



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

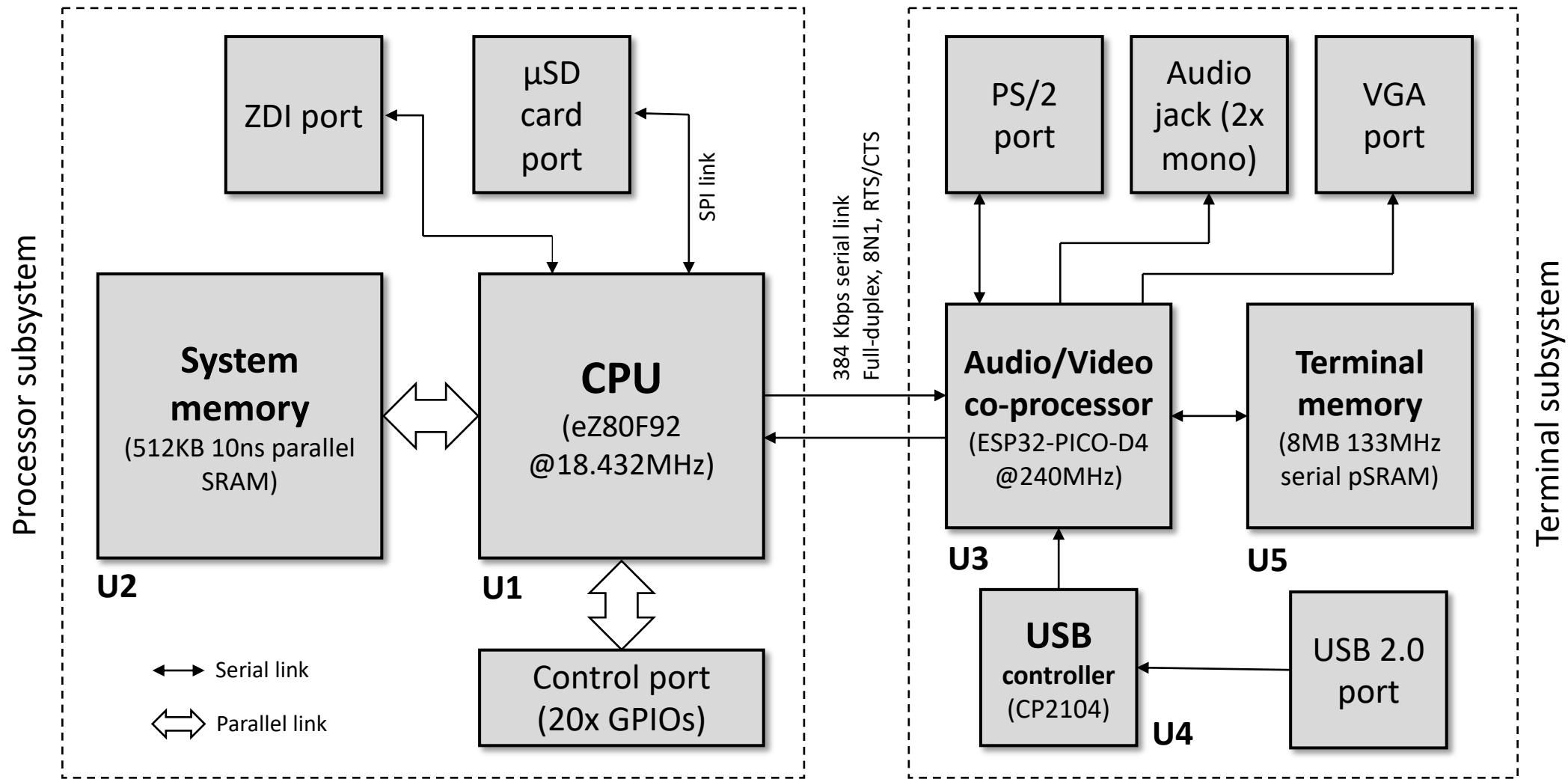
* Requires installation of Quark™ firmware

Theory of operation

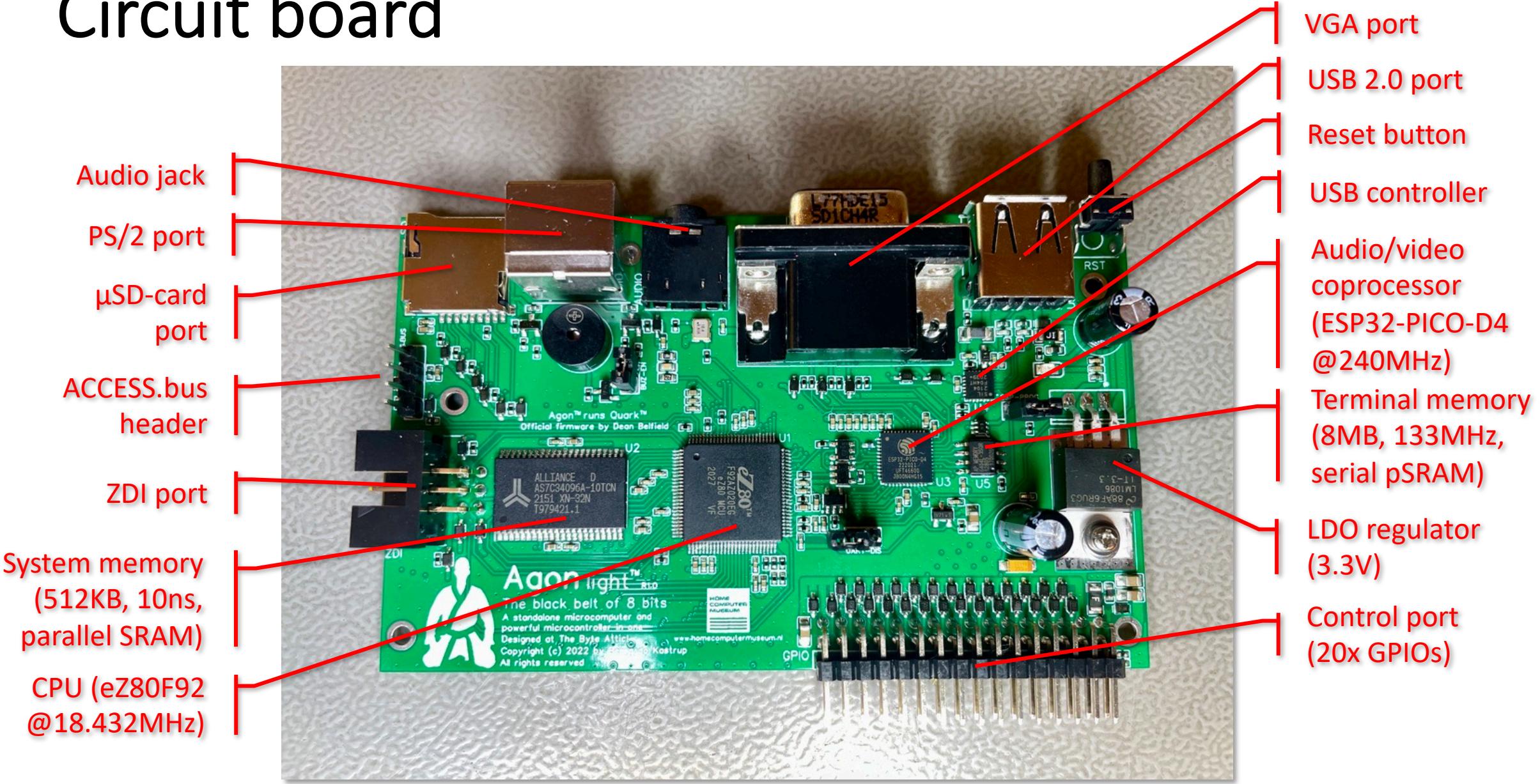
- The *terminal subsystem*:
 - Reads out the (PS/2) keyboard and sends the corresponding keypress tokens to the CPU via a high-speed serial link
 - Generates the screen based on display-list commands issued by the CPU and sent to the ESP32 via a high-speed serial link
 - Produces the VGA & audio signals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

