



# How to Make an Eight Bit Computer and Save the World!

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# Overview

- Present Device
- Overview
- Goals
- Device Demo
- Functional Requirements
- AVR Open Ecosystem - Uzebox
- AVR Open Ecosystem - Arduino
- AVR Open Ecosystem - gcc, avr-libc, avrdude
- AVR Open Ecosystem - avrfreaks, uzebox forums, etc
- Video Requirement - Tellymate
- SD Card Requirement - Wave Shield/Uzebox
- FAT Requirement - Petite FatFS
- USB Requirement - V-USB
- Schematic (Eagle, GEDA, gschem, PCB Artist)
- Layout
- Bill of Materials
- PCB Fabrication
- Assembly
- Pricing

# Talk Overview

## *Today's Audience*

~~Independently Wealthy Philanthropists~~

~~Non-Governmental Organizations, UN, etc~~

~~DoD Civil Affairs, USAID~~

**Geeks** interested in

Playing with **Microcontrollers**

**Building & Fabricating** things

Open Source **Tools** and **Hardware**

## *Today's Talk*

Overview and **demo** of device

Survey of AVR Open Source **Hardware**

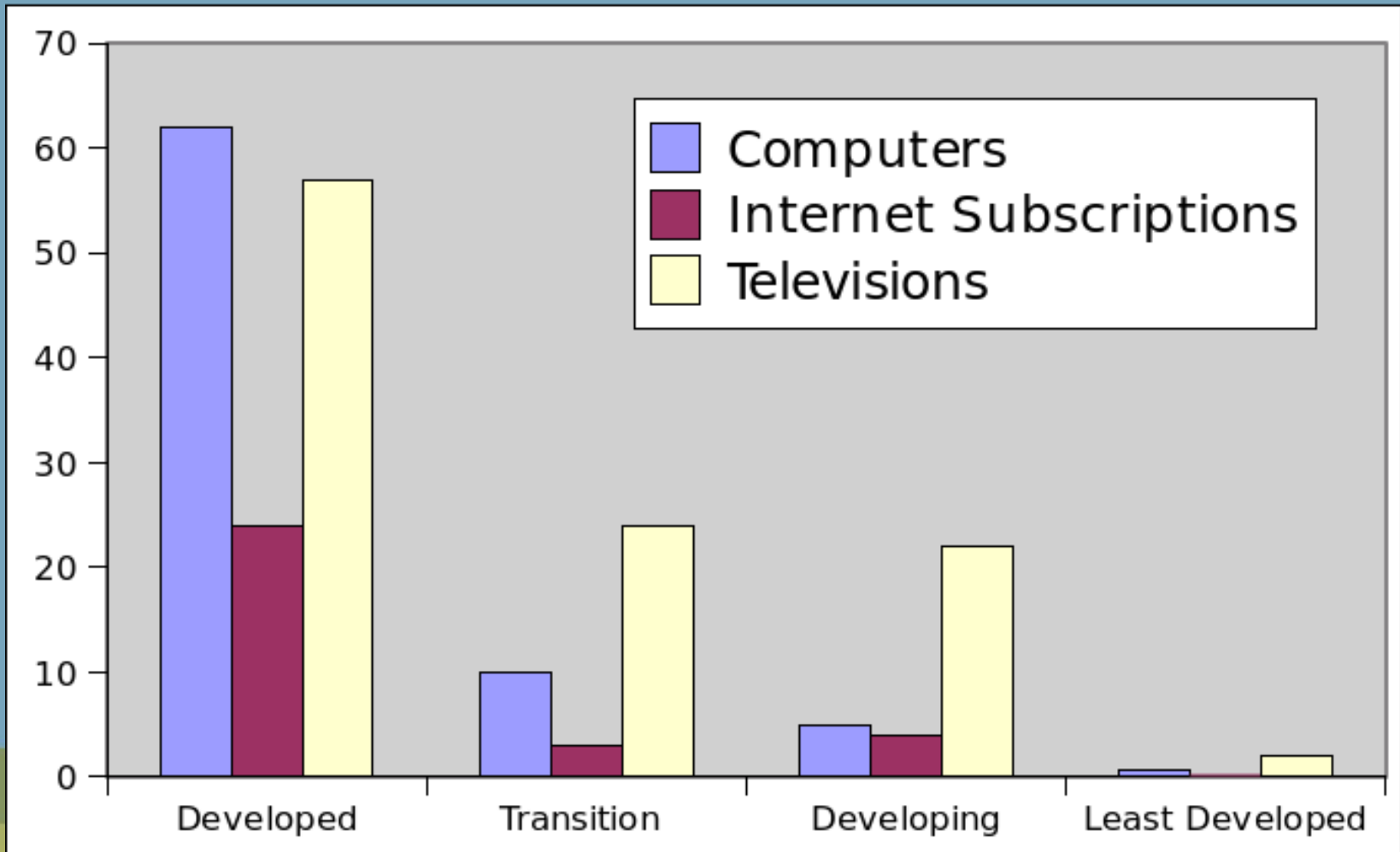
