F*WATCH, making a watch differently!

Federico Vaga, Matthieu Cattin

FOSDEM, Brussels, 31 January 2015





What is it?



Retirement gift for a timing Hacker

Gift Requirement

- customization of the gift
- hackable gift
- free/open source
- use only FOSS tools

Development organization



Components selection criteria

- Low power consumption
- Available in small quantity from main suppliers
- Small size (footprint)

Micro-controller (EFM32)

- Silicon Labs
- 32-bit Cortex-M3
- 1MB flash
- 128kB RAM
- 1.1uA deep sleep



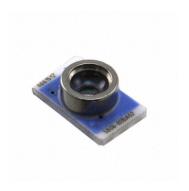
GPS module

- Antenova
- 13 x 9.5 x 1.8mm
- Integrated antenna



Altimeter module (pressure sensor)

- Measurement Specialties
- 6.4 x 4 x 2.8mm
- Water-resistant
- Includes a thermometer



Memory LCD display

- Sharp
- 128 x 128 pixels
- 1.28 inches
- Ultra low current



Components selection

Battery

- Adafruit
- Li-ion 500mAh
- Big capacity
- Lightweight
- Rechargeable



Other features

- 3-axis accelerometer + compass
- Ambient light sensor
- micro-SD card slot
- Battery charger + fuel gauge
- micro-USB connector
- Buzzer
- Vibrating motor

Foreseen improvements

- Bluetooth LE
- Low noise amplifier for the GPS antenna
- Power management



- CERN is contributing
- Developers in the team (help, bugfix, feedback)
- New features making routing easier (e.g push&shove)
- Script to generate placement pdf

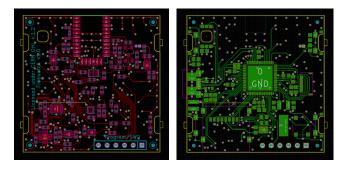
Interested in knowing more about KiCad developments?

• Visit the EDA dev room (AW1.124) tomorrow

PCB design

Characteristics

- 4 x 4 cm
- 4 layers
- Components on both sides
- Licensed under CERN OHL v1.2

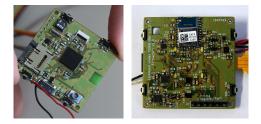


PCB assembly & validation

Prototypes assembled by hand

Fully working, except two minor bugs

- Error in a datasheet
- MCU interrupt scheme
- \rightarrow Fixed with few cuts and wires!



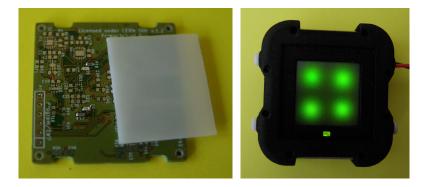
A long story...

- To read display in the dark
- No backlight available

First try: LEDs + opaque Plexiglas



First try: LEDs + opaque Plexiglas

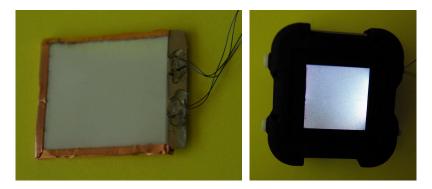


Not good!

Second try: Recycled smartphone backlight

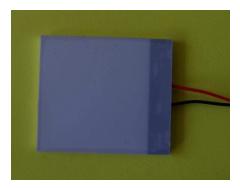


Second try: Recycled smartphone backlight

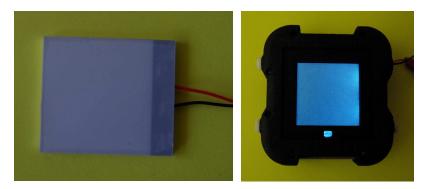


Better, but...

Current try: Custom-made module \rightarrow Low quantity, cheap (< 5\$/pces)



Current try: Custom-made module \rightarrow Low quantity, cheap (< 5\$/pces)



The solution

CAD tool selection

- No mechanical engineer
- No experience in 3D design/printing
- Evaluate existing free CAD tools FreeCAD, OpenSCAD, Open CASCADE, ...

CAD tool selection

- No mechanical engineer
- No experience in 3D design/printing
- Evaluate existing free CAD tools FreeCAD, OpenSCAD, Open CASCADE, ...

Criteria

- Documentation, support
- User-friendliness, learning curve

CAD tool selection

- No mechanical engineer
- No experience in 3D design/printing
- Evaluate existing free CAD tools FreeCAD, OpenSCAD, Open CASCADE, ...

