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Silicium's tribute to Société Occitane d'Electronique

### Your speakers today





René President & cofounder

Author of the Occitel Mini book Has never achieved to transcend the 16-colors palette.



Designer of the Occitel Mini electronics Not everyone can whisper the true language of the machine to the computer.



### Silicium

#### french non-profit Founded in 1995

Preserves videogames, computers In a thousand pieces collection

Shows publicly : Exhibitions, conferences...

Nationwide expertise

Many volunteers and patrons

Aims to create a permanent exhibition

Silicium is a digital culture heritage speaker, creating interactive and fun ephemereal museum,



November 1975 : Jean-Louis Grand-Clément creates La Société Occitane d'Electronique

He was CEO of Motorola plant in Toulouse. He quits to create an electronic design office.

He regularly visits the USA, where he discovers a new chip from General Instruments.

He finds a real opportunity to create a very low cost Pong videogame...

PART. 1 : Rene of Silicium 2025-02-02 CC-BY-NC-SA

### The Occitel was marketed in 1976



### La Société Occitane d'Electronique



#### 1976-1980

### Match created in 1977



### **Occitel 003** first ever french "modular" videogame



The catalogue is artificialy extended to occupy a fast-growing market



# **OC4 from 1977 budget toy-like pong walkie-talkie shaped!**

IEUX PASSIONINA

FOOTBALL SOUASH EXERCICE

TENNS

### In 1978, 3 new models



### In 1978, SOE start creating models for clients



#### In 1979, OC 2000 a cartridge-based machine is marketed



### In early 1980, X1 computer is created and sold in a few high-schools



SOCIÉTÉ OCCITANE D'ÉLECTRONIQUE 119, CHEMIN DE BASSO CAMBO 31300 TOULOUSE. (61) 40.05.15

### **Unfortunatly in 1980, comes the bankrupty**





17







### This ending was so brutal that it led to oblivion

A deep silence came so fast, That many years now have past.

But Silicium was standing to trace back this heritage for the glory of retrocomputing We are ready for a new age Of everlasting retrogaming...

# Projet

a tribute to Occitel, a 1976 gaming console by Société Occitane d'Electronique

#### from Toulouse, France

PART. 2 : ©B\*.\* of Silicium 2025-02-02 CC-BY-NC-SA

### **Retromini machines is the new hype**



## Silicium edits Occitel Mini,

an accurate half-sized model of the mythic <u>1976 console.</u>

THE ALLER AL

HOMMAGE A LA SOCIETE OCCITANE D'ELECTRONIQUE



SE BRANCHE DIRECTEMENT SUR L'ENTREE COMPOSITE DE L'ECRAN FONCTIONNE AVEC UN CHARGEUR STANDARD AVEC UN LIVRET DE 70 PAGES SUR SON INCROYABLE HISTOIRE FOOT TENNIS SQUASH EXERCICE

DEEDTEL

### **CETEL mini**

#### In 2022, Silicium launch Occitel Mini project :





- Publish a book describing the SOE adventure and machines
- Edit a limited run of the mini :
- Mounted in a box for members
- In kit form
- Or a free guide including PCB tracing, controller code, 3d models, files



### **ICCITEL** mini

1:2 scale reproduction of « Occitel », one of many Pong in 1976



#### https://silicium.org/index.php/edition/occitel-mini-2



### DECITEL

- <u>General Instruments</u> <u>AY-3-8500</u> « <u>Pong-on-a-chip</u> » + UHV TV
  - wired logic: digital but not a programmable processor
- Linear pots for show
  - External paddles
- 3 difficulty settings
  - 3 of 8 combinations of
    - 2 paddle sizes
    - 2 ball speeds
    - 2 ball angles





### 

- Based on Grant Searl's <u>AVRPong</u>
  - Amazing reverse engineering 2013..2018
  - <u>Arduino-TVout</u> library by Avamander
  - ATmega328P same as Arduino Uno
  - Choice 1976 and 1977 graphics





### 

- Converted to ATmega32U4
  - SparkFun Pro Micro module clone<5€</li>
  - 3D case Anaon Industries
  - PCB, book, box by Silicium
  - software bug fixes, minor additions





### **ICCITEL** mini

#### src, KiCAD, STEP+STL, Gerber, BoM https://github.com/a2ff/occitel\_mini https://gitlab.com/a2ff/occitel\_mini















### **Bit-banged video**

- Black 0.3V / white 1.0V
  - push pixels to GPIO

- Composite sync 0V / 0.3V
  - Vertical sync pulse with ATmega timer
  - Horizontal sync like pixels, with NOPs





### **Bit-banged video**

and a bit of beam riding

- 2kB RAM
  - lo-rez framebuffer ~1kB
  - some on-the-fly generation for hi-res ball
    - ensures smooth motion for ball
- ATmega AVR8 == 8-bit data
  - uint16\_t is not atomic -> mask interrupts

renderLineLoop:	
ld	r0, X+
nop4	
bst	r0, 7
bld	r16, %[vidPin]
out	%[port], r16
nop5	
bst	r0, 6 ; next pixel



### **Short-circuit**

- Brown-out on hot-plugging
  - CPU reboots
  - Video goes blank





### **Short-circuit**

- Brown-out on hot-plugging
  - CPU reboots
  - Video goes blank
- Stereo jack poor design
  - shorting during slide in/out





### **Short-circuit**

- Fix: current-limiting resistor
  - biasses range of paddle
  - fixed by sw adjust





### In Conclusion

#### Cardboard packaging repro

Including « vintage » cover art, serial number, the most excellent book, stickers and guarantee card





### Bibliography

#### Reverse engineering

- Grant Searle <a href="http://searle.x10host.com/AVRPong/index.html">http://searle.x10host.com/AVRPong/index.html</a>
- Giancarlo Zuliani <a href="https://gzuliani.github.io/games/pong-emulator.html">https://gzuliani.github.io/games/pong-emulator.html</a>
- Cole Johnson <a href="https://nerdstuffbycole.blogspot.com/">https://nerdstuffbycole.blogspot.com/</a>
- JasonKits diode mod <a href="https://www.tindie.com/products/jasonkits/classic-70s-pong-game/">https://www.tindie.com/products/jasonkits/classic-70s-pong-game/</a>

#### • General Instruments (now MicroChip)

<u>https://www.pong-story.com/gi.htm</u> <u>1978 catalog</u> <u>AY-3-8500</u>

#### • SparkFun Pro Micro 5V/16MHz

- <u>https://www.sparkfun.com/pro-micro-5v-16mhz.html</u>
- If you program as 3.3V/8MHz, USB is dead => <u>A recovery procedure</u> <u>A</u>



This wonderful project would not have been possible without Silicium volunteers

#### **Electronic design**

ben\*.\*, François Pussault, Grégory Estrade, Alain Trentin and Sébastien Périn

Plastics engineering Simon Fiastre / Anaon Industries

Documentation and Quality Control René Speranza, Raphaël Longour, Patrice Torguet and Valérie Amiel

Intensive testing Bjorn Darkaåd

#### Models

Ben, Jeff, François, Phil, Paul, René



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