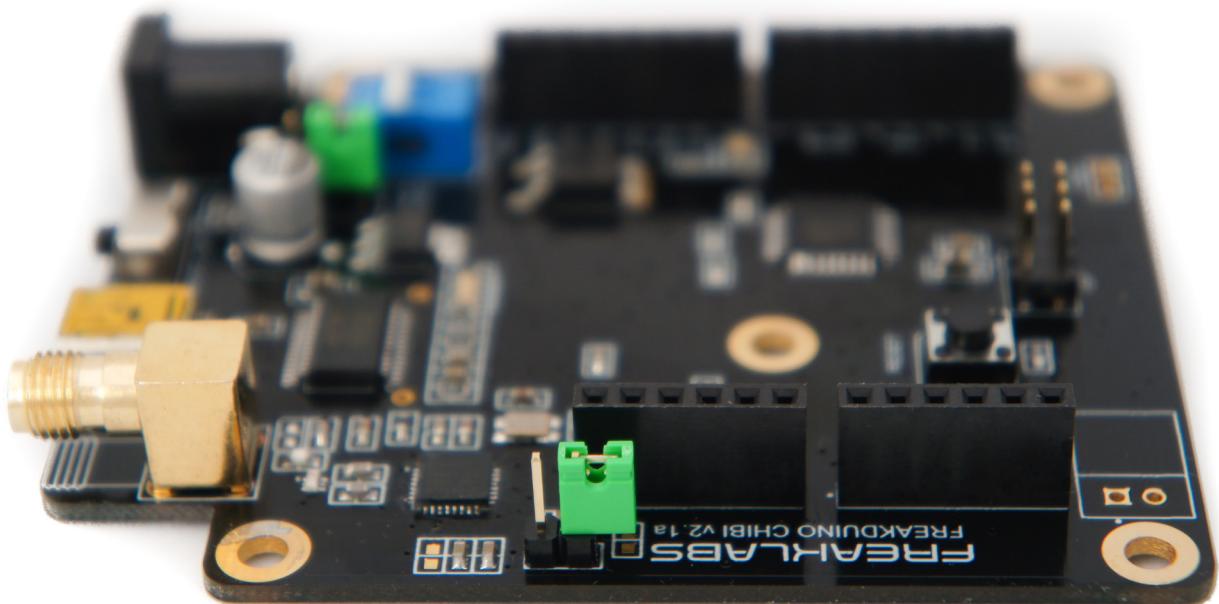


FREAKLABS

FREAKDUINO-CHIBI v2.1a Wireless Arduino-Compatible Prototyping Platform Datasheet



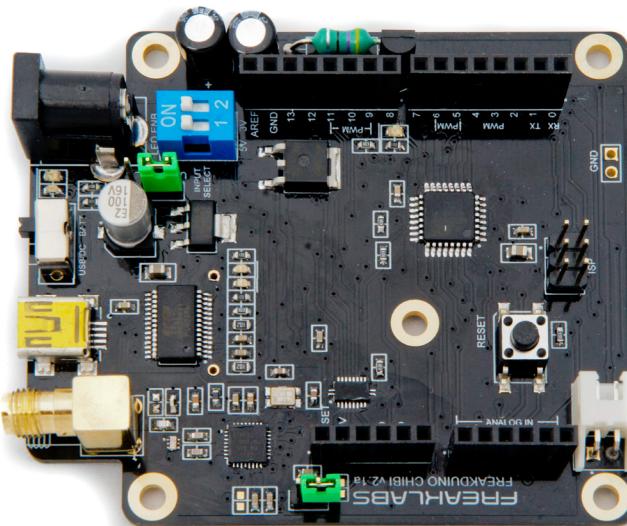
Document Revision History

<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>
2010-11-01	v1.1A Document creation
2010-12-26	v1.1B Added power switch matrix in Connectors/Jumpers/Switches section Added troubleshooting section
2013-06-18	v2.1A Added documentation for Freakduino v2.1 Many things changed in the new hardware version so documentation also changed a lot
2013-06-26	v2.1A-1 Changed the library installation procedure to simplify things

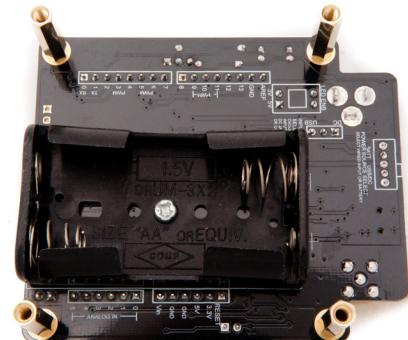
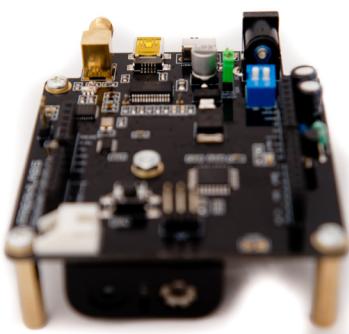
Specifications

The FreakLabs Freakduino board is designed for rapid prototyping, evaluation, and deployment of custom wireless devices at low cost. It combines the ease-of-use of [the Arduino IDE and toolchain](#), compatibility with a [rich assortment of peripherals in the Arduino shield form factor](#), and an integrated IEEE 802.15.4 wireless radio for inexpensive prototyping and testing of a wireless device.

The base board has all the functionality of an Arduino-based system with a wireless radio and is an inexpensive way to start playing with Arduino designs and wireless communications.



It also has optional features such as battery regulation circuitry, a low-cost bottom-mounted battery case, or a ruggedized enclosure with integrated battery case.



QuicK Specs

MCU: ATMega328P

Memory: 32 kB Flash/2 kB RAM

Communications:
802.15.4 wireless,
USB

Expansion: Arduino-compatible shield connector

Power: Ext 5VDC,
USB, Battery (optional)

Current Consumption: Sleep:
Active:

Options: Ruggedized enclosure,
battery regulation circuit,
standalone battery case

[ADD PICTURE OF RUGGEDIZED ENCLOSURE VERSION]

This board is designed to introduce people to wireless sensor networking inexpensively and without having to deal with complex toolchains, protocol stacks, and software. It's fully compatible with the Arduino IDE and toolchain which offers a single click compile and download and a rich ecosystem of open source software and tutorials available on the internet. The electrical specifications and connector form factor are also compatible with the original Arduino hardware so that the board can interface with the large assortment of Arduino peripheral shields. The availability of third party peripheral shields and open source software allows this board to be used for many diverse applications.

Enhancements were also added to this board to increase functionality. The addition of an integrated wireless radio based on the 802.15.4 protocol (same radio protocol as the XBee) allows for wireless control of devices or wireless sensor data collection. Battery circuitry was added so that it could function as a true wireless node without any external power cables. The board is also fitted to a ruggedized enclosure so that the design can be transported safely or deployed in remote settings without worrying about damaging the circuit.

The design has also been optimized for low power. It consumes approximately 200 uA in power down/sleep mode at 3.0V which is the voltage supplied by 2 AA alkaline batteries. It consumes approximately 300 uA at 2.4V which is the voltage supplied by 2 AA NiMH rechargeable batteries. With proper power management, it's possible to have the device live for months on a single pair of batteries.

Radio

The main addition to this board is the integrated wireless radio. The radio is based on the 802.15.4 wireless protocol and is the same protocol used by XBee modules and Zigbee devices. The radio operates at either 2.4 GHz or 900 MHz depending on which version is purchased. It comes with an RP-SMA antenna connector which is a standard antenna connector commonly found on Wi-Fi routers. An external antenna was chosen over other options such as a chip antenna or printed antenna because of the improved range and variety of available antennas.

The radio driver software and protocol stack are fully open source and available as an Arduino library. The protocol stack is simplified to three main library functions to make wireless communications as simple as possible. Those functions are: init, send, and receive. This makes it easy to use the radio as a simple extension of a serial port or to set up a peer-to-peer star network where each device can talk with any other device within listening range.

There are also many benefits to using 802.15.4 for communications. At 2.4 GHz, the antennas used are the same as those used for Wi-Fi. At 900 MHz, the signal is able to travel long distances and penetrate thick walls. There are a large variety of antennas in different sizes, shapes, and power for both frequencies. Omnidirectional antennas such as the standard whip antennas on Wi-Fi routers give moderate range and allow transmission from all directions. Directional antennas can also be used for greatly improved range if the direction of communications is fixed.

Some other benefits of using IEEE 802.15.4 is robustness such as automatic acknowledgement and retries and functionality such as auto-discard of frames that don't match the particular network address, node address, or have their data corrupted. Auto retry means that if the receiver doesn't acknowledge that it received a packet, the transmitter will retry sending the packet up to some maximum number specified by the user. The auto checking of addresses and checksum means that the radio does most of the heavy lifting to ensure the packet arrives uncorrupted and the user doesn't have to do manual filtering.

The chipset used also has a hardware accelerator for AES-128 encryption. AES-128 is a strong encryption standard used by many government agencies to secure communications, especially wireless communications. The system also supports a true random number generator based on ambient RF signal levels. The chibi library includes support for AES-128 encryption using the on-board encryption engine as well as random number generation using the radio hardware.

Since 802.15.4 is also used for many communications protocols including Zigbee and 6LoWPAN, the Freakduino can be configured as a wireless protocol sniffer and used in conjunction with Wireshark to form a wireless protocol analyzer for 802.15.4 based protocols. This application is very useful to debug software for these protocols such as smart meter communications or for security testing of 802.15.4 based communications.

Since all software and hardware is open source, all registers and all features are available to the user. It allows for more flexibility for advanced users and a convenient prototyping and test platform for users that are considering an 802.15.4 wireless design of their own.

