Subject: Check out my new "gaming" rig
Posted by C4miner on Thu, 06 Jul 2006 05:03:34 GMT
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I have spent the past couple months building this dream machine, and I thought some of you might be interested:

What is it, might you ask? Well, simply put, it is (obviously) a fully sized arcade cabinet, old school style. It has a full two player control panel, complete with trackball and spinner. It also has four gamepads that are just like PS2 controllers (Well, there are two gamepads in the pictures, but I have two more on order).

I built this machine from the ground up. Why? I wanted a big project to occupy my summer break (I'm 19 in college) when I'm not working full time. I could think of nothing cooler to build than an arcade machine. I bought a few sheets of 4' by 8' particle board at the Home Depot. I drew up measurements, cut up the wood, and assembled it into a cabinet. I found some plans and dimensions for this cabinet online, so that helped to guide me through the process a lot.

After the cabinet's frame was complete, I added some wheels to the rig (it is very heavy, 500+ lbs with all the equipment in it). Then I primed it before slopping on 3 coats of high-gloss black paint. I put on the artwork, installed the equipment, and wired up the electronics.

I named the cabinet "Zeta Psi Arcade" because I am moving it to that fraternity when I go back to school.

Here are some more pictures of the project:

So how does this thing work?

Well, basically, this cabinet simply houses a computer that is hooked up to the 27" TV. There are two speakers in the top behind the marquee and a subwoofer at the bottom of the cabinet.

Then there is the control panel with authentic arcade buttons and joysticks. These parts have all been wired up to a circuit board which plugs into the computer. This circuit board makes the computer think that the buttons and joysticks are actually keyboard buttons, which is what allows the system to work.

The cabinet itself plays thousands of old and newer arcade games and console games by using emulators and roms.

Which games, exactly? Here is a basic rundown of what games this machine has:

-C&C Renegade, of course
-Thousands of genuine arcade games from the '70s, '80s, and '90s (2903 titles)
-Every NES game (863 titles)
-Every SNES game (1007 titles)
-Every Sega Genesis game (948 titles)
-Many GameBoy/GameBoy Color games (238 titles)
-Many GameBoy Advance games (60 titles)
-Several PlayStation 1 games (33 discs)
-*EVERY N64 GAME* (323 titles)
-Of course, this machine also plays PC games. (The computer has 1 gigabyte of RAM, 120 gigabyte hard drive, AMD Sempron 3200 Processor, and Radeon 9600 video card, so it can play current PC games decently).

If you ever want to build one of these monuments for yourself, you can find all the resources you could possibly need at BYOAC (Build Your Own Arcade Controls):

http://arcadecontrols.com/arcade.htm
http://forum.arcadecontrols.com/

Here is my project thread for this cabinet at their forums:

http://forum.arcadecontrols.com/index.php?topic=54650.0

P.S. If you are curious, this project cost about $1500 for all the parts, plus the hundreds of hours of labor involved. And it was damn well worth it.

-fin-

---

Subject: Re: Check out my new "gaming" rig
Posted by Dave Anderson on Thu, 06 Jul 2006 06:18:01 GMT
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That is really nice.  I think it would be cool to play Renegade or similar games on something like that.  Good job.

---

Subject: Re: Check out my new "gaming" rig
Posted by icedog90 on Thu, 06 Jul 2006 06:21:49 GMT
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that's insane.

---

Subject: Re: Check out my new "gaming" rig
Posted by Goztow on Thu, 06 Jul 2006 07:11:10 GMT
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Amazing!  *impressed*

---

Subject: Re: Check out my new "gaming" rig
Posted by light on Thu, 06 Jul 2006 09:55:25 GMT
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Brilliant setup. Not sure i'd be able to sit and play, there's something about arcades and standing that just goes together.

---

Subject: Re: Check out my new "gaming" rig
Posted by Goztow on Thu, 06 Jul 2006 10:31:29 GMT
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light wrote on Thu, 06 July 2006 11:55Brilliant setup. Not sure i'd be able to sit and play, there's something about arcades and standing that just goes together.
He needs one of these

---

Subject: Re: Check out my new "gaming" rig
Posted by nopol10 on Thu, 06 Jul 2006 10:47:26 GMT
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Cool! Maybe you would want to make a few and sell it...

5 thumbs up!
---nopol10

---

Subject: Re: Check out my new "gaming" rig
Posted by PlastoJoe on Thu, 06 Jul 2006 17:24:43 GMT
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Oh, right.  I guess was daydreaming about it at the end.

---

Subject: Re: Check out my new "gaming" rig
Posted by cheesesoda on Thu, 06 Jul 2006 17:37:53 GMT
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*cough*
C4miner wrote on Thu, 06 July 2006 01:03P.S. If you are curious, this project cost about $1500 for all the parts, plus the hundreds of hours of labor involved. And it was damn well worth it.

---

Subject: Re: Check out my new "gaming" rig
Posted by z310 on Thu, 06 Jul 2006 18:04:32 GMT
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icedog90 wrote on Thu, 06 July 2006 02:21that's insane.

---

Subject: Re: Check out my new "gaming" rig
Posted by icedog90 on Thu, 06 Jul 2006 18:06:53 GMT
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You should show it on the bit-tech forums.

Where did you get all of those ROMs?

---

Subject: Re: Check out my new "gaming" rig
Posted by C4miner on Thu, 06 Jul 2006 20:14:13 GMT
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*cough* university internet line *cough*

---

Subject: Re: Check out my new "gaming" rig
Posted by Sanada78 on Thu, 06 Jul 2006 21:46:20 GMT
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Looks cool. Seems you put a lot of effort into it.

