

OpenArcade

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Project Goals and Development Process

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1 Project Goals

1.1 Project Description

Design and development of an arcade/box style controller series of modules (with a module containing: buttons, joysticks, d-pad, etc), that can be mechanically connected to each other to allow for gamers to develop their own combination and style of controller. Along with the idea that gamers can combine modules together, we want to give them the option to play using the modules separately. These modules will be connected to a central main hub which will communicate the inputs of the modules to the game.

1.2 Rationale

Currently, there are several game controllers that follow the ideology of “1 size fits all”, preventing gamers that may be injured, disabled, or lacking fine motor skills to play the games they want. This could be the case due to a variety of reasons:

- The controller itself is too small and is required to be held.
- Several controllers require a grip that becomes uncomfortable to the player after hours of gaming.
- Buttons and joysticks are close together and require the user to place their hands in positions that can potentially be uncomfortable.
- There is little room for customization, and a lot of controllers follow the one ideology of “one size fits all”.

1.3 Goals

We have several goals that we want to outline for the controller. We want to accomplish these to some degree of effectiveness.

1.3.1 Level 1 Goals

These goals are the most important for the functionality of the controller.

- **Modularized:** The controller should include multiple modules, and for these to work together to play games.
- **Customizable:** The controller should be able to be attached to each other (if A and B are modules, to be attached in either A-B or B-A formats), or be able to be utilized as separate and detached modules. The joysticks should also be swappable and include additional customization options.
- **Input Delay:** producing the lowest amount of input delay as possible, to prevent any scenarios where games become unplayable because the inputs are not responsive enough.
- **Comfort:** The controller should be attempting to be an ergonomic substitute to other controllers, so providing better options for buttons and joysticks and their placement should be a heavy consideration. Along with this, the location of where the controller will be (either in lap or on table) will also provide an improved gaming experience for the user.
- **Functional:** The controller modules should be able to fit correctly together without any mechanical issues. Along with this, the controller should function correctly in terms of gameplay, where specific inputs (button presses or joystick movement) relate to the correct outputs.

- **Robust:** The controller should meet the basic needs of staying together and not falling apart when subject to stress. This could include the force created when pressing a button, or potentially the user resting their arm on the device while playing.
- **Intuitive:** The controller should not be confusing to use, the modules should attach in a simple manner to prevent confusion.
- **Connectivity:** The controller should be able to connect to different types of devices, with the main priority being computer.

1.3.2 Level 2 Goals

These goals are added optional goals that we want to strive towards to optimize the product.

- **Aesthetically pleasing:** The controller should look nice in order to draw in consumers.

2 Development Process

2.1 Meetings

Meetings are planned to be held weekly during 3 core timeslots:

- Tuesdays from 11:00AM to 12:00PM
- Thursdays from 4:00PM to 6:00PM
- Fridays from 12:00PM to 1:00PM

These timeslots are meant for planning individual tasks and goals for the following meetings. The time slots are to be considered an open time to meet, but not a requirement. Group discussion outside of these meetings will be conducted to determine the next appropriate meeting date.

The group will also strive to meet at different times as well, such as the weekend, or whenever everyone is available.

Group members are meant to come to meetings with some individual work done, and all work completed is to be documented in meetings notes on google drive.

2.2 Overall Process Workflow

Below is a list of steps that outline the workflow in which the OpenArcade controller will be designed and fabricated.

2.3 Group Roles

2.4 Technology