Nano Flip 3V3

1 DESCRIPTION

The PTSolns *Nano Flip 3V3* is the perfect bridge between the classic Nano and the Pro Mini, designed for projects that need reliable 3.3V operation at 8MHz. Powered by the well-known ATmega328P microcontroller, the *Nano Flip 3V3* offers all the features makers, students, and professionals expect—backed by a vast online community, tutorials, and years of proven support. Whether you're just starting in embedded systems or developing a rapid prototype, this board makes getting up and running easy.

Programming and powering the *Nano Flip 3V3* is straightforward with the industry-standard USB-C port, while alternative power input options are also supported. The compact Nano footprint sits neatly on a standard-pitch breadboard, taking only five rows and leaving five free on each side. This ensures efficient use of prototyping space and makes experimenting fast and convenient.

Onboard features include a reset (RST) button, a power (PWR) LED, and a programmable LED on IO13. For low-power applications, the PWR LED can be disabled by cutting a rear jumper pad.

Every board comes ready to use out of the box. Male headers are pre-soldered, the updated bootloader is flashed, and a custom "GetStarted" sketch is preloaded so you can test functionality immediately—no initial programming required. Details of this sketch are outlined in Section 6.2.

The *Nano Flip 3V3* is also designed to work seamlessly with other PTSolns ecosystem products, including the *NTEA-Series*, and more.

Each *Nano Flip 3V3* is individually inspected and marked with a quality control sticker, ensuring reliable performance before it reaches your bench.

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2 DOCUMENT REVISION HISTORY

Current document revision is Rev 0.

3 PRODUCT FEATURES

This section highlights notable features of the *Nano Flip 3V3.*

3.1 Logic Level Voltage

The *Nano Flip 3V3* operates on a 3.3V logic level. This is unlike other Nano development boards, which are typically operating at 5V logic levels. To indicate this clearly to the user, the *Nano Flip 3V3* is marked with an encircled “3V3” on the top side of the board. This is shown in Figure 1.

As a consequence of operating at 3.3V logic level, the *Nano Flip 3V3* has two 3.3V pinouts. Whereas most other common Nano development boards have one 3.3V and one 5V pinout. More details about the *Nano Flip 3V3* pinout is provided in Section 3.6.

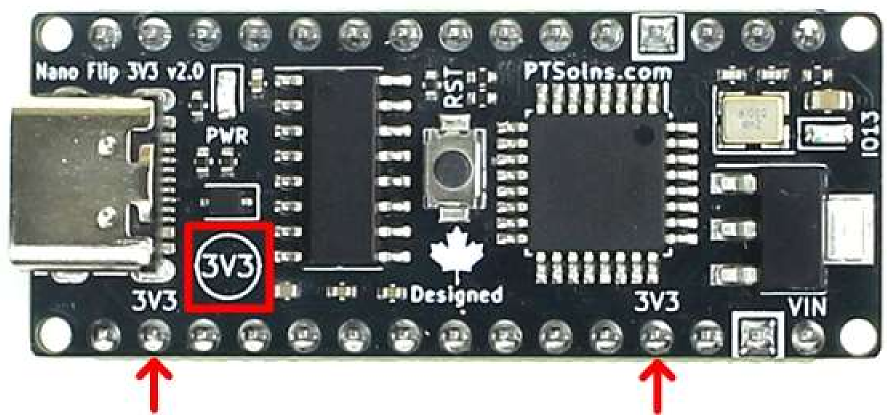

Figure 1: The logic level voltage of the Nano Flip 3V3 is 3.3V, as marked by the encircled “3V3”. As a result, this board has two 3V3 pinouts.

3.2 USB-C Port

The *Nano Flip 3V3* has a USB-C Port onboard, as shown in Figure 2, which can be used to both power the board as well as program it.

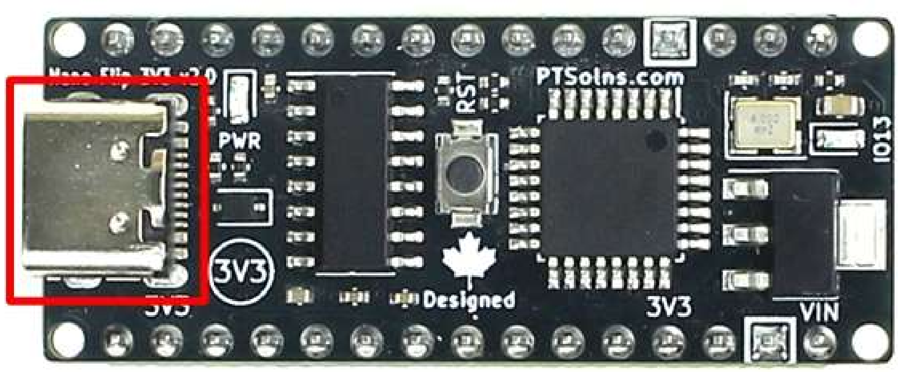

Figure 2: The USB-C Port on the Nano Flip 3V3.

3.2.1 Note on USB-C Cables

From a data transfer perspective USB-C cables can be categorized into two types:

1. Data transfer capable
2. Not data transfer capable

Only the first type of USB-C cable can be used to program not just the *Nano Flip 3V3*, but indeed any microcontroller. This type of cable provides power to the board, as well as facilitates data transfer between the computer and the board. **Using this type of cable is essential in programming a microcontroller**.

The second type of USB-C cable does not facilitate the transfer of data but can merely be used to power the board. Therefore, this type of USB-C cable cannot be used to program a microcontroller.

How to tell if a USB-C Cable is Data Transfer Capable?

One can easily and quickly check if a particular USB-C cable is data transfer capable by simply trying to program the *Nano Flip 3V3*. If the USB-C cable is not data transfer capable, then upon plugging it into the computer with the other end into the *Nano Flip 3V3* no port will appear.

3.3 Reset Button

The *Nano Flip 3V3* has a reset (RST) button onboard, as shown in Figure 3. Pressing the RST button pulls the RESET pin of the ATmega328P to ground (GND), causing a complete reset of the microcontroller.

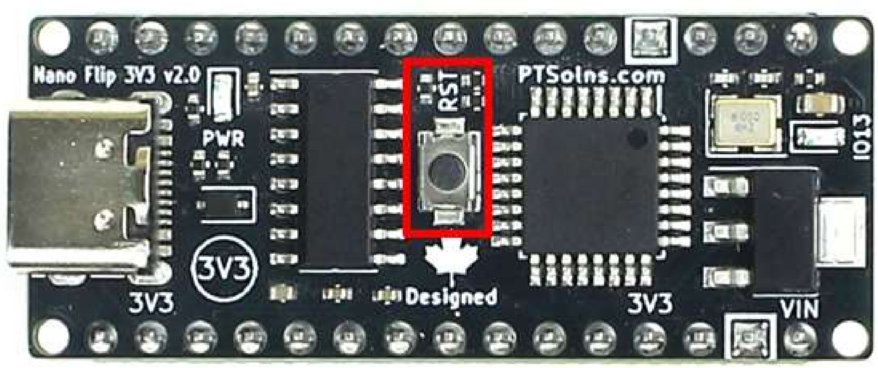

Figure 3: The reset (RST) button on the Nano Flip 3V3.

3.4 Power and Programmable LEDs

Onboard the *Nano Flip 3V3* are two LEDs. When the board is powered the power (PWR) LED is illuminated. A programmable LED, labelled IO13, connected to digital pin 13 (D13), also exists onboard. Both of these LEDs are shown in Figure 4. Furthermore, the PWR LED can be disabled by cutting the jumper pad (closed by default), which is located on the back of the *Nano Flip 3V3*, as shown in Figure 5.

