arLCD Start Up Guide

Step 1 – Install the drivers

In order to write code and upload it to your arLCD, make sure you have the latest Arduino IDE installed and became familiar with it.

- **Download** the Arduino IDE from the Arduino website:

http://arduino.cc/en/Main/Software

- Before connecting your arLCD **go to**:

http://www.earthlcd.com/Downloads/arLCD_Software

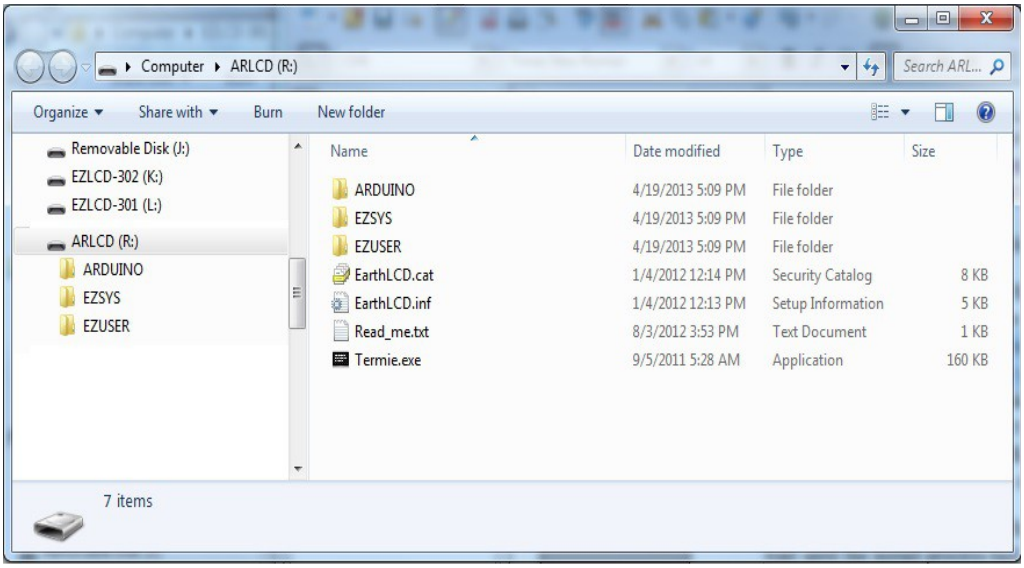
And **download the latest zip files**:

arLCD_Library_{date}.zip
arLCD_2pxx_Firmware.hex or zip
arLCD_Filesystem_{date}.zip
ezLCD-3xx Font Converter Setup.zip
ezLCD-3xx-Firmware-Loader.zip

If you want information on the different commands in the arLCD, download arLCD_Lib_xxx.zip at:

http://www.earthlcd.com/Downloads/arLCD_Documentation

- Now **plug in the arLCD** into a USB port and wait a few seconds.
- **Unzip the downloaded files**.

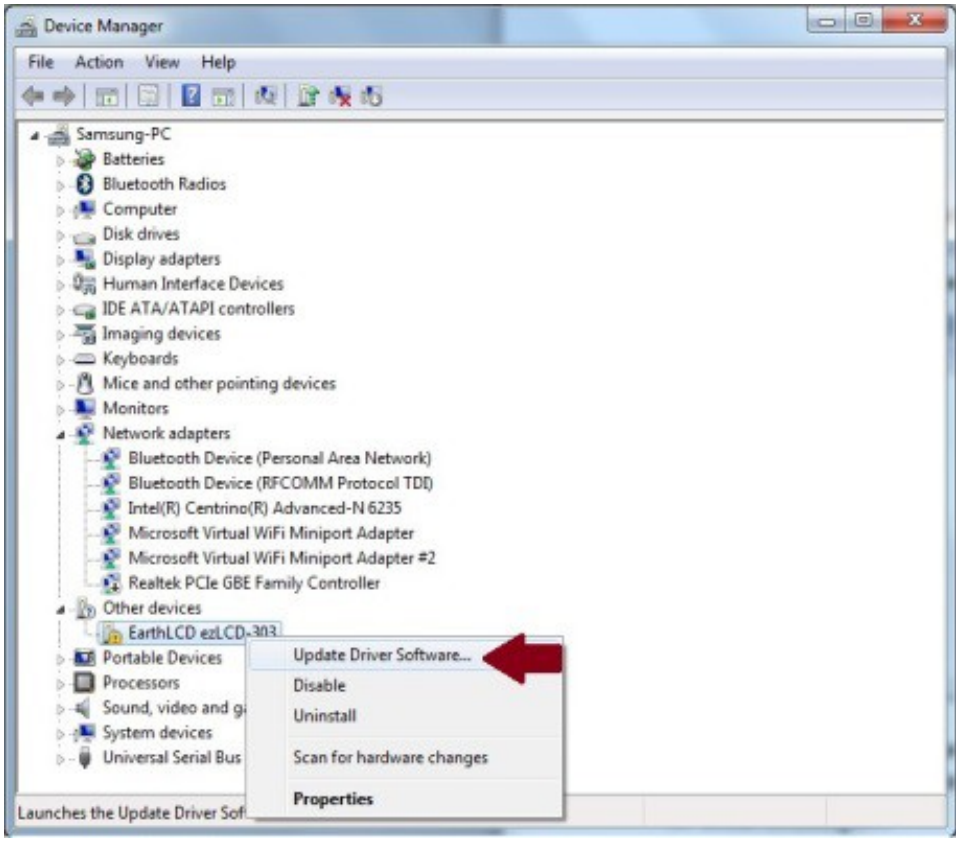


Windows will recognize the new hardware and show the “new hardware found” guide.

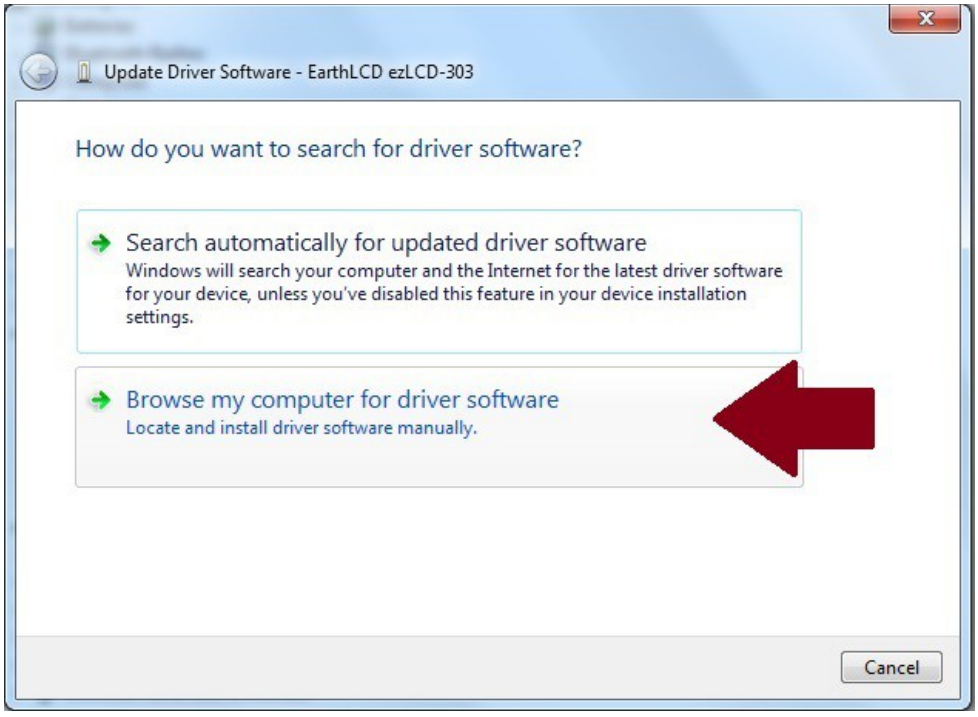
The driver should now be installed and ready to use. **If so go to Step 3**. In most cases a reboot isn’t necessary but it´s recommended.

