

# A Guide on Getting JTAG and the USB Programmer to work on Linux

by Justin Andrienas

I have tested this on Xubuntu 18.04 with Quartus 18.1. This fix works for error code 89: "Failure to scan JTAG chain" and similar, where the programmer can detect the USB Blaster but fails to push the program to the CPLD.

- 1) First, test the programmer by plugging in the MAX V board and USB Blaster and ensuring all connections are secure. Then, get the `portTester.pof` program file [here](#). Make sure to remove the `.txt` suffix from the filename after you download it.

- a) Open a terminal, and set up the programming environment by running `nios2_command_shell.sh` under the `nios2eds` directory under your Quartus installation directory.

```
./nios2_command_shell.sh
```

This should give you a splash screen saying "Altera Nios2 Command Shell" in your terminal, and then a new command prompt.

- b) Run the command

```
quartus_pgm --auto
```

This should list all the programming devices attached to your computer, and you should see something like "Info (213045): Using programming cable "USB-Blaster [3-2]."

Errors will be shown in **red**

- c) Run the command

```
quartus_pgm -m jtag -o "p;/path/to/portTester.pof"
```

This will attempt to program the MAX V with the `.pof` file whose path you have specified.

If you receive an error here, continue onwards, otherwise, you should receive a light show from the MAX V and be good to go.

- 2) Open a text editor, and insert the following WITH NO LINE BREAKS.

```
SUBSYSTEM=="usb", ATTRS{idVendor}=="09fb",  
ATTRS{idProduct}=="6001", GROUP="plugdev", MODE="0666",  
SYMLINK+="usbblaster"
```

Save the file as `37-usbblaster.rules`

- 3) Copy the file to `/etc/udev/rules.d` as superuser.

```
sudo cp -n -t /path/to/37-usbblaster.rules /etc/udev/rules.d
```

- a) Run the below command to force the udev rules to refresh.

```
sudo service udev restart
```

- 4) Unplug and replug your USB blaster and CPLD, and attempt Step 1 again. Hopefully, you should be successful in programming the board and be treated to the light show.
  - a) If this doesn't work, run `dmesg` and check to make sure the `idVendor` and `idProduct` values in `37-usbblaster.rules` match the ones you got from `dmesg`.

**Note:** Now that you've done this, using the Quartus GUI to program the board also works.

**Acknowledgement:** Eli Billauer provided an excellent reference on how to program CPLDs from CLI.