

Texas Instruments TI-99/4A

The TI-99/4 is a home computer released in 1979. It retailed for \$525 USD, which is equivalent to \$1,490 after adjusting for inflation (in 2020)! Partially due to its exuberant price and lack of software support, it only sold around twenty-thousand units.



The TI-99/4A is an incremental upgrade to the original TI-99/4, at half the price of the original unit. Needless to say it was much more successful, selling around three **million** units.

Support for this system was introduced with Batocera **v33**. Does Batocera support emulating both models? Good question!



Quick reference

- **Emulator:** [MAME](#)
- **Folder:** /userdata/roms/ti99
- **Accepted ROM formats:** .rpk, .wav, .zip, .7z

BIOS

Requires the MAME BIOS file ti99_4a in ZIP or 7Z format. The BIOS file can be placed in any one of the following locations:

- roms/ti99/ti99_4a.zip
- roms/ti99/ti99_4a.7z
- bios/ti99_4a.zip
- bios/ti99_4a.7z

ROMs

Place your TI-99 ROMs in /userdata/roms/ti99.


Cartridges need to be in *.rpk format and unzipped. The MAME software list files (*.bin) will not run properly.

Emulators

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 has since absorbed the sister-project **MESS** (Multi Emulator Super System) to support a wide variety of vintage computers, video game consoles and calculators as well. 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. Overall it's a very complicated subject, we have a [guide specific to arcade](#) just for it.

MAME configuration

MAME offers a **Menu** in-game ([HOTKEY] +  or [Tab] on the keyboard). This can be used to manually adjust inputs or game settings. If you're having issues with a specific game, check the [MAMEdev FAQ for that game here](#). For MESS systems specifically, you might find more information on [MESS's wiki](#). All options can also be edited by opening the `mame.ini` file.

Standardized features available to all versions of this emulator: `ti99.videomode`, `ti99.decoration`, `ti99.padtokeyboard`

ES setting name batocera.conf_key	Description ⇒ ES option key_value
Settings that apply to all versions of this emulator	
GRAPHICS BACKEND <code>ti99.video</code>	Choose your graphics rendering ⇒ BGFX <code>bgfx</code> , Accel <code>accel</code> , OpenGL <code>opengl</code> .
BGFX BACKEND <code>ti99.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>ti99.bgfxshaders</code>	Apply a particular visual effect ⇒ Off None, Bilinear <code>default</code> , 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>ti99.switchres</code>	CRT monitor SwitchRes support ⇒ Off <code>0</code> , On <code>1</code> .
TATE MODE <code>ti99.rotation</code>	Rotating display to vertical mode rendering ⇒ Off None, Rotate 90 <code>autorot</code> , Rotate 270 <code>autorol</code> .
ALT DPAD MODE <code>ti99.altdpad</code>	If the D-Pad does not work properly ⇒ Off (Default) <code>0</code> , DS3 Orientation <code>1</code> , X360 Orientation <code>2</code> .
Settings specific to ti99	
MEDIA TYPE <code>ti99.altromtype</code>	Type of ROM file (Cartridge default) ⇒ Cassette 1 <code>cass1</code> , Cassette 2 <code>cass2</code> , Cartridge <code>cart</code> .
UI KEYS <code>ti99.enableui</code>	Hotkey + D-Pad Up or Scroll Lock to toggle in game ⇒ Off at Start <code>0</code> , On at Start <code>1</code> .
CUSTOM CONFIG <code>ti99.pergamecfg</code>	Enable per-game custom configuration via MAME menu ⇒ On <code>1</code> , Off <code>0</code> .

Controls

Here are the default TI-99's controls shown on a [Batocera Retropad](#):



Troubleshooting

Further troubleshooting

For problems with MAME specifically, there are some tips on the [troubleshooting section on MAME's system page](#).

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

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