Criteria

- Documentation, support
- User-friendliness, learning curve

Decided to use FreeCAD



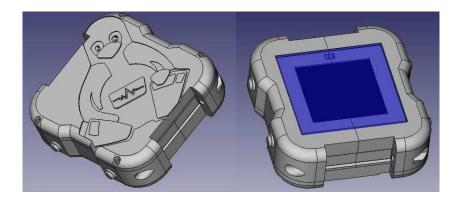
Full of new challenges

- Learn FreeCAD from scratch
- Design a watch case
- 3D print it

Full of new challenges

- Learn FreeCAD from scratch
- Design a watch case
- 3D print it

It's time for a live demo!



Making of movie (6 hours summarised in 5 minutes) http://www.ohwr.org/projects/f-watch/wiki/Movies

First 3D print

• Fused plastic material - Low-cost 3D printer



Poor resolution, not good enough

Second 3D print

• Plastic material (powder)



Good resolution, but not smooth, not water-proof

Third 3D print

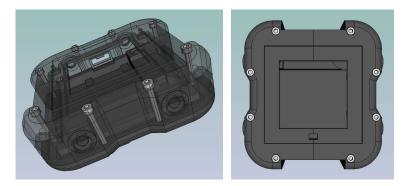
Resin material



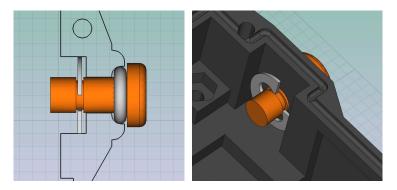
Smooth, water-proof, but bad fastening

Forth 3D print

- Resin material
- Improved case parts fastening



The buttons



Building the watch

- Buy electronics/mechanical components
- Download circuit Gerber files and order PCB
- Assemble the board
- Download case/button models and order 3D print
- Buy/build a programmer (bootloader)
- Optional: Milling machine (Plexiglas)



Software

- Download sources from the GIT repo
- No binary releases (yet)
- Compile bootloader and flash it (using a programmer)
- Compile application sw and flash it (using the bootloader)
- Modify, re-flash, test, etc...

git://ohwr.org/f-watch.git

How much does it costs?

Estimated cost for small series (without shipping)

	Number of watches		
	1	10	50
Pcb + components	175 €	94 €	81 €
Pcb assembly	-	118 €	67 €
Case + buttons + screws	68 €	67 €	61 €
TOTAL per watch	243 €	278 €	209 €
TOTAL	243 €	2'784 €	10'455 €

3D print : 60 € PCB : 77 € Pressure sensor : 19 € GPS module : 19 € Display : 17 €

free and open source software

A lot of integration examples

Well documented

free bootloader provided by SiliconLab

support for IAR, Keil uVision

migrate to gcc toolchain

(don't use gcc optimization!)

FreeRTOS uC/OS-III RTX TNKernel

License	Mod. GPL	restrictive	BSD	BSD
EFM32	yes	yes	yes	no
USB	no	yes	no	yes
FAT	no	yes	no	yes

FreeRTOS

Keil RTX

nice documentation

big community

a lot of examples

nice documentation

ocommunity?

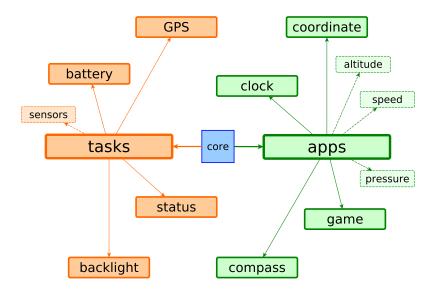
• few examples

tiny 2D graphic library

adapt the library to our screen

Features

- write text
- draw simple geometry and icons
- event management





Applications demonstration video

www.ohwr.org/projects/f-watch/wiki

- how to configure your machine
- how to write applications
- details about the project

- free PCB design
- free mechanic design
- free software
- free tools
- free time

- free PCB design
- free mechanic design
- free software

free development for free products

- free tools
- free time

Free Development Needs Free Tools



Free Development Needs Free Tools



How difficult can it be?

Competitive free tools

Specialized company in 3D printing

Specialized company in PCB manufacturing

Easy to ship everywhere

Free products are real

cars, robots, watches, bikes, houses, phones, ...

3D Metal printers

What can it be?









Join Us



Not a real product

Make it a good example

Join the project