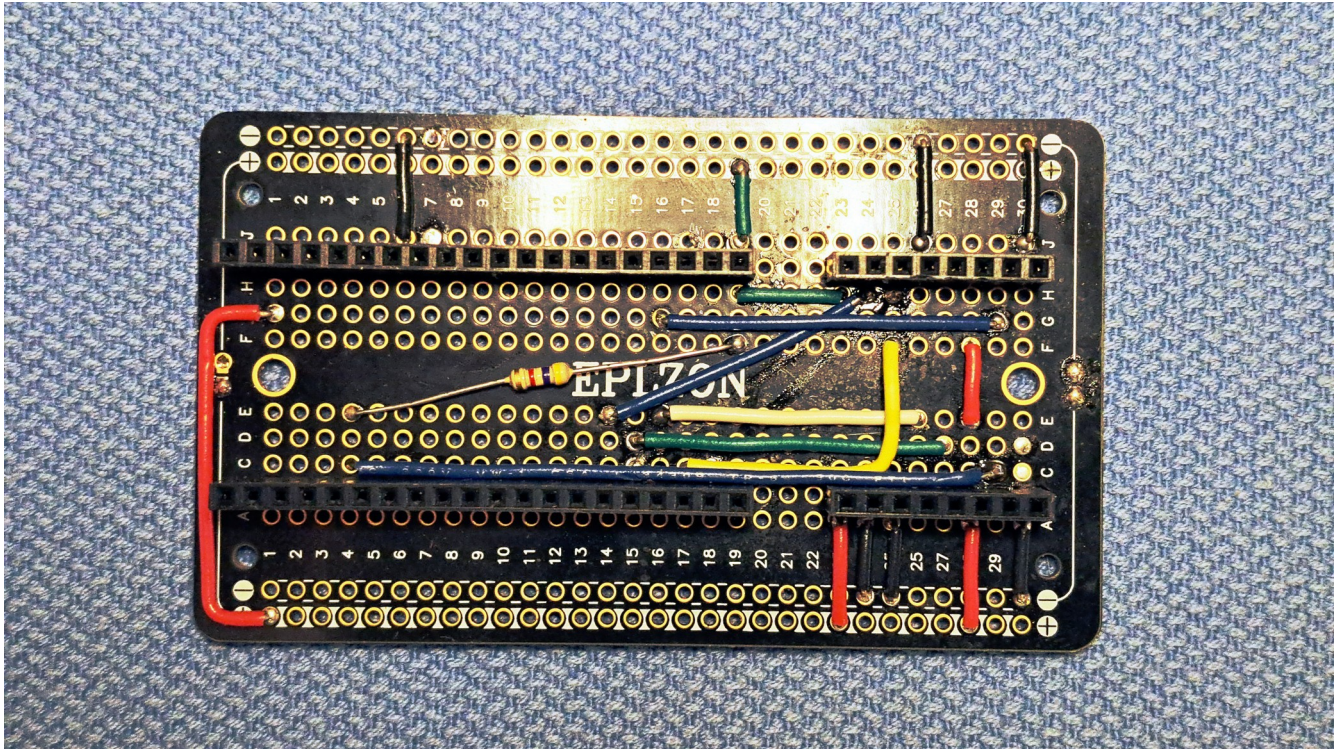


I almost always base my projects on PCB clones of breadboards to make planning easier. In rare cases, I will use plain old point-to-point boards if it doesn't involve a lot of jumper connections. Here's a link to the boards I used in the photos.

<https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B0BP28GYTV/>



This project has quite a handful of soldered jumper wires. But, at least wires aren't as critical as things like electrolytic capacitors and diodes that have a polarity that has to be honored or you'll let out all of the magic smoke. As you can see, there is only a 4.7K pull-up resistor from the +3.3 volt pin of the ESP32 to the GPIO 15 pin.

