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# GAMEPRO

Issue 99

THE #1 MULTIPLATFORM GAME MAGAZINE

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PlayStation



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# YOU AND WHAT ARMY?





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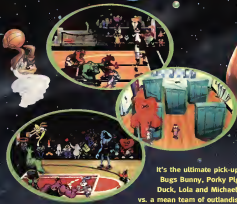




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Here are all the Mortal Kombat games rolled into one! Everything any MK lover could want—fighters, moves, Fatalities, and more.

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### Final Doom

#### PlayStation ProStrategy Guide

Here are the secrets to beating the hardest levels in the game, including the entire Plutonia Experiment story.

### The Fighter's Edge

#### Street Fighter Alpha 2, Part 2 (PlayStation, Saturn)

Ten more Street Fighter Alpha 2 fighters reveal their special moves, killer combos, and championship tactics.

### SWATPro

Secret codes and tips! Crash Bandicoot's super password, Ultimate Mortal Kombat 3's cheats menu, Wipeout XL cheats, and more!



Wipeout XL cheats! Page 242.



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## ProReviews

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You blasted your way through an onslaught of undead marines and

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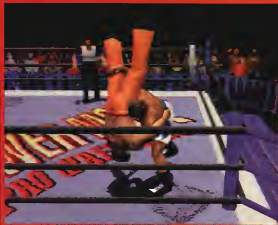
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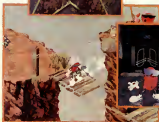


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hidden sensor in the cartridge that actually checks for changes in the weather outside?

**Barry Kovalak**  
Pittsburgh, PA

**Captain Cameron replies:** Hey, maybe you're right, because there was this boiling hot day and I left my SNES running for about 18 hours while it was sitting in the sun, and the SNES felt really hot! But seriously, folks... games can do amazing things, but predicting weather isn't one of

them. If they could, you'd better hope your game never crashes—who knows what kind of natural disaster would be lurking outside your house!

As shown in your July and August issues (see "Four From the Floor!", July, and "E3 Explodes!", August), the Electronic Entertainment Expo looked tremendous. Can the general public attend?

**Steve Powell**  
San Francisco, CA

The graphics and gameplay in Super Mario RPG are awesome, but I was disappointed in the difficulty level. I am an experienced RPG player, and even I beat SMRPG in only a few days. I would've thought they could've put a little more challenge into it. And when I did beat it, the ending was really terrible. I'm not the only one who thinks so; I talked to a few people in the GamePro Online chat room (on America Online) who agreed that Nintendo could've spent more than 10 minutes working on that ending!

T.J. Ferraro, Westminster, CA

**Doctor Devon replies:** Unfortunately, no. E3, which is scheduled for next June in Atlanta, is an industry-only event. Only people who work in the electronic entertainment industry (video- and PC-game software and hardware companies, the media, and retailers) can go. Tickets are not sold to the public.

## WE'RE NOT PERFEKT

Two lines of type were mistakenly dropped from "GamePro Labs" in our October issue. You can find the ASCII Saturn Stick at local gaming stores. Likewise, you can find the Psychopod K.O. at gaming stores or by calling ACT Labs at 800/980-9997.

## READER REPORT

The "Reader Report" in August asked you to identify some great movies that would make great games. When we talked your nominations for new movie-based games, there was one overwhelming favorite: *Independence Day*, which is already coming (see "Problems," October). Your other nominees:

Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls  
Big Trouble in Little China  
Broken Arrow  
The Crew  
Days of Thunder  
Frasier  
Escape from New York

Ferret Gump  
Hellraiser  
King Kong  
Reservoir Dogs  
The Rock  
Rambo in the Bronx  
The Santa Clause  
Seven  
Species

Speed  
Strip tease  
The Thing  
Transformers  
Tron: Legacy  
Twister



## Art Attack

### Pick of the Month

Josh Strubler  
Melrose, CA



David Rivers, Water Park, FL



RUBBLE



Sky Sea Slowik, Lemoore, CA



LoRee James Binko  
Los Angeles, CA

## Whaddaya Think?

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# BUYERS BEWARE



By *The Watch Dog*

Ah, the Christmas holidays are nearly upon us. You know what that means: figgy pudding. They put that stuff in my dog dish every year, and I never know what it is. Maybe I should conduct a little DNA testing in the crime lab. But first, let me answer these consumer questions.

**Q:** I bought NHL All-Star Hockey for the Saturn. On the back of the box is a claim about Practice Drills, but these aren't listed on the main menu. Is there a special way to get these, or is it just a mistake on the box?

**Bobby Ahendschoen**  
Bloomfield, NJ

**A:** A Sega spokes-person explains: Regrettably, Practice Drills are not in NHL All-Star Hockey, though they are indeed mentioned on the box. Practice Drills were originally planned for the game, but we took them out at the last minute. Unfortunately, the boxes for games are made before the final game is completed, and sometimes there will be a last-minute change in a game that contradicts something stated on the box. If you're extremely upset, you can try taking the game back to the store where you bought it, but we can't dictate any store's return policy. Sega itself doesn't have a return policy in place for this game.



No foolin': No Practice Drills

**Q:** I recently rented Braided 13 for the PlayStation, and the game locked up as soon as I turned it on. Then I rented it from another store, and the same thing happened. What's wrong?

"RHCP123"  
Internet

**A:** The Watch Dog commiserates: Our copy of Braided 13 also continued to lock up, so we asked ReadySoft for an explanation.



Braided 13 goes braided?

**A:** June Brown from ReadySoft says: There was a problem with the first-run copies of Braided 13 that kept it from working correctly on the PlayStation. We did a second run of that game to eliminate the problem, so you should be able to find good working copies. Here's our technical-support number if you have any other problems: 416/322-7350, extension 739.

**Q:** Recently I beat Revenge of the Ninja for the Sega CD on the Hard setting. I took a picture of the diploma at the end, but I don't know where I'm supposed to send it. What's the address?

**Jonathan Hackett**  
Birmingham, MI

**A:** The Watch Dog says: Unfortunately, the street address is on Oblivion Road in the town of No-where, USA. Renovation was the Santa Clara, California-based company that made that Sega CD game, and back in 1993 they did indeed confer a "Master of the Ninja Arts" degree on gamers who beat the game in the Hard mode. However, Renovation, which also made Road Avenger and Time Gal for the Sega CD, has since gone out of business, and the phone number and address given in the game manuals no longer work.



No more Renovation, so no more "Master of the Ninja Arts" degrees for Revenge of the Ninja.

## You Make the Call

Having problems with hardware or software from Nintendo, Sega, or Sony? Here are the customer-service numbers to call:

Nintendo: 800/255-3700

Sega: 800/733-7288

Sony: 800/345-7669

**A:** GamePro, listening is what we do best. When you have a problem with a product or feel you've been ripped off, we want to know. If you have a complaint about a product, write to:

**GamePro's Buyers Beware**  
P.O. Box 5628  
San Mateo, CA 94402

E-mail us your product complaints through America Online or at this Internet address:  
[buyers\\_beware.gamepro@itfw.com](mailto:buyers_beware.gamepro@itfw.com)

# This space available for immediate occupancy.

The darkness of ancient Egypt and evil alien forces, possessing horrifying powers, have taken possession of the ancient city of Karnak. And these landlords are exacting extremely high rents. Like an arm and a leg...or worse.

Airdropped into first person landscapes, you must swim, crawl and otherwise run like hell through 20-plus levels of gameplay. Real time, fully 3-D rendered environments allow you complete 360° freedom of gameplay. With just a machete to begin with, search for 7 other

weapons like hand grenades, a flame thrower, an M60 machine gun and a magical cobra staff. Dynamic lighting allows for stunning visual effects. Cross bridges, crawl through tunnels and swim through underwater grottos. Your only salvation is the guiding Spirit of the Great Pharaoh Ramses. He's the only one in this god-forsaken neighborhood who wants to help you get a forwarding address.

So welcome to the nightmare of Ramses' tomb. And enjoy your stay. It may last forever.



## POWER SLAVE



<http://www.playmatestoys.com>



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Columbus, OH 43260  
(774) 428-2889

A Labyrinth Adventure: Marmosets

MS

Only a user will get on to the next level.

The Skeleton Master: Andy

To win this game  
you must play  
from your heart.  
Or any  
available organ.





With the Bone world map of Bones, Deadmen or the

## Introducing Mr. Bones.

Anybody said being dead was an easy job. But when you want to get up your hands, you better start laughing that screaming like you're still got a heartbeat. Old DeGaulin's got a kid-manned army of rotten-tooth warthogs that wants to gnaw your lungs at breakfast. And your original soundtrack by Blue guitarist Bruce Mynster is the only thing standing in their way. So tune up. And get ready for our 30 levels of sickening sights, nastier sounds, and thank-you-if-you-get-a-game action that won't cut out until you're dead. Again.

THE BONES

only on



SEGA SATURN



C P R E S E N T S I N S I D E

# TOBIAN MO

AT THE GALAXY AMPHITHEATER

FIGHT UP THE CENTURY



ILLGODGAR VS CHUJI

MASTERS OF THE HEADLOCK TAGS  
WITH HEAD-DISPLACEMENT FOLLOW THROUGH.

DELIVERER OF THE QUASI-LEGAL  
TONGUE LOCKUP/STOIN-DEVIATION COMBO.



# PRO NEWS

December 1996

## 3DO Company Restructures to Focus on Internet Games

The ambitious 3DO Company that brought out the 3DO Multiplayer in 1994 has dramatically morphed into a smaller company with a new focus. Having already quit making games for its beleaguered system over the summer (see "ProNews," July), the company has restructured so that it can turn its attention to making multiplayer games for the Internet. As part of the restructuring, 3DO intends to sell its hardware division, 3DO Systems, by year's end and reorganize its software division, Studio 3DO, into two separate units.

Just as changes at Sega and Sony in recent months resulted in a turnover of top executives (see "ProNews," October and November), 3DO's restructuring brings new job titles to those at the uppermost levels of management. Trip Hawkins, one of the most familiar names in the video game industry, stays on as chairman and chief executive officer, but he also becomes the company's creative director.



**In addition to being 3DO's CEO, Trip Hawkins takes on the new role of creative director.**

3DO President Hugh Martin takes over full operating control of the company. Software product development has been reorganized into five production units, and internal staff has been reassigned to new Internet projects. Eventually the Redwood City, California-based company will have about 300 employees, a figure that's down 150 from last year.



**After the restructuring, 3DO President Hugh Martin is now running the company.**

Martin is optimistic about the company's Internet prospects. "We're excited about these changes because we can focus on our strengths and growth opportunities," he said. "Moving forward, we feel our management is strong, our balance sheet is strong, and we have a solid core of Internet and game software talent and technology to build upon." Indeed, the day after the restructuring announcement, 3DO released its first 3D multiplayer dimension game, *Mindanao 39*, on the Internet (see "GamePro Online" in this issue for a closer look at 3DO's first Internet effort).

Wall Street was not as optimistic as Martin about the news of 3DO's restructuring. A day after the story broke, 3DO stock fell almost \$2 to \$6.75. By comparison, in its heyday in late 1993, 3DO shares were priced at over \$48.

Though it's giving up on the 3DO system, the 3DO Company is not giving up on the M2. Earlier this year 3DO successfully licensed

its 64-bit M2 technology to Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd. for \$100 million. 3DO says it is still committed to supporting Matsushita efforts to launch the new 64-bit system, a launch that probably won't happen until mid-1997 at the earliest.

### Inside Scoop

• Back in the spring Activision looked like it had its house in order after announcing it would no longer make cartridge games and was instead focusing on new gen games (see "ProNews," July and August). Unfortunately for about 70 Activision employees, a couple of months later the company suddenly announced huge layoffs. About 20 percent of the company's 320-plus employees were let go, bringing the number of workers in the Glen Cove, New York, headquarters down to about 250. Activision's president and chief operations officer was quick to point out that some 30 new Activision games, including *Tarzik*, *Dinosaur Hunter* for the N64, are still on track for release in the next few months.

• Wonder what soccer title is looming on the horizon for the company that makes the legendary FIFA games? EA Sports announced it has acquired the rights to the 1996 World Cup, which should lead to new soccer video games in that year. Electronic Arts also announced an exclusive worldwide agreement with Blizzard Entertainment to develop, publish, and distribute Blizzard's best-selling *Warcraft II* and upcoming *Diable* titles for unspecified next-generation consoles.



**Diablo is a dark gothic fantasy filled with demons, magic treasures, and swordplay.**

• BMG Interactive has inked a deal with Delphine Software International, the European development studio responsible for the recent *Fade to Black* PC game, to publish Delphine's *Dragon Blade*, an action/adventure game, and *Enduro Rider*, a 3D racing title. Both games will be released for the PlayStation and the PC.

• GT Interactive has landed the exclusive global publishing rights to Epic MegaGames' *Unreal*. *Unreal* is a big 3D action game that's Internet-adaptable for multiplayer competition; it should make it to the PC by next summer. GT Interactive may also release *Unreal* for the PlayStation, Saturn, and Nintendo 64 systems next year.



**Unreal is Epic MegaGames' new first-person adventure set in a detailed world of castles and bizarre creatures.**



## Sony Celebrates the PlayStation's Anniversary



Start spreading the news: In midtown Manhattan, Crash takes a bite out of a "Late Show" T-shirt on the way to his own party.

Sony Computer Entertainment of America (SCEA) threw a giant press party in New York City in September to celebrate the first anniversary of the release of the PlayStation. The event was also a coming-out party for *Crash Bandicoot*, SCEA's new 32-bit action/adventure game. A tropically decorated midtown stadium provided the setting, and the rock band Marry Me... have provided the tunes.

SCEA was in a party mood because the company had plenty of good news to share. In just over a year, the PlayStation has gone from having zero market share to being the number-one best-selling next-generation system in the world, with at least a two-to-one margin over its nearest competitor, the Saturn. These sales numbers buck up the claim: 2 million systems in the U.S., 7 million systems worldwide, and 9 million pieces of software. All signs when Nintendo is drawing a lot of attention with its new Nintendo 64 system. Sony wants to remind everyone who is number one, at least for now.

## Sega Turns to Net Link and Digital Camera

So how is Sega trying to stem Sony's and Nintendo's budding momentum? By touting to the Saturn Net Link and a new camera. Sega's long-awaited Net Link is debuting in October to provide Internet access for anyone who owns a TV. The Net Link is a plug-in modem that connects phone lines with Saturns, it sells for \$199. The Saturn with a Net Link connector sells for about \$400. Sega is touting its new Web browser (created by PlanetWeb) and its exclusive interface (Net Link City, customized by Ark Interface) as being particularly user-friendly. (See "The Cutting Edge" in this issue for an in-depth look at the best Saturn peripheral.)

Sega's other push is into the world of photography. The company is beginning to sell its new, low-priced digital camera, the *Digio*, in Japan, where a million digital cameras have already been sold this year. Priced at about \$270, the *Digio* is at least \$300 less than the first-generation digital cameras made by Canon and Eastman Kodak.

Digital cameras provide "instant photography" by taking pictures that are stored digitally in the camera; images are immediately ready to be downloaded onto a computer where they can be manipulated via Adobe Photoshop and other graphics programs. Sega is looking into setting up service areas in its video game centers where pictures can be downloaded and printed out, a strategy Sega hopes will lure more people into the company's burgeoning arcade.



The *Digio*, Sega's new digital camera

## Baseball Games Strike Out

As the race for the 32-bit pennant heated up this fall, several baseball titles went down swinging when their publishers decided to delay their releases until the start of the '97 season. *VR Baseball* from VR Sports, *MVP Baseball* from Data East, *Grand Slam* from Virgin, and *Aaron vs. Ruth* from Mindscape will all now ship in March or April next year—right around Opening Day. All three publishers held



Mark "K" in the scorebook next to *VR Baseball* and *MVP Baseball* (pictured) as '96 releases.

back their games in order to ensure that the games were top quality and, more importantly, to time their releases with the start of a baseball season, rather than the finish.

Full '96 was a tough season for baseball fans. At press time, only *Triple Play* from EA and *Big Hurt* from Arcadia had made it to shelves on time. Sony was still struggling to get *MLB Pennant Race* into stores by late September, and Crystal Dynamics presented *3D Baseball* for Christmas. ☐

## News Bits

• Reports of the N64's demise in Japan were probably a little premature. Despite rumors that the system's avian sales were disappointing (see "ProNews," November), Nintendo announced that it took just under 10 weeks to sell 1 million N64s in Japan, and just over 10 weeks to sell 1 million copies of *Super Mario 64*. Considering negative rumors in America, Nintendo still maintains that it will have a dozen N64 games on shelves before the year is out.

• As a follow-up to a story in October's "ProNews," Sony announced that it will not introduce its new digital-video disc players (DVD) until spring 1997. Sony cited a lack of software as the main reason. DVDs are expected to one day replace CDs and videotape because of their huge storage capacity for digital information. Even though Sony is winning, others aren't. Matsushita, Toshiba, and Hitachi Ltd. all should have their DVD players in stores before Christmas.

• Jupiter Communications, a research company that focuses on interactive technology, has published a report that predicts rapid growth for the online and Internet games markets. The report predicts a huge jump in the number of U.S. homes—up to 10 million—that will be playing online and Internet games by the turn of the century. The report also defines a few trends for the new gameplay. Consumers would much rather pay to play (as they do in an arcade) than buy a game outright, and by the year 2000 there will be a much broader range of online and Internet games than there is now, where the market is still primarily composed of young males. Visit Jupiter's Web site at <http://www.jup.com> for more info.

• Finally, as if to prove the Jupiter report right, GamePro Online continues to escalate on the World Wide Web. After debuting in the spring with about 1 million hits per month (a "hit" is counted each time someone enters the site), GamePro Online is now chalking up about 3 million hits per month. Go to <http://www.gamepro.com> to see where all the action is.



AOL

Hot News from GamePro Online

WEB

America Online users can now get daily game news updates. Use the keyword GAMEPRO to access GamePro Online, then head straight to the Hot News section to get the latest video game news. You can also read daily updates of news in the GamePro Online Web site at <http://www.gamepro.com>.



IF THE GAME GRAPHICS  
DON'T BLOW YOU AWAY...  
ONE OF THESE WILL.

GO WHERE NO MAN  
HAS EVER GONE.  
BUT ALIVE. JUSTICE  
WE SAID "WAM!"



TREASURE SEEKING,  
PUZZLE SOLVING, ALLIGATOR  
WRESTLING AND STILL TIME  
FOR A FIGHT.

# S

# OMETIMES, HAVING A



Sometimes, you also need guts. Or a brain. Or quick feet. Other times, you need all of the above plus grenades, a shotgun and a matching pair of nine millimeters. Such is your fate when you control Lara Croft, heroine and heartthrob of Tomb Raider.



EIDOS INTERACTIVE, CORE, TOMB RAIDER, LARA CROFT AND VEN LINDBERG ARE TRADEMARKS OF EIDOS. P.L.G. ©1998 EIDOS



NOTHING LIKE A  
LITTLE DRUM BEFORE  
TENDING OFF A PACK  
OF WOLVES



# KILLER BODY JUST ISN'T ENOUGH.

NOT EVERYONE SEES  
A BRIGHT LIGHT  
JUST BEFORE DYING  
[LARA STOPS]

Lara has her sights on a few ancient artifacts, and she's not going to let anything or anybody get in her way. Alligators. Wolves. Thugs. They're all tempting fate once in Lara's path. But hey, what's a little temptation? Especially when everything looks this good. In the game, we mean. Check out Tomb Raider at [www.tombraider.com](http://www.tombraider.com).



EIDOS  
INTERACTIVE



# TOMB RAIDER

# TECMO'S

## Invitation to Darkness

Are you smart enough to pass the Tecmo's Deception Examination?

You have been wrongly convicted of murdering your father and are about to be burned at the stake. By the power of darkness you have been delivered from your death. How far are you willing to go to save your life?

1. Who are you going to trap and kill?

- a) All of the intruders.
- b) Some of the intruders.
- c) Just the intruders you don't like.
- d) Just the intruders who piss you off (like Yurius).
- e) Most of the above.



2. How are you going to trap and kill the intruders?

- a) Spike them from the wall.
- b) Crush them with the Stomp.
- c) Zap them with the Volt Cage.
- d) Use Mind Kill.
- e) Most of the above.



3. What are you seeking?

- a) Revenge.
- b) Vengeance.
- c) Redemption.
- d) Acquittal.
- e) All of the above.



3. Are you really...

- a) A good guy.
- b) A bad guy.
- c) A victim of circumstance.
- d) A wimp.
- e) All of the above.



For the answers see the Tecmo Super Bowl ad in this same magazine.

**If you haven't played Tecmo's Deception, you haven't DIED yet!**

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THIS SOFTWARE IS COMPATIBLE WITH PLAYSTATION GAME CONSOLES WITH THE NTSC SIC ORGANIZATION.

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TECMO'S DECEPTION: INVITATION TO DARKNESS  
Tecmo's Deception includes adults, violence and drug use.  
It is appropriate for some individuals. The ESRB rating is M.

# DECEPTION™



## TECMO'S DECEPTION™ RESERVATION/DEPOSIT FORM

Dear Retailer:

The customer whose name and address is listed below wishes to place a non-refundable deposit on Tecmo's Deception. Please contact your local game distributor and/or your central buying office for specific instructions.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Amount of Deposit \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Store Street or Postbox \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Reserve me \_\_\_\_\_ copy(s) for the Sony PlayStation™

# TECMO®

Visit Tecmo Interactive at: <http://www.tecmo.co.jp>

GamePro magazine races along on America Online (keyword: gamepro) and the World Wide Web (<http://www.gamepro.com>) every minute of every day. Here's a sample of what's up in our cyberworlds.

By The Hit List

## New on the World Wide Web



Web speaks at Ed Boon's new home page.

Anyone who's paid attention to video games in the last few years needs no introduction to Ed Boon. As the lead programmer for all the Mortal Kombat games, Boon is generally credited with elevating fighting games to a whole new plane. Now the man who brought the world Fatalities has started his own site on the World Wide Web. (<http://www.msc.com/~edboon>)

Want to know when the next MK game is being released? Think you have a new character idea for MK4? Want to meet the MK design team? The Mortal Master answers questions, discusses his games, and even lets you read some of his incoming mail. For Mortal maniacs, it's heaven.



E-mail us your comments through America Online or at this Internet address:  
[comments.gamepro@itw.com](mailto:comments.gamepro@itw.com)

WEB

## Cool Sites

• If you like sci-fi heroes and comics, you might like *The 6*, *The Suit*, and *They Call Me...The Stuf*, three virtual publications on view at the Virtual Comics Web site (<http://www.virtualcomics.com>). This site also has a chat room called Club Heroes Inc.



Virtual Comics is worth a look, especially the cool Stuf comic.

• Just in time for the new season, the NFL has redesigned its Web site (<http://www.nfl.com>). Gridiron fans will find up-to-the-minute news, expanded game-day coverage, chat sessions with players, areas for each team, a catalog of NFL merchandise, and a Play Football area with interactive games, puzzles, and contests.



## Online Game of the Month Jurassic Park—The Ride Online Adventure

<http://www.jurassicparkonlinecity.com>

It's been a hit in theaters and at Universal Studios, so why shouldn't Jurassic Park be a hit on the Web, too? That's why Universal Studios launched Jurassic Park—The Ride Online Adventure late in the summer.

The Web site makes you the ride's Director of Operations, with access to the inner workings of InGen, the fictional genetics company that created the JP dinosaurs. You get an employee manual, receive internal company memos, read lab reports, and oh yes, deal with an escaped velococaptor. To find the deadly dino, you have to search through three levels of the InGen complex—at night. Secret tunnels and elevators and multiple endings make this a replayable adventure. If you just want to learn about dinosaurs, there's a ton of info here too.



Visit this Jurassic Park site for a new game that's got a little bite to it.



JUST ANOTHER HOUSE IN HELL



BRAIN UNDER GLASS, USE YOUR HEAD



# BLOW UP COWS, EAT GOLDFISH, THEN GO TO HELL.

This is the bizarre world of Baldies. A world that you build and where lunacy reigns. The idea? Destroy the nasty little hairy guys before they destroy you—the Baldies. 15 devilishly clever weapons, 100 intense levels, hidden and bonus rounds, hot action graphics in five weird worlds (hell included). And it's the only multi-player, extended-play game with a chrome dome crew. Warning: May cause permanent hair loss.

# Baldies

TOTALLY DEMENTED ACTION FOR PEOPLE WHO THINK.

IT'S RAINING... GOLDFISH



PLAY IN ONLINE

<http://www.long-games.com>

CD-ROM

Both DO4 and Windows 95 included

ASK THE GIANT BALD DUDE FOR ADVICE



Panasonic  
Interactive Media

<http://www.panasonic.com/cool/>

## The Gamer's Guide to the World Wide Web

Gamers can have a field day on the Web if they know where to look. Here are some hot game-related sites.

### Get Engaged!

By Christmas anybody with a PC and Windows 95 will be able to get Engaged. Engage Games Online is the name of a new online service that provides exclusive multiplayer games and entertainment. Created by Interplay (the longtime software company that made ClayFighters and BadDrome), Engage offers some of Interplay's own titles (such as Descent and Castles II) as well as games from other companies like Maxis (SimCity 2000), Geomix Interactive (Slipsman 5000), and Philips Media (Fighter Duel II and Total Control Football). Chat rooms, bulletin boards, tournaments, and merchandise round out Engage's features.

Late in the summer Engage started up on America Online. AOL subscribers can access the first Engage games on AOL's Games Channel (keyword: Games). In the fall Prodigy got Engaged, and by Christmas everyone on the Web should be able to access the new Engage Web site (<http://www.gamesonline.com>). One nice feature about the games on it is their cost: Whether you play on AOL, Prodigy, or the Web, the rate is about the same as every other game's hourly cost.

Here's a look at the first four Engage games:

#### Castles II (Siege & Conquest)

Company: Interplay

Genre: Medieval strategy

Number of players: 4

Gameplay features: Castles, diplomatic alliances, and sabotage



Castles II

#### Descent Online

Company: Interplay

Genre: Shooter

Number of players: 8

Gameplay features: Arenas and Mega Missiles



Descent Online

#### RedMaster: Magistore

Company: Interworld Productions

Genre: Fantasy strategy

Number of players: 20

Gameplay features: Walking dead, fireballs, and spells



RedMaster: Magistore

#### Splitterball

Company: Interworld Productions

Genre: Shooter

Number of players: 15

Gameplay features: Think "pumball"



Splitterball

### 3DO's New Online Game

#### Meridian 59

<http://www.3do.com/meridian/>

The 3DO Company you've known has just undergone some dramatic changes to become a company that makes online and Internet games (see "ProNews," this issue). Meridian 59 is the company's first such product.

Meridian 59 is a PC game that can be played by thousands of gamers simultaneously over the Internet. The game puts players in a complex medieval world filled with adventure, exploration, and social interaction. Players can team up, slay one another, battle dozens of bizarre creatures, master over 50 magic spells, or simply chat with other gamers about their experiences. The early word has been positive: Prior to the game's release, 3DO generated over 25,000 player accounts with a free trial in the summer.

As an ongoing, ever-changing game, Meridian 59 has some unusual economic features. In addition to meeting the system requirements (see sidebar), you must pay a monthly \$9.95 subscription fee for unlimited hours of gameplay. This is after spending \$39.95 on the game, which comes bundled with Netscape Navigator 2.0 Personal Edition client software (you also get 30 days of free game time and a special-edition map of the Meridian world). Check out 3DO's Meridian 59 Web site for more about this game.

#### MERIDIAN 59

An Abstract Quest Begins



### System Requirements for Meridian 59

- 486/66 MHz or higher processor
- 8 MB RAM
- 35 MB available hard-disk space
- 2X CD-ROM drive
- SVGA monitor
- 14.4 Kbps modem
- SLIP/PPP Internet connection
- Microsoft Windows 95/Windows NT

YARD



"...Time Commando could rewrite  
the book on fighting games."

happypuppy.com

"It's 2 a.m. and I'm still playing  
Time Commando..."

— GameSpot



Prehistoric



Roman Times



Five distinct worlds  
traverse through time eras:  
Prehistoric, Roman Times,  
 feudal Japan, Medieval,  
 Conquistador, Western,  
 Modern Wars, the Future  
 and the ultimate showdown  
 against the Vex itself!

Feudal Japan



Medieval



45 Deadly Weapons

Master dozens of lethal weapons  
— from Prehistoric clubs to Wild  
West guns to futuristic lasers

Conquistador



Over 80 Fierce Enemies

Defeat more than 100 real-time  
polygonal 3-D enemies from past  
and future battles.

Modern Wars



Western



Incredible Environments

Inventory through stunning visuals  
as characters are seamlessly  
integrated with purposeful pre-  
rendered backgrounds.

The Future



The Urux



# TIME COMMANDO

Check out the demo at <http://www.activision.com> or <http://www.eschler.com/infobases/> or  
visit us on America Online at Keyword "Activision" or on CompuServe at Keyword "Go Activision"  
Now available on PlayStation® Game Console and MSN® Windows® 95 CD-ROM



ACTIVISION

Available on systems featuring a 32-bit CPU. See Activision International and Time Commando on website at [www.activision.com](http://www.activision.com). © 1998 Activision International. All rights reserved. Activision, the Activision logo, and Time Commando are trademarks of Activision International, Inc. All other trademarks and registered trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

## The Gamer's Guide to the World Wide Web

### Game System Manufacturers

Looking for the latest hardware news? Check out these sites for game systems, living and dead.

**Atari**  
<http://www.atari.com>



**Nintendo of America**  
<http://www.nintendo.com>

**Philips**  
<http://spider.media.philips.com>

**Sega of America**  
<http://www.sega.com>

**Sony**  
<http://www.sony.com>



### Selected Online Games

If you aren't into fast-paced, high-pressure multiplayer games, check out the more traditional fare at the sites below.

**Battleship**  
[http://manoe.york.ac.uk/cgi-bin/start\\_bships.sh](http://manoe.york.ac.uk/cgi-bin/start_bships.sh)

**Blackjack**  
<http://www.us.com/blackjack/bj.html>

**Cyber Warrior**  
<http://www.cyberwar.com/>



**Roshambot**  
<http://cheppie.stanford.edu/cgi-bin/roshambot>

**Tic Tac Toe**  
<http://www.bs.edu/Games/tictactoe>

**WinFive**  
<http://owl.bs.edu/winfive/>



**Xquest**  
<http://www.ch.cam.ac.uk/1000/xquest.html>

### Online Gaming Sites

The era of multiplayer online games has arrived. Dive right in to the sites below to begin exploring the world of online gaming.



**DWANGO (Big Red Racing and the Doom games)**  
<http://www.dwango.com/>

**Engage Games Online (Descent Online and Splatterball)**  
<http://www.gamesonline.com>

**MPlayer (MechWarrior 2 and Terminal Velocity)**  
<http://www.mplayer.com>



**Total Entertainment Network (Confirmed Kill and Magic: The Gathering)**  
<http://www.ten.net>

**XBand (dozens of 16-bit and PC games)**  
<http://www.xband.com>



THE GAME IS NOT OVER

GAME  
RECYCLERS<sup>SM</sup>

TRADE IN - TRADE UP<sup>SM</sup>

TURN **OLD** GAMES INTO **NEW** AT:

**TOYS R US**

SEE PARTICIPATING STORES FOR DETAILS  
© 1996 MOVIES & GAMES 4 SALE L.P.

# THE CUTTING EDGE

## ONLINE with the SATURN



The 28.8-baud Net Link modem and the PlanetWeb browser are bundled together for \$199.

Sega's Net Link modem opens up the Internet to Saturn gamers.



### By The Wheel

Video gamers ready to explore cyberspace and the Internet now have a launching pad close to home...the Sega Saturn. The new Sega Net Link turns the Saturn into your basic Net machine.

The \$199 Net Link package includes a Saturn-compatible 28.8-baud modem and a browser-software CD. The modem's just slightly smaller than a compact-disc jewel box. Slide it into the Saturn's top-mounted cartridge slot, connect standard telephone lines in and out, drop in the browser CD, and you're ready to surf the Net.

### Browser Basics

The browser's the key to the Saturn's online aspirations. It's the first creation of a company called PlanetWeb, which designed the browser to support any Internet device including network computers, Internet TVs, and digital video disc players. The browser's a small application program (less than 500 kilobytes of code), and it requires less than two megabytes of memory, so it shoe horns well into the Saturn's random-access memory.

The basic interface is an onscreen keyboard with menu bars. It's designed for either the Saturn controller or the

mouse, so you just point and click on individual characters. Input is slow but functional. Sega, however, sells a Saturn



You can use a PC keyboard with the Net Link.



The PlanetWeb browser features include e-mail, bookmarks, and an address book built around a virtual keyboard.



Net Link City provides a guided tour of the Internet, courtesy of Planet Oasis.

produce images on the lower-resolution screen.

Just as game software does with graphic images, the browser uses anti-aliasing to smooth the jagged edges in its visuals—in this case, the onscreen text characters. The browser also tunes colors for TVs and lays out the pages so that they fit within the confines of a TV, roughly 60 characters across a screen. You can also zoom in on specific areas with three levels of magnification.

### Where To Go When You're Wired

Sega's not going to leave you stranded once you connect to the Net. When you launch the browser you can connect to Net Link City, which appears as an actual city with buildings, streets, and even waterways. This unique 3D interface contains 20 neighborhoods that access 225 specific Internet sites. Net Link City is a part of Planet Oasis, an existing Internet search site created by Ark Interface.

Additionally, Sega has Net Link-compatible games and an online games site in the works. They may debut in 1997.

### Net Results

Internet connectivity is the current high-tech focal point, and once again Sega's first on the scene. The Net Link may represent the next step for video game systems. □

keyboard with special Net Link quick keys, or you can purchase a nifty adapter for PC keyboards.

