

# HxC Floppy Drive Emulator

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## PC8801 3.5 Floppy

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6 posts • Page 1 of 1

**Akibakun**

### PC8801 3.5 Floppy

Fri Feb 02, 2018 3:33 pm

Hello. I am a new member and I just wanted to ask some questions:

I have a PC8801MK2SR and I would like to connect a "3.5 floppy. Is it possible to connect a "3.5 by replacing one of the "5 inch floppy drives? And if possible, how can I do this? Is it possible to take a PC98 "3.5 floppy and put it into the PC88 computer, or is it not compatible?

The question is because although I eventually want to use a HxC floppy drive emulator, I first want to try this solution since I have a big bunch of "3.5 floppies in my house that would be useful.

Anyone with experience of this? Is the procedure the same as with connecting the HxC floppy emulator? Could I just take/make a cable intended for the HxC and then just put a "3.5 floppy drive there instead of the HxC?

Sorry for the noob questions. Thanks in advance.

**barbeque**

### Re: PC8801 3.5 Floppy

Sun Aug 12, 2018 1:42 am

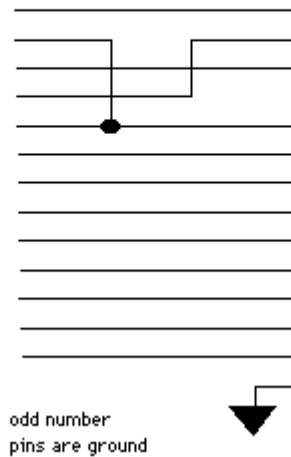
Hi there. I have a non-SR PC8801mkII and have been looking into it myself.

Here is a page that I found on the subject: <http://tulip-house.ddo.jp/DIGITAL/FD88/index.html>

Here is the pinout that is provided on that page:

DOS/V floppy drive  
flat cable connector

2 density  
4 reserved  
6 reserved  
8 index  
10 motor on 0  
12 drive select 1  
14 drive select 0  
16 motor on 1  
18 direction  
20 step  
22 write data  
24 write gate  
26 track 00  
28 write protect  
30 read data  
32 side  
34 disk change



pc-8801 mkII  
card edge connector

2 reserved  
4 in use  
6 drive select 3  
8 index  
10 drive select 0  
12 drive select 1  
14 drive select 2  
16 motor on  
18 direction  
20 step  
22 write data  
24 write gate  
26 track 00  
28 write protect  
30 read data  
32 side  
34 ready

The gentleman in the link made a handmade adapter, but I'm not sure if I will do the same thing or just cut up a ribbon cable. I do not know enough about floppy drive connectors yet to tell if there is an easier way - perhaps something off the shelf.

I am not sure if this is the same cable as the one you would use with an HxC/Gotek but I assume so.

Good luck! Please let me know if you are successful, or even if you want to discuss general PC-88 topics/repairs. It's hard to find English-language material on these computers.



