The background image shows a workshop environment. In the upper right, a blue 3D printer is visible. In the lower half, a silver CNC machine with a glass cover is prominent. Various electronic components, wires, and tools are scattered on the workbench.

Steepest Dissent: small scale digital fabrication

Nadya Peek, infosyncratic.nl

HOPE X, NYC 2014

DARPA's giant red balloons officially at large

by Chris Jacob



Font size



Print



E-mail



Share



21 comments

Tweet

0



Share

34



Submit

*Update at 10:56 p.m. PST: The **MIT Red Balloon Challenge Team** ([PDF](#)) has won the competition.*

You may have heard about that **DARPA balloon challenge**, where the first team to identify the latitudes and longitudes of 10 moored weather balloons across the continental U.S. wins \$40,000? Well, as of Saturday, the balloons are up in the air. If you don't have a team yet, here are some places to report a sighting.

What's cool is how most of the balloon-hunting communities I've found are working toward selfless goals. Both **DARPABalloon.com** and this **MIT group** are proposing to gather a huge number of participants, and rather than give each contributor a measly cut, the 40 grand will be donated to charity.

GIZMODO

DARPA is holding its **Network Challenge** to mark the 40th anniversary of the

Internet. The competition is meant to explore the roles the Internet and social networking play in the timely communication, wide-area team-building, and urgent mobilization required to solve broad-scope, time-critical problems.



DARPA says the balloons will be in readily accessible locations and visible from nearby roads.

(Credit: DARPA)





in



out



m

mm

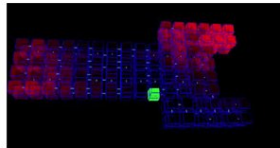
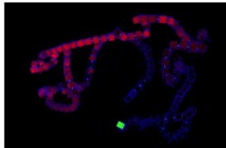
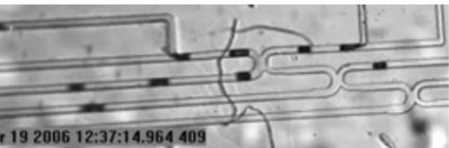
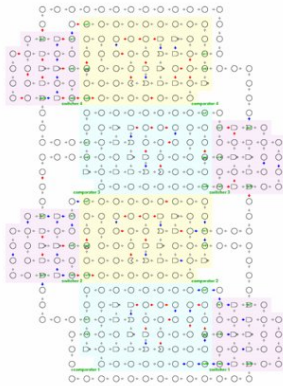
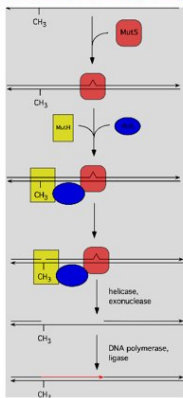
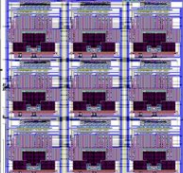
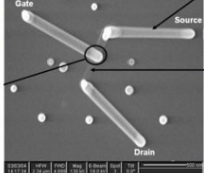
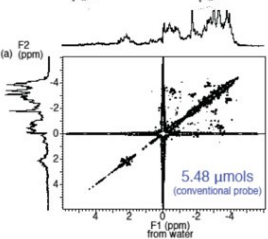
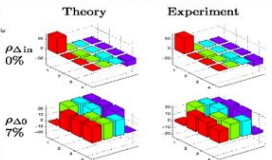
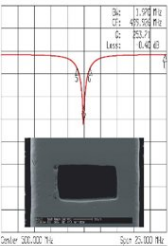
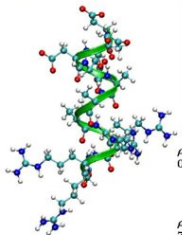


μm



nm







MIT MAS.863:

How to make

(almost) anything

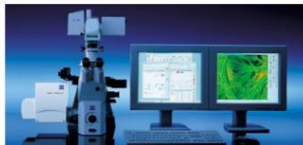
in

out

m



mm



μm



nm

But where did digital

fabrication come from?