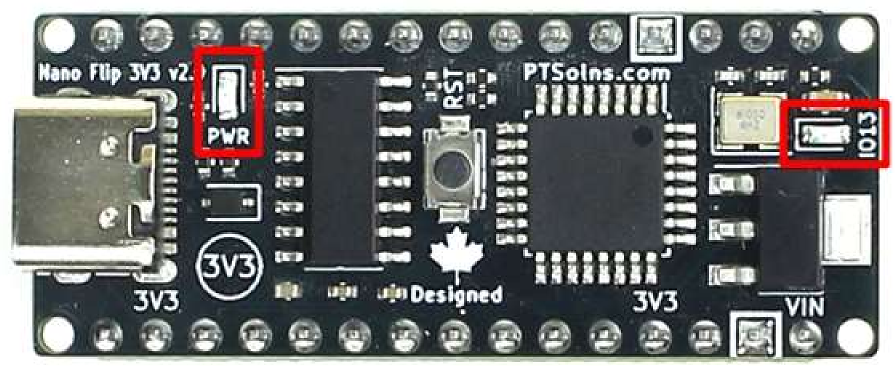

Figure 4: The power (PWR) and programmable (IO13) LEDs on the Nano Flip 3V3.

Figure 5: The back of the Nano Flip 3V3 showing the PWR jumper pad (closed by default).

3.5 Board Footprint

The width of the male headers on the *Nano Flip 3V3* are six multiples of the standard pitch of 2.54 mm / 0.1 in. This allows the *Nano Flip 3V3* to be placed onto a standard breadboard, with five rows on the breadboard remaining available.

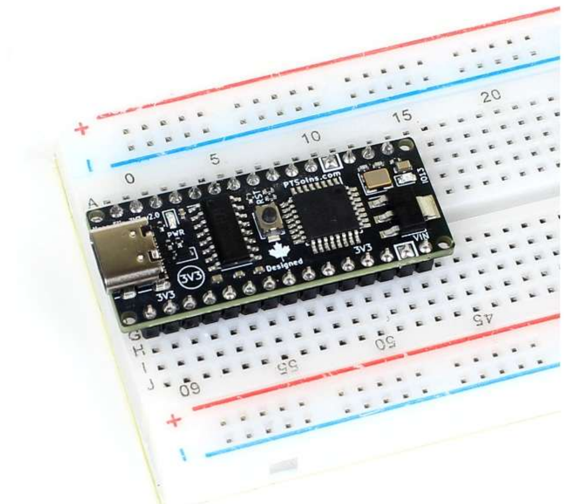

Figure 6: The Nano Flip 3V3 placed into a standard breadboard.

3.6 Pinout Diagram

The pinout diagram is shown in Figure 7. For more information about the pin definitions, see the following subsections. For electrical ratings see Section 5.

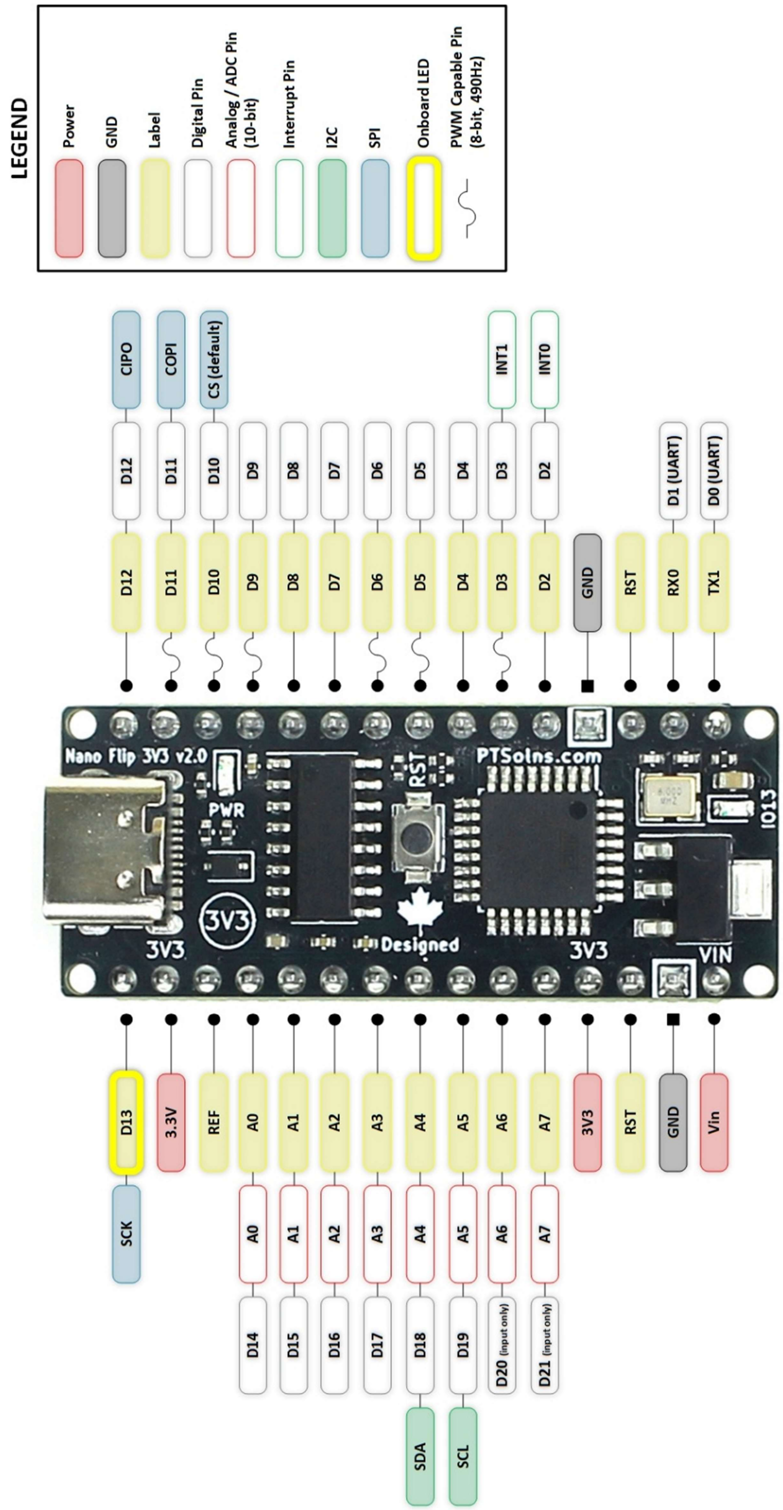

Figure 7: Pinout diagram of the Nano Flip 3V3.

3.6.1 Digital Pins

There are 14 digital pins (D0 to D13), with six of these Pulse-width modulation (PWM) capable. The PWM capable pins are:

- D3
- D5
- D6
- D9
- D10
- D11

The PWM capable pins have a resolution of 8-bit, and a default frequency of 490 Hz).

Furthermore, the analog pins (see Section 3.6.2) can also act as digital pins. These additional digital pins are:

- D14 (A0)
- D15 (A1)
- D16 (A2)
- D17 (A3)
- D18 (A4)
- D19 (A5)
- D20 (A6)
- D21 (A7)

NOTE: Digital pins D0 and D1 are the serial communication pins (UART). Using these pins for other purposes is not advised and should be done with caution to avoid unintended consequences (E.g. interference with the Serial Monitor in Arduino IDE).

NOTE: Pins D20 and D21 can only be used as inputs.

3.6.2 Analog / ADC Pins

There are eight analog / ADC pins (A0 to A7). Their resolution is 10-bit.

3.6.3 GPIO Pins

All the digital and analog pins are collectively referred to the General-Purpose Input/Output (GPIO) pins. Although, as discussed in Section 3.6.1, there are some important limitations/considerations on some of the digital pins.

