

StarFive
赛昉科技

VisionFive 2 Single Board Computer Quick Start Guide

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Legal Statements

Important legal notice before reading this documentation.

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Preface

About this guide and technical support information.

About this document

This document mainly provides the users with the necessary information about the StarFive VisionFive 2 development board, including features, specifications, board appearance, and pinout, as well as the guidelines to get started with the Debian operating system.

Revision History

Table 0-1 Revision History

Version	Released	Revision
1.71	2023/11/06	Updated the partition info of QSPI Flash in Updating SPL and U-Boot of Flash (on page 36) .
1.7	2023/08/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Added a note in VisionFive 2 Boot Mode Settings (on page 50).• Add more hardware items in Required Hardware (on page 19).• Added more information about the Debian image in Flashing OS to a Micro-SD Card (on page 21).• Moved the Updating SPL and U-Boot (on page 36) and Extend Partition on SD Card or eMMC (on page 33) section under getting started as essential steps.• Added the following sections:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Avoid Running apt upgrade (on page 33)◦ Install Packages (on page 35)◦ Compiling and Updating Linux Kernel (on page 41)◦ Debian Customization (on page 43)• Updated the path in Compiling and Updating Linux Kernel (on page 41).• Updated the <i>SSD Mounting Location</i> figure in Required Hardware (on page 19).

Table 0-1 Revision History (continued)

Version	Released	Revision
1.63	2023/06/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fixed typos.• Updated Updating SPL and U-Boot of Flash (on page 36).
1.62	2023/05/10	Updated VisionFive 2 Boot Mode Settings (on page 50) .
1.61	2023/04/28	Updated the note type as warning in Required Hardware (on page 19) .
1.6	2023/04/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updated the version information of the recovery file in Recovering the Bootloader (on page 44).• Added a note in Updating SPL and U-Boot of Flash (on page 36).
1.5	2023/04/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fixed typos.• Added one step to set boot mode while log in to Debian.• Updated commands in Using SSH over Ethernet as Root Account (on page 43).• Added one step in Updating SPL and U-Boot of SD Card and eMMC (on page 41)
1.4	2023/04/03	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updated notes for login credentials in Logging into Debian (on page 23)• Moved the Using SSH over Ethernet as Root Account (on page 43) section under appendix.
1.3	2023/03/28	Updated username for Debian login.
1.2	2023/02/28	Updated the following sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• updated the Extend Partition on SD Card or eMMC (on page 33).• Added installation step of the <code>openssh-server</code> software package in Using SSH over Ethernet as Root Account (on page 43).• Added a new method in Updating SPL and U-Boot (on page 36).• Added recommended SSD mounting screw in Required Hardware (on page 19).

Table 0-1 Revision History (continued)

Version	Released	Revision
1.1	2022/12/27	<p>Updated the following sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Removed a redundant step in Logging into Debian (on page 23).• Added Step 1 in Using SSH over Ethernet (on page 25).• Added a new method in Updating SPL and U-Boot of Flash (on page 36).• Updated the DTS file links in GitHub Repository (on page 49).• Added example output figures in Recovering the Bootloader (on page 44).
1.0	2022/12/21	The first official release.

Notes and notices

The following notes and notices might appear in this guide:

-  **Tip:**
Suggests how to apply the information in a topic or step.
-  **Note:**
Explains a special case or expands on an important point.
-  **Important:**
Points out critical information concerning a topic or step.
-  **CAUTION:**
Indicates that an action or step can cause loss of data, security problems, or performance issues.
-  **Warning:**
Indicates that an action or step can result in physical harm or cause damage to hardware.

Contents

List of Tables.....	8
List of Figures.....	9
Legal Statements.....	ii
Preface.....	iii
1. Features and Specifications.....	10
1.1. Features.....	10
1.1.1. Hardware.....	10
1.1.2. Interfaces.....	11
1.1.3. Software.....	12
1.2. Specifications.....	12
2. Hardware Overview.....	15
2.1. Board Appearance.....	15
2.2. Pinout Diagram.....	17
3. Getting Started.....	19
3.1. Required Hardware.....	19
3.2. Connecting a Fan to VisionFive 2.....	21
3.3. Flashing OS to a Micro-SD Card.....	21
3.3.1. Flashing with Linux or Windows.....	22
3.4. Logging into Debian.....	23
3.4.1. Using Desktop over HDMI.....	24
3.4.2. Using SSH over Ethernet.....	25
3.4.3. Using a USB to Serial Converter.....	28
3.5. Avoid Running apt upgrade.....	33
3.6. Extend Partition on SD Card or eMMC.....	33
3.7. Install Packages.....	35
3.8. Updating SPL and U-Boot.....	36
3.8.1. Updating SPL and U-Boot of Flash.....	36
3.8.2. Updating SPL and U-Boot of SD Card and eMMC.....	41
3.9. Compiling and Updating Linux Kernel.....	41
4. Appendix.....	43
4.1. Debian Customization.....	43
4.2. Using SSH over Ethernet as Root Account.....	43
4.3. Recovering the Bootloader.....	44

4.4. GitHub Repository.....	49
4.5. VisionFive 2 Boot Mode Settings.....	50



List of Tables

Table 0-1 Revision History.....	iii
Table 2-1 Board Appearance Description.....	16
Table 4-1 GitHub Repository Addresses.....	49
Table 4-2 Boot Mode Settings.....	50



StarFive

List of Figures

Figure 2-1 Board Appearance (Top View).....	15
Figure 2-2 Board Appearance (Bottom View).....	16
Figure 2-3 Pinout Diagram.....	17
Figure 3-1 NPTHs on VisionFive 2.....	20
Figure 3-2 Single head hexagonal copper columns.....	20
Figure 3-3 Double way hexagon copper studs.....	20
Figure 3-4 SSD Mounting Location.....	21
Figure 3-5 Connecting a Fan to VisionFive 2.....	21
Figure 3-6 Install BalenaEtcher.....	23
Figure 3-7 Debian Interface.....	25
Figure 3-8 Example Output.....	27
Figure 3-9 Example Output.....	28
Figure 3-10 Connecting Jumper Wire.....	29
Figure 3-11 Example.....	29
Figure 3-12 Example Configuration.....	30
Figure 3-13 Example Output.....	31
Figure 3-14 Connecting Jumper Wires.....	31
Figure 3-15 Example Output.....	32
Figure 3-16 Example Output.....	32
Figure 3-17 Example Output.....	33
Figure 4-1 Connecting to the Debug Pins of VisionFive 2 40-pin GPIO Header.....	44
Figure 4-2 Boot Mode Setting (UART).....	45
Figure 4-3 Example Output.....	45
Figure 4-5 Example Output.....	47
Figure 4-7 Example Output.....	48
Figure 4-9 Boot Mode Setting Location.....	51
Figure 4-10 Boot Mode Settings.....	52

1. Features and Specifications

This chapter describes the features and specifications of VisionFive 2.

1.1. Features

VisionFive 2 provides the following features.

- [Hardware \(on page 10\)](#)
- [Interfaces \(on page 11\)](#)
- [Software \(on page 12\)](#)

1.1.1. Hardware

This section describes the following VisionFive 2 hardware functions.

- [Processor \(on page 10\)](#)
- [Memory \(on page 10\)](#)
- [Storage \(on page 10\)](#)
- [Video Processing \(on page 10\)](#)

Processor

- StarFive JH-7110 with RISC-V quad-core CPU with 2 MB L2 cache and a monitor core, supporting RV64GC ISA, working up to 1.5 GHz
- IMG BXE-4-32 MC1 with work frequency up to 600 MHz

Memory

VisionFive 2 provides the system memory of 2 GB, 4 GB, or 8 GB LPDDR4 SDRAM up to 2,800 Mbps.

Storage

- Onboard TF card slot: The VisionFive 2 can boot from the TF card.
- Flash: The firmware to store U-Boot and BootLoader.

Video Processing

The video processing of VisionFive 2 has the following features.

- Video decoder support up to 4K@60fps and multi-stream for H264/H265
- Video encoder support up to 1080p@30fps and multi-stream for H265
- JPEG encoder/decoder

1.1.2. Interfaces

- 1 × 2-lane MIPI DSI
- 1 × 4-lane MIPI DSI
- 1 × 2-lane MIPI CSI
- 1 × 3.5 mm Audio Jack
- 1 × USB-C port for charging
- 1 × USB device port (by reusing the USB-C port)
- 4 × USB 3.0 ports (multiplexed with a PCIe 2.0 1x lane)
- 1 × HDMI 2.0
- 2 × RJ45 Ethernet ports
- 1 × 4-pin PoE header
- 1 × 2-pin fan header
- 1 × Reset button
- 1 × 40-pin GPIO header, supporting various interface options:
 - 3.3 V (on 2 pins)
 - 5 V (on 2 pins)
 - Ground (on 8 pins)
 - GPIO
 - CAN bus
 - DMIC
 - I2C
 - I2S
 - PWM
 - SPI
 - UART
 - and so on

1.1.3. Software

Operating System

VisionFive 2 supports Debian operating system.

For more software resources, please follow the [StarFive GitHub repository](#).

1.2. Specifications

VisionFive 2 has the following specifications.

