Sino vox : now with keyboard input

Two updates to the Sino vox firmware :

1. **update** : in the number function, it is now possible to trigger the speech from the main button
2. **new**: keyboard mode

Connect a USB keyboard to the USB port using the gender changer adapter.

Do not use this port to power something apart from a standard keyboard.
The maximum current that can be provided is 300 mA.

I you need a keyboard, check out this Wireless Keyboard.

Text Operation:

Type the text and **press Enter to start** the speech. (The Function button is also active)
Use the **Backspace to delete** the last character.
Use **Escape to erase the string** and start over.

Use the five potentiometers to alter the Speed, Voice, Pitch, Volume, and Language (Pinyin or English)

The busy signal goes up while a key is pressed. (if you want to trigger external sounds, for example)

Firmware

Sino Firmware + TRS MIDI

3 file(s) 68.54 KB
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Sino Firmware + USB MIDI

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New add-on voice: SPO vox

My first speech synth that got me hooked about them: the SPO256-AL2!

Back in the day, in the mid-’80s there was only one place to get electronics components: the Tandy Radio Shack store.

They would sell chips in individual packages accompanied by a printed datasheet (I still have mine).

They were selling the SPO256 Narrator which became quite popular and was used in many commercial speech synthesizers

that were interfaced with microcomputers.

Soon I found a schematic to build a talking printer! It was entertaining to hear it speak for the first time!

Today I decided to create a new add-on board for Emy.

The chip has a great potential for making sounds: it sounds metallic, it can hold a phoneme until the next one and the pitch can be driven by an external oscillator.

(in fact, the most difficult part is finding these chips!)

After a few iterations on the breadboard and ad few revisions of the board itself, I came up with a design that add **2 new functions** to the chip:

- pitch control via the external oscillator
- volume control via a digital potentiometer driving an OP amplifier