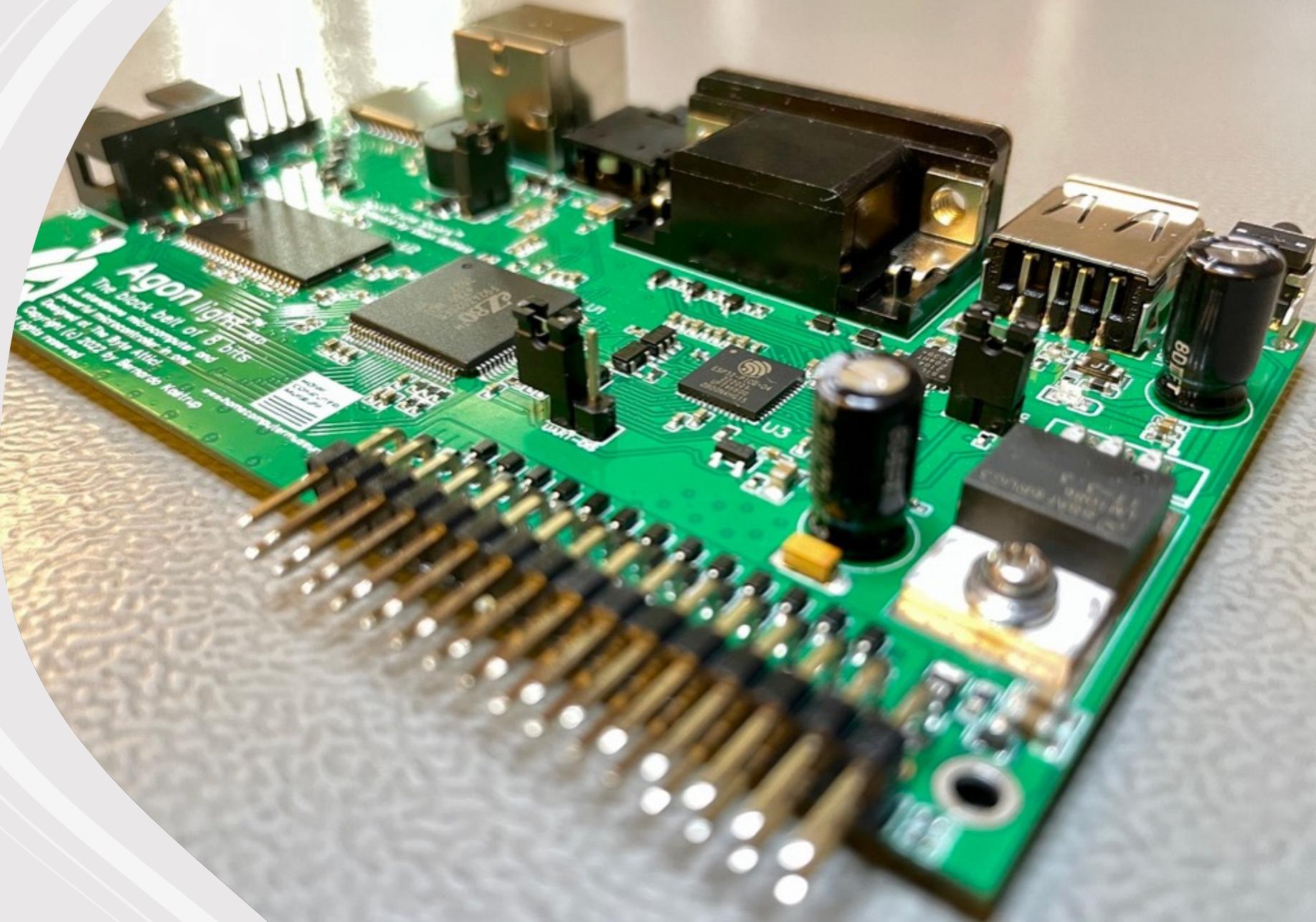




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User's
guide

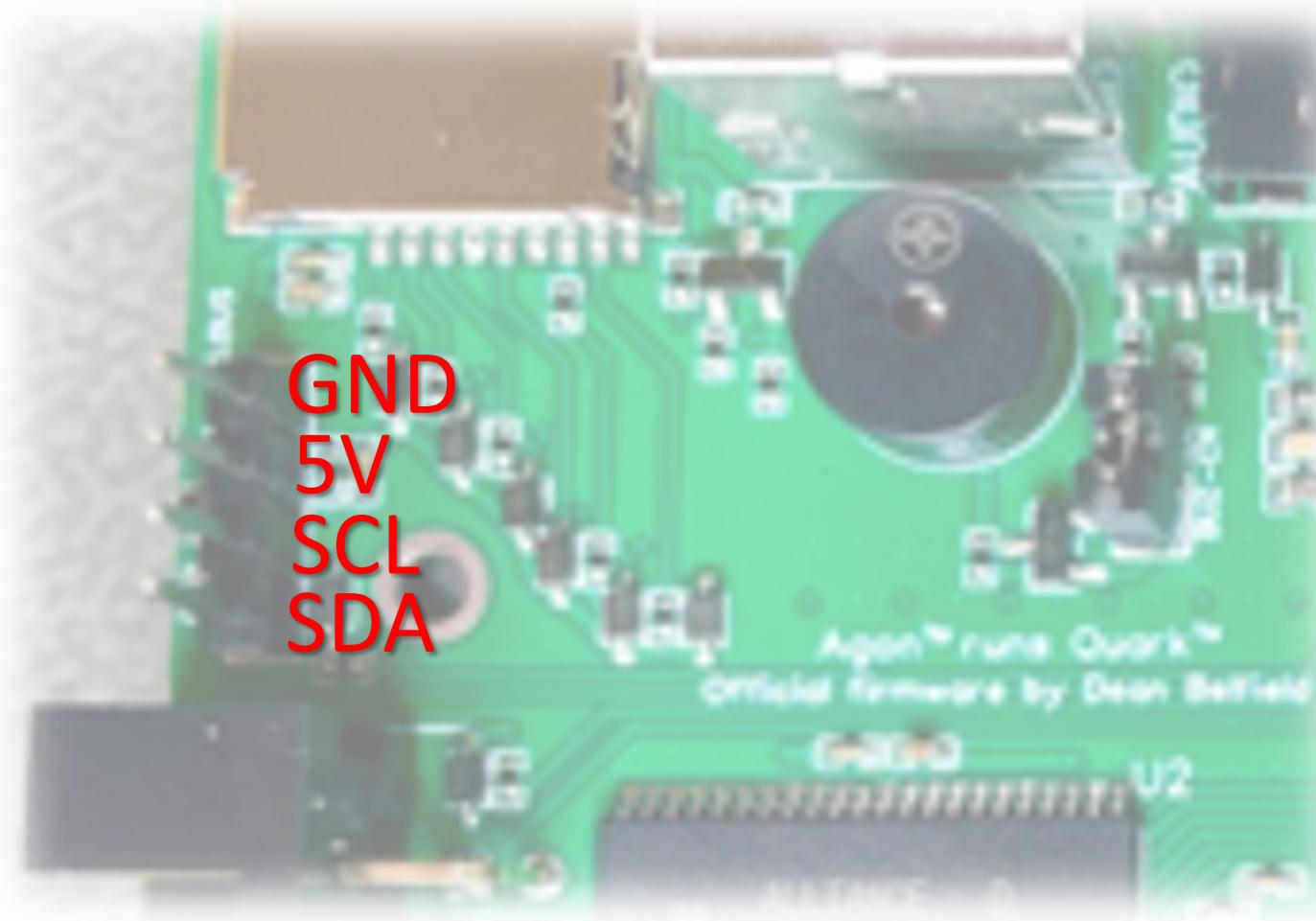


Control port pinout

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

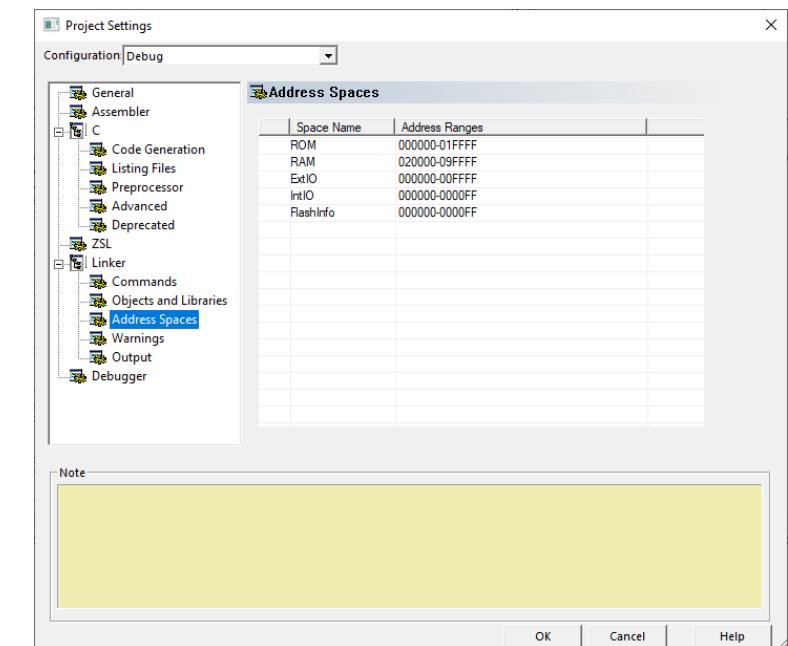
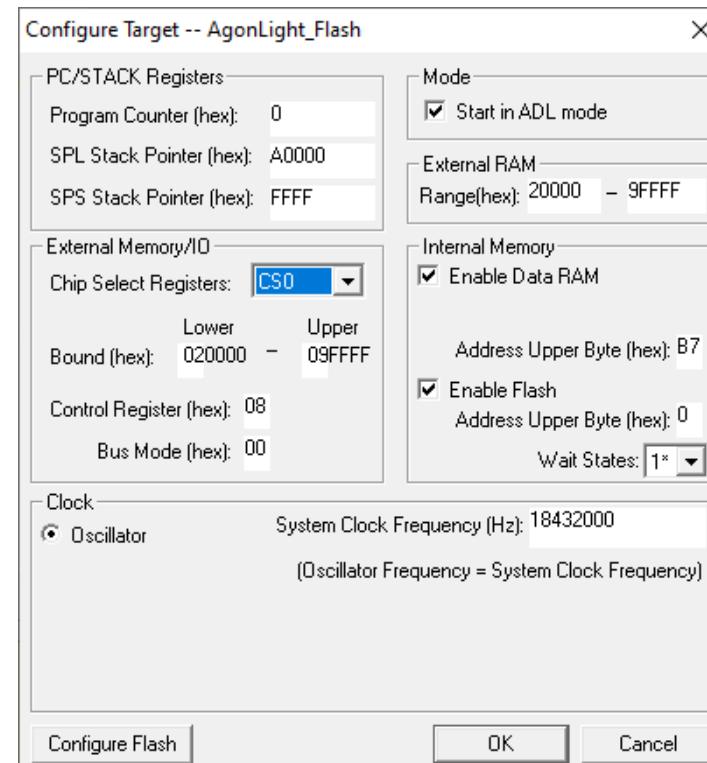
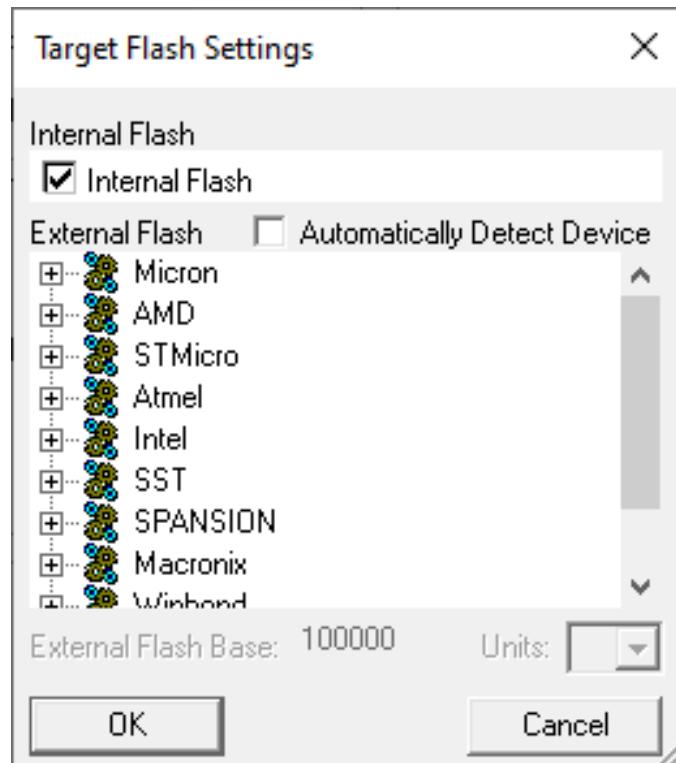
Signal structure: 1 start bit, 8 data bits, 1 stop bit,
no parity bit (8N1)

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)



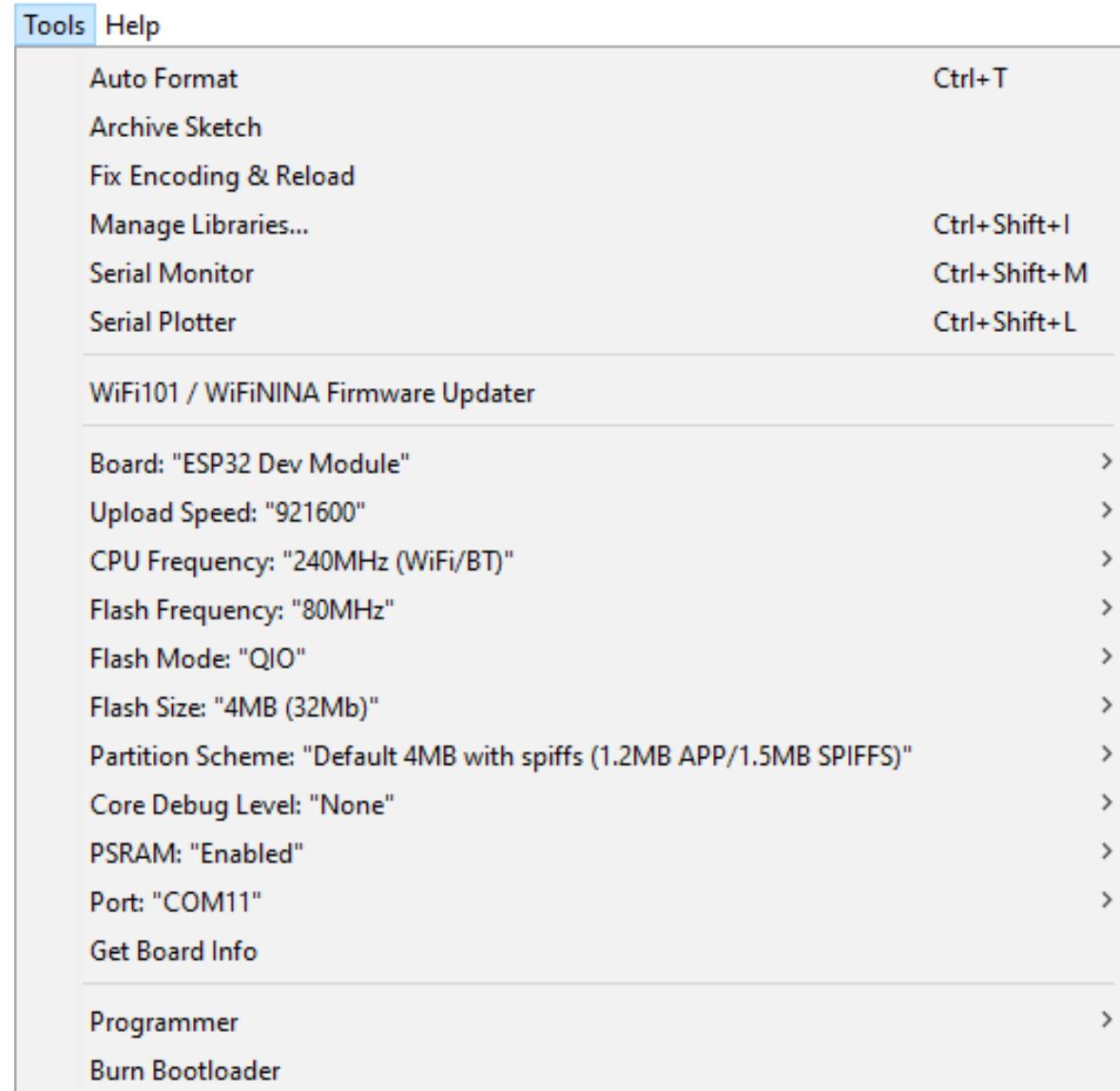
Required programming/debugging USB smart capable

