

NES PAL Controller fix to use American (Aftermarket) Control Pads

Not to long ago, the video game store I do repairs for bought a bunch of third party control pads for the NES from America. He sold a few and they all came back “not working”. He asked me to see what was happening.

I had seen a similar problem with a PAL SNES I had not work with a NTSC mouse and had done the bridge the diode trick, after seeing another control port that lacked the diodes worked fine with the NTSC mouse. Having a few spare NES ports at home I thought I would try it out.

This is the type of control pad he had purchased.



What you need – soldering iron, solder and scrap thin wire (ie cat 5 or similar)

Take the top off your NES, as well as the control port black trim piece. This is as far as you need to go. Pull the control port out as shown. You can unplug if you like for a bit of “elbow room”.



On the PAL NES you will see on the control board the little diodes!



All you need to do is bridge these diodes. (yes you can do a neater job than I did, this was just a test to see if it would work- I needed to confirm what the store owner wanted to do).



Make sure though, that you bridge the diodes and not anything else!

This fix will allow you to use NES control pads from America on your PAL machine, of course your PAL control pads will still work.

NES Control Port Pinout

Another task I had recently for the store was to repair a NES zapper. The cable looked like it had been jammed in a door. I was given a yellowed control pad to swap the cable over, ended up being a waste as the control pad and zapper use different pins on the port (duh!). Anyway I didn't take any pics of the repair, but I did record the pinouts, using my trusty multi-meter. I wanted to know WHERE each pin went, I wasn't interested in WHAT they did. **Note:** this is for a PAL console and accessories, it could be different colours depending on regions.



With regards to the NES zapper repair, luckily the damage was near the plug, so I could dis-assemble the plug (not hard, fiddly) cut the cable shorter and re-solder the pins and put it back together.