

wCoreF4

Introduction

This is a cross-grade of the STM32F4 Core based on the [Core407v](#) breakout board from Waveshare. There are other versions of MCU breakouts, but the Waveshare one seems quite a reputable source with decent distribution and documentation.

Pros

- Slightly smaller footprint
- (Almost) all connectors on same face
- Proper USB A and B ports
- Footswitch/gate 3.5mm jack
- Hardware host/slave switch
- LEDs on the panel
- Reset button on the panel
- User button on header
- More mounting options available (e.g. panel mount including USB)
- 1A 3v3 regulator
- Possibility for external Vref (for AIN)

Cons

- Similar height to Disco version (could cut off headers etc.)
- Lacks ST-LINK and requires a (cheap) programmer or a Discovery module
- No mounting holes on MCU breakout
- Requires SMT soldering (wide pitch)

Sub parts

The Core is split over three PCBs:

- [wCoreF4 PCB](#)
- [wCore USB](#)
- [wCore RES-SD](#)

The MIDI interfaces were also redesigned:

- [wCore MIDI8](#)
- [wCore I2C](#)

Build instructions are found on the appropriate pages.

MCU module

The actual MCU module is available from several sources:

- <https://eckstein-shop.de/Core407V>
- <http://www.waveshare.com/core407v.htm>
- [eBay](#)

Burning the bootloader

The MCU module has a USB port, but direct programming would only be possible with a USB-UART programmer. It would also require a different bootloader protocol. Instead, we make use of ST-LINK-like functionality. The MCU module has a typical JTAG header and these pins are also available on the two 2*25 header rows. So even if the header had to be removed for space reasons, it should always be possible to re-flash the MCU.

Option 1: ST-LINK clone

These are readily available from eBay and other sellers for typically <\$10. You only require one programmer to flash as many modules as needed.

Option 2: use a Discovery module

The Discovery module (even if connected to a MIDIbox Core) can be used for programming.

License

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Last update: **2017/09/10 13:31**