- 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



Power supply and signal level considerations

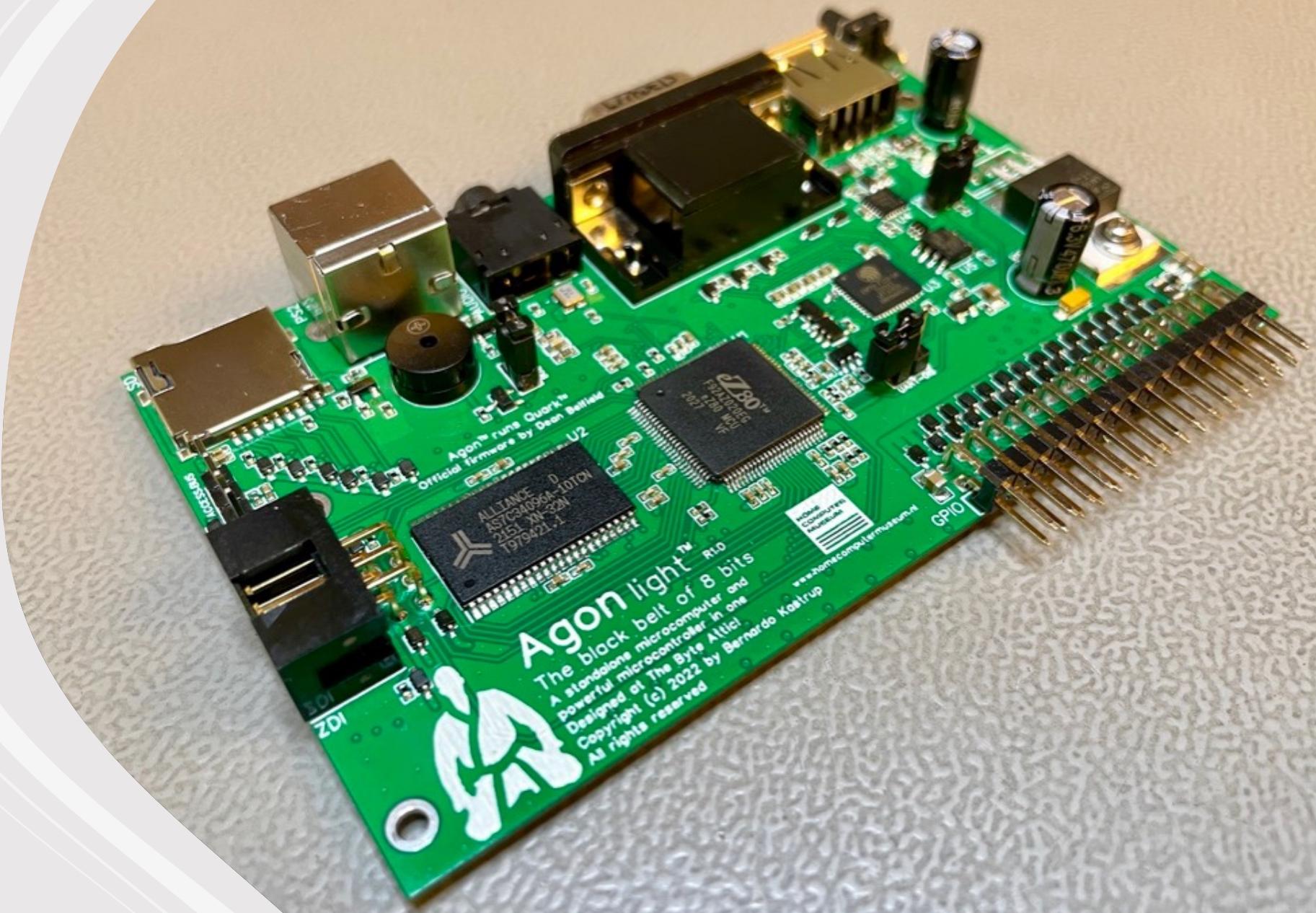
- Agon light can be powered (5V) *either* from its USB port *or* from the 5V pin in its control port
- If Agon light is powered from the USB port, then the 5V pin in the control port can be used to power an external circuit connected to Agon light
- Similarly, the 3.3V pin in the control port can be 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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Assembly
guide

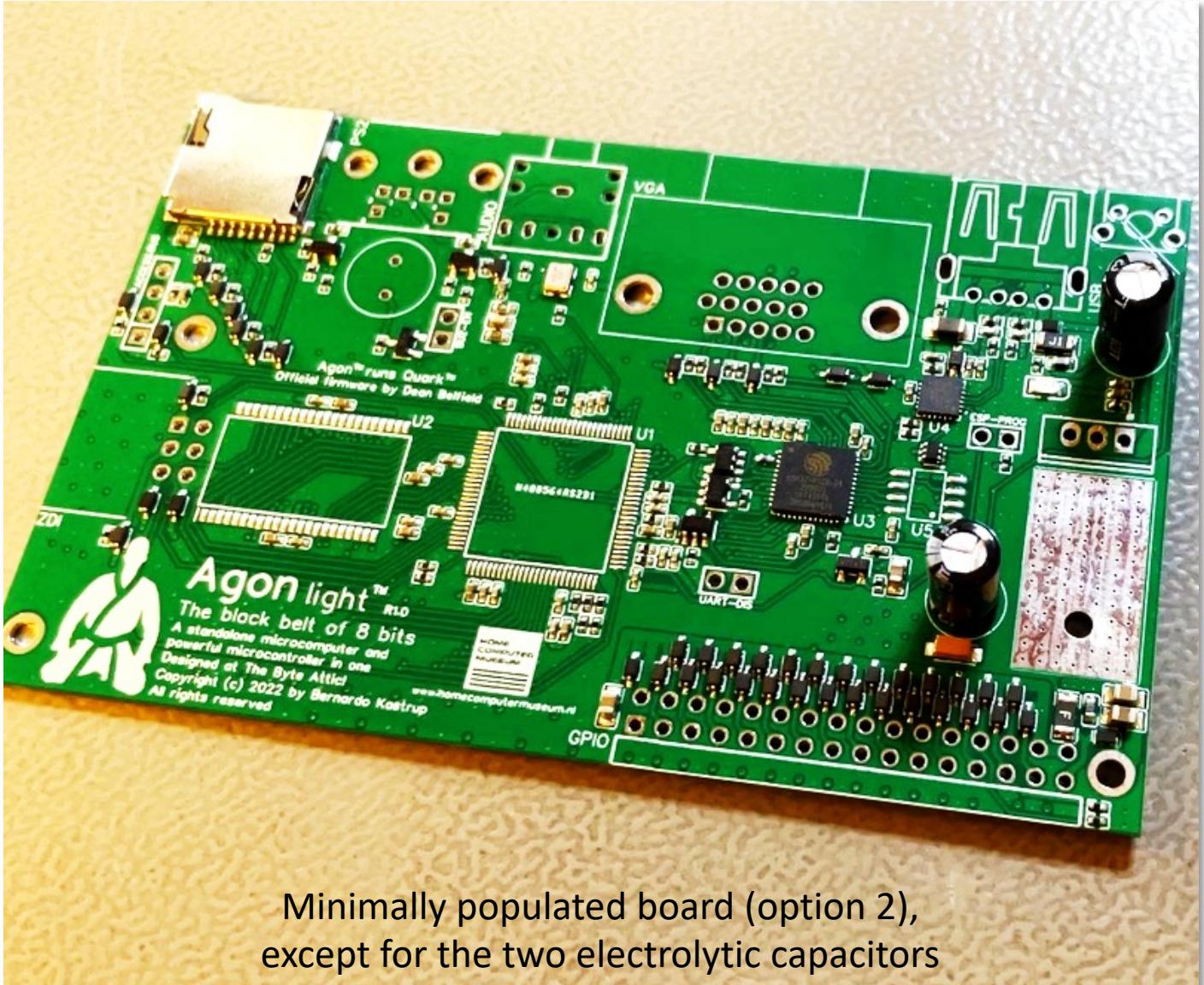


Assembly options

- 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

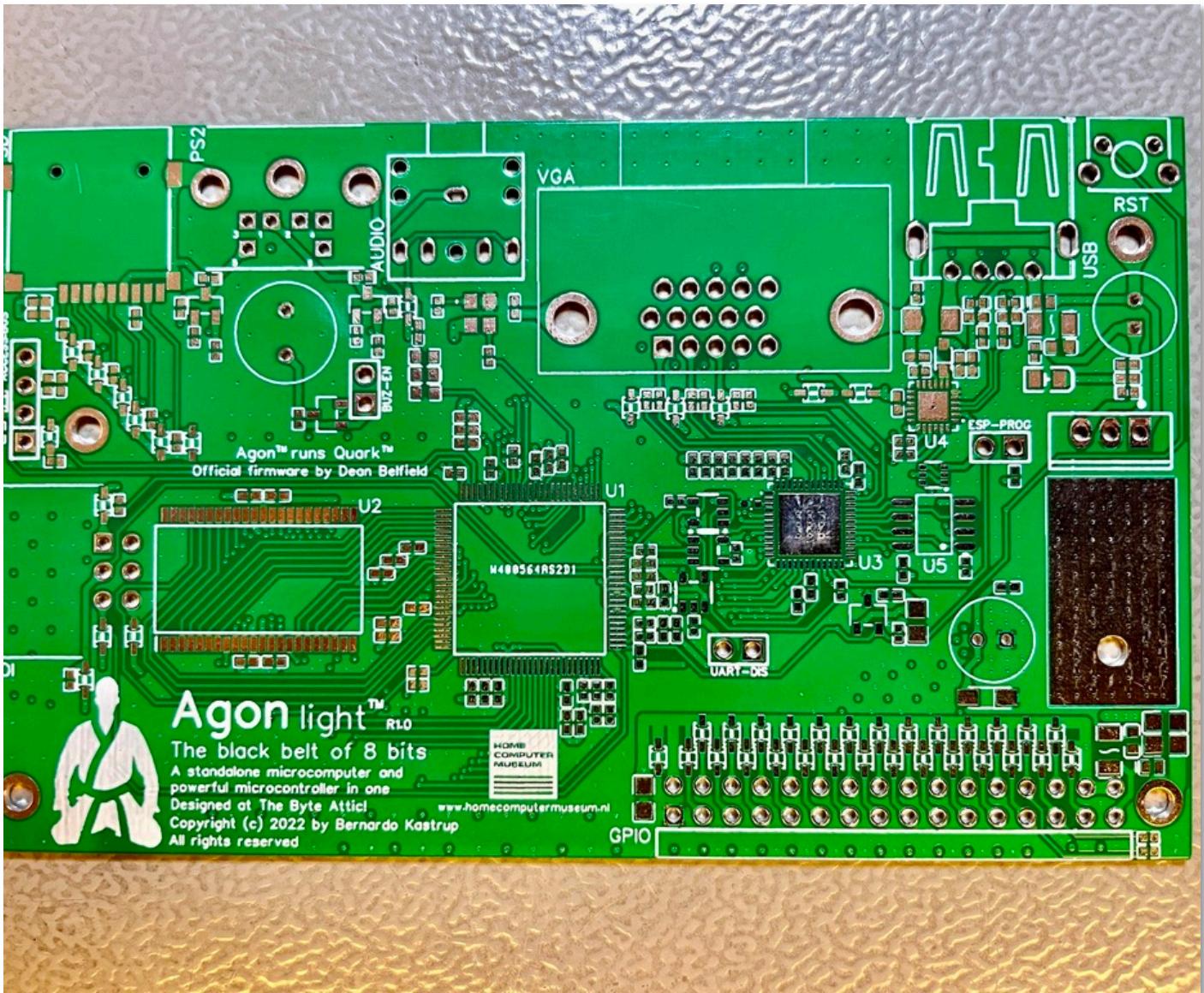
- All files are available in the /Manufacturing directory of Agon light's Github repository at:
<https://github.com/TheByteAttic/AgonLight>
- For option (4), send the following files to your PCB manufacturer, next to the Gerber file (`Gerber_PCB_AgonLight_R1.0.zip`):
 - `PickAndPlace_PCB_AgonLight_R1.0.csv`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