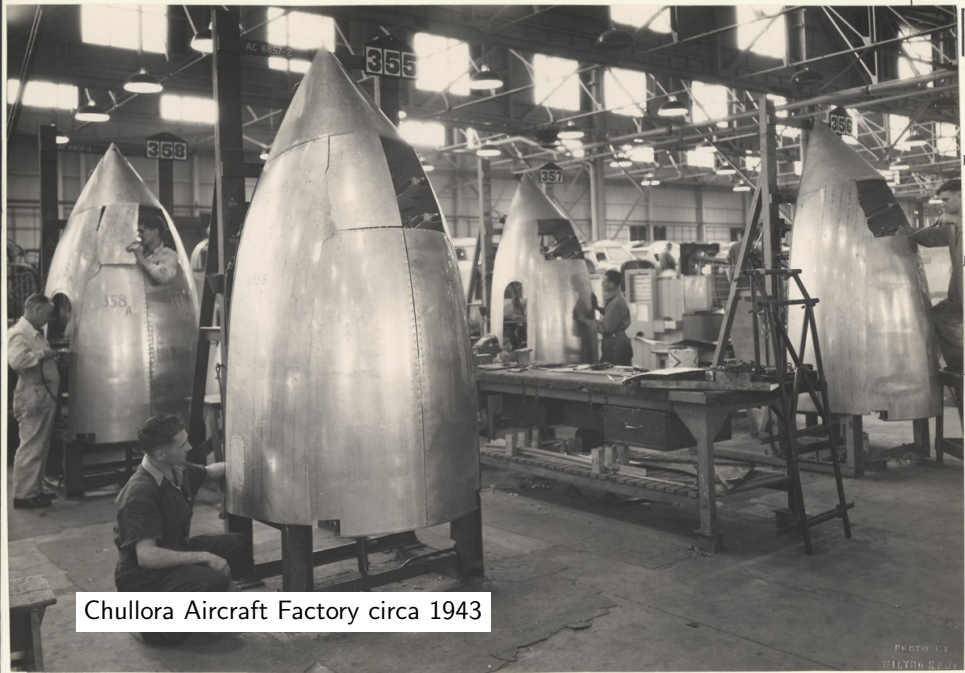


Pyrmont Bridge

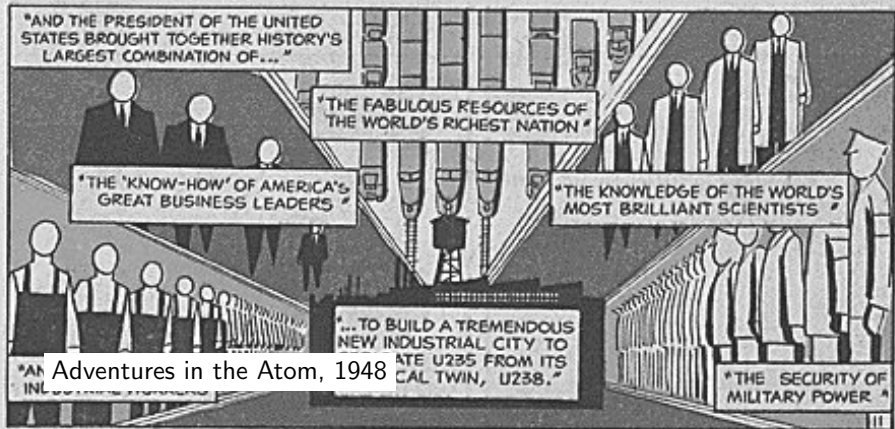
K. & Co.
329, PYRMONT BRIDGE

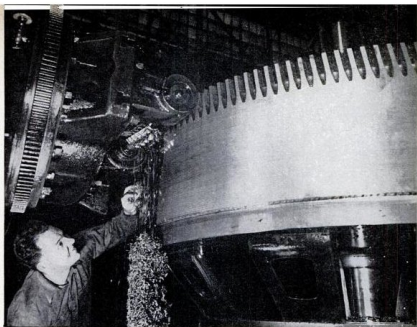


Automobile Showroom, Montreal Canada



Chullora Aircraft Factory circa 1943





Westinghouse photo

Hobbing machine cuts teeth in a gear over eight feet in diameter; chips pile up beneath the cutting tool

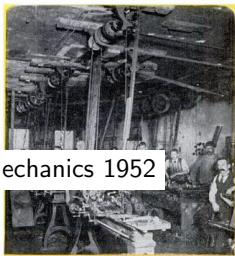
TOOLS THAT MAKE TOOLS

A lot of selective breeding has gone into them since, but basically they remain unchanged. In 1902 a machine tool was described as a non-portable, power-driven tool that shaped metal by removing surplus material in the form of chips.

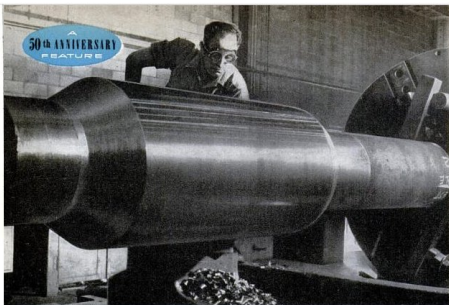
The first and oldest of these tools was the lathe. By 1902 a more flexible version called the turret lathe was coming into popularity. The next was the drill, which was fine for drilling holes in metal but not enough tolerant

1902. F inch, a boring machine was used. Today drilling and boring are words often used interchangeably, but to the

Machine-tool shop of 50 years ago presented more of overhead pulleys. This was National Acme Company



Popular Mechanics 1952



U. S. Steel Corp. photo

By George Scullin

Giant steel roll soon to take its place in a U. S. Steel rolling mill is machined on a 60-inch lathe in the forging shop at the firm's Homestead District works

The jet engine and the wrist watch, the power saw and the 1952 automobile—all are products of those modern wonders—

THE

AROUND early March this year, a few newspapers announced casually that the Air Force had been given the green light on the purchase of 20 machine tools. It was just a small story and the editors couldn't get too excited about it. Not even at the size of the machines, four stories high; or their cost, \$389,000,000! Stories like that are routine in this year of 1952.

But what if that story, through some slip in the time machine, had appeared before the young editors preparing the first issues of *Popular Mechanics* in 1902? What about it would be strange?

Not the words "Air Force," though man had yet to fly a power-driven aircraft. These farseeing young men were already convinced that man would fly, and soon, and that there would be an Air Force. Not the size of the machines. These editors were dedicating their magazine to the conviction that the years to come would produce mechanical wonders beyond anything even dreamed of at the turn of the century. To anticipate these marvels and explain them in words and pictures their readers could understand was the job they had already

created for themselves. But we do think they would have been stunned by the \$389,000,000.

In 1902 that sum would have bought the year's output of the entire machine-tool industry, would have bought the industry as well, and there would have been enough left over to put a little white fence around the whole thing. In fact, the industry was so small that few people had ever heard of it, and fewer still knew what it was.

Yet this is the tiny industry that has made possible our entire way of life. Without it, we would be living on the products of our bare hands, with a standard of living approaching that of Colonial days.

What are these machines that produce all this magic? Well, they are a weird family. They are the tools that make the tools that make everything else. But, being a family, they also make each other. This makes them the only self-procreating race in the machine world.

To understand the huge, fantastic, almost-human machine tools of today, let's take a look at their ancestors as the first editors of *Popular Mechanics* knew them.



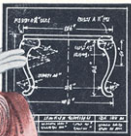
By Arthur J. Goldberg
Secretary of Labor

How will automation affect your job?



Secretary of labor 1962-1965





In an electronic lab at MIT,
engineers now are

Teaching Power Tools to Run Themselves

By Hartley E. Howe

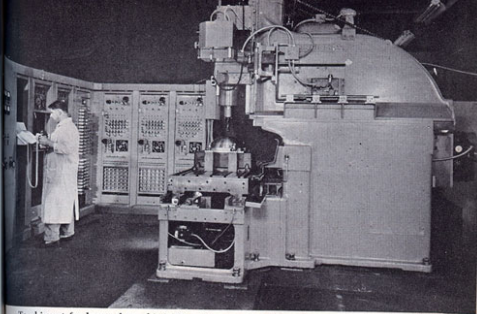
SO JOE WORKSHOPPER figures he'd like to turn out a set of dining-room chairs—and at the same time break in his new Model 100 Super Tapemaster. Joe whips down to the hardware store and looks over photographs of different designs. He settles on a Swedish pattern popular 'way back in 1955—delicate and handsome, but full of difficult reverse curves.

That doesn't worry Joe. He plunks down \$10 for a week's rental of a batch

Punches in tape
code size and
time of each cut.

Tape is fed into com-
puter where code
is converted to
electric signals.

Popular Science 1957



Too big yet for home shop, this MIT milling machine is run by computer-control at left.

of tapes—one each for legs, arms, back and seat.

That night, he clamps a nice piece of birch into his Tapemaster, slips the tape into the control box, flips the switch, and sits back with his pipe and the new issue of *Outdoor Life*.

Forty minutes later, the rumble of the Tapemaster stops and Joe takes a look. One leg is finished. So he clamps on another piece of birch...

