
USER'S GUIDE

Background

The Power Base Converter was a device released alongside the Genesis/Mega Drive which allows one to play Master System games on the Genesis/Mega Drive. The Power Base Converter is region-free just like the Master System. This means that any region combination between Genesis/Mega Drive and Master System Game will be compatible.

Master System Converter Info

The Master System Converter does not contain any Master System components but acts as a pass-through. In order to achieve backwards compatibility, the original Master System CPU and sound chip (the Z80 and SN76489) are included in the Mega Drive/Genesis. The Mega Drive/Genesis's Video Display Processor is capable of the Master System VDP's mode 4 (though it cannot run in modes 0, 1, 2, or 3, so cannot run SG-1000 games). When a Master System game is inserted into a Mega Drive/Genesis, the hardware automatically reconfigures itself as a Master System.

Both 2-button Master System gamepads and standard Mega Drive/Genesis gamepads can be used to play SMS games. Some Master System games may inadvertently cause the wrong set of inputs to be selected in a 3/6-button gamepad and prevent input from working properly. In this case a Master System controller must be used. Like the Master System, the PAUSE button is not part of the gamepad and instead is implemented as a pushbutton switch on the device.

Form Factor

The db Electronics Master System to Genesis Converter fits inside a standard Sega Genesis cartridge shell with only slight modifications. A slot will need to be cut out, using a Dremel or

similar tool, to allow for the Master System connector to protrude from the top. Simply take the cartridge shell of a Genesis game you don't appreciate (or are willing to sacrifice) and install the db Electronics Master System to Genesis Converter inside. Note that you will need a 4.5mm game bit to open most Genesis cartridge shells. If the Master System to Genesis Converter is installed in a cartridge shell, a hole will have to be drilled (directly inline with the right mounting post) in order to access the Pause button.

Compatibility

The Master System to Genesis Converter has the same compatibility list as the cartridge slot on the original Power Base Converter. The Master System to Genesis Converter works with Model 1 and Model 2 units, NTSC and PAL Games, JVC X'Eye and Retro Duo. The Converter will not work in conjunction with a 32X; the 32X prevents the Master System Mode when it is connected.

Controller Mappings

When playing Master System games on your Mega Drive/Genesis, buttons 1 and 2 of the Master System are mapped to buttons B and C of the Mega Drive/Genesis respectively.