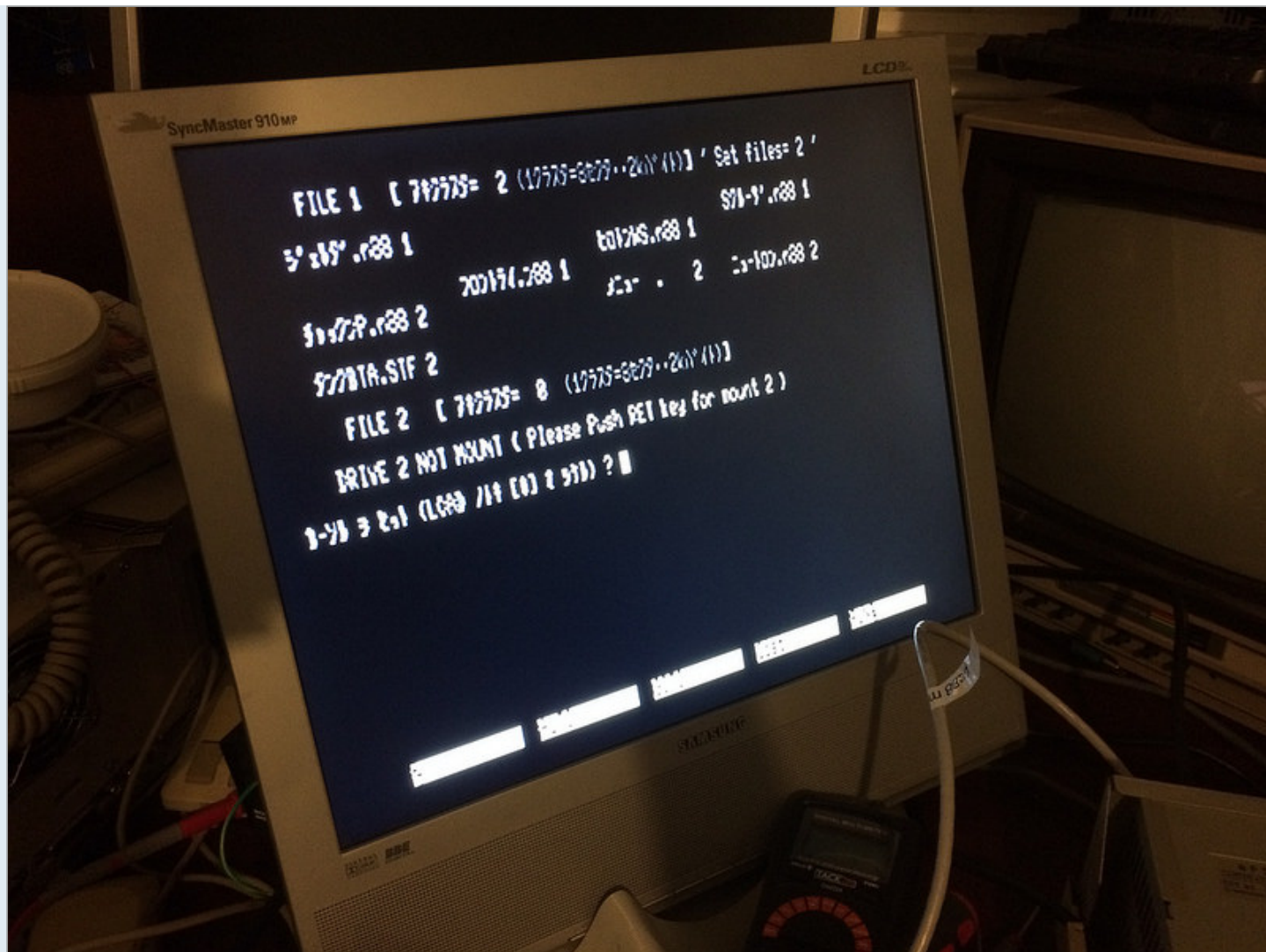
barbeque



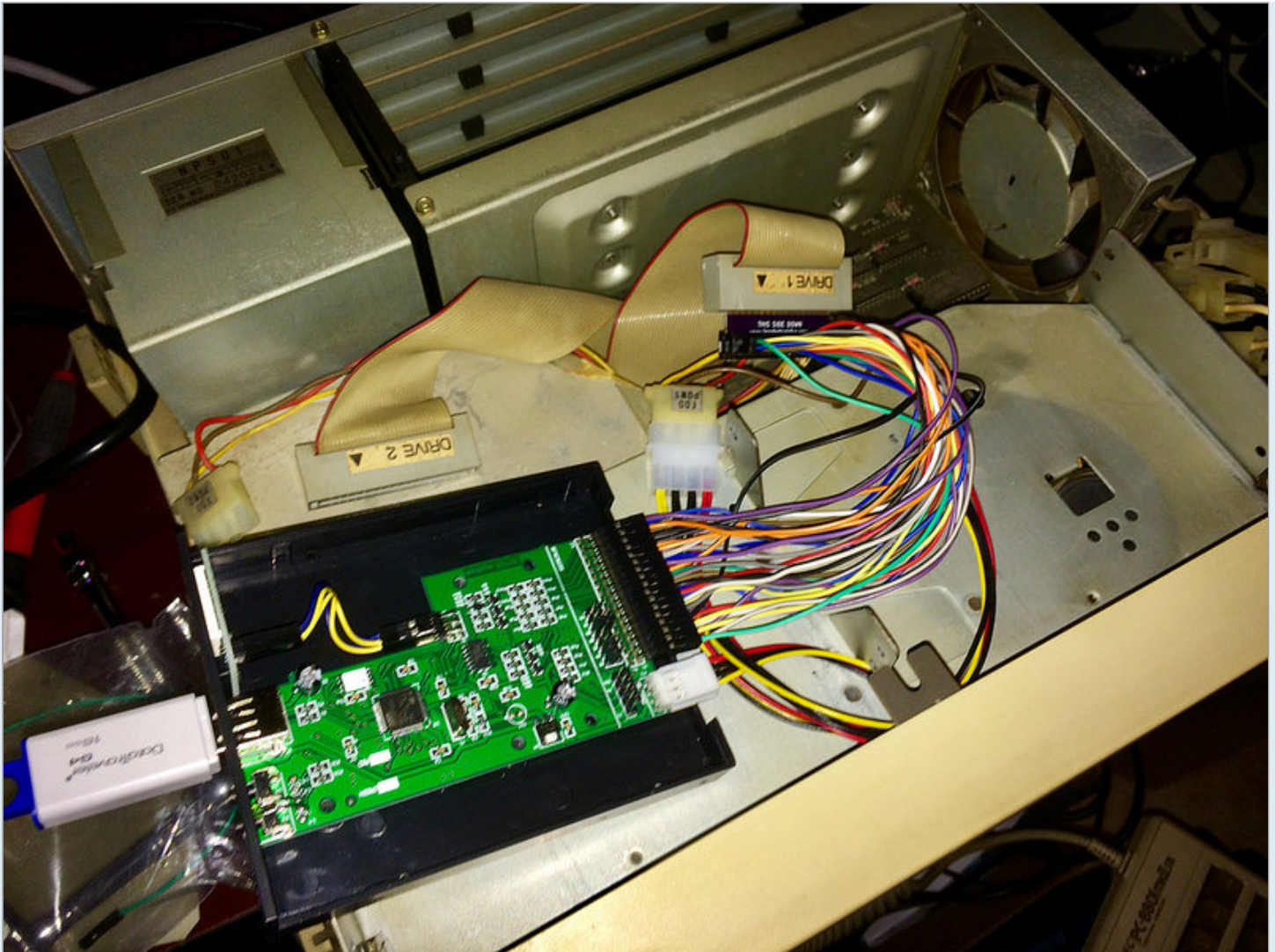
## Re: PC8801 3.5 Floppy

Mon Sep 03, 2018 5:46 pm

I ended up building an adapter board, though the first run has a lot of mistakes that I would like to fix before I give out the kicad files and BOM. Unfortunately I am quite new to electronics.



42630434770\_e693674f97\_c.jpg (103.1 KiB) Viewed 11827 times



29501836537\_58be2b63bc\_c.jpg (151.55 KiB) Viewed 11827 times

