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 *micro*processor.

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

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Channel F

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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