Introduction to PCB design in KiCAD

Where to find these slides and other necessary files

https://github.com/pvikberg/PCB lecture

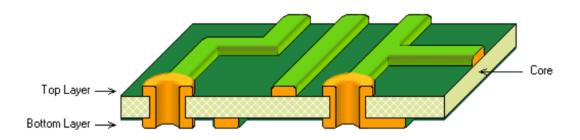
Download these files now, some of them will be necessary later

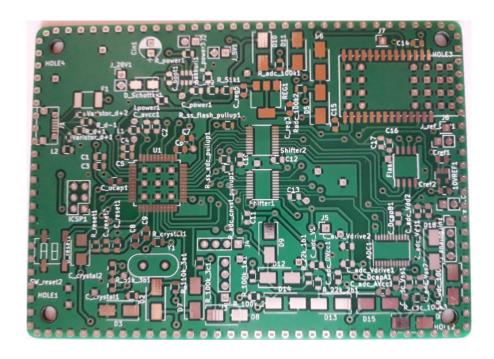
What is a PCB?

- PCB = Printed Circuit Board
- PCB is wiring:
 - Connects components to one another
- Can be ordered from a factory

Or

- Can be corroded in the workshop
 - Cheap, fast, more work, variation in quality



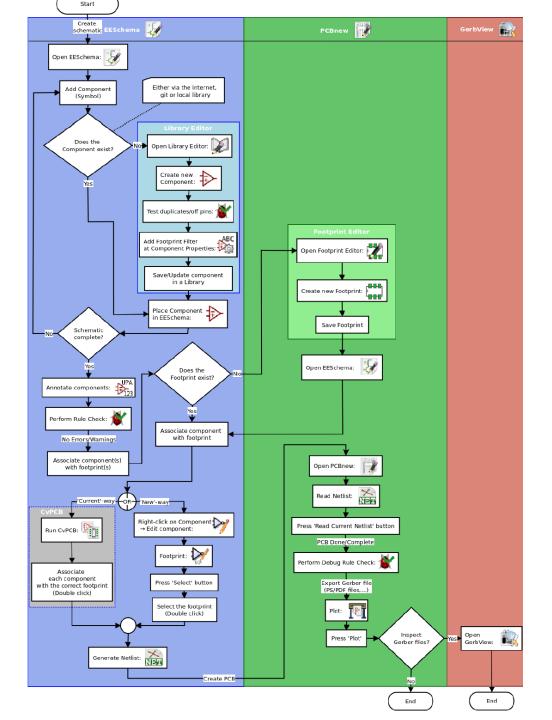






Workflow

- 1: Decide what is to be done
- 2: Choose components
 - Use datasheets when doing this
 - Make sure components are compatible
- 3: Open KiCAD and start a new project
- 4: Add the components and make the wirings in EESchema
 - Use datasheets to find correct pins
- 5: Associate footprints to components and create a netlist
- 6: Open PCBnew, read the netlist and set design rules
- 7: Place components, wirings, borders, filled areas etc.
- 8: Create files needed to manufacture PCB
 - In workshop: plot the pdf-files (MIRROR THE FRONT COPPER IMAGE)
 - Ordered from a factory: plot gerbers and drill file

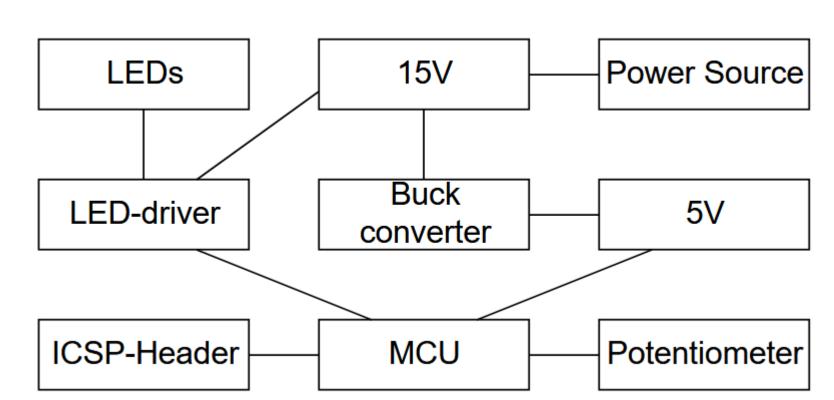


1. Decide what is to be done

- In this example, we wish to use a potentiometer to control the brightness of 4 blue LEDs with a LED-driver and a microcontroller (MCU)
- A very suboptimal (stupid) solution, but should do as an excercise
- Components

needed:

- Potentiometer
- 4 LEDs
- LED-driver
- MCU
- Buck converter



2. Choosing the components

- Time consuming
- See what the workshop has stocked
- Order online:
 - Mouser, Digikey, Farnell etc...
 - Hint: try googling e.g. "led driver farnell" to find the correct category
 - With experience, one could search manufacturer sites (e.g. Texas instruments)
- Almost every component has a datasheet that provides a detailed description of the component
- When ordering online, pay very close attention to the datasheet and make decision to purchase based on the datasheet
 - Some important criteria: footprint, casing and soldering difficulty
- For the purproses of this demo, components have already been chosen

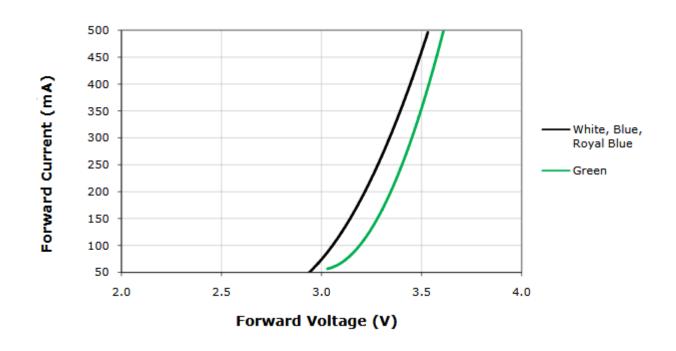
2. Choosing the components: LEDs

• From the datasheet:

• Forward voltage: 3.35V

• Current: ~350mA



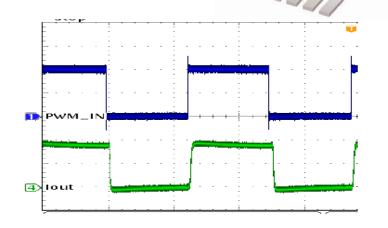


- XPCBLU-L1-0000-00W02 LED, HB, BLUE, 23.5L
- http://fi.farnell.com/cree/xpcblu-l1-0000-00w02/led-hb-blue-23-5lm/dp/2419727

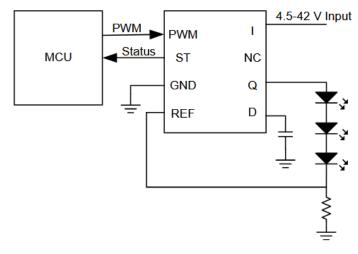
2. Choosing the components LED-driver

river

- Led brightness controlled by constant-current PWM-signal
- Pulse Width Modulated (PWM) voltage input controls a constant-current PWM output->
- MCU PWM used to control this LED-driver
- Constant current strength chosen with a reference resistor->
- Texas Instruments, TL4242-Q1 Adjustable LED Driver
- http://www.ti.com/lit/ds/symlink/tl4242-q1.pdf



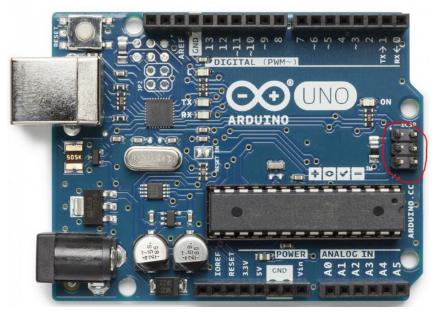
Typical Application Schematic

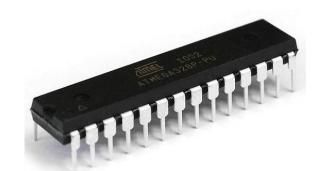


2. Choosing the components: MCU

- From the workshop: Atmel-328P: the same as in Arduino UNO
- Study the Arduino UNO schematic to find out what additional components are needed
- ICSP-header needed to program this with an

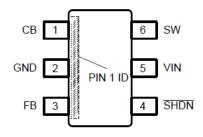
Arduino UNO





2. Choosing the components: Buck Converter

- The input voltage (15V) is too high for the MCU, but ut is what the LED-driver needs to drive 4 LEDS (3.5V each)
- -> give the MCU 5V with a buck converter
- Datasheets shows a typical application, just what we need ->



9.2 Typical Application

Figure 7 shows typical application where user can adjust output by R1 and R2.

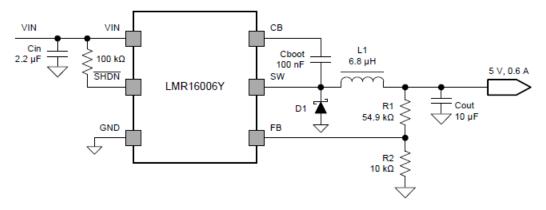


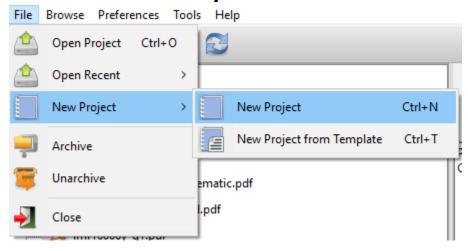
Figure 7. Application Circuit, 5 V Output

- LMR16006Y-Q1 SIMPLE SWITCHER
- https://eu.mouser.com/ProductDetail/Texas-Instruments/LMR16006YQDDCRQ1?qs=sGAEpiMZZMsMIqGZiACxIYznHxQwyfA9giA2KvrC9rNu6yNWUn0Fsg%3d%3d

3. Open KiCAD and start new project

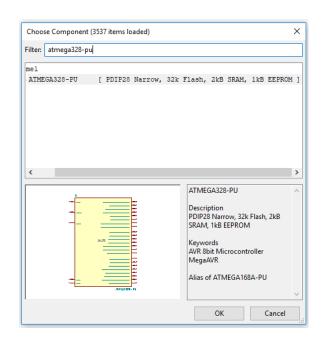
- The following parts are explained more generally in "Getting Started in KiCAD" http://docs.kicadpcb.org/stable/en/getting started in kicad.pdf
- The KiCAD installer can be found from: http://kicad-pcb.org/download/
- Open KiCAD and start new project, name it however you want
- Then, open EESchema



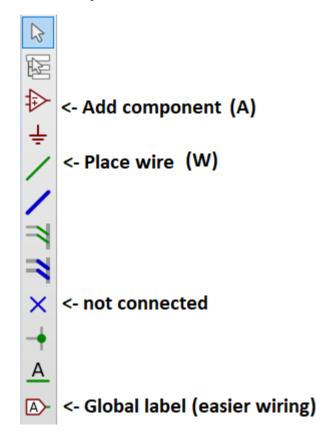


4. Add the components, Using EESchema

- Move mouse to the big area, and press A
- Search for 'atmega328-pu', press ok
- Then place the component in the lower right corner of the big area
- Hower mouse over
 a component and press
 M to move it, R to rotate,
 click to place

