

# NanoVNA User Guide

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# 1. Introduction

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This document is an unofficial user guide for NanoVNA. The URL is <https://cho45.github.io/NanoVNA-manual/>.

It is managed in the [github repository](#) .

Please send a Pull-request if there is a correction, such as when there is a conflict with the latest firmware.

It is also available in PDF format on the GitHub Releases page.

- <https://github.com/cho45/NanoVNA-manual/releases>

## What is NanoVNA

---

There are several types of NanoVNA hardware, and this document covers the following hardware:

- ttrfttech version (original) [ttrfttech / NanoVNA](#)
- hugen79 [versionhugen79 / NanoVNA-H](#)

These hardware components are almost the same on the circuit, and common firmware can be used.

## What you need to work

---

The following are required at a minimum.

- NanoVNA body
- SMA LOAD 50Ω
- SMA SHORT
- SMA OPEN
- SMA Female to Female Through Connector
- SMA Male to Male cable x 2

## NanoVNA basics

---

VNA (Vector Network Analyzer) measures the frequency characteristics of reflected power and passing power of a high frequency network (RF Network).

NanoVNA measures the following elements:

- Input voltage I / Q signal
- Reflected voltage I / Q signal
- Pass voltage I / Q signal

From here we calculate:

- Reflection coefficients S11
- Transmission coefficient S21

Some of the following items that can be calculated from these can be displayed:

- Reflection loss
- Passing loss
- Complex impedance
  - resistance
  - reactance
- SWR

Newer firmware versions may add additional measurement functions.

## NanoVNA oscillation frequency

NanoVNA measures the reflection coefficient and transmission coefficient for 101 points in the frequency band to be measured.

The local frequency of NanoVNA is 50kHz to 300MHz. For higher frequencies, use harmonic mode. The fundamental wave is not attenuated even in harmonic mode. The usage modes for each frequency are as follows.

- Up to 300 MHz: fundamental wave
- 300MHz to 900MHz: 3rd harmonic
- 900MHz to 1500MHz: 5th harmonic

Note that there is always a fundamental wave input, especially when checking the amplifier gain.

In either case, the input is converted to an intermediate frequency of 5kHz. The signal is converted from analog to digital at 48kHz sampling. Digital data is signal processed by the MCU.

## 2. To do first

---

Before you can use it, you must first calibrate it. First, calibrate as follows.

- Make sure START is 50kHz
- Make sure STOP is 900MHz
- [Calibrate](#) according to the [calibration method](#)

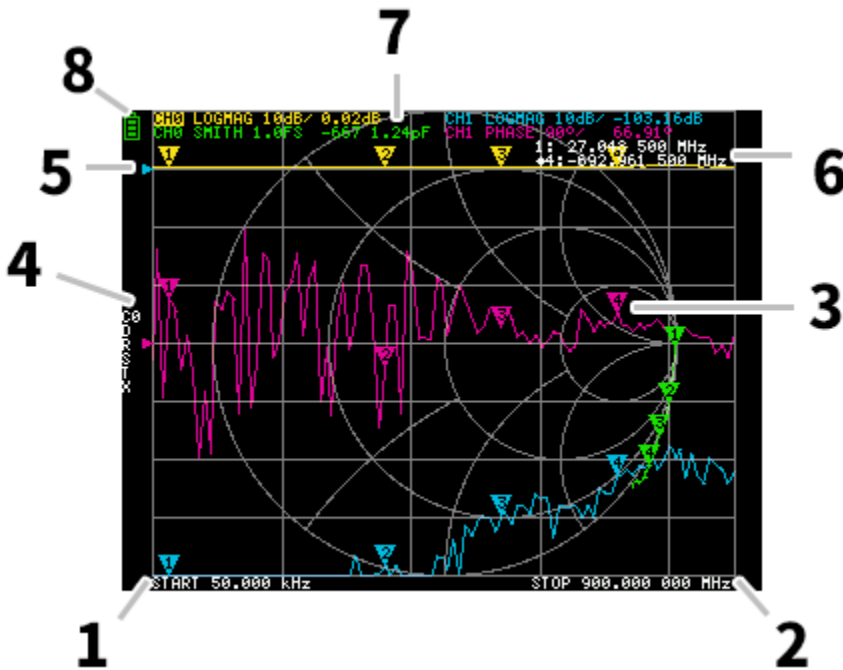
# 3. Input method

NanoVNA has the following inputs.

- Touch panel long tap
- Lever switch
  - L / L long press
  - R / R long press
  - Push / Push long
- Power slide switch

# 4. How to read the screen

## Main screen



**1. START frequency**

**2. STOP frequency**

Each frequency when start / stop is specified is displayed.

### 3. Marker

The marker position for each trace is displayed. The selected marker can be moved in the following ways.

- Drag a marker on the touch panel
- Press and hold LR on the lever switch

## 4. Calibration status

Displays the data number of the calibration being read and the error correction applied.

- **c0 c1 c2 c3 c4** : Each indicates that the corresponding calibration data is loaded.
- **c0 c1 c2 c3 c4** : Each indicates that the corresponding number of calibration data is loaded, but the frequency range has been changed after loading, indicating that the error correction is using complement.
- **D** : Indicates that directivity error correction is applied
- **R** : reflection tracking Indicates that error correction is applied
- **S** : source match Indicates that error correction is applied
- **T** : transmission tracking Indicates that error correction is applied
- **X** : indicates that isolation (crosstalk) error correction is applied

## 5. Reference position

Indicates the reference position of the corresponding trace. You can change the position with:

**DISPLAY →SCALE →REFERENCE POSITION .**

## 6. Marker status

The active marker that is selected and one marker that was previously active are displayed.

## 7. Trace status

The status of each trace format and the value corresponding to the active marker are displayed.

For example, if the display is **CH0 LOGMAG 10dB/ 0.02dB** , read as follows.

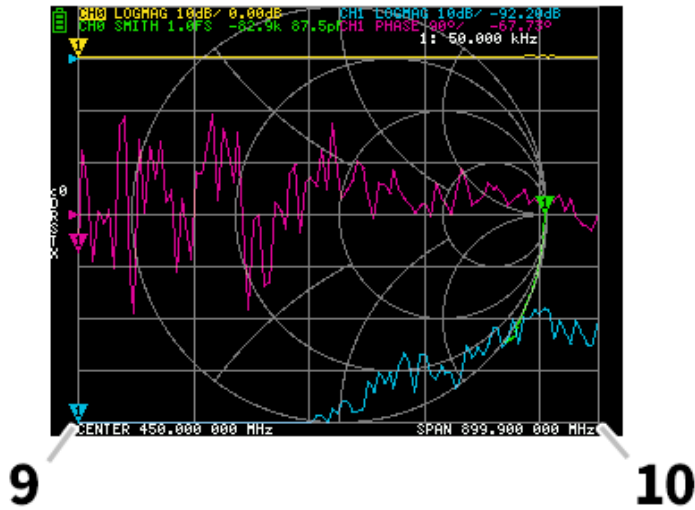
- Channel CH0 (reflection)
- Format **LOGMAG**
- Scale is 10dB
- Current value is 0.02dB

For active traces, the channel display is reversed.

## 8. Battery status

If a battery is installed and a **1N4148** surface mount diode is mounted on the PCB at location **D2**, an icon is displayed according to the battery voltage. If the diode is missing, the icon will show an empty battery.

## Main screen (continued)

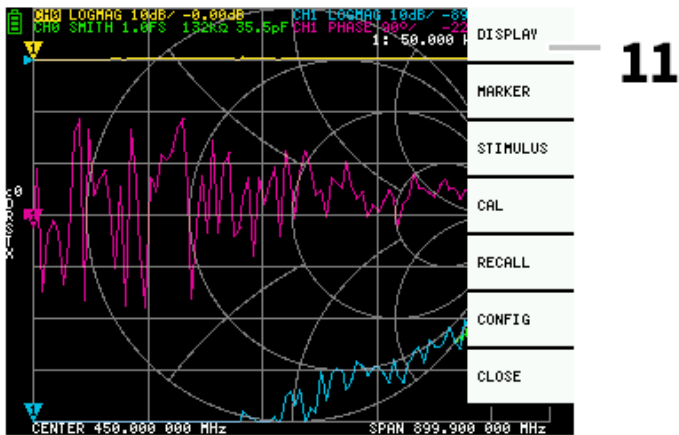


9. CENTER frequency

10. Span

Each frequency when the center frequency and span are specified is displayed.

