



The Byte Attic's

# Agon light™

## Manual

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Last updated on: 6/30/22 1:24:25 AM

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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, I<sup>2</sup>C, 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



The Byte Attic's

# Agon light™

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 link (384 kilobits per second), featuring flow control

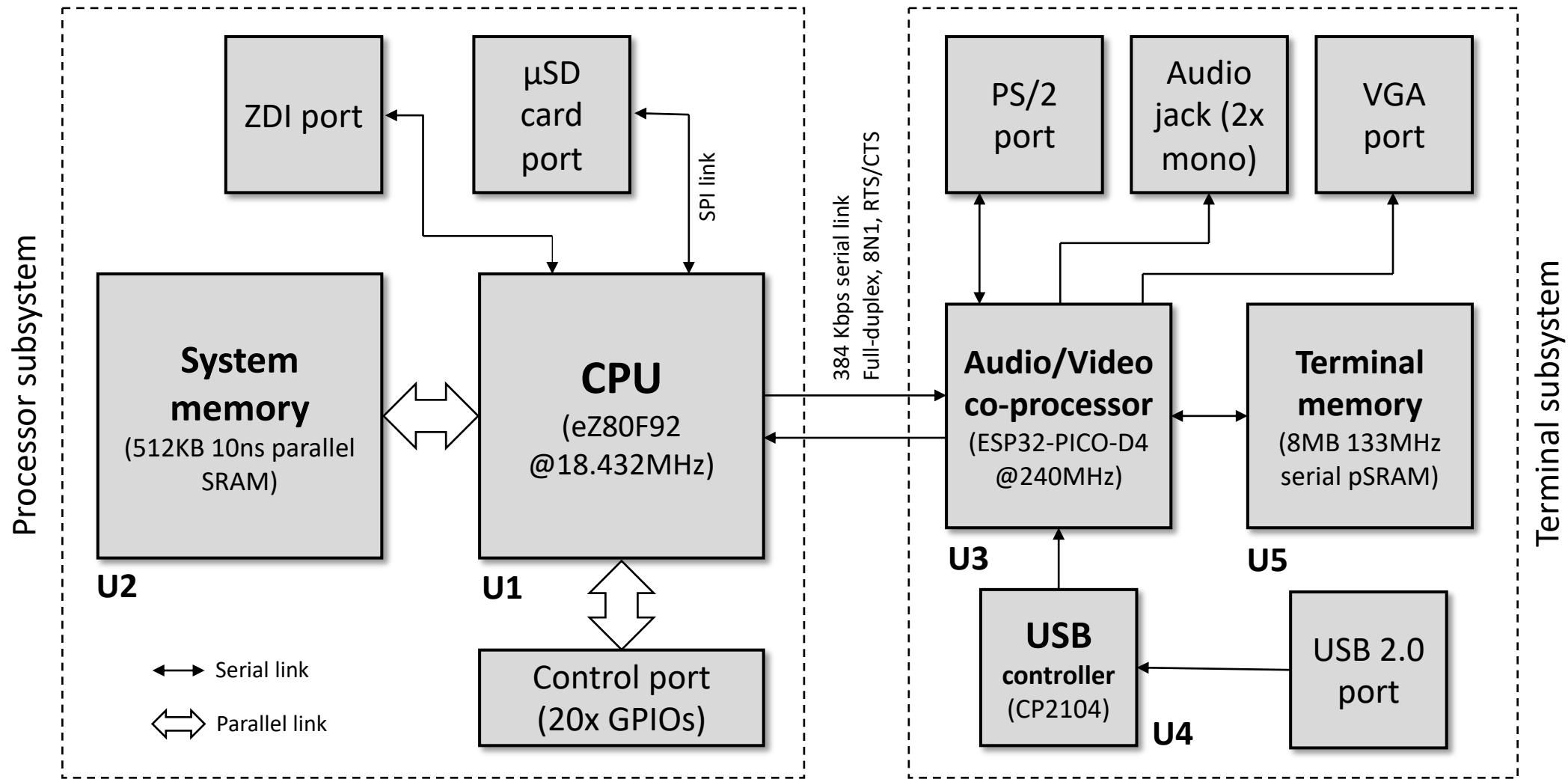
\* Requires installation of Quark™ firmware

# Theory of operation

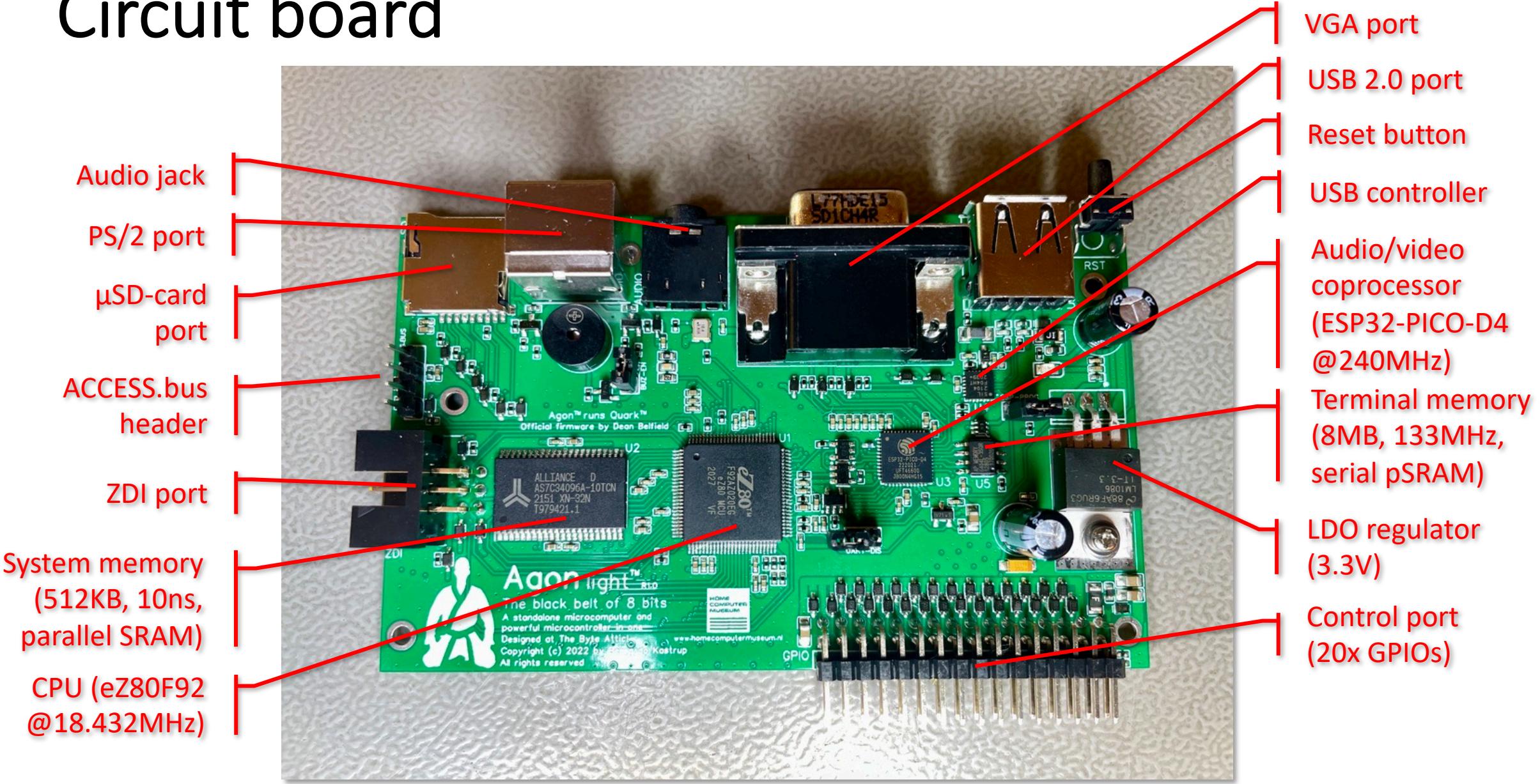
- The *terminal subsystem*:
  - Reads out the (PS/2) keyboard and sends the corresponding keypress tokens to the CPU via a high-speed serial link
  - Generates the screen based on display-list commands issued by the CPU and sent to the ESP32 via a high-speed serial link
  - Produces the VGA & audio signals
  - 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 ( $\mu$ SD-card)