### Made for Television

The beauty of the Net Link, of course, is that you can surf the Net with a TV. However, since Internet content is designed to be viewed on a high-resolution computer monitor, the Net Link browser pulls some strings to

### For More Information

Sega of America: 1-800-200-6445, <http://www.sega.com>

PlanetWeb: 408-982-4688, <http://www.planetweb.com>

Ark Interface: 206-654-4180, <http://www.arkspace.com>

Planet Oasis: <http://www.planetoasis.com>





# NHL<sup>97</sup>

Some guys have nightmares when they're awake. The Lucky just got a bloodshot eyeful of severe puck abuse.



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# Hot Arcade Games For 1997: The AMOA Show

GamePro hits the trail to Dallas in search of new arcade games at the Arcade and Music Operators Association Show.

By Brusled Lee

## Virtua Fighter 3

HOT AT THE ARCADES SPECIAL FEATURE



**PRO TIP:** Don't be intimidated by motion-blur moves. Block or counterattack them the same way you would standard attacks.



**PRO TIP:** Akira's Cresting Elbow (an old VF2 tactic) is still a great way to take an enemy by surprise.



**PRO TIP:** Use Law's juggle move to launch opponents into the air and score several free hits.



**PRO TIP:** To take full advantage of Aoi's speed, play her as aggressively as possible.



**PRO TIP:** Tap the punch button repeatedly to make Taka charge his opponent with rapid juggle punches.

**PRO TIP:** If you get Dia timing just right, pressing the escape button enables your fighter to dodge and counterattack many incoming moves.

Virtua Fighter 3 looks brand new, but the fighting's familiar...a little too familiar. VF3's graphics showcase an awesome level of visual realism never before seen in any game, but too many recycled Virtua Fighter 2 features keep VF3 from being a true masterpiece.

Two new fighters, Aoi and Taka, join the original VF2 combatants to make the VF3 lineup an even dozen. The new fighters are a nice addition, but the original cast only gains a few new moves, so they play virtually the same as in VF2.

A few new strategic elements freshen up the action. New arenas have uneven surfaces like stairs and sand dunes, which enable you or your opponent to fight from high or low ground. This means you have to relearn where your moves may hit. Also, a new "escape" button enables you to dodge incoming attacks or quickly move away from "ring out" vicinities. These features work well, but they don't add enough pizzazz to the old gameplay.

Most of Sega's efforts went into the look of VF3 and not toward more in-depth gameplay. Naturally, fans of the Virtua Fighter series will enjoy VF3, but they won't find much that is new. This game is virtually the same.



### Graphics

**5.0** Perfect texture bleeding makes each fighter blink, without a rough edge to be seen. Breathtaking backgrounds show off amazing shading and lighting effects almost better than real life does.



### Sound

**4.0** While the fighting cracks need the music some VFS well, they simply take a back seat to the entrancing eye-candy graphics.



### Control

**4.0** While controls are still easy to pull off, but when you're close to an opponent the controls seem sluggish, especially when you try to jump away.



### Fun Factor

**3.5** With only two new characters and a limited number of new moves and combos saving the day otherwise, the excitement doesn't last long.



# DIE HARD Arcade



SEGA

Die Hard Arcade is a two-player action game where you muscle your way through the floors of a captured L.A. office tower. You'll fight and shoot against some of the toughest bad guys ever assembled in one building. Each

floor is packed with rooms and corridors overrun by unique villains who challenge you at every turn. You can even pick up weapons that assure you some villains will die easily.



SEGA



# Sega Touring CAR CHAMPIONSHIP



Sega Touring Car Championship takes you on a full-speed journey around three gorgeous tracks with beautifully rendered backgrounds. With four cars to choose from, you can view your driving from three perspectives for a full-throttle racing feel.

# WaveRunner



Jump aboard Sega's motion-based jet ski simulator for the ultimate aquatic race! WaveRunner boasts astounding 3D graphics that swamp you with some of the best motion simulation ever. The game also features a three-axis system that enables you to feel every turn of the ocean speedway. The cabinet is an actual Yamaha WaveRunner jet ski that moves up, down, left, and right.



SEGA



HOT AT THE ARCADES SPECIAL FEATURE

## CRUIS'N WORLD



Another Cruise is about to begin. In *Cruis'n World* players can motor through any of 12 countries (ranked by difficulty), or they can drive the entire world via 14 tracks. The graphics are much sharper and the frame rate is faster than in *Cruis'n USA*, so you

experience a very smooth ride. *Cruis'n World* offers a selection of 12 customizable cars. Gameplay features include the ability to make cars pull wheelies, jumps, and flips, and you can even discover shortcuts.

## MIDWAY



Wayne Gretzky's 3D Hockey is a four-player three-on-three game featuring amazing three-dimensional graphics with multiple camera angles. All 26 NHL teams are in the game. You can pass, shoot, check, trip, and even start fights. For determined players, 3D Hockey offers two levels of Cup play, against a total of 59 opponents.

## Wayne Gretzky's 3D Hockey



## San Francisco Rush

Race up, down, and all around the world-famous streets of San Francisco with your choice of eight high-powered cars. Each vehicle offers a different level of realism, like outrageous jumps and crashes. A multitude of shortcuts are scattered throughout the courses. This ride is sure to give you a real rush.



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BAN  
DAI

## X-Men Vs. Street Fighter

This is the fight you've been waiting for! The best Street Fighters take on the strongest X-Men. Choose a two-man (or two-mutant) team for a one-round fight to the death. At any point during the match you can switch characters to give your partner a chance to replenish energy. The graphics are up to Capcom's usual high standards, tons of animation and superb character detail.



# CAPCOM

## Samurai Shodown 4

Amakusa's back, and world domination is his goal. Samurai Shodown 4 musters 17 characters to present the biggest lineup in the series. The graphics are a step up as the fighters are larger and look better than ever. Shodown 4 looks like a serious showdown with new moves, new combos, and the ability to attack your opponent after a knockdown hit.



The Future Is Now  
**NEOGEO**

## Winding Hea

Jump into the driver's seat and peel out for tire-burning racing action. Winding Heat has three courses and fourteen cars to choose from. Up to four players can link up for competitive racing. Other options include forced-feedback steering, standard transmissions, and multiple views.



## Beat the Champ



**NEOGEO**

Beat the Champ features five sports (baseball, football, basketball, golf, and bowling), nine events, and two degrees of difficulty. Gameplay controls use dual trackballs and split-screen action for head-to-head competition.

## Wave Shark

Yet another jet ski game, Wave Shark offers three courses and three levels of difficulty. Wave Shark's graphics are a wash against some of its competitors, but four game units can be linked for intense tournament play.



## Aqua Jet

Aqua Jet is sure to make a big splash. Powered by Namco's Super System 22 arcade computer, Aqua Jet has unique air spin control that offers amazing simulation as you skim across the water in two beautifully texture-mapped courses. As in real jet skiing, players can drift turn and even submerge their coast after taking powerful jumps.



**namco**

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**BLOCKBUSTER  
VIDEO**

# Epic 1's Looking Large in '97

Straight from the offices of the developer, GamePro brings you an exclusive early look at Epic 1, an inventive new action/adventure game that'll rock your PlayStation next spring.



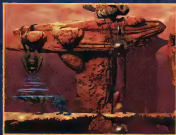
By Air Hendrix

Nestled in the coastal hills of San Luis Obispo, California, a young game-development company is quietly putting the finishing touches on a game that will take the PlayStation by storm when it's released next year. A fusion of Hollywood and video game talent, the company—Oddworld Inhabitants—isn't chasing the fool's-gold dream of interactive-movie games like Supreme Warrior. Instead, it's taking a fresh approach that meshes evocative storytelling, vivid graphics, and groundbreaking gameplay.

The game? *Oddworld Inhabitants: Epic 1*. Starring Abe (formerly titled *Soul Storm*; see "E3 Explodes," August), a side-view platform action/adventure game that, at first glance, distantly resembles a *Blackthorn*-style game. But what takes *Epic 1* to the next level is its multilayered gameplay. Succeeding requires you to learn how the enemies behave, devise a smart way to evade them, then have the twitch skills to pull it off. And *Oddworld* is doing a fine job of making that process a fun, captivating adventure.

## The Plot Thickens

*Epic 1* opens as its main character, Abe—a slave laborer in a meat-processing facility—learns that his kind is next in line to be ground up into the latest tasty treat. Naturally, it's time to split. As he's dashing out the door, a near-death experience summons a shaman, who charges him with saving his race from the butcher block. To accomplish this, he must explore the ruins of his people's ancient civilization in order to acquire the powers he needs to defeat his foes.



Abe devises a way to trap one of the native creatures, an Elus, for use as a mount.



Another Sly bites the dust....



Developed by *Oddworld Inhabitants*

Published by *GT Interactive*

Available *Second Quarter '97*



## Show Time



With the gorgeous red hues of the desert level behind him, Abe uses this pulley system to descend to another level.

An intriguing hook, but unlike most action/adventure titles, Epic's plot is an integral part of the game, not just the cut scenes. Oddworld president Lorne Lanning, explains: "Rather than devoting all these 32-bit capabilities to moving something in 3D, we wanted to make something that would provide the action of a console game and the conceptual story value of a PC game: Playing Epic I will feel a lot more like what you expect from seeing a good film in the theater."

That's a tall order. But with the help of some land-

mark features, even this early version is well on its way to creating what Lanning calls a "Story/Dwelling experience."

### Game Speak

Oddworld's first challenge was to breathe life into Abe. "We wanted to make characters that were less a piece of artwork that was moving around, and more a living life form," Lanning said.

One of the results is Game Speak, which enables the player to use the controller to create dynamic conversations between Abe and other characters—not just RPG-like



Excerpts from one of the 3D cinematics in the game, these images show Abe being captured and dragged in to face the boss of Rupture Farms, where he learns he's about to become lunchmeat.



The armed guard (known as a "Slig") in the upper right is actually Abe. In a previous screen, Abe took possession of his body as he could sneak up on the other Sligs and take them out.

balloons of text, but actually talking out loud. The controller's loaded with a preset vocabulary of 16 words and noises, and your choice of words alters the outcome of each scenario. In rescuing

one of your fellow sausages-to-be, for example, you have to chat them up and convince them to follow you. Many of the obstacles in the game also revolve around Abe's ability to learn and repeat sentences

and songs. Such audio interaction imbues Abe with a charming personality, which keeps you involved and interested in the game and its story.

### Story Dwelling

But that's only one step in the process of creating a living, breathing game. And, while perfecting your jumping and fighting skills is a crucial part of Epic's action, the gameplay's not all about being Rambo. "Sometimes you're very aggressive, other times you're very evasive. We want to keep people entertained not only with twitch mechanics that are important to the gameplay, but also by delivering payoffs in entertainment value," Lanning said.

To meet that goal, Oddworld is steering well clear of using arbitrary puzzles with brain-splumping solutions. Instead, the gameplay revolves around learning the behavior of other characters so you can weasel your way past them. Some enemies sense only motion, so if you sneak between dark spots when they're facing the other way, you can glide right by them. Others are tempted by certain foods, or are so angered by certain actions that you can get them to chase you, then lead them into a booby trap.

## Backgrounds



These images show scenes from the forest and desert levels that Abe will face in the first half of the game. Notice how each setting has elements in the foreground and background that Abe can interact with.

Even better, Abe can "possess" other creatures, which basically means he becomes them. So if you're facing a pack of guards, you can possess one and fill the others full of holes before they know what's up.

Unique, engaging details like these reel you into the characters and the plot of the story, while still delivering fun, challenging gaming action. That's where Epic 1 stands out from the crowd.

### Storm Front

Impressive graphics finish off the package. Spectacular pre-rendered backgrounds drip with colors and detail, creating gorgeous alien landscapes. Abe and the other characters move with an uncanny, life-like fluidity that draws you in as top-notch animation should.

In the end, what's remarkable about Epic 1 isn't just the cool graphics or inventive gameplay, it's how the game manages to enthrall the player in an engaging character and a fantastical story. Just as awesome flicks don't hit the theaters every week, Epic 1 could be an experience that's rare in gaming...One that's worth getting stoked for come spring. ■

## Character Sketches



These drawings depict the early stages of the design of Abe's character and his main enemies, the Sligs.

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and brutal dimension

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# OVERSEAS PROSPECTS

An International  
View on Video Games

## COMING SOON!

Namco's popular Ridge Racer series prepares to take another lap with *Rage Racer*, and the Nintendo 64 lineup gets a helicopter combat sim and a racing game.

By Rob Crossman, Nash Sano, and Mark Mike

## Rage Racer



**P**ublishing new Ridge Racer titles for the PlayStation appears to be an annual event for Namco. *Rage Racer*, the third in the series after *Ridge Racer* (released in '94) and *Ridge Racer Revolution* (released in '95), moves the competition to what appears to be a European setting rather than the West Coast atmosphere of the two previous Ridge games.

A most welcome addition to the outstanding racing series is the Grand Prix mode, where you compete in five classes, each consisting of

three or four courses. Your earnings from these races can be used to upgrade and fine-tune your vehicle so you can take on the top racers.

*Rage* soups up the racing action with slick graphic enhancements, including on-screen gauges with an oversized tachometer. The driver's viewpoint has been lowered, making the scenery appear to whiz by even faster than in the earlier Ridge games. Also for the first time in the series, Namco has added cool computer-generated clips at the beginning and end of the

game and between stages.

*Rage Racer* will also up the challenge to your driving skills. Namco's designers have created tougher courses with scattered hills and tight corners that force you to shift gears frequently to crank up a steep hill or to decelerate quickly before taking a sharp curve. Another cool technique is aerodynamic slipstreaming—pulling into the slipstream of the vehicle in front of you to cut down on drag.

This *Racer*'s an automatic for Ridge vets—gentlemen, get ready to *Rage*.



### *Rage Racer* (PlayStation)

Developed by Namco  
Published by Namco of Japan  
Rating  
2 players  
Available December

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## Wild Choppers

Strap yourself into an attack chopper for nine harrowing missions in full 64-bit glory. In *Wild Choppers* your mission is to rain destruction down on heavily armed and entrenched terrorists. You can pilot eight choppers—each with different performance specs and ordnance. Facing you is a high-tech guerrilla army armed to the hilt with tanks and helicopter gunships.

There are three stages, each with three missions that run the gamut from destroying radar installations to rescuing civilian hostages. Each mission has a time limit, not to mention ammo and fuel limitations. The AI controlling enemy units enables them to patrol independently, so no two missions will ever be absolutely identical.

The gameplay viewpoints change on the fly, even tracking your missiles in flight. You can also summon a news service helicopter that will record your mission for playback.

Let's hope this awesome-looking game flies to the States sometime soon!



### Wild Choppers (Nintendo 64)

Developed by Seta  
Published by Seta of Japan  
Flight simulator  
64 megs  
1 player  
Available Fall '96

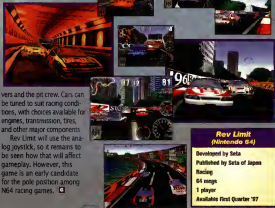
## Rev Limit

Seta is striving for new levels of realism in developing *Rev Limit* for the Nintendo 64. Reportedly, this 3D racer will simulate physical factors such as the grip of the tires on the road surface and the strain of gravitational forces on the cars. Crumpling fenders with an opponent will not only affect your performance, it will affect his, too! Racers will also need to take into account fuel consumption, tire wear during long races, and engine stress due to high engine temperature.

There are three play modes: Sprint Race, Endurance, and Drag Race. But there's more to this game than driving. You can play as the racing team manager and instruct the dr-

vers and the pit crew. Cars can be tuned to suit racing conditions, with choices available for engines, transmission, tires, and other major components.

*Rev Limit* will use the analog joystick, so it remains to be seen how that will affect gameplay. However, this game is an early candidate for the pole position among N64 racing games. **C**



### Rev Limit (Nintendo 64)

Developed by Seta  
Published by Seta of Japan  
Racing  
64 megs  
1 player  
Available First Quarter '97

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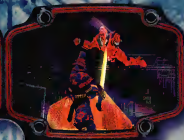


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# Sneak Previews



## Resident Evil 2

PlayStation 2

By Scary Larry

### Graphics Take Two



The game that made the PlayStation such a viable game machine last year is back with another zombie-butt-kicking action-fest. Resident Evil 2 is still in its early stages, but these early pics already have us drooling for more!



Developed and published  
by Capcom  
Available Second Quarter '97

20% COMPLETE



### The Story



This time, the backdrop isn't limited to just a haunted mansion. Two months after the first RE ends, the whole freakin' town is infected by a strange skin disease that turns citizens into zombies. Bummer.



## The Heroes



You play as either a rookie cop, Leon Kennedy, trying to get past fellow officers who are now zombies, or a college student, Elza Walker, who escapes the haunted town of Raccoon City and seeks refuge at the police station. Unfortunately, most of the cops want to munch on more than donuts!



## Stay Tuned



Get ready to rock with more firepower, more body smacks, and a ton more gore than before. This is definitely going to be a Scary Larry kind of game!





## Codename: Tenka

PlayStation

By Scaev Larry



Another Doom clone? Yes, but this one kicks butt! Codename: Tenka is a stylish, revised Doom alternative with more firepower than a Marine, and the attitude to match!

### The Top Tenka List



This early version showcases very clean graphics which are fascinating and disturbing at the same time. Human heads with spider legs (reminiscent of John Carpenter's movie *The Thing*) and stubby demons are horrific—and they react to gunshots! In a nice touch, if you shoot off their legs, they walk in circles!



### Flay Per View



The controls give you the ability to reach many areas. For instance, you can crouch and crawl into sewers and floor grates, or you can jump up and enter air-ventilation shafts. Along the way you have to fulfill certain objectives. Ho! Triggering doors, blowing up machinery, and committing other acts of general vandalism.

### Tons of Guns



Tenka also has an impressive array of weaponry. You have an arsenal bigger than the *Moonbase Freeman's*, with everything from a bomb-boosting mortar gun to crackling lasers. You also have a cool laser sight on your weapon, which makes tracking enemies in dark rooms much easier. Tenka's impressive-looking enemies, startling arsenal, and moody environments make this one a Doberman to keep an eye out for.



Developed and published  
by Psygnosis  
Available February '97

70% COMPLETE

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## Twisted Metal 2 PlayStation 2

By Major Mike



*Twisted Metal 2 is almost here, and it has the same retlicking, rock-and-roll-over, car-destroying mayhem as before. How can you call bang feeders around the world, like in Midway's "Field of Screams"?*

### Graphics



Some pixelization occurs, and some of the polygons, especially in the buildings, look sloppily put together. However, the special-weapon discharges, combat vehicles, and various stages look excellent. In the two-player modes, the horizontal split-screen is preferable to the vertical because it gives a wider field of view.



Developed by SingleTrac  
Published by Sony  
Available December

50% COMPLETE



### Gameplay & Fun Factor



The one-player, every-vehicle-for-itself mode is extremely challenging. The two-player mode is equally exciting as you square off against a foe across giant stages. There are also plenty of hidden areas and weapons you can acquire that add to the fun.

Twisted Metal 2 has all the makings of a hot—intense gameplay, colorful explosions, and plenty of cars to choose from. This looks like one tour around the world worth taking.

### Control



The vehicles have different attributes, and some control better than others. Acceleration and braking, however, are easily controlled with either the control pad or the buttons.

# Get Twisted



For Sega Saturn



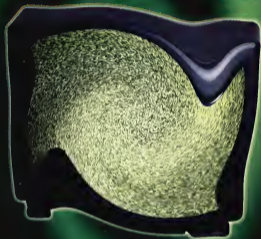
For Sony PlayStation



For Super NES



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## Destruction Derby 2

PlayStation 2

By Johnny Ballgame



*Destruction Derby 2 combines adrenaline-fueled racing with unbelievable crashes, carnage, and chaos. It out-destroys, out-explodes, and simply outdoes its predecessor on every level. Are you ready to be the Derby champ, or will you merely be roadkill?*



## Features



You can go for ultimate destruction on seven tracks of Wreck'n Racing, or race a more civilized (but still violent) tour on the stock-car circuit. The Destruction Derby puts 20 cars in one of four bowls for a war of automobile attrition, where the last car still running wins.

Developed by Reflections  
Published by Polygram  
Available November

90% COMPLETE

Graphics

The graphics are a huge improvement over those in the original DD. The behind-the-wheel and overhead views put you closer to the action than last year's game. Wrecked autos catch on fire, and smoke swirls when their radiators blow. Some of the background skies and terrains are eerie, raising the level of tension during the race.



## Gameplay & Fun Factor



New to this year's tracks are jumps, where you can flip 360 degrees and still land on your tires ready to resume the race. There are also pit stops and a cliff in one of the Derby bowls so you can push your opponents off the edge. DD2 will provide fast, steel-twisting action and hours of therapeutic relief to angry drivers frustrated with overcrowded freeways.







## Top Gear Rally

Nintendo 64



What good is the N64's massive graphics horsepower if there isn't a dynamic racing game to shunt it into high gear? Kenko answers that question with *Top Gear Rally*, an impressive off-road racing game

based on its popular *Top Gear* series for the 16-bit platforms. Take the wheel of a Porsche 911, Toyota Supra, or Toyota Baja and face numerous gut-wrenching courses in locales ranging from the highest mountains to the

lowest deserts. You'll be amazed at the ultra-realistic graphics effects such as rain, dirt, and snow being kicked up by all the traffic.

Play first-person, behind-the-car, or challenge a friend in sharp, split-screen action. *Top Gear Rally* looks like top fun on the N64.

—Dr. Zombie



Developed by Boss Game Studios  
Published by Kenko  
Available Spring '97

80% COMPLETE

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CD-ROM



## Thunder Truck Rally

PlayStation

Pygnosis, the company that brought you Destruction Derby, ups the wreckage ante with Thunder Truck Rally. Choose either a massive monster truck that flattens everything in its way or a quick-moving buggy that easily maneuvers around trouble. Hone your skills on the slopes, hills, and mud of 12 training tracks with both indoor and outdoor circuits before you tackle the main event—a four-day endurance race covering five stages and over 500 miles of unpredictable terrain. Seek-and-destroy fans will enjoy the three truck-rally modes which score high points for encouraging nothing but all-out annihilation of on-screen opponents. Impressive graphics effects such as dust, mist, snow, and sun glares, plus various camera angles to view the carnage, all add up to high-octane fun.—Dr. Zombie



Developed by Reflections  
Published by Pygnosis  
Available January '97

50% COMPLETE

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## Power Move Pro Wrestling

PlayStation

Get ready to rumble with Power Move Pro Wrestling, the American translation of Toisan Resuden, the best-selling PlayStation game in Japan (see "Overseas Prospects," November). It's 3D mayhem inside the squared circle as 12 vicious fictitious grapplers battle for the championship with the most realistic array of wrestling holds seen in a video game to date. Combine moonsaults, figure-fours, and swinging neck-breakers with devastating high-flying acro-



bates off the top rope to gum-out your opponent into submission. Wrestlers spit green mist into their foe's face, and if you pound their heads into the turnbuckle, their faces start to bleed. PMPW is on its way to being crowned "King of the Ring." —Johnny Balgame

Developed by Tomy  
Published by Activision  
Available now

100% COMPLETE



## Soviet Strike

PlayStation

Sahara

Soviet Strike is ready to fly into 32-bit skies with a deadly arsenal of high-powered graphics and strategic, mind-blowing gameplay. You'll have to conquer 40 missions of destruction by piloting a high-tech helicopter to preserve freedom throughout the world. Armed with missiles, machine guns, and rockets, you can pretty much blow up everything you see on-screen, and details like soldiers fleeing for their lives, and even bursting into flames as they run, are incredible. If you fail to rescue one of your comrades, you can fly overhead and witness his execution, or take out the firing squad before they blow him away. Get ready to strike a blow against communism. —Johnny Balgame



Developed and published by  
Electronic Arts  
Available now

50% COMPLETE





## Epidemic

PlayStation

As the sequel to *Kleak: The DNA Imperative*, *Epidemic* has received a complete makeover. Sleek, detailed backgrounds provide the perfect environment for smooth, rendered enemies and the polished cinematics are almost Hollywood-quality.

The one problem with *Epidemic*, as it was with *Kleak*, is the lack of exciting enemies. Most of the robotic miscreants look like flying appliances, and there aren't great, gory deaths like the kind twitch gamers are used to from shooters like *Final Doom*, *Powerslave*, and *Duke Nukem*.

However, this game does throw some interesting puzzles and intricate levels at you, giving the clear impression that it's a thinking man's shooter. *Epidemic* may spread through the ranks and become a killer. —Scary Larry



Developed by Gunki  
Published by Emry  
Available October

80% COMPLETE



## Bubsy 3D

PlayStation Saturn

That wiseguy 16-bit bobcat is making an impressive jump to both 32-bit systems. Mike Berlyn, the designer of the first *Bubsy* (not the lamentable sequel) has created an interactive 3D world that looks and sounds like colorful "Road Runner" cartoons and plays a little like *Jumping Flash*. The two-player platform-jumping action covers 15 levels, 14 bonus rounds, and tons of imaginative warps to hidden areas. *Bubsy* jumps across elevated platforms, swims, flies a nifty jet, and spouts over 150 of his trademark wisecracks. The Saturn version, due in December, will be compatible with Sega's analog controller (see "GamePro Labs," October) for sharper 3D motion.

—Captain Carver



Developed by Dialect  
Published by Accolade  
Available November

50% COMPLETE

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## 2 Extreme

PlayStation

Some of the features of this sequel to ESPN Extreme Games have changed—there's no ESPN license, and you don't get any money to upgrade to better equipment—but the premise remains the same. Kick and pummel your way to the finish on snowboards, skateboards, bicycles, or in-line skates. The action goes down on 12 new courses in L.A., Las Vegas, Japan, and Alaska; other cool new features include create-a-player and points for pulling tricks like 360s. The frame rate's noticeably improved, which means faster graphics, but at this early stage, there's still too much precession. As for the gameplay, snowboard-



ing's a killer addition that ESPN Extreme fans will dig, but 2 Extreme doesn't break tons of new ground.

—Air Hurdix

Developed and published by  
Sony Sports  
Available October

70% COMPLETE



## Re-Loaded

PlayStation

PC CD

Re-Loaded is the sequel to Loaded, last year's bloody shoot-'em-up. Some new faces join the roster of gunners, including The Consumer and Sister Maggie. Additionally, returning characters such as Bourica and Maria have new looks. The game will offer more puzzles, different weapons, and new abilities. Characters can climb stairs and jump, and bullets can now ricochet!

Going completely over the top, the last level takes place on the body of a giant strapped to a table. In this climactic final stage, you must blast your way to the giant's head, then blow it apart!

—Major Mike



Developed by Greville  
Published by Interplay  
Available December

30% COMPLETE



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NBA Entertainment, Inc.



## TigerShark

PlayStation

TigerShark could be a PlayStation subammer's dream. The naval shoot-em-up action takes place both above and below the water. You pilot an attack submarine that can submerge and surface at will. Controlling the sub took a bit of practice with the preim version, but eventually you should be able to sneak up on the massive enemy fleet (especially when you're submerged), and blow ships out of the water.

The graphics and sounds were rocked and rolled in the preim. The audio resounded with snazzy sound effects, mostly machine-gun and missile fire. The graphics were very detailed, highlighted by a great-looking sub. However, the explosions needed some fine-tuning.

TigerShark isn't due until next year, but it already has the makings of a top-notch action/shooter. —Major Mike



Developed by a-Space  
Published by GT Interactive  
Available March '97

50% COMPLETE



## Mass Destruction

PlayStation

Subaru

The title says it all: In Mass Destruction, you'll drive a tank and destroy everything in your path. It's mindless action, but incredibly fun.

So far, the game looks awesome, with gigantic, loud explosions and intense mechanized mayhem. Your tank can carry several weapons, including flamethrowers, mortars, and guided missiles.

Controlling the tank is simple; however, in the early

disc, turning the turret was tricky. Even though the pre-view version had only three playable levels, Mass Destruction looks like it will give the similarly themed Return Fire a good run for the money. —Major Mike



Developed by MMS Software  
Published by BMG Interactive  
Available April '97

40% COMPLETE

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SEGA SATURN





## Super Puzzle Fighter

PlayStation

Saturn

Take characters from Capcom's best fighting games, add in elements of Tetris, and you get one addictive puzzle game. In Super Puzzle Fighter, the object is to match same-colored gems into blocks of four, then use circular icons or diamonds to break the blocks and send them to your opponent's side. The more patterns and combos you form and then break, the bigger the surprise for your opponent. The colorful graphics have a youthful look, with cute "deformed" versions of SFI and Night Warriors characters battling in the background.

—Bruce Lee



Developed and published  
by Capcom  
Available First Quarter '97

100% COMPLETE



## Bug Too

Saturn

Bug is back to infest the Saturn once again, but this time he's not alone. In Bug Too, two new insects have

been added. Maggot Dog is exactly what his name suggests—a maggot with a dog's face. SuperFly is a disco-crazed fly who looks like an extra from the movie *Saturday Night Fever*.

The characters now have the ability to run through the levels, which are even bigger and more complex than those in the original. New features include a two-player option and a time mode. This early version was still a little buggy (pun intended) and didn't yet have music or voices.



Developed and published  
by Sega Soft  
Available November

80% COMPLETE





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## Nanotek Warrior

PlayStation

Virgin is ready to launch yet another vehicle racer into an already-crowded field that includes Wipeout XL and Starwader. Nanotek Warrior puts you on a set path where you spin your ship around a pseudo-free-track track. There's some shooting, but so far the limited gameplay doesn't appear to lend itself to too much fun or too much variety. Hopefully, Tetragon will put some heat into this otherwise tepid racer. —*Scary Larry*



Developed by Tetragon, Inc.  
Published by Virgin Interactive  
Available first quarter '97

60% COMPLETE



## Pitball

PlayStation

In Pitball, you battle two-on-two against the computer or against up to three friends as you fight for a glowing sphere, which you must place into a goal. The futuristic teams are imaginative and monstrous, using bird-men, gargoyles, and more. It's like Road Warrior meets the NBA, and it looks cool. There's also a ton of arenas to choose from. If the gameplay gets faster, Pitball could be a surprise hit. —*Scary Larry*



Developed by Warner  
Interactive International  
Published by Acclaim  
Available now

70% COMPLETE



## The Divide: Enemies Within

PlayStation

PC CD

In The Divide, you play as a "mech" who wakes to find that the beings who put you into cryo-sleep have evolved into heavily-armed life forms. The mech angle is incorporated into a platform experience—you hop and gun your way through most of the levels. The game looked chunky and slow, but it's unfinished. Let's hope for the best in the final version. —*Scary Larry*



Developed by Radical  
Entertainment  
Published by Warner  
Available Winter '96

40% COMPLETE



## Tempest X

PlayStation

Tempest, the vector-line shooter that was the rage in the 80s, is about to receive the 32-bit treatment. After regaining some fame this decade with the Atari Jaguar version (remember that system?), it's about due for a refresh anyway. This fast, clean PlayStation version could be a great port. Techno sounds fit Tempest X, and smooth controls should help push the game to the forefront of contemporary shooters. —*Scary Larry*



Developed by High Voltage  
Published by Interplay  
Available November

70% COMPLETE

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# [ Want to Play? ]

## The Crystal

Drop it in your reactor to increase your time.

## The Kickers

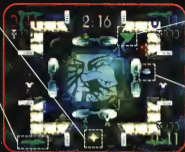
Kicking these rotates the chamber 90 degrees.

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Drop the crystal in an opponent's reactor to drain his Kill-Clock.

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Hi-Jump, Crystal Boots, Mercurius, Flag Boots & more.



Your arena is a rotating chamber...  
Turn it left. Turn it right.  
Turn the wall into a floor.



Your goal is survival...  
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Your opponent is time...  
Because when your clock hits zero,  
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# PC GAMEPRO

PC GamePro  
**REVIEW**

065  
By *Major Mike*

## Silenced by Silencer

Crusader's simple premise: You are Silencer, a lethal futuristic enforcer who's sided with the resistance movement battling an evil organization called the World Economic Consortium. Using a variety of firearms and special weapons, you blast through 10 levels of a WEC wasteland.

Storywise, Regret picks up immediately where Remorse left off as Silencer's picked up drifting in space by the WEC. As soon as the cockpit of your craft opens, you're spraying gunfire in every direction.



You can control deadly weapons, like this mech, via remote control.

## Crusader: No Problem

Controlling Silencer takes skill beyond a quick trigger finger. He has several advanced moves, including crouching, side-slapping, rolling forward, and rolling side-to-side. The responsive controls are tricky at first, but they're easily mastered with practice.

## A Violent Scene

The graphics are clean and detailed. The levels look great, and they're packed with items that explode when shot. With bright fire and smoldering embers, the explosions are particularly arresting. The graphics highlight the gruesome carnage. Enemies explode, run around engulfed in

flames, and can be frozen and subsequently shattered. The only downside comes when you tune in to the cheesy full-motion video of the resistance members at the video terminals.

The clean audio features loud explosions and intelligible voices (as in other games

of this type, enemies believe they can stop you by yelling "Halt!"). Music ranges from hard-grinding guitar riffs to subtle synthesizers, providing an excellent accompaniment to the visuals.

# CRUSADER: NO-REGRET



PRO TIP: Recharge your energy at various first-aid and electrical stations. However, be careful around these structures—careless gunfire can easily destroy them.



Several weapons await you—including this deadly grenade launcher.



PRO TIP: Avoid using explosives against the enemy troops. If they explode, you can't search them for ammo and other helpful items.



PRO TIP: The steam valves are a handy way to eliminate enemies. Turn the valve wheel when an enemy is close to a leaking pipe, and the escaping vapor can kill him.

of this type, enemies believe they can stop you by yelling "Halt!"). Music ranges from hard-grinding guitar riffs to subtle synthesizers, providing an excellent accompaniment to the visuals.