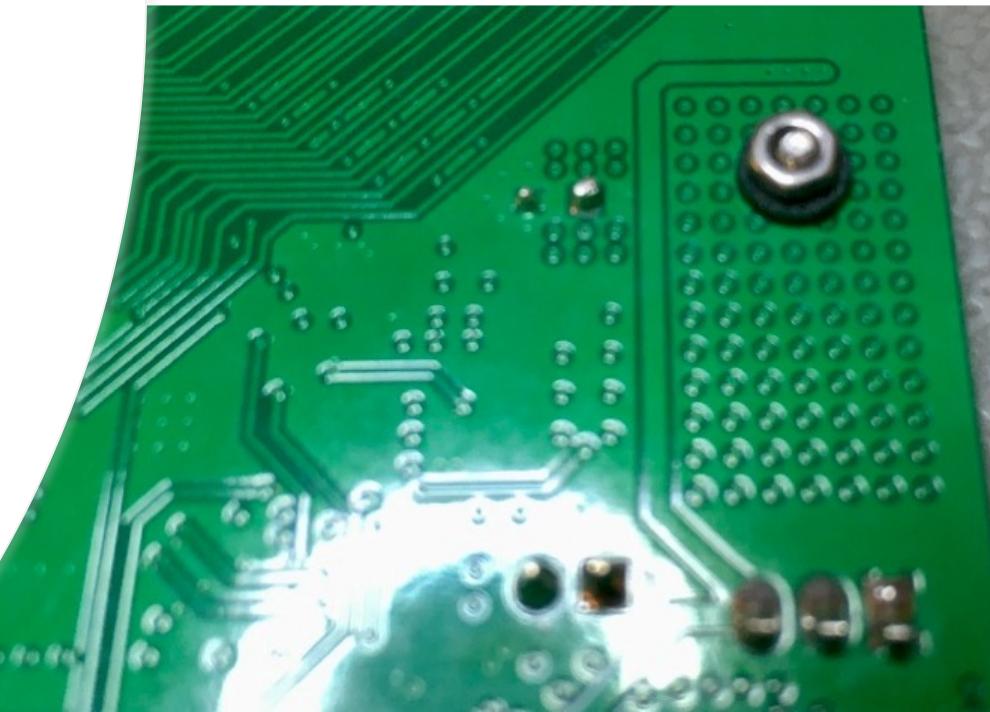
PCB layer stack

- 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

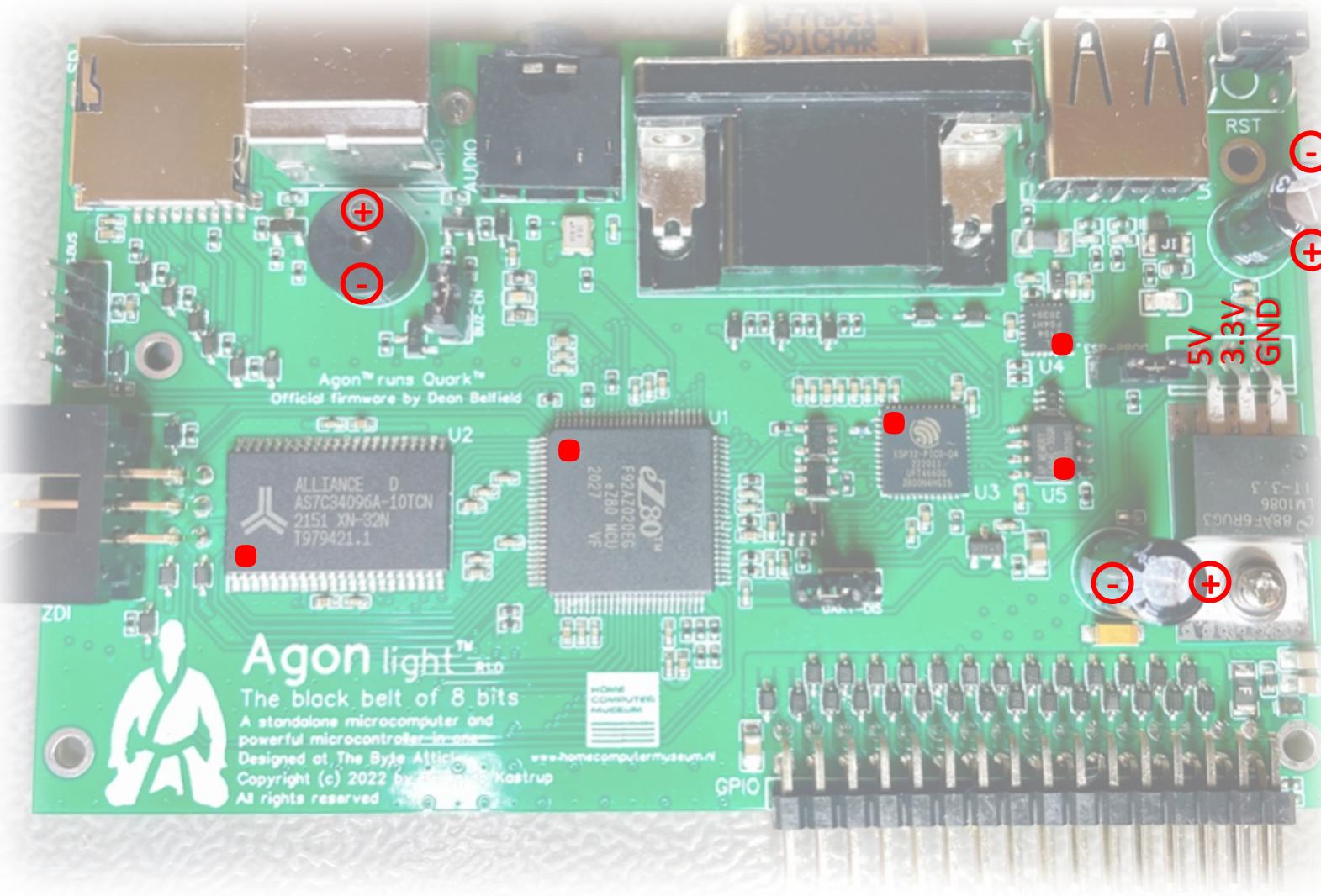


Mounting the LDO regulator

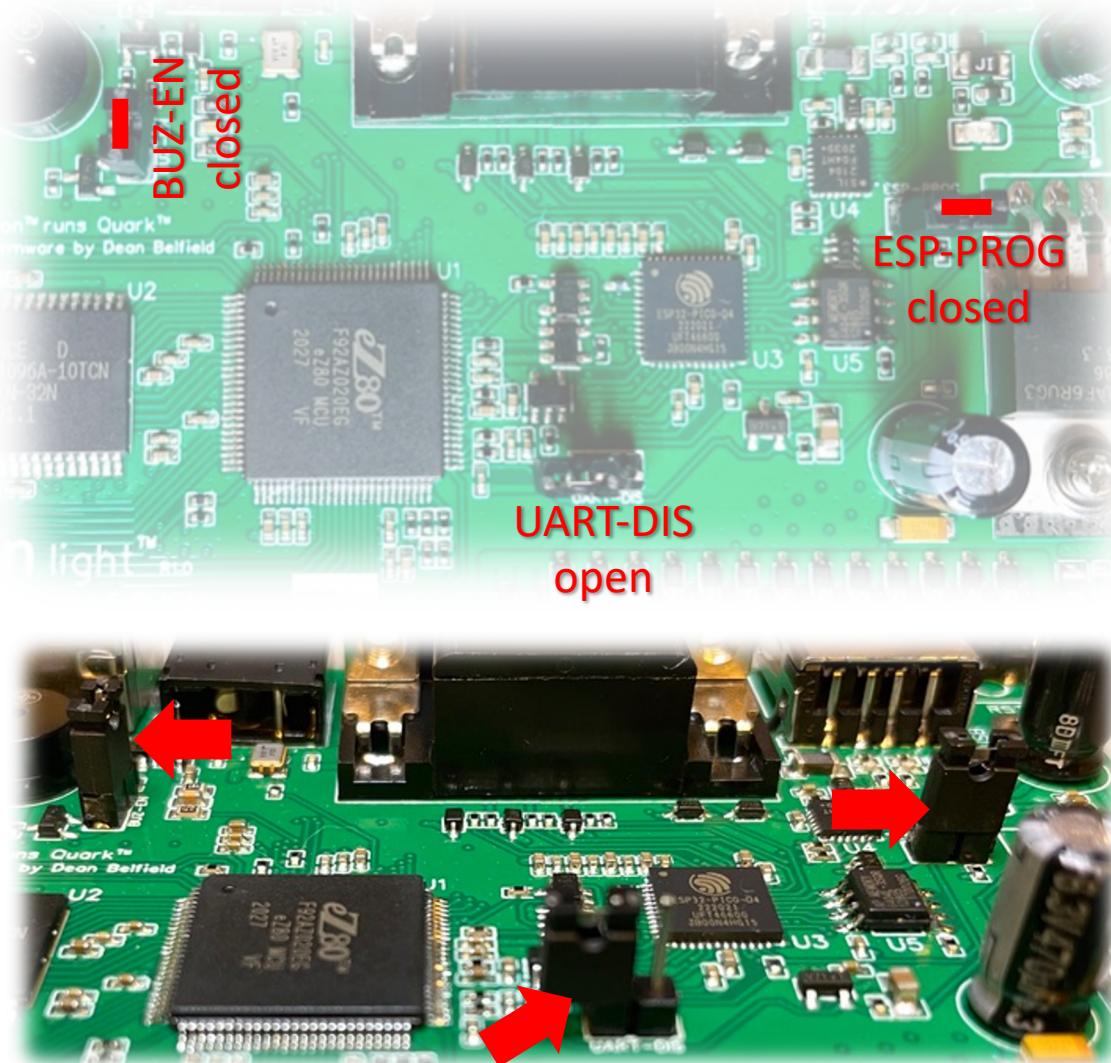
- Agon light's 3.3V V_{cc} rail is provided by a Low-DropOut (LDO) linear regulator
- The regulator must be mounted flush against the corresponding exposed metal area on the top of the PCB (see top-right photo)
- The regulator's tab (chassis) is at 3.3V, as is the exposed copper area on which it is to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

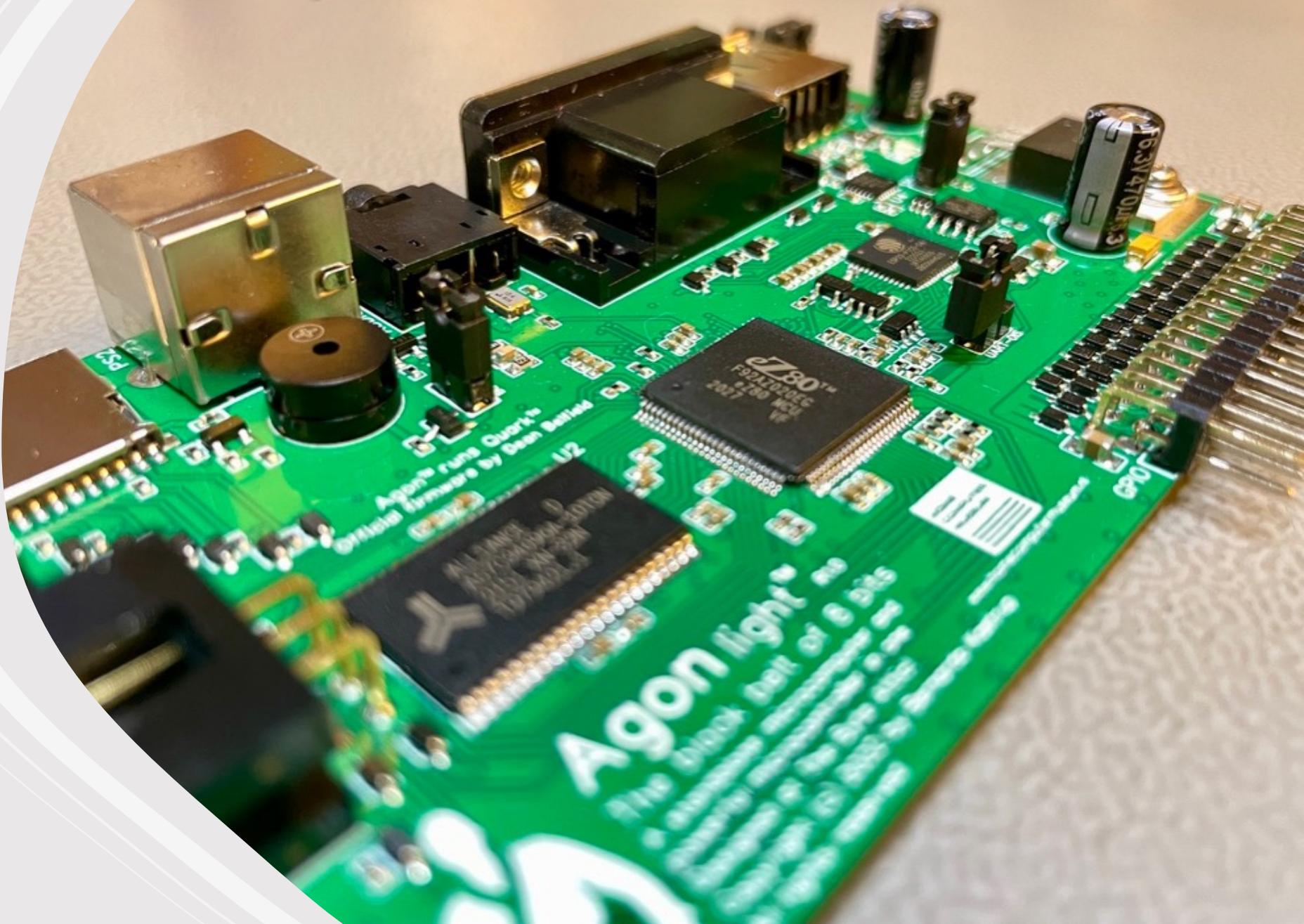


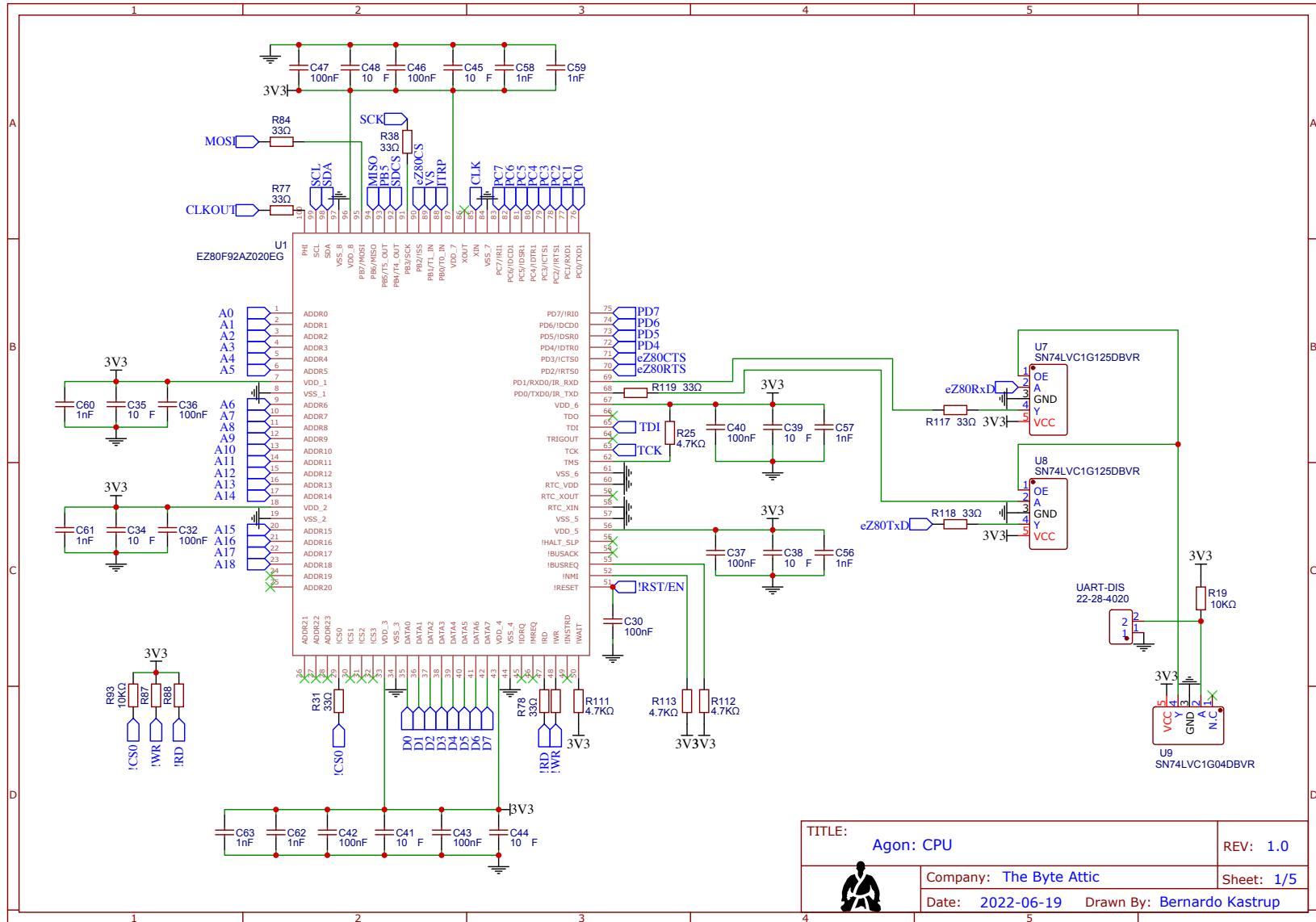
When to change jumper settings

- 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’