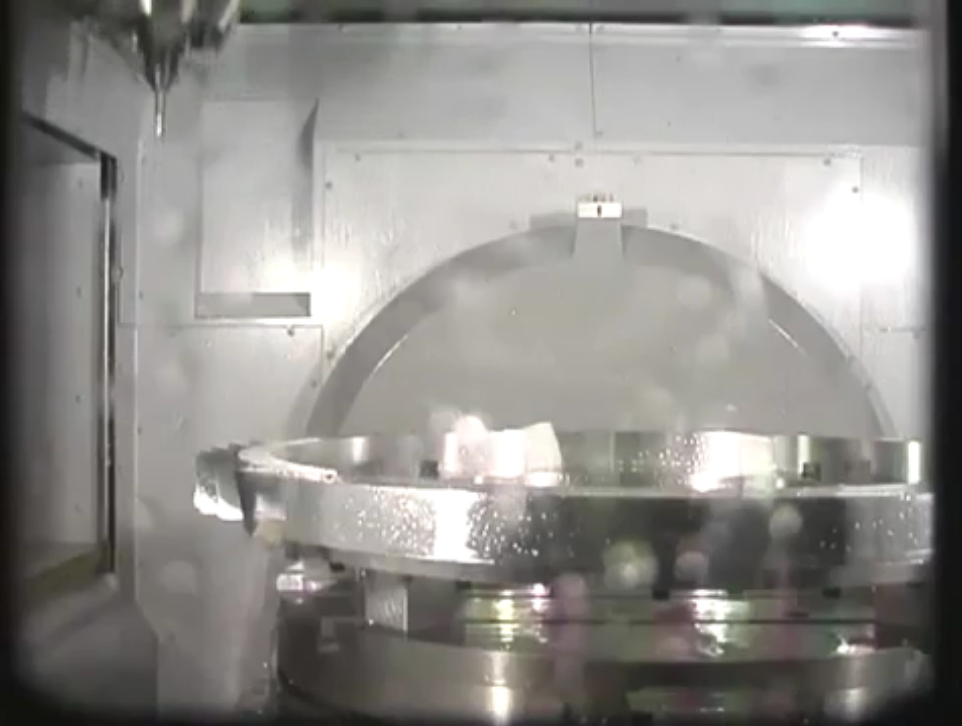
Sure it's a dream—in 1955. But the

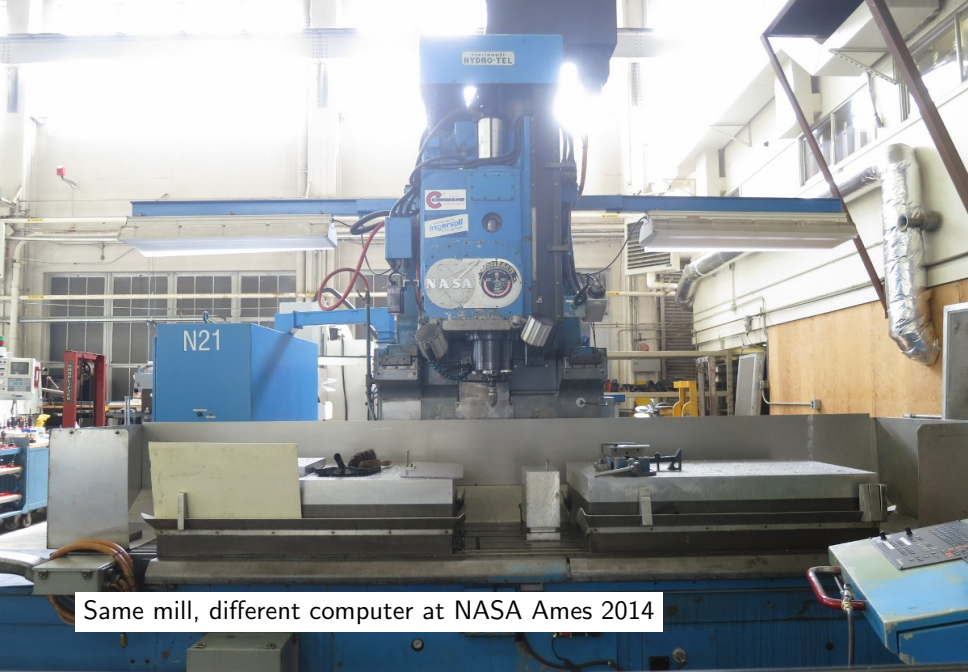
engineering basis for Joe's Tapemaster exists right now. Sitting up in the Servomechanisms Laboratory of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Mass., is a milling machine that will turn out any metal part at the command of a little roll of tape. Originally a standard, vertical 28" Cincinnati Hydro-Tel, it now has hitched to it \$50,000 worth of electronics.

To conceive, design and build the MIT machine took some quarter-million

Signals control three-dimensional movement of cutter head, time each cut.

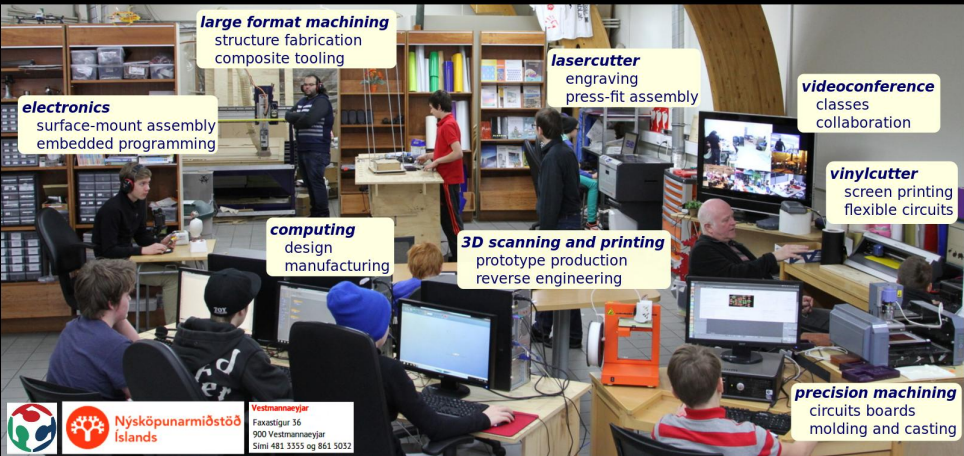






Same mill, different computer at NASA Ames 2014

You can personally use
digital fabrication tools
in a fab lab



large format machining

structure fabrication
composite tooling

electronics

surface-mount assembly
embedded programming

laser cutter

engraving
press-fit assembly

videoconference

classes
collaboration

vinyl cutter

screen printing
flexible circuits

computing

design
manufacturing

3D scanning and printing

prototype production
reverse engineering

precision machining

circuits boards
molding and casting



**Nýsköpunarmiðstöð
Íslands**

Vestmannaeyjar


Faxastigur 36
900 Vestmannaeyjar
Sími 481 3355 og 861 5032

Milling prosthetics, Jens Dyvik





Fabfi wireless mesh network, Jalalabad

A man with a beard, wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt and dark pants, stands barefoot on a rocky shore covered with fallen leaves. He is holding a long, narrow, light-colored kayak horizontally above his head with both hands. The kayak has a segmented design with dark lines. Behind him is a large body of water with ripples, and in the far distance, a city skyline with various buildings is visible under a clear sky. The sun is reflecting off the water, creating bright glimmers.