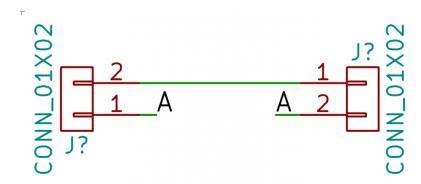


Some explanations

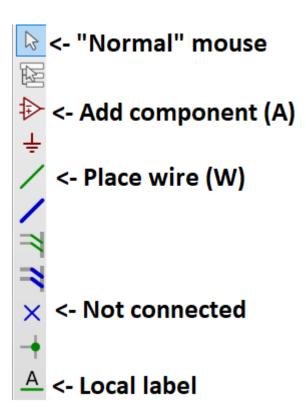


4. Add the components, Using EESchema

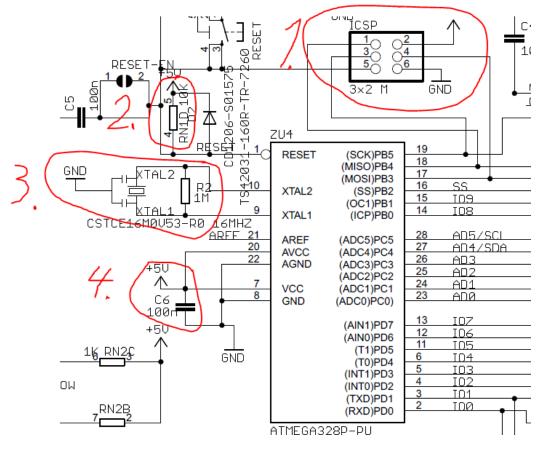
- Wires indicate which pins are connected
- Local labels can be used instead of wires, as below
 - Makes rewiring easier



• If a pin is not connected to anything, place a 'not connected' marker on it



- Let's look at the Arduino UNO schematic to see what we need at least
- 1: ICSP-header
- 2: A resistor between RESET & 5V
- 3: A 16MHz crystal, 2 22pF capacitators and a 1M resistor
- 4: A 100nF capacitator



• Press A to add a component, use the search bar to find right ones

• R: resistor

• C: capacitator

Crystal: crystal

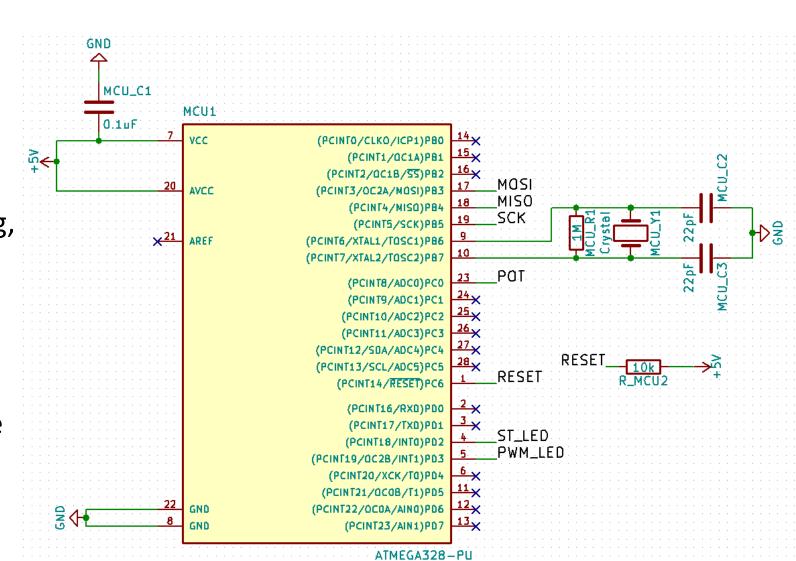
GND: ground

• 5V: +5V

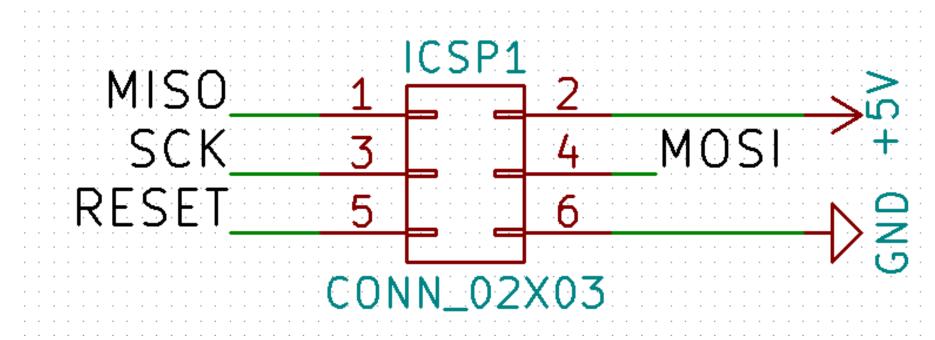
- To move a component after placing, hower mouser over it and press M
- To edit values, hower and press E
- Add components, wires, labels...

like this->

 Remember to annotate (name) the components and add values

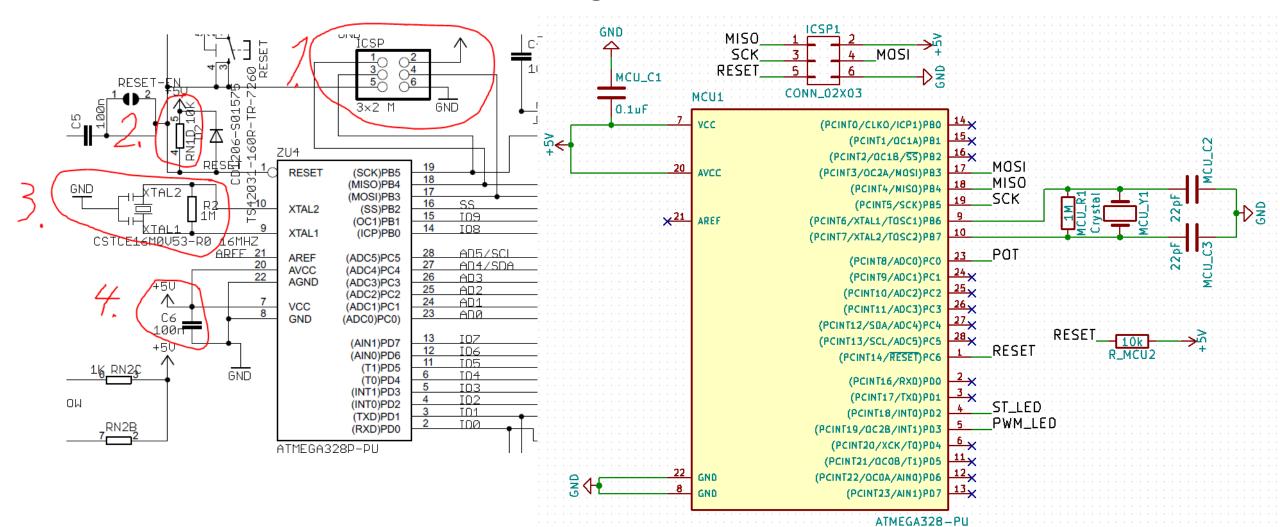


- Now, let's add the ICSP-header
- Press A and search for 'conn_02x03'
- Add the connector, and then place wires and labels like this:

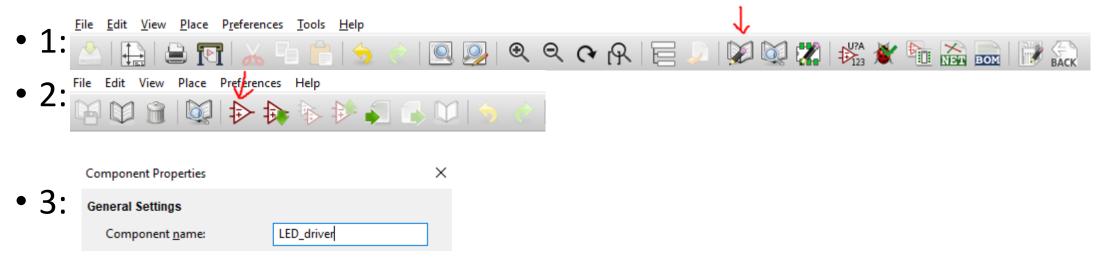


Remember to annotate the connector

We should now have something that resembles the UNO schematic



- Often, KiCAD does not have the component we intend to use, so we need to create new ones
- Lets create a LED-driver

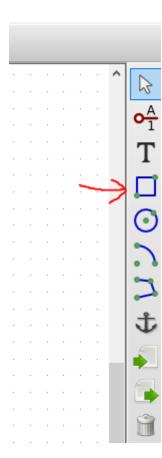


• Move the texts (M):

Then create a rectangle:

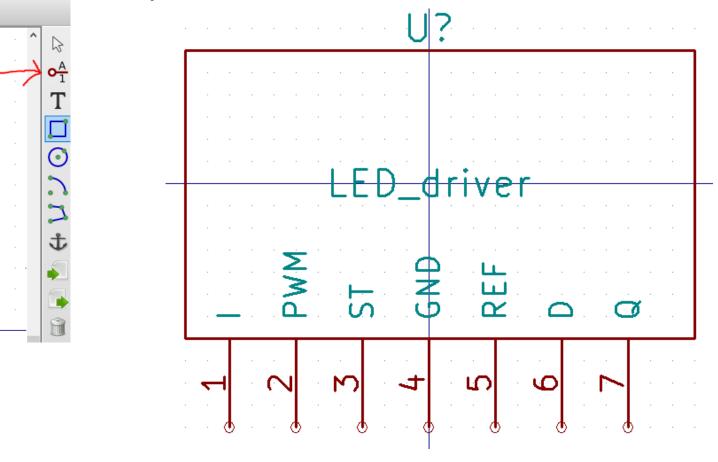
Draw the rectangle like this:

LED_driver

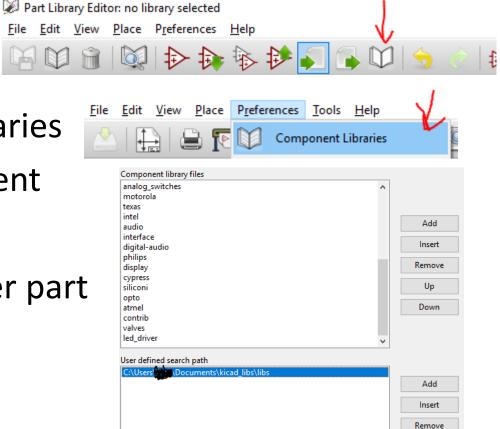


• Then Create the pins:

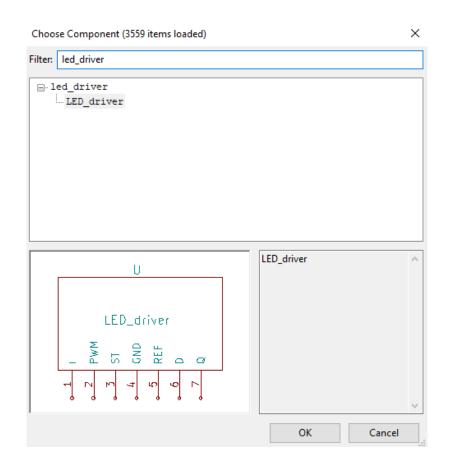
And place and name them like this:



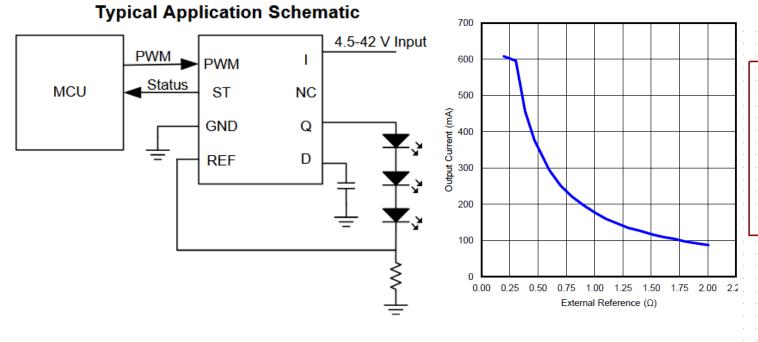
- Save the created component:
- Go back to EESchema
- Preferences-> Component libraries
- Add folder of created component to user defined search path
- Add created library file in upper part



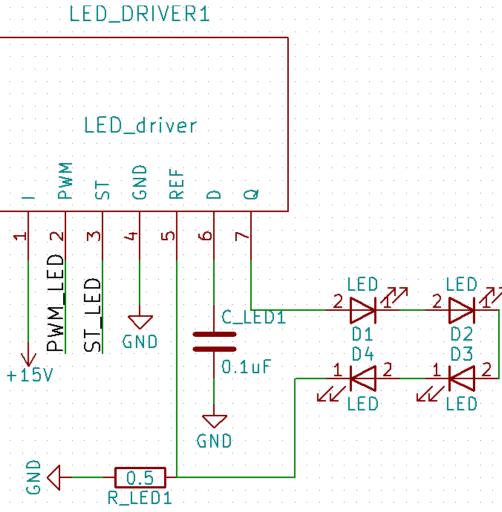
- Add the new component in the big area
- Then, let's look at the datasheet



4. Add the components, adding the LED-driver and the leds

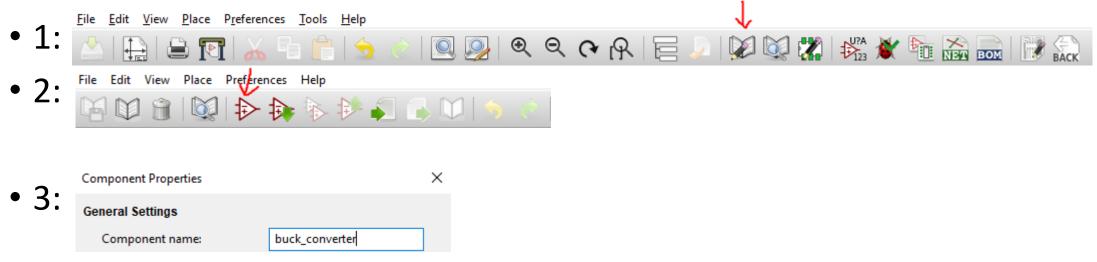


• Desired current: 350mA -> 0.5 Ohm

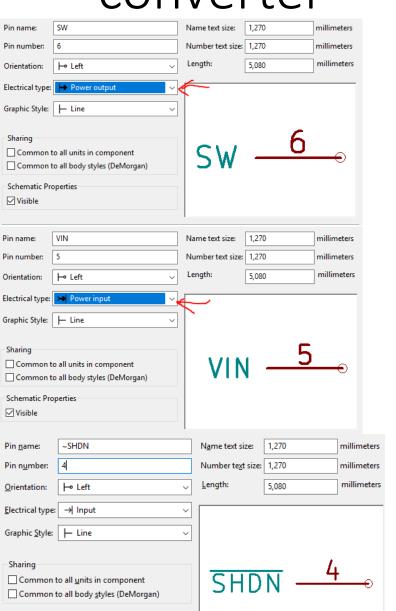


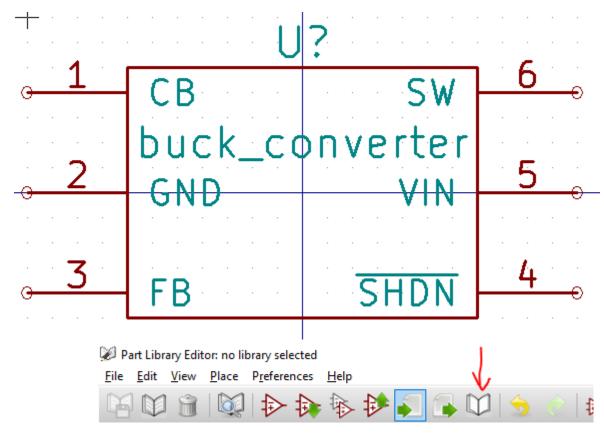
4. Add the components, create the buck converter

• Like the LED-driver, the buck converter needs to be created

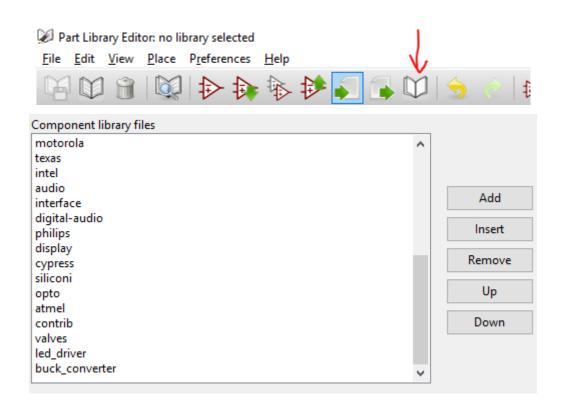


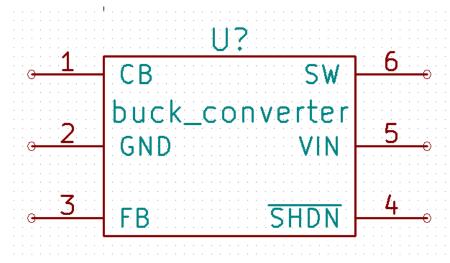
4. Add the components, create the buck converter





4. Add the components, create the buck converter





4. Add the components, buck converter datasheet

- Copy and paste the typical application
 - You can find the coil in the component browser using 'L'
 - The diode is a Schottky diode

9.2 Typical Application

Figure 7 shows typical application where user can adjust output by R1 and R2.

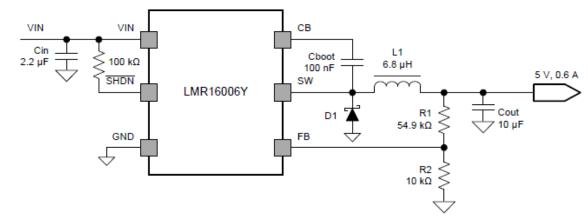


Figure 7. Application Circuit, 5 V Output

4. Add the components, buck converter datasheet

 The 54.9 Ohm resistor broken into 2 resistors because the workshop has 51k and 3.9k Ohm resistors

9.2 Typical Application

Figure 7 shows typical application where user can adjust output by R1 and R2.

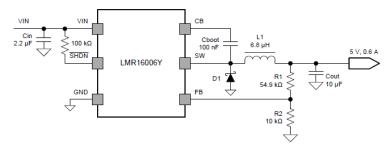
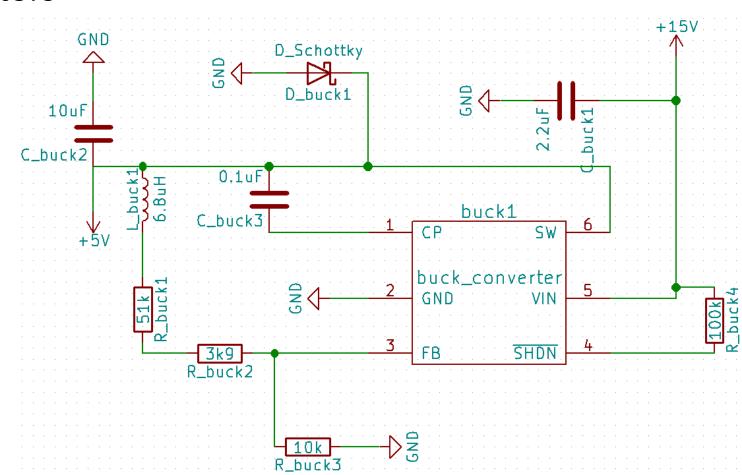
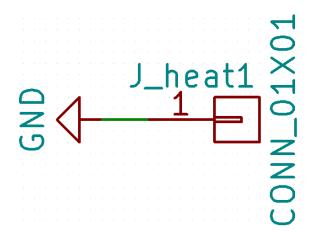


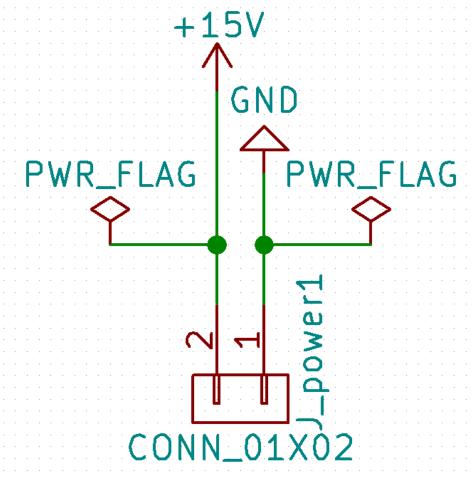
Figure 7. Application Circuit, 5 V Output



4. Add the components, power pins and heat via

- System has to get power somewhere, add power pins
- Also add power flags to both pins
 - This tell KiCAD where the power comes from
- Also add a heat via

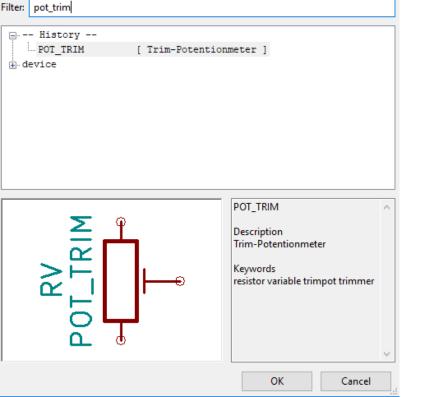




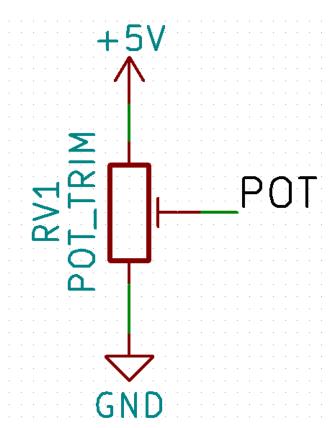
4. Add the components, the potentiometer

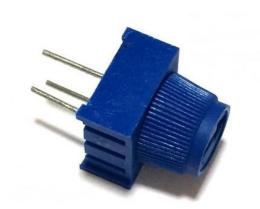
Found in the workshop

Add component (A), POT_TRIM



Choose Component (3564 items loaded)



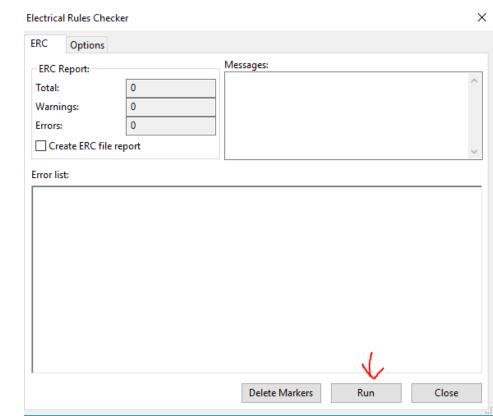


4. Add the components, check for errors

After making the wirings, you should always check for errors



If done correctly, you shouldn't have errors



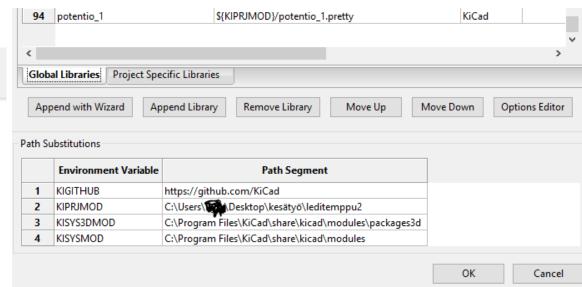
• Let's create a new footprint for the potentiometer



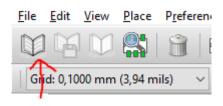
Create a new folder inside project directory called e.g.



