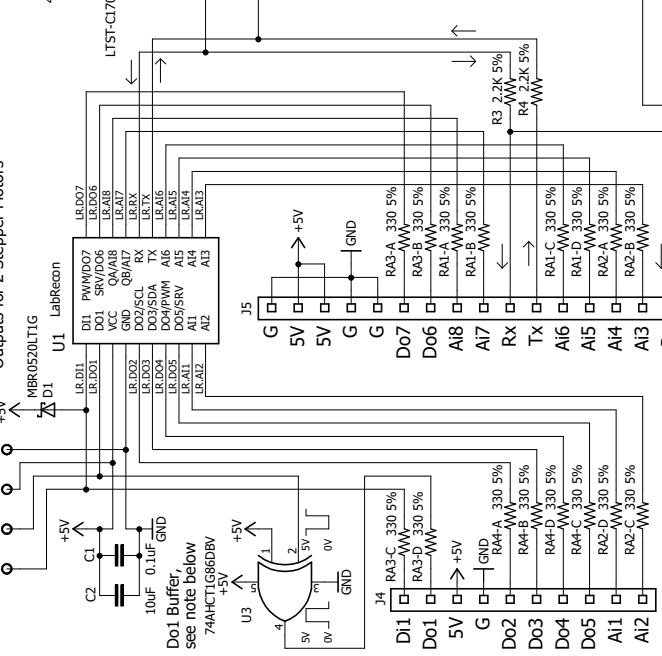


### LabRecon chip

This chip allows the LabRecon software to read inputs and write to outputs. The software allows various combinations of the below features:

- 8 Analog Inputs (10-bit, 12-bit apparent resolution)
- Inputs for 1 Quadrature Encoder
- 2 Count/Frequency inputs
- 4 PWM outputs
- 4 Servo outputs
- Outputs for 2 Stepper Motors

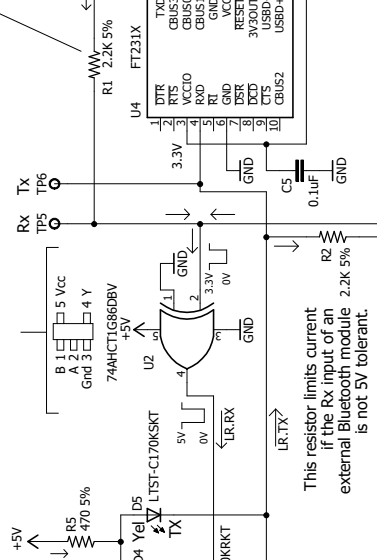


**Do1 Buffer**  
The Do1 pin of the LabRecon chip must not be pulled to Gnd during power-up and will remain at 5V after startup. This buffer disallows the Do1 connection to affect startup and inverts the Do1 pin logic to allow the Do1 connection to remain Low at startup. The XOR gate is acting as an inverter by tying an input to 5V. Note that a NAND gate could be used as well.

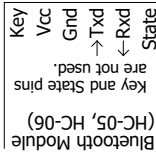
**Protection Resistors**  
These resistors protect the LabRecon chip circuitry by limiting current, if a voltage is below 0V or above 5V. The LabRecon chip, as well as most microcontrollers, have internal input protection diodes connected to Gnd and Vcc and these series resistors limit the current through these diodes. The resistance value provides a balance between protection and the ability of an output to drive circuitry. Note that some circuits employ external Schottky diodes to Gnd and Vcc at the chip pins for more robust protection.

### FT231X Tx Level Shifter

Allows 0 to 3.3V FTDI Tx signal to drive 0 to 5V LabRecon Rx input. An HCT/AHCT (1 for TTL, input) device is used because it has a V<sub>Min</sub> of 2V instead of 0.7 x V<sub>cc</sub> for other CMOS families. The XOR gate is only used as a non-inverting buffer by tying an input to ground. Note that an OR gate could be used as well. A level shifter is not needed for the FT231X Rx input because it is 5V tolerant. Note that the FT231X VCCIO pin can set the IO pin levels, however, its max value is 3.6V and thus cannot be set to 5V.



This resistor limits current if the Rx input of an external Bluetooth module is not 5V tolerant.



### Bluetooth Signal Sharing

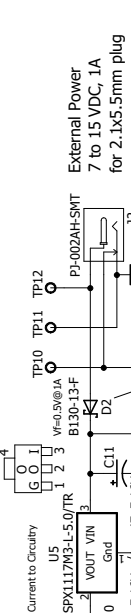
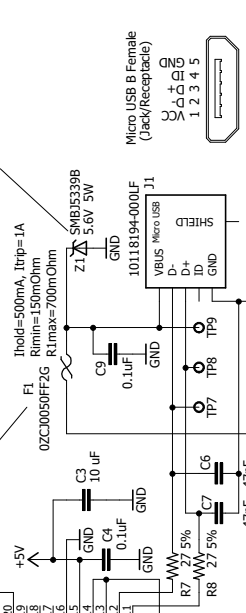
A resistor is in series with the FT231X Tx pin to allow the Tx signal from an optional Bluetooth module to override the pin of the FT231X. Note that the FT231X Tx output idles Hi (3.3V) when no data is being received from the USB port.

### Resettable Fuse

This fuse type, sometimes called a Polyfuse or PTC (Positive Temperature Coefficient) fuse, presents a large resistance increase when the current reaches a trip point. When the fault is removed its resistance returns to normal. Unfortunately, these devices do not have a sharp trip point, and thus an I<sub>hold</sub> of 0.5A, is specified for a current, wherein the fuse will not activate and an I<sub>trip</sub> for guaranteed activation.

### USB Overvoltage Protection

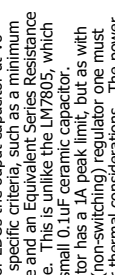
A 5.6V Zener diode clamps a high voltage that may occur if a high voltage is inadvertently connected to 5V. The Zener is thermally coupled to the polyfuse to quicken the fuse operation when the Zener heats up.



**External Power Jack**  
The board can be powered from the USB connection for up to 500mA. For higher currents and a more accurate 5V an external power adapter can be used. This will allow the voltage regulator to provide the 5V (+/-1%), which will also remain accurate over load current variations.

### Low Dropout (LDO) Voltage Regulator

A LDO regulator allows the use of lower input voltage only needing to be about 1V above 5V. This differs from the commonly used LM7805, which needs about 2V above 5V. Note that for LDOs the output capacitor at V<sub>o</sub> must meet specific criteria, such as a minimum capacitance and an Equivalent Series Resistance (ESR) range. This is unlike the LM7805, which can use a small 0.1uF ceramic capacitor. This regulator has a 1A peak limit, but as with any linear (non-switching) regulator one must account for thermal considerations. The power dissipation equals (V<sub>in</sub> - V<sub>o</sub>) x I and the part will get hot at higher currents, especially if the board is being powered by a voltage > 9V. An internal thermal shutdown feature will help protect the regulator. A large area of pcb copper is used to dissipate power. Powering the board with lower voltages such as 7V and/or adding a heat sink will allow continuous operation at high currents.



**Automatic External Power Switch**  
When no plug is in the DC Power jack, its switch pin is connected to Gnd, which connects the MOSFET gate(G) to ground, thus turning the MOSFET on to allow the USB 5V to power the board. When a plug is inserted the switch opens, which allows a resistor to pull the gate(G) to source(S), thus turning the MOSFET off to allow the voltage regulator to power the board.