Power

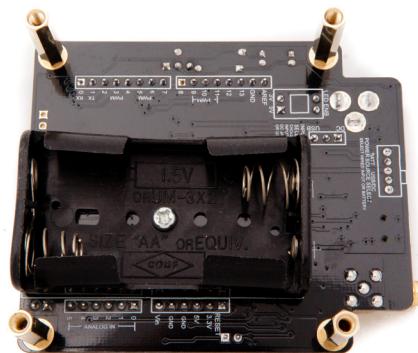
There are three options to provide power to the board. The most common is via the USB, however the board can also be powered via an external adapter connected to the DC jack. This is especially useful when more power is needed than can be provided by the USB. Finally, when no external power is available, the board can also be battery powered.

The USB connector provides up to 500 mA of current at 5V and can directly power the board for most applications. It's convenient when the device is connected to a PC since the USB to serial converter also allows for communications with the PC.

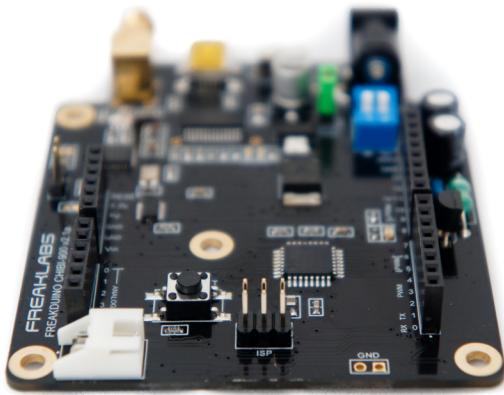
For designs with higher current requirements, such as driving motors or high power LEDs, an external DC adapter can be used. The adapter should be a minimum of 6V and a maximum of 14V.

Note: The power input is determined by the position of the jumper below the DC input jack. The markings on the jumper indicate whether the USB or DC input is being used.

The board also has two separate connectors for batteries. One of the connectors allows a battery case to be mounted on the bottom side of the board. This is convenient since the battery case is directly mounted to the board and allows for battery operation in tight spaces.



The other connector is located near the bottom of the board and is a 2-wire connector that features mating and polarization. It's technically called a JST XH series connector and was chosen to allow easy attachment of external battery cables without worrying about reversing the positive and negative connections. It also makes connecting and disconnecting the battery case of the enclosure to the board much easier.



There is also a battery regulation circuit on the board. The reason this is needed is because the battery voltage varies based on the battery type and amount of charge left. The voltage regulation allows either standard alkaline or rechargeable NiMH batteries to be connected to the board and will generate a stable 5V output. The battery regulation circuit has up to two parallel stages. Each stage can provide current output of 200 mA for a maximum of 400 mA. This is fine for most sensors, however power-hungry devices like motors and power LEDs may exceed the maximum current output.

It's also possible to monitor the battery voltage through one of the analog input pins on the MCU. When combined with wireless communications, its possible to get early warning when the battery starts to get low.

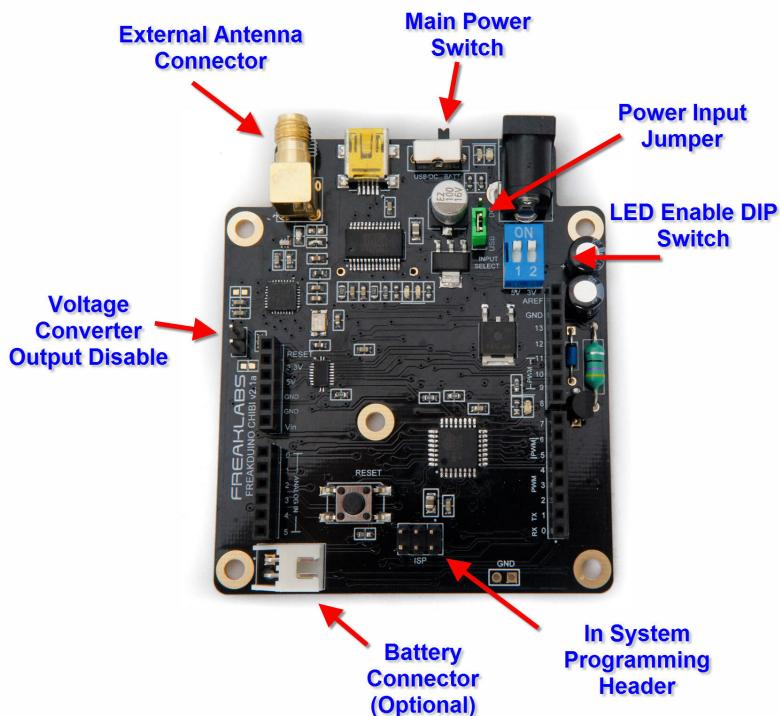
There is a power switch on the board that selects between external line power or battery power. The switch can also be used as an OFF switch if either line power or battery power is not present.

There is also a 2-pin DIP switch on the board that enables or disables the LED indicators. If the board is externally powered, then it's fine to enable both LEDs, but when the board is battery powered, the LEDs will cause the battery to drain faster and should be disabled. The DIP switch allows the user to easily disable the LEDs during battery operation.

Connectors, Jumpers and Switches

The board contains a number of connectors, jumpers, and switches:

1. **Power Input Jumper.** The power input jumper is used to select between using the external DC jack or the USB to power the board.
2. **Main Power Switch.** The main power switch toggles between using line power or battery power. When no battery is connected, this would also serve as the OFF position. The opposite is true when no line power is attached.
3. **LED Enable Switch.** The LED enable DIP switch is used to enable or disable the main power LEDs for 5V and 3.3V supplies. LEDs may consume unnecessary power during battery operation so the DIP switch allows the user to enable/disable them when needed.
4. **External Antenna Connector.** The external antenna connector is an RP-SMA connector that attaches to a compatible antenna.
5. **Battery Connector.** The battery connector is optionally installed and comes with the battery boost kit.
6. **Voltage Converter Output Disable.** This is only used when programming the bootloader on the board to prevent collisions on the SPI bus. This jumper should rarely be used and only when flashing the bootloader or using an in-system programmer (ISP).



Due to having three ways to power the board, the power switch and power jumper settings need to be configured for your desired input. The switch and jumper is labeled to make things easy, but here's a quick reference chart on how to configure the power input. The positions in the table correspond to the labels on the board.

	Main Power Switch	Power Input Jumper
USB Power	USB/DC	USB PWR
External DC Power	USB/DC	DC PWR
Battery Power	BATT	Ignored

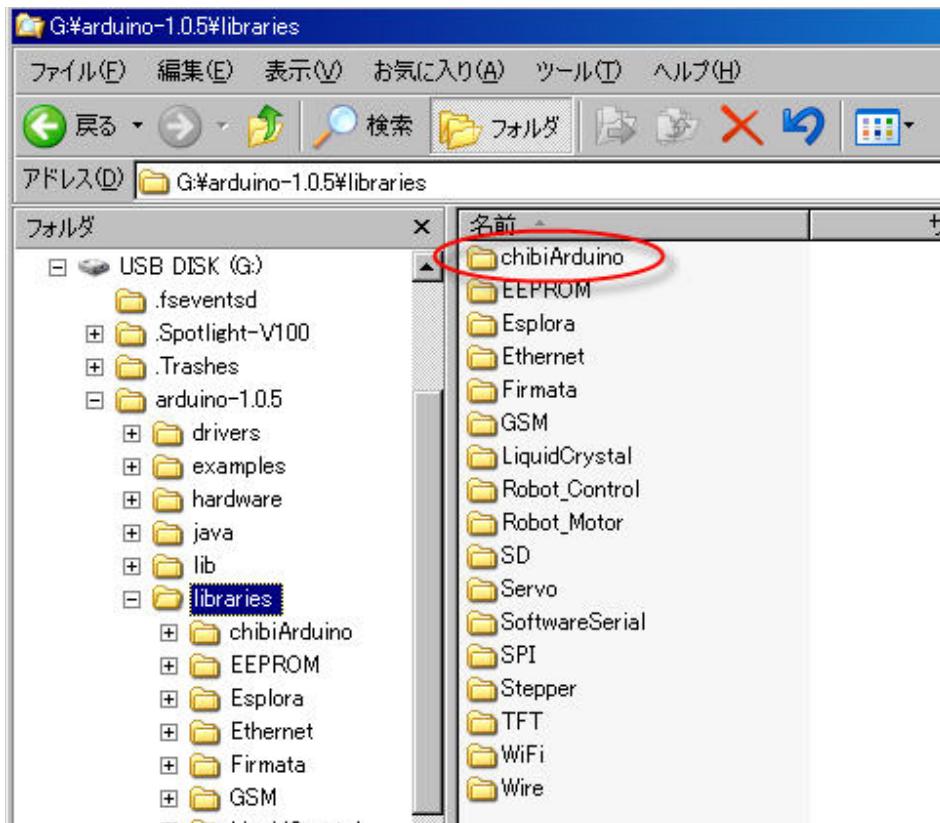
Installing the chibiArduino Library

Once you have the board configured properly, it's time to install the library. The first thing you need to do is get the Arduino IDE and install it. It can be [found at the Arduino site](#). From there, it becomes OS specific: Download the chibiArduino library. You can get it from the FreakLabs website: <http://www.freaklabs.org/index.php/chibiArduino.html>

