Chalk Board™ PowerPad™ User's Guide

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Chalk Board™ PowerPad™ User's Guide

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An Introduction

With your purchase of the Chalk Board PowerPad, you are ready to begin one of the most exciting experiences your home computer has to offer. Limitless applications with the Chalk Board libraries of software will lead you to a new level of understanding your computer and making use of its capabilities.

Your Chalk Board PowerPad is a unique technological development, allowing you full communication *with* your computer, but *without* your keyboard. This unconventional means of control over your computer allows you much greater freedom in using your imagination.

You are in charge. No longer are you at the mercy of traditional computer "buzz words" and entry techniques. The Chalk Board PowerPad lets you be the master with the touch of a finger.

To assure your own satisfaction and PowerPad's durability, we at Chalk Board have compiled this manual to help you install PowerPad and maintain it. You will be pleased with the simplicity of starting up your computer system with PowerPad, and with the ease of keeping this state-of-the-art device in good operating condition.

Chalk Board PowerPad and Your Computer

As our packaging tells you, Chalk Board PowerPad requires that you have a home computer, a television or display screen, and any one of the many software packages developed for the various Chalk Board libraries. Each software package comes complete with cartridge or diskette, user's manual and specific PowerPad overlay.

Making Connections

Part I: The PowerPad Connector Cable

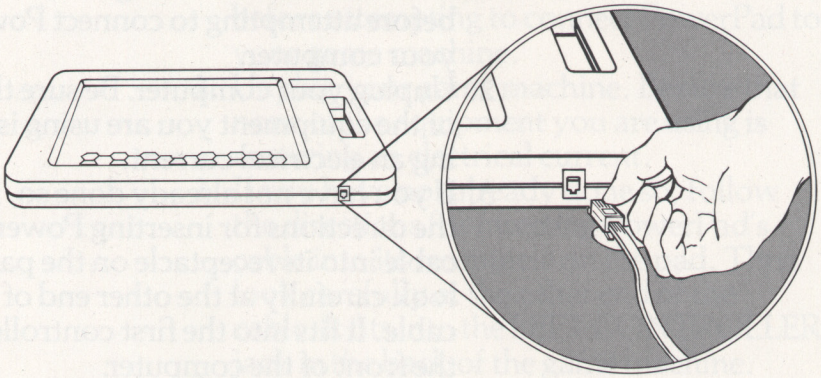
You can use only the specially designed PowerPad connector cable to connect PowerPad and your computer.

Do not attempt to use a telephone cord in place of this cable. If you do, you may permanently damage PowerPad.

To connect the cable and PowerPad, follow these steps:

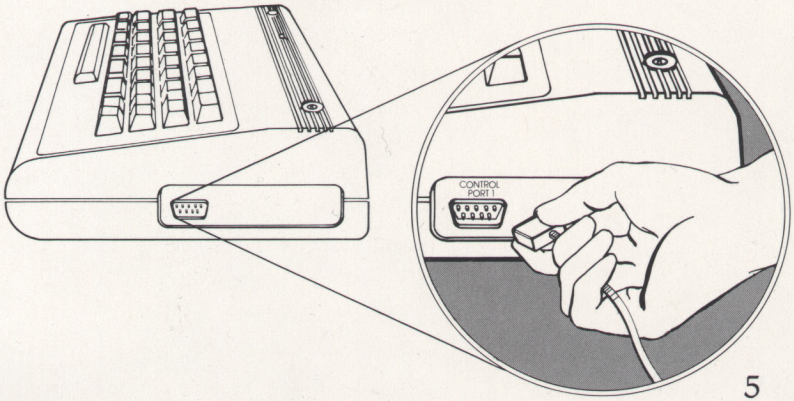
1. Read all of the following directions before attempting to connect PowerPad and its connector cable.
2. Examine the cable. One end of this cable has the shape of your computer's game port receptacle. The other end resembles that of a telephone cord. This end of the cable connects to the PowerPad.
3. Be sure the computer end of the cable is not connected, and that the cable is not carrying an electric current.
4. Find the cable's receptacle at the top of PowerPad.

