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Introduction

The STM32-Nucleo Trace Board is an interconnect PCB that converts the low cost STM32 Nucleo-144 demonstrator board into a real-time ETM trace enabled evaluation board.

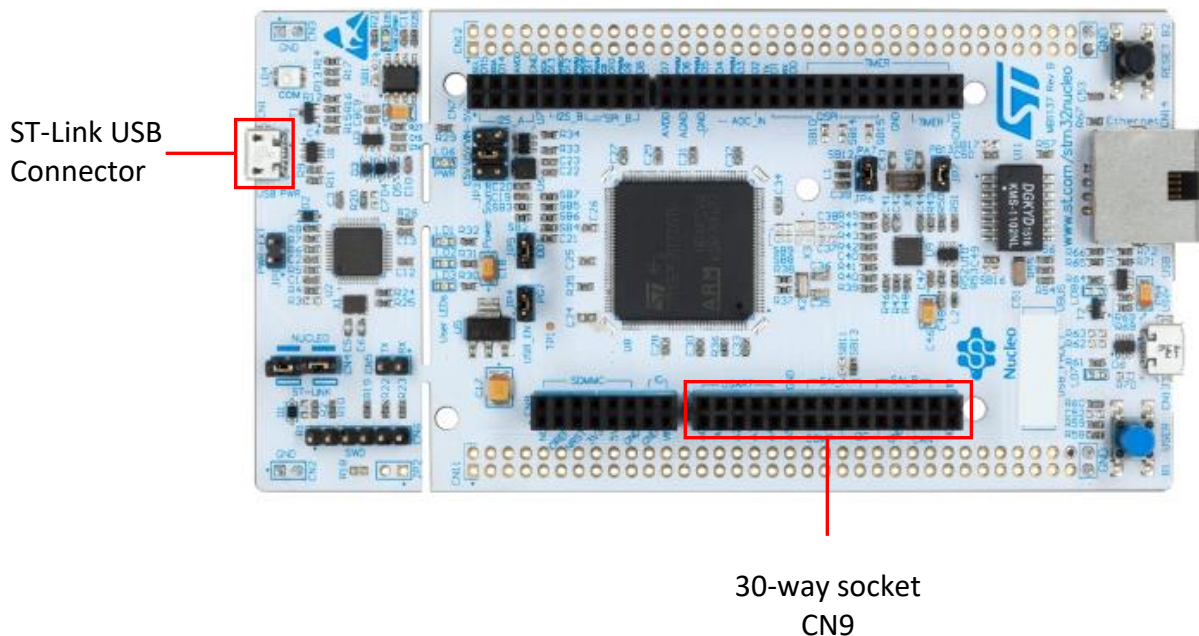
Real-time ETM Trace is generally seen as a tool for professional developers with deep pockets. Because of this the requisite 20-way trace header is omitted from all but the most expensive evaluation boards. These typically cost the same, or even more than, a QTrace probe. This can present a dilemma to users wanting to evaluate QTrace. With this converter PCB, trace is now available at up to 1/10th the price of some trace enabled evaluation boards.

The Nucleo-144 board features a TQFP-144 processor package, hence the '144' in the name. This allows multiple STM32 variants to be fitted in the same footprint. For further details of the Nucleo boards, take a look at the Nucleo-144 user manual from ST:

https://www.st.com/resource/en/user_manual/dm00244518-stm32-nucleo144-boards-mb1137-stmicroelectronics.pdf

The Trace Board picks up the trace clock / data signals (PE2 / PE3-PE6 respectively), and 0V, from the 30-way socket (CN9) on the Nucleo-144 board and routes them via low value series resistors to a 20-way 0.05" pitch trace header. Note that the SWD/JTAG signals are not brought out to the trace header as the Nucleo boards feature a built-in ST-Link debugger that is accessed via the micro-USB connector. The the micro-USB connector also provides power to the board.

The Nucleo-144 and the key connectors for trace are shown below:



CN9 Pin Assignments

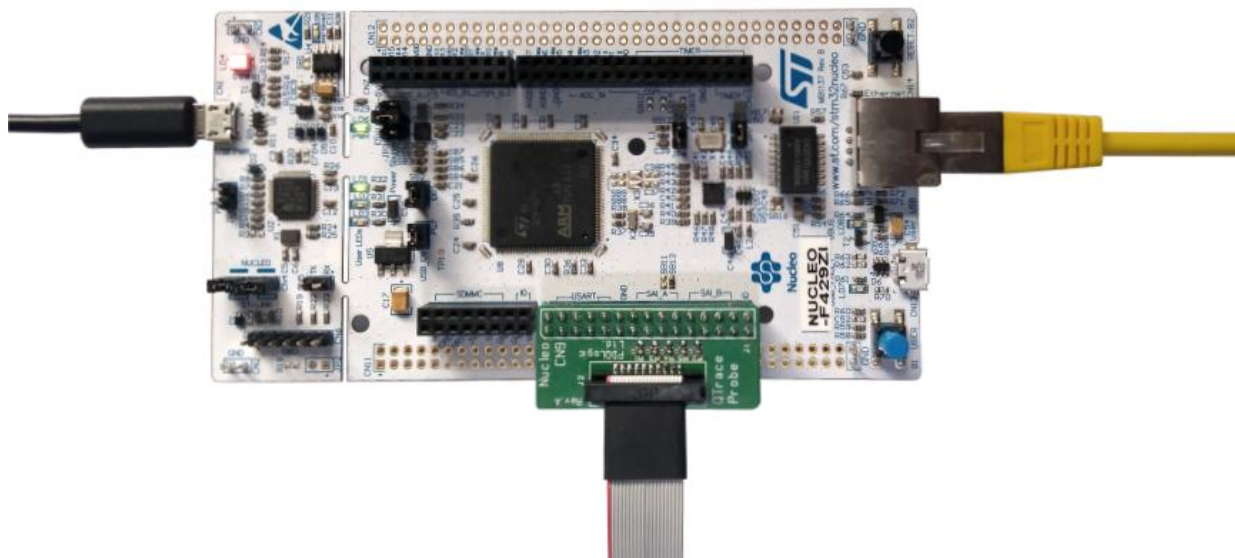
Pin	Port Signal	Pin	Port Signal
1	PA3	2	PD7
3	PC0	4	PD6
5	PC3	6	PD5
7	PF3/PD11/PC1*	8	PD4
9	PF5/PD12/PC4*	10	PD3
11	PF10/PD13/PC5*	12	0V
13	NC/PA1*	14	PE2 (Trace Clock)
15	PA7/NC*	16	PE4 (Trace D1)
17	PF2/PA8*	18	PE5 (Trace D2)
19	PF1/PA9*	20	PE6 (Trace D3)
21	PF0/PA10*	22	PE3 (Trace D0)
23	0V	24	PF8
25	PD0	26	PF7
27	PD1	28	PF9
29	PG0	30	PG1

These signals are routed to the 20-way trace header

* depends on processor variant. Refer to the Nucleo-144 user manual for details (link on page 2)

Trace enabled Nucleo-144

Below are the connections used in the QTrace Nucleo quick-start guide:



For further details of the QTrace quick-start guide, see:

<https://www.pdqlogic.com/documents/QTrace-Application-Note-005.pdf>