# Reachy Mini puts robotics in reach of the masses



A grassroots revolution in robotics is gaining ground, making advanced, AI-powered machines more accessible than ever. At its heart is Reachy Mini—a desktop-sized open-source robot launched by Hugging Face and Pollen Robotics, priced between $299 and $449. With orders set to begin shipping in late summer 2025, Reachy Mini offers hobbyists, students and educators a practical entry point into AI and robotics.

Standing just 11 inches tall, the robot is designed to be approachable rather than industrial. It features a motorised head, rotating body and animated antennas, enabling expressive interaction. Built-in cameras, microphones and speakers support multimodal communication. Buyers can choose between a Lite model, requiring a separate computer, or a Wireless version powered by an onboard Raspberry Pi 5 with battery and Wi-Fi. Both arrive as DIY kits, encouraging hands-on learning.

What sets Reachy Mini apart is its direct integration with Hugging Face’s ecosystem of over 1.7 million AI models and 400,000 datasets. Users can tap into these tools to programme conversations, object recognition and behaviour customisation, primarily in Python, with JavaScript and Scratch support in development. The robot comes with more than 15 pre-built behaviours that can be downloaded and adapted, fostering a growing user community.

The initiative is anchored in Hugging Face’s LeRobot platform, a toolkit designed to democratise physical AI. LeRobot includes pretrained models, datasets and simulated environments tailored to imitation and reinforcement learning. Advocates have likened its impact to an “ImageNet moment for robotics,” unlocking large-scale collaboration and accelerated learning across borders.

Hardware innovation is also accelerating. K-Scale Labs’ K-Bot, a 4’7” humanoid with 26 motors and an open-source carbon fibre frame, is priced at $8,999. More compact offerings like Z-Bot and the sub-$3,000 HopeJr show how accessible design is expanding beyond labs and into living rooms.

This open, affordable approach contrasts sharply with proprietary robots from companies such as Figure AI, whose closed systems target high-end production. While Figure’s CEO has teased advanced communication capabilities, such technologies remain costly and largely out of public reach.

By contrast, companies like Hugging Face, Pollen Robotics and K-Scale Labs are promoting openness, rapid prototyping and community engagement. Benjamin Bolte, founder of K-Scale Labs and former Tesla Optimus engineer, described the ethos as: “Open-source everything, ship real hardware often, and foster a thriving developer ecosystem.”

This momentum aligns with broader industry growth. Analysts project the robotics sector will exceed $50 billion in the coming years, while Hugging Face expects 100,000 personal robot pre-orders this year alone. As robots begin to enter everyday spaces, Reachy Mini is poised to serve as a gateway for widespread experimentation and learning.

With a focus on affordability, expressiveness and ease of programming, Reachy Mini is helping to demystify robotics. Its growing user base is not only innovating in areas like education, domestic help and healthcare—but also deepening public understanding and trust in embodied AI.

As the UK positions itself at the forefront of ethical and open-source AI development, this grassroots robotics movement is laying the foundation for a more transparent and creative future—where robots are built by and for everyone.

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.eweek.com/news/hugging-face-reachy-mini-diy-robots/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.reachy-mini.org/> - Reachy Mini is an open-source desktop robot developed by Hugging Face and Pollen Robotics. Standing at 11 inches tall and weighing 3.3 pounds, it features motorized head movement, body rotation, and animated antennas. Programmable in Python, it integrates with Hugging Face's ecosystem, offering access to over 1.7 million AI models and 400,000 datasets. Available in two versions: the Lite model requires an external computer, while the Wireless model includes a built-in Raspberry Pi 5, Wi-Fi connectivity, and battery-powered operation. Both versions are sold as DIY kits, encouraging hands-on learning and community-driven development.
3. <https://huggingface.co/docs/lerobot> - LeRobot is an open-source toolkit developed by Hugging Face to provide models, datasets, and tools for real-world robotics in PyTorch. Aimed at lowering the barrier to entry in robotics, LeRobot focuses on imitation learning and reinforcement learning, offering pretrained models, human-collected demonstration datasets, and simulated environments. The toolkit is designed to be accessible, allowing everyone to contribute and benefit from shared datasets and pretrained models, fostering a collaborative community in the field of robotics.
4. <https://github.com/ai-completed/LeRobot> - The LeRobot GitHub repository offers the source code for Hugging Face's LeRobot toolkit, providing state-of-the-art machine learning tools for real-world robotics in PyTorch. The repository includes installation instructions, examples, and a structured directory for various components such as datasets, environments, policies, and utilities. It also provides scripts for training and evaluating policies, as well as tools for visualising datasets. The repository is open-source, encouraging community contributions and collaboration in the development of robotics AI.
5. <https://analyticsindiamag.com/ai-news-updates/hugging-face-launches-reachy-mini-open-source-robot-for-ai-enthusiasts-and-educators/> - Hugging Face, in collaboration with Pollen Robotics, has launched Reachy Mini, a desktop-sized open-source robot designed for AI experimentation and education. Priced from $299, it is available in two versions: Lite and Wireless. The robot is built for human-robot interaction and creative coding, enabling users to program and deploy AI applications using Python. It features multimodal sensors and integrates with Hugging Face for real-time behaviour sharing and experimentation. Deliveries are expected to start after the summer of 2025 through 2026.
6. <https://www.engadget.com/ai/you-can-now-pre-order-huggings-faces-reachy-mini-robots-135925714.html> - Hugging Face has introduced Reachy Mini, an AI-powered robot designed for human-robot interaction, creative coding, and AI experimentation. The robot is available in two versions: the Wireless model, priced at $449, and the Lite model at $299. Both versions are compact, measuring 28cm tall and 16cm wide, and come as buildable kits. They are programmable in Python, with future support for JavaScript and Scratch. The robots feature expressive movements, including motorized head and body rotation, animated antennas, and are integrated with the Hugging Face Hub, providing access to a vast array of AI models and datasets.
7. <https://www.therobotreport.com/hugging-face-launches-reachy-mini-robot-as-embodied-ai-platform/> - Hugging Face and Pollen Robotics have launched Reachy Mini, an open-source robot designed for enthusiasts, researchers, and builders to experiment with human-robot interaction, creative coding, and artificial intelligence. Standing at 11 inches tall and weighing 3.3 pounds, Reachy Mini features motorized head and body rotation, animated antennas, and multimodal sensing capabilities through an integrated camera, microphones, and speakers. Available in two versions, both sold as kits, the robot offers over 15 pre-installed behaviours at launch and integrates with Hugging Face's ecosystem, allowing users to leverage state-of-the-art open-source models for speech, vision, and personality development.