All GPIO pins have internal pull-up resistor, typically between 20kΩ to 50kΩ, which are by default disabled. These can be enabled via software.

3.6.4 Interrupt Pins

There are two interrupt pins on the digital pins D2 and D3. Interrupt pins allow the microcontroller to respond immediately to certain events, which can be crucial for real-time applications. These pins have the following trigger modes:

- LOW: Triggered when the pin is low.
- CHANGE: Triggered when the pins changes value (rising or falling).
- RISING: Triggered when the pin goes from low to high.
- FALLING: Triggered when the pin goes from high to low.

3.6.5 I2C Pins

The I2C (Inter-Integrated Circuit) pins are used for communication with I2C devices, which is a popular serial communication protocol for connecting sensors, displays, and other peripherals. The I2C bus is designed for communication between multiple devices using only two wires: one for data and one for the clock. The following pins define the I2C bus on the *Nano Flip 3V3*:

- A4: Serial Data Line (SDA)
- A5: Serial Clock Line (SCL)

The default (Standard Mode) data rate is 100kHz. The I2C bus is capable of increased data rates of up to 300kHz (Fast Mode).

The I2C pins have internal pull-up resistors (typically 20kΩ to 50kΩ), but external pull-up resistors (4.7kΩ to 10kΩ) are recommended for reliable communication, especially with longer cables or more devices.

3.6.6 SPI Pins

The Serial Peripheral Interface (SPI) pins are used for high-speed synchronous serial communication between the microcontroller and various peripherals like sensors, displays, and memory chips. The following pins define the SPI bus on the *Nano Flip 3V3*:

- D10: Chip Select (CS). Used to select the SPI device for communication.
- D11: Controller Out Peripheral In (COPI). Ends data from the controller to the peripheral device.
- D12: Controller In Peripheral Out (CIPO). Receives data from the peripheral device to the controller.
- D13: Serial Clock (SCK). Provides the clock signal to synchronize data transmission.

The *Nano Flip 3V3* can operate at SPI clock speeds up to 4MHz.

NOTE: The CS pin is set by default to digital pin D10. However, this can be changed in software.

3.7 Silkscreen Printing

All the pins are labeled on the back of the *Nano Flip 3V3*, as shown in Figure 5. A pinout diagram can be found in Section 3.6. The power pins are labelled on the front of the board. On the front of the board the two ground (GND) pins are marked with a white square around the pin.

3.8 Default Fuse Settings

The *Nano Flip 3V3* has similar fuse settings as the original Pro Mini (3.3V, 8MHz), with an important difference. The brown out detection has been reduced from the 2.7V as on the original Pro Mini, down to 1.8V. Therefore, the default fuses of the Nano Flip 3V3 are as follows:

E:FE, H:DA, L:FF

3.9 Mark of Authenticity

Authentic PTSolns PCBs have a black solder mask color and are marked with the “PTSolns” logo in white silkscreen printing. The “Canadian Designed” symbol, consisting of the Canadian Maple Leaf with the word “Designed” underneath, can also be found on the PCB in white silkscreen printing. The “PTSolns” trademark and the “Canadian Designed” symbols are shown in Figure 8 and Figure 9, respectively.

Figure 8: The "PTSolns" trademark found on authentic PTSolns PCBs.

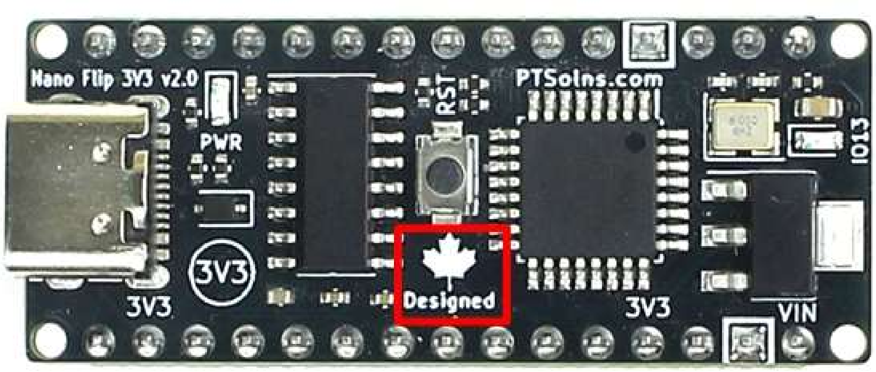

Figure 9: The "Canadian Designed" symbol found on authentic PTSolns PCBs.

4 PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

The physical properties of the *Nano Flip 3V3* are outlined in Table 1.

Table 1: Physical Properties.

	Quantity	Value	Reference
PCB	Length	43.18 mm	Figure 10
	Width	17.78 mm	Figure 10
	Thickness	1.6 mm	--
	Weight (with headers)	6 g	--
	Color	Black	--
	Silkscreen	White	--
Material	Lead free HASL-RoHS surface finish		--
	FR-4 base		--
Mounting Holes	4x each with 1.651 mm diameter		Figure 11

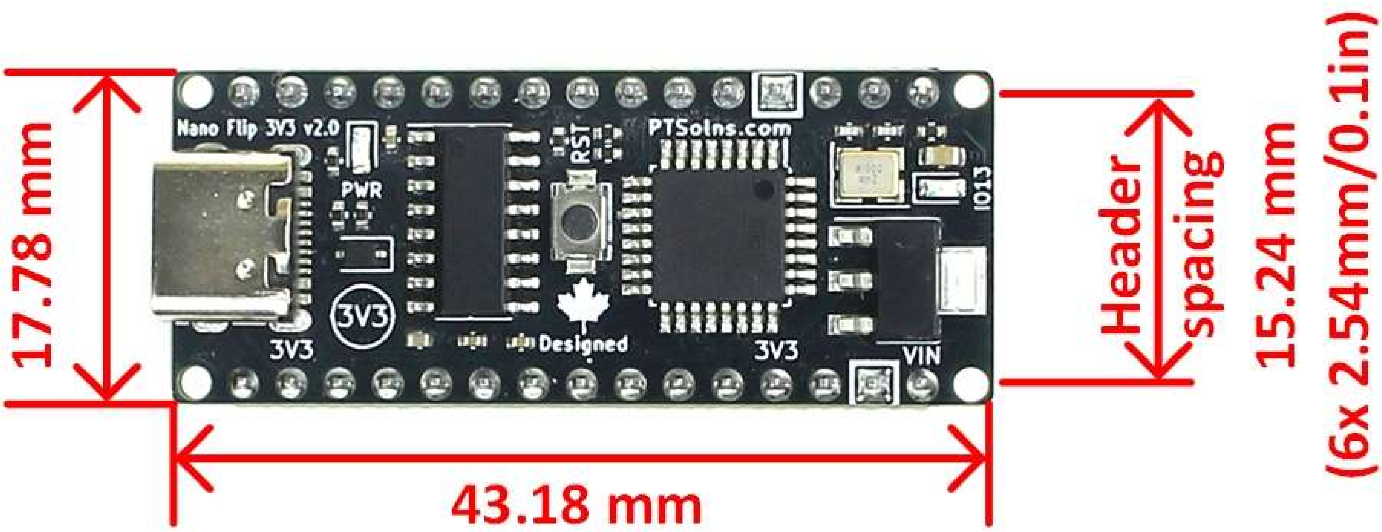

Figure 10: Dimensions of the Nano Flip 3V3.