Type	Item	Description
Processor	StarFive JH-7110	StarFive JH-7110 with RISC-V quad-core CPU with 2 MB L2 cache and a monitor core, supporting RV64GC ISA, working up to 1.5 GHz
	Imagination GPU	IMG BXE-4-32 MC1 with work frequency up to 600 MHz
Memory	2 GB/4 GB/8 GB	LPDDR4 SDRAM, up to 2,800 Mbps
Storage	Onboard TF card slot	VisionFive 2 can boot from a TF card.
	Flash	The firmware to store U-Boot and BootLoader.
Multimedia	Video Output	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 × 2-lane MIPI DSI display port, supporting up to 1080p@30fps • 1 × 4-lane MIPI DSI display port, supporting up to 2K@30fps in both single display and dual display modes. • 1 × HDMI 2.0, supporting up to 4K@30fps or 2K@60fps <p> Note: Only one MIPI DSI port can be used for display at a time.</p>
	Camera	1 × 2-lane MIPI CSI camera port, supporting up to 1080p@30fps

Type	Item	Description
	Encoder/Decoder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video decoder supports up to 4K@60fps and multi-stream for H264/H265; • Video encoder supports up to 1080p@30fps and multi-stream for H265; • JPEG encoder/decoder
	Audio	4-pole stereo audio jack
Connectivity	Ethernet	2 × RJ45 Gigabit Ethernet ports
	USB Host	4 × USB 3.0 ports (multiplexed with a PCIe 2.0 1x lane).
	USB Device	1 × USB device port (by reusing the USB-C port)
	M.2 Connector	M.2 M-Key
	eMMC Socket	For eMMC module as OS and data storage.
	2-Pin Fan Header	-
Power	USB-C port	5 V DC via USB-C with PD, up to 30 W (minimum 3 A)
	GPIO Power In	5 V DC via GPIO header (minimum 3 A)
	PoE (Power over Ethernet)	Power function is enabled and requires separate PoE HAT
GPIO	40-Pin GPIO Header	<p>1 × 40-pin GPIO header, supporting various interface options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.3 V (on 2 pins) • 5 V (on 2 pins) • Ground (on 8 pins) • GPIO • CAN bus • DMIC • I2C • I2S • PWM • SPI

Type	Item	Description
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UART • and so on
Boot Mode	Boot mode setting pins	You can choose one of the following boot modes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-bit QSPI Nor Flash • SDIO3.0 • eMMC • UART
Button	Reset button	To reset VisionFive 2, press and hold the Reset button for more than 3 seconds to ensure the reset is successful.
Dimensions	100 × 74 mm	-
Compliance	RoHS, FCC, CE	-
Environment	Recommended operating temperature	0-50 °C
Other	Debug function	UART TX and UART RX are available through the 40-pin GPIO header.

2. Hardware Overview

This chapter provides the hardware overview of VisionFive 2.

2.1. Board Appearance

Figure 2-1 Board Appearance (Top View)

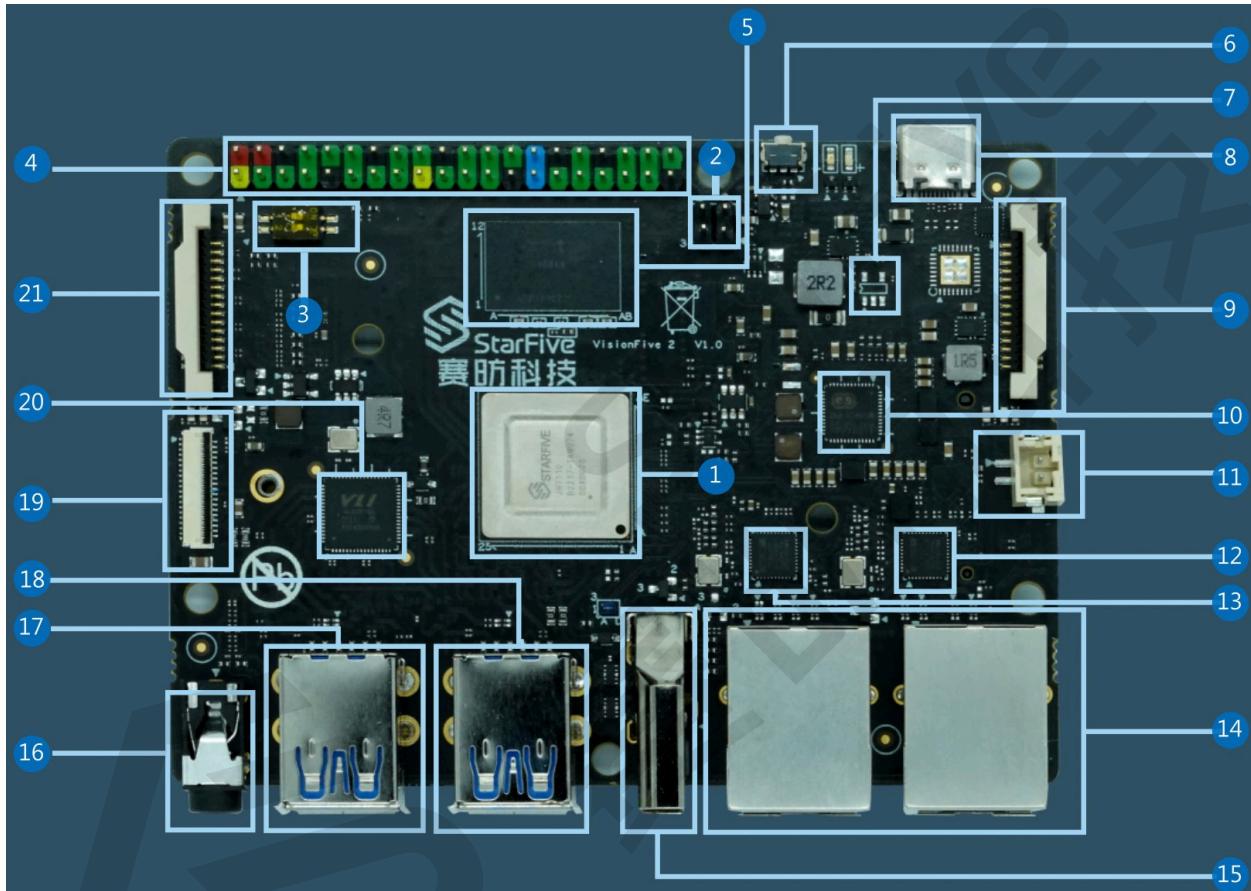
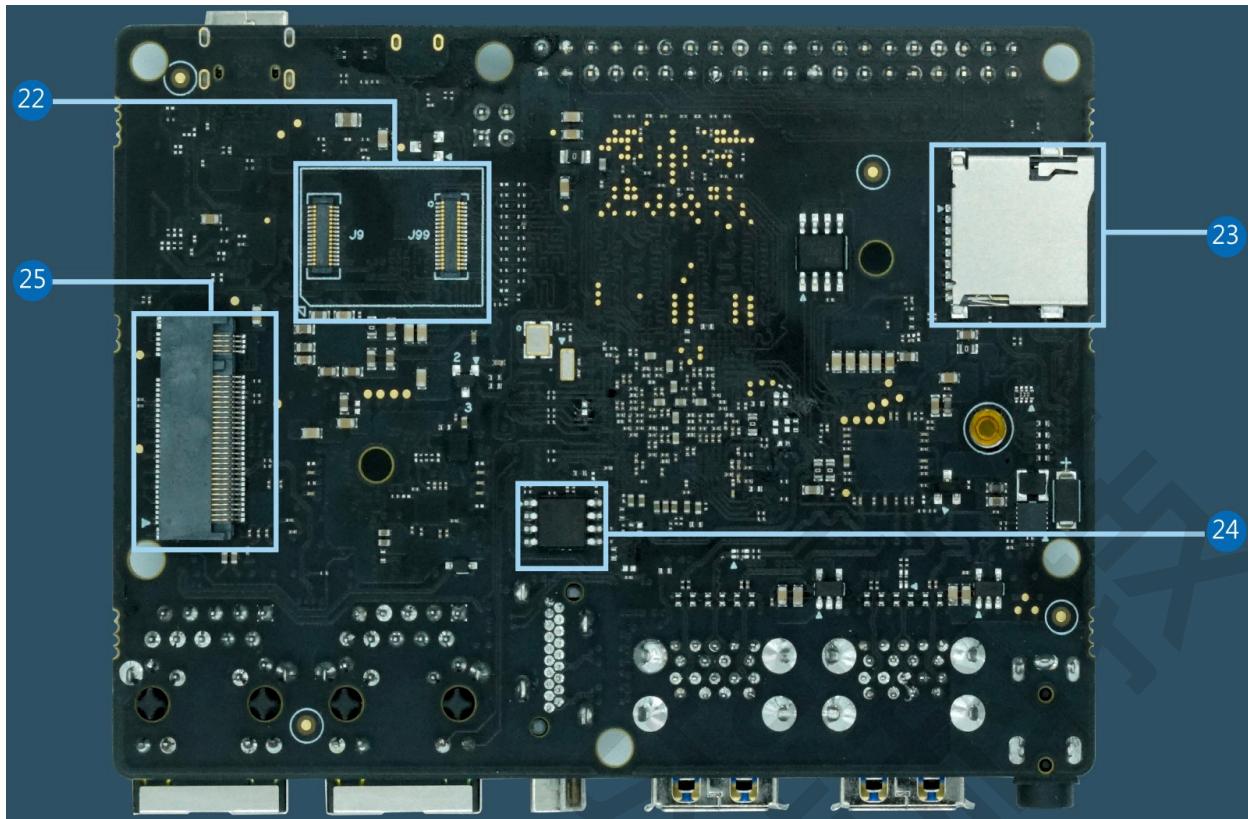


Figure 2-2 Board Appearance (Bottom View)**CAUTION:**

During the use of VisionFive 2, avoid contact with hard objects that may cause damage.

Table 2-1 Board Appearance Description

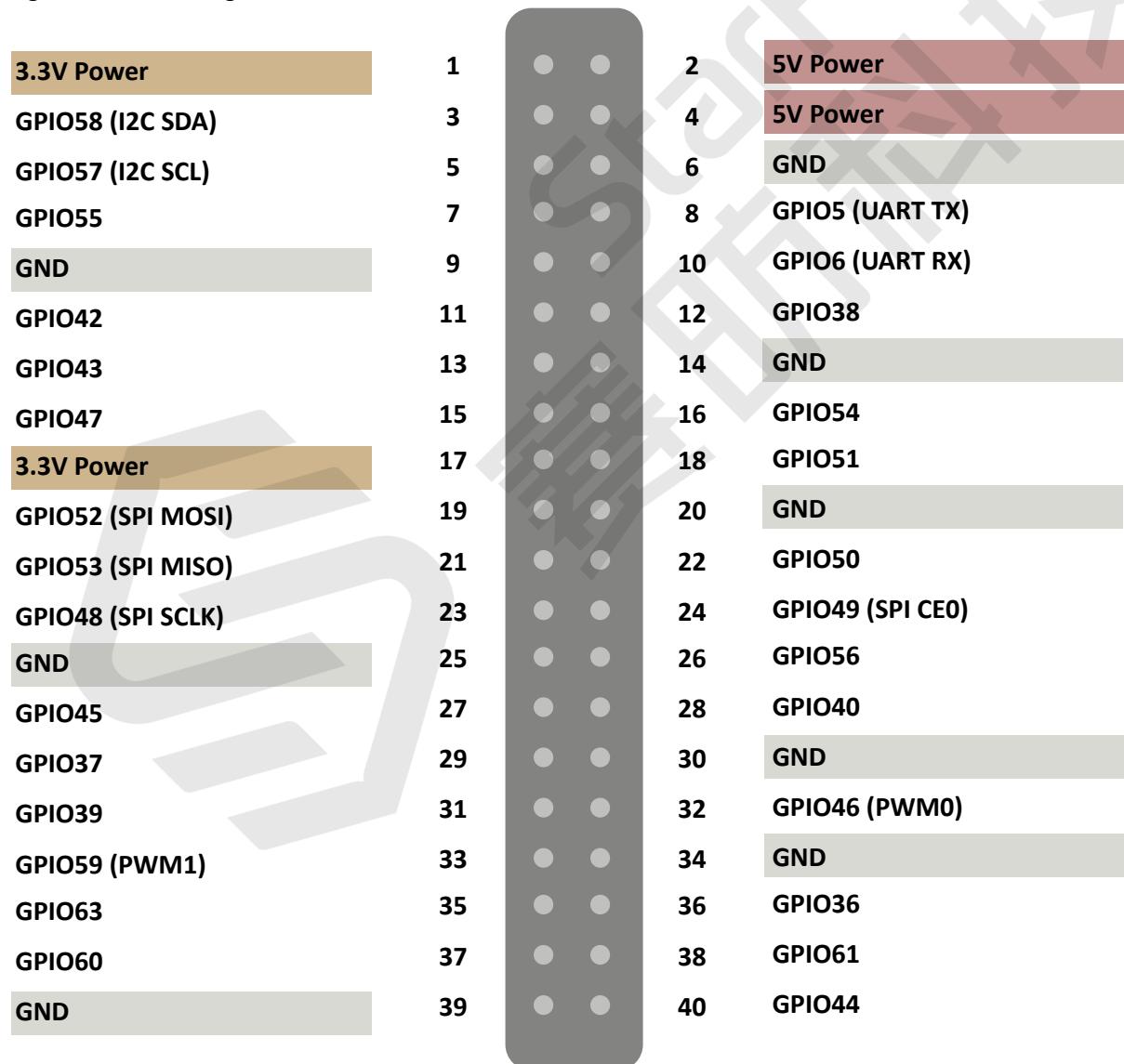
No.	Description	No.	Description
1	StarFive JH-7110 with RISC-V quad-core CPU, supporting RV64GC ISA	14	2 × Ethernet Ports (RJ45)
2	PoE Header	15	HDMI 2.0 Port
3	Boot Mode Pins	16	3.5 mm Audio Jack
4	40-Pin GPIO Header	17	2 × USB 3.0 Port
5	2 GB/4 GB/8 GB LPDDR4 SDRAM	18	2 × USB 3.0 Port
6	Reset Button	19	4-Lane MIPI DSI
7	EEPROM	20	USB 3.0 Host Controller
8	USB-C Port, supporting both charging and data transmission	21	2-Lane MIPI DSI
9	2-Lane MIPI CSI	22	eMMC Socket

Table 2-1 Board Appearance Description (continued)

No.	Description	No.	Description
10	PMIC	23	TF Card Slot
11	2-Pin Fan Header	24	QSPI Flash
12	GMAC0 PHY	25	M.2 M-Key
13	GMAC1 PHY	-	-

2.2. Pinout Diagram

The following is the pinout diagram:

Figure 2-3 Pinout Diagram



Note:

- Each GPIO pin can safely draw a maximum current of 32 mA, whereas the maximum current draw when all GPIOs are combined should be less than 100 mA. Please take this into account or otherwise, you will end up destroying the GPIO pins.
- All GPIOs can be configured to support different functions including but not limited to SDIO, Audio, SPI, I2C, UART, and PWM. For the instructions, refer to the [VisionFive 2 40-Pin GPIO Header User Guide](#).



StarFive

3. Getting Started

This chapter provides steps to get started with VisionFive 2.

3.1. Required Hardware

Make sure you have prepared the following hardware items:

- VisionFive 2
- Micro SD card (32 GB or more)
- USB card reader for your host PC
- PC with Linux/Windows/Mac OS
- Power adapter
- USB Type-C Cable
- For desktop environment usage:
 - Keyboard and mouse
 - Monitor or TV
 - HDMI cable
- Additionally, here are some optional components which you may also need:
 - Ethernet LAN cable or a compatible WiFi dongle (ESWIN6600U or AIC8800 module is enabled by default)
 - USB to UART Serial converter module



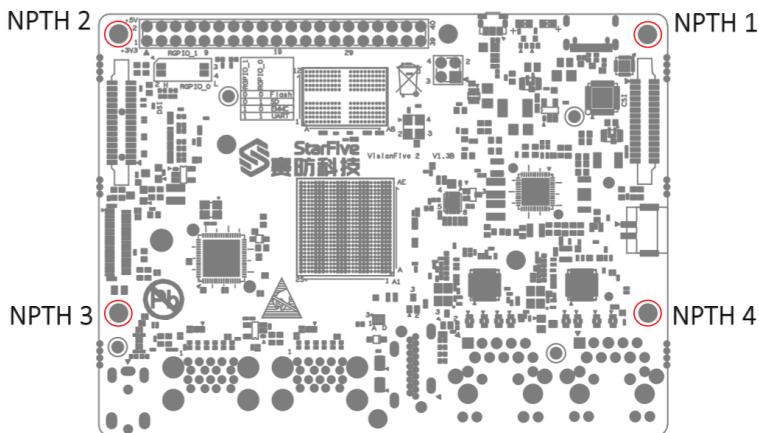
Tip:

This is used for system recovery via UART boot mode.



Warning:

During the use of VisionFive 2, avoid contact with hard objects that may cause damage. Thus, StarFive recommends that you use spacers for the following NPTHs (Non Plating Through Hole):

**Figure 3-1 NPTHs on VisionFive 2**

For spacers, StarFive strongly recommends that you use the copper columns or studs with the following specifications:

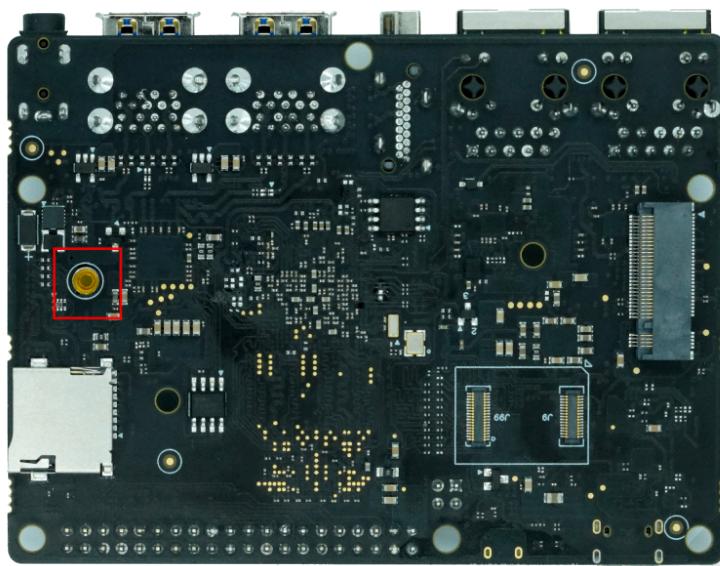
- Single head hexagonal copper columns (Size: M2.5*10+6mm)

Figure 3-2 Single head hexagonal copper columns

- Double way hexagon copper studs (Size: M2.5*4)

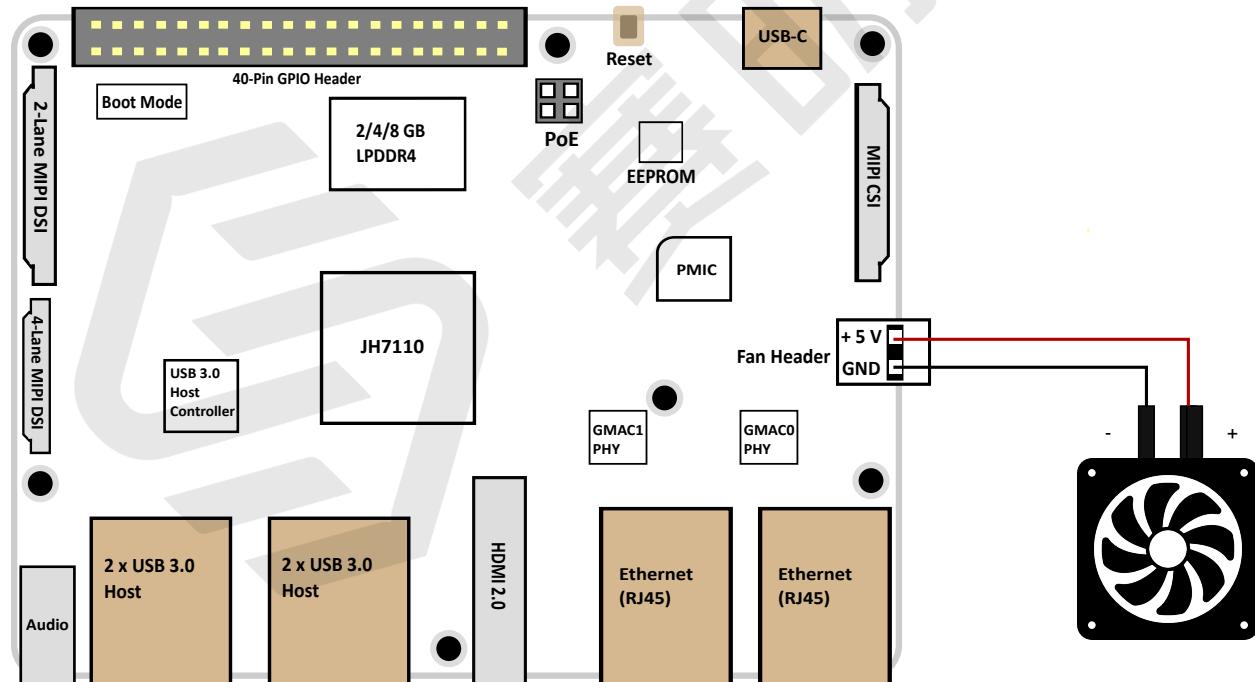
Figure 3-3 Double way hexagon copper studs**Note:**

The recommended SSD mounting screw for VisionFive 2 is M2 × 3 mm (Head Diameter: 5.0 mm).

**Figure 3-4 SSD Mounting Location**

3.2. Connecting a Fan to VisionFive 2

You can connect a 2-pin 5 V fan to VisionFive 2 for further cooling as follows:

Figure 3-5 Connecting a Fan to VisionFive 2

3.3. Flashing OS to a Micro-SD Card

Now we need to burn Debian (which is a Linux distribution) to a micro-SD card so that it can run on the VisionFive 2. This chapter provides example steps to flash Debian to a Micro-SD card with Linux or Windows.

