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Types of MAME (Multiple Arcade Machine Emulator)

If you are new to the concept multi game video arcade systems, then you may be experiencing some confusion between the two main types - MAME (computer based) and JAMMA (game board).

PC Based Gamming computers (MAME) incorporate a fully functional Windows or Linux PC taking advantage of front ends (Hyperspin, Emulation Station, RetroArch) to manage all of the various game systems for Starting and Playing the ROM's or loaded games; vs. a hard-wired game circuit board (JAMMA).

First, a little history behind the meaning of the acronym, *JAMMA*.

Back in the dark ages of the Golden Era of arcade video games (1984 and earlier), game manufacturers operated in exclusive little domains where they designed game components in a way that best served their own interests.

Consequently, they each had their own proprietary circuit boards, power supplies, and wiring harnesses. There was essentially no interchangeability of components between one manufacturer's game cabinet and a game cabinet made by someone else.

Thanks to the Japanese, around 1985, all of that exclusivity was soundly laid to rest.

The Japan Amusement Machinery Manufacturers Association (JAMMA) created some industry standards, particularly for the design of game printed circuit boards (pcbs). And, things forever changed.

The most important and influential of these new standards was the pcb standard pinout. Any game pcb complying with that pinout standard is what we now call a JAMMA board.

The image to the left is a photo of the parts side of a JAMMA game board (pcb).

Most pcps that utilize the standard have a JAMMA logo stamped close to the gold plated pinout section of the pcb.

Commercial JAMMA Cabinets,

$175.00

There are many JAMMA terms that we have come to hear and use frequently - JAMMA board, JAMMA harness, JAMMA edge connector, JAMMA cabinet, and so on.

At the root of their meaning is nothing more than the concept of the pcb interchangeability between cabinets of *different* manufacturers. Like us here at www.NCPCS.com

And, it is the JAMMA standard pcb pinout that has made it all possible.

The JAMMA pinout is basically a map of the JAMMA wiring harness 56-pin edge connector. When properly seated to the pcb, the connectors of the edge connector will align with the pinout fingers of the pcb, and your game will play.

When you tire of a game board, you can plug-and-play the JAMMA pcb for your next favorite game set. Plug-and-play simply means to unplug the edge connector from one pcb, and plug it onto another pcb.

And, that process of plug-and-play can continue on and on, because there are now 1,000's of JAMMA game pcbs you can play in your JAMMA cabinet. Thank you, Japan.

Recently especially for the serious gamer, MAME has been even more popular. Essentially MAME is a high end PC that also serves as a fully functional Arcade Machine. The new front end environments like HyperSpin and Emulation Station can host thousands of games and adding new games can be as easy as adding a new ROM game set (software) vs. changing out an electrical circuit board.
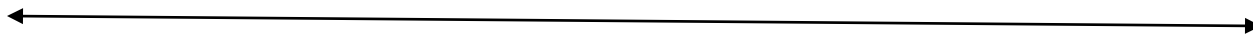
Thousands of games even by different vendors all playable on one machine... PC based MAME machines, the ultimate in gamming computers.

Any Arcade project build starts by choosing the appropriate Cabinet. NCPCS.com offers a variety of cabinet options keeping practicality in line with affordability. Stop by today (4100 Kernersville Road W-S, NC 27107) We always keep a HyperSpin, JAMMA and a MAME machine in stock & running....!

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