Survey of AVR Open Source **Tools**

Walk through of **design and design tools**

Walk through of **fabrication and manufacturing**

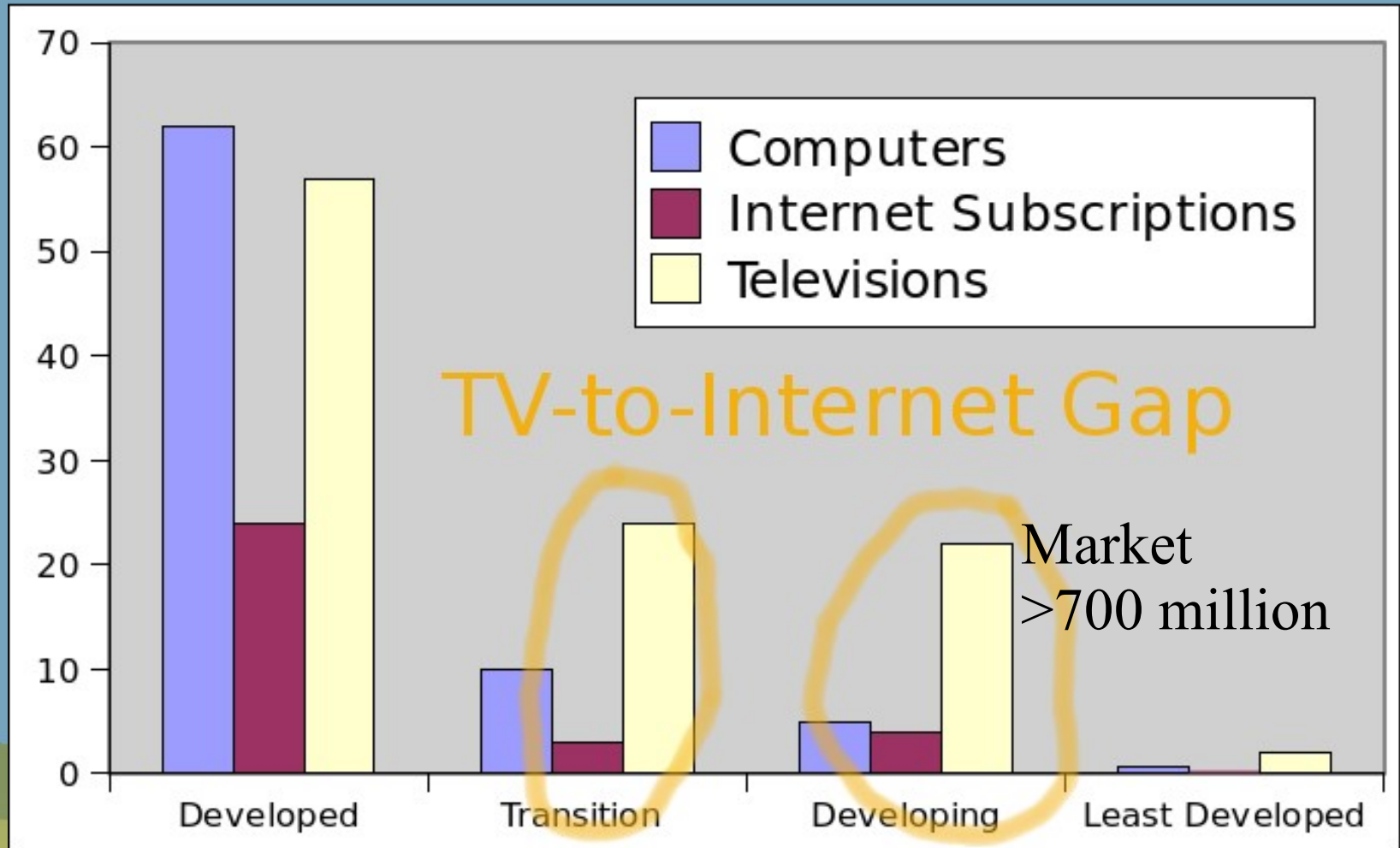
# Bridging TV/Internet Gap

Global Information Access per 100 Inhabitants



# Bridging TV/Internet Gap

## Global Information Access per 100 Inhabitants



# Pitch

*2GB SD Card = ~5,000 books or better part of Wikipedia*

*Humane Reader device turns any TV set into an e-book/wikipedia reader.*

*Production Cost  
approx \$20  
(incl SD Card)*



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# Value Proposition

*The Humane Reader can provide a virtual library to any developing world school or individual with electrical power for less than the cost of a single textbook.*



# Secondary Goals

**Goal:** Create an extendable, hackable, 8-bit general computing platform both for first through third world developers and experimenters.

**Effect:** Join and leverage the existing open source hardware community (Arduino, AVR, etc) to spur further development.