3.3.1. Flashing with Linux or Windows

To flash the image with Linux or Windows, perform the following steps:

1. Insert a micro-SD card into the computer through a micro-SD card reader, or by a built-in card reader on a laptop.
2. Download the latest Debian image from: [this link](#).



Note:

The latest Debian images are located in the 202308 folder. Make sure you use the latest image.

Since there are several boot modes as described in [VisionFive 2 Boot Mode Settings \(on page 50\)](#), different Debian images are also prepared, which include:

- NVME image
- SD image
- eMMC image

Thus, depending on user's preference, you will need to choose the image to download accordingly.

3. Extract the .bz2 file.

The image downloaded is in an `img.bz2` compressed format. To extract the image, you will need to use a tool like 7-Zip in Windows/Linux or `bzip2` command.

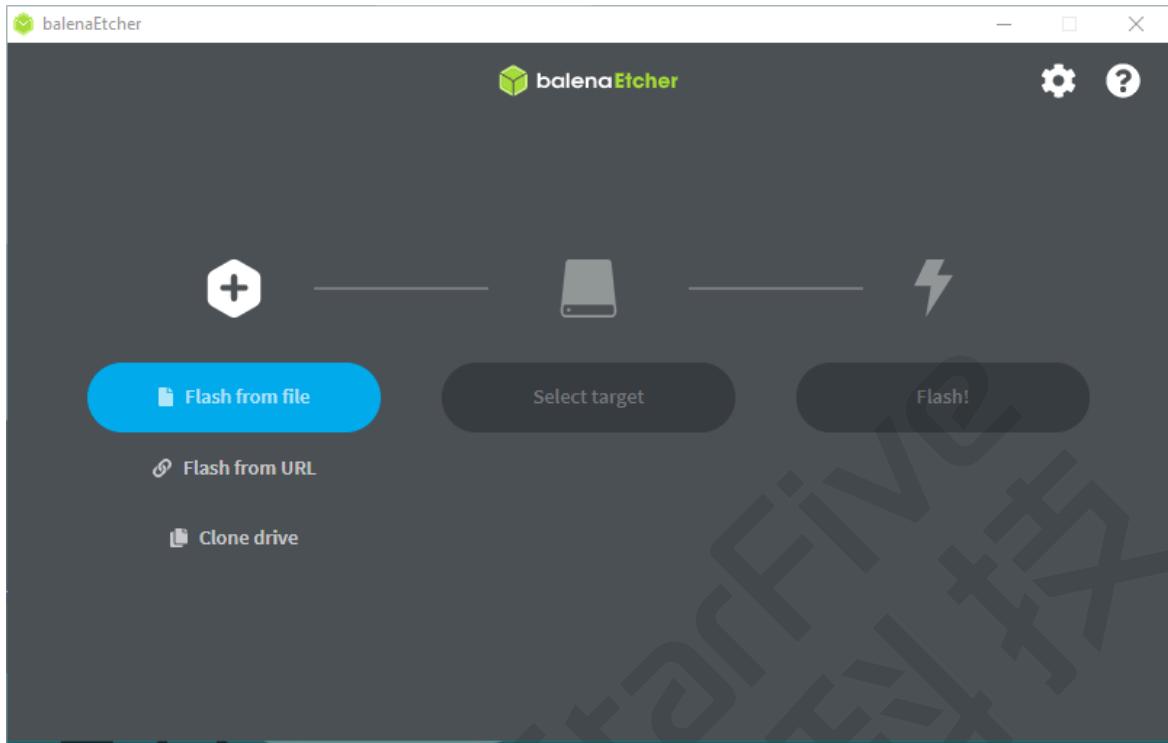
For `bzip2`, you can use the following command, this command will remove the original `img.bz2` file. :

```
bzip2 -d <filename>.img.bz2
```

To preserve the original file, you will need to use:

```
bzip2 -dk <filename>.img.bz2
```

4. Visit [this link](#) to download BalenaEtcher. We will use BalenaEtcher software to flash the Debian image to a micro-SD card.
5. Install BalenaEtcher and open it.

Figure 3-6 Install BalenaEtcher

6. Click **Flash from file** and select the location of the image where we just unzipped the following file:

`starfive-jh7110-VF2-<Version>.img`



Tip:

<Version> indicates the version number of the Debian image.

7. Click **Select target** and select the connected micro-SD card.
8. Click **Flash!** to start the flash task.

3.4. Logging into Debian

Perform the following steps to log into Debian:

1. Connect a display to VisionFive 2 via HDMI.
2. Set the boot mode as required. For instructions, see [VisionFive 2 Boot Mode Settings \(on page 50\)](#).



Tip:

StarFive recommends that you use SD card or eMMC mode since the versions of SPL and U-Boot in the QSPI flash may be outdated and require update. If you need to update SPL and U-Boot, refer to [Updating SPL and U-Boot \(on page 36\)](#).

3. Insert the TF card with the Debian image into VisionFive 2 and power it on.

4. Enter the credentials as follows:

- **Username:** user

- **Password:** starfive

5. You can log into Debian OS by:

- [Using Desktop over HDMI \(on page 24\)](#)
- [Using SSH over Ethernet \(on page 25\)](#)
- [Using a USB to Serial Converter \(on page 28\)](#)



Tip:

If you need to load different DTB files, update the ./boot/uEnv.txt file as described in the Step 6 under *Adding New File* section in the [VisionFive 2 Single Board Computer Software Technical Reference Manual](#).

3.4.1. Using Desktop over HDMI

After installing Debian, you can log in to Debian OS on VisionFive 2 using desktop over HDMI.

Steps:

1. After the HDMI of the display screen is connected, insert the micro-SD card with the Debian image into the VisionFive 2 and power on.

2. After the desktop login system is displayed, you can use the keyboard and mouse on VisionFive 2.

3. Enter the credentials as follows:

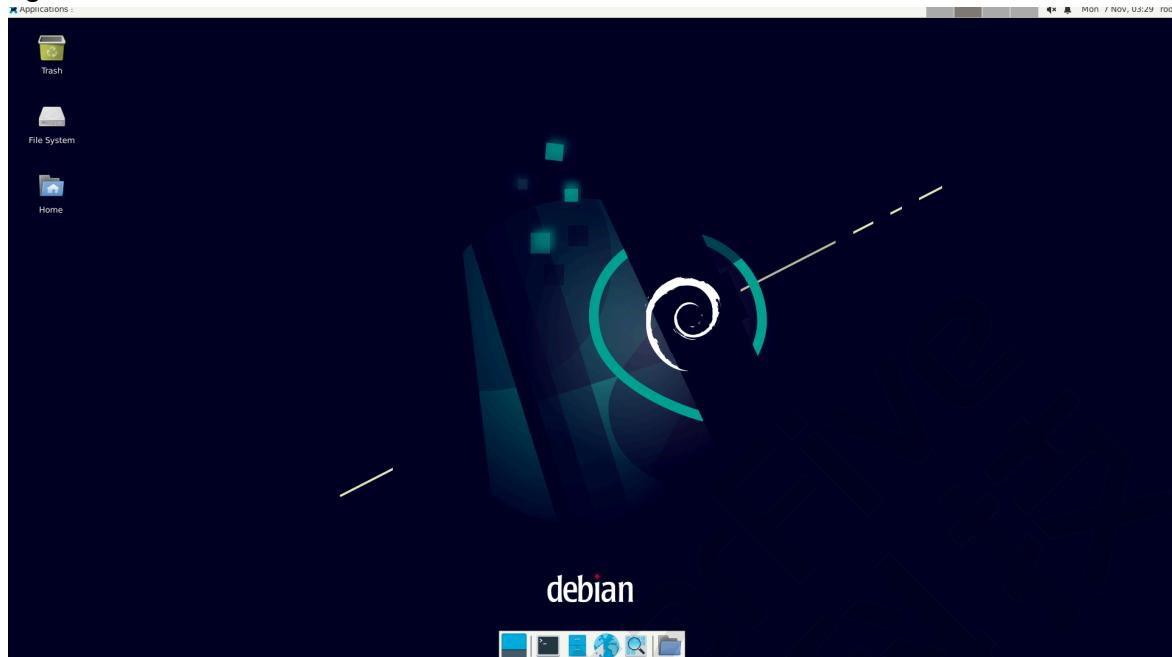
- **Username:** user

- **Password:** starfive

Result:

You will see the following interface:

Figure 3-7 Debian Interface



3.4.2. Using SSH over Ethernet

After installing Debian, you can log in to Debian OS on VisionFive 2 through an SSH connection over the local network.

1. Insert the micro-SD card with the Debian image into the VisionFive 2 and power on.
2. Connect one end of an Ethernet cable to the RJ45 connector on the VisionFive 2 and the other end of the cable to a router.
3. After a successful Ethernet connection, your router will assign an IP address to the VisionFive 2 and it will be connected to the Internet.
4. Continue the steps according to your OS:
 - [For Windows \(on page 25\)](#)
 - [For Mac/Linux \(on page 27\)](#)

3.4.2.1. For Windows

1. Log in to your router (usually you need to enter 192.168.1.1 on the web browser to enter the router).
2. Go to DHCP configuration and find the IP address of the VisionFive 2.



Tip:

You can easily find the IP address of the VisionFive 2 by referring to its hostname, starfive.

3. Download and install Putty by visiting [this link](#).



Tip:

Putty is an SSH and telnet client through which you can connect to the Carrier Board. You can skip this step if you already have Putty installed.

4. Open Putty to log in to Debian.

5. Select **SSH** under the **Connection Type**.

6. Configure the settings as follows:

- **Host Name:** IP address of your VisionFive 2
- **Port:** 22

7. Click **Open**.

8. (Optional) Decide the user account. If you need to use the `root` account for privileged operations in remote access, follow the instructions in [Using SSH over Ethernet as Root Account \(on page 43\)](#).



Note:

If you don't need to login as `root`, skip this step.

9. Enter the credentials as follows:



Note:

If you want to login as `root` account, perform the previous step and change the **Username** as `root` in the following credentials.

- **Username:** user
- **Password:** starfive

Result:

Now you have connected with the VisionFive 2 via SSH using windows!