## Menu screen

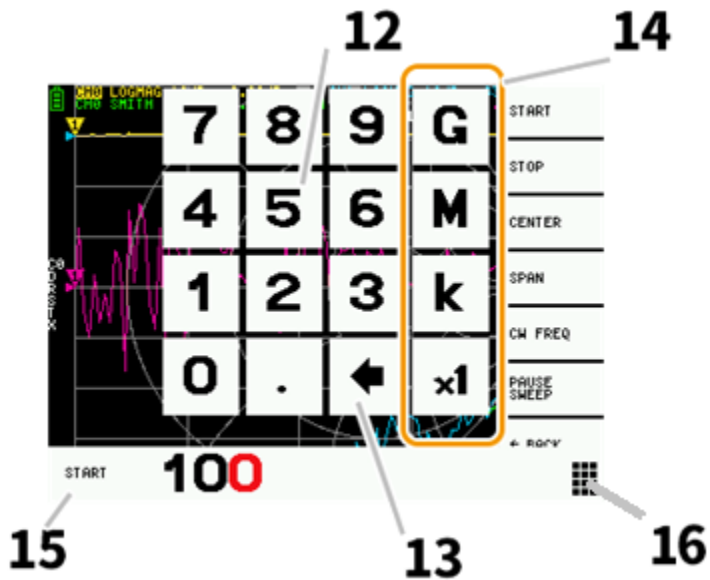


## 11. Menu List

The menu can be displayed by the following operations.

- When a location other than a marker on the touch panel is tapped
- Push the lever switch

# Keypad screen



## 12. Numeric keys

Tap a number to enter one character.

## 13. Back key

Delete one character. If no character is entered, the entry is canceled and the previous state is restored.

## 14. Unit key

Multiplies the current input by the appropriate unit and terminates input immediately. In case of  $\times 1$ , the entered value is set as it is.

## 15. Input field

The name of the item to be entered and the entered number are displayed.

## 16. Keypad icon

The large numeric entry keypad will appear on-screen any time the small keypad icon is pressed

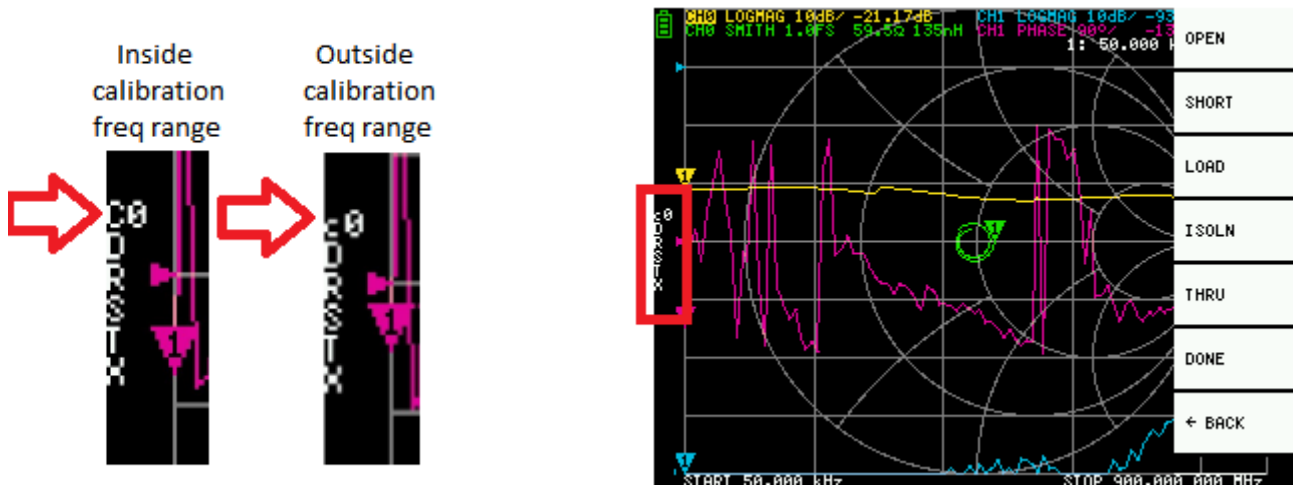


# 5. Start measurement

## Basic measurement sequence

1. Set the frequency range to be measured
2. Perform calibration
3. Connect the Device Under Test (DUT) and measure

# 6. Calibration method



Calibration should basically be performed whenever the frequency range to be measured is changed. If the error has been corrected correctly, the calibration status display on the screen will be **Cn DRSTX** Where: **n** is the calibration dataset number being loaded.

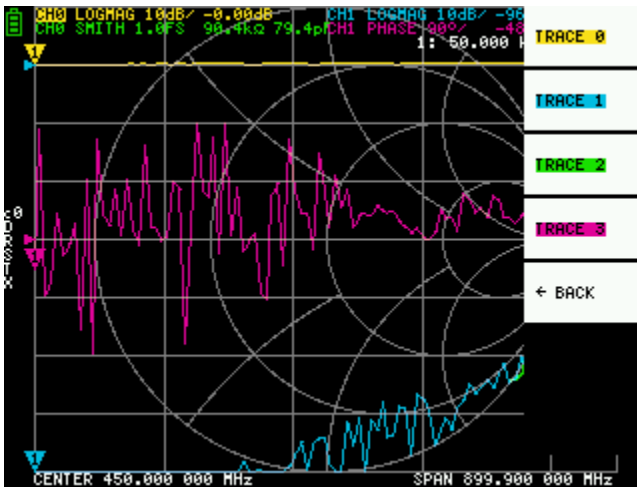
However, NanoVNA can complement the existing calibration information and display corrections to some extent. This will happen if the frequency range is changed after loading the calibration data. At this time, the calibration status display on the screen is **cn DRSTX** Where: **n** is the calibration dataset number being loaded. See image above.

1. Reset current calibration state. Select **CAL MENU** → **RESET** and then → **CALIBRATE**
2. Connect OPEN standard to CH0 port and execute → **OPEN .**
3. Connect SHORT standard to CH0 port and execute → **SHORT .**
4. Connect the LOAD standard to the CH0 port and execute → **LOAD .**
5. Connect the LOAD standard to CH0 and CH1 ports and execute → **ISOLN .**  
If there is only one load, the CH0 port can be left unconnected.
6. Connect a cable between the CH0 and CH1 ports, and execute → **THRU .**
7. Finish calibration and calculate error correction information → **DONE**
8. Specify the dataset number (0 to 4) and save. → **SAVE 0** (**0** is the power-on default)

\* Each calibration step should be completed after the display is sufficiently stable.

# 7. Function

## Trace display



Up to four traces can be displayed, one of which is the active trace.

Traces can display only what is needed. To switch the display, select **DISPLAY →TRACE →TRACE n** . The following methods can be used to switch the active trace.

- Tap the trace marker you want to activate
- Select **DISPLAY →TRACE →TRACE n** to display. (If already displayed, it will be temporarily hidden)

## Trace format

Each trace can have its own format. To change the format of the active trace, select the format you want to change to **DISPLAY →FORMAT** .

The display of each format is as follows.

- **LOGMAG** : Logarithm of absolute value of measured value
- **PHASE** : Phase in the range of  $-180^\circ$  to  $+180^\circ$
- **DELAY** : Delay
- **SMITH** : Smith Chart
- **SWR** : Standing Wave Ratio
- **POLAR** : Polar coordinate format
- **LINEAR** : Absolute value of the measured value
- **REAL** : Real number of measured value
- **IMAG** : Imaginary number of measured value
- **RESISTANCE** : Resistance component of the measured impedance
- **REACTANCE** : The reactance component of the measured impedance