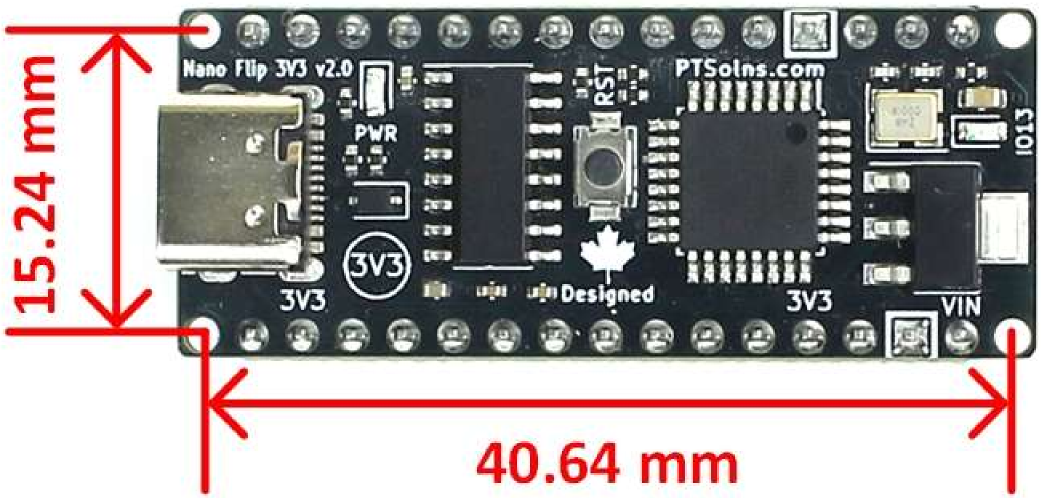

Figure 11: Positions of mounting holes.

5 ELECTRICAL PROPERTIES

The electrical ratings for the *Nano Flip 3V3* are outlined in Table 2.

Table 2: Electrical ratings for the *Nano Flip 3V3*.

Type	Rating
Input voltage on USB-C	5V
Input voltage on VIN pin	≤12V
Operating current draw on any single GPIO	20mA
Absolute max current draw on any single GPIO	40mA **(Do not operate at this level for extended periods)**
Max combined current draw on all GPIO	200mA **(IF OPERATING in “Stable” CONDITIONS. See Section 5.1 for important details)**
Max current draw on 3.3V power pin	800mA **(IF OPERATING in “Stable” CONDITIONS. See Section 5.1 for important details)**
Max combined current draw on all GPIO and power pins (Total External Current Draw (TECD))	800mA **(IF OPERATING in “Stable” CONDITIONS. See Section 5.1 for important details)**

The current ratings for the 3.3V power pin is discussed in more detail in Section 5.1. The voltage ratings are discussed in Section 5.2.

5.1 Current Rating

The onboard components on the *Nano Flip 3V3* consume approximately 20 to 40mA, depending on the LEDs and the ATmega328P microcontroller demand. External current draws can be made by employing any of the General-Purpose Input/Output (GPIO) pins, such as the digital or analog pins, as well as the 3.3V power pin. The 3.3V power pin can be used to power external sensors and modules. The combined current draw of any GPIO and power pin used is the Total External Current Draw (TECD).

The TECD is delivered by an onboard 3.3V voltage regulator. Depending on the input voltage (Vin) supplied to the regulator, as well as the TECD, the *Nano Flip 3V3* may operate in the “Stable” region or the “Unstable” region. This is shown in Table 3. In this context, “Stable” is defined such that the 3.3V line remains constant, with a small ripple, within acceptable tolerances. “Unstable” is defined such that the 3.3V line starts to drop below unacceptable tolerances, collapses, or rises above 3.3V plus an acceptable tolerance. The user should only operate the *Nano Flip 3V3* in the “Stable” region. In extreme unstable regions (e.g. Vin = 12V, TECD = 800mA), the voltage regulator may allow the input voltage through to the 3.3V line. This can cause damage to components downstream, and the user must avoid such extreme conditions at all times.

As an example, at an input voltage of Vin = 5V, the TECD can reach the maximum of 800mA. With increasing input voltages, the TECD in which the *Nano Flip 3V3* operates in the “Stable” regions starts to reduce.

Therefore, the user should take care that all current draws on external pins (GPIO and 3.3V power pin) remains in the “Stable” region for a given input voltage Vin, as outlined in Table 3.

Table 3: TECD Operating Conditions.

Total External Current Draw (TECD)
(Not including power draw of onboard components)

Vin	0.0 A	0.1 A	0.2 A	0.3 A	0.4 A	0.5 A	0.6 A	0.7 A	0.8 A
5.0 V	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable
5.5 V	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable
6.0 V	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Unstable	DNO	DNO
6.5V	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Unstable	DNO	DNO	DNO	DNO
7.0 V	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Unstable	DNO	DNO	DNO	DNO
7.5 V	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Unstable	DNO	DNO	DNO	DNO
8.0 V	Stable	Stable	Stable	Unstable	DNO	DNO	DNO	DNO	DNO
8.5 V	Stable	Stable	Stable	Unstable	DNO	DNO	DNO	DNO	DNO
9.0 V	Stable	Stable	Stable	Unstable	DNO	DNO	DNO	DNO	DNO
9.5 V	Stable	Stable	Stable	Unstable	DNO	DNO	DNO	DNO	DNO
10.0 V	Stable	Stable	Stable	Unstable	DNO	DNO	DNO	DNO	DNO
10.5 V	Stable	Stable	Unstable	DNO	DNO	DNO	DNO	DNO	DNO
11.0 V	Stable	Stable	Unstable	DNO	DNO	DNO	DNO	DNO	DNO
11.5 V	Stable	Stable	Unstable	DNO	DNO	DNO	DNO	DNO	DNO
12.0 V	Stable	Stable	Unstable	DNO	DNO	DNO	DNO	DNO	DNO

Stable	Voltage on 3.3 V line remains stable.
Unstable	Voltage on 3.3 V line collables and becomes unstable.
DNO	Do Not Operate!

NOTE 1: Drawing full allowed current and temperature of 3.3V voltage regulator

If the TECD is high the voltage regulator will get hot. This is unavoidable and depends greatly on the input voltage. The component's temperature depends on how much power (in Watts) it has to dissipate. This power is a result of the voltage difference between the Vin and Vout of the voltage regulator, times the current being draw. This can be expressed in the following formula:

$$Power_{dissipate\ on\ volt.reg} = (V_{in} - V_{out}) * I$$

The input voltage (discussed more in Section 5.2) can be up to 12V. The most power entering in the voltage regulator needing to be dissipated in terms of heat is when Vin = 12V and the TECD is the maximum of 800mA. In that case, the power to be dissipated becomes (12V – 3.3V)*800mA = 6.96W. This is a lot of power for such a small SMD component. The component will heat up! The 3.3V voltage regulator will automatically shut off when the internal component temperature reaches 145 degrees C. The component restarts when the temperature is below a threshold.

The *Nano Flip 3V3* was developed with the temperature and current ratings in mind. The traces within the PCB that carry the current have been made very wide to reduce the temperature. This is particularly the case for the trace to the 3.3V power pin. Furthermore, thermal vias were added below the 3.3V voltage regulator. These vias take the surplus heat from under the component and bring it to the other side of the PCB where there is more surface area to dissipate the heat.

5.2 Voltage Rating

The 3.3V voltage regulator determines the maximum and minimum acceptable voltage input a user can supply. The maximum is set to 12V. However, the regulator can accept short momentary voltage spikes up to 14V caused by the external power source. The user should be careful to never exceed the 12V rating as otherwise damage to the components can result. If the input voltage is too high the regulator can malfunction, allowing high input voltage on the 3.3V line, causing other components downstream on the 3.3V line to be damaged, including the ATmega328P. Therefore, if wanting to supply the *Nano Flip 3V3* with a 12V source, particularly from a battery or an unstable buck/boost converter, ensure that the voltage is not above the 12V rating.

