



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 *microprocessor*.

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 <code>channelf.gfxbackend</code>	Choose your graphics rendering ⇒ OpenGL <code>opengl</code> , Vulkan <code>vulkan</code> .
AUDIO LATENCY <code>channelf.audio_latency</code>	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 <code>channelf.video_threaded</code>	Improves performance at the cost of latency and more video stuttering. Use only if full speed cannot be obtained otherwise. ⇒ On <code>true</code> , Off <code>false</code> .

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
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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