**Effect:** Provide a learning platform as well as simple e-book reader.





Demo

# *DEMO*



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# Design Requirements

*NTSC/PAL Video Output*

*SD Card Interface (w/FAT)*

*Cheap Input Interface (buttons)*

*Power (Micro-USB Adaptor)*

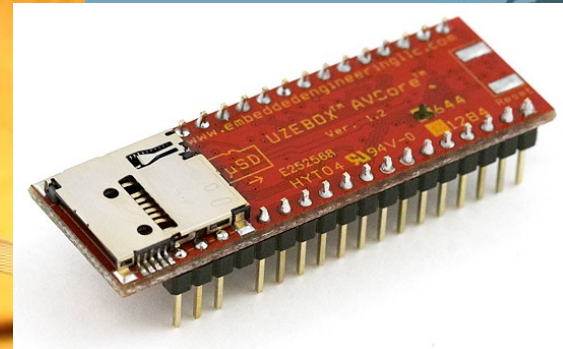
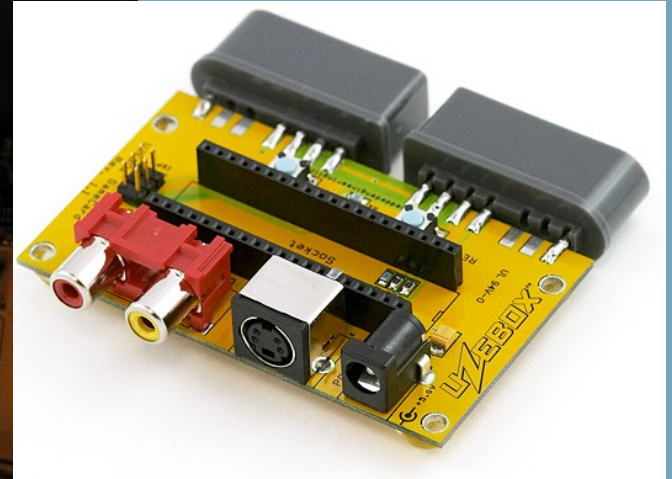
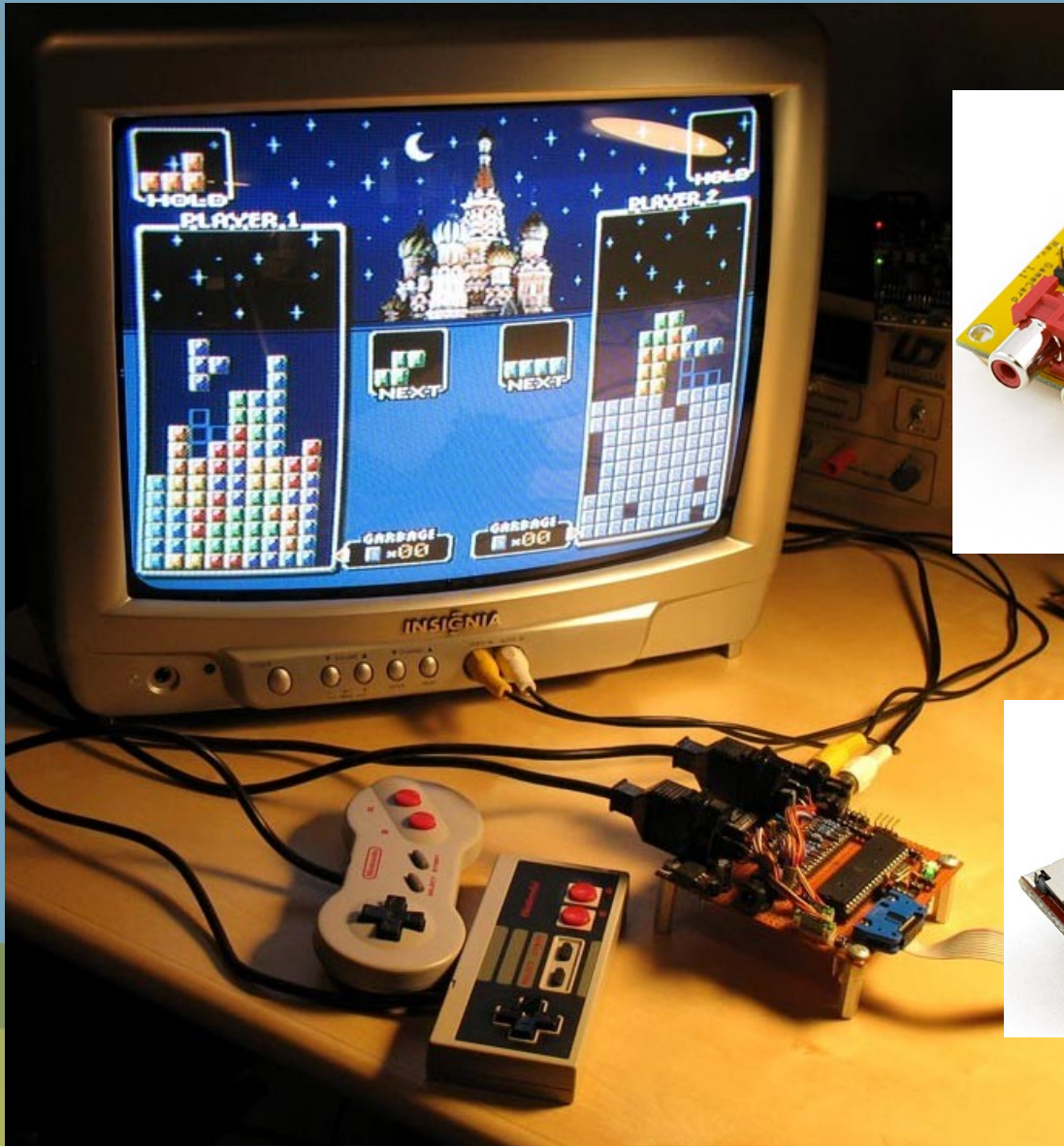
*PS/2 Keyboard Interface (optional)*

*USB interface (optional)*

*Audio (optional)*

*IR (optional)*

# AVR Open Ecosystem: Uzebox



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# AVR Open Ecosystem: Uzebox