6 USAGE AND APPLICATION

This section presents important information regarding the first-time usage of the *Nano Flip 3V3.*

6.1 CH340 Driver

The *Nano Flip 3V3* uses the common CH340 IC to facilitate communication between what is plugged into the USB-C port (e.g. user's laptop) and the microcontroller (ATmega328P). This IC is required when programming the *Nano Flip 3V3.* The driver for the CH340 typically must be installed the first time it is needed in any project. Many boards and modules make use of the CH340 so chances are that the driver is already installed. However, if the driver is not yet installed, the user must first install it in order to program the *Nano Flip 3V3.* This installation typically only must be done once.

Instructions on how to install the CH340 driver (on a Windows machine) can be found in the following reference:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UUQ84VKg3oM

Additionally, SparkFun Electronics has written a comprehensive tutorial on this topic, and the user is referred to their excellent documentation on this. Find the link here:

https://learn.sparkfun.com/tutorials/how-to-install-ch340-drivers/all

There are many other tutorials available online that can be found by searching "CH340 driver installation instructions" or similar.

Once the CH340 driver is installed, the *Nano Flip 3V3* can be programmed. See Section 3.2.1 regarding using a proper UCB-C that is data transfer capable. See Section 6.3 for details on how to use Arduino IDE to program the *Nano Flip 3V3*.

6.2 Out-of-the-Box Ready Examples

The *Nano Flip 3V3* comes pre-installed with a sketch that allows the user to perform several tests without any initial software uploading or programming. These pre-programmed tests can be used to check the working order of the *Nano Flip 3V3,* or to get started quickly making some simple examples. These out-of-the-box ready tests include:

1) Onboard (and Pin 13) LED blinking in unique pattern.
2) Reset makes onboard LED (and Pin 13) blink in fast pattern of four for one cycle.
3) I2C scanner searches for connected devices (3.3V I2C bus) every 5 seconds and prints the results to Serial monitor on baud rate 9600.
4) Pin 9 is on a fading in and out cycle that can drive an external LED accordingly.
5) Analog read on Pin A0 and displayed to Serial monitor on baud rate 9600.

Each of these tests is explained in further detail below. If the user wants to restore the pre-installed testing sketch, it can be downloaded from the PTSolns documentation repository sub-domain:

https://docs.PTSolns.com/Products/PTS-00205_Nano_Flip_3V3/Sketches/NanoFlip3V3_GetStarted.ino

6.2.1 Test 1: Onboard LED (Pin 13) Blink Unique Pattern

With the *Nano Flip 3V3* powered, the programmable onboard LED (marked “IO13”) blinks in a regular unique pattern. The LED will illuminate for 100mS and turn OFF for 200mS. If the reset is pressed (see Test 2) the pattern changes momentarily before returning to the same pattern.

The programmable onboard LED (marked “IO13”) is also connected to Pin 13, available on one of the pins of the male header (marked “D13”). As a further test, the positive terminal of a standard LED can be put onto the male header Pin 13, with the negative terminal of the LED attached to a resistor (in the range of ~200Ω to 1000Ω, give or take). The other free end of the resistor can be plugged onto one of the ground (marked “GND”) pins in a male header. The LED and resistor can either be soldered together, or a breadboard can be used to make the electrical connection.

6.2.2 Test 2: Onboard LED (Pin 13) Blink Reset Pattern

The reset button triggers a momentarily different pattern consisting of four rapid blinks of the onboard LED (marked “13”) of 50mS ON and 50mS OFF. This tests that the *Nano Flip 3V3* is restarting properly.

Upon reset the *Nano Flip 3V3* output several messages to the Serial monitor on baud rate 9600. To see these messages, load the Arduino IDE software and plug in the *Nano Flip 3V3* (ensure that the CH340 driver is installed – see Section 6.1). Turn on the Serial monitor (select baud rate 9600) and read the output window.

6.2.3 Test 3: I2C Scanner

Every five seconds the I2C bus (A4/SDA and A5/SCL) is scanned for any connected peripherals. The I2C bus is available on the male header pins (See Section 3.6 for the pinout diagram). The results of the scan are printed to the Serial monitor on baud rate 9600. To see these results, load the Arduino IDE software and plug in the *Nano Flip 3V3* (ensure that the CH340 driver is installed – see Section 6.1). Turn on the Serial monitor (select baud rate 9600) and read the output window.

The user can connect several I2C peripherals at once. All the device addresses will be displayed in the Serial monitor.

6.2.4 Test 4: Pin 9 Fade

Pin 9 available on the male header (marked “D9”) is a PWM capable pin. PWM allows a pin to be driven at different duty cycles. This, among many other examples, can be used to dim, or fade, an external LED. In a similar fashion as outlined in Test 1, connect an LED plus resistor to Pin 9 and ground (marked “GND”) and observe the LED fading pattern. Ensure that the LED positive terminal is in Pin 9 and that the negative terminal goes toward GND through the resistor.

6.2.5 Test 5: Analog A0 Read

The analog pin A0 is programmed to be continuously reading any input connected to it. The read input value is displayed in the Serial monitor on baud rate 9600. To see these results, load the Arduino IDE software and plug in the *Nano Flip 3V3* (ensure that the CH340 driver is installed – see Section 6.1). Turn on the Serial monitor (select baud rate 9600) and read the output window.

The user can plug a wire directly onto the male header pin A0 and the other end onto:

- A0 to Ground (marked "GND")
- A0 to 3.3V
- A0 free floating

The output as displayed in the Serial monitor will read different values accordingly. A properly working *Nano Flip 3V3* should produce the following results:

- A0 to Ground (marked "GND") -> Output around 0
- A0 to 3.3V -> Output around 1023
- A0 free floating -> Output ranges widely

6.3 Arduino IDE to Program the *Nano Flip 3V3*

To program the *Nano Flip 3V3* the user is encouraged to install the Arduino IDE software (free), which can be found here:

https://www.arduino.cc/en/software

There are several ways a microcontroller can be programmed, but using Arduino IDE is one of the easiest ways to get started quickly, with a large active online community and many tutorials and forums. The following settings are shown using Arduino IDE version 2.3.6. Future versions of the software may vary slightly.

To upload a new sketch onto the *Nano Flip 3V3* using Arduino IDE, the user must select the following settings:

- **Board selection**: In the "Select other board and port…" option (Figure 12), in the "BOARDS" search, type and then select "Arduino Pro or Pro Mini", as shown in Figure 13. **NOTE**: this selection can also be done under the "Tools" and "Board:" option.
- **Port selection**: Under "Tools" and "Port:" select the port that is being used with the USB-C cable that was inserted to the computer, as shown in Figure 14. To see the port being used open the Device Manager under section "Ports (COM & LPT)" or similar. The correct port should be labelled with "CH340". As an example, see Figure 15. There are several reasons why this port or even the entire Ports section may not be showing. See Section 6.1 for details on CH340 driver installation, or Section 6.4 for troubleshooting help.
- **Processor selection**: Under "Tools" and "Processor:" select "ATmega328P (3.3V, 8MHz)", as shown in Figure 16. **NOTE**: <u>Do not select the other options at 5V or 16MHz</u>.

For common troubleshooting relating to programming the microcontroller, see Section 6.4.

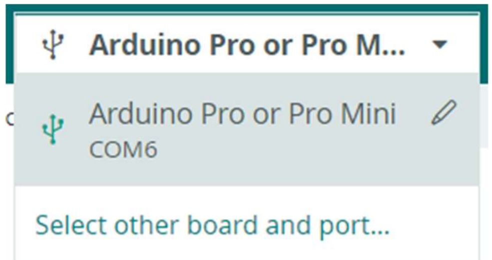

Figure 12: Select other board and port...

