

GamesCare Smart SCART Switch Quick Start Guide



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GamesCare Smart SCART Switch - Quick Start Guide

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Congratulations on your purchase of the GamesCare Smart SCART switch. This device is a high quality audio and video switching solution with advanced, premium product features, suitable for high end retro gaming setups using either classic CRT television sets or video scalars. Please take time to read through this short document before you start using the unit.

Important safety information

Please observe the following safety precautions when using your SCART switch.

Use the correct power supply – Smart SCART Switch is designed to run with a 12 volt, 2.1 x 5.5mm positive tip power supply unit (PSU) supplying at least 1 amp of current. Please ensure your power supply meets these requirements. Never connect a power supply that supplies more than 12 volts. Doing so can damage the unit. Never connect the 12 volt power supply to other equipment in your setup!

Turn off the power before connecting/disconnecting equipment – SCART is not a hot-plug standard! Damage can occur to your equipment and/or your Smart SCART Switch if you connect cables with the power on. Always disconnect the Smart SCART Switch and your games console or video source from the power before connecting or disconnecting SCART cables.

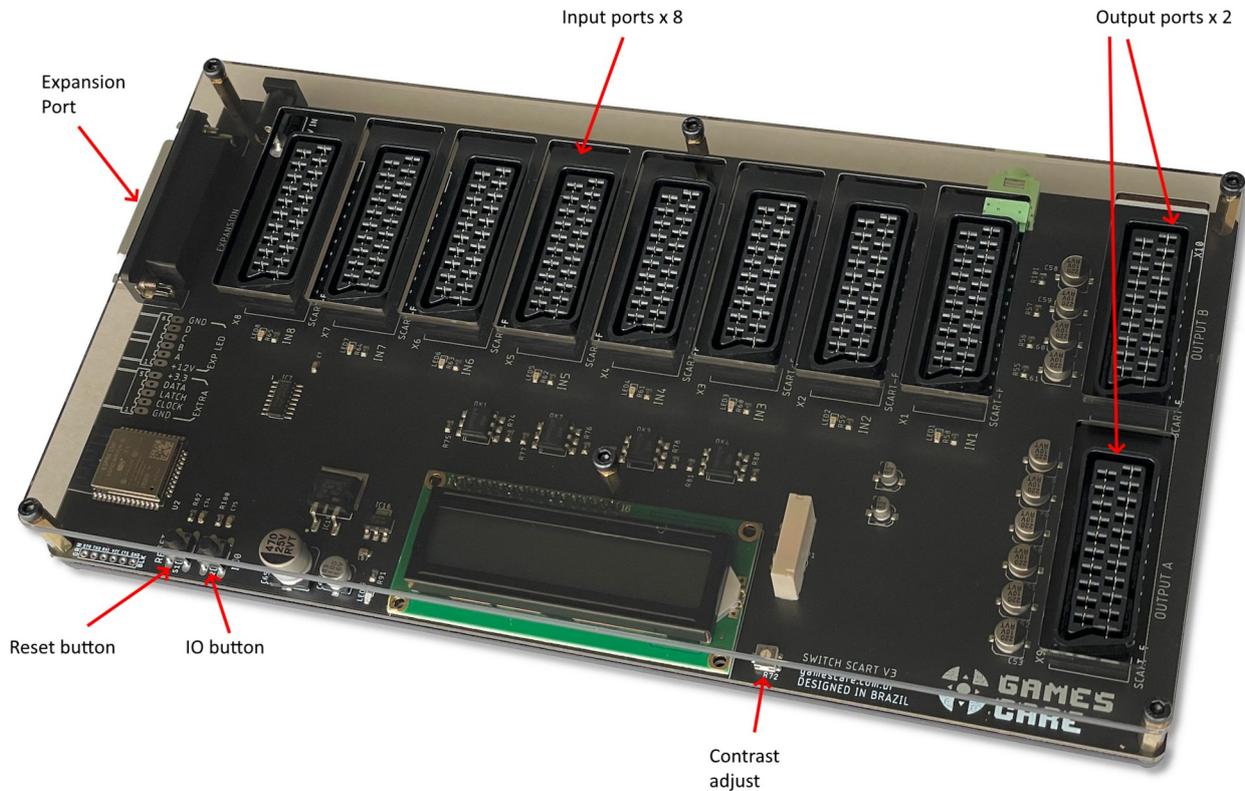
Do not expose to moisture – Droplets of moisture may contact the PCB and cause a short circuit. Never submerge the unit in water.