'potentio_1.pretty'

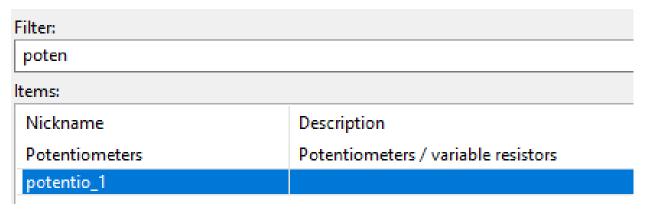


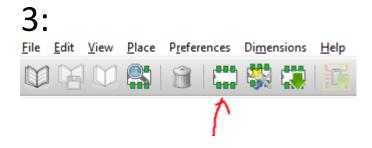
• 1:



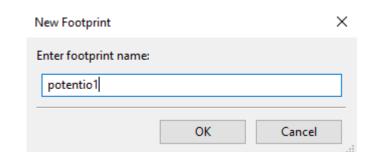
• 2:

Select Library

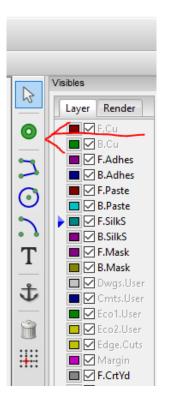




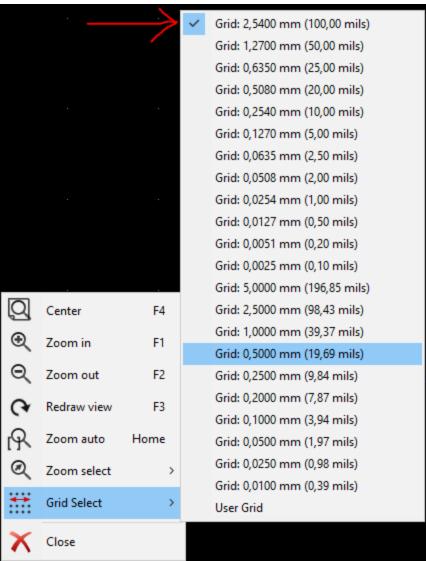
4:



- Right click, select grid 2.54mm ->
- Add 3 pads







Save the footprint



- Close the window and return to EESchema
- Open CvPcb to associate footprints to components



- Press Annotate and Ok
- Wait...

5. Associate footprints to components, importing libraries

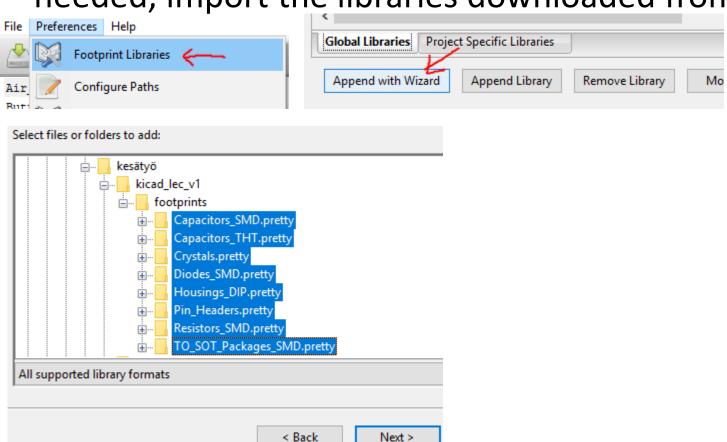
• It is possible that the school computers do not have the libraries needed, import the libraries downloaded from github

Add Footprint Libraries Wizard

Welcome to the Add Footprint Libraries Wizard!

Please select the source for the libraries to add:

Files on my computer



5. Associate footprints to components

- Now, tell KiCAD what is each component's footprint
- Datasheets and shop product pages of internet suppliers (Mouser etc...) may prove useful



5. Associate footprints to components,

Spoiler

```
buck_converter : TO_SOT_Packages_SMD:SOT-23-6_Handsoldering
   C buckl -
                        2.2uF : Capacitors THT:CP Radial D5.0mm P2.50mm
   C buck2 -
                       10uF : Capacitors SMD:C 0805 HandSoldering
 4 C buck3 -
                        0.luF : Capacitors SMD:C 0805 HandSoldering
 5 C LED1 -
                        0.luF : Capacitors SMD:C 0805 HandSoldering
        D1 -
                        LED : Resistors SMD:R 1210 HandSoldering
        D2 -
                          LED: Resistors SMD:R 1210_HandSoldering
                          LED: Resistors SMD:R 1210 HandSoldering
        D4 -
                          LED : Resistors SMD:R 1210 HandSoldering
                 D Schottky : Diodes SMD:D SMA Handsoldering
10 D buck1 -
     ICSP1 -
                  CONN 02X03 : Pin Headers:Pin Header Straight 2x03 Pitch2.54mm
12 J heat1 -
              CONN 01X01 : Pin Headers:Pin Header Straight 1x01 Pitch2.54mm
13 J_power1 -
                  CONN 01X02 : Pin Headers:Pin Header Straight 1x02 Pitch2.54mm
14 LED DRIVER1 -
                  LED driver : TO SOT Packages SMD:TO-263-7 TabPin4
                        6.8uH : Resistors_SMD:R_0805_HandSoldering
15 L buck1 -
     MCU1 -
                 ATMEGA328-PU : Housings_DIP:DIP-28_W7.62mm
16
   MCU Cl -
17
                        0.luF : Capacitors SMD:C 0805 HandSoldering
18 MCU C2 -
                        22pF : Capacitors SMD:C 0805 HandSoldering
   MCU C3 -
                         22pF : Capacitors SMD:C 0805 HandSoldering
20 MCU R1 -
                           1M : Resistors_SMD:R_0805_HandSoldering
21 MCU Y1 -
               Crystal : Crystals:Crystal HC18-U Vertical
22
     RV1 -
                     POT TRIM : potentio 1:potentiol
23 R buck1 -
                          51k : Resistors_SMD:R_0805_HandSoldering
                          3k9 : Resistors SMD:R 0805 HandSoldering
24 R buck2 -
25 R buck3 -
                          10k : Resistors SMD:R 0805 HandSoldering
26 R buck4 -
                         100k : Resistors SMD:R 0805 HandSoldering
    R LED1 -
                          0.5 : Resistors SMD:R 0805 HandSoldering
```

5. Associate footprints to components, create netlist

Remember to save your changes



Close this window, return to main window and generate netlist



Intermission, continues tomorrow...

 Today we told KiCAD what components are to be placed on the PCB and how they should be connected

 Tomorrow we shall draw where the components and wires will be physically on the board

Recap, where we are, and intermission

- 1: Decide what is to be done
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- <- We are here
- 6: Open PCBnew, read the netlist and set design rules
- 7: Place components, wirings, borders, filled areas etc.
- 8: Create files needed to manufacture PCB
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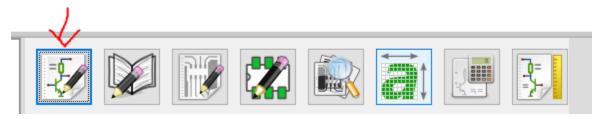
See you tomorrow!

Welcome back!

- 1: Decide what is to be done
- 2: Choose components
 - Use datasheets when doing this
 - Make sure components are compatible
- 3: Open KiCAD and start a new project
- 4: Add the components and make the wirings in EESchema
 - Use datasheets to find correct pins
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- 6: Open PCBnew, read the netlist and set design rules
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- 8: Create files needed to manufacture PCB
 - In workshop: plot the pdf-files (MIRROR THE FRONT COPPER IMAGE)
 - Ordered from a factory: plot gerbers and drill file

6. Open PCBnew

- Open KiCAD
- Open EESchema

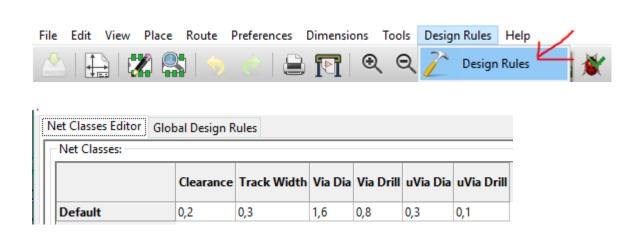


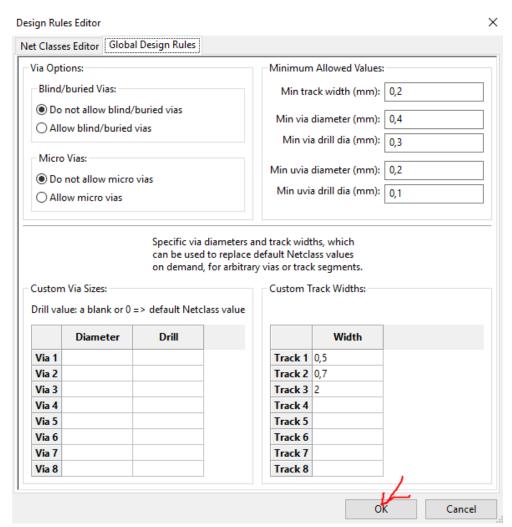
Then open PCBnew



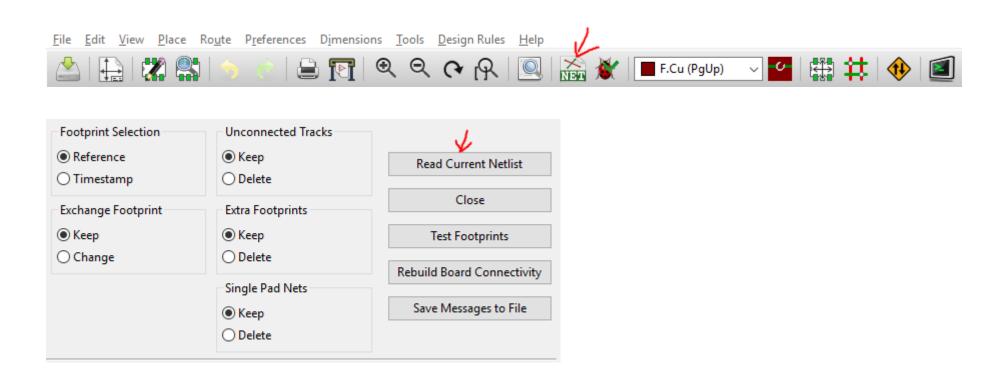
• Wait...