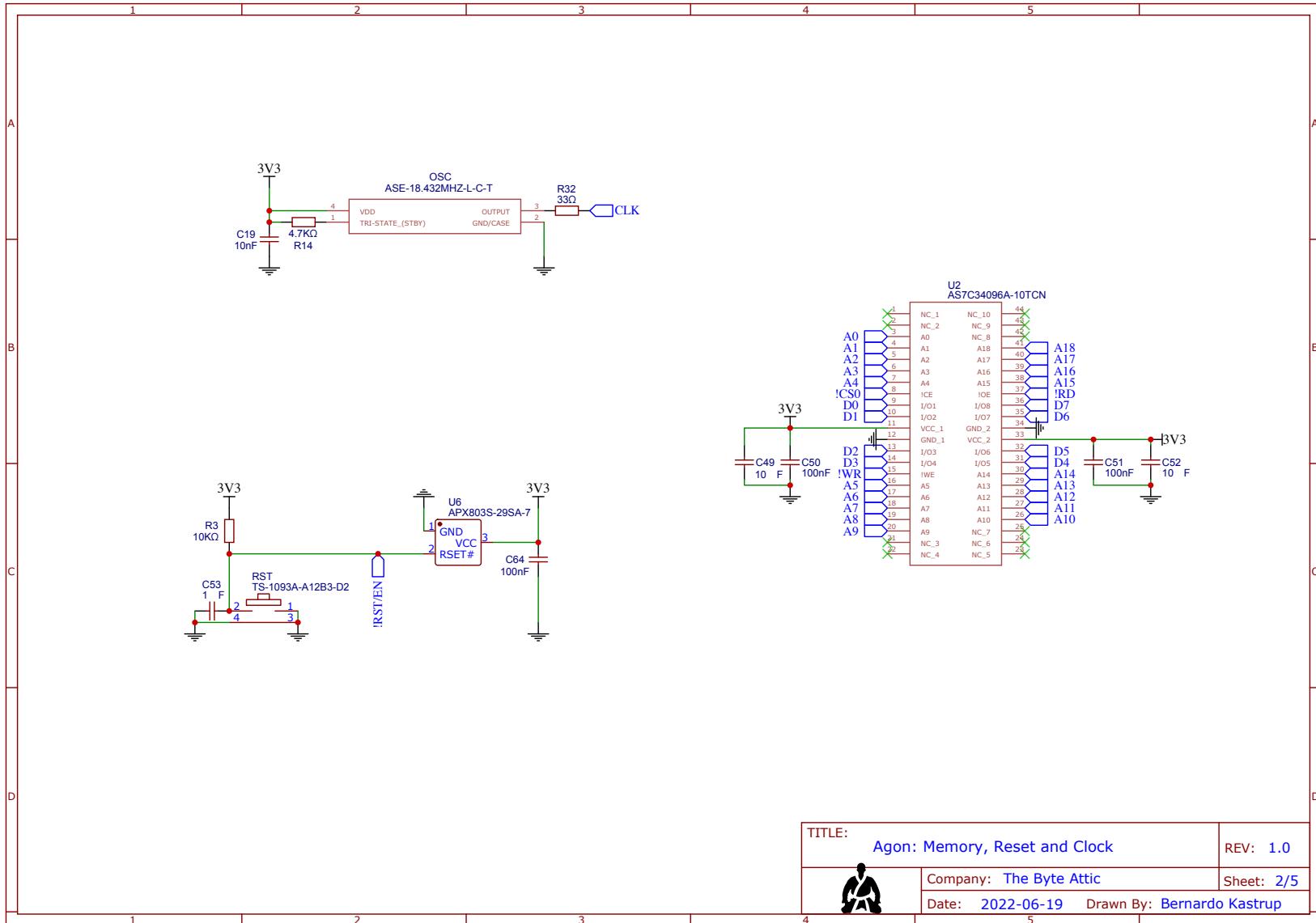


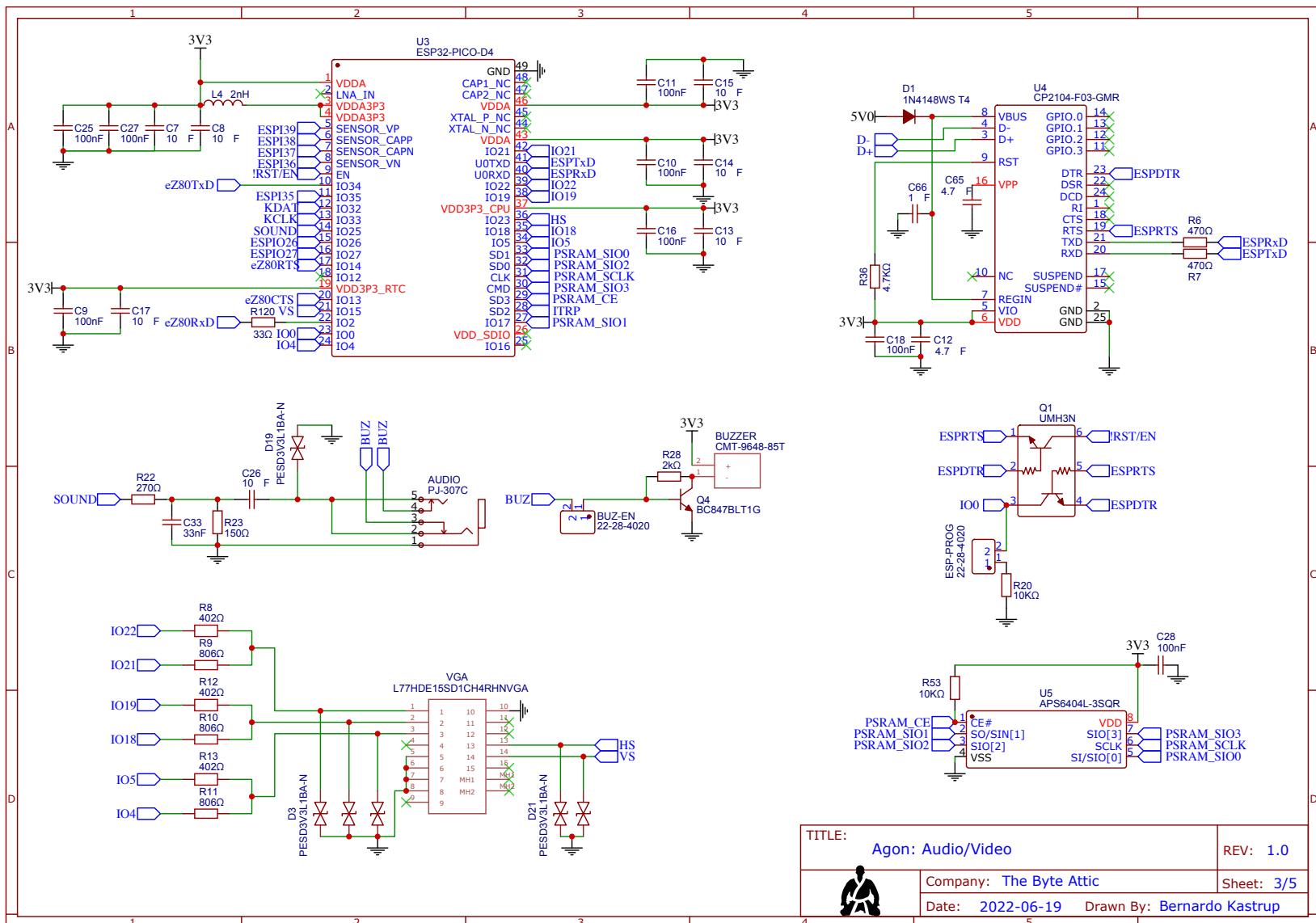
The Byte Attic's
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Schematics