Step 2 – Install Device Driver

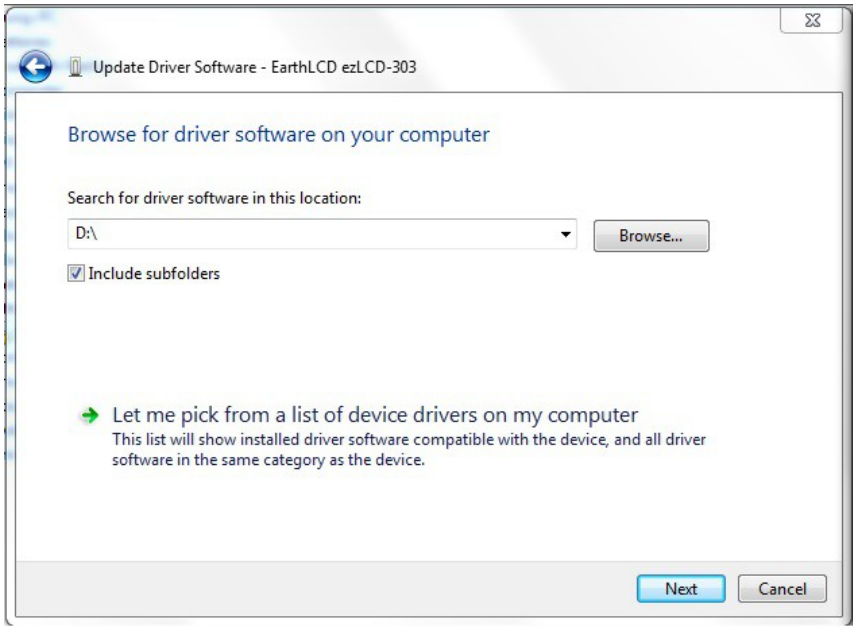
- Now go to **"Device Manager"** which you find through the search bar in the "Start Menu".
- Then **right click on the EarthLCD device** and **select "Update Driver Software"** as shown in the picture below

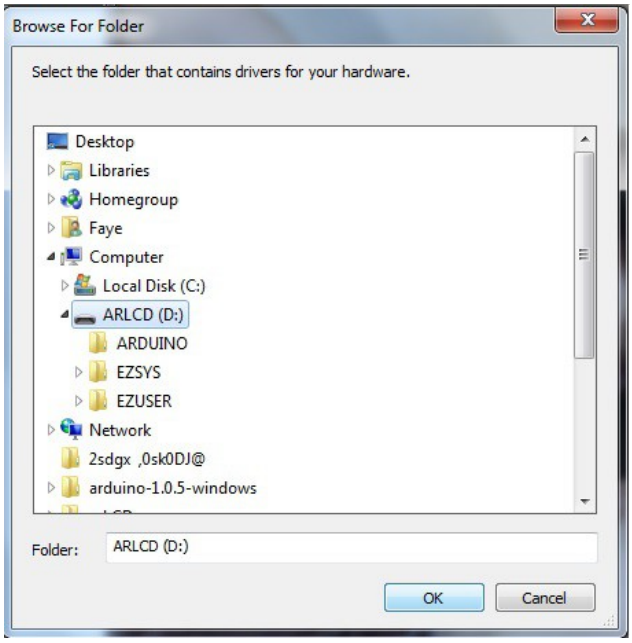


- **Choose “Browse my computer for driver software”**

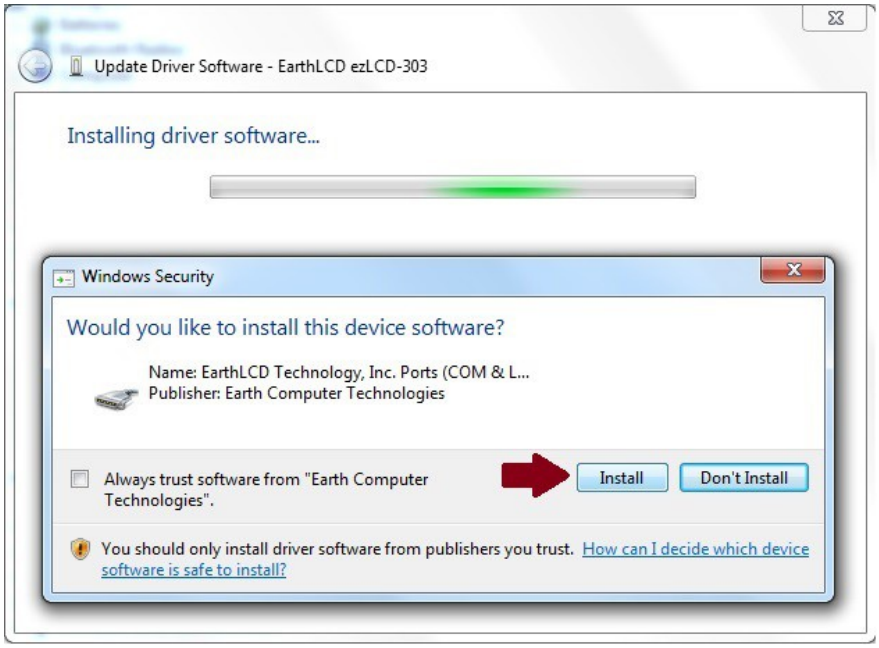


- **Click browse** using **the drive letter of your arLCD**.

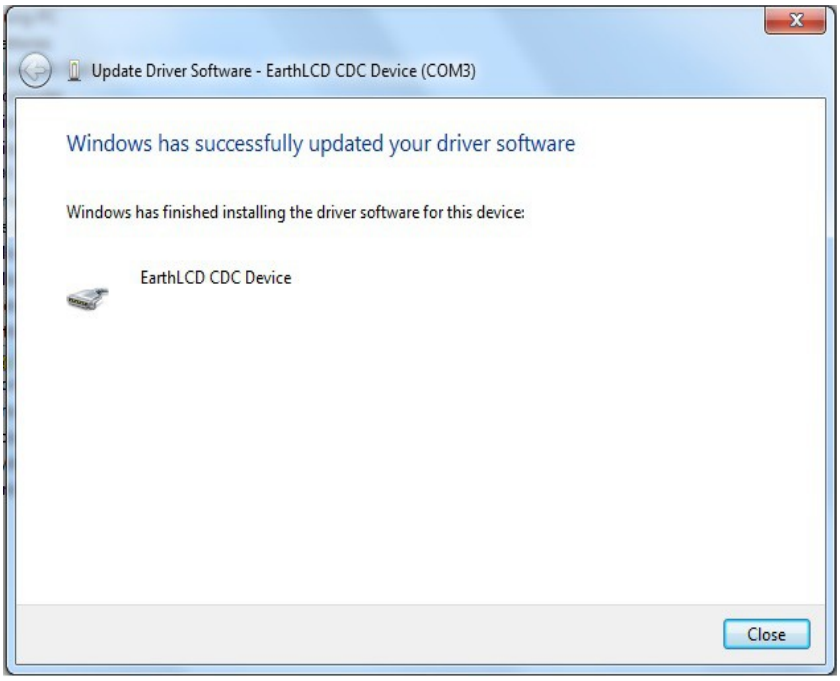




- **Click "Next"** and the window below should appear. **Select "Always trust software from "Earth Computer Technologies""** and **click "Install"**.



The driver is now installed. The window that appears will show you the COM port the device is using. **Remember the COM port** for later.

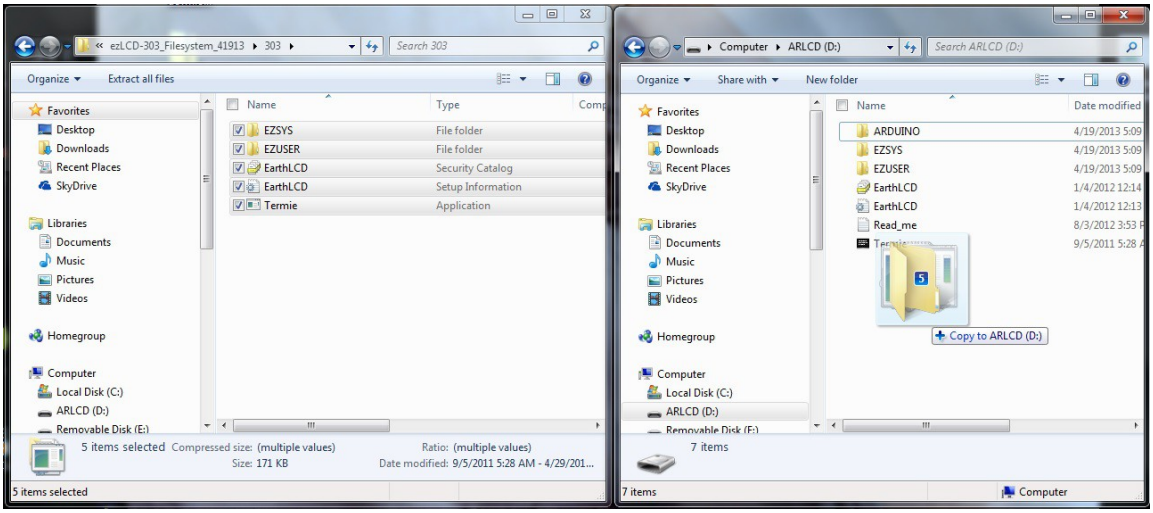


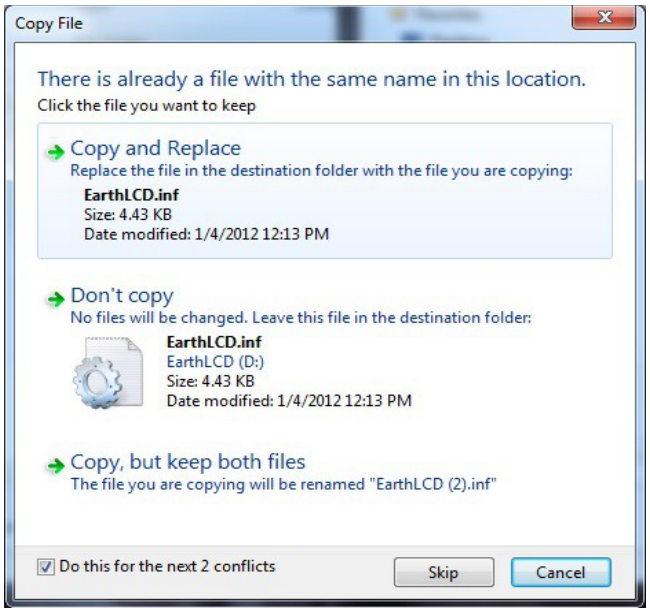
In this case we will use COM3.
Each time you connect the display it will use the same COM port unless you plug in 2 arLCD's at same time.

