

# ATARI<sup>®</sup> 2600<sup>™</sup>

OWNER'S MANUAL

ATARI, INC., International Division  
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VIDEO COMPUTER SYSTEM<sup>™</sup>



A Warner Communications Company 



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<http://www.replacementdocs.com>

## Unpacking the Game

**W**hen you remove your ATARI 2600™ Video Computer System™ game from the box, you should have:

- 2600 Video Computer System game console
- Two Joystick Controllers
- AC Power Adaptor
- Game Program™ cartridge with instruction manual



# Setting up the Console

**Y**our game console attaches easily to your television. Simply disconnect the antenna cable from your television and connect the game cable from your Video Computer System console to the VHF antenna terminals on your television.



**Note:** If your VHF antenna input is not compatible with the game cable on your Video Computer System, you may need an adaptor. Please check with your dealer.

## Power Adaptor

Attach the power adaptor to the back of your console. Make sure that your console power switch is off; then plug the adaptor into any convenient outlet.

**Note:** Please insure that your power adaptor is compatible with your electrical supply. If you are in doubt, consult your dealer.

## Controllers

Plug your Joystick Controllers into the controller jacks at the back of your console. For most one-player games, you will use the **LEFT CONTROLLER** jack. See your game instruction booklet for details.

**Note:** Some Atari games require different controllers. Paddle Controllers, the ACTION CONTROL BASE™ keypad for children's cartridges, and the VIDEO TOUCH PAD™ controller may be purchased separately.

## Channel Switch

Your Video Computer System is factory set to operate on a non-broadcasting VHF station in your area. Slide the **CHANNEL** switch on your game console to **3** and select channel **3** on your television. If you receive interference on this station, slide the **CHANNEL** switch on your console to **2**, and select channel **2** on your television.

**Note:** In some areas, you will need to tune your television to channel **3** or **4**, instead of channel **2** or **3**. Note that channel **3** on your Video Computer System corresponds to channel **4** on your television.\*

## Returning to Television Programming

To return to your regular television programming, you must reconnect your television antenna to your television. Be sure to turn your Video Computer System off and to unplug the power adaptor.

\*In Australia, use channels 1 and 2 in place of 2 and 3, respectively.

# Starting Game Play

**A**lways turn your console **POWER** switch **OFF** when inserting or removing an ATARI Game Program cartridge. This will protect the electronic components and prolong the life of your ATARI Video Computer System game.

Hold the cartridge so the name on the end label reads right side up and carefully insert the cartridge into the cartridge slot on your console. Be sure the cartridge is firmly seated but **DO NOT FORCE IT IN**. Then switch the power switch to **ON**.

**Important:** If no playfield appears, switch the power switch off and then on again. You may have inserted the cartridge while the power switch was on.

To remove a cartridge, simply pull it straight out of the console.

POWER SWITCH      DIFFICULTY SWITCHES      GAME RESET SWITCH



TV TYPE SWITCH      CARTRIDGE SLOT      GAME SELECT SWITCH

## TV Type Switch

Set this switch to **COLOR** if you are playing on a color television set. Set it to **B/W** to play the game in black and white.

## Fine-Tuning

If your television has an automatic fine-tuning control, turn it off and manually fine-tune for the best picture. If your set will not receive color unless the automatic fine-tuning control is on, leave it on.

## Game Select Switch

In most games, the **GAME SELECT** switch is used to select the game or game variation you wish to play. See the game instructions packed with your cartridge for details.

## Game Reset Switch

In most games, pressing **GAME RESET** or the red button on your controller will start the game. **GAME RESET** will also start a game over during game play. Again, see your game instructions for details.

## Difficulty Switches

The **DIFFICULTY** switches are usually used to make a game more challenging for a skilled player, or to balance the abilities of two players. In two-player games, the player using the left controller jack uses the left **DIFFICULTY** switch; the player using the right controller jack uses the right **DIFFICULTY** switch.

In some games the **DIFFICULTY** switches have other functions. See the game instructions packed with your cartridge.

## Care and Maintenance

Your ATARI Video Computer System game should give you many years of enjoyment. To keep it in good working condition, please remember the following:

- Always turn your power switch off when inserting or removing a cartridge.
- Use of any AC power adaptor or TV/GAME switch box other than those designed for use with your 2600 Video Computer System may damage the system.
- Do not lift the console or the controllers by the connecting wires.
- Take care not to spill liquids on your console or game cartridges.
- Do not expose the console, controllers, or cartridges to extreme heat or moisture.
- Take care not to drop the console, controllers, or cartridges.
- Remember to turn the power switch off and to unplug the power adaptor when the system is not in use.
- Clean the controllers and console with a soft, slightly damp cloth.

Your Video Computer System is engineered to eliminate phosphor memory, or "burn-in," of stationary graphics, such as the playfield and score digits, on your television screen. However, we suggest you take the following precautions:

- When playing the games, turn down the contrast on your television.
- Turn the Video Computer System off when not in use.

## Troubleshooting Checklist

You will find that most problems with your ATARI Video Computer System game have a quick and simple solution. If you should experience any trouble with the game, check the following symptoms for probable cause and remedy.

### SYMPTOM

### PROBABLE CAUSE & REMEDY

No playfield image on television screen or whitish-gray screen.

Console power switch not turned on.

Cartridge inserted while power switch was on. Switch power off, then on again.

Antenna cable or power adaptor not connected properly. Check all connections.

Interference on your television station. Check channel selection on console and television.

Playfield upsharp and unsteady.

TV TYPE switch in wrong position. Make sure the switch is set to **COLOR** for a color television, and to **B/W** for a black and white television.

Interference on your television station. Check channel selection on console and television.

Antenna cable not connected properly to the back of your TV.

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**SYMPTOM****PROBABLE  
CAUSE & REMEDY**

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No game sounds.

Adjust the volume control on your television. The game sounds come from your television speaker.

No regular television programs.

Reconnect your television's antenna to the antenna input.

Controllers not functioning properly.

Check your instruction manual to make sure you are using the correct controller and controller jack for your game.

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If none of the above remedies work, please contact your Atari dealer.