SummerCart64 (SC64) — Kaico Edition

Comprehensive User Manual & Setup Guide

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1 — Introduction

The SummerCart64 (SC64) is an open-source N64 flashcart designed for homebrew development and playing N64 ROMs on original hardware. The Kaico edition is a retail build of the open-source project: microSD storage, RTC (battery backed), 64DD emulation support, firmware updatable via USB, and an open menu ecosystem.

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2 — What's in the box

- SummerCart64 (SC64) cartridge

- 8GB microSD card

- microSD USB adapter card reader

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3 — Quick start (5-minute setup)

1. Insert the supplied microSD into your PC with the adapter.

2. Download the file system from www.kaicolabs.com/firmware/ and extract it. Once extracted copy all the files to the root of the microSD

3. Create another folder called "roms"

4. Copy your N64 ROM files (your legally owned ROM backups) into the roms subfolder.

5. Eject the card, insert into the SC64, place the cartridge into the N64, power on — the menu should load.

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4 — Preparing the microSD card

Recommended microSD types & formatting

- Use reputable brands (SanDisk, Samsung, Kingston). Cheap/no-name cards are a common cause of corruption or failure.

- Most microSD's are fine formatted to FAT32 or Ex FAT out of the box. FAT32 is the safest compatibility option (particularly for cards of 32GB or over); if using less than a 32GB microSD card then you want FAT32. Use an application such as Rufus to force FAT32. Most users don't need to reformat, but if you experience problems reformat to FAT32.

Required files (what you need and where to get them)

All the required files can be found on our website www.kaicolabs.com/firmware/ **however if a more recent update is available on GitHub feel free to download and update it from there.**

- **sc64menu.n64** — the console menu binary. Get it from the N64FlashcartMenu releases on GitHub (Link below). This is the menu the SC64 uses to browse and launch games.

- **sc64-deployer (aka sc64deployer)** — PC utility used for firmware updates and USB operations. Download it from the SummerCart64 GitHub releases linked below.

- **SC64 firmware .bin** — firmware images are included in SummerCart64 GitHub releases (Linked below). Always use the matching firmware & deployer for the release you downloaded.

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5 — Updating firmware (USB + sc64deployer)

Important: SC64 firmware updates are performed over USB using sc64deployer (PC utility). Automated SD-based firmware upgrades are not supported and are explicitly discouraged.

Downloading what you need

1. SummerCart64 GitHub releases page (Linked below) — download the latest sc64-deployer package (Windows/Linux/macOS as appropriate) and the matching firmware.bin from the same release assets.

Step-by-step firmware update

1. Extract the sc64-deployer / sc64deployer to a local folder on your PC. Place the downloaded firmware .bin in that folder or note its path.

2. Connect the SC64 to your PC with a USB C cable. (When connected it will present in USB mode for the deployer.)

3. Open a terminal / command prompt in the folder where sc64deployer resides.

   o sc64deployer --**help** or. **/sc64deployer** --help will list available commands.

4. Run the update command:

   o sc64deployer firmware update <firmware-file.bin>

5. Wait for the tool to finish; **do not disconnect power during flashing**.

6. After success, reinsert the SC64 into the N64 and test.

Troubleshooting

- On Windows: if the sc64deployer.exe GUI does nothing when double-clicked, run it from an Administrator command prompt to see console output.

- If update fails re-download both sc64-deployer and firmware.bin (sometimes mismatched versions cause errors). Check release notes—some firmware versions require specific menu builds.

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6 — Advanced features

64DD emulation

- SC64 supports 64DD disk emulation when used with the menu/emulator that implements 64DD behaviour; disk images are stored on the microSD and served

to the cartridge. Check N64FlashcartMenu docs for how to format and place 64DD images.

RTC & saves

- SC64 includes a CR2032 battery-backed RTC. The device writes save data to the SD card; most games' saves are automatically written back to the card (no manual reset required typically). If a save doesn't appear, check the save format (EEPROM/SRAM/FlashRAM) and ensure the SD is writable.

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7 — Common issues & troubleshooting

- **Menu won't load / SC64 blinks once per second:** Power off the console and power it on again. If persistent, check SD contents and sc64menu.n64 placement.

- **Corrupt / slow SD behaviour:** Use a high-quality SD card, reformat to FAT32 and re-copy files. Avoid cheap cards.

- **Menu/firmware mismatch:** If the menu fails to load after a firmware update, update sc64menu.n64 to the recommended menu build for that firmware (release notes will usually indicate compatibility).

- **Cannot run sc64deployer:** Ensure you're running the correct OS build for sc64deployer and run it from a terminal/command prompt to view errors.

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8 — FAQ

Q — Where do I get sc64menu.n64?
A — From the N64FlashcartMenu GitHub releases (Polprzewodnikowy/N64FlashcartMenu).

Q — Where do I get firmware and sc64deployer?
A — SummerCart64 GitHub releases (Polprzewodnikowy/SummerCart64) contain both firmware images and sc64-deployer packages. Kaico's product pages also link to GitHub resources.

Q — Can I update firmware from the SD card?
A — No — firmware updates must be done via USB with sc64deployer. SD-based auto updates are not supported.

Q — How do saves work?
A — Saves are automatically written to the SD card by SC64 (most games). If save files aren't appearing, check SD compatibility and whether the game uses an unusual save type.

9 — Appendix: Important links & sources

- SummerCart64 official site: https://summercart64.dev/

- SummerCart64 GitHub releases (firmware + sc64-deployer): https://github.com/Polprzewodnikowy/SummerCart64/releases

- N64FlashcartMenu (menu binaries & docs): https://github.com/Polprzewodnikowy/N64FlashcartMenu

- N64FlashcartMenu SD getting started guide: https://menu.summercart64.dev/md_docs_210__getting__started__sd.html . menu.summercart64.dev