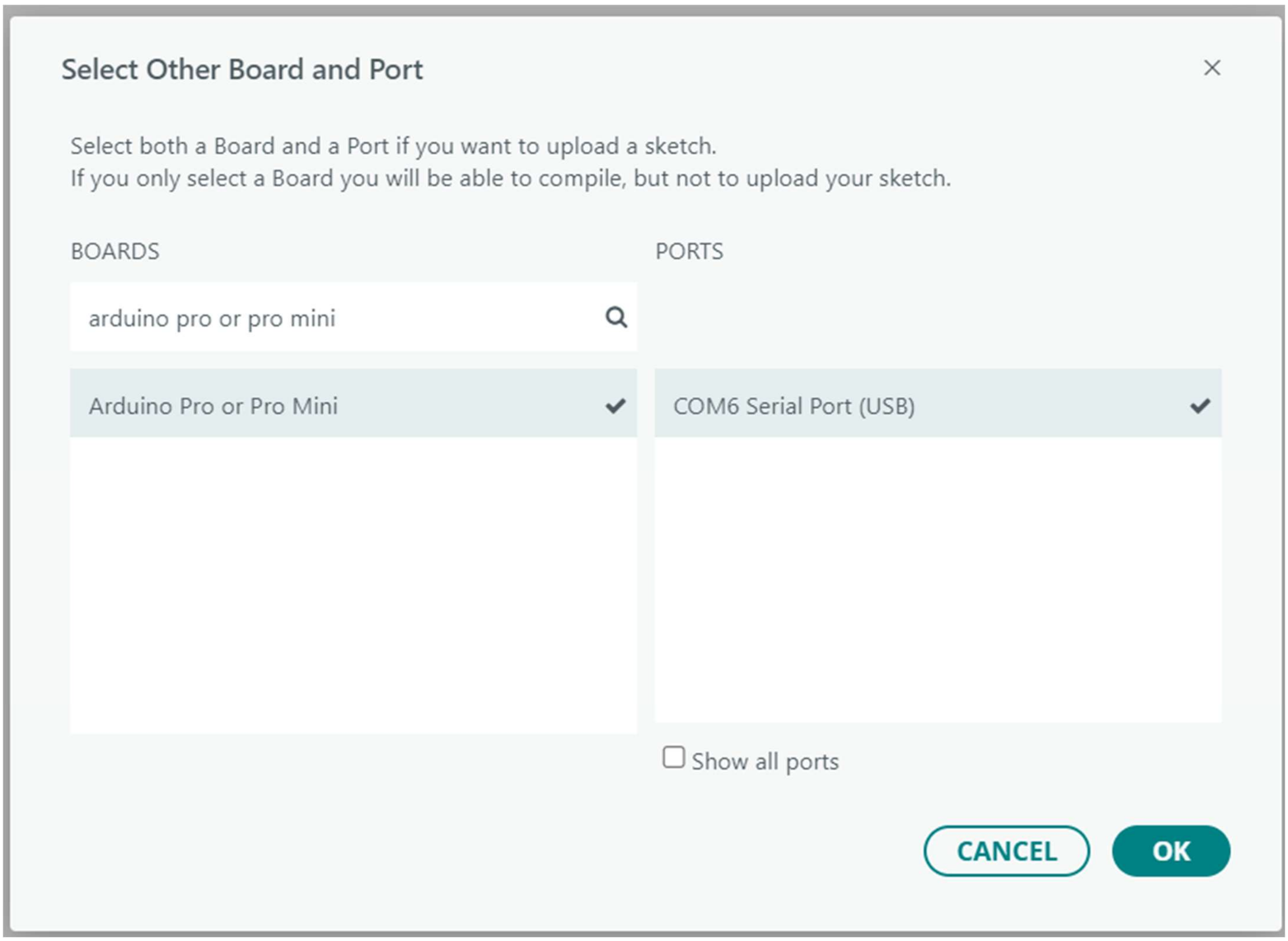

Figure 13: "Arduino Pro or Pro Mini" board selection for the Nano Flip 3V3.

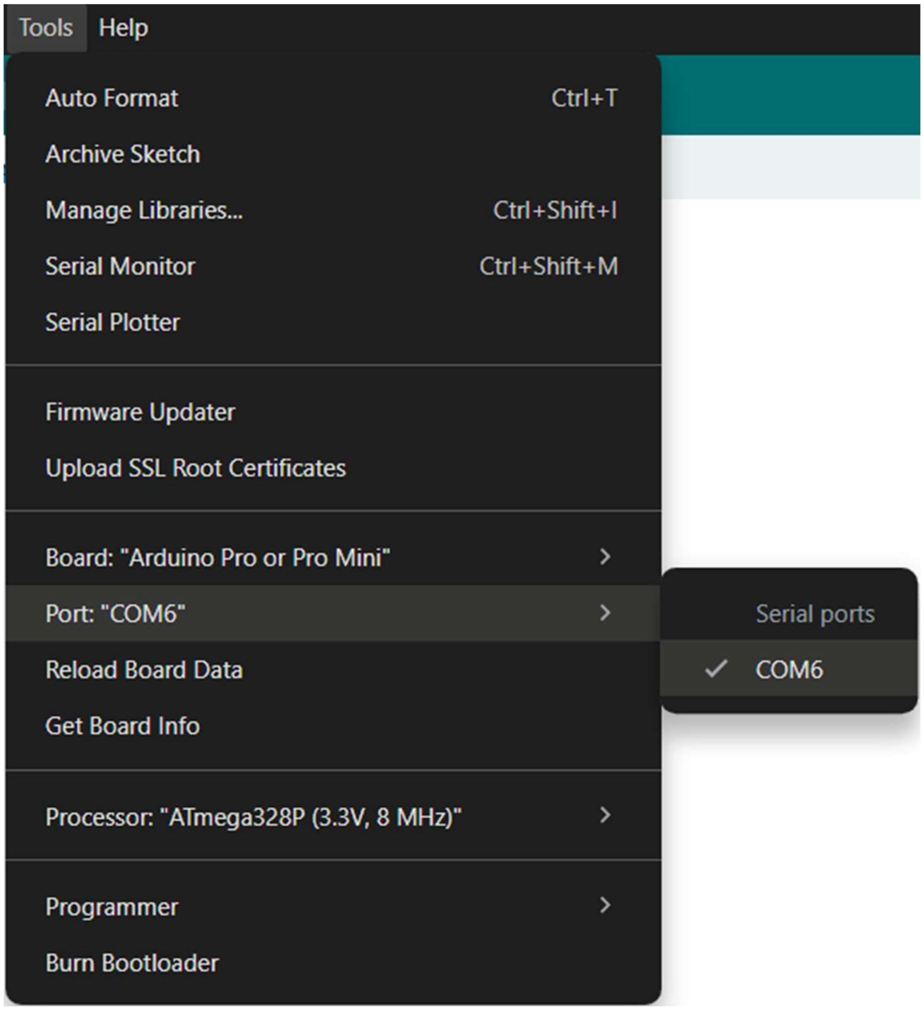

Figure 14: Port selection for the Nano Flip 3V3.