\* Requires installation of Quark™ firmware

# System diagram



# Circuit board

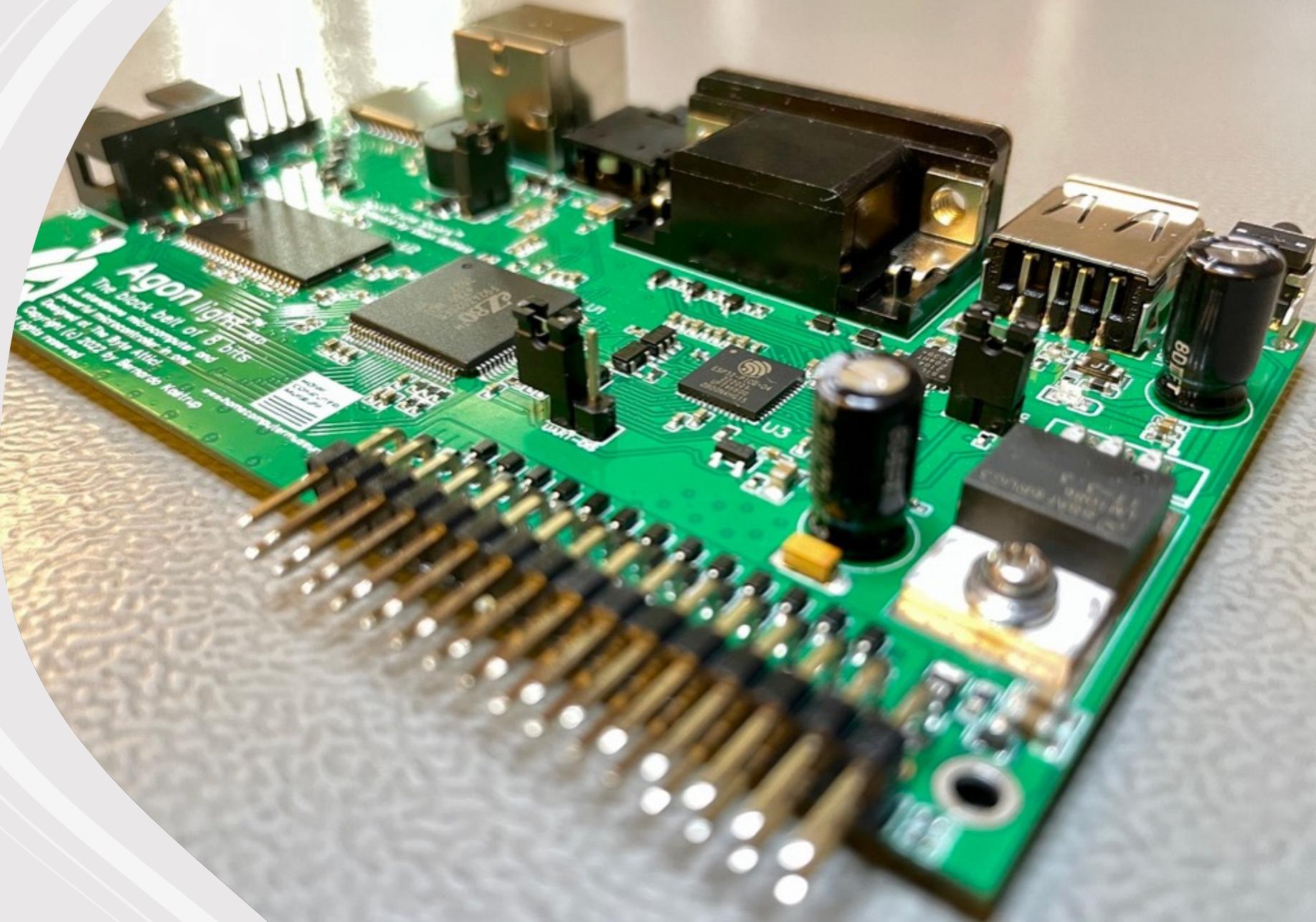




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# Agon light™

User's  
guide

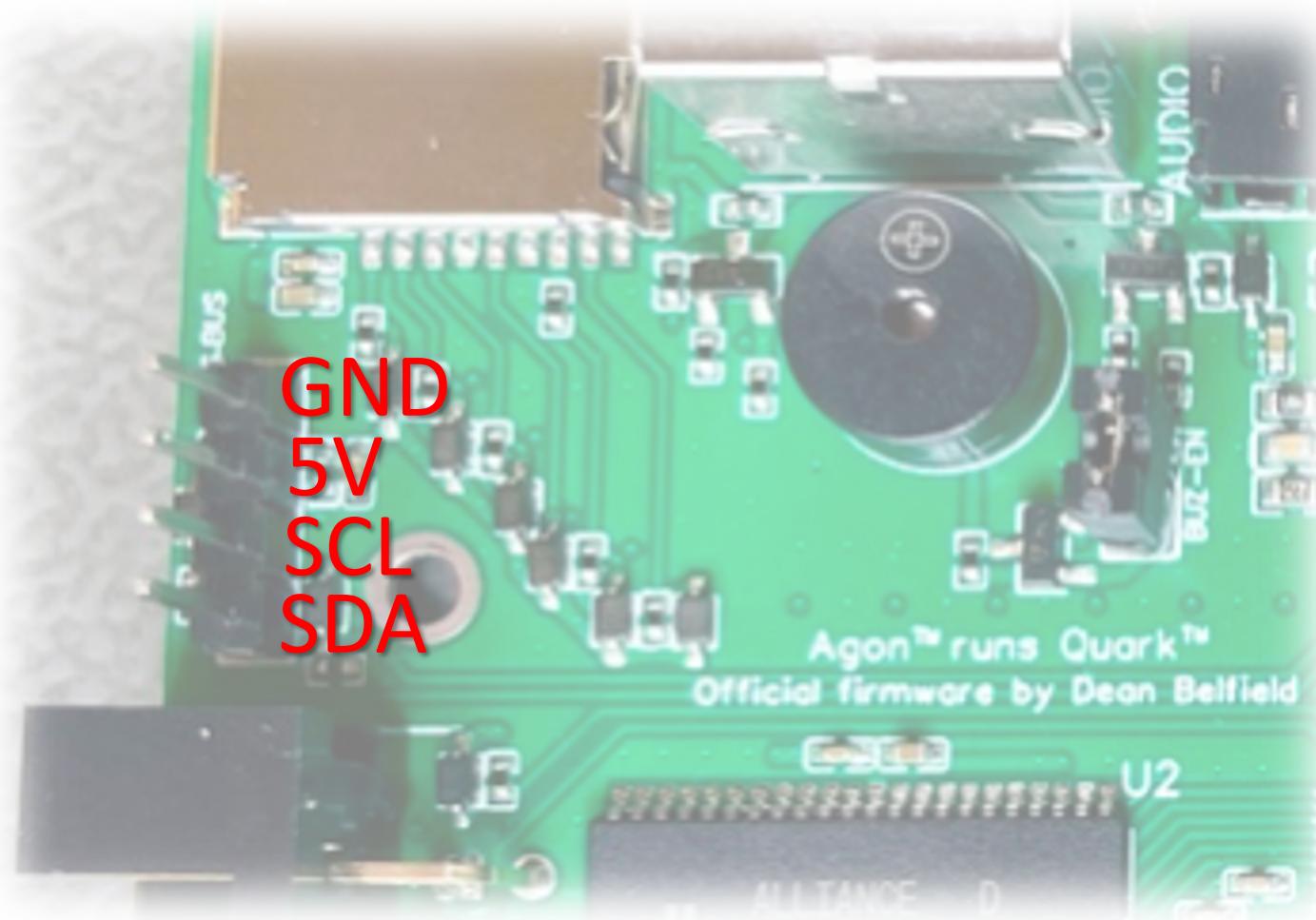


# Control port pinout

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

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*Channel:* full duplex, asynchronous

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*Baud rate:* 384,000 bits per second

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

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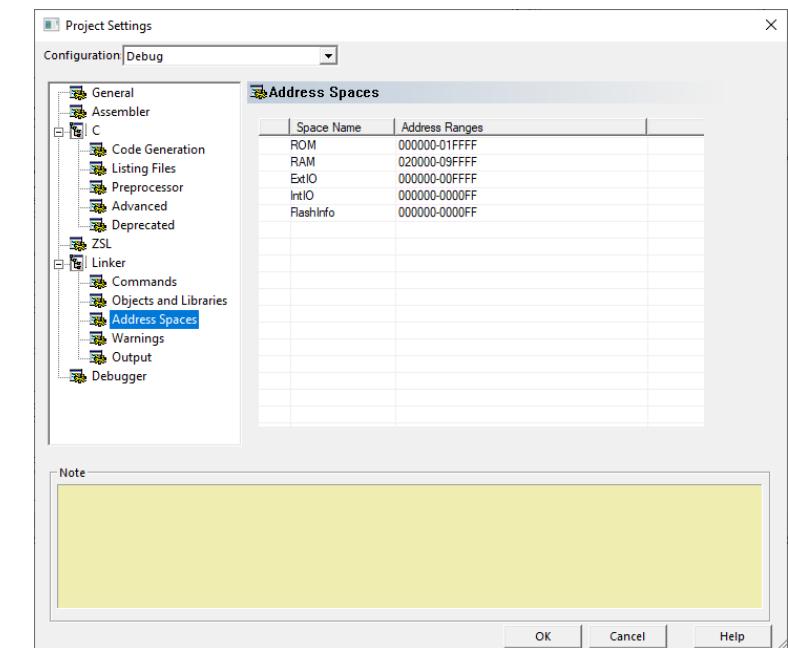
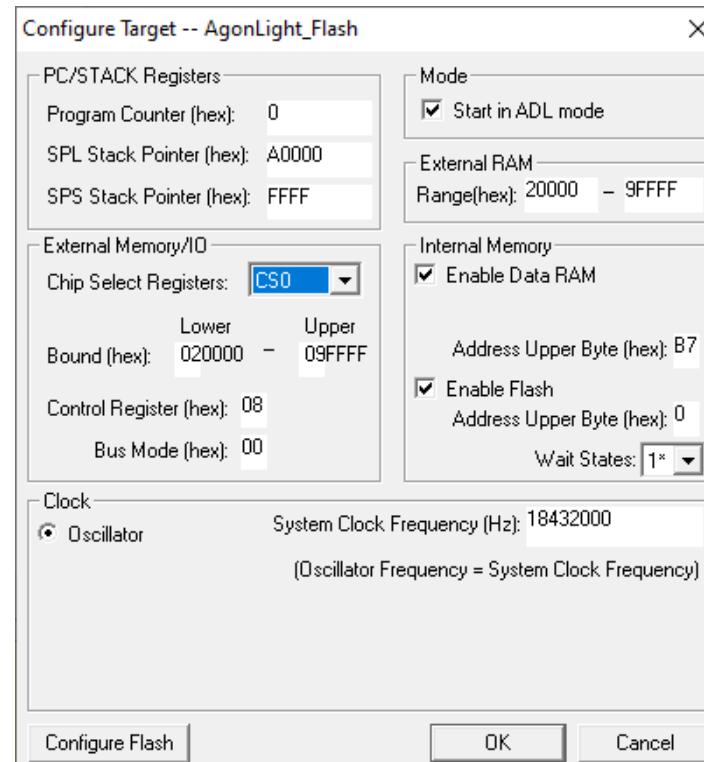
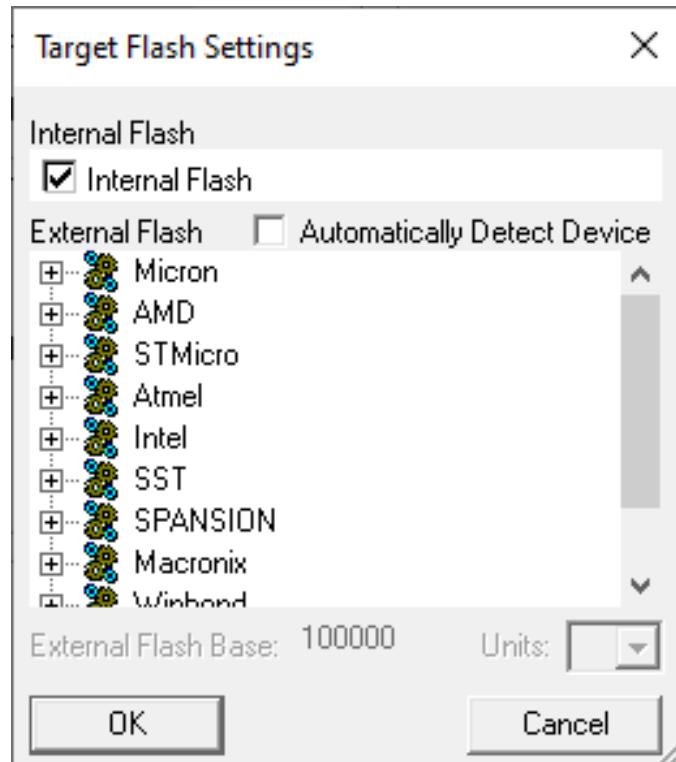
*Flow control:* CTS/RTS

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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](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)



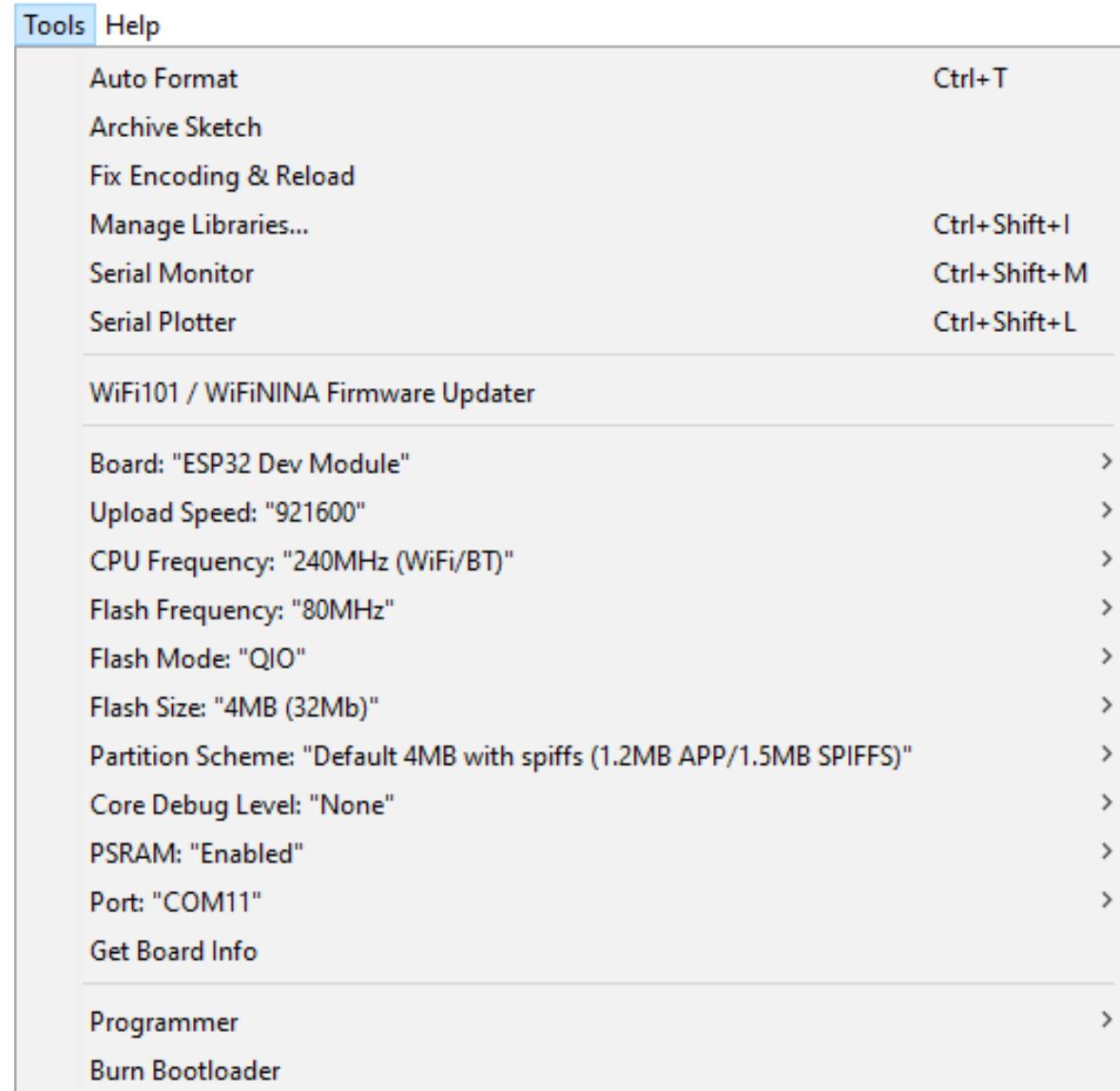
# Required programming/debugging USB smart capable

