

# Now you need an ... OK. MP3 player



SmartMP3 module and BIGAVR2  
Development System

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The use of MP3 format caused a revolution in digital sound compression technology by enabling audio files to be several times smaller. If you want audio messages or music to be part of your project then you can easily make it true. You just need any standard MMC or SD memory card, a few chips and a little time...

Before we start, it is necessary to format MMC card and save the sound1.mp3 file on it (the card should be formatted in FAT16, i.e. FAT format).

The quality of sound coded in MP3 format depends on sampling rate and bitrate. Similar to an audio CD, most MP3 files are sampled at the frequency of 44.1 kHz. The MP3 file's bitrate indicates the quality of compressed audio comparing to the original uncompressed one, i.e. its fidelity. A bitrate of 64 kbit/s is sufficient for speech reproduction, while it has to be 128 kbit/s or more for music reproduction. In this example a music file with a bitrate of 128 kbit/s is used.

## Hardware

The sound contained in this file is coded in the MP3 format so that an MP3 decoder is needed for its decoding. In our example, the VS1011E chip is used for this purpose. This chip decodes MP3 record and performs digital-to-analog conversion of the signal in order to produce

a signal that can be brought to audio speakers over a small audio amplifier.

Considering that MMC/SD cards use sections of 512 bytes in size, a microcontroller with 512 byte RAM or more is needed for the purpose of controlling the operation of MP3. We have chosen the Atmega128 with 1536 byte RAM.

## Software

The program controlling the operation of this device can be broken up into five steps:

- Step 1:** Initialization of the SPI module of the microcontroller.
- Step 2:** Initialization of the compiler's Mmc\_FAT16 library, which enables MP3 files to be read from MMC or SD cards.
- Step 3:** Reading a part of file.
- Step 4:** Sending data to the buffer of MP3 decoder.
- Step 5:** If the end of the file is not reached, jump to step 3.

## Testing

It is recommended to start testing device operation with lower bitrate and increase it gradually. The buffer of MP3 decoder is 2048 bytes in size. If the buffer is loaded with a part of MP3 file with 128 kbit/s bitrate, it will contain twice the sound samples than when it is loaded with a part of file with 256 kbit/s bitrate. Accordingly, if the bitrate of the file is lower it will take twice as long to encode the buffer content. If we over increase the bitrate of the file it may happen that

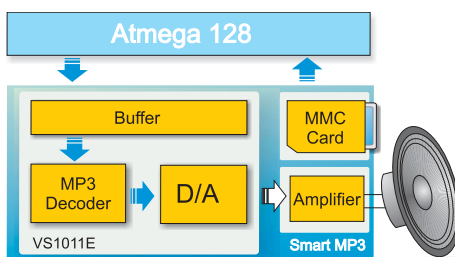


Figure 1. Block diagram of Smart MP3 module connected to a Atmega128

