

Retrocomputing

25 PIN sound/game ribbon cable

Asked 2 years, 1 month ago Modified 2 years ago Viewed 1k times



I'm trying to figure out to use onboard sound on a Matasonic MS6260S motherboard.



There is a 25 Pin Connector located on the motherboard labeled as J2.

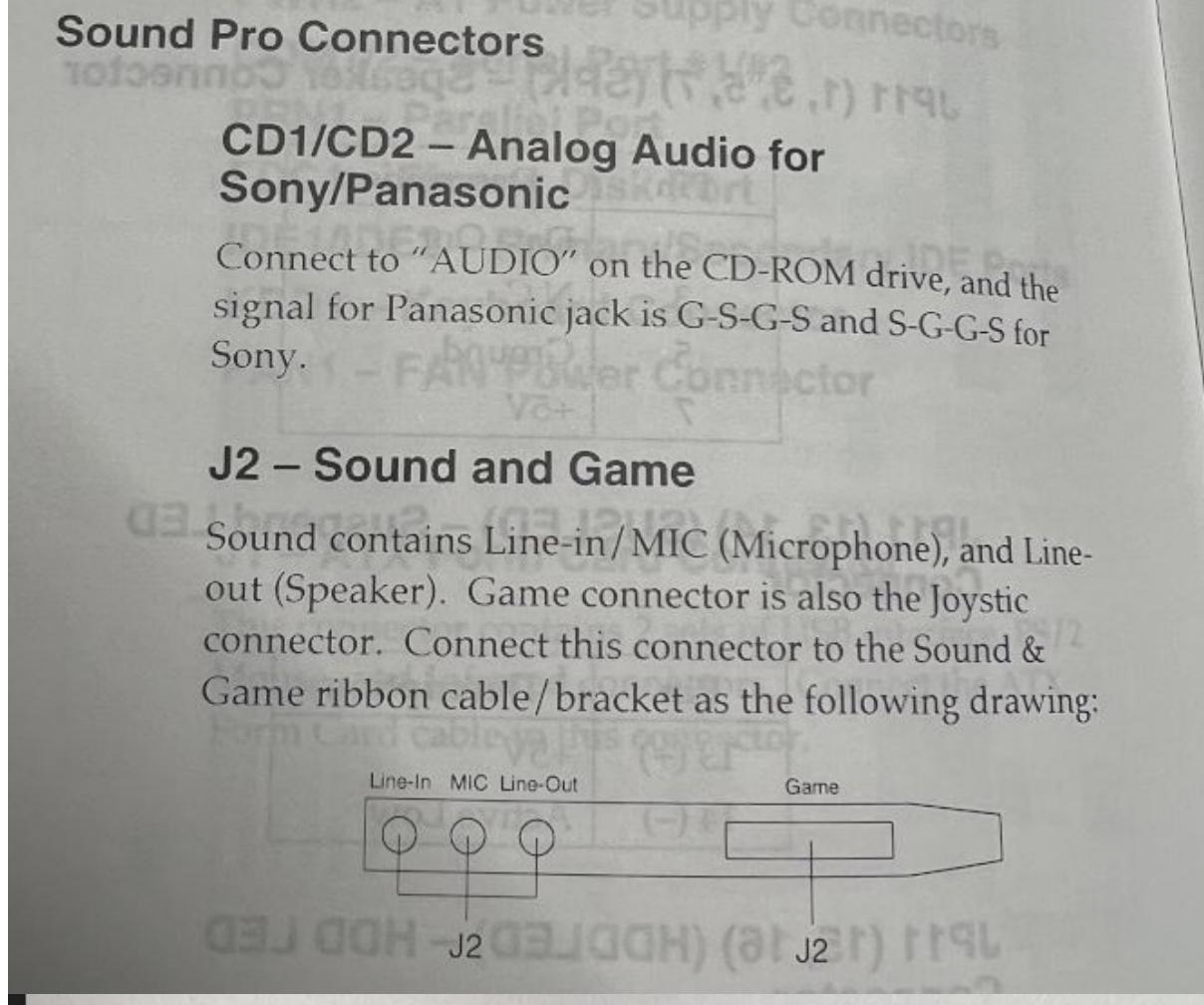


The motherboard manual states to "Connect this connector to the Sound & Game ribbon cable"