Kayak, Sam Calisch



IZOLYATSIA
PLATFORM FOR CULTURAL INITIATIVES

ru | ua | en



FOUNDATION

PROJECTS

AGENDA

NEWS

JOIN US

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

VISIT US

MEDIA

COLLECTION

BOOKSHOP

Previous projects

Current projects

Ukrainian Literature Festival

People are even concerned:

TEL: +380 67 777 7777

MOVIES

CU* TULIO PINTO

OF Donetsk fablab occupied

Five minutes to

Residency of Tulio Pinto

It's

Pul

Maybe 3d printers are political after all

rented accommodation are

IZOLYATSIA IN EXILE



On Monday morning 9th June 2014 the premises of the foundation were forcibly occupied by the DPR (Donetsk People's Republic), a terrorist organisation operating in authority within the city of Donetsk.

At around noon the local time a group of armed separatists entered onto private property demanding the appropriation of the site and its buildings for the benefit of the DPR and its activities.

NEWS



24 June 2014

SOS IZOLYATSIA. Акция солидарности.

>>>

17 June 2014

Appeal to the President of Ukraine

>>>

12 June 2014

13 июня - пресс-конференция Фонда ИЗОЛЯЦИЯ

>>>

11 June 2014

An open letter to the "prime-minister" of the DPR

>>>

09 June 2014

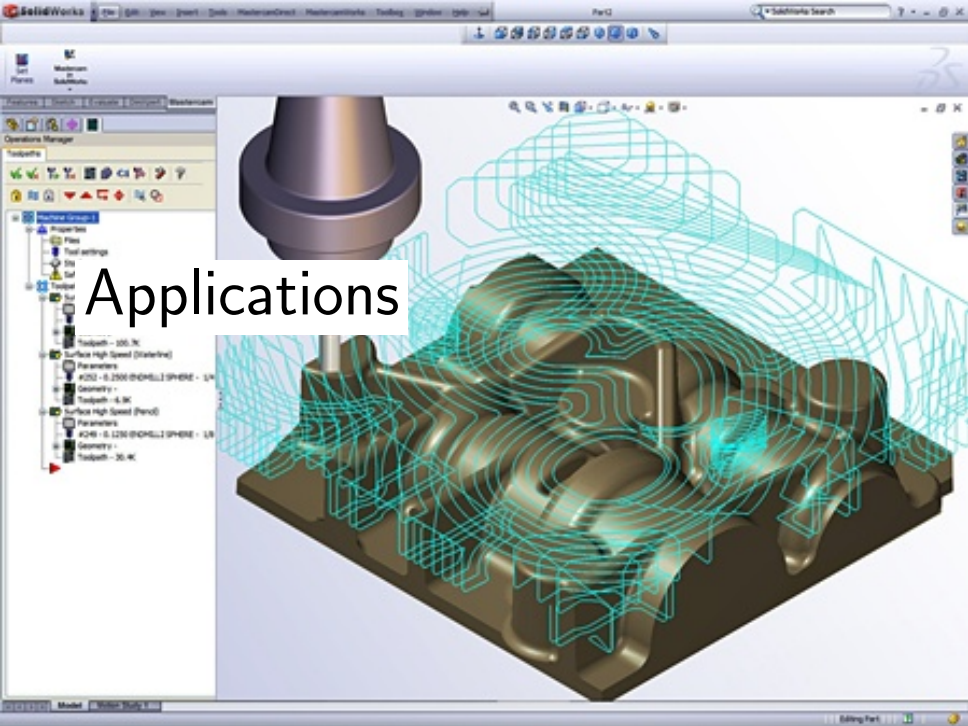
IZOLYATSIA in exile

>>>

Open hours:
During events

But using them

still kind of sucks



Applications

G-code	Functions	G-code	Functions
G0	Rapid positioning	G53	Move in absolute machine coordinate system
G1	Linear interpolation	G54 à G59	Use fixture offset 1 to 6, G59 to select a general fixture number
G2	Clockwise circular / helical interpolation	G61	Exact Stop mode
G3	Counterclockwise circular / helical interpolation	G64	Constant Velocity mode
G4	Dwell	G73	Canned cycle - drilling - fast pullback
G10	Coordinate system origin setting	G80	Cancel canned cycle mode
G12	Clockwise circular pocket	G81	Canned cycle - drilling
G13	Counterclockwise circular pocket	G82	Canned cycle - drilling with dwell
G15	Polar Coordinate moves in G0 and G1	G83	Canned cycle - peck drilling
G16	Cancel polar Coordinate moves in G0 and G1	G84	Canned cycle - right hand rigid taping (not yet implemented)
G17	XY plane select	G85	Canned cycle - boring, no dwell, feed out
G18	XZ plane select	G86	Canned cycle - boring, spindle stop, rapid out
G19	YZ plane select	G87	Canned cycle - back boring (not yet implemented)
G20		G88	Canned cycle - boring, spindle stop, manual out
G21		G89	Canned cycle - boring, dwell, feed out
G28		G90	Absolute distance mode
G30		G91	Incremental distance mode
G28.1		G92	Offset coordinates and set parameters
G31	Straight Probe	G92.1	Reset G92 offset and parameter
G40	Cancel cutter radius compensation	G92.2	Reset G92 offset but leave parameters untouched
G41	Start cutter radius compensation left	G92.3	Recall G92 from parameters
G42	Start cutter radius compensation right	G93	Inverse time feed mode
G43	Apply tool length offset (plus)	G94	Feed per minute mode
G49	Cancel tool length offset	G95	Feed per revolution mode
G50	Reset all scale factors to 1.0	G98	Initial level return after canned cycles
G51	Set axis data input scale factors	G99	R-point level return after canned cycles

Controls

A close-up, first-person perspective shot of a person wearing a maroon corduroy jacket. The jacket's zipper is partially open, showing a silver metal zipper pull. The person is sitting on a chair with orange footrests visible in the background. The word "Interfaces" is overlaid in a white box on the left side of the image.