I used the HxC firmware on a Gotek. Great stuff! 😊

I can confirm that Nishida-san's adapter schematic above works.

**Jeff**  
Site Admin



## Re: PC8801 3.5 Floppy

📅 Fri Sep 07, 2018 10:36 am

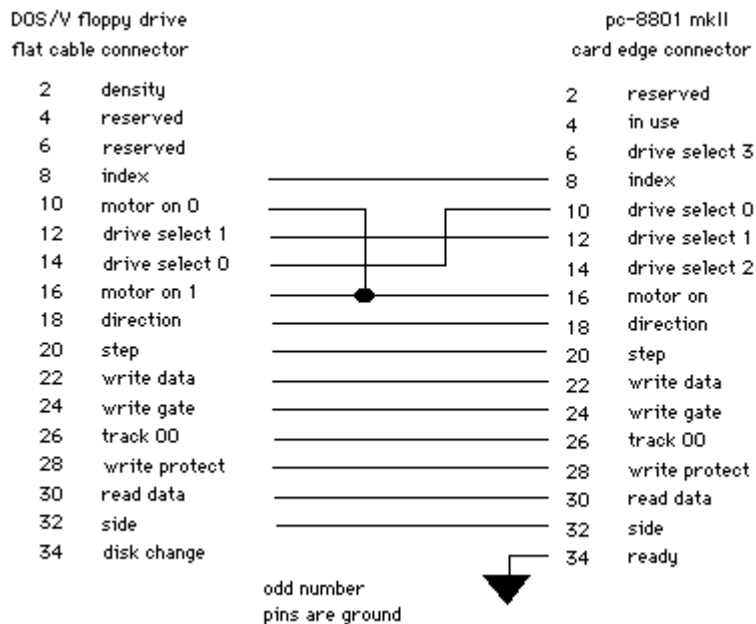
“ barbeque wrote: ↑

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This adapter is totally useless for the SD HxC & HxC Gotek : You don't need to make such adapter since you can change the interface mode to emulate the shugart floppy bus.

[HxC Floppy Emulators website](#)

barbeque



## Re: PC8801 3.5 Floppy

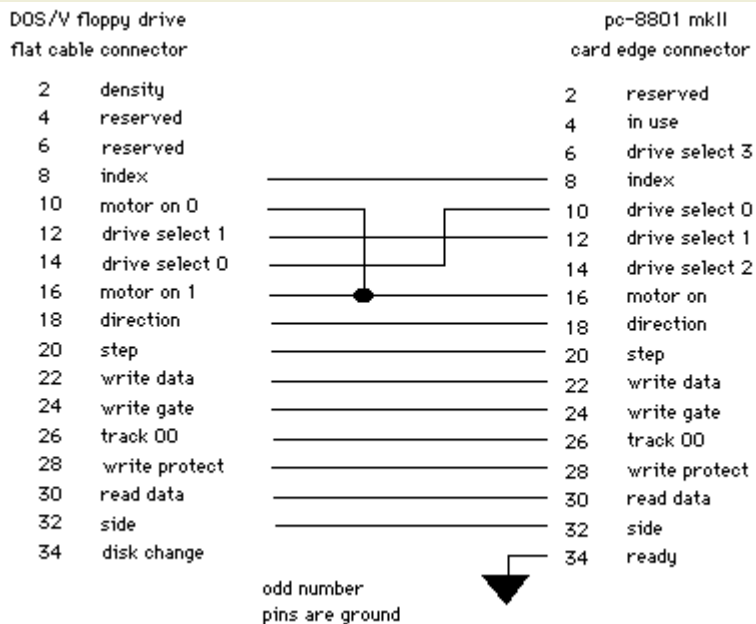
Fri Sep 14, 2018 7:30 pm

Jeff wrote: ↑

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I didn't know that, thanks.

In that case the adapter board I built only really provides an edge connector -> 34 pin IDC adapter, which you should just be able to crimp onto the ribbon cable directly, since the Gotek/HxC can be convinced to use Shugart mode instead.

You should only need that adapter wiring for an IBM PC 3.5" floppy drive, from the sound of it. I haven't tested my board with one yet, only the Gotek.

Good luck!

barbeque



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Thu Mar 14, 2019 8:05 pm

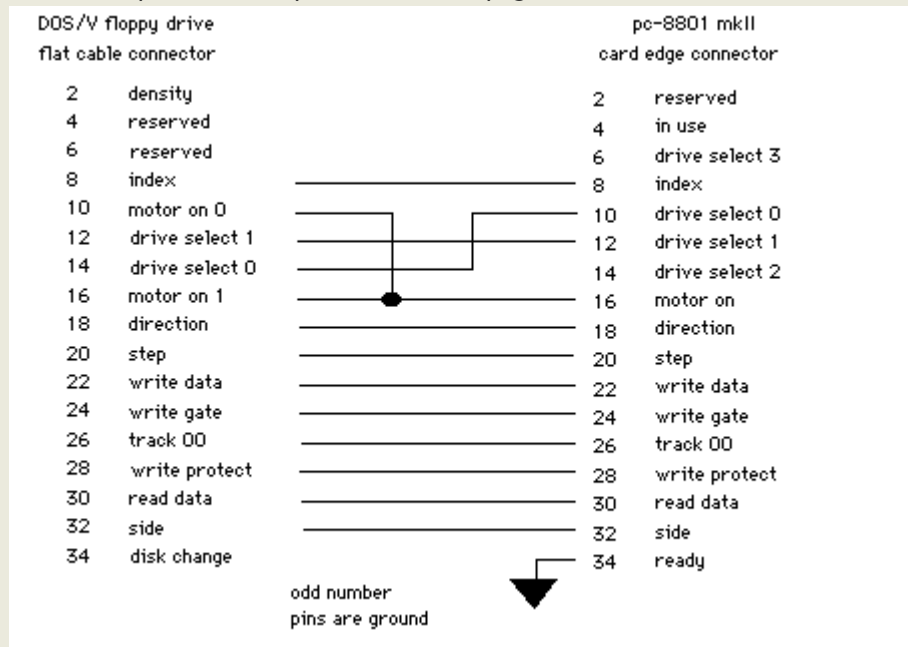
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Good luck!

Update: this adapter had some problems when I was trying to use two drives at once. I made a new version that was just a Shugart straight-through (e.g. pin 2 to pin 2, 34 to 34, etc) that adapted the edge-connector to a 34-pin female IDC floppy connector.

Now it works great with two Goteks. Thanks for the firmware and the hint, Jeff!



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6 posts • Page **1** of **1**

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