- 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



# Power supply and signal level considerations

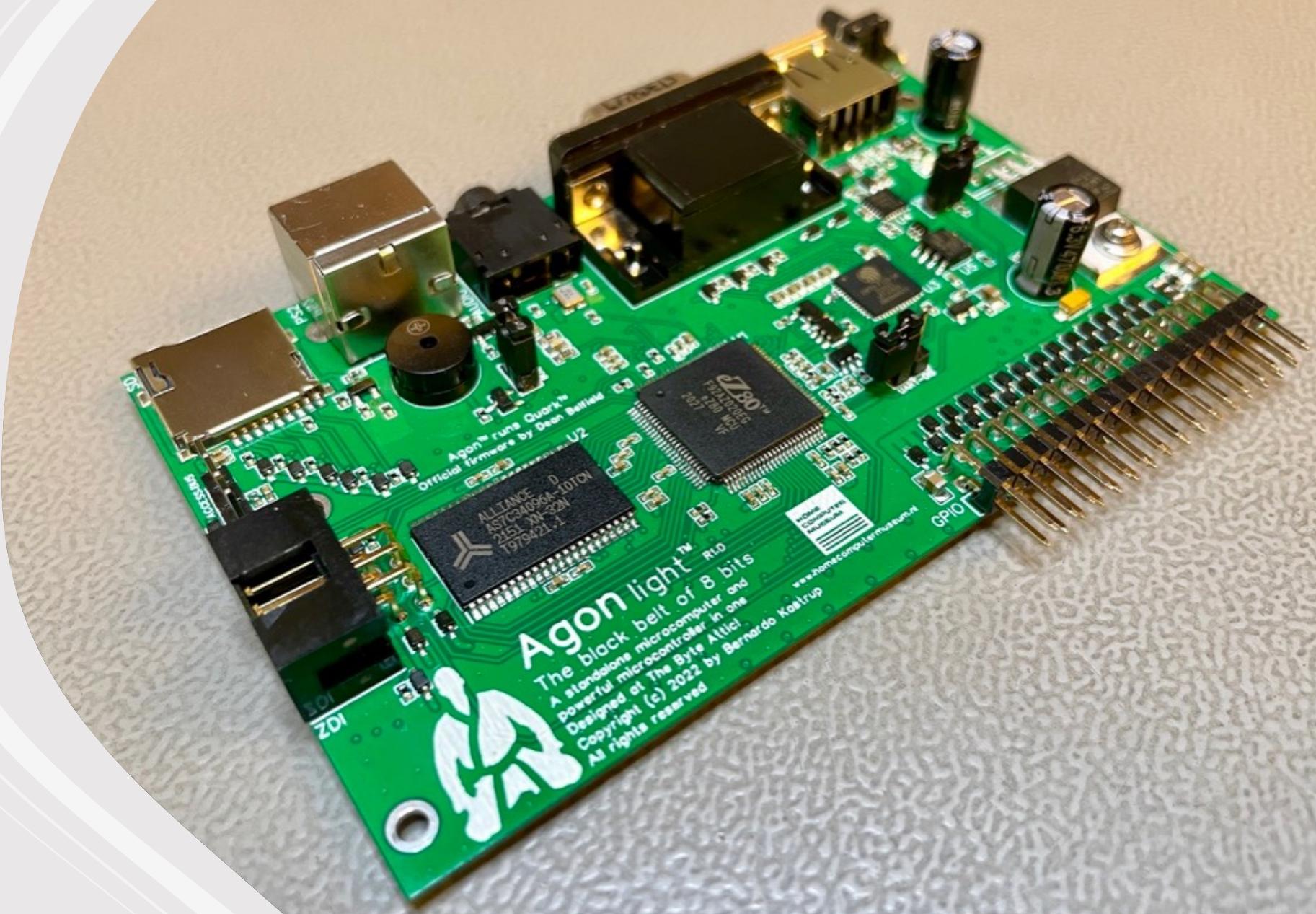
- Agon light can be powered (5V) *either* from its USB port *or* from the 5V pin in its control port
- If Agon light is powered from the USB port, then the 5V pin in the control port can be used to power an external circuit connected to Agon light
- Similarly, the 3.3V pin in the control port can be used to power an external circuit, *but it cannot be used to power Agon light*
- The on-board LDO regulator can provide up to 1.5A of current at 3.3V
  - Maximum *total* current for Agon light's internal use *and* devices powered from the 3.3V pin in the control port
  - It assumes that the USB device powering Agon light can deliver 1.5A; otherwise, that device becomes the bottleneck
- All logic signals on the control port (including all GPIOs) are referenced to 3.3V and, therefore, are *not* TTL-level



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# Agon light™

Assembly  
guide

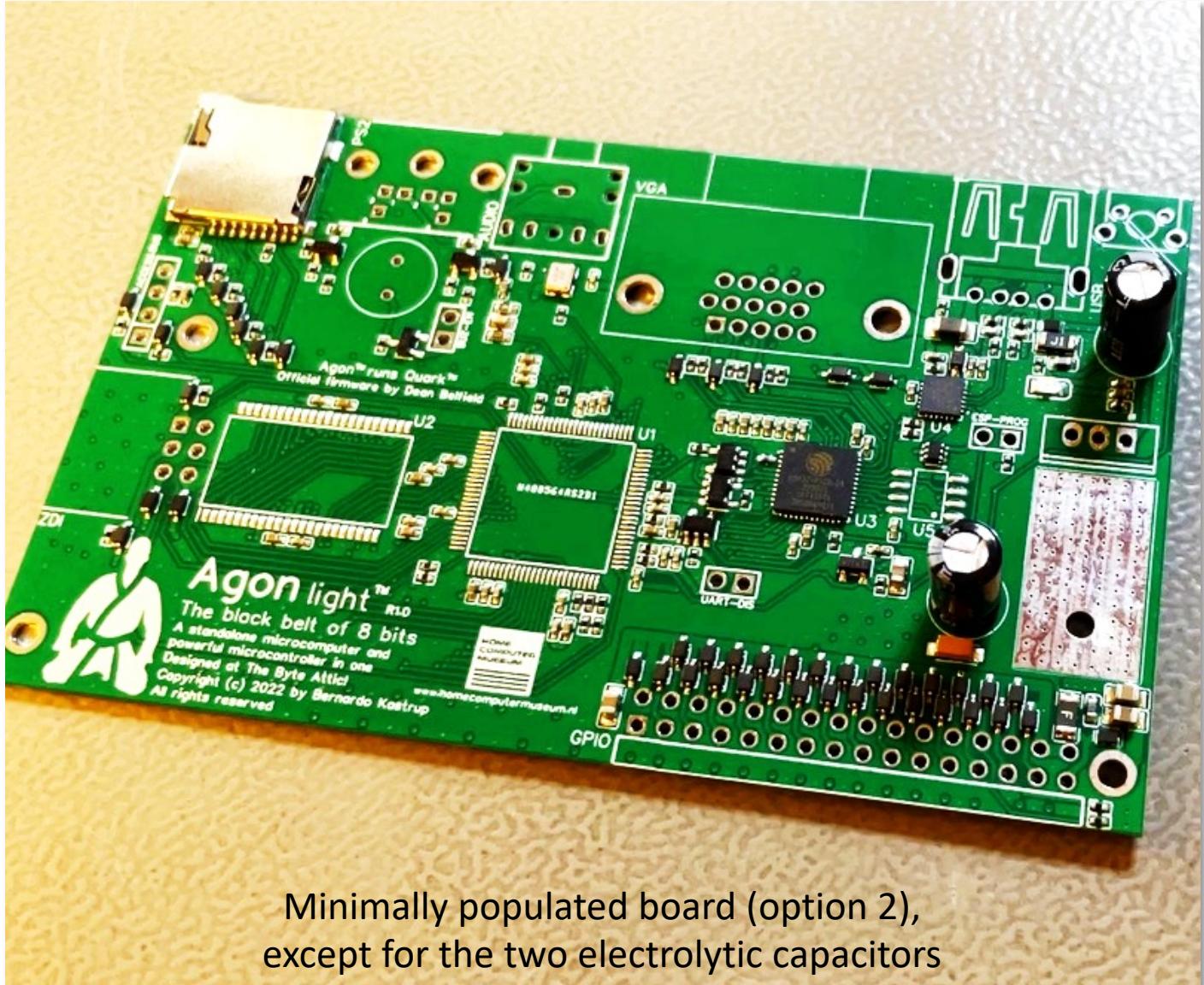


# Assembly options

- 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

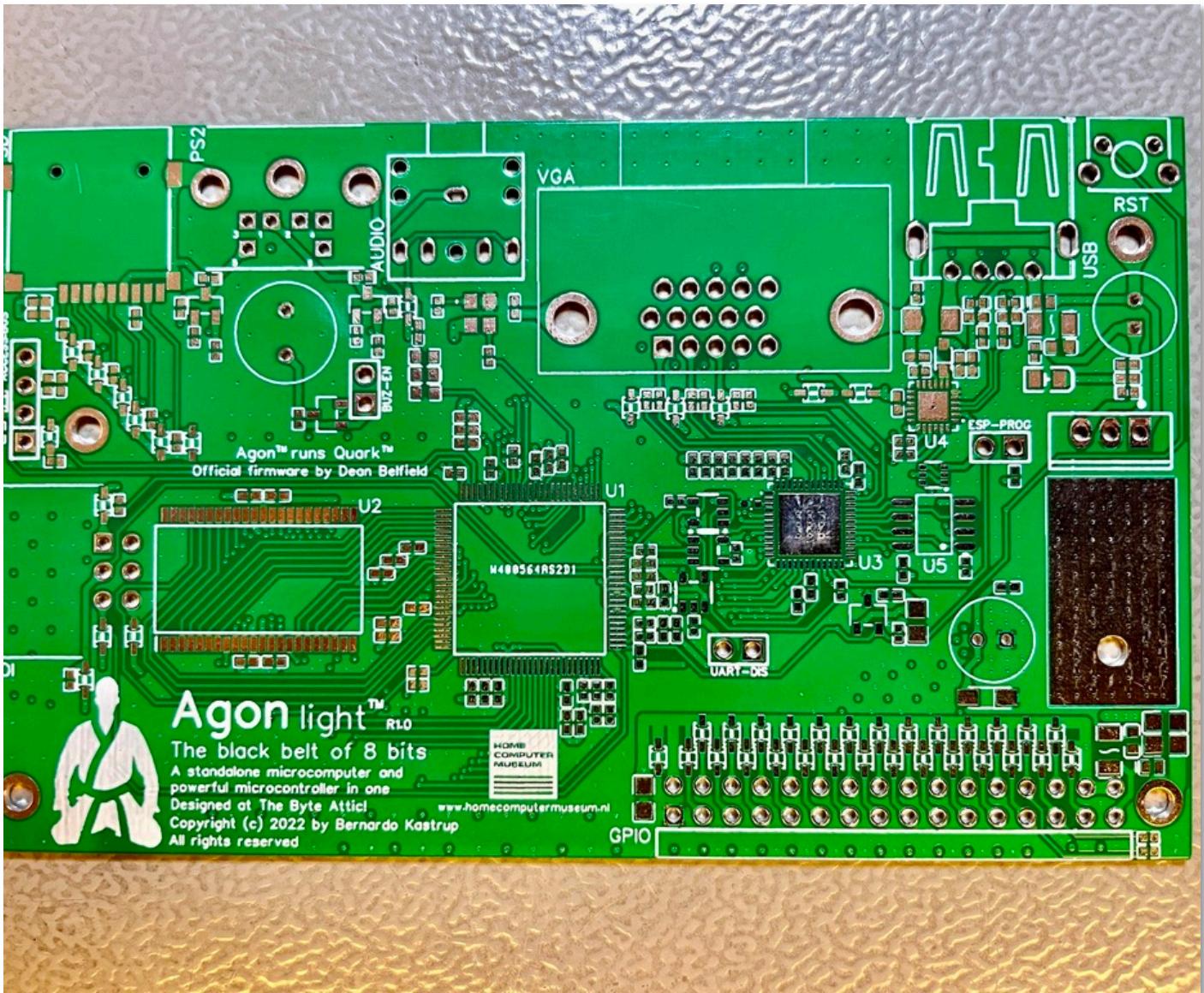
- All files are available in the /Manufacturing directory of Agon light's Github repository at:  
<https://github.com/TheByteAttic/AgonLight>
- For option (4), send the following files to your PCB manufacturer, next to the Gerber file (`Gerber_PCB_AgonLight_R1.0.zip`):
  - `PickAndPlace_PCB_AgonLight_R1.0.csv`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

