

Microsoft® Pinball Arcade Readme

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Welcome to Microsoft Pinball Arcade!

This file contains late-breaking information not included in the jewel case leaflet or online Help.

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A. Hardware and System Requirements

To play Microsoft Pinball Arcade you need:

- Multimedia PC with a Pentium 90 MHz or higher processor
- Microsoft Windows 95 or Windows 98 operating system or later; or Windows NT® Workstation operating system version 4.0 or later with Service Pack 3
- 16 MB of RAM for Windows 95 or Windows 98; or 24 MB of RAM for Windows NT
- 15 MB hard disk space required for minimum installation; additional 20 MB required for installation process. Swap file must be a minimum of 30 MB
- Microsoft DirectX® 6.0-compatible sound card
- Microsoft DirectX 6.0-compatible 1 MB PCI video card capable of at least a 640 x 480 256 color display
- Double-speed CD-ROM drive
- Microsoft Mouse or compatible pointing device
- Microsoft DirectX 6.0-compatible joystick or game pad (optional)

B. Getting Help

Complete information about Microsoft Pinball Arcade is in Help. To display Help, on the main menu, click **Help**. You can also press F1 at anytime when Microsoft Pinball Arcade is running.

C. Audio Troubleshooting

Though audio problems can arise from a variety of circumstances, old audio drivers are usually the cause.

To find out what brand of sound card you have:

1. Right-click the **My Computer** icon, and then click **Properties**.
2. Click the **Device Manager** tab.

3. Double-click **Sound, video and game controllers**.

The name of your sound card will appear below **Sound, video and game controllers**.

To get the latest drivers, contact your audio adapter manufacturer.

D. Video Troubleshooting

Though video problems can arise from a variety of circumstances, old video drivers are usually the cause.

To find out what brand of video card you have:

1. Right-click the **My Computer** icon, and then click **Properties**.
2. Click the **Device Manager** tab.
3. Double-click **Display adapters**.

The name of your video card will appear below **Display adapters**.

- **Animated Cursors** Animated cursors may cause black areas to appear on the screen behind the cursor. To fix this problem, disable animated cursors.

To disable animated cursors:

1. Click **Start**.
2. Point to **Settings**, and then click **Control Panel**.
3. Double-click the **Mouse** icon.
4. Click the **Pointers** tab.
5. In the **Scheme** list box, click **None**.

- **Stiletto Task Bar** The Stiletto Task Bar may cause your task bar to flash during your game. Contact the Stiletto Task Bar software company for a solution to this problem.
- **HP Pavilion Keyboard** The HP Pavilion keyboard may cause your taskbar to flicker on top of your game when you adjust the sound with the volume knob on the keyboard. To fix this problem, press the spacebar.
- **Cirrus Logic CL-GD5440 Video Adapters** The Cirrus Logic CL-GD5440 video adapters may cause poor performance and/or flashing graphics. To fix this problem, set **Graphic Detail** to **Low** and contact your video adapter manufacturer for the latest drivers.

To set **Graphic Detail** to **Low**:

1. On the main menu, click **Options**.
2. Under **Graphic Detail**, click **Low**.

- **Hercules Stingray 128/3D Video Adapters** The Hercules Stingray 128/3D video adapter may cause your machine to hang when you return from a game to the main menu. To fix this problem, contact your video adapter manufacturer for an updated driver package. You must run the setup.exe program in the driver package so that you update both the drivers and the display software.

- **Rendition Video Adapters** Rendition video adapters may cause your graphics to blink and to appear dark. Also, you may not be able to use the high graphic setting. To fix this problem, contact your video adapter manufacturer for the latest drivers.
- **Matrox Millennium II Video Adapters** The Matrox Millennium II video adaptor with version 3.6 drivers may not allow you to launch a pinball game. To fix this problem, contact your video adapter manufacturer for the latest drivers.
- **ATI 3D Rage Pro Video Adapters** ATI 3D Rage Pro video adapters may cause your game graphics to deteriorate after you press ALT + TAB to switch from another application to Microsoft Pinball Arcade. These adapters may also cause horizontal lines to appear on your screen, obscuring the game. To fix these problems, contact your video adapter manufacturer for the latest drivers.

E. Performance Troubleshooting

Though performance problems can arise from a variety of circumstances, old sound, video, or game controller drivers are usually the cause.

To find out what brand of drivers you have:

1. Right-click the **My Computer** icon, and then click **Properties**.
2. Click the **Device Manager** tab.
3. Double-click the type of device you want to know about. For example, double-click **Sound, video and game controllers**.