## Crusader: No Contest

Crusader: No Regret has all the right elements to produce a top-notch action game, including superb running-and-gunning, great visuals, and hours of intense gameplay. You'll have no regrets about joining Crusader's crusade.



PRO TIP: Use the elevators to your advantage. If an enemy is standing below one, press the elevator switch and let the elevator do his job.

Crusader: No Regret by Origin

Platform	Price	Genre	File Format	Online
PC	\$29.95	Action/Adventure	CD-ROM	Yes

\$29.95 30 Levels 70 Levels

Available on 70 overhead view

Action/Adventure CD-ROM rating: Teen

1 player

Minimum System Specification

• Intel Pentium III

• 16MB RAM

• 256-color VGA

• CD-ROM drive

• SoundBlaster-compatible card

• CD-ROM drive

• 16 MB RAM

• CD-ROM drive

PC GamePro  
**REVIEW**

Min 95

By Major Mike

**Frog Klogg**

Shifting between a first-person view and a side-scrolling view, you guide the game's hero, aptly named Klaymen, through a series of puzzles as he endeavors to defeat Klogg, the evil ruler of the Neverhood. The controls are very simple: You point and click on any of the surroundings and in most cases the AI does the rest, causing Klaymen to automatically interact with various objects and devices.

This is no twitch game, so brain power, not quick reflexes, is what you need. While some of the puzzles are perplexing, none of them have solutions so obscure that you'll burst a blood vessel trying to solve them. The premium here is on exploration, but the absence of a "smart cursor" that changes shape when it passes over clickable objects certainly ups the challenge.



The Neverhood is filled with puzzles—like this long hallway with writing that seems to stretch to infinity.

**An Audio/  
Visual Feast**

The Neverhood's fantastic graphics steal the show. Klaymen and his world were actually sculpted from clay. A dizzying range of seamless facial expressions and physical antics brings Klaymen to life. He runs, jumps,

splits, belches, and swings his way through the game. The other characters in the Neverhood are also visually arresting.

Of course, not everything is perfect. The claymation graphics look great in long and medium camera shots, but some images grow a little fuzzy during close-ups. That's a very minor quibble, though, in this otherwise exceptional-looking game.

The sound effects are splendid, featuring a nice variety of interactive noises, such as bells, buzzers, and footsteps. Jazzy music enlivens the game's pace at key moments, but is thankfully absent when you're faced with perplexing situations (like the hall of records that seems to go on forever) that require deep concentration.

**Heyday of Clay**

The Neverhood is an excellent adventure/puzzle game. Challenging puzzles and situations will provide you with hours of play, and Klaymen and his cohorts supply plenty of character—thanks to superb claymation graphics. You'll wish the Neverhood would never

The Neverhood looks and plays like a Gummy cream. It's an engaging Myst-style point-and-click puzzle game crafted with beautifully rendered claymation graphics. The result is an engrossing and entertaining exercise in mystery-solving with an eye-popping look (by the design team that created Earthworm Jim) that's fun to play but a little more fun to watch.

The Neverhood  
By DreamWorks Interactive

Reviewers	Score	Score	Score	Score	Score
IGN	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0

Get It! No. 100  
Available Now! Multiple users  
Adventure game PEGI rating: 15  
1 Player

Minimum System Specifications  
• Pentium  
• 1 MB RAM  
• 10 MB on hard  
• CD-ROM drive

• VGA graphics  
• Sound card  
• Installable CD  
• CD-ROM drive

**A  
Beginner's  
Guide**

Here are some tips to get Klaymen started on his quest.

**Starting Out**

**PRO TIP:** Throw the switch on the wall to the left, and the haxxor smashes the door open.

**Flytrap**

**PRO TIP:** Move the flytrap under the second to the last ring to the right. Jump, grab the ring, and pull it down to the flytrap's mouth. The flytrap blows it, holding the door open for you.

**Dynamite Man**

**PRO TIP:** Go to the television screen and press on the shapes until all the shapes to the left have faces and the ones to the right do not.

**Monster in the Courtyard**

**PRO TIP:** After the monster in the courtyard chases you back to the house, he knocks a match off a shelf. Light the dynamite man and push him toward the monster. The monster eats the dynamite man and explodes!

**The Hall of Records**

**PRO TIP:** Go to the puzzle on the wall and move the pieces around until you form an "IL." When you do, the door opens.

## SkyNET DOS

The post-apocalyptic carnage continues in Bethesda's latest Terminator-based game. A fresh set of missions featuring sharp new SVGA graphics offer challenging one-player action. As you criss-cross the nation in pursuit of a renegade nuclear weapon, you obliterate your enemies with the 17 weapons at your disposal. But without a doubt the coolest new feature is multiplayer mayhem over networks or modems. In death match-style action, you

battle it out with hostile forces across the crumbling city of L.A. You can even capture jeeps or enemy hunter/killers to put on the hunt in a big way.—*Air Hendrix*

*By Bethesda Softworks  
Available now*



## Screamer 2 DOS Win 95

Hot on the tailpipe of last year's successful first game, Screamer 2 hauls across the starting line with a trunk full of cool upgrades. From behind the wheel of four new cars, you screech across six new tracks that range from South American jungles to the streets of San Francisco. Before the flag drops, you choose two-wheel or four-wheel drive and optimize your suspension, tire pressure, body style, and transmission to fit race conditions. Other smokin' additions include variable weather, two-player split-screen action,

four-player network play, and a new 3D engine that provides better graphics, speedier play, and a more realistic 3D feel.—*Air Hendrix*

*By King  
Available November*



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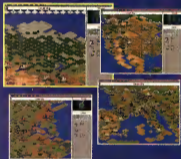
## Privateer 2: The Darkening

DOS

Win 95

Although the term "interactive movie" inspires disgust in most gamers, Origin's proven prowess with the Wing Commander series marks Privateer 2: The Darkening as a promising prospect. Like its popular predecessor, this Privateer blasts off with a combination of space warfare, equipment trading and upgrading, and full-motion video advertising that stars luminaries like Christopher Walken and John Hurt. In between storytelling sequences, the gameplay focuses on completing combat-laden missions like hunting down crooks and reconnoitering planetary systems. —*Air Hendrix*

By Origin  
Available now



## Civilization II Scenarios

Win 3.1

Win 95

Civilization II took strategy gaming by storm earlier this year, and now MicroProse is back with an add-on disc jammed with intriguing new scenarios. The original Civ II challenged gamers to take on the role of the ruler of an empire, managing its politics, sciences, and social structure with the ultimate goal of taking over the world. Civ II Scenarios loads you up with 20 new plots, including the Iranian hostage crisis, the American Civil War, a futuristic holocaust and alien invasion, and the rampages of Alexander the Great and Napoleon. —*Air Hendrix*

By MicroProse  
Available December



## Magic: The Gathering

Win 95

An immensely popular card game, Magic: The Gathering descends on the PC with snazzy features and gameplay. New players can learn the fundamentals via a thorough multimedia tutorial, then duel the A.I. in a variety of modes. More than 100 beautifully drawn decks prepare you for battle, and the useful Deck Builder utility organizes the whole deal. MicroProse also threw in an adventure game where players battle wizards

and other mythical creatures with their Magic cards, building up their decks and characters along the way. —*Air Hendrix*

By MicroProse  
Available November



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**Death Rally** DOS



If you like Road Rash, you're gonna love Death Rally, which takes combat racing to new levels of brutality. How brutal is it? Duke Nukem himself is one of the racers! One to four players compete, cheat, and do whatever is necessary to win on 18 tracks, with The Adver-

sary waiting on a final confrontation circuit. As you race, you lay mines, sabotage enemy cars, run over spectators—sounds like just another day on an L.A. freeway! —Captain Cameron

By GT Interactive  
Available now

**Dark Earth** Win 95 Mac

The Dark Earth is our Earth 300 years from now—a time when a passing comet has made the sky dark, the air cold and poisonous, and death omnipresent. Explore the remaining cities and learn how to use the last remaining sunlight. Along the way, you must overcome the strange creatures lurking in the night and try to discover the secret of the ancient curse that has punished Earth. Mindscape's so confident in this new title that it's planning a whole series of Dark Earth games. —Doctor Devon

By Mindscape  
Available First Quarter '97



**SEGA GAMES LAND ON THE PC**

When Sega joined with Softbank last spring to make games for the PC market, nobody expected the wide range of games that the new joint company, Sega Entertainment, is lining up for release. Sega Entertainment

most should have something for everybody within the next few months.

The hottest titles will be Sega's familiar arcade games, which will finally hit the PC. Virtua Fighter brings together all eight characters, all their original combos, and some of the fastest two-player martial-arts action ever to take place on a computer. Daytona USA, which like VF is scheduled for pre-Christmas release, showcases the arcade version's four driving views for realistic stock-car action. Also coming are two more racers—Sega Rally Championship and Marx TT Super Bike—and the shooter Virtua Cop, renamed Virtua City P.D.



Virtua Fighter PC



Sonic CD

Saturn and Genesis gamers will also see some of their favorite titles on the PC soon. Making the jump to the PC are the console hits Vectorman, Raku Raku, Panzer Dragon, Bug!, Sonic CD, Gunfield, and World Series Baseball '96.

Finally, the most famous Sega character of all, Sonic, will turn teacher in Sonic's Schoolhouse. Learning about math, spelling, and reading won't ever be quite the same again once kids ages 4-9 get instruction from their new 3D classroom pal. —Coach Kyle



Bug!



World Series Baseball '96



Virtua City P.D.



Daytona USA



PLAYSTATION



# KING'S FIELD II

## The King Is Back, But His Field Has Changed!

No more Mr. Nice King! He's working for the dark side now! King Alfred, the Holy King of Verdite has fallen victim to the minions of evil, as ASCII Entertainment brings in another installment of last winter's hit PlayStation tale *King's Field*.

In *King's Field II*, you will find the same gripping elements you found in the first *King's Field*, only with even MORE of the fantastic elements that addicted you to the original.

An awesome new world has before you as you embark on your new quest. ASCII desperately put in an incredible amount of work to make this new quest in the kingdom of Verdite as lush and majestic as possible. This realism stems from

the same technology that was used in *King's Field I*, but this time, you have the entirety of the kingdom to explore!



Outdoors, inside castles, villages, underground passages and dungeons — all combine to make an immense world that will keep you immersed within moments.

Make no mistake, this is no ordinary sequel. Numerous upgrades and captivating elements mix

with the most addictive points of the original top-selling adventure to bring you the hottest new title to hit the PlayStation this year.

As you may recall from the first *King's Field*, a 3D true-time-on-speed, 360° world of larger-than-life enemies lay before you on the monster-infested island of Melana.

Shipwrecked on this island, you were to battle your way through levels upon levels of dungeons and monsters in search of the Moonlight Sword which was stolen from the King's Throne in Verdite (the kingdom on the mainland).

Your character, Alexander, learned magic spells, grew more skilled with his sword, and was able to pick up and equip any weapons,

armor, or items found on the island. All of the elements of a winning RPG were packed into a first-person, Action/Adventure over shell — bringing a very unique game to the genre which held the attention of most everyone. With vast improvements over the first, *King's Field II* is bound to slay the same success story!

One of the most riveting elements of the new quest is that the storyline has been greatly improved upon! I know this a lot of as though that the first *King's Field* was plenty deep, but ASCII has gone above and beyond to make this sequel an experience that will draw you deep into the involved plot — doubling you from pasting down your controller and every last *Red Eye*, *DragonHeart*, and *Steel* are driven from the kingdom!

You start out the game with an introduction which allows you the chance to find out what has been happening since Alexander brought back the Moonlight Sword to the Kingdom of Verdite five years ago. A cold intro



sequence complete with voice over and full-motion cinematics bring you into the world as the King's son, Prince Asene *Life Forever*, a title that should have everyone as the kingdom bowing to King your feet. Unfortunately, your father — King John Alfred *Forever Last* — has fallen to the will of the evil forces which are attacking your kingdom.

Platform(s)	Release Date
PSX	November 14
DEVELOPER	ASCII
GENRE	Adventure
PlayStation	Action/Adventure
ESRB Rating	ES
# of Players	1
Size	25-30M
% Complete	100%



As you progress through the game to go out and save the world, you will have to talk to all walks of life in the kingdom. Eccentric Monks, sane smiths, indifferent soldiers, even an occasional corrupted monster will have a few words for you. Your challenge, of course, is to win the favor of the people so that they will give you the help you need as you try to

*"It's so addictive, they'll have to cut the power to my house to get me to stop playing!"*

— Game Tester

learn new spells of magic, pass over rivers of lava, and collect threads of power that can sew your kingdom back together.

Don't get me wrong, this is no "rocking at home with your crocheting needles" game we're talking about! You'll come up against some of the most frightening and powerful enemies since Clash of the Titans!

In addition to the game's storyline, ASCH has also put forth a valiant effort to come up with humorous and stimulating dialog and characters to bring your quest to life. Such characters as Jack, a 100-year old resident of Veridia with a more than stereotypical attitude and a funny scowl about

him, will bring sparks of humor that you'll enjoy throughout the game! Even a bit of romance enters the quest as the scowling child of a merchant, *Leon* — who has held a flame for the prince since childhood — drops hints about her feelings that even a Golem could comprehend.

Not to forget about the CD quality sound, of course! King's Field II has a wide selection of accompanying music to entreat your ears as you progress along your journey. Original scores are long enough to not sound repetitive and yet are not so intrusive as to distract from the substance which they so artfully bring to the game. Other sound effects include term-



## Swordplay...

The fighting technique in King's Field II is slightly different from the original. The cameras have been enhanced to recognize your pattern of attack so that they can turn, block, even parry and thrust to put you quickly into the realm of the dead! What you will have to learn is to circle and then double back when the enemy is distracted. In this way, you will reduce your hits and lose longer. As in the first quest, you can always go in for a quick hit, but in King's Field II, you will be less likely to achieve success — the skeletons, for example, now have the ability to block with a shield, duck under a slash, and sub you while you try to retreat!

In addition, use your magic as



a distraction while you go in for a hit. Once you learn some spells, more the enemy

bits, then go in for the kill. Enemies can use the same tactics, though, so be careful. They also attack in groups, so make sure that you don't get surrounded! Good luck!

flying walls, screams, and more from the afflicted and from the enemy, thunderous explosions, the glitcheous sound of steel on steel during sword fights, and, of course, the exceptional Stereo effects that were such a notable achievement in the first King's Field! You can actually tell how close you are to a monster by how loud the creak, screeches and moans are — with some practice, you can even distinguish what you're going to come up against

around the next bend!

With all of the improvements over the original King's Field, you may be worried that ASCH made changes in the intuitive control & easy-to-use pop-up menus. Well,

let me put  
your



Remember me? Shore ya do...it's Leon Shore. Come visit my house whenever you need a friend or a guide.

## Behind The SCREAMS

It all started with a wish list. Design and Layout coordinator David "Costmader" Silberman and Production overseer, Mark "The Monk" Johnson (double as ASCII's video game consultants and game master) were given the opportunity to make a wish list for everything they wished had been in KF I and everything that could have been better than was already in the game. Combining feedback information from the consumers via the On-line News Group, registration-card information, and their own ideas, they put together a list of upgrades that would make the ultimate game. After presenting the list to From Software, Inc. of Japan, ASCII also added Austin (as an "Prince") Leininger to the ranks of the KF II team to help implement the upgrades and make KF II a smashing success.

"Rewriting the Japanese script was a blast," quoth Austin. "It was the opportunity to actually create an entire script for a video game only limited by the original story line from Japan."

The improvements over King's Field I include...

- Larger world to explore.
- Outside areas of exploration.
- CD Quality music and sounds.
- Improved character definition and dialog.
- Enhanced storyline and plot.
- More fearsome enemies.
- Enhanced weapons and magic.

And Much, Much MORE!



THE FACE OF THE ENEMY!



## Behind The Screams...

While the first King's Field was a phenomenal success, ASCII wasn't satisfied with just putting out a sequel with the same great features that made KF I a hit. So they put their best American team on the project working directly with From Software, Inc. of Japan to make King's Field II the biggest, best, blow out game of the year!



initial at ease. ASCII did leave in some of the steady refined elements that made the first King's Field a roaring success. The intuitive control and pop-up menus remain unchanged for the most part. ASCII did, however, add a feature to the "System" menu which allows you to change the default button configuration to anything you want. This feature gives you just that much more control over how your game acts and reacts.

This much anticipated sequel to King's Field would have done incredibly well even without the

vast improvements. Just on the promise of the same quality in the beautiful 3D-polygon graphics and intensity of gameplay, King's Field II would have been a sell-out game! But with improved sounds, graphics, and storyline, along with a "harmless" world to explore, King's Field II is destined to be one of the top sellers this holiday season and well into next year!

I would wish good luck to you, Prince Austin Lyle Forester...but you're gonna' need a lot more than luck to make it through this one!



## Inside Edge

King's Field II is a gemstone. Your only hope of capturing the whole thing is to keep the Pin Man only on in your quest. It's an amazing, which makes everything you go in the game! Each village, castle, dungeon, and underground has its own magic, its quality, its style, its beauty, its story, its path, its own world!

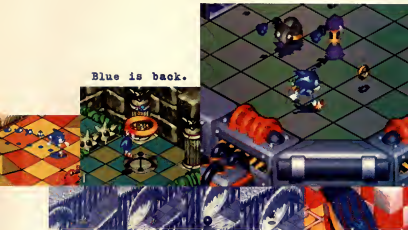
To find the Pin Man, you must make your way through each's Forest to reach just beyond the water in the first bridge. Once you're made it through the water, you'll receive that map along with another important item.

To receive the Pin Man, you will have to talk to Mabel, the character that looks a lot of importance to speak with every character you enter every area you see them. Mabel's character, what they say after you to visit other villages, and villages, or talk to them often! For instance, your character brings a lot of all information automatically.



# MAKE HASTE.

Blue is back.



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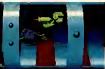
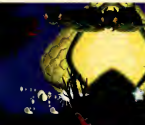
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# OR MAKE WASTE.

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# Nintendo 64



## Mortal Kombat Trilogy

(By Williams Entertainment)

By Major Mike



First not available  
126 megs  
Available November

Fighting  
2 players  
Side view



# MORTAL KOMBAT TRILOGY



### Graphics

**B** Looks just like the arcade version, with fluid character movements, scenic stages, and lots of blood. The fatalities and finishing moves are also excellent translations.



### Sound

**C** The sound effects are arcade-perfect, but the music is too muted and distant—as if it were a cheap imitation of its arcade counterpart.



### Control

**B** The special moves and combos are simple to pull off with the N64 controller's closely spaced buttons. However, you must do lightning-fast button taps on the standard combos.



### Fun Factor

**A** It's MK—and lots of it. This game should satisfy even the biggest MK junkies. If you aren't a fan there is no better time to become one than with this game.



*PRO TIP: Now you can appear on opponent through the roof up to three times!*



One of the many options—a three-on-three Kombat mode!



If just wouldn't be MK without hidden fighters! Meet the latest mystery Kombatant—the female ninja named Kitana!



This time there are twice as many treasures as Shao Kahn's gallery!



Twenty-six fighters in the biggest MK yet!



There is only one Sub-Zero, but he possesses all the powers of his various incarnations.

### Rain's Pain



**PRO TIP:** For a nasty two-hitter with Rain, hit an opponent with a roundhouse kick (hold ←, tap high kick) that sends them to the opposite of the screen...



...then pounce them with an uppercut before they land!

### In with the Old and New



Nostalgic breaks like the pit stage from the first MK game return—with a few "enhancements"...



...while new Kombat zones have been added.



**PRO TIP:** Trilogy has all the Fatalities, Sub-Fatals, Animates, Friendships, and a new finishing move—the Brutality! To do Kitana's Brutality, tap High Punch, Block, High Kick, Block, Low Kick, Block, Low Punch, Block, High Punch, Block.

**F**orget UMK3: Mortal Kombat Trilogy is the ultimate Mortal Kombat game. This MK entry has everything any MK lover could want—all the fighters, all the moves, and more. It's the mother of all Mortal Kombat.

### All-Star Lineup

Trilogy puts all the fighters from the previous MK games into one lineup, for a total of 26 fighters. Joining the cast are two brand-new fighters, the purple ninja Rain and the hidden fighter Noob Saibot. Using the combo engine from MK3, Trilogy gives each character a standing rapid-button-tap combo. This puts all the fighters on a level playing field, and gives those from earlier entries (like Rayden and Baraka) new life.

Some fighters have been modified with new moves, and some have had moves taken away. For example, the old and new Sub-Zeros have been combined into one fighter who possesses all the special moves of each. While purists may cry foul, the alterations are generally minor.

Some excellent gameplay additions distinguish Trilogy from earlier MK entries. These include an Aggressor meter which rests in a corner of the screen. As you exchange blows during battle, the word "Aggressor" is slowly spelled out. Once you've fully spelled it out, your character moves faster and inflicts more damage. Ultimately, this rewards players who play offensively. There is also a new finishing move, the Brutality. This is similar to the Ultra Combo finishing move in Killer Instinct, except that you must tap out the move rather than having the computer automatically do it for you. There are also several new Kombat Kodes and fighting stages.

### Mortal Mania

However, MK Trilogy doesn't score a flawless victory. There is some slowdown during fights—like when you knock an opponent through the ceiling to the stage above.

So is Trilogy the best MK yet? Yes—due in part to the gigantic scale of the game and more secrets than you can shake Scorpion's spear at. For MK fans, MK Trilogy delivers with all the fighters, secrets, and carnage that made the series the phenomenon it is today. **B**



**PRO TIP:** Use Rain's telekinetic football to grab an opponent. Then you can set them up for an uppercut or combo.



## Star Wars: Shadows of the Empire

(By Nintendo)

By Scary Skywalker

Price not available  
Always Available  
December

Action/Adventure  
1 player  
11 levels



# STAR WARS SHADOWS OF THE EMPIRE



## Hoth



**PRO TIP:** Loop around the Walkers and release the tow cables as you shoot at their ankles. Keep pressing the tow cable button, because you can fire it as many times as you want to hit the sweet spot.

The Force is with us once again. LucasArts and Nintendo have completed *Star Wars: Shadows of the Empire*, and this highly touted early release for the N64 features many of the elements that made the *Star Wars* film trilogy a success—a classic tale of good versus evil, primo sci-fi hardware, weird aliens, and mucho laser blasts. And it presents all this with a stylized charm and sharp, cutting-edge graphics.

However, *Shadows* is not for everyone. Familiar gameplay, which mostly involves chasing polygonal henchmen and shooting them down (à la *Doom*, *Duke*, *Quake*, et al.), abounds in this game. This is definitely a *Star Wars* fan's dream come true, but action/adventure fans not enamored with the *Star Wars* film universe will find *Shadows* shadowy.

The 11 levels of *Shadows* fall into three main categories: flying vehicles, shooting on the run, and shooting while flying. The opening level is a knockout as you begin where the movie. The *Empire Strikes Back* began on the familiar snow-white terrain of the ice planet Hoth. Imperial Walkers threaten the Rebel defenses, so you pilot a snowspeeder and shoot at AT-STs, AT-ACTs, and Probe Droids. As in the movie, you also have to take down the deplorable Walkers by launching tow cables and entangling their



### Control

Effortless shooting is tempered by sometimes impressive walking and jumping acrobatics. Tanking enemies on ledges is especially tricky, as is making chain jumps.



### Graphics

The crisp polygons are sometimes obscured by murky fog effects. However, there are plenty of familiar, well-rendered *Star Wars* foes such as Starfighters, Wampa masters, and Probe Droids.

## Xizor's Palace



**PRO TIP:** Use the Seeker missiles on IG-88 heavily invaders. It's the only way to take them down from double-tiered areas in the palace.



**PRO TIP:** The Red Guards are the toughest to kill. Use the Laser to snare them, then hit them with Seekers. You can also keep shooting them at point-blank range with the laser.



### Sound

Fully orchestrated music, some of which is sampled directly from the *Star Wars* movies, follows you wherever you go. Even in the murky sewer areas, the moody music heightens the tension.



### Fun Factor

It must be reiterated—**if you're a fan of the *Star Wars* films, this game is for you.** Others may want to reserve their N64 money for other titles.



## Echo Base



**PRO TIP:** Doly Seeker missiles can take out the Wampas. You can also sit back and watch them fight each other.

## Asteroid Field



**PRO TIP:** Use your missiles on large groups of fighters, and help on the single fighters ship to ship.

## Ord Mantell Junkyard



**PRO TIP:** When riding the train, switch to the behind-the-person view for Dash.

feet. It's as impressive and exciting as the cinematic battle for Hoth.

Next you control Dash Rendar, a mercenary who, on the orders of Princess Leia, is supposed to be guarding Luke Skywalker. You walk, run, and jump Doom-style through corridors, blasting Stormtroopers

and other Empire heavies while fulfilling mission objectives like detonating Empire strongholds. You pick up different weapons and helpful items, like Boba Fett's rocket pack, but most of the time you're busy blasting Vader's boys.

There is some variety—you're seeing a Swoop bike (a Harley

for mercenaries) through Mos Eisley, you blast TIE fighters and TIE bombers while avoiding asteroids, and you hop along railroad boxcars through a desolate junkyard with some very familiar junk (like abandoned spacecraft from the trilogy movies) lying around. But for the most part, it's shoot first, think later.

I am one of the biggest Star Wars fanatics around. Shadows is a solid performer with dazzling good looks, but not the breakthrough superstar the buzz might have led you to expect. Then again, aspiring Jedis will enjoy feeding their jones with Shadows of the Empire. **B**

## Gall Spaceport



**PRO TIP:** You must time your jumps carefully to make the chosen leaps in the Gall Spaceport. Switch views to first-person, then run and jump.

## Mos Eisley



**PRO TIP:** The Swoop is extremely precarious. Instead of just jumping through towns, use reverse to slow the Swoop down.

## Imperial Freighter Suprosa



**PRO TIP:** Laser fire will temporarily stun Stormtroopers. Use this tactic to get around large groups.

## Sewers of Imperial City



**PRO TIP:** Use the jetpack to float above these traps. That way you can see trouble without landing in it.

## Skyhook Battle



**PRO TIP:** As in the asteroid field, use the missiles on clusters of fighters. Don't let them get behind you. Switch views so you can track their progress all around the ship.



# Nintendo 64



## Wave Race 64

(By Nintendo)

By **Al Hendrix**

64/65  
64 rating

Available  
November  
Jet-ski racing

2 players  
8 tracks  
Multiple views



**PRO TIP:** To perform a flip whenever you keep air, hold up while you shoot up the ramp (or wave), then hold Down until your jet ski executes a 360-degree flip.



# WAVE RACE 64



**PRO TIP:** The key to tight steering is beginning each turn far in advance.



**PRO TIP:** When jumping, be sure to look ahead and line up the next gate so you don't accidentally miss.



**PRO TIP:** In the last track, the tide goes out farther and farther as the race proceeds, so keep an eye out for obstacles that were submerged on the previous lap.

Jet skis may bring to mind mere summer fun at the lake, but Wave Race 64's electrifying action shreds that stereotype. Deep, fiercely competitive gameplay is matched with wild 3D wave action that challenges you to contend with churning surf as well as your opponents.

Gamers choose from four jet skis before getting wet on six tracks loaded with slalom-style gates. The races go down in three tournaments against three CPU opponents, in a time trial, or on stunt courses where you score points for landing tricks. Completing a tournament opens up the next difficulty level—the gates are tougher to hit, the CPU's much tougher to beat—but victory's rewarded with two hidden tracks.

A remarkable racing game, Wave Race is exactly the kind of solid title that will drive the Nintendo 64 to success. **D**



**PRO TIP:** Missing gates cuts your power, but sometimes it lets you carve a more direct—and thus faster—path to the finish.



**PRO TIP:** On extreme corners, just Down on the joystick as you turn for added cutting power.



**PRO TIP:** As you advance to the higher difficulty levels, split pathways open up on some courses. Watch the CPU opponents to determine the best course.



## Fun Factor

**5/5** Even without an ultra-hip look like *Nitros Oxide*, N64's high-tech shores, Wave Race's phenomenally fun, addictive jet-ski racing will captivate gamers with in-depth, challenging gameplay. The two-player split-screen action rocks, too.



## Graphics

**5/5** Wave Race's outstanding visuals showcase the N64's impressive graphical prowess with gorgeous water effects, eye-catching lighting, realistically detailed polygonal sprites, and smoothly flowing animations.



## Control

**4/5** The simple controls involve merely holding the gas button and steering with the joystick, but these jet ski handles beautifully and with impressive realism. The ability to pull off fancier tricks we'd've been sweet, though.



## Sound

**3/5** Sound is the only part of Wave Race that doesn't shine. Despite the respectable engine and water effects, the juvenile music and grating accelerator will leave you scowling in irritation.

I WOULD BE  
HONORED  
TO BREAK  
YOUR  
FACE

Hope you aren't too attached to your nose. Play Street Fighter Alpha 2 for your Super NES<sup>®</sup> and you have a good chance of having it rearranged. Ryu, Ken and Chun-Li are back along with over a dozen more characters, all spoiling for a fight. Custom Combos, new Super Moves and Alpha Counters give you a fighting chance. Almost. You can bet something's going to get broken first.

TEEN  
T  
AGE 13+



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—PSX

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and **kiss** your competition,  
but don't **drive** it  
into the ground.

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# MEET TOUGH STUDS

# BIG BOLTS



... 'CAUSE THIS AINT NO SUNDAY DRIVE



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**Disruptor**  
By *Infamous Entertainment*  
By *Scott Levy*

Price not available  
Available November  
Carrier shooter

1 player  
13 levels  
First-person view



# DISRUPTOR



**A**ttention, Doom fans: The following game is another Doom clone. Do not be alarmed. Do not adjust your sets. Sit back and enjoy one of the best-looking corridor shooters for the PlayStation yet. It's fast fun, with few drawbacks.

## Smokin' Gun

Disruptor throws you into 10 alien levels where you blast anything that moves. You start the game with a standard pistol, but soon upgrade to more powerful weapons like a Phase Rifle, Lockon Cannon, and more. These guns have enormous firepower, especially the screen-clearing Zodiac, which sends out an energy wave that rains through the air, then ripples across the ground.

Each level has objectives: In some you have to flip switches, while others require you to blow up certain computers. There are no end-level bosses, but the enemies get progressively harder.

## Gun Control

Disruptor offers a tremendous amount of challenge—maybe too much. In contrast to other shooters of this type, there is very little ammo to be found. You must make every shot count, and even then you'll often find yourself with no defense except your evasive skills. Adding to the difficulty is the fact you must hit targets dead-center, or the ammo goes flying into the horizon. In other shooters, close is good enough, but not here.

There is another weapon menu for mind skills called Psionics. These range from healing spells to electric blasts. However, they also run out fairly quickly, and recharging them is time-consuming.

Happily, Disruptor uses some of the cleanest, most sophisticated graphics yet seen on the PSX. They're joined by some rip-roarin' explosions and sound effects. Maybe the shortage of ammo will force you to appreciate the beauty of this game. ☐

## Level Two: Old Chemical Factory



**PRO TIP:** Low-level enemies, like these flying insects, should be eliminated with a less powerful weapon, like the 180mm automatic.

## Level Three: Rooftops



**PRO TIP:** Do not shoot the droids that look like flying washing machines. They chase you through the level and detonate near you—draining your life bar.

**Graphics**  
4-5 The clean, rendered levels are amazing! Lots of detail are not marred by slowdown or pixelation; too bad the enemies are bland and repeat throughout the levels. There's also more fog here than at a drag queen festival.

**Sound**  
5-6 Great explosions and rockin' music fill the levels. The music changes as situations worsen, so you'll know when you're in trouble.

**Control**  
4-5 The control is fairly smooth, but the weapon switching is troublesome—it lags a little, and there's no way to pause, then change weapons, as in Doom.

**Fun Factor**  
5-5 Disruptor's a great game with some serious game-play. Fans of corridor shooters will love it. Beginners may not find themselves up to the challenge at first, but they'll definitely come back for more.

**Weapon Acquired**  
Phase Rifle  
Plasma Lance



## Level Four: Jupiter Station



**PRO TIP:** The AM Blaster spreads a three-way shot, but if you hold the button down, it lets out a powerful, concentrated burst. Shoot when close to an enemy.



## Level Five: Moon of Neptune



**PRO TIP:** This is a long level with two significant stages. Blast through the snow-wolves in the first stage, then drop down and avoid the flying insects in the second part. For enemies taking Lockon Cannons, use a short AM blast, then use Shock.

## Level Six: Mars



**PRO TIP:** You start the level without weapons. Although you may find a few scattered throughout the landscape, you must rely on the Polonics to carry you through. Use Blast, then Drain when you run low.

## Level Seven: Ice World



**PRO TIP:** Tons of machine gunners are in this level. Use the AM Blaster on them. After the first part of the level, you go into the labs where the tough ice gunners shoot at you with the AM Cyclone.

## Level Eight: Mines of Io



**PRO TIP:** The soldiers in this level are easy to dispatch if you shoot them at point-blank range. Store the Phase ammo before using the Repetitor.

## Level Nine: Reactor



**PRO TIP:** Your only objective in this level is to get out before the reactor explodes. Hit the red switches to add time to the clock.



## Level Ten: Space Station



**PRO TIP:** Be careful when entering rooms in this area; many are heavily guarded. Use the Phase Repetitor in close quarters.

## Level Eleven: Dream Weaver



**PRO TIP:** You find yourself in a weird dreamscape, with only your Polonics as weapons. Wait until your enemies bunch together, then launch the Tera Blast, and detonate it in the middle of the group.

## Level Twelve: The Prison



**PRO TIP:** Walk through the prison, grab your weapons from different cells, then blast your way through to the final level.



**Black Down**

By Wright

By McMenster



\$59.95

Available now

Helicopter shooter

1 player

30 missions

7 levels

4 discs

**B**lack Ops, developer of the killer Agile Warrior, returns to the fray with *Black Down*, another outstanding shooter. This time you deal out destruction from the cockpit of a helicopter, but the terrorist threats still crop up from Central Park to Antarctica.

