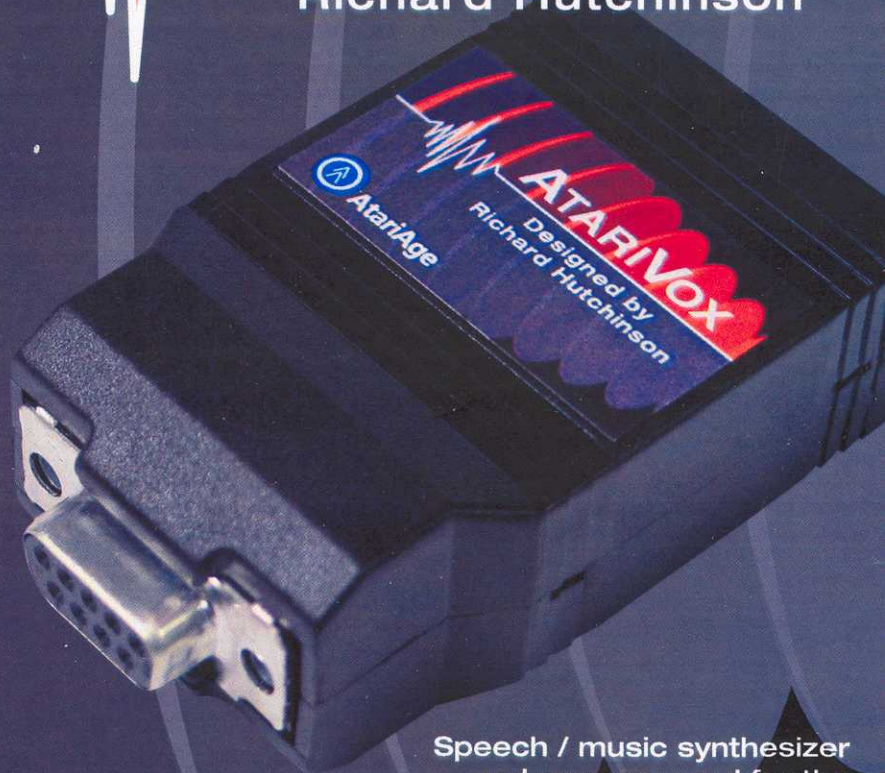# AtariVox

Designed by
Richard Hutchinson

Speech / music synthesizer
and memory card for the
Atari 2600 / 7800

AtariAge

The AtariVox is a self-contained speech / music synthesizer and memory card primarily for the Atari 2600 and 7800 (and can also be used on consoles with the same controller port pinouts). The AtariVox is connected to the console's second controller port.

The main chip in the unit is the SpeakJet (www. magnevation.com/speakjet.swf) an amazing new chip with phonetic speech, preset sounds and a five channel music synth. All of these are controlled by the console via a serial interface emulated through the driver software (www. vectrex.biz/AtariVox_docs.zip).

Similar to the SPO256-AL2 (used extensively in 80's speech synths) but with extended capabilities, the SpeakJet's speech still retains that nice retro quality, making it a perfect partner for the 2600.

Insert the AtariVox into the second controller port

Also onboard the AtariVox is 32K of non-volatile memory to be used in a similar way to the popular memory cards of the PS1 and GameCube etc. The flash memory will retain data without power for 200+ years.
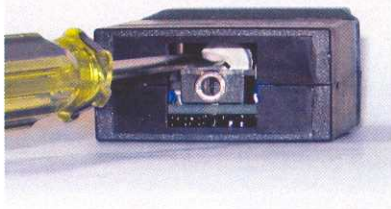
An allocation scheme has been devised so that no file is ever overwritten (www.vectrex.biz/ new_page_6.htm). This way, different games can store saved games and game settings on just one unit.

To use the AtariVox, plug it into the second controller port of your console. All that is needed to enjoy your AtariVox is a set of speakers (amplified or not) plugged into the miniature headphone jack (PC speakers are ideal). You can adjust the volume of the small on board amplifier via a small flat blade screwdriver inserted above the socket, as pictured to the right.

A USB development interface will soon be available, allowing speech construction (via the utility - www.vectrex.biz/AtariVox_utils.zip) and also access to the flash memory (for back-ups, etc). A web page with programming examples / tips is also in the making. Please visit AtariAge. com to keep abreast of AtariVox developments.

You can adjust the volume with a small, flathead screwdriver

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