5. Study the diagram below. Then carefully insert the PowerPad cable.



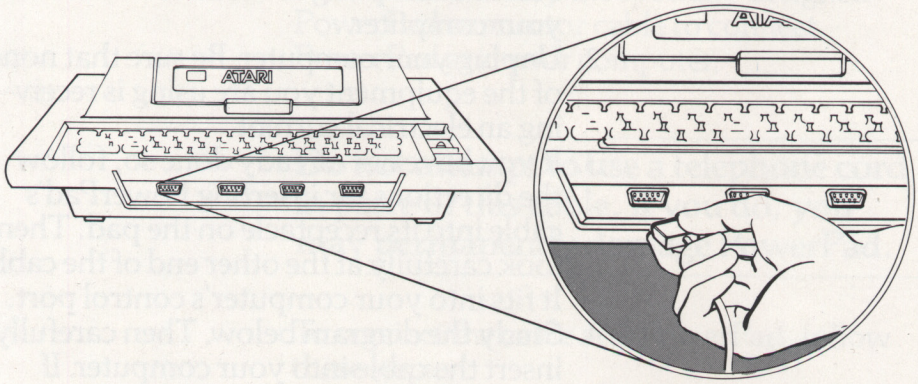
Part II: Commodore 64 and VIC-20

1. Read all of the following instructions before attempting to connect PowerPad to your computer.
2. Unplug your computer. Be sure that none of the equipment you are using is receiving an electrical current.
3. If you have not already done so, follow the directions for inserting PowerPad's cable into its receptacle on the pad. Then look carefully at the other end of the cable. It fits into your computer's control port.
4. Study the diagram below. Then carefully insert the cable into your computer. If you have a Commodore 64, use Control Port 1. If you have a VIC-20, use the first control port receptacle.



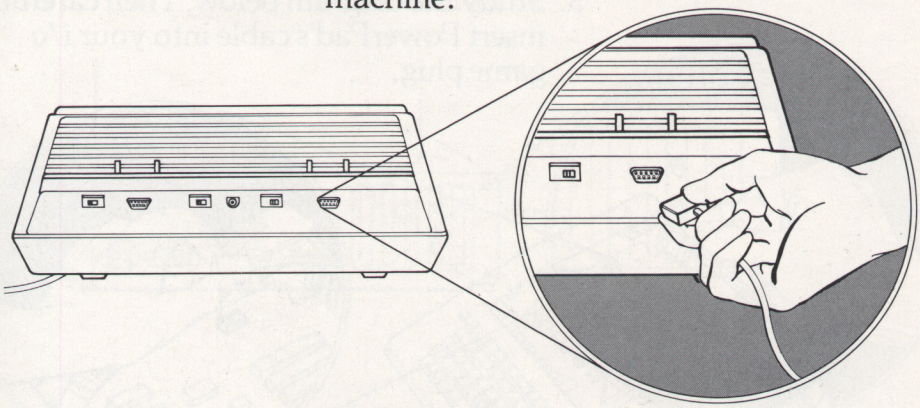
Part III: Atari Computers

1. Read all of the following instructions before attempting to connect PowerPad to your computer.
2. Unplug your computer. Be sure that none of the equipment you are using is receiving an electrical current.
3. If you have not already done so, follow the directions for inserting PowerPad's cable into its receptacle on the pad. Then look carefully at the other end of the cable. It fits into the first controller jack in the front of the computer.
4. Study the diagram below. Then carefully insert PowerPad's cable into your computer.



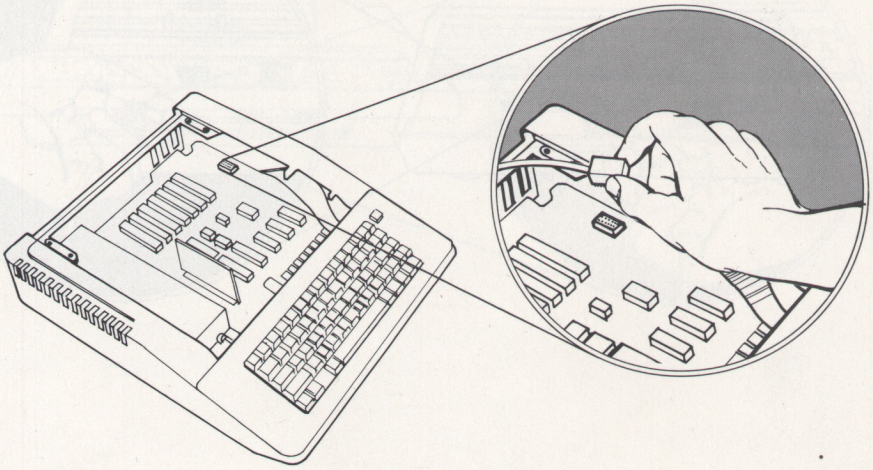
Part IV: Atari Game Machine (VCS)

1. Read all of the following instructions before attempting to connect PowerPad to your game machine.
2. Unplug your game machine. Be sure that none of the equipment you are using is receiving an electrical current.
3. If you have not already done so, follow the directions for inserting PowerPad's cable into its receptacle on the pad. Then look carefully at the other end of the cable. It fits into the LEFT CONTROLLER jack in the back of the game machine.
4. Study the diagram below. Then carefully insert PowerPad's cable into your game machine.



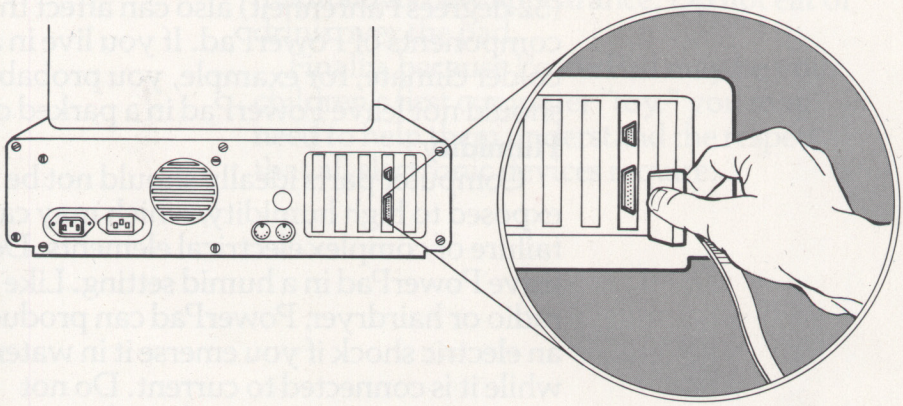
Part V: Apple II, Apple IIe, and Apple II+

1. Read all of the following instructions before attempting to connect PowerPad to your computer.
2. Unplug your computer. Be sure that none of the equipment you are using is receiving an electrical current.
3. If you have not already done so, follow the directions for inserting PowerPad's cable into its receptacle on the pad. Then look carefully at the other end of the cable. It fits into the i/o game receptacle inside your computer.
4. Follow the manufacturer's directions for removing the top of your computer.
5. Study the diagram below. Then carefully insert PowerPad's cable into your i/o game plug.



Part VI: IBM Personal Computer

1. Read all of the following instructions before attempting to connect PowerPad to your computer.
2. Unplug your computer. Be sure that none of the equipment you are using is receiving an electrical current.
3. If you have not already done so, follow the directions for inserting PowerPad's cable into its receptacle on the pad. Then look carefully at the other end of the cable. It fits into the Printer Connector in the back of the computer.
4. Study the diagram below. Then carefully insert PowerPad's cable into the Printer Connector.



Taking Care of your PowerPad

PowerPad is a durable computer device that requires only a few special maintenance procedures. *Temperature* and *humidity* are two areas of concern. Also, the PowerPad *surface* requires some simple care.

Temperature

First, like most computer parts, PowerPad is a little sensitive to extreme temperatures. You do not want to expose PowerPad to temperatures exceeding 50 degrees Celsius (125 degrees Fahrenheit). Radiators, direct sun light, some television sets, and parked cars can reach this limit. At the other extreme, temperatures falling below 0 degrees Celsius (32 degrees Fahrenheit) also can affect the components of PowerPad. If you live in a colder climate, for example, you probably should not leave PowerPad in a parked car.

