

6. El Toro (Veterans Administration Prosthetics Center 1973) custom

In New York in early 1973 the VAPC's Bioengineering Research Service were at the cutting edge of accessible gaming.

Seeking to find recreational activities to boost the independence and well-being of severely disabled war veterans, success was found in adapting some of the latest gaming technology of the day. The revolutionary Magnavox Odyssey "electronic game simulator for your television set" was picked for the lab treatment alongside Bally's bull-fighting themed pinball machine El Toro.

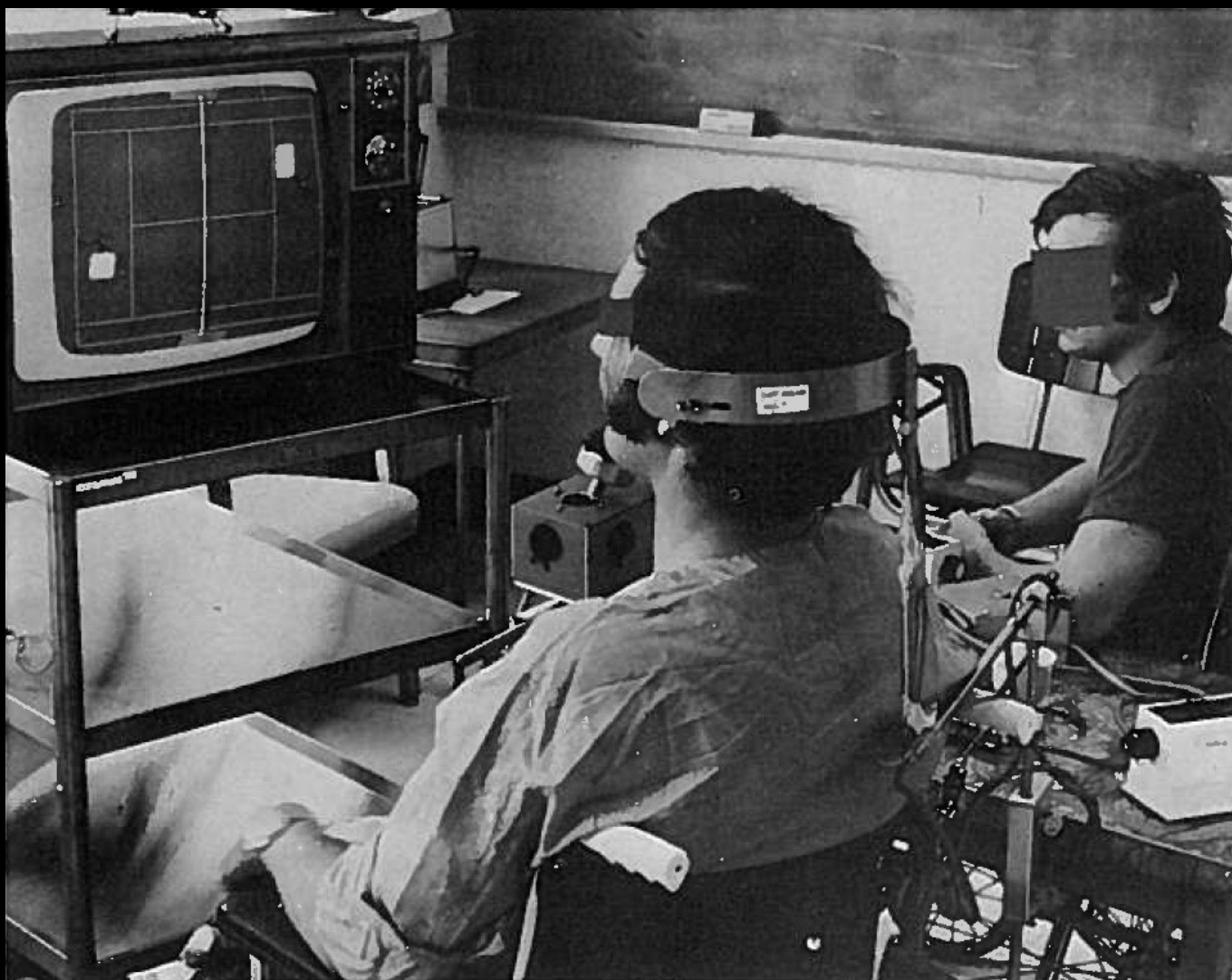
Most notably for the One Switch 100 was El Toro's facility to be completely controlled using sip and puff controls. With the ball in play, one puff could be set to trigger both flippers simultaneously enabling one-switch play.

Clinical Engineer Saleem Sheredos described a bright possible future for accessible leisure in the Spring 1973 Bulletin of Prosthetics Research: "Scrabble, Chess, backgammon, roulette, cards, bowling games, sport games, model-making, painting, drawing, auto-driving simulators, labyrinth, model cars and trains, and flying model airplanes" were all mentioned. One day...



Fast reactions needed. Emulated in vPinball.

A Magnavox Odyssey Television Tennis game for chin control in use at the VA Hospital, Miami, Florida. This was also tested at the VA Hospital, Bronx, New York to a “highly enthusiastic” response. The programme was due to be expanded to provide more games to various Veterans Administration Hospitals throughout the USA.



“A closed circuit electronic playground” promotional photo and El Toro pinball full view.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and PICTURE CREDITS

6. El Toro

“Games for the Severely Disabled” paper by Saleem J. Sheredos, staff engineer at the Veterans Administration Prosthetics Center, Bioengineering Research Centre, New York (Spring 1973)
<http://www.rehab.research.va.gov/jour/73/10/1/130.pdf>.

SEE: [OneSwitch.org.uk/page/100](https://www.oneswitch.org.uk/page/100) for the full story

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