Interfaces



POWER ON POWER OFF

Runtime

EMERGENCY STOP



HANDLE JOG

SETUP: JOG

NEW 000001 N00000100

000001 (LSR HEAD INTAKE2A) ;
(SAM RACING) ;
(POSTED FOR HAAS ES-5-41) ;
(DATE - 02-07-10 TIME - 09:51) ;
(11 | SFS 3/8) ;
G20 ;
G00 G17 G40 G90 G94 G94 ;
G00 G91 G28 Z0 ;
G00 G91 G28 X0. Y0. A0 ;
(SFS 3/8) ;
N100 T1 M06 ;
G00 G90 G94 G54 X-4.1972 Y1.8518 B21.392
A17.186 S3500 M03 ;
M11 ;
M13 ;
G187 P2 E0.025 ;
G43 H01 Z4.4025 ;
Z0.5025 ;
G1.7947 Z0.4262 B20.704 A17.52
G1.57 Z0.4527 B19.996 A17.82
G1.20.4793 B19.273 A18.109
X-4.3014 Y1.613 Z0.5045 B18.535 A18.402
F840.33 ;
X-4.326 Y1.5493 Z0.5298 B17.78 A18.684
F840.83 ;
X-4.3495 Y1.4837 Z0.5558 B17.007 A18.949
F839.28 ;

TOOL INFO

LPS ON	TOOL	COOLANT POSITION	H(LENGTH)	WEAR	GEOMETRY	WEAR	D(CDIA)
1	SPINDLE	5	-13.9837	0.	0.	0.	0.
2		0	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.
3		0	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.
4		0	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.
5		0	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.
6		0	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.
7		0	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.
8		0	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.
9		0	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.

WORK ZERO OFFSET

G CODE	X AXIS	Y AXIS	Z AXIS	A AXIS	B AXIS
G52	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.
G54	-19.8890	-16.2096	0.	0.	29.381
G55	-29.3963	-13.0365	0.	0.	-60.619
G56	0.	0.	0.	0.	58.298
G57	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.
G58	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.
G59	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.
G154 P1	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.
G154 P2	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.
G154 P3	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.

MAIN SPINDLE

STOP

Commanded RPM: 3500
Actual RPM: 0
Load: 0

SPINDLE: 100%
FLD: 00%
RAPID: 5%

POSITION: (IN) JOG RATE 0.0010

	OPERATOR	WORK	G 54	MACHINE	DIST TO GO
X	-24.2045	-4.3155	-24.2045	0.0000	
Y	-14.4668	1.7428	-14.4668	0.0000	
Z	-14.4077	-14.4077	-14.4077	-0.7340	
A	30.958	30.958	30.958	12.104	
B	49.450	20.069	49.450	-0.012	

TOOL MANAGEMENT

GROUP ID: 0
DESCRIPTION:
TOOL IN SPINDLE: 1
TOOL# EXP LIFE
0
0
0
0
0
0

INPUT: |

AB AXIS UNCLAMPED

RESET

POWER OFF

RECOVER

DISPLAY

PRGM CONVE

POSIT

OFFSET

CURNT COMD

EDIT

INSERT

DELETE

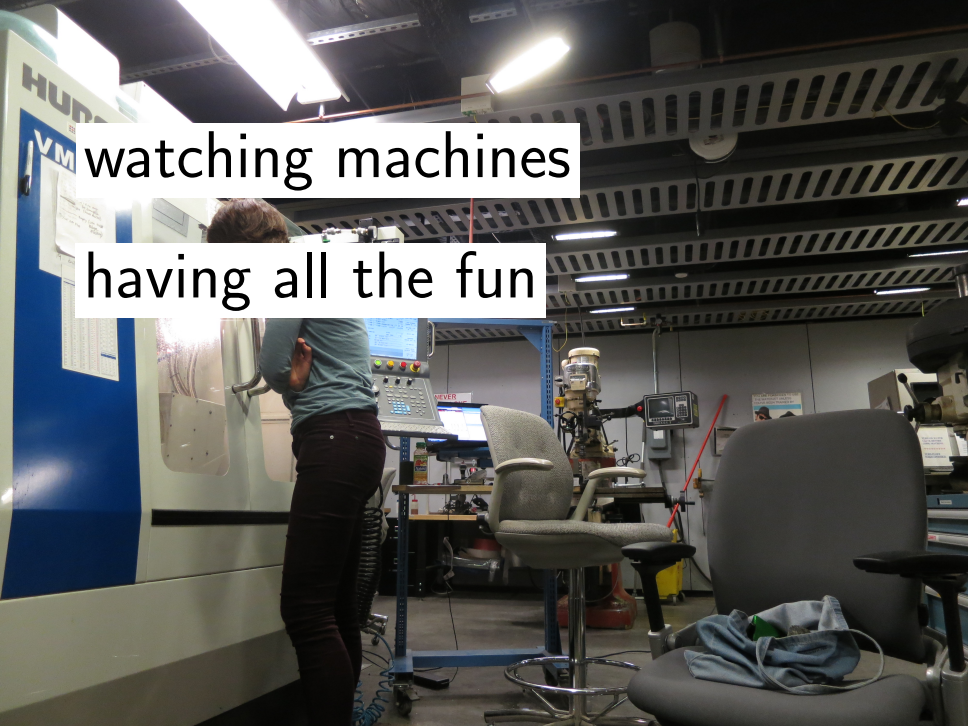
POPULAR HOT RODDING

Toolhead



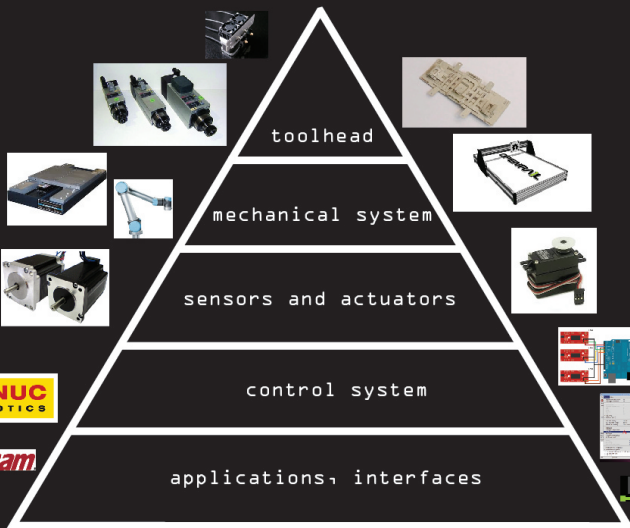
watching machines

having all the fun



What really are

these machines?