## Trace channel

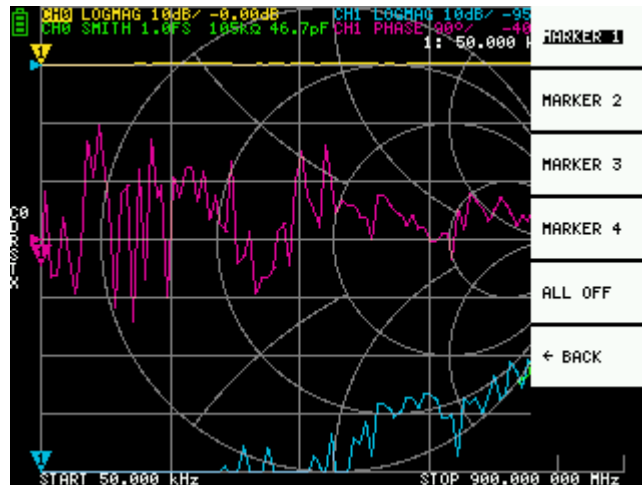
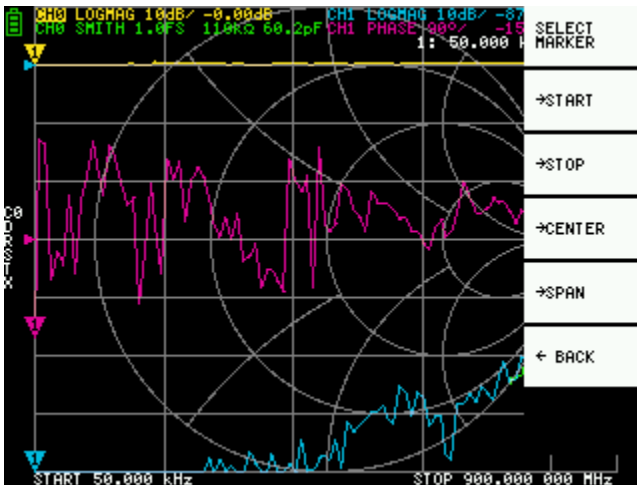
NanoVNA has two ports, CH0 and CH1 . The following S parameters can be measured at each port.

- CH0 S11 (reflection loss)
- CH1 S21 (insertion loss)

To change the trace channel, select

DISPLAY →CHANNEL →CH0 REFLECT or DISPLAY →CHANNEL →CH1 THROUGH .

## Markers



Up to 4 markers can be displayed.

Markers are displayed from MARKER →SELECT MARKER →MARKER n .

When you display a marker, the active marker is set to the displayed marker 'n'.

## Time domain operation

NanoVNA can simulate time domain measurements by signal processing frequency domain data.

Select DISPLAY →TRANSFORM →TRANSFORM ON to convert measurement data to the time domain. TRANSFORM ON is enabled, the measurement data is immediately converted to the time domain and displayed.

The relationship between the time domain and the frequency domain is as follows.

- Increasing the maximum frequency increases the time resolution
- The shorter the measurement frequency interval (ie, the lower the maximum frequency), the longer the maximum time length

For this reason, the maximum time length and time resolution are in a trade-off relationship. In other words, the *time length is the distance*.

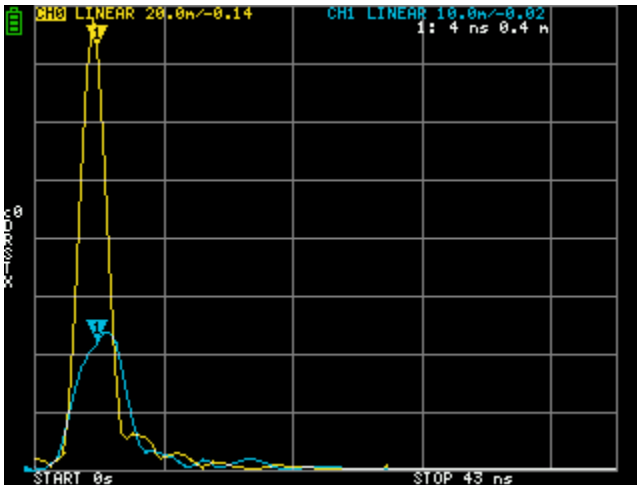
- If you want to increase the maximum measurement distance, you need to lower the maximum frequency.
- If you want to specify the distance accurately, you need to increase the maximum frequency.

## Time domain bandpass

In bandpass mode, you can simulate the DUT response to an impulse signal.

The trace format can be set to **LINEAR**, **LOGMAG** or **SWR** .

The following is an example of the impulse response of a bandpass filter.



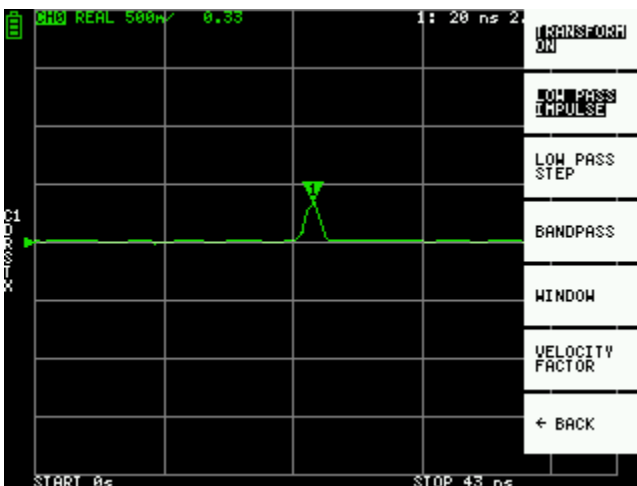
## Time domain low pass impulse

In low-pass mode, you can simulate TDR. In low-pass mode, the start frequency must be set to 50 kHz, and the stop frequency must be set according to the distance to be measured.

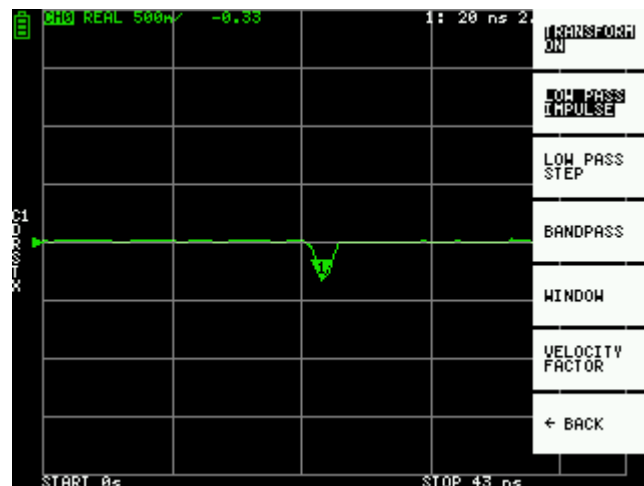
The trace format can be set to **REAL** .

Examples of Impulse response in open state and impulse response in short state are shown below.

Open:



Short:



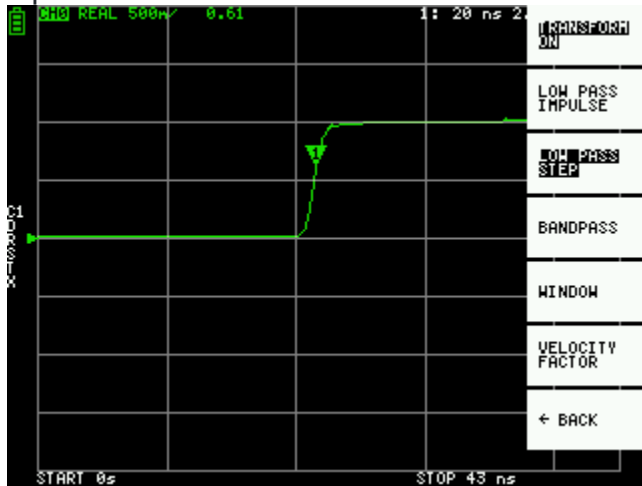
## Time domain low pass step

In low-pass mode, you can simulate TDR. In low-pass mode, the start frequency must be set to 50 kHz, and the stop frequency must be set according to the distance to be measured.

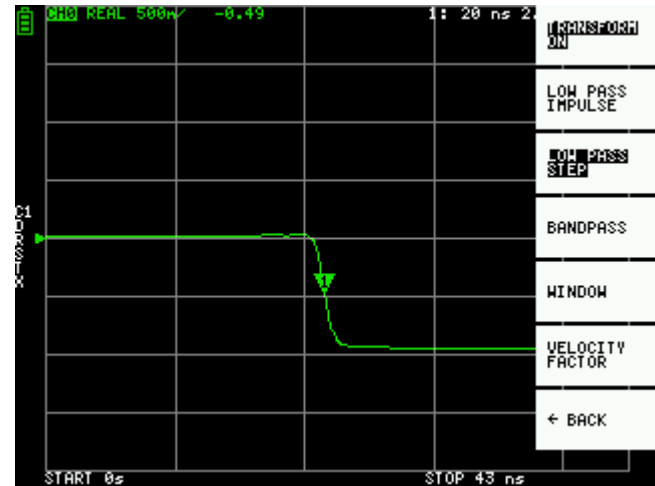
The trace format can be set to **REAL** .

Examples of Step response in open state and Step response in short state are shown below.

