Paws-to-wash

A fun DIY hack project designed to help kids learn how to build interactive hardware while reinforcing healthy handwashing habits in their homes.
Covid-19 reminds us how important hygiene is, starting first and foremost with proper handwashing.

This unprecedented moment is an opportunity to raise a generation of good handwashers. Behavior change isn’t easy for anyone, but as Covid-19 has shown us, tiny changes can have great impact on the safety and health of us all. The following is a fun way to engage your kids in the behavior change process, teach them a bit about hardware hacking, and encourage healthy hygiene habits in your home.
A simple and fun project to engage your youngster(s) in some HW and FW hacking and encourage better handwashing in your home.

With the following step-by-step instructions, you can order a kit of parts and have your kid(s) hack together their own cat in just a few hours, or create their own creative version.
Origin Story

Inspired by the beckoning cat or Maneki-Neko, a Japanese good luck talisman, who according to folklore, washes its face when a guest arrives.

Key Features

**Beckoning arm**
Engaging movement is irresistible for handwashers of any age.

**Proximity sensor**
Automatically triggered countdown and soap dispensing as you step up to the sink.

**Visual countdown**
Circle visually completes over the course of 20 seconds, recommended time for proper handwashing.

**Fun**
To entertain you, it meows a 20 second Jeopardy tune. Have you ever heard a cat meow Jeopardy?
How to Hack-A-Cat. Steps to make your own handwashing timer.

1. Order the components
   We provide links to sources via Amazon, Alibaba and other global retailers, ideally with a discount.

2. Assemble Circuit Board
   Print out a 1:1 enlarged diagram to make the connections easy.

3. Download the Code
   Access open source code.

4. Build base
   Build base from common household items like carton, scissors, tape.

5. Install and Wash
   Place in your home wash/bathroom and get to washing hands properly.

6. Share and Support
   Share and support with friends and network.
Some Options to Make It Real

**Resistive Touch Board**
User attaches alligator clips to any object that conducts electricity to trigger sounds.

System requires a computer or tablet to be connected via USB and alligator clips are exposed. Can be programmed with “Scratch” from MIT.

**Bluetooth Button**
Button press triggers playback of a youtube video or sound file on smartphone. Smartphone display shows countdown timer and camera flash illuminates.

Bluetooth button can be embedded in enclosure such as soap dish. Requires no electronics experience.

**Capacitive Touch Board**
Capacitive touch board senses when a user touches a soap dispenser and triggers audio tracks and lighting effects.

**Arduino Motion Sensor**
The arduino motion sensor kit offers flexibility in that the user can change parameters. It requires soldering and some basic knowledge of electronics and coding.
Small habits have big impact.

As difficult as it can be, behavior change is not only worth the effort but also means to create healthier, impactful habits during these unprecedented times. Through projects like Paws-to-wash, you can leverage the behavior change process for social good.