

How to Create a Countdown Timer in Excel in 5 Easy Steps

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To create a countdown timer in Excel, follow these steps:

1. Open a new Excel workbook.
2. In the first cell, type in the starting time for your countdown (e.g. 10:00:00).
3. In the cell below it, enter the formula `=A1-1/24/60/60`. This will subtract 1 second from the starting time.
4. Click and drag the formula down to the desired number of cells to create a column of countdown times.
5. Format the cells to display the time in the desired format (e.g. hh:mm:ss).
6. To start the countdown, click on the first cell and press F2, then press Enter.
7. To pause the countdown, click on the cell and press F2, then Enter again.
8. To reset the countdown, simply delete the formula in the first cell and enter a new starting time.
9. You can also customize the countdown timer by adding in additional formulas or formatting options.

By following these steps, you can easily create a countdown timer in Excel to track important events or deadlines.

Create a Countdown Timer in Excel

You can create a countdown timer in Excel that counts the number of days, hours, and minutes until some date by using the NOW() function.

The following step-by-step example shows how to use this function to create a countdown timer in practice.

Step 1: Enter the Countdown Date

Suppose today is 7/18/2023.

I will create a countdown timer in Excel that counts the number of days, hours, minutes and seconds until

8/1/2023:

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Countdown Date				
2	8/1/2023				
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					

Step 2: Create the Formulas for Counting Down

Next, we can use the following formulas to count the number of days, hours, minutes and seconds until 8/1/2023:

Days: **=INT(A2-NOW())** **Hours:** **=HOUR(A2-NOW())**
Minutes: **=MINUTE(A2-NOW())** **Seconds:**
=SECOND(A2-NOW())

We can type these formulas into each of their own cells:

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Countdown Date		Days	Hours	Minutes	Seconds
2	8/1/2023		13	14	23	11
3						
4						
5			=INT(A2-NOW())	=HOUR(A2-NOW())	=MINUTE(A2-NOW())	=SECOND(A2-NOW())
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						

This tells us that the date 8/1/2023 is 13 days, 14 hours, 23 minutes and 11 seconds away.

Step 3: Manually Update the Countdown Timer

To update the countdown timer, you simply need to double click any cell in the Excel spreadsheet and then press Enter.

The countdown timer will automatically update the values for the days, hours, minutes and seconds as soon as you press Enter:

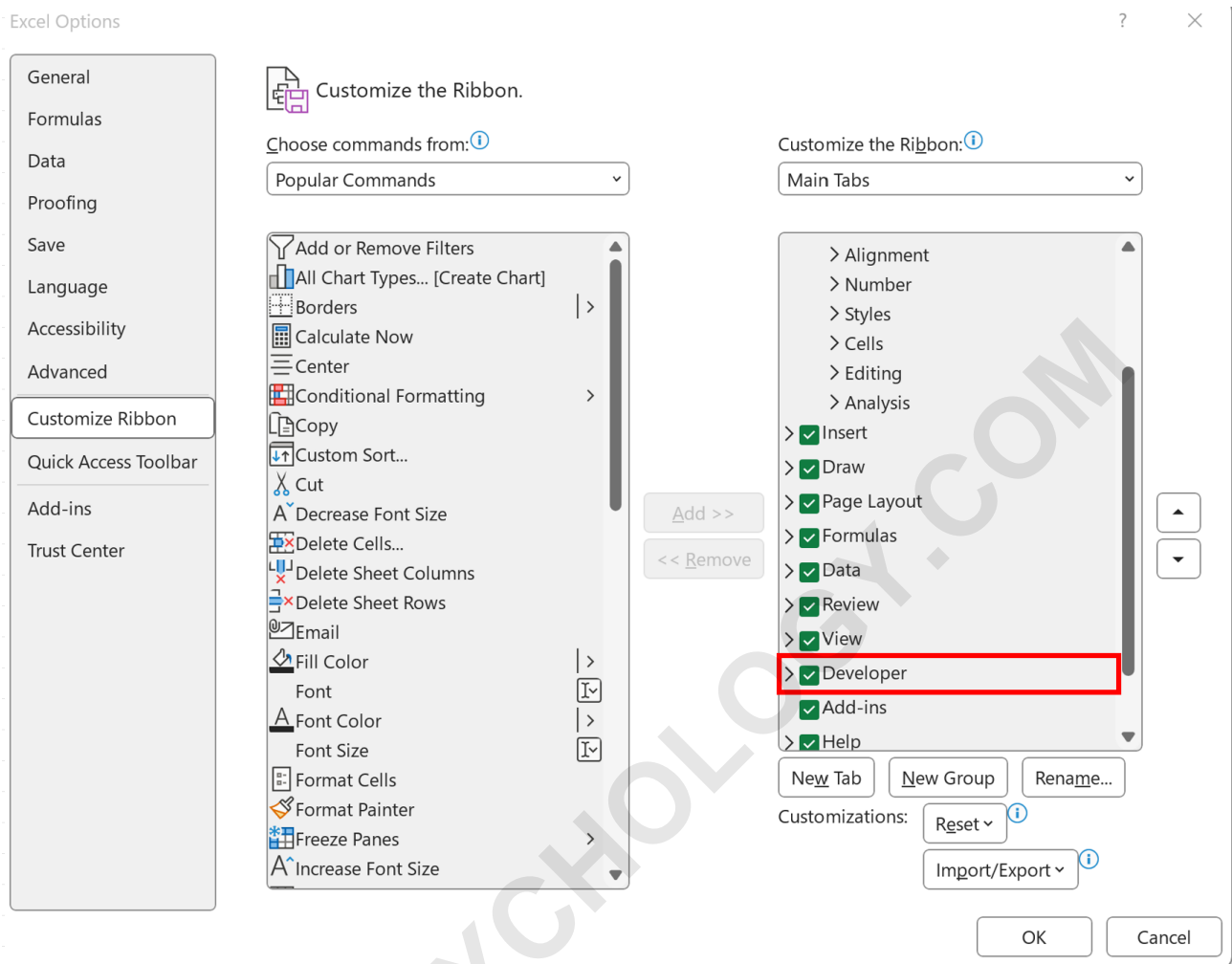
	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Countdown Date		Days	Hours	Minutes	Seconds
2	8/1/2023		13	14	21	49
3						
4						
5			=INT(A2-NOW())	=HOUR(A2-NOW())	=MINUTE(A2-NOW())	=SECOND(A2-NOW())
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						