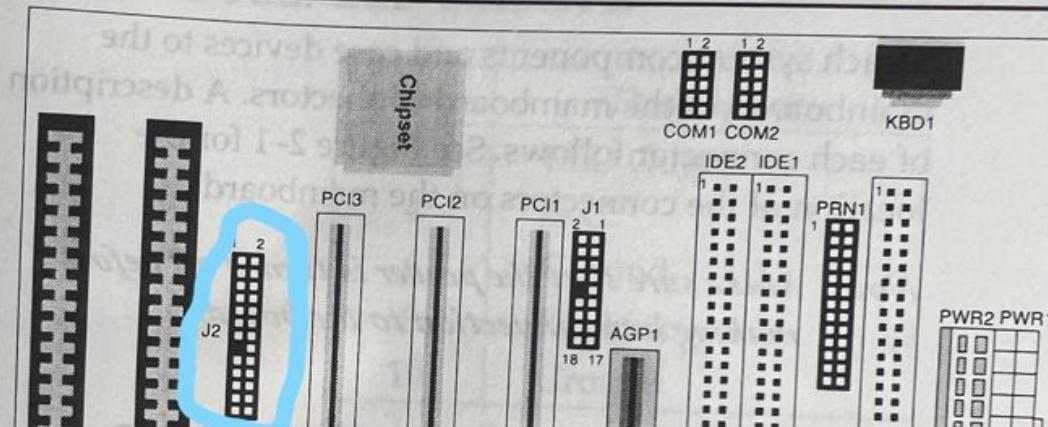
I've attached pictures of the motherboard man pages that show this.

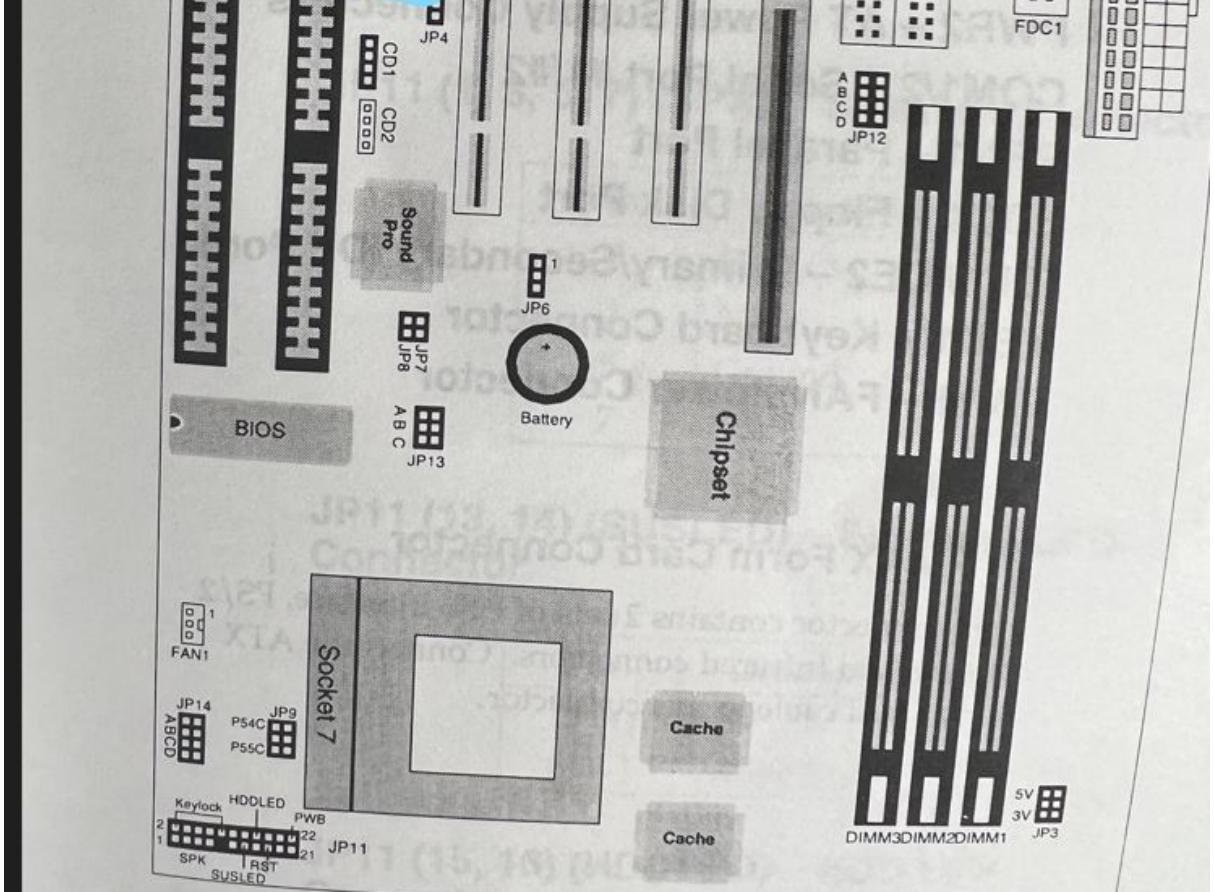
Anyone know what this cable looks like?