Even if they are incrementally
improving, digital fabrication
machines are still
not very accessible

Finicky, bad interfaces

Limited applications

Expensive

Controlled by a couple of corps

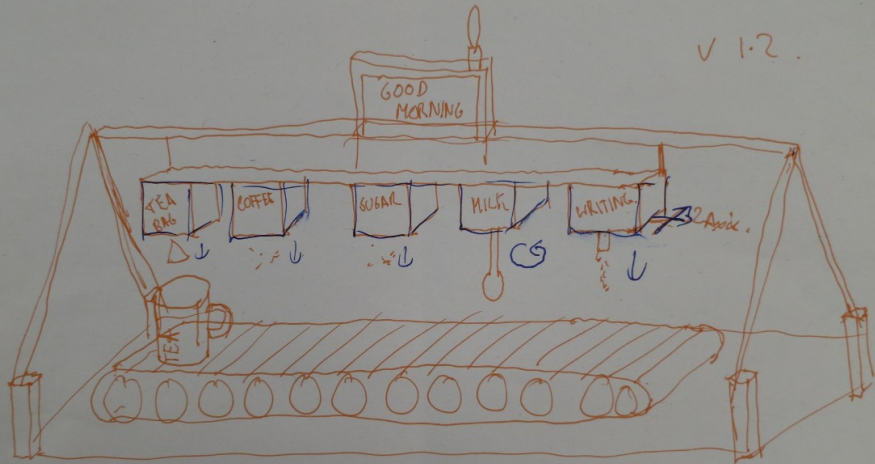
Can we just

build them ourselves?



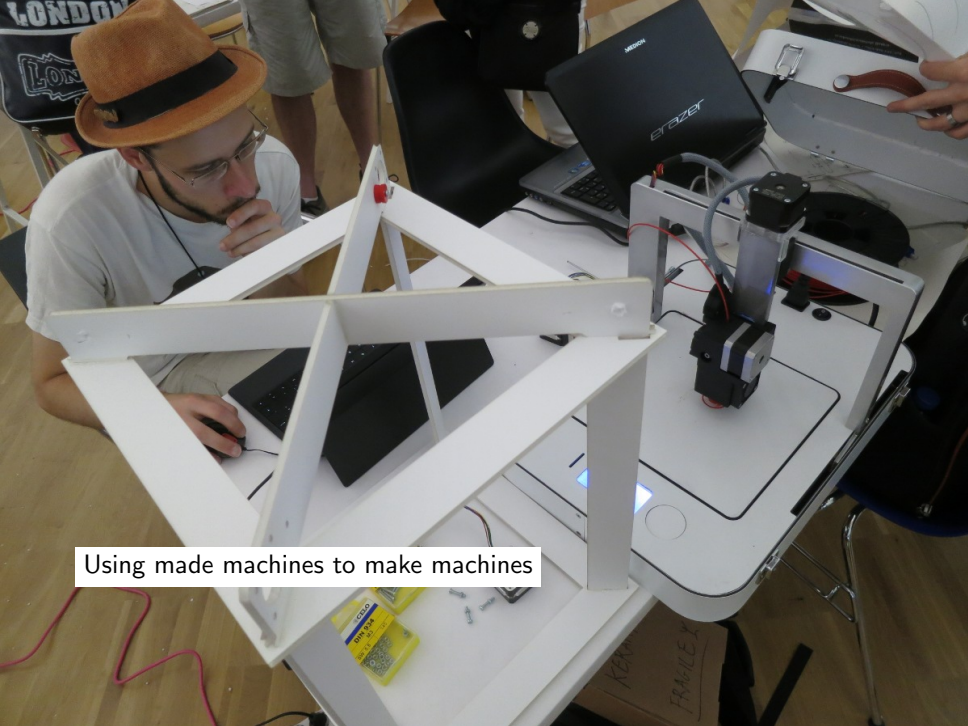
1. WALL BUILDER
2. FORM MACHINES
3. BREAKFAST MACHINES