Step 4: Automatically Update the Countdown Timer (Optional)

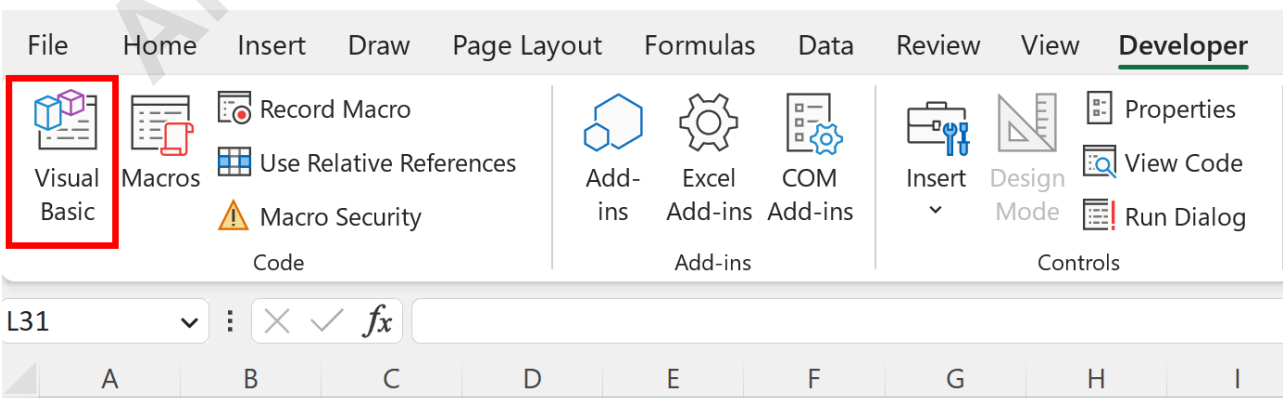
Before we do so, we need to make sure the Developer tab is visible on the top ribbon in Excel.

To do so, click the File tab, then click Options, then click Customize Ribbon.

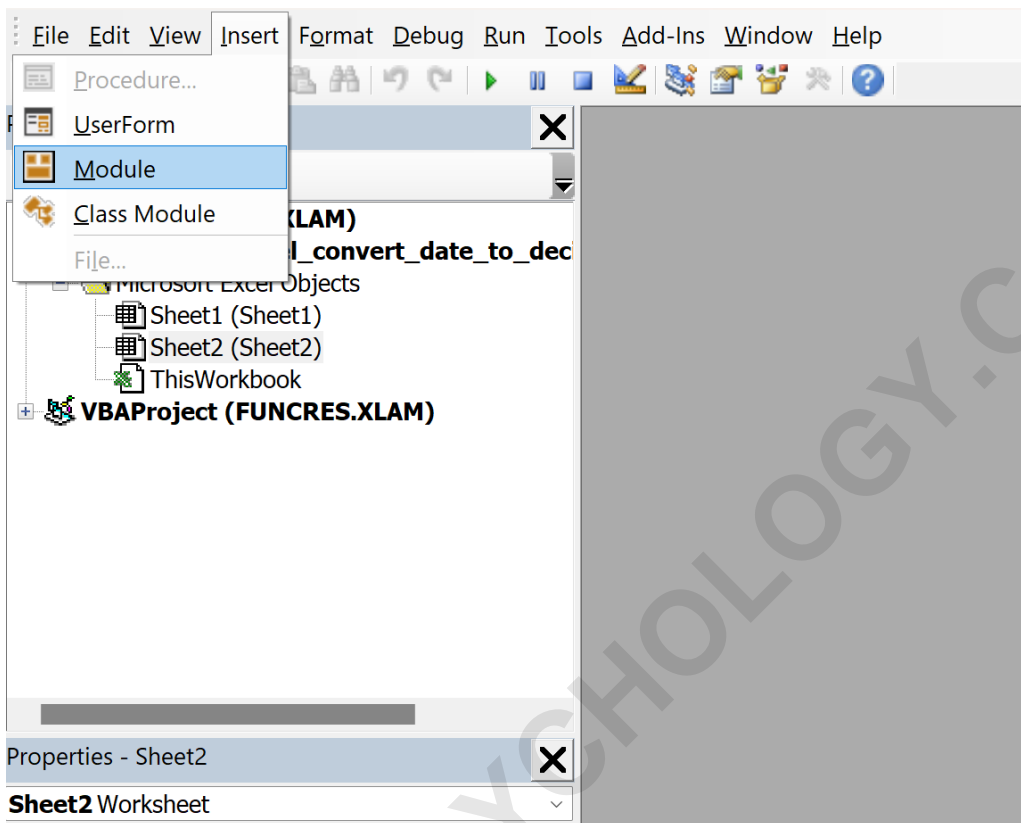
Under the section called Main Tabs, check the box next to Developer, then click OK:



Next, click the Developer tab along the top ribbon and then click the Visual Basic icon:



Next, click the Insert tab and then click Module from the dropdown menu:



Next, paste the following code into the module code editor:

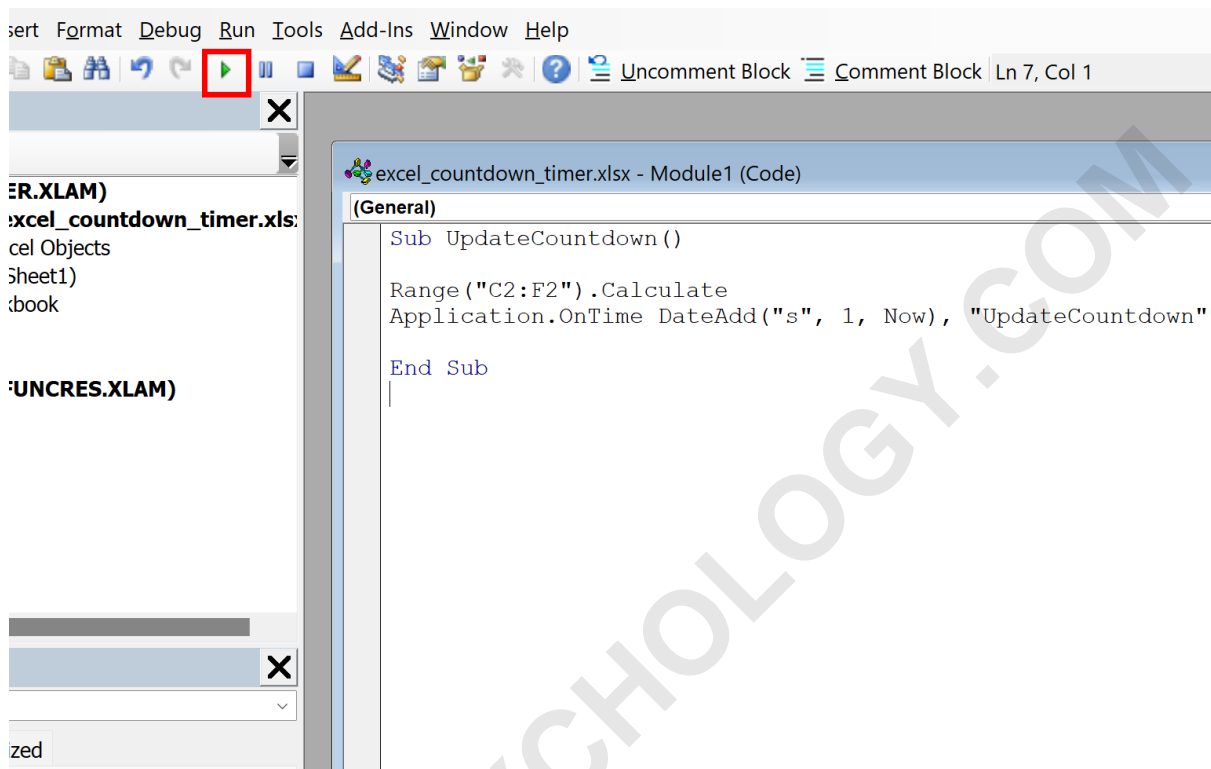
```
Sub UpdateCountdown()
```

```
Range("C2:F2").Calculate
```

```
Application.OnTime DateAdd("s", 1, Now),  
"UpdateCountdown"
```

```
End Sub
```

Next, click the little green Play arrow to execute this VBA code:



Once you've entered the code, feel free to close out of the VB Editor. The code will automatically be saved.

The values for the days, hours, minutes and seconds will now automatically update every second in the spreadsheet.

The following tutorials explain how to perform other common tasks in Excel: