



The Byte Attic's

Agon light™

Manual

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What is Agon light™?

- A modern 8-bit microcomputer and microcontroller in one small, low-cost board
- Requires no host PC: Agon light puts out its own video (VGA), audio (2 identical mono channels), accepts a PS/2 keyboard and has µSD-card storage
- Features a control port with SPI, I²C, 20 distinct GPIOs, a system clock output, as well as power (3.3V and 5V) and ground rails
- Features a separate ACCESS.bus header for e.g. an optional status display
- Aims at the best possible trade-off across performance, cost and flexibility with cutting-edge technology
- There are no FPGAs and no emulation in Agon™: the 'bare wires' are exposed directly to the firmware programmer
- Agon light is powered by USB and runs internally at 3.3V

What is so unique and attractive about it?

- Instant-on, stand-alone, BASIC-programmed* microcontroller: no host PC or sketch compilation required
- Control your whole house from the immediacy of a BASIC prompt*
- Say goodbye to assembly:
 - C-programmable audio/video coprocessor firmware with freely available tooling
 - C-programmable CPU firmware with freely available tooling
- A hardware canvas for you to make of it your own dream, firmware-customized microcomputer
- A laboratory for computer science experimentation
- The most advanced 8-bit microcomputer to date
- The best balance of cost, performance and programmability
- Agon light is an open-hardware and open-source project, so you get *all* the information about the system

* Requires installation of Quark™ firmware



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Technical
overview and
specifications



Architecture and specifications

- Two subsystems:
 - The *processor subsystem*
 - The *terminal subsystem*
- The *processor subsystem* comprises:
 - CPU (eZ80F92 running at 18.432MHz)
 - System memory (512KB, 10ns, parallel SRAM)
 - µSD-card port (as main storage)
 - ZDI port (for programming the firmware of the CPU)
 - Control port (including 20 GPIOs) to control your projects from BASIC*
- The *terminal subsystem* comprises:
 - Audio/video coprocessor (ESP32-PICO-D4 running at 240MHz)
 - Terminal memory (8MB, 133MHz, serial pSRAM)
 - Keyboard port (PS/2)
 - VGA port
 - Audio jack (2x mono)
 - USB 2.0 port (for power and programming the ESP32's firmware)
- The two subsystems communicate with each other via full-duplex high-speed serial (384 kilobits per second), featuring flow control

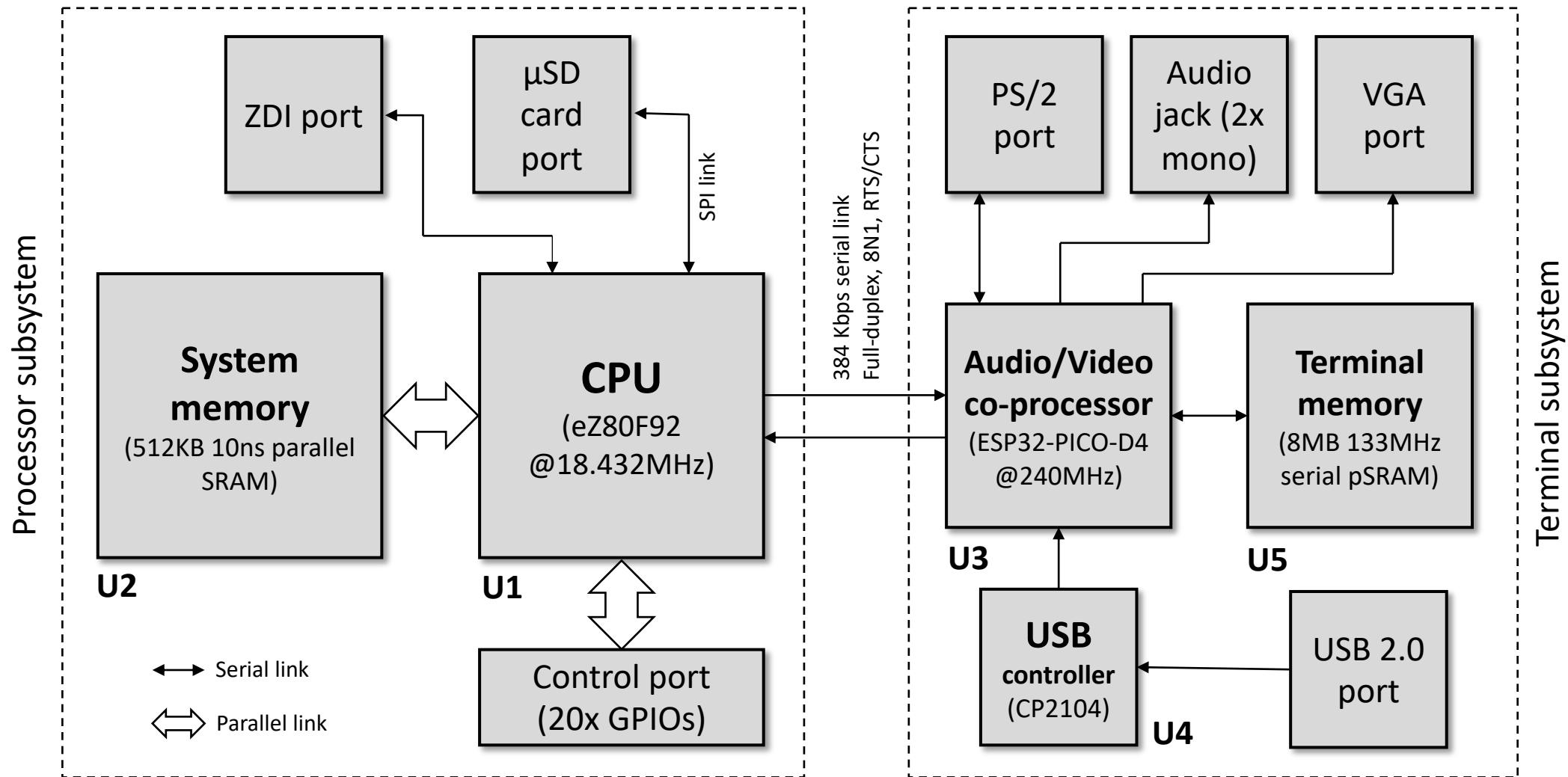
* Requires installation of Quark™ firmware

Theory of operation

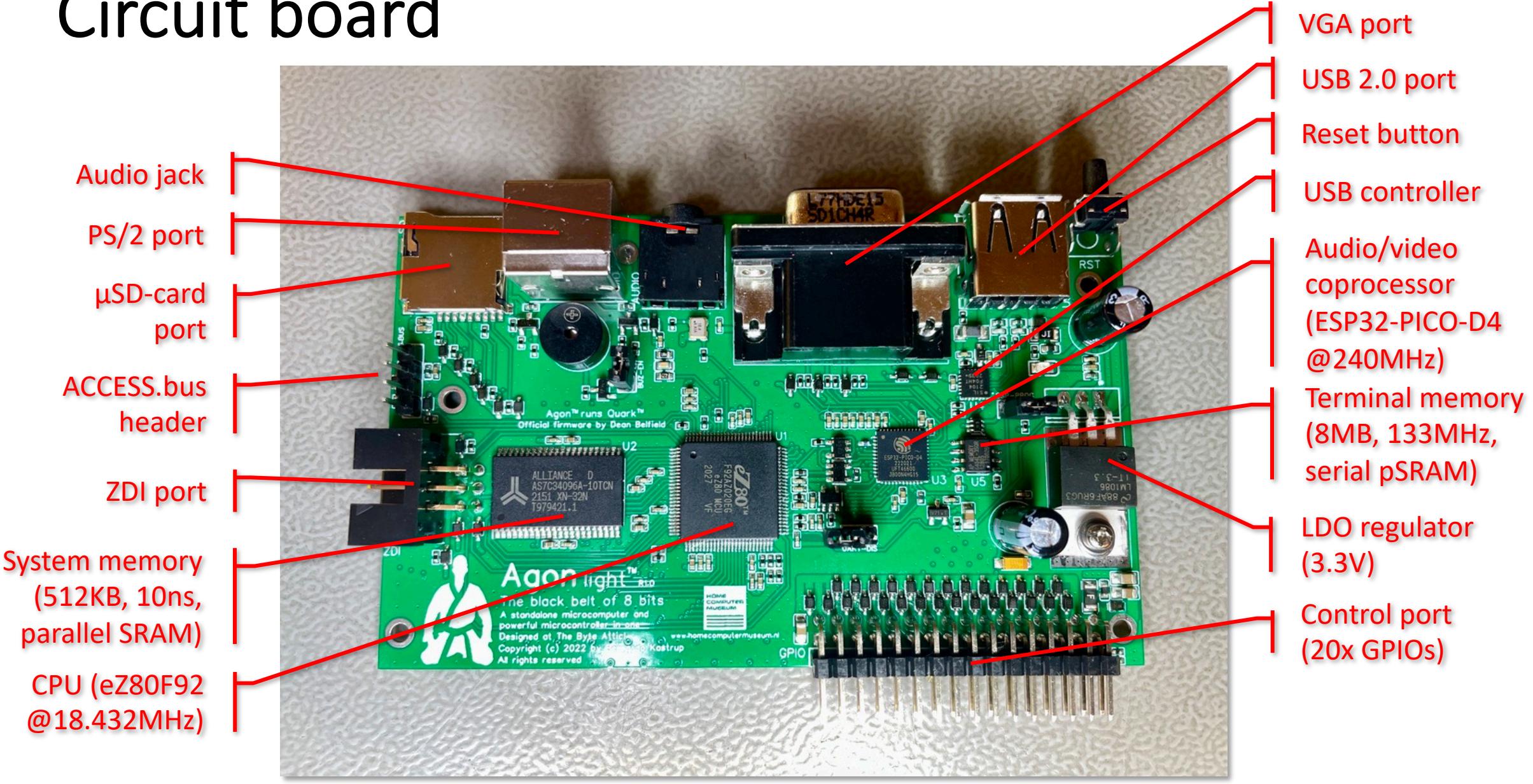
- The *terminal subsystem*:
 - Reads out the (PS/2) keyboard and sends the corresponding keypress tokens to the CPU via a high-speed serial link
 - Generates the screen based on display-list commands issued by the CPU and sent to the ESP32 via a high-speed serial link
 - Produces the VGA & audio signals
 - Supports the FabGL™ library
- The *processor subsystem*:
 - Runs the BIOS and BASIC interpreter*
 - Executes application code
 - Drives the GPIOs based on the application code
 - Drives the *terminal subsystem* by issuing display-list and audio-related commands to the ESP32 via a high-speed serial link
 - Manages storage (μ SD-card)

* Requires installation of Quark™ firmware

System diagram



Circuit board

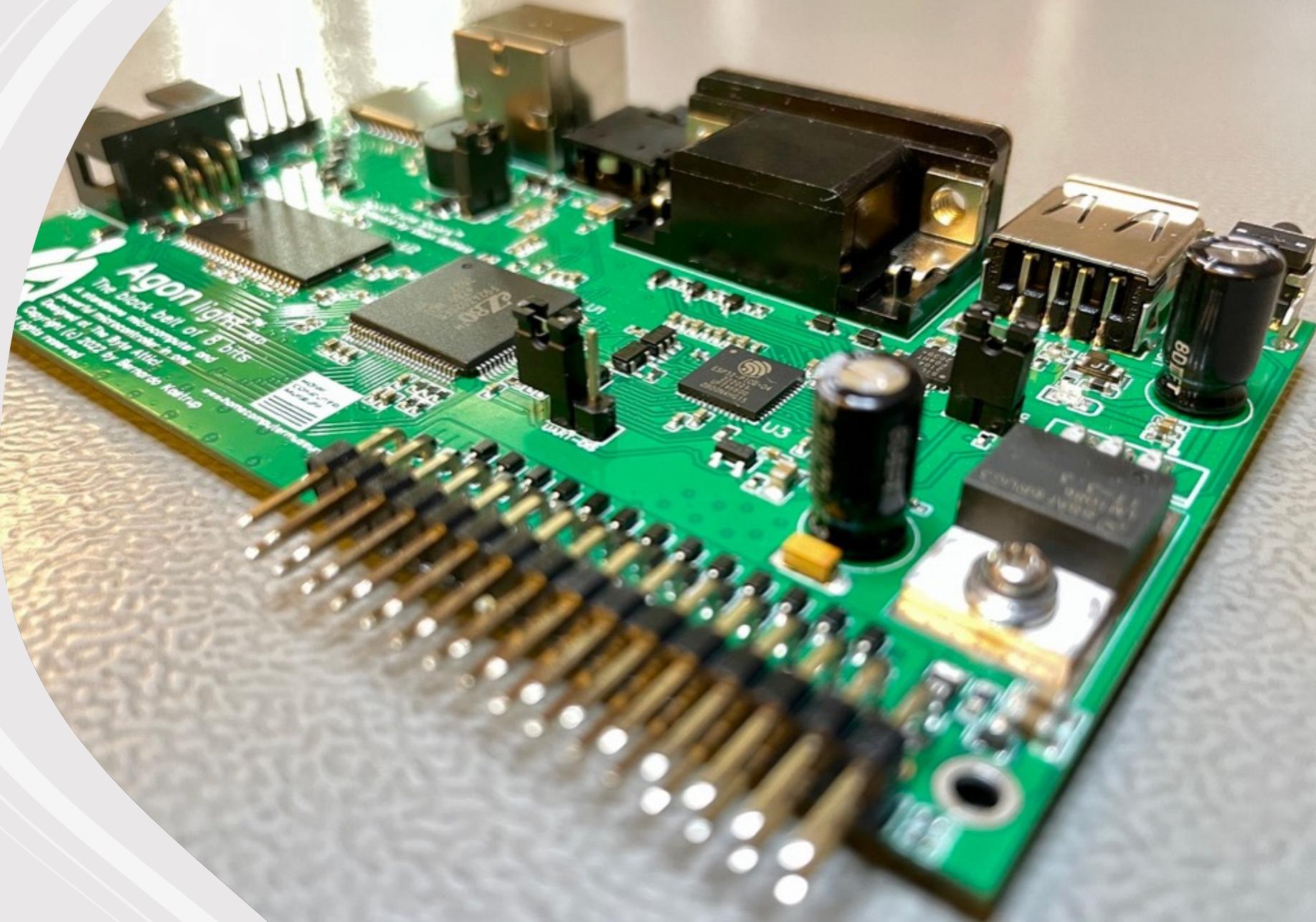




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User's
guide

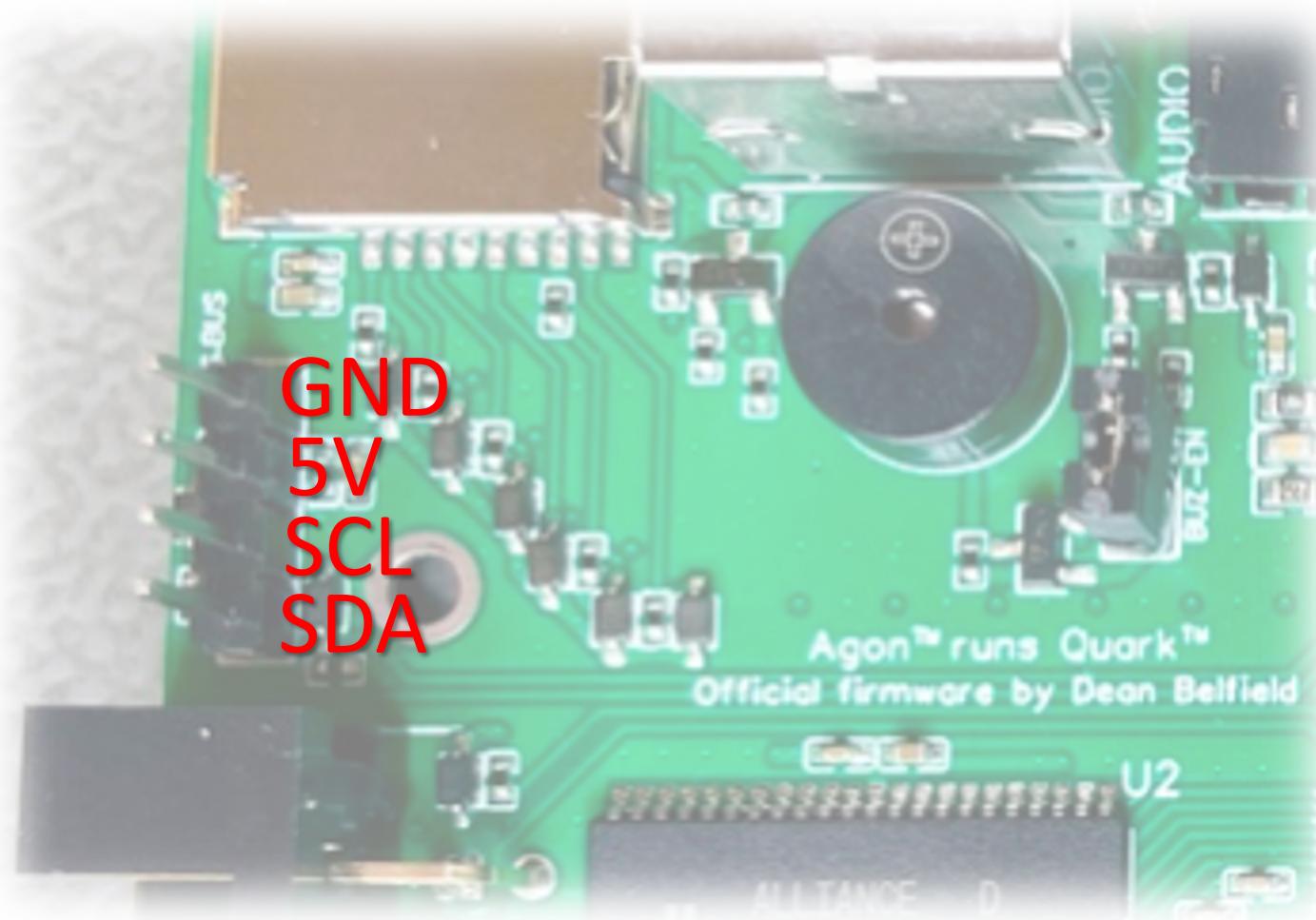


Control port pinout

3.3V	GND
MOSI	SCK
SCL	SDA
CLKOUT	MISO
PB5	EZ80CS
PC7	PC6
PC5	PC4
PC3	PC2
PC1	PC0
PD7	PD6
PD5	PD4
ESPI37	ESPI38
ESPI39	ESPI26
ESPI27	ESPI35
ESPI36	GND
5V	GND

See schematics for signal references

ACCESS.bus header pinout



Pinout of serial link between CPU and ESP32

- On the *eZ80F92*'s side:
 - Pin 68 (**PD0/TXD0/IR_TXD**) is the transmitter
 - Pin 69 (**PD1/RXD0/IR_RXD**) is the receiver
 - Pin 70 (**PD2/!RTS0**) is RTS (signal '*eZ80RTS*' in the schematics)
 - Pin 71 (**PD3/!CTS0**) is CTS (signal '*eZ80CTS*' in the schematics)
- On the *ESP32-PICO-D4*'s side:
 - Pin 10 (**IO34**) is the receiver (connected to signal '*eZ80TxD*' in the schematics)
 - Pin 22 (**IO2**) is the transmitter (connected to signal '*eZ80RxD*' in the schematics)
 - Pin 17 (**IO14**) is CTS (connected to signal '*eZ80RTS*' in the schematics)
 - Pin 20 (**IO13**) is RTS (connected to signal '*eZ80CTS*' in the schematics)

Recommended configuration of serial link between CPU and ESP32

Channel: full duplex, asynchronous

Baud rate: 384,000 bits per second

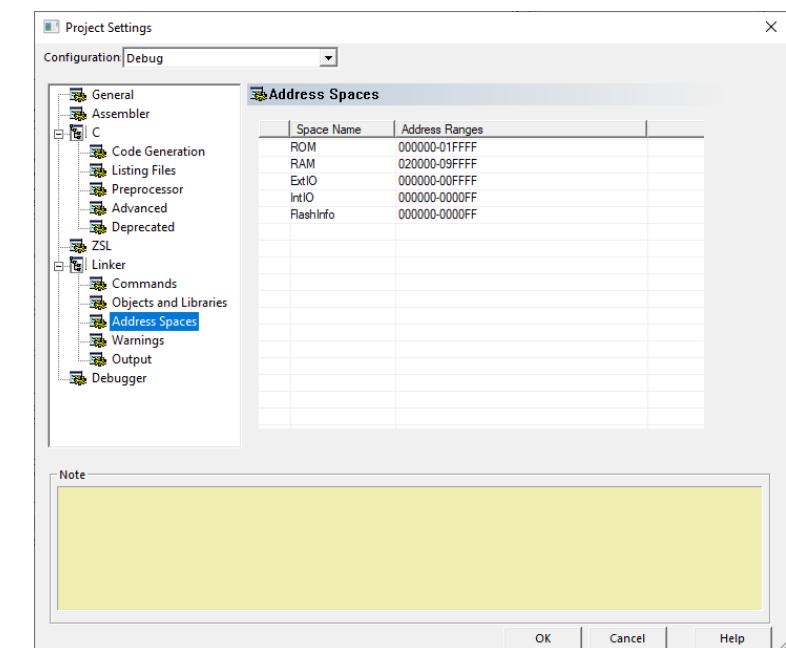
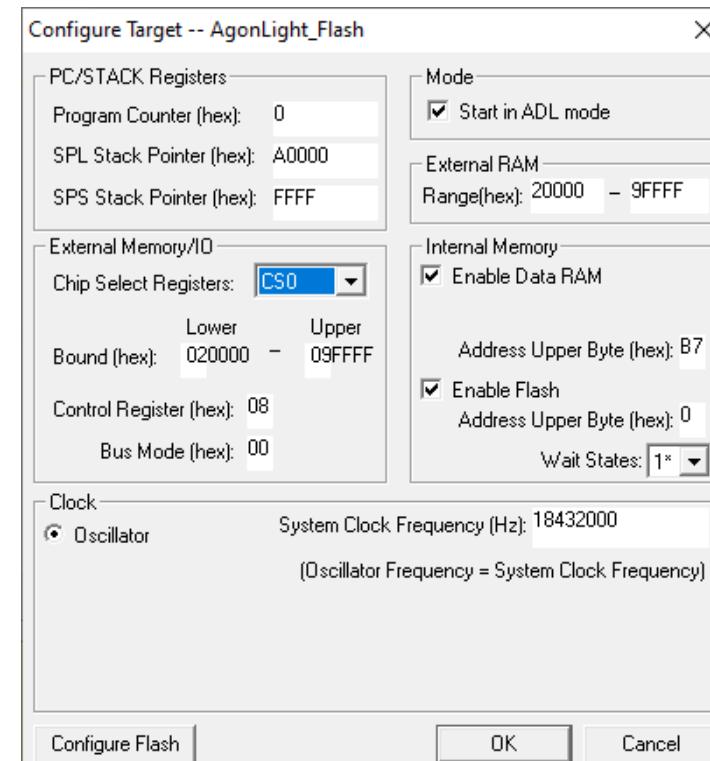
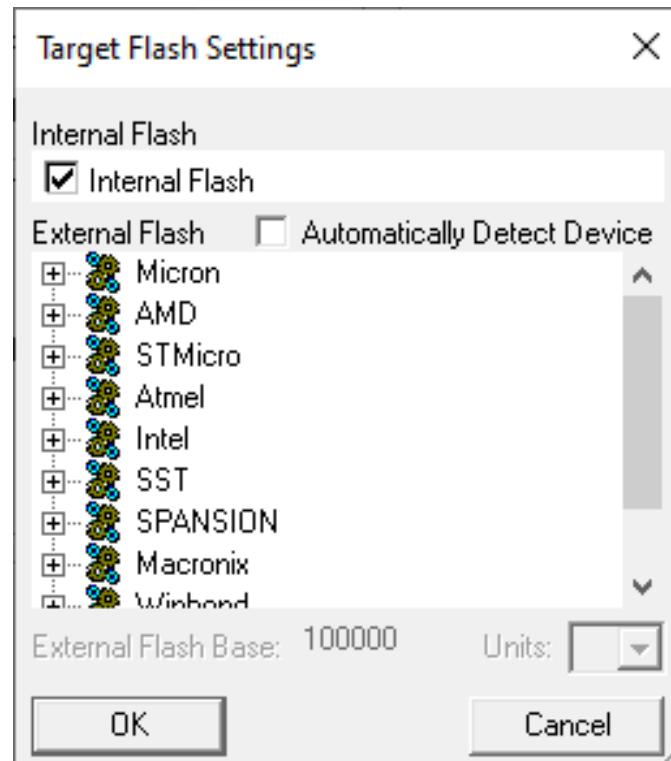
Signal structure: 1 start bit, 8 data bits, 1 stop bit,
no parity bit (8N1)

Flow control: CTS/RTS

Other possible baud rates are: 115200, 128000, 144000, 192000, 230400 and 288000 bps

Developing firmware for the eZ80F92

- Use the freely-available Zilog ZDS-II™ IDE, downloadable from:
https://www.zilog.com/index.php?option=com_zcm&task=view&soft_id=38&Itemid=74
- Documentation is provided in the Agon light Github repository, in the directory /Third party documentation
- Configure your project as per the figures below (CS1, CS2 and CS3 are *not* used in Agon light, so their settings don't matter)



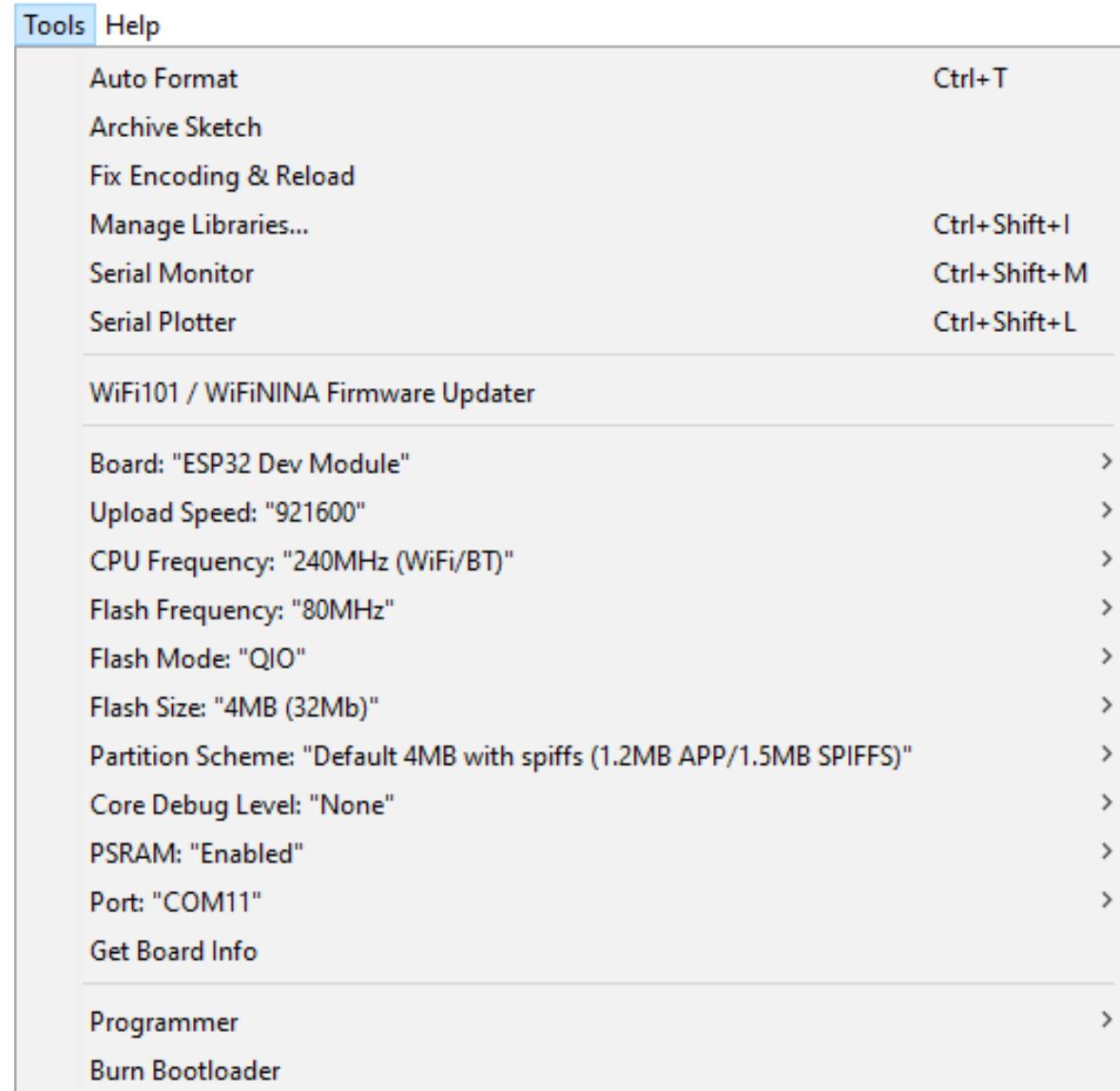
Required programming/debugging USB smart capable

- To upload firmware into the eZ80F92 CPU, from within the ZDS-II IDE, you will need a Zilog opto-isolated *USB Smart Cable*, shown in the photos
- Zilog product number:
ZUSBSC00100ZACG
- There seems to be homebrew alternatives to this cable with plans available online, but I have not tested any of them



Developing firmware for the ESP32-PICO-D4

- Use the freely-available Arduino™ IDE
- Install the FabGL™ library as per instructions available online
 - Link to the FabGL library: <http://www.fabgl.org/index.html>
 - Link to installation tutorial: <https://youtu.be/8OTaPQISTas>
- The figure to the right illustrates a suitable configuration for loading an Arduino sketch into the ESP32
 - Change the port number to the one active in your case

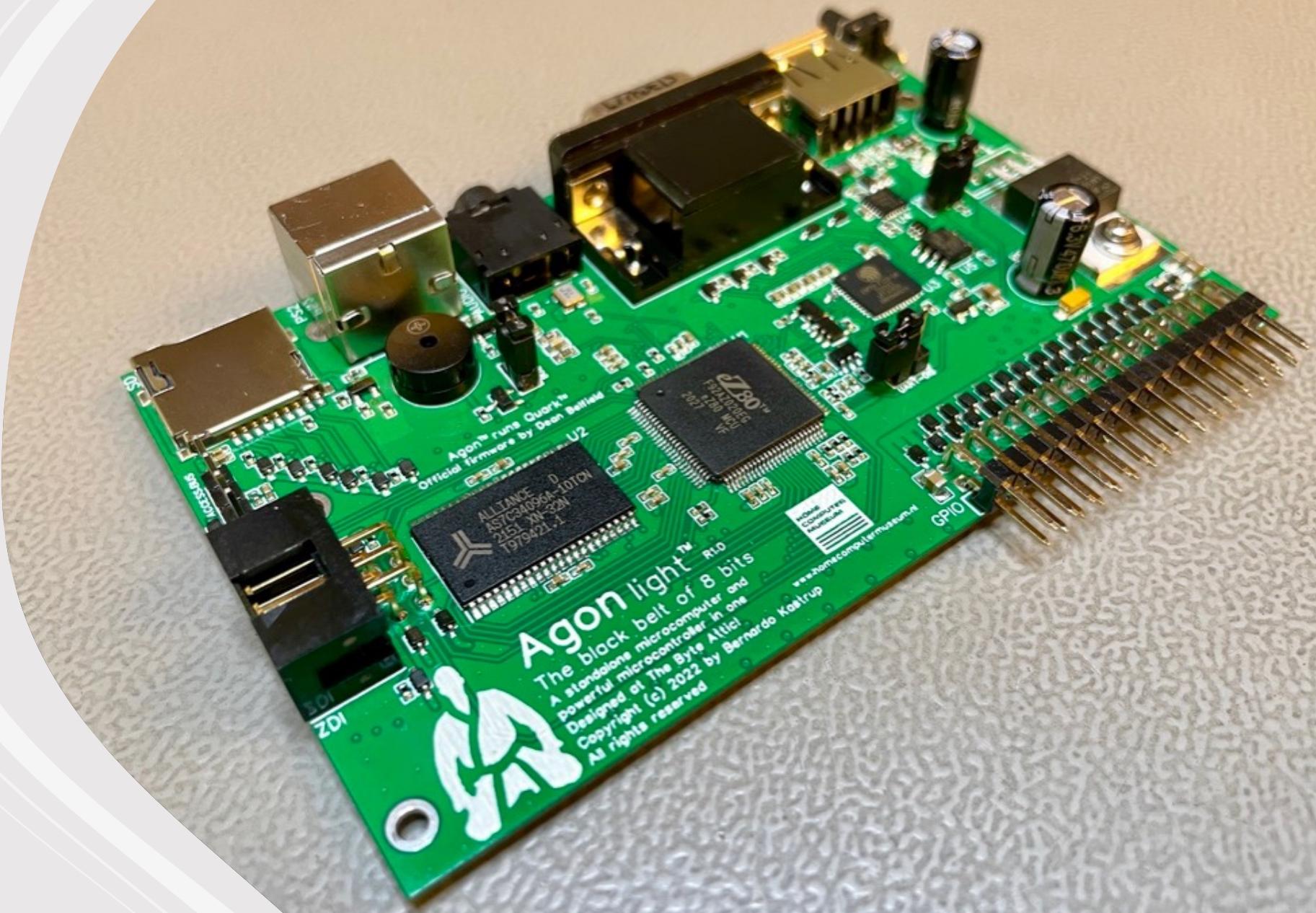




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Assembly
guide

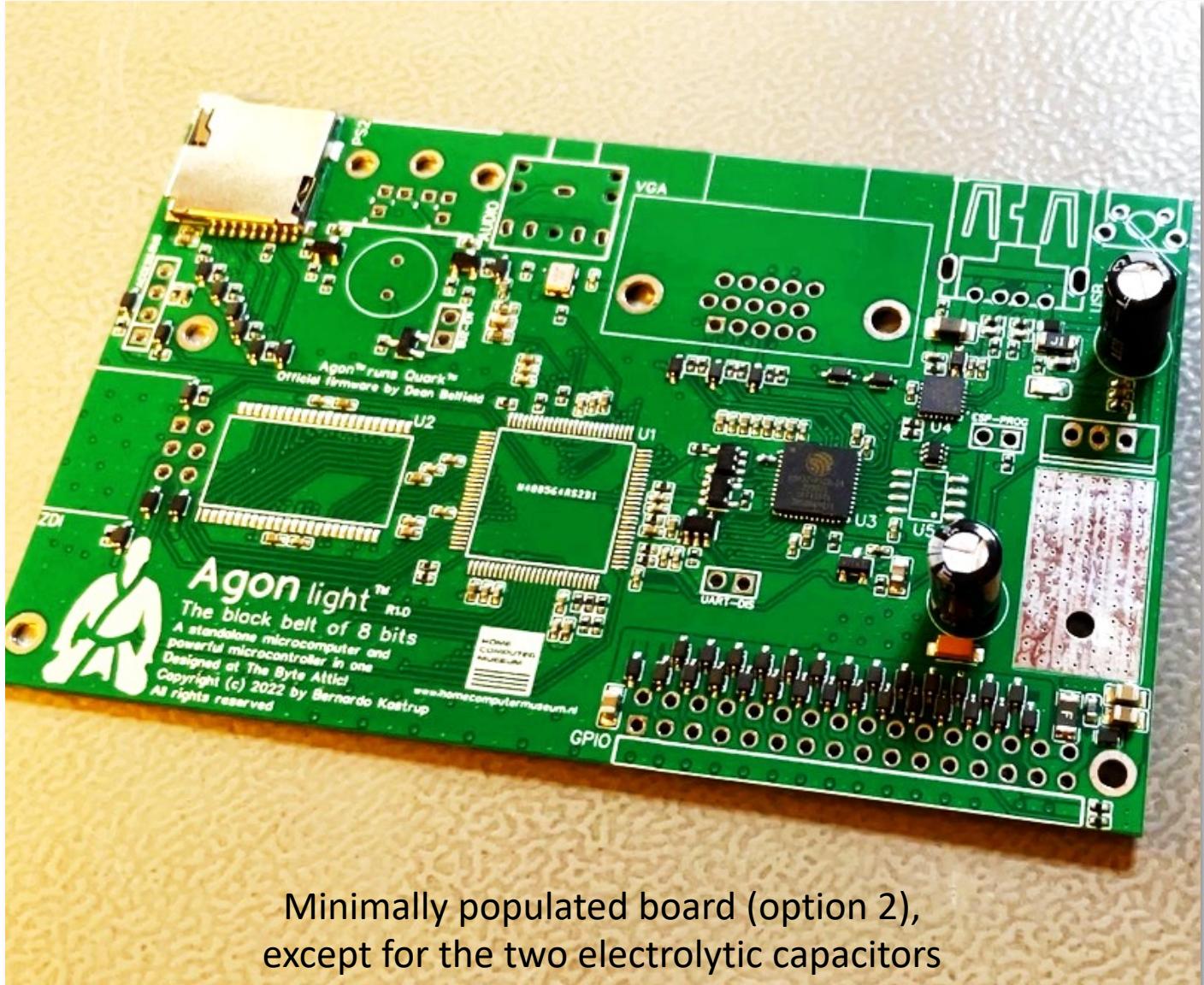


Assembly options

- There are four options:
 1. You buy the bare PCB and fully populate it yourself (requires a stencil and reflow oven)
 2. You buy a PCB minimally populated with the small parts and the two QFN ICs (U3 and U4), which are hard to solder by hand
 3. You buy a PCB with all SMD parts already populated from factory, only the through-hole parts still needing to be soldered
 4. You buy a fully-populated board, so you need not do any soldering yourself
- Options (1), (3) and (4) will not be discussed further: if you choose option (1) you know what you are doing, option (3) is easy enough, and option (4) requires nothing of you
- Option (2) requires though-hole and fine-pitch QFP drag-soldering. Here are the instructions for doing it properly:
<https://youtu.be/k9TF2ZCngoE>
- Reasons for choosing option (2): PCB makers charge a premium (usually 50% of the parts' costs) for procuring parts for you, and there are multiple import fees involved. It's cheaper (and better, if you know how to do it) to buy and populate the most expensive parts (U1, U2 and U5) yourself, especially if you are building Agon light to sell it commercially

Manufacturing files

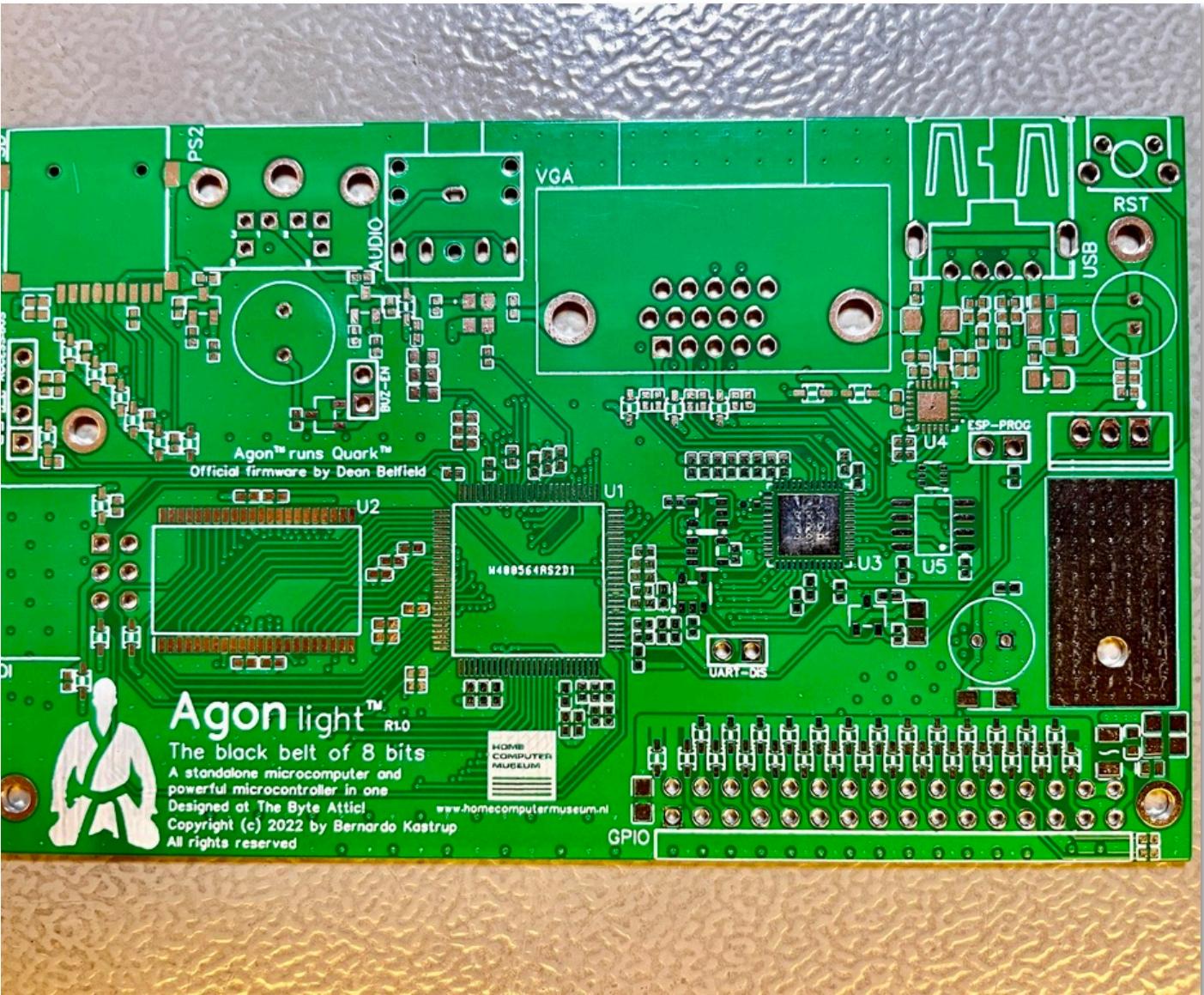
- All files are available in the `/Manufacturing` directory of Agon light's Github repository at:
<https://github.com/TheByteAttic/AgonLight>
- For option (4), send the following files to your PCB manufacturer, next to the Gerber file (`Gerber_PCB_AgonLight_R1.0.zip`):
 - `PickAndPlace_PCB_AgonLight_R1.0.csv`
 - `BOM_PCB_AgonLight_R1.0.csv`
- For option (3), send these files:
 - `PickAndPlace_PCB_AgonLight_R1.0_NoTHT.csv`
 - `BOM_PCB_AgonLight_R1.0_NoTHT.csv`
- For option (2), send these:
 - `PickAndPlace_PCB_AgonLight_R1.0_MINIMAL.csv`
 - `BOM_PCB_AgonLight_R1.0_MINIMAL.csv`



Minimally populated board (option 2), except for the two electrolytic capacitors

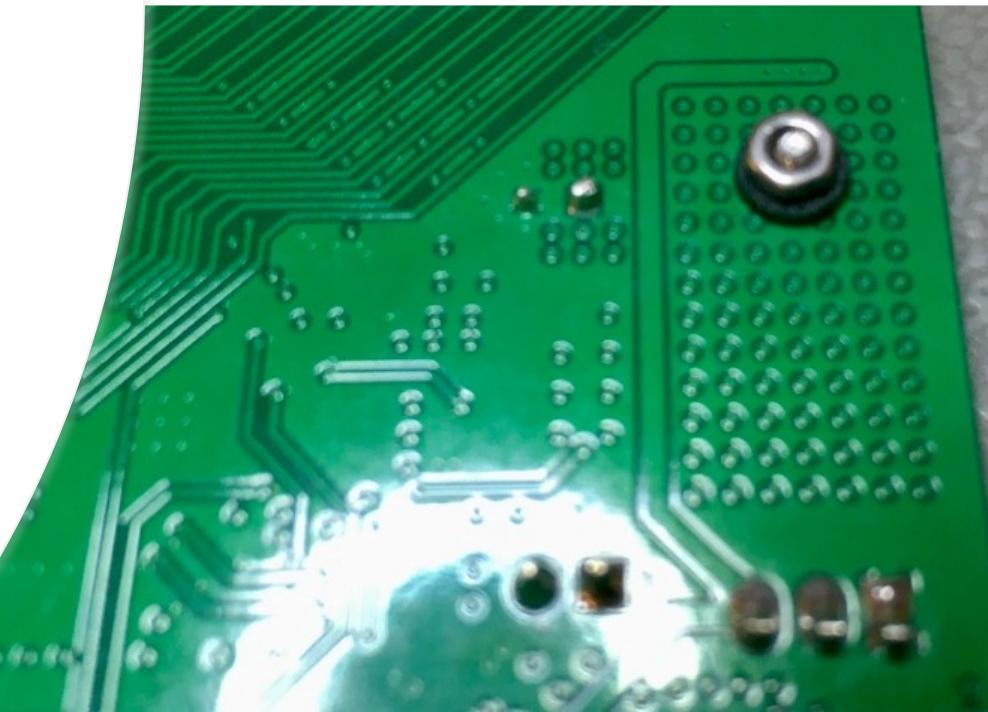
PCB layer stack

- Agon light's PCB has four layers:
 - Two signal layers (top and bottom)
 - Two inner planes (GND and 3.3V)
- The stack is as follows:
 - *TopLayer* (signals + 3.3V copper flood)
 - *Inner1* (GND plane)
 - *Inner2* (3.3V plane)
 - *BottomLayer* (signals + GND copper flood)
- Agon light has tiny Vias: **0.4mm** diameter with **0.205mm** drill holes, so choose a compatible process with your manufacturer
- I recommend total PCB thickness of **0.8mm**, so to improve signal integrity

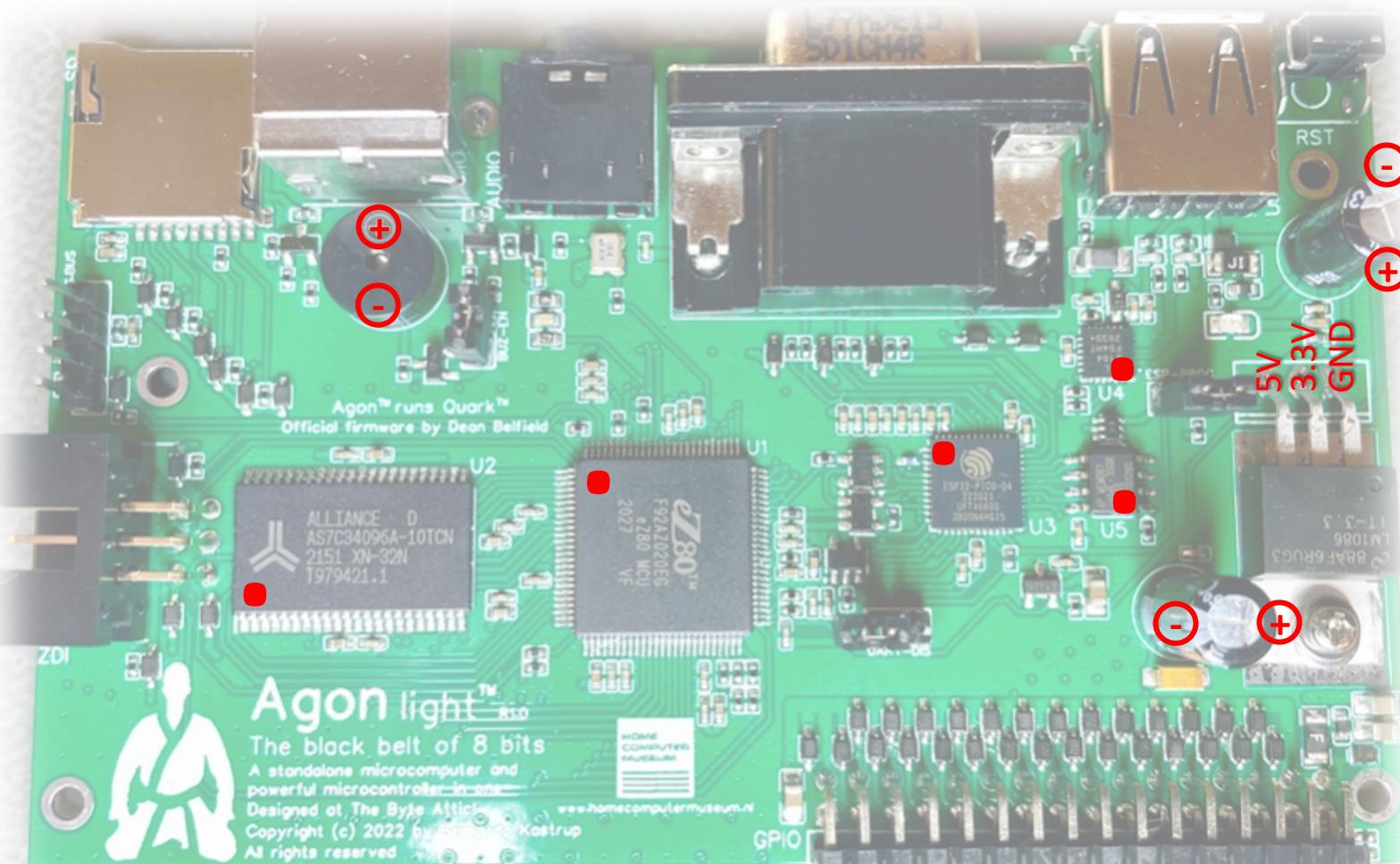


Mounting the LDO regulator

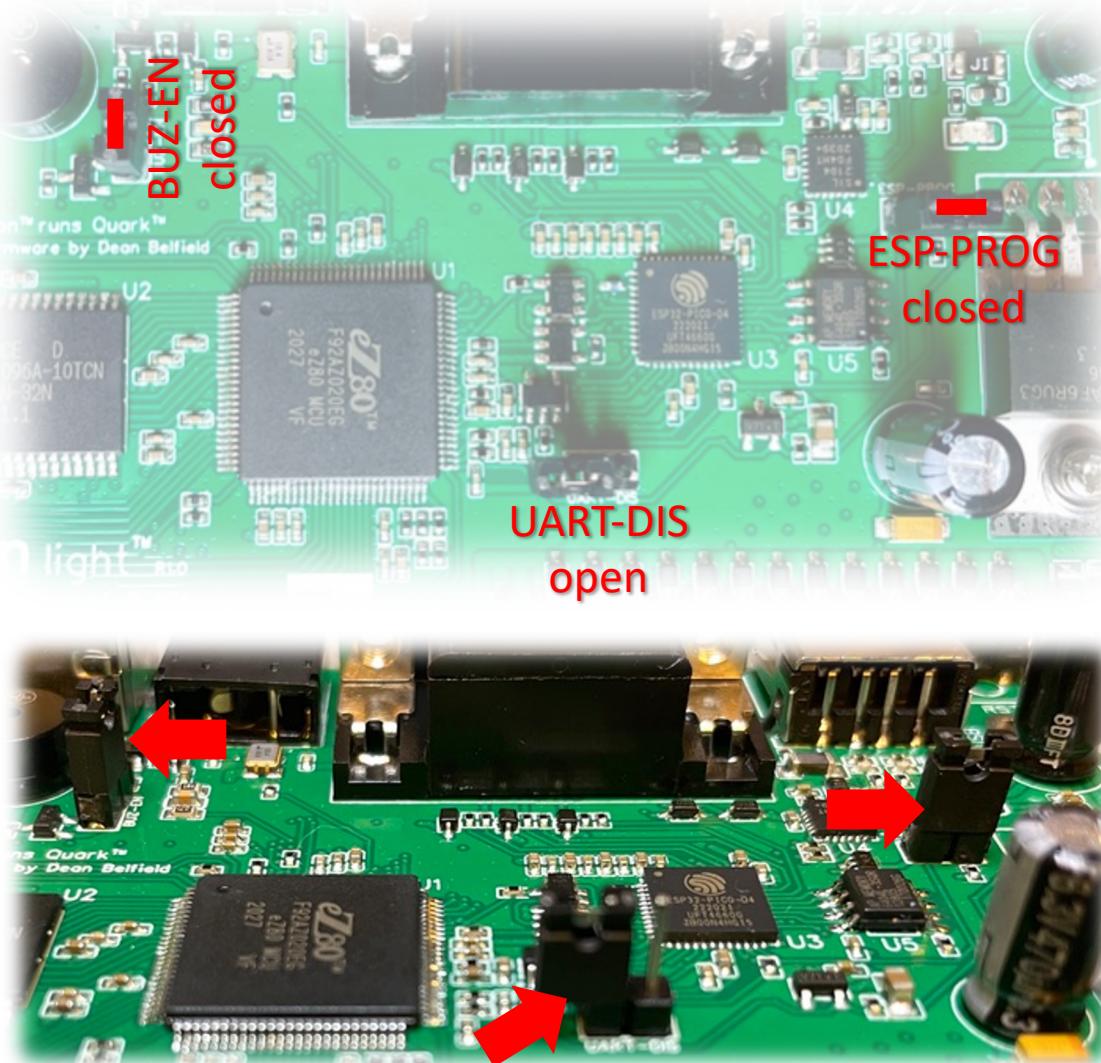
- Agon light's 3.3V V_{cc} rail is provided by a Low-DropOut (LDO) linear regulator
- The regulator must be mounted flush against the corresponding exposed metal area on the top of the PCB (see top-right photo)
- The regulator's tab (chassis) is at 3.3V, as is the exposed copper area on which it is to be mounted
- Use *no thermal paste or insulating spacers*; simply clean the tab and the exposed metal area with IPA before mounting
- Affix the regulator with a 2mm-diameter bolt, a regular and a lock washer on the top, and a nylon (or other dielectric material) washer and nut at the back (see bottom-right photo)
- The nylon washer is important to insulate the back of the board (which is copper-flooded with GND) from the bolt-nut combination, which will be at 3.3V
 - Using a metal washer on the back side increases the risk of a short-circuit if the solder mask fails



Part orientations



Default settings for the jumpers

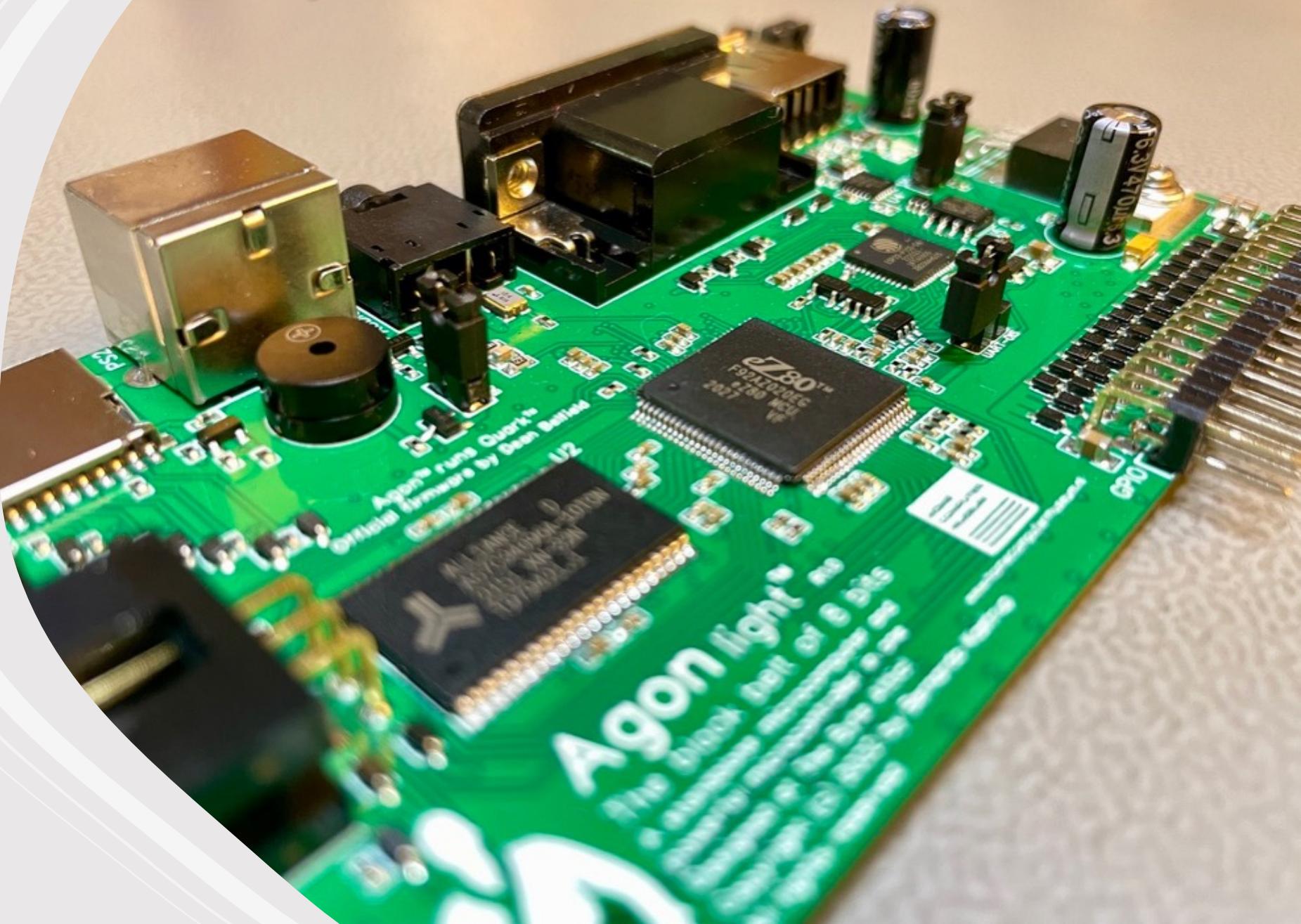


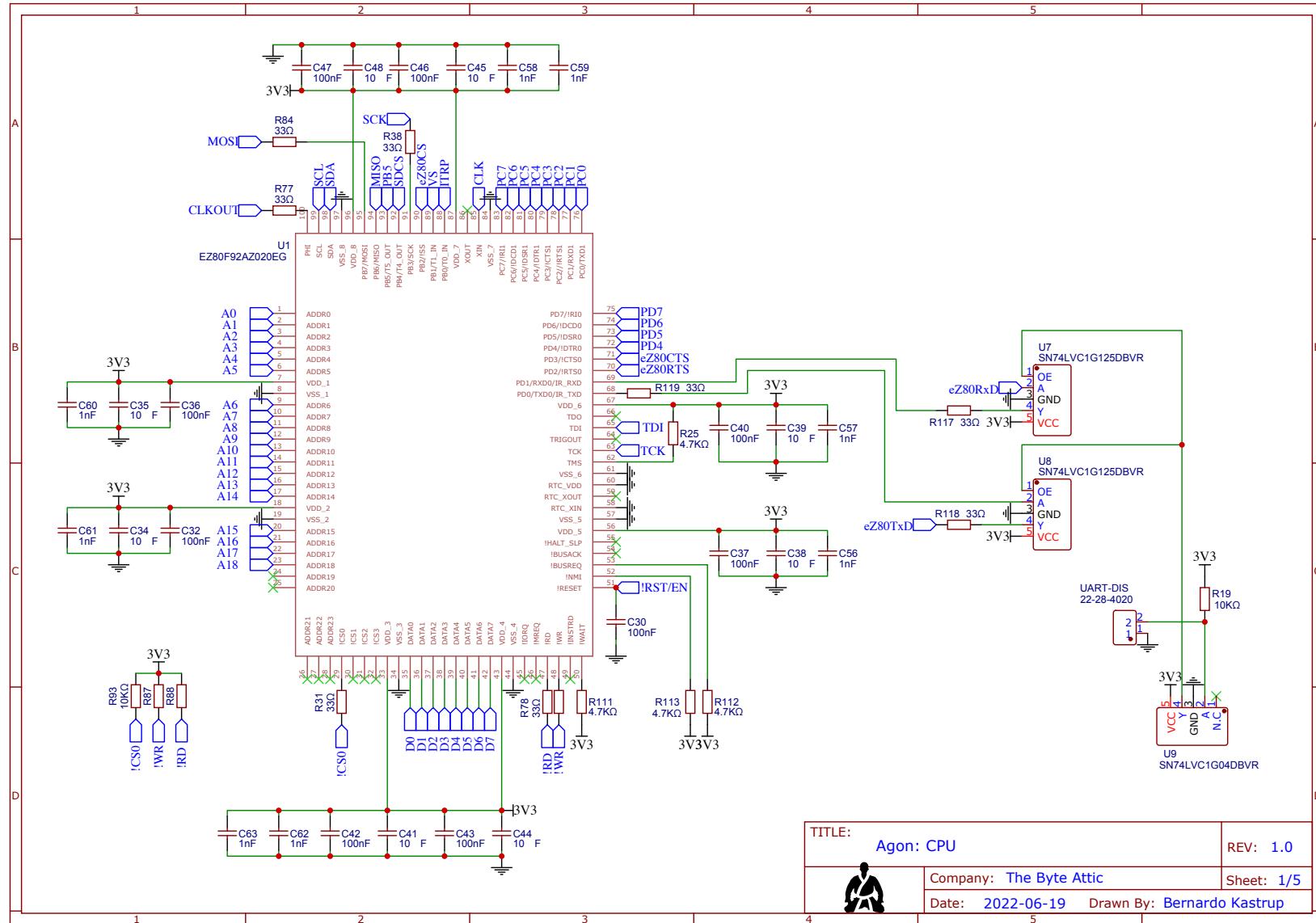
When to change jumper settings

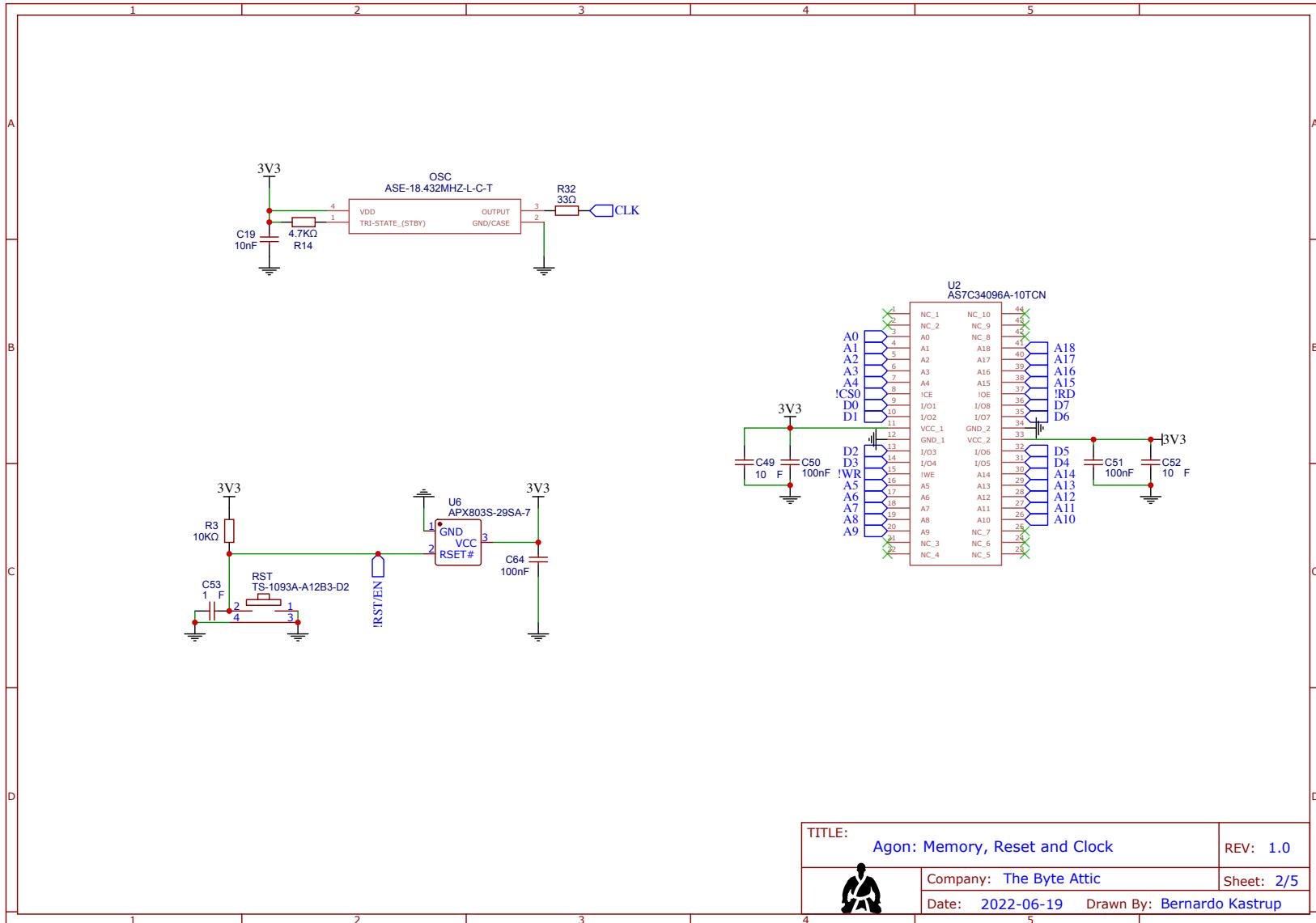
- Agon light should operate normally during both firmware programming and application execution with the default jumper settings (see previous page), but the ESP32 is known to be a sensitive device
 - Therefore, Agon light has built-in resources to deal with that sensitivity
- If the ESP32 goes into programming mode during execution, remove the jumper ‘ESP-PROG’ after programming (remember to place it back before reprogramming the ESP32)
- If you fail to program the ESP32, place the jumper ‘UART-DIS’ during programming (remember to remove it after programming, or Agon light will not operate properly)
- The buzzer produces sounds if speakers are not connected. If those sounds bother you, you can disable the buzzer by removing the jumper ‘BUZ-EN’

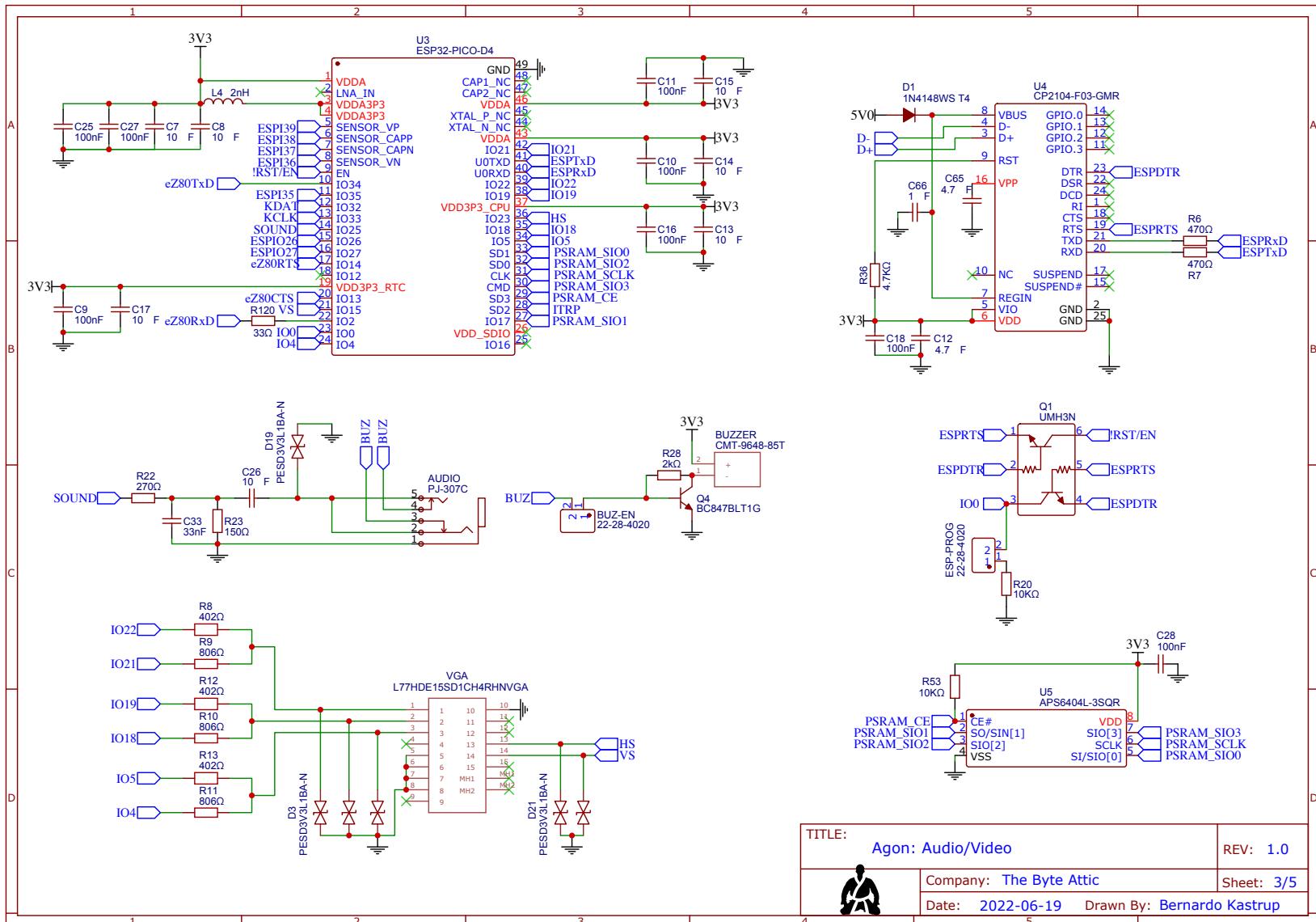


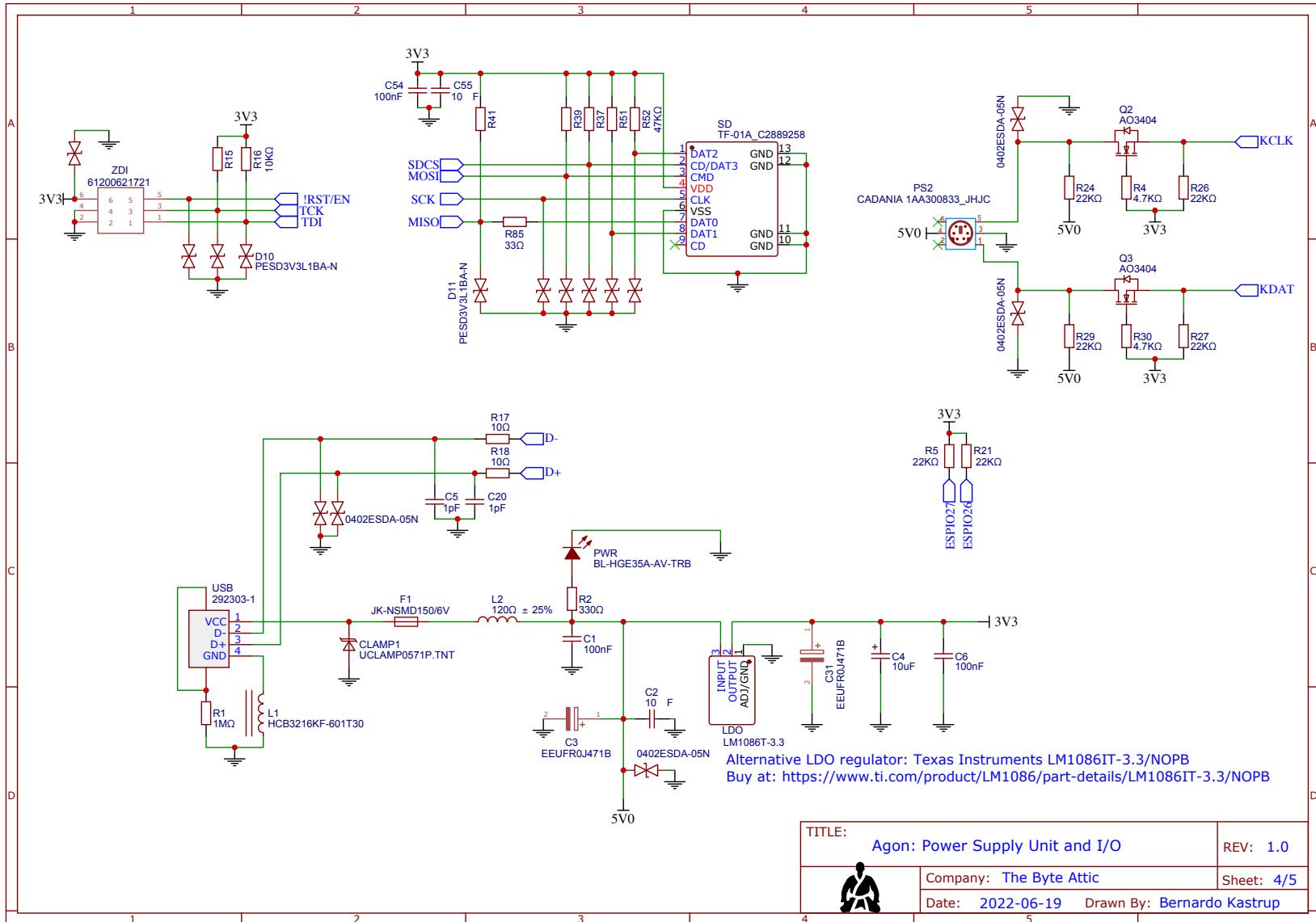
The Byte Attic's
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Schematics

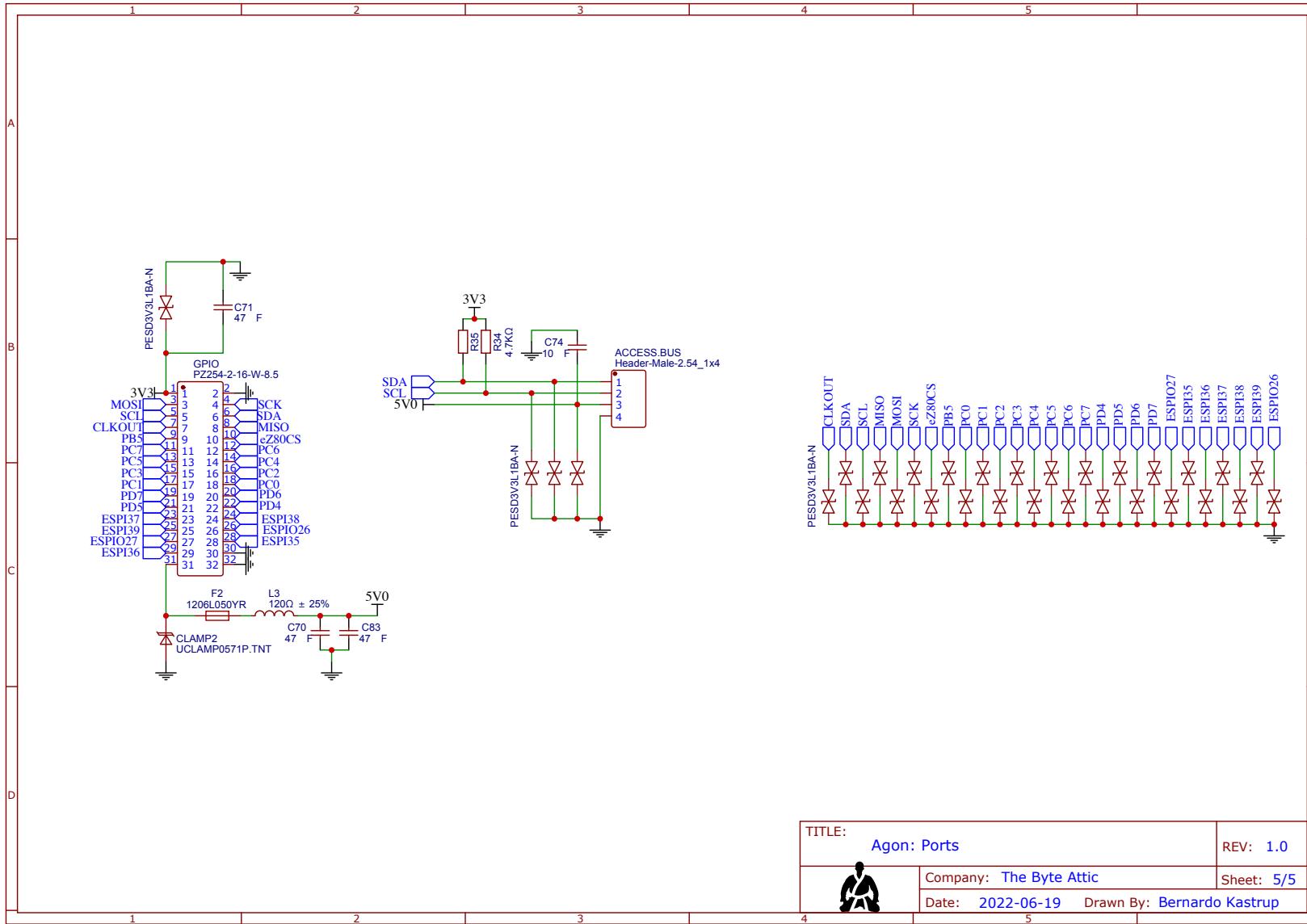












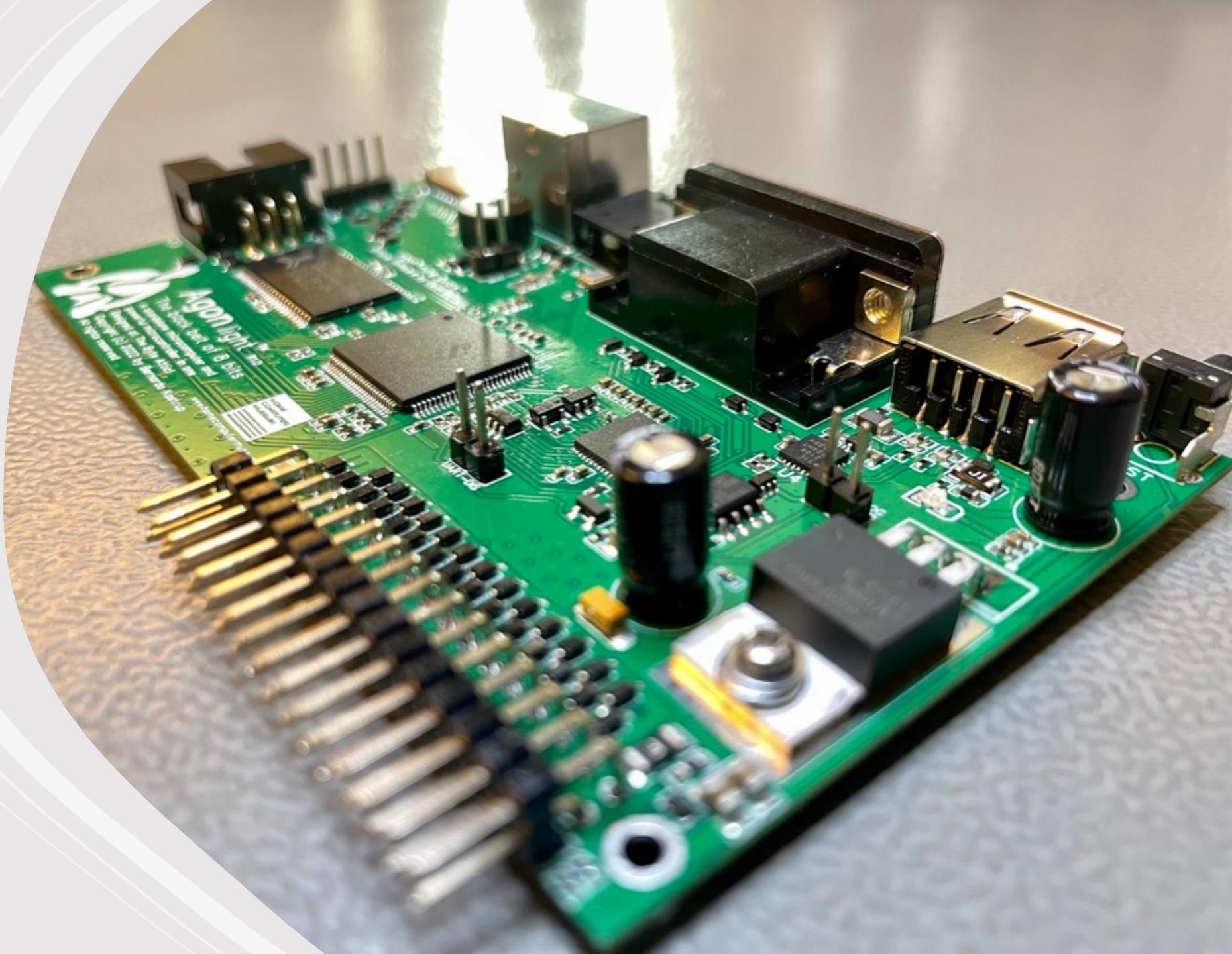
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	Company: The Byte Attic	Sheet: 5/5
	Date: 2022-06-19	Drawn By: Bernardo Kastrup



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Agon light™

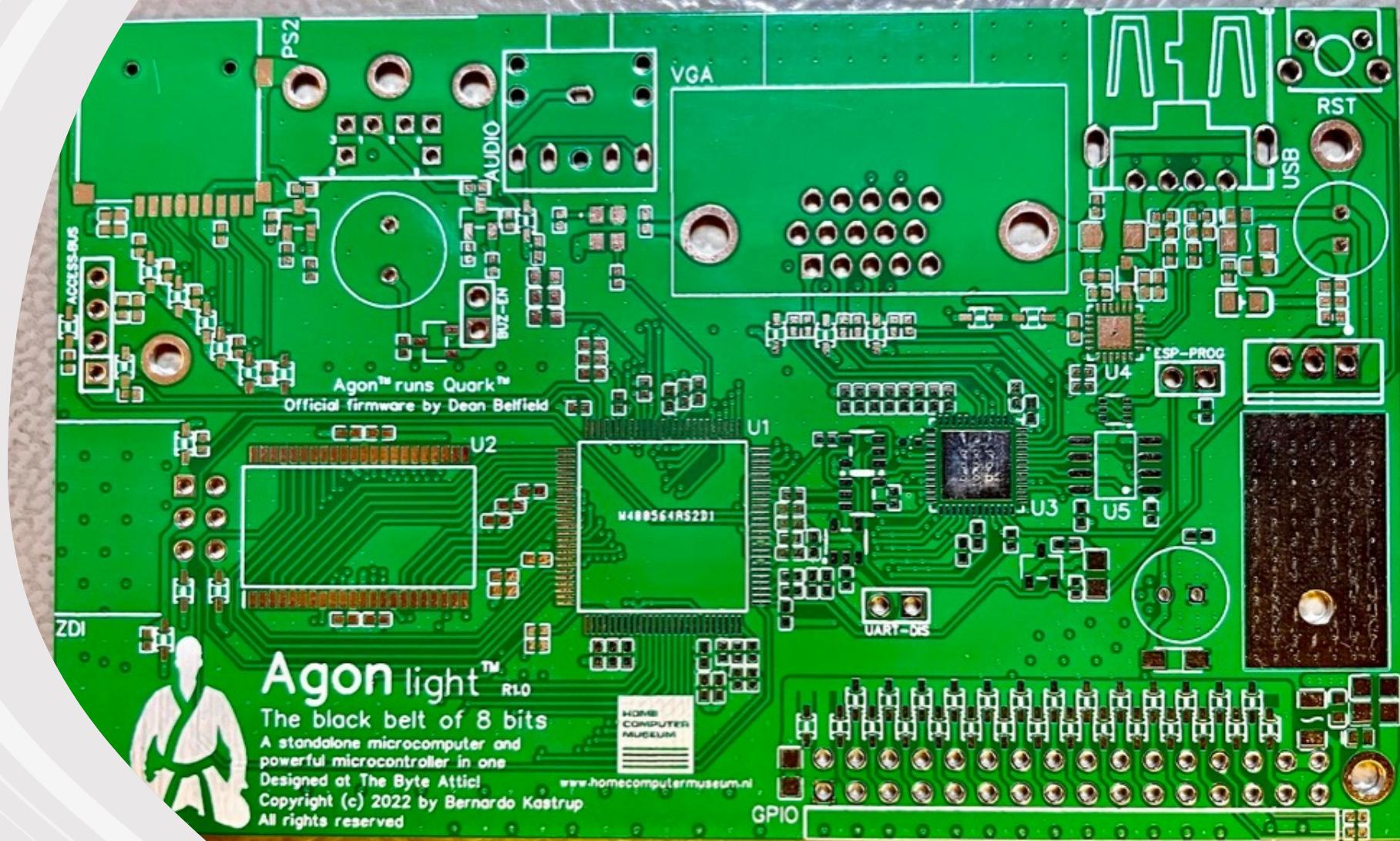
Bill of
Materials



ID	Name	Designator	Footprint	Quantity	Manufacturer Part	Manufacturer	Supplier	Supplier Part	Price
1	BUZ1N01-1G	QFN	SOT-23-3_L1.9_W4.5_Pn1.5_L2.9_BR	1	BUZ1N01-1G	On Semiconductor	LSC	C49393	0.035
2	BUZ1N01-2GQ	R28	RO402	1	BUZ1N01-2GQ	On Semiconductor	LSC	C4109	0.031
3	A5E18A43MM2-LC-T	OSC	AS18A43MM2-LC-T	1	AS18A43MM2-LC-T	ABRACON	Mouser	913-A5E18A43MM2-LC-T	0.384
4	A5T34M06A-10TCN	U2	SOP8-16_W1.8mm	1	A5T34M06A-10TCN	Alitance Memory	Mouser	913-A5T34M06A-10TCN	0.384
5	PZ42-2.16-W.8.5	GPIO	HDR-TH_3P-P2.54H-M2.R2.C16-62.54	1	PZ42-2.16-W.8.5	HCTL(宇創天拓)	Mouser	913-PZ42-2.16-W.8.5	0.439
6	Header-Male-2.54_1x4	ACCESS BUS	HD-TH_4P-TP2.54A-VAM	1	4P-TP2.54A-VAM	AP Memory	LSC	C12438	0.043
7	PJ-307C	AUDIO	AUDIO-TH_P3.93TC	1	PJ-307C	Boomele	LSC	C16684	0.076
8	22.28-4020	BUZ1N01-PROG-JART-DIS	HDR-TH_2P2.54V-M.1	3	22.28-4020	MOLEX	LSC	C34182	0.076
9	CM79648-85T	BUZZER	CM79648-85T	1	CM79648-85T	SAMSUNG	LSC	C1525	0.001
10	100nF	C1	C1_0.1n_C10_C11_C16_C18_C25_C27	23	C1_0.1n_C10_C11_C16_C18_C25_C27	SAMSUNG	LSC	C1525	0.005
11	10uF	C1	C1_0.1n_C10_C11_C16_C18_C25_C27	20	C1_0.1n_C10_C11_C16_C18_C25_C27	SAMSUNG	LSC	C1525	0.005
12	1nF	C5_C20	C0402	2	C402CG110C50NT	FH	LSC	C1550	0.001
13	4.1μF	CL1_C05	C0402	2	C402CG110C50NT	SAMSUNG	LSC	C2373	0.006
14	10nF	C19	C0402	1	C402CG110C50NT	SAMSUNG	LSC	C15195	0.001
15	1nF	C56_C57_C58_C59_C60_C61_C62_C63	C0402	8	Q402B10210C50NT	FH	LSC	C1232	0.001
16	1uF	C66	C0402	1	C402A1050K0NNIC	SAMSUNG	LSC	C29266	0.003
17	FEU-FR471B	C3_C31	C402PDR250W50B0H10270	2	C402PDR250W50B0H10270	Panasonic	Mouser	667-FEU-FR471B	0.098
18	10uF	C4	C402PDR250W50B0H10270	1	C402PDR250W50B0H10270	TAJA06KG0156NU	AVX	C171	0.096
19	33nF	C33	C0803	1	C10B133KBR8NNIC	SAMSUNG	LSC	C21117	0.006
20	1uF	C53	C0803	1	C121B105KBR8NNIC	SAMSUNG	LSC	C28333	0.009
21	UCLAMP-BP571P-TNT	CLAMP1/CLAMP2	SGP1610N2_1.16-W1.0-B1+RD	3	UCLAMP-BP571P-TNT	SAMSUNG	LSC	C16780	0.026
22	UCLAMP-BP571P-TNT	CLAMP1/CLAMP2	SGP1610N2_1.16-W1.0-B1+RD	1	UCLAMP-BP571P-TNT	SEATCH	LSC	C16387	0.043
23	1N4148BWS T4	D1	SOD-323_1L8-W1.3-L5.3-RD	1	1N4148BWS T4	SEATCH	LSC	C2128	0.013
24	PEDBV318A-N	D88ESD4E5D-PROT1-LED-PROT2-LED-PROT3	D0402-8I	1	0402ESD4E5D-05N	Bourne Semicon (Shenzhen)	LSC	C316020	0.051
25	E533	DS2	D0402-8I	5	0402ESD4E5D-05N	Bourne Semicon (Shenzhen)	LSC	C316049	0.019
26	0402ESD4E5D-05N	PWR	F1	1	JK-5M0D150V6V	JK(金利)	LSC	C283049	0.036
27	JK-5M0D150V6V	F2	F106	1	1286050YR	Littelfuse	LSC	C155312	0.047
28	1286050YR	F2	F106	1	HCB2126GF-601T30	TAI-TEC	LSC	C357023	0.028
29	HCB2126GF-601T30	L1	L106	1	BLU1A1K212ITN1	Murata	LSC	C88311	0.017
30	120n-22%	L1	L10603	1	ASCA402-IND-1T	Abracon LLC	LSC	C18816	0.244
31	31_C20H	L4	TO-220S_L10xW4.5xH2.54A	1	UM1086T-3.3	UM1086T-3.3	LSC	C444381	0.241
32	UM1086T-3.3	LEO	PS2	1	UM1086T-3.3	UM1086T-3.3	LSC	C444381	0.241
33	CDA11HA_A4303B833_HJC	PWR	PS2	1	UD080805-RD	Bright LED Blec	LSC	C165984	0.001
34	BL-H1G133A-NAVTRB	U1	U1	1	BL-H1G133A-NAVTRB	BL-H1G133A-NAVTRB	LSC	C62892	0.049
35	UHM1	U1	U1	1	SC-70-6.2-L2-W1.9_Pt1.9xL1.9xH1.8R	Guangdong Hettotech	LSC	C193925	0.047
36	A03404	U2	U2	1	SOT-23-3_L2-W1.9_Pt1.9xL1.9xH1.8R	A03404	LSC	C26083	0.001
37	1A10	U1	U1	1	0402WIG1504TC	Unifilm	LSC	C2104	0.001
38	3500	R2	U0402	1	0402WIG1504TC	Unifilm	LSC	C25744	0.001
39	10kΩ	R33	R0402	9	0402WIG1504TC	Unifilm	LSC	C25744	0.001
40	4.7kΩ	R4814_425_R30.834_35_R3.6_1111	R0402	10	0402WIG1504TC	Unifilm	LSC	C25900	0.001
41	4.1	R22K0	R0402	6	0402WIG172302TC	Unifilm	LSC	C25768	0.001
42	4.2K	R4700	R0402	2	0402WIG17400TC	Unifilm	LSC	C25177	0.001
43	4.3	R8_R12_R13	R0402	3	FFR0402B420RN9	RESi(研步思惠)	LSC	C269282	0.079
44	4.4	R0402	R0402	3	FFR0402B420RN9	Unifilm Elet	LSC	C105011	0.061
45	100	R8060	R0402	2	0402WIG17400TC	Unifilm	LSC	C25077	0.001
46	330	R11_113_R38_R77_R8/R94/R85	R0402	12	0402WIG17301TC	Unifilm	LSC	C25105	0.001
47	47kΩ	R37_R39_R41_R1152	R0402	5	0402WIG17400TC	Unifilm	LSC	C2592	0.001
48	2700	R23	R0603	1	0603WIA1500TSE	Unifilm	LSC	C2296	0.001
49	1500	R23	R0603	1	0603WIA1500TSE	Unifilm	LSC	C2296	0.002
50	50	SD	TF-SMD_F2-02	1	TF-03A	Yandi(台商元通)	LSC	C188928	0.088
51	E2B092A2020EG	U1	QFP56-160X160X160-100	1	E2B092A2020EG	Zilog	Mouser	692-E2B092A2020EG	0.032
52	E5P24-PCD-D4	U3	QFN-48_L7.0_W7.0_P0.50_B16P5.4	1	ESP92-WCD-04	Espresso Systems	LSC	C19307	3.82
53	C2P10-100	U4	QFN-100_W10.0_P0.50_B16P6.2	1	ESP92-WCD-04	SILICON LABS	LSC	C47015	2.361
54	AP5640A-150R	U5	SOP-8_4.4_W3.9_P1.7xL1.7xH0.8	1	AP5640A-150R-SN	AP Memory	Mouser	878-AP5640A-150R-SN	0.043
55	55_A9P45-256x4	U6	SOT-223_1.2x1.9x0.55	1	AP5640A-150R-SN	Diods Incorporated	LSC	C143831	0.043
56	SN74LVC1520BVR	U7/U8	SOT-223_1.2x1.9x0.55_W1.7mm	2	SN74LVC1520BVR	C2854	0.087		
57	SN74LVC1G04BDRV	U9	SOT-223_1.2x1.9x0.55_W1.7mm	1	SN74LVC1G04BDRV	Ti	LSC	C747	0.112
58	L77H015SD10CHARRINGVA	U10	U77H015SD10CHARRINGVA	1	U77H015SD10CHARRINGVA	TE Connectivity	LSC	C86461	0.407
59	U77H015SD10CHARRINGVA	U11	U77H015SD10CHARRINGVA	1	U77H015SD10CHARRINGVA	TE Connectivity	LSC	C86461	0.407
60	61200021221	2D1	TS-1093A-A1283-02	1	TS-1093A-A1283-02	Yandi	LSC	C69319	0.062



The Byte Attic's
Agon
light™
PCB
dimensions



PCB dimensions (diagram *not* to scale)



