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April 1999
First and Best PlayStation mag

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First hands-on test

G-POLICE 2

You have to play this game (yes, even you!)

BANNED!

Games so addictive

They should be illegal

'SOCIAL LIFE? FORGET IT!'

Ridge Racer 4

Why it's gonna rule your world

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PLAYSTATION 2

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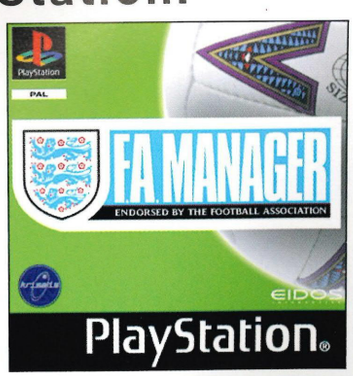
UNITED SIGN UNKNOWN AS MANAGER

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

YESTERDAY

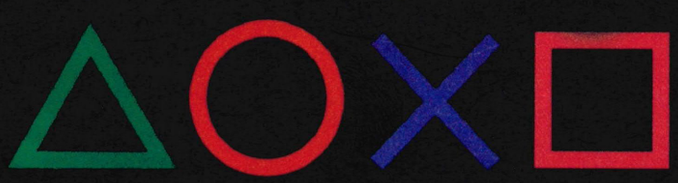
With the full backing of the F.A. Eidos launches one of the most realistic football management simulations ever to appear on the PlayStation.

Working with the FA and Brian Moore, 'the voice of football', our computer experts believe their behind the scenes knowledge and up to date information will go to make FA Manager a sure fire hit with all PlayStation owners.



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A Glimpse Of The Future



YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT IT.

We've seen what it can do. We'll tell you everything we know starting on page 6...

PlayStation plus Loading

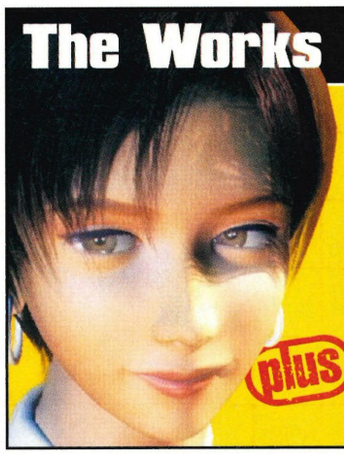
PLUS!

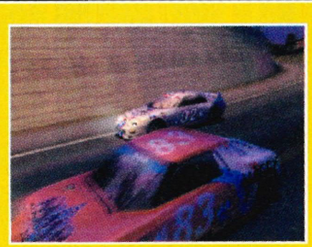


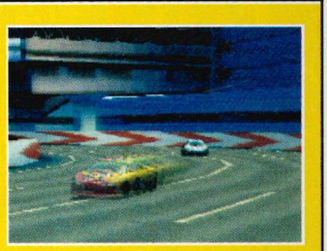
Control Freak

The ultimate in 'Station hand relief or just another pricey pad? We tell all

The Works







plus **Ridge Racer Type 4** p10

Get set, your 'Station's about to hit lightspeed

plus **Q&A** p67

Our team of experts solve your PlayStation problems

Instant Expert

Tips you have to know

Ridge Racer Type 4 p54 All cars
Time Crisis p62 Beat arcade mode
Premier Manager 99 p65 Win!



■ Killer tips to beat the bosses in next to no time



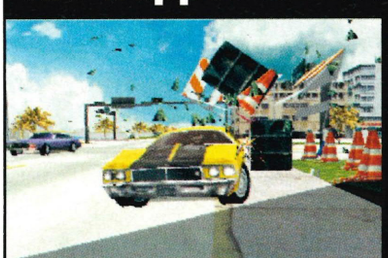
Win a Sony Video Recorder and loadsa Godzilla gear. Turn to page 18 now!



Banned! The games so addictive they should be illegal p48

Blab p20 Red-hot info & shots of the games you want

Driver **Rainbow Six** Final Fantasy VIII **Project SDR** Syphon Filter **PaRappa the Rapper 2** V-Rally 2 **Croc 2** Hard Edge **Legend of Lagaia** and more!



p20 **Driver: Steal a car. Crash it!**



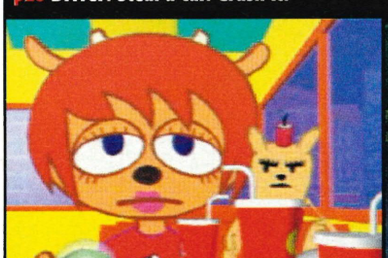
p24 **Rainbow Six: SAS gorefest**



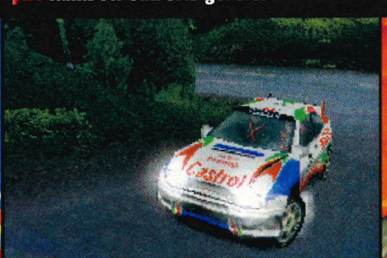
p26 **Final Fantasy VIII: Monster RPG**



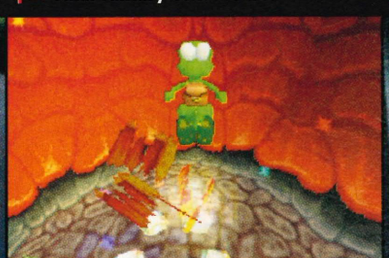
p31 **Syphon Filter: Action spy thriller**



p31 **PaRappa the Rapper 2: Let's rock!**



p32 **V-Rally 2: Ultra-cool off-roader**



p34 **Croc 2: Very cute but very classy**



p38 **Hard Edge: Move over Resident Evil**

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Tel: 0171 972 6700; Fax: 0171 972 6710; email: andrew.holmes@ecm.emap.com. To order **back issues** call 01858 435350.

The Works

Rated ON TEST

Every new release this month!

p78 Rollcage
Super-fast sci-fi racer

p80 Street Sk8er
Sidewalk surfin' with your host, Ollie

p81 T'ai Fu
Kung-fu fighting tiger-thon

p82 Gex: Deep Cover Gecko
Lizard laffs aplenty in this pretty platformer

p83 Bloody Roar 2
Full-on fighting with morphing monsters

p84 Street Fighter Alpha 3
Competent 2D knuckle-duster

p86 R-Type Delta
No frills sci-fi blast 'em up

p87 UEFA Football
World League Soccer mk II

p88 Player Manager 99
It's a bit of a Hoddle...

p88 A Bug's Life
Brilli-ant movie, aw-fly bad game...

p89 Blood Lines
A futuristic game of 'it'

p90 Diver's Dream
Gamer's nightmare. Well, almost

p91 KKnD 2: Krossfire
Gore-spattered strategy monster

p92 Rugrats
More unpleasant than baby rash

p92 Civilisation 2
Build up a colony then kill 'em off

p93 Dark Stalkers III
Halloween horrors come out fighting

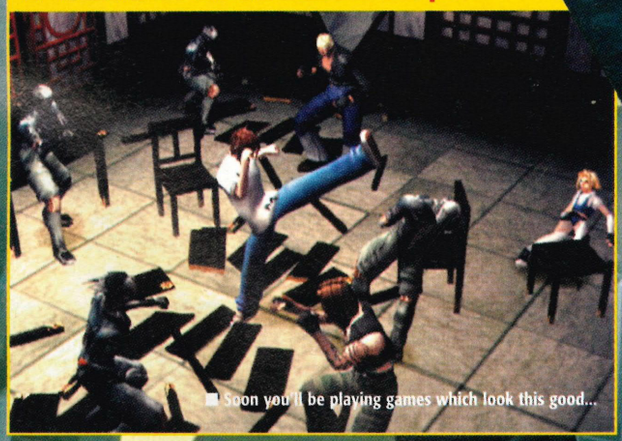
p94 Monaco Grand Prix
Fairly decent Formula 1 sim

p95 Tomb Raider II
Play with Lara for just 20 nicker

The Knowledge p103

Every 'Station game rated, plus essential info on buying used games and gear...

PLAYSTATION 2 p6



Soon you'll be playing games which look this good...



G-POLICE 2 COP KILLERS

p50 Police brutality? You ain't seen nothing yet...

PLAYSTATION: T

Forget all the hype. Ignore all the rumours. Sony has just revealed the follow-up to the PlayStation. We were there. We saw it all. And now we're gonna tell you...

Full details of PlayStation 2 have at last been announced. And the good news is you'll be able to play all of your current games on it.

The new machine, which has not yet been formally named (but we'll call it PlayStation 2 if that's OK with you) boasts a whole host of improvements making it a massive 60 TIMES more powerful than the one sitting beneath your TV.

Sony bods have come up with an 'emotion engine' for the new machine, allowing games programmers to create a living, breathing environment more realistic than any other games machine.

Besides playing games it'll also:

■ Play Hollywood movies on DVD.

■ Let you surf the net, play games with your mates across the internet AND use e-mail.

The machine looks likely to cost around £350 when it's released in September 2000 in the UK. Read on for the full story...



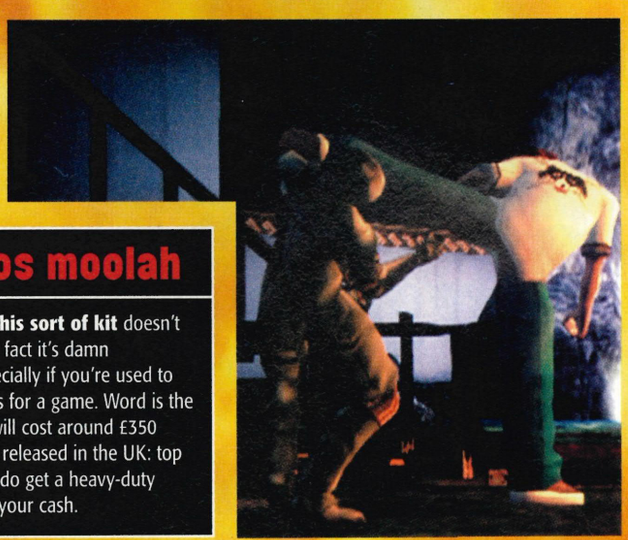
■ This is no movie sequence, you're actually playing here



■ The fight kicks off upstairs, then crashes through the fence and down to the ground. Incredible

This is what it looks like!

This gives you an idea of what the machine will be able to do. You have complete control over the guy in the middle, who can kick and throw the other guys around the room, smashing the furniture when if they hit it.



What's it called...

■ **We dunno.** But then neither does Sony at the moment. Judging by the posters at the unveiling event though (check it out on page three), Sony will be sticking with the famous joypad symbols, and chances are it'll have the word 'PlayStation' in there somewhere. PlayStation 2's odds-on favourite.

Surfin' the net

■ **Playing games across** the internet is all the rage at the mo. Imagine playing a game of deathmatch Quake against a mate on the other side of the country. Or the world! With the PlayStation 2 you can do it. Just plug it onto your phoneline. You can even send and receive emails.

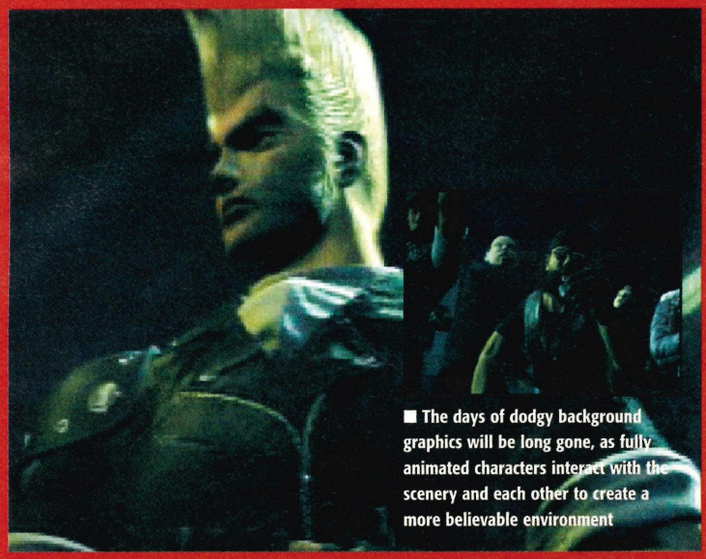
Muchos moolah

■ **Obviously this sort of kit** doesn't come cheap. In fact it's damn expensive, especially if you're used to paying £20 tops for a game. Word is the new machine will cost around £350 notes when it's released in the UK: top dollar, but you do get a heavy-duty piece of kit for your cash.

HE 2nd COMING

Tekken on PlayStation 2!

This is what a Tekken game would look like on PlayStation 2. OK, so these pictures are taken from the Tekken 3 movie intro, but this roughly how good it'll look. Y'see, when the machine was unveiled in Japan they showed off a demo of Paul Phoenix and Jin Kazama battling it out in a grimy city level. It looks awesome, easily as good as the movie sequences, but best of all you don't just watch it, you live it...

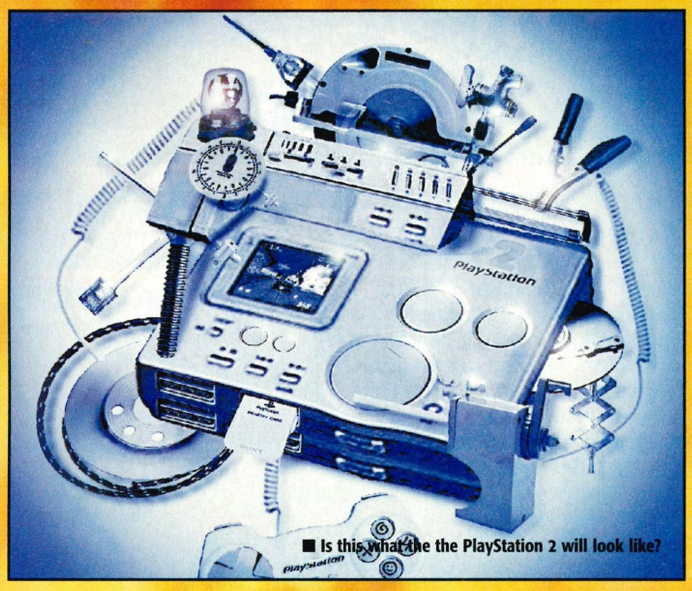


■ The days of dodgy background graphics will be long gone, as fully animated characters interact with the scenery and each other to create a more believable environment

■ The PlayStation 2 can easily handle graphics better than this, but rather than just playing them as a movie you'll actually have complete control. Mind-blowing stuff, huh?

What the machine looks like

■ **Only the innards** of the new system were shown, the rest is still under wraps at Sony HQ. The design of the casing is usually the last thing that's worked on, as all the chips and stuff have to be shrunk down as far as possible before the shell is created. We reckon something will be revealed in the next couple of months...



■ Is this what the the PlayStation 2 will look like?

DVD? Is it catching?

The new PlayStation will play DVD films, meaning you'll be able to watch top-quality movies on it. DVD, in case you've been away, is a new digital film format which comes on a CD giving you better-than-ever picture and sound quality. PlayStation 2 has a built-in DVD facility, but – and it's a big but – it won't be able to play these movies right out of the box. You'll need to splash out on a plug-in adaptor before you can watch the films.



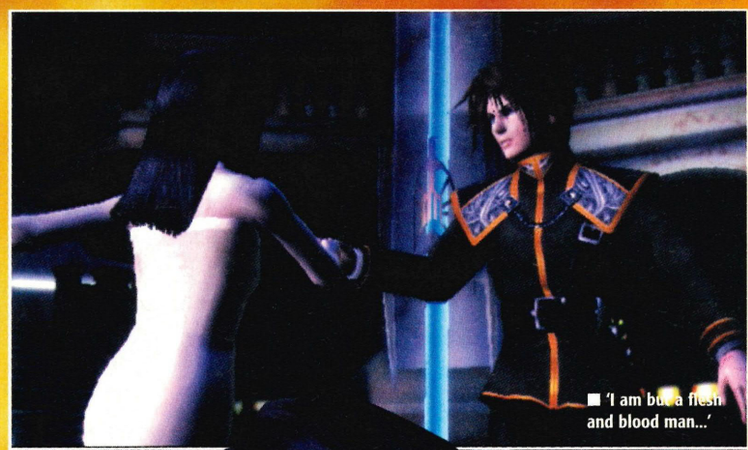
■ You'll be able to watch movies on PS2...



■ But you'll need to get an adaptor

Future Final Fantasy Revealed

Final Fantasy on PS2 will look this good. A demo showing two characters dancing together showed the machine's potential, their clothes and hair moving in a life-like way. Even their facial expressions changed as the two characters made eye contact.



■ 'I am but a flesh and blood man...'

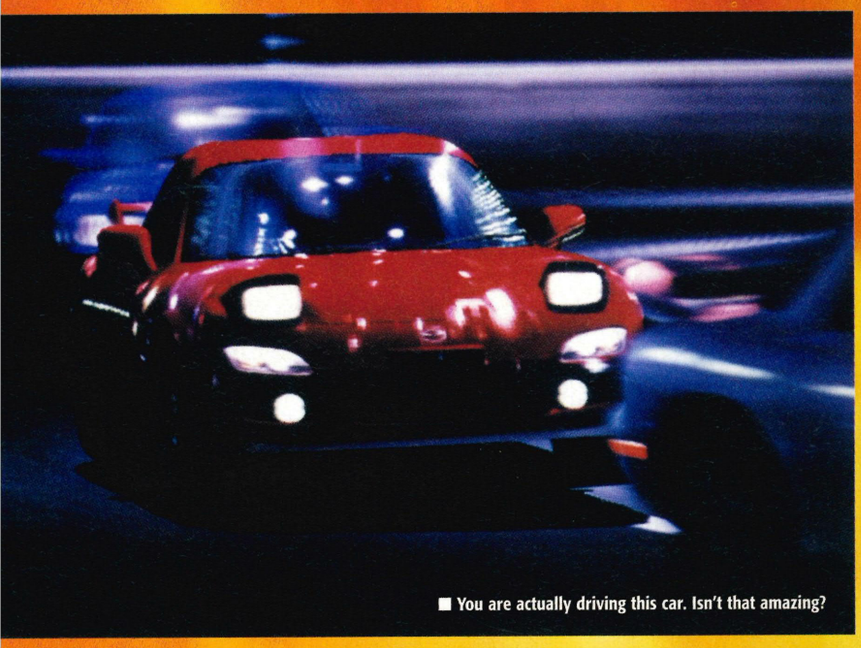


■ Going bald? Get long flowing hair with the PS2

Gran Turismo shown!

