



MAME

[MAME](#), the Multiple Arcade Machine Emulator, is a multi-purpose emulation framework which facilitates the emulation of vintage hardware and software. Originally targeting vintage arcade machines, MAME now also supports a wide variety of vintage computers, video game consoles and calculators.

It was first released in 1997. In Italy!

MAME focuses on accuracy, even if it's at the cost of performance. If on low-end hardware, consider using older (more innaccurate) versions of MAME, or specialized emulators for such games instead.

MAME games scrapes metadata for the “arcade” group(s) and loads the mame set from the currently selected theme, if available.



MAME doesn't use an individual “core” for each system like RetroArch does, instead the ROM itself usually contains the necessary information to accurately emulate it, thus making it specific to the version of MAME it was made for. It is highly recommended to read the [generic arcade guide](#) first to get familiar with arcade machine emulation.

Quick reference

- **Accepted ROM formats:** .zip, .7z
- **Folder:** /userdata/roms/mame

Emulators	Sample path	Artwork path
libretro: imame4all	/userdata/bios/imame4all/samples	N/A
libretro: mame078plus	/userdata/bios/mame2003plus/samples	/userdata/bios/mame2003plus/artwork
libretro: mame	/userdata/bios/mame/samples	/userdata/bios/mame/artwork
mame	/userdata/bios/mame/samples	/userdata/bios/mame/artwork

BIOS

Based on the [romset type](#) used, either none is required, ones are required for each game you need to play, or a single BIOS file is needed for a group of games.

Samples

Some arcade game machines featured additional storage that allowed for uncompressed audio to be

utilized. These are referred to as “samples”. Some machines had a backup synthesized track if the samples weren't present, others had none.

For MAME2003plus (mame078plus), if your game has the appropriate samples, place them in /userdata/bios/mame2003/samples folder. Samples can be for one specific game, or be applicable to multiple versions of the game.

ROMs

Place your MAME ROMs in /userdata/roms/mame. If you'd like to, you could put ROMs intended for different versions of MAME into subfolders in this folder. For instance, you could put MAME2003-plus ROMs into the /userdata/roms/mame/mame2003plus. The latest versions of which ROMset to use can be found on [the arcade guide](#).

Each romset is specific to the version of MAME being used:

- 0.37b5 ROMset for the [libretro: imame4all](#) version
- 0.78plus ROMset for the [libretro: mame078plus](#) version
- [Latest ROMset](#) at the release of stable for the [libretro: mame/mame](#) versions

For MAME-supported home computer and console systems, each system has its own folder to use. Putting games designed for these systems inside of the mame/ folder will not work.

Emulators

RetroArch

RetroArch has [its own page](#).

libretro: imame4all

iMame4All is an old version of MAME that's fairly easy to run, even on hardware as weak as the RPi Zero. Many games, especially newer ones, have known issues with this version. Supports the least number of games.

The ROMset for this version may be referred to as “0.37b5”.

libretro: imame4all configuration

libretro: mame078plus

Not to be confused with the regular [MAME2003](#).

Internally using the name “mame078plus”, [MAME2003plus](#) is an old version of MAME that became the “golden standard” for a while. A mixture of being easy to run while supporting the most hardware. Many ROMs, especially newer systems, have known issues with this version.

The “plus” version has had recent developments that don't break compatibility backported from newer versions of MAME. For this reason, regular MAME2003 ROMs may not work in this version.

The ROMset for this version may be referred to as “078plus”.

libretro: mame078plus configuration

ES setting name batocera.conf_key	Description ⇒ ES option key_value
Settings that apply to all systems this core supports	
CONTROL MAPPING global.mame2003-plus_analog	Choose from Analog or Digital controller ⇒ Analog analog, Digital digital.
FRAMESKIP global.mame2003-plus_frameskip	Skip frames to improve performance (smoothness) ⇒ Off 0, 1 1, 2 2, 3 3, 4 4, 5 5.
INPUT INTERFACE global.mame2003-plus_input_interface	Use input directly sends by keyboard to the core ⇒ Retropad retropad, Keyboard keyboard, Simultaneous simultaneous.
TATE MODE global.mame2003-plus_tate_mode	Rotating display to vertical mode rendering ⇒ Off disabled, On enabled.
NEOGEO MODE global.mame2003-plus_neogeo_bios	Manually specify your choice of Neo Geo BIOS ⇒ Console AES World asia-aes, Arcade MVS Europe euro, Arcade MVS USA us, Arcade MVS Japan japan, Arcade Universe BIOS 4.0 (Cheats) unibios40, Arcade Universe BIOS 3.3 (Cheats) unibios33.