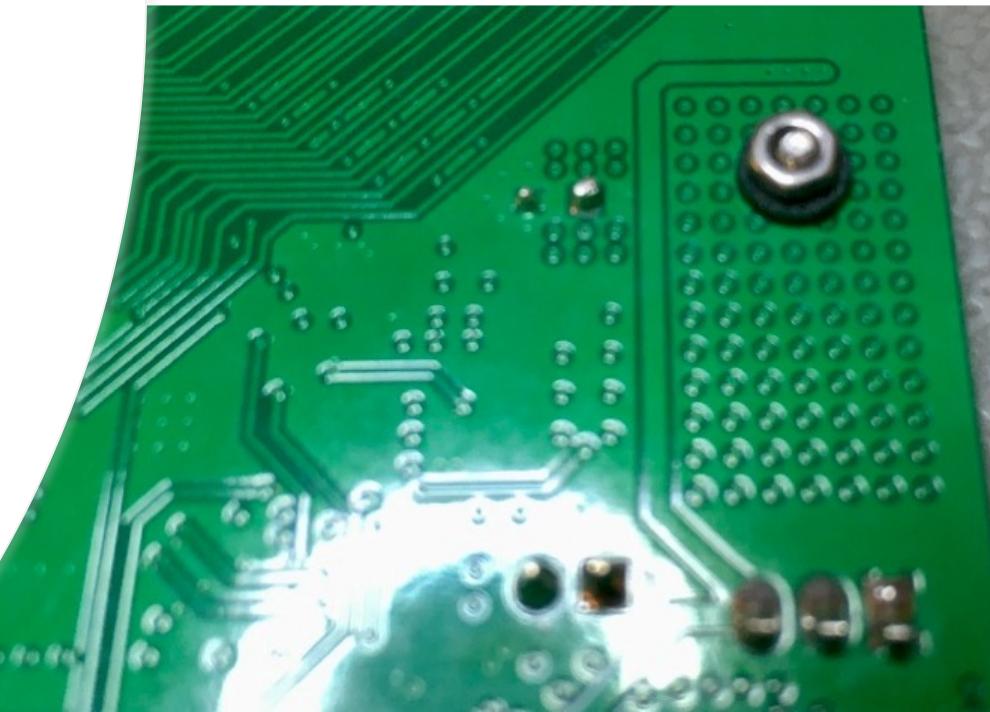
# PCB layer stack

- 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

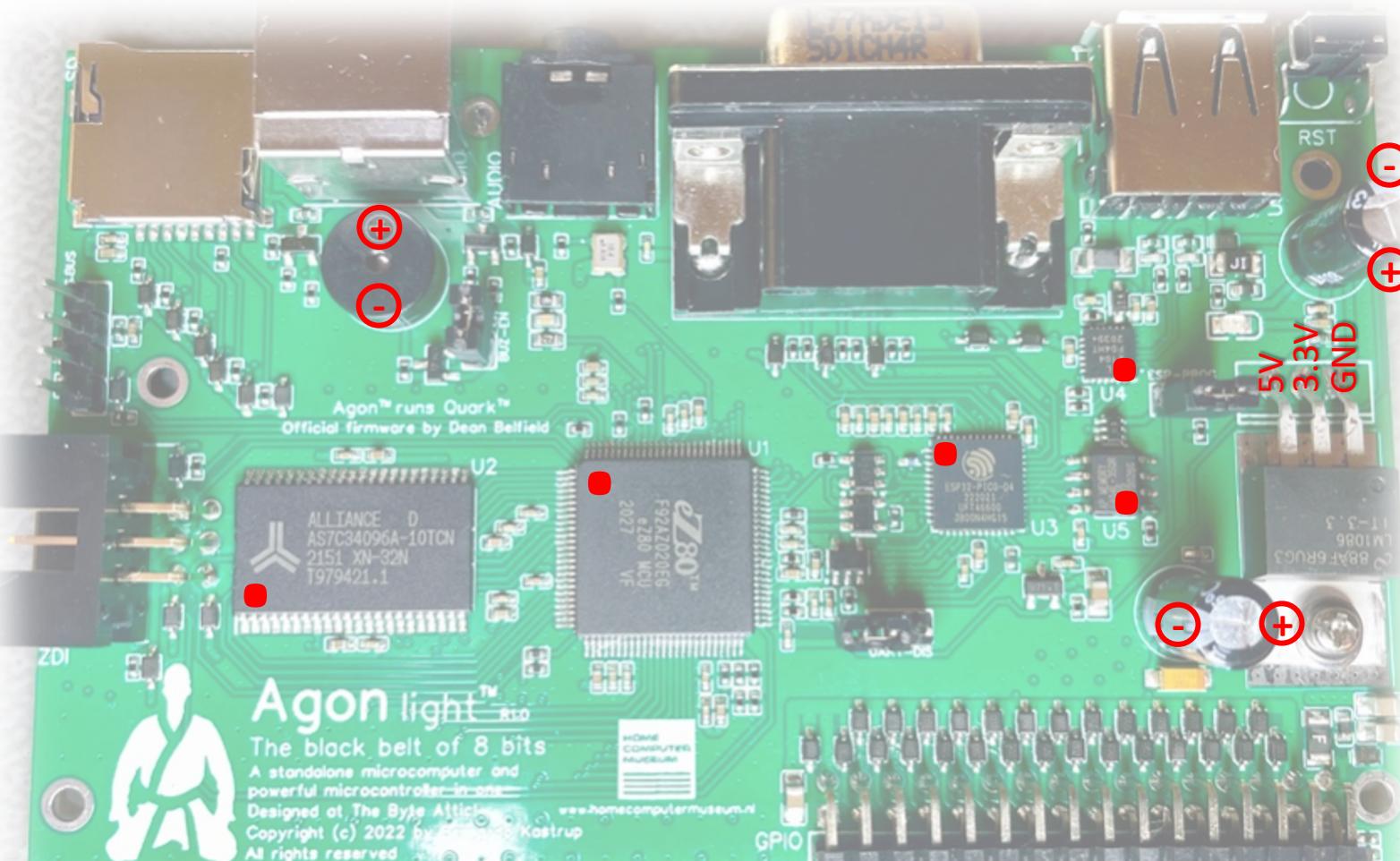


# Mounting the LDO regulator

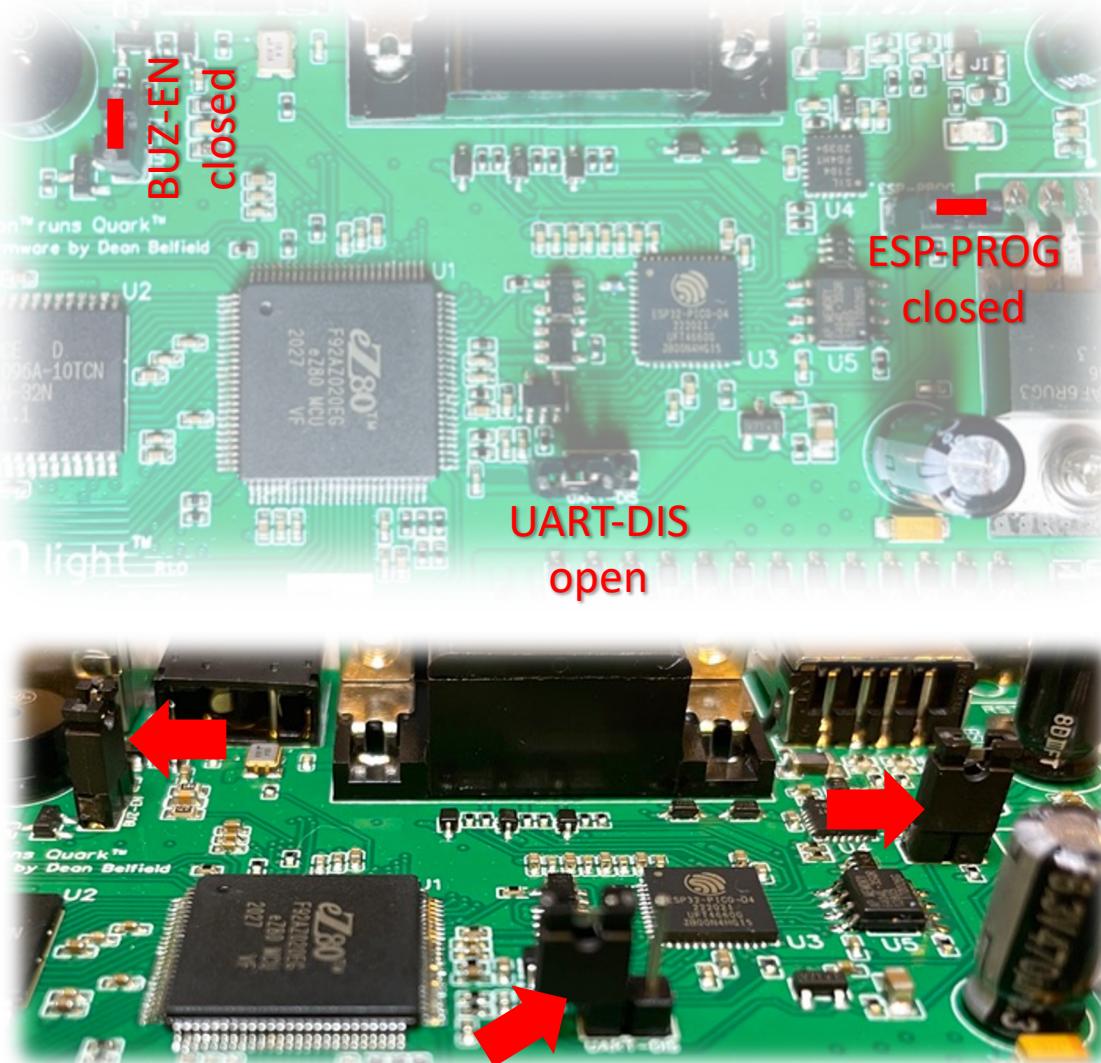
- Agon light's 3.3V  $V_{cc}$  rail is provided by a Low-DropOut (LDO) linear regulator
- The regulator must be mounted flush against the corresponding exposed metal area on the top of the PCB (see top-right photo)
- The regulator's tab (chassis) is at 3.3V, as is the exposed copper area on which it 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