This is a real in-game screenshot!

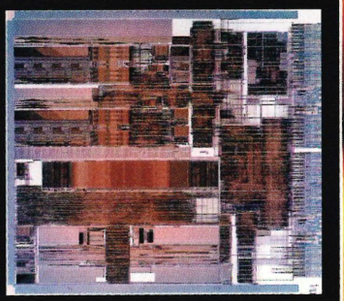
To show off the power of PlayStation 2 the creators of Gran Turismo knocked up a retina-ripping demo of their racing game. This showed a pack of cars speeding around a built-up city with various lighting effects bouncing off the bodywork. It looked, like, totally real. Imagine the intro from the 'Station version of Gran Turismo – only far better-looking and fully playable. Check it out for yourselves...



■ You are actually driving this car. Isn't that amazing?

Tasty chips

■ **'What the hell is that?', you ask. Well, it's just one of the techy bits which makes PlayStation 2 possible.**



■ Some Japanese people spent a lot of time and money making this. Ooh

Play with women

■ **She's gorgeous, huh? And you can play with this Ridge Racer beauty, or least you will be able to... This is no pre-animated scene, everything happens in real-time**



■ No luck with the ladies? You have now

When it's coming

■ **Sony stated that** the new console will be available in Japan by March 2000 at the very latest. But it could be sooner than that

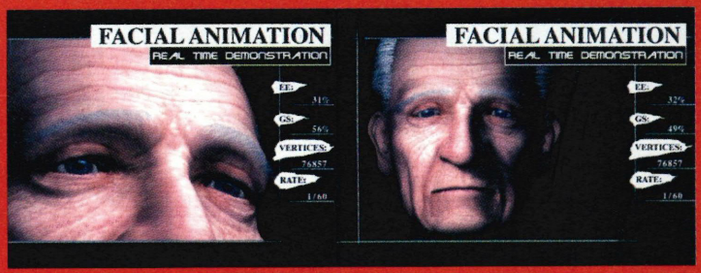
We reckon a Christmas 1999 in Japan is more likely. However, the next machine won't be released over here until September 2000 at the very earliest, so there's plenty of life in the old 'Station yet.

Play 'Station games

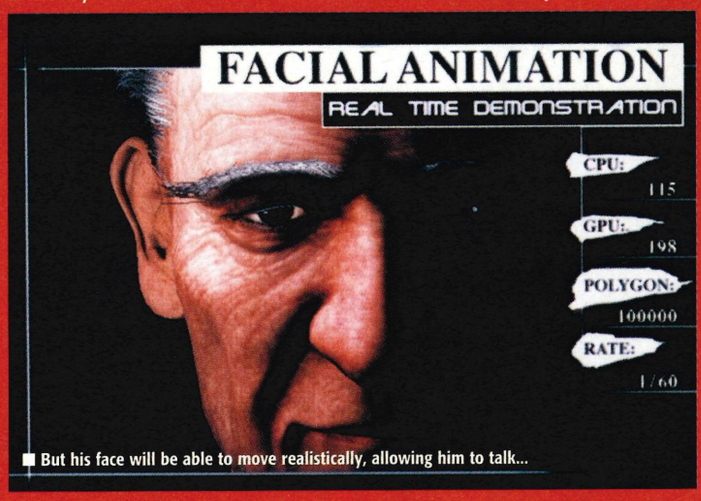
■ **Yes it does. One** of the main techy processor bits of the new machine is almost identical to the same bit of the PlayStation. This means there'll be no problem playing your existing 'Station games on the new console. However, Sony said the new system will not enhance old PlayStation games, meaning they'll look and play exactly the same as they do on the 'Station.

Old man gives good face

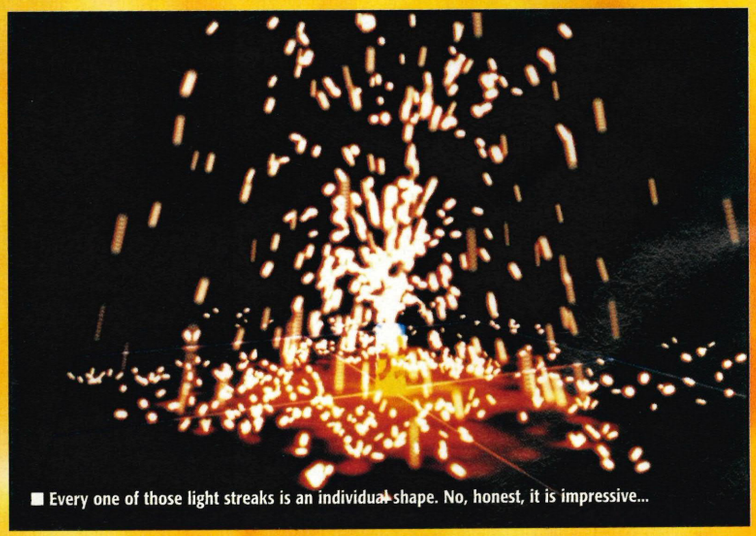
This old misery guts is just a demonstration of the sheer detail possible with PlayStation 2. It's so good you can almost see his blackheads. Now imagine Lara on the PlayStation 2...



■ Not only is the level of detail incredible... ■ He can also blink, sneeze, pick his nose...



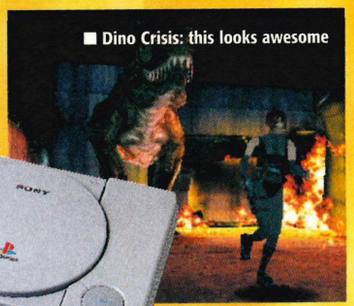
■ But his face will be able to move realistically, allowing him to talk...



■ Every one of those light streaks is an individual shape. No, honest, it is impressive...

Long live the PlayStation

■ **So what does** this all mean? Well the PlayStation 2 is gonna be awesome. No doubt about it. But it's going to be at least 18 months before you can get your hands on one. In the meantime, there are tons of cool games to look forward to on the 'Station. Stuff like Gran Turismo 2, WipEout 3 and Final Fantasy VIII aren't too far off, while the brilliant Dino Crisis is just a taste of what's to come...



■ Dino Crisis: this looks awesome



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Whatever else puts you on the spot it needn't be spots.



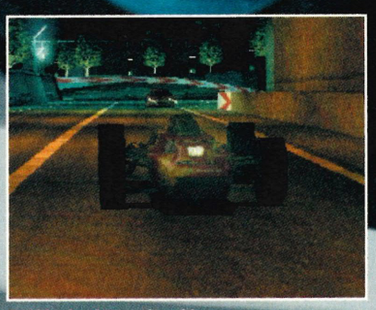
Uh-oh! Bit of an embarrassing spot? Still, look on the bright side. OXY products help kill spot causing bacteria on contact, helping to prevent spots before they start. Which means, at least it won't be that sort of embarrassing spot that puts a cringe making blemish on your day. **SPOTS? OXYCUTE 'EM.**

The Works: Ridge Racer Type 4 first test

Gran Turismo's been the top racing game for donkey's. It was getting a bit cocky. But what it didn't reckon on was how the boys behind old-time top-dog Ridge Racer had been chained to their desks for two years to violently hoof GT off that winner's podium. Here's the fruit of their labours. And they ain't been wasting their time. This will blow your socks off...



■ Thought there were a lot of cars in GT? There're even more here



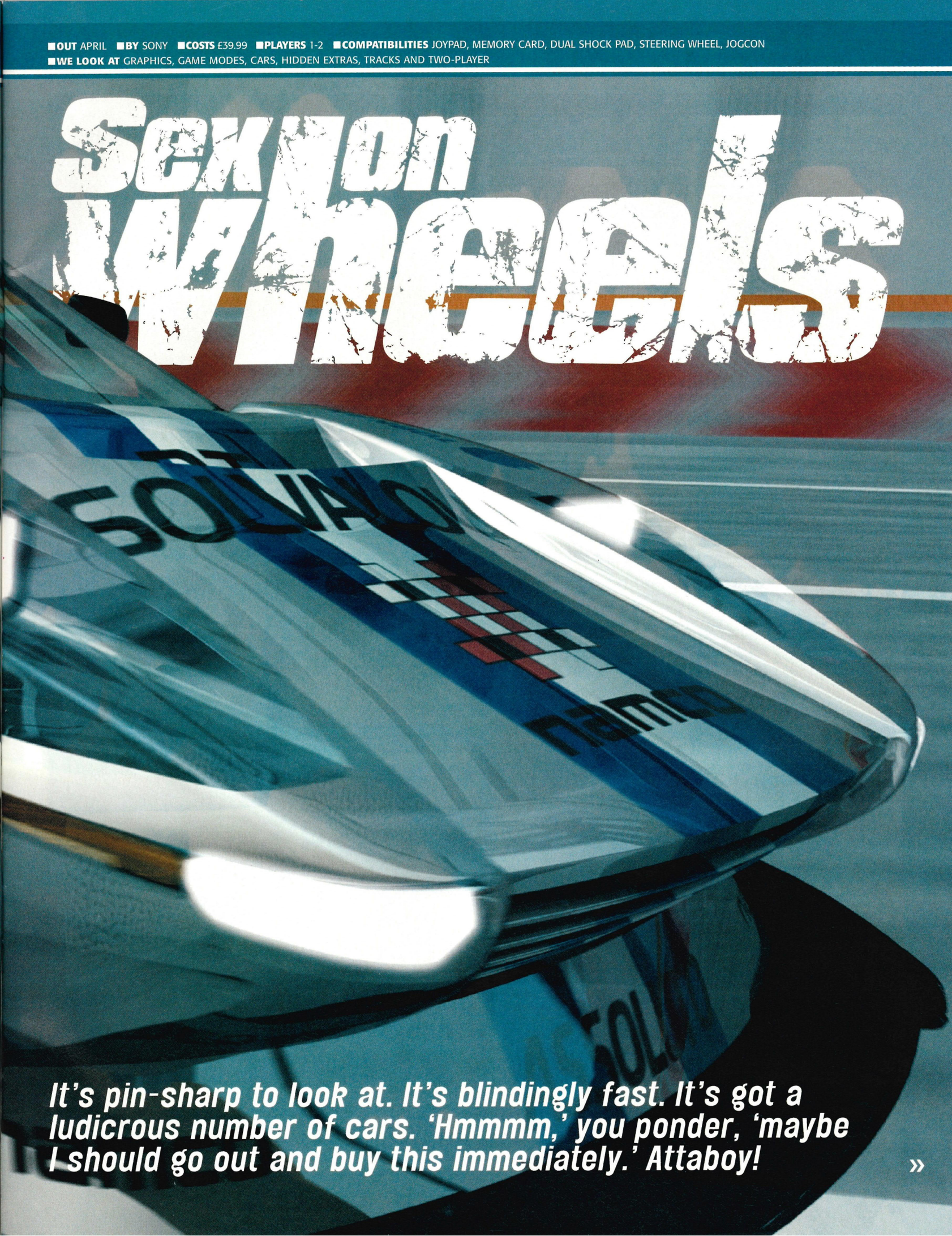
■ Old school F1 racing chic



■ Hi-res graphics make this a helluva looker

■**OUT** APRIL ■**BY** SONY ■**COSTS** £39.99 ■**PLAYERS** 1-2 ■**COMPATIBILITIES** JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, DUAL SHOCK PAD, STEERING WHEEL, JOGCON
■**WE LOOK AT** GRAPHICS, GAME MODES, CARS, HIDDEN EXTRAS, TRACKS AND TWO-PLAYER

Sex on Wheels



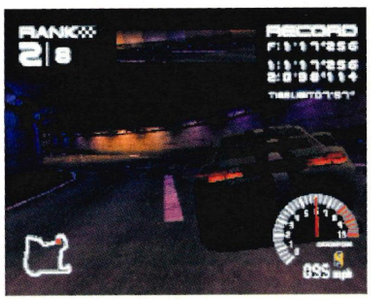
It's pin-sharp to look at. It's blindingly fast. It's got a ludicrous number of cars. 'Hmmmm,' you ponder, 'maybe I should go out and buy this immediately.' Attaboy!

»

The Works: Ridge Racer Type 4 first test

Great start, but what about the finish?

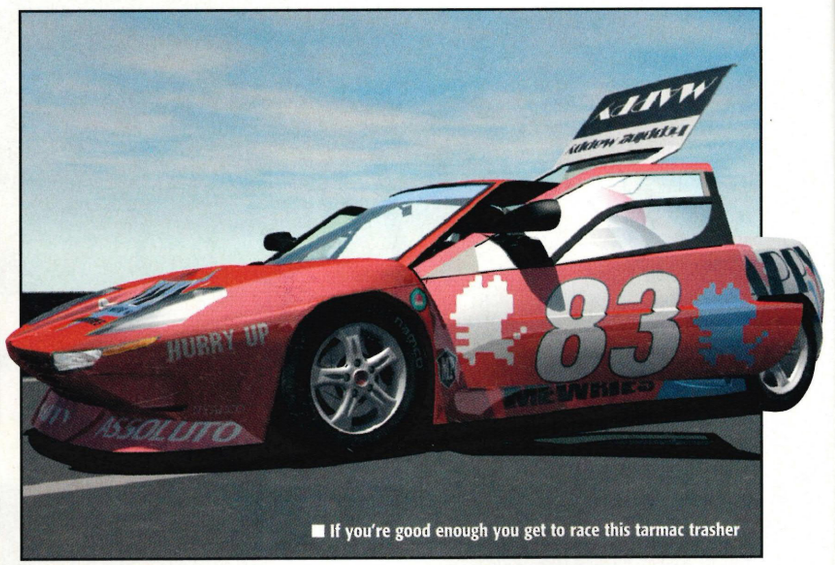
It's just not enough to have ten tasteful tracks and a handful of boy-racer mobiles. You've got to have stuff that'll keep you coming back again and again. R4'll rock your world when you first kick in the gas, but a few days later we reckon you'll still be hungry for more..



■ Grand Prix Mode. You'll have it done and dusted within a couple of days. Promise



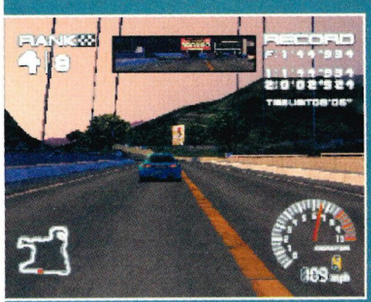
■ Extreme Trial Mode. The bait to draw you back. But does it work? Well, almost...



■ If you're good enough you get to race this tarmac trasher

Lookin' mighty fine

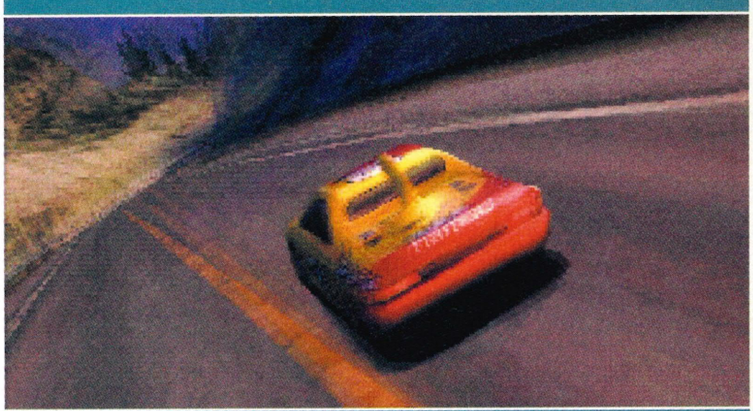
In tests, 9 out of 10 PlayStation owners said their consoles preferred Ridge Racer 4's looks to those of any other popular brand of racing game. The crisp visual chunks are dead detailed and flow like silk, making it one lush lovely to gawp at. Yup, these graphics WILL rock your doobie. Fact.



■ The basic mode's damn lovely to look at...



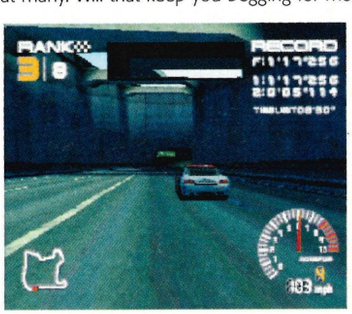
■ And the replay mode really busts ass



■ You'd almost think they'd been TRYING to outdo Gran Turismo

Ridiculous numbers of cars!

Now come on, lads. It's just getting silly. 320 cars. Play fair. See, this is the lure that they're hoping will keep you coming back to R4 time after time, like a moth to a flame. You can keep winning more cars. 320 of 'em. Even him out of Jamiroquai doesn't have that many. Will that keep you begging for more? Errrrr...



■ There's sensible cars...



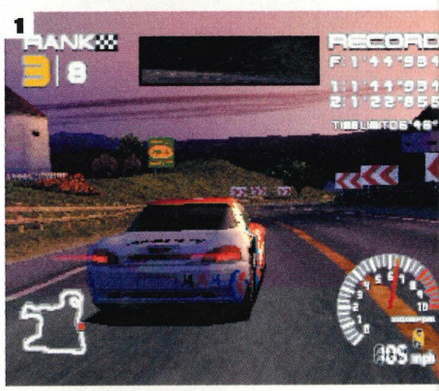
■ And there's silly cars

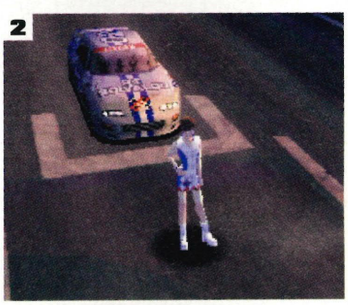
Gone a bit Pete Tong?

