Ben Kazemi
London, United Kingdom
+44 7756 433 926

linkedin.com/in/benkazemi
github.com/orbitinstasis
ben.kazemi@gmail.com

I create, research, prototype, and implement design and interaction ideas for cutting edge research projects:

- Rapid Prototyping
- Schematic capture and PCB design in Altium
- Design for Manufacture and management of scaled outsourced assembly
- Firmware and software development
- Laser cutting and CAD for additive manufacturing
- Troubleshooting complex systems, expertise in bare-metal, physical design, and systems interfacing
- Lab management and organisation
- Hardware testing, iteration and validation

Relevant Work Experience - *highlighted text is clickable*

2020-Present *Hardware Developer - MSD Group at University College London,* London

I am the lead developer for the flagship Particle Based Displays used in cutting edge research at our lab and take a primary role at all levels of design, assembly, fabrication and testing. I iterate revisions of both the electronics hardware and structural chassis, and manage the distribution of over 80 boards, and assembly which we outsource.

Lead Authored "Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems" demo paper: Two-Gimbal Phased Array of Transducers: An artistic installation combining mechanical and acoustic rotation of levitated content.

I help manage the lab and it's associated spaces, supervise the lab's growth, and support the research of over 15 Post Docs and PhDs with a wide variety of technical requirements and issues.

2018-2020 *Research Engineer - Interact Lab at University of Sussex, Brighton*

Managed a multi-disciplinary HCI lab space that primarily researched holograms, multimodal levitation, wearable technologies, programmable liquid matter, metamaterials, and adaptive shape changing screens. Technical objectives were to enable members to fulfil their research and production goals through rapid prototyping of electronic designs, writing Windows and MacOS programs in Python, C# and Java to communicate with hardware written in C.

This included the revised levitation and Acoustophoretic board. Responsible for a full lifecycle design from concept to a FPGA controlled PCB housing 256 uniquely controllable ultrasound speakers on two six-layer high-speed PCBs designed in Altium. This board is a unique state-of-the-art design and has already been included in a number of accepted academic papers, including Nature journal where I am acknowledged Appl. Phys. Lett. 115, 064101.

2015-2018 *Contract Developmental Engineer & Embedded Systems Consultant - Bitvu Ltd, Brighton*

Engineering a multi-channel, multi-protocol streaming encoder with legacy analogue support, utilising a novel design allowing a price reduction of 80% compared to competing products. Initial contract to interface an audio source to a Broadcom SoC and to control an HDMI-to-CSI IC. Remained as primary project-engineer where my main responsibilities included design and implementation of system architecture, schematic creation, and review and supervision of offshore PCB layout engineers. I worked closely with the Raspberry Pi foundation on an open-source kernel driver.

Relevant Technical Skills

Hardware Professional experience with Altium and DfM, expert assembly skills. Experience using Bluetooth, 802.11, RS232, USB, I2C, I2S and HDMI. Skilled at troubleshooting hardware, competent at reverse engineering undocumented hardware. Analogue audio design experience, having designed a low-noise Raspberry Pi sound card 'Hat'.

Software Working experience: C, C#, & Java. Light experience: Python, C++, & BASH. Studied: Haskell, Prolog, Pascal, MATLAB, LabView, SQL, VHDL, and MIPS.

Management Have managed offshore engineers and outsourced manufacturers for large projects. I enjoy these challenges and hope to further develop my managerial skills.

Education

2011-2015 *First Class BEng (Honours) Computer Engineering, University of Sussex*

- Full-stack engineered Galaxy S4 case with multi-touch pressure and positional input data using sensors encapsulating the smartphones sides and rear surfaces
- Developed PCB, firmware, and android app to demonstrate new modes of interaction
  - 2015 Rohde & Schwarz Project Prize Award
  - 2015 IET Gerald David Memorial prize Nominee
  - 2014 Best Engineering student awarded by Eurotherm by Schneider Electric

2007-2009 *Three A-Levels in Electronics, Computing & Music Technology - Sussex Downs College, Lewes*

2005-2006 *BTEC Certificate in Contemporary Music - Brighton Institute of Modern Music, Brighton*

Other Notable Experiences

Emerging Leaders – University College London, London. Awarded August 2022
Placed on a five-month course focusing on leadership development.

Learning to Lead Programme – University of Sussex, Brighton. Awarded June 2011

Language Teacher – Shijie Chinese-English School, Hunan, China. August – September 2006
Responsible for planning and delivering classes and events to students aged 7 to 19 to strengthen cross cultural ties.

Personal Interests and Projects

- An Android case that allows full control of the OS without the need to interact with the touchscreen, interfaced through BLE 4.0 or USB OTG;
- A noiseless four-layer line-in & microphone pre-amplifier sound card 'HAT' for a Raspberry Pi, interfaced through I2S
- A BLE MIDI foot pedal controller for the Yamaha THR30ii Guitar amp
- Made Thinkpad laptop keyboard standalone. Open-source project engineering Bluetooth compatible controller
- Autonomous audio and power IO selector board with SPDIF DAC, controlled by IR/WiFi/BLE
- A reactive baby light designed to gauge the child's state of calmness, helping them fall asleep
  - Android monitor and control application, with hardware and firmware interfaced through Bluetooth
- I designed and manufactured all electronics for a themed escape room at *Escape Kent* in 2017
- Contributed towards the open-source development of Adafruit's *DRV2605 Haptic Controller Board*
- Co-authored Arduino workshops for the organisation 'SheCodes'
- Native English speaker, competent spoken understanding of Farsi

References - *Further references available on request.*

Dr Diego Plasencia - Associate Professor - UCL
Relationship: Line Manager
d.plasencia@ucl.ac.uk
+44 7733 328189

Steve Glenister - CTO - Bitvu Ltd.
Relationship: Primary contact
sg@bitvu.com
+44 1273 810 244