Hardware Configuration

Mainboard Component Locations





[gaming](#) [sound](#) [motherboard](#)

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asked Aug 25, 2022 at 2:28

boris
93 ● 4

This looks similar, but unfortunately no images that could be used to deduce pinout: ebay.com/item/264161288491 – jpa Aug 26, 2022 at 14:35

I found it! Can't guarantee it's the same as what your motherboard needs, but the motherboard-side connector matches. I'll update my answer shortly. – [Chris](#) Sep 14, 2022 at 17:34

Updated my answer with photos of the part, including the solder points on the connectors. – [Chris](#) Sep 14, 2022 at 18:42

2 Answers

Sorted by: Highest score (default)



UPDATE: I found it! I knew I had something that looked like that *somewhere*.

12

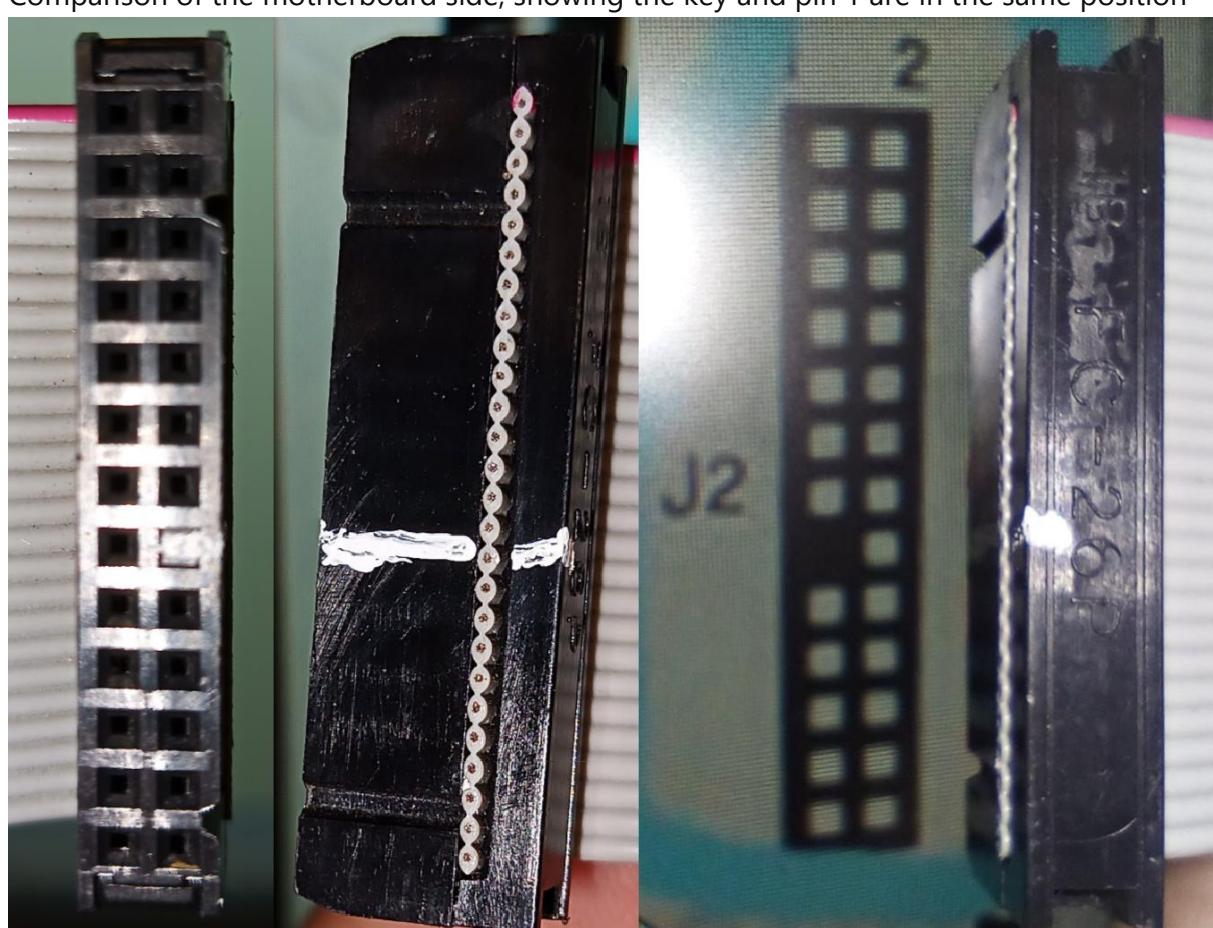
It appears to be the same part as pictured in the manual: each 3.5mm jack is in the same place, and the motherboard header is the same.