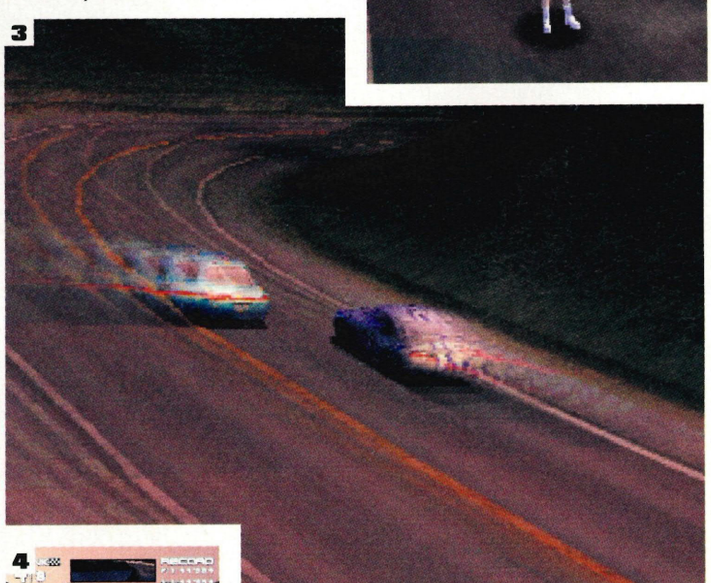
Before you start painstakingly putting up the Ridge Racer bunting and baking buns for your village Ridge Racer fetes, we should point out it ain't all wine and roses in R4ville. After a couple of days caning the game, you'll end up just picking over the same tracks, hoping to grab a few more cars. You can do the Grand Prix mode blindfold. And that ain't so good...



■ Thing is, the tracks look lovely and all but there's only a handful. We want more!









1 Not enough tracks? Maybe. But you get 'em reversed after a while **2** The Grand Prix mode can be done and dusted after just a coupla days **3** It looks great but there's not a terrible amount of long-term appeal **4** Still the toppest arcade racer out, but just remember our warnings, OK?

'200mph Robin Reliants? Weird!'

Complex city

So you've got to chip away at the Grand Prix mode, like, for weeks. But with four different teams and four different manufacturers in there, there's enough to keep you coming back for a fair while...

■ First up, choose what country you want to be to set the difficulty...



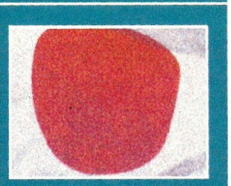
■ France: Easy, but the cars you win'll be a tad slower



■ Italy. Rock 'ard but the cars are well fast



■ Good ol' U.S. of A. Insanely hard. Watch it



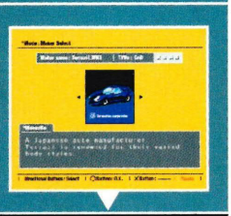
■ Japan. The second easiest mode available

■ Then set your car performance by choosing a make





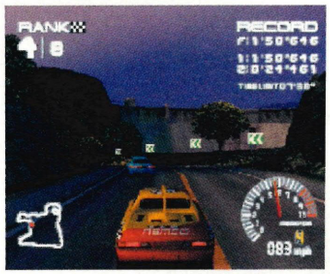




How does she corner?	Grips like a good 'un	Drifts all over the shop	Same again. It's a drifter	Great grip from the Japs
Any cool motors in there?	A 200mph Robin Reliant	Huge beefy sportscars to go	Nothing as batty as a Robin	Formula 1-type cars. Cool

Extreme Trial

Once you've done the Grand Prix, you're kind of a bit twitchy. You want more. What you get is the Extreme Trial mode. You drive normal cars one-on-one against hulking super cars that drive at laws-of-physics-defying speed. The idea is you've got to do well in GP mode to get the cars to win in Extreme Trial. Clever.

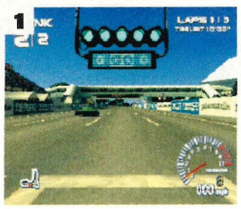


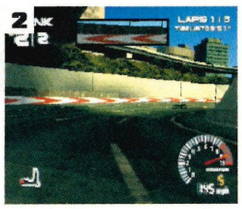
■ Do well in the GP and you get the top car. Then you can race against the stoopid cars

»

Begone devil car!

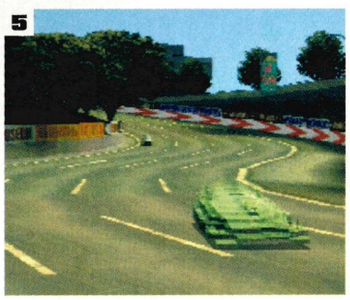
You want ridiculous? Race against some kind of green metal behemoth from Venus that makes tweeting noises. Not something you see every day, but it's pretty much par for the course for the Extreme Trial mode along with a hyperfast sportster and rocket-fuelled dragster. Weird.











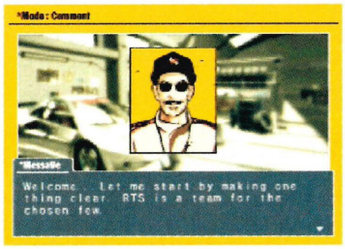
1 On the first turn, the green devil car zips off with a tweet 2 And unless you're absolutely spot on all the way round, that's the last you'll see of it 3 But stay frosty, and you might catch up for the last lap... 4 And the extra-tough among you might even beat it 5 And then you can use it to cane your mates. See, it pays to practice...

Now with added Japanonsense!

Want a dose of Japanonsense with your gameplay? See, each team has its own manager with their own 'personality', in the loosest sense of the word. There's even a 'plot', and as R4 goes on, the Japanese nonsense reaches epic proportions...



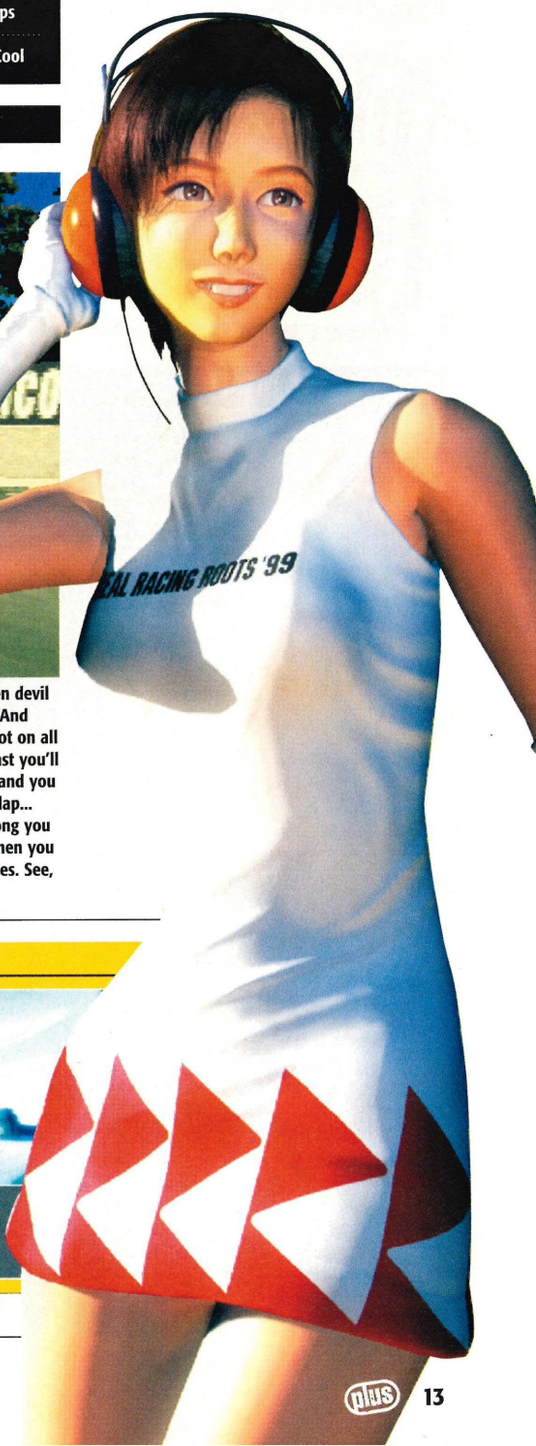
■ French bird: do it right and she marries you



■ Italian bloke: do good, his glasses come off



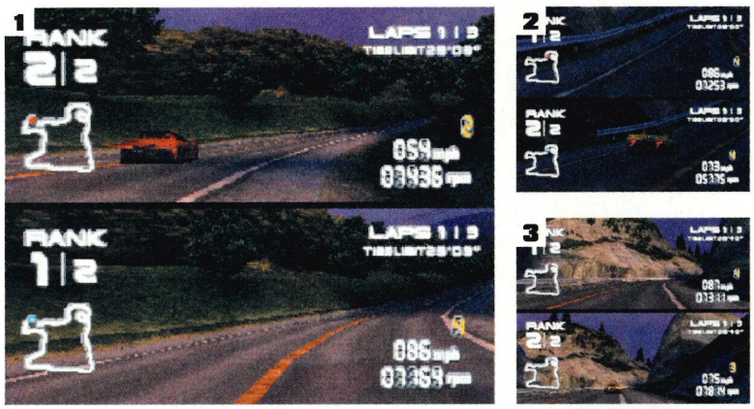
■ Straight-up hard-working Japanese bloke



The Works: Ridge Racer Type 4 first test

Twos up

There's a split-screen two-player mode. Well of course there is. The good news here is that it still looks pretty slick in split screen, and shifts at a fair ol' pace. The bad news is that there's only two cars racing on the track at once. Still, it's fun, even though a couple more competitors would've been nice.



1 Everything looks pretty damn nice 2 And you can get some good races going 3 But there's always that nagging feeling there could've been more cars in there

plus

We'd like to say...

We know. It sounds like we've been whining non-stop. And we shouldn't have. This is a class act. It's just that there should've been more here. This is one of these games that you definitely want to have sitting with the topmost of the topmost on your games shelf. Just don't blame us if there's a fine film of dust on it after a while.

Tracks of my tears

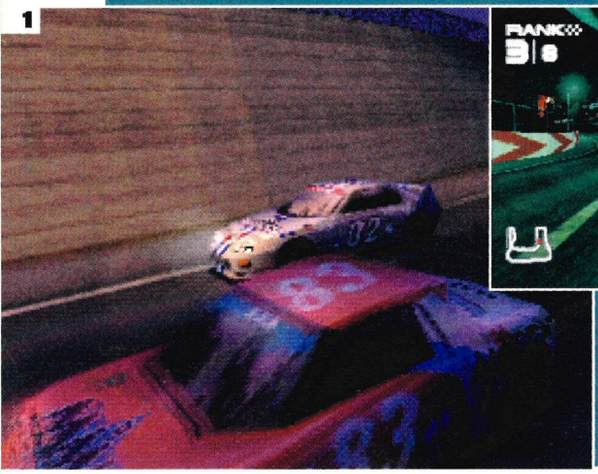
Ridge Racer has always had some of the best tracks, even though there's never been enough of 'em. Well, the R4 lads ain't lost sight of their roots. The tracks here cock their legs on the tracks of any racing game you care to name. There are eight of 'em too, and each one'll push your steering skills to the limit. Trust us, you will NOT be disappointed with this sweet thang.



■ Phantomile. Odd name. Superb track...



■ With ribbons of roller-coaster asphalt to beat



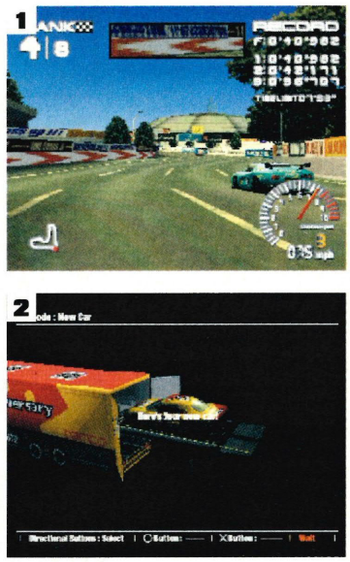


■ Proper twisty turny tracks. Makes GT's tarmac look decidedly poncey

1 The replay mode may look blurry here but it looks dead good moving

Win some, lose some!

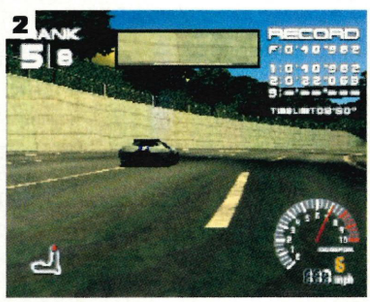
Winning the Grand Prix and Extreme Trials is all well and good, but seeing those fireworks and hearing your coach spout reams of irrelevant crap at you isn't going to push your button once you've seen it forty times. What is? Well, new motors, basically. Fun factor ten? Not exactly.



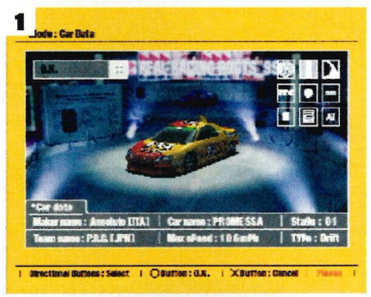
1 Bloke tells you how you've done, then tells you what you got 2 You'll either get a tune-up of your old motor, or a new one 3 Thing is, you get different ones for different levels of success 4 So after a while, you'll end up deliberately losing to get different motors. Odd

Grand Prix

This is the meat-and-potatoes bit. You choose your manufacturer, choose your team and get out there. There are seven races to get through and you have to achieve progressively higher places as you go through. Thing is, you get awarded different cars for how well you're doing. Do real well and you get some of the biggest sportscars imaginable. Do bad and you're stuck with the Morris Minors.



■ The first few races you have to come third





1 Pick a team, pick a make of car 3 Then head out to do battle 4 You get four tries at each, so it ain't too tricksy



INSTANT EXPERT

Get all the extra cars and find out ways to win. Page 54

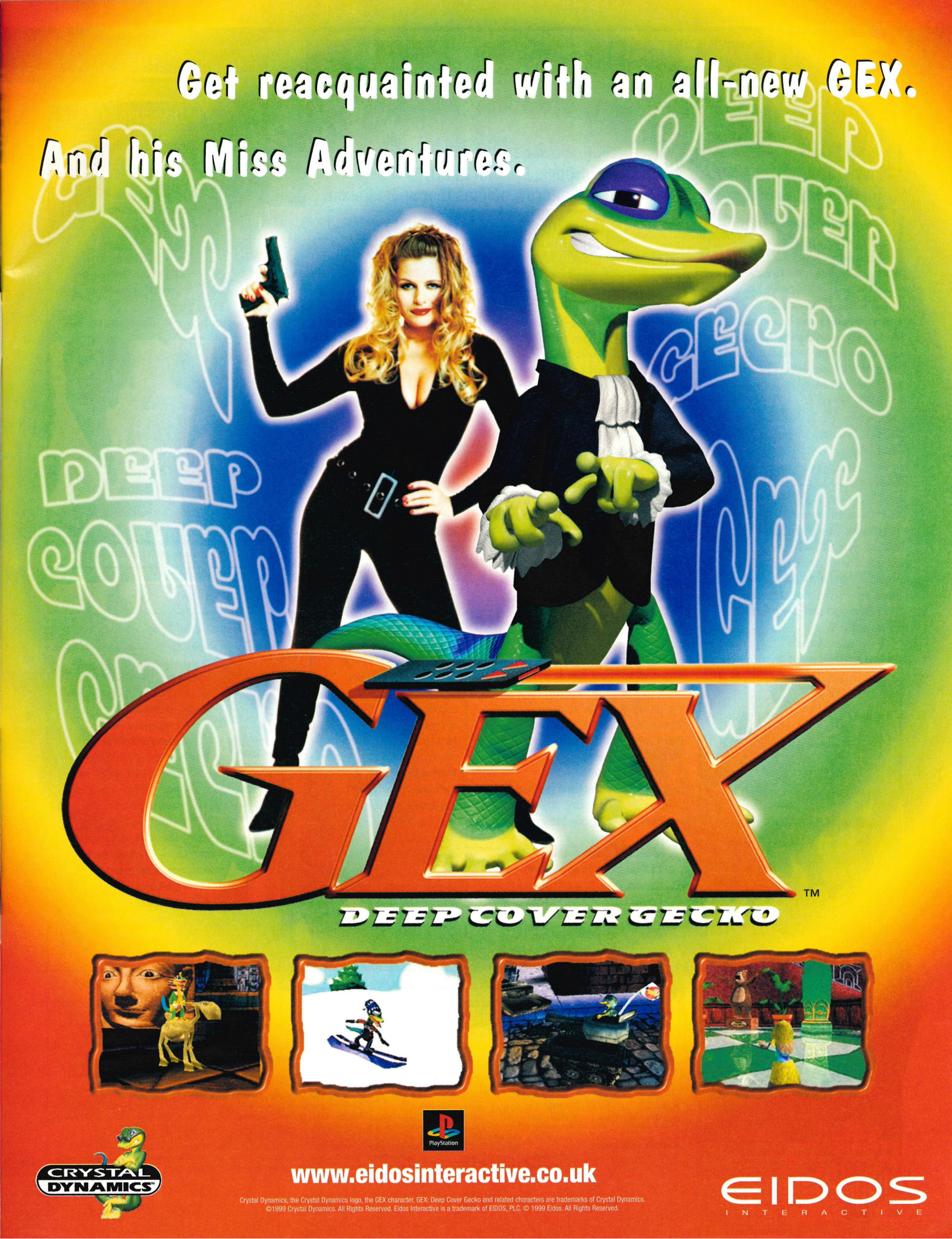
winner It snaps at Gran Turismo's heels but it ain't the long-distance social-life eater GT is. For arcade racing fans, this is a must-see. No fooling. **Rob**

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Got something you're desperate to share with the world of PlayStation? Get writing... (If your question is just about games or tips, use our coupon on page 72, we'll pay the postage and print an answer in **PlayStation plus**.)

