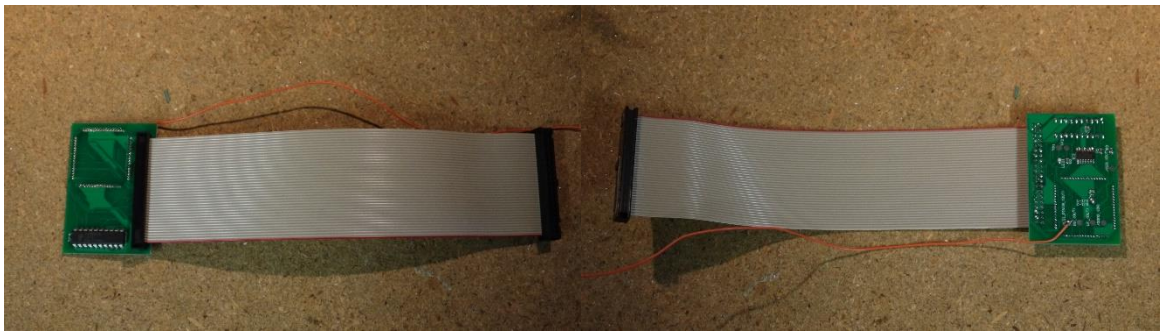
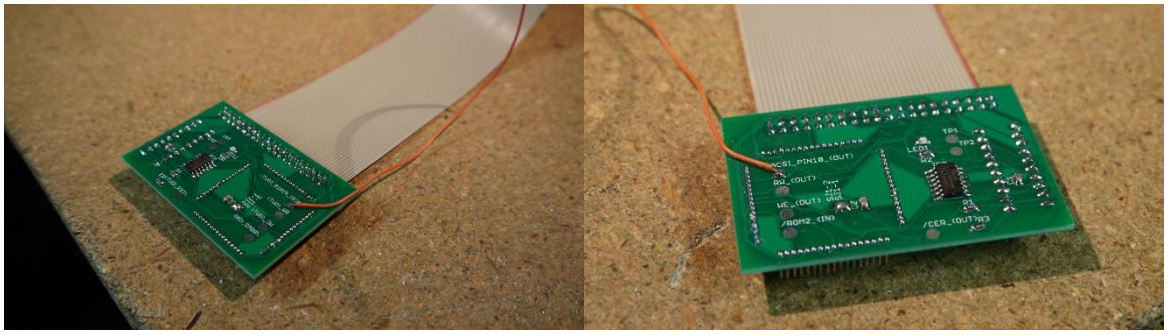
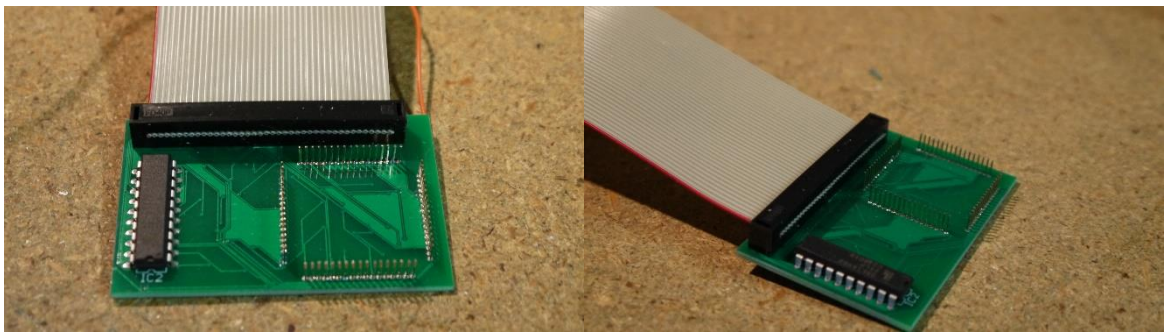
IDE Interface for ATARI STE