Open:

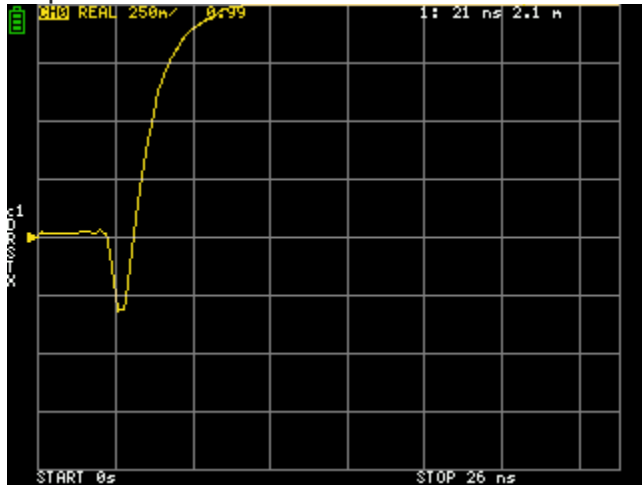


Short:

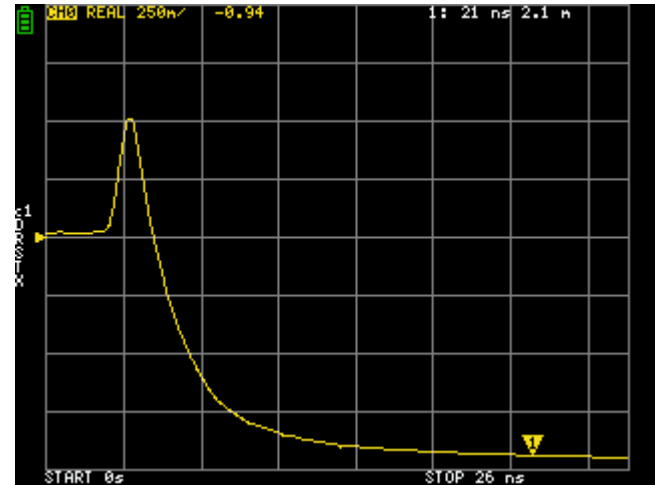


### Step response examples

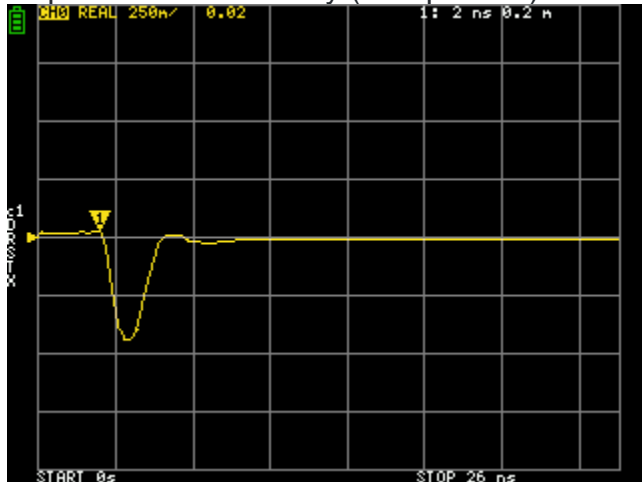
Capacitive short:



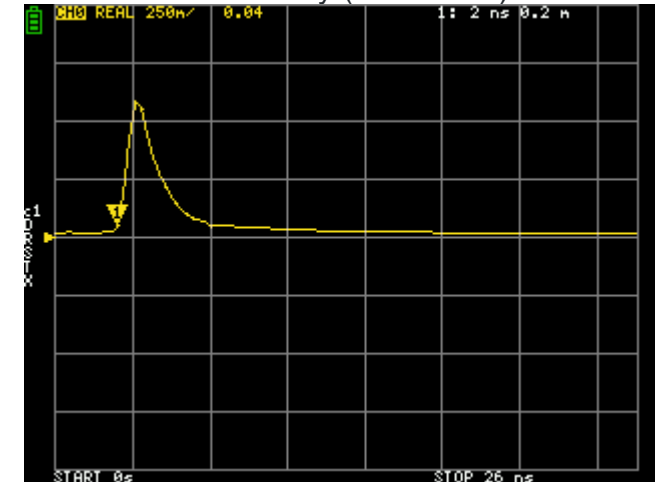
Inductive short:



Capacitive discontinuity (C in parallel):



Inductive discontinuity (L in series):



## Time domain window

The range that can be measured is a finite number, and there is a minimum frequency and a maximum frequency. A window can be used to smooth out this discontinuous measurement data and reduce ringing.

There are three levels of windows.

- MINIMUM (no window, ie same as rectangular window)
- NORMAL (equivalent to Kaiser window  $\beta = 6$ )
- MAXIMUM (equivalent to Kaiser window  $\beta = 13$ )

MINIMUM provides the highest resolution and MAXIMUM provides the highest dynamic range. NORMAL is in the middle.

## Setting the wavelength (Velocity) factor in the time domain

The transmission speed of electromagnetic waves in the cable varies depending on the material. The ratio to the transmission speed of electromagnetic waves in vacuum is called the wavelength factor (Velocity Factor, Velocity of propagation). This is always stated in the cable specifications.

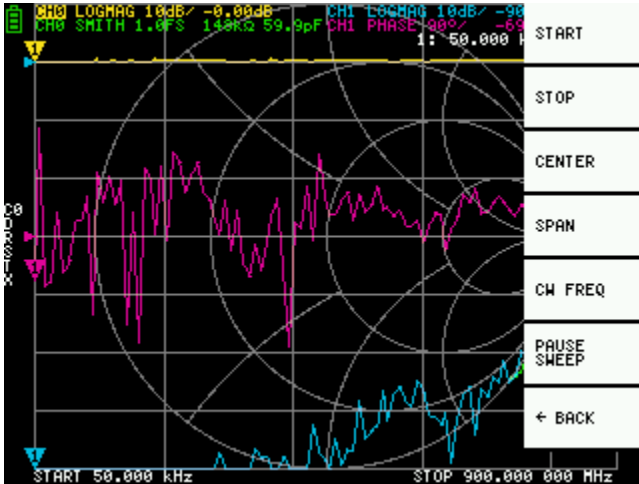
In the time domain, the displayed time can be converted into distance. The wavelength shortening ratio used for distance display can be set with **DISPLAY → TRANSFORM → VELOCITY FACTOR** . For example, if you measure the TDR of a cable with a wavelength reduction rate of 67%, specify **67** for the **VELOCITY FACTOR** .

## Set frequency from marker

You can set the frequency range from the marker as follows:

- **MARKER → START**      Sets the active marker frequency to the start frequency.
- **MARKER → STOP**      Sets the active marker frequency to the stop frequency.
- **MARKER → CENTER**      Sets the frequency of the active marker to the center frequency.  
The span is adjusted to maintain the current range as much as possible.
- **MARKER → SPAN**      Sets the two displayed markers including the active marker to the span.  
If only one marker is displayed, nothing happens.

# Setting the measurement range



There are three types of measurement range settings.

- Setting the start frequency and stop frequency
- Setting the center frequency and span
- Zero span

## Setting the start frequency and stop frequency

Select and set **STIMULUS →START** and **STIMULUS →STOP** , respectively.

## Setting the center frequency and span

Select and set **STIMULUS →CENTER** and **STIMULUS →SPAN** respectively.

## Zero span

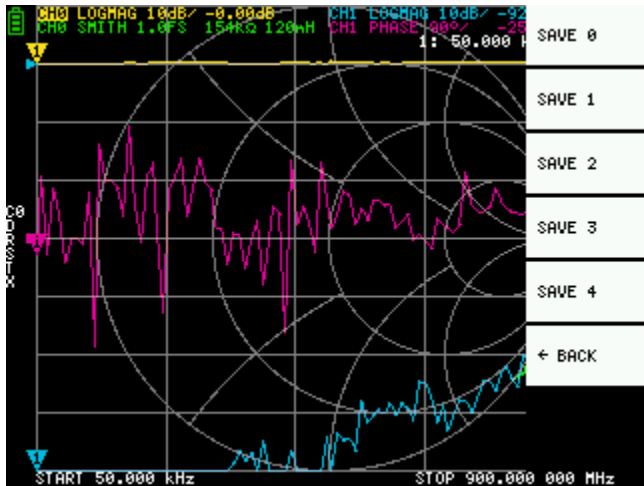
Zero span is a mode in which one frequency is sent continuously without frequency sweep.