Comparison of the bracket side of the part I found against the manual:



Comparison of the motherboard side, showing the key and pin 1 are in the same position



Top-down view



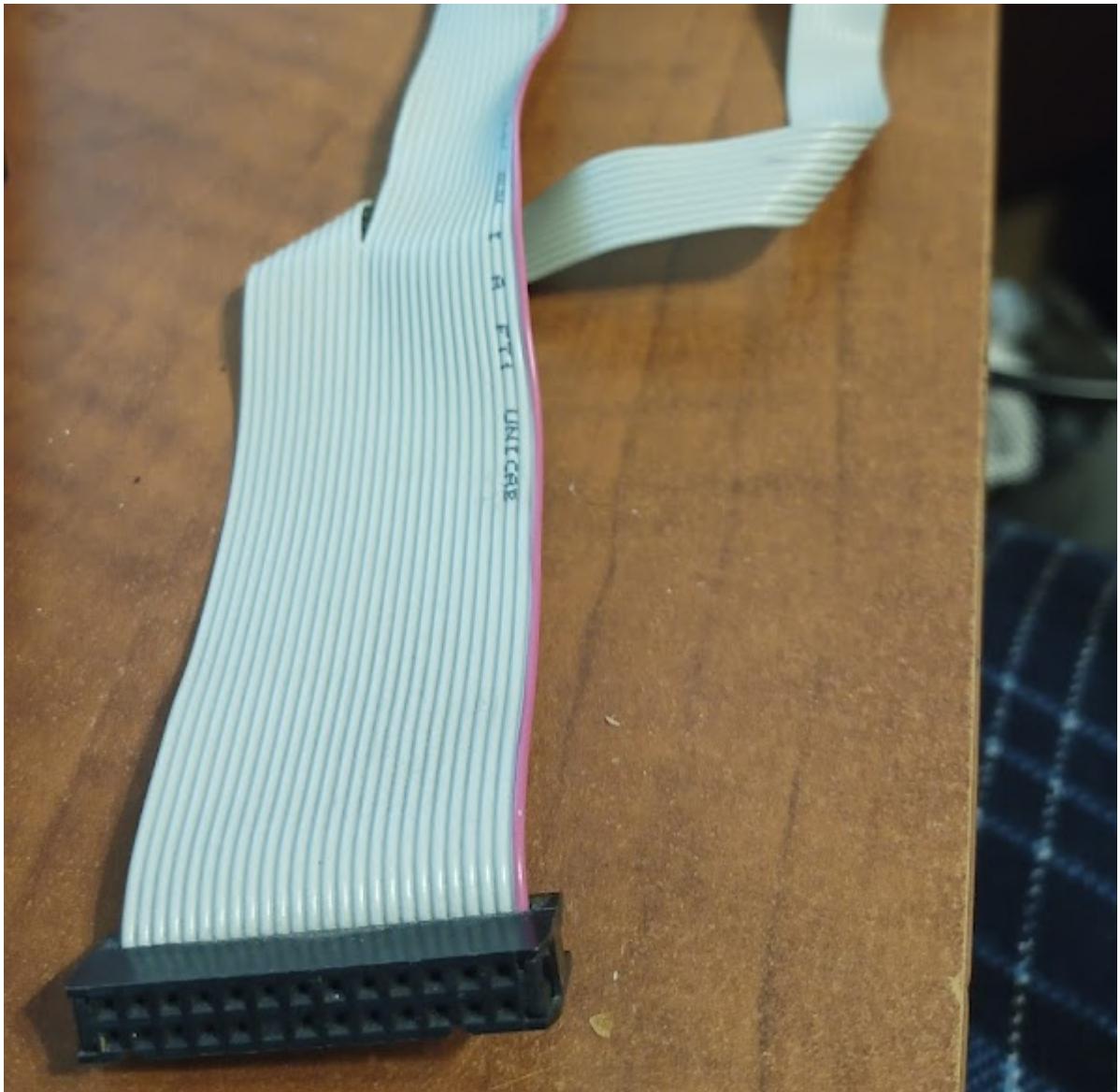


Bracket side, including cable