Humidity

Computer parts ideally should not be exposed to high humidity, which may cause failure of complex electrical elements. Do not leave PowerPad in a humid setting. Like a radio or hairdryer, PowerPad can produce an electric shock if you emerse it in water while it is connected to current. Do not emerse PowerPad or use a liquid on its surface.

PowerPad's Surface

The surface of PowerPad is a tough plastic material, but like all plastics, it can be marred by sharp objects. Within this PowerPad package is a stylus you can use safely on PowerPad with any of the various Chalk Board software units. **Do not use sharp objects on PowerPad.** If you puncture PowerPad's surface, it may not continue to function as it should. You could damage it permanently. If you want to use an instrument other than your finger or the Chalk Board stylus on PowerPad's surface, we suggest you use blunt wooden or plastic objects.

Avoid using water on the PowerPad surface. Instead, a clean damp cloth can help maintain its new appearance. Do not eat or drink over the pad.

Finally, because PowerPad may be your children's first computer "toy," you may need to help them understand the respect that all electronic devices require.

Chalk Board Software

PowerPad is designed to operate with any of the many packages in the Chalk Board software library systems. Each software package comes with three items: a cartridge or diskette, an overlay, and a manual.

The Cartridge

Each Chalk Board software cartridge is designed for use with your specific computer. If you do not know how to insert the cartridge into your computer, consult the user guide which came with your computer. Most systems require you to turn the computer off before you change cartridges.

The Diskette

If your system uses diskettes, follow standard procedures for inserting the diskette into the drive. Consult your computer's user's manual if you have further questions.

The Software Overlay

Each Chalk Board software package includes a framed plastic overlay for the PowerPad surface. The frame has been designed to slip easily into the groove that surrounds the PowerPad working surface.

- Try not to bend the overlay unnecessarily.
- Slip the overlay's frame into the groove at the bottom of PowerPad. Gently drop it onto the surface. Then press lightly on the top of the frame to wedge it into place.
- When you want to change the overlay to play with a different package, you can remove it by using the liftout tabs at the top of the frame.

If the overlay is accidentally damaged or destroyed, you may purchase a replacement by sending a $6.00 check or money order to:

Customer Support
Chalk Board, Inc.
Suite 140
3772 Pleasantdale Road
Atlanta, Georgia 30340

This $6.00 charge includes $3.00 for the cost of the replacement overlay itself, and $3.00 for mailing and handling.

The Manual

Each Chalk Board software package includes a manual to help you become acquainted with the program's potential. These manuals are written in easy-to-understand language. In each case, they include suggested applications and activities you can use to become familiar with the product and new ways to take advantage of your computer's capabilities.

NOTE: Chalk Board does not control or guarantee the performance of any software package not specifically produced or sanctioned by us. If you purchase software from another vendor and experience incompatibility, inconsistencies, or faulty performance, you should address your problems to the vendor from whom you purchased the software.

Chalk Board PowerPad Technical Specifications

Outside dimensions: 20″ x 17″ x 1.5″

Active surface area: 12″ x 12″

Weight: 4.5 pounds

Resolution: 1/10 x 1/10 (100 points per square inch for most computers.)
Multiple touch, discrete point, digital technique.

Power: 5-12 volts from host. Less than 2 ma.

Operating Temperature and RH:
0 to 50 degrees Celsius
32 to 125 degrees Fahrenheit
Non-condensing environment

Attention Users

In the event that your PowerPad should become defective after the ninety (90) day warranty period, please forward the following items and information to Chalk Board:

- your defective PowerPad.
- a brief explanation of the defect.
- a check or money order made out to Chalk Board, Inc. in the amount of fifty dollars ($50.00). This amount already includes five dollars for postage and handling.
- your mailing address, including zip code.

Upon receipt of the above, Chalk Board will replace your defective unit with a new one.

Author: Kathy Williams
Engineer: Rod Price
Design: Taylor & Taylor/Atlanta, GA

A touch of genius.

Part No. 11003A