Step 3 – Update the Filesystem

In order to get the most out of your arLCD it's recommended to update the filesystem to the latest version, which you downloaded in Step 1.

- **Open the zip file** named **"arLCD_Filesystem_{date}.zip".**
- Like the pictures below, **select all files and copy**.
- **Go to "my computer", click and open the drive named "arLCD" and replace all the files in "arLCD".**





- **Restart the arLCD** by pressing the **RESET button on the back**.

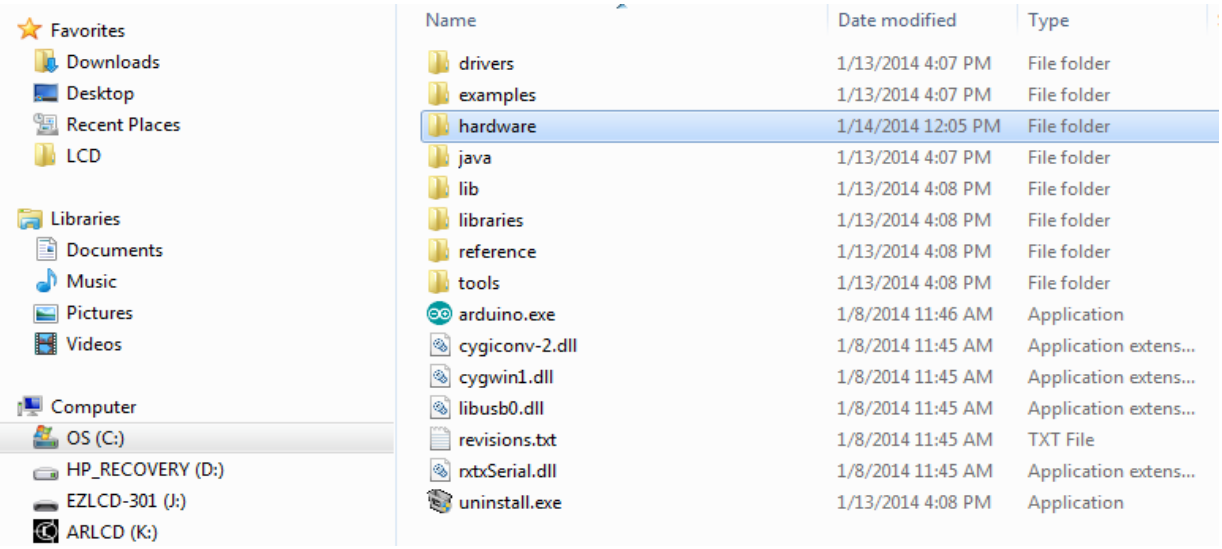
- **<u>Upgrade the firmware as described in Appendix A.</u>**

Step 4 – Install the arLCD 3rd party hardware configuration

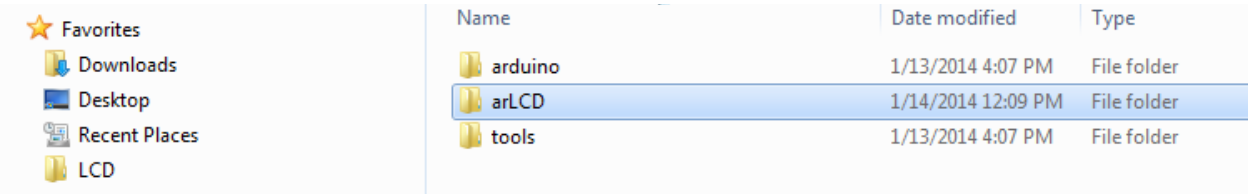
If you want to use the arLCD without the bootloader, the 3rd party hardware configuration should be install. If the user wants to use the arLCD with the bootloader then the user can skip this step and simply select an Arduino Uno from the menu.

The arLCD is supplied with a 3rd party hardware configuration directory (arLCD). The procedure for Arduino IDE 1.0.5-r2 is slightly different for IDE 1.5.5-r2.

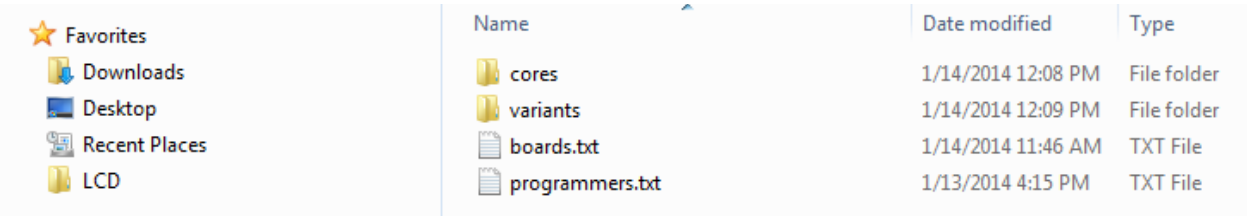
Arduino IDE 1.0.5-r2
Copy the content of this zip file into the Arduino\hardware directory.



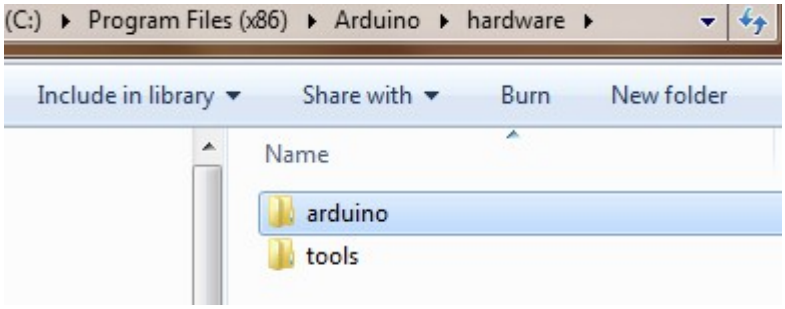
In the Hardware directory you will see an Arduino and tools directory.



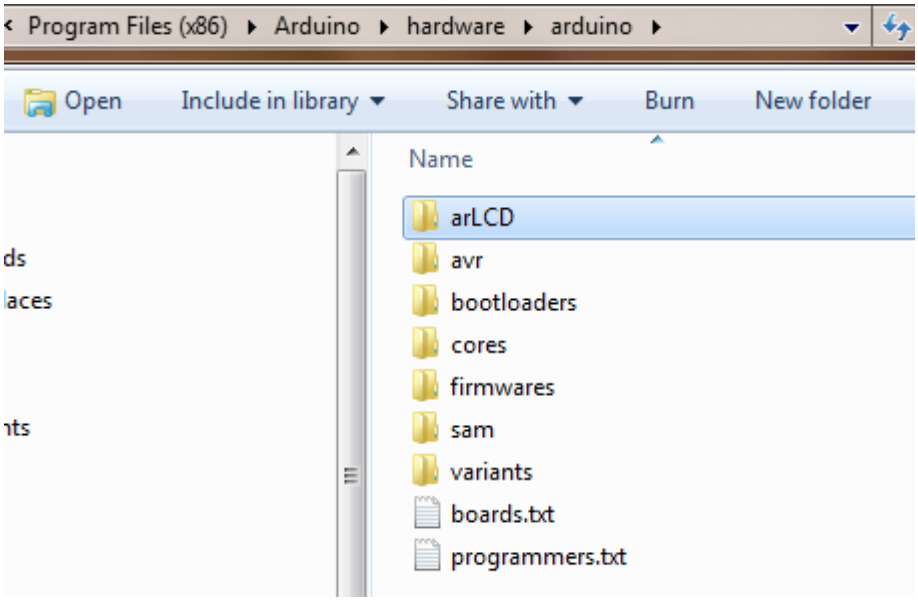
The arLCD directory contains the boards.txt and programmers.txt files required for the Arduino IDE to understand and program the arLCD.