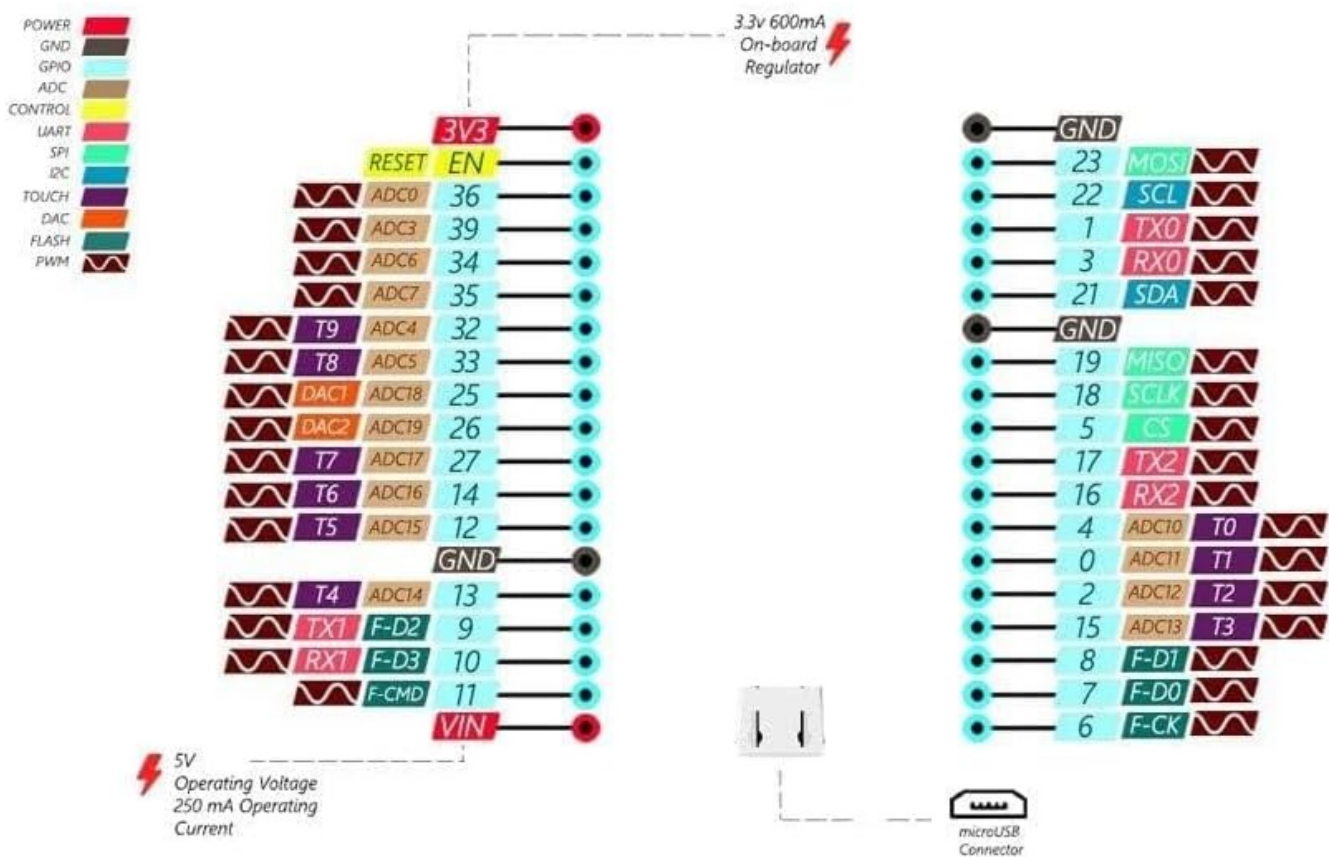
Both negative buses on the PCB are connected together, but the top positive bus is +3.3 volts and the bottom one is +5 volts. The +3.3 volt bus is supplied by the ESP32's onboard 600ma voltage regulator. This is more than enough current for the VL53L0X, everything else connected to this device runs on +5 volts.

As with the Load Cell Hydrometer, the far left pins on the ESP32 socket are clipped off because the socket strips are 20 pin and the ESP32 has 19 pins on each side. The socket strips to the right of the ESP32 are the bus for connecting the 5 volts and serial communications from the RPi Smart Still Controller, the DS18B20, flow sensor, and VL53L0X.

Below is how I have connected things to the bus. The bottom row is "A" and the top row is "B". I number the pins 1 to 8 from left to right.