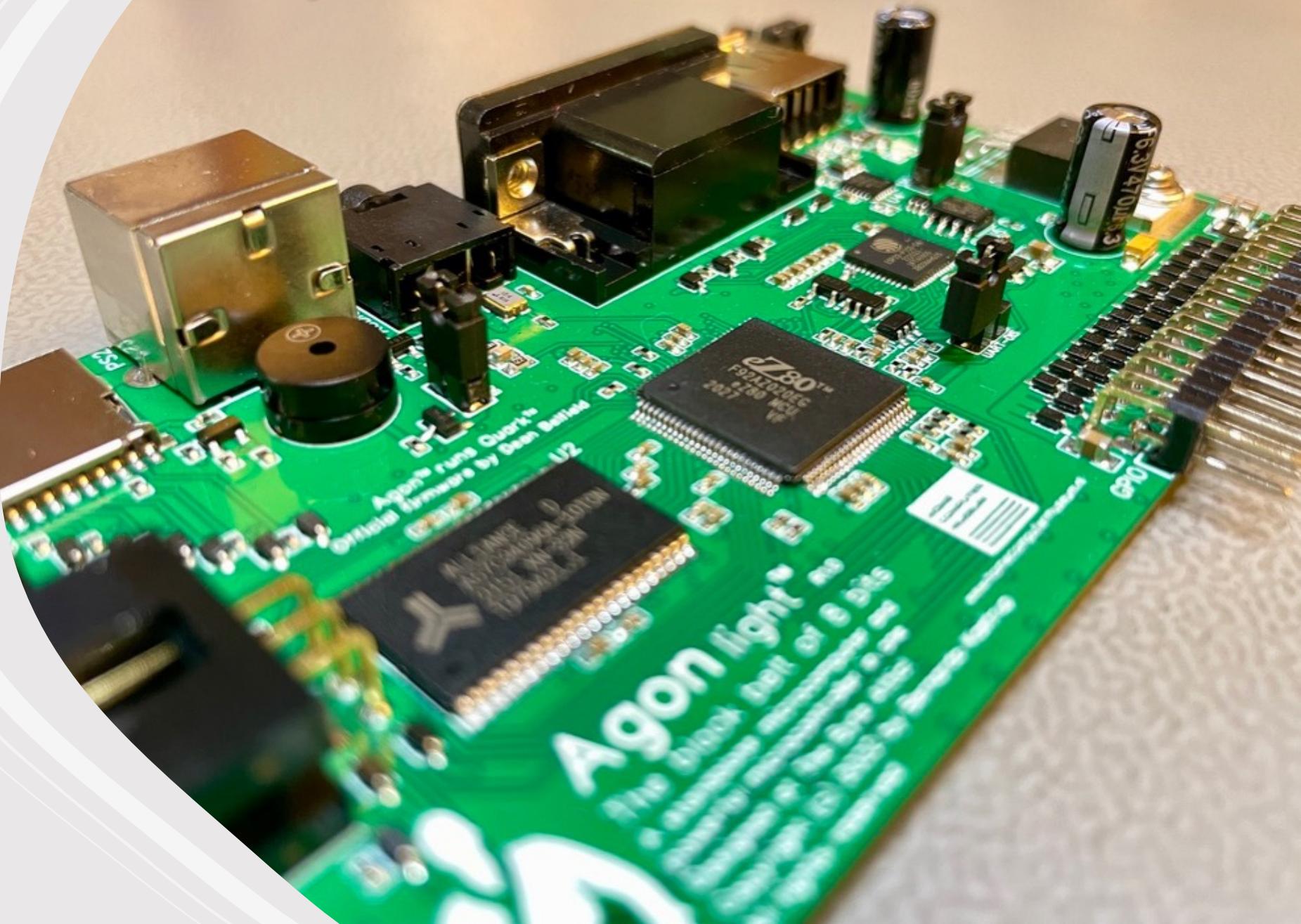


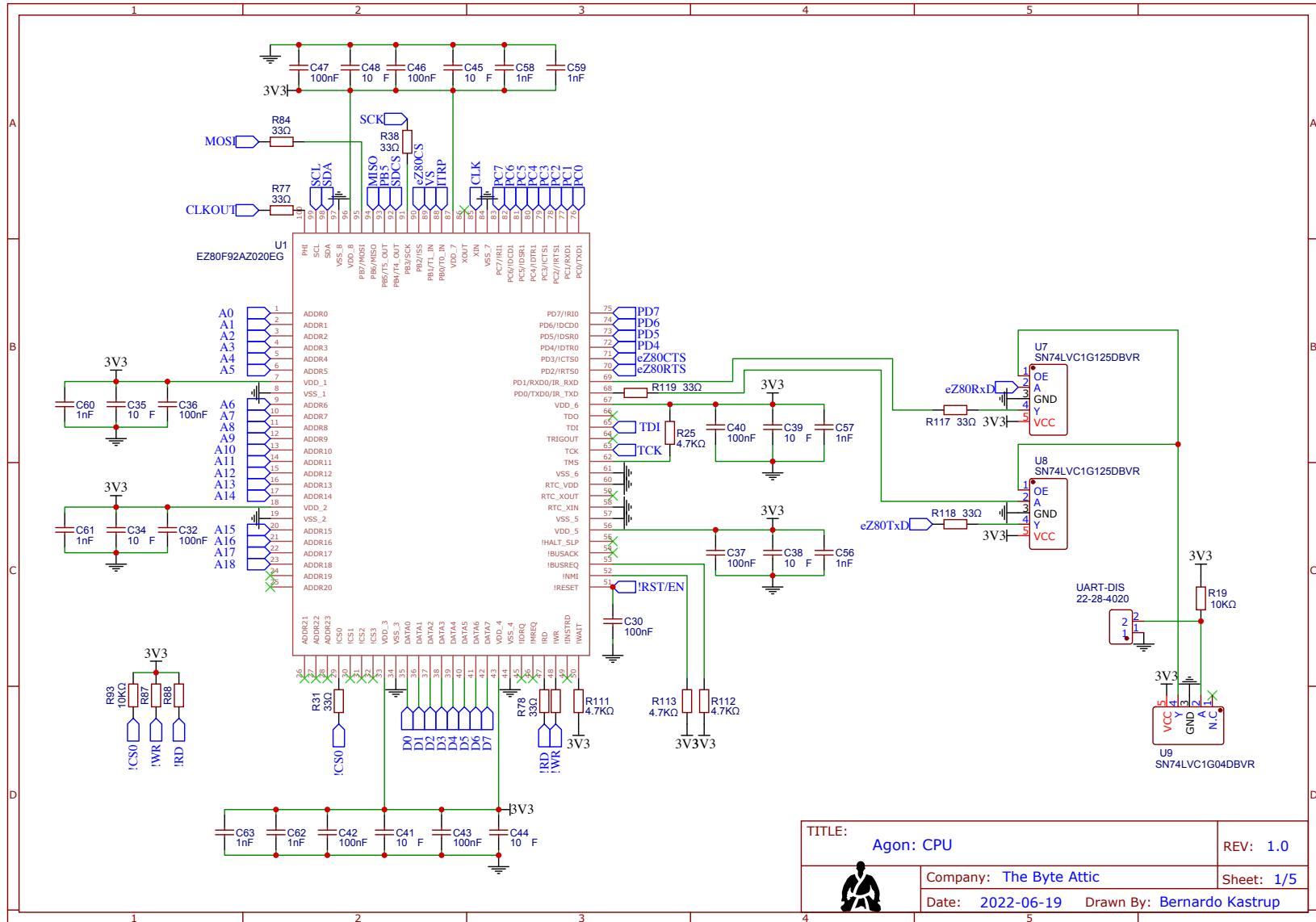
# When to change jumper settings

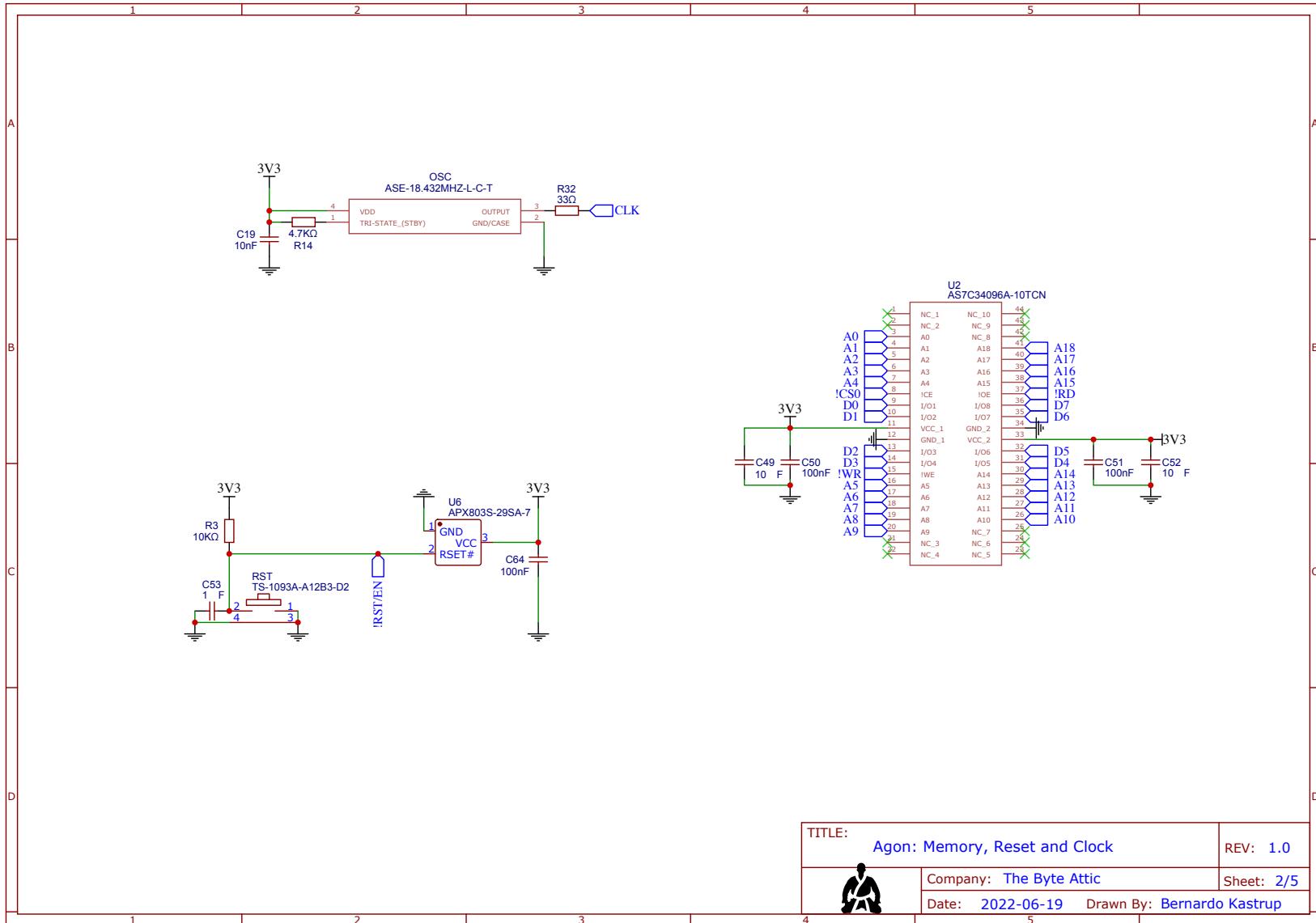
- Agon light should operate normally during both firmware programming and application execution with the default jumper settings (see previous page), but the ESP32 is known to be a sensitive device
  - Therefore, Agon light has built-in resources to deal with that sensitivity
- If the ESP32 goes into 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’

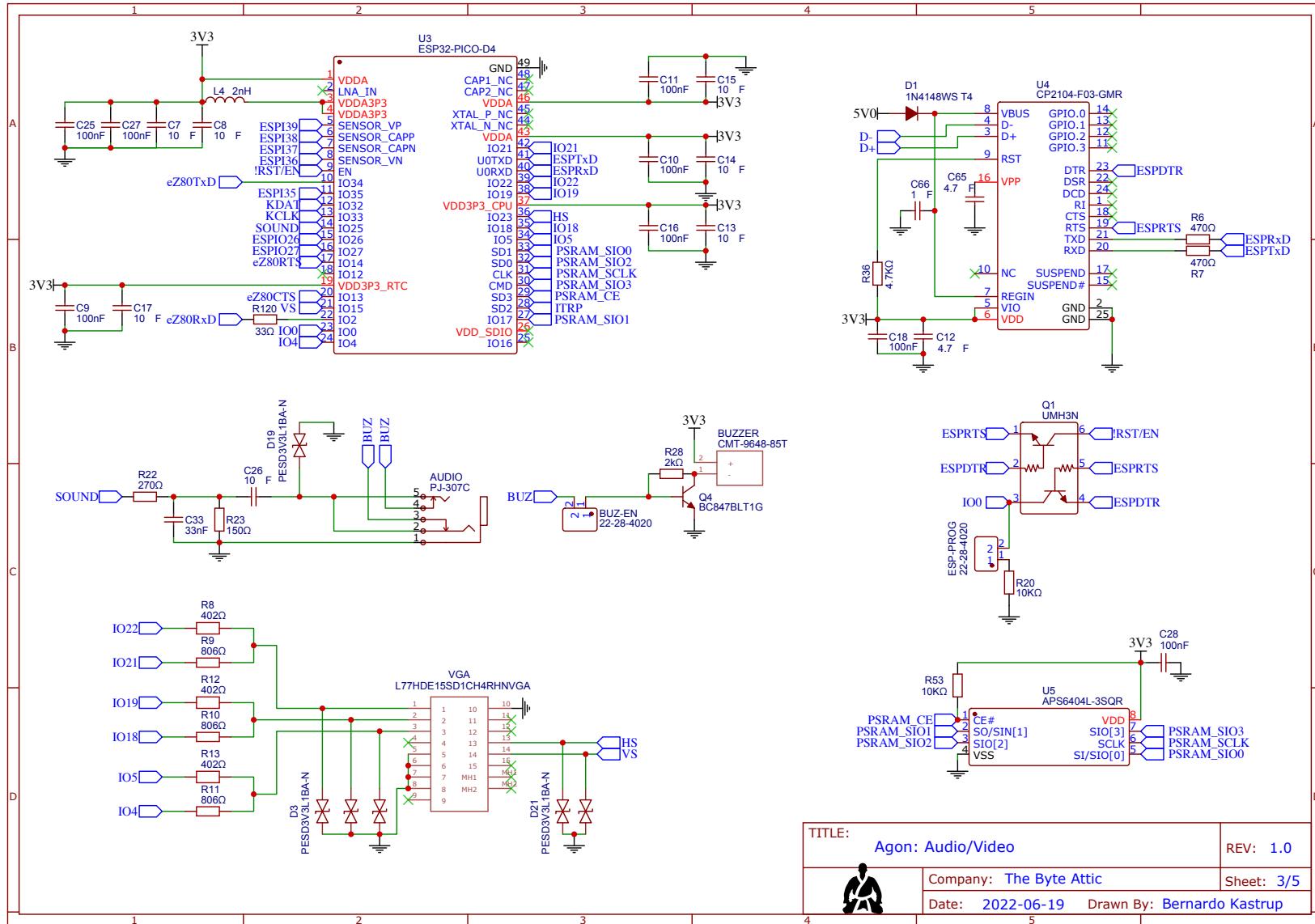


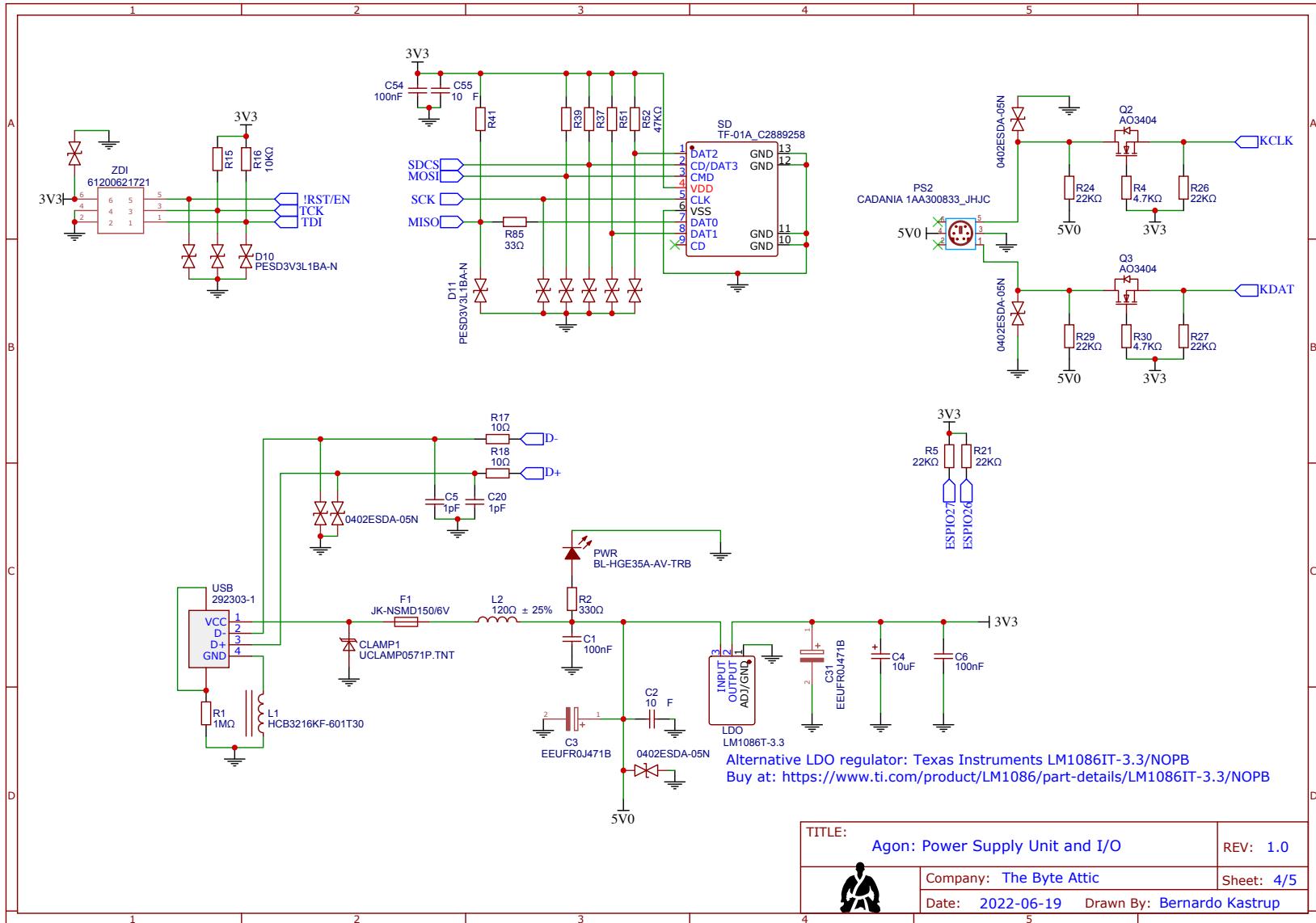
The Byte Attic's  
**Agon**  
light™  
Schematics