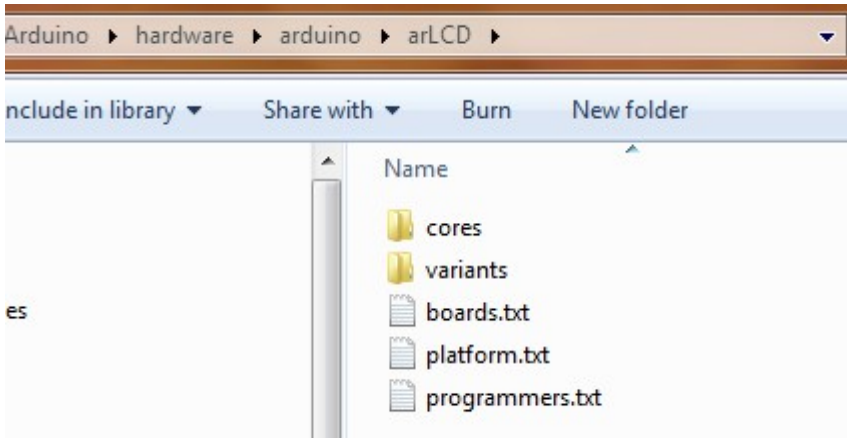


Arduino IDE 1.5.5-r2
Goto the Arduino\hardware directory.



In that sub-directory you will see an arduino and tools directory. Going into the arduino directory will show this directory.



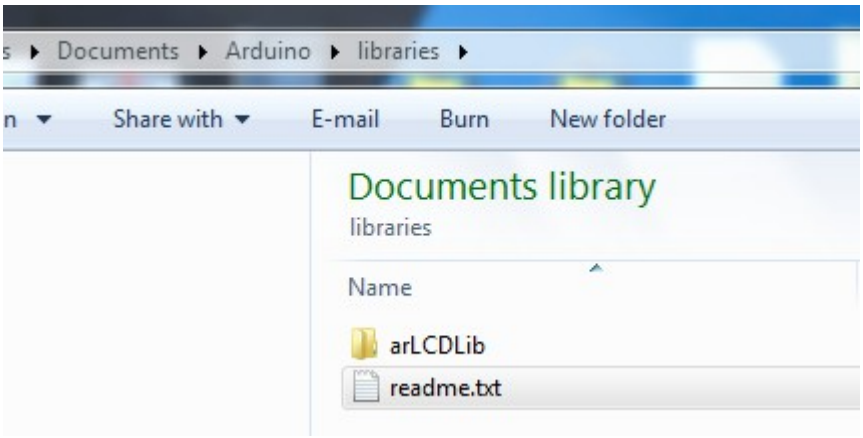


The arLCD directory should look like this.

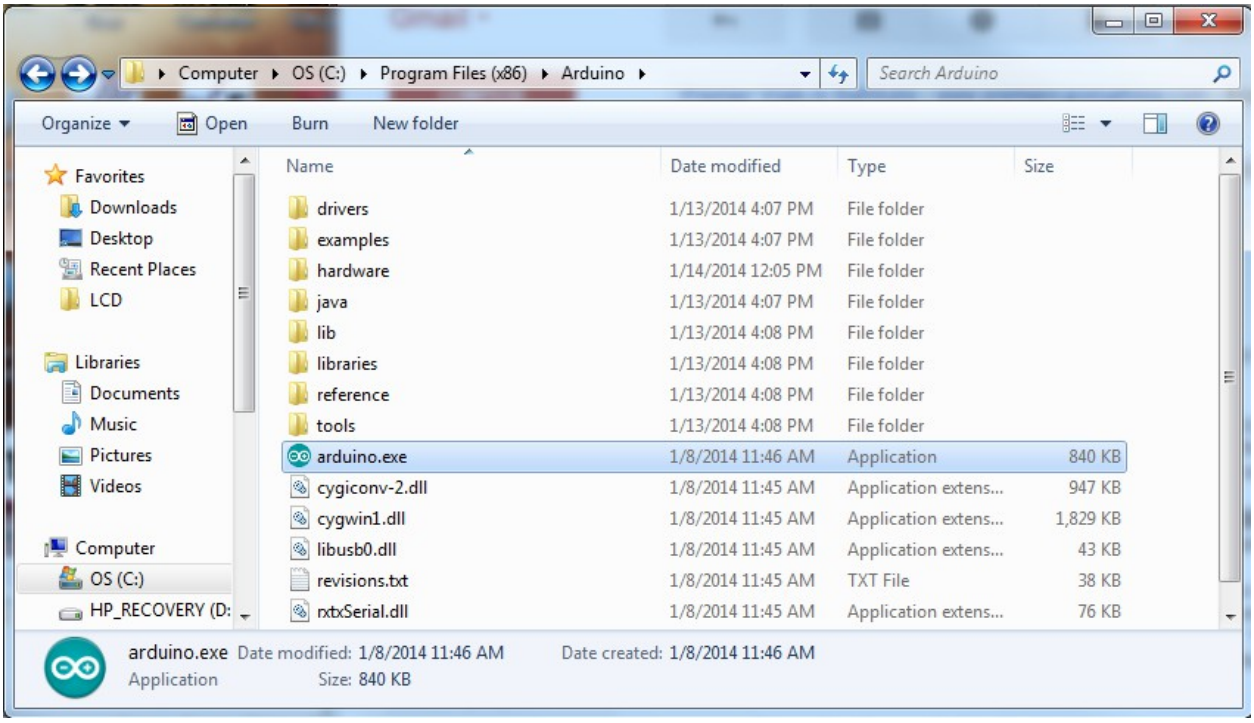
Step 5 – Install arLCD Library and Example Files

The arLCD comes with a library to be used with the Arduino IDE, this makes programming the arLCD very easy. In the file named **arLCD_Library_{date}.zip** that was downloaded earlier you will find a folder named **arLCDLib.** This folder contains the library and example files. However, it needs to be imported into the Arduino IDE.

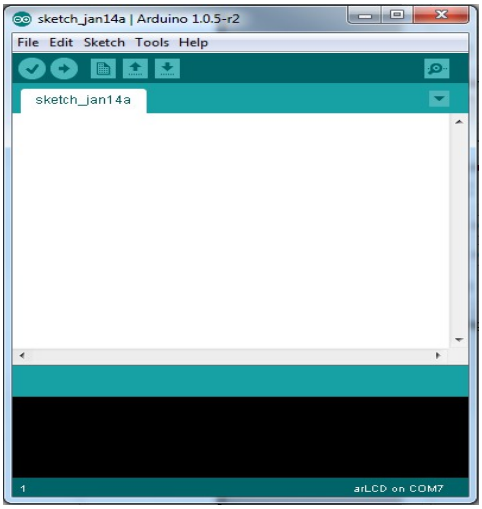
Note: If you previously installed the arLCD library you must manually remove the old directory. It is located under Documents\Arduino\libraries



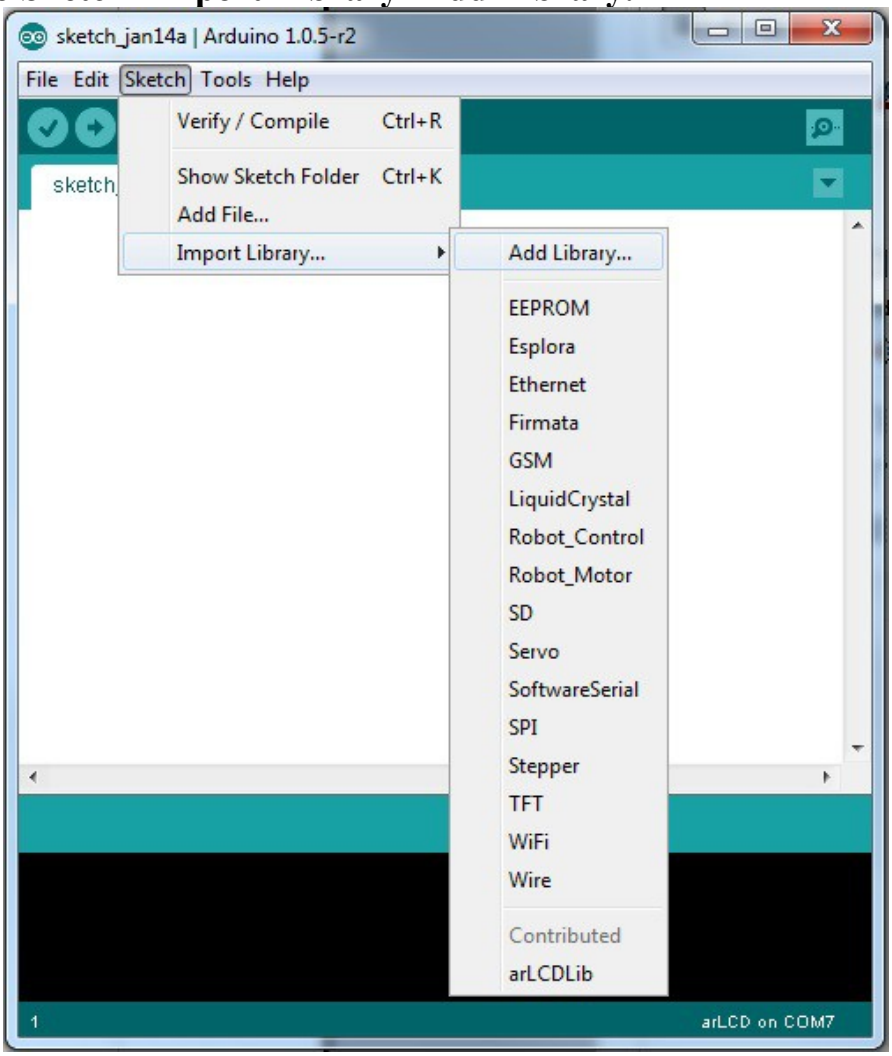
- **Open the Arduino IDE on your computer.**