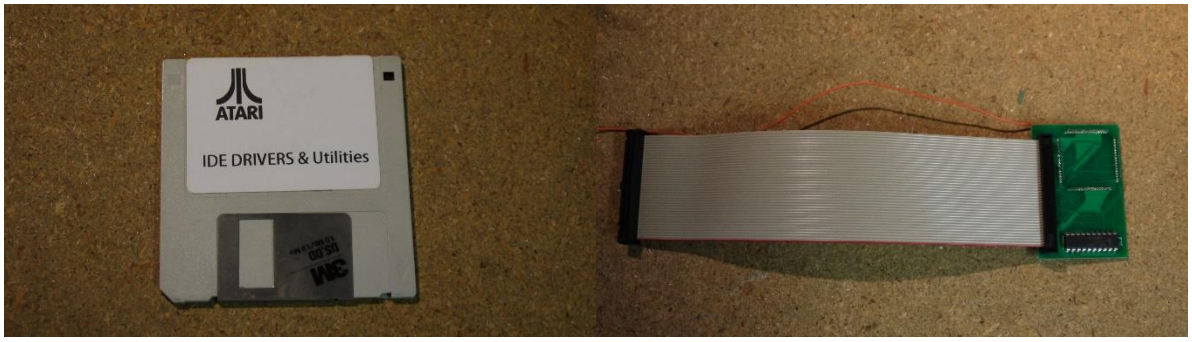






What's inside:

- IDE Interface with normal or twisted cable
- Disk with drivers and utilities to use with your interface



Read this before:

You don't need soldering skills to install this interface. This version is totally solderless and plug'n play.

Anyway, if you have little soldering skills you should solder the ACSI wire from the interface to the internal ACSI port pin 10. It will be more esthetic.

Even if this project is solder free you must take your time to install the interface. Proceed with extreme caution to not damage your interface or worse, your computer.

The interface's pins go between the metal pin and the plastic of the PLCC socket. You mustn't force, or you could damage the socket or the processor. If You damage the processor, your computer won't start.

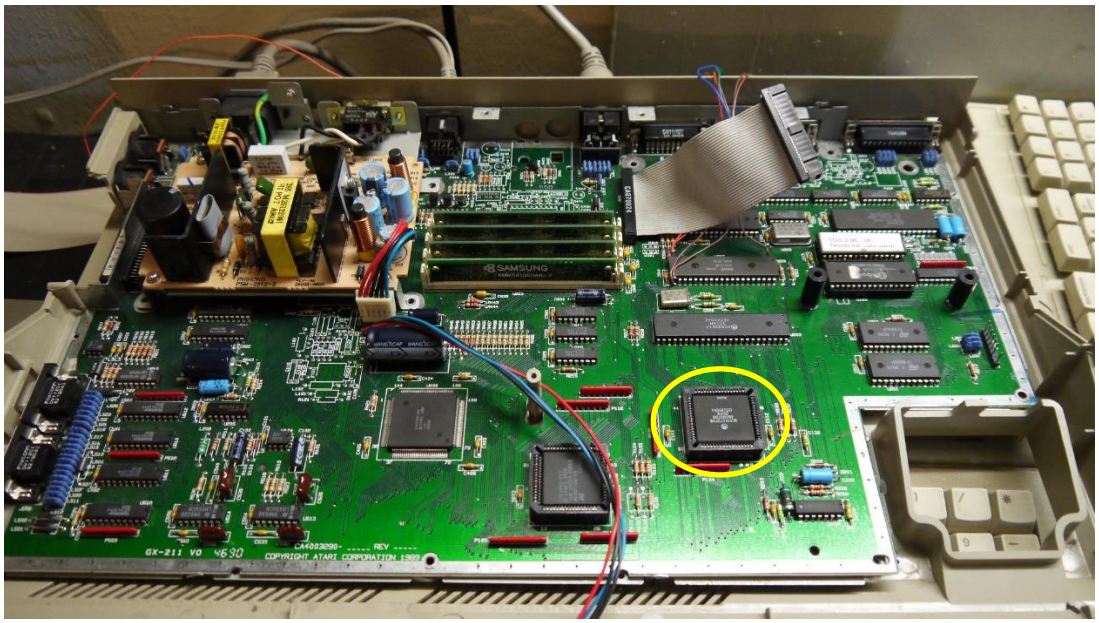
All the interfaces are tested twice: after building it, and just before sending it. If it doesn't work please start again from the beginning.