Select and set **STIMULUS →CW FREQ** .

## Temporarily stop measurement

**STIMULUS →PAUSE SWEEP** is selected, measurement is temporarily stopped.

# Recall calibration and settings



Up to 5 calibration datasets can be saved. NanoVNA loads number 0 data immediately after startup.

Calibration data is data that includes the following information:

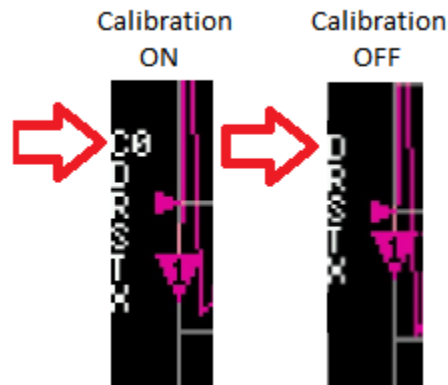
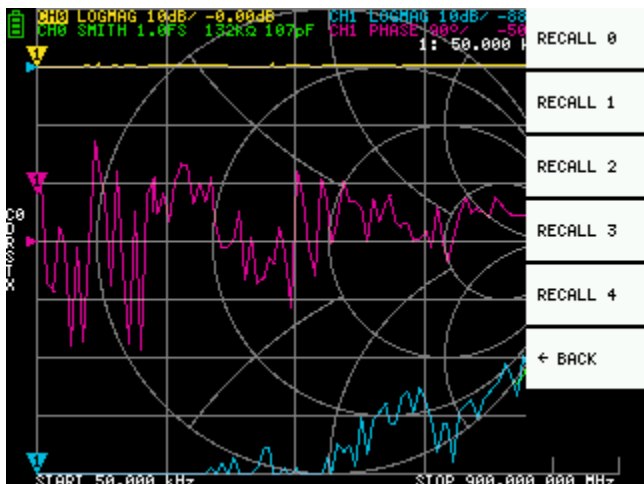
- Frequency setting range
- Error correction at each measurement point
- Trace setting status
- Marker setting status
- Domain mode settings
- Setting the wavelength shortening rate
- electrical delay

You can save the current settings by selecting CAL MENU →SAVE →SAVE n .

Current calibration data can be reset by selecting CAL MENU →RESET .

**NOTE:** If you want to recalibrate, you need to reset.

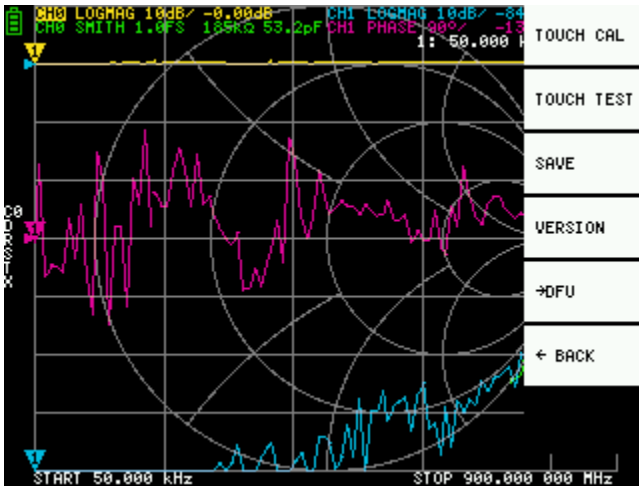
CAL MENU →CORRECTION indicates whether error correction is currently being performed. You can select this to temporarily stop error correction. (Inverted **button** text=ON, Normal **button** text=OFF)



RECALL the saved settings by selecting CAL MENU →RECALL →RECALL n



# Device settings



The **CONFIG** menu allows you to make general settings for the device.

## Touch panel calibration and testing



**CONFIG** → **TOUCH CAL** is selected, the touch panel can be calibrated. If there is a large difference between the actual tap position and the recognized tap position, this can be solved by executing this. After performing **TOUCH CAL** , perform **TOUCH TEST** to confirm that the settings are correct.

**NOTE:** Be sure to save the settings with **SAVE** .



You can test the touch panel by selecting **CONFIG → TOUCH TEST**. A line is drawn while dragging the stylus along the touch panel. When released from the touch panel, it returns to its original state.

## Saving device settings

Select **CONFIG →SAVE** to save general instrument settings. General device settings are data that includes the following information:

- Touch panel calibration information
- Grid color
- Trace color
- Calibration data number loaded by default

There is currently no way to set other than touch panel calibration information.

## Display version

```
NanoVNA
2016-2019 Copyright @edy555
Licensed under GPL. See: https://github.com/ttrftech/NanoVNA
Version: 0.1.1-10-g60e8021
Build Time: Sep 20 2019 - 01:49:42

Kernel: 4.9.0
Compiler: GCC 8.2.1 20181213 (release) [gcc-8-branch revision 2]
Architecture: ARMv6-M Core Variant: Cortex-M0
Port Info: Preemption through NMI
Platform: STM32F072xB Entry Level Medium Density devices
```

Select **CONFIG →VERSION** to display device version information.

## Firmware update

```
DFU: Device Firmware Update Mode
To exit DFU mode, please reset device yourself.
```

**CONFIG →DFU RESET** and **ENTER DFU mode** . Select **RESET AND ENTER DFU** to reset the device and enter DFU (Device Firmware Update) mode. In this mode, firmware can be updated via USB.

# 8. How to update the firmware

## How to obtain the firmware

---

### ttrfttech version firmware

Original firmware. It is versioned and frequently developed.

- [GitHub releases](#)
- [CircleCI build](#)

GitHub releases has some stable release firmware.

CircleCI has all the firmware with every commit. Use this if you want to try the latest features or check for problems.

### hugen79 version firmware

- [Google Drive](#)

Google Drive has the latest firmware.

## Build yourself

You can easily clone the github repository and build it yourself.

## How to write firmware

---

There are various ways to write, but here we will explain using [dfu-util](#) . dfu-util is a cross-platform tool, and binaries are also provided on Windows.

### Writing with dfu-util (Ubuntu)

There is dfu-util in the standard package repository.

```
sudo apt-get install dfu-util dfu-util --version
```

Start the device in DFU mode. Use one of the following methods to enter DFU mode.

- Turn on the power while jumpering the BOOT0 pin on the PCB. (Remove the jumper after turning on the power.) The screen turns white, but it is normal.
- **CONFIG →DFU RESET AND ENTER DFU Select RESET AND ENTER DFU**

Run the following command: build / ch.bin describes the path to the downloaded firmware file .bin.

```
dfu-util -d 0483:df11 -a 0 -s 0x08000000:leave -D build/ch.bin
```

## Writing with dfu-util (macOS)

It is recommended to install using [homebrew](#).

Install the brew command.

```
ruby -e "$(curl -fsSL https://raw.githubusercontent.com/Homebrew/install/master/install)"
```

Install dfu-util command.

```
brew install dfu-util
```

Confirm that the dfu-util command can be started normally.

```
dfu-util --version
```

Start the device in DFU mode. Use one of the following methods to enter DFU mode.

- Turn on the power while jumpering the BOOT0 pin on the PCB. (Remove the jumper after turning on the power.) The screen turns white, but it is normal.
- **CONFIG →DFU RESET AND ENTER DFU** Select **RESET AND ENTER DFU**

Run the following command: build / ch.bin describes the path to the downloaded firmware file .bin.

```
dfu-util -d 0483:df11 -a 0 -s 0x08000000:leave -D build/ch.bin
```

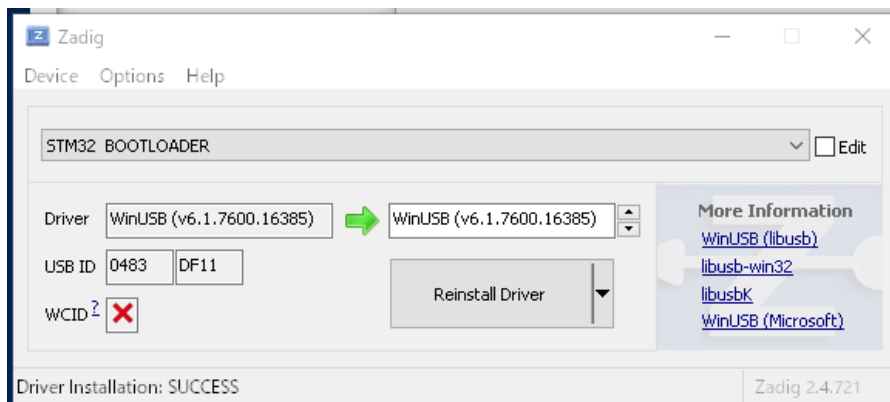
## Writing with dfu-util (Windows 10)

For Windows, the device driver is automatically installed when NanoVNA in DFU mode is connected, but dfu-util cannot be used with this device driver. Here, [Zadig](#) is used to replace the driver.