At each site, restoring the peace involves several missions—inserting SEAL teams, demolishing tank squadrons, knocking out radar sites, and more—that must be completed in order. Your well-equipped chopper rises to the occasion with bullets, missiles, rockets, napalm, and even nukes. Power-ups replenish your stores, augment your existing fire power, and even supply you with wigmen that fight by your side.

The learning curve for the controls falls on the steep side, but such tough, diverse levels and comprehensive features are worth a little work. A few flaws aside, *Black Down* is a well-rounded game that delivers riveting, adrenaline-packed combat. **B**



**PRO TIP:** Use the powerful triple-shot gun extensively and reserve missiles for highly visible targets.



**Graphics**

The improvements on Agile Warrior's visuals immediately capture your attention: detailed, eye-catching landscapes and missions; screen-rocking explosions; and a smooth, fast frame rate. Still, there's way too much fog (which disappears pop-up on the horizon).



**Sound**

Great cockpit chatter keeps you fully braced on every important detail, though it's a seamless green repetitive, intense orchestral music and fiery sound effects round out the solid audio.



**Control**

Although these controls are much more accessible than a hardcore flight sim's, they're still complex enough to require much practice. Once you master them, you achieve impressively deep control over your chopper, though the throttle remains too tricky.



**Fun Factor**

*Black Down* bristles with challenging, arcade-style gameplay and deep levels. If a lock-on tone is music to your ears, this gripping helicopter shooter will provide a huge grin across your face.

# BLACK DOWN



**PRO TIP:** Shoot every building you pass—some of the best power-ups lurk inside harmless structures.



**PRO TIP:** If you're getting hammered by a pack of enemies, jack up the throttle and fire until you collect enough armor to survive the onslaught.



**PRO TIP:** Hug the hills to sneak up on enemies, or launch air-bombs while sheltered by trees and buildings that absorb incoming fire.



**PRO TIP:** APCs hit back hard, so wrap in fact, launch your missiles, and get out in a hurry.



**PRO TIP:** Launch missiles in pairs—slope shots destroy only the wispy targets.



**PRO TIP:** Landing to rescue hostages or SEAL team members means you're defenseless, so clear the area of hostile forces before you set down.

Just cause he's a joker doesn't mean he plays with a full deck.



Aste up to Crystal Dynamics' fastest, underbite-based 3D action game.

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Nikki, Fergus and Sid - an acrobatic wizard,

a slightly twisted joker and his musical puppet-on-a-stick. War through wacky, wacky, wacky spaces levels of their corrupted 3D kingdom while shape-changing into a fire-breathing dragon or raging rhino. Just sit down and get taken for a ride, it's pure rocket fuel.



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SEGA Available on PC CD-ROM



**Blood Omen:  
Legacy of Kain**  
(By Crystal Dynamics)  
By **Bro Buzz**

154 GB  
Available  
November

Adults  
1 player



# Blood Omen: Legacy of Kain



**PRO TIP:** The Werewolf Form enables you to climb mountains and take more hits with less damage.



**Kain is an awfully vampire, but he'll still suck your blood!**



**PRO TIP:** Quickly tapping **△** fires off combo weapon attacks. The opening double-axe combo, for example, is great. When facing gangs, move Kain around as you spin.

**B**lood Omen is a horrific, hypnotic game guaranteed to either satisfy your darkest Dracula fantasies...or upset you. This Mature-rated CD is not for kids, the faint-hearted, or the mentally disturbed. The graphics are violent and bloody, and the sounds are slick and sick. Also, as the reluctant vampire, Kain, you suck. In fact, you're an awesome sucker, able to drain hapless victims dry...from two feet away!

The hauntingly compelling storyline triumphs over somewhat plodding action. As you scour a massive medieval world to hunt down the monstrous demon who enslaved your soul, you hack, spell-cast, and drink blood via an overhead view that suffers from jerky screen-scrolling and noticeable data-loading.

You use the simple combat controls to execute a classic three-step "Forward Slash Runaway" rumba to (barely) defeat the many deadly vampire hunters. At least you can equip yourself with 34 imaginative weapons and spells. You can also shape-shift into a werewolf, a bat, a mist-being, or a human—all with accompanying special abilities.

Overall, Blood Omen emerges as an above-average action/adventure game, with more emphasis on the adventure than the action. It's bloody good vampire fare. **B**



**PRO TIP:** Bone Armor makes you less noticeable to the undead. However, it can prevent you from activating door switches.



Shunning cosmetics tell a bloody tale of the living dead.

**Graphics**

**4.0** Breathtaking story cosmetics that are really gruesome and gorgeous rule the visuals. Nicely painted dark, foreboding backgrounds and interiors juice the overhead-view gameplay. Odd, unpredictable scrolling, however, relegates some fighting to edge-of-the-screen blind dueling.

**Fun Factor**

**4.0** A massive medieval fantasy world and merciless challenge provide hours of horror-filled fun. However, frequent data-loading noticeably dings the gameplay. Blood Omen's action could be more intense, but this game is still good enough to wake the dead.



**PRO TIP:** Save victims chained to the wall as emergency snacks.

**PRO TIP:** Sometimes when you return to the Nine Pillars of Mazzoth, Ariel gives you a clue. Use the Bat Form to get there from anywhere.

**PRO TIP:** Try not to use the Hearts of Darkness; they automatically resurrect you.

**Control**

**3.0** Blood's controls are simple. Single button-presses make both inventory management and vampire shape-shifting a breeze.

**Sound**

**3.0** Sweet weapon clangs, bone-chilling cries for mercy, and lily blood slurping are standouts. Impressive character voices and eerie gothic music add great drama.





**Perfect Weapon**

By AOL

By Scott Larr

Price not available  
Available November

Action/adventure  
1 player  
Multiple views



**PRO TIP:** Most levels require you to find an object to help you brave the elements (or your health bar diminishes rapidly). In the first level, find the cold medication on the right side of the level (after you find the radar).

**PERFECT**



**WEAPON**

**PRO TIP:** Use leg sweeps constantly. It's a cheap but easy move that works well against small enemies.

**PRO TIP:** If you're caught off-screen, backstep to readjust the camera angle.



**PRO TIP:** When an opponent is stunned, quickly attack another opponent. Taking out a stunned opponent wastes time.



**PRO TIP:** Run past groups of enemies, then turn and fight. Don't let opponents get behind you.



**PRO TIP:** Use the backflip to get out of tight jams. It moves you quickly out of danger, and hits a few opponents on the way.



**PRO TIP:** Running is difficult, so run only through open spaces. Proceed cautiously around rocks and crates.



**Graphics**

**4.5** The rendered backgrounds are among the most beautiful you'll see this year. Bright and colorful, they'll amaze you. But the hard-to-see enemies need more definition.



**Control**

**3.5** Controlling your character is an exercise in frustration. Most punches miss their mark, and turning to face enemies takes forever. You're often caught between enemies, and are surrounded by one while fighting the other.

In Perfect Weapon, you play as Blake Hunter, a martial-arts champ who's kidnapped and forced to fight for his life on strange, exotic alien worlds. In this Resident Evil-ish action/adventure fighting game, you get to show off a large number of moves and learn new moves and combos as you progress.

It's a great premise, but the gameplay is horrendous. Slow and stodgy, the moves are hard to do (even running is a hit-and-miss chore), and the game mechanics are often frustrating and pointless. A good example is the fighting—when hit, you're sometimes turned sideways, and then are unable to attack. Another annoying problem is that the camera angle constantly changes—even when you're fighting—which can leave you brawling offscreen.

The beautifully rendered enemies are viciously tough. The ramped-up AI is too extreme, though, which makes the slow gameplay even more apparent—you'll spend at least two hours getting out of the first level. Add to this the vast enemies you meet versus the minimal power-ups, and you'll think Resident Evil was a cakewalk. This Weapon quickly runs out of ammo. **C**



**Sound**

**4.0** With full voice-overs and weird sound effects for the allies, the sound is almost perfect. But the lack of good music is noticeable throughout the game.



**Fun Factor**

**3.5** The game is enjoyable if you are patient. But gamers who thrilled at the mere intensity and graphical fidelity of Resident Evil will find this weapon is far from perfect.











**Time Commando**

(By Activision)

By Atomic Dawg

\$49.95

Available now

Action/adventure

9 levels

1 player



**PRO TIP:** Since unarmed combat enables you to kick, in some situations it's more effective than short-range weapons like the dagger.



A powerful computer virus threatens to unravel reality. You must travel through eight historical eras to stop it.

**PRO TIP:** Search suspicious areas immediately. The auto-scrolling screen won't give you a second chance.



Time Commando features some excellent polygon rendering.

**Graphics**

The link cinematics and smooth fighting movements are cool, but the overall visual impact is diminished by shaky, lame-looking basic moves.

**3.5**

**Sound**

Spectacular effects and atmospheric background music blend nicely with the action.

**4.0**

**Control**

Grip controls make possible a creative mix of combat moves. You can actually develop a style as both offenser and defense.

**4.5**

**Fun Factor**

Time Commando is a solid adventure game with a simple yet effective combat system, but it may be too slow for some tastes.

**3.5**

**T**ime Commando is a good adventure game that sometimes takes too much time to get to the action. As Stanley the Time Commando, you must defeat a virus that threatens to destroy reality from inside a virtual combat super-computer. You journey through eight historical environments, such as feudal Japan, medieval Europe, and

find five weapons in each era, and you can effortlessly fire off combinations, block attacks, and switch weapons.

Commando's polygon-rendered character graphics are sharp and the backgrounds are a knockout, but the animation is sometimes glancingly stiff.

Time Commando's main shortcoming is sluggish overall game speed. Fighting moves are fluid and smooth, but basic moves like jogging or simple turning are slow. The overall effect is to make

**TIME COMMANDO**



America's Wild West, where virtual foes from each period ambush you.

During battles, the intelligently configured controls enable you to launch creative attacks. You can



Believe it is a key part of your combat strategy. You can dodge side to side, step back, and block.



**PRO TIP:** You must use multiple-button-press combination attacks. Your foes can easily defend themselves against single-move attacks.

the game feel slow between fights.

Patent players who don't mind going slow at times will find a good adventure here. Given time, Commando could grow on you. **B**

**PRO TIP:** Jump aside by pressing L2 or R2, and your foe is momentarily open to attack.



**PRO TIP:** Some power-ups and weapons are hidden, so search behind background objects like bushes and rocks.



**PRO TIP:** Your forward jumps take time to execute. Get the timing down because you need to jump past critical obstacles.

# Proof That Demons Do Exist

In the near future, mankind has conquered dimensional travel but the door we have opened swings both ways. The peaceful city you have grown up in has become a haven for dark creatures from another world—Demons! Now it's up to you and your friends to harness the hidden power within you by entering the fantasy game known as Persona.

You awaken with incredible abilities that you will need to defeat the scores of Demon invaders and cleanse the land of their forces. Converse with them before doing battle to determine your best course of action. Fight them or enlist their aid in your mission. Either way, you are set for the fantasy adventure of a lifetime!

## Special Features

- Based on the ultra-popular, mega-hit, Megami Tensei series: first time to hit US shores
- 100+ hours of pulse pounding gameplay
- Over 300 different monsters to do battle with
- Morph any member of your party into a more powerful source known as "Persona"
- Fight your way to one of many endings

# Persona



ATLUS



Persona 3: Revelations is the first chapter of the  
**REVELATIONS™**





**Steel Harbinger**

(By Nintendo)

By Major Mike



Price not available  
Available November  
Action  
1 player  
1 1/2 overhead view



**STEEL Harbinger**

**W**hile far from perfect, Steel Harbinger has some notable qualities which almost make it a top offering in this genre.

You play as a scantly clad half-human, half-alien who is the only hope for a besieged Earth. The game is a 3/4-overhead shooter with the usual elements: weapons, enemies, and mission objectives. For variety, there are also different vehicles (like a hovercraft and tank) you can step into and control.

One of the best things about Harbinger is the huge size of the levels. Set in the rubble of various cities, they can be explored for hours. The enemies range from visually stunning (giant worms) to ridiculous (dogs that shoot laser beams from their heads).

Gameplay is intense, but slowdown frequently creeps in when things get hectic. And the game can be annoyingly difficult: Sometimes you are swarmed by enemies and quickly blasted into oblivion. Laughable full-motion-video sequences serve only to interrupt the action.

Harbinger has some great things going for it, but the distracting videos and game-play flaws drag it down. It's definitely worth a look, but there are stronger offerings out there. **M**



**PRO TIP:** The stages are huge. One way to keep track of where you have been is to blast the trees.



**Computer-rendered sequences add to the action.**



**PRO TIP:** Blast enemies, like the cannon, can be used to your advantage. If one follows you, it destroys anything in its path—including enemy aliens.



**PRO TIP:** In the Las Vegas stage, kill the alien-producing worms quickly. Anything they produce immediately attacks.



**PRO TIP:** Avoid firing shots into the distance and following them far over; you could accidentally hit one of the human survivors.



**Graphics**

**4.0** The graphics look a little cheesy, but the FMV sequences are very clear. The explosions and carnage are on the tame side, though.



**Sound**

**3.0** The music is cheesy and foreboding, a perfect accompaniment to the bomb-out clips; but the sound effects are weak, with tiny laser blasts and mild explosions.



**Control**

**4.0** Your character is easy enough to master, but jumps are impressive—especially in areas with small footholds.



**Fun Factor**

**4.0** The enormous levels are fun to explore and at times require you to puzzle your way out.



**PRO TIP:** In the Moonbase stage, destroy the cannon towers by standing directly underneath them, then jumping up and firing. This is easier, and safer, than facing them head-on.

# Flex Some 16-Bit Muscle



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**K&A**  
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**CAPCOM**

**SUPER NINTENDO**  
ENTERTAINMENT SYSTEM



**More Challenges!**  
Face a life and death hunt to locate six Infinity Gems before Thanos. The fate of the world depends on you.



**More Heroes!**  
Master the brute strength of your favorite Super Hero - Spider-Man, Wolverine, Iron Man, Captain America, and the Incredible Hulk.



**More Super-Villains!**  
Battle fan-favorite baddies assembled by Thanos, including Blackheart, Dr. Doom and the diabolical evil clones of The Thing, Silver Surfer, Magneto and a dozen others.

**MARVEL SUPER HEROES IN**

**WAR OF THE GEMS**

**FLEX MORE 16-BIT MUSCLE!**

The most powerful collection of Marvel Super Heroes unite to battle a multitude of treacherous villains on your Super NES! It's an incredible action-adventure demanding your skill, cunning and might to defeat the forces of evil and Thanos' quest for power.



**S**lamscope is a rowdy, turbocharged shooting game aimed at hard rockers. After needles are plunged dramatically into your eyes in the intro, you move into bleak arenas where you fly a wicked, hovercraft and fight for your life. Slamscope's not as stunning as Wipeout XI, but it has more humor, thanks to imaginative enemies (including big teddy bears that you can't want to destroy) and an aggressive, take-no-prisoners attitude. You've got a solid night of road-rasher, enemy-thrashin' fun ahead of you. **B**

### Slamscope

(By Namco Home Media)

By Coach Kyle

\$54.95

Vehicle shooter

Available now

1 player

4 regions

Best of the

edition nine

Features



### Sound



A great thrash-rock soundtrack propels the action, and the detailed sound effects were one of the changes in the game.

### Fun Factor



The fast fun is held back by the high difficulty. It'll be awhile before you slam out of this 'scop, but the effort will be worth it.

### Graphics



Flycops are used to create stable adversaries and big landscape features. The animations are good, the vehicles all move quickly, and the music videos are eye-catching.

### Control



Your Slanjet moves quickly but is pretty tricky to control. It takes a lot of practice to be able to shoot accurately while moving.



**PRO TIP:** Enemies aren't vulnerable from all sides; circle around them until you find a weak spot.

# Slamscope



**PRO TIP:** Take out slow-moving Silveddy Bears by laying minecrops and then blasting the bears into them.



**PRO TIP:** Double jump and simultaneously fire your shockball to take down the annoying flying enemies.

# PLAYSTATION



### Namco Museum Vol. 2

(By Namco)

By Doctor Devon

\$49.95

Available now

Arcade compilations

2 players

8 games



**PRO TIP:** In Xenon, fight the temptation to drop to the bottom of the screen; there's more maneuvering room in the middle.

# NAMCO Museum Vol. 2

If you want to explore video game history, take a tour of this museum. Namco Museum offers the video scholar exhibits, a lounge, and a game room featuring six classic games—Xenon, Mappy, Super Pac-Man, Dragon Buster, Grobda, and Caplus—all with their original graphics and sounds. Super Pac-Man's weak control makes it the biggest disappointment, while Dragon Buster's action/adventure swordplay and Grobda's rapid-fire tank shooting hold up the best. These games are far from cutting-edge, but those who enjoy simple, classic gameplay will be entertained.

### Fun Factor



These six games are simple and old-fashioned, but they hold up, especially for two players. The technology is basic, but the gameplay is timeless.

### Sound



The faithful reproductions of familiar music and sound effects will make you smile at first, but you'll probably eventually get annoyed by their simplicity (especially Grobda's scratchy voice).



**PRO TIP:** In Grobda, immediately get out of the way and run for cover, because all the other tanks quickly target you.

### Control



As the arcade operator, you get to adjust all the settings for the games. Most games are truly one-button affairs, but that's all they really need.

### Graphics



The new "blur" footage is pretty basic stuff. In the games, sprites and backgrounds are often so small they get lost.



**PRO TIP:** Against the Dragon Buster bosses, slash all the enemies they send at you, retreat from their fire, and jump in to hack their throats between enemies.



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BY GAMERS FOR GAMERS™

**R**acing fans, be warned: Impact Racing is not a driving sim—it's the release of pure aggression on asphalt.

Choose from five super-powered cars and take to the road for fast-paced search-and-destroy action. Each level gives you a time limit and a quota of cars to destroy. Succeed, and you advance and acquire more powerful weaponry. Two views, radar, and a variety of options make this game accessible to all gamers. The scenario is simple, but the gameplay isn't. Watch for it if you're on the road! **B**

# IMPACT RACING



**PRO TIP:** Lay mines all the way across the track to guarantee that all the cars behind you will hit them.



**PRO TIP:** Sometimes it's more effective to shoot incoming mines instead of avoiding to avoid them.

## Impact Racing

(By Archie)

By Dr. Zombie

\$49.95

Available now

1 player

Driving/Action

12 stages

Multiple views



### Graphics

**K+ S** Impact Racing offers smooth animation and slick scrolling backgrounds for intense racing excitement. Clean, sharp graphics and effects such as billowing smoke and explosive odds add to the appeal.



### Control

**K+ S** The controls are easy to learn, extremely responsive to the screen's action, and may also be customized to fit individual preferences.



### Sound

**K+ S** A hip, ambient techno-house music soundtrack (à la Wipacut) gives Impact Racing a cool, modern feel. Great tones for racing mayhem.



### Fun Factor

**K+ S** Sharp graphics, awesome weapons, and snazzy action make this cavewoman of cart-rage easy to pick up and fun to play. A variety of tracks would've boosted the Fun Factor even higher.



**PRO TIP:** Acceleration is more important than speed in the bonus stages. Slow down so you don't speed past targeted cars.

www.impactracing.com

## PLAYSTATION



## Street Racer

(By UM Soft)

By Gideon

\$19.95

Available now

1-8 players

Driving/Action

24 tracks



**PRO TIP:** To dodge obstacles quickly, hit turbo and hurdle over sharp corners and clusters of competitors.



**PRO TIP:** Hug the inside of curves to avoid being bumped out.



**PRO TIP:** Use the Mirror View during the first few laps on a new track to learn its nuances.

**S**uper Mario Kart fans should check out Ubi Soft's Street Racer, the closest thing to a next-gen version of SMK until that game hits the N64 next year. Mixing sharp cartoon graphics and gameplay with smash-em-up, slapstick racing, Street Racer offers options such as 8 cars, 4 types of driving games, 24 tracks, and a capacity for 8 simultaneous players. Unfortunately, the tracks are too short and the action too cluttered to get any momentum going. The split-screen action is especially frustrating to follow. Take this Racer for a test spin before you buy. **B**



### Graphics

**K+ S** Sharp, TV-cartoon-like graphics, smooth animation, and colorful, detailed backgrounds are a plus; however, the 3D rotations are too frenetic and distract from satisfying gameplay.



### Control

**K+ S** Light, responsive controls help you battle the onscreen chaos. Lag time between your thumbs and the screen is hardly noticeable.



### Sound

**K+ S** A solid soundtrack is held back by rather plain sound effects during gameplay. The grating engine sounds quickly become monotonous.



### Fun Factor

**K+ S** Although Street Racer is overlaid with options and features, its gameplay is too erratic to make it a must-buy; however, racers will surely find something that will appeal to them.

# STREET RACER





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**References:** Don Corlies: Deceased  
Chuck Brown: Deceased  
Barry Polipoocy: Deceased

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# MECH WARRIOR 2

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# BUBSY 3D



# SATURN



## Fighting Vipers

(No limit)

By Scurry Larry



Price not available  
Available November

Fighting  
2 players  
Multiple users



**PRO TIP:** Try to trap opponents against the walls. Start with an uppercut, and you can score some powerful hits as they float down.



**PRO TIP:** Jump toward the wall, then immediately press a button; your character will leap off the wall and toward the opponent. You'll score a long-range punch or kick.



### Fun Factor

Aside from Virtua

**4.5** Fighter 2, this is probably one of the best fighters for the Saturn. It's not too deep, but it is fun. Call it Virtua Fighter Lite, call it Tekken 1.5, call it whatever you want, but don't miss it this Christmas.



### Control

4.5

You use three buttons and not much else. Novice players can pick up a controller and play right away, while seasoned Viper vets may find the absence of the joystick unsettling at first.



Although this arcade game didn't make the splash Virtua Fighter 2 did, it's still one of the better fighting games of the season. Fast and funous (most of the time), Fighting Vipers has just what a beginning brawler needs—easy-to-learn moves, quick, shallow combos, and interesting characters.

You choose from eight fighters, who range from a plucky skateboarder to a guitar-swinging martial artist, all with spectacular and lightning-fast special moves. You fight wearing protective top

and bottom armor, which you can lose during a fight. The action takes place within an enclosed ring, though you can blast characters through the ring's barriers with a final explosive move. This leads to



### Graphics

4.0

Although the graphics are mostly smooth, the players are rough around the edges. Cool lighting effects make up for the occasional slowdowns.



### Sound

4.0

The music's not bad, but it doesn't break any new ground either. The sound effects are fantastic, especially Gudy's specials.

## Raxel

**PRO TIP:** Raxel is fast and powerful. He uses his guitar to add extra damage to his hits. His sweep is always surprising (tap ↓ G K).



## Bahn

**PRO TIP:** Bahn plays a lot like Akira from Virtua Fighter, using body checks and elbows. He also has a wicked uppercut.



## Grace

**PRO TIP:** Grace is fast, but not very powerful. The Low Spinning Kick is her best weapon. She also has a Macho-Gun Fuel Punch (tap P, P, P, P).



## Jane

**PRO TIP:** Jane's a tough vet. Be careful of using her Tornado Punch; opponents can see it coming from a mile away.







**PRO TIP:** Hidden characters abound. Play through the game on the normal setting and you can select Mahler. Other characters are hidden to find. You can also find hidden moves (like the Arrow Blow) through experimentation.



**PRO TIP:** Always use distance to your advantage. When far away from an opponent, run forward then reel punch, kick, or run into them. These powerful tactics are rarely countered by the computer, and even when blocked they still.



**PRO TIP:** You can impulse opponents on the wall if you're standing in the right place (about a character's length away from the wall). Impulse them as the last move in the last round.



**PRO TIP:** Some characters can actually climb the walls! Press ↑ and Punch when you're close to (and facing) the wall.

some of the game's finer moments, as opponents go flying through brick, steel, and glass in a shower of destruction.

Graphically, the game is a pretty solid port, although the action is occasionally marred by severe slowdown. Otherwise, the characters move fluidly and the moves are performed easily. The backgrounds, although exciting when destroyed, are fairly bland when they're intact.

The sound is a mix of techno and disco. It's familiar stuff and doesn't get too obtrusive, except when you hear the old woman shout "I've fallen and I can't get up!"

Controlwise, the game plays fairly easily. There's a great training mode, which gives you a full move list and allows you to practice against various configurations of your opponent's stance (walking, running, crouching). However, a few moves are intricate, but-ton-and-pad movement monsters that are too hard to get off against a skilled player.

Fighting Vipers is one of our favorites because it's fast, sexy, and easy. Skilled veterans of Tekken 2 may want something with a little more depth, but this one is still worth a closer look. ■

## Sanman



**PRO TIP:** Sanman has a giant sliding A in Wolf Hawkfield from VF2. Simply matten ← ↵ ↓ ↵ → and tap Punch. He can also do this to opponents lying on the ground (he must be near their feet).

## Tokio



**PRO TIP:** Tokio has some lightning-fast combos. Start with a kick, then quickly follow with four punches, ending with a low kick or backwards universal.

## Picky



**PRO TIP:** Picky is a good close-range fighter. He also has a cool neck-twisting move. Jump forward your opponent and press (← and G P K).

## Mahler



**PRO TIP:** A brutal fighter, Mahler has a completely devastating combo. He opponents near the wall and follow up with punches and kicks.



## Candy



**PRO TIP:** Candy's opponent is one of her best moves. She can also throw opponents in midair. Impulse, then immediately press ↵ to jump toward your opponent. When in close, tap (← G P K).

# SATURN

Direct-to-market



## Krazy Ivan

(By PlayStation)

By *Conrad Larry*

Price not available  
1 player  
Fast-person perspective  
Available now  
Mech shooter



**PRO TIP:** Keep the gunlight down between missions, and blow up the land mines left by the tanks. When you zero in on one, sweep your fire left to right and take them all out.



**PRO TIP:** The trick to staying alive is constant movement. If you're swinging right and left, your enemy will miss you even at point-blank range.



**PRO TIP:** Listen to your comrade's advice in the FMV sequences. They'll tip you off to the boss's weak spots.

Based on last year's Sony PlayStation title, *Krazy Ivan* for the Saturn is an almost-perfect direct port. This mech shooter is an explosively fun game, but it's hobbled by control problems.

*Ivan's* gameplay is fast and arcade-like: You get a series of mission objectives (most involve finding other mechs and blasting the scrap out of them), but you're limited in the types of weapons you can use (a



**PRO TIP:** Always use your missiles against the mech-bosses first. They're easily replenished between rounds.

**PRO TIP:** Be careful of the icons you pick up. Some screw up your directional pad, and others call in devastating air strikes—against you.



**PRO TIP:** When upgrading weapons, ditch the Scyble Beam and pick up the Vortex Bomb. The Scyble Beam is useless in the later levels.

# Krazy Ivan

machine gun and two types of rockets). In between mechs, you also find a number of tanks and hover-ships you can destroy for power-ups.

The game is filled with huge explosions, ominous enemies, and exciting shoot-em-down action; unfortunately, the klutzy controls (most notably the hard-to-move gun-sight) would make Lenin cry. Other flaws include the non-descript backgrounds and a frustrating inability to fly while most of your enemies take to the air with ease.

Although not as sophisticated or serious as *Gun Griffon*, *Krazy Ivan* still gives up a good weekend of rental amusement. This *Ivan* is more bearable than terrible. ■

## Fun Factor

**4.0** It's thumb-squabbling fun—madness, razzle-dazzle, and war-megapunk—kind of like the old Soviet Union. *Ivan* is slightly more *Krazy* than it is klutzy, and you got to blow lots of stuff up...and that's certainly appealing to most gamers.

## Graphics

**2.5** Dark, and with plenty of breakup, the graphics are not this game's strong point. Also, the enemies tend to dissolve into the backgrounds.

## Control

**3.0** Working your mech is pretentious, especially when the tanks come rolling toward you. It's also a pain in the buttball to move the gun-sight, which leaves you wide open to enemy gunfire.

## Sound

**4.0** Speaker-rocking explosions and ear-splitting gunfire enhance the *Krazy* gameplay. The music, however, is strictly for Soviet bloc-heads.

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(Please enter "GamePro Survey" in the subject line.)

Fax: 415/341-7102



## Graphics

**4.0** No rack as cages, smooth-scrolling tracks with baring cars and power-ups sprawled along the roadside. The outer space backgrounds are so interesting to look at that they might distract you from your misdeeds.



## Fun Factor

**4.5** Despite the control flaws, this game is still too easy. Nonetheless, *Impact Racing* is definitely a top-notch rental when you want to blow off steam and blow away bad guys.



## Sound

**3.5** Rave-like techno music gets your blood pumping, but the explosions and gunfire shouldn't have been more amplified.

## Impact Racing

(By Andrew)

By Johnny Balgagne

\$15.99

Available now

Racing

1 player

12 tracks

Multiple views



## Control

**3.5** You see lots of buttons, which isn't always good. Each weapon has a different button, and the pad layout makes it difficult to maintain top speed and simultaneously keep your finger as the weapons trigger.

# IMPACT RACING

If you've ever played a racing sim and wished you could blow your opponent up rather than merely passing him, then *Impact Racing* is your dream come true. Driving one of five high-



**PRO TIP:** If you run out of time but you're close to the checkpoint, wait for a car to come from behind, move into its path, and hope it bumps you across the line.

powered cars, armed only with lasers and mines at the start, you maliciously speed your way through 12 tracks of mayhem. Along the road to victory you'll find bonus tracks where you can upgrade your arsenal with concussion missiles, fireballs, heatseekers, and smart bombs. **B**



**PRO TIP:** If you fail to get a new weapon in the bonus round, go back to your saved game and start the level over rather than moving on without it.



**PRO TIP:** When you pass attacking cars, drop mines to finish them off.

# RETURN



## Highway 2000

(By Andrew)

By Johnny Balgagne

Price not available

Available November

Driving

2 players

3 tracks

Multiple views



**PRO TIP:** The map at the top of the screen shows only the first-place driver's position. Don't let his lead overwhelm you; concentrate on passing one car at a time.

# Highway 2000



**PRO TIP:** If you come out of a turn and you're still sliding, release the gas button until you regain control.



## Graphics

**2.5** *Highway* has never been known for great scenery, just a lot of concrete, and that's pretty much all you'll witness as you speed through these uninspired courses.



## Sound

**2.5** The annoying pop-Mazak playing in the background, and the incessant screeching of your tires, will drive you nuts.



## Control

**2.5** The fear-wheel power slides are both out of control and over the top. If you tap the brakes even a little while going around a turn, you'll regret it for the rest of the race.



## Fun Factor

**4.0** *Highway 2000* is the worst-performing racing game in recent memory. Sitare fans of the genre should stick to *Daytona* for driving fun.

**H**ighway 2000 is a lame racing game with options that run out of gas at the starting line. You have only three cars to choose from, and only five mediocre courses on which to race. One of the biggest problems is the lack of control. Whenever you take a turn, you power slide for a ridiculously long time. Another problem is the weak challenge: Even though your opponents start almost half a lap ahead of you, you'll easily pass them all and take first place. The *Highway* should be closed for repairs. **D**



**PRO TIP:** Use the camera angle furthest from the car to get the best view of the road ahead.

# Ten Pin Alley™

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<http://www.ascgames.com>

## VF Kids

By Scary Larry

Here's a good idea that really didn't need a separate game: VF Kids takes one of the best fighting games ever and gives it the Japanese SD (for Super Deformed) treatment—big heads. This kiddie-fied of Virtua Fighter 2 looks funny and



**PRO TIP:** Don't rely on long-range moves, like Lion's Sweep. Engage in close-range hand-to-hand combat.

It's still... a beautiful thing! Feels a little like the original VF2.

The graphics are sharp but small. Clean movement and speedy gameplay enhance the fun, but the stunted characters make some moves fall short of the mark.

The sound has also been juvenileized, and the only groups we will really appeal to are hard-core VF fanatics and mothers. This clean, safe, gimmicky version of Virtua Fighter is amusing, but unnecessary.



How do you identify a game that will live at "The Fighter's Edge" of the PlayStation 2? Move fast.

## VF Kids by Genre

Genre	Score	Genre	Score	Genre	Score
Fighting	4.0	Card	3.0	Platform	3.0
Adventure	4.0	Shooter	3.0	Strategy	3.0
Simulation	4.0	Other	3.0	INT	3.0

Price: \$49.99  
Available on: Saturn  
Fighting  
2 players

## ROBO PIT

By Scary Larry

Robo Pit's a great, cerebral, confusingly over-looked this holiday. Robo Pit lets you build a robot fighter with such accessories as shotgun, machine-gun, knives. You then have your winner fight the computer or another player.

The game's big problem may be its adolescent interface. The



**PRO TIP:** At the beginning, try to use a long-range weapon like the shotgun. It's good for blinding opponents before they know what hit 'em.



**PRO TIP:** Use the environments to your advantage. Hide behind obstacles, and stop opponents cold by kicking them.

robots are too cute, and that's the last thing you need when shotgunning an opponent. The sounds are also very young.

However, the two-player mode is undeniably fun and fast, the graphics are clean, and the game grows on you. As you get better, your weapons become scarier, and the game picks up. Robo Pit could be a crossover

## Robo Pit by Genre

Genre	Score	Genre	Score	Genre	Score
Fighting	4.0	Card	3.0	Platform	3.0
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Simulation	4.0	Other	3.0	INT	3.0

Price: \$49.99  
Available on: Saturn  
Fighting  
2 players

## TETRA ATTACK

By Scary Larry

Here's another member of the Tetris family (adding to a list including Tetris Attack and the soon-to-be-released Tetris Spheres), but this one is pretty bland and unexciting. It doesn't



**PRO TIP:** In the two-player mode, get to the bottom quickly. If you can't make it, stand your explorer in a valley of blocks.

add any interesting new elements, nor does it greatly expand upon the original game. You simply play Tetris while trying to keep a small, cartoonish explorer from being ground to death by overhead spikes. As you build levels, the explorer climbs higher it won't be long, though, before you simply don't care anymore.