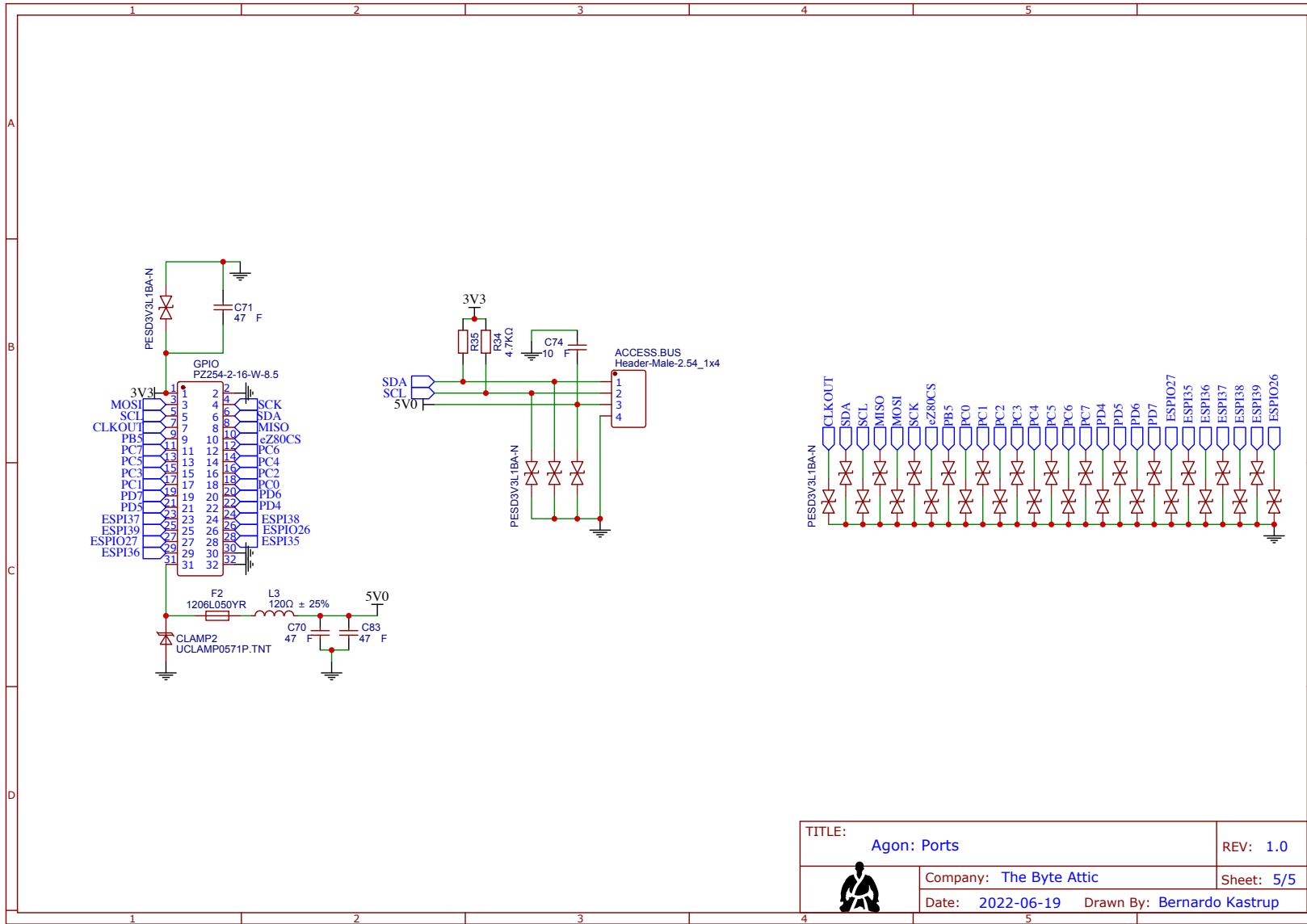










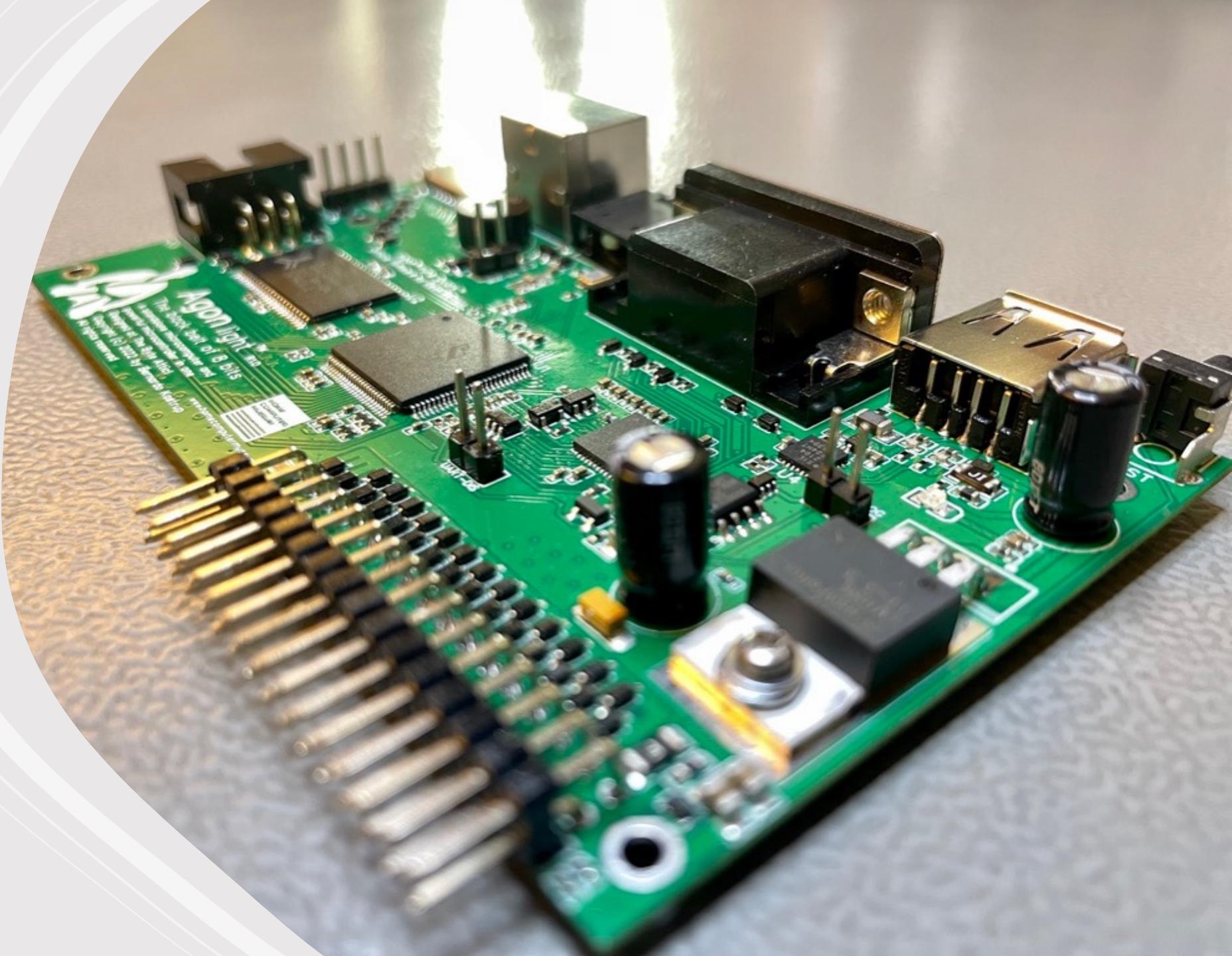




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# Agon light™

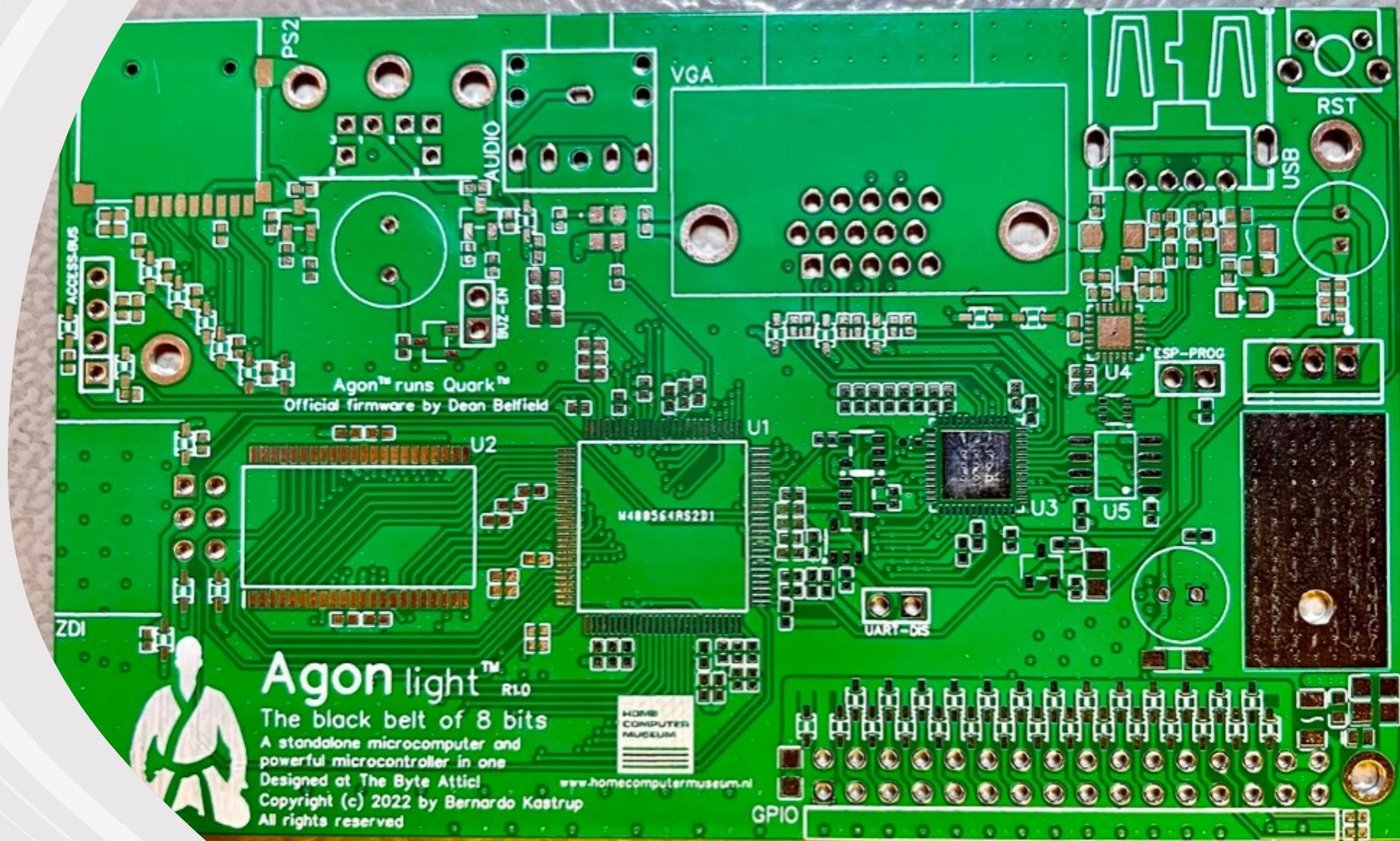
Bill of  
Materials



ID	Name	Designator	Footprint	Quantity	Manufacturer Part	Manufacturer	Supplier	Supplier Part	Price
1	BUZ1N01-1G	QFN-40	SOT-223-3-L1.9-W4.5-P1.5-L2.9-BR	1	IGA40B1N01-1G	On Semiconductor	LSC	C49393	0.035
2	BUZ1N20Q	R28	RO402	1	IGA40B1N01-20T1CE	On Semiconductor	LSC	C4109	0.001
3	A5E18-A33MM2-LC-T	OSC	AS18A33MM2HLC2	1	AS18A33MM2-LC-T	ABRACON	Mouser	913-A5E18-A33MM2LCT	0.394
4	A5T340M6A-10TCN	U2	SOP8-16-MLP-10TCN	1	A5T340M6A-10TCN	ABRACON	Mouser	913-A5T340M6A-10TCN	0.394
5	PZ42-2.16-W.8.5	GPIO	HDR-TH-30P-P2.54H-M2.R2-C16-52.54	1	PZ254-2.16-W.8.5	HCTL(宇創天拓)	LSC	C12438	0.043
6	Header-Male-2.54_1x4	ACCESS BUS	HD-TH-AP-P2.54-V4M	1	4P-L1.6mmGold-Plat	Demu	LSC	C16684	0.043
7	PJ-307C	AUDIO	AUDIO-TH-930TC	1	PJ-307C	BOOMLE	LSC	C16482	0.076
8	22-28-4020	BUZ1N-EFP-JA-R17-DIS	HDR-TH-2P2.54V-M1	1	22-28-4020	MOLEX	LSC	C1525	0.001
9	CM79648-85T	BUZZER	CM7964885T	1	CM79648-85T	SAMSUNG	LSC	C1525	0.001
10	100nF	C1	C1-0.5-0.9-C10-C11-C16-C18-C25-C27	20	C105A106M05NUNC	SAMSUNG	LSC	C1525	0.005
		C1	C18-0.5-0.9-C10-C11-C16-C17-C24	20	C105A106M05NUNC	SAMSUNG	LSC	C1525	0.005
		C1	C18-0.5-0.9-C10-C11-C16-C17-C24	20	C105A106M05NUNC	SAMSUNG	LSC	C1525	0.005
11	10uF	C1	C1-0.5-0.9-C10-C11-C16-C18-C25-C27	20	C105A106M05NUNC	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	C1573	0.006
14	10nF	C19	C0402	1	C105A106K85NNIC	SAMSUNG	LSC	C15195	0.001
15	1nF	C56-C57-C58-C59-C60-C61-C62-C63	C0402	8	Q402B1020C000NT	FH	LSC	C1232	0.001
16	1uF	C66	C0402	1	C105A105K09NINC	SAMSUNG	LSC	C29266	0.003
17	EUFR0471B	C3-C31	C40402	2	C4040250M50B040H1270	Panasonic	Mouser	657-EUFR0471B	0.098
18	10uF	C4	C40402	2	C4040250M50B040H1270	TAJA06KG0156NU	AVX	C171	0.098
19	33nF	C33	C0803	1	C10833KBR8NNIC	SAMSUNG	LSC	C21117	0.006
20	1uF	C53	C0803	1	C121B105KBFNNNE	SAMSUNG	LSC	C28332	0.009
21	47uF	C70-C11-C183	SGP1610N2-1.16-W1-0-P1-1-RD	3	UICAMPSP517P-TNT	SAMSUNG	LSC	C16780	0.026
22	UICAMPSP517P-TNT	CLAMP1-C1AMP2	SGP1610N2-1.16-W1-0-P1-1-RD	1	UICAMPSP517P-TNT	SEATCH	LSC	C16387	0.043
23	1N4148BWS T4	D1	SOD-323-11.8-W1.3-L5.3-RD	1	1N4148NS T4	CL	LSC	C2128	0.013
24	PEDBV31BA-N	D2	D2-03-04-05-06-07-09-010-011-01	20	PEDBV31BA-N	Bourn Semicon (Shenzhen)	LSC	C16620	0.051
		D2	D2-03-04-05-06-07-09-010-011-020	20	PEDBV31BA-N	Bourn Semicon (Shenzhen)	LSC	C16620	0.051
		D2	D2-03-04-05-06-07-09-010-011-020	20	PEDBV31BA-N	Bourn Semicon (Shenzhen)	LSC	C16620	0.051
25	E533	D8	D0402-BI	1	0402E53DA-05N	Bourn Semicon (Shenzhen)	LSC	C16049	0.019
26	0402E53DA-05N	D88-ESD4-ED-PROT1-ED-PROT2-ESD-PROT3	D0402-BI	5	0402E53DA-05N	Bourn Semicon (Shenzhen)	LSC	C16049	0.019
27	JK-NS40D250-6V	F1	F1-006	1	JK-NS40D250-6V	JK(金利)	LSC	C183049	0.036