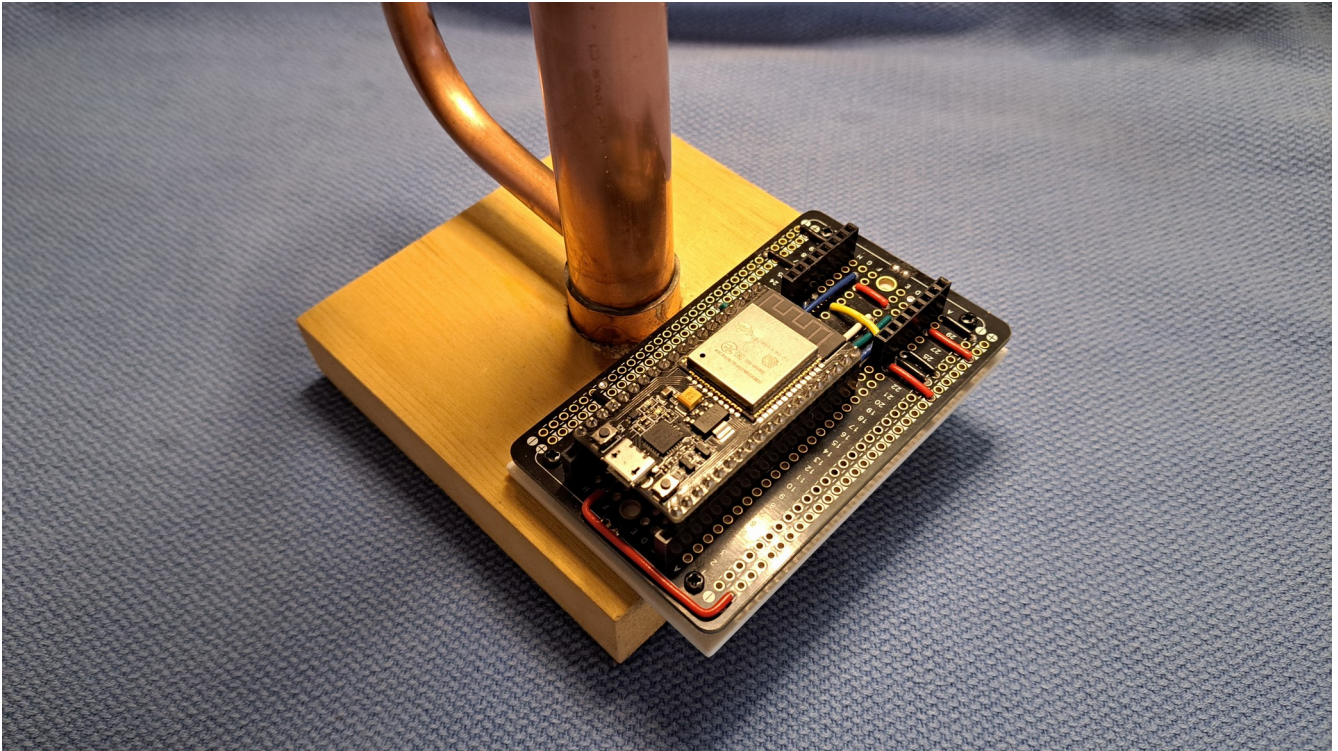
Power supply +5 volts	1A	1B VL53L0X +3.3 volts
Power supply negative	2A	2B VL53L0X SDA
Serial comm jack gnd	3A	3B VL53L0X SCL
Serial comm jack TX	4A	4B VL53L0X negative
Serial comm jack RX	5A	5B
DS18B20 +5 volts	6A	6A Flow sensor +5 volts
DS18B20 data	7A	7B Flow sensor pulse
DS18B20 negative	8A	8B Flow sensor negative

If you follow the wires in the above photo and the pin definition constants in the source code, you shouldn't have any problem wiring things correctly. Below is an image of the pin layout for the 38 pin ESP32 board that I use. This is pretty much standard for all 38 pin boards.



Yes, I realize that 38 pins is entirely overkill for what I'm doing in this project, but I only buy 38 pin boards because they're cheap and always leave me room to grow. Smaller boards really don't save me a whole lot, usually less than a dollar.

In case you are unfamiliar with this VL53L0X device, this is a LIDAR sensor, which is a what "laser tape measures" use. If you have ever used one, you probably saw the procedure in the owner's manual that shows you how to measure the height of a telescopic pole. A reflector is placed atop of the pole and you measure from the ground-up. This is how the hydrometer reader works, a paper disk is placed at the top of the hydrometer and its height is measured to obtain the ABV reading.



In my case, I 3D printed the “[Power Breakout Mounting Plate.stl](#)” and mounted it to the base of my parrot and then attached the PCB to that. Before you assume I made a serious mistake here, neither ethanol nor distilled water are conductive. Plus, there is also a 3D printed cover that goes over the whole thing.