Keep away from fire or high heat sources – Smart SCART switch is not flammable but high temperatures, such as those from a fire or electric heater may melt the plastic casing.

Please supervise children – This product is not a toy and is not designed for use by children. Please supervise children if they use the device.

Getting Started

The picture below shows the various components of your GamesCare Smart SCART Switch:-



Warning! SCART is not a hot-plug standard! Damage can occur to your equipment and/or your Smart SCART Switch if you connect cables with the power on. Always disconnect the Smart SCART Switch and your games console or video source from the power before connecting or disconnecting SCART cables.

With the switch powered off, connect an RGB or composite video source to the SCART switch using any of the available inputs.

Connect all the inputs you wish to use, then connect either one or both of the outputs to a suitable video display or video scaler. Both outputs can be used simultaneously, which is ideal for video capture, streaming or speed running. You can play on one low or zero latency device (e.g a classic CRT television or Open Source Scan Converter) and capture video with another device.

Power on your display, SCART switch and a single piece of connected equipment (whichever device you wish to use).

For RGB SCART sources – The switch should automatically select this input. If it does not, it may be that pin 8 is not connected in your SCART cable. In this instance, please manually select the input using the IO button.

For composite video sources – Select the source manually by pressing (and immediately releasing) the “IO” button. This will cycle through inputs on the switch. Stop when the correct source is selected.

At any time the IO button can be used to manually select the desired input. This is useful if you have more than one source powered on at any time, for instance. The button performs the following functions.

Press and release: Disable automatic detection and cycle through the available inputs. To return to automatic mode, press the button again when the last input is selected.

- Short Hold (~1 second) – Activate automatic input detection (LCD backlight will blink)
- Long Hold (~3 seconds) – Press and hold the button for at least 3 seconds to open the LCD Main Menu. The LCD back light will start blinking more rapidly, at this point release the button to access the menu. See the section “Using the LCD Menu” for more information.
- Reset Hold (~10 seconds) – Continue to hold the IO button for 10 seconds or more to reset the switch settings to default.

Controlling the switch via Wi-Fi remote

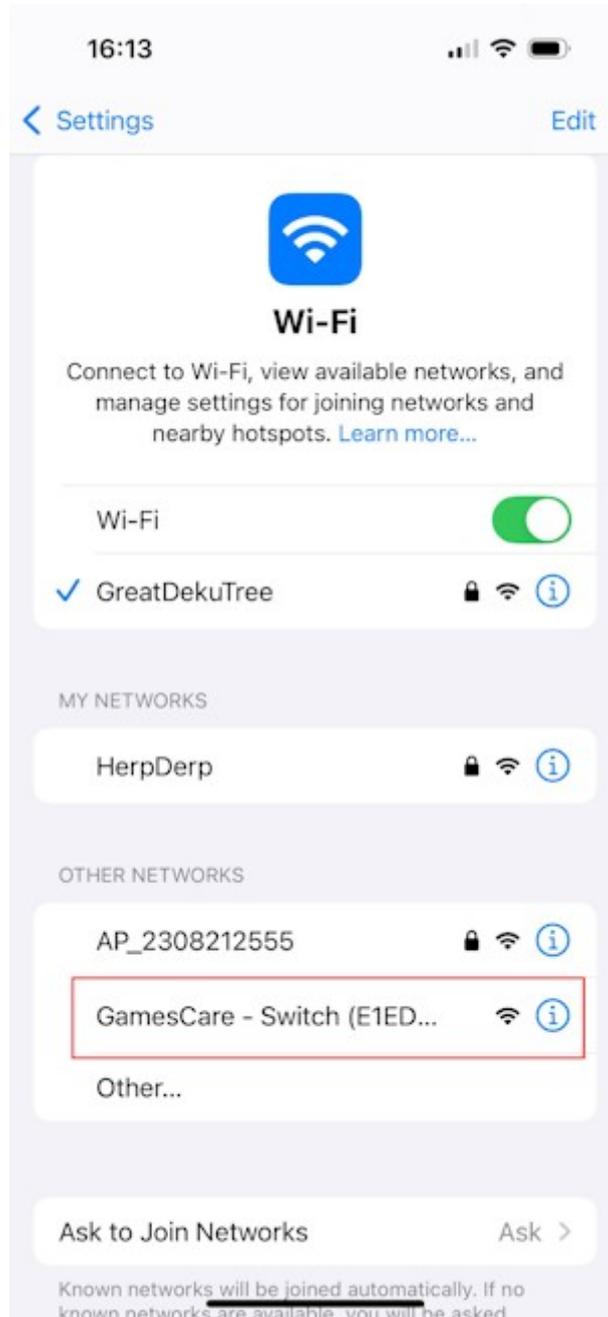
The switch can be controlled using a smart phone, tablet or PC over Wi-Fi. This provides the user with a convenient way to access the devices advanced features.