*8-bit gaming "console"*

***FEATURES:** NTSC/PAL color video output, game controller input, SD Card, custom "kernel", solid community*

***FAILURES:** expensive video chip, expensive MCU (Atmega644), overclocked design*

*Too Expensive (\$95 sparkfun)*

# AVR Open Ecosystem: **Arduino**

## ***HARDWARE:***

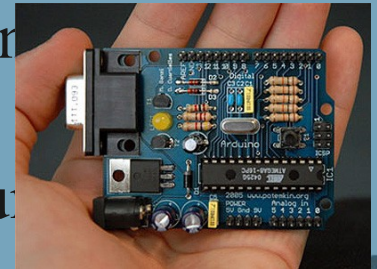
Simple break-out board with pseudo- standard expansion headers

Wide variety of extension "shields" - Ethernet, Wifi, Bluetooth, SD Cards, video

***SOFTWARE:*** Provides an educationally-oriented "easy" IDE.

***COMMUNITY:*** Excellent. Dev tutorials, forums

***CONCLUSION:*** Shield, IDE, and software compatible.





# AVR Open Ecosystem: Tools

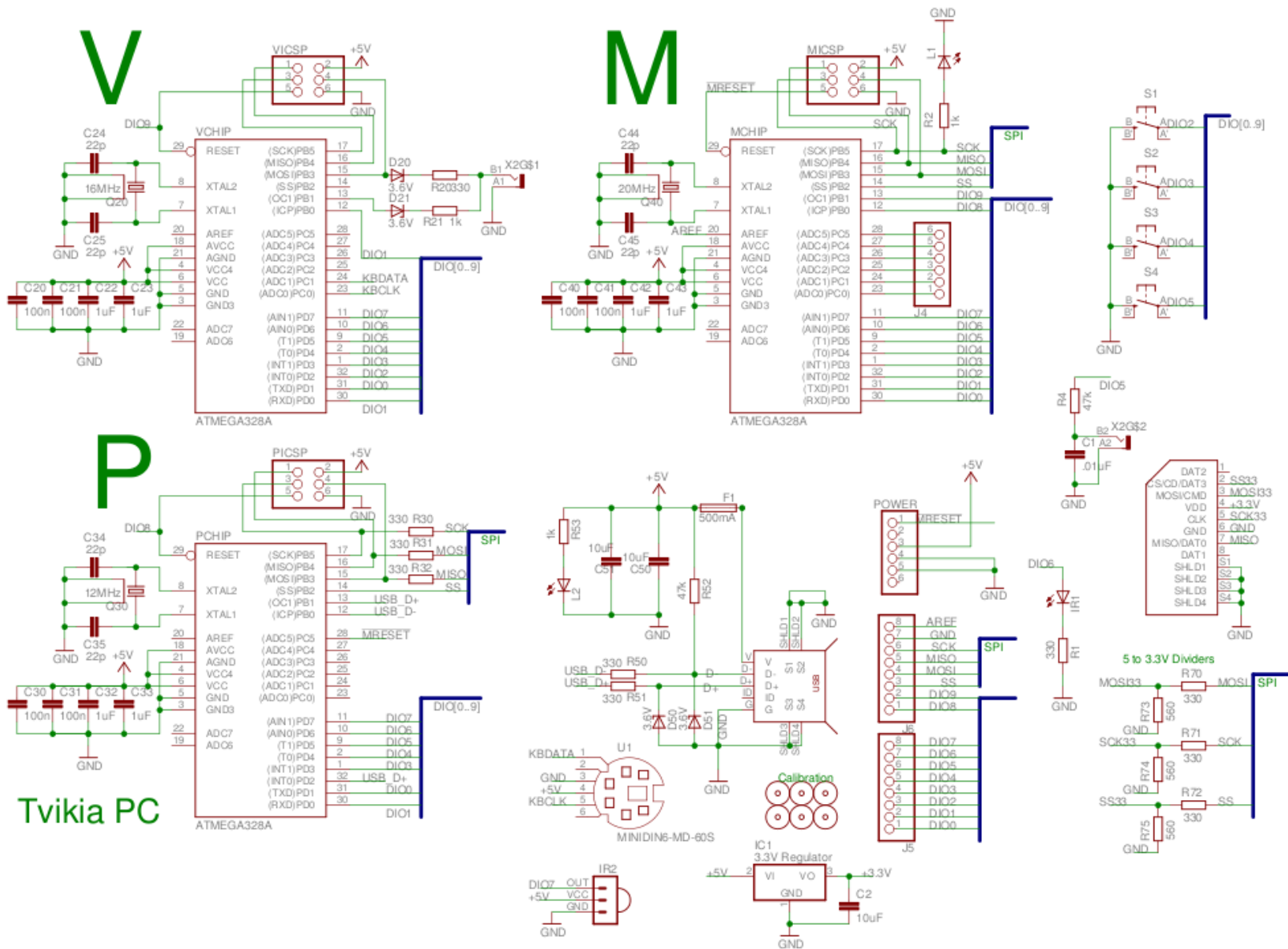
**avr-gcc** compiler - full C, partial C++, bintools, well supported alternative to Atmel's compiler