Figure 3-8 Example Output

```

starfive.local - PuTTY
Using username "user".
root@starfive's password:
Linux starfive 5.15.0-starfive #1 SMP Thu Sep 29 15:10:06 EDT 2022 riscv64

The programs included with the Debian GNU/Linux system are free software;
the exact distribution terms for each program are described in the
individual files in /usr/share/doc/*/*copyright.

Debian GNU/Linux comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY, to the extent
permitted by applicable law.
Last login: Mon Nov  7 07:24:40 2022 from 192.168.120.119
user@starfive:~# 
```

3.4.2.2. For Mac/Linux

1. Log in to your router (usually you need to enter **192.168.1.1** on the web browser to enter the router).
2. Go to DHCP configuration and find the IP address of the VisionFive 2.



Tip:

You can easily find the IP address of the VisionFive 2 by referring to its hostname, **starfive**.

3. (Optional) Decide the user account. If you need to use the `root` account for privileged operations in remote access, follow the instructions in [Using SSH over Ethernet as Root Account \(on page 43\)](#).



Note:

If you don't need to login as `root`, skip this step.

4. Open a terminal window and type the following:



Note:

The following command is using `user` account as an example. If you need to login as `root` account, make sure you perform the previous step and change `user` as `root` in the following command.

```
ssh user@192.168.1.xxx
```

**Tip:**

192.168.1.xxxx is the IP address of VisionFive 2.

5. Type the password as starfive in the prompt.

Result:

Now you have connected with the VisionFive 2 via SSH using Mac/Linux!

**Tip:**

192.168.1.xxxx is the IP address of VisionFive 2.

Figure 3-9 Example Output

```
xiangyao@xiangyao-VirtualBox:~$ ssh user@192.168.120.70
user@192.168.120.70's password:
Linux starfive 5.15.0-starfive #1 SMP Thu Sep 29 15:10:06 EDT 2022 riscv64

The programs included with the Debian GNU/Linux system are free software;
the exact distribution terms for each program are described in the
individual files in /usr/share/doc/*copyright.

Debian GNU/Linux comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY, to the extent
permitted by applicable law.
Last login: Mon Nov  7 04:21:09 2022
user@starfive:~#
```

3.4.3. Using a USB to Serial Converter

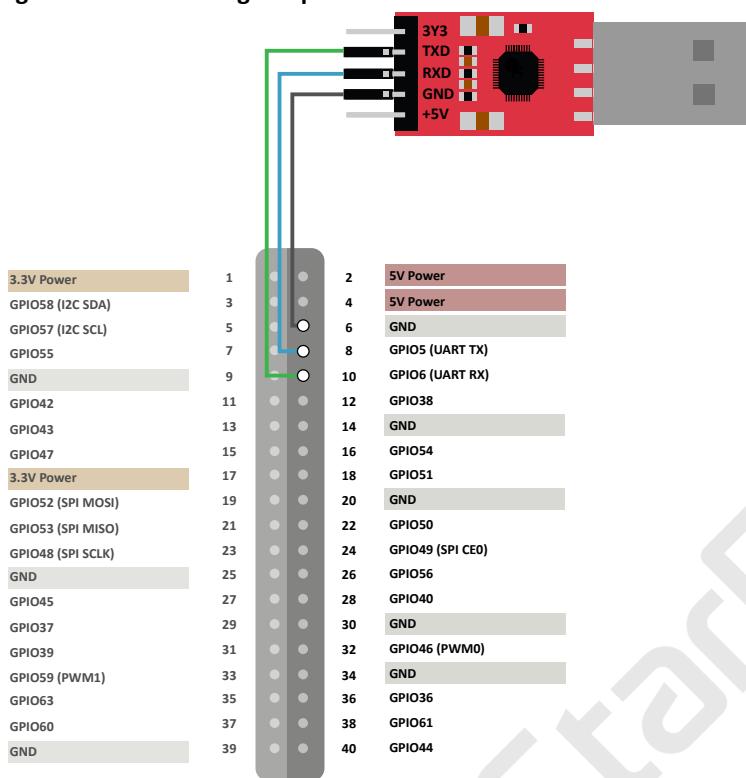
You can log in to Debian OS on VisionFive 2 using a USB-to-Serial converter. Please follow the following steps according to your OS:

- [For Windows \(on page 28\)](#)
- [For Mac/Linux \(on page 31\)](#)

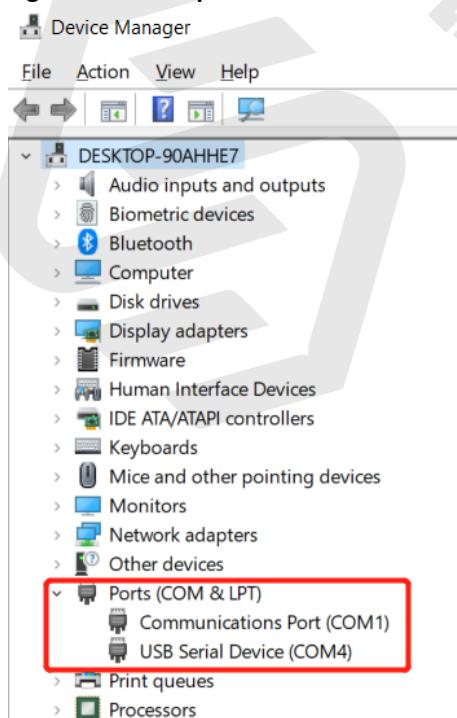
3.4.3.1. For Windows

Steps:

1. Insert the micro-SD card with the Debian image burnt into VisionFive 2.
2. Connect one end of the USB Type-C cable to the USB Type-C port on the VisionFive 2, and connect the other end of the cable to the power adapter.
3. Connect the jumper wires from the USB to Serial Converter to the 40-Pin GPIO header of the VisionFive 2 as follows.

Figure 3-10 Connecting Jumper Wire

4. Connect the USB-to-Serial converter to the PC.
5. Open Device Manager by typing **Device Manager** in the windows search box.
6. Click the drop-down arrow from **Ports (COM & LPT)** and find the name of the connected serial port (e.g.: **COM4**).

Figure 3-11 Example

7. Download and install Putty by visiting [this link](#).



Tip:

Putty is an SSH and telnet client through which you can connect to the Carrier Board via SSH. You can skip this step if you already have Putty installed.

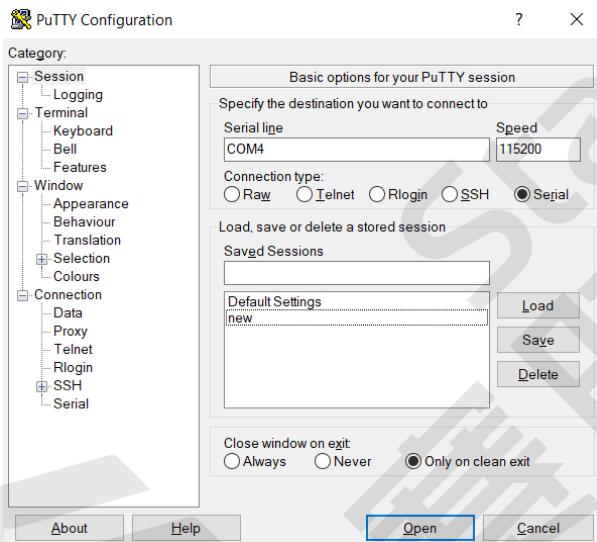
8. Open Putty to connect the PC to the Carrier Board.

a. Select **Serial** under the **Connection Type**.

b. Configure the settings as follows:

- **Serial line:** COM4 (choose your COM port)
- **Speed:** 115200

Figure 3-12 Example Configuration



c. Click **Open**.

9. Power on the VisionFive 2.

10. Type username and password in the prompt as follows:



Note:

You can use either `user` or `root` account to login. The following example use `user` to login.

- **Username:** user
- **Password:** starfive

Result:

Now you have connected with the VisionFive 2 via serial communication using windows!

Figure 3-13 Example Output

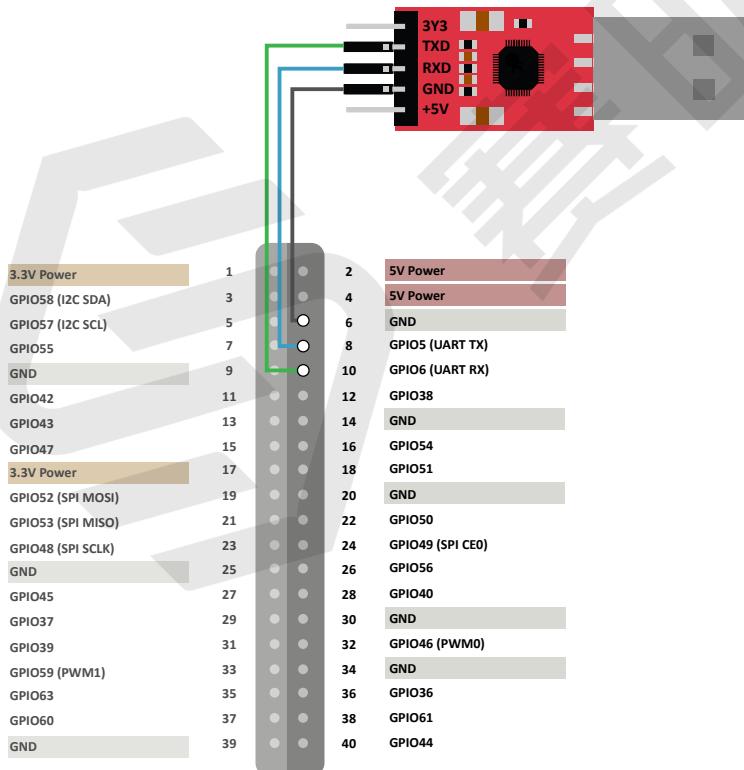
```
Debian GNU/Linux bookworm/sid starfive ttys0
starfive login: user
Password:
Linux starfive 5.15.0-starfive #1 SMP Thu Sep 29 15:10:06 EDT 2022 riscv64
The programs included with the Debian GNU/Linux system are free software;
the exact distribution terms for each program are described in the
individual files in /usr/share/doc/*/copyright.

Debian GNU/Linux comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY, to the extent
permitted by applicable law.
Last login: Mon Nov  7 05:58:28 UTC 2022 on ttys0
user@starfive:~#
```

3.4.3.2. For Mac/Linux

1. Insert the micro-SD card with the Debian image burnt into VisionFive 2.
2. Connect one end of the USB Type-C cable to the USB Type-C port on the VisionFive 2, and connect the other end of the cable to the power adapter.
3. Connect the jumper wires between the USB-to-Serial converter and the 40-Pin GPIO header of the VisionFive 2 as follows.