6. PCBnew, set design rules





6. PCBnew, read netlist

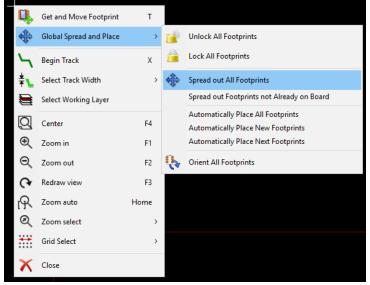


6. PCBnew spread out all components

 Now your components are on to of one another, time to spread them out...

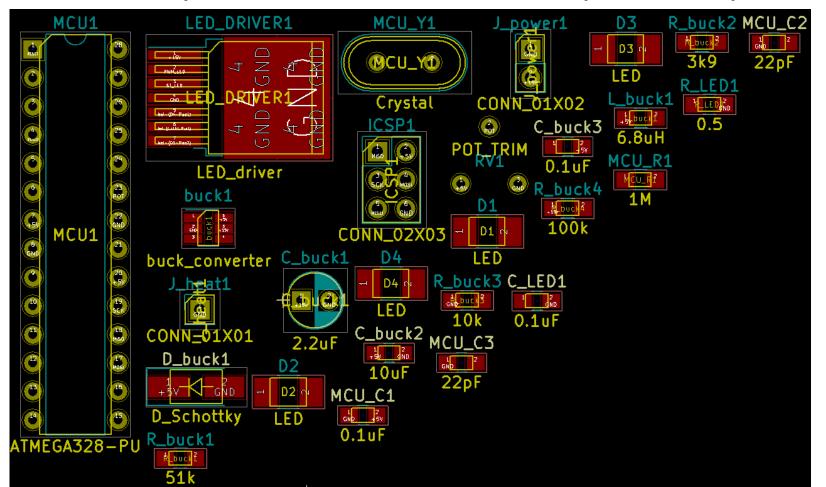


Right click next to the components, and...



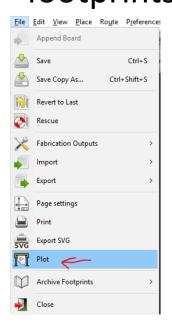
6. PCBnew, spreaded out components

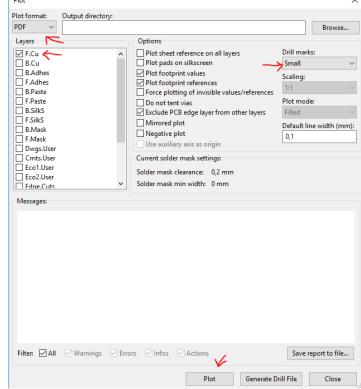
Now, you should see all the components spread out



6. PCBnew, verify footprints manually

• To verify that we have chosen the correct footprints, let's print all the footprints on paper and put the components on the paper



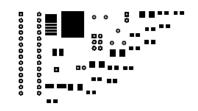


- Print the plotted pdf on a school printer
 - Hint: choose "Actual size" when printing

Page Sizing & Handling ①			
S <u>i</u> ze	Poster	Multiple	Booklet
○ Fit			
Actual size			
○ Shrink oversized pages			
Custom Scale:	100 %		
Choose paper source by PDF page size			

6. PCBnew, verify footprints manually

- Your pdf should look something like this:
- The black parts are the footprints



6. Modifying footprints

- If a footprint is completely wrong, you should:
 - 1: Return to EESchema and open CvPcb where the footprint were chosen
 - 2: Choose a better footprint
 - 3: Save changes in CvPcb, and generate a new netlist in EESchema
 - 4: Return to PCBnew, delete the bad footprint, and read the netlist
 - 5: Spread out all the footprints and see if you have had better luck

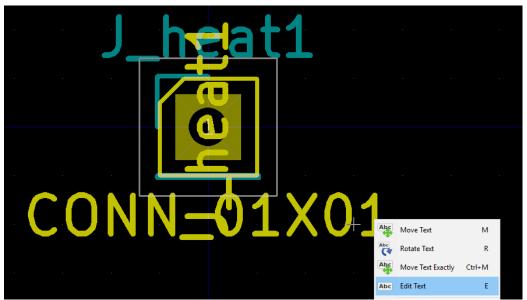
• If only minor modifications are needed, then right click the footprint,

and:

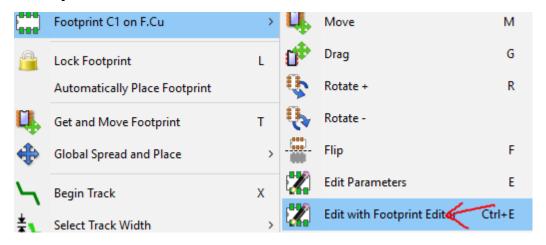


6. Modifying footprints, heat via

- Let's modify the heat via, right click the footprint, and:
- First, lets remove the texts,
- Right click on the text -> Edit Text



Remove all text from value box



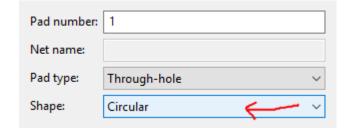
6. Modifying footprints, heat via

• Then, lets remove the lines (delete):

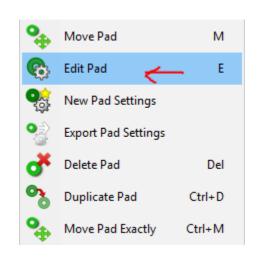


Then right click on the pad: -> edit pad

• Then change it to circular, and press ok







• Finally, update the footprint on the board:



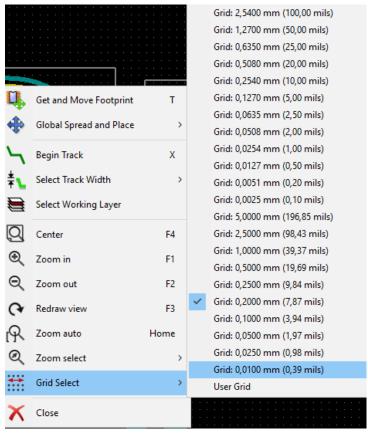
You can now close the footprint editor

7. Moving footprints

 Footprints are moved by howering the mouse over them, and pressing M, and can be rotated in 90-degree increments by pressing

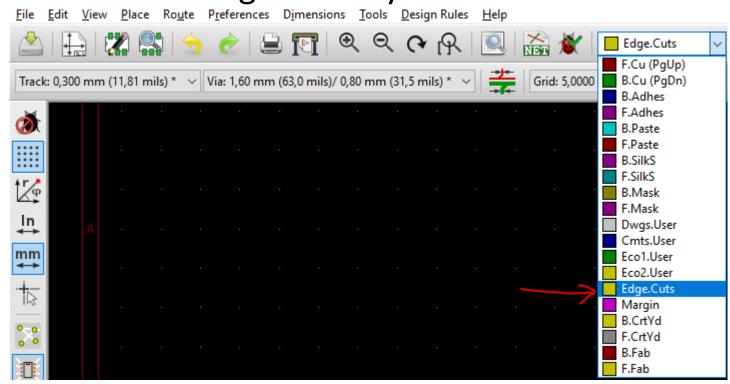
R, and placed where desired by clicking

 You can change the movement precision by choosing a different grid by right clicking on the background and choosing a different grid



7. Drawing the borders of the board

- Let's start by drawing the borders
- Choose the Edge.Cuts layer:

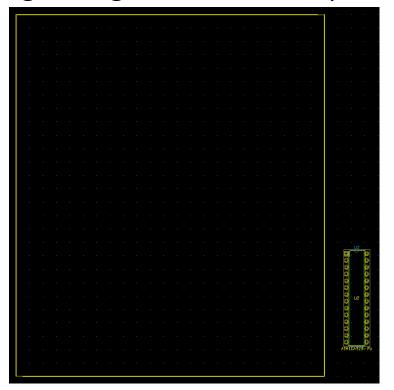


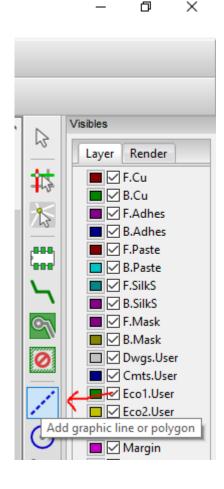
7. Drawing the borders of the board

- Then choose the tool to draw lines ->
- Now, draw some rectangular borders

Draw the box big enough so all the components and

wirings will fit





7. Moving the footprints

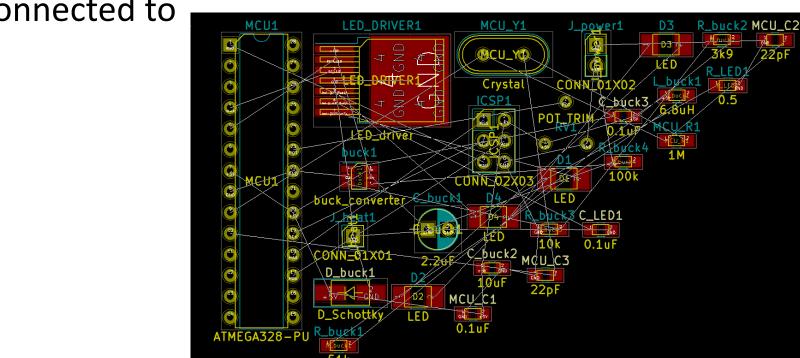
First, enable "rats nests"