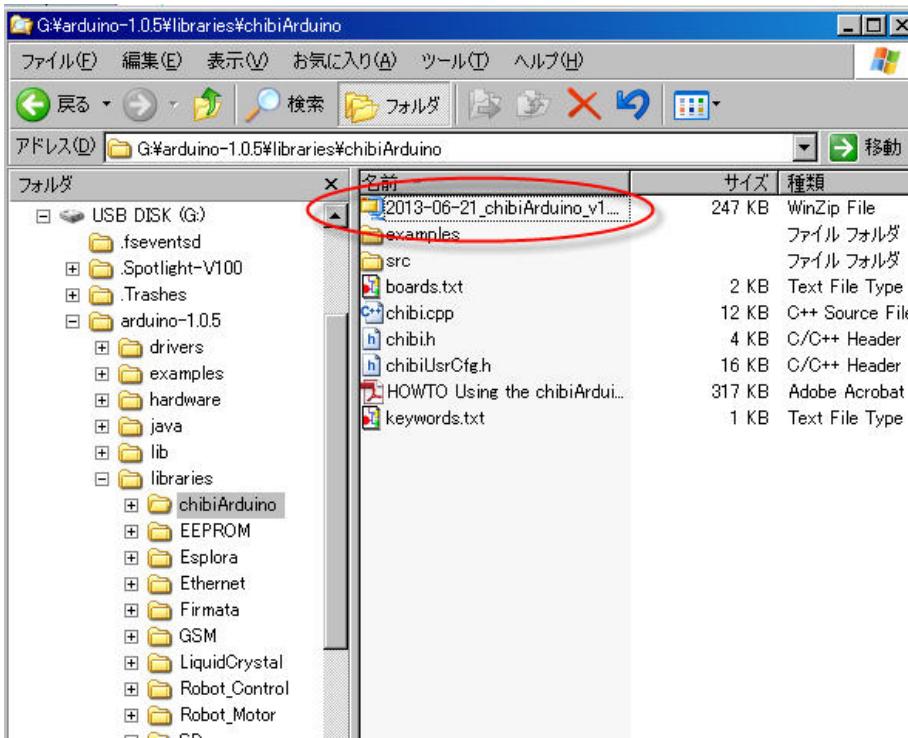
From there, it's OS-specific:

Windows

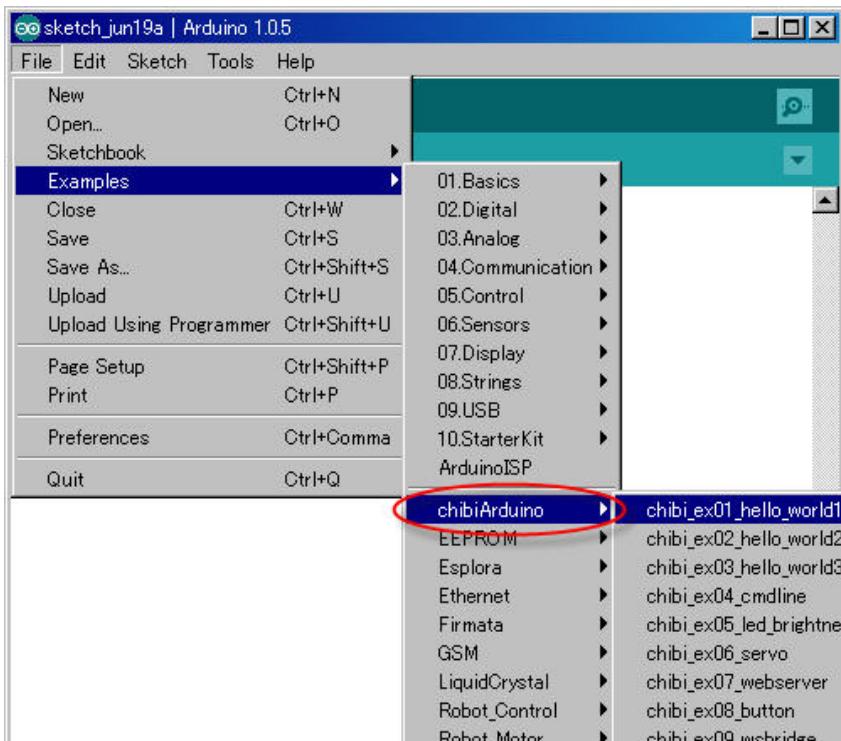
1. Copy the chibiArduino library zip file. Go to the Arduino root directory and then go into the libraries directory:



2. Create a folder called chibiArduino. Paste the chibiArduino library zip file in the folder you just created. Then unzip the chibiArduino library.

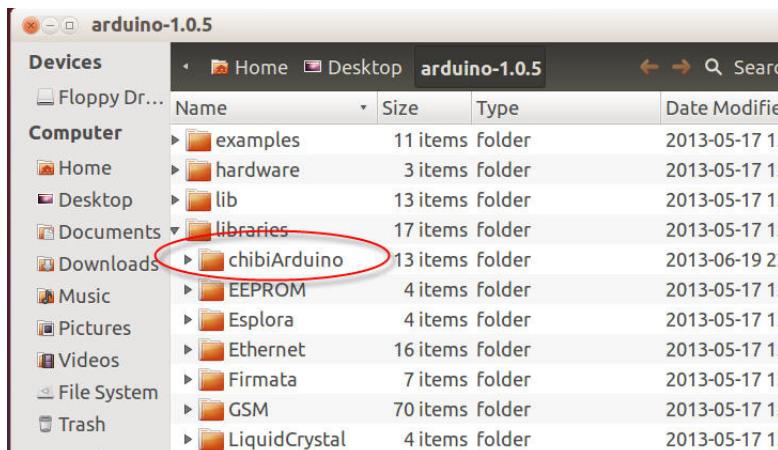
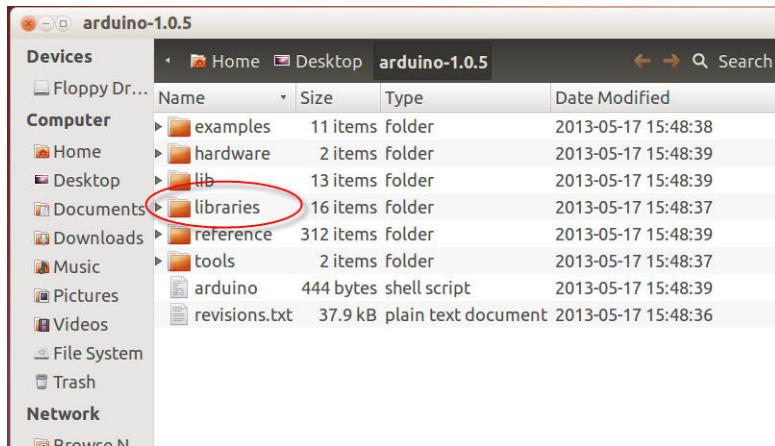


3. The library should now be installed. We're going to verify that it's in there properly. Start up the Arduino IDE. If it is already open, close it and re-start it. It only checks for new folders and libraries on startup so this is required. Once it starts up, go to the File/Examples menu item and look at the examples listing. You should see the chibiArduino examples:

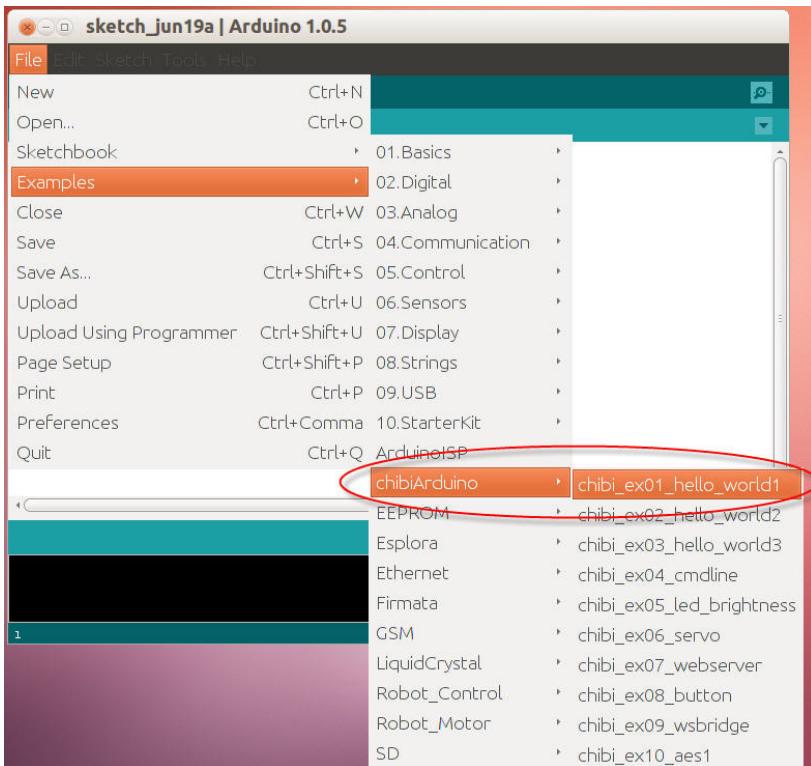


Linux

1. Download the chibiArduino library zip file. Go to your <ARDUINO_ROOT>/libraries folder and create a folder called chibiArduino inside. Move the chibiArduino zip file into the chibiArduino folder and unzip.