Start the device in DFU mode. Use one of the following methods to enter DFU mode.

- Turn on the power while jumpering the BOOT0 pin on the PCB. (Remove the jumper after turning on the power.) The screen turns white, but it is normal.
- **CONFIG →DFU RESET AND ENTER DFU** Select **RESET AND ENTER DFU**

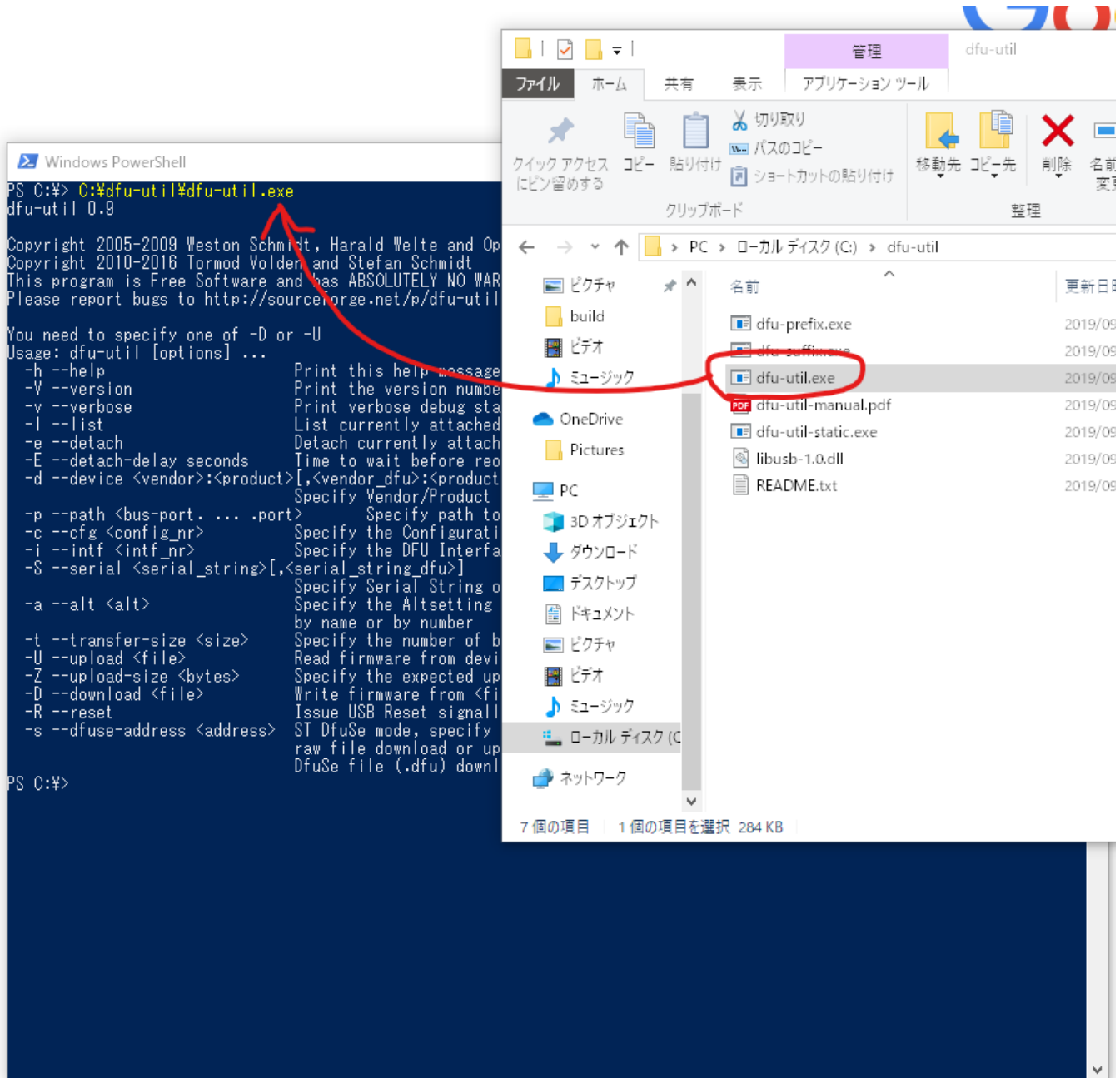
Start Zadig with NanoVNA in DFU mode connected and use WinUSB as a driver for STM32 BOOTLOADER as follows.



\* If you want to restore the driver, find the corresponding device from “Universal Serial Bus Controller” in “Device Manager” and execute “Uninstall Device”. The driver is automatically installed when the USB connector is disconnected and reinserted.

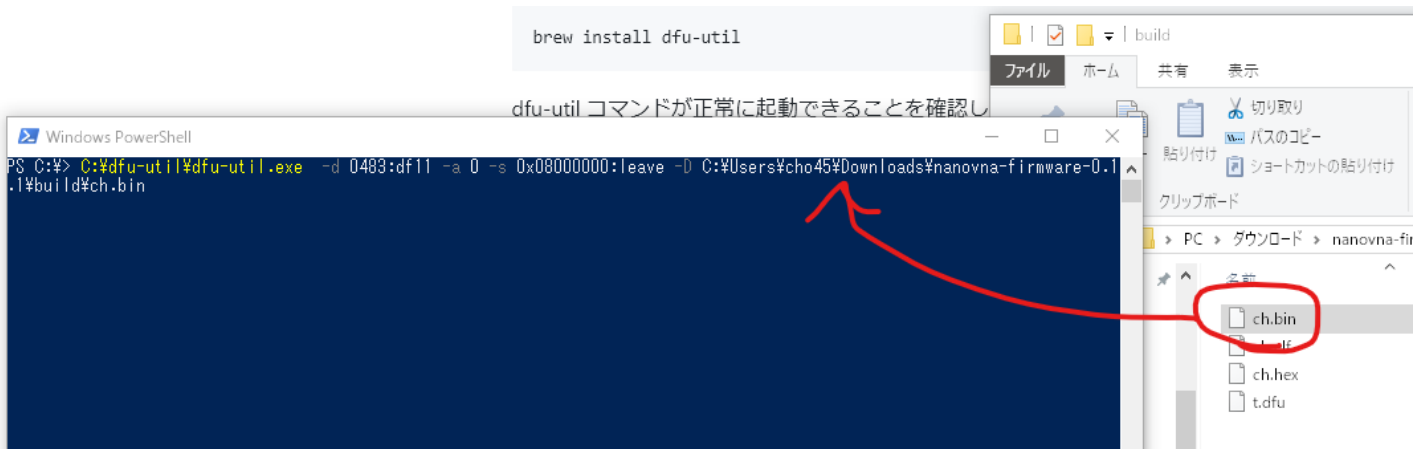
Next, place dfu-util. Download [dfu-util-0.9-win64.zip](#) from releases and [extract](#) it. Here, as an example, it is assumed that it is expanded to C: \ dfu-util (it does not matter anywhere).

Right-click on the Start menu and select Windows PowerShell. A shell screen opens.



When dfu-util.exe is dragged and dropped from Windows Explorer to PowerShell, the path is automatically inserted. Dfu-util version can be displayed by starting with --version as follows.

```
C:\dfu-util\dfu-util.exe --version
```



Similarly, the firmware file can also be entered by dragging and dropping it from Explorer to PowerShell.

Run the following command: build / ch.bin describes the path to the downloaded firmware file .bin.

```
C:\dfu-util\dfu-util.exe -d 0483:df11 -a 0 -s 0x08000000:leave -D build\ch.bin
```

## How to write firmware (Windows GUI)

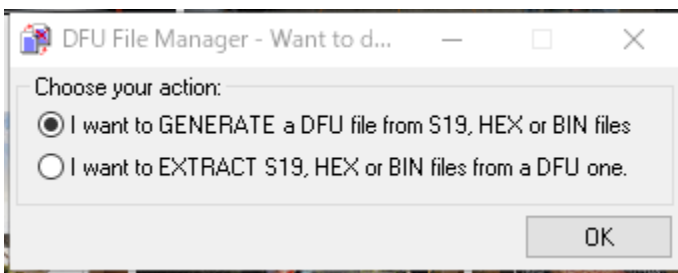
For those who are unfamiliar with CUI, a little troublesome procedure is required, but the method of writing using the DfuSE Demo tool provided by ST is also introduced for reference.