I will not be responsible if you damage your computer after a wrong installation.

The peripheral you'll use, will need power. Nothing is provided with the interface. You'll have to make it yourself (internal or external)

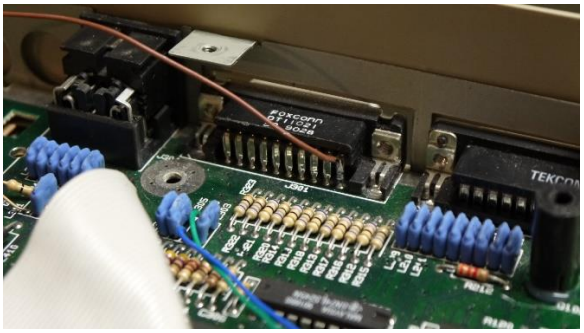
Installation

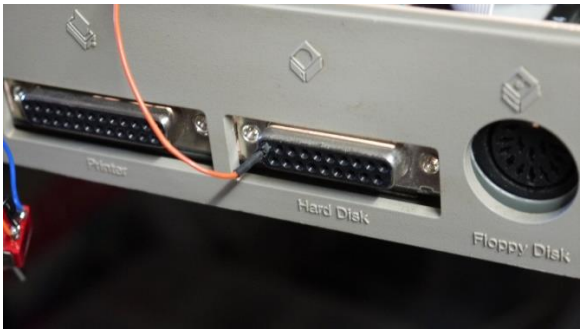
1. Open your Atari STE, remove everything so you can access the processor



2. Prepare the interface by plugging in the wire to the pin no 10 of the ACSI port. There are two ways of doing this:

- By soldering or by inserting the wire



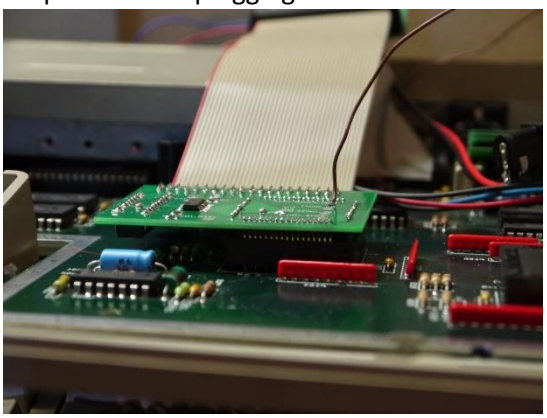
or


3. Connect the interface to the peripheral of your choice. I took a CF/IDE drive adaptor for my example.

Don’t forget to power up your device (internal or external). You will have to find a way to do that since there is only one plug for the drive (add a plug by soldering it to the motherboard, external powering, etc.)

In my example, i soldered a power connector on the same line as the floppy drive power connector.

4. This is the most difficult step : Interface plugging

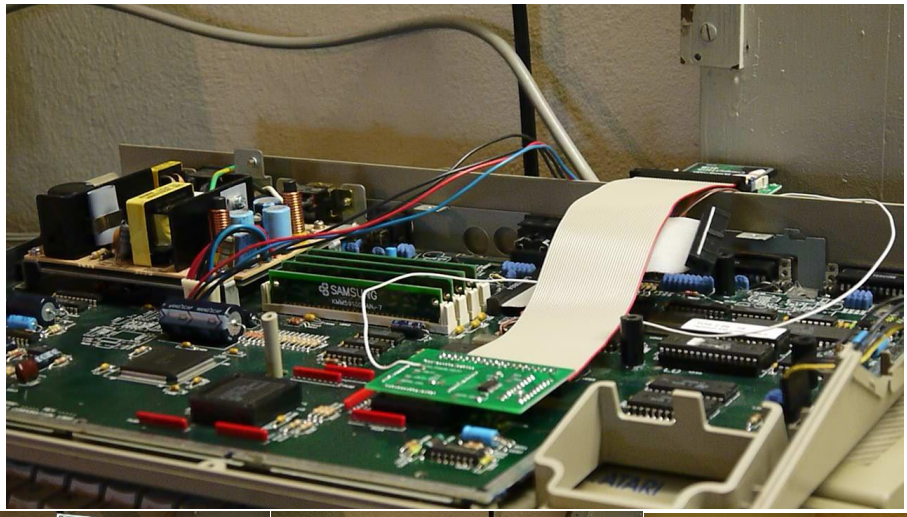


You must insert the interface pins between the socket pins and the plastic. Space is small, it is why you should proceed with caution and very slowly. Make sure everything is on line before pushing it.