DOWN UNDER

I am a 17-year-old female from Australia, and would just like to say that I love your magazine, and I love to play the PlayStation. **G'day cobber. Strewth! You're one feisty Sheila** I actually brought one before my brother. Shock!!!

Bruce, Australia

OK. It's a fair cop. Her name isn't really Bruce. It's Rebecca. We just couldn't help ourselves...

BROWN EYE KISSER

Hey all you people at PlayStation Plus, I could not help but notice the amount of people that write in and never have anything good to say. **Whereas you, obviously...** Every issue people talk crap about how much they hate the magazine. Then why the hell do they buy the magazine in the first place? **Because they can't live without our straight-up reviews and advice, probably**

Paul Mallon, Ireland

OK, you can have your name in our mag...



■ **OK, so the Aussie link's tenuous, but we just couldn't resist Kylie's charms...**

EVIL, EVIL, EVIL

If you're going to buy a chip for your 'Station and spend £15 or £50 on it, why not buy a card that plugs into the back of your 'Station and does the same thing? Then you'll be able to play games that're protected against chipped PlayStations.

Mick

Ah, Mick. You refer of course to the evil plug-in device that has arisen in the East, which bad people have been using instead of a chip to play slightly naughty imports and extremely naughty pirate games without delving into the innards of their 'Stations. Being fine, upstanding members of society, we haven't seen one these gadgets yet, but soon as we do, we'll give you the lowdown...

CARE IN THE COMMUNITY

I have now realised that we are just the buyers of the game and when you fill in the opinion slip provided with the game it's just to see if their product is what people want on the market as they sip ground coffee from slaves in the offices, and that they don't really worry about our everyday fantasies of the likes of Carla Pivonski **What!?** Well I've had my say now, so just remember what I said.

The Hornmeister

Sure, we'll remember what you said. How is life on the Secure Wing, anyhow? Peter Sutcliffe's eye still giving him gyp?

ROUGH DEALS

Metal Gear: it's 50 dollars over in the States. That works out at 30 quid! I also saw Parasite Eve and Gran Turismo for 40 dollars (25 quid). So, Mr Sony Europe: why are we getting a rough deal on game prices compared to other countries?

Stuart Hannan

EVERYTHING is cheaper over in the States, not just games. But not everything's rosy on the other side of the Big Blue. Y'see, we figure not being surrounded by 20-stone burger-scoffing rednecks with Billy Ray Cyrus haircuts and a joke-response time of over two hours is well worth a tenner on the price of your games.

A DIVER DREAMS

Why wasn't the gorgeous Ksenia on your Diver's Dream poster underwater or in a pool when she had the wetsuit and facemask?

Mike Dean, Stockport

Soz, but the camera wasn't waterproof. Ksenia begged us to get wet with her but we had to turn her down. Shame...

Nice little earner

Do me a big favour and... **waffle, waffle, waffle**. Please print this and I'll send you a crisp fiver.

Stephen Protheroe-Hewitt, Rhondda

You're the boss. Get that note in the post immediately

Blah, blah... jerk off... **Blah, blah...** girls from Steps... **Blah, blah...** Metal Gear Solid. Please print this and I'll buy you all a pint.

James Lloyd, Swansea

Kronenbourgs all round then, ta



■ **The Plus Letter Receiver added yet another grovelling reader to his harem of slaves**

Tedious letters? No problem

Once again it is necessary to write to you about your appalling lack of understanding regarding the activities of Lara Croft. **Get ready for this...** Your so-called Lara expert perpetuates the totally wrong belief that Ms Croft is an archaeologist. **That's right, she's one digger we all dig, daddio** Archaeologists are governed by a code of ethics and all objects recovered are handed over to the relevant state authorities for display or research. **Oh, you're referring to all the booty Lara finds and stashes in her closet...** This appears to elude Ms Croft. I have yet to see her deal with any deeply stratified multi-period urban soil deposit. **Eh? Oh, you mean some gammy bit of wasteland on the outskirts of Scunthorpe** I earnestly hope that I do not have occasion to write again to correct such a basic error.

Dr John Salvatore

Ohmigod, I can't believe we made such a glaring error. Lara – of course she's not an archaeologist. In fact she... oh, I can't even say it... she's... not... REAL. For God's sake, videogames are supposed to be fun, so lighten up, y'all.

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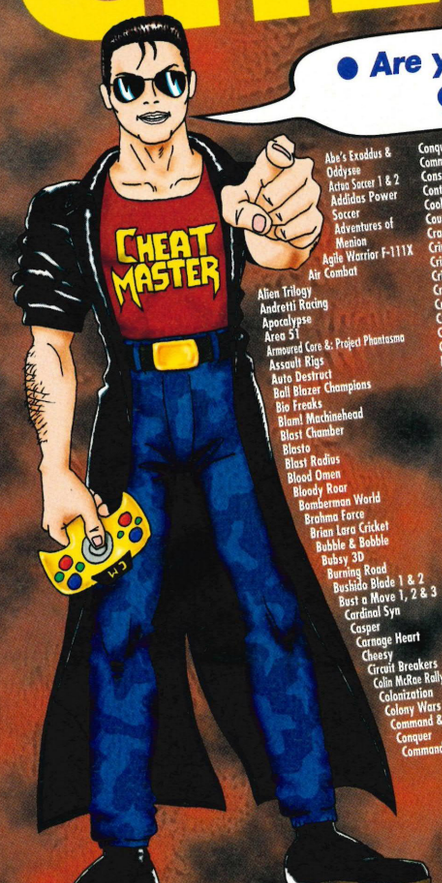
Couldn't be simpler. So if you think you know the answer, fill in the form below and send it to the following address: PlayStation Plus, 37-39 Millharbour, Isle of Dogs, London, E14 9TZ. Don't forget to mark your envelope Size Does Matter. The closing date is the 26th of April. The usual rules apply.

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● Require Level select to move on? ● Would Turbo Mode help?



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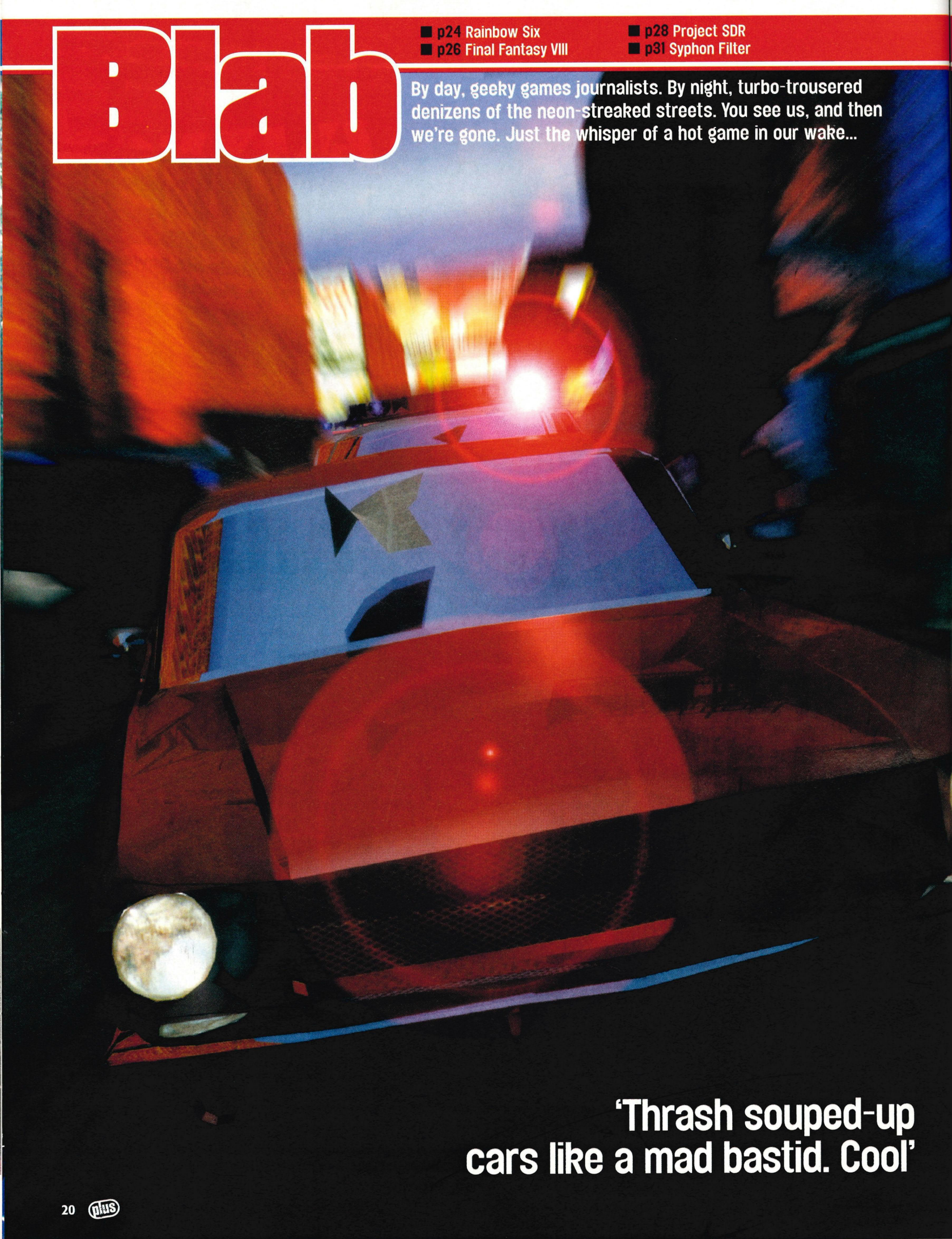
FAX-BACKS for 500+ GAMES

TOTAL GAMES NETWORK

Blab

- p24 Rainbow Six
- p26 Final Fantasy VIII
- p28 Project SDR
- p31 Syphon Filter

By day, geeky games journalists. By night, turbo-trousered denizens of the neon-streaked streets. You see us, and then we're gone. Just the whisper of a hot game in our wake...



'Thrash souped-up cars like a mad bastid. Cool'

■ p31 PaRappa the Rapper 2
■ p32 V-Rally 2
■ p34 Croc 2
■ p38 Hard Edge
■ p40 Legend of Lagia
■ p40 Puma Street Soccer

■ **OUT** MARCH ■ **BY** GT ■ **PLAYERS** 1 ■ **COMPATIBILITIES** JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, DUAL SHOCK PAD

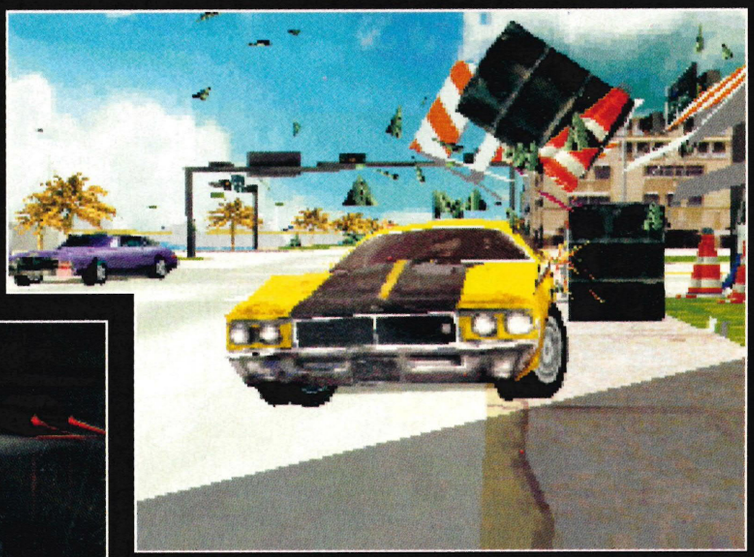
Driver

Infiltrate the criminal underworld. Drive cars really fast. And crash 'em too. It's all in a day's work for a mob getaway driver...

Ever fancied burning rubber around seedy American cities in souped-up 70s cars at ball-busting velocities, ramraiding high street shops, acting as getaway driver for bank robbers, smashing up fleets of police cars and generally wreaking havoc in the good ol' US of A? Then Driver's the game for you.

Married to the mob

You're an undercover cop, Tanner, hired by the Mafia for your awesome driving skills. You've gotta pull off a series of daring missions to boost your reputation in the seedy criminal underworld. Missions include »



■ The replays are the best bit. You can watch the action from just about anywhere!



■ Smart Ridge Racer-style blurry tail-light effects



■ The Starsky & Hutch-style car

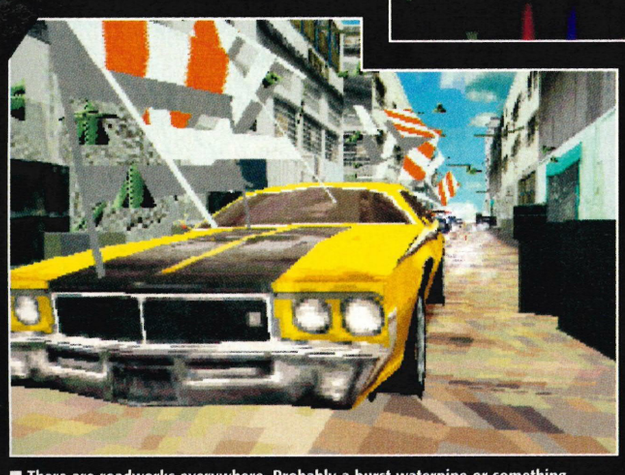


■ See the way the lights reflect off the wet road? Cool, yes?



1 Too many crashes like this and your car will be wrecked 2 The cozzers are always on your ass 3 Cause maximum disruption by smashing through street cafés





■ There are roadworks everywhere. Probably a burst waterpipe or something



■ Goddam coppers never leave you alone. Grrr...

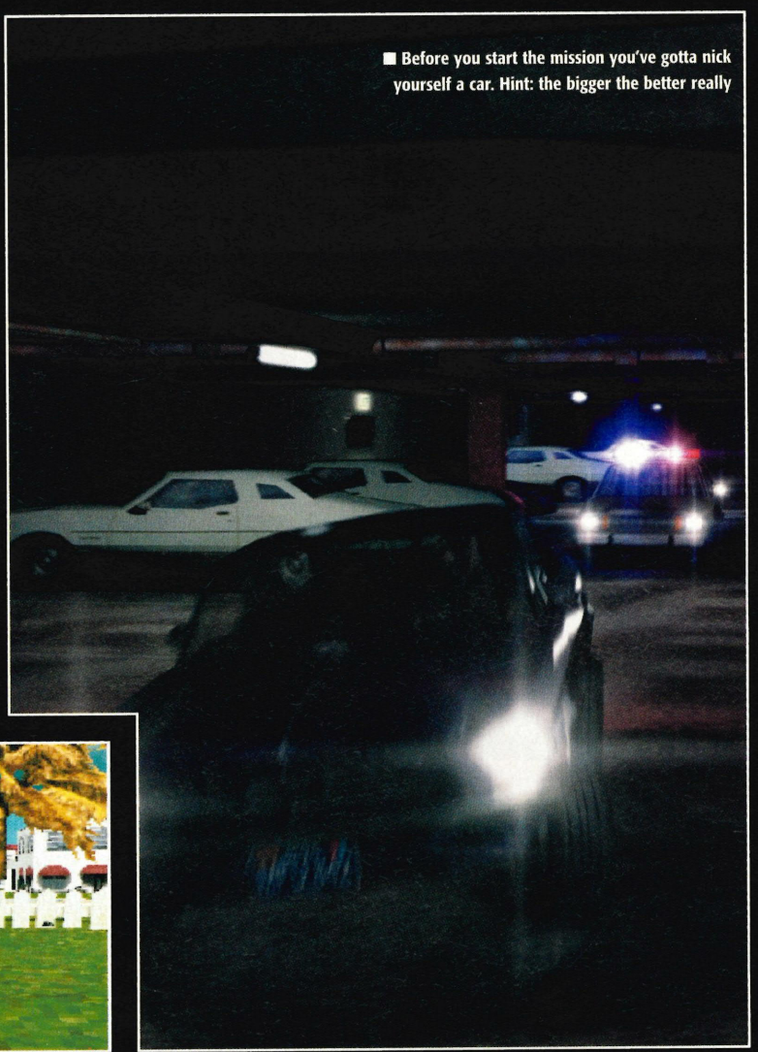
»

It's a bit like...

Sure it looks the business in the screenshots. And all the missions 'n' stuff sound really cool. But what's Driver actually like to play? It's something like this...



1 Take the car from The Dukes of Hazzard... 2 Add Starsky & Hutch-style chases... 3 A bit of Smokey and the Bandit... 4 That bit from the Blues Brothers... 5 And that's what Driver's like



■ Before you start the mission you've gotta nick yourself a car. Hint: the bigger the better really

smashing through the front of a chain of restaurants who've refused to pay protection money to the mob, or picking up a geeza in a taxi and driving like a mad bastid to scare the crapola outta him.

Then there are cars to chase and smash to smithereens and even one mission where you've gotta get a car across town within a time limit without getting a scratch on it. Sounds cool, yes?