Download [STSW-STM32080 from the ST site](#) .

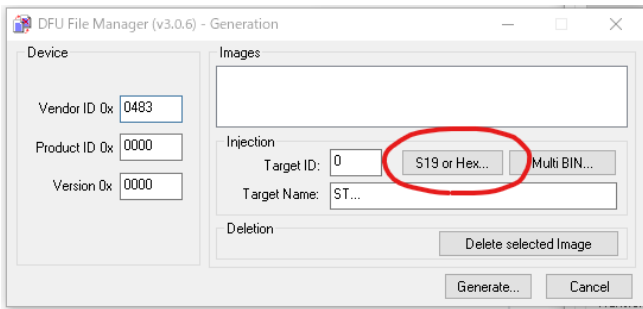
- DFU File Manager: a tool to create .dfu files from .bin or .hex
- DfuSe Demo: A tool for writing .dfu files to devices is included.

### Convert file format with DFU File Manager.

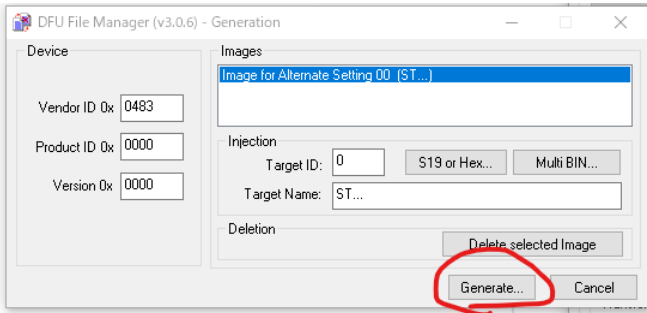
First, start DFU File Manager.



Select: I want to GENERATE a DFU file from S19, HEX or BIN files .



Click the **S19** or **Hex...** button. ch.hex firmware ch.hex file such as ch.hex .



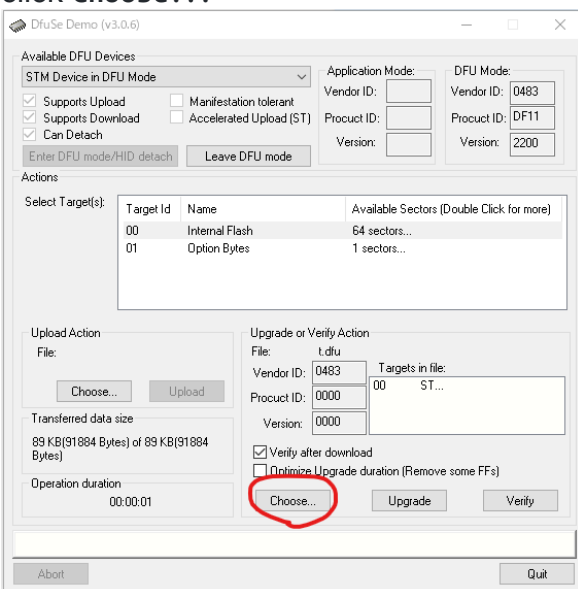
Click the **Generate...** button and create a .dfu file with a suitable name.

## Write firmware with DfuSe Demo

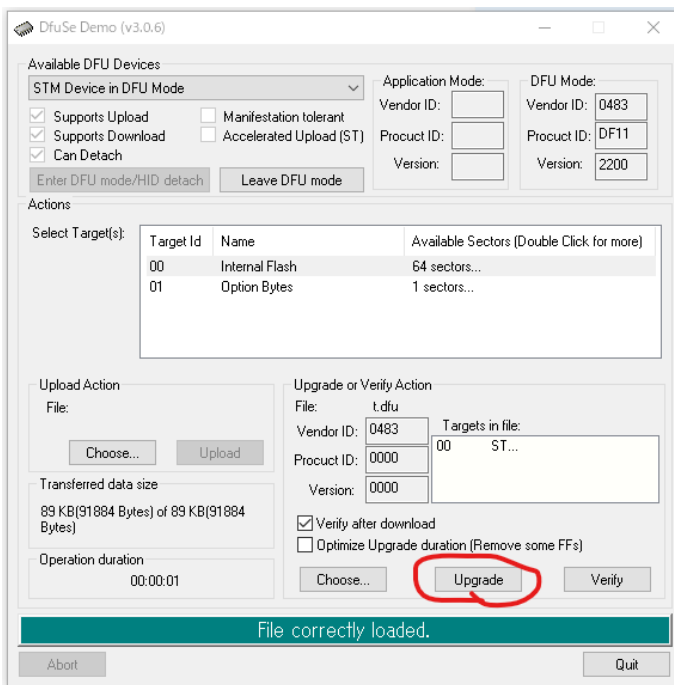
First start the device in DFU mode. Use one of the following methods to enter DFU mode.

- Turn on the power while jumpering the BOOT0 pin on the PCB. (Remove the jumper after turning on the power.) The screen turns white, but it is normal.
- **CONFIG →DFU RESET AND ENTER DFU Select RESET AND ENTER DFU**

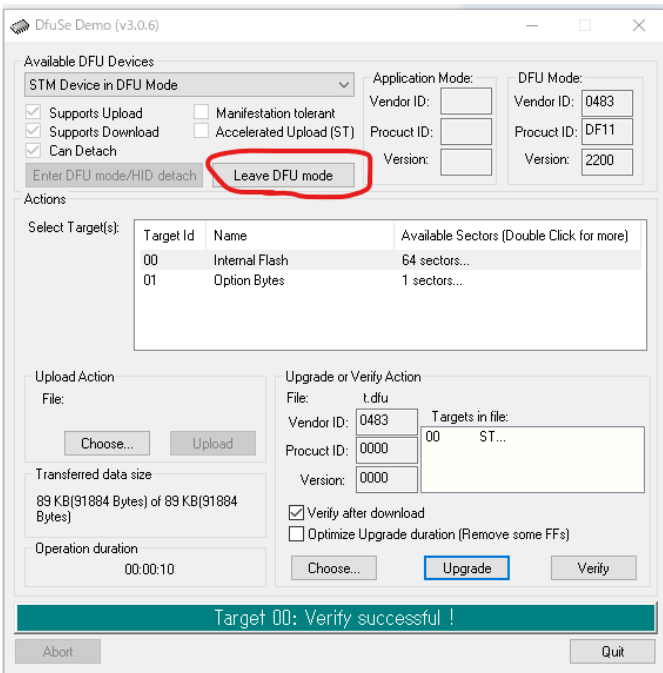
Start DfuSe Demo. Make sure that Available DFU Devices has *STM Device in DFU Mode* and click **Choose...**



Select the .dfu file you saved earlier.



Click the Upgrade button.



This screen will be displayed when writing is complete. Click the Leave DFU mode button to exit DFU mode. The device will reset and boot with the new firmware.



# 9. Firmware development guide

---

NanoVNA firmware development needs are as follows.

- Git
- gcc-arm-none-eabi
- make

If you already have these, you can build the firmware with `make` .

```
git clone git@github.com:ttrftech/NanoVNA.git cd NanoVNA git submodule update --init --recursive make
```

## Build with Docker

---

Use docker to build without bothering you. docker is a free, cross-platform container utility. It can be used to quickly reproduce a specific environment (in this case, the build environment).

[Just](#) install [docker](#) and run the following command:

```
docker run -it --rm -v $(PWD):/work edy555/arm-embedded:8.2 make
```

## On-chip debugging with Visual Studio Code

---

Visual Studio Code (hereinafter VSCode) is a multi-platform code editor provided free of charge by Microsoft. By installing [Cortex-Debug](#) Extension, on-chip debugging can be done with GUI.

The platform-dependent part is omitted, but in addition to the above, the following are required.

- openocd
- VSCode
- Cortex-Debug

Cortex-Debug is searched from Extensions of VSCode and installed.

### tasks.json

First, define a “task” to make the entire NanoVNA on VSCode.

```
{
  "tasks" : [
    {
      "type" : "shell" ,
      "label" : "build" ,
      "command" : "make" ,
      "args" : [
      ],
      "options" : {
        "cwd" : "${workspaceRoot}"
      }
    }
  ]
}
```

```
    ],  
    "version" : "2.0.0"  
  }  
}
```

Now you can make it as a task on VSCode.