- **The IDE should look something like this.**



- **Go to Sketch>Import Library>Add Library.**



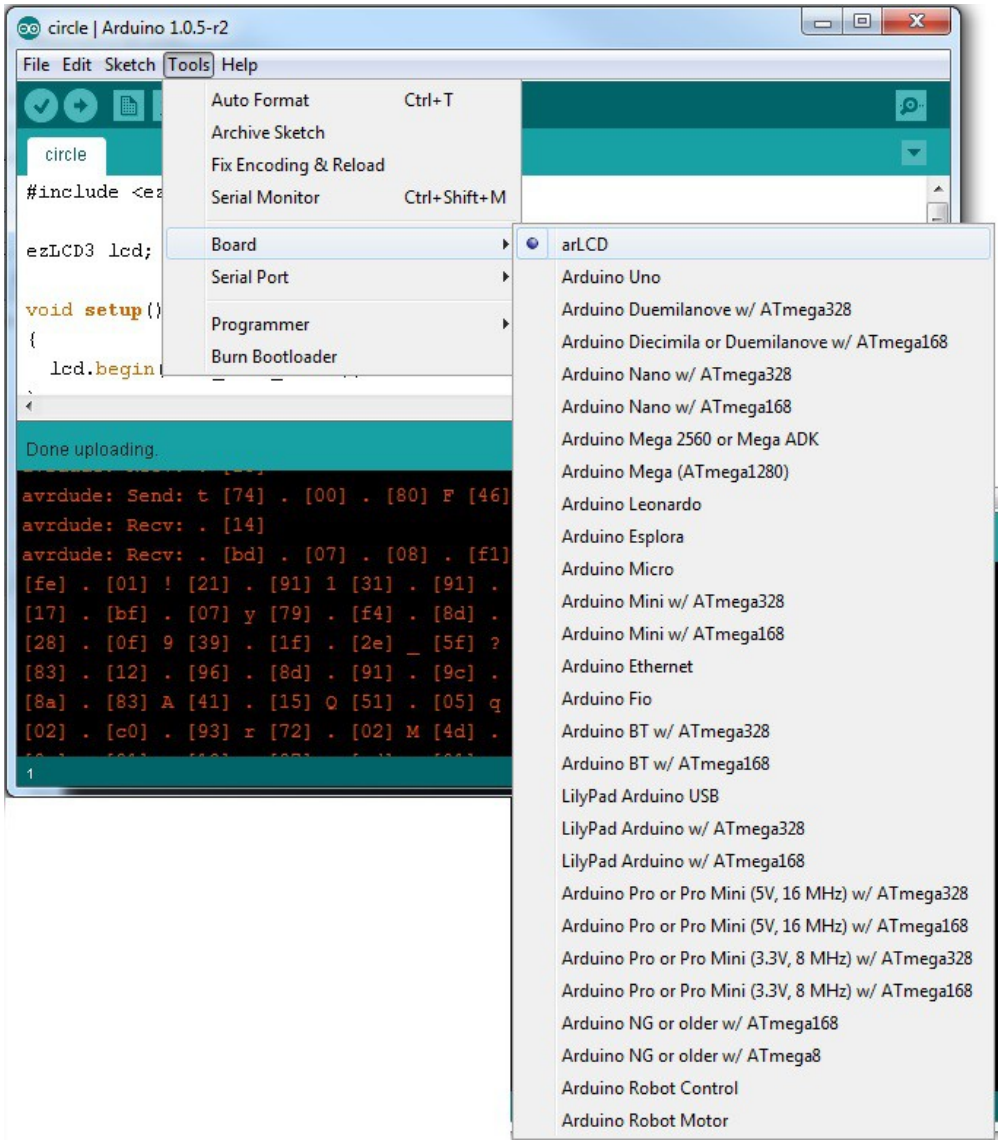
- Now **select arLCD_Library_{date}.zip-> arLCDLib** to import.

Now the arLCD Library is installed.

Step 6 – Loading an example sketch into your arLCD

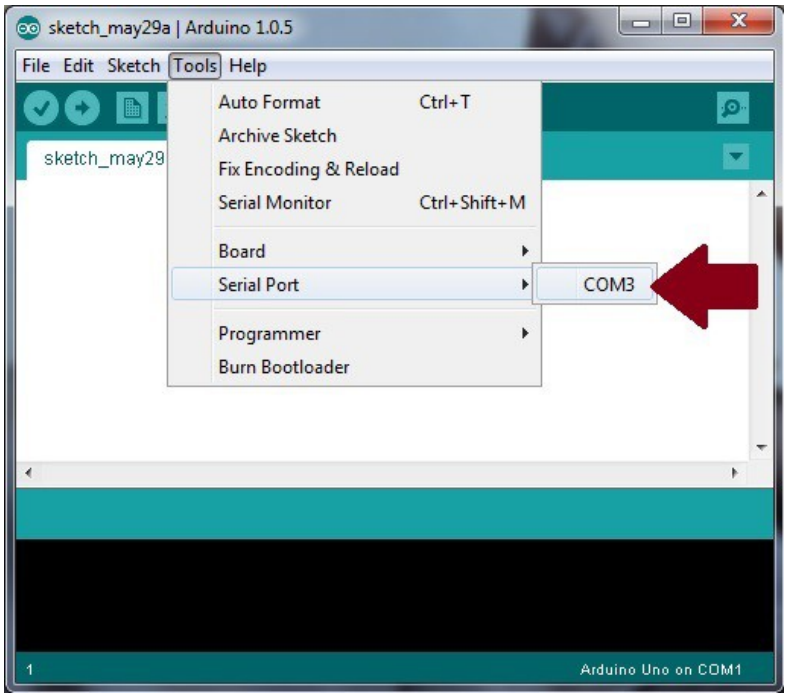
You are almost ready to load the sketch into your arLCD. You just need to make sure your Arduino IDE is set to the correct type of hardware and COM port.

- From the Arduino IDE toolbar select **Tools -> Board -> Arduino Uno**.

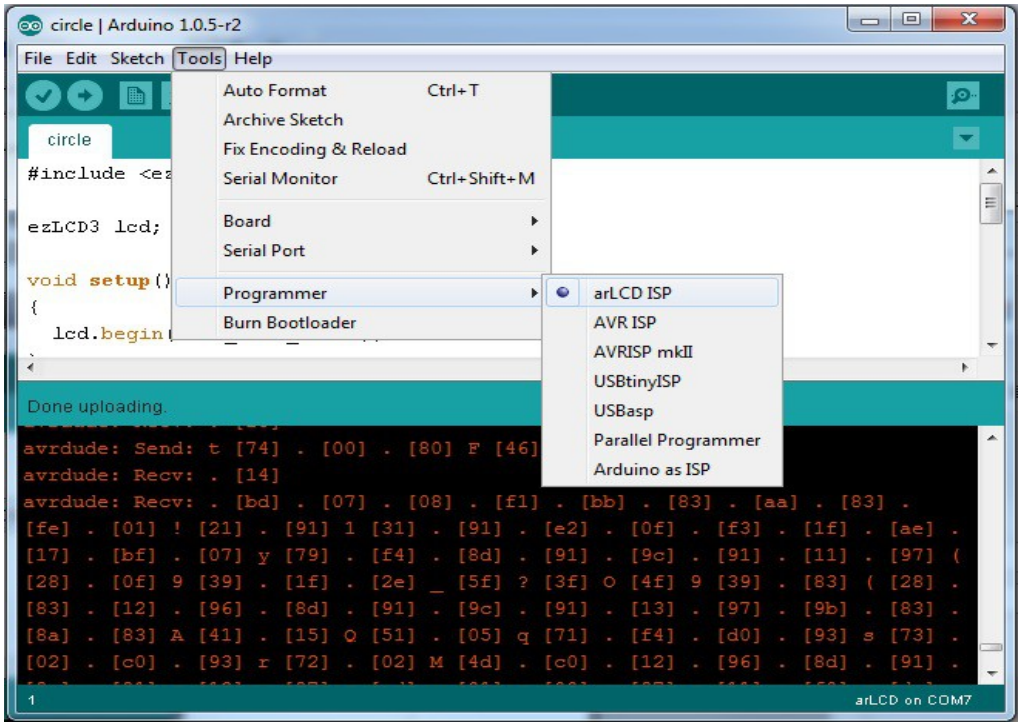


- Now from **Step 2** you should have **determined the COM port**.