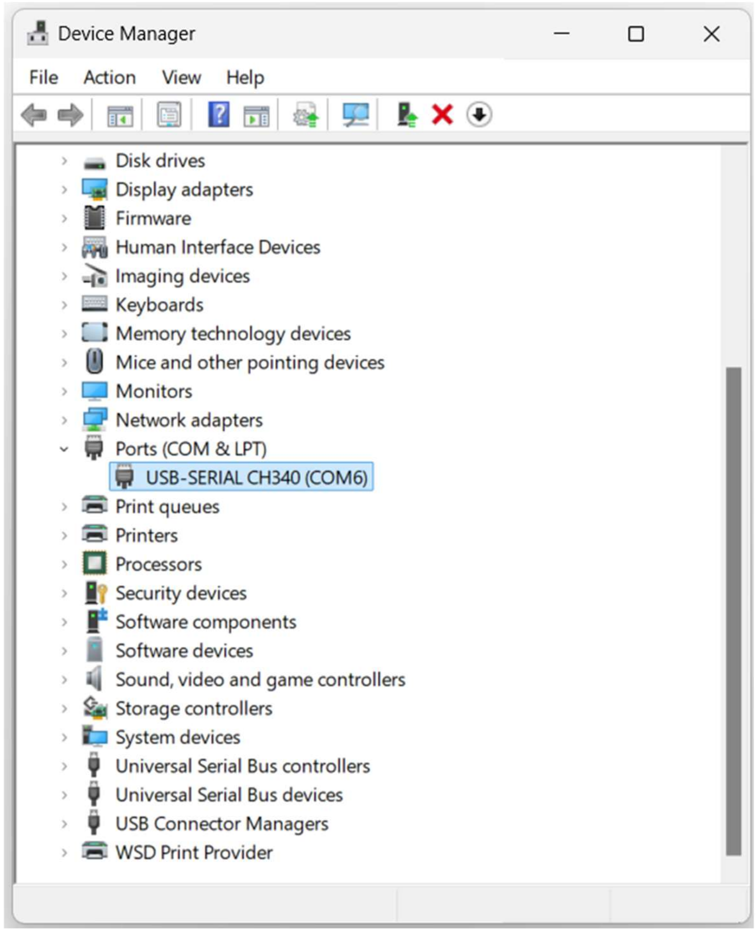

Figure 15: Device Manager, Ports.

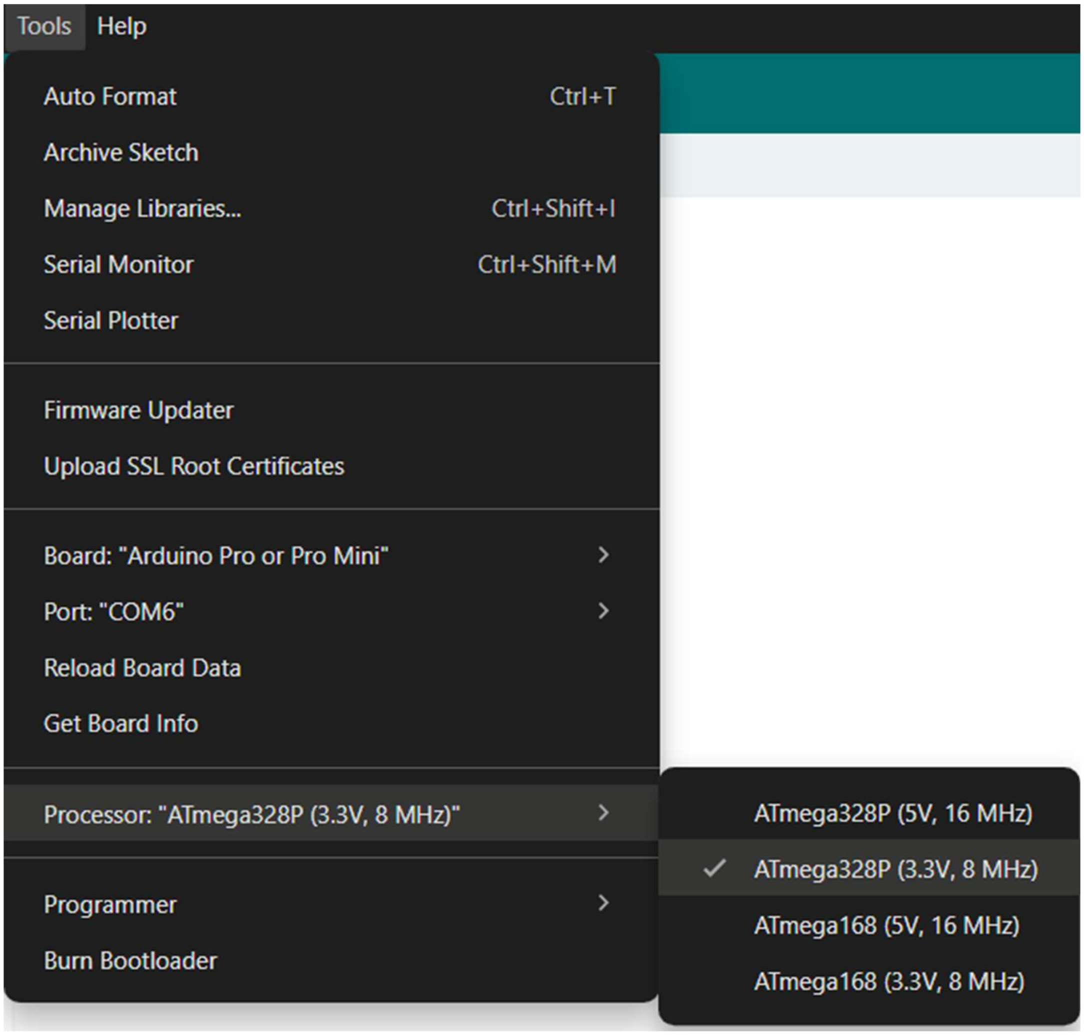

Figure 16: Processor selection for the Nano Flip 3V3.

6.3.1 Blink Sketch Example

The following sketch can be uploaded to the *Nano Flip 3V3* to make the onboard LED (on Pin 13) blink in a repeating pattern and print a message to the Serial Monitor. Simply copy/past the below sketch into Arduino IDE, set-up the board settings (see Section 6.3) and press “Upload”.

```
void setup() {
      Serial.begin(9600);
      pinMode(LED_BUILTIN, OUTPUT);
}

void loop() {
      digitalWrite(LED_BUILTIN, HIGH);
      Serial.println("LED ON");
      delay(1000);
      digitalWrite(LED_BUILTIN, LOW);
      delay(1000);
      Serial.println("LED OFF");
}
```

Breakdown of the code:

The `void setup()` function is executed only once at the startup (either powering ON the board, or restarting the board). Inside this function are several declarations and initializations of other routines needed. In the above example the Serial Monitor is initiated on baud 9600 (ensure to select baud 9600). Furthermore, the pinMode command is used to declare that Pin 13 (LED_BUILTIN) is set as an OUTPUT. This allows the LED to be powered ON and OFF.

The `void loop()` function runs repeatedly over and over ad infinitum and is the crux of what makes microcontrollers to versatile. In the above example the LED Pin 13 (LED_BUILTIN) is toggled HIGH and LOW with each a delay of 1000 microsecond (or 1 second). Furthermore, the simple print statement is used to print to the Serial Monitor the status of the LED.

The above example is very simple but can be used as a starting point to expand the user’s knowledge. There are many ready examples that come with the Arduino IDE download. It is recommended to use the Serial Monitor as a tool to help debug. The Serial Monitor can be used to print values such as variables or constants, but also simple “here” messages when a certain part of the sketch was reach/executed.

6.4 Troubleshooting

The following items is a list of troubleshooting items that commonly arise. The user is encouraged to go through these common items in order to diagnose the issue and quickly find a solution. The list below was made using Arduino IDE version 2.2.1. Future versions of the software may produce different error messages or symptoms.

Description: Incorrect USB-C cable type (not data transfer capable)

Symptom: No port showing / Not the correct port showing

Solution: One possible cause of not seeing a port (Figure 17) or seeing some ports but not the correct one is that the USB-C cable being used is not capable to transfer data. Not every USB-C cable is capable to transfer data from the computer to the microcontroller. For details on data transfer capabilities as they relate to USB-C cables, see Section 3.2.1. The solution in this instance is to replace the USB-C cable with a different one that is capable of data transfer.