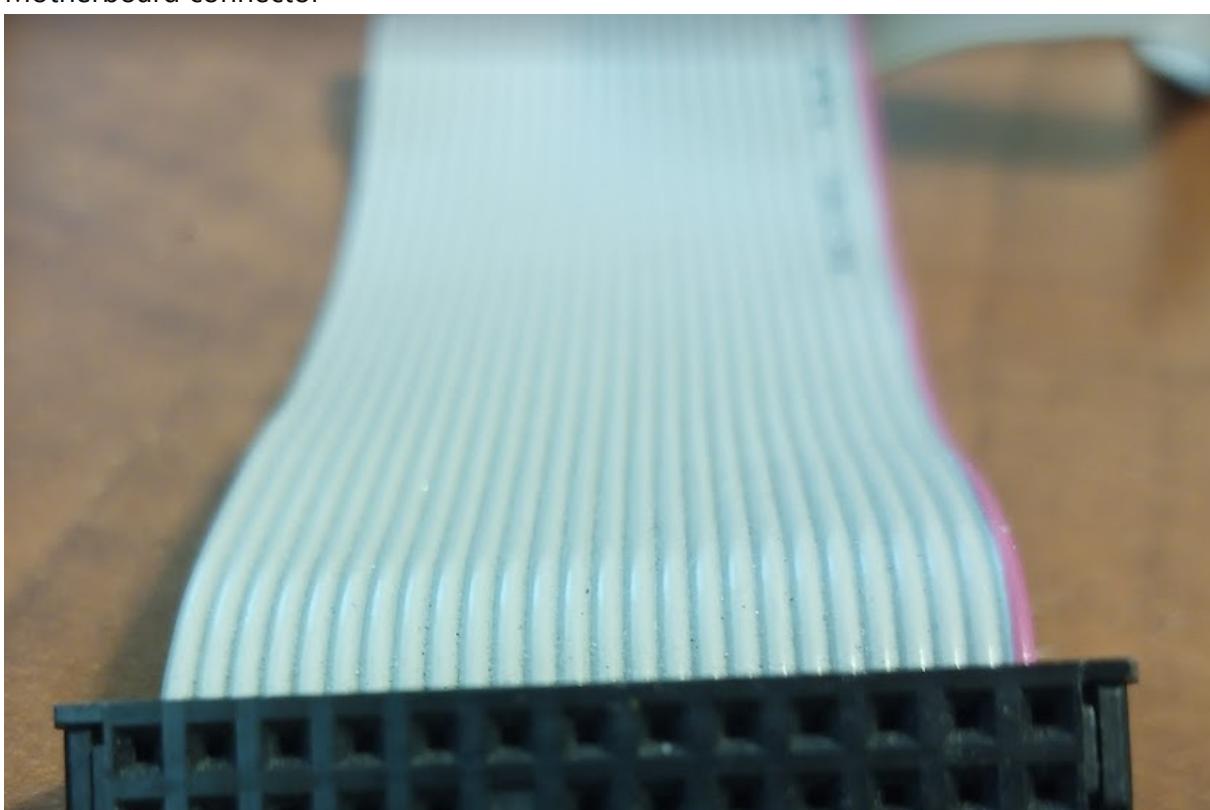


Motherboard side, including cable



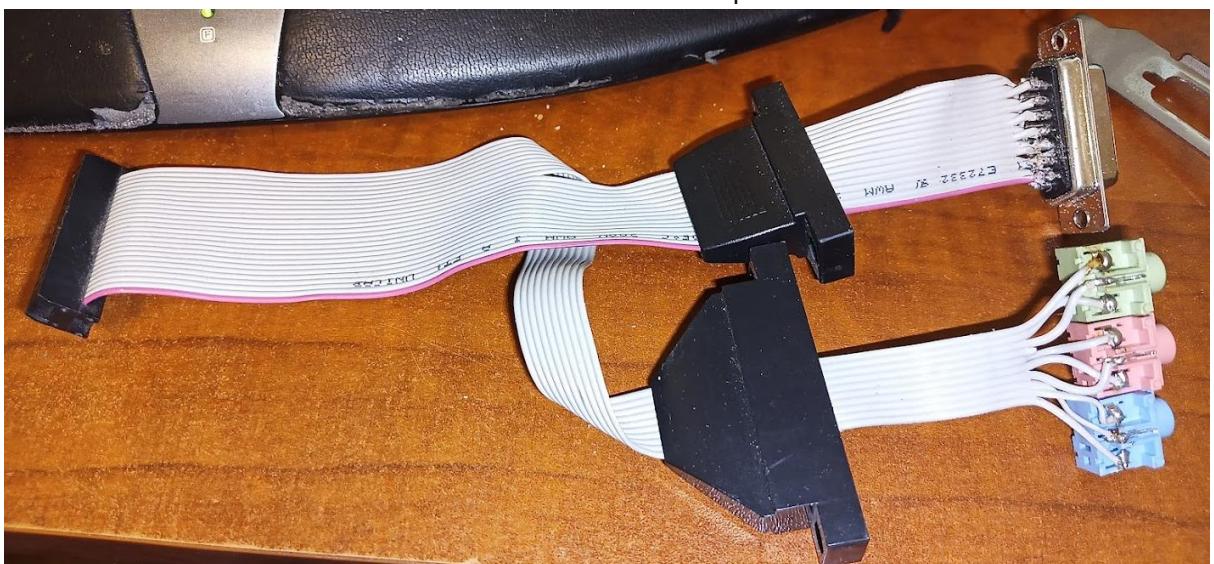


Motherboard connector

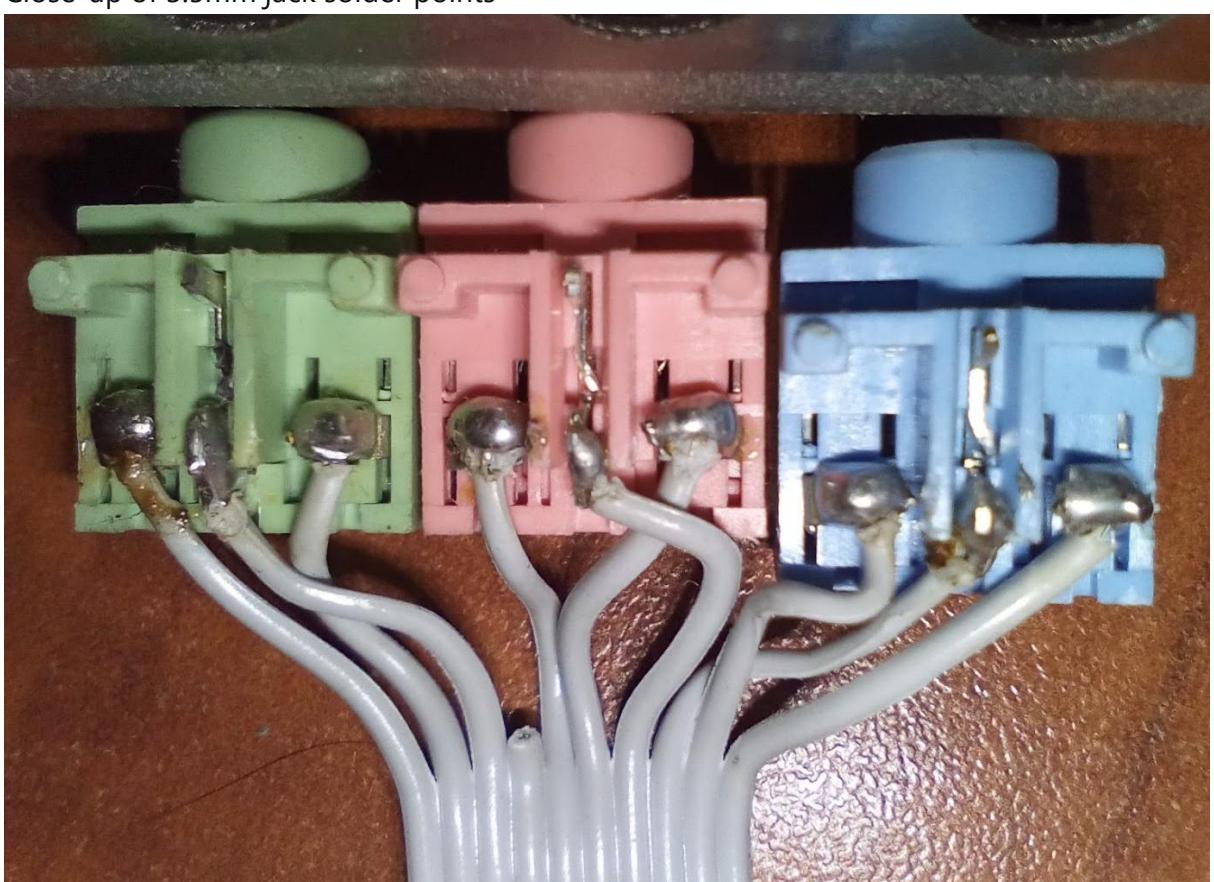




With the soldered wires into the external connectors exposed



