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Embedded Systems

BeagleBone, C1-B1

Ten Things I Learned from the BBB System Reference Manual

1. Do not plug HDMI until board powers up! (I’m used to plugging everything in and then powering up. I’ll label my MicroHDMI cable “BBB Boot First” to deter this habit.)
2. USB jack is only rated @ 500mA (50-100mA if USB powered)
3. LEDs are: 0-Linux, 1-SD, 2-Activity, 3-eMMc. There is also a power LED.
4. GUI will come up automatically: no command or script required!
5. I can boot with or without a microSD card. BBB comes with 2GB of on-board storage.
6. Power button performs a safe power-down, rather than just cutting the juice. Holding it >8sec performs a reboot.
7. The HDMI port is NOT HDCP! Most HDMI is Copy Protected (the CP of HDCP). This is unusual, and means that the BBB HDMI is more easily converted to other formats, since you don’t have to circumvent Copy Protection.
8. 5VDC @ 1A is sufficient power for most things. This is what I will put into my BBB kit. Should I ever need a stack of high-drain capes, I may add a higher current supply.
9. I have a selection of “Low Power” modes with wakeup interfaces.
10. Set the DipSwitches of your capes to the right address!