Pcbnew 4.0.6 C:\U
File Edit View F

Track: 0,300 mm (11,

Now when you are moving a component, you can see where

it should be connected to

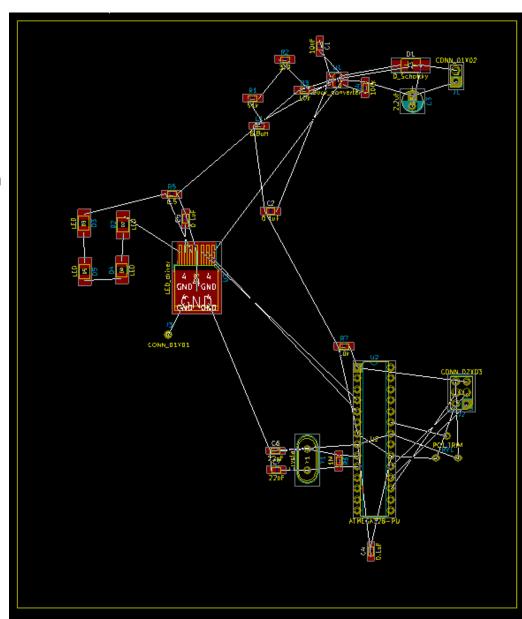


7. Moving the footprints, Spoiler

Figuring out where components should be placed

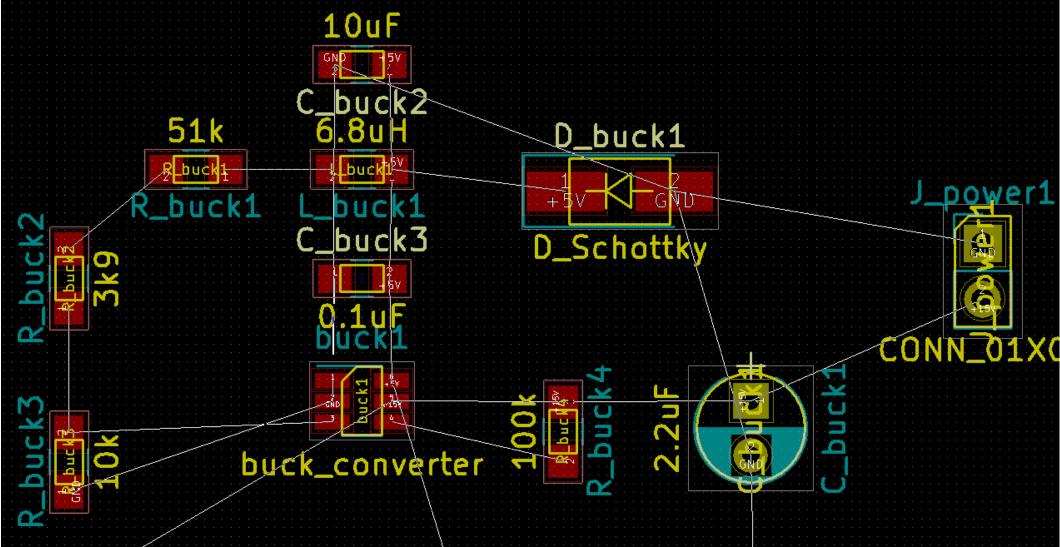
is a time-consuming task

- To save time during this demo, the board was drawn big, and a suggestion is provided
- Footprints are moved by howering the mouse over them, and pressing M, and can be rotated in 90-degree increments by pressing R, and placed where desired by clicking
- Move the components as follows
 - 1: Move the microcontroller and the components related to it (MCU) to the lower right corner
 - 2: Move the buck converter and the components related to it (buck) to the upper right corner
 - 3: Move the rest of the parts (LED-driver and LEDs) to the left



7. Moving the footprints, buck converter

• First, move the buck converter components like this



- Now its time to draw the wires between components
- Try to avoid making sharp 90 degree turns if possible: they may pick up radio interference
- Try to have thick wires when possible: low resistance
- Wires can be placed on both sides of the board, different sides are connected via vias

- Sometimes it can be difficult to connect wires without intersecting, sometimes a jumper is a possibility
 - In some cases a piece of thin wire may be used

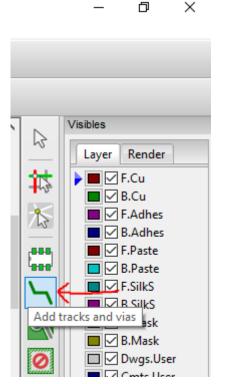


A zero-Ohm smd resistor can be also used like a "bridge"

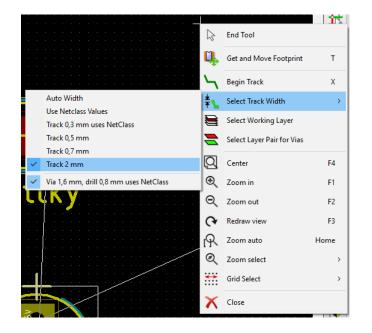


Try to avoid these tricks if possible

• 1:



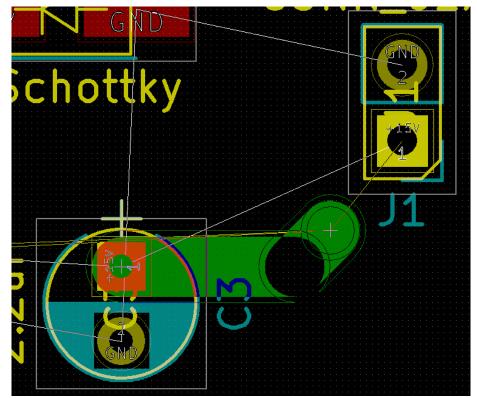
2: Right click and choose 2mm track width:



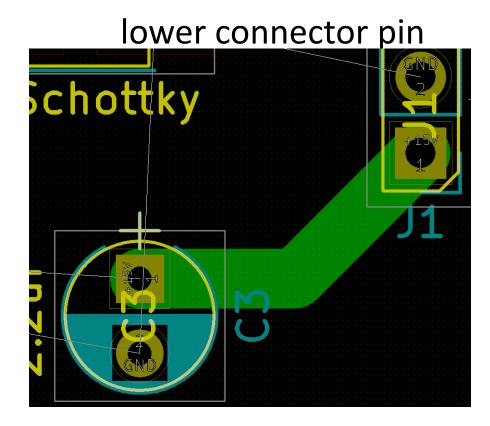
• 3: Choose to start drawing wires on the backside



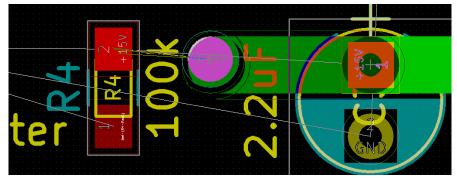
• 1: Click the upper pin of the round capacitor 2: Double click the



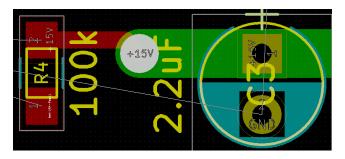
These two pins are now connected

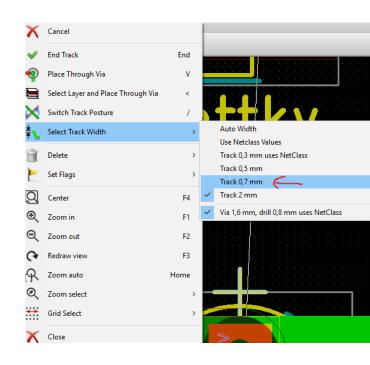


• 1: Click on the same round capacitator pin, move the mouse a bit left and press V, this creates a via here



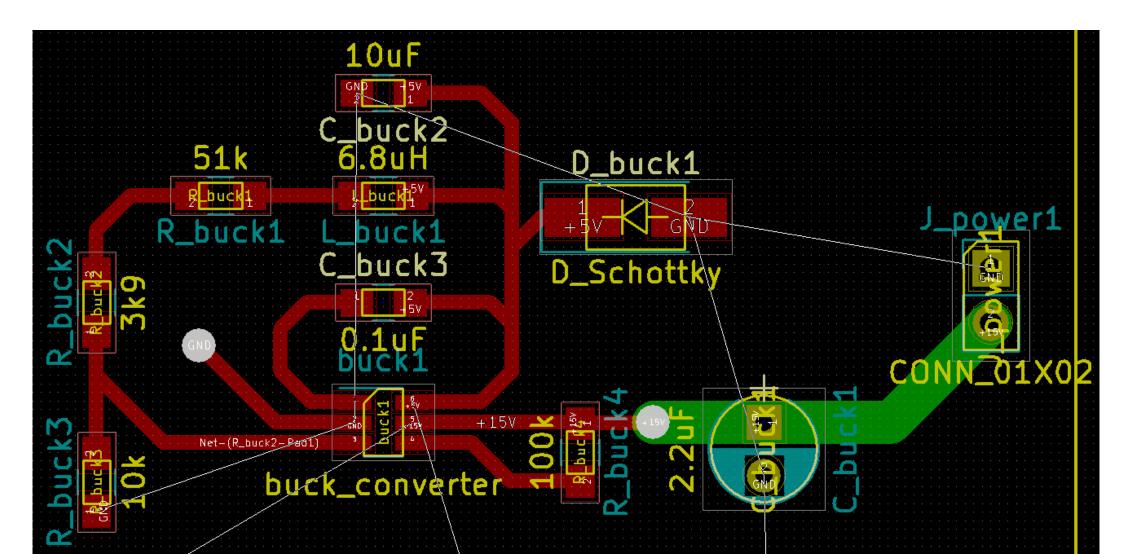
- 2: Then right click and change the track width to 0.7
- 3:Finally, double click on the resistor upper pin





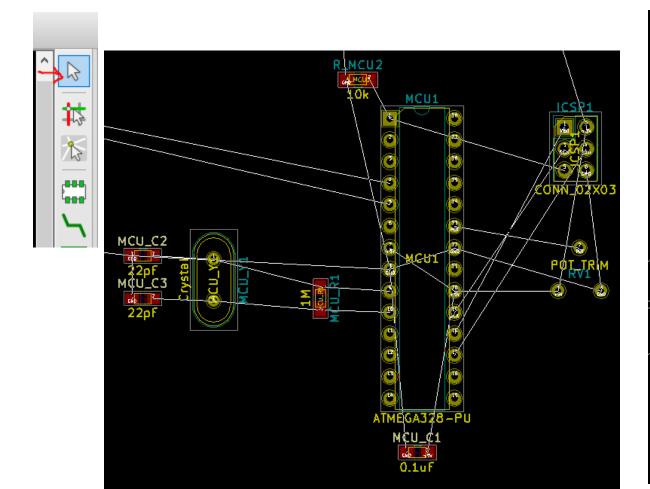
7. Drawing the wiring, buck converter

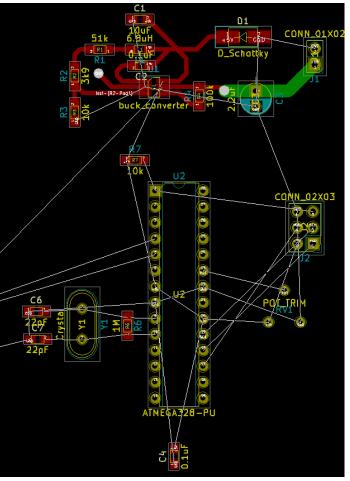
- Lets draw the other buck converter wires
- Hint: start the wires from the 6-footed converter



7. Drawing the wiring, the microcontroller

• Let's move the microcontroller et al. a bit closer to the buck converter, lasso them

