



Glen Kleinschmidt, April 2017 www.glensstuff.com In a nutshell:

A "Pong" paddle-and-ball "computer" game that produces a high quality, clean and crisp vector display on an analogue X-Y oscilloscope. The circuity is 100% discrete and built entirely "dead bug". With the exception of a 2N2219A/2N2905A and a 2N3055/MJ2955 complementary BJT pair, the former for driving the speaker for the sound effects and the latter in the power supply circuit, the remaining bipolar junction transistors are either BC550C or BC560C. There are a bunch of 2N5484 JFETs for analogue signal switching, lots of 1N4148s and a few Zener diodes.

There are four switchable modes of play:

- 1) Machine against machine
- 2) Player 1 against machine
- 3) Player 2 against machine
- 3) Player 1 against player 2

Player one controls the paddle on the left and player 2 the paddle on the right. The hand controllers are just so called "zippy" or "jiffy" boxes each with a potentiometer and knob, though the player 1 controller sports a "serve ball" momentary push-button. A match/game starts on the pressing of this button. The position of a controllers potentiometer determines the vertical position of the respective paddle on the screen.

The moving ball automatically bounces off the vertical boundaries and the goal of each player is to keep the ball inside the court. The velocity of the ball begins at a slow and easy rate but in order to ensure a match cannot last forever, from the start of play the ball velocity linearly speeds up and will continue to do so for as long as the human player(s) can keep up with it.

If either player misses the ball the match ends with an 800mS-long 150 Hz buzz and the ball is automatically returned to the centre of the court where it remains stationary until player one presses the "serve ball" button to commence a new match.

In single player mode, the machine controls the opposite paddle and is an invincible opponent. The velocity of the ball will eventually become too fast for a human player to keep up, so loosing to the machine is inevitable. The skill of the player here is gauged by how long he or she can keep a match going.

A link to a video of the machine in action:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f7A5J30cqRk

Analogue oscilloscope requirements:

10(h) x 8(v) cm/division graticule.
1V / cm/div. Horizontal Sensitivity.
1V / cm/div. Vertical Sensitivity.
A Z-axis "blanking" or "intensity modulation" input where a positive voltage of 14V or less is sufficient for total beam cut-off.













50uS/div.











CH1 = Ball-Y CH2 = Boundary hit













B

A







PADDLE-HEIGHT WINDOW COMPARATORS











500uS/div.



The End

Happy Soldering!