28	1206S050YR	F2	F1-006	1	1206S050YR	Littelfuse	LSC	C15512	0.047
29	HGB2126GF-602-T30	L1	L1-006	1	HGB2126GF-602-T30	TAI-TEC	LSC	C35703	0.028
30	330nF-22%	L2	L1-003	1	BLW1A1K221NT	Murata	LSC	C8831	0.017
31	330nF	L4	TO-220-3-L10.5-W4.5-22.44L	1	ASCA0402-IND-1	Abracon LLC	LSC	C18816	0.244
32	LM1086T-3.3	LUO	TO-220-3-L10.5-W4.5-22.44L	1	LM1086T-3.3	C. Distrelec f	C444381	0.241	
33	CDA11HA-A3A30B833-HJC	P52	P52-PORT	1	CDA11HA-A3A30B833-HJC	TDK	C165984	0.001	
34	BL-H1G133A-NAVTRB	PWR	LEDD0805-R4D	1	BL-H1G133A-NAVTRB	Bright LED Blec	LSC	C165984	0.001
35	UHM3	Q1	Q1-001	1	Q1-001	Q1	LSC	C162925	0.049
36	A03404	Q2-0.03	SC-70-6.2-L2-W1.9-P1.90-65-L12.1-BR	1	A03404	Guangdong Hettotech	LSC	C19393	0.001
37	1uM	R1	SOT-23-3-L2-W1.9-P1.90-65-L12.4-BR	1	SOT-23-3-L2-W1.9-P1.90-65-L12.4-BR	UnJDM	LSC	C26083	0.001
38	330nF	R2	TO-220-3-L10.5-W4.5-22.44L	1	ASCA0402-IND-1	UnJDM	LSC	C2104	0.001
39	10nF	R33	R3-015-R16-H19-R20-J5-R87-N88	1	0402W16G15300TC	TDK	C25744	0.001	
40	4.7kΩ	R4-1814-025-R30-034-035-R36-1111	R0402	9	0402W16G15002TC	TDK	C25744	0.001	
41	22kΩ	R5-21124A-K5-027-R29	R0402	10	0402W16G15401TC	TDK	C25900	0.001	
42	4.7kΩ	R6-R7	R0402	2	0402W16G15402TC	TDK	C25768	0.001	
43	40kΩ	R8-R12-R13	R0402	3	0402W16G15402RN9	TDK(开步普惠)	LSC	C169282	0.079
44	80kΩ	R9-R10-R11	R0402	6	0402W16G15406TC	UnJDM	LSC	C150511	0.061
45	100	R11-R18	R0402	2	0402W16G15401TC	TDK	C25077	0.001	
46	330	R11-1132-R38-R77-R8/R94-R85	R0402	12	0402W16G15301TC	TDK	C25105	0.001	
47	47kΩ	R37-R39-R41-R51-R52	R0402	5	0402W16G15402TC	TDK	C2592	0.001	
48	270kΩ	R53	R0402	1	0603W16A022700TC	TDK	C22966	0.001	
49	150kΩ	R54	R0603	1	0603W16A1500075E	TDK	C16383	0.002	
50	50	R55	TF-31A-C2893-58	1	TF-31A-C2893-58	Yandi	LSC	C188928	0.058
51	E2B059242020EG	U1	QFP56-160X160X160-100	1	E2B059242020EG	Zilog	Mouser	692-E2B059242020EG	0.032
52	E5P324-HC0-D4	U3	QFN-48-L7.0-W7.0-P0.50-100LFBF5.4	1	E5P324-HC0-D4	Espresso Systems	LSC	C13907	3.82
53	C2P1024-0002-GMR	U4	QFN-102-L7.0-W7.0-P0.50-100LFBF5.4	1	C2P1024-0002-GMR	SILICON LABS	LSC	C47015	2.361
54	AP56404L-DSOR	U5	SOP-8-4.5-W3.9-1.72-150-0.8L	1	AP56404L-DSOR-SN	AP Memory	Mouser	878-AP56404L-DSOR-SN	0.043
55	55-A9P454-256-4	U6	SOT-223-2-L9-W1.55-0.90-127-0.88	1	55-A9P454-256-4	Diods Incorporated	LSC	C143831	0.043
56	SMTVCLG1520BR	U7-U8	SOT-223-5-L9-W1.7-P0.95-152-0.8R	2	SMTVCLG1520BR	C2654	0.087		
57	SN74LVC1G04DVR	U9	SOT-223-5-L9-W1.7-P0.95-152-0.8R	1	SN74LVC1G04DVR	Ti	LSC	C1727	0.112
58	L77H015SD10CHARRINGVA	U10	USI-BA-1-AV-100-002-002	1	292303-1	TE Connectivity	LSC	C16651	0.407
59	U77H015SD10CHARRINGVA	U11	USI-BA-1-AV-100-002-002	1	292303-1	TE Connectivity	LSC	C16651	0.407
60	612000022172	U12	TS-1093A-A1283-02	1	TS-1093A-A1283-02	Yandi	LSC	C165919	0.062



The Byte Attic's  
**Agon**  
light™  
PCB  
dimensions



# PCB dimensions (diagram *not* to scale)



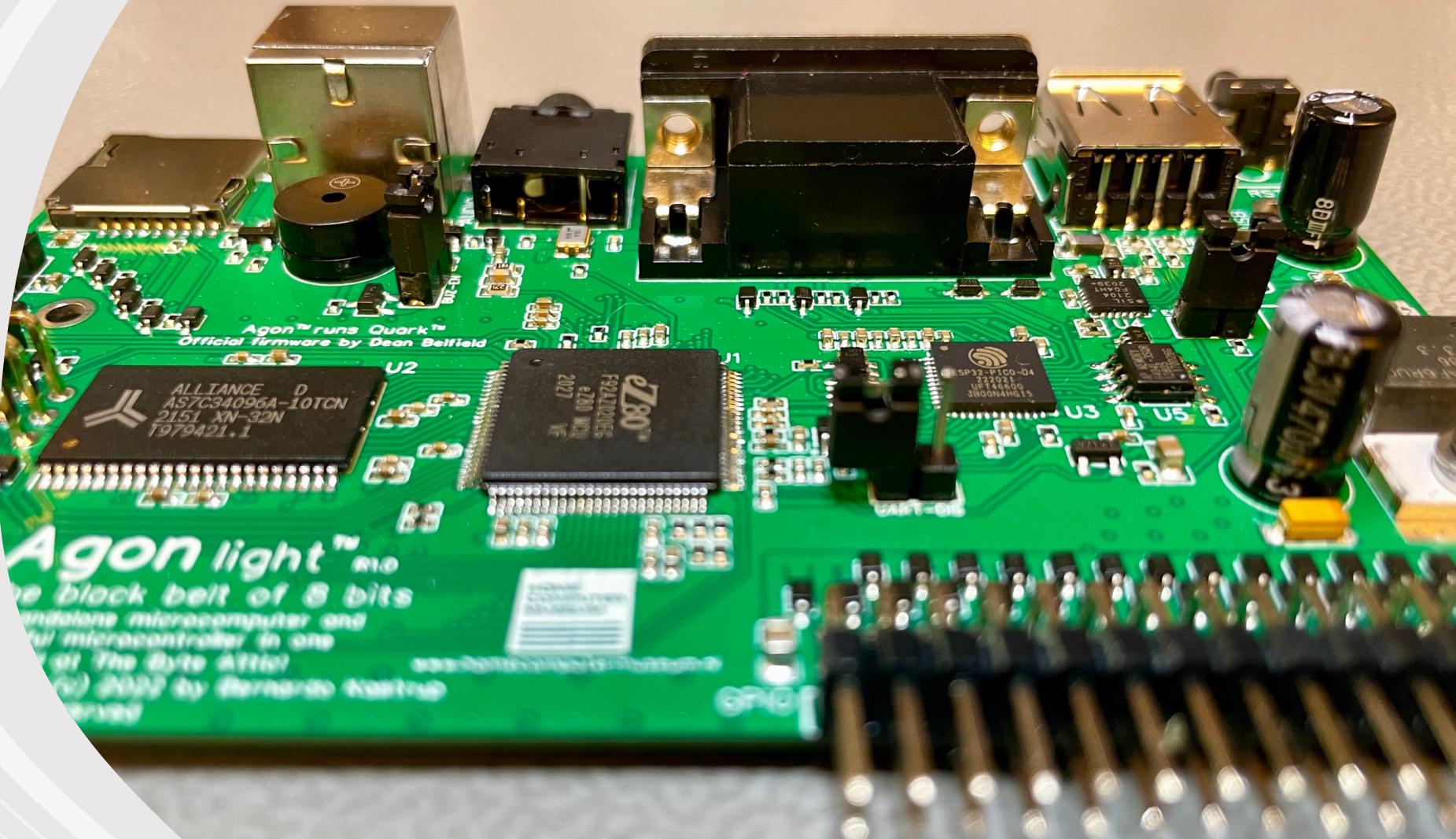
All holes  
are  
2.505mm  
in  
diameter