By default, the Smart SCART switch is in access point mode, and any nearby smart device can connect to the unit and change settings. We recommend connecting your switch to your local Wi-Fi network for convenience and security.

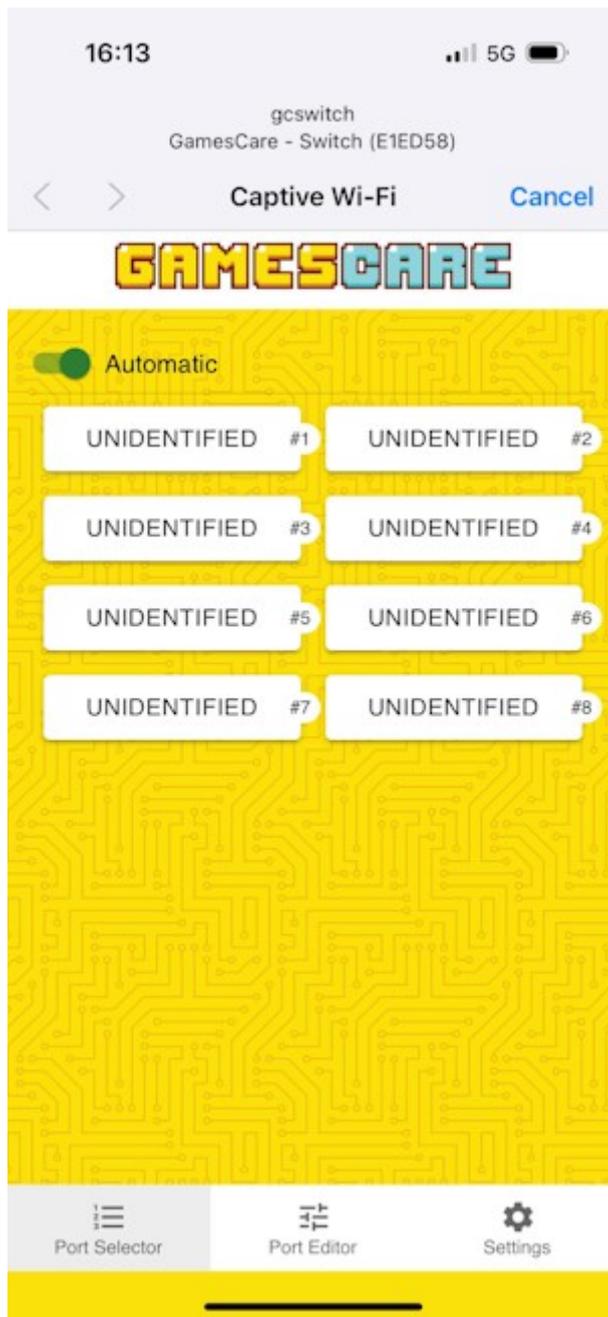
Connecting to the switch in hotspot mode

Follow the steps below to connect to the switch and set up the Wi-Fi connection. The screenshots in this example are taken using an Apple iPhone, but the process is very similar on other smart devices.