The unimproved graphics are childish, the explorer is poorly illustrated, and the game chugs



**PRO TIP:** Clear the bottom level to win. Don't stack the blocks too high.

along without great explosions or even a sense of doom.

This is a poor addition to the Tetris library, making Tetris Plus a minus in many ways.

## Tetra Plus by Genre

Genre	Score	Genre	Score	Genre	Score
Fighting	3.0	Card	3.0	Platform	3.0
Adventure	3.0	Shooter	3.0	Strategy	3.0
Simulation	3.0	Other	3.0	INT	3.0

Price: \$49.99  
Available on: Saturn  
Puzzle  
2 players

## Battle Monsters

By Scary Larry

This fighting game doesn't even deserve coverage—but game-one has to tell you how bad the piece of garbage is. Battle Monsters is worse than Rise of the Robots, another Acclaim Hall of Shame member. You'll want to get into a real fight rather than play this sluggish fighter.

The cheesy graphics are one-dimensional—you'll see better artwork on subway walls. The sounds are comic—one fighter makes noises that sound like the result of too much chili. Special moves are anything but, and juggles are erotic.

This game has nothing to commend it—don't even rent it. Let this review stand as a warning. Battle Monsters is really scary. In a very bad way.



**PRO TIP:** Keep the battle in the middle of the screen. The foreground interferences greatly with the fighting.



**PRO TIP:** Try fireball and dragon punch moves, along with random button taps.

## Battle Monsters by Genre

Genre	Score	Genre	Score	Genre	Score
Fighting	2.0	Card	2.0	Platform	2.0
Adventure	2.0	Shooter	2.0	Strategy	2.0
Simulation	2.0	Other	2.0	INT	2.0

Price: \$49.99  
Available on: Saturn  
Fighting  
2 players

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# THE 16-BIT GAMER'S SURVIVAL GUIDE

## Donkey Kong Country 3: Dixie Kong's Double Trouble

By Captain Conover



Preview



Looks like the long wait for another great SNES game was worth it. DKC3 is about to check in with 32 megs of beautiful graphics, fun-if-familiar gameplay, and a host of inventive characters.

### KOOKY CHARACTERS!



### MONKEY BUSINESS!



As in previous DKC games, you side-scroll through huge worlds, each of which has five zones, a store for new items, a Swoinky's Sideshow bonus game, a save cave, and a boss. The one- or two-player top-n-bop gameplay is tons of familiar fun. As Dixie and Kiddy (a portly infant who can bust through floors) try to rescue Donkey and Diddy from Kazo, they encounter a new baby elephant, which they can ride like Rambi the rhino from the earlier games. The elephant squirts water from his trunk, and he sucks barrels toward himself for use as weapons.

### SUPER SOUND!



Not only is the music entertaining, but it continually changes to match specific characters. For instance, when Whispy plays the N64, you can identify her game by the music. The rich sound effects provide dense layers of sonic sensations.

### Boss Alert!



*Balzo, barrel boss of the first world*



*Arach, spider boss of the second world*

### COREOUI GRAPHICS!



The graphics are just as stunning as you'd expect. Rare Ltd. has outdone itself with vivid colors, beautiful backgrounds suitable for framing (check out the underwater scenery shown here in Bazzo's Blockade), mobile characters, and humorous details (watch the baby elephant when he sees a rat in Murky Mire). The maps are gorgeous, and the dialogue scenes are worth studying (Whispy Kong plays an N64 in one background).

Developed by Rare Ltd.  
Published by Nintendo  
Available November

100% COMPLETE

Genesis

ProReview



## Ultimate Mortal Kombat 3

(By Williams)

By *Brad Lee*

Price not available  
32 megs  
Available now

Fighting  
2 players



The 23 fighters and one hidden character add up to the biggest fighting game in Genesis history.

**U**ltimate Mortal Kombat 3 adds new moves and fighters to the MK3 lineup, but it's pretty much the same MK fighting you've seen before.

The Kombatants are familiar: With the exception of Sheeva, the entire MK3 bunch is back. The UMK3 cast includes Scorpion, Jade, Kitana, Reptile, classic Sub-Zero, Ermac, and Mileena. In addition, Rain and Noob Saibot are selectable, with one slot left for a hidden fighter.

The UMK3 lineup offers plenty of moves and combos, but most of the returning MK3 fighters' moves are unchanged. Even the combo system remains the same. With nothing new to learn, MK pros will soon find the moves tiresome.

New features that add freshness to UMK3 are the tournament mode, additional Vs. codes, and Brutality finishing moves where you beat your opponents senseless until they explode. Mortal Kombat fans looking for a quick fix should enjoy UMK3, and players new to MK will find this game a treat. If you're looking for a new fighting game experience, however, you'll have to wait for MK4. ■



When performing Brutalities, your fighter delivers several moves at lightning speed with explosive results.



**PRO TIP:** To play as Mumen Snake, first pick Smoke. Hold Left as Player One or Right as Player Two, and hold High Punch, Run, High Kick, and Block until the match starts.



**PRO TIP:** Fighters can score an extra hit on a combo by first jumping in with a punch.

## Hard-Hitting Two-Hit Juggle

Almost every character has a small two-hit juggle that inflicts a ton of damage. Here is Kano's.



Jump in deep with a Kick. While your enemy is still in the air...



...motion ↓ → → and High Punch for the Blade Swags.



### Control

**4.0** The six-button controller is the only way to go. With a little practice and timing, you can easily juggle-combo your way to victory.



### Graphics

**4.7** UMK3's sharp colors are good for a 16-bit look. The characters are disconcerting, and smooth animations help support their movement.



### Fun Factor

**3.5** The added animations, music makes fun fun if you're playing with friends. Unfortunately, the new fighters don't rejuvenate the overworked combo system.



### Sound

**2.3** Three threats could explain why every Kombatant's voice sounds sorely, but trying to pass off the clunky sounds as music is a little harder to swallow.





## Vectorman 2

(By Sega)

By **Scott Lavy**

**Genesis**

**Proreview**

Price not available

32 Megs

Available November

Action/Adventure



1 player

Side view

Multi-scrolling



# VECTORMAN 2

For those faithful fans who have seen their Genesis go from trusty to dusty, get ready: Vectorman is back in town, and this ball of fun just got better!

### Vector Victorious!

This sequel to the sleeper hit from last year is better than its predecessor in many respects. V2 has cleaner graphics, more sound and voice effects, and faster, smoother gameplay. Add to this spectacular and complex levels, and you have the makings of a Sega classic.



**PROTIP:** These tough tree bats are hard to kill, but they yield short-form shields.

Rendered, next-gen graphics (all the rage these days) are incorporated into this 16-bit title. Minor touches, like better light-sourcing, help make V2 a treat for the eyes.

It's not so much a treat for the thumbs, though. The game is tough, with steady shootin' throughout. However, its humor (like a lava level called Magma Pit) makes the time pass quickly.

Vectorman 2 injects a little life into the slowly fading Genesis market. Don't move on to next-gen until you've given this last-gen title a shot. ■



**PROTIP:** To beat this boss in Level 17, walk below him and shoot up and at an angle. You'll avoid the shots he tosses at you, and you'll easily score direct hits on his weak spot (the mouth).

**Graphics**

4.0 Smooth rendering and gorgeous backgrounds are offset by slowdown in some areas and a lack of detailed enemies. Also, you'll see variations of the same enemies over and over again.

**Control**

3.0 It's a two-button game: you shoot and you jump (and jump higher by tapping the button twice).

**Sound**

5.0 The sound effects are right on target, and now Vectorman speaks, with phrases like "buddy that" and "yo!" interspersed throughout the game.

**Fun Factor**

5.0 It's simple, mindless fun—just like the good old days. Vectorman 2 is the next addicting Genesis game this year...and it may be one of the last, so enjoy!



**PROTIP:** In Task You, aim the gun forward slightly to lob mortar shells into valleys. This will eliminate any sneaky enemies waiting below you.



**PROTIP:** In *Shout and Twirl*, you must compensate for the air drag caused by the massive twister in the background. When jumping, always push forward.



**PROTIP:** Use your jump to destroy enemies. When they get caught in the blast from your boots, they're lost.



**PROTIP:** In *A Night in the Swamp*, the snails are tough, but if you shoot quickly you can destroy them without letting them get off a shot.



**PROTIP:** In *Fired*, scoreplots are good kills. You acquire their form and become invincible for awhile, which enables you to walk on the lava.





**Sonic 3D Blast**  
By Sega  
By Art Angel

Price not available  
32 megs  
Available November

Genesis

ProReview

Action/adventure  
1 player  
Isometric  
3D view



Sega's most celebrated character returns to breathe some life into the fading Genesis market. Cleverly designed levels and good 3D-rendered graphics make *Sonic 3D Blast* the best Genesis game in ages.

As everybody's favorite hedgehog, you jump, spin dash, and now blast your way through seven huge levels to rescue Flickies from their robotic prisons. Distributed throughout the mazelike levels, Flickies are the keys to completing each act. But beware of Dr. Robotnik and the many traps and obstacles you encounter.

Unfortunately, trying to find a way out of each level can be frustrating early on. Because you play with an angled-overhead view, timing jumps, spin dashes, and Blast Attacks to destroy enemies or to catch moving platforms requires practice. However, once you have the moves down, the game is easy to beat, which reduces its replay value.

Graphically superior to its predecessors, *Sonic 3D Blast* is a winner guaranteed to consume even the most experienced gamers...if only for a few days. ■



## Control

4.0 The controls are generally good, once you learn to platform your jumps. The new Blast Attack that enables Sonic to burst in or escape is awesome.



## Fun Factor

4.0 The game has only a decent replay value, but it does have some great graphics and big levels to run around in. Sonic fans will love it.



**PRO TIP:** Deposit Flickies in the Big Ring as soon as you find them.



## Graphics

4.5 The game graphics are excellent. The large worlds and close, crisp movements never glitch, even during the most intense action.



## Sound

4.0 The artists are recycled from previous games, but the musical selection is robotic, ranging from Techno pop to contemporary jazz.



**PRO TIP:** In any boss round, stay on the ground as much as possible. If you jump, you might miss out on a bunch of rings.



**PRO TIP:** Once you're finished with a boss round, all rings regenerate throughout the rest of the level. Backtrack and load up on rings so you can easily pile up 1-ups, continues, and Chaos Emeralds.



**PRO TIP:** Once Sonic gets the Gold Shield, don't pick up other shields. Only the Gold Shield gives Sonic the ability to do his new killer Blast Attack.



**PRO TIP:** In any boss level, take the rings as you need them. If Dr. Robotnik hits you, the rings disperse and disappear fast.



**PRO TIP:** Look for cracks in walls and spin dash through them to get to secret areas with more rings, special items, and bonus rounds.



# SONIC 3D BLAST





**SUPER NES**  
Preview

By *Air Hordix*

# Gearheads

A port of Philips' quirky but entertaining PC game, Gearheads comes to the SNES with decent gameplay and graphics. But the fun comes strictly from two-player action—the moronic AI will bore single players to tears.

The premise is simple: You fill your toy box from a selection of 12 toys, then try to send 20 toys all the way across the screen before your opponent does. Each toy has different abilities—tough bulldozers, laser-zapping spacemen, twirling magicians, and more—and the action revolves around being fast enough and clever enough to send out the right toy at the right time. Colorful, humorous graphics are matched with simple, effective controls, but the tinny sounds could've been better.

For two players, Gearheads can be a hoot. It won't revolutionize gaming, but it'll briefly addict puzzler fans. ■



**PRO TIP:** Set up passing patterns with toys like Kangaroo that let you boot your opponent's toys into their side.



**PRO TIP:** Select a mixture of slow but sturdy toys and fast but weak toys.

Gearheads by Philips Media



\$49.95      Download size: 1.5 MB  
4 songs      Available November      Playable when online: No  
Strategy guide      ESRB rating: Kids  
2 players      In levels

**SUPER NES**  
Preview

By *Doctor Devon*

# Ms. Pac-Man

This classic gets updated with this new version for the SNES. You run around 36 mazes with options like two-player action and a Pac Booster move. It all adds up to familiar, if repetitive, fun for Pac-fans.

Williams did add something new: mildly frustrating controls. The SNES controller simply isn't as effective (or fun) as the original joystick, and you'll

wonder why your heroine sometimes turns right into the approaching ghosts even though you swear you turned the other way.

The sharp, rudimentary graphics are just as you remember, and the 1980s music gets old fast.

Despite its flaws, this tried-and-true gameplay is almost foolproof. If you don't have Pac-Man 2: The New Adventures (Ms. Pac-Man was acces-

sible via password), then pick up this piece of history. ■



**PRO TIP:** In the two-player cooperative game, stay fairly close to your partner because you can bump each other out of lane's way.



**PRO TIP:** At the end of each game, go for extra points before you gobble up the last pellets.

Ms. Pac-Man by Williams



Price not available      36 mazes  
4 songs      Playable when online: High  
Available now      ESRB rating: Kids  
Puzzle      In Adults  
2 players



The holidays always bring the 16-bit games out of the woodwork, and this year is no exception. Note that a couple of Disney Interactive games that looked like they'd never see the light of day will probably make it to store shelves this month.

**Williams Arcade's Greatest Hits for the Genesis brings together faithful renditions of five arcade legends: Asterix 2004, Defender, Defender II, SkeeBall, and Joust. Defender is one of the original horizontally scrolling shooters. The spare graphics remind you how far games have come since the early '80s, but there should still be plenty of good gameplay here. Watch for the review in a future issue.**



This month's likely 16-bit releases:

- Ishtar2004 (SNES) by Titus
- Masi Mailer (SNES) by Disney Interactive
- Mr. Do (SNES) by THQ
- Oscar (SNES) by Titus
- Picochoc (SNES) by Disney Interactive
- Prince of Persia 2 (SNES) by Titus
- Realm (SNES) by Titus
- Senic 3D Blast (Genesis) by Sega
- Street Fighter Alpha 2 (SNES) by Capcom



A reprise of the arcade puzzler, Mr. Do can do so on the SNES with Original and Battle modes. We'll review Mr. Do next month.

- Toy Story (SNES) by Disney Interactive
- Victorman 2 (Genesis) by Sega
- Whizz (SNES) by Titus
- Williams Arcade's Greatest Hits (Genesis) by Williams

# Area 51 does not exist.

And if you're smart, you'll stop asking questions.

This is not a game. This is a warning.

You can't get in here, you have to fly home.



**MIDWAY**

The #1 Arcade game shows you what your government won't.



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**11 adidas Power Soccer™**



**12 Formula 1**



**14 Code Name: Tenka™**



**15 Sentient™ & The City of Lost Children™**



**16 Contest!**

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# DESTRUCTION DERBY 2

DD2 brings back the three R's of driving—racin', 'reckin', and road-hoggin'!

It's boooooack—the game that taught you NOT to drive by the book has been updated. This action-packed sequel highlights the best of the original and throws in cool new twists and improved gameplay. More tracks, more competitors, and more hard-core, broken-door, windshield-shattering action than before—white-knuckle, red-hot, all-out mechanical mayhem lives!



## Other Amenities

- 20 contenders
- 2 views
- 3 levels of play (Rookie, Amateur, Professional)
- 7 tracks
- 4 Destruction Derby Bowls



## Tech Talk

- Full geared lighting on all cars
- 3D impact dynamics (spins, rolls, flips)
- 30 frames per second
- Controls via standard joystick, NegCon, or ModCatz steering wheel



## New Features!

### Realistic Crashes



In DD2 cars lose wheels, flip over, and show more body damage—like hood, trunk, and fender dents

### Crash Effects



Cars catch on fire, sparks fly (literally), and seriously damaged cars explode in real-time

### Suspension



Four-wheel suspension on the cars makes driving more realistic—get hit and you're outta control when the game's crash mechanics take over the steering!

### Longer Tracks



DD2's tracks are two miles long (compared to the 1/4 mile tracks of the original Destruction Derby)



## Tracks of My Fears



SCA Ultimate Destruction  
SCA Materplex  
Capria County  
Pine Hills  
Liberty City  
Black Soil Valley  
Chalk Canyon



## Tours de Force

### Wreckin' Racin'

This is the race where you actually get points for bustin' the crap out of other cars. Let your inhibitors (and transaxles!) run wild!

### Stack Car Racing

Here, civilized racing—you only get points for finishing (but that doesn't mean you can't bang up on opponents or two).

### Destruction Derby

Takes place in one of four bowls, and it's simple—smash as many cars as possible, and try not to get trampled!

### Time Trial

A race against time—and time is definitely not on your side...

## Race Options



- New music with a heavy metal edge!
- Official Indy 500 commentator Paul Page!
- All effects taken from a DAT recorder placed inside a real race car!

## Different Tracks



Collide on seven different tracks, along with four brand new bowls! And the water tracks feature banked corners, hills, overcars, and tunnels!

## Night Racing



Afraid of the dark? Now you have good reason to be. Things will definitely go bump in the night in this mode!

## The Sounds of Sirens



# Chronicles of the Sword™

Psygnosis, Swords, and Sorcery

## Sword Up!

3D rendered graphics  
Professional actors' voices  
60 fully interactive environments



Stunning graphics bring Camelot to life.



Enter ye into the fabled world of Arthur, the King of All Ages. As Sir Gawain, you must battle notorious Morgana and save the kingdom. Along the way you get to habor with the likes of Guinevere, Lancelot, and Merlin. The magic of Camelot comes to life in this graphic adventure romp that boasts Arthurian knights, evil black magic, and hours of sword-clashing play.

Developed by Synthetic Dimensions in England, the game utilizes movie techniques to create detailed, realistic graphics. As you try to save Camelot, you'll explore over 60 different areas while you evade Morgana's traps and solve her wicked puzzles! Chronicles of the Sword awaits a new king!



# MYST™ Enter the magical realm of Myst

Imagine...you are walking along a beach and find an old battered book. You pick it up, read it, and realize you have been transported into the world in the book, the world of Myst.

Myst, the best selling PC game of all time, is here for the PlayStation. Myst's classic graphic adventure action leads you through a series of different worlds where you must uncover clues and figure out a variety of mind-absorbing puzzles.

True to the Mac original, Myst for the PlayStation emphasizes the game's eerie, exotic locales, beautifully rendered in ultra-high resolution graphics, as well as a haunting soundtrack that will mesmerize you. It's the blue book...no, the red book...no...you'll have to figure it out for yourself.

## PLAY MYST-Y FOR ME

Over a hundred puzzles  
breathtaking rendered graphics  
Hours of game play!



Rendered graphics bring the world of Myst to life.

Myst's graphics are better than ever in this PlayStation version of the game.

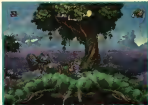


This game's haunting secrets will hold you spell-bound.

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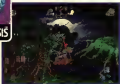
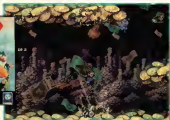
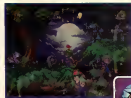
# The Adventures of Lomax™



Lomax roams through spectacular landscapes.

The PlayStation has a new hero: Sir Lomax. He's been sent to rescue his brain-dead kindred from the beck and call of Evil Ed, a nasty fellow who's twisted minions are wreaking havoc and destruction on the plane! Featuring thumb-bustin' platform action, with awesome CD audio and cool 32-bit effects like transparency, *The Adventures of Lomax* is the premier PlayStation platformer!

As Lomax, you travel through some of the most lush, beautifully illustrated lands ever seen on the PlayStation. Multi-layered backgrounds and dynamic, cartoon-like sprites fill the screen, but Lomax is more than just a pretty face. The gameplay is a blend of platforms and puzzle challenges that boast an added twist—gameplay jumps from 2D into the backgrounds for a mind-bending 3D experience. *The Adventures Of Lomax* is a must have game for fans of classic platform action.



Let Sir Lomax scratch your action/adventure itch.

Prepare to bust a few brain cells when the gameplay hops into the background.



# WIPEOUT XL

Not just another sequel, Wipeout XL's a radically different game.

It's the year 2097, 45 years since the F3600 anti-gravity league was born in Wipeout. Do you know where your best racers are? At the F5000 Anti-Gravity Tracks, trying to qualify for the greatest vehicle competition in the known universe in Wipeout XL.

Psygnosis asked a motley crew of Wipeout survivors what would make the game better. The result? Wipeout XL with enhancements and improvements that make the original just a warm up.

Not convinced? How about faster-paced arcade-style action, checkpoints, damage meters, pit lanes, exploding ships, fifteen ships on the track at any one time, six new circuits (plus two hidden), eleven different weapons, seven racing modes (along with four new racing speeds), and new vehicles.

Ready to step up to the mike yet? If not, strap on your adult-sized diapers and take a seat in the stands. If you don't race, you're no damn good to this league!

*"Gentlemen, Start Your @\$%^ & Engines!"*

## Four Classes to Choose From

<b>Vector</b> Beginner's Class	<b>Venom</b> Standard
<b>Rapier</b> Expert	<b>Phantom</b> Hidden Class



## Tech Specs

- 400,000 polygons per track for smoother detailing.
- Supports Standard joystick, MadCatz, and NeoGoon Controllers.
- 30 frames per second for faster gameplay.
- Two Player Serial Link



## The Rave Is On



*Chemical Brothers*



*Future Sound of London*

WipeOut XL features music by hot electronic artists like the Chemical Brothers, Future Sound of London, Underworld, and The Prodigy. For real fans, a soundtrack album (with bonus music tracks) is available through Astralwerks Records.



No animals were hurt during the making of this game, but we did ALMOST kill sixteen semi-innocent

The AI's upped in XL, with smarter, more accurate collisions, and deadly special fx. Jammin' against the CPU's not your only option. You can race against your best friend in a two-player, head-to-head competition. You know, your best bud, your amigo, the person you laughed with, you cried with...the person you're gonna send to the morgue in a Tupperware container.



## Lock and load on the Highway to Hell

### Electroblitz



When this baby locks on an enemy craft, it drains the enemy vehicle's energy.

### Quake



While the Quake aims damaged ships flying into the air, you can coast by on the rubble.

### Other Loaded Weapons:

- Missile
- Rockets
- Mines
- Plasma Bolt
- Turbo
- Emergency E-Pak
- Shield
- Autopilot

### Thunder Bomb



The Thunder Bomb targets ALL visible craft.

### Da Playerz

Auricom



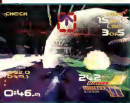
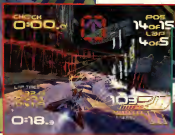
Ag Systems



Givco



Foscar



bystanders, including several 3D modelers, three artists, and four programmers.

# THUNDER TRUCK Rally

## Monstrous Motorized Mayhem

From the makers of Destruction Derby come the V8 twin blow, fuel injected, monsters of car crushing carnage—Thunder Truck Rally. Thunder Truck Rally puts you behind the wheel of 10,000 lbs of angry iron in the form of a monster truck or, if maneuverability is your goal, an ATV dune buggy. Your sole purpose is to take your opponents in a grueling race. And it won't be a Sunday drive through the freakin' country either—the four day, 500 mile Endurance Rally showcases terrain as diverse as the weather in this genre.

Yep, the mayhem in this game is fully rendered in 3D texture-mapped environments—right down to the changing weather patterns. You'll see mud and snow, deeply-pitted roads, sun-baked desert terrain, and nasty speed bumps that are murder on top-heavy monster trucks. And you've got 360 degree control of your vehicle as you maneuver through the endurance rally, or, for a change of pace, enter the arena for a little monster car crushing. Thunder Truck Rally has it all.



Developed by Reflections, the amazing team that developed Destruction Derby and Destruction Derby 2!



Test your mettle, and your metal, as you race for glory under a variety of truck conditions.



Placing first matters...but doing a little damage won't hurt either!



Find out who can handle their vehicle the best. Only hotshoes and devildogs need apply.



A splashing wheel gathers no moss, or something like that. Bust the clock!

## Master Your Machine



Big is better!!!



These trucks are mothers... They can take the highest mountains, and ford the wildest streams... but only if you're up to the challenge of handling them.

No monster trucks were harmed during the making of this game.

# adidas POWER SOCCER™



## THE ARCADE MODE



Goalkeepers become red-hot and keep the fires of victory alive!

The Arcade Mode has 12 unique special combo moves you won't see in any other soccer game.



How about giving 'em a little Shove. You can do that and more in adidas Power Soccer.



Nail 'em with a Korata kick and they'll never know what hit them.

It's time to kick some grass, and adidas Power Soccer is the place to do it. This game features fast, arcade-style soccer action with all the options you'd expect in a great soccer simulation, plus extras that give the game an additional kick. Look for simulation and arcade modes of play, multiple camera angles, instant replays, tournaments and seasons, a full menu of explosive special moves, and more.

Graphically, the game is stunning. Using the latest high-tech motion capture techniques, adidas Power Soccer's rendered 3D graphics are smooth and fluid. Team the look up with the gameplay, and you've got the best soccer sim available for the PlayStation to date.



## FEATURES



- Simulation and Arcade Modes
- Special Moves demonstration mode
- Six camera angles
- Four weather conditions
- Slow motion replay
- 4 player Multiplay option

# FORMULA 1

Kickin' Asphalt like No One Else!



**W**elcome to the 1996 world-class Formula 1 championship! This is by far the most realistic, hard-hitting, and heavily licensed racer you're going to see this year. Want proof? How about all 13 1995 teams, including top class units like Benetton, Ferrari, and Tyrrell. How about over 35 REAL drivers, including luminaries like Mansell and Alesi. How about all 17 circuits, from Brazil to Australia to France. How about Grand Prix and Arcade play modes. This game pours on the realism and lets YOU experience what it's like to sit in the driver's seat of the fastest cars in the world!

## Tracks



Like a little variety in your tracks? F1's 17 circuits are modeled from official surveyors track maps and include smaller 3.3 km, all the way up to the grueling 7 km tracks.

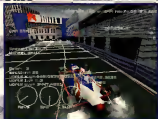
## Race Teams

Here's a few of the racers you can choose from.





## Cars



See the best the circuit has to offer. F1's cars are based on real data taken from real races. And they handle like Formula 1 cars, so you'll have to learn to adjust the way you drive, *Gardner*.

## Licenses

To help add to the realism, *Formula 1* uses awesome licensing for the game. It includes:



- All 12 1995 teams
- 25 REAL drivers
- 17 real circuits, using 4th-oldest circuitry track maps
- 26 cars modeled from photos and video footage
- Commentary by the legendary Murray Walker
- Soundtrack provided by Joe Satriani and Steve Vai

## Extras

Realistic features, full licenses, and beautiful tracks, and you still want more? You'll get more, like:



- Realistic weather effects
- Selectable assisted dynamics—in other words, arcade-style racing!
- View from inside the car, outside the car, TV camera crew perspective, or from any other car!
- Camera zooms (as opposed to the standard camera pans of other mediocre racers)
- Two-player split!
- 30 frames per second!
- Between 60,000 and 80,000 polygons per circuit!
- Supports standard, *MadCats*, and *NegCon* controllers!

## AI



These drivers follow their own set of rules. Some are nice and may give you a break during a race. Others wouldn't cross the street to spit on your shoes. The game's AI is finely tuned—the drivers you compete against perform very realistically.



# Code Name: Tenka™

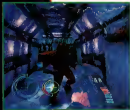


**C**ode Name™ Tenka is probably the darkest, scariest 3D corridor shooter you've ever seen! Set in a super-moody futuristic city populated by genetic mutations, half-human robots and other nasty creeps, the game has heavy ballistics, brutal weaponry and bloody battles aplenty!

Tenka also has real time 3D with full freedom of movement both horizontally and vertically, and it's fully light sourced.

What's more, this game's battalion of enemies are real, polygonal characters—not flat, 2D pushovers. Fortunately, you've got lasers, missiles, land mines and rapid-fire automatic weaponry to aid you as you patrol the gloomy corridors, sewers, air-ducts and passageways of this pulse-rattling frightener. Nothing can prepare you for the nightmare action agenda of Code Name, Tenka—PlayStation's finest 3D battling hour!

## Creeping with the Enemy



### Robots

Nasty little metal-heads  
Show them that metalics  
can combust

### Genetic Mutations

Born of chemicals and DNA, it's  
up to you to terminate their  
unnatural lives

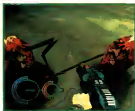
## Features

- Dozens of enemies per level
- Fully upgradable weapons
- 30 complex levels to explore



### Humanoids

Half human, half something  
else. Shoot either half and  
you'll feel better.



## Hardwired Hardware

### Automatic Weapon



Take down enemies quickly,  
easily... and messily.

### Laser



Sharp shooting in the future  
requires a steady hand... and  
a pinpoint laser.

### Rocket Launcher



Make 'em call their mommies  
with some expressive firepower.  
They won't know what hit 'em.

### Homing Missile



Fire and walk away. The guid-  
ance system on these missiles  
will do the rest.

# Sentient™



**S**entient takes RPG/adventure gaming to the limit with an improved artificial intelligence that makes the game different every time you play. When the game begins, you're stranded on a space station that's falling into the sun and you've got to figure out how to keep this from happening. After that, a sun, a space station, a plague, a photograph, a crash-landing, a case of mistaken identity, a resurrection, a haunting dream, a mask, and a race against time are all plot elements that shift and twist randomly—it's never the same game twice!

Once Sentient begins, you've got a full range of options as you explore a vast space ship, interact with nearly 60 characters, each with unique personalities, and explore over 200 different locations. Will you take the easy way out and save yourself, or choose the courageous route and save the entire ship? Only time will tell.

Sentient features a 12 level spacecraft with a mind-blowing 200 real-time corridors and halls.

# The City of Lost Children



**G**round-breaking 3D graphics set the stage for The City of Lost Children, a graphic adventure game set in a bleak post-industrial landscape. You play an orphan who must find and release children who have

been kidnapped by a mad scientist—Krank, a strange old man who kidnaps children and steals their dreams. In order to save the children, you must navigate through a dark city, filled with unique and sometimes bizarre characters.

The moody atmosphere and gritty environment serve as a perfect backdrop for The City of Lost Children, which includes over 100 views to explore with a 360 degree range of movement, and more than 20 real-time 3D characters animated from motion-capture video. The gameplay is jammed with intense puzzle-solving and intricate interaction with other characters. As you meet and talk with others the riddle of the Lost Children unravels. A stunning visual foray into a very strange world, The City of Lost Children will enthrall you.



- Over 20 motion-captured 3D characters
- Real-time animation
- Over 100 rendered backgrounds
- Digitized sound
- Brilliant full-voice acting



# Win the Ultimate Game System!!

## Show Us What You Know About Psygnosis' New Games

**Listen up!** If you can answer all of the following questions correctly, and send them to us by February 1, 1997, we'll enter you in a contest drawing where you'll have the chance to win one of the following prizes:

### Grand Prize: The Ultimate Game System!

One (1) lucky grand prize winner scores the Ultimate Game System:

- A Sony 32 inch color TV
- A PlayStation Game Console
- A Library of Psygnosis games (including Destruction Derby 2, Wipeout XL, addidas Power Soccer, The Adventures of Lomax, Myst, Formula 1, and Chronicles of the Sword.

### First Prize:

Two (2) lucky First Prize winners will walk away with:

- A PlayStation Game Console
- Two Cool Psygnosis Games: Destruction Derby 2 and Wipeout XL

### Second Prize:

Ten (10) Second Prize winners will get:

- A Psygnosis CD Carrying Case
- A Formula 1 T-Shirt



### And the questions are...

1. How many speed classes does Wipeout XL have?
2. How many race tracks are there in Formula 1?
3. Other than Destruction Derby 2, which other Psygnosis games are developers Reflections working on?
4. You must outwit the evil Morgana in what Psygnosis adventure game?
5. What Psygnosis adaptation of a best-selling PC game is a puzzling adventure set on a mysterious island?

Remember, send your entries, postmarked by February 1, 1997:

Ultimate Game System Contest, P.O. Box 5960, San Mateo, CA 94402

#### Official Rules

No purchase necessary. One entry per person. Send in your entry information to: Ultimate Game System Contest, P.O. Box 5960, San Mateo, CA, 94402. All official entries must include name, full address, your age, and complete phone number with area code and be received no later than February 1, 1997. All duplicate entries of victor will be voided. GamePro Media Group and Psygnosis assume no responsibility for late, misdirected, incomplete, or illegible entries. Void where prohibited. Awarding of Prizes: The following prizes (with corresponding estimated retail values) are guaranteed to be awarded: One (1) Grand Prize winner will receive: One (1) Ultimate Game System, includes: One (1) Sony 32 inch color TV, One (1) PlayStation Game Console, One (1) Psygnosis game library includes One (1) copy of each of the following games: Destruction Derby 2, Wipeout XL, addidas Power Soccer, The Adventures of Lomax, Myst, Formula 1, and Chronicles of the Sword (SRV \$3900). Two (2) First Prize winners will receive: Two (2) PlayStation Game Console, and Psygnosis PlayStation games: Destruction Derby 2, and Wipeout XL (SRV. \$200). Ten (10) Second Prize winners will receive: Ten (10) PlayStation CD Carrying Case, and Formula 1 T-Shirt (SRV. \$25). All winners will be determined by February 15, 1997. Grand Prize winner will be notified by phone and/or mail. Grand prize winner will be required to reply within 8 days following notification. In the event of noncompliance within this time period the grand prize will be forfeited and a new grand prize winner will be selected. Winners' entry and acceptance of prize constitutes permission to use their names, photographs, and likeness for purposes of advertising and promotion on behalf of GamePro Media Group and Psygnosis without further compensation. Winners are responsible for any and all federal, state, and local taxes if necessary. A complete list of prize winners will also appear in a future issue of GamePro magazine. Eligible Employees of GamePro Media Group, Psygnosis and all participating vendors, their subsidiaries, affiliates, advertising agencies, and their immediate families are not eligible. Liability: This promotion is operated by GamePro Media Group and Psygnosis, which is solely responsible for its conduct, completion and awarding of prizes. All decisions of GamePro Media Group and Psygnosis on all matters relating to this promotion are final. GamePro Media Group, Psygnosis, and participating sponsors assume no liability resulting from the use of this prize. Prize Restrictions: Alternative prizes or cash will not be offered in lieu of prizes described above. Prize may not be substituted, transferred or exchanged. All prizes will be awarded by April 1, 1997. Eligible to residents of the contiguous United States only except for Rhode Island. Unclaimed Prizes: If an individual winner does not claim their prize by April 1, 1997 the prize will be forfeited back to the perspective supplier. Prizes can not be claimed after the expiration has been completed.