## launch.json

Next, define how to start during Debug. Set as described in Cortex-Debug.

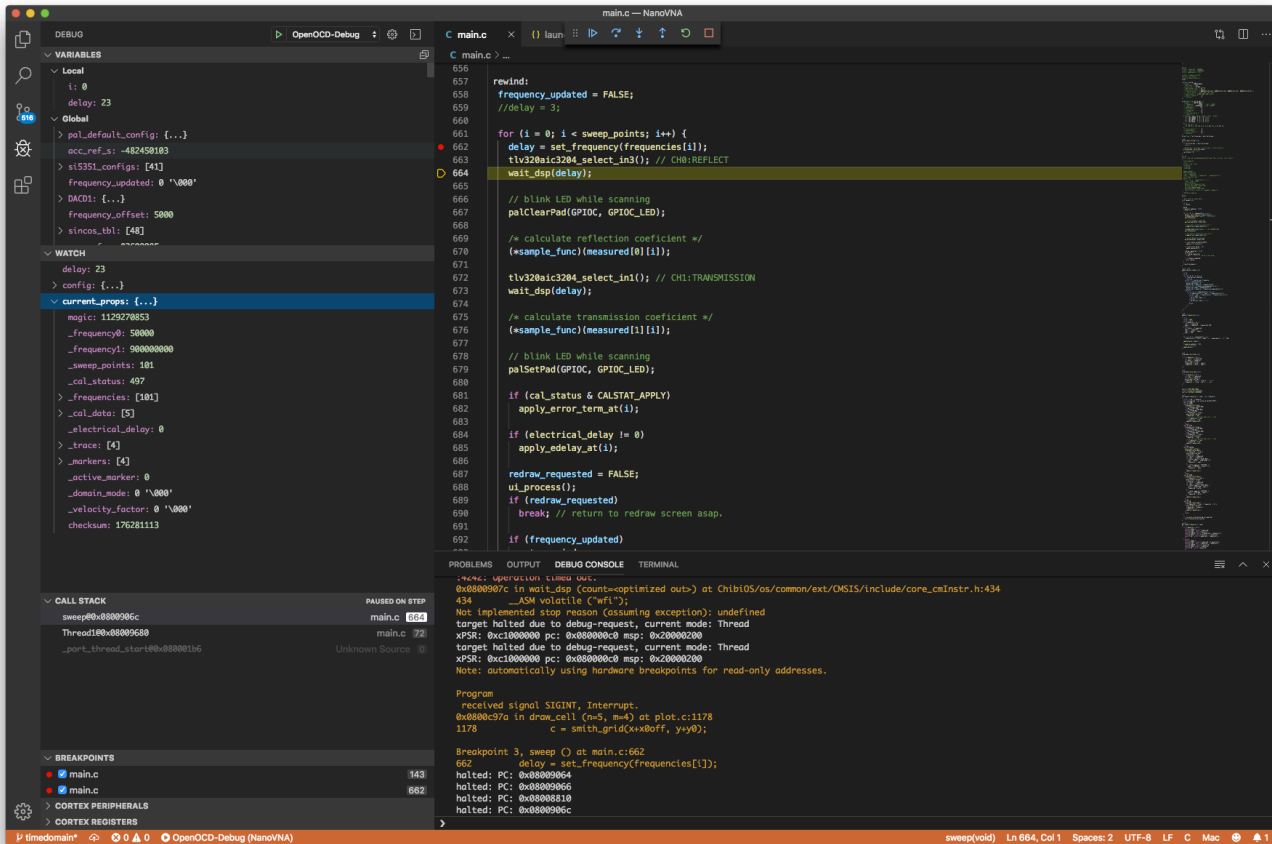
The following settings are for ST-Link. If you use J-Link, replace `interface/stlink.cfg` with `interface/jlink.cfg` .

```
{  
  "version" : "0.2.0" ,  
  "configurations" : [  
    {  
      "type" : "cortex-debug" ,  
      "servertype" : "openocd" ,  
      "request" : "launch" ,  
      "name" : "OpenOCD-Debug" ,  
      "executable" : "build/ch.elf" ,  
      "configFiles" : [  
        "interface/stlink.cfg" ,  
        "target/stm32f0x.cfg"  
      ],  
      "svdFile" : "./STM32F0x8.svd" ,  
      "cwd" : "${workspaceRoot}" ,  
      "preLaunchTask" : "build" ,  
    }  
  ]  
}
```

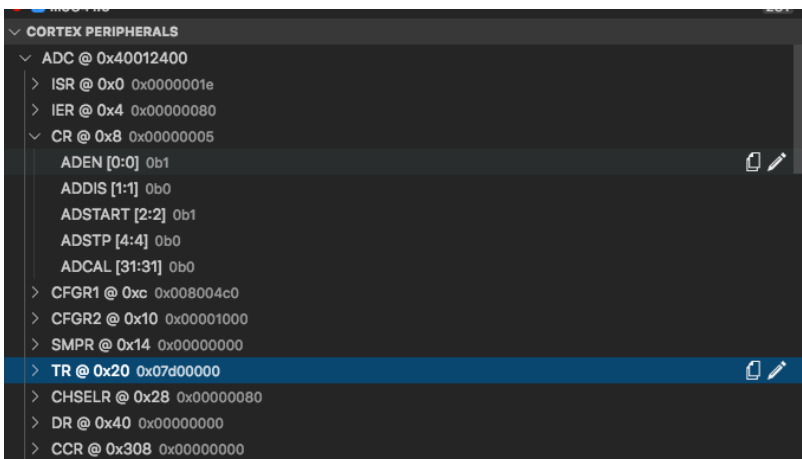
`svdFile` file specified in `svdFile` can be downloaded from the [ST site](#) . `svdFile` is not specified, there is no problem in operation.

# Start debugging

When Start Debugging ( F5 ) is performed, OpenOCD starts automatically after the build by make and the firmware is transferred. When the transfer is complete, the reset handler breaks.

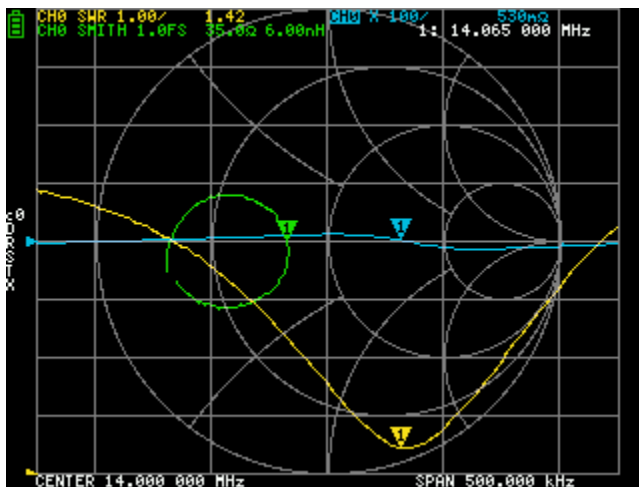


svdFile is specified, the defined MCU registers are displayed on the debug screen.



# 10. Example of use

## Antenna adjustment



An example of using NanoVNA as an antenna analyzer is shown below.

There are two important points in antenna adjustment:

- Whether the antenna is tuned and resonant (i.e., reactance is close to 0 at the desired frequency)
- Is the antenna's SWR low?

### Trace settings

Since only CH0 is used for antenna adjustment, calibration is performed for all items except **THRU** and **ISOLN**.

Set the trace as follows.

- Trace 0: CH0 SWR
- Trace 1: CH0 REACTANCE
- Trace 2: CH0 SMITH
- Trace 3: OFF

Set the frequency you want to tune the antenna to **CENTER** and set **SPAN** appropriately.

Look for frequencies where trace 1 displaying reactance is close to zero. Since the frequency is the tuning point, adjust the antenna if it is deviated so that the tuning point comes to the target frequency.

If the tuning point is at the desired frequency, check that trace 0 displaying the SWR is displaying a sufficiently low (close to 1) SWR. If the SWR is not enough (less than 2), the Smith chart is used for matching. In this case, matching may be performed using an antenna tuner directly under the antenna.

If the SWR drops, the antenna is tuned at the desired frequency and the adjustment of the antenna with a low SWR is complete.

## Adjusting the bandpass filter

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TODO

## Check the cable

---

You can simulate TDR using the time domain low pass mode. By using TDR, you can find faults in the transmission path.

TODO

## Common mode filter measurement

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TODO