

The making of a mini LCD display for vintage computers

Yes, this is *'yet another tiny display for vintage computers and videogames'*.
The only difference is that I did it ☐ with very few parts and a low budget.

Features first

It all began with an Amazon product with pretty good features:

- 8 inches LCD display
- 4:3 aspect ratio
- 1024 x 768 pixel resolution
- several video input ports
- low price.

[This one, to be more accurate.](#)



This display unit sports **HDMI + VGA + composite video** inputs and can be powered with a single source 5V to 12V @ 2A (or something like that); has a small board with control buttons and an infrared remote that does almost everything.

It's being sold as a barebone circuit, with all flat cables loose, for some 37 euros (Amazon price, at the moment): quite a bargain, actually.

I ordered mine and it was running in a snap with all my computers and videogames: first test was with a [ESpectrum](#), a modern replica of the venerable **ZX Spectrum** with VGA output; picture is almost perfect!

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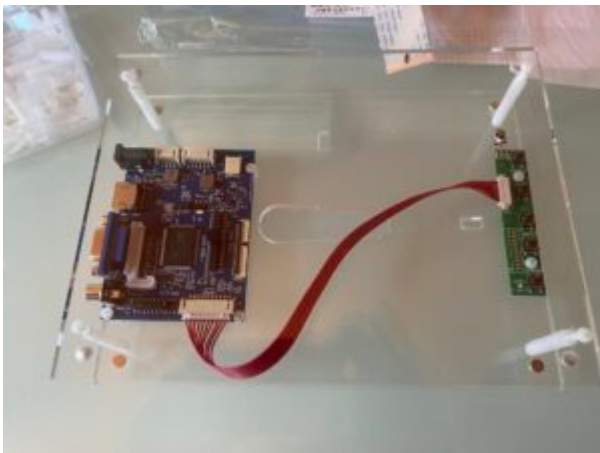
Time to test is with a **Commodore 64 Ultimate** on the HDMI output: crisp image, no lags, ok!

Composite video on a regular ZX Spectrum works fine BUT is somehow darker and may need some brightness adjustments: more testing is needed...

The case of the missing case.

Image quality counts but this monitor wasn't exactly usable, so I began looking for some sort of case.

A nice photo frame made of two plexiglass pieces, less than 10 euros, was perfect fit – not only for size, but also for any drilling tweaking that became necessary.



I used white plastic nuts and bolts (the one used for spacing PCBs) and some not-so-perfect drilling to assemble the whole thing.

On the lower piece of plexiglass I fixed the driver board and the button board; the LCD itself is taped to the upper part of the frame.

Grand total is less than 60 euros.

As a result, I have a very small yet usable monitor with all needed video ports, an infrared remote (which I'll use very seldom); something I quite built from scratch and that's

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compatible with almost any computer/videogames/PCB I have around here...

Moreover, already tested an almost-portable solution using a huge battery pack powering both the **ESpectrum** and the LCD board!



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What's next? Maybe an RF-to-VGA converter in order to add even older home computers to the party...