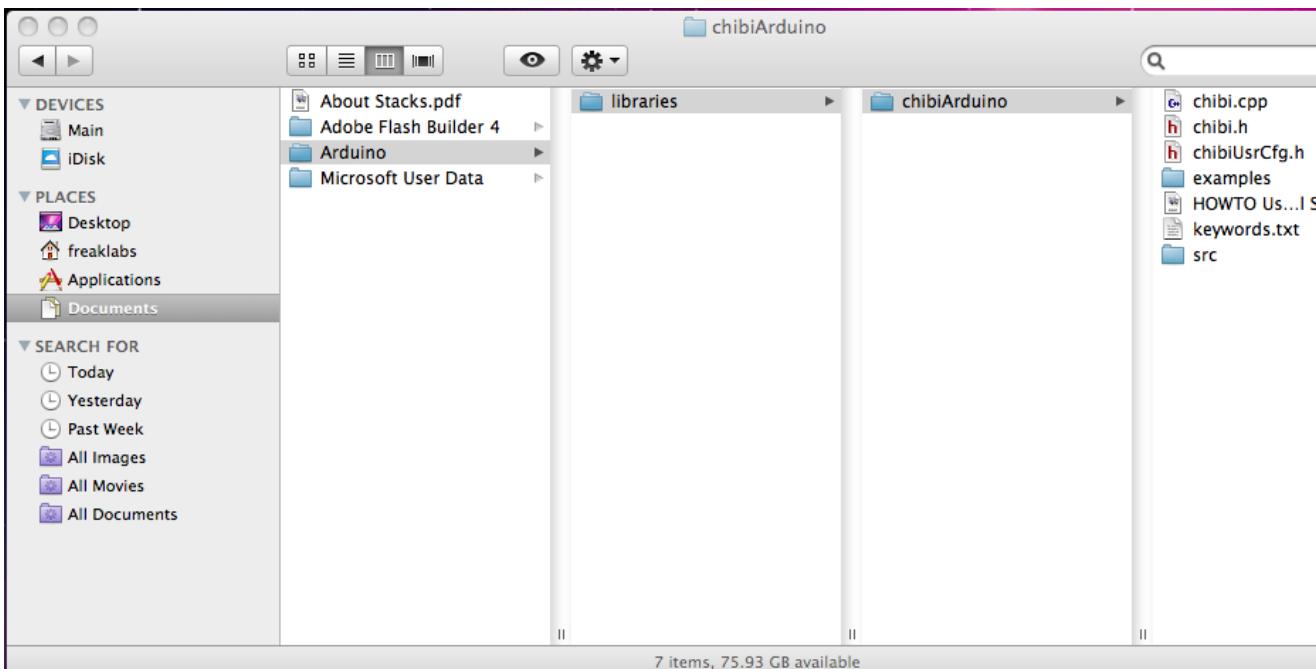


2. Once the file is unzipped inside the chibiArduino folder, the library should be installed. Now we're going to check to make sure it's seen properly. Start up the Arduino IDE. If it's already open, restart the IDE since it only scans for new folders and libraries on startup. Go to the Files/Examples menu item and look at the examples listing. You should see the chibiArduino examples. Select any of the examples to open.

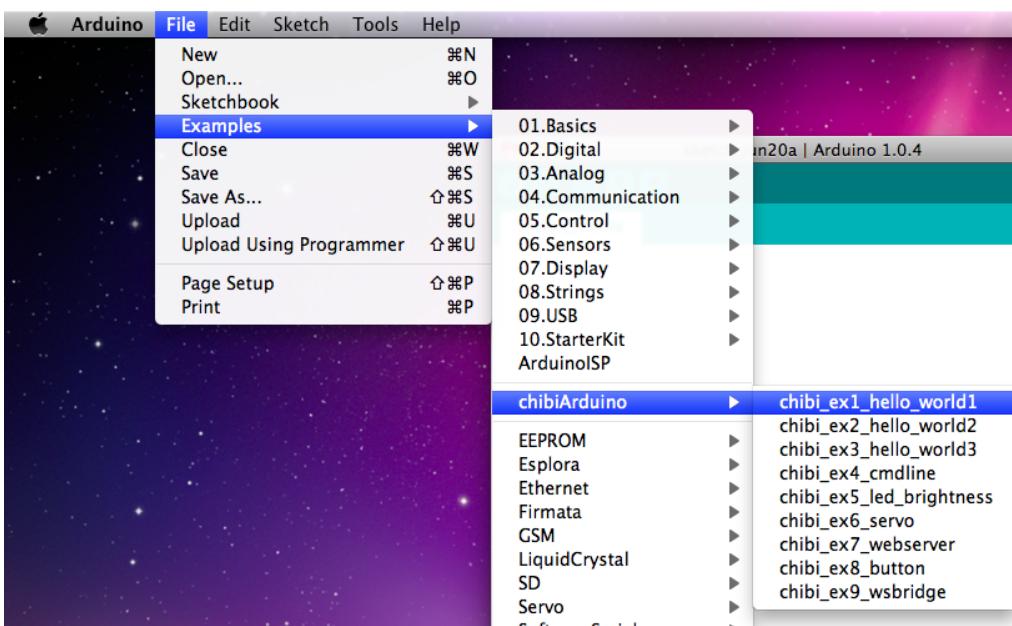


Mac OSX

1. Create a folder called "libraries" in the /Documents/Arduino folder on your system. Make sure the Arduino IDE is installed first. Create a folder called "chibiArduino" in the Documents/Arduino/libraries directory. Unzip the chibiArduino library in this folder.



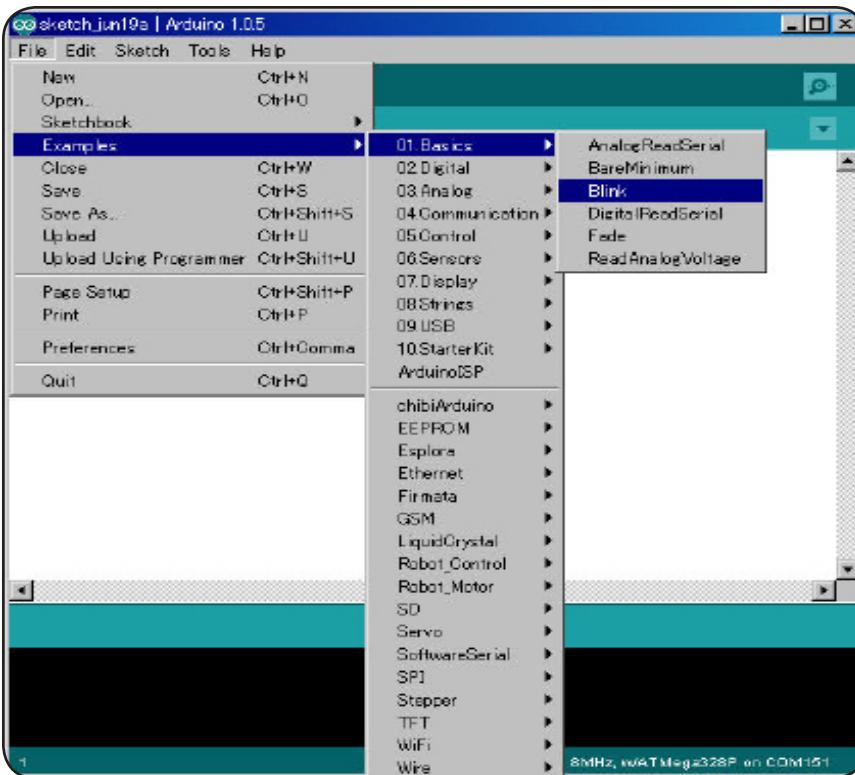
2. Once the chibiArduino library is installed, then we can check to make sure the Arduino IDE sees it. Start the Arduino IDE. If it's already open, restart the Arduino IDE. It only scans for new folders and libraries on startup so this step is important. Then go to the Files/Examples menu item and check the Examples listings. You should see the chibiArduino examples.



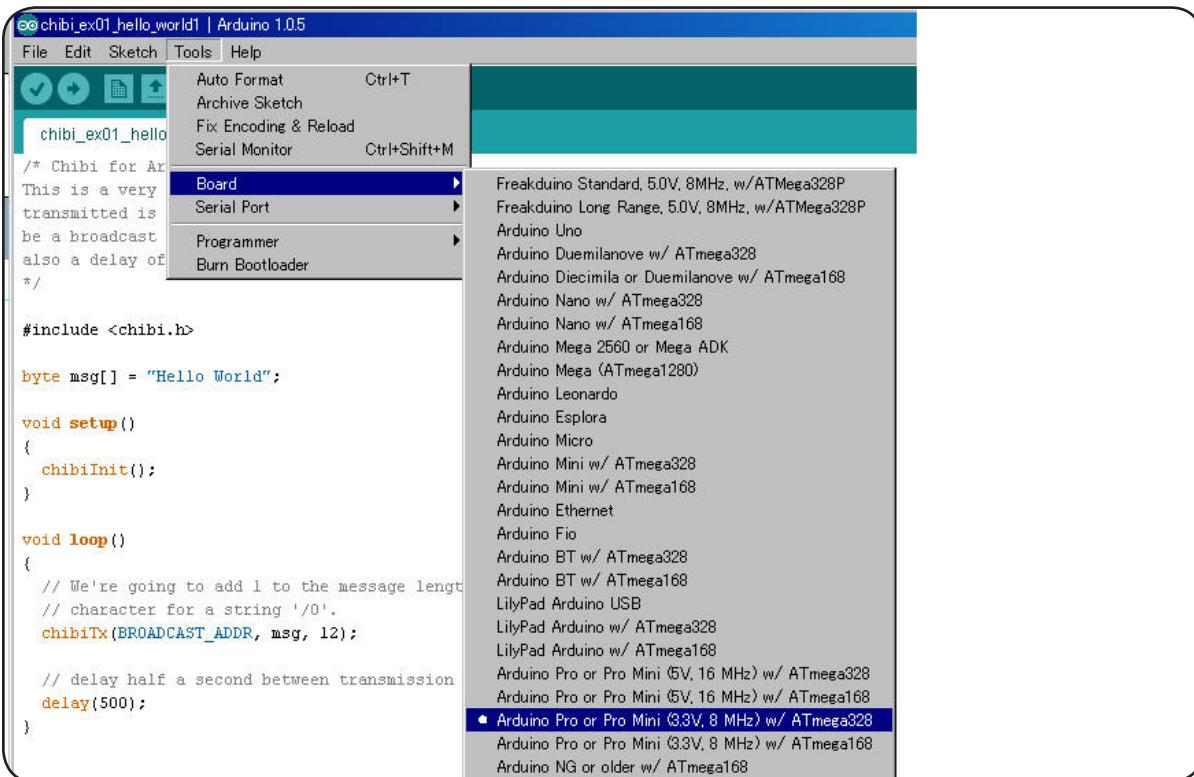
Uploading Code

At this point, you should be able to upload code to the board. This is the procedure.