Undercover blues

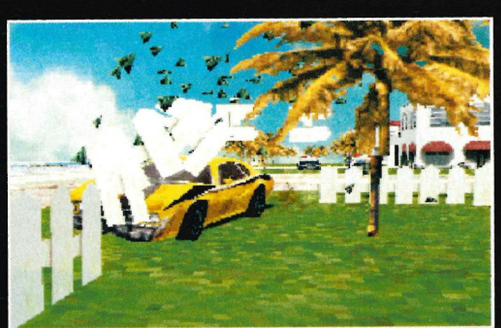
'Course what most of this boils down to is driving like a crack-crazed lunatic down Miami's sun-drenched roads, burning rubber through New York's trashcan-littered alleyways, getting airborne on San Francisco's rollercoaster roads and handbraking it around Los Angeles' plush Sunset Boulevard. Cool.

There's just uno problemo. You're going to have the cops on your ass for the entire time. Commit the slightest driving misdemeanour – running a red light or mounting the curb – and there'll be hordes of the blue-shirted bastids pursuing you.

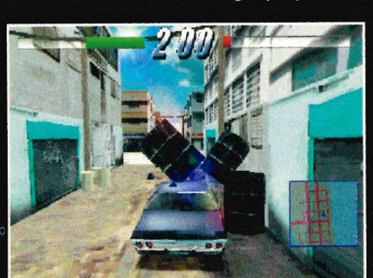
Luckily each of the cities are absolutely gigantic, with around 20-30 miles of tarmac for you to lose the cozzers in. Pretty damn impressive, huh?



■ Roadsigns? Just smash through 'em



■ The idea of this mission is to totally trash the car. Well that's what we're doing anyway



■ The tight time limit means you've gotta drive like a bastid to complete your mission on time

Wait... there's more!

This is from the guys who brought you Destruction Derby I & II, which should give you a pretty good idea of what to expect. Massive head-on car smashes, the most realistic car physics this side of the real thing, over 30 varied missions for you to get to grips with, smart-as-pie graphics and a trouser-staining replay feature. Yep, this is shaping up to be real good.

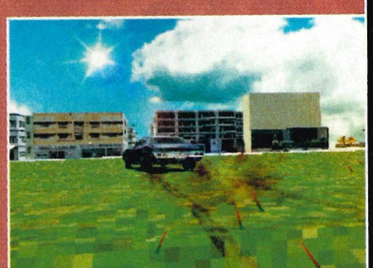
***plus** This is gonna be the mutt's nuts. It's like the best bits of all your fave car chase movies but with you in control. It looks the business, it plays like a dream and it's completely different from all the other racers. We can't wait...*

Lights! Camera! Action!

Did we mention Driver has the best replay feature ever? Once you've completed the mission you can direct your own car chase flick by editing the replay footage. Position the cameras anywhere you want to get the best view of the action – from the pant-wetting bonnet-mounted view to a fixed camera in the street – then piece the footage together. As they say in the best Blue Peter tradition of things, here's one we made earlier...



■ Uh-oh. You've got a cop on your tail...



■ And the chase is on! Burn around the park...



■ And smash through roadworks



■ Nah. You ain't lost him yet. Better step on it


KONAMI
"A Fantastic Fighting Game" 90%
Extreme Playstation
PlayStation
KENSEI
SACRED FIST
YOU WON'T KNOW WHAT HIT YOU
"It Certainly Packs A Wallop" 9/10
Official PlayStation Magazine

■ **OUT** SEPTEMBER ■ **BY** BMG ■ **PLAYERS** 1 ■ **COMPATIBILITIES** JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, DUAL SHOCK PAD

Rainbow Six

Kill, kill and kill again. It's as easy as Alpha Bravo Charlie...

The SAS are one of the few groups of men who can claim to be cooler than ninjas, the Mafia and even that yellow puppet in the Levi's ads. The balaclavas! The code names! The weapons! The tie-in books! Boy, they're cool. And here's your chance to be the don of one of these groups of coolmeisters: a 'Station version of SAS kill 'em up Rainbow 6, the PC smash from last year...

Action men

You command an elite group of SAS types, taking on terrorists in realistic locations like embassies. You've got to choose your team, choose equipment and entry points, and then direct your team one by one through the buildings in a white-knuckle first-person mode. Objectives range from rescuing hostages to just messily slaying every terrorist you see. Looking hot to trot...

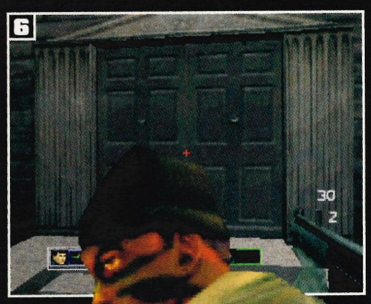
plus Rainbow 6 was an absolute blinder on the PC, and we've got high hopes for the 'Station incarnation...



■ Resist the urge to plug the hostages right between the eyes. You're one of the good guys







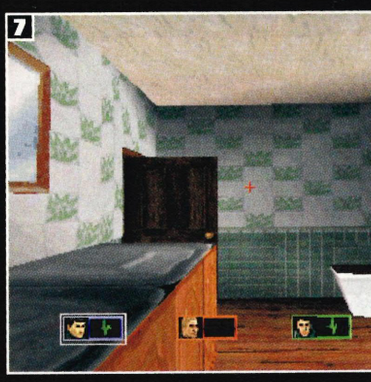






■ Kill 'em. Scope they ass. Klak the nine. Etc etc..









1 Black balaclava? Die! Die! **2** It's the ending of Reservoir Dogs... in balaclavas. Cool **3** Yeah. Bend over and take it, terrorist scum **4** Pop 'em, drop 'em. S'easy **5** You got to put one in the brain! **6** Choosing where your lads go in is big on the agenda. Front door suit you? **7** Embassy chic on display. No Ikea tat in here **8** Sneak up on your tiptoes... **9** Execute this mother while his head's turned



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■ **OUT** DECEMBER ■ **BY** SONY ■ **PLAYERS** 1 ■ **COMPATIBILITIES** JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD

Final Fantasy VIII update

Looking fine. But remember there's still time for you to have a kid before the UK release...

We've seen a whole lot more of FFVIII. In English. But we're not even going to attempt to run down the full extent of the plot here, 'cos we're allergic to producing issues the size of telephone books: here's a few pointers to the cool stuff...

Spiders! Guns!

The bits of action we've seen include Squall (that's the hero, by the way) and his Special Forces mates being pursued by giant robot spiders, swinging blades that double as guns, and using Guardian Force powers to summon different feisty flavours of monster...

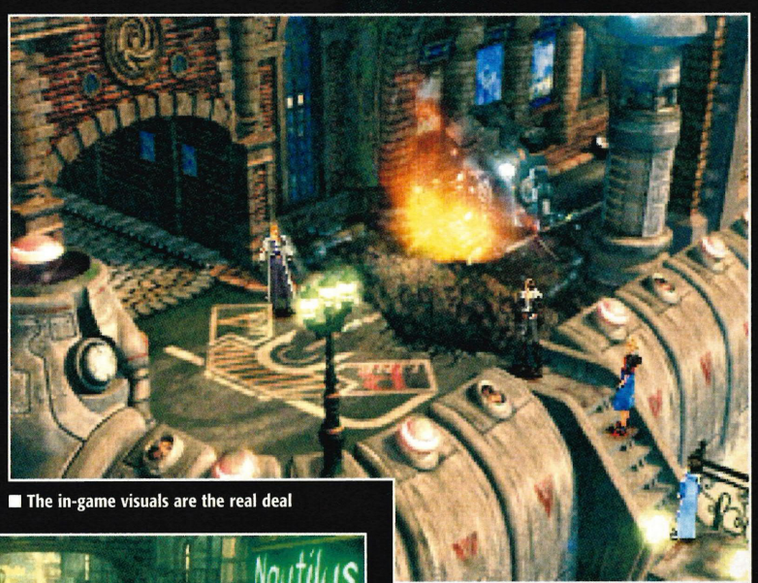
Fighting! Magic!

Differences from Final Fantasy VII include a more intense fighting system, where hitting buttons at the right time will produce special attacks. Plus, magic's a bit more of a rarity. And that's some good news for the eye candy fiends among you, 'cos it means that magical attacks are made even more screen-blisteringly spectacular...

Coolness in excelsis

Thing is, not everybody in this office was bowled over by number VII. And Verbal opinion's been split asunder too. But even the most hardhearted of us has been blown away by the demo of FFVIII. The visuals, the speeded-up gameplay, the action. Everything says 'class'. And says it loud. We like.

plus Looking epic as hell. Big, brassy, and beautiful. We can't wait...



■ The in-game visuals are the real deal





■ Summon weird spirit things to do your bidding



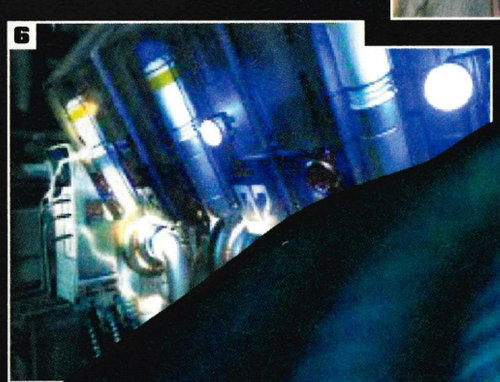




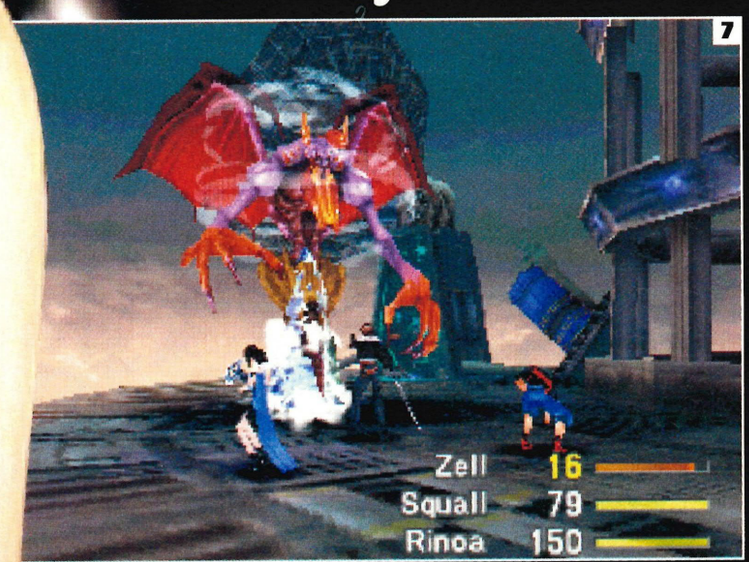


■ Spell effects are as jaw-dropping as ever





'Epic as hell. Big. Brassy. Beautiful...'



1 The visuals are spot on **2** And the plot's sounding weird but good **3** We've heard it's all about a witch awoken from a thousand-year sleep **4** And there's not going to be one, but two heroes, from different time zones **5** Video bits. Wow **6** New, tall characters **7** Summoning spells. Jesus

So, it sounds like a toothpaste. Give it a chance already...

■**OUT** JUNE ■**BY** SONY ■**PLAYERS** 1 ■**COMPATIBILITIES** JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, DUAL SHOCK PAD

Project SDR

Top cart racing action with a twist of fun and a slice of cute. Sounds good to us...

All right, so there are tons of driving games kicking around on the 'Station. And yeah, if it's ultra-realistic racing action you're after, Gran Turismo is probably the best of the lot. But there's always room for one more in your collection. Especially if it's pure unadulterated fun on four wheels. Like Project SDR.

Wacky races

Forget the dull-as-dishwater car tuning, licence tests 'n' all that stuff of other racing games. The name of the game here is fun. Not literally, of course. Pick one of six cutesy cartoon characters and drive at ball-busting speeds around 12 weird and wacky courses, each littered with obstacles and short-cuts. Bag yourself a load of power-ups, including speed boosts, homing missiles, grenades and glue sticks to thwart your opponents Dick Dastardly-style.

Race yer mates

It's early days but already the graphics are looking well smart in a cartoony kinda way and the gameplay is blindingly fast too. And you know the best bit? We've been promised that it's gonna have a two, three and four-player split-screen mode in there, making for some top post-pub multiplayer sessions.

***plus** We're tipping this to be big this year. It's fast, fun and looking pretty damn goyjush. We'll have more info soon*











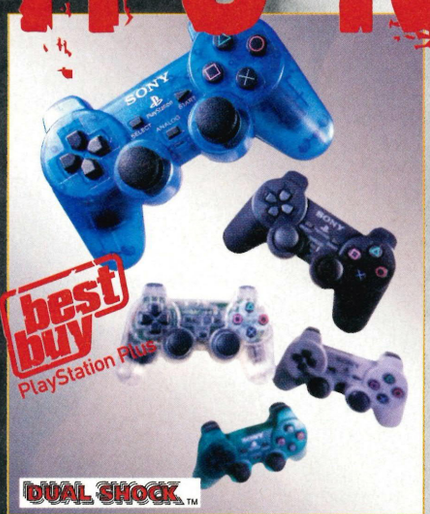




1 It's a bit like Diddy-Kong Racing on the Nintendo 64 **2** Only this is gonna be a lot, lot better. As you'd expect **3** Race flat-out over tons of different courses **4** Collect power-ups littered around the tracks **5** Yep. That's about as complicated as it gets **6** 'Course the best bit is the multiplayer game **7** We reckon it's gonna be worth getting a multitap just for Project SDR. You'd better believe it


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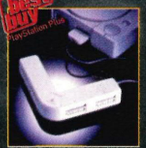
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PlayStation

■ **OUT** SEPTEMBER ■ **BY** SONY ■ **PLAYERS** 1
■ **COMPATIBILITIES** JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, DUAL SHOCK PAD

Syphon Filter

Stealth! Terror! Hardcore violence!

A mob of deranged terrorists who quite possibly have mad, staring eyes and full beards are about to release a terrifying viral attack on Washington DC.

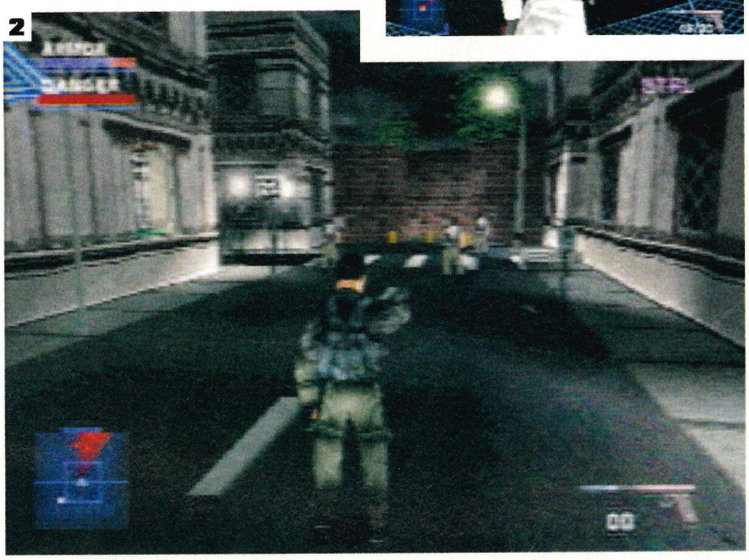
Why, that sounds like an ideal excuse for one black-jumpsuited stealthmeister to tiptoe around the place offing everyone he sees with a devastating arsenal of high-powered assault weaponry. And whaddya know. Here he comes...

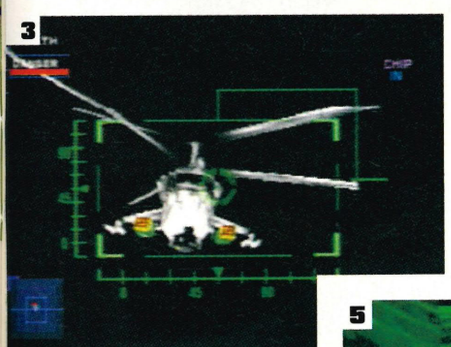
Kill! Kill!

Full-on third-person spy adventure action is promised, with three targetting systems for your various weapons of mass destruction, a plot that you'll need a PhD in deviousness to understand, and mission-based stealth shenanigans to go. Plus much creative use of shotguns and high explosives. Remind you of Metal Gear Solid a touch? Fine by us...

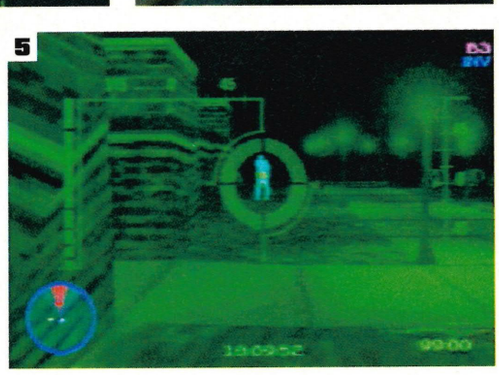
plus Looking pretty damn dope. More details soon...











1 Man in dinky white duds takes on an attack chopper. Brave, if slightly foolish, move 2 Jumpsuited goons! Kill! Kill! 3 The chopper comes in for another attack run. It should know not to mess 4 Switch off your targetting system. Use the Force 5 Night vision goggles. All good spies have at least ONE pair...

■ **OUT** SUMMER ■ **BY** SONY ■ **PLAYERS** 1
■ **COMPATIBILITIES** JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, DUAL SHOCK PAD

PaRappa the Rapper 2

PaRappa the Rapper: the rock 'n' roll years...

PaRappa the Rapper hands over the weirdness torch to a rock 'n' roll sheep. Yup, last year's PaRappa game, winner of numerous nonsense and confusion awards, has spawned a sequel. Instead of a hiphopping dog, this one stars a rocking ewe. And it's called Um Jammer Lammy. Weird.

