Retros Deck — Getting Started (`v0.9-beta`)

Welcome to **Retros Deck**, a compact retro-computing workstation for the **ClockworkPi PicoCalc (RP2350)** and the **Web**.

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1. Download & Load the SD Card Starter Pack

Retros Deck boots into a minimal DOS shell. To use the **F1–F4** shortcut keys (Menu, Games, Books, Memo) and bundled software, you must first load the **SD Card Starter Pack** (`retros-sd-v0.9-beta.zip`), which includes:

- **Lua sample code & demos**
- **Games**
- **Utilities:** Book reader, calculators, text/code editor (`memo`), and a **6502 assembler toolset** for the VIC-20
- **Public-domain books** (`.bok`)

On the Web (`retrosdeck.revisionpc.com`)

1. Download and unzip **`retros-sd-v0.9-beta.zip`** to a folder on your PC.
2. Click **Mount PC Folder** in the sidebar and select that extracted folder—or drag and drop the files directly onto the **Virtual SD Card** dropzone.
3. Click the LCD screen to give it keyboard focus, then press **F1** to open the main menu.

On the PicoCalc (RP2350)

1. Flash **`retros-deck-picocalc-v0.9-beta.uf2`** using the **Install to PicoCalc via USB** button on the web page (while holding **BOOTSEL** on power-up), or copy the `.uf2` manually to the `RP2350` USB drive.
2. Format a microSD card as **FAT32** and extract the contents of **`retros-sd-v0.9-beta.zip`** directly to the **root** of the card.
3. Insert the SD card, power on, and press **F1**.

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2. Optional: Add Commodore VIC-20 ROMs

Because original Commodore ROMs are copyrighted, they are not included in the starter pack. To enable the built-in VIC-20 emulator:

1. Obtain the three standard VIC-20 system ROM binaries from a licensed collection (such as *THEVIC20* or *C64 Forever*) or your own hardware dump.

2. Rename them to these **exact 8.3 filenames**:
    - `basic.901486-01.bin` (8 KB) → **`vic_bas.rom`**
    - `chargen.901460-03.bin` (4 KB) → **`vic_chr.rom`**
    - `kernal.901486-06.bin` or `-07.bin` (8 KB) → **`vic_krn.rom`**
3. Place the three `.rom` files in the **SD root** (or drop them into the browser's **Virtual SD Card** dropzone, where they remain cached locally).
4. Run `dir vic` in DOS mode to confirm they are detected, and `vic20 <program.prg>` to launch software (such as the included `PU-239.prg` demo).

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3. Essential Controls & Shortcuts

Key / Button	Action
F1	Main Menu launcher
F2	Games launcher
F3	Book Reader
F4	`memo` full-screen text & code editor
Shift + Esc	**Force-quit / kill** the currently running program and return to DOS
Ctrl + C	Break / interrupt running scripts

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4. File System Rules (Flat Root, 8.3 Names & Prefixes)

Retros Deck uses a **flat root directory**—subfolders are not used on the SD card. Keep all files in the root and follow standard **8.3 filenames** (`NAME.EXT`, max 8 characters before the dot, 3 after):

- **Packages (`<PKG>`) & Apps (`<APP>`):** Multi-file apps and asset bundles are grouped automatically by a shared filename prefix followed by an underscore (for example, `vic_bas.rom`, `vic_chr.rom`, and `vic_krn.rom` group under `<PKG> vic`).
- **Launcher Configs (`..._run.cfg`):** Files ending in `_run.cfg` define launcher/menu entries and runtime settings for apps and games in the F1/F2 menus.
- **Directory Listings:**
    - `dir` shows categorized root files, `<APP>`s, and `<PKG>`s.
    - `dir all` lists standalone root files (files belonging to `<APP>`s and `<PKG>`s are hidden to keep the listing clean).
    - `dir <prefix>` (e.g., `dir vic`) inspects the files inside a specific app or package without their prefix. Note that standard DOS commands (`copy`, `del`, `rename`, `type`) still require the **full filename** (e.g., `type vic_bas.rom`).

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5. Handy DOS Shell Commands

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help             List all built-in DOS commands
dir              Show categorized files, apps, and packages
dir <prefix>     List files inside a specific <APP> or <PKG>
memo <file>      Create or edit a text/Lua/assembly file
type <file>      Print a text file to the console
vic20 <file>     Run a VIC-20 .prg or .d64 image
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6. Saving Your Work

- **PicoCalc:** Files created or edited in `memo`, Lua, or BASIC save directly to your FAT32 microSD card.
- **Web Edition:** Imported and saved files persist locally in your browser's storage (IndexedDB). Use **Download All** (or the ↓ button next to any file) to export changes back to your PC.