1. **Open the IDE and add code.** We're going to take a shortcut and open up one of the default examples that comes with the Arduino software. Go to the "File/Examples/Basics" menu and select "Blink".

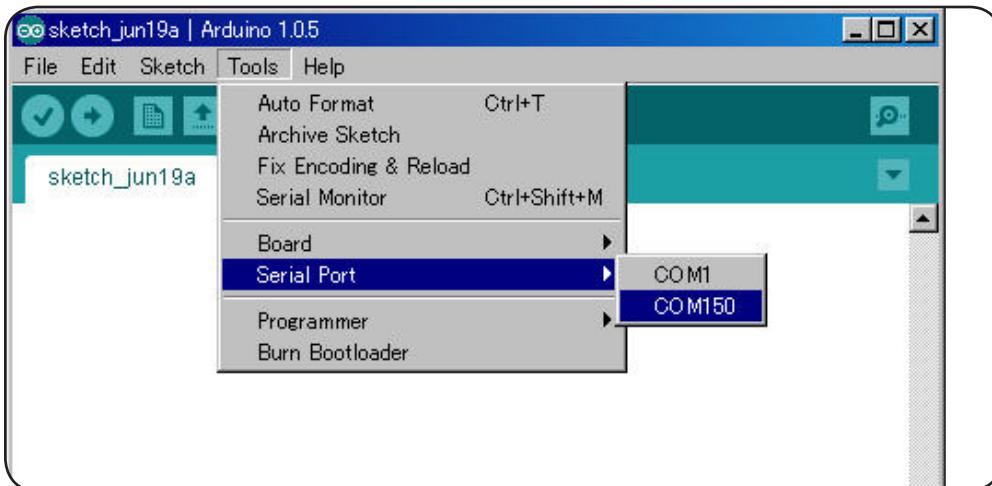


2. **Select the board.** Go to the “Tools/Board” menu and select “Arduino Pro or Pro Mini (3.3V, 8 MHz) w/ATMega328”.

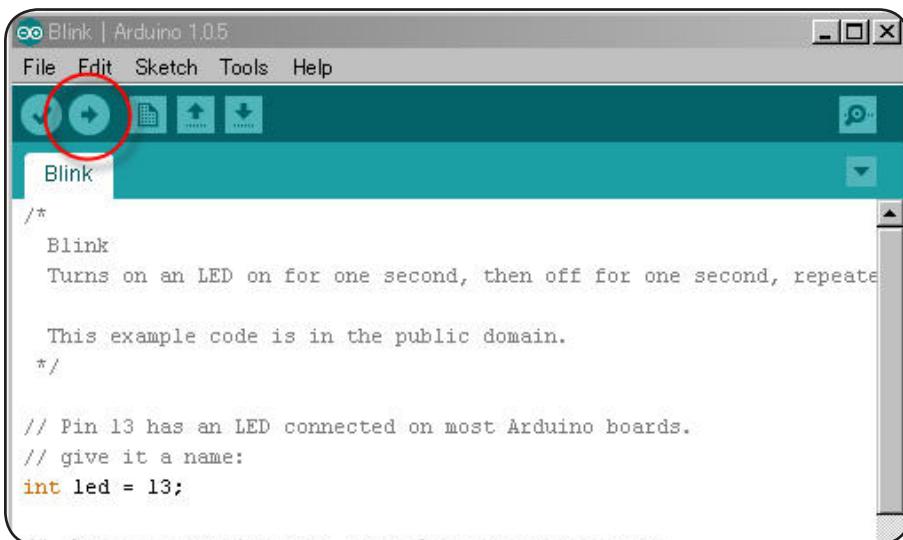


3. **Select the serial port.** Plug the USB connector into the Freakduino board and se-

lect the serial port that it's connected to.



4. **Click on the “Upload” icon.** The code should compile and start uploading. You’ll also see the serial port’s TX and RX LEDs blinking on the Freakduino board.



Congratulations! You just uploaded your code to the Freakduino board. You should now be the proud owner of a blinking LED :)

Compatibility

The FREAKDUINO-CHIBI board is essentially an Arduino-based system and a shield integrated together. This means that the peripheral will require using some dedicated pins for the wireless functionality.

Two pins on the analog input connector are not available for use except for standard digital I/O. These are pins Analog 2 and Analog 3. Analog 2 controls the sleep mode and Analog 3 controls the chip select for communications between the microcontroller and radio IC. If the wireless functionality is not used, these pins are available as standard digital I/O but not as analog inputs. If possible, its best to avoid using these pins.

If the wireless functionality is being used, the SPI bus is also required to communicate with the radio. That means that digital pins 10-12 (PB3 to PB5 or MOSI, MISO, and SCLK) will be dedicated SPI pins. Please be especially careful when using the AUX LED on the board. It is located on the SCLK pin required by the SPI. If the radio will be used, then the AUX LED should not be used in the sketch.

If there is any question about compatibility with a particular shield, please post to the FreakLabs forums or email support@freaklabsstore.com.

License

The FREAKDUINO-CHIBI hardware design is licensed under the [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike license v3.0](#). Attribution is an option and not a requirement. If you do attribute any derivatives of this design to FreakLabs, I'll think you're really cool, though :)



Disclaimer

The FREAKDUINO-CHIBI board is NOT FCC approved. It is designed to comply with FCC Part 15 rules. However this board is not in a finished product form and is only intended for experimental and research/development purposes. If you wish to use this board in an actual product, you will need to attain certification with the appropriate local regulatory body for the complete system. Additionally, please use the wireless equipment in a responsible manner with regard for others and your surroundings.

Troubleshooting

There are some common problems that people run into when using the Freakduino board. The following is a list of issues people have had and the fixes for them:

1. **Serial port does not work at speed specified in Arduino sketch.** This is most likely

due to having the wrong “Board” setting in the Arduino IDE. A telltale sign is when you can get the serial output to work properly at twice the baudrate. Normal Arduinos use a 16 MHz clock but the Freakduino uses the internal oscillator on the AVR which runs at 8 MHz. Because of that, the “Tools/Board” setting in the Arduino IDE should be:

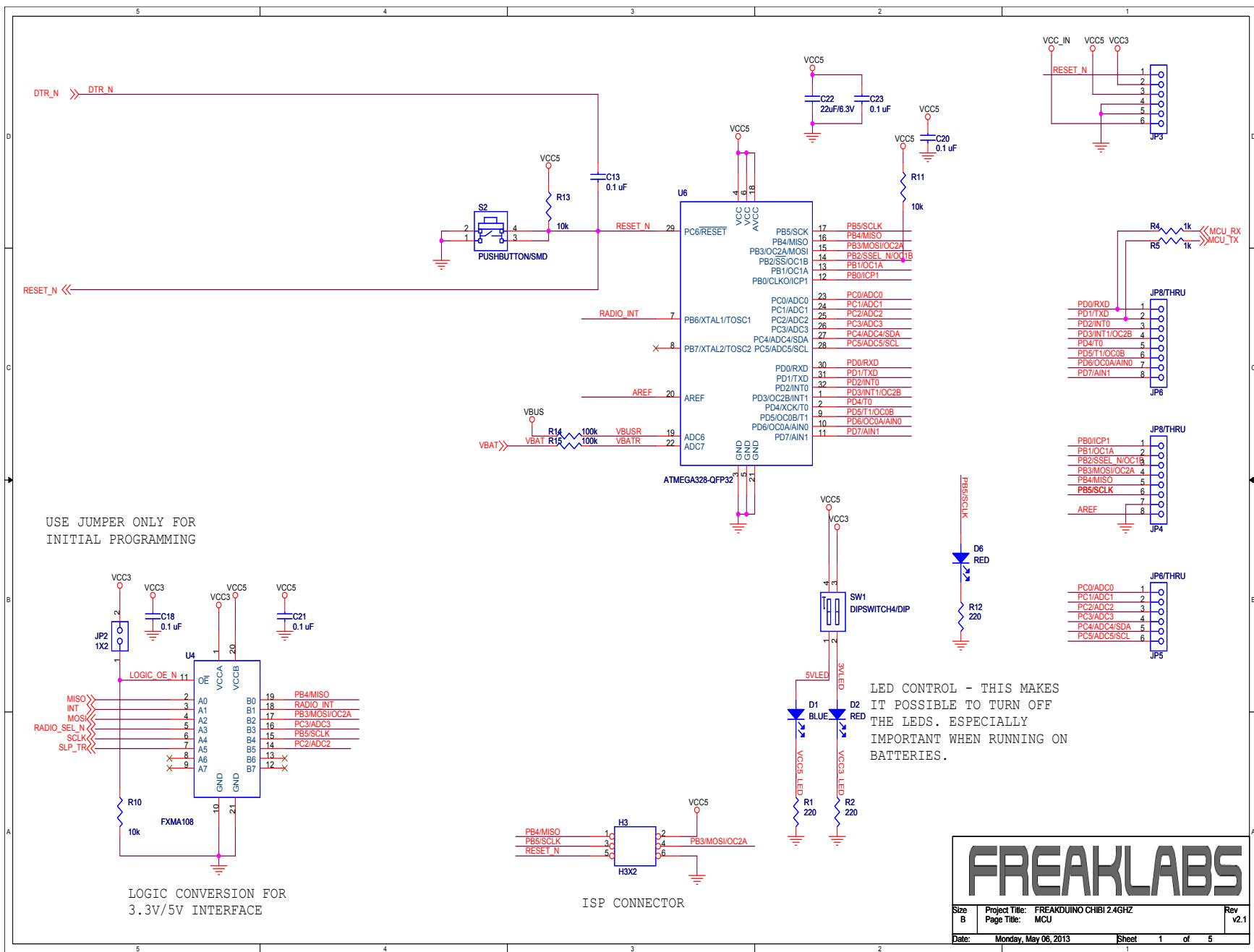
“Arduino Pro or Pro Mini (3.3V, 8 MHz) w/ATMega328”