Snex plundig kothaar

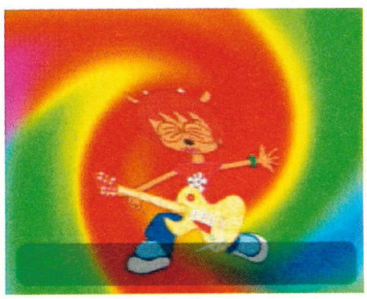
Simple? I should coco. What you've got to do is hit different keys in time to a variety of Jap-tinged geetar music in a variety of styles ranging from metal through country. Doing so will make your rock n' roll sheep leap into the mix with searing guitar licks. Easy.

And if the basic recipe ain't already weird enough for your taste, there's plenty of bits where the plot/lyrics/visuals get so utterly bizarre your head'll spin with the sheer strangeness of it all . Be warned...

plus As Japanese as sushi and suicide. A laugh, but we'd be bullshitting you if we said it's gonna set the world on fire...



■ The Chop Chop Master from PaRappa returns



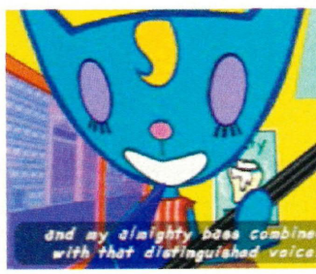
■ Sheep demonstrates awesome mosh power



■ Geetar sheep armed with mighty axe of rawk



■ Blue cats, misshapen dwarves, sheep. Whatever...



■ The lyrics. Jesus, the lyrics



■ The sheep gets funky with some kind of post



■ Yup. It's so cheerful it's faintly sinister

■ **OUT** JUNE ■ **BY** INFOGRAMES ■ **PLAYERS** 1-4 ■ **COMPATIBILITIES** JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, DUAL SHOCK PAD, STEERING WHEEL, LINK CABLE

V-Rally 2

The first one blew your socks off. This one'll leave bloody stumps where your feet were...

Once upon a time there was a rally game called V-Rally. It was a joyous and beautiful game. Then along came an ambitious off-road overlord who went by the name of Mr McRae. Cries of 'the King is dead, long live the King' were heard throughout the land. In secret V-Rally had a son, and now he wants the crown back....

X-factor

You know to sit on the rally throne you've got to have that certain X factor. It seems the son and heir's been well and truly pumped up for lording it around. It's gonna have 92 tracks over 12 countries. This'll means over 300 Km of low down dirty driving to mota through. You'll get to cane these 300 Km in 18 officially licensed cars, as well as 10 classic rally cars.

Four-way fun

What looks like being the best feature is the four-player split-screen. Also new is the car damage feature. Not only will it look knackered if you keep crashing it, but it'll start driving like a pig. Basically it's been made so phat, it needs two discs now.

***plus** It's looking way cool already. Can it get better, we dare to hope so.*



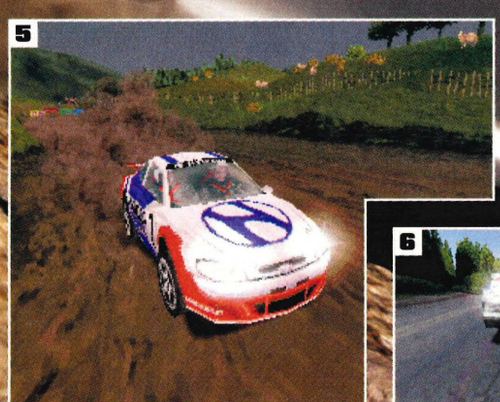


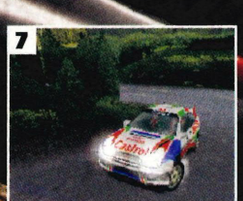




■ If you're not careful this could rule your life







1 Makes you wanna do it for real 2 Fun for all the family 3 You really can't have enough headlights in this game 4 Does that not look the bee's knees 5 Kicking up a ton of dust 6 Full whack, and he's getting real air 7 We've got to admit, it's looking damn fine already

Dare you cheat on me?



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■ **OUT** JUNE ■ **BY** ELECTRONIC ARTS ■ **PLAYERS** 1 ■ **COMPATIBILITIES** JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD

Croc 2

It's chock-a-block with that cheeky little Croc. Can you wait? Well you'll have to...

Everyone's favourite crocodile is coming back to tickle our platform synapses. As with his first outing you can expect a sickly sweet character that'd make any of Disney's creations seem cynical and hard faced. Yep he's that cute.

What's da big idea

The story – as if it needed one – centres on Croc saving the Gobbos from the evil Baron Dante. Yes, he's imprisoned them again. Shock bleedin' horror. So off Croc goes in search of them, determined to put a stop to Baron Dante once and for all. Stop us if you've heard this one before.

New bitz

So what's new? Well there's new levels, all using heaps and heaps of retina-warping colour. There are more enemies to deal with, and they're more varied in appearance and attack. But the biggest change is to Croc. He's got two new fighting moves: a roll attack and flip kick, both modelled on Jean Claude Van Damme's fighting moves... probably.

***plus** If you like your kicks sugar sweet, and your hero positively has to be green then this may well float your boat.*



1 Way-ay man, a fishy without a dishy **2** Croc stands upon the cliffs edge and addresses the 'masses' **3** Croc digs a good campfire **4** For a little lad he can really jump **5** This was the biggest ice cube Croc had ever seen **6** For future reference, this is a baddy. Do not be fooled by the big eyes and cuddly appearance

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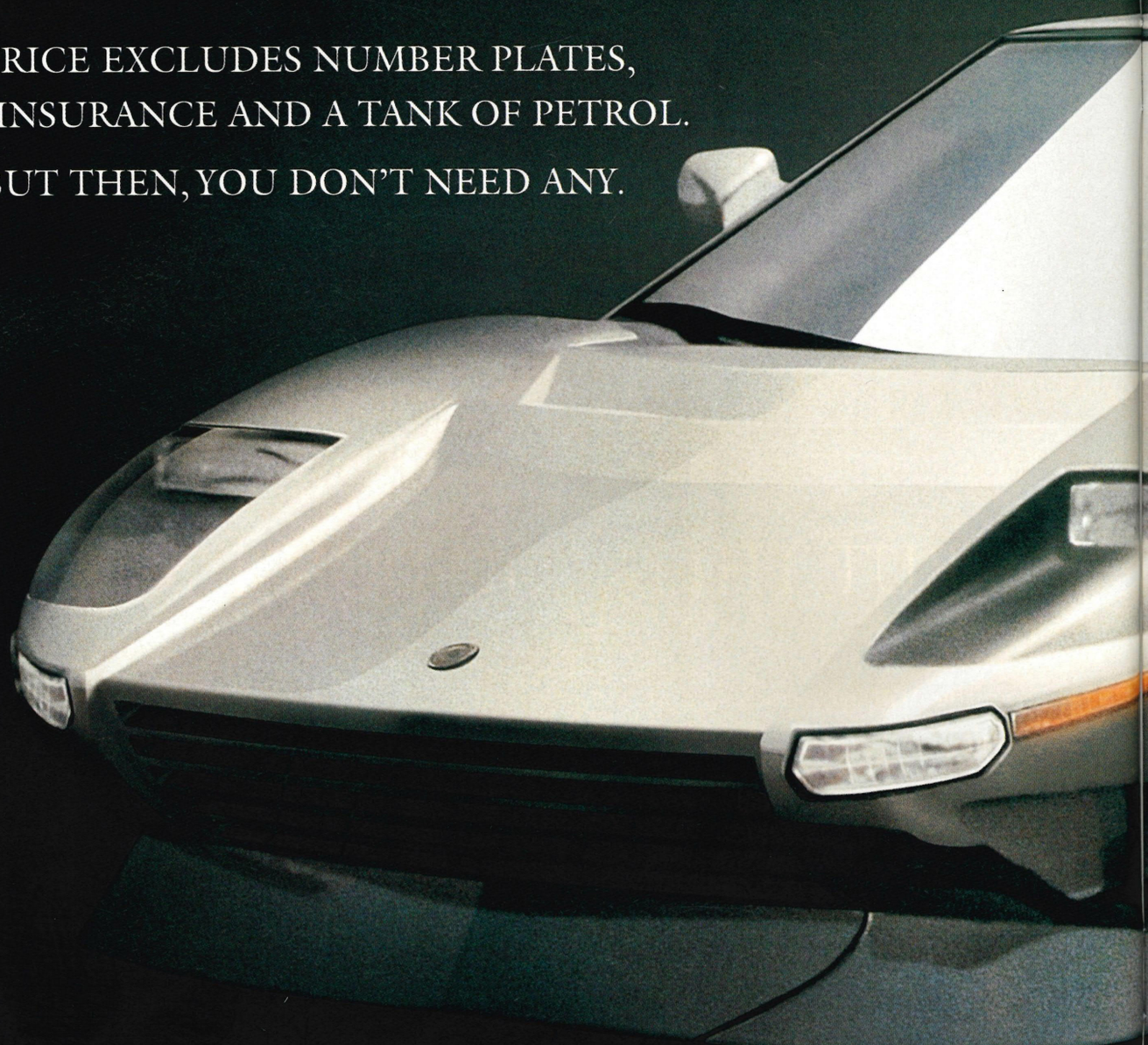
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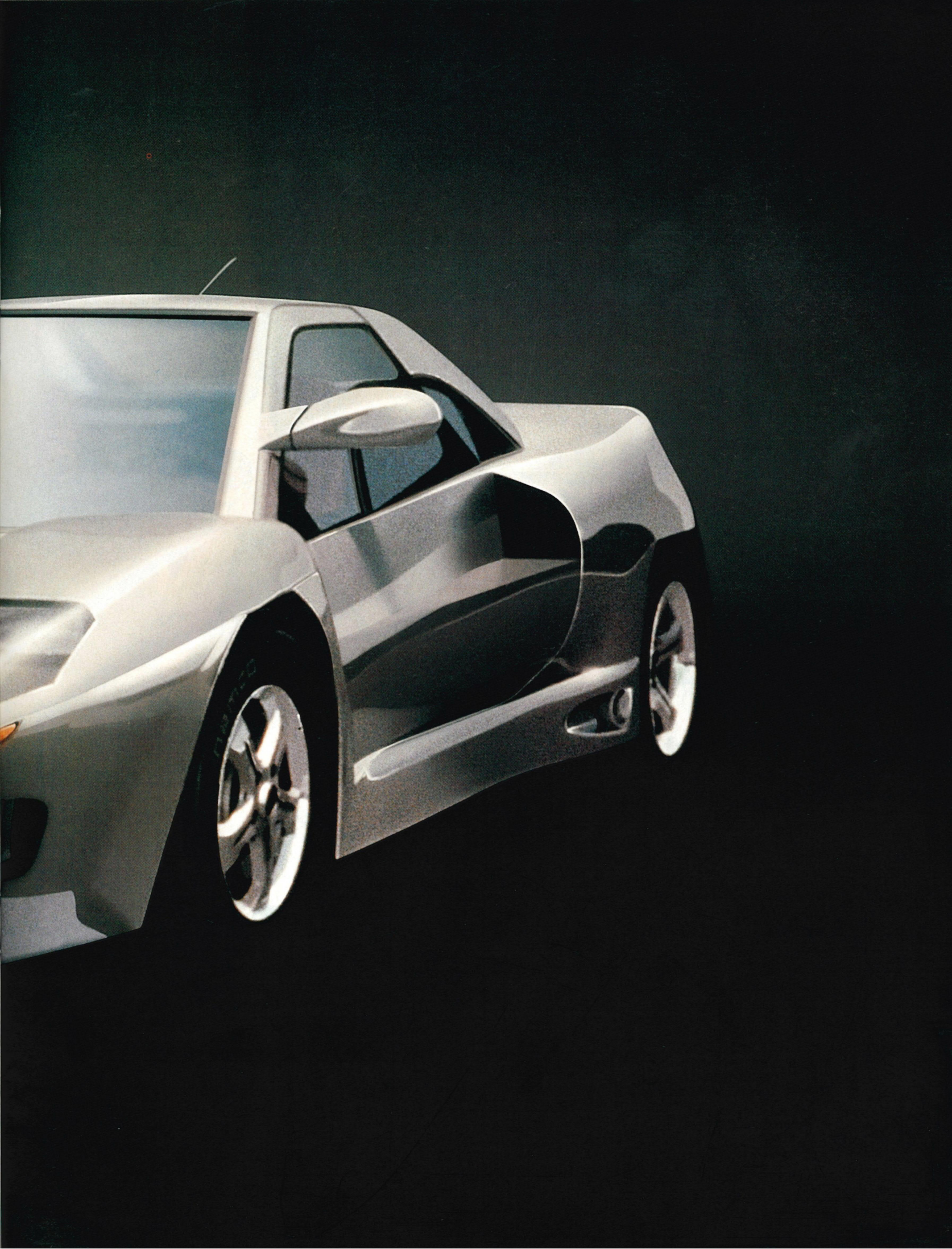
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■**OUT** APRIL ■**BY** SUNSOFT ■**PLAYERS** 1 ■**COMPATIBILITIES** JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, DUAL SHOCK PAD

Hard Edge

There's an edge and it's hard. What else d'you need to know?

Who you gonna call when the chips are down and the dung's hit the fan? The boys and gals from Hard Edge seem a safe bet. They get sent into besieged buildings to rescue kidnapped employees of the sinister Machinery Gear Corporation and generally walk where angels fear to tread. And get this, they do it wearing outfits with shoulderpads the size of Central American republics.

Defeat evil

You'll play as either Alex or Michelle, the only two survivors of a police SWAT team. They're there to rescue the hostages and bring evil overlord Michael Crowfoot to heel. Expect puzzles to solve, booby-traps to avoid and henchmen to kill as you inch your way around the skyscraper.

Fine 'n' dandy

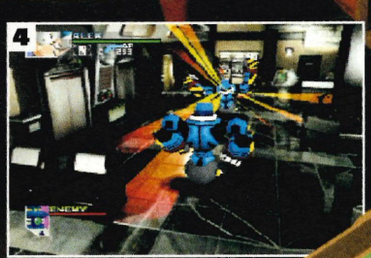
Visually this 3D adventure looks polished, with attention to detail everywhere you look. The only downside at this stage as far as we can see is the slightly dodgy control system.

plus Looks like there'll be loadsa gameplay in here, they just need to get the controls sorted.











1 You'll be doing plenty of walking down corridors in this game 2 Come on then, this one's for calling me a manga character 3 She's no pushover, just look at her mighty sword 4 This one's blowing its top 5 Kaboom, boom, pick up your coffin at the exit



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■**OUT** MAY ■**BY** SONY ■**PLAYERS** 1
■**COMPATIBILITIES** JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD

Legends of Legaia

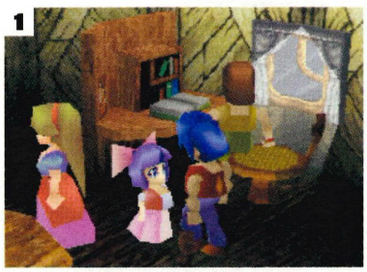
Give it up for weird Jap RPGs — no, really...

Devotees of obscure Japanese role-playing games, prepare your thumbs for the forthcoming Legend of Legaia. Expect tiny people with unfeasibly large eyes and no legs who wander around engaging people in strange conversations. A typical exchange would go as follows: 'Your Grandfather was a brave and strong man, I see his spirit in you, make him proud'.

Story snorey

This particular offering to the god of RPGs is based around the adventures of Vahn, a boy coming of age in a small village. He's about to become a hunter and leave the village for the first time. This means dealing with the mysterious mist, which is, of course, pure evil. Can our hero overcome the odds?

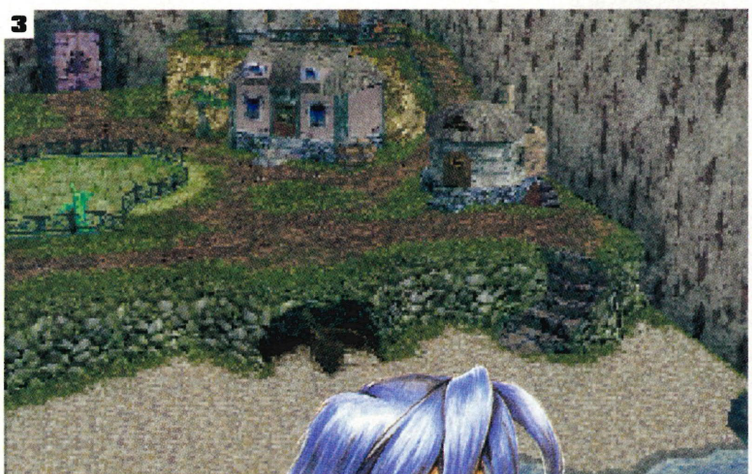
plus Looks like its only going to appeal to the RPG hardcore, or those who need to burn some time.



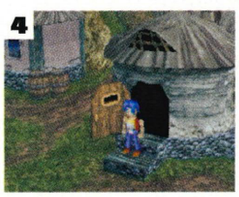
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2



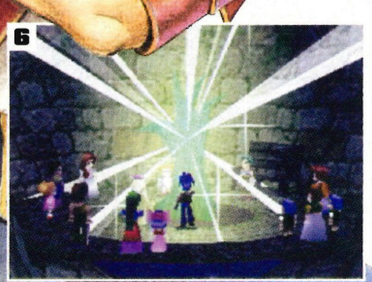
3



4



5



6

1 Ah, I see people. These folks need a good speaking-to **2** Perhaps they'll slowly reveal shards of the huge plot **3** Indeed they do, and these little chats set me a-wanderin' round the rest of this fantasy place **4** To here **5** Oh, and this beach here **6** For light fantastic

■**OUT** MAY ■**BY** SUNSOFT ■**PLAYERS** 1-4
■**COMPATIBILITIES** JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, DUAL SHOCK PAD

Puma Street Soccer

At the end of the day, Trevor, it's four men against four men...