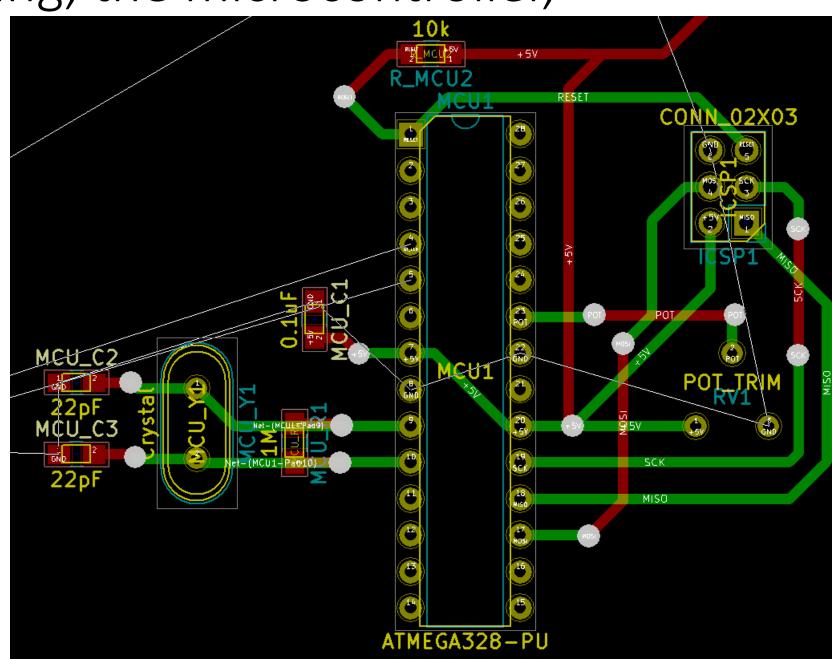




7. Drawing the wiring, the microcontroller,

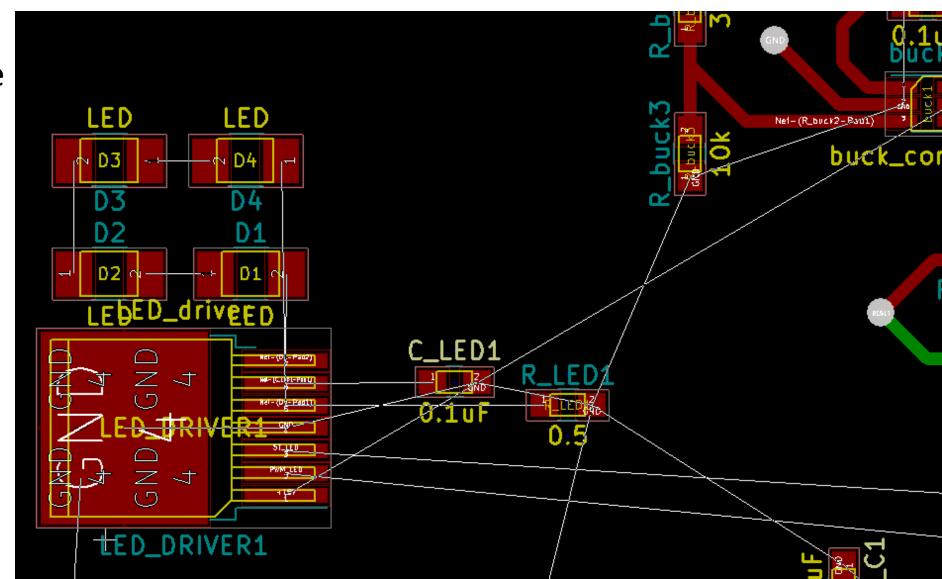
Spoiler,

- Principle:
 - Red wires are on the frontside, green on the backside
- Connect to holes (yellow) from the back
- Hint: you can move the components around for a bit



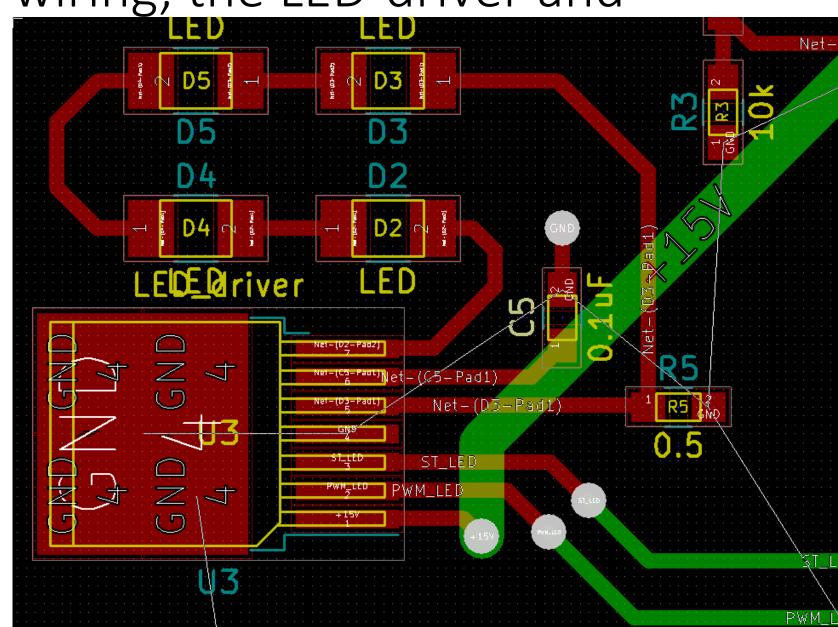
7. Drawing the wiring, the LED-driver and leds

• Let's move the LED-driver et al. a bit closer:



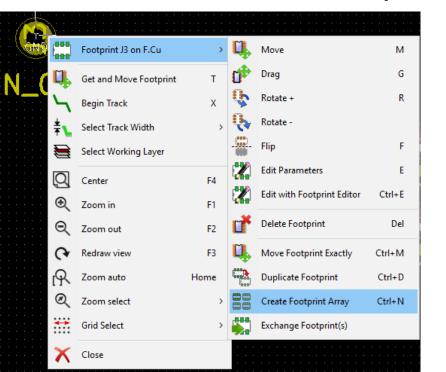
7. Drawing the wiring, the LED-driver and LEDS, Spoiler

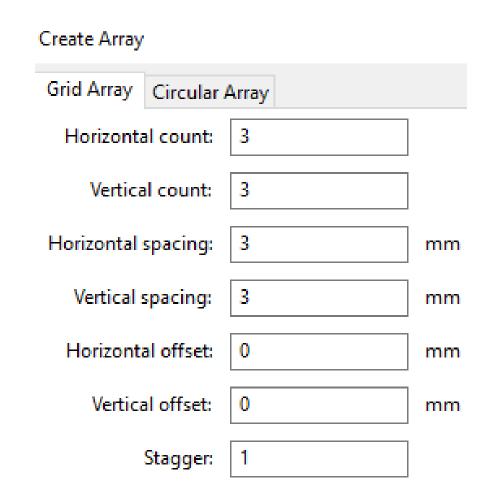
Lets wire them up



7. Drawing the wiring, heat vias

- The LED-driver might heat, so let's put heat up vias underneath it just in case
- Right click it, and create a duplicate
- Right click the duplicete, and create an array of them





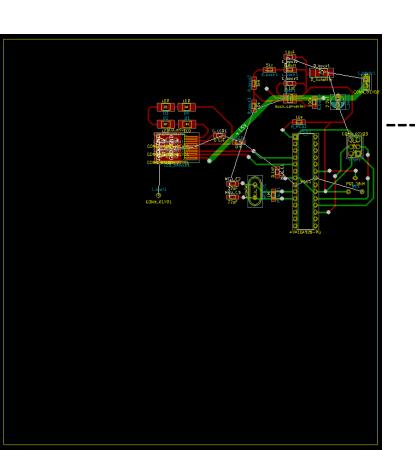
7. Drawing the wiring, heat vias

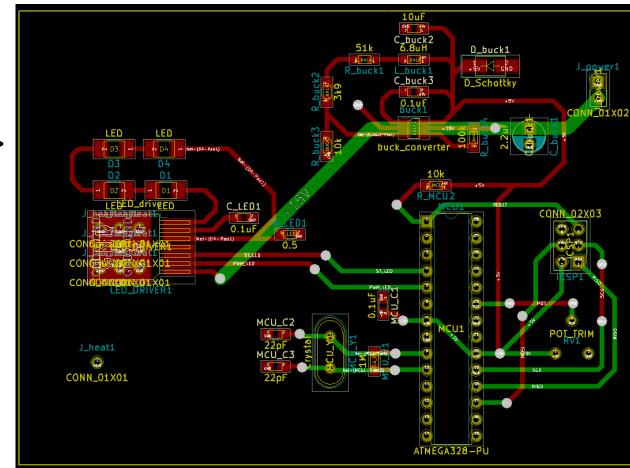
• Then, move the array underneath the LED-driver



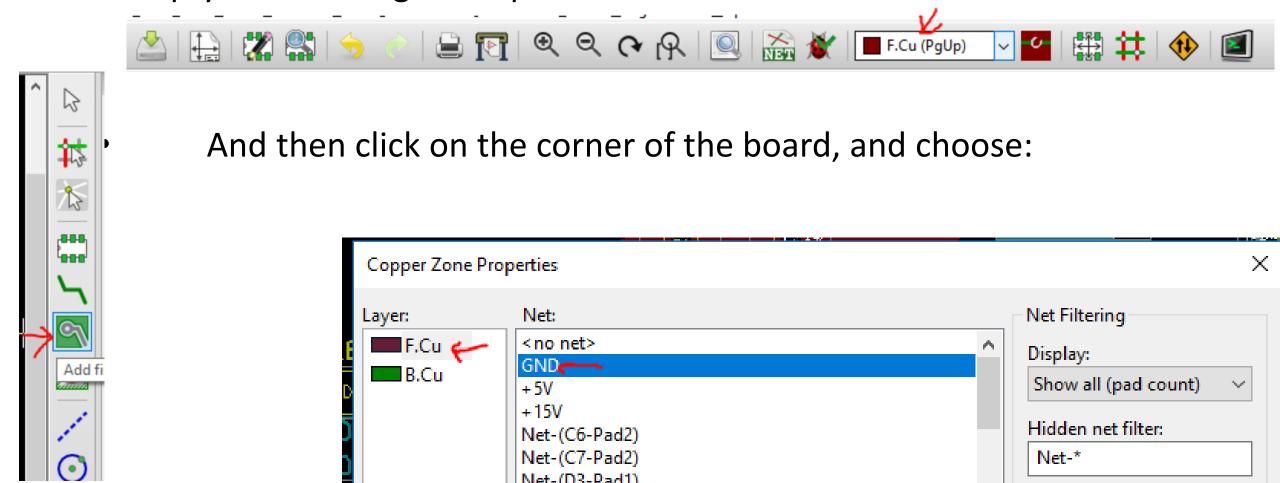
7. Drawing the wiring, resizing the board

- As we can see, the area we chose at the beginning is too large
- Time to delete the old borders and draw new with Edge.Cuts...