Additional options can be accessed via RetroArch's Quick Menu ([HOTKEY] +  while in-game). Its dip switch settings can be accessed by pushing in [L3] in-game, navigate with the D-pad and accept with the  button. Push in [L3] again to exit the menu.

libretro: mame

The latest version of MAME at the time of stable's release. Check out the [table on the arcade guide](#) for the current version.

libretro: mame configuration

ES setting name batocera.conf_key	Description ⇒ ES option key_value
Settings that apply to all systems this core supports	
CPU OVERCLOCK global.mame_cpu_overclock	Minimize in-game slowdowns of some games ⇒ default default, 30 30, 35 35, 40 40, 45 45, 50 50, 55 55, 60 60, 65 65, 70 70, 75 75, 80 80, 85 85, 90 90, 95 95, 100 100, 105 105, 110 110, 115 115, 120 120, 125 125, 130 130, 135 135, 140 140, 145 145, 150 150.
VIDEO RESOLUTION global.mame_altres	Increase the video resolution ⇒ 640×480 640×480, 800×600 800×600, 960×720 960×720, 1024×768 1024×768, 1280×720 1280×720, 1600×800 1600×800, 1920×1080 1920×1080, 2560×1440 2560×1440, 3840×2160 3840×2160.

Additional options can be accessed via RetroArch's Quick Menu ([H0TKEY] +  while in-game). Its dip switch settings can be accessed by pushing in [L3] + [R3] in-game, navigate with the D-pad and accept with the  button. Push in [L3] + [R3] again to exit the menu.

Further adjustments can be made to the /userdata/system/configs/mame/mame.ini file, or the game-specific adjustments in /userdata/system/configs/mame/ini/GAMENAME.ini.

libretro: mame custom parameters

For Batocera v42 and higher, you can customize the the parameters passed to libretro: mame. This is particularly useful when you emulate computer systems, such as Apple IIe, and want to load two disk images instead of booting from disk 1, and pause the game to load disk 2. To do so, create a .cmd file with the same name beside your first ROM file, and put customized parameters in it.

For example, the directory /userdata/roms/apple2/Some Game (1985)/ has these files:

- Some Game (disk 1).dsk
- Some Game (disk 2).dsk
- Some Game (disk 1).dsk.cmd

And the content of Some Game (disk1).dsk.cmd is:

```
apple2ee -gameio joy -flop1 "/userdata/roms/apple2/Some Game (1985)/Some Game (disk 1).dsk" -flop2 "/userdata/roms/apple2/Some Game (1985)/Some Game (disk 2).dsk" -rompath "/userdata/bios/" -ui_active -cfg_directory "/userdata/saves/mame/cfg/apple2ee" -inipath "/userdata/saves/mame/mame/ini"
```

When you launch disk 1 from the Apple IIe menu, Batocera will see that you have a .cmd file and use its parameters. In this example, disk 2 will be automatically loaded into floppy 2.

MAME

As above!

If you're having issues with a specific game, check the [MAMEdev FAQ for that game here](#).

Be sure to remember to update the ROMset when updating Batocera, as this version is bumped every stable version.

MAME configuration

Standardized features available to all MAME systems: `mame.videomode`, `mame.decoration`, `mame.padtokeyboard`