# Awesome Video Game Prizes!



Be sure to pick up the next issue and join in the celebration of *GAMEPRO's* 100th issue!! Grab your chance to WIN awesome video game prizes in the "GamePro 100th Issue Sweepstakes"! All your favorite video game companies have

been sending in TONS of exclusive prizes and products just for *GamePro* readers. Many of these items are impossible to buy anywhere and will ONLY be available to sweepstakes winners!

NEXT **GAMEPRO** ISSUE

THE #1 MULTIPLATFORM GAMING MAGAZINE  
CELEBRATING  
**100**  
ISSUES  
WWW.GAMEPRO.COM

# Coming in January

## Featuring:

An In-Depth Look at *Re-loaded!*  
Rock 'em, sock 'em, and blast 'em to bits in this unbelievable action sequel to *Loaded!*

ProStrategy Guide:  
*Star Gladiator*



**STAR  
GLADIATOR**

Battle your way through this incredible PlayStation game with *GamePro's* bona fide fighting expert—Bruised Lee!



**RE-LOADED**

Scary  
Does  
Moscow!



**SOVIET  
STRIKE**

The newest Strike game is here, and Comrade Scary takes you for a spin!

**PLUS:** Tomb Raider, MK Trilogy (PlayStation), WWF: In Your House, Twisted Metal 2, Destruction Derby 2, Pandemonium, Mr. Bones, Toshinden URA, and more!

It's New!  
It's Improved!  
It's *GamePro's*  
100th Issue!

Crusader: No Kidding!



**CRUSADER:  
NO REMORSE**

The awesome PC game *Crusader: No Remorse* makes its way on to the PlayStation!

If you miss the January issue, you're off to a bad start for the year!

**GAMEPRO**  
100 Issues, and still going strong!

# SPORTS PAGES

## Live '97 Sits Alone Atop the Basketball World



### NBA Live '97

By Johnny Holgado

#### PlayStation

From the opening tip-off to the final buzzer, you won't find a more complete, dynamic, and in-your-face basketball game on the 32-bit market than Live '97. EA Sports takes hoops games to the next level and forces its biggest competitor, NBA Shoot-out, to take a seat on the bench.

#### Running with the Bulls

Live features five-on-five basketball the way it ought to be played: frantic, fierce, and above the rim. Players spin and use cross-over dribbles to deke defenders. You can use turbo, shoot skyhooks, get on a hot streak, throw alley-oops, or viciously shove opponents to the ground on your way to the basket.

On the strategy side, the playbook is packed with more than 50 offensive plays and 5 defensive sets. You can double-team any player, intentionally foul, or even crash the boards for that all-important rebound.

**PRO TIP:** Be aware of your players' real-life abilities to understand how to fully utilize all their strengths.

Exhibition, Season, and Playoff modes are available, along with four skill levels that will show how much game you really have. You can choose to play with Arcade rules, where pushing is prevalent and there's no out of bounds, or in Simulation mode, where you follow the strict letter of the referee's law. There's also a Custom option that enables you to play with as many or as few rules as you want.

#### The Heat Is On

The most dramatic improvement over Live '96 comes in the form of new eye-popping, rim-rocking graphics. Mitch Richmond and Tyus Edney were motion-captured, and the resulting player movements—

from layups to jump shots and even the way they fall—are the most lifelike and amazing in any basketball game to date. When you create a player, his name even shows up on the back of his jersey!

Superstar sounds start home with the Grizzlies PA



announcer Al Murdoch, who yells out not only the name of the scorer but also who gave him the assist. Ernie Johnson of TNT lends his voice to help out on the stats, while the crowd's cheers will make you feel like you've stepped into an NBA arena.

#### Sweet Mourning Glory

If you've been looking for fast-punging players who run down threes and reverse jabs, look no further: Live '97 has arrived in time for the new basketball season. The only problem is that it's so good you may never want to watch a real game again. ■



**PRO TIP:** When you have a streaky shooter like John Starks and he starts to light it up, keep feeding him the ball. He'll score points in bunches.



**NBA Live '97 by EA Sports**

Feature	Sound	Control	Play-Style	Graphics
50+ 3D Animable Characters	Multiple voices	Multiple voices	High	High
Basketball	2 players	2 players	High	High

ADJ

### NBA Live '97 Tips



**PRO TIP:** Point guards like Gasol, who can shoot as well as pass, are the most difficult players to defend.



**PRO TIP:** Don't let the defender with the ball to force him to make a bad pass.



**PRO TIP:** A rebound might be yours if the defender fouls, but he's quick and will blow by defenders if they're not careful.



**PRO TIP:** Jump in the air to block a double-team. Give over the ball to the open man.



*Grizzliesness, with authority!*

# NHL Faceoff '97 Ranks First in PlayStation Standings

## NHL Faceoff '97

By Art Hurd

### PlayStation

As the new hockey season gets underway, Sony's back on the ice with an outstanding second edition of NHL Faceoff. Although this '97 version stumbles a bit with uninspiring graphics, you won't care once you get caught up in its superb gameplay and innovative features.

### Excellence in Passing

Right off the bat, Faceoff '97 dazzles the crowd with a new icon-based passing feature that enables you to pass to any teammate at any time (NFL GameDay fans will recognize it in a heartbeat). With an in-depth strategy feature that lets you tune your forechecking, breakout

speed, and more, Faceoff delivers more depth and realistically into hockey's strategic side than any previous hockey game.

Of course, Faceoff comes through with all the other standard features: the '97 NHL teams and players, the '96 All-Star teams, fighting, player creation, trades, and Exhibition, Season,



**PRO TIP:** In fights, grab your opponent's stick with one hand and pound away with the other.

Playoff, and Practice modes. The extremely responsive controls load you up with one-timers, redirected shots, fake shots, drop passes, hip checks, and much more.

A tough, aggressively intelligent A.I. and well-staggered difficulty levels put the polish on Faceoff's killer gameplay. Novices and pros alike will find fun, frenetic gameplay and a challenge that doesn't fade.

### Minor Penalty

Visually, the game looks good, while its presentation, some fresh nuances smooth out the action, including better color and new, cleaner animations on sharp turns and in the net. In these polygon days, though, Faceoff's pre-rendered graphics are outdated—but at least they don't get in the way of the game's top-notch action.

As for the sounds, one of the best stadium announcers ever calls the action with an accurate, lively, at-the-rink feel. The swish of blades cutting into the ice, the cheers of the crowd, and other solid effects nicely round out the sound, though the "Go, baby, go!" chant gets old awfully quick.

### Stanley Cup Favorite

When Faceoff is stacked up against NHL Powerplay, there's no contest—Faceoff takes the Cup hands down. Although we won't have a



Faceoff's new icon-based passing system simulates one of hockey's books with unprecedented depth and realism.

review of EA's NHL '97 until next month (see the preview in this issue), early indicators point to Faceoff reigning supreme in terms of gameplay with NHL winning the graphics battle. For serious hockey fans, it's all about gameplay, which makes Faceoff '97 well worth every hard-earned dollar it costs. ■

## Faceoff '97 Tips



**PRO TIP:** Use less passing to string together a rapid series of passes in front of the net that forces out the goalie and leaves an open spot.



**PRO TIP:** Use hooks and hip checks to shut down breakaways—in the long run, the goals you squawk make up for the time in the penalty box.



**PRO TIP:** For better percentages with one-timers, redirect them off your stick (with the directional pad) so they fly toward the net at an angle, not in a straight line.



**PRO TIP:** On breakaways, defuse the goalie as you approach the crease, but don't commit to a shot angle until the last seconds, which gives you the best read on his position.

**NHL Faceoff '97 by Sony**

Graphics	Sound	Quality of Play	Value	Overall
3.5	4.0	3.5	3.5	3.5

Price not available  
Available November  
Rating: 4 players (with adapter)

4 discs  
Rating: Excellent  
ESRB rating: K-A  
In Adults

**A&U**

# NBA Live Continues To Bury the Competition



Genesis

## NBA Live '97

By Johnny Rodriguez

The best just keeps getting better: NBA Live '97 improves on this already

classic series with new play options and cleaner graphics while maintaining the most insane, intense b-ball action this side of Madison Square Garden. From baseline to baseline, Live '97 is the best 16-bit basketball game yet.

### Van Excellent Ingenuity

Live '97's All-Pro list of features scores big with Season, Playoff, and Exhibition games; every NBA team; a create-a-player feature, trades; custom teams, and some new stokes, including teen-age sensation Kobe Bryant. Play-calling is on-the-fly, and you have 8 offensive sets—including the Box and Isolation—and 16 offensive quick plays, like the Pick & Roll and Backdoor. You also have 6 defensive play options, along with the ability to switch player match-ups, double-team, or intentionally foul.

It's the fantastic new options, though, that will have you floating in NBA heaven. You can now select players from your favorite teams to battle it out in two-on-two or three-on-three half-court games. Or pick your favorite superstar to compete in the three-point competition or in an old-fashioned shootout, where two players are both given a ball to see who can score more points in the allotted time.



**PRO TIP:** During the shootout, you'll score more points with shots closer to the basket.



**PRO TIP:** If you pass the ball inside to a threat like Kemp, you can pass back outside for a better look at a three.



Shaq at the free-throw line...better concentrate if you want to make it!

#### NBA Live '97 by EA Sports

Platform	Sound	Control	Graphics	Challenge
PS1	4.5	4.0	5.0	4.0
PC	4.5	4.0	5.0	4.0

Price not available if shipped  
Available only in North America  
2 players

EA Sports  
PlayStation High Quality  
\$59.99 (US) only  
EA Sports  
EA GAMES

### NBA Live '97 Tips



**PRO TIP:** Don't give your opponent any open jumpers. Leap out of all his shots and try to block them.



**PRO TIP:** If the defense thinks you're going to dunk and benches people in the lane, take them out with a foulaway.



**PRO TIP:** Penetrate the lane with your point guard and either dish to an open man or take it to the hole on your own.



**PRO TIP:** Use the Pick & Roll to get your big man an easy layup.

### Starks Raving Mad

Graphically, an abundance of player details includes open shooters waving their hands in the air to call for a pass and smoother, more authentic jump shots than last year. Another new addition is a tray box in the bottom corner of the screen that lets you see the score during gameplay—not just after every basket.

The crowd's roars and the sound of leather smacking the hardwood will make you feel like you're sitting courtside. There's plenty of PA music (maybe too much), and the announcer yells "Three!" when you sink one from beyond the arc.

### Love Shaq

NBA Live '97 is the quintessential basketball title on the Genesis and is worth every penny for both the seasoned veteran and the hoops rookie. You'll be called for a flagrant foul if you let it pass you by. ■



## NFL Quarterback Club '97

By Dr. Zombie

PlayStation

NFL Quarterback Club '97 delivers this position series to the PlayStation with a solid effort in terms of features and gameplay. Shortcomings in the graphics and sound, however, keep QBC behind the current powerhouse of football, Madden '97.

## New and Improved

QBC improves upon its predecessors on other game systems with new features such as the ability to create your own roster from 1500 actual NFL players, 50 historic simulations, quarterback signature plays, the ability to Super Substitute by inserting any player into any position, and more than 40 camera views.

The graphics and game diagrams are also impressive, and touch-pak users by the defense are fun to hear. Still fans will high-five the huge menu of customizable options and features.

## A Few Steps from Greatness

Although QBC enjoys slicker graphical presentation on the PlayStation than on any other game system, the players don't scroll smoothly and the animation is choppy. Ballplayers congeal into a mush of pixels when they collide, which makes it difficult to follow the ball carrier. No matter how many great features are on tap, a game's enjoyment is limited if its graphics are distracting.

**NFL Quarterback Club '97 by Dr. Zombie**

Graphics	Sound	Control	Fun Factor	Value
4.0	3.0	4.0	4.0	4.0

ADJ

MSRP: \$49.99  
Available on: PlayStation  
Football  
4 players (with internet)

Multiple views  
Rating: ESRB rating: Kids 10+ Adults

**QBC Club '97 Tips**

**TIP:** Use the Check Receiver option when lining up to see which players are available near-to-run coverages.

**TIP:** Bull and click control are the keys to a successful offense. Save time-out by playing close to the sidelines and running out of bounds.

**TIP:** The longer the game play you call, the longer the quarterback can't drop back and wait for the play to form downfield.

The presence of QBC's main competition, Madden '97, cannot be denied, and indeed Madden stands as the clear favorite in direct comparison. If you're into smart shopping, visit both and compare before you buy. If not, stick with Madden as the starter. ■

## VR Golf '97

By Air Henders

PlayStation

VR Golf takes off on the PlayStation with a solid debut effort. Although PGA Tour '97 remains firmly at the top of the leaderboard, VR Golf '97 trails right behind it with respectable gameplay and standard graphics of the courses.

## Drive for Show

Like PGA, VR Golf offers two challenging 18-hole courses, but unlike PGA's, these courses and players aren't PGA-licensed. The fantasy players and courses work just fine, though, and VR shines with a huge list of modes that includes Stroke, Skins, Match, Fourball, and more. Other golfing standards like ferries, mail-guns, draw, and fade made the cut, but overall, PGA's league set is more comprehensive.

The controls will instantly feel familiar to golf fans. A colored arrow enables you to pinpoint your aim, and a circular swing meter lets you peg your accuracy and power. But putting's too simple—just line up the arrow and tag the accuracy, and it plunks in every time.

**VR Golf '97 by Air Henders**

Graphics	Sound	Control	Fun Factor	Value
4.0	3.0	4.0	4.0	4.0

ADJ

Price not available  
Available on: Golf  
4 players

Multiple views  
Rating: ESRB rating: Kids 10+ Adults

## Putt for Dough

Graphically, the gorgeous course backgrounds shine with an unprecedented 3D look, and the vast camera angles enable you to scope out every detail.

But the smoothly moving players look far too elongated, which detracts from the realism.

As for sounds, Pat O'Brien calls the play-by-play with accurate and often amusing commentary, though he does repeat himself a bit. The sound effects do their duty throughout each hole.

For golf pros who have conquered PGA, VR Golf stands tall as a strong backup. Despite its quirks, this game delivers solid golf action. ■



**TIP:** Score an easy birdie on par-5 holes by overpowering your drive to get huge distance off the tee. Then use your 3-Wood to get on the green in two shots.

**VR Golf '97 Tips**

**TIP:** On tricky shots, slightly underpower your swing—your gut instinct built accuracy in return.

**TIP:** The key to draining long putts is rolling the accuracy stick, track dead-on.



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THE WALL OF STONE,

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## Formula 1

By Air Henders

**PlayStation** As racing heats up on the PlayStation this fall, Formula 1 brings Europe's favorite motor sport to life. Andretti Racing still places first for raucous multiplayer arcade action, but hardcore racing fans will love F1's impressively deep, adrenaline-soaked gameplay.

### Fun Formula

F1 delivers one of the most comprehensive feature lists ever seen in a console racing game. Gamers choose from 35 drivers, 13 teams, and 17 tracks—all licensed by their real-life counterparts from the 1995 F1 season. The flag drops in either the easier, less-realistic Arcade mode or the exacting sim-style Grand Prix mode, but both offer Exhibition or Full-Season action. The lone shortcomings are the infuriating absence of an onscreen course map and the century-long load times.

What makes this game so rich in detail, though, is the way it adapts to offer a challenge for all levels of racers. Of course, you can adjust your tire type, fuel load, downforce, and so on before each race or in the pit. Novices can also turn on all kinds of steering and braking aids to help them master the demanding F1 style. Pros can face pouring rain, 74-lap races, rigorous sim-style handling, and gas wars.

Throughout, the excellent controls provide a superb reproduction of F1's high-speed, low-margin action. These races are all about setting up the perfect line through a turn in order to maintain maximum speed. If you have the skill to do it, the controls provide the way.

### Hot Rods

Visually, F1 places well with sharply detailed cars, a great sense of high speed, and a huge lineup of cool camera angles. The courses sport a solid 3D feel, though they're a little on the plain side. Even worse, the whole show's plagued with break-up problems.

F1's sounds will make your speakers shudder with roaring crowds, the shrill whine of engines, and squealing tires. Only the announcer falls short with commentary that's accurate but seriously annoying.

### Race Report

If multiplayer fender-crunching mayhem is what you demand from a racing game, line up your wheels on Andretti's starting line. But if one-player, in-depth, precision racing revs your engines, spend your cash to enter F1's high-octane race. ■



**PRO TIP:** Drafting gives you a speed burst as you pass an opponent: flag their wheels and only swing out when you have the acceleration to pass.



**PRO TIP:** Check behind you on straightaways or just after tight turns so you can defend against passing attempts.



**PRO TIP:** Bumping into opponents may temporarily put you ahead, but it almost always kills too much speed. Stay clear of other cars and develop smart steering skills to get by.

Formula 1 by Proprietary

Options	Game	License	Full Season	Challenge	ADJ
0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Price not available	11 tracks	Available now	4 discs	PlayStation High	ADJ
Rating	2 players (with link)	2500 rating (with link)	to be able		

### Formula 1 Tips



**PRO TIP:** F1 racing is all about timing, being on exactly the right line at exactly the right speed, so prepare by memorizing the course layout before you race.



**PRO TIP:** If you're being cornered on a turn, stopping early less than being going off the track.



**PRO TIP:** In Arcade mode, you can often get away with cutting corners to get a risky jump on the pack.



**PRO TIP:** If you're slightly off the line on a turn, trying to rejoin the gap before braking so you'll be less likely to slide out.



## Tecmo Super Bowl

By Dr. Zombie

PlayStation

Tecmo's long-running football series was a mainstay of 8-bit and 16-bit systems. Unfortunately, its first entry into the 32-bit arena, Tecmo Super Bowl, does nothing to capitalize on the new technology of the PlayStation.

An opening video montage and an average soundtrack suggest that this is a next-gen game, but don't be fooled. The actual gameplay, graphics, and control look and play like a mediocre 16-bit football game at best. Awful animation, poorly rendered characters, obscure play diagrams, a clumsy control in-



**PRO TIP:** The upfield, behind-the-quarterback view is more useful than the horizontal sideline view in surveying defensive formations.

terface, and lackluster sound effects all make Tecmo Super Bowl less than "super"—more like a Tampa Bay/ Jets mismatch.

With marquee players such as Madden NFL '97 and NCAA Gamebreaker on the PlayStation field, don't bother with this sub-rookie effort. ■



**PRO TIP:** On kickoff returns, don't run too close behind the wedge—give it time to create openings for the ball carrier.

Tecmo Super Bowl by Tecmo



Q4 00  
Available now  
4 players with  
1 player

Multiple views  
Display rates Low  
1280 rating High  
16-bit



## NHL '97

By Major Mike

Super NES

The yearly offering of an NHL title for the fading 16-bit SNES is upon us. However, instead of supplying sharp new features as the Genesis version did,



tools. The graphics are clean, but the players' movements are choppy and it's hard to gauge exactly where the puck is going at times. Organ chimes along with



**PRO TIP:** To fool opponents, make a break with the puck and head for the goal—opposing players will swarm you. Then, at the last instant, pass the puck to a teammate, who will have a better chance to score.



**PRO TIP:** When you're in possession of the puck, get past opposing players with the Spin-o-Rama (tap the top right button).



this NHL '97 is almost identical to last year's fine offering. It has the same gameplay engine and options, the only real change is in the updated rosters.

Using an overhead view, NHL '97 has exciting gameplay marred only by slightly loose con-

trol on-ice sounds and an intelligible announcer compress the audio track.

NHL '97 isn't a bad game, it just isn't a new one. Fans expecting a dramatic upgrade will be sorely disappointed. ■



## NASCAR Racing

By Dr. Zombie

PlayStation

NASCAR Racing comes equipped with a trunkload of features to create a realistic racing simulation. However, this game will appeal more to diehard racing aficionados than to the casual



**PRO TIP:** Always try to pass opponents and navigate turns on the inside of the track to avoid being jumped into the walls.

gamer causing for speed and action.

Seems put a lot of horsepower into authentic touches such as the abilities to race governed by real-life physics, to communicate with your pit crew, and to thoroughly tune your car by setting everything from individual tire pressure to gear

ratios. The gameplay focuses on strategy and endurance as much as actual driving, for you must tackle at least 32 laps in each race. The graphics, animation, controls, and sound effects are adequate, but NASCAR doesn't surpass top racers like Andrexxi Racing.

NASCAR fans will eat this game up, but casual drivers will be satisfied to just rent it for a couple laps. ■



**PRO TIP:** Your tires are key. Constantly monitor the temperature and pressure to gauge when you need a pit stop.

NASCAR Racing by Sierra On-Line



Q4 00  
Available now  
4 players with  
1 player

Multiple views  
Display rates High  
1280 rating High  
16-bit







## NBA Live '97

By Dr. Zombie

### Super NES

Don't slam-dunk that SNES just yet, sports fans. You'll want to save it for the rontop hoops action of NBA

Live '97. As usual, EA delivers detailed graphics, sharp animation, authentic NBA teams and players, and a basketful of customizable options, making this the best SNES b-ball action ever.

### If It's In the Game...

In Live '97, EA Sports has created an impressively comprehensive simulation with enough options and features to deliver a satisfying gaming experience for basketball diehards and novices alike. You control every aspect of the game, setting rules, custom-creating your own players and teams, and calling plays on the fly.

All 29 NBA teams and over 300 actual players and their stats are included. New features include entertaining two-on-two and three-on-three practice modes, shootout competitions, and improved TV-style presentation of current game stats and player info.

NBA Live '97 Tips



**PRO TIP:** Use the jump button to shoot. Sometimes it's better to wait behind the three-point line to allow offensive items time to develop.

### The Paint

The graphics are razor-sharp with plenty of individual player animation, and all players are featured prominently onscreen. Authentic touches such as home team logos at center court, animated sideline billboards, and Dennis Rodman's bleached-blond hair add to the realism (the shattering backboards aren't realistic, but they're cool anyway). You'll appreciate the animated play diagrams demonstrating each player's moves.

The controls are tight, with zero delay between your thumb and the screen. Sound effects are clear and consistent with what you would expect at a game.

What more do you need to know? Let's hit the paint! ■

**NBA Live '97 by EA Sports**

Amiga	Amib	Amib	Amib	Amib	Amib
2.0	2.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	Amib

MSRP: \$49.95  
 MSRP: \$49.95  
 Available November  
 5 players (with adapter)



**PRO TIP:** Don't attempt a layup unless you have a clear path to the hoop.



**PRO TIP:** Remember to keep the weight proportional to the height of your customized creation, or they won't be very effective.



## FIFA Soccer '97 Gold Edition

By Coach Kyle

### Genesis

FIFA Gold plays great, looks great,

and will blow you away—if you've never played a FIFA game before. If you have, it's much like the FIFA as you've always played, right down to the scratchy Genesis sounds.

The gameplay and controls are as awesome as ever. The most significant new feature of Gold is an indoor mode. In addition to playing with thousands of international players outdoors, you now can bang balls off the boards.

The other noticeable change is in the graphics. Although the FIFA players seem to be shrinking slightly over the years, they now



**PRO TIP:** Unless you've mastered the game, the CPU is better in the net.



**PRO TIP:** If you have the ball near your goal with defenders as you, press Button C to clear it.

move more fluidly than ever.

FIFA newcomers—buy now. This game sets a new Gold standard. FIFA regulars—rmt first to see if the changes warrant a purchase. ■



## FIFA Soccer '97 Gold Edition

By Weekend Warrior

### Super NES

There's still action on the SNES! EA Sports has updated its popular soccer series with FIFA Gold.

Fans of earlier versions will recognize the same numerous options and attention to detail that made previous FIFAs bestsellers. New improvements include an indoor mode, enhanced graphics and new music, plus over 3000 actual players from 12 international leagues.

FIFA Gold features a locker full of options and customizable features to make it accessible to gamers of all levels, whether they're indoor-bound or not. Current owners of FIFA '96 may find this version a little redundant and should rent before buying. However, rookies will score high with this purchase. ■



**PRO TIP:** Always slide tackle in front of the ball carrier.

**FIFA Soccer '97 Gold Edition by EA Sports**

Amiga	Amib	Amib	Amib	Amib	Amib
2.0	2.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	Amib

MSRP: \$49.95  
 MSRP: \$49.95  
 Available November  
 5 players (with adapter)

**FIFA Soccer '97 Gold Edition by EA Sports**

Amiga	Amib	Amib	Amib	Amib	Amib
2.0	2.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	Amib

MSRP: \$49.95  
 MSRP: \$49.95  
 Available November  
 5 players (with adapter)

**FIFA formation**

MSRP: \$49.95  
 MSRP: \$49.95  
 Available November  
 5 players (with adapter)

**PRO TIP:** Choose the 4-3-3 formation for the most balanced coverage.



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# SPORTS INSIDER PREVIEWS



## NFL GameDay '97

PlayStation

By Johnny Bolzano



NFL GameDay returns to the video game gridiron looking stronger than ever with an All-Pro lineup of new features, smoother gameplay, and innovative player moves.

### Moves



Authentic NFL action allows offensive players to make one-handed catches, dive over piles, spin, and juke. New this year is a passing meter that determines the speed of each throw and allows QBs to overthrow or underthrow the ball depending on the coverage.

On defense gamers can use forearm slashes, swim moves, and both high and low dives to stop the ball carrier.



### Graphics



Sony motion-captured the acrobatics of Oakland's Tim Brown, and says that this will enable them to offer the most fluid animation of any football game around. GameDay '97 will run at 30 frames per second, which is over 50 percent faster than last year's game. Player's numbers are visible on the backs of their jerseys, and if you get knocked out of bounds, you can create coaches on the sideline.

Developed and published  
by Sony  
Available November

**70% COMPLETE**

### Features



All 30 NFL teams are selectable, along with post greats and Pro Bowl squads. You have over 500 plays at your disposal, along with the ability to trade, draft, and create players. There is even the option to change the AI's IQ to anywhere from 80 to 160, depending upon how smart you want your computer opponent to be.





# NHL '97

PlayStation

By Air Haxtris



Recreation C

Lacrosse

EA's classic NHL series has held the 16-bit Stanley Cup for years, and now it's finally ready for its first 32-bit appearance. With cool graphics and its trademark addictive gameplay, NHL '97 looks like a solid player.

Developed by Visual Concepts  
Published by EA Sports  
Available November

80% COMPLETE

## Features and Controls



For hockey fans, the big battle this fall will be NHL '97 versus Faceoff '97, and although it's still too early to pick a winner, NHL looks like it'll rank near the top. 16-bit pros will find all the familiar features, including the real-life players and teams; two All-Star teams; Exhibition, Season, Shootout, and Playoff modes; trades and player creation; and fighting. Although the signature moves for star players make for cool arcade fun, coaching strategies were axed late in the development cycle, which leaves NHL '97 trailing its competitors as far as feature depth goes. Hopefully, its gameplay will be tight enough to close the gap.

NHL pros will find the controls comfortable and familiar. On the stick, you'll find all the top moves, including fake shots, drop passes, one-timers, spins, quick stops, and hitting the ice to block shots. Skating and stick-handling are improved from the 16-bit games with a more lithe feel that augments the realism.

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## Graphics



Even before the season kicks off, NHL '97's graphics already outshine those of Powerplay '96 and Faceoff '97. Highly detailed, fully 3D polygonal players skate with eye-catching realism and fluidity, and nice details like the names on the backs of the jerseys and real-life goalie masks add to the authenticity. Nine fresh camera angles, video clips starring John Davidson and James Brown, and TV-like commentary between periods top off the package.



# SPORTS INSIDER PREVIEWS



## NBA Jam Extreme PlayStation

Shutouts\* and jammers\* return to the PlayStation in a big way with this good-looking arcade conversion. Extreme sets you up for four-player two-on-two dunkathons with all the NBA teams and most of the pro stars. New to the horror Jam experience is the Extreme button, a high-speed feature from the arcade game that enables



you to shift players into an extra gear. The version we tested played fast and smooth, but the rosters were only updated to last April; hopefully Acclaim will be able to incorporate the summer's big Phoenix, Houston trade and other preseason roster moves—Coach Kyle

Developed and published  
by Acclaim  
Available December

**50% COMPLETE**



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## NBA Hangtime Nintendo 64

A Jam-style two-on-two dunkfest, NBA Hangtime boasts 150 of the NBA's finest, pulling off god-like, high-flying moves they only wish they could perform in real life. Players somersault in the air, double-dunk, throw multiple alley-oops on the same play, and knock each other dizzy. You can create your own player and

build his attributes by winning games, and when you defeat all the NBA teams, you play against special teams that combine some of the greatest players.  
—Johnny Ballgame



Developed and published by Midway Home Entertainment  
Available December

10% COMPLETE



## NHL Open Ice PlayStation

Open Ice skates straight from the arcades to the PlayStation with that same raucous two-on-two action that made NBA Jam a classic. Playing with up-to-date rosters that include all the NHL players, gamers duke it out with simple but effective controls that supply passes, shots, checks, turbo, and more. Scoring three goals sets your player "on fire," and of course lots of codes unlock secret players and power-ups. Graphically, the game's remarkably close to the arcade version, and even at this early stage, Open Ice is a blast.—Air Hendrix



Developed and published by Midway Home Entertainment  
Available November

40% COMPLETE



## Jimmy Johnson NFL '97 PlayStation

Some of the game designers who worked on NFL '95 and Madden jumped to a new team, GameTek, to make that company's first football game. Jimmy Johnson NFL '97 is an eight-player game with a stadium full of features like trades, variable weather, and full-season play. Among the teams are some hidden squads, including JJ's own personal fives. The strategy is sophisticated, but you can call plays in just one step (unlike Madden and QB Club's more



complicated play-calling). And at the half, the Coach provides a pep talk with helpful hints.—Coach Kyle

Developed and published by GameTek  
Available December

80% COMPLETE







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# ROLE-PLAYER'S REALM

THE MONTHLY GUIDE TO THE WORLD OF ROLE-PLAYING GAMES • DECEMBER '96

**PlayStation**  
By Art Angel

## Deception

Just when you thought Tecmo developed only sports games, along comes *Deception*, a first-person RPG with an engaging story line and innovative gameplay. Add in its great sounds and nasty monsters, and this eerie, heart-stopping RPG keeps you suspended in terror.

### Tricks 'n' Traps

What makes *Deception's* gameplay unique is the lack of traditional weaponry. You play as a crown prince who makes a pact with Satan to keep from being burned at the stake. Armed only with traps (such as spikes and cages), you battle on Satan's behalf and eventually try to turn the tables on him. As you progress, Satan gives you more powerful traps and the magical ability to create vicious monsters who will vanquish enemies for you.

Unlike other RPGs, in *Deception* your confrontation with each enemy is unique. Initially you use different masks to coerce invaders into the traps that will confuse, maim, or capture them. Later in the game you can use the monsters, especially as they grow stronger and gain experience with each victory.

### The Sound of Suspense

Much of *Deception's* intensity comes from its outstanding sound. The eerie background music works with terrific sound effects like footsteps, screams, and creaking doors to create a cohesive atmosphere that is pure suspense.

The graphics are almost as good. Although some of the 3D rendering is blocky, overall the first-person graphics are quick,



**PRO TIP:** Early in the game, buy herbs from the lone merchant in the halls. You'll need their healing powers almost immediately.

Deception by Tecmo

Platform	Score	Genre	Developer
PlayStation	4.0	RPG	INT

Price not available  
Available on: PlayStation  
1 player

First-person view  
Replay value: High  
ESRB rating: Teen



**PRO TIP:** In Strategy mode, build bedrooms, which replenish your health, near your Power rooms.



**PRO TIP:** Use monsters sparingly. Only when a pesky invader is difficult to finish off should you send in a werewolf or zombie.



**PRO TIP:** If an invader's speed is helping them elude your traps, use pits and cranes to slow them down for capture.



**PRO TIP:** If you're out of cash, choose merchants as your victims. They carry the most gold.



**PRO TIP:** Be careful when resting in bedrooms, because invaders can still come in and harm you.

crisp, and detailed (note the entertaining expressions on the faces of your enemies as they stir in your traps). While more shading and variety would have added depth to the castle's bland rooms, the truly frightening monsters more than compensate.

### No Deception

Responsive controls make it possible for you to trigger your traps precisely when you need to. The controls also enable you to customize rooms as part of your strategy for trapping victims.

*Deception* is an excellent addition to the RPG market. It has something most other RPGs seem to have lost: originality. While other games follow the familiar Phantasy Star or Final Fantasy formats, *Deception* has an original story and unique gameplay. *Deception* may be the game other companies will follow into the future of RPGs. ■



**PRO TIP:** Always park your main trap with a confusion trap. This strategy enhances your chances of capturing invaders.

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ASCII Entertainment has released a sequel to last year's *King's Field*, a game that had a lot of problems (see the ProReview, April). *KFI*, unfortunately, has many of the same flaws. Minor cosmetic changes, such as larger maps, complex enemies, and expanded cut scenes, were made, but slow movement, unfair matchups, and dull gameplay continue to reign supreme in this ordinary RPC.

## Bored of the Kings

Like last year's *King's Field* (which was called *King's Field 2* in Japan), *KFI* has sluggish gameplay. As you walk around in a first-person perspective, you come upon plenty of rampaging monsters, but unfortunately everything onscreen looks like it's moving underwater. A melee round against a low-level creature can take up to five minutes to complete. Multiply that five minutes by the large number of encounters in the first level alone, and you'll quickly realize how interesting homework can be in comparison.