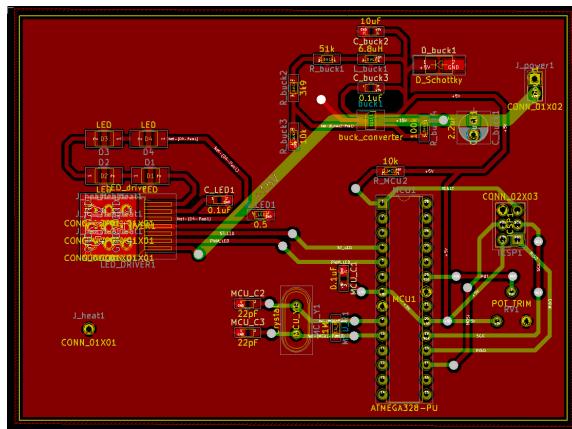


 We never connected the ground pins because we can simply fill the empty areas with ground plane



- Include the whole board in the area, and press B
- We can see that the empy areas are filled with copper
- Do the same thing, but for backside

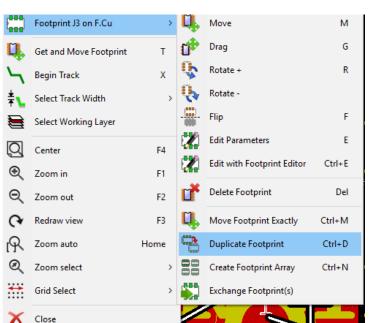


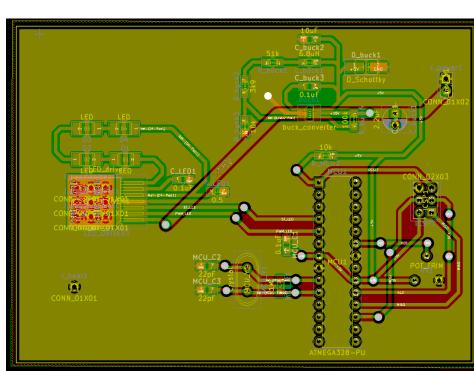


- Looks good, but now we cannot see things properly, press CTRL + B to remove fills temporarily
- Its usually not a good idea have large unbroken areas of filling, so let's add some additional heat vias in the "empty" areas
- Paste the duplicate many copies of the heat via

in various places

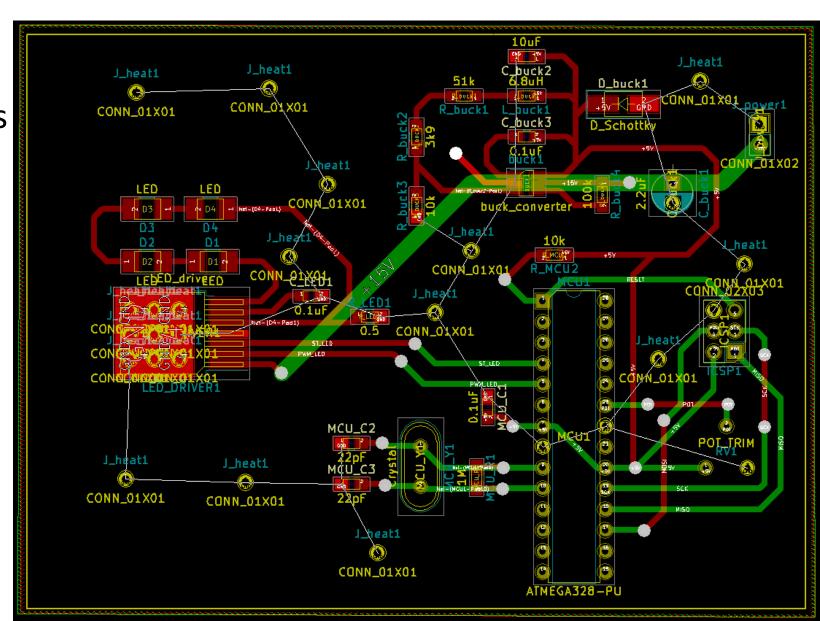
Hint: CTRL + D





Start adding duplicates in empty areas

Press B to add fills

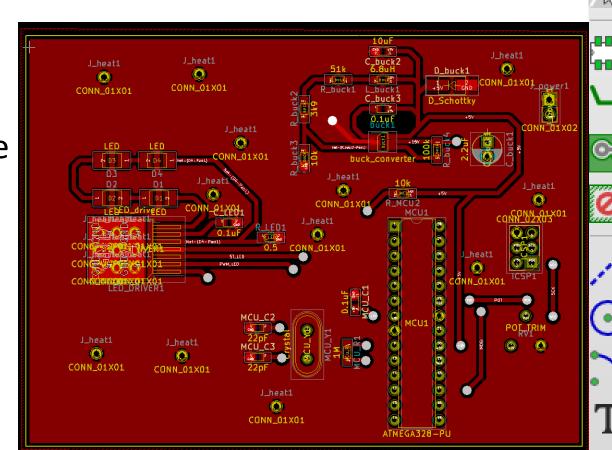


• To enable you to see clearer, you can choose which layers you want to see

That's better ->

 You can also choose if you want to see fills on the left





Visibles

Render

■ ✓ F.Cu

B.Cu

■ ✓ F.Adhes ■ ✓ B.Adhes

■ ✓ F.Paste

■ ☑ B.Paste
■ ☑ F.SilkS
■ ☑ B.SilkS

F.Mask

□ ✓ Dwgs.User

Cmts.User

■ ✓ Eco2.User

■ ✓ Edge.Cuts

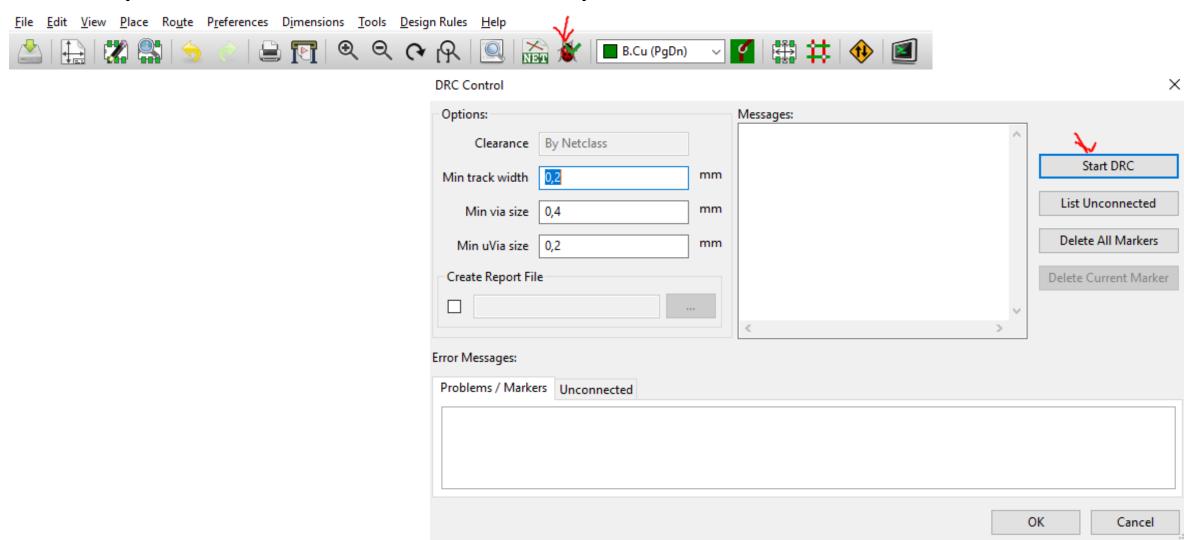
■ ✓ Margin ■ ✓ F.CrtYd

■ ☑ B.CrtYd ■ ☑ F.Fab

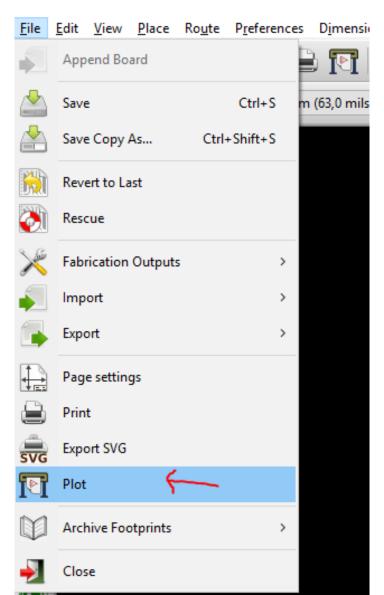
■ ✓ B.Fab

7. Drawing the wiring, checking errors

• Finally, let's see if we have made any errors



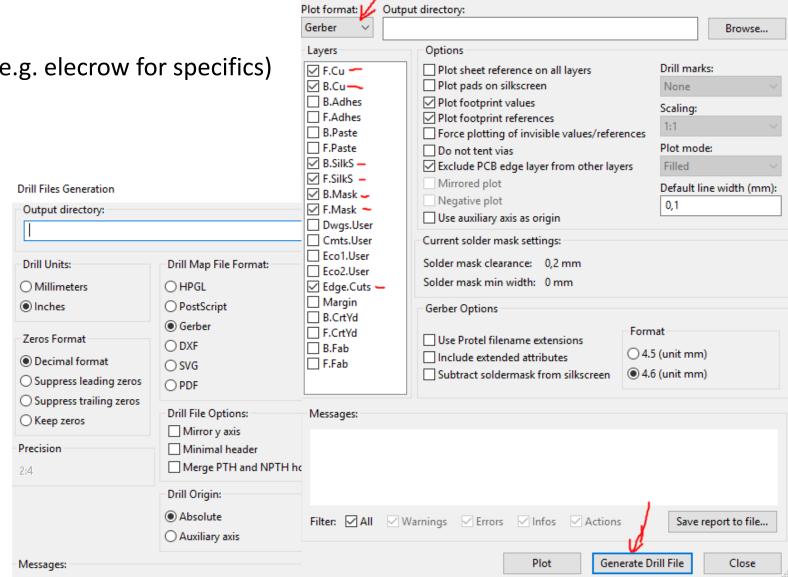
8. Create files needed to manufacture



8. Create files needed to manufacture, order online

Generate gerbers: (check website e.g. elecrow for specifics)

- Front and back copper layers
- Front and back silk screens.
- Front and back masks
- Mechanical layer (Edge.Cuts)
- Also generate a drill file
- Some Places to order (non-exhaustive):
 - Elecrow
 - Seeed
 - Oshpark
 - Try googling and asking...
 - Great variance in price

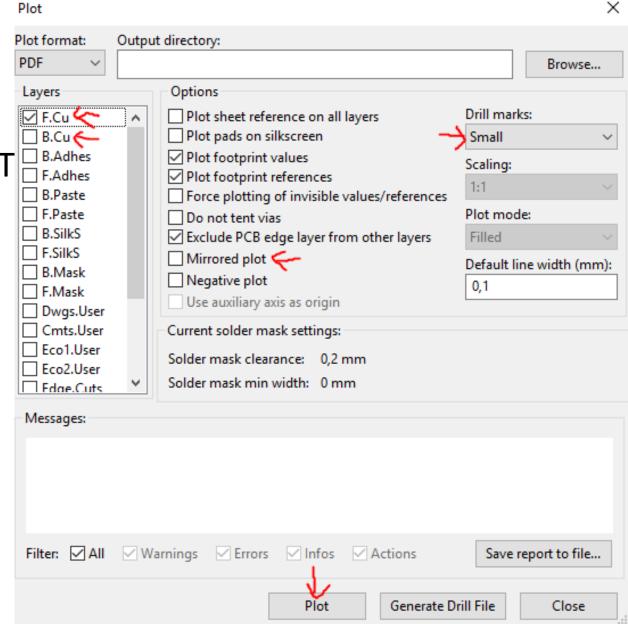


Plot

8. Create files needed to manufacture, in the

workshop

- Plot the copper layer pdfs
- REMEMBER TO MIRROR THE FRONT LAYER, BUT NOT THE BACK LAYER
- Press plot, use the printer in the workshop to print the layers on projector slides
- Use the slides as I'll explain now...
- If necessary, I'll explain again later and will help you make the first PCB in the workshop



The end

- Questions?
- Comments?
 - Other?