Elektronika BK

The Elektronika BK (Russian: Электроника БК, where БК stands for “Бытовой Компьютер” / “Home Computer”) is a series of 16-bit PDP-11-compatible home computers developed by NPO Scientific Center in the Soviet Union. It was the only official government-approved Soviet home computer in mass production, released in 1985. The BK-0010 sold for approximately 600 roubles (about 4 months' average salary at the time).

The BK series includes:

- **BK-0010** (1985) - Original model with FOCAL interpreter in ROM, membrane keyboard
- **BK-0010.01** - Revised model with mechanical keyboard and BASIC in ROM
- **BK-0011** (1989) - Upgraded RAM (128 KB) and CPU speed (4 MHz)
- **BK-0011M** - Improved BK-0011 with better BK-0010 software compatibility

The BK had a tremendous effect on the development of the Russian-speaking software community, similar to the roles of the C64 and ZX Spectrum elsewhere.

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

Quick reference

- **Emulator:** RetroArch, MAME
- **Core:** libretro: bk, libretro: MAME
- **Folder:** `/userdata/roms/bk`
- **Accepted ROM formats:** `.bin`, `.img`, `.dsk`, `.bkd`, `.zip`, `.7z`

BIOS

BK-0011M BIOS files:

MD5 checksum	Share file path	Description
fe4627d1e3a153587408505073326 3e7	bios/bk/B11M_BOS.ROM	BK-0011M BOS ROM
dc52f365d56fa1951f5d35b1101b9e3f	bios/bk/B11M_EXT.ROM	BK-0011M EXT ROM
946f6f23ded03c0e26187f0b3ca75993	bios/bk/BAS11M_0.ROM	BK-0011M BASIC ROM (part 0)
1e6637f32aa7d1de03510030cac40bcf	bios/bk/BAS11M_1.ROM	BK-0011M BASIC ROM (part 1)
5015228eeeb238e65da8edcd1b6dfac7	bios/bk/DISK_327.ROM	BK-0011M Disk controller ROM

BK-0010 BIOS files:

MD5 checksum	Share file path	Description
3fa774326d75410a065659aea80252f0	bios/bk/BASIC10.ROM	BK-0010 BASIC ROM
5737f972e8638831ab71e9139abae052	bios/bk/FOCAL10.ROM	BK-0010 FOCAL ROM
95f8c41c6abf7640e35a6a03cecebd01	bios/bk/MONIT10.ROM	BK-0010 Monitor ROM

Which BIOS files are needed depends on the selected model. BK-0011M + FDD (the default) requires the BK-0011M set. BK-0010 requires the BK-0010 set. You can verify your BIOS files from the Batocera menu: **GAME SETTINGS > MISSING BIOS CHECK**.

ROMs

Place your Elektronika BK ROMs in `/userdata/roms/bk`.

Software for the BK was distributed primarily on cassette tapes and later on floppy disks. Common formats include disk images (.dsk, .bkd, .img) and raw binary dumps (.bin).

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: `bk.videomode`, `bk.ratio`, `bk.smooth`, `bk.shaders`, `bk.decoration`, `bk.game_translation`

libretro: bk

The libretro bk core is a dedicated Elektronika BK emulator. It supports BK-0010, BK-0010.01, BK-0011(M) and Terak 8510/a emulation.

libretro: bk configuration

Standardized features for this core: `bk.rewind`, `bk.autosave`

ES setting name `batocera.conf_key`	**Description ⇒ ES option** `key_value`
Settings that apply to all systems this core supports	
MODEL `bk.bk_model`	Select the BK model to emulate. Requires restart. ⇒ BK-0010 `BK-0010`, BK-0010.01 `BK-0010.01`, BK-0010.01 + FDD `BK-0010.01 + FDD`, BK-0011M + FDD `BK-0011M + FDD`, Terak 8510/a `Terak 8510/a`, Slow BK-0011M `Slow BK-0011M`.
PERIPHERAL (UP PORT) `bk.bk_peripheral`	Select peripheral device connected to the UP port. ⇒ None `none`, Covox `covox`, AY-3-8910 `ay_3_8910`, Mouse (high) `mouse_high`, Mouse (low) `mouse_low`, Joystick `joystick`.

libretro: MAME

The libretro version of MAME can also be used to emulate the Elektronika BK. It uses MAME BIOS and ROM sets.

MAME

Standalone MAME can also be used as an alternative emulator for the Elektronika BK.

Controls

The Elektronika BK is a computer system, so it primarily uses a **keyboard** for input. A physical USB keyboard is strongly recommended for the best experience.

When using the libretro bk core, a joystick can be enabled via the **PERIPHERAL** core option.

Troubleshooting

Black screen on boot

Make sure the correct BIOS files are in `/userdata/bios/bk/`. The required files depend on the model selected in core options (BK-0010 vs BK-0011M). Use **GAME SETTINGS > MISSING BIOS CHECK** to verify.

Wrong model selected

Some software only works with specific BK models. If a program doesn't load or crashes, try switching the model in the core options (e.g. from BK-0011M to BK-0010.01 or vice versa).

Further troubleshooting

For further troubleshooting, refer to the generic support pages.

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