Getting Started With BeagleBone: Linux-Powered Electronic Projects With Python And JavaScript
Many people think of Linux as a computer operating system, running on users’ desktops and powering servers. But Linux can also be found inside many consumer electronics devices. Whether they’re the brains of a cell phone, cable box, or exercise bike, embedded Linux systems blur the distinction between computer and device. Many makers love microcontroller platforms such as Arduino, but as the complexity increases in their projects, they need more power for applications, such as computer vision. The BeagleBone is an embedded Linux board for makers. It’s got built-in networking, many inputs and outputs, and a fast processor to handle demanding tasks. This book introduces you to both the original BeagleBone and the new BeagleBone Black and gets you started with projects that take advantage of the board’s processing power and its ability to interface with the outside world.
board. Linux platform is well equipped to the point even bash shell scripting can be used to do a
decent hardware hacking control. I believe targeted audience is a weekend hacker and not serious
C/C++ programmer. If that is a case, this books serves its target audience well. There is only one
thing that really bothers me. Following a tradition of Raspberry Pi and Arduino, the first physical
demonstration of the board is made on how to turn LED on. Matt tells us to use 100 ohm resistor in
series of LED. the GPIO pin is set up to source the current. With 3.3V output and 100 ohm resistor
with LED Vf of about 1.8V, the resulting current will be around 15mA. This is OK for LED that is
usually rated for 20 mA but appears to be way over the spec'ed source current of 4mA for this TI
SOC. The setup does work (I did try it) and did not destroy my beaglebone but this is probably
because the TI chip’s design margin and not the GPIOs intended usage. Therefore I would not
follow this if I were to use more than a single LED in the same fashion. Adafruit.com’s tutorial
(written by Simon Monk) recommends the use of 470 ohm resistor instead and warns against the
use of lesser value resistor because "it could burn your beaglebone". Derek Molloy’s youtube video
even shows the set up where GPIO output is buffered by a small signal transistor to turn LED on.

This was my first shot at the BeagleBone Black. After a bunch is dismal how to do it books over the
Raspberry Matt Richardsons book was real breath of fresh air. Everything he suggested worked the
first time. His descriptions and explanations were exact and understandable. In a few hours I was
reading my Emails and downloaded some business data. After many hours of frustration with the
Raspberry books I managed to get an LED to blink. If you want to get off to good start with open
source devices buy the BeagleBone Black and get a copy of this book.

Matt Richardson a prominent Maker who also wrote the excellent Getting Started manual on
Raspberry Pi and is a Masters student at NYU’s Interactive Telecommunications Program has
prepared an excellent handbook on the powerful Beaglebone (and Beaglebone Black). The
Beaglebone most recently released for $45 in the Beaglebone Black model has several advantages
over both existing Arduino models and the Raspberry Pi. Like the Pi the Beaglebone runs the
powerful Linux operating system on a faster and more powerful processor. Like the Arduino the I/O
capabilities of this compact processor card include Analog I/O with a built in Analog to Digital
Converter and several PWM outputs (this is unlike the Raspberry Pi which has no built-in ADC and
only a single PWM output). In addition, the Beaglebone has a Javascript-based I/O control in the
Bonescript Language and a Web-Hosted IDE for developing Bonescript Code known as Cloud9.Mr.
Richardson certainly includes a full description of all one needs to get started with the Beaglebone
include hardware gozinta’s, software setup and use of the IDE as well as Python interfaces; but he
also goes well beyond other getting started books in this compact 127 page edition. Projects include
a networked outlet timer, use of Python and Bonescript and the Linux Shell to control the board and
interfaces, and use of the Xively Internet of Things service (formerly known as COSM or Pachube).I
highly recommend this Getting Started++ guide to the powerful and extensible Beaglebone
architecture to both those new to Linux embedded systems and hardware enthusiasts.--Ira Laefsky
MS Engineering/MBA IT & HCI Consultant & Researcherformerly on the Senior Consulting Staff of
Arthur D. Little, Inc. and Digital Equipment Corporation

Surprised how quick you can get your project going with this book.I am not so novice (engineer that
worked with Unix and Linux for years), but I still learned things I did not know.But what’s really great,
is that it’s fast... in very little time you can get started with linux, ssh, turn on LED’s, Python scripts
etc...Within 4 hours you learned all you need to get your internet controlled project started. I highly
recommended it for the beginner, but also for the intermediate user.Not to be fooled: this book is not
a complete user manual, it just scratches the surface of all the potential of this Beaglebone, but it’s
super fast to do, and touches many aspects of it (GPIO, PWM, Analog I/O, ethernet, python, JS,
HDMI, cron, Cloud IDE).

This Make: Getting Started Guide is everything I expected it to be. It has a very thorough
instructions on how to get up and running. It covers various ways to “program” GPIO pins such as
shell scripting, using the Adafruit GPIO python library, and using bonescript which is based on
node.js . I was particularly interested in learning about the BeagleBone because I am curious about
the upcoming Arduino Tre and I wanted to know the rationale for combine a BeagleBone and
Arduino board into one big board. Although the BeagleBone appears to excel in the Linux side of
functionality, programming the GPIO pins appears to be very cumbersome and somewhat
Byzantine depending on the chosen method. Furthermore the GPIO’s on this system seem quite
fragile compared to an Arduino, especially when you need to use the ADC. From reading this book I
can clearly see the motivation for the upcoming Arduino Tre.

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Getting Started with BeagleBone: Linux-Powered Electronic Projects With Python and JavaScript
Easy Steps, A Beginner's Guide, Start Coding Today!