Close-up of 3.5mm jack solder points



Close-up of one side of the game port solder points





Close-up of the other side of the game port solder points





Edit: Added photo comparing motherboard side to the provided manual

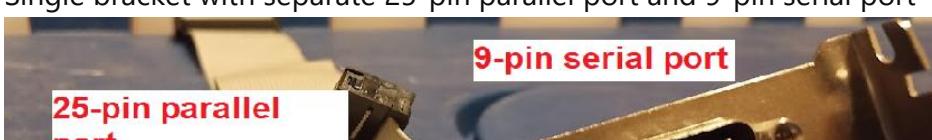
I thought I had something in my parts bin that looked like the bracket mentioned in the manual, but couldn't find it.

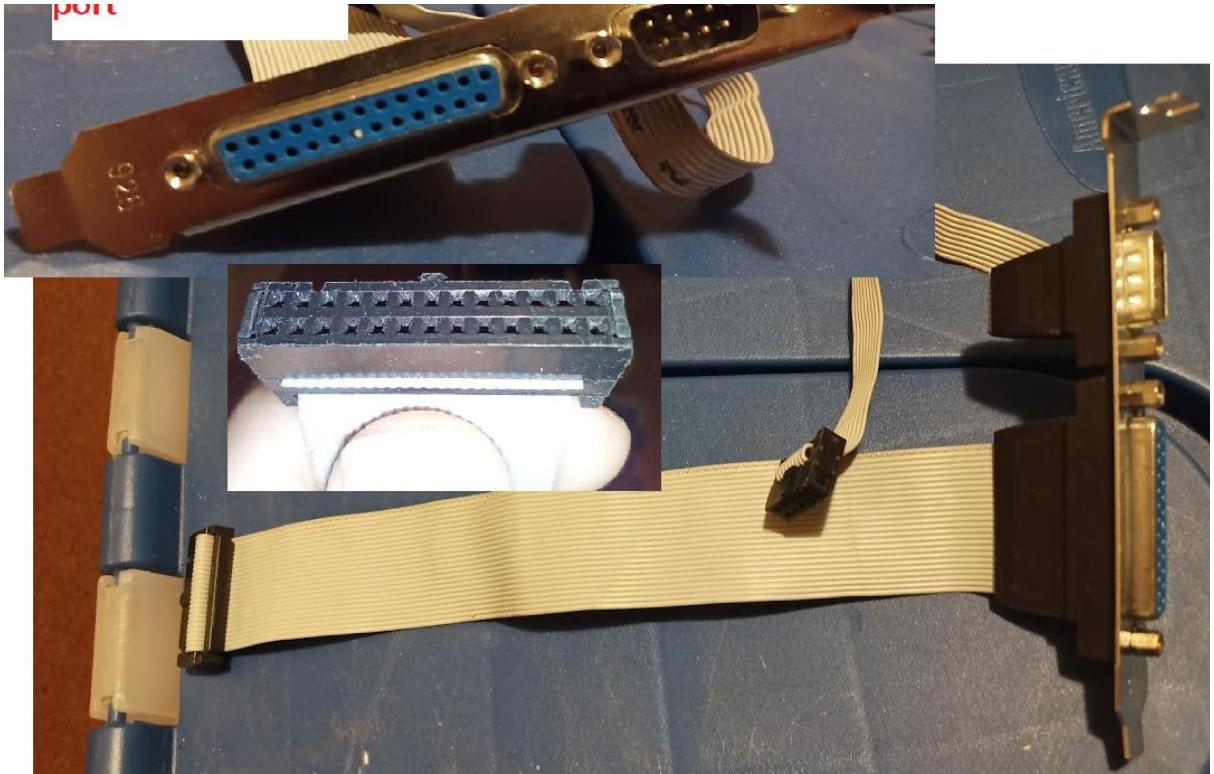
I couldn't find any photos of the part online, either, but it may look something like these:

This is a pretty common 15-pin Game/Joystick/MIDI port used on many motherboards from around that time



Single bracket with separate 25-pin parallel port and 9-pin serial port

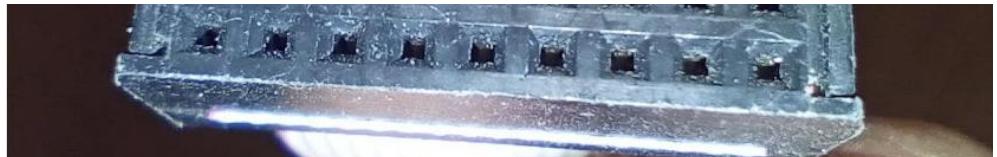




Those kinds are the most common, with wires connecting headers on the motherboard to a simple port screwed into a bracket. There are no electronics have any kind in those examples.

However, it's also possible to have a circuit board connected to the bracket, instead of the wires going straight to the port, like this:





There isn't any "logic" on this board (i.e. no microchips), but it has some supporting components to (I'm guessing) help with keeping the signal clean, or provide protection to the motherboard electronics.

Anyway, if you do go the route of testing the pinouts, I'd guess the audio pins are the ones closer to the "Sound Pro" chip, simply because there are 15 pins at the "top" (relative to the orientation of the image in the manual) of the header including the key pin, and the joystick port uses 15 pins. This is purely a guess, but should be reasonably easy to verify (or at least rule out) with a multimeter by seeing if the +5V is available on pin 1 the pin next to the key (16). If that's the case, then depending on whether pin 2 or 14 is also +5V would say the orientation of the joystick pins (assuming the motherboard manufacturer wired it the easy/typical way which is not always the case).

You can see a typical 15-pin joystick header pinout here: https://www.frontx.com/pro/p0912_030.html

If that works, then you've narrowed down the pins to test to the 10 "below" the key. I'd also guess each of the 3.5mm jacks use three wires, each with L/R/Gnd, so maybe try to find which of those 10 pins have continuity with ground, and that might give some hints to where the left/right signal wires are for each. I'd only tap the probes very briefly on each pin if doing a continuity test, since technically the multimeter sends some power down a probe to see if it (and how much) returns on the other. But I don't think any damage would come from doing that kind of test, since they're connected to something directly exposed to the outside and are typically better-protected than headers designed for use completely within the chassis.

Anyway, sorry, it's not the answer you were looking for, and you may have thought about all these things already, but that's where I would start if I had that board.



The cable has a motherboard connector on one end and a PCB with metal bracket to mount the audio and game connectors on an unused slot.

14

The cable will likely look like standard gray flat ribbon cable with black 26 pin IDC connector on motherboard end, with one pin hole plugged to prevent connecting it to the otherwise identical parallel port connector.



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answered Aug 25, 2022 at 4:51



Justme

36.1k • 1 ● 84 ● 164

17 It's also very likely that this connector and the rear bracket is specific to this motherboard only, and there will be no compatible options from other manufacturers. – [Vlad](#) Aug 25, 2022 at 6:26

1 In my experience these were "semi-standard" meaning that they were similar but not always identical between manufacturers. I believe this style was pioneered by one vendor, and I cannot recall who it was, and then copied by others later. I do recall modifying these to fit on occasion.
– [jwh20](#) Aug 25, 2022 at 17:14

Thanks all for the replies. I've tried scouring the web and haven't turned up anything. If I modify I'll have to test the pinouts. Might just go with a boring ISA SB for now. – [boris](#) Aug 25, 2022 at 20:19

@boris I've updated my answer with something that appears to be what you're looking for. – [Chris](#) Sep 25, 2022 at 16:43
