

# I Have \$1,000 to Start a Makerspace: What Should I Buy?

## [Makedo Tool Set](#) -- \$175.00

*(All ages)*

What do you need for building material? Cardboard

Makedo is a set of plastic screws, screwdrivers, and other tools made specifically to use with cardboard. They're friendly and safe for little hands, but the big kids love using them, too. Give kids a pile of cardboard and a Makedo Tool Set and watch some prototyping magic happen.

## [K'NEX Maker Kit](#) -- \$56.00

*(Upper elementary and up)*

Using K'NEX pieces is a very fast way to prototype ideas, which is great for maker clubs and collaboration. Once your budding makers know how to use the parts, they'll soon be able to design and create their own DIY projects.

## [Strictly Briks](#) -- \$40.00

### [Strictly Briks Baseplates](#) -- \$30

*(All ages)*

Plastic building bricks are a universal style of toy, and most children have had experience with them at some point in their lives. While circuits and robotics and 3D printing might be intimidating to some kids, these same kids will happily tackle a bin full of building bricks. **They are a great gateway into making.**

## [KEVA Planks](#) -- \$100.00

*(All ages)*

These flat, wooden planks are kind of like grown-up wooden blocks. While They can't be used to make permanent or movable structures, they are great for thinking kinesthetically. You could have them set up as an open maker station or use them in programming.

## [Paper Circuits](#) -- \$85.00

*(Upper elementary and up)*

While paper circuits might sound complicated, they are actually easy to learn and fun to make, and they are the perfect way for children to get their first experience with circuits. That feeling of making the LED light up for the first time is priceless.

**[Snap Circuits](#) -- \$70.00**

**[Snap Circuits Beginner](#) -- \$21.00**

*(Upper elementary and Middle school)*

Snap Circuits are a great introduction to different types of circuits and properties of electricity, and they're easy for younger children to grasp. Kids can learn how to create various circuits and experience a sense of accomplishment when they make a bulb light up or a fan blow.

**Robot Petting Zoo -- \$225.00**

*(Ages vary)*

[Gravity Bugs](#) – \$20.00

[Robo Dozr](#) – \$60.00

[Dash](#) – \$150.00

While \$1,000 won't get you a complete set of robots, it could allow you to buy a few single robots to create a Robot Petting Zoo. Robots like a Gravity Bugs Free-Climbing MicroBot, the Robo Dozr and Dash can all fit within this budget and can give your young patrons exposure to robotics and coding. Plus, many robots can be steered like remote-control cars, giving the children the opportunity to use their spatial reasoning and coding skills to create obstacle courses for their robots.

**Maker Stations**

*(Ages vary)*

[Color Craze Bookmarks](#) – \$10.00

[StickTogether® mosaic poster](#) – \$36.00

[3D Pen Set](#) – \$50.00

[Paracord Craft Set](#) – \$30.00

[Everything Origami](#) – \$30.00

[Duct Tape Station](#) – \$36.00

Maker stations are a great way to start a makerspace and add creative activities that don't fit into the design-and-prototype model. Stations might include bookmarks that students can color and take home, a StickTogether® mosaic poster made up of stickers that each individual has a chance to contribute to, a 3D pen set, a paracord craft set, origami, or a DIY duct tape wallet station. All of these can be fun ways to continue to build maker culture in your space and show your students that this is a place for creativity.

These are just suggestions to help you start thinking about what you would like in your makerspace. Ultimately, you need to choose the tools and supplies that will work best for you and your community. Every makerspace is different, so try different things, experiment, and ask your patrons what they'd like to make. The important thing is to get started and keep making.