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Product Description

The SainSmart Banana Pro (Banana Pi) is a credit card-sized and low-power single-board computer developed in China by the LeMaker Team, with the intention of promoting the STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics) education in schools.

The Banana Pro has an Allwinner A20 system on a chip (SoC), which includes an ARM Cortex-A7 Dual-core (ARMv7-A) 1 GHz, Mali400 MP2 GPU, and with 1GB DDR3 SDRAM. It uses a microSD card for booting OS and also has a SATA 2.0 interface for connecting a hard disk to get more storage space. Compared to the Banana Pi, the Banana Pro adds an on-board WiFi 802.11 b/g/n rtl8189es and integrated composite video and audio output into a 3.5mm TRRS jack to get more space for making 40 pins extension headers.

Specifications:

SoC :Allwinner A20 (CPU,GPU,SATA2.0, 3 USB ports)
CPU :1 GHz ARM Cortex-A7 Dual-core (ARMv7 instruction set)
GPU : Mali400 MP2 - complies with OpenGL ES 2.0/1.1(hardware acceleration support)
Memory :(SDRAM) 1GB DDR3 (shared with GPU)
Power : 5V-2A via MicroUSB (DC in only) and/or MicroUSB(OTG)
PMU: AXP209
USB: 2 USB 2.0 hosts, 1 USB 2.0 OTG (all direct from A20 chip)
Onboard Storage: MicroSD card SATA 2.0
Onboard Network:10/100/1000 Ethernet RJ45,150Mbps WiFi 802.11 b/g/n rtl8189es
Display: Supports multi-channel HD display: HDMI 1.4 (Type A - full),composite video (PAL and NTSC) (via 3.5 mm TRRS jack shared with audio out),LVDS/RGB/CPU display interface (DSI) for raw LCD panels. 11 HDMI resolutions from 640x480 to 1920x1080 plus various PAL and NTSC standards
Video: HD H.264 2160p video decoding. Mutil-format FHD video decoding, including Mpeg1/2, Mpeg4, H.263, H.264, etc. H.264 high profile 1080p@30fps or 720p@60fps encoding
Camera : Parallel 8-bit camera interface
Audio Outputs: HDMI, analog audio,I2S audio
Audio input: On board microphone

Product Information

Warranty & Support

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Product Dimensions | 5.4 x 3.8 x 1.5 inches |
| Item Weight | 0.3 ounces |
| Shipping Weight | 0.3 ounces |
| Manufacturer | SainSmart |
| ASIN | B00RD86QPA |
| Item model number | BANANA_PRO |
| Customer Reviews | 34 customer reviews 4.0 out of 5 stars |
| Best Sellers Rank | #692 in Computers & Accessories > Computer Components > Motherboards |
| Date first available at Amazon.com | December 23, 2014 |

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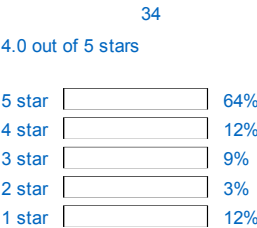
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Banana Pi > Raspberry Pi
I have purchased Raspberry Pi's and other small computers like the Radxa Rock and this is by far my favorite its the only one with 10/100/100 Ethernet which for me was a big deal. [Read more](#)

MUCH faster than the Raspberry Pi. I had read ...

By Andrew Toler on January 19, 2015

Verified Purchase

MUCH faster than the Raspberry Pi. I had read that the A20/A7 benchmarks 4x faster than the RPi's Broadcom/Arm SOC. Well, I believe it. The Banana Pro is basically a normal computer for a fraction of the cost. Of course, using these devices means that you need to spend time learning how to flash SD cards with Linux distributions, configure them to your liking, and deal with software issues that arise. If you are willing to put in the time and effort to do that, then you have saved yourself a bundle. I think I've written one other Amazon review in my life. I am very impressed with the Banana Pro, so I decided to do another one. Including a picture of the Banana Pro mounted to a birdseye maple stand that I made. There's an SSD on the other side, connected via the SATA cable to the BPro.



1 Comment abuse 28 people found this helpful. Was this review helpful to you? Yes No Report

Be mindful of the two micro USB ports!

By M. Baker on March 24, 2015

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Only complaint is about the dual micro USB connections. Since one is used for a power input and the only for OTG, plugging power into the wrong one can fry the device. They warn about this in the manual but seems there should be at least a nominal visual indicator of which is which. Even a small label on the board would be enough. I ended up using a colored marker to put a dot on the one used for power.

1 Comment abuse 16 people found this helpful. Was this review helpful to you? Yes No Report

Powerful Alternative to Raspberry Pi

By Bob Monroe on June 26, 2015

What happens when you take the popular Raspberry Pi (RPi) microcomputer and hand it over to a Chinese company? You get an even more powerful and feature packed microcomputer with a similar name, the Banana Pi Pro. I guess "Blueberry" must have been taken already. The Banana Pi Pro is slightly larger than the RPi but it sure has more items added on. This board is a super-sized microcomputer if you look at the specs alone.