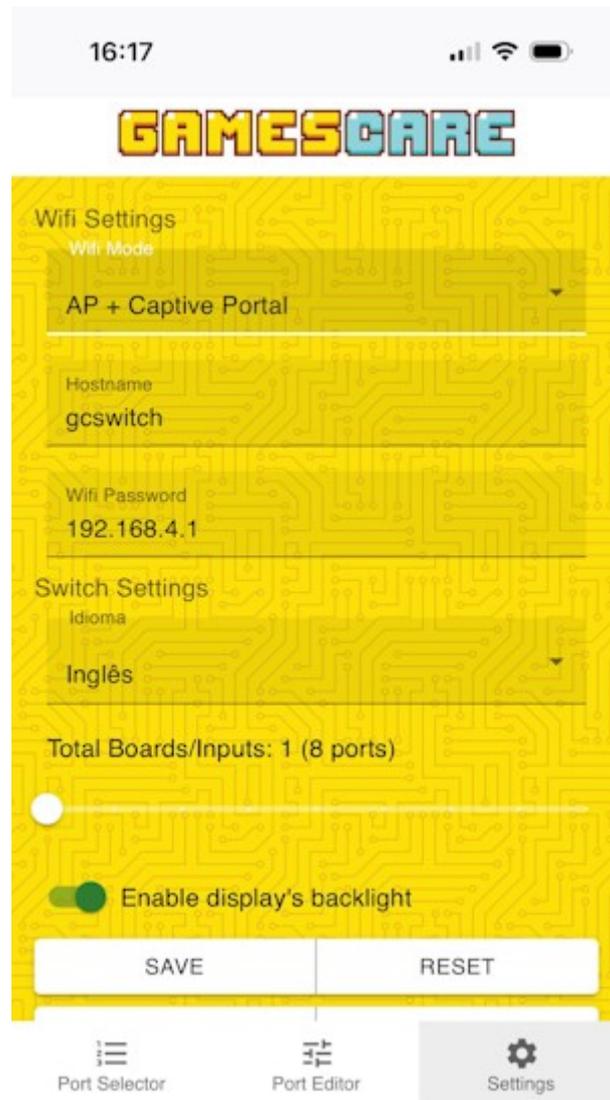
Open Wi-Fi settings on your phone, tablet or PC and look for a hotspot called “GamesCare – Switch”.



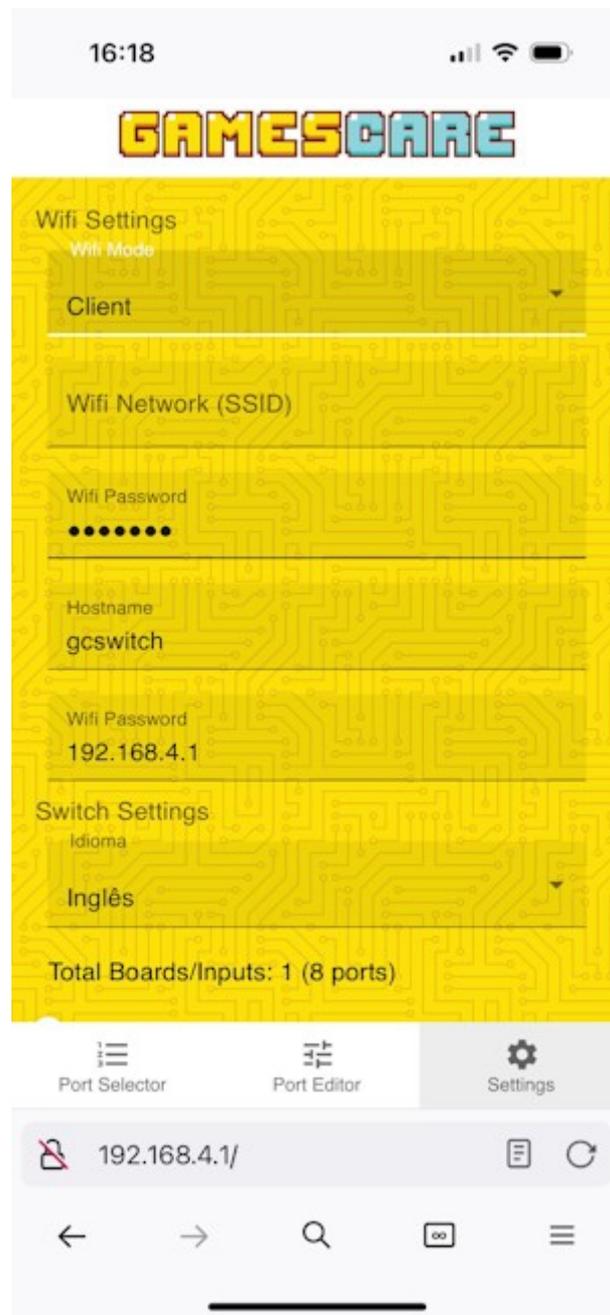
Connect to this hotspot, you should be automatically forwarded to a web page. If not, please visit <http://192.168.4.1> by entering this address manually into your browser. The following screen should then be displayed.



