

# Atari 2600

## "Darth Vader" Edition

The Atari 2600 Darth Vader edition is a variant of the Atari 2600 video game console that was released in 1982. It has a sleek black design that resembles the helmet of the Star Wars villain, Darth Vader. It is also the first model to be officially named as the Atari 2600, instead of the Atari Video Computer System. The console came with two joystick controllers, a pair of paddle controllers, and a game cartridge. The retail price of the console was \$199.95 at launch, which is equivalent to about \$560 in 2021.

The Atari 2600 had a 8-bit MOS Technology 6507 CPU that ran at 1.19 MHz. It also had a custom chip called the Television Interface Adaptor (TIA) that handled the graphics and sound output. The TIA could display up to 128 colors and generate up to two square wave tones<sup>1</sup>. The Atari 2600 had 128 bytes of RAM and used ROM cartridges to store the game data. The cartridges varied in size, but the largest ones could hold up to 32 KB of data<sup>2</sup>.

The Atari 2600 came with two types of controllers: a joystick with one button and a paddle with a dial and one button. The joystick was used for most games, while the paddle was used for games that required precise horizontal movement, such as Breakout or Pong<sup>3</sup>.