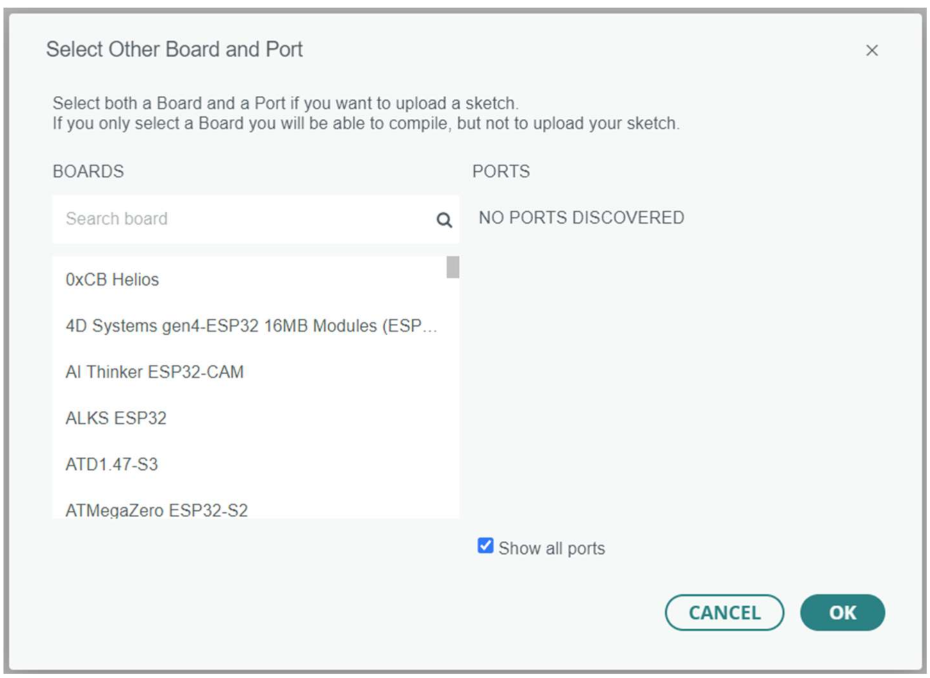

Figure 17: No port showing / Not the correct port showing.

Description: Incorrect Board selection.

Symptom: "avrdude: stk500_getsync() attempt 1 of 10: not in sync: resp=0x00"

Solution: One possible cause of this error message is incorrect board selection. As an example, in Figure 18 the "Arduino Uno" board was selected, which will not work with the *Nano Flip 3V3*. The solution to this is to select the correct board, which is "Arduino Pro or Pro Mini" as shown in Figure 13.

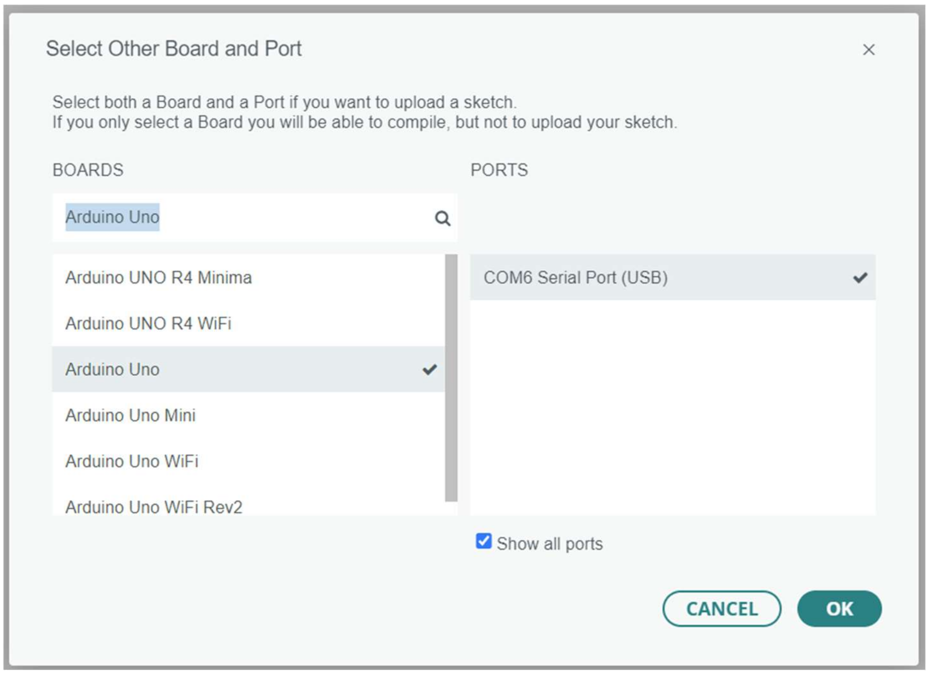

Figure 18: Incorrect board selection.

Description: Incorrect Port selection.

Symptom: "avrdude: stk500_recv(): programmer is not responding"

"avrdude: stk500_getsync() attempt 1 of 10: not in sync: resp=0x8c"

Solution: One possible cause of the error messages is that the wrong port was selected. If multiple USB sources are plugged at once it is possible to select the wrong one. To find out which port is the correct one, open the Device Manager to the "Ports (COM & LPT) or similar. If there are no other issues, there should be a port labelled with "CH340". If this is not showing, see Section 6.1.

Description: CH340 driver not installed.

Symptom: “avrdude: ser_open(): can't open device "\\.\COM6": The system cannot find the file specified.”

Solution: One possible cause of this error is that the CH340 driver is not installed. The solution is to install the driver, as outlined in Section 6.1.

Description: Incorrect baud selected.

Symptom: Nothing/Junk is printing in the Serial Monitor

Solution: A mismatch in baud rate settings. In the sketch where the Serial Monitor is initiated (“Serial.begin(baud)”) the specified baud has to match the baud setting in the Serial Monitor. When the baud rate is not set properly the results can look similar as in Figure 19. The solution is to match the baud rate. Look at the void setup() and find the “Serial.begin(XXX)” command. Note what the baud rate is (e.g. XXX = 9600). Open the Serial Monitor and ensure that the same baud rate is selected.

Figure 19: Incorrect baud selected.

Description: Port busy / used elsewhere.

Symptom: “avrdude: ser_open(): can't open device "\\.\COM6": Access is denied.”

Solution: One possible cause is that multiple instances of Arduino IDE with multiple Serial Monitors are opened, and the same port (in this example Port COM 6) is used in two or more of them. The solution to this is to close all the other Serial Monitors that are not in use. In severe cases Arduino IDE can be restarted entirely to solve the issue.

If all else fails, contact our support team:

https://ptsolns.com/contact-us

7 REFERENCES

This section lists relevant references.

- ATmega328P datasheet by Microchip Technology:
  https://www.microchip.com/en-us/product/atmega328p

- Arduino IDE software (See Section 6.3):
  https://www.arduino.cc/en/software

- PTSolns' Documentation Repository Sub-Domain:
  https://docs.PTSolns.com

- PTSolns website:
  https://PTSolns.com/

- *Nano Flip 3V3* default installed testing sketch (See Section 6.2):
  https://docs.PTSolns.com/Products/PTS-00205_Nano_Flip_3V3/Sketches/NanoFlip3V3_GetStarted.ino

- CH340 driver installation tutorial (See Section 6.1):

  By PTSolns:
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UUQ84VKg3oM

  By Sparkfun:
  https://learn.sparkfun.com/tutorials/how-to-install-ch340-drivers/all

- PTSolns support:
  https://ptsolns.com/contact-us