OSHWA
OPEN SOURCE HARDWARE ASSOCIATION

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE OPEN SOURCE HARDWARE ASSOCIATION!

OSHWA.ORG/MEMBER

WHAT IS OSHWA?

The Open Source Hardware Association (OSHWA) is an international advocacy group dedicated to educating people on the benefits, best practices and definition of open source hardware. The open source hardware movement is a community effort which OSHWA has stemmed from. OSHWA is the umbrella organization to house web content and host the annual Open Hardware Summit. As we grow, more events will be organized, more web content will be writen, more hardware will be created, and we hope to help with the process as the community sees fit.

OSHWA is applying for 501(c)3 tax exemption status in the education division.

WHAT IS OPEN SOURCE HARDWARE?

The statement of principles puts it like this: "Open source hardware is hardware whose design is made publicly available so that anyone can study, modify, distribute, make, and sell the design or hardware based on that design. The hardware's source, the design from which it is made, is available in the preferred format for making modifications to it." Open source hardware is also a growing community of companies, individuals, and groups. Some well-known examples include Arduino, Adafruit, Evil Mad Scientist Laboratories, and SparkFun Electronics. Open Sourcing your hardware is a great way to share knowledge and facilitate development of new products.

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What are the best practices of open source hardware?

- Explicitly state in the design files or README what license(s) you are using.
- Be clear about what parts of the hardware are open-source (and which aren't.)
- Put the OSHW logo on your hardware. You can find lots of different versions at oshwlogo.com
- Keep your source files in a (free) publicly-accessible source code repository such as Github. This makes it easier for people to track design changes. It also makes it easier for them to submit improvements!

Can I use the cc license on Hardware?

Creative commons is an alternative to copyright, so in cases where copyright can be applied, such as schematics, you can use a creative commons license. But the hardware itself is not covered by copyright law. There are a few hardware license out and in the making, Solderpad, CERN OHL, TAPR. The open source hardware definition is not a license, but it is an agreement for the community, by the community.

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