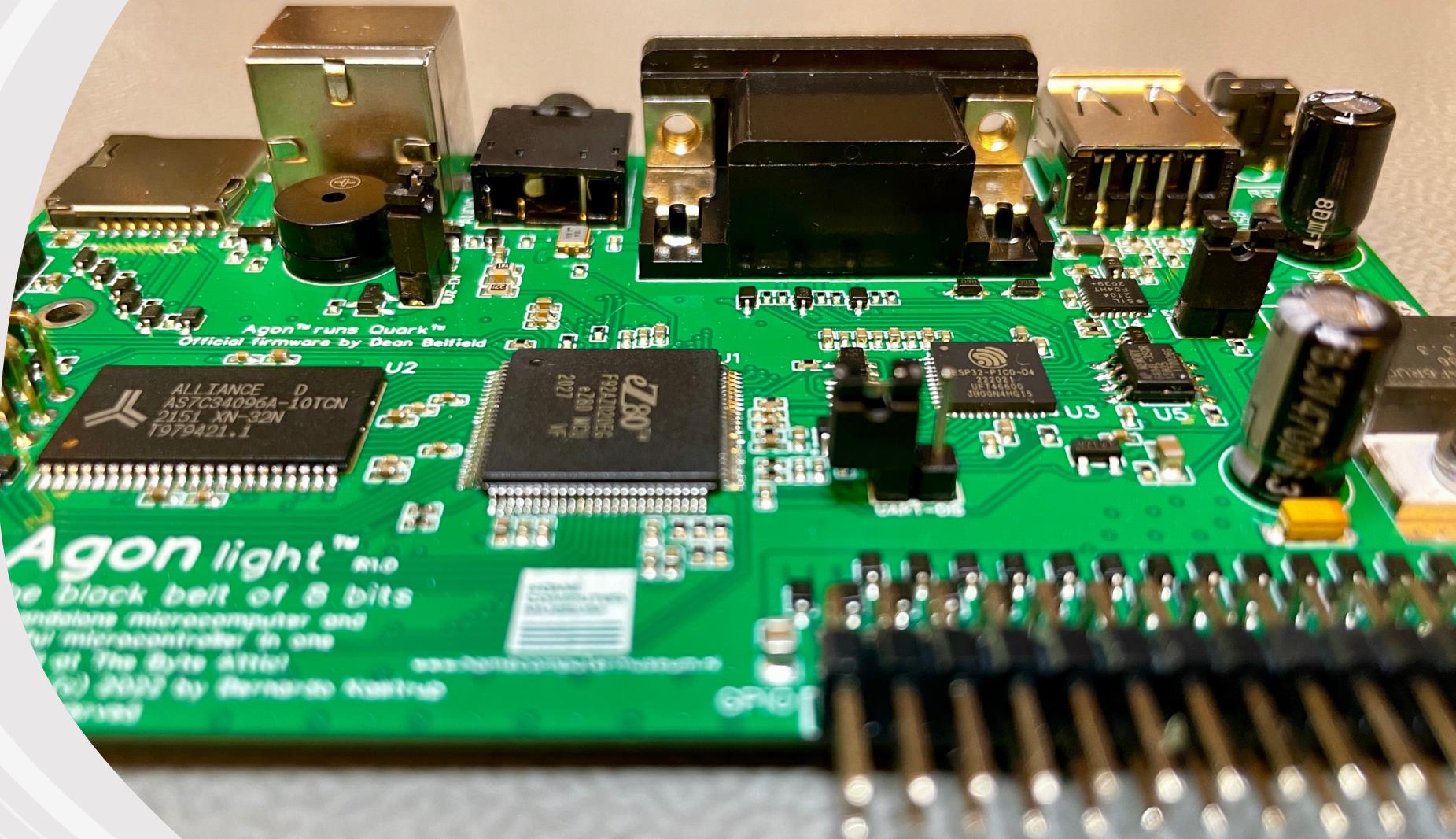
All holes
are
2.505mm
in
diameter



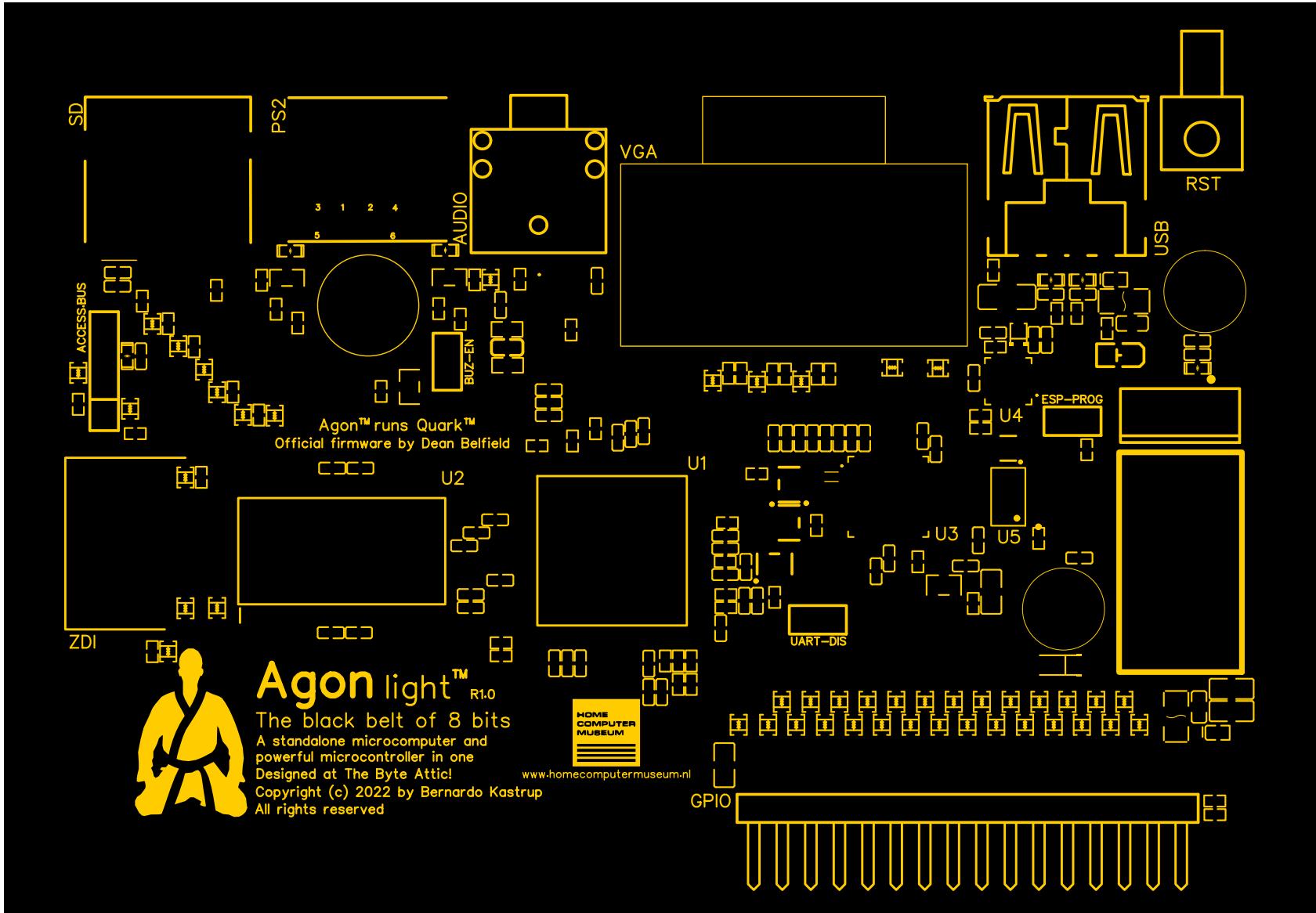
The Byte Attic's

Agon light™

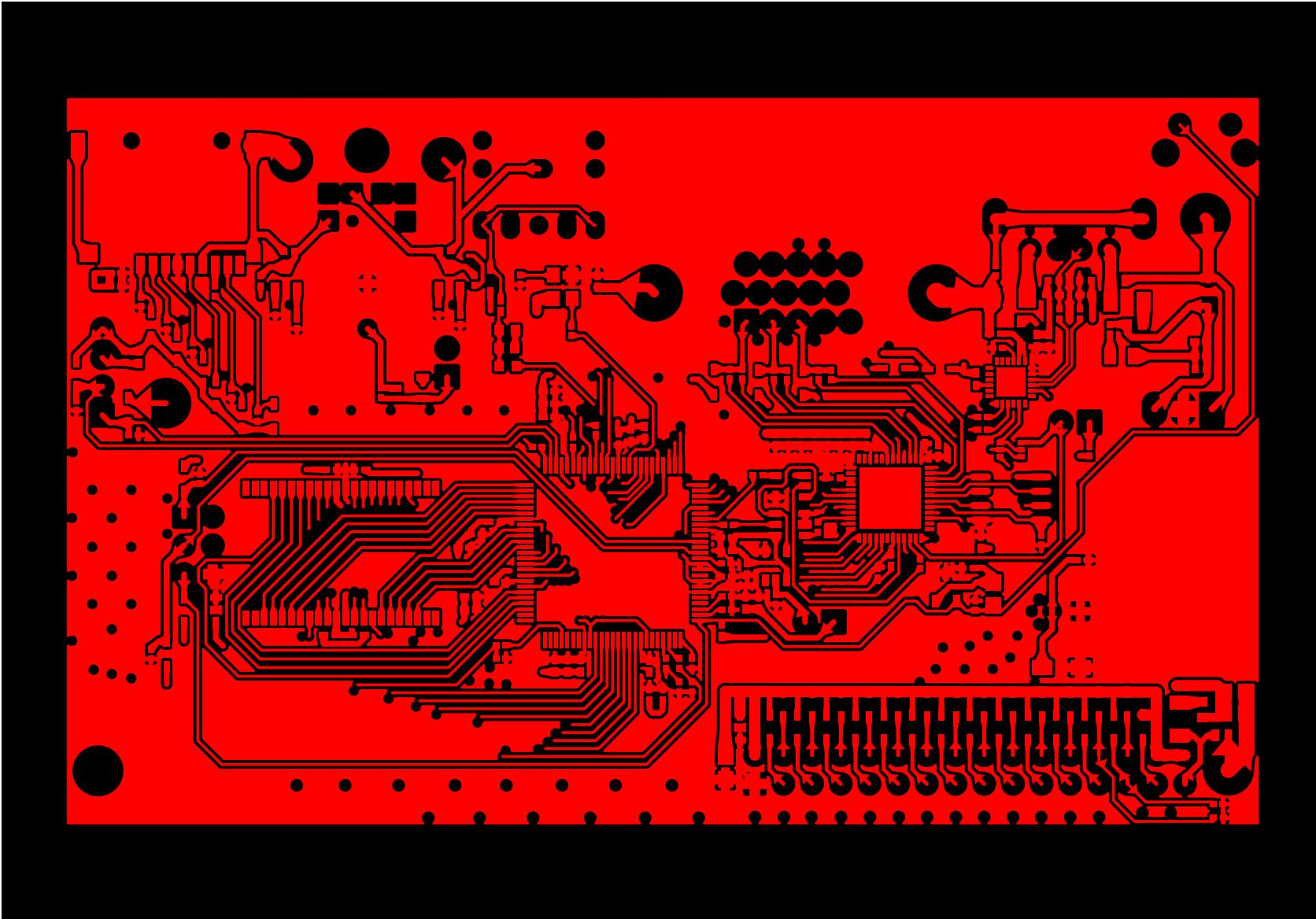
PCB layers
design



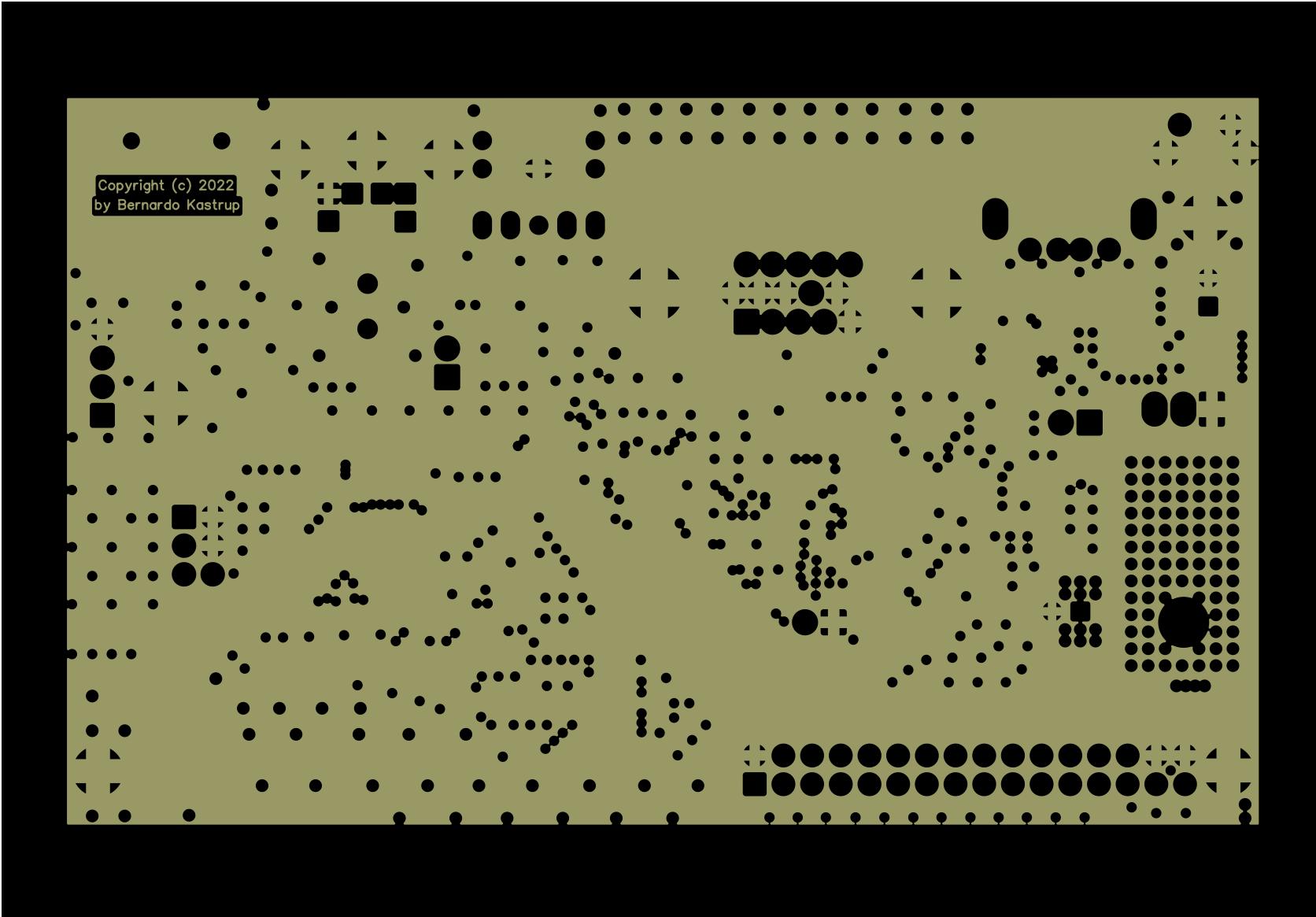
Top silkscreen



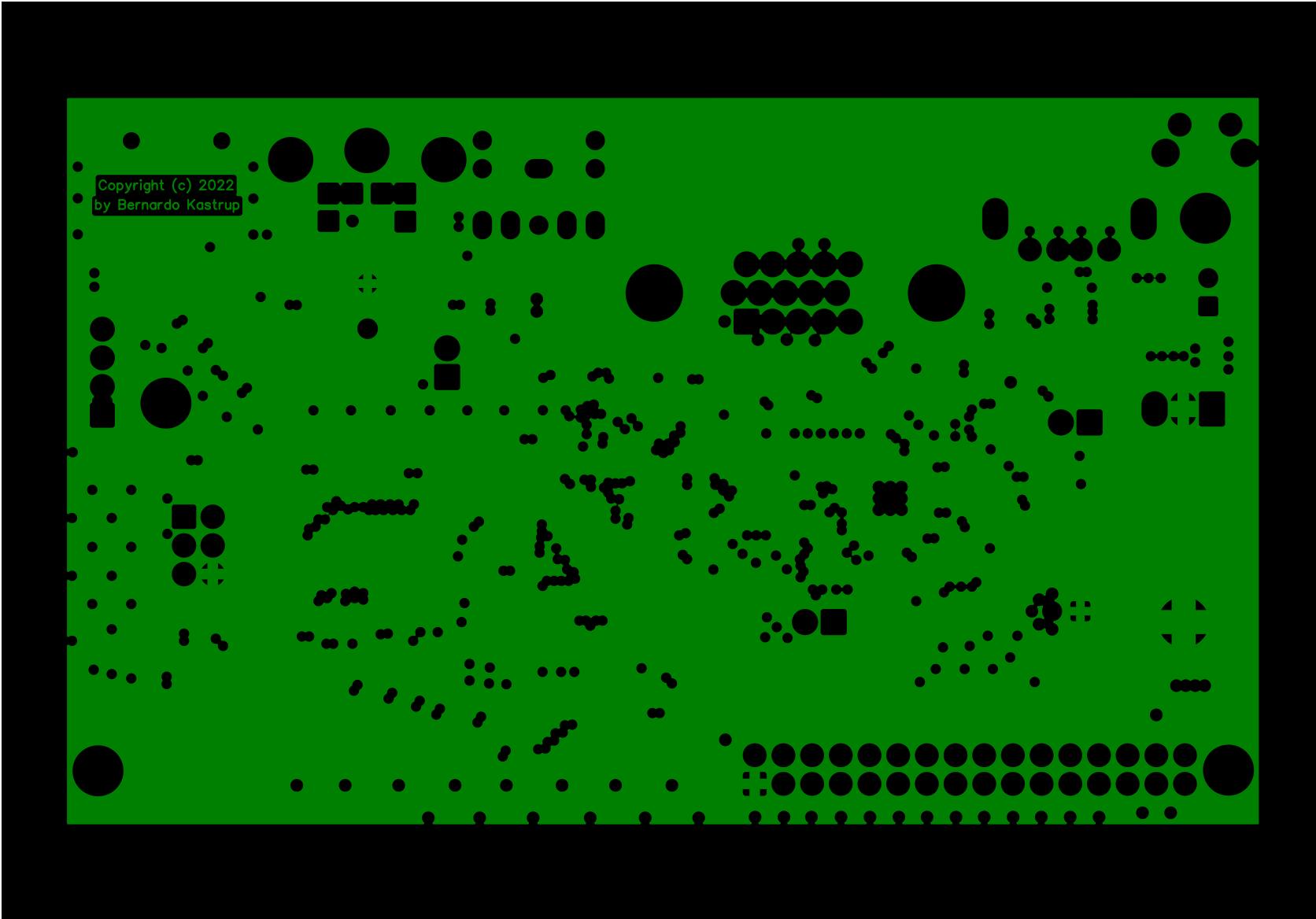
Top metal layer (3.3V filled)



First inner plane (GND)



Second inner plane (3.3V)



Bottom metal layer (GND filled)