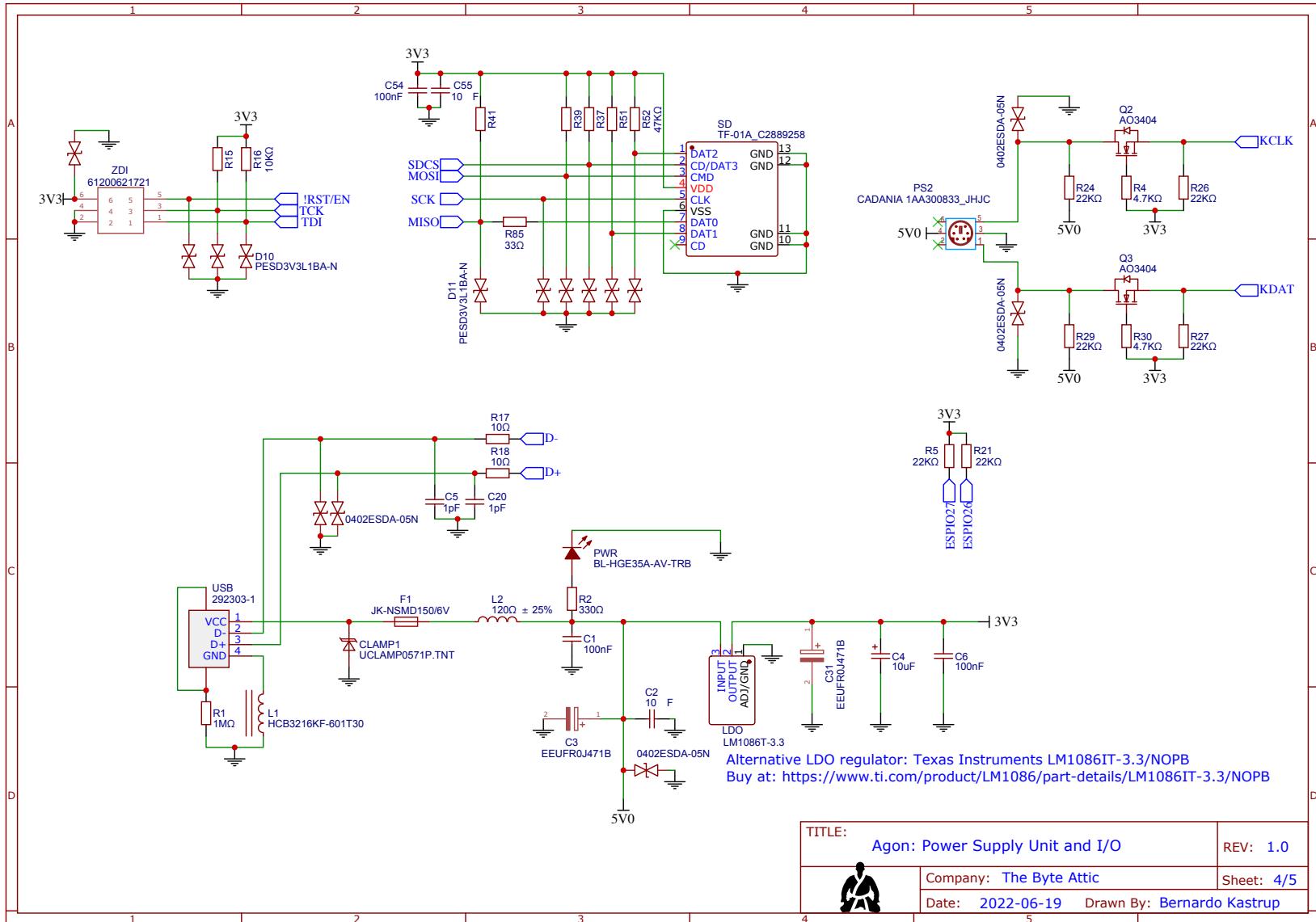


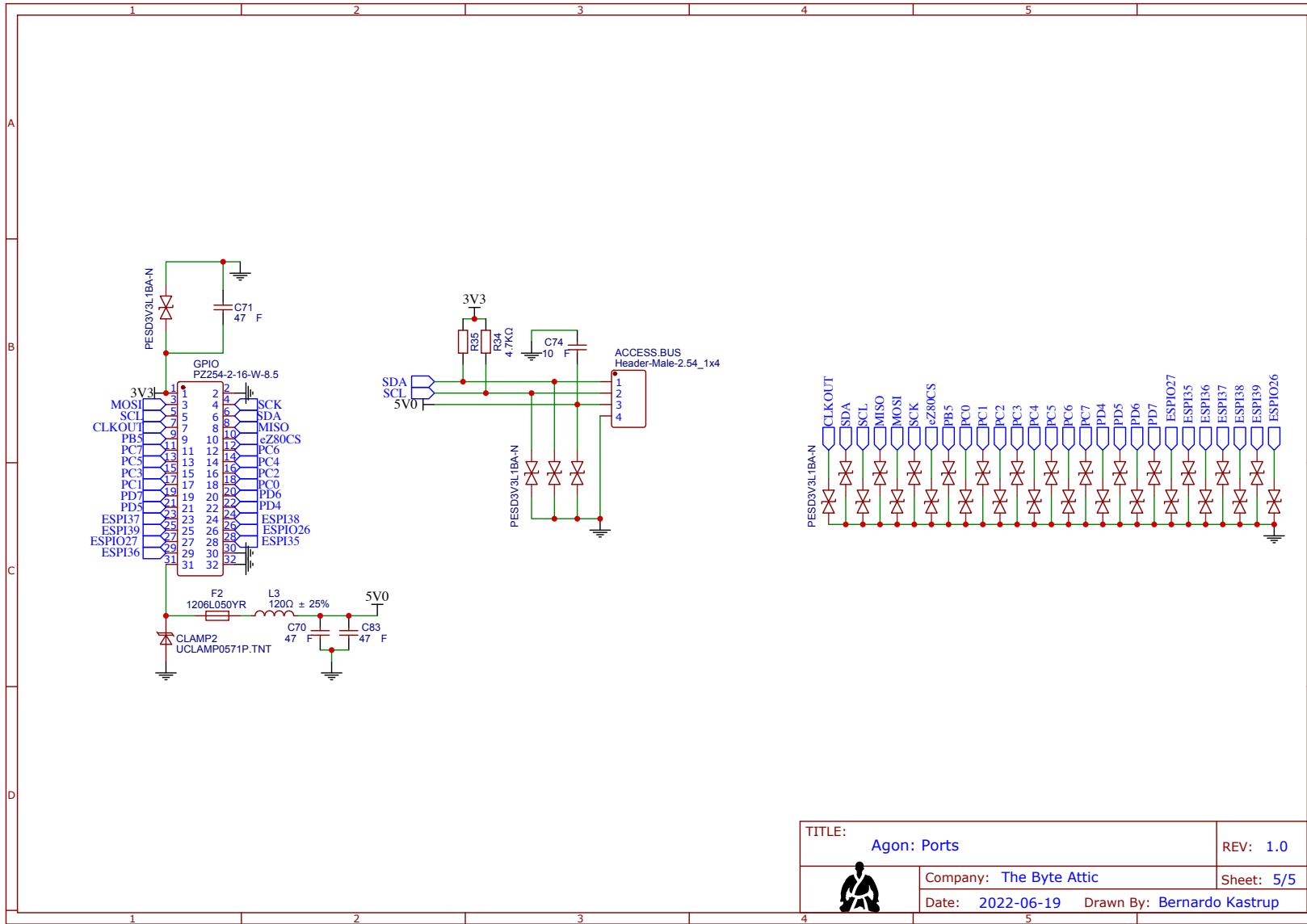


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	Company: The Byte Attic	Sheet: 1/5
	Date: 2022-06-19	Drawn By: Bernardo Kastrup







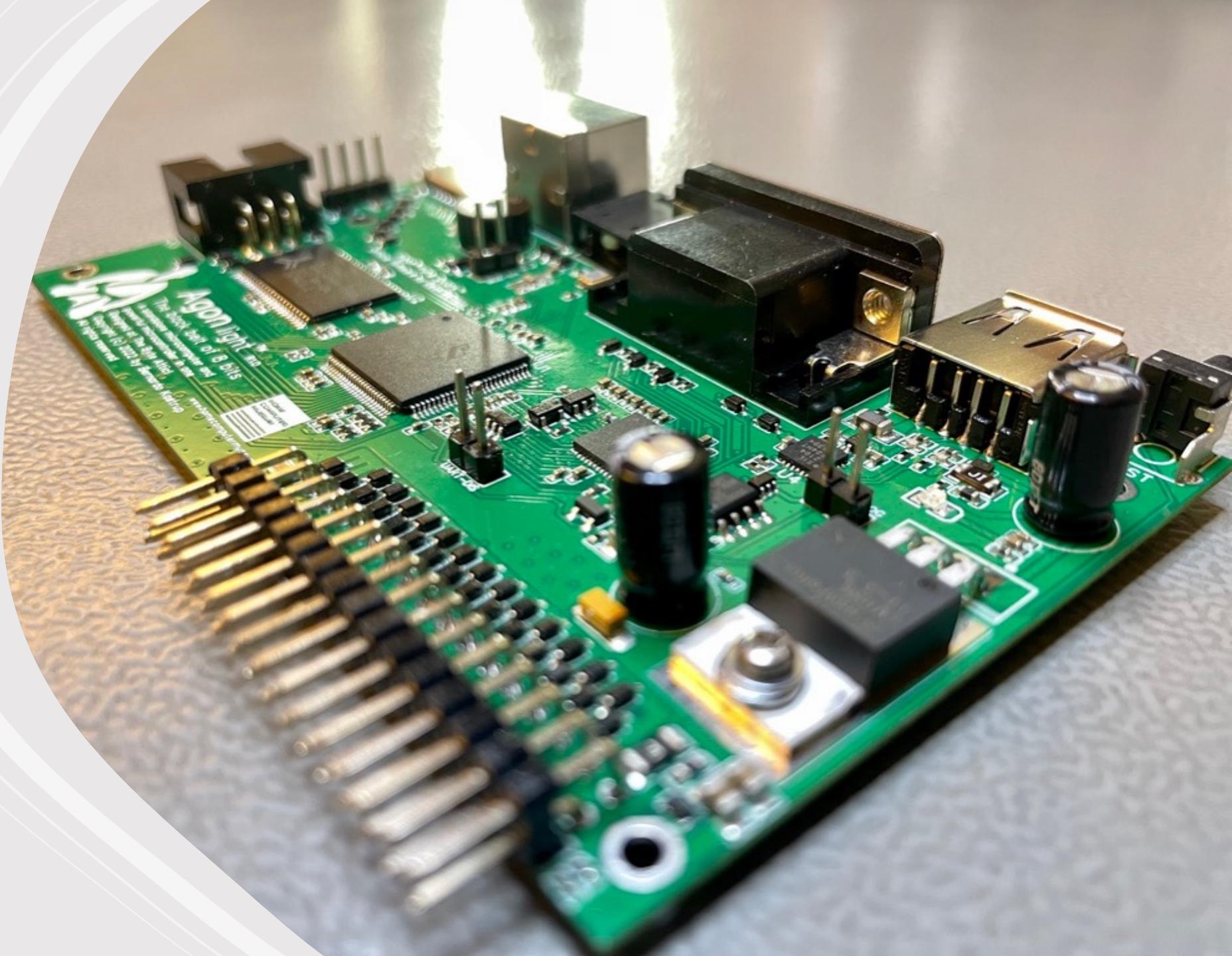




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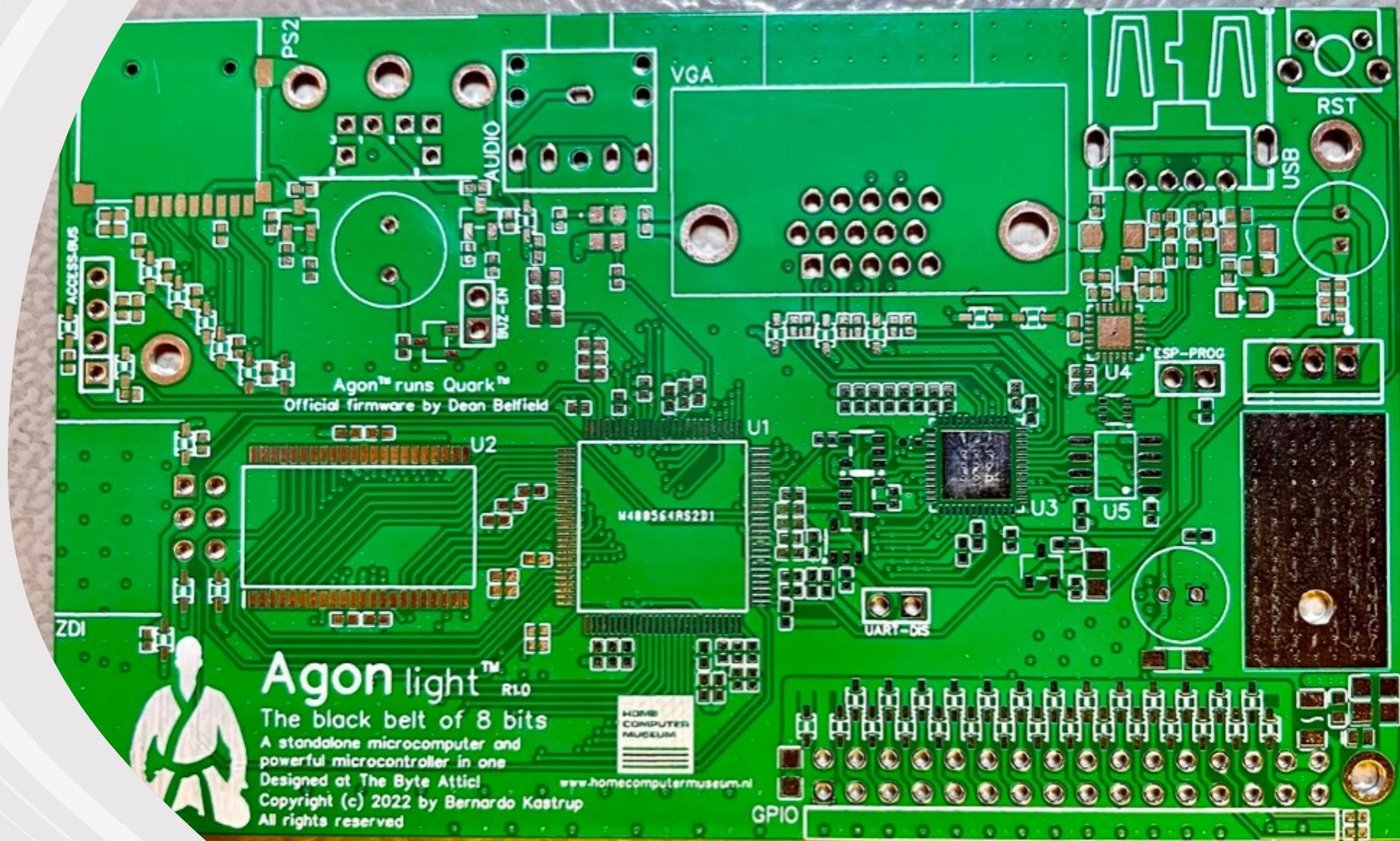
Bill of
Materials



