

# pulseIn()

## Description

Reads a pulse (either HIGH or LOW) on a pin. For example, if value is HIGH, pulseIn() waits for the pin to go HIGH, starts timing, then waits for the pin to go LOW and stops timing.

Returns the length of the pulse in microseconds. Gives up and returns 0 if no pulse starts within a specified time out.

The timing of this function has been determined empirically and will probably show errors in longer pulses. Works on pulses from 10 microseconds to 3 minutes in length.

## Syntax

```
pulseIn(pin, value)
```

```
pulseIn(pin, value, timeout)
```

## Parameters

pin: the number of the pin on which you want to read the pulse.

*(int)*

value: type of pulse to read: either **HIGH** or **LOW**. *(int)*

timeout (optional): the number of microseconds to wait for the pulse to start; default is one second *(unsigned long)*

## Returns

the length of the pulse (in microseconds) or 0 if no pulse started before the timeout (*unsigned long*)

## Example

```
int pin = 7;
unsigned long duration;

void setup()
{
  pinMode(pin, INPUT);
}

void loop()
{
  duration = pulseIn(pin, HIGH);
}
```

## Reference Home

*Corrections, suggestions, and new documentation should be posted to the [Forum](#).*

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