**avr-libc** - standard C library for AVR. Includes printf, etc (roll your own IO backend)

**avrdude** - OSS Programmer - many methods

**simulavr emulator** - several OSS emulators - waste of time (?)

**avarice** - JTAG debugging. HW Expensive. Glitchy (-Os). AVR Dragon for <32k MCUs.

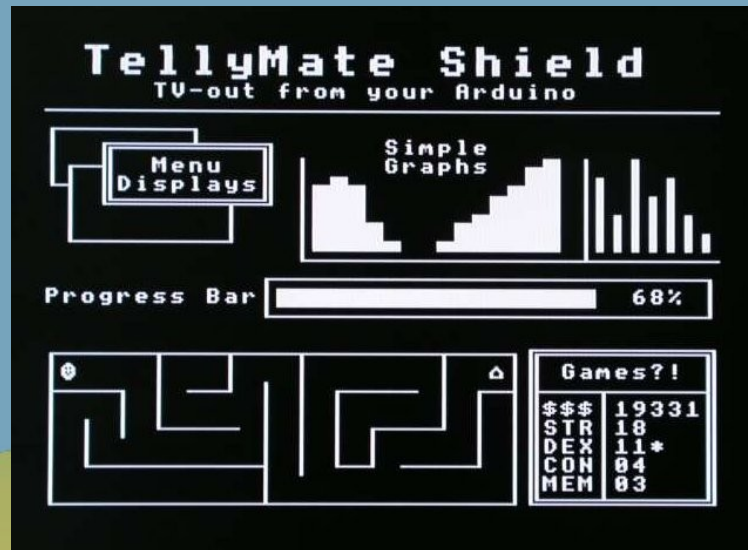
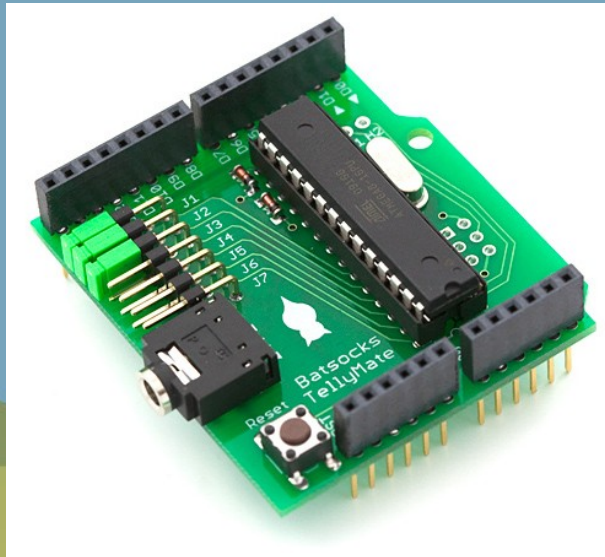


# Video Output

*REQ: NTSC/PAL Video Output*

*PROBLEM:* Very fast signal. For B&W, only a few cycles per dot.

*SOLUTION:* Use existing Tellymate project software.

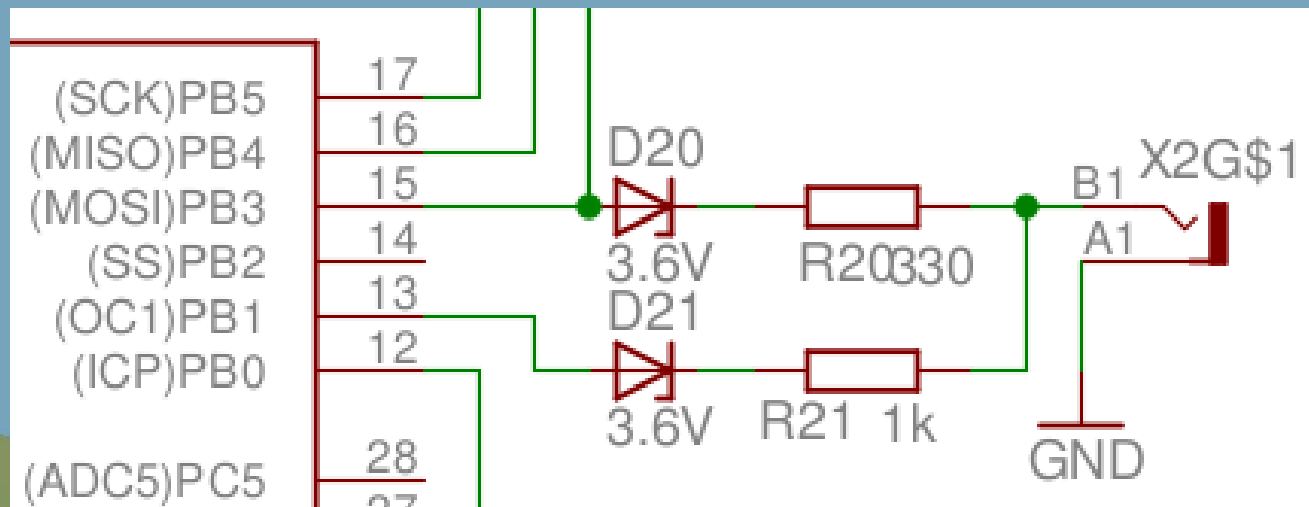




# Video Output

**SOLUTION:** Use existing Tellymate project software.

Tellymate uses MCU's SPI device to output 9 dots at a time (~22 cycles per SPI buffer load @16MHz).



# SD Card Requirement

## *Interface:*

SD Cards have a simple 4-wire SPI hardware interface.