The name of your device will appear below the device type. For example, **Microsoft Sidewinder 3D Pro** may appear under **Sound, video and game controllers**.

- **Laptops and Older Processors** Older processors may cause your game to run very slowly, and in some cases may not allow you to start a pinball game. To fix this problem, switch to a lower screen resolution and then try again.

To switch to a lower resolution:

1. On the main menu, click **Options**.
2. Under **Graphic Detail**, click a lower screen resolution.

- **Low Disk Space** A full hard drive may cause the video to pause intermittently during a game. To fix this problem, increase the amount of hard-drive space available to the swap file by clearing at least 40MB on your hard drive.
- **Sidewinder Game Device Software V2.0 and V3.0** The Sidewinder Game Device Software may cause your game to pause and slow down if you unplug your Microsoft Game Controller while your computer is running. To fix this problem, display the game controller name in the **Control Panel**.

To display the game controller name in the **Control Panel**:

1. Click **Start**.
2. Point to **Settings**, and then click **Control Panel**.
3. Double-click **Game Controllers**.
4. Click **OK**.

- **Cirrus Logic CL-GD5440 Video Adapters** The Cirrus Logic CL-GD5440 video adapters may cause poor performance and/or flashing graphics. To fix this problem, set **Graphic Detail** to **Low** and contact your video adapter manufacturer for the latest drivers.

To set **Graphic Detail** to **Low**:

1. On the main menu, click **Options**.
2. Under **Graphic Detail**, click **Low**.

- **Matrox Millennium Video Adapter** The Matrox Millennium Video Adapter may cause your desktop to default to the wrong screen resolution. Also, it may prevent you from closing some dialog boxes. To fix these problems, contact the video adapter manufacturer for the latest drivers.
- **Microsoft Sidewinder 3D Pro Joystick** The Microsoft Sidewinder 3D Pro Joystick may cause your game to slow down when you are playing on Windows NT 4.0. To fix this problem, contact Microsoft for the latest NT4 Service Pack.

F. Other Troubleshooting

- **Microsoft NT version 4.0** Microsoft NT version 4.0 may not allow you to enter your name in the **Spirit of 76 High Scores** dialog box while music is enabled. To fix this problem, before you start a new game of Spirit of 76, click **Options** on the main menu, and then clear the **Music** check box.
- **Cropped Text** If you are unable to see all of the text in the pop-ups in your Help file, display Help from the main menu instead of from within the game.
- **Custom System Colors** Custom system colors may cause the text in the Help file to be unreadable. To fix this problem, change the default system color of your text.

To change the default system color of your text:

1. Right-click the desktop.
2. Click **Properties**.
3. Click the **Appearance** tab.
4. Under **Scheme**, click **Windows Standard**.
5. Click **Apply**.

- **Sticky Keys** Enabling sticky keys may cause your computer to display an alert message after you repeatedly press the SHIFT key. To fix this problem, change your game controls so that you don't need the SHIFT key to play the game, or disable sticky keys.

To find out how to change your game controls, see the Controls topic in the Settings section of Help.

To disable sticky keys:

1. Click **Start**.
2. Point to **Settings**, and then click **Control Panel**.
3. Double-click the **Accessibility Options** icon.
4. On the **Keyboard** tab, clear the **Use StickyKeys** check box.

- **Laptops and Older Processors** Older processors may not allow you to start a pinball game. To fix this problem, switch to a lower screen resolution and then try again.

To switch to a lower resolution:

1. On the main menu, click **Options**.
2. Under **Graphic Detail**, click a lower screen resolution.

- **Slick Chick Free Games** The Free Games information in the Slick Chick Tips topic is incorrect. You win a free game for the following scores: 1100, 1300, 1500, 1700 (not 1000, 1200, 1300, or 1400).

G. Online Gaming

WELCOME TO THE BEST IN ONLINE GAMING!

The Microsoft Pinball Arcade CD includes FREE software for installing the Internet Gaming Zone.

To install the Internet Gaming Zone

1. In Explorer, click your CD drive.
2. Double-click Setup.exe.
3. Click **Game Previews**.
4. Click the Internet Gaming Zone graphic.
5. Click Install Software.

Check out the Internet Gaming Zone, and play games online against friends from around the world! We feature the best in FREE multiplayer card and board games, like Spades and Backgammon, and matchmaking support for popular retail CD-ROM titles. Build a great army from a lowly tribe in the award-winning Age of Empires. Race a motorcycle across desert dunes in Motocross Madness. Or dogfight other WWII pilots in the spectacular Fighter Ace. With thousands of members online at any time of day, you'll always find a worthy opponent on the Zone!