



Sharp MZ-2500

The  [Sharp MZ-2500](#), nicknamed the “**Super MZ**”, is a home computer manufactured by  [Sharp](#), released on 1 October 1985 in Japan. It is the final and most powerful model in the entire 8-bit  [MZ series](#), pushing the Z80 architecture to its practical limits.

The MZ-2500 features a  [Z80B](#) CPU running at 6 MHz (among the fastest Z80 variants in home computers), 256 KB RAM, 128 KB VRAM, and a  [Yamaha YM2203](#) (OPN) sound chip providing 3 FM channels + 3 SSG channels + noise. Graphics capabilities rival many 16-bit machines of the era: 320×200 at 256 simultaneous colors from a 4,096-color palette, or 640×200 at 16 colors. The system includes hardware scrolling, Kanji text VRAM, a built-in data recorder (CMT), and at least one 3.5-inch internal floppy disk drive.

Like all MZ series computers, the MZ-2500 follows the “**clean computer**” philosophy — no BASIC or OS in ROM, only a minimal monitor program. Languages and operating systems are loaded from tape or disk at boot time.

The MZ-2500 features three backwards-compatible boot modes:

- **MZ-80B Mode** — runs [MZ-80B](#) software via BASIC SB-5510
- **MZ-2000 Mode** — runs [MZ-2000](#) software via BASIC MZ-1Z001
- **MZ-2500 Mode** — native mode, boots FENICS or BASIC M25 from floppy

Model variants include the **MZ-2511** (base model with full compatibility), **MZ-2520** (without CMT and compatibility modes), and **MZ-2521** (enhanced with additional VRAM and dictionary ROM). Approximately 126 games were released across the combined MZ-80B/2000/2500 platform.

This system scrapes metadata for the “mz2500” group(s) and loads the mz2500 set from the currently selected theme, if available.



Quick reference

- **Emulator:** [MAME](#), [RetroArch](#)
- **Core:** [MAME](#), [libretro: MAME](#)
- **Folder:** /userdata/roms/mz2500
- **Accepted ROM formats:** .d88, .dsk, .mfi, .dfi, .hfe, .mfm, .td0, .imd, .d77, .ldd, .cqm, .cqi, .zip, .7z

BIOS

MD5 checksum	Share file path	Description
	bios/mz2500.zip → ipl.rom	Initial Program Loader ROM
	bios/mz2500.zip → cg.rom	Character Generator ROM
	bios/mz2500.zip → kanji.rom	Kanji character set ROM (JIS Level 1)

MD5 checksum	Share file path	Description
	bios/mz2500.zip → kanji2.rom	Kanji character set ROM (JIS Level 2)
	bios/mz2500.zip → dict.rom	Dictionary ROM
	bios/mz2500.zip → phone.rom	Phone directory ROM

The mz2500.zip BIOS file must match the version of MAME used in your version of Batocera. You can verify your BIOS files from the Batocera menu: **GAME SETTINGS > MISSING BIOS CHECK**.

ROMs

Place your Sharp MZ-2500 ROMs in /userdata/roms/mz2500.

Software was distributed on 3.5-inch floppy disks. The most common ROM format is .d88 (disk image). Using MAME's software list mode is recommended for best compatibility.

Emulators

MAME

[MAME](#) (Multiple Arcade Machine Emulator) is the primary emulator for the MZ-2500 in Batocera.

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.

libretro: MAME

The libretro version of MAME can be used to emulate the MZ-2500. It uses the same BIOS and ROM sets as the standalone version.

Controls

The Sharp MZ-2500 is a computer system that uses a **keyboard** for input. A physical USB keyboard is strongly recommended.

See also

- [Sharp MZ-80K](#) — the original MZ series computer (1978)
- [Sharp MZ-700](#) — MZ-80K successor with color graphics (1982)
- [Sharp MZ-800](#) — adds 640×200 graphics and SN76489 sound (1983)
- [Sharp MZ-2000](#) — predecessor in the business MZ line (1982)
- [Sharp X1](#) — Sharp's competing computer line from the television division

Troubleshooting

Black screen on boot

Make sure the BIOS file (mz2500.zip) is in /userdata/bios/ and matches the MAME version. The zip must contain all six ROMs (ipl.rom, cg.rom, kanji.rom, kanji2.rom, dict.rom, phone.rom). Use **GAME SETTINGS > MISSING BIOS CHECK** to verify.

Software from MZ-80B or MZ-2000 won't run

The MZ-2500 has three boot modes. Software for older MZ models may require the correct compatibility mode. Check the MAME machine selection — you may need to switch between mz2500, mz80b mode, or mz2000 mode.

Further troubleshooting

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

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