It's a funny old game. Especially when you let a bunch of German shoemakers have a fiddle with the rules. See, this game's based on a real-life four-on-four street footy contest that top Hun shoe blokes Puma have been organising for donkey's. Nobody in Blighty's paid a blind bit of notice, but hell. The game might be a birrova laff...

It's a game of three halves

Thing is, with only four blokes on each side, the whole 4-4-2 man marking strategy bit is right out. Blindingly fast knockabout action's the name of the game. You can bounce balls off walls, do all sorts of special ricochet moves, and there's no offside. And with lush graphics, and genuine superstars taking to the streets, this could be a blinder...

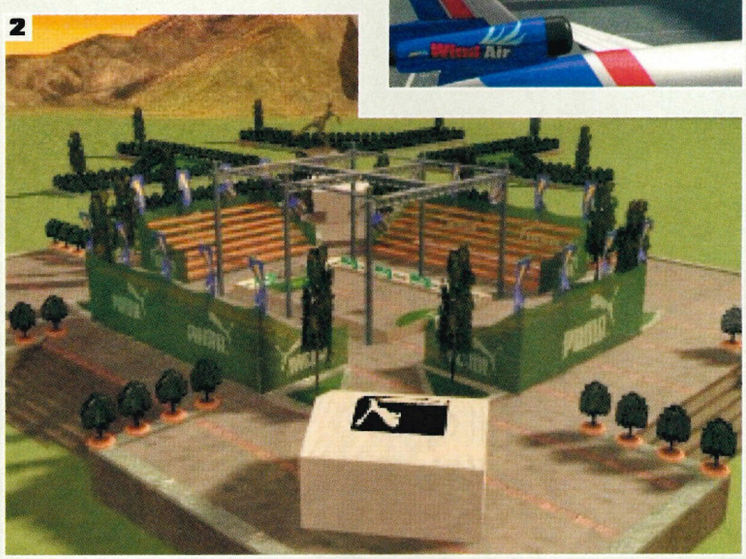
plus Well, it's a breath of fresh air, innit? We're not exactly holding our breath, mind, but still...



■ **Play footy in weird outdoor locations. Odd**



1



2



4



3

5

1 Fancy a swift game in among the aircraft? It's all yours **2** You can bounce all sorts of trick shot off of the walls of the cage **3** Parking lot soccer action. We've all been there **4** Ooh. Nice scenery. We thought this game was supposed to be set in the mean streets **5** The docks. An ideal venue for a kickaround, no?



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■ **OUT** JULY ■ **BY** SONY

Kidz

Top 3D action/platformer cometh to the PlayStation this summer. Going by the name of Kidz, the game is based around two heroes, Buzz and Spike. They're pals of a professor who has designed a time travel machine. There's just uno problemo. His invention is being abused by a bunch of monkeys who wanna go back in time and alter history for sinister purposes. You've gotta go catch 'em in the fastest time possible with your hi-tech gadgetry.

The cool thing about Kidz is that it's the first game to use the dual shock pad only – normal pads just won't work. So we reckon it'll probably come bundled with the dual shock at some sort of cut-price. We'll let you know.







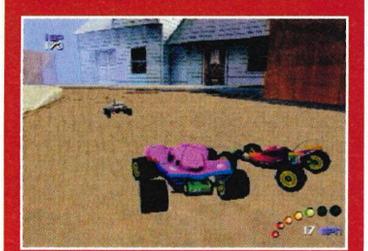


1 Catch things in your net... **2** And coolio things happen **3** Crap name, fair enough, but this looks well smart **4** This is Sony's big summer game. It's gonna be huge...

Re-Volt

■ **Out:** Sept ■ **By:** Acclaim

Take indestructible radio-controlled cars for a spin around houses, museums and stuff. Collect power-ups and blast the other geezas off the track or get some mates together and battle it out. Nice.

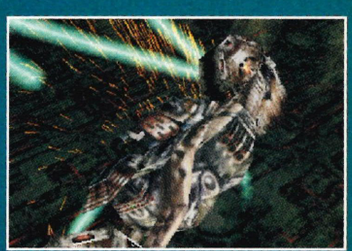


■ Multiplayer promises to be mucho fun

Omega Boost

■ **Out:** September ■ **By:** Sony

Pilot huge transforming robots. Blast the crapola out of anything that moves. That's about as complicated as Omega Boost gets. This top-looking shoota will be coming atcha later this year and we reckon it's gonna be well smart. Already it's shaping up to be one of the easiest 'Station games on the eye and it's chock-full of smart gameplay features too. A long way off but still looking mighty fine...



■ Visually Omegablast is way cool...



■ Hopefully the gameplay'll be top too

GTA London

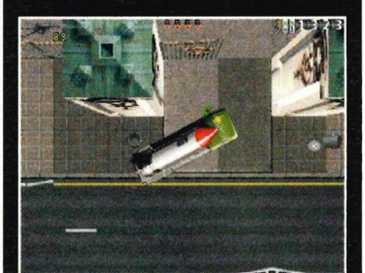
■ **Out:** Apr ■ **By:** Take 2

GTA London's an add-on pack for last year's 2D steal 'em up smash Grand Theft Auto, with all your fave London landmarks recreated in loving detail and plenty o' cop-killing missions to get you out and about in the big smoke.

There are even three new London gangs to do 'jobs' for, including rastas, Kray-type East End wideboys and evil, swarthy Greeks. And at £20, it's - wait for it - a steal. Steal? Geddit?



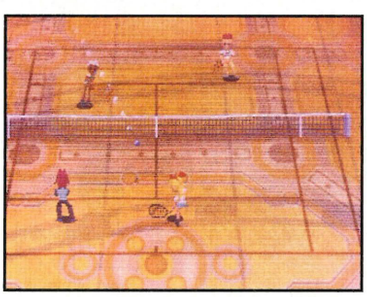
■ GTA London will be great we reckon, but you'll need the original game to play it



■ Scud missile launchers at Downing Street! Geez, you sure do mean business...

■ **OUT** SUMMER ■ **BY** SONY

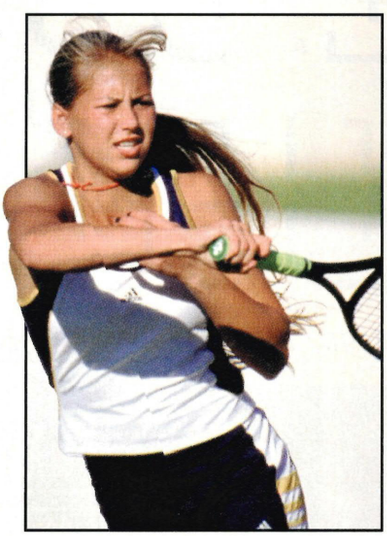
Anna Kournikova's Smash Court Tennis



■ This game should be 'ace'. We 'love' it already

Fancy a bit of one-on-one with jailbait tennis ace, Anna Kournikova? Well here's your chance. A new tennis game endorsed by the leggy lass currently dominating the nets will be wending its way to the 'Station this summer.

Features include around 24 players to choose from all boasting different styles, strengths and weaknesses. There'll be a tournament mode, a training option and a smash blast party game for 2-4 players. Sounds top, if you ask us...





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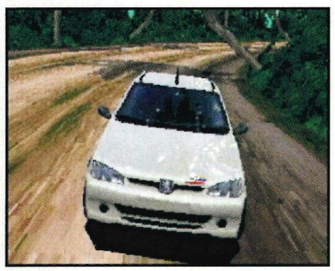
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■ **OUT** SEPTEMBER ■ **BY** SONY

Gran Turismo 2

Gran Turismo was the best racing game ever. No doubt about it. But Gran Turismo 2 is gonna be even better. Graphics have been tweaked and refined to the point of perfection, plus a load of extra bits have been included such as off-road rallying, along with GT and sports car categories. There are a cracking 16 courses to sink yer teeth into, plus over 400 different cars to choose from this time – many of 'em from top European car manufacturers. Check it out late this summer...



■ Off-roading a new feature in GT2

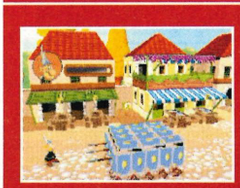




1 Gran Turismo looked smart but this super-sequel looks even better **2** There are a whopping 400 cars to be found. Awesome

Asterix

■ **Out:** Summer ■ **By:** Infogrames





Asterix is France's fave comic book bloke. But don't let that put you off: he's a mustachioed dwarf who hits Romans repeatedly and has a fat mate called Obelisk. The game's looking like a straight-up platform effort with the colour turned all the way up to 'painful'. Sounds suspect.

Twisted Metal 3

■ **Out:** April ■ **By:** Sony

It's that time again... Time to climb inside a handful of comedy cars and trucks, and screech around huge arenas blasting lead-death at any sap that gets in your way. Yup, it's part three of the ever-explosive Twisted Metal series. Admittedly it's not looking like it's a giant step on from the first two, but that's no bad thing 'cos they were pretty tasty. More news next ish...



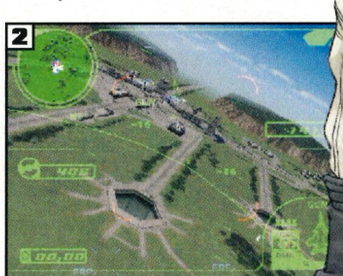
■ **OUT** SEPTEMBER ■ **BY** SONY

Ace Combat 3



1 If dogfighting's your thang then look no further **2** The level of detail in Ace Combat 3's well impressive. Check out the ground...

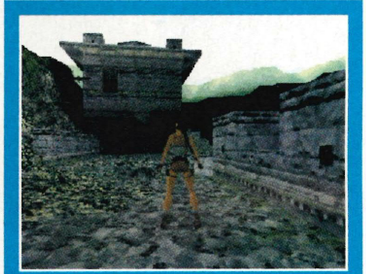
It looks like it's gonna be third time lucky for Ace Combat. The first two were okay. Just okay. But the third one is shaping up to be a winna. We're told to expect vastly improved graphics, more heated dogfights, tons of new fighter planes, loadsa different missions and super-smooth dual shock control.



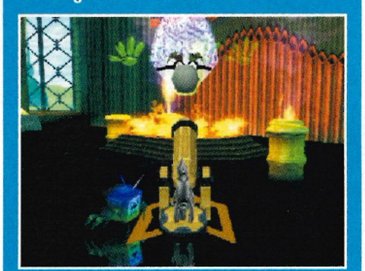
Release dates

These're are the dates we've been told. But we can't guarantee them...

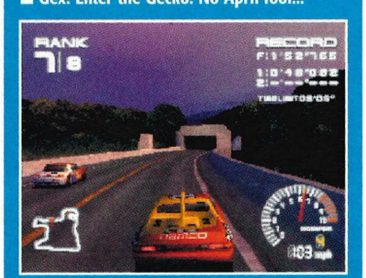
RELEASED	REVIEWED
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Tai Fu	45% April 99
KKnD Krossfire	77% April 99
YoYo's Puzzle Park	
Tomb Raider 2 Platinum	88% April 99
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Darkstalkers 3	71% April 97
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1ST APRIL	
Gex: Deep Cover Gecko	80% April 99
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Need for Speed: Road Challenge	
Street Sk8er	70% April 99
Civilisation 2	88% April 99
4TH APRIL	
Ridge Racer 4	93% April 99
9TH APRIL	
Marvel vs Street Fighter EX	
Street Fighter Alpha 3	



■ Lara goes Platinum on March 19th



■ Gex: Enter the Gecko. No April fool...



■ April 4th, Ridge Racer 4's a-comin'

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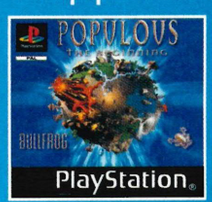
Winner of the 1999 Milia D'Or Gold award for Best Strategy game

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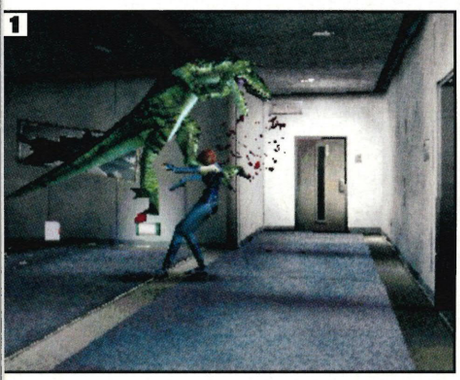


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Dino Crisis revealed!

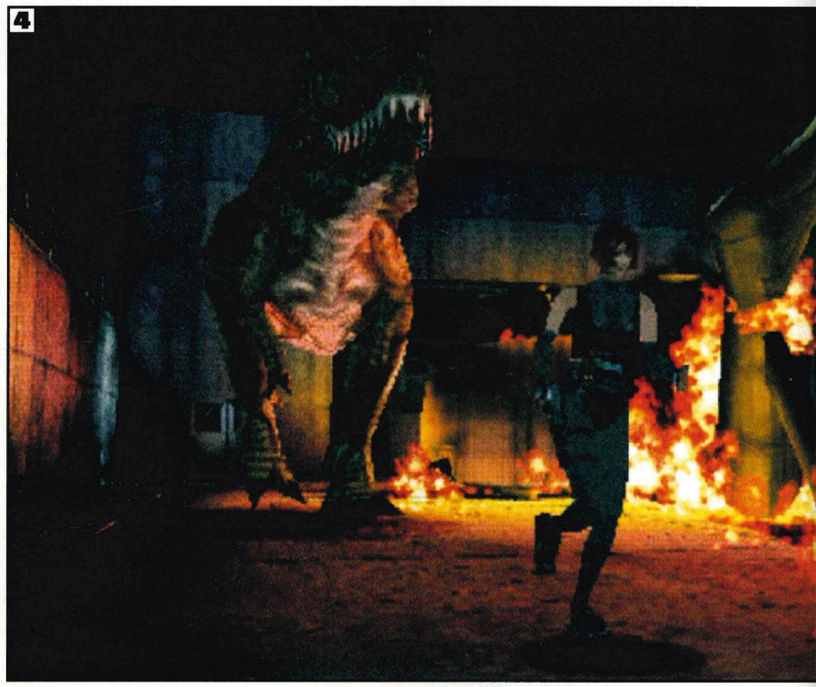
New 'Station game from Resident Evil team...

Pining for a bit of blast-the-crap-outta anything-that-moves type action with a bit of puzzle-solving thrown into the mix? Then Dino Crisis is the game for you. This is the latest effort from the Resident Evil geezas. You play the role of Regina, a member of a special forces team sent to a tropical island to extract a professor and his mysterious research data. 'Course it's not quite that simple, 'cos the entire island is overrun with dinosaurs. Like fawsands of 'em. 'Ickle Velociraptors, T-Rex and Brontosaurus – they're all in here and they wanna rip your head off. Sounds cool, yes? You'll have it in your mitts by Chrimbo.









1 One of the Velociraptors attacks... **2** And rips huge chunks of flesh outta you **3** Looks like one of the puzzle bits. Yawn **4** This is more like it. Big bastid T-Rex action. Run Regina, run for your life...

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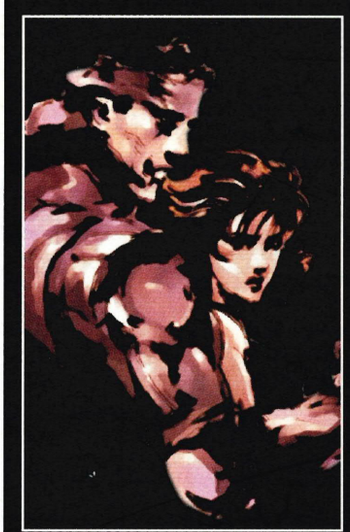
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Metal sells well

■ **Metal Gear Solid** publisher, Konami, has breathed a huge sigh of relief this week as the game stormed the charts to the coveted number one position. Previously it was thought that massive importing and pirating of the game, largely as a result of the huge gap between Japanese and UK release, would harm sales of the top action/strategy game. But the year's first real must-have release did the business by shifting close to 90,000 copies in its first week of sale.



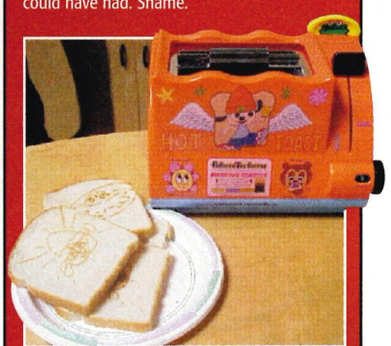
■ **Everyone should own Metal Gear. The official one that is. Gotta make that clear**

PaRappa Toaster

■ **Played the game,** bought the t-shirt and looking forward to the rock 'n' roll sequel? Ah, you'll be needing the toaster then.

Yep, in Japan. PaRappa the Rapper toasters are flying off the shelves in hardware stores across Japan, and not just because of their weird and wacky PaRappa design. The space-age toaster cooks two slices of bread and here's the really cool bit: burns in the outline of your favourite paper-thin rapper on each side! Breakfast time has never been so much fun. No, really.

Unfortunately here's the bad news the toaster is only available in Japan at the mo, costing a wallet-busting 12,800 yen: approximately £65! We contacted Sony Europe and apparently there are no plans to release the toaster in the UK. Just think of the fun we could have had. Shame.



■ **PaRappa the Rapper toaster – the coolest game accessory ever? We think so**

Platinum at £9.99?

Word has it Sony is considering launching a 'super budget' range of games at £9.99. With the likes of Tekken 3, Resident Evil 2 and Gran Turismo being lined up for re-release as part of the Platinum range before the end of the year, Sony is apparently considering slashing the price of older Platinum games. Destruction Derby, Ridge Racer and Formula 1 are amongst the titles thought to be dropping to around a tenner, making it easier for younger PlayStation owners to experience these classic games. Sounds good to us.



■ Formula 1 at £9.99?

Tomb Raider movie

Actress to play Lara Croft finally revealed!