Teaching machine design and building



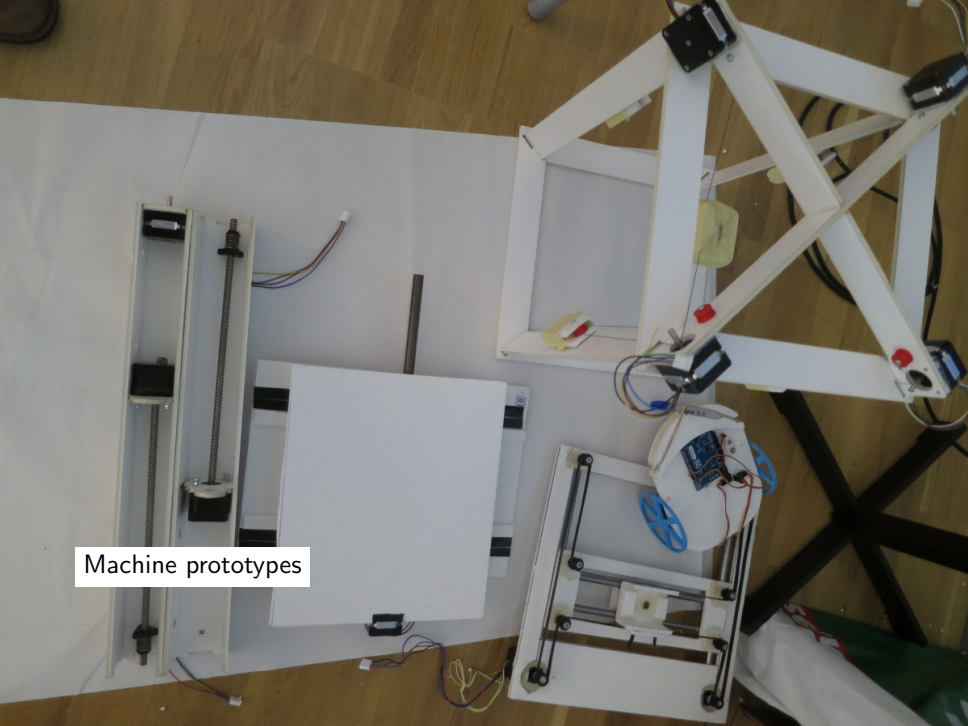
Ideas for machines

YOR: AXIS
→



Using made machines to make machines

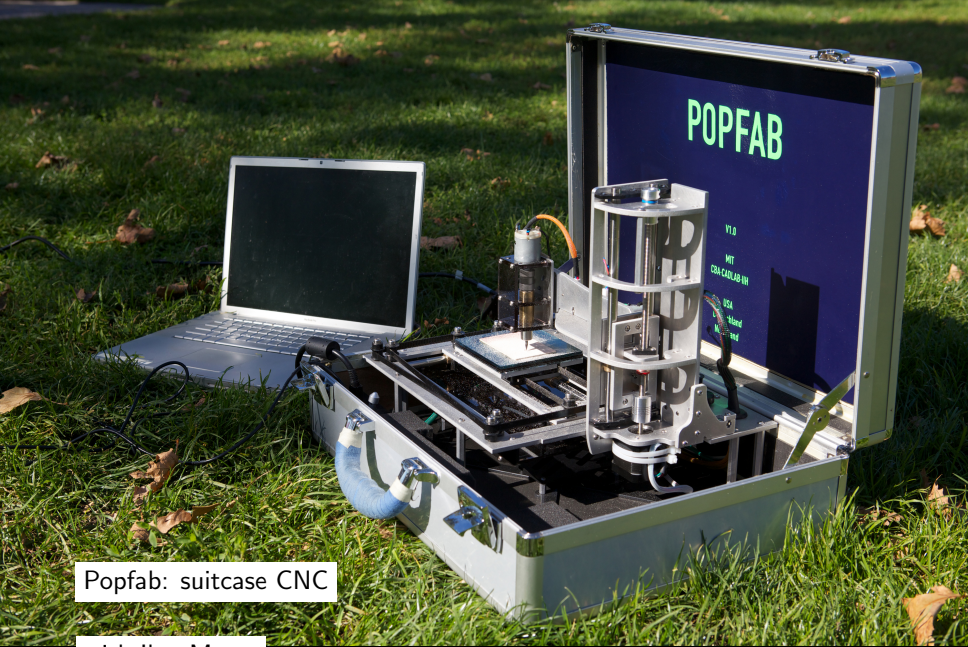
Machine prototypes





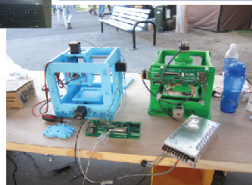
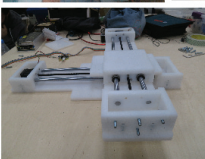
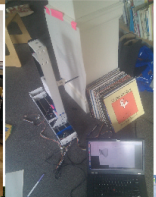
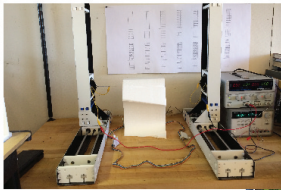
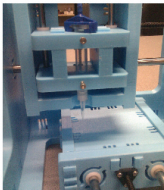
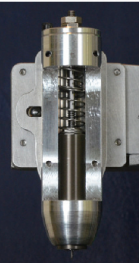
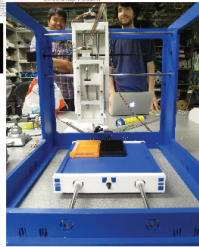
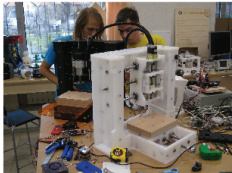
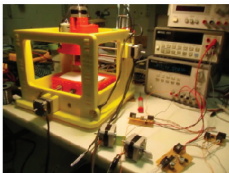
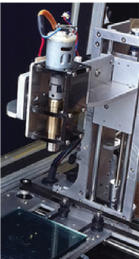
Machine testing

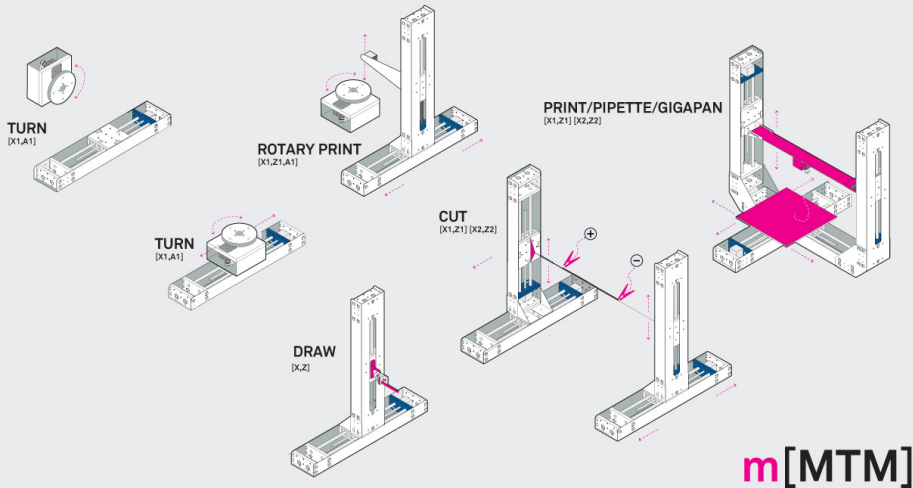
Start building your own
machine solutions