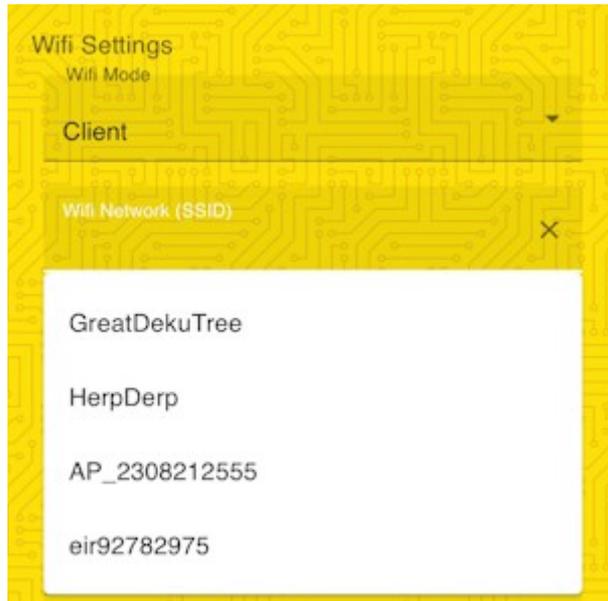
Select “Settings” (in the bottom right) The following screen will appear.



Choose the top most option (Wi-Fi Mode) and change this to “Client”. The options shown below should then be available.



Click or tap on “Wifi Network (SSID)” and choose your wireless network. Then click or tap on “Wi-Fi Password” directly below and enter your Wi-Fi network password.



Once you have entered your SSID and password, be sure to move the page to the bottom and click or tap on on “Save” and then “Reboot”.



The switch will now restart. Reconnect your smart device to your home Wi-Fi network, if it hasn't reconnected automatically.

You now need to discover the IP address of the switch. The easiest way to do this is to use the LCD Menu. See the section “using the LCD Menu” below.



Once you have determined the switches IP address, open up a web browser on any device connected to your home network, and access the page at the switches IP address. In the example above, you would enter the web address [http://192,168.1.90](http://192.168.1.90)

You can now access all of the switches features from the Wi-Fi menu.

Optionally, you may wish to go into your router and reserve this IP address for the switch, to ensure that the device always uses the same IP address.

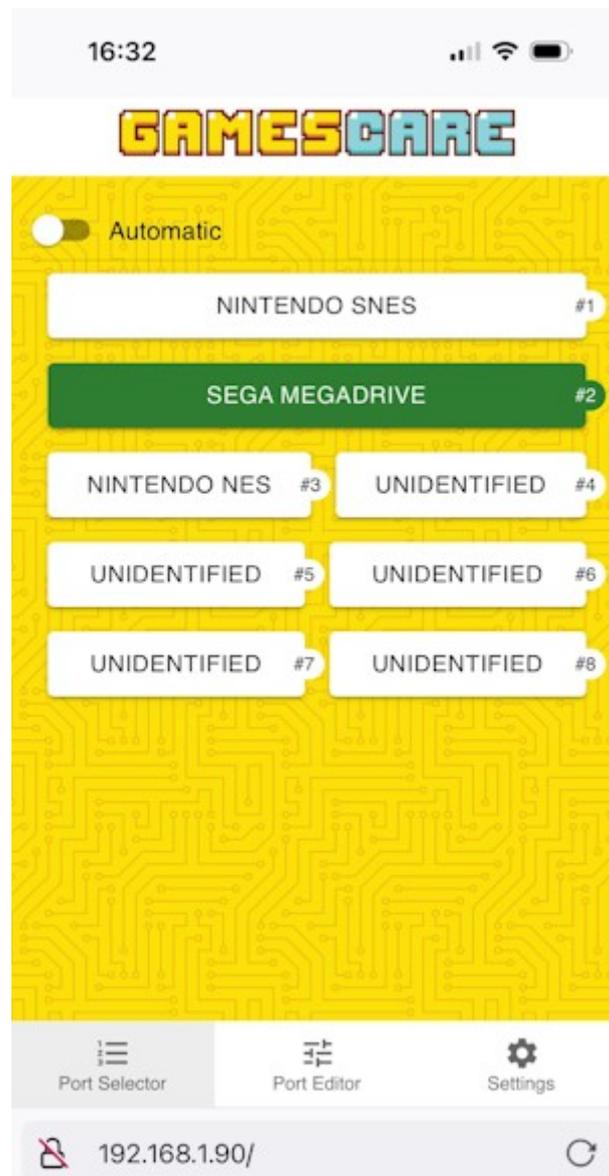
If you make a mistake entering your Wi-Fi details, simply reset the switch to default by pressing and holding the IO button for ten seconds and try again.