The processor is an Allwinner A20 ARM Cortex 7 that uses a quad core system on a chip design (SoC) which is nearly identical to the RPi. The same goes for the operating speed of 1GHz and 1 gig on onboard DDR3 SDRAM. You'll find the identical 40 pin GPIO header and microSD slot underneath as the RPi, along with full HDMI and microUSB power connection. That is where the similarities stop.

Lemaker, backers of the Banana Pi Pro, threw in some great additions that make up for the \$10 higher price tag. The Banana has an infrared receiver built onto the board. The Ethernet port is a 10/100/1000 gigabit interface where the RPi is 10/100 megabit. There is a SATA connection for your portable hard drives, which makes up for only having two USB ports compared to RPi's four USB ports. I found the SATA connection to be quite fast on a 2 terabyte Samsung drive I had.

The Banana has three reset/reboot buttons located across the board so you can selectively reset certain parts of the system without restarting the whole board. Somebody decided to add a microphone to this board knowing that I'm a great singer in the shower. My singing makes my dog howl in pain but the microphone makes me sound even better during playback with the 3.5mm AV out jack. The Banana even comes with WiFi enabled so there is no need to plug in a separate USB WiFi. [Read more >](#)

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This is an awesome board, keep in mind this board is not ...

By anythinggeekonline on January 23, 2015

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This is an awesome board, keep in mind this board is not for people who want a user friendly device with lots of graphical interfaces and a huge community to support it. This board is for a tinkerer and someone who likes figuring things out. The bananian OS doesn't come with a GUI so things like connection to wifi or enabling the wifi may be challenging for someone new to linux. If you are willing to learn it or already know it, the hardware on this thing is far superior to the raspberry pi.

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Great product

By Casey S Ruark on February 25, 2015

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Great product. I own 3 SBCs (BBB,RaspPi B,Bpro). This one is certainly on par with BBB but the addition of GIGE and SATA is much welcomed. Extremelv fast. Recommend puttina Bananain as the

Published 6 months ago by Errin

DOA

Dead on arrival. However, Amazon refunded with no questions asked.

Published 7 months ago by JRGRN

I didn't like the close proximity of the USB On-the-Go port and ...

I found this board to be inadequate in every way except the performance of the CPU. I bought two, was dissatisfied with both, and decided to pick up a couple of Raspberry Pi boards... [Read more](#)

Published 9 months ago by Hugo M. M. Rabson

A very nice SBC

So far, I really like it. Briefly stated, this board has its place next to my Rasp Pi B+ and Rasp Pi 2. A more detailed review is here:[...]

Published 9 months ago by sed_awk

simply amazing

simply amazing - buy this now. I'm trying to think of a problem with it... perhaps that the audio out uses the same jack as the composite video out? [Read more](#)

Published 9 months ago by edfardos

Great device. I replaced a Raspi 2 with this ...

Great device. I replaced a Raspi 2 with this device. The Raspberry 2 was never really stable, always gave me issues with the USB and would hang once a week. [Read more](#)

Published 11 months ago by S. Konrad

Five Stars

Now THIS my friends is the best christmas gift I ever got....myself.

Published 11 months ago by M. Tahirramani

Not for the amateur.

Not compatible as described. Waste of time and money, unless you're a electronics engineer.

Published 13 months ago by Chris

Poor quality control.

DOA. I've had many Raspberry Pis, Wandboards, Cubieboards, etc, but never one that just won't boot from any image. Apparently it doesn't detect that there is an SD card inserted. [Read more](#)

Published 13 months ago by rabinnh

Fatal design flaw rendered mine useless.

I managed to brick mine by plugging the power supply into the USB OTC. This is an easy mistake to make, and the designers shopuld have made it more forgivable. [Read more](#)

Published 14 months ago by Guy M

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distro, archlinux seems decent but systemd seems to not like something or another and ran pretty high load with not much running. NOTE: get a decent power supply, this thing does NOT like to be underpowered and will be extremely unstable until the proper power supply is used.

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Great for a low power NAS solution

By [Jay Coover](#) on July 30, 2015

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Using this as a low power NAS (running SimpleNAS) attached to a 5TB USB drive formatted with NTFS (for portability) straight into my router over ethernet. My research indicated that the IO throughput was noted to be better than the Raspberry Pi, of which I own several running Kodi. I have it running both an authenticated Samba share and read-only NFS serving up media content over my home network and it's performing wonderfully. Highly recommended, at least for this type of application.

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I've been wanting to replace my home server system with something that doesn't use as much power, and this fits the bill

By [Richard Deno](#) on April 29, 2016

Verified Purchase

I'm using this running Bananian (Banana Pi optimized Debian) Linux, set up as a custom home server system. So far I've been running Samba server, Deluge, and Sickrage (a sickbeard fork), and while this had severely overtaxed the Pogoplug series 4 that I had tried to use previously, it runs without any problems on the Banana Pi. I did put on some heatsinks, but that was more as a precaution than out of necessity, and have a single 60mm fan cooling both this board and a 4TB SATA drive, and haven't had any real heat issues. I have it connected via Ethernet, so don't know how well the wireless works, but overall it's a nice board and the built in SATA really puts it ahead of the other "Pi" based setups.

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