ES setting name batocera.conf_key	Description ⇒ ES option key_value
Settings that apply to all cores of this emulator	
GRAPHICS BACKEND <code>mame.video</code>	Choose your graphics rendering ⇒ BGFX <code>bgfx</code> , Accel <code>accel</code> , OpenGL <code>opengl</code> .
BGFX BACKEND <code>mame.bgfxbackend</code>	Choose your graphics API ⇒ MAME Detect automatic, OpenGL <code>opengl</code> , OpenGL ES <code>gles</code> , Vulkan <code>vulkan</code> .
BGFX VIDEO FILTER <code>mame.bgfxshaders</code>	Apply a particular visual effect ⇒ Off None, Bilinear default, CRT Geom <code>crt-geom</code> , CRT Geom Deluxe <code>crt-geom-deluxe</code> , Super Eagle <code>eagle</code> , HLSL <code>hls1</code> , HQ2X <code>hq2x</code> , HQ3X <code>hq3x</code> , HQ4X <code>hq4x</code> .
CRT SWITCHRES <code>mame.switchres</code>	CRT monitor SwitchRes support ⇒ Off 0, On 1.
TATE MODE <code>mame.rotation</code>	Rotating display to vertical mode rendering ⇒ Off None, Rotate 90 autorot, Rotate 270 autorot1.
ALT DPAD MODE <code>mame.altdpad</code>	If the D-Pad does not work properly ⇒ Off (Default) 0, DS3 Orientation 1, X360 Orientation 2.

MAME offers a **Menu** in-game (push in [L3] + [R3] or press [HOTKEY] + ). This can be used to [manually adjust inputs](#) or [game settings](#). Alternatively, all of MAME's options can be edited by opening the `/userdata/system/configs/mame/mame.ini` file (you may need to create this file if it's not already present).

mame custom parameters

For Batocera v42 and higher, you can customize the parameters passed to standalone MAME. This is particularly useful when you emulate computer systems, such as Apple IIe, and want to load two disk images instead of booting from disk 1, and pause the game to load disk 2. To do so, create a `.cmd` file with the same name beside your first ROM file, and put customized parameters in it.

For example, the directory `/userdata/roms/apple2/Some Game (1985)/` has these files:

- `Some Game (disk 1).dsk`
- `Some Game (disk 2).dsk`
- `Some Game (disk 1).dsk.cmd`

Example contents of "Some Game (disk 1).dsk.cmd"

Some Game (disk 1).dsk.cmd

```
/usr/bin/mame/mame
-skip_gameinfo
-rompath
/userdata/roms/apple2/Some Game
(1985);/userdata/bios/mame;/userdata/bios;/userdata/roms/mame
-bgfx_path
/usr/bin/mame/bgfx/
-fontpath
/usr/bin/mame/
-languagepath
/usr/bin/mame/language/
-pluginspath
/usr/bin/mame/plugins;/userdata/saves/mame/plugins
-samplepath
/userdata/bios/mame/samples
-artpath
/var/run/mame_artwork;/usr/bin/mame/artwork;/userdata/bios/mame/
artwork;/userdata/decorations
-cheat
-cheatpath
/userdata/cheats/mame
-verbose
-nvram_directory
/userdata/saves/mame/nvram
-cfg_directory
/userdata/system/configs/mame/apple2ee
-input_directory
/userdata/saves/mame/input
-state_directory
/userdata/saves/mame/state
-snapshot_directory
/userdata/screenshots
-diff_directory
/userdata/saves/mame/diff
-comment_directory
/userdata/saves/mame/comments
-homepath
/userdata/saves/mame/plugins
-ctrlrpath
/userdata/system/configs/mame/ctrlr
-inipath
/userdata/system/configs/mame;/userdata/system/configs/mame/ini
-crosshairpath
/userdata/bios/mame/artwork/crosshairs
-video
auto
-resolution
1024x768
-ui_active
```

```
-plugins
-plugin
hiscore
-dial_device
mouse
-trackball_device
mouse
-paddle_device
mouse
-positional_device
mouse
-mouse_device
mouse
-ui_mouse
-lightgun_device
mouse
-adstick_device
mouse
apple2ee
-gameio
joy
-flop1
/userdata/roms/apple2/Some Game (1985)/Some Game (disc 1).dsk
-flop2
/userdata/roms/apple2/Some Game (1985)/Some Game (disc 2).dsk
```

When you launch disk 1 from the Apple IIe menu, Batocera will see that you have a .cmd file and use its parameters. Because of these final lines in the example,

```
-flop1
/userdata/roms/apple2/Some Game (1985)/Some Game (disc 1).dsk
-flop2
/userdata/roms/apple2/Some Game (1985)/Some Game (disc 2).dsk
```

disk 1 will be loaded into floppy 1, and disk 2 will be loaded into floppy 2.