Using the Wi-Fi Menu

The Wi-Fi Menu is really easy to use, simply click or tap on whichever option you want to select. There are three areas, Port Selector, Port Editor and Settings.

Port Selector

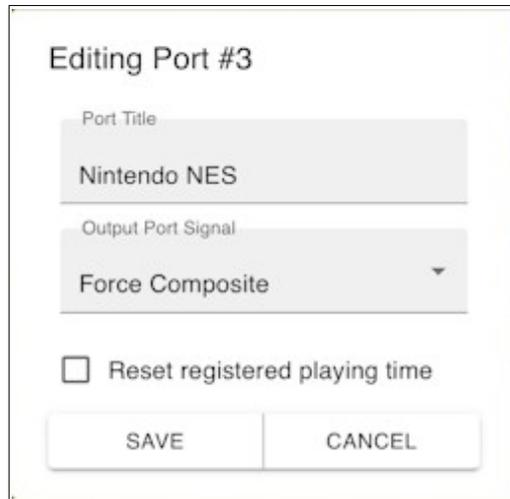
Click or tap on whichever port you wish to use on the Smart SCART Switch. Ports which have been renamed (see “Port Editor” for details of how to do this) will display their custom name.



You can also toggle automatic selection on or off by using the control at the top of this page.

Port Editor

Click the button at the bottom of the page to access the Port Editor, then tap on any port to change its settings. An example is shown below.



The screenshot shows a dialog box titled "Editing Port #3". It contains three input fields: "Port Title" with the value "Nintendo NES", "Output Port Signal" with a dropdown menu showing "Force Composite", and a checkbox labeled "Reset registered playing time" which is currently unchecked. At the bottom, there are two buttons: "SAVE" and "CANCEL".

- Port Title – Enter any friendly name for the device here, such as “Nintendo NES” or “VCR”.
- Output Port Signal – Choose between “Automatic”, “Force Composite” or “Force RGB”. See the section “Understanding SCART Selection Voltages” for more information.
- Reset registered playing time – Resets the timer for this particular port. The switch will track how long an active input is used.

Settings

The settings page controls various advanced settings. At the top of the settings page are the Wi-Fi settings, for details of how to set up the Wi-Fi connection, see the section “Controlling the switch via Wi-Fi remote”.

Scroll further down this page to find the following settings:-

- Total Boards/Inputs – Change the number of input ports, this setting is used when a SCART Expansion board is attached.
- Enable display’s backlight – Toggle the backlight on the LCD on or off.
- Firmware - If your switch is connected to the internet and an updated firmware is available, it can be automatically downloaded and installed using this option. The switch will download and install a new firmware and reboot automatically, if a firmware update is available.

Using the LCD Menu

The LCD menu gives the user a way to access the switches advanced features without the use of a smart device or when a Wi-Fi connection is not available. To activate the LCD menu, press and hold the IO button for 3 seconds. The backlight of the LCD will start to blink when you hold down the button and it will blink faster once it has been held down long enough. Do not continue to hold the button for 10 seconds or more unless you wish to return the switch to factory default settings.