  Go to **Tools -> Serial Port -> COM3** (This will vary from computers)

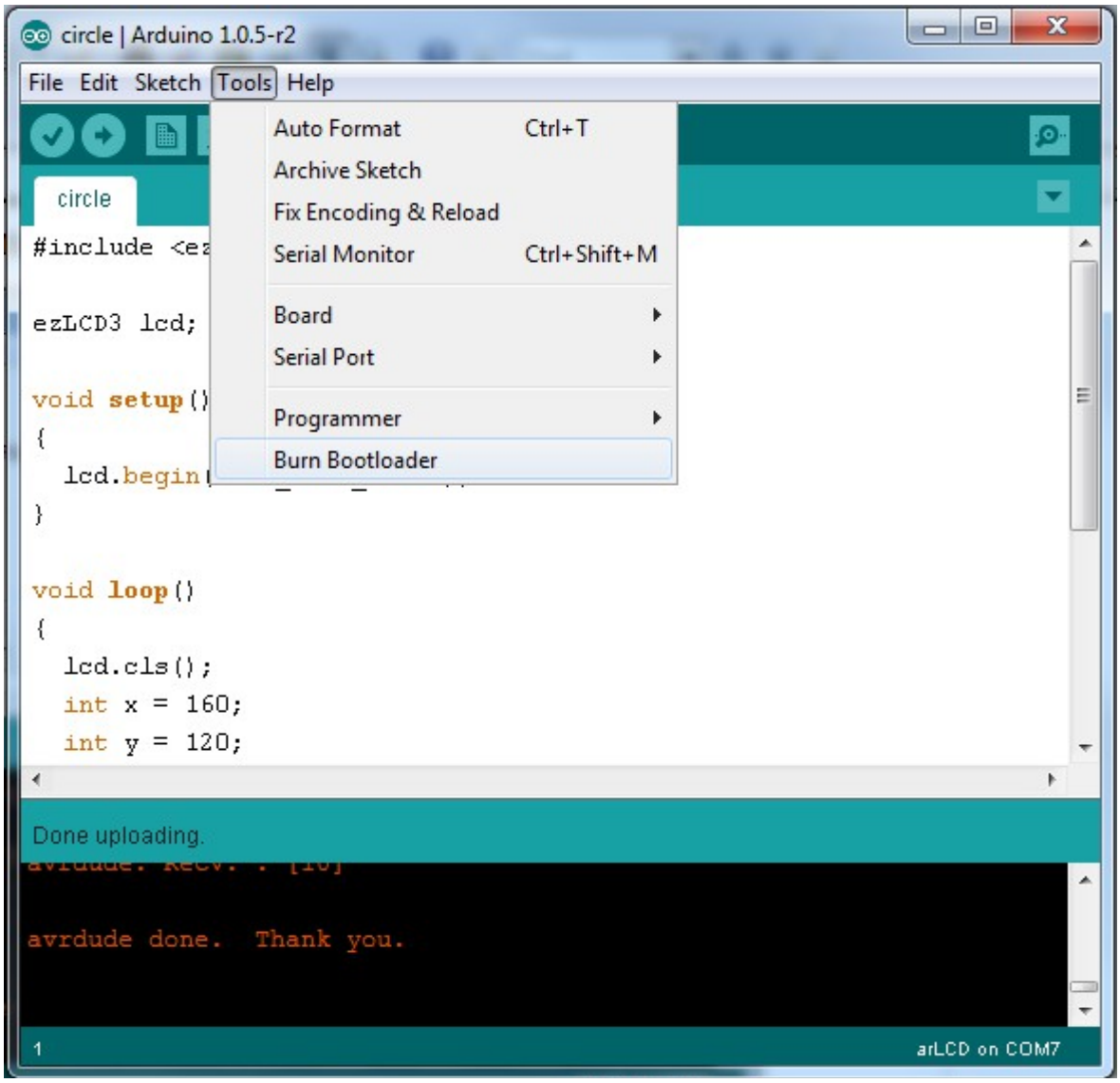


- Now select the Programmer
  Go to Tools->Programmer->AVRISP mkII



These settings will be stored and used the next time you open the IDE.

If the user requires the fuses of the Atmega328 to be set, then use the Burn Bootloader as below. If the existing bootloader is OK then skip this step.

