

Channel F

The Fairchild Channel F (a.k.a. Video Entertainment System) is a first-generation home videogame console developed by Fairchild. It was released in November 1976 and retailed for \$169.95 USD (\$819 in 2021). It is the first console to use a *microprocessor*.



The “F” in Channel F stands for “Fun”!



This system scrapes metadata for the “channelf” group and loads the channelf set from the currently selected theme, if available.

Quick reference

- **Emulator:** [RetroArch](#)
- **Core:** [libretro: FreeChaf](#)
- **Folder:** /userdata/roms/channelf
- **Accepted ROM formats:** .zip, .rom, .bin, .chf

BIOS

These two BIOS files are required:

MD5 checksum	Share file path	Description
ac9804d4c0e9d07e33472e3726ed15c3	bios/sl31253.bin	Channel F BIOS (PSU 1)
da98f4bb3242ab80d76629021bb27585	bios/sl31254.bin	Channel F BIOS (PSU 2)

The Channel F II BIOS is optional; games are compatible with either BIOS. If included, the Channel F II BIOS will be used instead of the equivalent Channel F BIOS.

MD5 checksum	Share file path	Description
95d339631d867c8f1d15a5f2ec26069d	bios/sl90025.bin	Channel F II BIOS (PSU 1)

ROMs


Place your Channel-F ROMs in /userdata/roms/channelf.

Emulators

RetroArch

RetroArch (formerly SSNES), is a ubiquitous frontend that can run multiple "cores", which are essentially the emulators themselves. The most common cores use the libretro API, so that's why cores run in RetroArch in Batocera are referred to as "libretro: (core name)". RetroArch aims to unify the feature set of all libretro cores and offer a universal, familiar interface independent of platform.

RetroArch configuration

RetroArch offers a **Quick Menu** accessed by pressing [HOTKEY] +  which can be used to alter various things like [RetroArch and core options](#), and [controller mapping](#). Most RetroArch related settings can be altered from Batocera's EmulationStation.

Standardized features available to all libretro cores: channelf.videomode, channelf.ratio, channelf.smooth, channelf.shaders, channelf.pixel_perfect, channelf.decoration, channelf.game_translation

ES setting name batocera.conf_key	Description ⇒ ES option key_value
Settings that apply to all cores of this emulator	
GRAPHICS BACKEND channelf.gfxbackend	Choose your graphics rendering ⇒ OpenGL opengl, Vulkan vulkan.
AUDIO LATENCY channelf.audio_latency	Audio latency in milliseconds, turn it up if you hear crackles ⇒ 256 256, 192 192, 128 128, 64 64, 32 32, 16 16, 8 8.
THREADED VIDEO channelf.video_threaded	Improves performance at the cost of latency and more video stuttering. Use only if full speed cannot be obtained otherwise. ⇒ On true, Off false.

libretro: FreeChaf


FreeChaf is a libretro core for the Fairchild Channel F.

libretro: FreeChaf configuration

Controls

Access to the console buttons is provided via an overlay. Pressing 'start' on either controller will display the console buttons. You can select a button by moving left and right and press the button with any of the face buttons (A, B, X, Y). Pressing 'start' a second time will hide the overlay.

Here are the default Channel-F's controls shown on a [Batocera Retropad](#):



FreeChaf Function	Retropad
Forward	D-Pad Up, Left-Analog Up
Backward	D-Pad Down, Left-Analog Down

FreeChaF Function	Retropad
Rotate Left	Y, L, Right-Analog Left
Rotate Right	A, R, Right-Analog Right
Pull Up	X, Right-Analog Up
Push Down	B, Right-Analog Down
Show/Hide Console Overlay	Start
Controller Swap	Select



- **Console Overlay:** Allows the user to view and select console buttons.
- **Controller Swap:** Controller Swap swaps the player 1 and player 2 controllers.

Troubleshooting

Further troubleshooting

For further troubleshooting, refer to the [generic support pages](#).

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