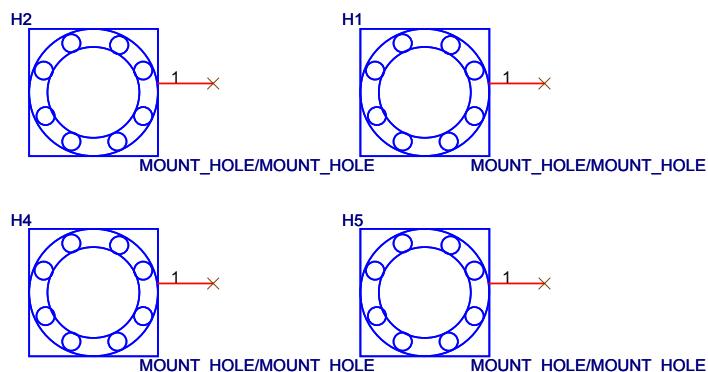
2. Radio is not working or displays “RADIO NOT INITIALIZED PROPERLY” on serial terminal. First, make sure that the voltage converter disable jumper is not mounted. It should not be on in normal operation. The next thing to try when you see that message is to load the example sketch “chibi_ex4_cmdline” with nothing connected to the Freakduino. If the error message disappears, then its likely that some pins needed for radio communications (like the SPI pins) are also being used in the sketch. One of the main culprits of this issue is when a sketch uses the AUX LED on the board. The LED is standard on Arduinos but is unfortunately connected to the SCLK pin required by SPI. If the radio is going to be used, the AUX LED should not be used. Please see the “Compatibility” section of this document.

If the error message still shows with the example sketch, then there is likely a hardware problem. Please contact me through the FreakLabs website, email me at chris(at)freaklabs(dot)org, or post on the forums.

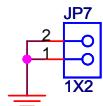
Schematics

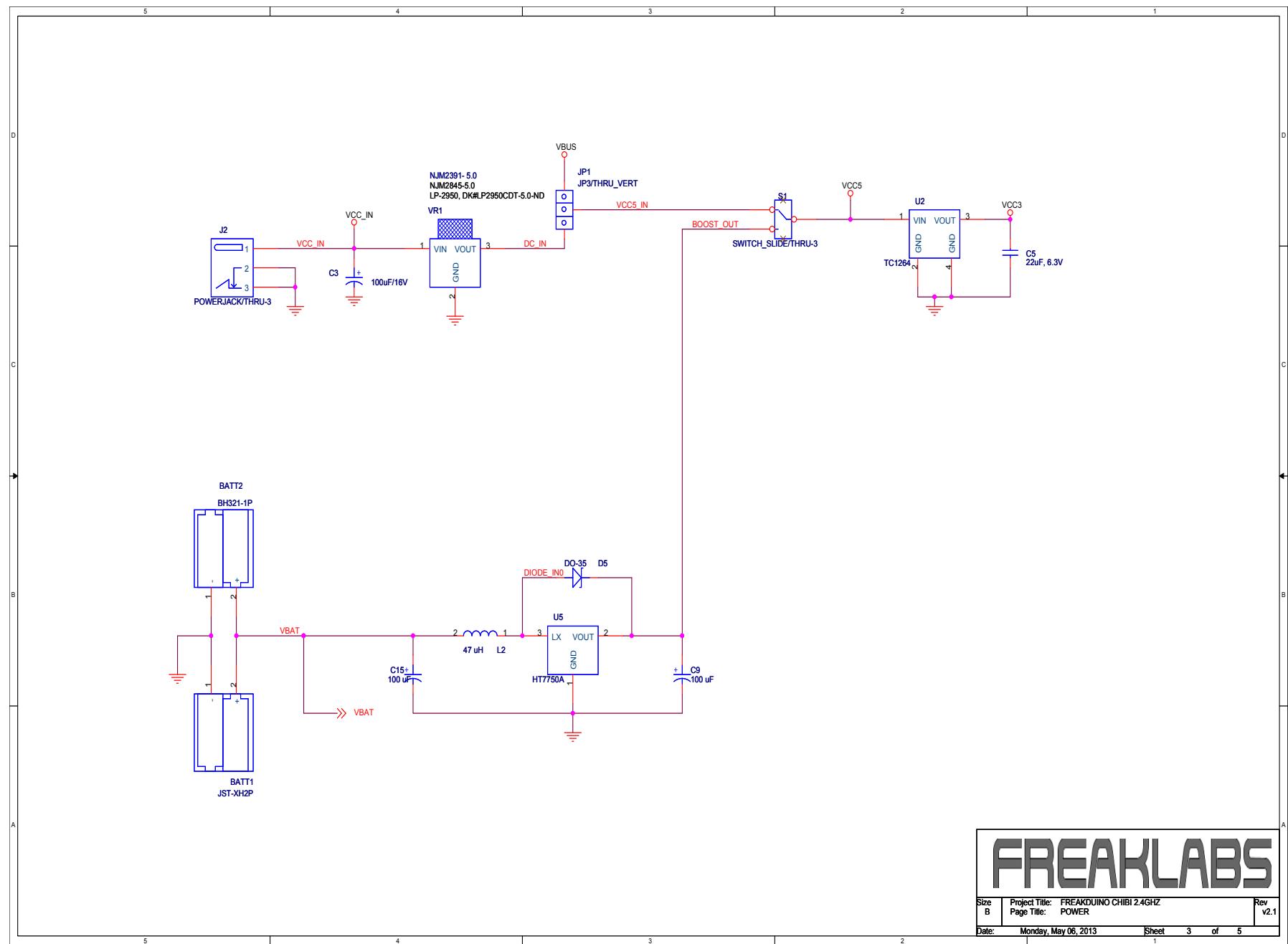
Schematics can be found on the following page:

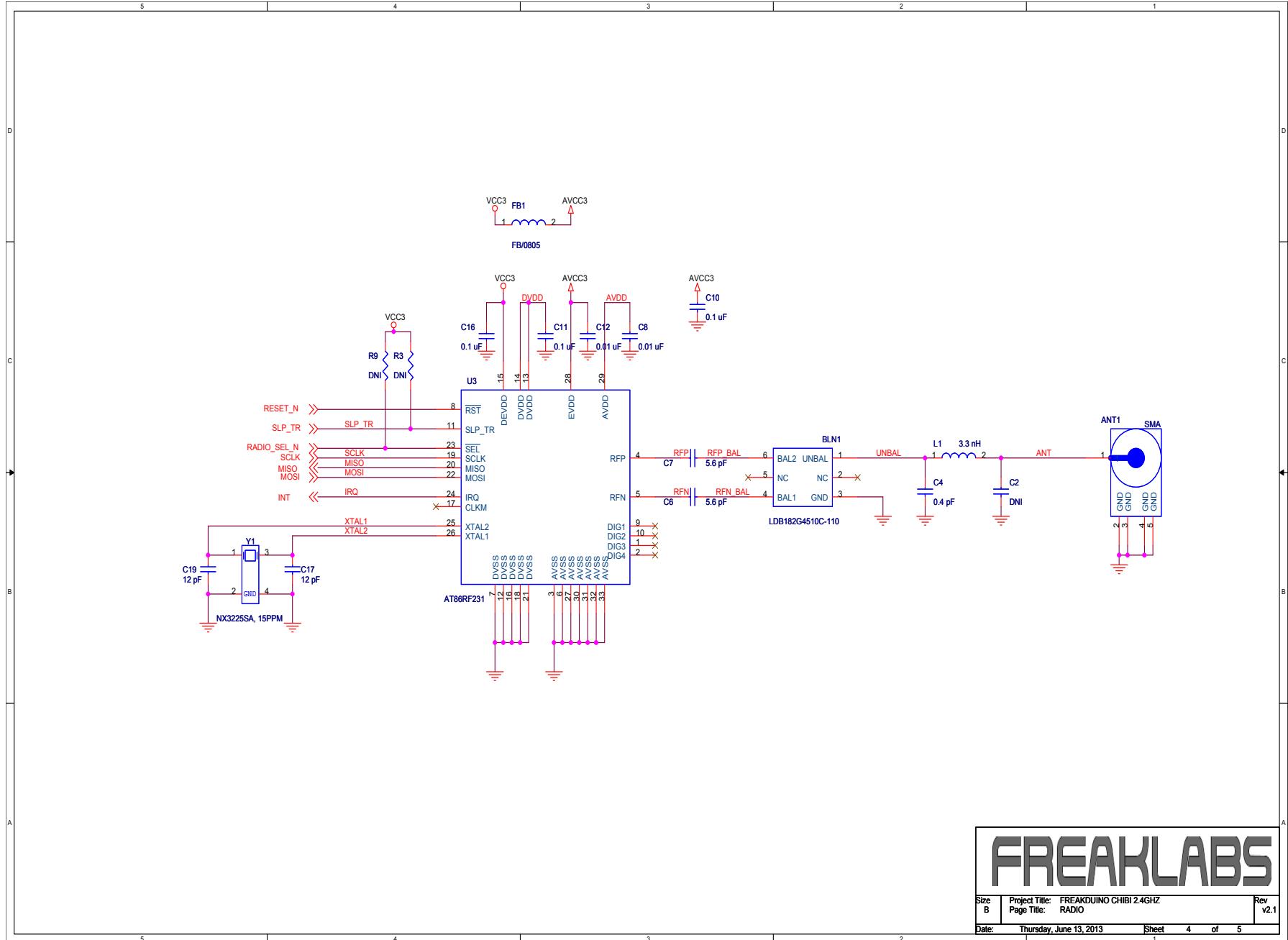


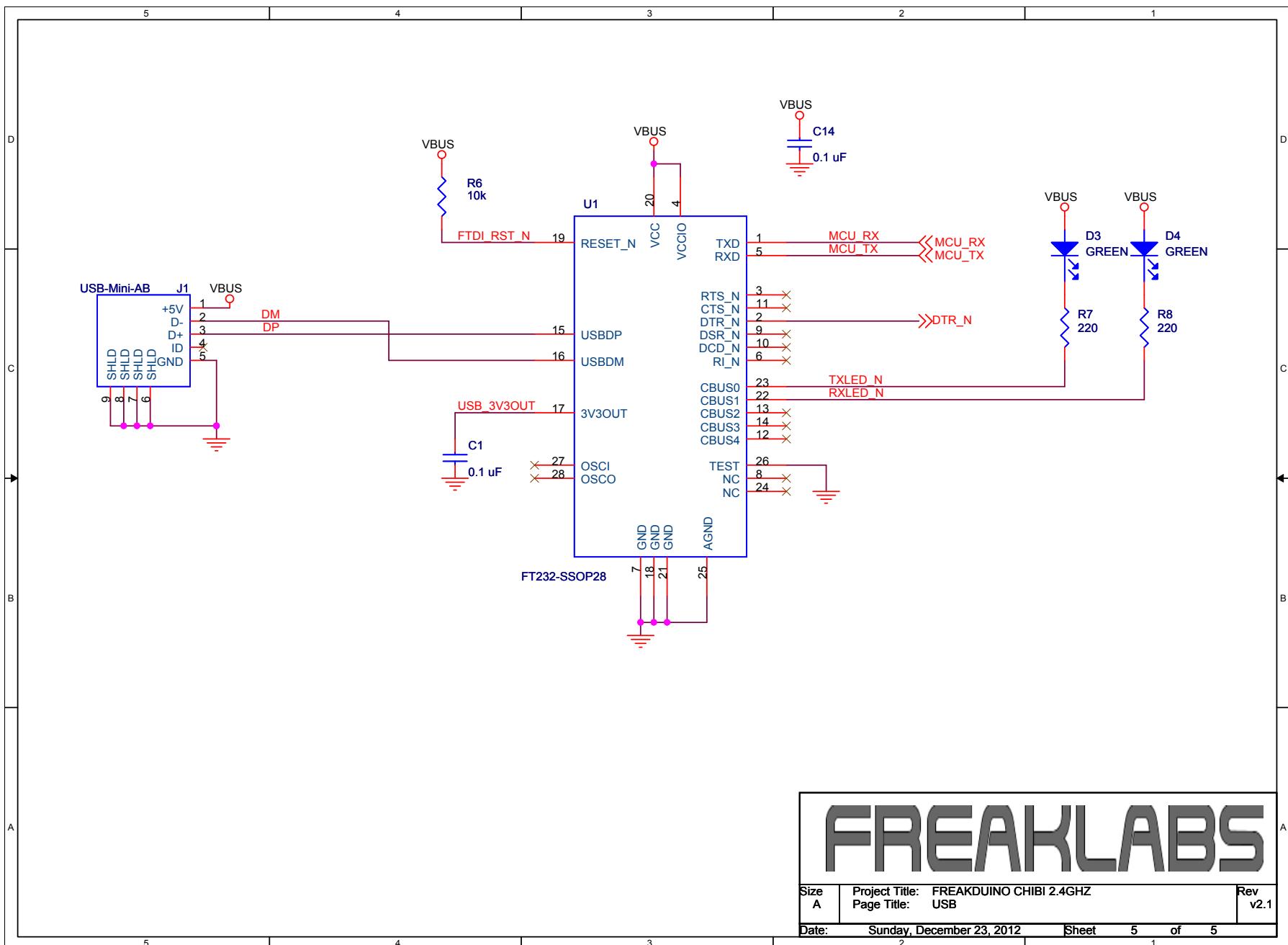


GND TESTPOINTS FOR DEBUGGING





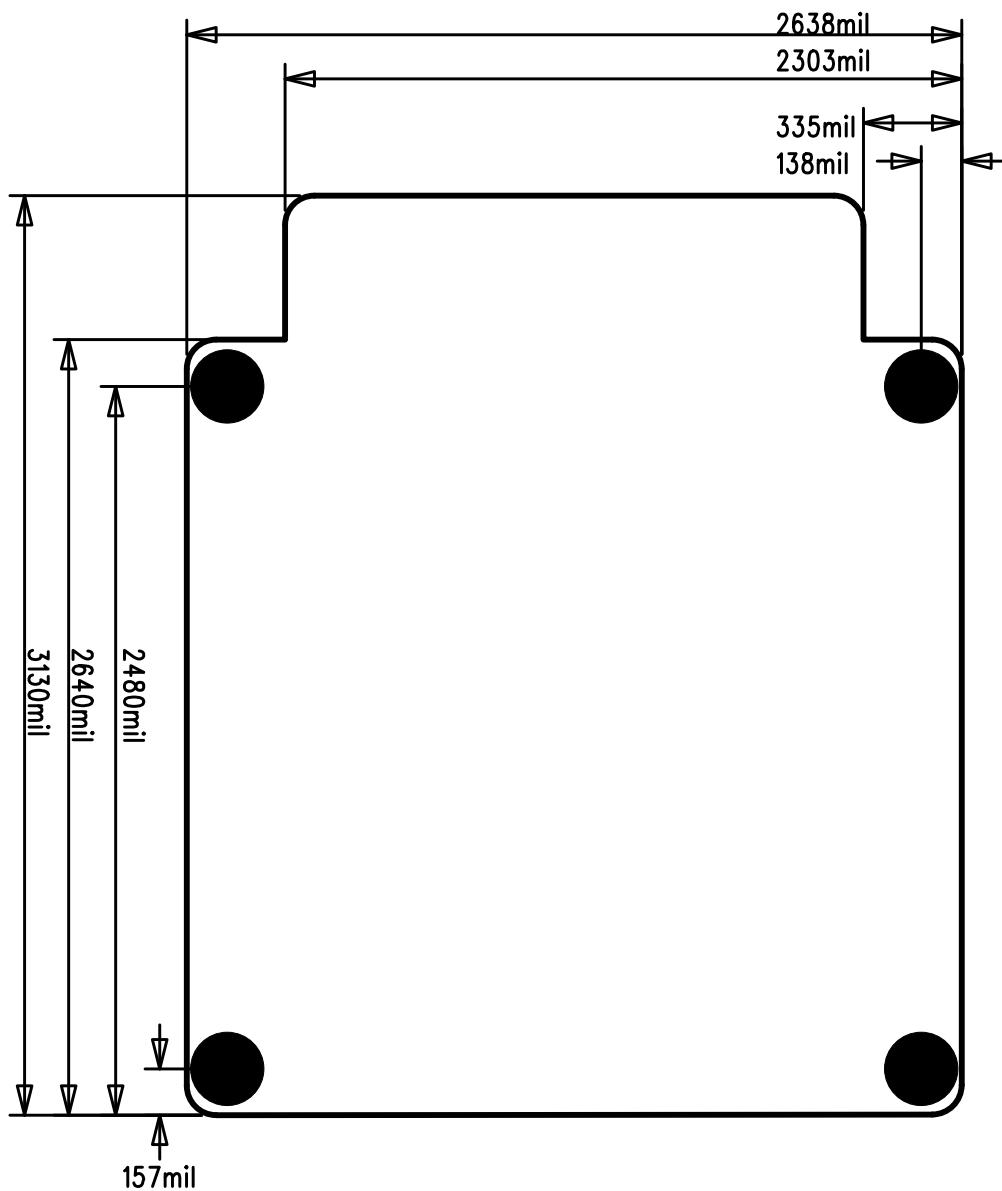


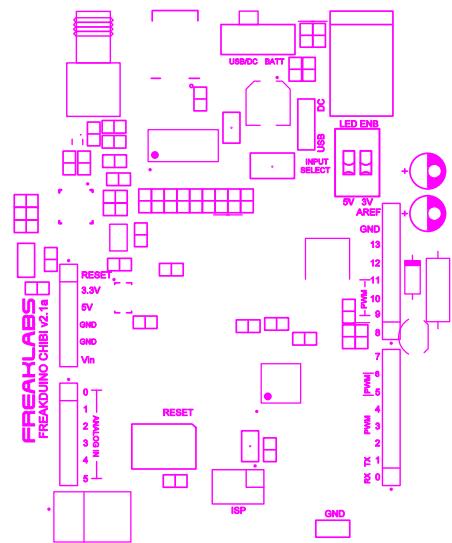
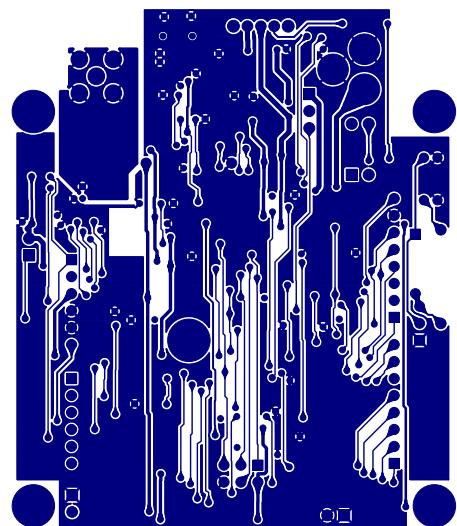
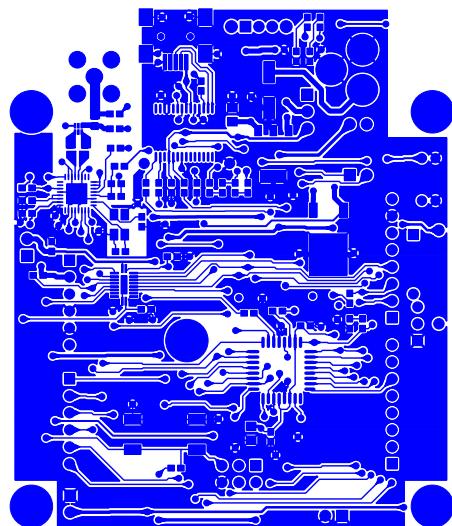
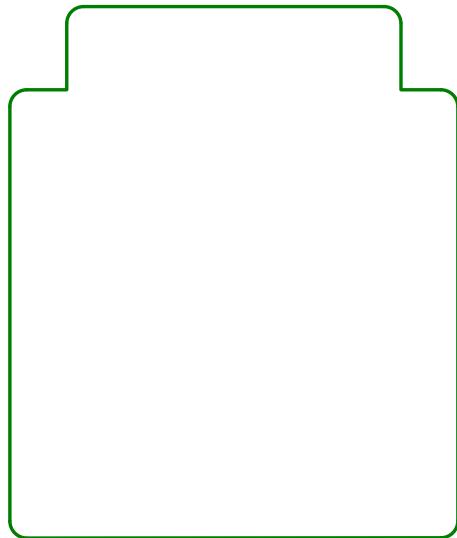
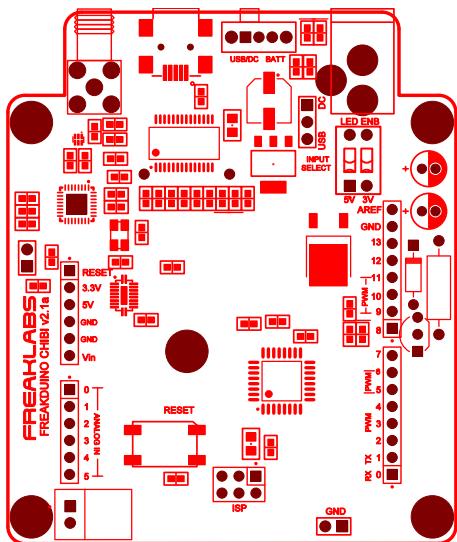


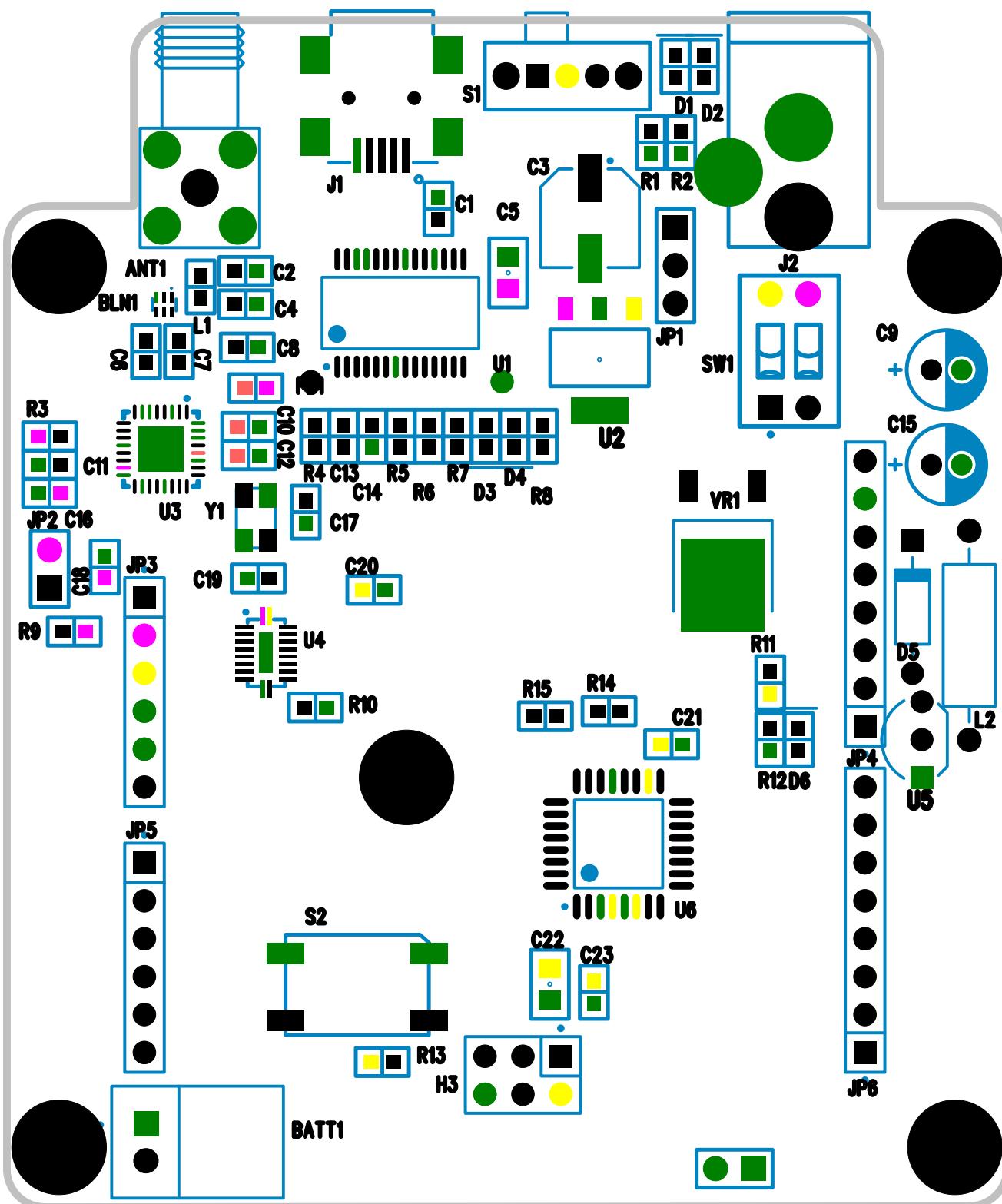
PCB Layout

PCB layout file order:

1. *Mechanical Dimensions*
2. *Top Layer*
3. *Bottom Layer*
4. *Assembly Drawing - Silkscreen View*
5. *Assembly drawing - Reference Designator View*







Bill of Materials

Quantity	Reference	Manufacturer	Part Number	Description
1	ANT1	ChangHong	SMA-02-113-TGG	RP-SMA Connector
1	BATT1	JST	JST-XH2P	2-pin mated, polarized connector, male
1	BATT2	COMF	BH321-1P	2-AA battery case
1	BLN1	Murata	LDB-182G4510C-110	100 ohm diff/50 ohm single ended, 2.4 GHz, balun
10	C1,C10,C11, C13, C14, C16, C18, C20, C21, C23	Various	0.1 uF	0.1uF/50V, 0603
1	C2, R3, R9		DNI	
1	C3	Various		100uF/16V
1	C4	Johanson Technology	251R14S0R4 AV4T	0.4 pF, 0603 RF capacitor
1	C5, C22	Various	22uF, 6.3V	22uF/6.3V, 0805, MLCC
2	C6,C7	Taiyo Yuden	UMK105C-G5R6DW-F	5.6 pF, 50V, 0402, RF
2	C8,C12	Various		0.01 uF, 0603
2	C9,C15	Various		100 uF, 35V