Figure 3-14 Connecting Jumper Wires



4. Connect the USB-to-Serial converter to the PC.
5. Open a terminal window on Mac/Linux.

6. Update the packages list by typing the following command.

```
sudo apt-get update
```

7. Install minicom by typing the following command.

```
sudo apt-get install minicom
```

8. View the connected serial devices.

```
dmesg | grep tty
```

Figure 3-15 Example Output

```
xiangyao@xiangyao-VirtualBox:~$ dmesg | grep tty
[    0.134738] printk: console [tty0] enabled
[   3.382696] ttys2: LSR safety check engaged!
[   3.383989] ttys2: LSR safety check engaged!
[ 9599.503061] usb 2-2: pl2303 converter now attached to ttys0
```

9. Connect to the serial device by typing the following command.

```
sudo minicom -D /dev/ttys0 -b 115200
```



Note:

The baud rate is set to 115,200.

Figure 3-16 Example Output

```
ryan@ubuntu:~$ sudo minicom -D /dev/ttys0 -b 115200
[sudo] password for ryan:

Welcome to minicom 2.7.1

OPTIONS: I18n
Compiled on Aug 13 2017, 15:25:34.
Port /dev/ttys0, 00:03:16

Press CTRL-A Z for help on special keys
```

10. Power on the VisionFive 2.

11. Type username and password in the prompt as follows:



Note:

You can use either `user` or `root` account to login. The following example use `user` to login.

- **Username:** user

- **Password:** starfive

Result:

Now you have connected with the VisionFive 2 via serial communication using MacOS/Linux!

Figure 3-17 Example Output

```
Debian GNU/Linux bookworm/sid starfive ttyS0

starfive login: user
Password:
Linux starfive 5.15.0-starfive #1 SMP Thu Sep 29 15:10:06 EDT 2022 riscv64

The programs included with the Debian GNU/Linux system are free software;
the exact distribution terms for each program are described in the
individual files in /usr/share/doc/*/*copyright.

Debian GNU/Linux comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY, to the extent
permitted by applicable law.
Last login: Mon Nov  7 05:58:28 UTC 2022 on ttyS0
user@starfive:~#
```

3.5. Avoid Running apt upgrade

After [Logging into Debian \(on page 23\)](#), at the current state, avoid running `apt upgrade` as it will override the existing customized packages provided by StarFive.

3.6. Extend Partition on SD Card or eMMC

To fully utilize the unused space on the SD card or eMMC after logging into Debian, perform the following steps:

1. Use the following command to list available elements:

```
~# df -h
```

Example Output:

Filesystem	Size	Used	Avail	Use%	Mounted on
udev	3.7G	0	3.7G	0%	/dev
tmpfs	793M	3.1M	790M	1%	/run
/dev/mmcblk1p4	2.0G	1.9G	88M	96%	/
tmpfs	3.9G	0	3.9G	0%	/dev/shm
tmpfs	5.0M	12K	5.0M	1%	/run/lock
tmpfs	793M	32K	793M	1%	/run/user/107
tmpfs	793M	24K	793M	1%	/run/user/0

2. Run the `fdisk` command with disk name as an argument.

Example Command:

```
root@starfive:~# fdisk /dev/mmcblk<X>
```

i **Tip:**

<X>: The application value is 0 or 1. 1 for SD card and 0 for eMMC.

Example Output:

```
root@starfive:~# fdisk /dev/mmcblk1

Welcome to fdisk (util-linux 2.38.1).
Changes will remain in memory only, until you decide to write them.
Be careful before using the write command.

GPT PMBR size mismatch (4505599 != 62929919) will be corrected by
write.
This disk is currently in use - repartitioning is probably a bad idea.
It's recommended to umount all file systems, and swapoff all swap
partitions on this disk.
Command (m for help): d
Partition number (1-4, default 4): 4

Partition 4 has been deleted.

Command (m for help): n
Partition number (4-128, default 4): 4
First sector (34-62929886, default 221184):
Last sector, +/-sectors or +/-size{K,M,G,T,P} (221184-62929886, default
62928895):

Created a new partition 4 of type 'Linux filesystem' and of size 29.9
GiB.
Partition #4 contains a ext4 signature.

Do you want to remove the signature? [Y]es/[N]o: N

Command (m for help): w

The partition table has been altered.
Syncing disks.
```

3. Resize the **/dev/mmcblk<X>p4** partition by running the `resize2fs` command to fully utilize the unused block.

i **Tip:**

<X>: The application value is 0 or 1. 1 for SD card and 0 for eMMC.

Example Command and Output:

```
root@starfive:~# resize2fs /dev/mmcblk1p4
resize2fs 1.46.6-rc1 (12-Sep-2022)
```

```
Filesystem at /d[ 295.372617] EXT4-fs (mmcblk1p4): resizing filesystem
from 535291 to 7838464 blocks
ev/mmcblk1p4 is mounted on /; on-line resizing required
old_desc_blocks = 1, new_desc_blocks = 4
[ 295.993163] EXT4-fs (mmcblk1p4): resized filesystem to 7838464
The filesystem on /dev/mmcblk1p4 is now 7838464 (4k) blocks long.
```

Verification:

Run `df -h` to verify the new size of partition, and to verify that our steps to extend partition (`/dev/mmcblk<X>p4`) are successful.

 **Tip:**

<X>: The application value is 0 or 1. 1 for SD card and 0 for eMMC.

The following output indicates the modification is successful:

```
root@starfive:~# df -h
Filesystem      Size  Used Avail Use% Mounted on
udev            3.7G   0    3.7G  0% /dev
tmpfs           793M  3.1M  790M  1% /run
/dev/mmcblk1p4   30G   1.9G   28G  7% /
tmpfs           3.9G   0    3.9G  0% /dev/shm
tmpfs           5.0M  12K   5.0M  1% /run/lock
tmpfs           793M  32K   793M  1% /run/user/107
tmpfs           793M  24K   793M  1% /run/user/0
```

3.7. Install Packages

Install Essential Packages

There are some packages that you can install to improve the overall user experience, which includes:

- vim
- nautilus (Gnome File Viewer)

Installing packages provided by StarFive

The following are the packages provided to install:

Some packages particular are not available to download via apt/apt-get, and is provided by StarFive, which includes (take the latest script in **202306** folder):

- Node.js 18.0.0
- v8 10.2.154.13
- libsdl2-dev

- QT 5.15.2
- Firefox 105.0
- Libreoffice 7.5
- NW.js
- FFmpeg
- GStreamer
- v4l2test (This is a custom shell script to use the CSI camera)
- Chromium 103
- VLC 3.0.18

Debian Repo for StarFive Packages: [Github Link](#)

There is a script prepared so that you can install the packages (and its runtime dependencies) with the run of a script.

You will just need to run:



Note:

Make sure VisionFive 2 is connected to the Internet before running the script.

```
wget  
https://github.com/starfive-tech/Debian/releases/download/v0.8.0-engineering-release-wayland/install_package_and_dependencies.sh  
chmod +x install_package_and_dependencies.sh  
sudo ./install_package_and_dependencies.sh
```

3.8. Updating SPL and U-Boot

3.8.1. Updating SPL and U-Boot of Flash

To update SPL and U-Boot of flash for VisionFive 2, two methods are provided:



Note:

For instructions to create SPL and fw_payload (U-Boot) files, refer to *Creating SPL File* and *Creating fw_payload File* sections in the [VisionFive 2 Single Board Computer Software Technical Reference Manual](#).

1. Through the `tftpboot` command as described in [Through tftpboot Command \(on page 37\)](#).
2. Through the `flashcp` command as described in [Through flashcp Command \(on page 39\)](#).

**Note:**

Method 2 only supports versions equal to or later than VF2_v2.5.0.

Through `tftpboot` Command

To update SPL and U-Boot through the `tftpboot` command, perform the following steps:

**Note:**

Step 1-7 are performed on the host PC while Step 8-13 are performed on VisionFive 2.

1. Connect one end of an Ethernet cable to the VisionFive 2 RJ45 connector, and connect the other end of the cable to a router.
2. Install a TFTP server on the host PC by executing:

```
sudo apt-get update
sudo apt install tftpd-hpa
```

3. Check the server status:

```
sudo systemctl status tftpd-hpa
```

4. Execute the following to enter the TFTP server:

```
sudo nano /etc/default/tftpd-hpa
```

5. Configure the TFTP server as follows:

```
TFTP_USERNAME="tftp"
TFTP_DIRECTORY="/home/user/tftp"
TFTP_ADDRESS=":69"
TFTP_OPTIONS="-c -l -s"
```

**Note:**

`TFTP_DIRECTORY` refers to the directory to store `bootloader`, `u-boot`, `SPL`, `image` and so on.

6. Create `tftp-server` folder to store the files:

```
sudo mkdir -p /home/user/tftp
```

7. Restart the TFTP server by executing:

```
sudo systemctl restart tftpd-hpa
```

8. Power on VisionFive 2 and wait until it enters the U-Boot command line interface.



Tip:

- Prerequisite:
 - An USB to TTL (Transistor-Transistor Logic) converter. Connect the USB to the computer, and connect the Dupont cable to the correct extension pin of VisionFive 2. Please pay attention to the cross connection of TX and RX.
 - Install Putty or secureCRT on your PC.
- When you power on the VisionFive 2, the serial port will print countdown, usually starting from 3. Hit any key to stop autoboot before the number decreases to 0, and you can enter the U-Boot command mode.

9. Configure the environment variables by executing:

```
setenv ipaddr 192.168.120.222; setenv serverip 192.168.120.99
```



Note:

Generally, the default IP of a router is 192.168.120.1. In this case, use the server IP as the IP assigned by the DHCP server of the router and use the VisionFive 2 IP as 192.168.120.xxx. However, if your router IP is different (for example, 192.168.2.1), make sure the server IP and VisionFive 2 IP are in the same IP domain (for example, 192.168.2.xxx).

