

Week 1: Software Foundation, Memory & Hardware Testing (June 10 - June 16)

Goal: To establish a strong software foundation, understand data persistence with memory, and confirm all hardware components are working correctly.

- **Software & Coding Fundamentals:**

- Set up the Arduino IDE and install the necessary libraries: MFRC522, IRremote, Adafruit_GFX, and Adafruit_SSD1306.
- Learn the core software architecture: program structure (state machine), menu navigation logic, and button input handling.
- **Memory Management:** Research and learn how to use the microcontroller's non-volatile EEPROM memory. Write test programs to save and retrieve data to ensure it persists after power is turned off.

- **Hardware Module Testing & Preparation:**

- Finalize and order the list of required components:
 - Arduino Nano
 - I2C OLED Display (e.g., 0.96 inch)
 - MFRC522 RFID Module
 - IR Receiver and a high-power IR LED
 - Transistor to drive the IR LED
 - Push-buttons
 - LiPo battery charging/protection circuit or a 5V power bank.
 - Breadboard and jumper wires.
- Individually test each hardware module by connecting it to the Arduino and running example sketches to verify functionality (e.g., "DumpInfo" for RFID, "IRrecvDump" for IR).

Week 2: Prototyping, Core Software Development & PCB Introduction (June 17 - June 23)

Goal: Assemble a working prototype on a breadboard, build the main software structure, and begin learning PCB design.

- **Prototype Assembly:**

- Connect all components (microcontroller, RFID, IR, OLED, buttons) together on the breadboard.
- Connect the IR LED through a transistor to ensure sufficient transmission power.

- **Core Software Development:**

- Implement the main program structure as a state machine.
- Create the "Main Menu" state to be displayed on the OLED screen.
- Program the logic for the buttons to allow the user to switch between states

(e.g., from the Main Menu to "RFID Read Mode").

- **Introduction to PCB Design:**

- Begin learning to use PCB design software (e.g., EasyEDA, KiCad).
- Practice by creating the circuit schematic based on your working breadboard prototype.

Week 3: Function Integration and Data Storage (June 24 - June 30)

Goal: Finalize the primary functions and ensure data can be saved reliably.

- **Finalize Operating Modes:**

- **RFID Read Mode:** Program the device to continuously scan for a tag. When a tag is detected, display its UID on the OLED screen.
- **IR Receive Mode:** Program the device to wait for an IR signal. When a signal is received, decode it and display the infrared code information on the screen.

- **Store and Replay IR Signals:**

- Implement the functionality to save the last captured IR code into the EEPROM.
- Create a "Replay IR Signal" option in the menu that reads the code from EEPROM and transmits it via the IR LED.

Week 4: Integration Testing and Optimization (July 01 - July 07)

Goal: Test the complete system, fix bugs, and prepare for the final version.

- **Integration Testing:**

- Test the entire workflow: boot -> menu -> select function (read RFID, capture IR) -> execute -> display result -> return to menu.
- Verify the IR signal save and replay functions, ensuring they work reliably across multiple power cycles.

- **Field Testing:**

- Evaluate the effective range of the infrared transmitter.
- Test the battery life under normal usage conditions (if using a LiPo battery).
- Gather feedback and fix any bugs that arise (e.g., confusing interface, unresponsive buttons).

Week 5: Final Product Design and Assembly (July 08 - July 14)

Goal: Transition from the prototype to a compact and durable final product.

- **PCB Design and Manufacturing:**

- Finalize the schematic and create the PCB layout in your design software.
- Send the design files to a PCB manufacturer for fabrication.

- **3D Enclosure Design and Printing:**

- Design an enclosure (case) that fits the PCB and all components.

- Use a 3D printer to create the enclosure.
- **Final Assembly and Soldering:**
 - Once the PCB arrives, solder all components onto the board.
 - Assemble the completed board into the 3D-printed enclosure. Conduct a final test to ensure everything works as expected.