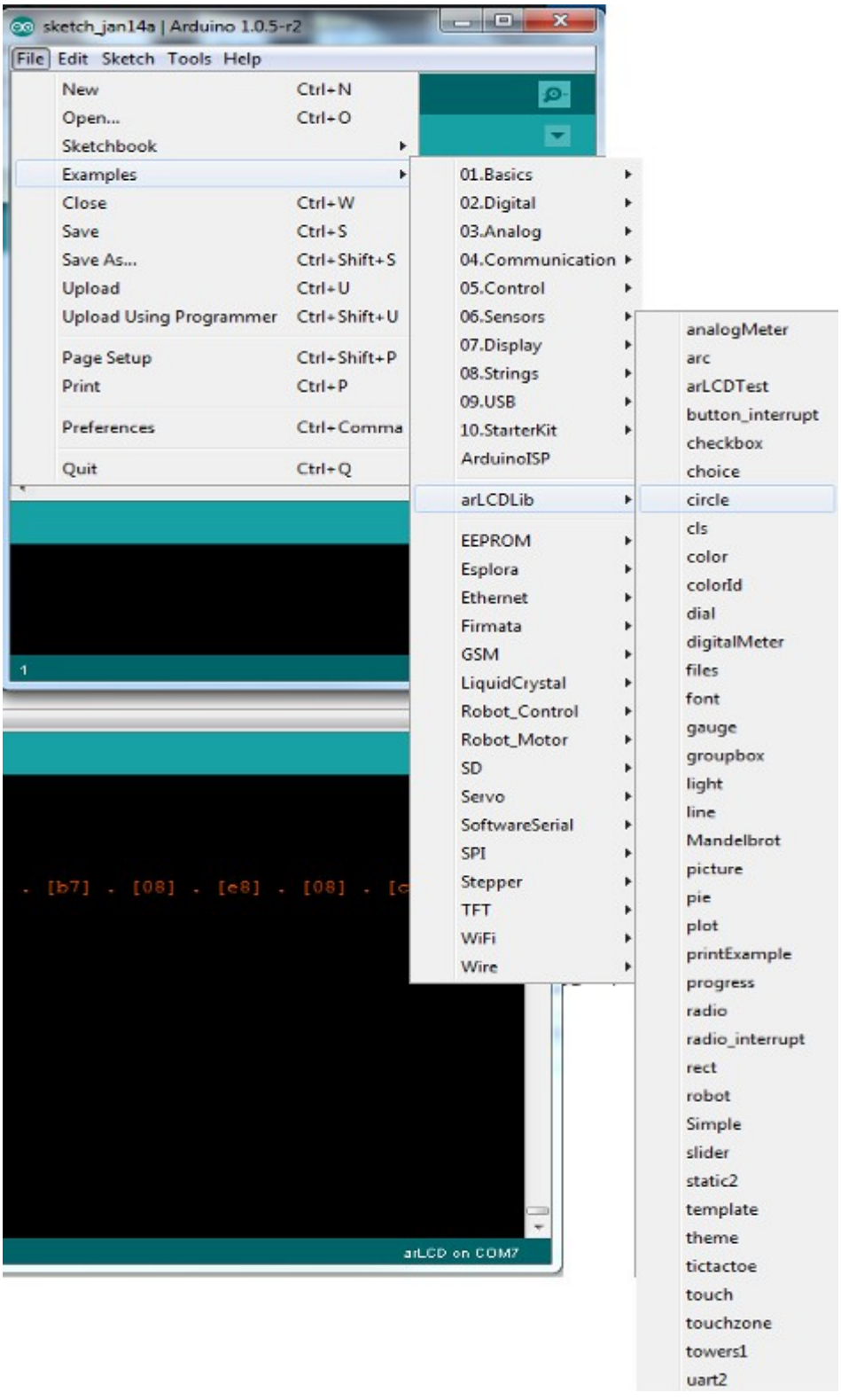


- From the toolbar select **Tools->Burn Bootloader**

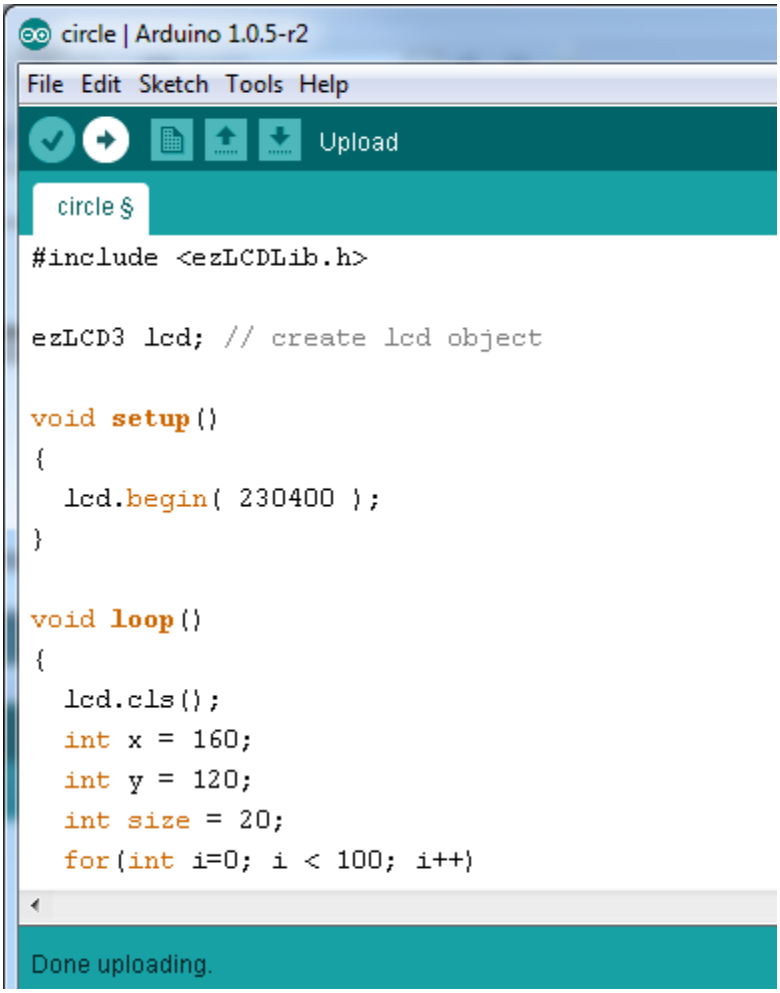
  You only have to burn the bootloader one time.

Now lets select a sketch to upload into the arLCD.

- From the toolbar select **File->Examples-> ezLCDLib-> circle.**


sketch_jan14a | Arduino 1.0.5-r2
File Edit Sketch Tools Help
New Ctrl+N
Open... Ctrl+O
Sketchbook
Examples
Close Ctrl+W
Save Ctrl+S
Save As... Ctrl+Shift+S
Upload Ctrl+U
Upload Using Programmer Ctrl+Shift+U
Page Setup Ctrl+Shift+P
Print Ctrl+P
Preferences Ctrl+Comma
Quit Ctrl+Q
01.Basics
02.Digital
03.Analog
04.Communication
05.Control
06.Sensors
07.Display
08.Strings
09.USB
10.StarterKit
ArduinoISP
arLCDLib
EEPROM
Esplora
Ethernet
Firmata
GSM
LiquidCrystal
Robot_Control
Robot_Motor
SD
Servo
SoftwareSerial
SPI
Stepper
TFT
WiFi
Wire
analogMeter
arc
arLCDTest
button_interrupt
checkbox
choice
circle
cls
color
colorId
dial
digitalMeter
files
font
gauge
groupbox
light
line
Mandelbrot
picture
pie
plot
printExample
progress
radio
radio_interrupt
rect
robot
Simple
slider
static2
template
theme
tictactoe
touch
touchzone
towers1
uart2
1
arLCD on COM7

- Now compile and upload the "**circle**" example to the arLCD.



The example should take a few seconds to compile and be uploaded into the arLCD. You should see circles load in the center of the screen expanding to larger circles of different colors.

Another great example to try is "arLCDTest". There should be various buttons and a slider on the screen after it finishes compiling. You can use this Sketch to calibrate the touchscreen.

If you want to upgrade your firmware see Appendix A.

If you do not see the test screen then go back through the steps and watch for error messages indicating something didn't go well.

More information

Now that you are up and running you can try selecting some of the other 25+ examples from the library and explore how they work. Make some code changes and see how it affects the display. Don't be afraid to try things. If you don't understand lines in the sketch, make some changes and see what happens.

Remember to select each sketch from the File menu.

File-> Examples-> arLCDLib-> (*selected sketch)*

and then upload

File-> Upload Using Programmer

for each sketch you want to try. You can modify and re-upload it as many times as you want. If you want to save it, we recommend you save it with another name you can remember so you can go back and look at the original.

Normally the GPU on the arLCD uses STARTUP.ezm when the touchscreen is not pressed during reset. At reset pressing various corners of the touchscreen will invoke other startup macros.

Upper left is STARTUP1.ezm Safe mode.

Upper right is STARTUP2.ezm Firmware Upgrade

Lower right is STARTUP3.ezm user defined

Lower left is STARTUP4.ezm user defined

STARTUP5.ezm is executed if the screen is pressed but outside the 50 x 50 pixel corners. If the selected startup file is not found, it is simply skipped. The unit is shipped with STARTUP.ezm, STARTUP1.ezm and STARTUP2.ezm.

On RESET the ezLCD GPU will check the touchscreen to see if after reset the user wants to bypass the normal startup.ezm. The user can supply alternative startup files or none at all. A startup1.ezm has been provided to mask any commands coming from the command port during programming. Its know as safe mode.

Note: Without a valid startup the COM ports are not setup and communication with the Arduino can not happen. The **startup*x*.ezm** files are changed by direct access to the flash drive on your PC.

Keep in mind, in order to communicate with your arLCD, the startup.ezm file must be setup correctly. If a startup.ezm is in the EZUSER\MACROS\ then it will be used. If not it will use the startup.ezm in the EZSYS\MACROS\ directory.

Visit our websites or links below for more documentation and et al.

EarthMake Product page: www.earthmake.com

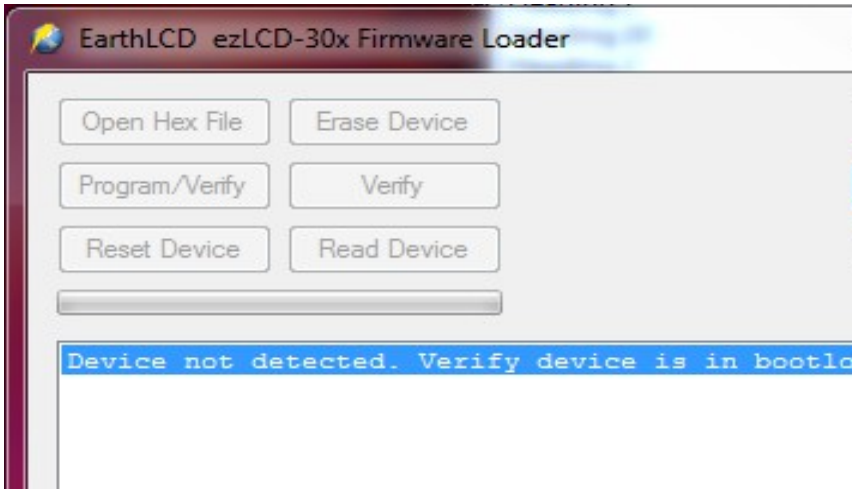
EarthLCD Website: www.earthlcd.com

www.earthlcd.com/Downloads/arLCD_Downloads

Appendix A: Upgrading the arLCD Firmware

A Windows PC is required to upgrade the firmware on an arLCD.

1 Run the Firmware Loader to load the firmware from your PC to the arLCD using the USB port. Before starting an upgrade be sure you have downloaded the ezLCD3xx Firmware Loader and installed it. You should see it waiting for the arLCD to attach.



The latest firmware can be found at
www.earthlcd.com/Downloads/arLCD_Software

IMPORTANT: Never use any upgrade firmware that is not designed for the display you have. Only arLCD firmware should be installed. Using the wrong firmware could make your unit inoperable and leave no way to install the correct firmware.

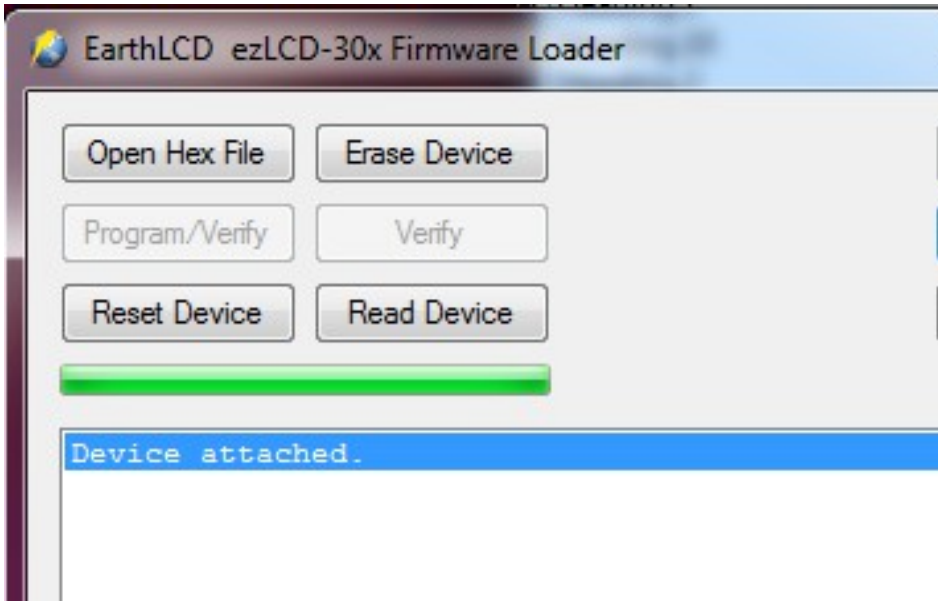
NOTE: Once you put the arLCD in firmware upgrade mode it cannot come out of this state until new firmware is programmed using the provided program even if you unplug it or reset!