10. Check the connectivity by pinging the host PC from VisionFive 2.

Example command:

```
ping 192.168.120.99
```

Result:

The following output indicates that the host PC and VisionFive 2 have established communication on the same network.

```
StarFive # ping 192.168.120.99
speed: 1000, full duplex
Using dwmac.10020000 device
host 192.168.120.99 is alive
```

11. Initialize SPI Flash:

sf probe

Result:

```
StarFive # sf probe
SF: Detected gd25lq128 with page size 256 Bytes, erase size 4 KiB,
     total 16 MiB
```

12. Update SPL binary, the following is the command and example output:

```
StarFive # tftpboot 0xa0000000 ${serverip}:u-boot-spl.bin.normal.out
Using ethernet@16030000 device
TFTP from server 192.168.120.99; our IP address is 192.168.120.222
Filename 'u-boot-spl.bin.normal.out'.
Load address: 0xa0000000
Loading: #####
1.6 MiB/s
done
Bytes transferred = 132208 (20470 hex)

StarFive # sf update 0xa0000000 0x0 $filesize
device 0 offset 0x0, size 0x20470
0 bytes written, 132208 bytes skipped in 0.23s, speed 5206961 B/s
```

13. Update U-Boot binary, the following is the command and example output:

Through `flashcp` Command

To update SPL and U-Boot through the `flashcp` command, perform the following steps:

**Note:**

This method requires to enter the Debian OS and only supports versions equal to or later than VF2_v2.5.0.

1. Install the `mtd-utils` package by executing the following command:

```
apt install mtd-utils
```

2. Transfer the latest `u-boot-spl.bin.normal.out` and `visionfive2_fw_payload.img` files to Debian system through SCP.
3. Execute the following command to check the MTD partition:

```
cat /proc/mtd
```

Example Output:

You will see the partition information in the QSPI flash:

```
dev: size erasesize name
mtd0: 00040000 00001000 "spl"
mtd1: 00010000 00001000 "uboot-env"
mtd2: 00300000 00001000 "uboot"
mtd3: 00100000 00001000 "data"
```

4. Update the SPL and U-Boot binaries according to different partitions:

- Example command to update SPL:

```
flashcp -v u-boot-spl.bin.normal.out /dev/mtd0
```

- Example command to update U-Boot:

```
flashcp -v visionfive2_fw_payload.img /dev/mtd2
```

Example Command and Output:

```
# flashcp -v u-boot-spl.bin.normal.out /dev/mtd0
Erasing blocks: 36/36 (100%)
Writing data: 143k/143k (100%)
Verifying data: 143k/143k (100%)
```

```
# flashcp -v visionfive2_fw_payload.img /dev/mtd2
Erasing blocks: 736/736 (100%)
Writing data: 2943k/2943k (100%)
Verifying data: 2943k/2943k (100%)
```

5. Restart the system to make the updates take effect.

3.8.2. Updating SPL and U-Boot of SD Card and eMMC

To update SPL and U-Boot of SD Card and eMMC, perform the following steps:

1. Transfer the latest `U-Boot-spl.bin.normal.out` and `visionfive2_fw_payload.img` files into Debian OS through SCP.
2. Update SPL.

```
dd if=u-boot-spl.bin.normal.out of=/dev/mmcblk<X>p1 conv=fsync
```

3. Update U-Boot.

```
dd if=visionfive2_fw_payload.img of=/dev/mmcblk<X>p2 conv=fsync
```



Tip:

<X>: The application value is 0 or 1. 1 for SD card and 0 for eMMC.

Example command and output:

```
root@starfive:~# dd if=u-boot-spl.bin.normal.out of=/dev/mmcblk1p1
conv=fsync
255+1 records in
255+1 records out
130688 bytes (131 kB, 128 KiB) copied, 0.033136 s, 3.9 MB/s

root@starfive:~# dd if=visionfive2_fw_payload.img of=/dev/mmcblk1p2
conv=fsync
5469+1 records in
5469+1 records out
2800501 bytes (2.8 MB, 2.7 MiB) copied, 0.619333 s, 4.5 MB/s
```

4. Restart the system to make the updates take effect.

3.9. Compiling and Updating Linux Kernel

Perform the following steps to compile and update Linux kernel:

1. Install dependencies to build kernel:

```
apt-get install build-essential linux-source bc kmod cpio flex
libncurses5-dev libelf-dev libssl-dev dwarves bison git
```

2. Clone the kernel from StarFive Github:

```
git clone https://github.com/starfive-tech/linux
```

3. Checkout the desired Kernel version:

```
git checkout <Tag Version>
```

4. Build the kernel with `bindeb-pkg`:

```
cd linux/  
cp arch/riscv/configs/starfive_visionfive2_defconfig .config  
make ARCH=riscv olddefconfig  
make ARCH=riscv -j$(nproc) bindeb-pkg
```

5. Once the compile is finished, install the `.deb` Kernel packages.

```
dpkg -i *.deb
```



Note:

Currently the dtbs are not synced once you installed a different version of kernel, you'll need to copy over the dtbs from `/usr/lib/linux-image-<custom version>/starfive` to `/boot/dtbs/`

4. Appendix

4.1. Debian Customization

For details, refer to the *Debian User Guide* section in [VisionFive 2 Debian User Guide](#)

4.2. Using SSH over Ethernet as Root Account

After the new system is installed, the rejected connection denial appears when you try to log on to the Debian Linux server as a root user. Here is the example information:

```
$ ssh root@192.168.120.41
ssh: connect to host 192.168.120.41 port 22: Connection refused
```

To enable SSH root login, perform the following steps:

1. Run the following command to configure the SSH server:

```
echo 'PermitRootLogin=yes' | sudo tee -a /etc/ssh/sshd_config
```

2. Restart the SSH server:

```
sudo systemctl restart sshd
```

Result:

You will be able to use SSH login using the root account. The following output indicates the login is successful:

Example Output:

```
$ ssh root@192.168.120.41
root@192.168.120.41's password:
Linux starfive 5.15.0-starfive #1 SMP Fri Feb 24 03:26:44 EST 2023
riscv64
```

The programs included with the Debian GNU/Linux system are free software;
the exact distribution terms for each program are described in the individual files in /usr/share/doc/*/*copyright.

Debian GNU/Linux comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY, to the extent permitted by applicable law.

```
Last login: Mon Feb 27 08:05:28 2023 from 192.168.120.130
root@starfive:~#
```

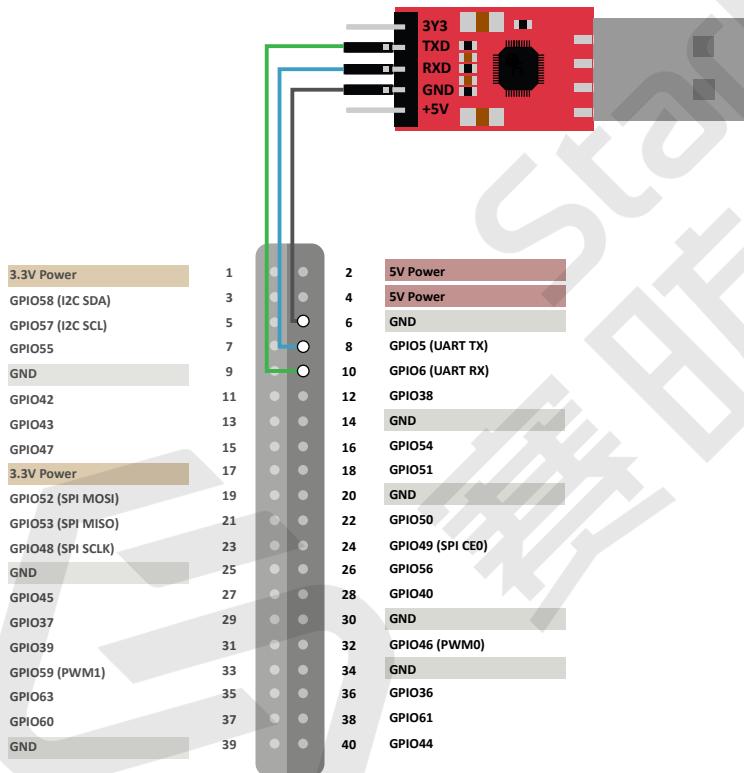
3. Login as root account using SSH as described in [Using SSH over Ethernet \(on page 25\)](#).

4.3. Recovering the Bootloader

The SPL and U-Boot are stored inside the SPI flash of your board. There may be situations where you accidentally empty the flash or if the flash is damaged on your board. In these situations, it's better to recover the bootloader.

1. Connect the jumper wires between the USB-to-Serial converter and the Debug pins of VisionFive 2 40-pin GPIO header. The following figure is an example:

Figure 4-1 Connecting to the Debug Pins of VisionFive 2 40-pin GPIO Header

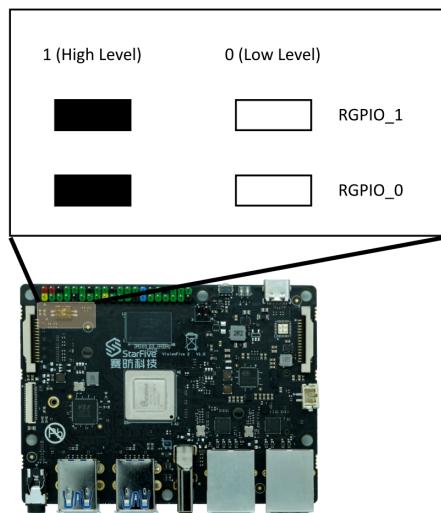


2. Before you recover the bootloader, double check the boot mode jumpers (Switch_2) on your board has already been switched to UART mode (GPIO_1,GPIO_0: 1,1).



Tip:

The following figure shows the boot mode settings. For more information, refer to [VisionFive 2 Boot Mode Settings \(on page 50\)](#).

**Figure 4-2 Boot Mode Setting (UART)**

3. Configure the serial port baud rate settings to 115200 bps.

4. Power up, you will see an output like this:

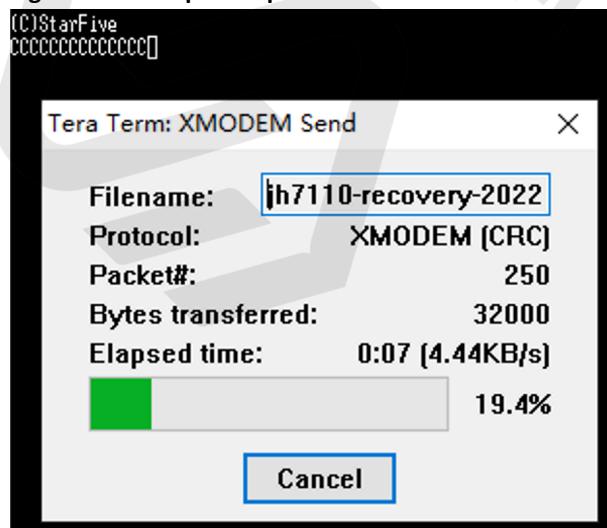
```
CCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCC
```

5. Transfer the latest recovery binary (`jh7110-recovery-<Version>.bin`) by XMODEM.

The recovery binary is located at: <https://github.com/starfive-tech/Tools/tree/master/recovery>.