I noticed you don't have the SMS on the console emulation list.  Was my first ever games console.

---

Subject: Re: Check out my new "gaming" rig
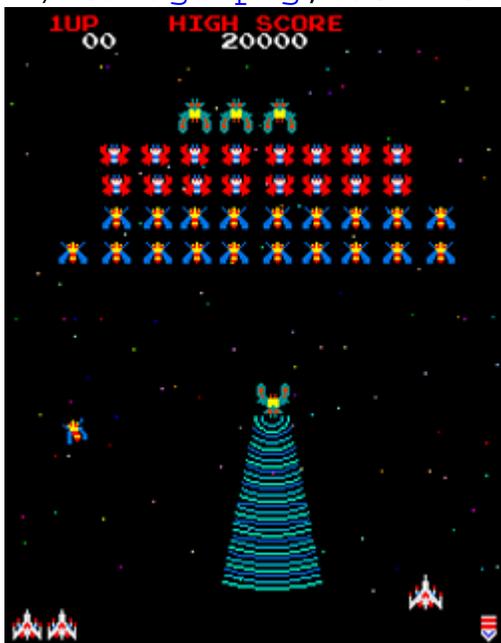Posted by mision08 on Thu, 06 Jul 2006 22:01:44 GMT
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Cool, that's an impressive gaming rig alright. Do you have Pit Fall and Donkey Kong?
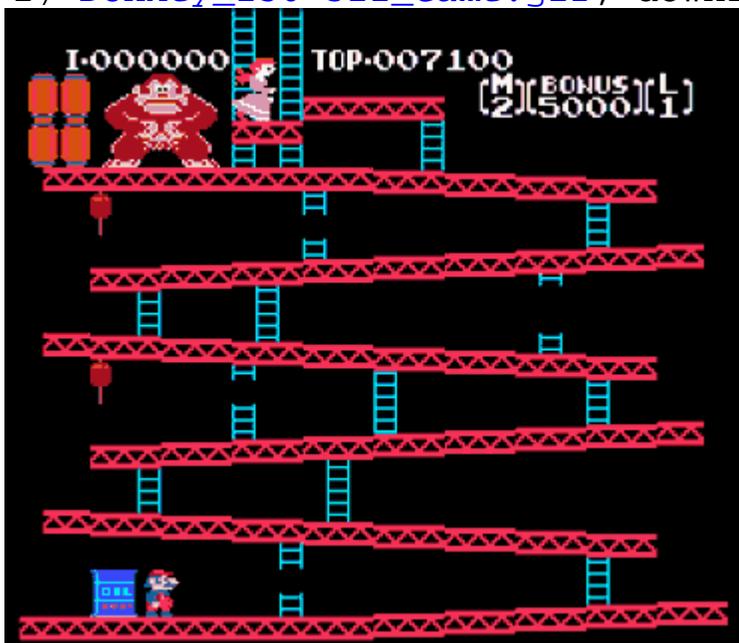Screw Pit Fall, I want Galaga

File Attachments

1) Galaga.png, downloaded 749 times



2) Donkey_250-322_Game.gif, downloaded 737 times



Subject: Re: Check out my new "gaming" rig
Posted by IceSword7 on Thu, 06 Jul 2006 22:05:35 GMT

Thats fuckin nuts
I want one!

---

Subject: Re: Check out my new "gaming" rig
Posted by Dave Anderson on Thu, 06 Jul 2006 22:20:57 GMT

Does anyone remember that old arcade game with the combat aircraft where your playing view was a top view of everything?  Some of the weapons were really "modern" compared to the aircraft in the game...Horrible discription but I just can't seem to think of it.

Edit:  Found it.  It was called 1941: Counter Attack.  I used to play it at the bowling alley all the time.  I miss that game.

---

Subject: Re: Check out my new "gaming" rig
Posted by DarkDemin on Thu, 06 Jul 2006 22:50:06 GMT

I hope you have good frat mates otherwise that is going to get wrecked.

---

Subject: Re: Check out my new "gaming" rig
Posted by NukeIt15 on Fri, 07 Jul 2006 00:51:21 GMT

Heh... if I had a machine like that I would definitely be extremely paranoid about who laid their hands on it.

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Subject: Re: Check out my new "gaming" rig
Posted by EleMeNtaL on Fri, 07 Jul 2006 01:04:30 GMT

My brother-in-law builds things just like this. He would love to see this...
ill e-mail him the link

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Subject: Re: Check out my new "gaming" rig
Posted by cmatt42 on Fri, 07 Jul 2006 07:32:14 GMT

That's friggin' awesome. I approve.

Subject: Re: Check out my new "gaming" rig
Posted by YSLMuffins on Sat, 08 Jul 2006 01:06:31 GMT
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Hot damn.  Are you taking that with you when you move in to that fraternity? You should charge admission if it gets popular enough...

---

Subject: Re: Check out my new "gaming" rig
Posted by mision08 on Sat, 08 Jul 2006 19:26:43 GMT
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YSLMuffins wrote on Fri, 07 July 2006 20:06Hot damn.  Are you taking that with you when you move in to that fraternity? You should charge admission if it gets popular enough...
He won't even need to advertise.

---

Subject: Re: Check out my new "gaming" rig
Posted by rm5248 on Sun, 09 Jul 2006 21:21:53 GMT
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Wow.... That is really sweet.

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Subject: Re: Check out my new "gaming" rig
Posted by superj69 on Sun, 09 Jul 2006 21:34:01 GMT
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that is one of the sickest things ive ever seen.Congradulations on a job done extremly well