3.3V signal levels

**SOLUTION:** 5V to 3.3V voltage dividers for MCU output, MCU can discern 3.3V input

## *Power:*

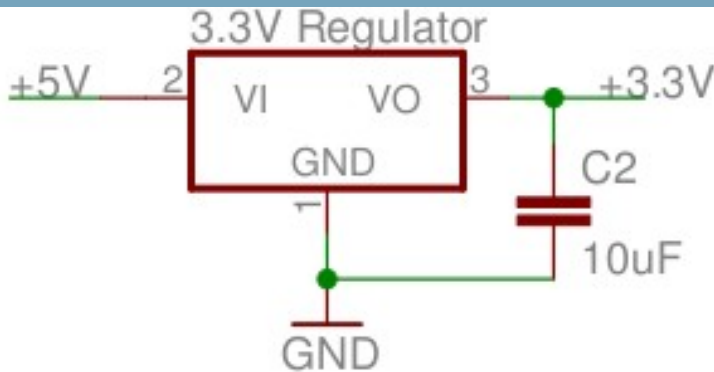
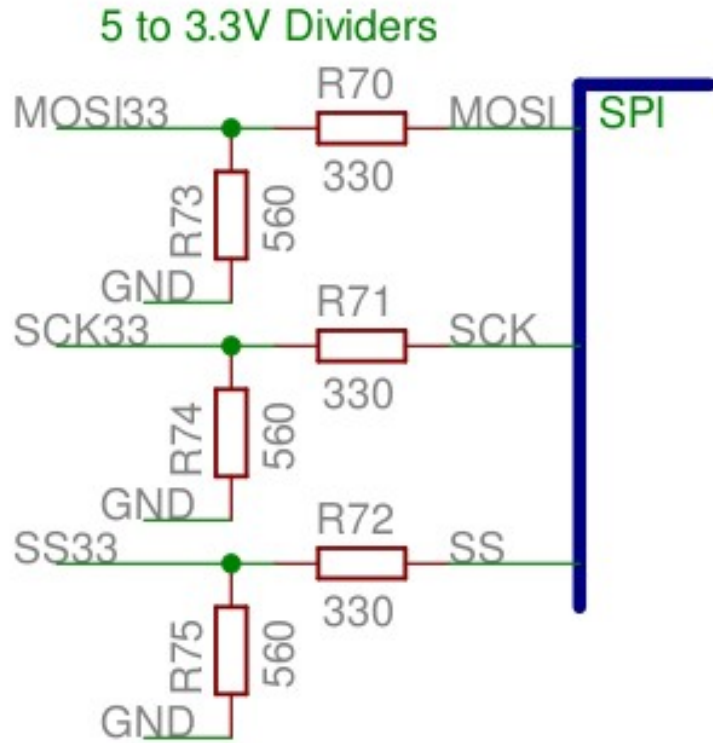
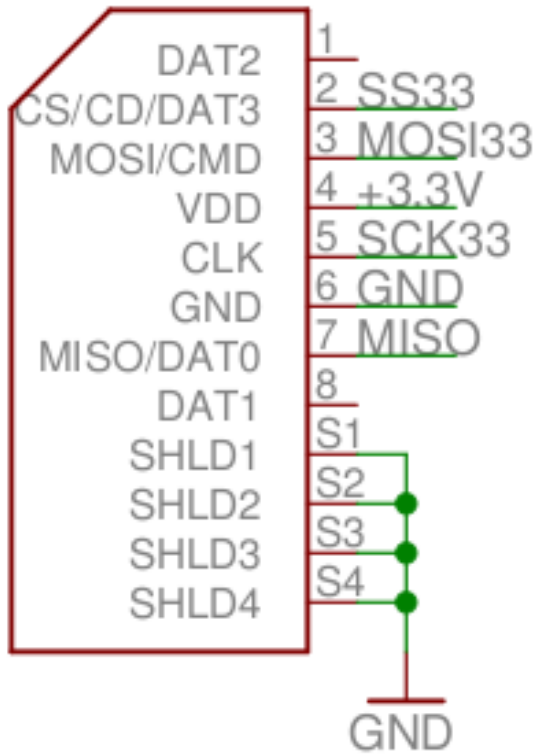
SD Card needs 3.3V power

theoretical (but not observed) current requirements are high.

**SOLUTION:** Add 3.3V regulator

3.3V handling "inspired" by Uzebox schematic

# SD Card Schematic



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# FAT Filesystem

Several Open Source AVR FAT on SPI SD Card implementations

WaveHC library for Arduino

Uzebox

FatFS and Petite FatFS (*pFatFS* - same author)

***SOLUTION:*** Petite FatFS

Chosen for tiny size and simplicity

AVR SD Card example required hacking - bad timings

# FAT FS Issues

## *Issues with FAT FS on SD Card*

Minimal RAM for caching (2kbyte MCU)

Reading 1 byte requires reading full 512 byte sector from SD Card

FAT random seek times LINEAR to seek position (VERY bad for 2 GB database).