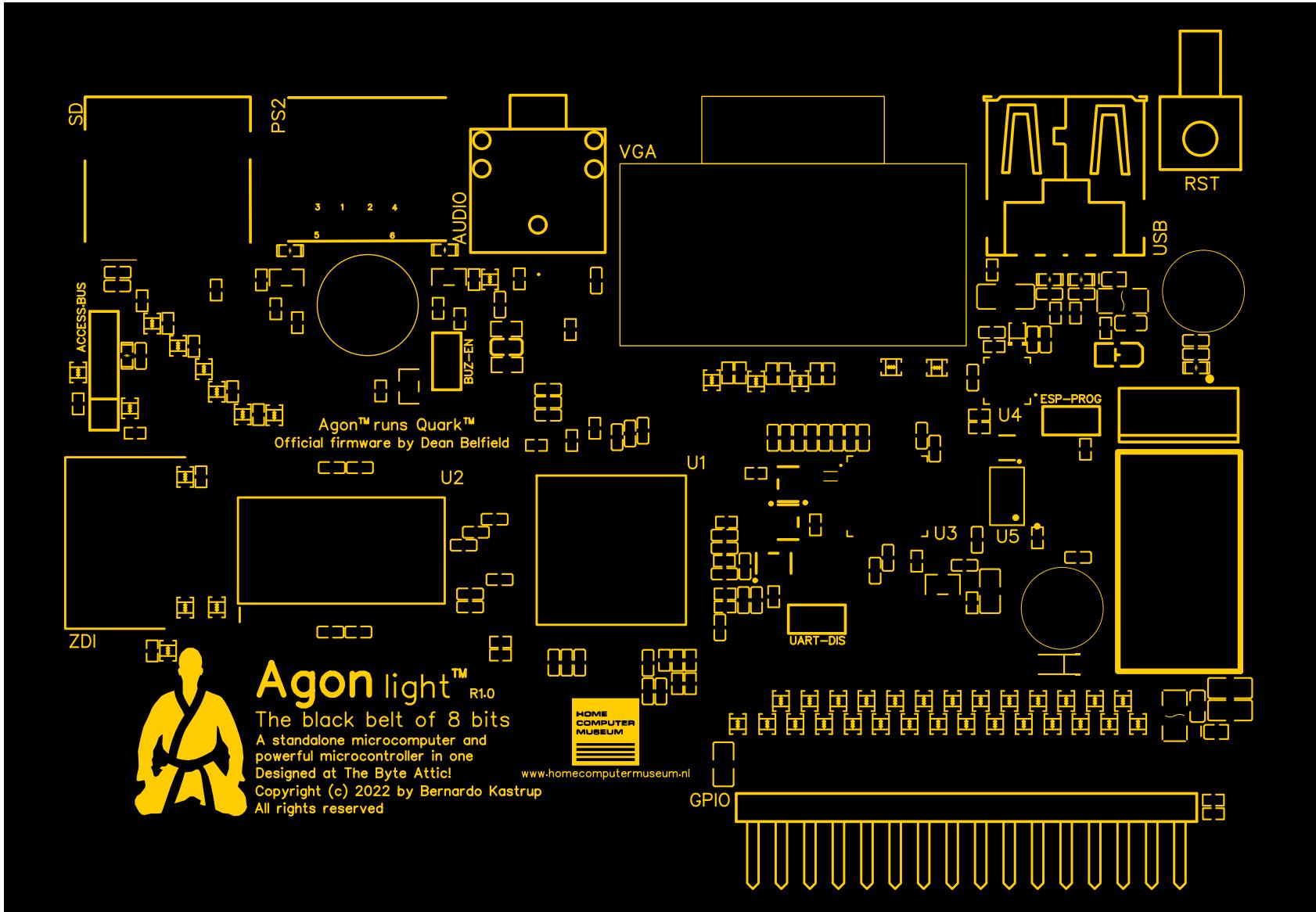
The Byte Attic's

# Agon light™

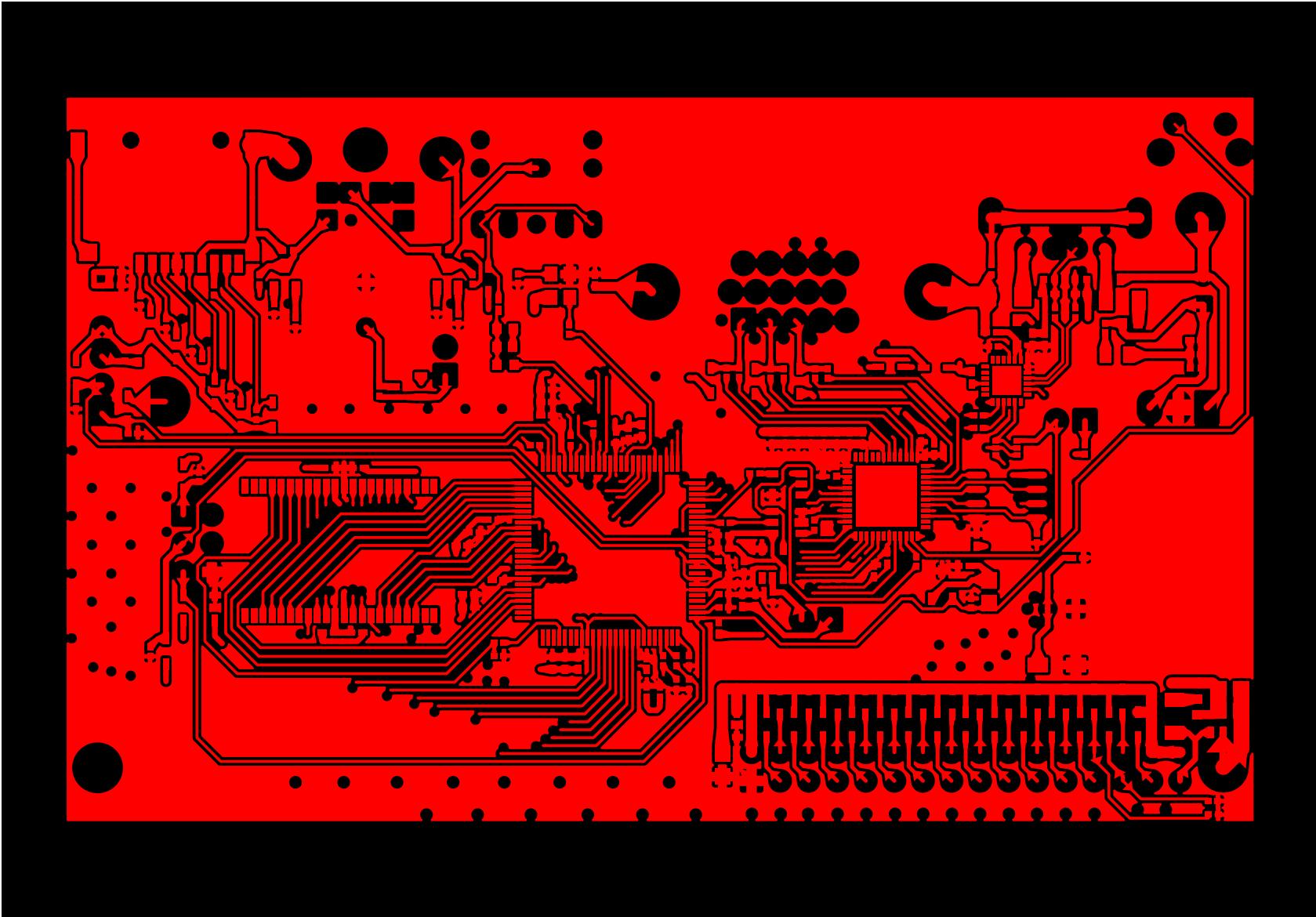
PCB layers  
design



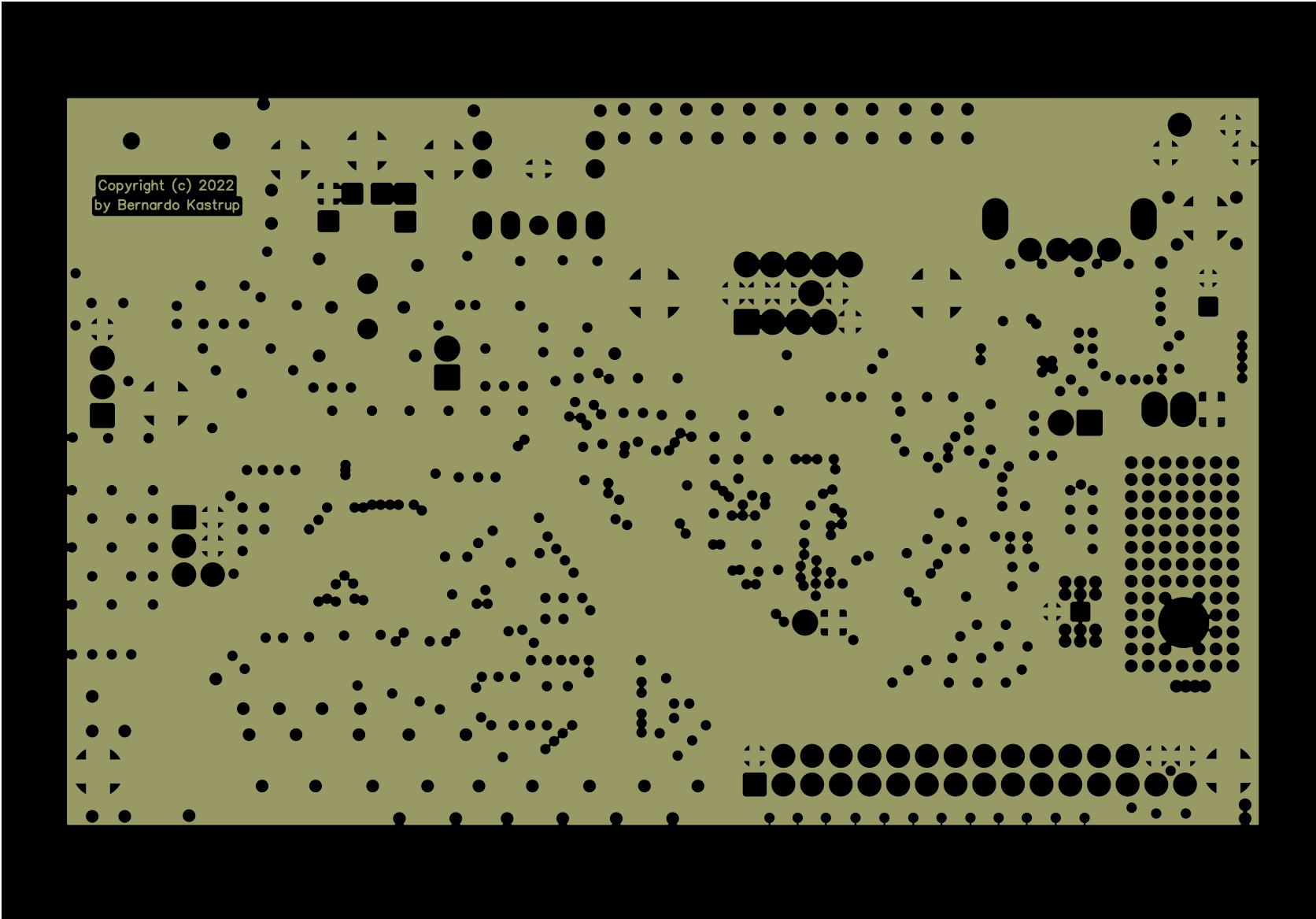
# Top silkscreen



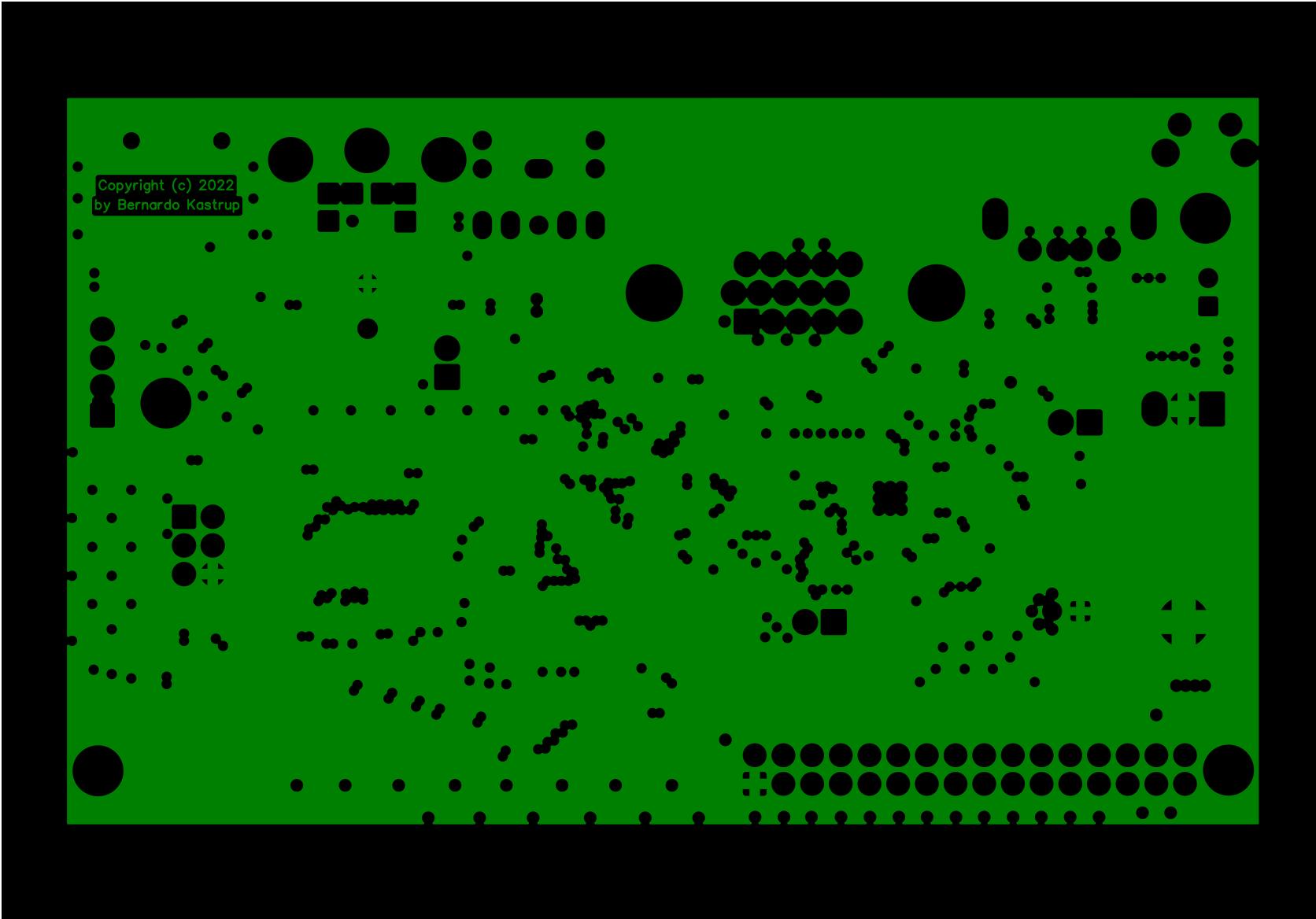
Top metal layer (3.3V filled)



## First inner plane (GND)



## Second inner plane (3.3V)



Bottom metal layer (GND filled)