Notice that the format of `Some Game (disc 1).dsk.cmd` for native MAME is very different from the custom file for libretto: mame above, in the following ways:

- The file extension must be .cmd
- Each line fully translates to exactly 1 parameter. There can be spaces within each line; quotation marks are unnecessary. Make sure you don't leave unwanted spaces at the end.
- The parameters MAME needs are very different from libretto: mame. MAME usually requires a lot more information.

Sega Model 1



This infamous [Model 1 arcade board](#) was a dramatic step-up above the competition in regards to 3D polygonal graphics. Thousands of vector-shaded polygons being drawn on-screen at once, with extremely responsive 60 FPS arcade feel (for some games).

Emulation for the Model 1 is sadly not that mature yet (such as slowdown, graphical inaccuracies and random crashes), however if you have a powerful enough machine you should be able to power through it. Model 1's ROMs are best played on [libretro: mame](#) or [standalone MAME](#).

There were only seven games (in reality, five with different variations) produced for this arcade board, most likely due to its prohibitive cost of development for each game:

Game	MAME 2010 Filename	Additional information
Netmerc/Tecwar	N/A	On-rails first-person virtual-reality shooter played with a HMD and mounted gun which was never released. Considered the "holy grail" of Sega Model 1. This game cannot be emulated yet by any emulator in Batocera.
Star Wars Arcade	<code>swa.zip</code>	A tie-in game for the films of the era. Quite impressive for the time.
Virtua Fighter	""	Infamous 3D fighting game that would go on to get several ports onto home consoles. Renown for its weighty, realistic animations.
Virtua Formula	<code>vformula.zip</code>	An enhanced edition of Virtua Racer, featuring six player network play and formula one shaped rides.
Virtua Racer	<code>vr.zip</code>	Circuit racer leaning more towards an arcade experience than the simulation of other 3D racer games of the era.
Wing War	<code>wingwar.zip</code>	Arcade dogfighting game where two players take turns attacking and defending each other.
Wing War R360	""	A special version with a 360 degree rotating cockpit. Extremely rare and expensive.

Controls

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

Troubleshooting

MAME is a very complicated project and issues can crop up easily.

None of my games are booting!

First check that the version of MAME you're attempting to run it with is the same as the ROMset you got it from. Mismatched versions aren't guaranteed to run, though sometimes if there were no differences made between MAME versions the game can run in both versions (though that's generally an exception, not the rule).

I have an issue with a specific game

If you're having issues with a specific game, check the [MAMEdev FAQ for that game here](#).

Poor game performance

Arcade games tend to be more difficult to emulate than regular console games in general by their very nature.

With that said, newer versions of MAME emulate these arcade games more accurately than older versions. This generally means that real-world performance takes a dip as more accuracy to the emulation is added (although in some cases, it can dramatically improve performance, really it's on a game-by-game basis).

If your machine is struggling with running a particular game, try using an older set with its respective version of MAME, it may perform better. Just remember to make that special per-game setting to actually utilize the correct MAME version if deciding to go down this route!

I can't open the MAME menu!

Sometimes the key needed to be pressed to access the in-game MAME menu is different depending on which version of MAME you are using. Typically, these keys can be:

- Pushing in [L3] or [R3]
- One of the shoulder buttons/triggers
- [Tab] on the keyboard

If you are specifically using a libretro: Mame core, you can manually activate the MAME menu by

going to RetroArch's **Quick Menu** ([H0TKEY] + ) → **Options** → **System** → **Display MAME Menu**. Once this option is activated, exit out of the Quick Menu and you will be greeted by MAME's menu. Repeat these actions to close the menu.

I open the MAME menu too often!

Aforementioned issue, you might have the MAME key set to an in-game key as well. Either set it to another key or remap the MAME menu key.

Further troubleshooting

Most questions are answered in the [generic arcade guide](#).

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

From:

<https://www.wiki.batocera.org/> - **Batocera.linux** - Wiki

Permanent link:

<https://www.wiki.batocera.org/systems:mame?rev=1774953804>

Last update: **2026/03/31 10:43**

