Flea-Scope[™] for Education

Flea-Scope[™] is a very low-cost (\$18 retail available here) and easy-to-use 18 million sample-per-second (Msps) USB oscilloscope and mixed-signal logic analyzer with a built-in waveform generator! For more advanced users, Flea-Scope is also a fully reprogrammable embedded system core! Flea-Scope can be controlled by any Chromium-based web browser that supports WebUSB API or Web Serial API running on a computer, tablet, or phone, with no need for further software install – just plug it in and open a web-page and you are up and running!



The goals of the Flea-Scope[™] project are many:

- 1. first of all, to encourage students to become producers of technology, rather than just consumers of it!
- 2. then, to allow students to visualize signals changing over time as they build and debug electrical circuits,
- 3. to expose students to the concepts and uses of oscilloscopes, logic analyzers, and waveform generators
 - ("trigger out" pin allows multiple Flea-Scopes to work together simultaneously for more channels),
- 4. to excite students about the capabilities of microcontrollers (MCUs) and embedded systems, and
- 5. to provide students with an embedded system core which they can leverage into their own projects!

Flea-Scope™ can be used on many levels, from beginner to advanced, including:

- 1. (beginner, \$18) as an oscilloscope, logic analyzer, and function generator, using only a web-page,
- 2. (intermediate, \$18) as a <u>BASIC embedded system core</u> with debugger, using only a web-page, and
- 3. (advanced, \$18 + \$40) as a "C" embedded system core with debugger, using <u>Snap ICE</u> and MPLAB X IDE.

When used as an embedded system core, Flea-Scope[™] includes 18 fully reprogrammable I/O pins, compatible with 0.1" (2.54mm) solderless breadboards!

Most of all, Flea-Scope[™] is designed to be flexible and easy-touse, with cross-platform support (Windows, macOS, Linux, ChromeOS, and Android) and a software-less install -- just open a web-page and you are up and running!

 $\label{eq:Flea-Scope} {\tt Flea-Scope}{\tt m} \mbox{ is fully open-source, including:}$

- web-page GUI and deep-dive (BASIC) UI written in JavaScript,
- MCU firmware written in "C" using Microchip MPLAB X IDE,
- printed circuit board schematic and layout using Novarm DipTrace, and
- <u>extensive documentation</u>.

See the <u>Flea-Scope[™] User's Guide</u> for detailed specifications and usage.

See a list of education projects here.

See a preliminary video introduction on YouTube <u>here</u>.

For more information, contact me at: Richard Testardi <rtestardi@live.com>