## *Solutions*

Minimal 128 byte cache added

Non-fragmented file seek optimization

## *USB Power*

Micro-USB 5V power connector

Micro-USB new world-wide cell phone charger standard = low cost

## *USB Data Interface*

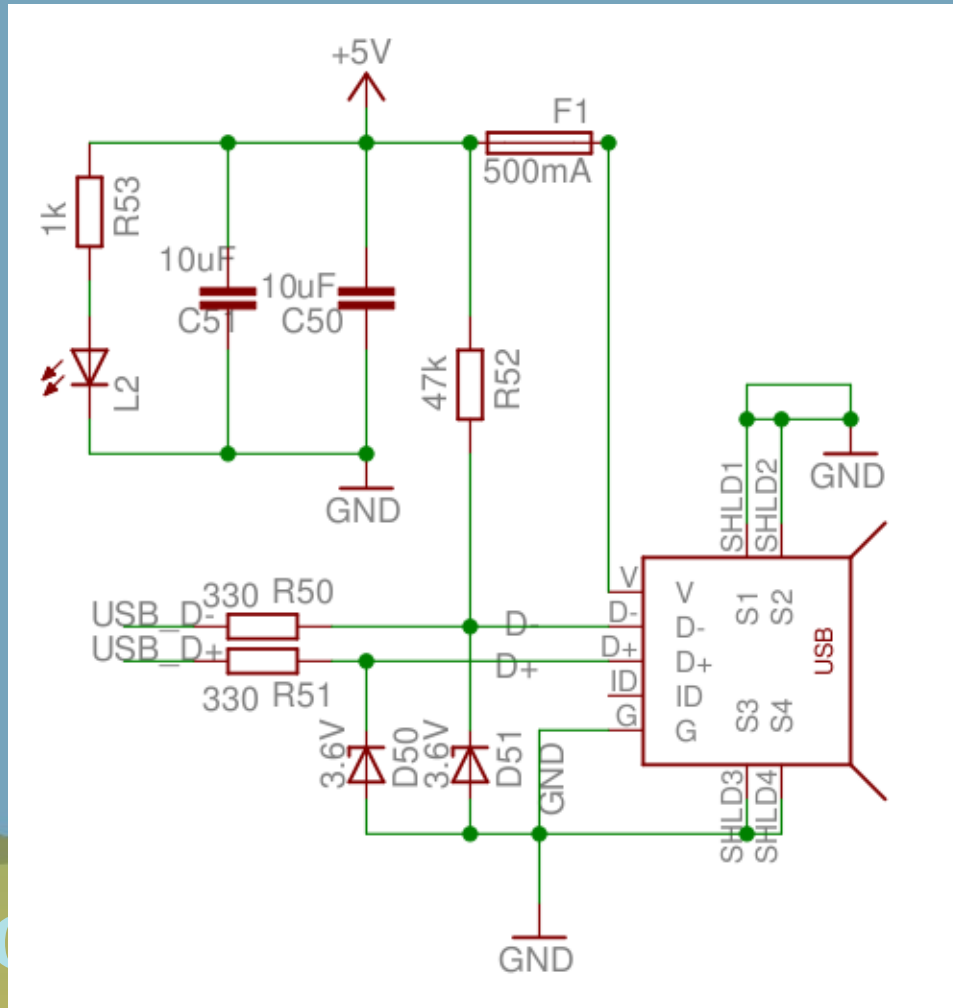
Arduino uses a serial bootloader w/FT232 USB serial chip

**FT232** more **expensive**, less flexible than adding a third Atmega for USB peripherals

Open **V-USB** project provides firmware

# USB Schematic

USB provides regulated **5V** power, but needs **3.3V** data signaling



# Free or Open EDA Tools

## *Open Source GEDA Suite*

(as of 2005, when I last used them)