You should press very slowly first, then when you see it is in, push stronger. If it doesn't insert, remove, check and retry.

Once it is in it, push it stronger. The interface must stay in without help. the interface can goes out several time. But after several try the pins will have the right form of the socket and everything will remain in place without any help.

Finally you should have something like that :



Boot

Now it is time to boot your computer. If it doesn't start don't panic.

Check :

1. Connection of the ACSI wire
2. Is the peripheral powered up ? It must be powered up, either the Atari ST won't boot (Bombs). You can't boot the Atari ST with just the interface plugged in, it won't work.
3. The device must be in MASTER position (check if there is a jumper)
4. Are the interface pins well-aligned ? torn ?
5. Pins of the PLCC socket could be damaged, dirty or torn because of several try of inserting.

Don't forget your interface has been tested twice : first time just after building it, i put it in my STE and boot on it. Second time just before sending it to you, just to make sure everything was ok.

Driver installation

In the floppy disk you will find several files :

- BIGDOS.PRG : To manage 2Gb partitions
- IDED_7.PRG : normal IDE driver
- TWID_7.PRG : twisted IDE driver
- AUBDUD09.PRG : install the driver on your DD so you can boot from it without need of a floppy disk.

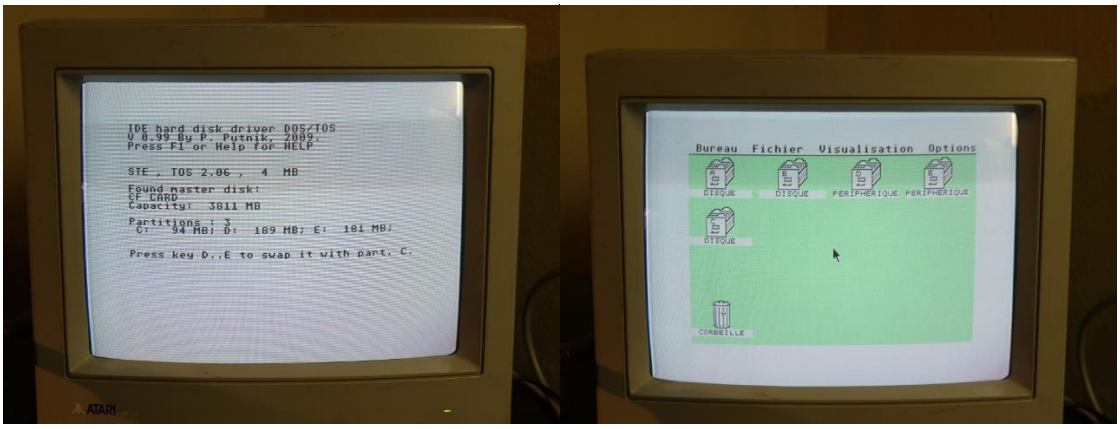
There is a difference between « Twisted » et « Normal », it is mainly DD speed. For common user like me, the difference is not perceptible. By default I send "Normal" cables because "twisted" ones need to use a specific patched TOS. So if you are interested let me know, but you should know you'll have to change your TOS eproms.

Boot form the HDD only work with TOS 2.06, under you'll have to execute the driver each time you boot your ST (you can make a boot disk)
Partition must be FAT16 formatted, max 2Gb and not more than 14 partitions.

Another way is to buy the « commercial » driver to his author ppera: It will cost you 10€ but you'll gain several points:

- Speed
- Memory size
- You'll not have to use BIGDOS anymore to use 2Gb partitions
- Partitioning utility: no more need to use your PC, you can partition the disk with your Atari.

You can buy it on ppera website: http://atari.8bitchip.info/pphdr.php



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