

Notes from the electronic underground

M. Simon



I was hanging out at the [FreePCB](#) [1] blog where commenter **gnuarm** suggested [DorkbotPDX](#) [2] for production of hobby boards. The production process is not hobby grade. You get a solder mask on both sides, silk screen (legend), and a 6/6 process. And that costs you \$5 a sq in for three two sided boards and \$10 a sq in for three 4 layer boards. So why do I call them hobby boards? Well they take a lot of small orders and panelize them so it can take a few weeks to get the area filled. Thus delivery time is to some extent indefinite. And they only want to service hobbyists. But the price is very right if you are on a budget. If you want to go further the full design rules are on the above **Dorkbot** page.

That brings me to the [DorkbotPDX homepage](#) [3] where they feature something called [The Bus Pirate](#) [4]. Which - after a bit of searching - I found was an I2C protocol sniffer. It turns out that the Dorkbot blog is all about supporting the [Dorkbot Lab](#) [5] in Portland, OR. I [wrote an article](#) [6] a while back on how places for **Makers** seem to be sprouting up around the country. This looks like another one. Judging by the blog it seems to be a pretty good one.

M. Simon's e-mail can be found on the sidebar at [Space-Time Productions](#) [7].

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http://www.ecnmag.com/blogs/2012/03/notes-electronic-underground?qt-video_of_the_day=0

Links:

[1] http://www.freepcb.com/cgi-bin/gforum.cgi?post=9034;sb=post_latest_reply;so=ASC;forum_view=forum_view_collapsed;;page=unread#unread

[2] http://dorkbotpdx.org/wiki/pcb_orde

[3] <http://dorkbotpdx.org/>

[4] http://dorkbotpdx.org/blog/sircastor/dorkbotpdx_bus_pirate_group_order

[5] <http://dorkbotpdx.org/node/866>

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[6] <http://www.ecnmag.com/Blogs/2011/12/Good-Politics/>

[7] <http://spacetimepro.blogspot.com/>