ID	Name	Designator	Footprint	Quantity	Manufacturer Part	Manufacturer	Supplier	Supplier Part	Price	
1	BUZ1N08L1G	QFN-40	SOT-223-3-L19-W4.5-P1.5-NL2.5-BR	1	BUZ1N08L1G	On Semiconductor	LSC	C49393	0.035	
2	1-KD	R28	RO402	1	04020402P0201TC	Unihy	LSC	C4109	0.001	
3	A5E18A43MM2-LC-T	OSC	AS18A43MM2HLC-T	1	AS18A43MM2HLC-T	ABRACON	Mouser	913-A5E18A43MM2HLC-T	0.393	
4	A5T340M6A-10TCN	U2	SOP8-16-NL2.5-BR	1	A5T340M6A-10TCN	Alliance Memory	Mouser	913-A5T340M6A-10TCN	0.384	
5	PZ42-2.16-W.8.5	GPIO	HDR-TH-30P-P2.54H-MR2-C16-62.54	1	PZ254-2.16-W.8.5	HCTL(宇創天橋)	LSC	C12438	0.043	
6	Header-Male-2.54_1x4	ACCESS BUS	HD-TH-AP-P2.54-VAM	1	4P-L16-NL2.54Gd-Plat	Demu	LSC	C16684	0.043	
7	PJ-307C	AUDIO	AUDIO-TH-930TC	1	PJ-307C	BOOMLE	LSC	C1684	0.076	
8	22-2B-4020	BUZ1N08L1G	BUZ1N08L1G-PROG-JART-DIS	1	22-2B-4020	MOLEX	LSC	C34182	0.076	
9	CM79648-85T	BUZZER	CM79648-85T	1	CM79648-85T	SAMSUNG	LSC	C1525	0.001	
10	100nF	C1	C1-0.5-0.9-C10-C11-C16-C18-C25-C27	23	C105A10405NNNC	SAMSUNG	LSC	C1525	0.005	
		C1	C1-0.5-0.9-C10-C11-C16-C17-C24	20	C105A10605MNUNC	SAMSUNG	LSC	C1525	0.005	
		C1	C1-0.5-0.9-C10-C11-C16-C17-C24	20	C105A10605MNUNC	SAMSUNG	LSC	C1525	0.005	
11	10uF	C5-C20	C5-C20	20	C105A10605MNUNC	SAMSUNG	LSC	C1525	0.005	
12	1nF	C12-C20	C12-C20	2	C402ZCG110C50NT	FH	LSC	C1550	0.001	
13	4.1μF	C12-C20	C12-C20	2	C402ZCG110C50NT	SAMSUNG	LSC	C2373	0.006	
14	10nF	C19	C19	1	C105A1073MPSHNC	SAMSUNG	LSC	C15195	0.001	
15	1nF	C56-C57	C56-C57	1	C105A1082B8NNNC	SAMSUNG	LSC	C12323	0.001	
16	1uF	C66	C66	1	C105A10505NNC	SAMSUNG	LSC	C29266	0.003	
17	FEU-FR0471B	C3-C31	C3-C31	2	C402ZPR125W50B50H1270	FH	Panasonic	667-FEU-FR0471B	0.098	
18	10uF	C4	C4	2	C402ZSD132W1-6R-RD	FH	LSC	C171	0.006	
19	33nF	C33	C33	1	C105A10605MNUNC	SAMSUNG	LSC	C21117	0.006	
20	1uF	C53	C53	1	C105A10605MNUNC	SAMSUNG	LSC	C28333	0.009	
21	47uF	CLAMP1	CLAMP1	3	C105A10605MNUNC	SAMSUNG	LSC	C16780	0.026	
22	UCLAMP1-P0571P-TNT	CLAMP2	CLAMP2	1	UCLAMP1-P0571P-TNT	SEATCH	LSC	C16387	0.043	
23	1N4148NWS T4	D1	D1	1	1N4148NWS T4	SEATCH	LSC	C2128	0.013	
		D1	D1	1	1N4148NWS T4	SEATCH	LSC	C2128	0.013	
		D1	D1	1	1N4148NWS T4	SEATCH	LSC	C2128	0.013	
24	PEDBV311BA-N	D0402-08	D0402-08	46	PEDBV311BA-N	Bourne Semicon (Shenzhen)	LSC	C316020	0.051	
		D0402-08	D0402-08	46	PEDBV311BA-N	Bourne Semicon (Shenzhen)	LSC	C316020	0.051	
		D0402-08	D0402-08	46	PEDBV311BA-N	Bourne Semicon (Shenzhen)	LSC	C316020	0.051	
25	E533	D0402-08	D0402-08	1	D0402-05DA-05N	Bourne Semicon (Shenzhen)	LSC	C316049	0.019	
26	0402ESD4-05N	D0402-05DA-05N	D0402-05DA-05N	5	D0402-05DA-05N	Bourne Semicon (Shenzhen)	LSC	C316049	0.019	
27	JK-NS40D15V6V	F1	F1	1	JK-NS40D15V6V	JK(金利)	LSC	C283049	0.036	
28	1206050YR	F2	F2	1	1206050YR	Littelfuse	LSC	C15512	0.047	
29	HGB-21216F-601T30	L1	L1	1	HGB-21216F-601T30	TAI-TEC	LSC	C357023	0.028	
30	330nF	L2-L3	L2-L3	1	BL1A1K2121TN7	Murata	LSC	C8831	0.017	
31	1uF	L3	L3	1	ASCA402-IND-1T	Alarcon LLC	LSC	C18816	0.234	
32	LM1086T-3.3	LOO	LOO	1	LM1086T-3.3	HSSEMI	LSC	C444381	0.241	
33	CDA11HA-JA3030B833	P52	P52	1	TO-220-3-L10-LW4.5-P2.54-L	TO-220-3-L10-LW4.5-P2.54-L	LSC	C165984	0.001	
34	BL-HG133A-NAVTRB	PWR	PWR	1	LED0805-1-RD	BL-HG133A-NAVTRB	Bright LED Blec	LSC	C165984	0.001
35	UHM3	Q1	Q1	1	SC-70-6.2-LW1.2-P1.5-P6.5-L12.1B	Q1	TO-220-3-L10-LW4.5-P2.54-L	LSC	C165984	0.001
36	A03404	Q2-Q3	Q2-Q3	1	SOT-23-3-L2-W1.9-P1.5-P6.5-L12.4-BR	A03404	Guangdong Hettotech	LSC	C19392	0.049
37	1uM	R1	R1	1	0402WIG15104TC	Unithm	LSC	C26083	0.001	
38	330nF	R2	R2	1	0402WIG15104TC	Unithm	LSC	C2104	0.001	
39	10nF	R3	R3	1	0402WIG15102TC	Unithm	LSC	C25744	0.001	
40	4.7KΩ	R4-R14	R4-R14	10	0402-08	Unithm	LSC	C25900	0.001	
41	22KΩ	R5-R11	R5-R11	6	0402WIG17220TC	Unithm	LSC	C25768	0.001	
42	47KΩ	R6-R11	R6-R11	2	0402WIG17400TC	Unithm	LSC	C25717	0.001	
43	40KΩ	R8-R13	R8-R13	3	0402WIG17402TC	TO-225WIG17402TC	TO-225WIG17402TC	C1659282	0.079	
44	80KΩ	R9-R11	R9-R11	3	0402WIG17400TC	TO-225WIG17400TC	TO-225WIG17400TC	C1659151	0.061	
45	100	R17-R18	R17-R18	2	0402WIG17400TC	TO-225WIG17400TC	TO-225WIG17400TC	C25077	0.001	
46	330	R111-R132	R111-R132	12	0402WIG17301TC	Unithm	LSC	C25105	0.001	
47	47KΩ	R37-R39	R37-R39	5	0402WIG17402TC	Unithm	LSC	C2592	0.001	
48	270nF	R40-R42	R40-R42	5	0603WIG17400TC	Unithm	LSC	C2296	0.001	
49	150nF	R23	R23	1	0603WIG17400TC	Unithm	LSC	C2296	0.002	
50	50	SD	SD	1	TO-03A	Yandi(台商元通)	LSC	C188928	0.058	
51	E2B-09242020EG	U1	U1	1	QFP56-160X160X160-100	Zilog	Mouser	692-E2B-09242020EG	0.032	
52	ESP32-HC0-D4	U3	U3	1	QFN-48-L7.0-W7.0-P0.5-P0.5-BLEP5.4	ESP32-HC0-D4	Espresso Systems	C13907	3.82	
53	C2012-0001-GMR	U4	U4	1	QFN-48-L7.0-W7.0-P0.5-P0.5-BLEP5.4	QFN-48-L7.0-W7.0-P0.5-P0.5-BLEP5.4	SILICON LABS	C14705	2.361	
54	AP5640A-150R	U5	U5	1	QFN-48-L7.0-W7.0-P0.5-P0.5-BLEP5.4	AP5640A-150R	AP Memory	Mouser	878-AP5640A-150R-SN	0.043
55	AK4460A-256M-7	U6	U6	1	QFN-48-L7.0-W7.0-P0.5-P0.5-BLEP5.4	AK4460A-256M-7	Diodex Incorporated	LSC	C14831	0.043
56	SN74LVC1520BVR	U7-U8	U7-U8	2	QFN-48-L7.0-W7.0-P0.5-P0.5-BLEP5.4	SN74LVC1520BVR	C2854	0.087		
57	SN74LVC1G04BDRV	U9	U9	1	SO-25-13-L0-W17-P0.5-L5.2-BR	SN74LVC1G04BDRV	Ti	C2727	0.112	
58	L77024-150SD1CHRNNGA	U10	U10	1	SO-25-13-L0-W17-P0.5-L5.2-BR	L77024-150SD1CHRNNGA	TE Connectivity	LSC	C28651	0.407
59	U77024-150SD1CHRNNGA	U11	U11	1	SO-25-13-L0-W17-P0.5-L5.2-BR	U77024-150SD1CHRNNGA	TE Connectivity	LSC	C28651	0.407
60	6120000021721	UD	UD	1	SO-25-13-L0-W17-P0.5-L5.2-BR	6120000021721	Yandi	LSC	C16684	0.062
61	TS-1093A-A1283-02	RST	RST	1	TS-1093A-A1283-02	Yandi	LSC	C16684	0.062	



The Byte Attic's
Agon
light™
PCB
dimensions



PCB dimensions (diagram *not* to scale)