2	C17,C19	Various		12 pF, 50V, 0603
1	D1	Various		Blue LED, 0603
2	D2,D6	Various		Red LED, 0603
2	D3,D4	Various		Green LED, 0603
2	D5	Vishay	BAT43	Schottky Diode
1	FB1	Various		Ferrite Bead, 0805
1	H3	Various	H3X2	3x2 Straight male header, 0.100"
1	JP1	Various	JP3/THRU_VERT	1x3 Straight male header, 0.100"
2	JP2,JP7	Various	1X2	1x2 Straight male header, 0.100"
2	JP4,JP6	Various		1x8 Straight female header, 0.100"
1	JP3, JP5	Various		1x6 Straight female header, 0.100"
1	J1	4UCON	9558	USB Mini-AB connector

1	J2	4UCON	5537	DC Power Jack, 2.0 mm center conductor
1	L1	Johanson Technology	L-14C3N3SV4T	3.3 nH RF inductor
2	L2	Various		47 uH inductor, 200 mA
5	R1,R2,R7,R8,R12			220 ohms, 0603
6	R6,R10,R11, R13	Various		10 kohms, 0603
2	R14, R15	Various		100 kohms, 0603
2	R4,R5	Various		1 kohm, 0603
1	SW1	Various		2-input DIP switch
1	S1	Various		Right angle slide switch
1	S2	Various		SMD SPST Tactile Switch/Pushbutton
1	U1	FTDI	FT232RL	USB to Serial Converter
1	U2	Microchip	TC1264-3.3	3.3V Regulator
1	U3	Atmel	AT86RF231	2.4 GHz, 802.15.4 radio
1	U4	Fairchild	FXMA108	Voltage level converter
2	U5	Holtek	HT7750A	5V Boost Converter
1	U6	Atmel	ATMEGA328-QFP32	AVR Microcontroller
1	VR1	NJRC	NJM2845- 5.0	5.0V Regulator
1	Y1	NDK	NX3225SA, 15PPM	16 MHz crystal, 15 ppm