**gschem** - schematic capture - *"decent and usable"*

**pcb** - layout - *"unsophisticated?"*

## *Cadsoft Eagle* (freeware/commercial)

Unixy-feel - scriptable, cmd line, mostly parsable text file formats

Free for simpler layouts

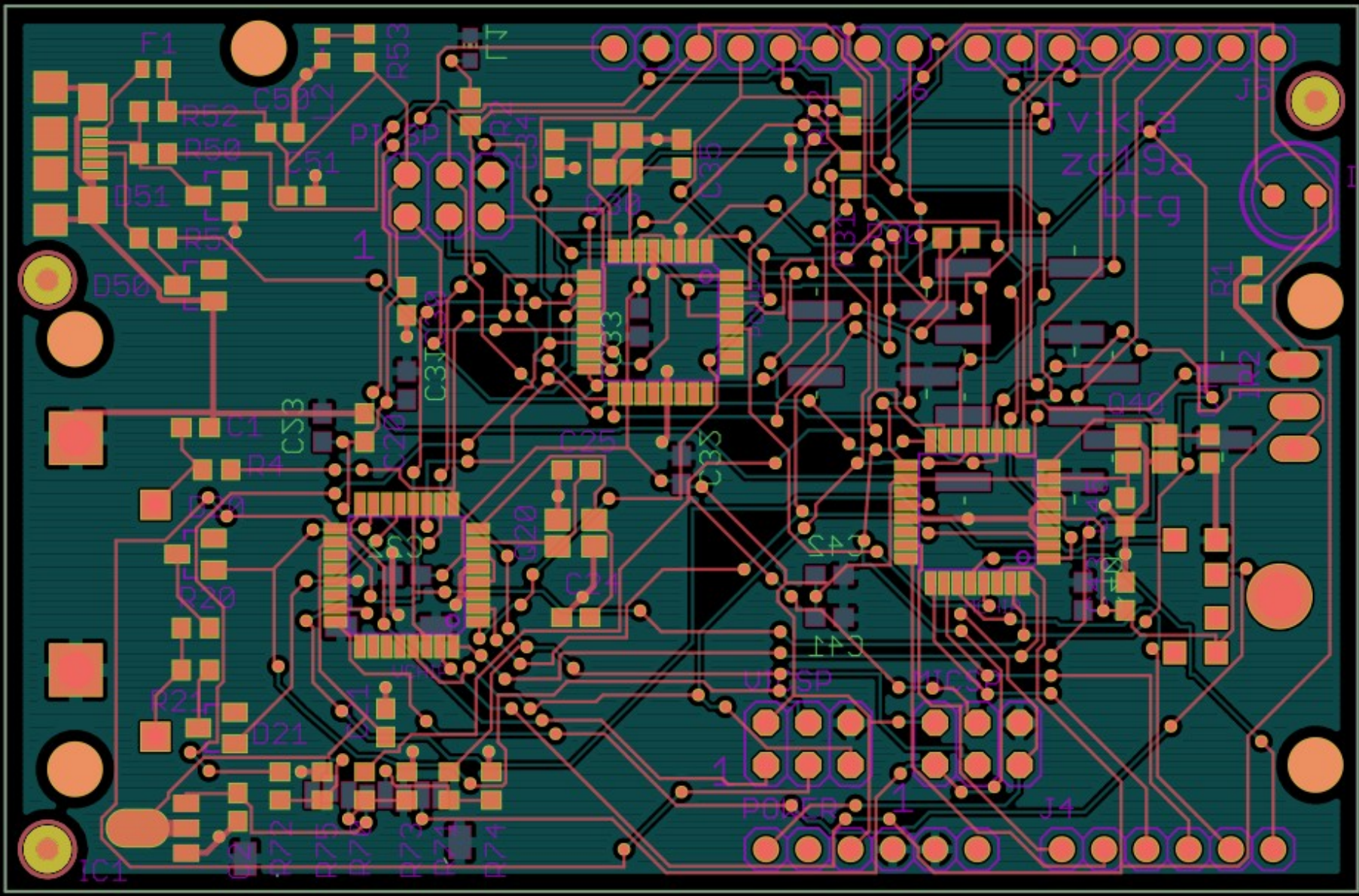
*"Professional grade!"*

## *PCB Artist*

*freeware, Advanced Circuits*

*new, simple, but Advanced lock-in*





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# PCB Fabrication

## *Advanced Circuits*

Leader by far for fast-turn PCB fab

Made in USA, great capabilities

*"What I use for prototypes"*

## *BatchPCB.com*

super low cost

batch together low volume panels of individual orders for fab in China

long lead time

# Home PCB Assembly

Prototypes assembled myself

## Tools for SMT home assembly

Liquid flux w/needle dispenser bottle

PCB cleaning alcohol and swabs

Fine tip soldering iron

desolder braid, etc

GOOD tweezers

Magnifier (Microscope)

Hot air rework station

Solder paste (optional)

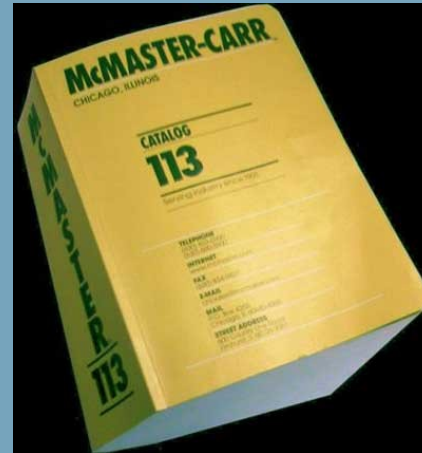
Good PCB vice



# Suppliers



#1 in Quickturn PROTO & PRODUCTION PCBs



# DuVac Electronics

1759 E. Colorado Blvd. Pasadena, CA 91106

Phone: 626-796-3291 Fax: 626-796-3292



il 2010

## #1 - No Enclosure

Hobbyists require no enclosure

## #2 - Conformal Coating/Paint

*Conformal Coating* - an acrylic gloss used to protect PCBs

## #3 - Plate/Spacer Sandwich

Cost effective <1KU

## #4 - Plastic Case

Tooling Cost

Cost effective >1KU

# PCB Assembly

## Screaming Circuits

Leader in USA

*Asmbly*: 100U = **\$27** per board!

## EzPCB

China

Set up for easy small runs

*Asmbly*:

100U = **\$9** per board

1000U = **\$6** per board

10kU = **\$4.50** per board

# The BOM Stops Here

Manufacturer should cost optimize your Bill of Materials in quotation.



# Production Cost

<b>Tvikia Reader Production Costs</b>			
	<b>100 U</b>	<b>1000 U</b>	<b>10k U</b>
<b>Parts (3)</b>	\$12.37	\$ 9.27	\$ 8.60
<b>PCB Fab (1)</b>	\$ 2.15	\$ 0.95	\$ 0.51
<b>Assembly (1)</b>	\$ 9.00	\$ 6.00	\$ 4.50
<b>Shipping (4)</b>	\$ 1.20	\$ 0.75	\$ 0.50(2)
<b>Coating (5)</b>	\$ 0.25	\$ 0.25	\$ 0.25
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$24.97</b>	<b>\$17.21</b>	<b>\$14.36</b>
<i>(1) EzPCB Quote BASED ON PC DESIGN - add \$138 setup</i>			
<i>(2) Guestimate. Cheaper and slower shipping is available.</i>			
<i>(3) See BOM for part cost details - No SD Card</i>			
<i>(4) Shipping from Chinese Manufacturer</i>			
<i>(5) Conformal Coating, \$50/m<sup>2</sup> (ezpcb)</i>			

*\*Does not include enclosure or SD Card*



**TITLE**



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