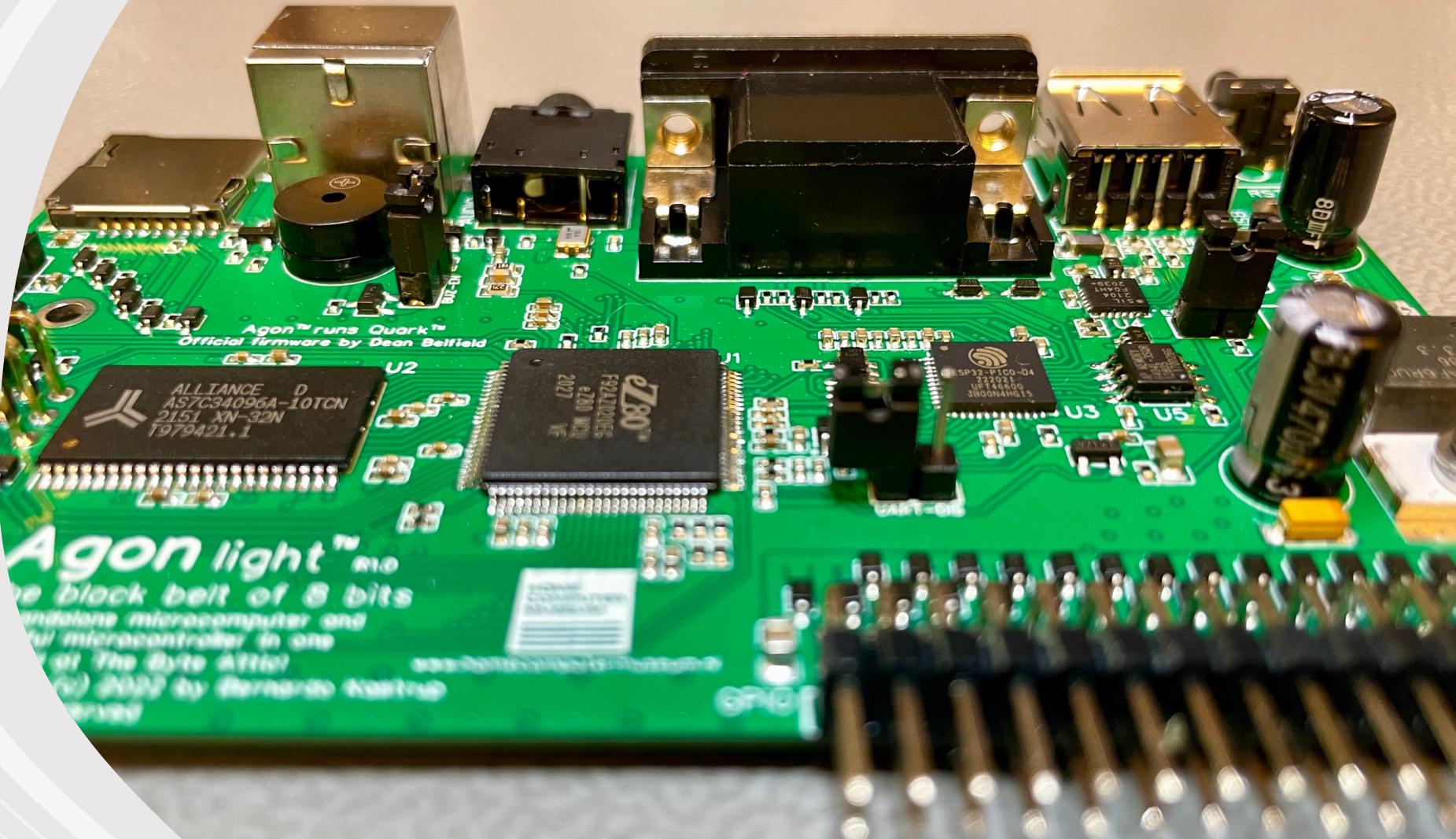
All holes
are
2.505mm
in
diameter



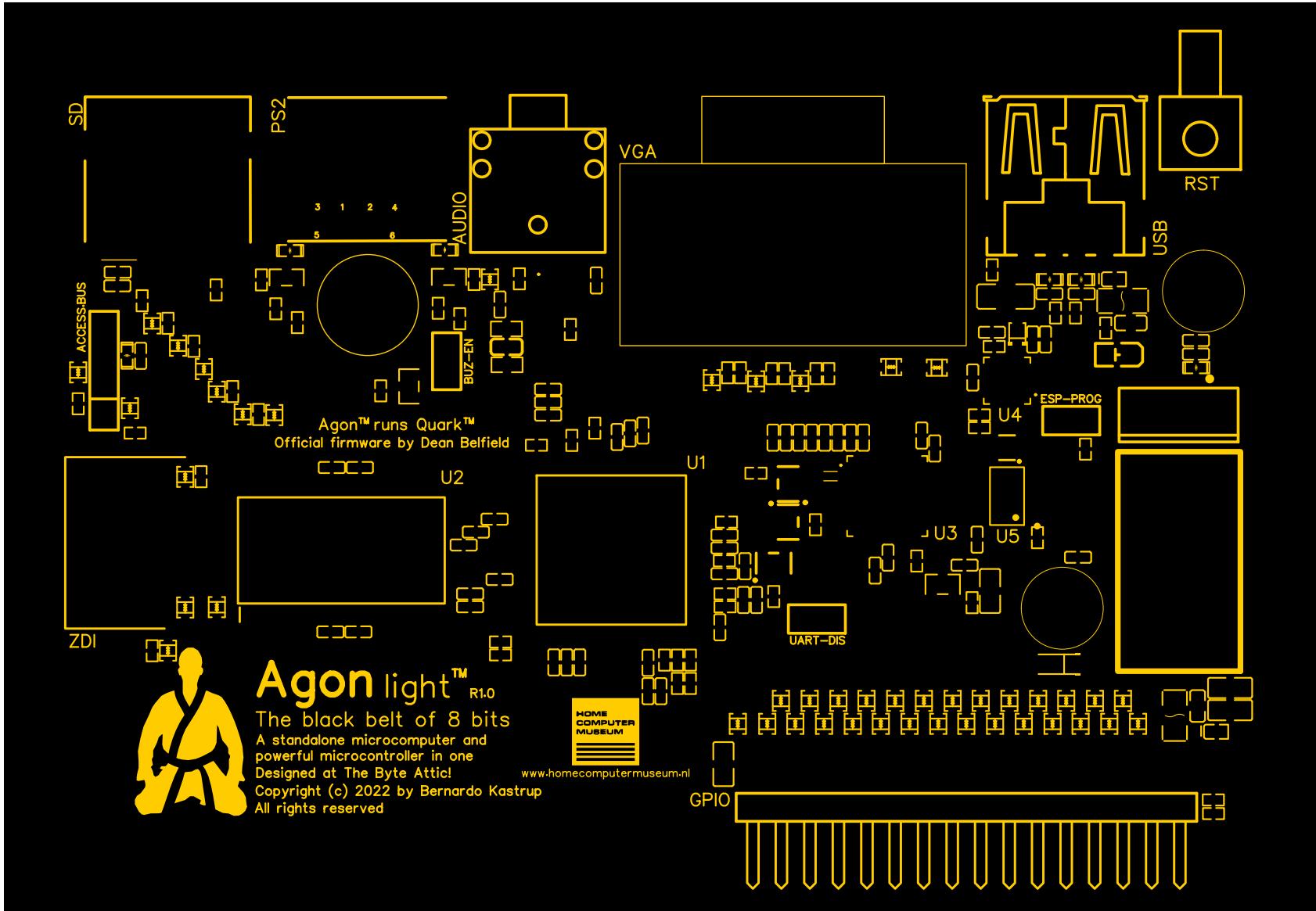
The Byte Attic's

Agon light™

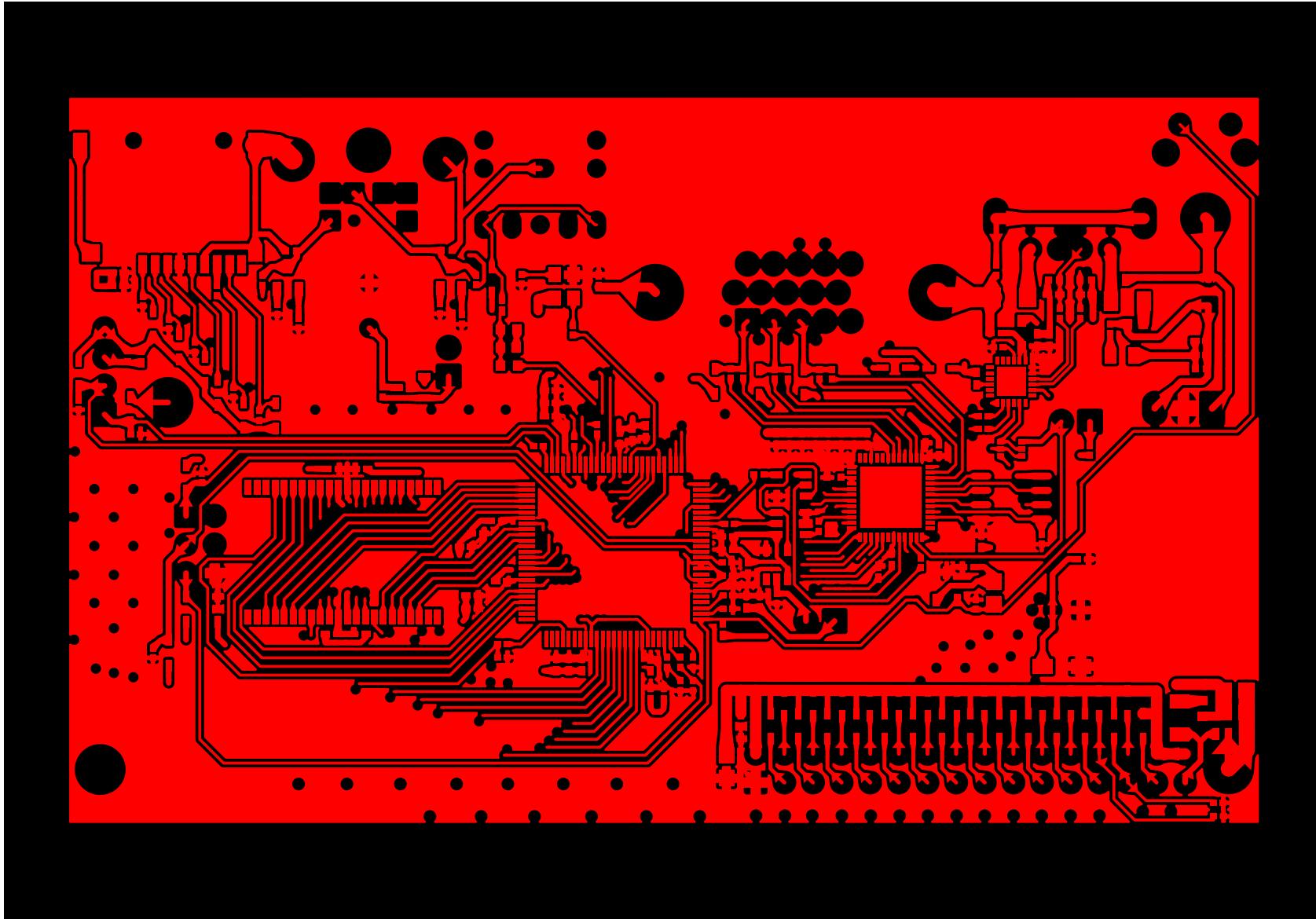
PCB layers
design



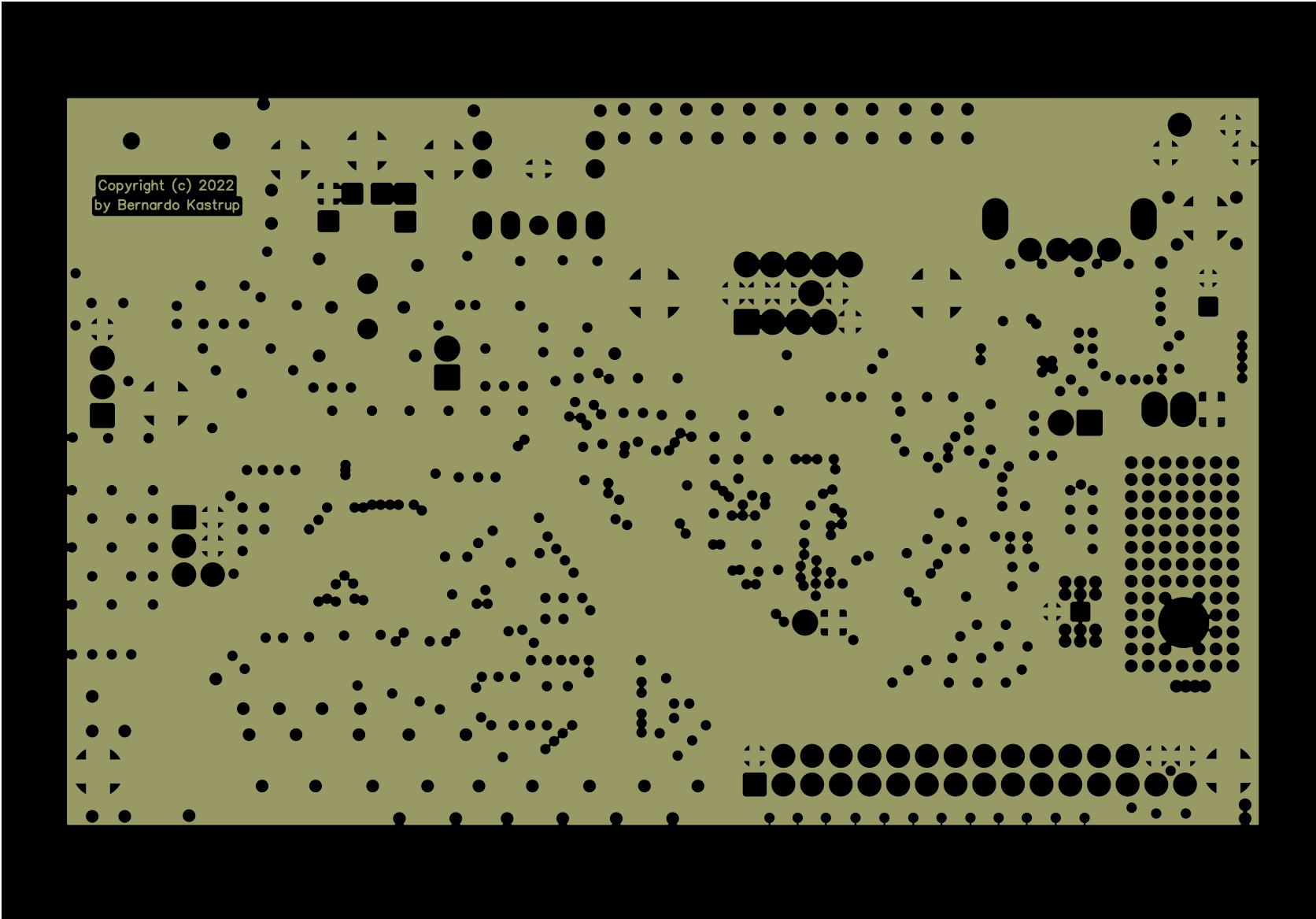
Top silkscreen



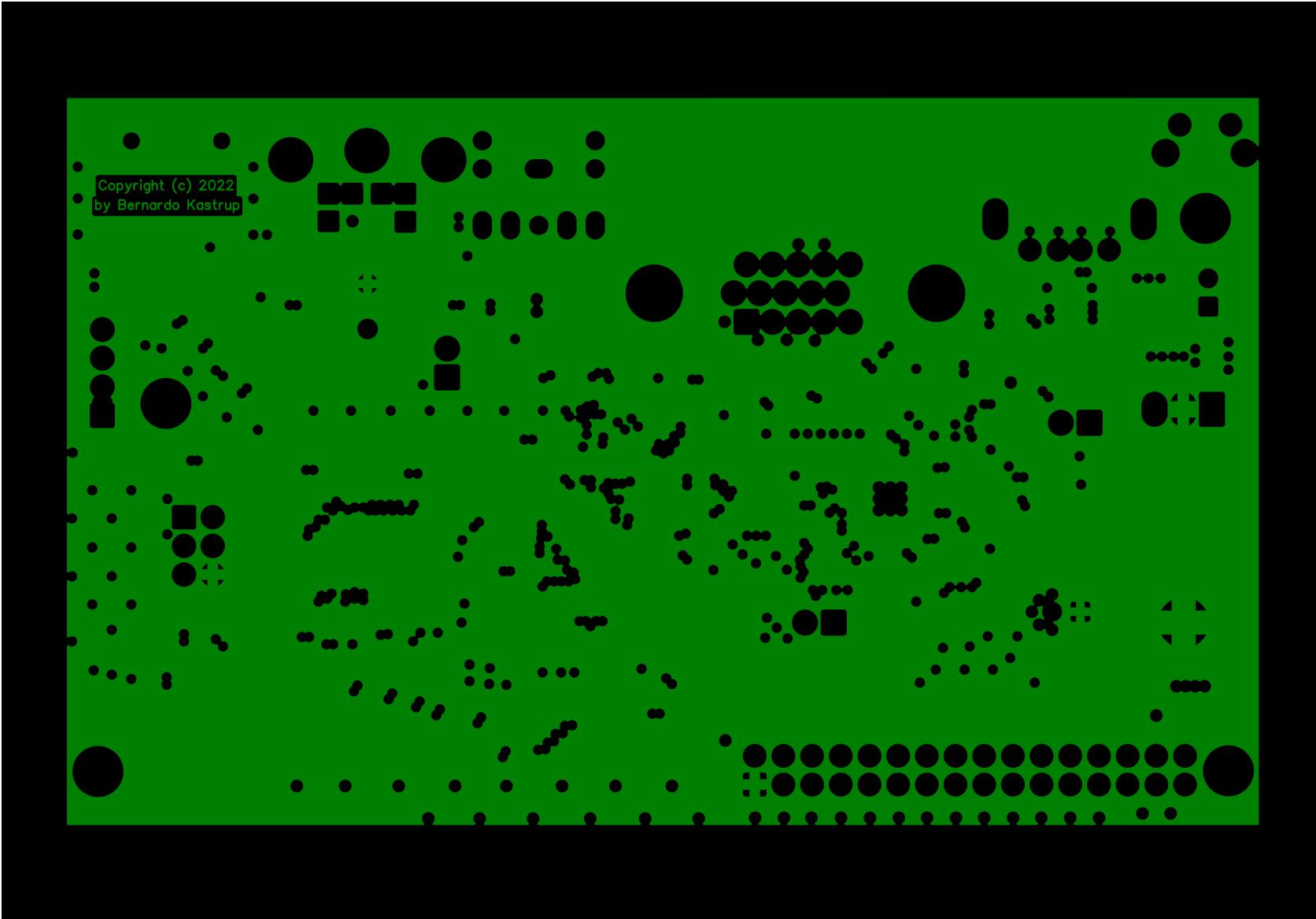
Top metal layer (3.3V filled)



First inner plane (GND)



Second inner plane (3.3V)



Bottom metal layer (GND filled)