Once you're in a fight, your character's defense is frustratingly inept, making many small enemies way too powerful. For instance, a skeleton with a berzerker-like attack can defeat you with only one blow, while you need four hits to bring him down. Adding to

the frustration is the hit meter, which takes too long to recharge.

## Royal Ratings

Graphically, *King's Field II* is slightly better than its predecessor. The occasional screen break-up of the first game seems to have been fixed, and the magical special effects generate genuine "oohs" and "aahs." However, some shading, especially in the corridors of dungeons or castles, would have greatly complemented the rendered 3D graphics.

Sound has also been improved. Bone-chilling screams and original sound effects create a colorful sonic atmosphere. The intro, however, plays both music and dialogue, and the music basically drowns out the voices.

At best, *King's Field II* is a decent rental, because its slow gameplay gets more and more frustrating the longer



**PRO TIP:** Open chests and quickly retreat to avoid traps and other nasty surprises.



**PRO TIP:** Search around carcasses and abandoned equipment for extra goodies.



**PRO TIP:** Discrepancies on the ground or on walls may be secret rooms and special items.

you stay with it. At worst... well, hopefully the King has been deposed and won't be returning to this field. ■



**PRO TIP:** To defeat monsters without being hit, attack them from the side.



**PRO TIP:** When you first enter the game, go across the bridge and to the other side of the wall. Get the armored boots from the chest to the right. But watch out for the trap....



**PRO TIP:** Stand a safe distance away from your enemy when using particular spells so you're not caught in the blast area.



**PRO TIP:** Make sure to look in barrels and other receptacles for special items.

King's Field II by ASCII Entertainment				
Engine	Sound	Game	Play Time	Language
3.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	None
Price for rental	Memory card	1330 rating: Not Available		
4.95	19.95	19.95		
Available now	9/1/2000	Play on PC, Mac OS		
1 player	Play on PC, Mac OS	Media		
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2.9 minutes

Chase Lawrence • Blue Ridge, GA  
5.4 minutes

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6.0 minutes

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6.2 minutes

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# PER BOWL

## IT'S UN-BOWL-IEVABLE!

### CREATE YOUR OWN SUPER TEAM

Tecmo Super Bowl allows the user to trade any player to any team, at any time. With this feature you have the ability to create your own Super Team. Just be careful when you're playing a friend. You had better make sure he didn't set you up. The only advice we can give is check your opponents roster.

### LIVE COMMENTARY

Tecmo Super Bowl's announcer gives true play by play commentary, not just an occasional phrase or two, if perhaps you think he's an idiot, you always have the option of turning him off.

### TOURNAMENT MODE

Over the years Tecmo Super Bowl players have let us know about the friendly competitions which sometimes take place. This new season has



a built in tournament mode for a total of 8 players playing one on one till one of the players wins the tournament. Chips and drinks are sadly not included.

### DIFFICULTY LEVELS

Knowing that some people haven't been playing Tecmo Super Bowl for years we've included 3 difficulty settings: Easy, Normal and Hard. Our football game gives you the ability to grow with the game. Internally we call this a screen save 'cause you don't have to throw a rock through the TV screen when you get frustrated with the game.

### INSTANT REPLAY

If you want to analyze the last several seconds of play, simply pause the game and start the instant replay. In addition you can go frame by frame to fully analyze all of the action. Then again, you may not want to see

the interception again, and again, and again, and again.

### NEW RECORDS & STATS

Tecmo's stats engine has always been unsurpassed. This year we've added the ability to keep the stats from any player in any position even if it's only for 1 play during the entire season. Here's your one and only chance to re-write the record book.

### NEW PLAYBOOK

From the game play menu, you now have access to the entire playbook for the immediate play...for more plays than you can possibly want, use, call, sense, modify, change, and/or run at the case may be.

### VARIABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS

Ordinary football games sometimes have weather conditions. So far as we know, Tecmo Super Bowl is the only



game to actually change the weather during the game. So one minute it could be raining, and then it could start snowing, or then again stop or actually it's too variable to give you all of the possible scenarios.

### MORE, MORE AND MORE

We've tried to highlight some of the most important new features of Tecmo Super Bowl for the Sony PlayStation. Obviously there are more features than we can possibly list. Tecmo Super Bowl is one of the most realistic and sophisticated football simulators ever created. Aside from all of the technical improvements, think about the following:

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Tecmo's Deception answers (There are no correct answers... Welcome to Tecmo's Deception)



PLAYERS

# Your Final Doom

The "last" of the Doom titles hits the PlayStation! We take you through some of the hardest levels (including the entire Plutonia Experiment story) and show you the deepest secrets and trickiest traps.

## Former Humans

By Major Mike

*Note: This guide is based on playing the game on the Ultra Violence difficulty. Easier skill settings may differ slightly in terms of number of enemies.*

### Rifleman



The easiest to kill; uses a rifle. Drops a clip when you pop him.

### Shotgunner



Tougher than the Rifleman, his shotgun packs a real hip—especially at close range. He gives you a shotgun upon death.

### Chaingunner



The toughest former human, his one's chaingun also makes him the deadliest.

## Monsters from Hell

### Imp



Scratches and splits fireballs.

### Knight of Hell



Throws balls of toxic waste, and is hard to kill.

### Pain Elemental



Spits Last Souls.

### Cacodemon



Flying blob that spits deadly fireballs.

### Archvortron



Walking spider with a plasma gun for firepower.

### Last Soul



Annoying little bantam; langes at you sedately and inflicts damage.

### Revenant



Walking skeleton that fires guided rockets.

### Baron of Hell



Same as his brother, the Knight, except laugher.

### Mancubus



Slow-moving, but his two fireball-launching guns make up for it.

### Demon



Walks slowly and likes to bite. Comes in both visible and near-visible types.

### Cyberdemon



The biggest and baddest of 'em all. Tall, tough, and carries a rocket launcher.

# Master Levels

## Level 5 Catwalk

### Level 5 Highlights

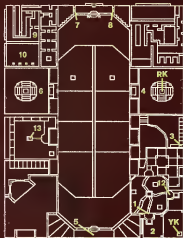
The trick to passing Level 5 is getting the keys in the right order, and surviving the last, long stretch before the exit.



### Level Keys

RK: Red Key

YK: Yellow Key



Start with the Yellow Key. Enter the southeast room (1) first. There is a Hell Knight if you enter at (12), so going in at (1) lets you sneak up behind it. However, you'll have some Shotgunners to contend with.



Hit the switch in the room at (2), then go over to (12) and get the Yellow Key.



Enter the teleporter at (3), and you're transported to a room to the east (4). Two Hell Knights are flanking you and a Shotgunner's directly ahead.



This room also has a pedestal with a Red Key on it. Immediately move forward, then backwards, and teleport out of the room. You return to the start of the level. Move immediately east or west and set up a rocket barrage; the Knights momentarily teleport after you.



Before re-entering the room at (4), go to the west room, and step on the teleporter (13). This takes you to the room to the north (6). Three Knights are in this room. Use the same technique as before (run out and set up an ambush).



In (6), you'll find a pedestal with a Plasma Gun on top and a switch on the side. Press the

switch and the pedestal drops, along with the Red Key in (4). Exit the room using the teleporter and you're in front of the catwalk (5). The door is open, so fire several plasma rounds north and run behind them; this ensures safe passage to the other side. Don't dawdle on the catwalk; Imps in cages are to the east and west, waiting to throw fireballs at you.



Once across, open the red door, but don't exit the level yet. Instead, shoot the panels to the west (7) and east (8). These lead to secret areas filled with weapons, including a BFG-9000, ammo, and health items.



There is only one ambush in these secret rooms: In the west room, when you press the switch on the east wall (9), a wall drops to the south (10), revealing a room filled with Shotgunners. Ready the rocket launcher before pressing the switch.



# FINAL DOOM

# Level 8 MINOS

## Level 8 Highlights



At the beginning of the level, be ready: you start in a room with Shotgunners and Imps. There is a nasty trap in the room to the north (1): if you touch any of the demons on the south wall, the lights go out and the wall drops, flooding the room with Imps and Lost Souls.



Press on the wall (3) in this hallway to reveal a hidden room (2).

In the doorway are a Hell Knight and an Imp. When you go inside, you'll see to the south a hidden recess with a Chaingunner.



A Supercharge is on the pillar in this room to the west (4). Lower the pillar, get the Supercharge, ride the pillar up, and get the BFG 9000 behind the east wall (5). Once you get the BFG, however, a wall drops to the north, revealing two Knights. Time to put the BFG to good use. There is also a teleporter to the northwest (6)—just be careful of the crushing ceiling in front of it.



The Blue Key is in a room to the east (7), along with two Lost

Souls, a Cacodemon, and a Shotgunner. To get the key, run south toward it, grab it, then run to the southeast corner and get the Radiation Shielding Suit. When you have the key, the pillar in the southwest corner of the room drops, revealing two Knights and a Mega Sphere.



Have heavy artillery ready when you press on this wall (8), which is actually a platform filled with various Imps, Shotgunners, Chaingunners, and Knights. After pressing the wall, back up immediately and blast away.



A Red Key is hidden (9) behind the east panel. When you run across the narrow gap, the wall drops, revealing several Imps and other monsters.



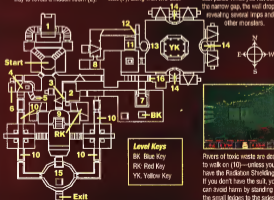
Press the switch on the west wall of this room (11), then run to the room directly north. The emblem on the wall (12) to the east conceals a secret passage. Enter the passage and blast the Imp to the north. Then proceed to the south. Take out the Chaingunner, then blast the one through the window across the way. This window looks out on a courtyard (13) filled with monsters.



Instead of entering the courtyard (13), go through the blue door to the east (16). This takes you to the balconies above the courtyard that are filled with monsters, ammunition, and other items. Also make sure you take out the Chaingunners in the small rooms by the elevators (14). When the balcony is cleaned out, enter the courtyard, and get the Yellow Key.



The exit is in the circular room to the south (15). However, when you press the emblem on the south wall, the platform behind it drops, revealing two Knights. A third Knight is waiting behind the exit door as well.



### Level Keys

BK Blue Key  
RK Red Key  
YK Yellow Key



Rivers of toxic waste are deadly to walk on (10)—unless you have the Radiation Shielding Suit. If you don't have the suit, you can avoid harm by standing on the small ledges to the sides.



# Level 10 PARADOX

Level 10 Walkthrough

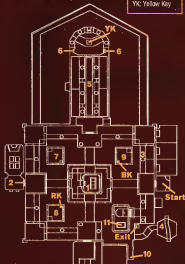


### Level Keys

BK: Blue Key

RK: Red Key

YK: Yellow Key



This level is utter chaos. First, take a fast run clockwise around the perimeter, blasting as many monsters as you can. Be sure to grab the Temporary Invisibility Icon in the southeast corner (10) for extra help. Don't stay in one place too long. Several Revenants are itching to throw guided fireballs your way. If you're low on health, get the Supercharge in the pillar to the east (3) and the Mega Sphere (along with three Chingunners) behind the phony wall (4) also to the east.



Once the outside perimeter is clear, head for the building in the middle (1). Use rockets to pick off the Shotgunners on the roof, then go inside the building and blow away the Revenant.



Next, go to the three guard towers (7, 8, 9), and blow away the Revenants inside, two Revenants per tower.



Next, take the long stretch to the north (5). This is a gauntlet lined with Chingunners, Shotgunners, and Imps. Use the entryway for cover and pick them off one by one. At the end of the corridor is a Yellow Key, but don't grab it yet. Instead, push the torch on the north wall, then push the two skull emblems that are briefly revealed to the east and west (6). These open a doorway to the outside perimeter. After pressing the two switches, face south, run, and grab the Yellow Key. When you leave the key, monsters start teleporting into the room. Turn and blast each one as it appears.



Go to the west room (2) and blast your way to the north wall. As you approach the wall, it drops, revealing a Revenant. Take it out and press the switch on the wall. This drops the barricade in front of the three teleporters in the center building (1).



Go to the center building (1), and enter the middle teleporter. This takes you to the northwest tower (7). Once inside the tower, move toward the pillar across from you and a Bazooka kit is revealed. Return to the building in the center and step on the south teleporter pad.



This takes you inside the southwest tower (8). Get the chaise longue ready and go toward the large opening to the north. When you do, Demons start teleporting into the tower. Saw each one up as it enters, then get the Red Key. Return to the center building and take the teleporter to the north. This takes you to the northeast tower (9) where Shotgunners teleport in when you move. After blowing them away, get the Blue Key.



One last danger is in the southeast tower (11). Take the elevator up, and you'll see a column to the south. When you get close, it drops and reveals two Chingunners. Take them out, turn east, and run across the gap to the exit.



# Level 11 Subspace

## Level 11 Walkthrough

### Level Keys

BK: Blue Key  
RK: Red Key  
YK: Yellow Key



This level looks simple, but it could have you wandering around for hours searching for the exit. The key is knowing which switches to press, and in what order.



At the beginning of the level (1), you're facing a small structure. Shoot the door to open it. The Red Key is inside. However, there are several Lost Souls who hear the noise and enter the room from the east and west windows.



In the room to the north (2) are two hidden panels to the east and west of the small staircase (3). One contains a Mega Sphere and

a Backpack; the other a Supercharge and Mega Armor. Further up the stairs are several barrels to the west and east. Shoot them and you kill the Shotgunner and Imp ambush around the corners.



Two secret doors are at the top of the stairs (4). Take the one to the east. Immediately to the west is a recess (5) with ammunition and armor along with a switch on the north wall. Enter the recess and press the switch.



Enter the courtyard to the east and go over to the switch cube suspended in air (6). Press the switch on the west side rapidly until it turns green, then go to the building to the south (7). Once inside, head south, then north-east to the computer panel. Go behind the panel, blast the Imp, and press the switch (8).



Go down the southeast corridor until you reach the door (17). When you open the door, you're faced with a Knight and some evil troops. Blast them and go up the steps and head toward the Yellow Key on the teleporter (16). Slap on the teleporter, and you're zapped back to a room near the start of the level (2).



Head north to the two hidden panels (4), and press the one on the northwest wall. Then go to the west well (5) and press it. This takes you to a walkway above a lake of toxic waste (10). Navigate the maze and press the switch in the center.



Exit the maze, head north-east, and open the yellow door (11). The Blue Key is inside.



Go to the south room (12). There are some monsters in this room, but more important is a blue door. Open the door and press the switch. This briefly opens up two doors to the east and west. There is a Marduk in the recess to the west (13), but to exit the level, take the passage to the east (14). If you haven't used the hidden levers found early in the stage (3), grab them before exiting the level at the teleporter (15).



# TNT Evolution

## Level 17 GRATER

### Level 17 Walkthrough

When you climb the steps in the room to the south (1), a platform to the south lowers with two Arachnons and a Supercharge on it.



After blowing away the Arachnons, head back down the steps and get the Supercharge. When you grab it, four doors to the north open behind you, releasing four Shotgunners. Two more Arachnons also teleport into the room.



Press on the south wall (6), and you go into the sewers. An Arachtron is hiding behind a phony wall (2) in the southwest corner. Shoot through the wall to kill it.



You'll find a Blue Key in this room (3). When you get it, the west wall drops, revealing an Arachtron. There are also health items against the west wall. When you touch any of the items, the walls to the north and south drop, streaming Demons into the room. The Red Key is in the northwest corner of the level.

on a balcony overlooking the courtyard (7).



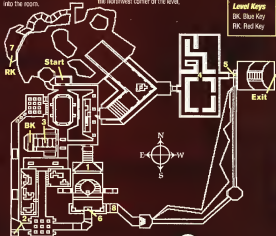
The last part (4) is a brief maze where the monsters blend in with each other. Run to the door on the east side (5) with the shotgun ready, and head inside. Three Arachnons are waiting. Blast the one in the doorway, run to either corner by the stairs for cover from the other two, and pick them off one-by-one.



By this time most of the monsters in the maze are gathered by the door. Get the rocket launcher ready, open the door, and let 'em have it.



The door to this room is really a platform, so stand on top of it (5) and ride it to the top. This leads to a long secret stretch behind a toxic waterfall that leads south. A few fums and some monsters are here, including an Arachtron. At the end is a passage that leads back into the sewers (8).



### Level Keys

BK, Blue Key

RK, Red Key

## Level 22 QUARRY

### Level 22 Highlights

#### Level Keys

BK: Blue Key



Although the ground resembles the harmful blood pools that appear periodically, it is safe to walk on. However, there are some toxic pools that blend in with the deadly ground.

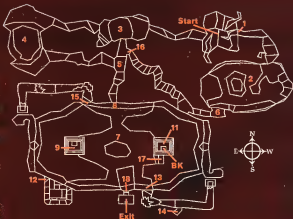


Take the path to the east (1). This leads to a room with a toxic slime lake and a few islands (2). There is a Temporary Inevitably loss on the far west wall. Blast the monsters, then run across the gaps toward the west wall. Get the coin, and quickly kill the monsters in the toxic lake and in the rest of the room.



Head back west, clear out the room (3), and keep heading west

# FINAL DOOM



until you reach the blood lake (4). The path snakes around, so follow it east until you reach the fork (5). Then take the path to the northeast (16).



This leads back to the room at (2), except now you're up on a high ledge (6). Take a running start east, and you drop onto a small walkway with a box of rockets and shells on it.



The best way to tackle the courtyard (7) is to enter from the cen-

ter walkway (8). Pick off Shotgunners and other evil troops as you enter by using the doorway as cover. After the prepops are eliminated, move further south, using the two tall platforms flanking you, and shoot the Chongunner and Shotgunner out of the towers to the east (11) and west (9). Then go east to the elevator (17), ride it up, and shoot the Shotgunners off the east ledge (10). Go to the ledge, ride the elevator up, and shoot the Revenant out of the tower (11).



Head to the southwest corner of the courtyard, and enter the doorway (12). Shoot the north wall where the light is flickering. This opens a room with some items and an elevator hidden on the north wall.



Go to the doorway on the south-east side of the courtyard (13). Lava lays the floor of the corridor, but you'll find a Radiation Shielding Suit in the recess to the south (14). At the end of the hall is a teleporter that takes you to the east tower (19), which has a Blue Key inside. Another teleporter located on the northwest corner of the courtyard (15) takes you to the west tower (9). The final exit is in the south room in the courtyard (18).



# Level 23 Ballistyx

## Level 23 Highlights



At the start of the level, if you fire a shot in the first room (1), Imps will teleport in.



A teleport trap is located in this corridor (2). When the Knight and monsters hidden in the jail to

the north see you, they teleport into the hallway.



This corridor (3) houses Imps in a jail along the west wall. Open the jail door, and the wall drops to the east, revealing another jail—this one filled with Imps and a Knight.



In this open room (4), you'll encounter Shotgunners and Imps that blend in with the walls, so proceed slowly.



A Supercharge and Infrared Glasses are hidden in a secret recess to the east (5). The Blue Key is located on the island in the middle of the lake of blood (5).



There are several traps in the north corridor (7). As you head north, doors to the sides of the passage open, releasing Imps



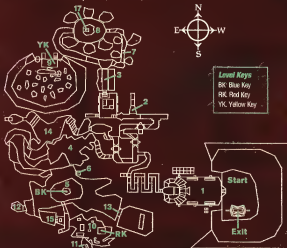
Another series of similar traps is in the north room (8); doors pop open, and the chamber floods with Imps. Press the emblem on the east wall (16) and a teleporter opens up in the center of the room (17). In front of the teleporter platform is a box of rockets. When you get the box, two doors open on the west side, filling the room with several Demons and Imps.



The teleporter (17) takes you to a cage overlooking a courtyard (9) populated with Knights, Imps, and Shotgunners. Turn south and press the wall behind you to find a Supercharge. Then head east, grab the Yellow Key, and press the exposed metal wall to reveal a teleporter. This takes you back to (17).



After opening the yellow gate (15), proceed to the east room (10). When you reach the south part of the room (11), a pillar in the preceding room drops with the Red Key and a Shotgunner on top of it. Grab the key, and the walls in the room to the north drop (12, 13), releasing Shotgunners and a Knight.



## Final Doom



The last section (14) has a Knight in front of a teleporter on the west side. When you attack, he stops on the teleporter and is transported back to the begin-

ning of the level. The exit is also at the beginning of the level, but be careful if you use the teleporter, the Knight is waiting for you at the other end.



Hit the switch on this pillar (2) to make it drop, revealing a Medkit on top. The switch also opens the doors in the room to the north (3), which release Rowanants.



An elevator is located on the southeast corner of the pile of crates in this room (5). When you ride the elevator up, a Rowanant rides a pillar down behind you.

## The Plutonia Experiment

### Level 25 Congo

#### Level 25 Highlights



At the beginning of the level, head north or south (1) and go upstairs. Time for a little house-cleaning of Shotgunners on the top floor!



Instead of opening the door (4), stop in front of it. There is a secret room to the north (5) that opens with two Chaingunners. Blast them before proceeding to the next room (6).



Be careful when climbing these stairs (9); Chaingunners await at the top to the south.





Cross this raised section (10) to drop the wall to the east, which reveals a Revenant. A Chaingunner and two Cacodemons are hiding in the recess to the southwest (11). If you jump into the pit and press on the wall in front of this recess, you will reveal an elevator. The Red Key is to the east, but approach it with caution: Chaingunners are flanking you as you enter the room (14), and a Revenant rides a platform up behind the key.



When you enter the area that has the Blue Key (7), two doors open (8), revealing Chaingunners. Pressing the switch on the far north wall drops the platforms with the Blue Key on it, and it also drops two platforms (12) that have Chaingunners on top.



The level exit is the diamond-shaped light (13).

## Level 26 Aztec

Level 26 Highlights

# FINAL DOOM

### Level Keys

BK: Blue Key

RK: Red Key



In this level, you can get the keys in any order, but getting the Blue Key first saves time.



In the south room, when you reach the platform to the east (5), you can see a Knight in the dis-

tance. However, another one rises up on a platform directly in front of you. There is no going back—a door seals you in the area! Take out the Knight with the BFG, then nail his brother in the distance.



In the southeast area, the switch for the Blue Key (6) is the hardest to cross. Run across the bridge heading west—the only direct obstacles are a few Chaingunners. Grab the key, press the switch on the east wall, and return to the other side. The room

has been sealed off, so enter the teleporter by the entrance to the north. You're zapped next to one of the Arachnotrons.



Blast the Arachnotron and head east toward the other one. Halfway down the corridor is a switch (7). This opens the blockade at the entrance of the area. When you're close to the switch, however, a door opens to the south, revealing two Chaingunners. Blast them, press the switch, and head for the other Arachnotron. Kill it, and leave the room.

## Final Doom



In this corridor you'll find a descending platform (1) that takes you to a pit with several Chain-gunners and health items.



When you reach the Red Key (2), grab the Super Shotgun in front of it and immediately backtrack. Knights and Chain-gunners suddenly teleport into the room (a Knight teleports behind you, but he's easy to go around). Your departure should make them mix things up. Finish off the last of the monsters and get the key. You need a running start from the north to swipe the key off its tall pedestal.



Push on the south wall (3) to reveal a secret room filled with Chain-gunners and a Knight. The payoff? The Supercharge in the far corner of the room.



This is one of the hardest areas in the entire level (4). As you cross the bridge, platforms slowly rise that have Chain-gun-

ners and Knights on top. There are also two Anachmotrons flanking you on the northeast and northwest ledges above.



Wait for the Knights and Chain-gunners to arrive, then backtrack. The Knights move toward you, so take them out as they advance, then blast the Chain-gunners. Head north across the bridge. Near the end, you en-

counter two more Knights by the two teleporters (9), and a pair of Chain-gunners in two recesses farther north (10). The path branches out to the east and west, and each path takes you to one of the Anachmotrons.



When you reach the end (8), go through the red teleporter first. Be ready after pressing the switch on the east wall; a Knight

is freed just around the corner. Finish it off, then go back and enter the blue teleporter.



## FINAL DOOM

## Level 27 GHOST TOWN

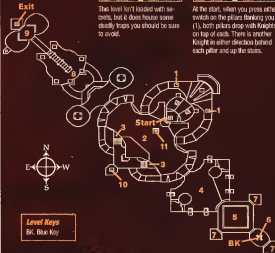
### Level 27 Highlights



This level isn't loaded with secrets, but it does house some deadly traps you should be sure to avoid.



At the start, when you press either switch on the pillars flanking you (1), both pillars drop with Knights on top of each. There is another Knight in either direction behind each pillar and up the stairs.







This courtyard (2) is filled with monsters, including an Arachnotron and Chaugunners. Take the stairs up, go off the ledge, and take one of the staircases on the other side (3). This lets you sneak up behind some of the monsters to attack them.



To get the Mega Sphere on the pedestal in the courtyard (11), go into the teleporter (10). This takes you to the ledge above the sphere. From the southwest cor-

ner, take a running start off the ledge, and you'll bag the sphere.



To the southwest is a courtyard (4) with two Arachnotrons on high ledges. If you walk into the courtyard, Chaugunners and more Arachnotrons will pop out. They can't advance on you, so use the chaugun and pick them off one by one.



When you reach the platform with the rockets (5), more Chaugunners reveal themselves on the pedestals in the courtyard (4).

Grab the Blue Key (6) and three doors open (7), releasing Knights.



Grab the Blue Key (6) and three doors open (7), releasing Knights.



The area to the northwest (8) has some of the deadliest traps in the level. When climbing the stairs in this area, shoot the Chaugunners at the top first. Then run up the stairs, as you ascend, the pillars to the north and west drop. Each has a Knight on top. The four pil-

lars behind you also drop, and these each has a Shotgunner or Chaugunner on it.



Don't open the door in the northwest corner when you reach the top of the stairs (9), if you do, the two walls to the side will drop, and the Knights lurking behind them will attack. Instead, shoot the monsters between the cracks of the walls, then open the door and head for the exit.

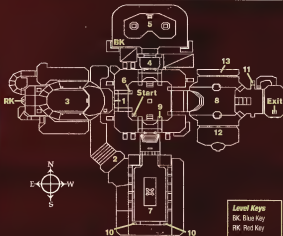


## Level 28 Baron's Lair

### Level 28 Highlights



Go to the door to the west (1). The room has some Revenants in the distance. Two of them teleport near you. Take them out, and head south until you see the railing (2), which has Demons beyond it. Blast the Demons, and head back to the main area.



#### Level Keys

BK, Blue Key  
RK, Red Key

## Final Doom



Use the rocket launcher to nail the distant Revenants. Then head west with the shotgun ready—two Arachnons are lurking in the pit (3).



Slay on the high ledges around the pit to gain some cover from the Arachnons' plasma fire. Find the switch on the east wall in the pit, ready the rocket launcher, then press the switch. The walls to the north and south fall, revealing five Arachnons—two to the north and three to the south. Take out the two to the north, then use the access as cover from the other three. The prize is the Red Key on the west platform.



There is now an exposed switch in the entry hall (6). Press it, and a platform with several items, including the level map, drops in the northwest corner.



This room to the north (4) is loaded with toxic barrels. Shoot the barrels to cause a chain reaction, and head for the middle pit (5). Demons and Revenants teleport into the pit as you approach. When the monsters get close, shoot the barrels that are in the pit. Jump into the pit and retrieve the Blue Key.



Return to the center area (9), and go to the other exposed switch (9). Press it, and another platform drops in the southeast corner. On the platform are several items, including a Mega Sphere.



Go to the south room with the blue door (7). Once inside, run to the south wall, press both switches (10), and light it out of them. Demons and Revenants are milling about, but they aren't worth the trouble.



The last unexplored area is to the east (8). Revenants are on the two towers when you enter. Blast them, and head east. Press the switch on the north wall (11), and the wall to the north of it (13) drops, flooding the place with a swarm of Revenants, Imps, and Demons.



There is another switch behind the wall. Press it, and the wall to the south (12) drops, revealing more monsters. After cleaning house, activate the switch on the wall to the southeast, and run back to either of the two pillars the Revenants were standing on when you first entered.



The switches are revealed for a short time, so you must make two trips. After pressing both switches, a door opens in the northeast corner of the room. This leads to the exit.

## Level 29 The Death Domain

### Level 29 Highlights



This level throws you right into the action, so be prepared. There are several Changemovers on a ledge to the north (12). Revenants to the west, and an Arachntron off in the distance to the northwest. Blast the Arachntron with the rocket launcher, and run for the small house to the northwest (1).



Hide behind the north side of the house, and when the coast is clear, run to the stairway to the west (2). Press the switch in the side of the stairway, and the stairs drop. Below are some Imps.

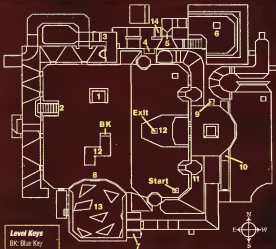


You'll encounter some nasty surprises after taking the elevator in the northwest (3). When you get

off on the second floor and move forward, the wall drops, revealing a Revenant and two Knights. Two Changemovers are also hiding behind the wall to the south (4), which drops when you go for the two boxes of shotgun shells to the north (14).



To open the secret door in the area (5), press on the east side of the door frame. This takes you to an elevator and a Supercharge.

**Level Keys**

BK: Blue Key



A Changunmer ambush awaits you in this room (6). When you enter, a platform rises that's topped with a firing squad. Enter the room, wait until you hear rumbling, then immediately press the switch on the wall by the stairs and leave the room. The door closes behind you as you exit, giving the monsters a chance to shoot each other and gather by the door.



Knights are hiding in the recesses that flank you when you enter the open area (13) to the southwest. They teleport randomly around the room once you're inside, so keep moving, and blast them with the plasma rifle. The Arachnotron in the tower to the north (1) may help things by firing at you and accidentally railing the Knights.



There is a pit surrounded by a high rail in the courtyard (12). Before jumping into it, clear out all the Reverents that teleport into the pit. To jump into it, press the switch in the recess to the south (7), and run for the ledge to the north (8). The gale drops briefly, so use off the ledge into the pit.



A Blue Key can be found at the north end of the pit. This key opens the door in the northeast corner of the courtyard.



You'll find a Mega Sphere behind this door (9). Shoot the door to open it.



The door reveals a secret room (10) containing several clips and rockets. To get into this room, run south down the hallway (11) until you hear a door drop. Then immediately run back north toward the secret room. The passage doesn't stay open very long, so it may take a few attempts.



The exit is the diamond-shaped light to the west.

# Level 30 Onslaught

## Level 30 Highlights



### Level Keys

BK: Blue Key  
RK: Red Key  
YK: Yellow Key

the courtyard to the east. This is where you can take it out. Shoot it when it's exposed, then duck back—it has an opportunity to retaliate. To get the items on the upper ledges of the stairway, go to the bottom of the trench and press the north wall.



When you grab the Yellow Key (8), enemies start teleporting into the area from the pads at (8) and (9).



Enter the west building (14) and get the Red Key. When you open the red door at (10) and press on the switch on the south wall, a hidden door opens (11), releasing Imps into the west building.



When you go toward the exit (12), doors open to the north and south, freeing Imps and a Chainsawman. There is also an Imp ambush along the north wall (13) right before the exit.



You've done it! The forces of Hell are defeated forever! Or at least until the next Doom game..



At the beginning of the level, quickly turn around and blast the Chainsawman—he's standing right behind you.



A gated corridor (1) is in the middle of this courtyard, and a Blue

Key is at the end. As you walk down the corridor, doors to the north and south open, releasing a Chainsawman from each. Slowly head west, releasing the monsters one at a time so you can kill them at your own pace. Avoid making a dash for the key and releasing them all at once. When you get the key, four Cacodemons are released to the east (6).



When you drop the blue gate (2) and cross the threshold, two more Cacodemons are released in the east (7).



In the south (3) is your worst nightmare—a Cyberdemon! Fortunately, its back is to you. Take a shot at it with the BFG, and run back to where you started the level. Let it follow, then run past it. Go to where you found it (3), and run to the south door (as you do, doors open to the east and west, revealing Chainsawmen). When you open the south door (4), you face a Chainsawman. Blast it, then press the emblem on the wall. This drops you into a pit with some Imps.



Exit the tunnels in a courtyard to the west (5). In this courtyard is a small gap with a stairway leading east. The Cyberdemon is in



# THE FIGHTER'S EDGE

## TOURNAMENT-WINNING COMBOS AND STRATEGIES

# STREET FIGHTER ALPHA 2

Saturn

PlayStation

## —Basic Skills—

Here are some basic skills you should know and use during a fight.

### Air Blocking

To perform an air block, hold **+** while in the air (this is the same move you make to block when on the ground). Some rules apply, however, and not all moves can be blocked in the air. Here's a list of what can and can't be air blocked.

#### Can Be Air Blocked

Air attacks and projectiles can both be air blocked.

#### Can't Be Air Blocked

All ground-based normal moves and super combos (except for Charlie's Sonic Blast) cannot be air blocked.

### Alpha Counters

Each fighter has two Alpha Counters. When an opponent comes in for an attack and your character starts their blocking animation, perform an Alpha Counter (see the characters' profiles for more on how to execute these moves). Using an Alpha Counter takes one level off your Super bar.

### Roll on the Ground

All fighters can roll on the ground after being knocked down. To execute the ground roll, simply motion a half-circle toward your opponent, then push any button at the end of the motion. The button you press determines the distance that you'll roll.

## Controller Legend

**P** = Punch  
**PP** = Fierce Punch  
**JP** = Jab Punch  
**SP** = Strong Punch  
**K** = Kick  
**PK** = Forward Kick  
**RK** = Roundhouse Kick  
**SK** = Short Kick

**Motion** = Move the joystick in one smooth, continuous motion

**Tap** = Tap the directions indicated in sequence.

**Charge** = Hold the direction or button indicated for the time indicated.

**[ ]** = Execute commands in parentheses simultaneously.

*Note:* All techniques are described under the assumption that your character is facing to the right. If they're facing left, reverse any **Toward** and **Away** commands.