Popfab: suitcase CNC

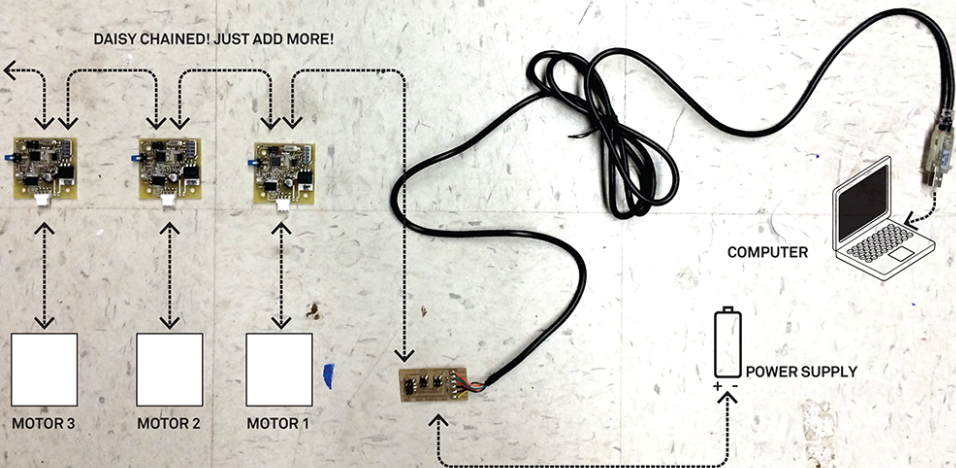
with Ilan Moyer



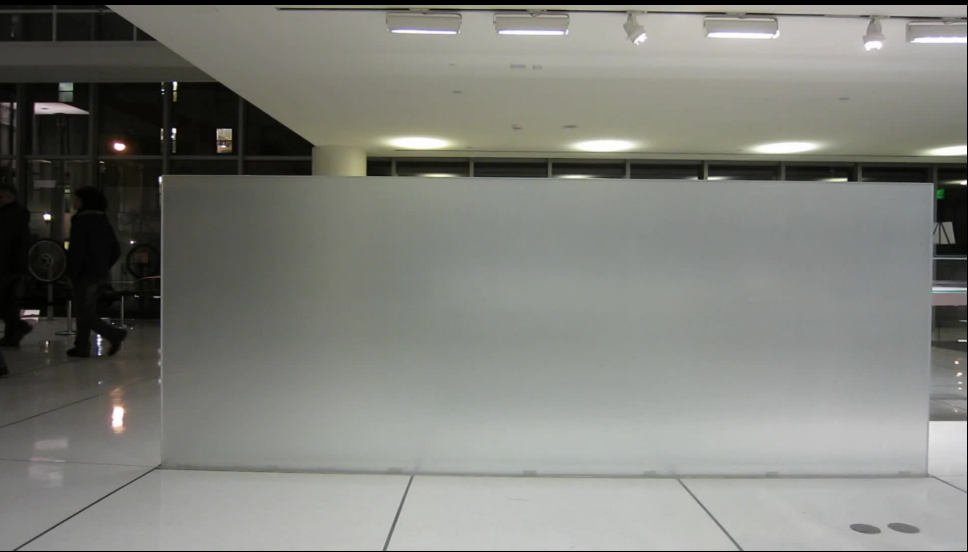


Modular Machines that Make

with James Coleman



Gestalt virtual machine network



Personal fabrication tools

Taktia: handheld digital fabrication tools



5-axis shopbot handibot



Without the capability to
make tools, the ecosystem
cannot grow

How else can we build?

What about other forms
of access to
precision manufacturing?

Shenzhen



Strange liminal electronics

tool and die shops

and grey markets



A1-A51

M98

正大科技 M99

如意通讯

科龍通讯

5D 移动通讯

A39 祥和通讯 优势五代中 五代5S 黑白机

5D 移动通讯

B6-A1

Huaqiangbei cell phone market

B1

T313

T813

T913

E5613

T813

666086

iphone ICs

T317

105ES4

106083



Access to precision tools

and the capability to use them



Milling school at Shenzhen U



Milling school at Shenzhen U

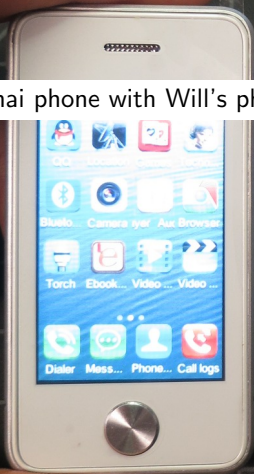
And odd remixing of mass

manufacture and desirements

Shanzhai phone



Shanzhai phone with Will's phone



Inside Shanzhai

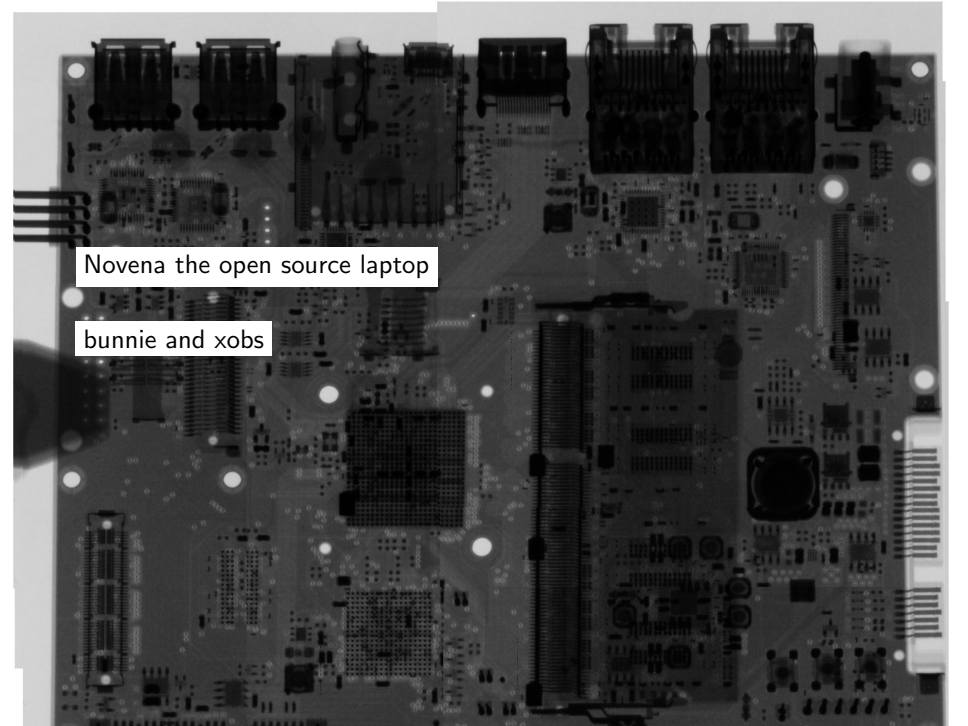


More Shanzhai



Factories are changing

Personal fabrication is growing



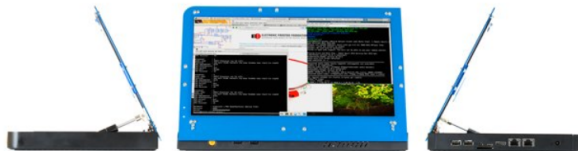
Novena the open source laptop

bunnie and xobs



Creators → Sutajio Kosagi

Novena

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A new open-hardware computing platform, flexible and powerful, designed for use as a desktop, laptop, or standalone board.

Novena is a 1.2GHz, [Freescale quad-core ARM](#) architecture computer closely coupled with a [Xilinx FPGA](#). It's designed for users who care about Free Software and open source, and/or want to modify and extend their hardware: all the documentation for the PCBs is [open and free to download](#), the entire OS is [buildable from source](#), and it comes with a variety of features that facilitate rapid prototyping.

PREMIUMS & PLEDGE LEVELS

Singapore
Hackable
Technology

\$721,230 raised
of **\$250,000** goal

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May 18
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funded

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pledges

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\$5**Pre-order**

Novena T-shirt
Ships July 2014

\$25

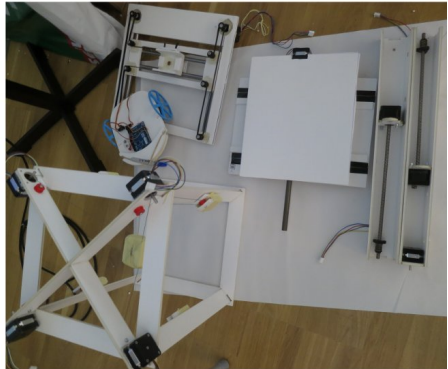
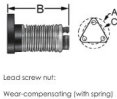
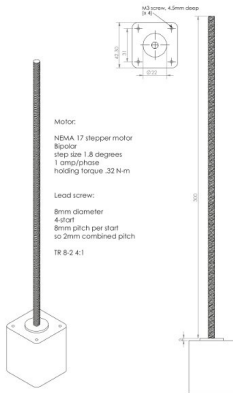
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