**Tip:**

`<Version>` indicates the version number of the recovery file. Make sure you use the latest version.

Figure 4-3 Example Output

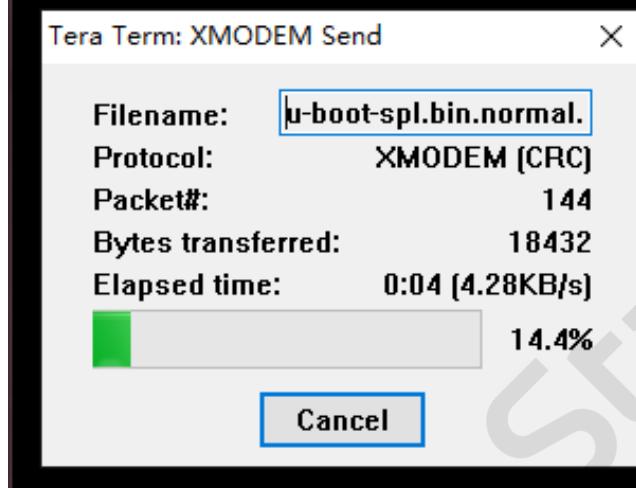
```
(C)StarFive
CCCCCCCCCC
JH7110 secondboot version: 221205-74596a9
CPU freq: 1250MHz
idcode: 0x1860C8
CSD:0xd00f0032 0x8f5903ff 0xffffffff 0x8a404023
mmc_send_ext_csd err 0
Device: EMMC
Manufacturer ID: 45
OEM: 100
Name: DG403
Tran Speed: 25000000
Rd Block Len: 512
MMC version 4.0
High Capacity: Yes
Capacity: 29.1 GiB
Bus Width: 8-bit
Erase Group Size: 0x80000
ddr 0x00000000, 4M test
ddr 0x00400000, 8M test
DDR clk 2133M, size 8GB

*****
***** JH7110 program tool *****
*****
0: update 2ndboot/SPL in flash
1: update 2ndboot/SPL in emmc
2: update fw_verif/u-boot in flash
3: update fw_verif/u-boot in emmc
4: update otp, caution!!!!
5: exit
NOTE: current xmodem receive buff = 0x40000000, 'load 0x*****' to change.
select the function to test:
```

6. Type 0 and press **Enter** on your keyboard to update SPL binary <u-boot-spl.bin.normal.out>.

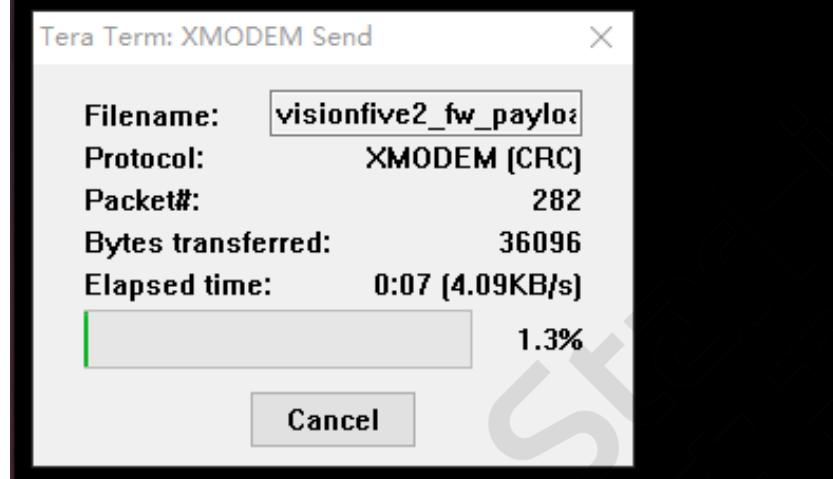
Figure 4-5 Example Output

```
***** JH7110 program tool *****
0: update 2ndboot/SPL in flash
1: update 2ndboot/SPL in emmc
2: update fw_verif/u-boot in flash
3: update fw_verif/u-boot in emmc
4: update otp, caution!!!!
5: exit
NOTE: current xmodem receive buff = 0x40000000, 'load 0x*****' to change.
select the function to test: 0
send file by xmodem
cccccccccccccccccccccccccc
```



7. Type 2 and press **Enter** on your keyboard to update U-Boot binary
`<visionfive2_fw_payload.img>`.

Figure 4-7 Example Output



```

....update success

*****
***** JH7110 program tool *****
*****
0: update 2ndboot/SPL in flash
1: update 2ndboot/SPL in emmc
2: update fw_verif/uboot in flash
3: update fw_verif/uboot in emmc
4: update otp, caution!!!!
5: exit
NOTE: current xmodem receive buff = 0x40000000, 'load 0x*****' to change.
select the function to test:

```

- Power off and switch jumpers back to Flash mode (GPIO_1,GPIO_0: 0,0).

4.4. GitHub Repository

The following table describes the GitHub Repository addresses:



Note:

Make sure you have switched to the corresponding branch.

Table 4-1 GitHub Repository Addresses

Type	Repository	Branch
Linux	Linux	JH7110_VisionFive2_devel

Table 4-1 GitHub Repository Addresses (continued)

Type	Repository	Branch
DTS Files under Linux Repository	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • jh7110.dtsi • jh7110-vision-five-v2.dts • jh7110-vision-five-v2.dtsi 	-
Uboot	Uboot	JH7110_VisionFive2-devel
OpenSBI	OpenSBI	master
Debian	Debian	-

4.5. VisionFive 2 Boot Mode Settings

VisionFive 2 provides pins to determine the boot mode before it is powered up. The following are the available boot modes and details.

Table 4-2 Boot Mode Settings

Index	Boot Mode	GPIO_1	GPIO_0
1	1-bit QSPI Nor Flash	0 (L)	0 (L)
2	SDIO3.0	0 (L)	1(H)
3	eMMC	1 (H)	0 (L)
4	UART	1 (H)	1 (H)


Note:

StarFive recommends that you use *1-bit QSPI Nor Flash* mode since there is a low possibility that the VisionFive 2 may fail to boot in eMMC or SDIO3.0 boot mode. Try restarting the VisionFive 2 if fails to boot in eMMC or SDIO3.0 boot mode.

The following figure displays the location and the pin definitions of the boot mode settings.

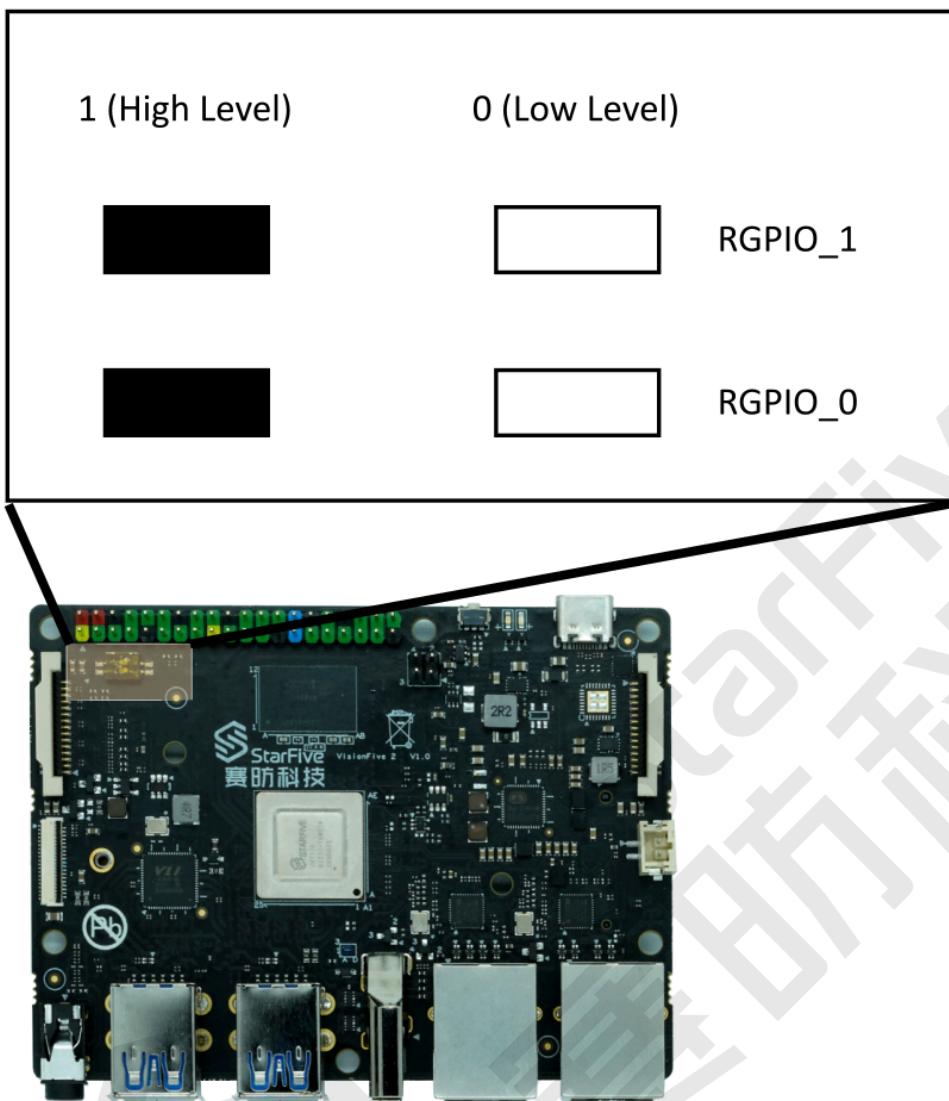
Figure 4-9 Boot Mode Setting Location

Figure 4-10 Boot Mode Settings



QSPI

GPIO_1: 0 (L)

GPIO_0: 0 (L)



SDIO

GPIO_1: 0 (L)

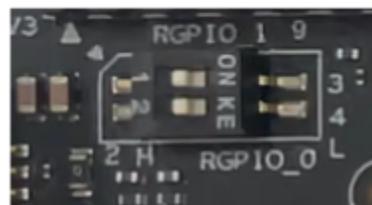
GPIO_0: 1 (H)



eMMC

GPIO_1: 1 (H)

GPIO_0: 0 (L)



UART

GPIO_1: 1 (H)

GPIO_0: 1 (H)

Note: H for high level; L for low level.



Note:

The silk prints may vary with different versions of boards.