If the arLCD does not respond as a flash drive when plugged into the USB port, it is probably in upgrade mode. Install the new firmware as shown in step 2 below.

Step 1. Put the arLCD in Firmware Upgrade Mode.

The simplest way to go into upgrade mode is to press the upper right corner of the touchscreen as you press the reset button.

Step 2. Use the ezLCD-3xx Firmware Loader program (should already be running).



Step 3. The ezLCD-3xx Firmware Loader program will beep and the text box should display **Device attached**.

Step 4. Click Open Hex File in the ezLCD-3xx Firmware Loader program. Navigate to the location of your arLCD firmware hex file and click on it.

This hex file could be either an arLCD_2pxx.hex file or ezLCD303_2pxx.hex.

Step 5. Click Program/Verify in the ezLCD-3xx Firmware Loader program. The ezLCD-3xx Firmware Loader text box should display several status messages followed by Erase/Program/Verify completed Successfully.

Step 6. Click Reset Device in the ezLCD-3xx Firmware Loader program. The arLCD should sign back on.

Appendix B: Upgrading to bootloader free firmware (2.11)

Moving up to bootloader free firmware information

With firmware 2.11 the arLCD is no longer using the bootloader to program the flash. This allow the user to remove the bootloader and expand the flash area by 512 bytes. By upgrading the firmware to bootloader free operation the upgrade will:

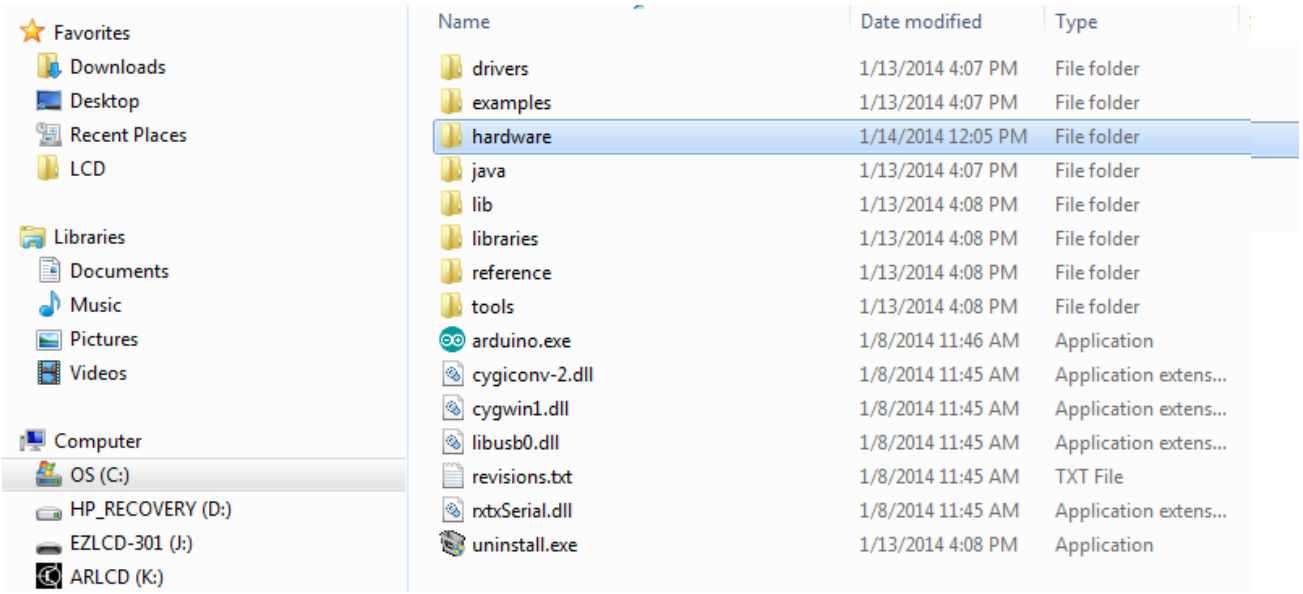
1. Have bigger usable flash size (32768 vs 32256)
2. No chance of corrupting the bootloader.
3. Faster code startup
4. No arLCD library changes required.

The Atmel processor has 32768 bytes of firmware available. The bootloader takes up 512bytes of that space. To remove the bootloader, the firmware has implemented an Atmel compatible SPI programmer driven by the IDE. This removes the typical 2-3 second delay for your firmware to startup after all resets.

To upgrade your arLCD to this mode is pretty simple. Make sure the Arduino IDE is closed before making these changes.

1. Upgrade the boards.txt file to include the arLCD.

The arLCD is supplied with a 3rd party hardware configuration directory (arLCD.zip) Copy the content of this zip file into the Arduino\hardware\arduino directory.



The arLCD directory contains the boards.txt and programmers.txt files required for the Arduino IDE to understand and program the arLCD.

You will notice the maximum code size is now 32768 instead of 32256. The fuse settings have changed because the flash space where the bootloader was previously loaded is no longer locked. Upload baud rate is ignored.

2. Ensure the GPU startup.ezm macro file is as follows. It is located on the arLCD:\EZSYS\MACROS.

```
'************** Startup.ezm ********************************
' ArduinoLCD startup.ezm
' (c) 2012 Earth Computer Technologies, Inc dba EarthLCD.com
'Release 2.11 Mar 14, 2014
'*****************************************************
'THIS MACRO IS AUTOMATICALLY RUN AT POWERUP AND RESET
verbose off    'Do not display debug information to command port
cfgio 1 out                                    'reset enable
io 1 0                                         'drive reset
light 85                                       'set backlight to 85%
cls black white                                'cls to black with white text
Font 2                                         'set font to default internal font
picture 0 0 3 magic.gif                        'show picture
```

```
xy ct                                   'center top
print "arLCD HS 230400 Baud w/isp" ct   'center top
'configure IO
CFGIO 2 serial1_tx 230400 n81           'D0 Serial1 transmit
CFGIO 6 serial1_rx 230400 n81           'D1 Serial1 Receive
cmd serial1                             'connect command port to Serial1
wquiet ON                               'No touch messages to Arduino host
bridge USBISP                           'setup ISP programming bridge
io 1 1                                  'deassert reset to host
cfgio 1 input                           'release the reset enable (input)
```

3. Load the latest ezLCD firmware (2.11 or later)

   Reset the arLCD by pressing the reset button and also press and hold the upper right corner of the LCD until the unit pops up a warning that you are going to upgrade the firmware. If you press the screen again as instructed you will go into firmware upgrade mode. Once you are in upgrade mode you can not get out of it even with another reset or power cycle. The firmware has to be upgraded to restore operation. The EarthLCD ezLCD-30x Firmware Loader is used to do the upgrade on a windows PC only.

   After the upgrade clicking on Reset Device in the loader will allow the new settings to take effect.

4. Now let's start the Arduino IDE (1.0.5 assumed)

   1. Select an example sketch.

   2. In the IDE /Tools/Board select "**arLCD"** as your board type.

      In the IDE /Tools/Programmer select "**AVR ISP"** as your programmer.

5. Upload sketch

   Upload sketches as usual. The GPU on the arLCD will erase and program the flash in the Atmel 328 device.

Appendix C: Connecting ezLCD3xx to Arduino

Connecting an Arduino to an ezLCD3xx

A cable would be used to connect the 16 pin connector on the ezLCD3xx to the various IO of the Arduino.

Cable connects all the pins as follows.

ezLCD3xx	Arduino Pins	Name	Function
1	-	VBUS	Power input for USB (5Volt)
2	-	USBD-	USB negative
3	J1-7	GND	GND reference for USB power
4	-	USBD+	USB positive
5	J3-1	IO2	Used for COMM port transmit (hardware UART)
6	J2-3	IO1	RESETn to Arduino. Used for SPI programming Mode
7	J1-3	IO4	UART TX of second UART (if used)
8	J1-4	IO3	UART RX of second UART (if used)
9	J3-2	IO6	Used for COMM port receive (hardware UART)
10	J1-5	IO5	Used for MISO of SPI programming
11	J1-6	IO8	Used for SCLK of SPI programming
12	-	IO7	Used for DTR of Arduino (soft reset). Not used with SPI programming. *Can not be connected to Arduino without soldering a wire.*
13	-	MCLRn	Reset input of ezLCD3xx
14	J3-3	IO9	Interrupt Output from ezLCD3xx if used
15	J2-6,7	GND	GND reference for logic power input of ezLCD3xx
16	J2-4	VCC3.3	3.3Volt power input to ezLCD3xx.

Connecting up these 12 signals will allow connecting an Arduino directly to any ezLCD3xx product using standard firmware. Programming can be done through the SPI of the ezLCD through USB. The serial programming can not be used.