Navigating the menu is done using the IO button as follows:-

Press and release button – Cycle through menu options

- Short Hold (~1 second) – Select the current sub menu or save settings, if already in a sub menu.
- Long Hold (~3 seconds) – Exit the LCD menu.

Menu options

- Language – Change the switch/mobile interface language
- Port Options
 - Signal output - Toggle between Auto, Force RGB and Force Composite. See the section “Understanding SCART Selection Voltages” for more information.
 - Reset Timer - Resets the timer for this particular port. The switch will track how long an active input is used.
- Wi-Fi Info - Show current Wi-Fi connection information, including the switches IP address.
- Update firmware - If your switch is connected to the internet and an updated firmware is available, it can be automatically downloaded and installed using this option. The switch will download and install a new firmware and reboot automatically, if a firmware update is available.
- Reset menu – Resets the switch to factory default settings.

Understanding SCART Selection Voltages

The SCART standard reserved certain pins on the SCART plug for signal voltages. To communicate with the display or connected equipment, devices were configured to send different voltages to communicate different statuses.

One of the most important of these signals is found on SCART pin 16. This pin determines if a RGB signal is present on the SCART cable. The system works like this:-

- If SCART pin 16 has 0 to 0.4 volts, the signal should be interpreted as composite video.
- If SCART pin 16 has 1 to 3 volts, the signal should be interpreted as RGB video.

Not all devices support signal voltage. Devices such as the Open Source Scan Converter will ignore this pin entirely, since the device does not support composite video at all. Some video processors will also ignore pin 16 and simply assume RGB, or rely on the user to select the correct signal type. Some devices however, particularly CRT consumer televisions, require this voltage to be present in order to display an RGB image, or require it to be absent in order to display composite video.

Furthermore, some badly wired RGB SCART cables may omit pin 16 entirely, meaning they don't work correctly on televisions or equipment that is expecting this signal voltage to be present.

By changing the signal output option from the LCD menu or the Wi-Fi menu, you can force the output signal from pin 16 to RGB or composite mode, regardless of the voltage present on the input cable.

If your display is not showing an image, try changing the port to "Force Composite" (for composite video signals) or "Force RGB" (for RGB video signals).

Note that choosing "Force RGB" on a composite video signal does NOT convert the signal to RGB (or vice versa). Force RGB simply forces SCART pin 16 to 3 volts, enabling RGB mode on the connected display, all other characteristics of the input signal are unaltered.

Forcing composite mode will also disable pin 8 on the SCART output. This pin is used for auto AV selection functionality on some TVs. When using composite mode, please select the input manually on your display.

Troubleshooting

Problem	Solution
The switch does not turn on	Verify that the AC adapter is plugged into the power outlet and the switch power input. Verify that the AC adapter is assembled correctly with the power plug fully inserted into the power brick itself
I cannot read anything on the LCD screen	Adjust the contrast control using a tiny screwdriver
The switch is stuck on a certain input	Change the switch to Automatic mode, reset the switch
The switch does not detect a certain input	Verify that the SCART connector at the affected input has the Switching signal connected. Some SCART cables do not connect this signal. Use Manual mode in this situation.
There is sound but no image	Verify that your output device is compatible with the signal you are sending. Use Port Editor to force composite or RGB signalling

More information

Please reach out to support@gamescarestore.com for any questions or topics not covered by this guide. You can also ask for support and talk to other users in our forums here -

<https://videogameperfection.com/forums/forum/gamescare-products/>

Disposing of your Smart SCART Switch



If your Smart SCART Switch malfunctions, please contact us via e-mail or through our website to arrange repair or replacement. All units sold by VideogamePerfection.com/VGP Media come with one years warranty. Outside of warranty, we can service and repair most faulty units.

Please consider contacting us before disposing of your Smart SCART Switch, even if you no longer want it. If you do need to dispose of the unit, in most countries you can recycle the unit for free at your local recycling centre. To find your nearest centre in the UK, visit the Recycle More website at <http://www.recycle-more.co.uk> and type in your postcode. In the Republic of Ireland, visit <https://www.weeireland.ie/household-recycling/where-can-i-recycle/>

If you live outside of the UK or ROI, please check with local authorities or contact us to arrange for a return of your unit.



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