In the conclusion of our comprehensive Street Fighter Alpha 2 coverage, we break down the game's last 10 fighters, revealing their special moves and killer combos, and offering some strategy tips.

By *Bruce Lee*

## Super Moves

When your Super bar reaches one of three possible levels, you can perform a super move. When the Super bar reaches at Level Three, you can either perform a three-button super move that does anomalous damage and expends the entire bar, or you can perform a one- or two-button super move that inflicts lesser damage, results in fewer hits, and decreases a portion of the bar. The severity of the super move depends on how many buttons you press. See the characters' profiles for more on how to perform these moves.

## Combo Skills

The following combo skills are used throughout this strategy guide and are essential to properly play SF2.

### Starting Two-in-One Combos

To perform a two-in-one combo, start a move with your character, then immediately begin the second move. If you time the combo correctly, you can execute both moves; and, if your opponent doesn't block the first move, the second move will also connect.

### Start with an Air Attack

Most of the combos on this following pages start with a fighter jumping in deep with a move. However, you don't always have to start by jumping in. This method is just a good way to move in close to your opponent to score an extra hit.

### Cross-Up Attack

To perform a cross-up attack, jump toward the opposite side of your opponent with a move. Cross-ups are an excellent way to start a combo because they often catch a blocking opponent.

*Note:* Not all characters have cross-up attacks (see the characters' profiles for more on how to perform cross-up attacks).

### Custom Combo System

As with super moves, custom combos are performed by simultaneously pressing two punch buttons and one kick button, or two kick buttons and one punch button. During this time, players can chain any button or special moves together to score a high-hitting combo—but more hits doesn't mean more damage. The key is to juggle your opponent in the air—players take more damage in the air. You get the best results from custom combos when your Super bar is at Level One.

# Ryu

## Special Moves

**Fireball**



Motion ↓ ↘ → P

**Dragon Punch**



Motion → ↓ ↘ P

**Hurricane Kick**



Motion ↓ ↙ ← K

*Note: This move can be performed in the air.*

## Super Moves

**Vacuum Fireball**



Motion ↓ ↘ → ↓ ↘ → P

**Vacuum Hurricane Kick**



Motion ↓ ↙ ← ↓ ↙ ← K

### Alpha Counters

Moban ← ↙ ↓ P  
Moban ← ↙ ↓ K

**Three-Hit Cross-Up Combo**



Cross up, tap FK



Tap (↓ FK), two-in-one



Motion → ↓ ↘ JP

**Three-Hit Corner Combo**



Jump in, motion ↓ ↙ ← FK



Jump toward opponent, tap SP



While still in the air, tap SP

**Five-Hit Double Punch Combo**



Jump in deep, tap SP



While still in the air, tap SP



Tap JP



Tap (↓ SK), two-in-one



Motion ↘ → FP

**Four-Hit Hurricane Kick Combo**



Jump in deep, tap SP



While still in the air, tap SP



Tap (↓ FK), two-in-one



Motion ↙ ← FK

**Level-One Custom Combo**



Tap (JP SP SK)



Tap (↓ FK), two-in-one



Motion ↓ ↙ ← FK, two-in-one



Moban → ↓ ↘ JP

**Four-Hit Fireball Combo**



Jump in deep, tap FP



Tap (↓ SK)



Tap SP, two-in-one



Motion ↘ → FP

### Strategy Tip

This is a great way to get in close to an opponent and cross them up for a combo.



Tap (↓ FK)



Cross up, tap FK



## Combos

# Rose

## Special Moves

### Cape Charge



Motion  $\downarrow \rightarrow \downarrow \rightarrow K$

### Soul Catch



Motion  $\rightarrow \downarrow \rightarrow P$

### Silole



Tap ( $\rightarrow FK$ )

### Soul Spark



Motion  $\leftarrow \downarrow \downarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow P$

### Soul Reflect



Motion  $\downarrow \downarrow \leftarrow P$

## Super Moves

### Aura Soul Catch



Motion  $\downarrow \rightarrow \downarrow \downarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow P$

### Aura Soul Spark



Motion  $\downarrow \downarrow \leftarrow \downarrow \downarrow \leftarrow \downarrow \downarrow P$

### Soul Mission



Motion  $\downarrow \rightarrow \downarrow \downarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow K$

### Five-Hit Level-Three Super Combo



Cross up, tap FK



Tap ( $\downarrow FK$ ), two-in-one



Motion  $\rightarrow \rightarrow \downarrow \rightarrow$  (JP SP FP)

### Five-Hit Cross-Up Soul-Spark Combo



Cross up, tap FK



Tap ( $\downarrow SK$ )



Tap ( $\downarrow FP$ ), two-in-one



Motion  $\rightarrow \rightarrow \downarrow \downarrow \leftarrow \leftarrow FP$

### Level-One Custom Combo



Tap (JP SP SK)



Tap ( $\downarrow RK$ )



Tap RK



Tap RK



Tap RK



Tap RK, two-in-one



Motion  $\rightarrow \rightarrow \downarrow \rightarrow RK$

### Alpha Counters

Motion  $\leftarrow \leftarrow \downarrow P$   
Motion  $\leftarrow \leftarrow \downarrow K$

### Five-Hit Cape-Charge Combo



Jump in deep, tap FP



Tap FP, two-in-one



Motion  $\downarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow RK$  for three hits

### Five-Hit Cross-Up Combo



Cross up, tap FK



Tap ( $\downarrow FP$ ), two-in-one



Motion  $\rightarrow \rightarrow RK$  for three hits

### Three-Hit Soul-Spark Combo



Jump in deep, tap FK



Tap FP, two-in-one



Motion  $\rightarrow \rightarrow \downarrow K \leftarrow FP$

### Three-Hit Reflect Combo



Jump in deep, tap FK



Tap ( $\downarrow FK$ ), two-in-one



Motion  $K \leftarrow FP$



# Guy

## Special Moves

**Dashing Elbow**



Motion ↓ ↖ ← P

**Elbow Drop**



While in the air, tap (↓ SP)

**Bushido Slide Kick**



Motion ↓ ↘ → FK, tap FK

**Rising Spin Kick**



Motion ↓ ↖ ← K

**Overhead Slam**



Tap (→ SP)

**Bushido Running Stop**



Motion ↓ ↘ → SK, tap SK

**Bushido Jump Kick**



Motion ↓ ↘ → RK, tap RK

**Bushido Leap**



Motion ↓ ↘ → P

*Note: Tapping a punch button during the Bushido Leap causes Guy to perform the Drooping Elbow. If Guy is above his opponent, tap Punch can be three times.*

## Super Moves

**Bushido Rage**



Motion ↓ ↘ → ↓ ↘ → K

**Bushido Jump**



Motion ↓ ↘ → ↓ ↘ → P

### Alpha Counters

Motion ← ↖ ← K

Motion ← ↖ ↓ P

## Combos

**Five-Hit Spin-Kick Combo**



Jump in deep, tap RK



Tap (↓ SP), two-in-one



Motion ↖ ← RK, for three hits



Jump in deep, tap RK



Tap FP, two-in-one



Motion ↓ ↖ ← RK for three hits

**Four-Hit Elbow-Smash Combo**



Jump in deep, tap FK



Tap SP



Tap FP, two-in-one



Motion ↓ ↖ ← FP

**Three-Hit Elbow-Smash Combo**



Jump in deep, tap FP



Tap (↓ FP), two-in-one



Motion ↖ ← FP

**Level-One Custom Combo**



Tap (P SP SK)



Tap (↓ FK)



Tap FP



Tap FP



Tap FP, two-in-one



Motion ↓ ↖ ← RK

**Eight-Hit Level-Three Super Combo**



Tap (↓ FK), two-in-one



Motion ↘ → ↓ ↘ → (SK FK RK) for seven hits



# Birdie

## Special Moves

### Body Slam



Motion  $\downarrow$   $\leftarrow$   $\leftarrow$   $\leftarrow$   $\leftarrow$  K

### Head-Butt Charge



Charge  $\leftarrow$  two seconds, tap ( $\rightarrow$ ) P

### Turnaround Head-Butt



Hold any two punch or kick buttons, then release  
*Note: The longer you hold the buttons, the more damage you inflict!*

### Chain Grab



Motion  $\downarrow$   $\leftarrow$   $\leftarrow$   $\leftarrow$   $\leftarrow$  P

## Super Moves

### Leaping Chain Grab



Motion  $\downarrow$   $\rightarrow$   $\downarrow$   $\downarrow$   $\rightarrow$  P or K

### Triple Head-Butt Flash



Charge  $\leftarrow$  two seconds, tap  $\rightarrow$ ,  $\leftarrow$  ( $\rightarrow$ ) P

### Alpha Counters

Motion  $\leftarrow$  K  $\downarrow$  K  
 Motion  $\leftarrow$   $\leftarrow$   $\downarrow$  P

### Strategy Tip One

Birdie's crouching PK takes priority against opponents jumping in from far away.



### Strategy Tip Two

After performing the Body Slam, start the Leaping Chain Grab as your opponent is about to rise.



Motion  $\downarrow$   $\leftarrow$   $\leftarrow$   $\leftarrow$   $\leftarrow$  K



Motion  $\leftarrow$   $\leftarrow$   $\downarrow$   $\leftarrow$   $\leftarrow$  P or K

## Combos

### Three-Hit Head-Butt Combo



Jump in deep, tap ( $\downarrow$ ) P



Hold K, tap PP, two-in-one



Tap ( $\rightarrow$ ) P

### Three-Hit Head-Butt Combo #2



Jump in deep, tap RK



Tap ( $\downarrow$ ) PP for two hits



### Three-Hit Cross-Up Combo



Cross up, tap RK



Tap SK, two-in-one



Motion  $\leftarrow$   $\leftarrow$   $\downarrow$   $\rightarrow$  P K

### Three-Hit Level-Three Super Combo



Jump in deep, tap RK



Tap ( $\downarrow$ ) JP, two-in-one



Motion  $\downarrow$   $\rightarrow$   $\downarrow$   $\rightarrow$  JP SP PP

### Level-One Custom Combo



Tap JP SP SK



Tap ( $\downarrow$ ) RK



Tap  $\leftarrow$ , ( $\rightarrow$ ) PP



Tap  $\leftarrow$ , ( $\rightarrow$ ) PP



Tap  $\leftarrow$ , ( $\rightarrow$ ) PP



# Akuma

## THE FIGHTER'S EDGE

### Special Moves

#### Divine Kick

At the peak of jumping in, tap (↓ RK)

#### Fireball

Motion → ↘ → P

#### Red Fireball

Motion → ↘ → K → P

#### Air Fireball

While jumping, motion ↓ ↘ → P

#### Hurricane Kick

Motion ↓ ← → K

#### Dragon Punch

Motion → ↓ ↘ P

#### Forward Roll

Motion ↓ ← → P

#### Air-Flip Grab

Motion ↓ ↘ → P, tap P or K

#### Teleport

Motion → ↓ ↘ (JP SP FP) or (SK FK RK), or motion → ↓ ← (JP SP FP) or (SK FK RK)



### Super Moves

#### Rising Dragon Wave



Motion ↓ ↘ → ↓ ↘ → P

#### Vacuum Fireball



Motion → ↘ ↓ ← → ↘ ↓ ← → P

#### Aerial

#### Vacuum Fireball



While in the air, motion ↓ ↘ → ↓ ↘ → P

#### Lights Out



Tap JP, JP, →, SK, FP  
Note: This move can be performed only at Level Three.

#### Strategy Tip

You can't combo into the Air Flip Grab but it's a great way to take your opponent by surprise.



Tap (↓ FK), two-in-one



Motion ↘ → → SP, tap SP

## Combos

#### Level-One Custom Combo



Tap (JP SP SK)



Tap (↓ RK), two-in-one



Motion ← → RK



Motion → ↓ ↘ JP

### More Combos

#### Five-Hit Hurricane-Kick Combo

Jump in deep, tap FP, tap (↓ SP), two-in-one, motion ← → RK for three hits

#### Four-Hit Juggle Combo

Jump in deep, tap RK, tap (↓ SK), two-in-one, motion ← → SK, motion → ↓ ↘ JP

#### Five-Hit Uppercut Combo



Jump in deep, tap FP



Tap (↓ FK), two-in-one



Motion → ↓ ↘ FP for three hits

#### Seventeen-Hit Level-Three Super Combo



Jump in deep, tap JP



Tap JP, two-in-one



Tap →, SK, FP for 15 hits

#### Eight-Hit Level-Three Super Yamaguchi Combo



Cross up, tap FK



Tap (↓ JP)



Tap (↓ SK), two-in-one



Motion ← → SK



Motion → ↓ ↘ ↓ ↘ → (JP SP FP)

#### Six-Hit Air-Fireball Corner Combo



Jump in deep, motion ↓ ↘ → FP



Tap (↓ JP)



Tap (↓ SK), two-in-one



Motion ← → SK



Motion → ↓ ↘ FP for two hits

#### Six-Hit Ground Corner Combo



Tap (↓ SK)



Tap JP



Tap (↓ SK), two-in-one



Motion ← → SK



Motion → ↓ ↘ FP for two hits

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# Sagat

## Special Moves

**Tiger Crush**



Mobos  $\downarrow \rightarrow \times K$

**High Tiger Shot**



Mobos  $\downarrow \rightarrow P$

**Low Tiger Shot**



Mobos  $\downarrow \rightarrow K$

**Tiger Claw**



Mobos  $\rightarrow \downarrow \downarrow P$

**Tiger Cannon**



Mobos  $\rightarrow \times \rightarrow \downarrow \rightarrow P$

**Tiger Genocide**



Mobos  $\rightarrow \times \rightarrow \downarrow \rightarrow K$

**Tiger Raid**



Mobos  $\downarrow \times \leftarrow \leftarrow \leftarrow K$



### Strategy Tip

Use this juggle tactic against enemies that are jumping in.



Tap JP, two-in-one



Mobos  $\rightarrow \downarrow \rightarrow$  FP

## Combos

**Nine-Hit Uppercut Combo**



Jump in deep, tap RK



Tap SP, two-in-one



Mobos  $\rightarrow \downarrow \rightarrow$  FP for seven hits

**Nine-Hit Cross-Up Combo**



Cross up tap PK



Tap  $\downarrow$  SK, two-in-one



Mobos  $\rightarrow \times \rightarrow$  FP for seven hits

**Four-Hit Tiger-Knee Combo**



Jump in deep, tap RK



Tap SP, two-in-one



Mobos  $\rightarrow \downarrow \rightarrow$  RK for two hits



**Three-Hit Fireball Combo**



Jump in deep, tap RK



Tap  $\downarrow$  SP, two-in-one



Mobos  $\rightarrow \times$  RK

**Nine-Hit Level-Three Super Combo**



Cross up, tap PK



Tap  $\downarrow$  SP, two-in-one



Mobos  $\times \leftarrow \leftarrow \leftarrow$  SK RK RK

### Alpha Counters

Mobos  $\rightarrow \times \leftarrow \leftarrow K$   
Mobos  $\rightarrow \times \leftarrow P$

**Level-One Custom Combo**



Tap JP SP SK



Tap  $\downarrow$  RK

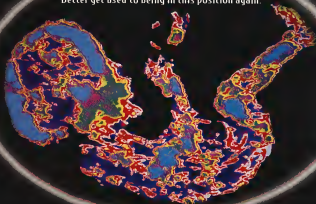


Mobos  $\rightarrow \downarrow \rightarrow$  JP



Mobos  $\rightarrow \downarrow \rightarrow$  FP

Better get used to being in this position again.



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MIDWAY   GENESIS

# Sodom

## Alpha Counters

Motion ← K ↓ K  
Motion ← K ↓ P

## Special Moves

### Carpet Bomb



Motion ↓ ↘ → ↗ K

### Jitte Slice



Motion ↓ ↘ → P

### Jitte Kick



After knockdown, motion  
← K ↓ K

### Power Bomb



Motion ↓ ↘ → ↗ P

### Counter Catch



Motion → ↓ ↘ K

### Jitte Roll



After knockdown, motion  
→ ↘ ↓ P

## Super Moves

### Mega Jitte Slice



Motion ↓ ↘ → ↓ ↘ → P

### Mega Power Bomb



Motion two 360-degree  
circles starting from any  
direction and press any  
punch button.

### Three-Hit Level-Thru Super Combo



Jump in deep,  
tap RK



Tap SK, two-in-  
one



Motion two 360-  
degree circles  
starting from  
any direction,  
tap (LP SP FP)

### Level-One Custom Combo



Tap (LP SP SK)



Tap (↓ FK),  
two-in-one



Motion ↘ → FP



Motion ↓ ↘ →  
FP

## Combos

### Three-Hit Carpet-Bomb Combo



Jump in deep,  
tap RK



Tap (↓ FP),  
two-in-one



Motion ↘ →  
↗ RK

### Three-Hit Jitte-Slice Combo



Jump in deep,  
tap FP



Tap (↓ FP),  
two-in-one



Motion ↘ → FP

### Three-Hit Power-Bomb Combo



Jump in deep,  
tap FP



Tap SK, two-in-  
one



Motion ↓ ↘ →  
↗ P

### Three-Hit Cross-Up Combo



Cross up, tap SK



Tap (↓ FP),  
two-in-one



Motion ↘ →  
↗ RK





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# Dan

## Special Moves

**Gale Kick**



Motion ↓ ↘ + K

**Fireball**



Motion ↓ ↘ + P

**Dragon Punch**



Motion → ↓ ↘ P

## Super Moves

**Fury Kick**



Motion ↓ ↘ → ↓ ↘ + K

**Vacuum Fireball**



Motion ↓ ↘ → ↓ ↘ + P

**Rising Dragon Wave**



Motion ↓ ↘ → ↓ ↘ + K

## Alpha Counters

Motion + ↘ + K

Motion + ↘ + P

## Combos

**Three-Hit Fireball Combo**



Jump in deep, tap RK

Tap (↓ FP), two-in-one

Motion ↘ → FP

**Three-Hit Corner Combo**



Jump in deep, tap RK

Tap (↓ SK), two-in-one

Motion → ↓ ↘ JP

**Three-Hit Cross-Up Combo**



Cross up, tap FK

Tap (↓ SK), two-in-one

Motion → ↓ ↘ JP

**Seven-Hit Level-Three Super Combo**



Jump in deep, tap RK

Tap FP, two-in-one

Motion ↓ ↘ → ↓ ↘ + (JP SP FP)

**Four-Hit Cross-Up Combo**



Cross up, tap FK

Tap JP

Tap (↓ SK), two-in-one

Motion ↘ → FP

**Four-Hit Barrier Special Combo**



Jump in deep, tap RK

Tap (↓ JP)

Tap (↓ SK), two-in-one

Motion ↘ → FP

**Four-Hit Gale-Kick Combo**



Cross up, tap FK

Tap (↓ FK), two-in-one

Motion ↘ → FK for two hits

**Level-One Custom Combo**



Tap (JP SP SK)

Tap (↓ RK), two-in-one

Motion ↘ → FK

Motion → ↓ ↘ JP

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## Special Moves

**Jaguar Kick**



Motion ↓ ↘ → K

**Jaguar Tooth**



Motion → ↘ ↓ ↙ ← K

**Jaguar Knee**



Motion → ↓ ↘ K

## Super Moves

**Jaguar Breed Assault**



Motion ↓ ↘ → ↓ ↘ → P

**Super Jaguar Kick**



Motion ↓ ↘ → ↓ ↘ → K

## Adon

### Alpha Counters

Motion ← ↙ ↓ P  
Motion ← ↙ ↓ K

### Four-Hit Jaguar-Knee Combo



Jump in deep,  
tap FK



Tap SP, two-in-one



Motion → ↓ ↘  
RK for two hits



### Eight-Hit Level-Three Super Combo

Note: For more hits, rapidly press P or K when doing the super move.



Cross up, tap FK



Tap (↓ SP),  
two-in-one



Motion ↘ → ↓  
↘ → (JP SP FP)  
for six hits

## Combos

## M. Bison

## Special Moves

**Demon Flight**



Charge → two seconds,  
tap (↑ P), P

**Scissors Kick**



Charge ← two seconds,  
tap (→ K)

### Level-One Custom Combo



Tap (JP SP SK)



Tap (→ RK),  
two-in-one



Motion ↘ →  
RK, two-in-one



Motion ↓ ↘  
→ RK

### Alpha Counters

Motion ← ↙ ↓ P  
Motion ← ↙ ↓ K

## Super Moves

**Super Psycho Crusher**



Charge ← two seconds, tap  
→, ←, (→ P)

**Slide**



Tap (↘ RK)

**Psycho Aura**



Charge → two seconds,  
tap (→ P)

**Demon Stamp**



Charge ← two seconds,  
tap (→ K)

**Teleport**



Motion → ↓ ↘ (JP SP FP)  
or (SK FK RK), or motion ←  
↓ ↙ (JP SP FP) or (SK FK  
RK)

## Combos

### Four-Hit Scissors-Kick Combo



Jump in deep,  
tap RK



Hold ←, tap RK,  
two-in-one



Tap (→ RK)



Tap (JP SP SK)



Tap (↓ RK)



Tap ←, (→ RK)



Tap ←, (→ RK)



Charge ← two seconds, tap  
→, ←, (→ K)



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## PlayStation

### Crash Bandicoot

#### Super Password



This password unlocks all the levels and gives you all the hidden items. Enter it at the Password screen:

△△△△×□△△

△△□×△○△△

△○□△××××

Matt Chenoweth  
Alto Loma, CA



## PlayStation

### Street Fighter Alpha

#### Fight Akuma



To fight the hidden character, Akuma, start a new game and pick Arcade Mode. At the fighter-select screen, pick any fighter, then immediately **press and hold L2, R2, and × simultaneously**. Hold the buttons until the match starts. Just before you begin to battle, Akuma will jump in and fight you.

## Saturn

### Ultimate Mortal Kombat 3

#### Cheats Menu



At the trademark screen (after the one that says "Prepare For Kombat"), press **C, R, A, Z, Y, G, Y, R, A, X**. You hear a laugh if you did the trick correctly. Then, at the screen with the UMK3 logo spinning over the options, **press Up**. A "?" box appears. Press any button, and you enter a cheats menu with free play, unlimited fatality time, one-round matches, and access to hidden characters.

## PlayStation

### Wipeout XL

#### Phantom Class, Infinite Time, and Infinite Shields

##### Phantom Class



Phantom, the fastest speed class, requires impeccable cornering. At the setup screen, **press and hold L1, R1, and Select**. While holding these buttons, **press △, △, △, ○, ○, ○**. The Phantom Class appears at the track/class screen.

##### Infinite Time

This cheat prevents the race from ending if you don't make a checkpoint on time. To access this cheat, **pause the game during a race**. Then **press and hold L1, R1, and Select**. While holding these buttons, **press △, □, ○, ×, △, □, ○, ×**. Unpause the game and you have infinite time.

##### Infinite Shields

This trick prevents you from blowing up when your shields run out. To access this cheat, **pause the game during a race**. Then **press and hold L1, R1, and Select**. While holding these buttons, **press △, ×, □, ○, △, ×, □, ×, □, ○**. Unpause the game and your shields never run out.

## PlayStation

### Need for Speed

#### Machine-Gun Code



Start a game in the Head mode, pick your car, and then your opponent's car. Then **press and hold Up-Left on the directional pad, L1, O and □** Continues to hold all the buttons through the screen that says "Loading." When the race starts, instead of a horn (usually activated by pressing Up), you have a machine gun. Use it to topple opponents and clear obstacles out of your way.

## PlayStation

### Jumping Flash 2

#### Super Mode



First, finish the game and save it to your memory card. Then go to the title screen and load the data. At the title screen, highlight "Game Start," and **press Left on the directional pad**. A new option called "Super" appears. Play a game in this mode and the levels are the same, except you can now jump up to six times!

## PlayStation

### Shellshock

#### Debug Menu and Invincibility



**Debug menu:** At the title screen, quickly **press Up, Down, Left, Right, Down, Down, Right, Right, □**. If you did the trick correctly, you hear a chime and a debug menu screen appears.

Among the options are a level select, CD/sound test, and credits.

**Invincibility:** Start a game, and **press Start and Select**. Choose to abort the mission to quit the game. Then, at the title screen, **press Up, Up, Up, Down, Down, Down, Right, Right, △**. If you did the trick correctly, you hear a chime. Start a new game, and your tank is now invincible.

## PlayStation

### Gex

#### Planet X Password



At the title screen, select the Password option and enter the following password: **RYXRXKXK**. This takes you to the secret stages of Planet X.

**Chris Parlos**  
via Internet



## Arcade

### Puzzle Fighter II

Play as Devilot, Dan, and Akuma

Play as Devilot



Player One should **press and hold Start**, then put the cursor on Morrigan, **press Down 13 times**. When the timer reaches 10, **press any button**. Player Two should **press and hold Start**, then put the cursor on Felicia, and **press Down 13 times**. When the timer reaches 10, **press any button**. Now you can play as Devilot from the game Cyberbots.

Play as Dan



Player One should **press and hold Start**, then put the cursor on Morrigan, **press Down 13 times**, and **press any button**. Player Two should **press and hold Start**, then put the cursor on Felicia, **press Down 13 times**, and **press any button**. Now you can play as the "awesome" Dan.

Play as Akuma

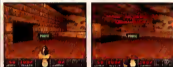


Player One should **press and hold Start**, then put the cursor on Morrigan and **press Left, Down, Left, Down, Left, Down**, then **hold Left**, and **press any button**. Player Two should **press and hold Start**, then put the cursor on Felicia and **press Right, Down, Right, Down, Right, Down**, then **hold Right** and **press any button**. Now you can play as the powerhouse Akuma.

## PlayStation

### Final Doom

Invincibility, All Weapons, X-Ray, Complete Map, Items on Map, and Level Warp



Begin a normal game, pause, then press the following buttons:

- Invincibility: **Down, L2, □, R1, Right, L1, Left, ○**
- All weapons: **×, △, L1, Up, Down, R2, Left, Left**
- X-ray: **L1, R2, L2, R1, Right, △, ×, Right**
- Complete map: **△, △, L2, R2, L2, R2, R1, □**
- Items on map: **△, △, L2, R2, L2, R2, R1, ○**
- Level warp: **Right, Left, R2, R1, △, L1, ○, ×**

## Saturn

### Virtua Fighter Kids

Wireframe Mode and Play as Dural

Wireframe Mode



Start a new game and at the mode-select screen, pick Arcade Mode. Then pick any character at the fighter-select screen. When the box appears with the Normal and Kids modes, **press and hold the L button**, then select either mode. Hold L until the match begins. When the fight starts, you'll have a battle like the first-person Punch-Out game!

Play as Dural

To play as silver-colored Dural, go to the fighter-select screen and **press Down, Up, Right**, then **simultaneously press A and Left**. Silver Dural appears in the fighter box.

To play as gold-colored Dural, go to the fighter-select screen and **press Up, Down, Left**, then **simultaneously press A and Right**. Gold Dural appears in the fighter box.



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## PlayStation

### Street Fighter Alpha 2\*

Play as Tough Akuma



To play as a much tougher Akuma character, start a game in Arcade mode. Then, at the fighter-select screen, put the cursor on Akuma, **press and hold Select**, then move the cursor over Adon, Chun-Li, Guy, Roderio, Sakura, Rose, Birdie, Akuma, Bison, Dan, and stop on Akuma. With the cursor on Akuma, press any button.

James Lau  
Belmont, CA

\*This trick worked on a Japanese version of the game and may have been changed in the final American version.

## PlayStation

### Destruction Derby

See the Reflections Team



The crew behind the PlayStation 2 title is one half of the developer and the other half is a team of independent programmers who are likely to introduce a creative change.

PLAY! Team's Comments: As well as the PlayStation 2 version, Reflections and KREMLIN have also released the game on the Game Boy Advance. It's a great idea to have any other console version of a game, as it allows you to play it on a different system. The game is available on the PlayStation 2 and Game Boy Advance.



As the game is loading, wait for the screen with the piracy warning. Then **simultaneously press and hold L1, Left, and O**. When the Reflections Team logo appears, it shows all the programming team members.

## PlayStation

### WWF WrestleMania: The Arcade Game

Invincibility, Weaken Opponent, Stop Timer, Powerful Hits, Reset Cheats, and The Undertaker's Fatality



**Invincibility:** Pause the game anytime during a match. Then press **X, Δ, R2, Up**. After entering the code, you see a flash. Unpause the game and your character is invincible.

**Weaken opponent:** Pause the game anytime during a match. Then press **X, Δ, L2, Right**. After entering the code, you see a flash. Unpause the game and your opponent is weaker.

**Stop timer:** Pause the game anytime during a match. Then press **X, Δ, R2, Left**. After entering the code, you see a flash. Unpause the game and the clock is stopped.

**Powerful hits:** Pause the game anytime during a match. Then press **X, Δ, L2, Down**. After entering the code, you see a flash. Unpause the game and your character inflicts more damage.

**Reset cheats:** Pause the game anytime during a match. Then press **□, O, Δ, X**. After entering the code, you see a flash. Unpause the game and any previously entered cheats are canceled.

### The Undertaker's Fatality



To do The Undertaker's fatality move, defeat an opponent, and when the words "Pin Him" appear, stand behind the opponent and rear their waist. Press **Power Punch (Δ)**. The Undertaker crouches and bats fly out of his opponent's stomach.

Nicholas Wolfe  
Allison Park, PA

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## Playstation

### Krazy Ivan

#### Level Select



Start a game. When the mission option comes up (it starts on Russia), **press Right** (this moves you to Japan, an unavailable mission). When the globe bounces to the left, immediately **press and hold X** and **Down-Left on the directional pad**. The globe starts bouncing to the right. However, the missions are unnamed, so you're never sure what stage you may land on.

## Playstation

### Triple Play '97

#### Monster Home Runs and Development Team Players

#### Monster Home Runs



During a game or in the Home Run Derby, **press and hold R1, R2, L1, and L2**. While still holding those buttons, quickly **press Up, Up, Δ, Δ, Up, Up, X, X**. You will hear a chime if you did the trick correctly. When you hit the ball, it will go out of the park.

*Note: This trick is very difficult to do and may take repeated attempts.*

#### Development Team Members



Enter any of the names of the development team members and you will create a super player with special attributes.

## Playstation

### Slam 'N' Jam '96

#### Shot Percentage and Small Players

#### Shot Percentage



Start a game in any mode. Then, after the second Scouting Report screen, **press and hold L1**. Hold the button until the tip-off. At the tip-off, **press Start** to pause the game. While the game is paused, release L1. Then **press Start** to unpause the game. Now, whenever you take a shot, an onscreen percentage shows your chances of scoring.

#### Small Players



To play the game with small players, start a game in any mode. Then, after the second Scouting Report screen, **rapidly press R1** until the tip-off. At the tip-off, **press Start** to pause the game, then **press Start** again to unpause it. All the players are now pint-sized.

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**THE SIMS** On the computer but ready for action for the first time, you can now play the hit PC game on PlayStation 2. The Sims is a life simulation game that lets you create and manage your own virtual town. You can build houses, furnish them, and even have your Sims get married. The Sims is a fun and relaxing game that is perfect for anyone who enjoys life simulation games. **MSRP \$29.99**

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## Mystery Word Grid

	H					MYSTERY WORD	
		E					
	P	I	N	C	H		W
		R					
	S						

**WORD LIST and LETTER CODE chart**

- PINCH .... W PRESS ..... K BLAST .... A WRECK .... D
- BREAK ..... Z PUNCH ..... S SPRAY ..... C TURBO .... V
- STOMP ... T STAND ... R PRESS ..... E DREAM ... O
- CRUSH ..... J SCORE ... H SLANT ..... L CHASE ..... P

**MYSTERY WORD CLUE:**

WORD BUILDS HAVE IT AND IN THIS CONTEST YOU HAVE IT

## Yes!

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## December HOT RENTALS

**Scary Larry's Can't Miss List**

### PlayStation

1. Madden NFL '97
2. Crash Bandicoot
3. Tekken 2
4. Twisted Metal 2
5. 2 Xcortex
6. NCAA GameBreaker
7. Ridge Racer Revoltions
8. Die Hard Trilogy
9. Andrei Rising
10. Tecmo Super Bowl

### Saturn

1. Nights
2. NFL Quarterback Club '97
3. Madden NFL '97
4. Die Hard Trilogy
5. VT Kids
6. World Series Baseball II
7. Fighting Vipers
8. Ultimate Moral Kombat 3
9. ThunderStrike 2
10. Night Warriors: Darkstalkers' Revenge

### Genesis

1. Sonic 3D Blast
2. Ultimate Moral Kombat 3
3. Madden NFL '97
4. NBA Live '97
5. College Football USA '97
6. NBA Hangman
7. NHL '97
8. Vexxman 2
9. Williams Arcade's Greatest Hits
10. Bass Masters Classic Pro Edition

### Super NES

1. Donkey Kong Country 3
2. Ultimate Moral Kombat 3
3. Madden NFL '97
4. College Football USA '97
5. NBA Hangman
6. NHL '97
7. Max Muller
8. Street Fighter Alpha 2
9. Kirby Superstar
10. Top Story

### 1. Twisted Metal 2

PlayStation

### 2. Fighting Vipers

Saturn

### 3. Nights

Saturn

### 4. Tekken 2

PlayStation

### 5. Donkey Kong Country 3

Super NES

### 6. Vexxman 2

Genesis

### 7. Sonic 3D Blast

Genesis

### 8. NCAA GameBreaker

PlayStation

### 9. Crash Bandicoot

PlayStation

### 10. Max Muller

Super NES

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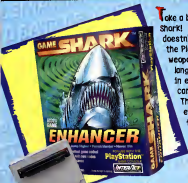
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