Sharp MZ-700

The Sharp MZ-700 is a home computer manufactured by Sharp, released in November 1982 in Japan and 1983 in Europe. It is the successor to the MZ-80K line and the **first Sharp MZ computer without a built-in CRT monitor**, adopting a flat keyboard-unit design that connected to an external TV or monitor, making it significantly cheaper and more portable than its predecessors.

The MZ-700 features a Sharp LH0080A (Z80A-compatible) CPU at 3.55 MHz, 64 KB RAM, and a 40×25 character text display with **8 colors** — introducing color output to the MZ-80K line for the first time. There is no true bitmap graphics mode; all "graphics" are achieved through block/semigraphic characters in the character generator ROM, giving an effective pseudo-graphics resolution of 80×50 pixels. Sound is a basic 1-bit beeper via an 8253 timer. Storage is via a built-in 1200-baud cassette interface.

Like all MZ series computers, the MZ-700 follows the **"clean computer" philosophy** — only a minimal monitor program (IPL) in ROM. BASIC and other languages must be loaded from cassette or disk.

Model variants:

- **MZ-711** — base unit (keyboard only, no cassette, no plotter)
- **MZ-721** — keyboard + built-in cassette deck
- **MZ-731** — keyboard + built-in cassette deck + built-in **4-color plotter printer** (a tiny pen plotter using four miniature ballpoint pens — a unique feature for a home computer of this era)

The MZ-700 maintains **strong backwards compatibility with the MZ-80K** series, sharing the same memory map layout and cassette format. In the UK, the MZ-700 was the **10th best-selling home computer in 1983**, praised for its build quality and reliable cassette loading.

This system scrapes metadata for the "mz700" group(s) and loads the `mz700` set from the currently selected theme, if available.

Quick reference

- **Emulator:** MAME, RetroArch
- **Core:** MAME, libretro: MAME
- **Folder:** `/userdata/roms/mz700`
- **Accepted ROM formats:** `.mzf`, `.mzt`, `.m12`, `.wav`, `.zip`, `.7z`

BIOS

MD5 checksum	Share file path	Description
	`bios/mz700.zip → 1z-013a.rom`	MZ-700 system/monitor ROM
	`bios/mz700.zip → mz700fon.int`	MZ-700 character generator/font ROM

The `mz700.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-700 ROMs in `/userdata/roms/mz700`.

Software was distributed on cassette tapes. The most common formats are `.mzf` and `.mzt` (MZ tape images). 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-700 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-700. It uses the same BIOS and ROM sets as the standalone version.

Controls

The Sharp MZ-700 is a computer system that uses a **keyboard** for input. A physical USB keyboard is strongly recommended.

See also

- Sharp MZ-80K — predecessor, backwards compatible (1978)
- Sharp MZ-800 — successor with enhanced graphics and SN76489 sound (1984)
- Sharp MZ-2000 — business-oriented MZ (1982)
- Sharp MZ-2500 — the most powerful 8-bit MZ, “Super MZ” (1985)

Troubleshooting

Black screen on boot

Make sure the BIOS file (`mz700.zip`) is in `/userdata/bios/` and matches the MAME version. Use **GAME SETTINGS > MISSING BIOS CHECK** to verify.

Further troubleshooting

For further troubleshooting, refer to the generic support pages.

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