----*/

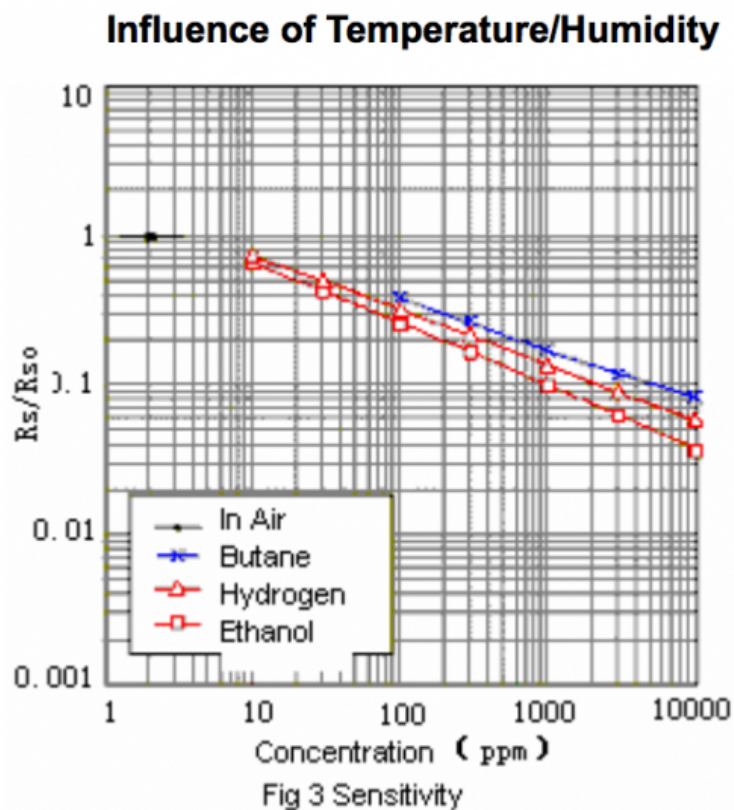
Serial.print("sensor_volt = ");
Serial.println(sensor_volt);
Serial.print("RS_ratio = ");
Serial.println(RS_gas);
Serial.print("Rs/R0 = ");
Serial.println(ratio);

Serial.print("\n\n");

delay(1000);
}

```

Now, we can get the concentration of gas from the below figure



According to the figure, we can see that the minimum concentration we can test is 20ppm and the maximum is 10000ppm, in an other word, we can get a concentration of gas between 0.002% and 1%. However, we can't provide a formula because the relation between ratio and concentration is nonlinear.

### 3.3 Notification

- The value varies between 500 - 905. Hence any value above 650 indicates alcohol vapor in the vicinity.
- Once exposed to alcohol vapor, it takes some time for the sensor value to decrease completely.
- Yet, any new exposure will show instant increase in sensor value.

### 3.4 Cautions

- Alcohol sensor is very sensitive semiconductor device. Handle with care.
- Do not expose to organic silicon steam, alkali or corrosive gases.
- Do not use freeze or spill water.
- Maintain proper working voltage.

## 4. Resources

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- [Grove-Alcohol Sensor Eagle File](#)
- [Grove-Alcohol Sensor v1.2 Eagle File](#)
- [Schematics in PDF Format](#)
- [How to Choose A Gas Sensor](#)
- [MQ303A.pdf](#)



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#### Как с нами связаться

**Телефон:** 8 (812) 309 58 32 (многоканальный)

**Факс:** 8 (812) 320-02-42

**Электронная почта:** [org@eplast1.ru](mailto:org@eplast1.ru)

**Адрес:** 198099, г. Санкт-Петербург, ул. Калинина, дом 2, корпус 4, литера А.