



A Quicker Quick Start

Spartan-3 kits now come with an Out-of-the-Box Guarantee.

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Many development systems claim to offer a “quick start” toward feature evaluation and a simple out-of-the box experience. Getting the device set up sometimes takes more energy than running your first program. Unfortunately, getting up and running could mean loading CD files, setting jumpers, downloading code, or hooking up banks of headers. You may need third-party tools or external reference designs. You may even have to go to your local electronics store to get cables and a power supply – all to get to “step one.”

To keep things a lot simpler, Xilinx has introduced an “Out-of-the-Box Guarantee” starting with the Spartan™ family of starter kits. When you open the box, you will have all of the key hardware components that will quickly highlight some features of the FPGA device as soon as you turn it on. For example, the newly released Spartan-3A Starter Kit contains a development board pre-programmed with demo software, a global power supply, a download cable, and a resource CD that contains example designs as well as documentation.

When you open the box, all you need to do is plug in the power supply, switch it on, and connect the board to a display; a program already built into the board will run automatically and allow you to quickly sample the device features. For example, it



Spartan-3A Highlights:

- Power management modes
- Enhanced multiboot configuration loads multiple designs from a single PROM
- DeviceDNA identifier is unique to each FPGA
- Spartan-3A Starter Kit speeds development

shows how the multi-boot feature works by seamlessly toggling between configuration samples, or the fractal display generator’s complex polynomial mathematical capabilities. There is also a demo that reads the chip’s DeviceDNA – a unique production-

stamped identifier that gives you an additional level of intellectual property security.

In addition, these demonstrations do not just run out of the box. They also are available in source code so that you are free to use and reconfigure the samples as you wish.

As customers link their technology expertise to FPGA devices, it is best to equip them with hardware and software tools for easy development and provide them a glimpse into device functionality when they start up a system. The Spartan-3A Starter Kit is just one example of how Xilinx provides customers a true “quick start” by providing predictable and complete components for you to see the device’s capabilities out-of-the-box. ●●●