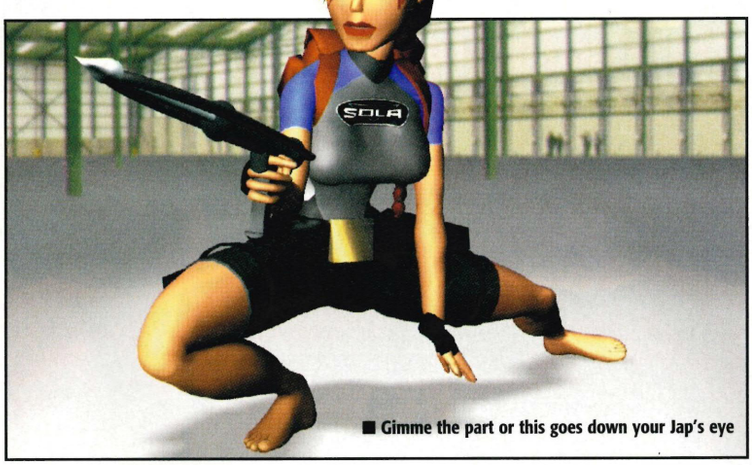
It's been donkey's since we last heard anything about the Tomb Raider movie. So we did a bit of digging this month and came up with an interesting snippet of info. Since Paramount Pictures snapped up the movie rights of the game, every dog and its mother has been 'hotly tipped' to play the role of Lara. Demi Moore, Liz Hurley, Carla Pivonski, Catherine Zeta-Jones... If they've got dark hair and a sizeable bosom, odds are they've been linked to the project. But nothing could be further from the truth. Word has it the role of Lara Croft on the big screen has gone to none other than... Lara Croft!



Eh? How's that then?

What's happening is that Paramount Pictures has apparently decided to make the movie a computer-generated flick, like Disney's Toy Story and the recent Bug's Life. So an actress won't be needed to play the part of Lara, although one will be needed to provide the voiceover. But she could have a face like a bulldog licking piss off a thistle and nobody would be any the wiser.

Neither Paramount or Eidos would confirm this rumour, but we reckon it's the most likely outcome of the whole shebang. We'll know for sure when the film's released in summer 2000.



■ Gimme the part or this goes down your Jap's eye

Other stuff

Odds 'n' sods we sniffed out

■ **Eidos has let** slip the inevitable: another Tomb Raider game is heading to the 'Station this autumn. Whether it's Tomb Raider IV, Tomb Raider: The Movie or a Lara Croft spin-off is anyone's guess. So now you know.

■ **Destruction Derby 3** is in the early stages of development for the 'Station with a tentative release set for this winter. Details are scarce at the mo but we've been told to expect vastly improved graphics, even more spectacular crashes and dual shock compatibility.

■ **Channel 4 is** about to launch a new videogame show aimed drunkards and insomniacs. The programme – Bits – will form part of the new post-pub schedule which will be broadcast between midnight and 2am.

■ **This is Football** is Sony's new PocketStation compatible footy game out this summer. It has a cool feature allowing you to download 'ickle players to the gadget and train 'em up to be smart-as-pie. Then stick 'em back in the game and they'll bang in the goals no problemo.

competition

call & win win games!

tombraider 3
call 0906 960 1618
zelda
call 0906 960 1619
duke nukem
call 0906 960 1620
tekken 3
call 0906 960 1621
mission impossible
call 0906 960 1622
spyro the dragon
call 0906 960 1623
1080º snowboarding
call 0906 960 1624
metal gear solid
call 0906 960 1625
colony wars
call 0906 960 1626
banjo kazooie
call 0906 960 1627
wipeout 64
call 0906 960 1628
v rally
call 0906 960 1629
Iss pro 98
call 0906 960 1630
goldeneye
call 0906 960 1631
crash bandicoot warped
call 0906 960 1632
body harvest
call 0906 960 1633

Hotratoxic can be found in Extreme G2 - Available on PC and N64 and appears courtesy of Acclaim Entertainment Ltd

win prizes!

Mobile Phone
call 0906 960 1634

Nintendo 64
call 0906 960 1635

PSX 002 and white PSX worth £300
call 0906 960 1636

Gameboy Camera and Printer
call 0906 960 1637

Playstation Driving Seat
call 0906 960 1639

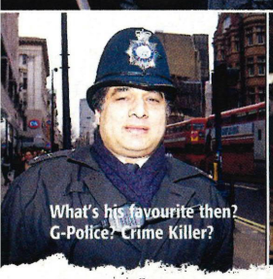
Midi Hi Fi
call 0906 960 3352

Pager
call 0906 960 1638

Calls charged at £1.00 per min - Maximum cost of call £3. Ask permission from the person responsible for paying the phone bill. Competition closes 30th May 99 After which time they may be replaced by a similar service on the numbers. Winners will be picked randomly from correct entrants. For rules or winners names send SAE to ILN Services, PO Box, 107 Knustford Cheshire, WA16 6EG



'Abe's Exoddus is my latest one, but to be honest, I've been hooked on a few. Usually my sleep loses out a bit, and I'm ashamed to say it, but my girlfriend probably loses out too' Neil



What's his favourite then? G-Police? Crime Killer?

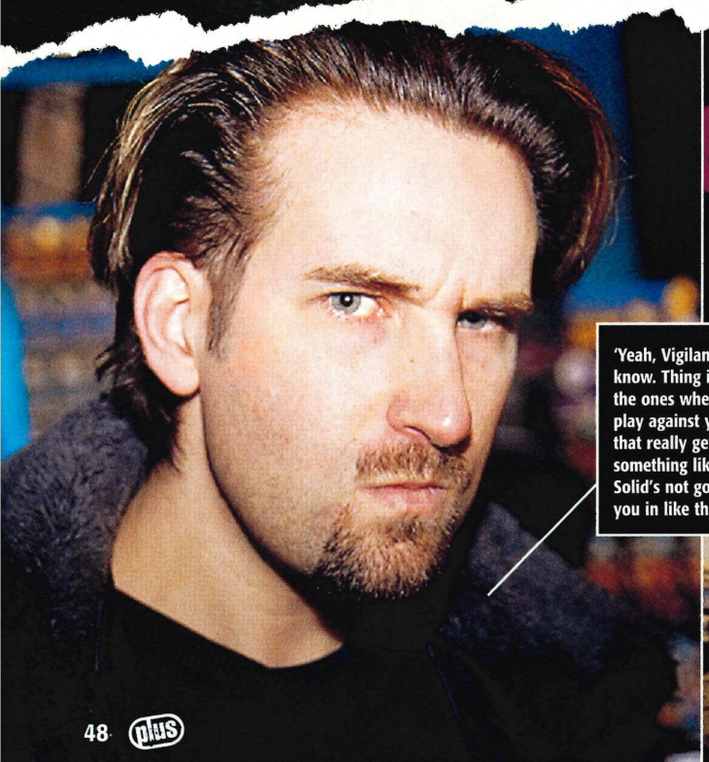


'Anything that involves fighting will get me hooked. The last one was Tekken 3, and yeah, it did mean me going to bed quite a lot later. I'd come in to work with bags under my eyes and people would be like 'Paul's got a new game, then' Paul



'Addicted to? Oh yeah. Loads: all the Tomb Raider ones, Abe's, Gran Turismo, Colony Wars, G-Police. It's the sleeping hours that suffer. If I'm really into a game, I'll play it till 6 in the morning on Friday, then get up four hours later and start playing again' Our kinda girl

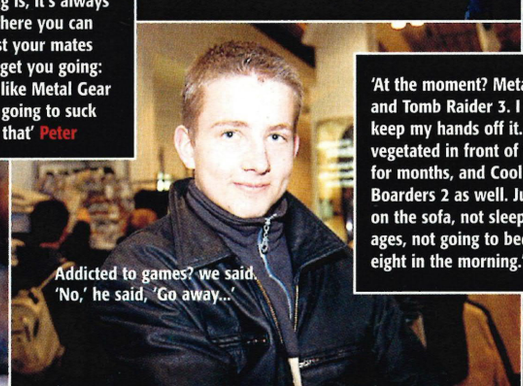
BANNED! GAMES S THEY SHOULD BE I



'Yeah, Vigilante 8, it's sad, I know. Thing is, it's always the ones where you can play against your mates that really get you going: something like Metal Gear Solid's not going to suck you in like that' Peter



'Addictive? Absolutely. Anything where you can blow up, shoot, kill or mutilate stuff has my vote. I'm still really into Tomb Raider 3 at the minute, and everything suffers a bit: your personal hygiene, your habits, your sleep. The time just goes, and suffered a bit' Paul



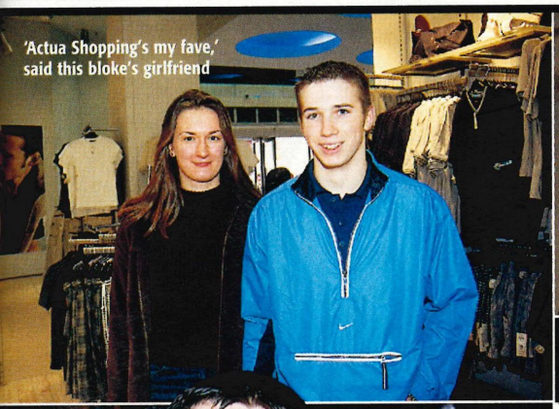
Addicted to games? we said. 'No,' he said, 'Go away...'

'At the moment? Metal Gear and Tomb Raider 3. I can't keep my hands off it. I vegetated in front of Worms for months, and Cool Boarders 2 as well. Just lying on the sofa, not sleeping for ages, not going to bed until eight in the morning.' Vinal

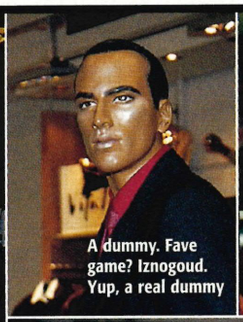


'Gran Turismo, yeah. When I started playing that, all sorts started going wrong. I just sat home eating takeout a playing it on my own, just trying to get that little bit further' Simo

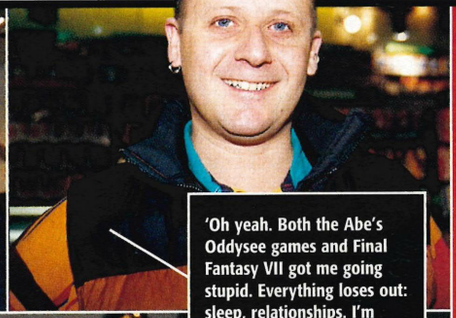




'Actua Shopping's my fave,' said this bloke's girlfriend



A dummy. Fave game? Iznogoud. Yup, a real dummy



'Oh yeah. Both the Abe's Oddysee games and Final Fantasy VII got me going stupid. Everything loses out: sleep, relationships. I'm divorced now, so that doesn't matter so much. And no, it wasn't just because of the games' Fred



'Colin McRae Rally should be banned, definitely. I got it, and me and like three or four of my mates just played it solidly for four months, challenging each other. Whoever was there would step up to take somebody on at two-player, for hours and hours' Jose

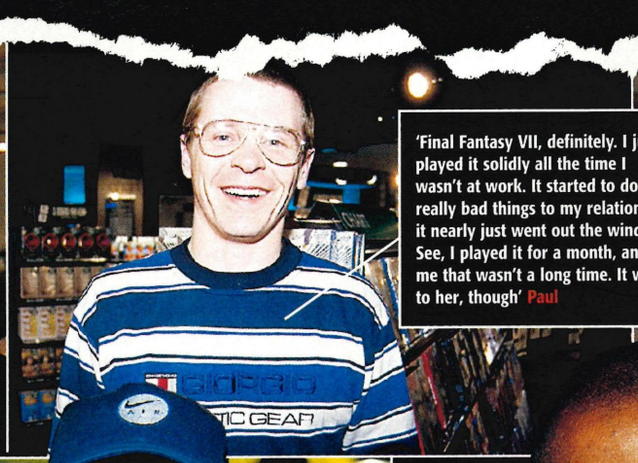


This girl welded herself to her guy for two-player Doom

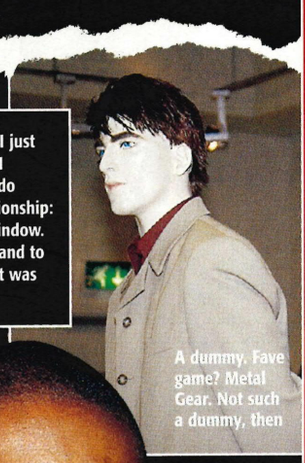
SO ADDICTIVE ILLEGAL!

We've all been there. Living on the streets, filthy, sleepless, panhandling passers-by for the cash for a few more lines of Tetris. Games. They're pure poison. Addictive? Royally so. We asked you which were the worst offenders...



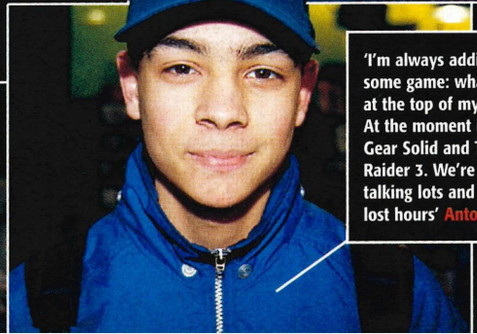


'Final Fantasy VII, definitely. I just played it solidly all the time I wasn't at work. It started to do really bad things to my relationship: it nearly just went out the window. See, I played it for a month, and to me that wasn't a long time. It was to her, though' Paul

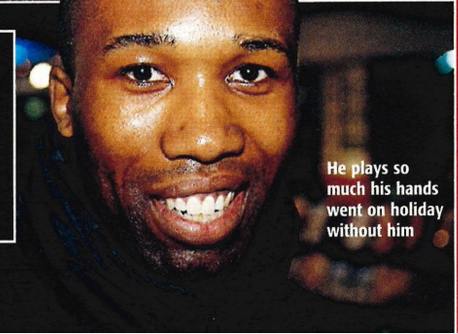


A dummy. Fave game? Metal Gear. Not such a dummy, then





'I'm always addicted to some game: whatever's at the top of my playlist. At the moment it's Metal Gear Solid and Tomb Raider 3. We're just talking lots and lots of lost hours' Antony



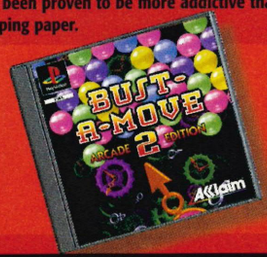
He plays so much his hands went on holiday without him

WE RECKON...

If you value your social life, your sleep, your personal hygiene, for Gawd's sake avoid these!

BUST-A-MOVE 2

Bubbles. But not the kind-to-hands variety. Has been proven to be more addictive than popping paper.



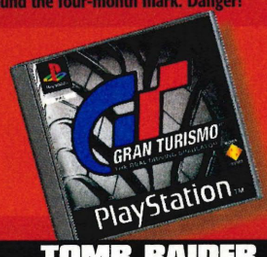
SUPER PUZZLE FIGHTER 2

Yup, more puzzles. Drop gems. Bust your opponents ass. Put two people in a room with it, and they'll never be seen again. Ever.



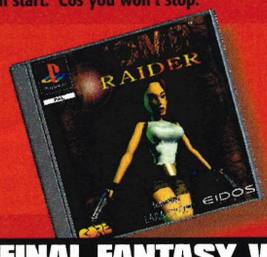
GRAN TURISMO

There's just so much stuff in there. It's bleedin' ridiculous. Solo GT missions tend to clock in around the four-month mark. Danger!



TOMB RAIDER

Lara. Even staring at her butt for hours is strangely compulsive. The game? Sheesh. Don't even start. 'Cos you won't stop.



FINAL FANTASY VII

So it's slow. So it's complex and gimpy. We've got two words for you. '100'. And 'hours'. And that's just the first time you play it...



■ THANKS TO: LEVEL 1, HMV OXFORD CIRCUS, ACTIVISION AND TOP SHOP, OXFORD CIRCUS, AND PHOTOGRAPHER JOHNNY GREIG.

The Works: G-Police 2 first full playtest

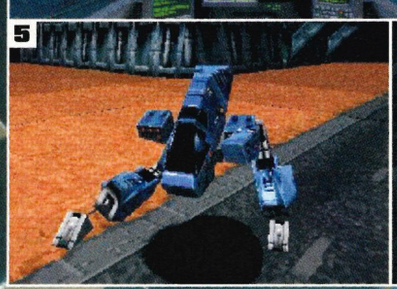
PC Plod swaps his dinky squadcar for a 50-foot armoured robot with her-uge guns. Bits of shrapnel and flash-fried gangster litter the streets. Yup, the G-Police are back. The coppers who bring new meaning to the words 'police brutality'. They've got more guns. They've got more ships. They've got meaner. Start whimpering, criminal scum. Tell your friends...

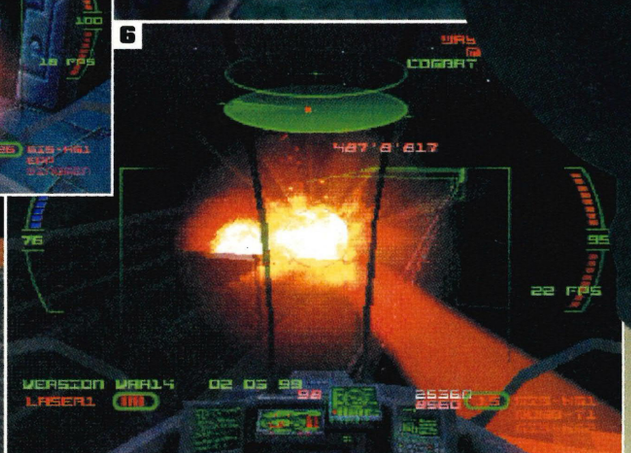






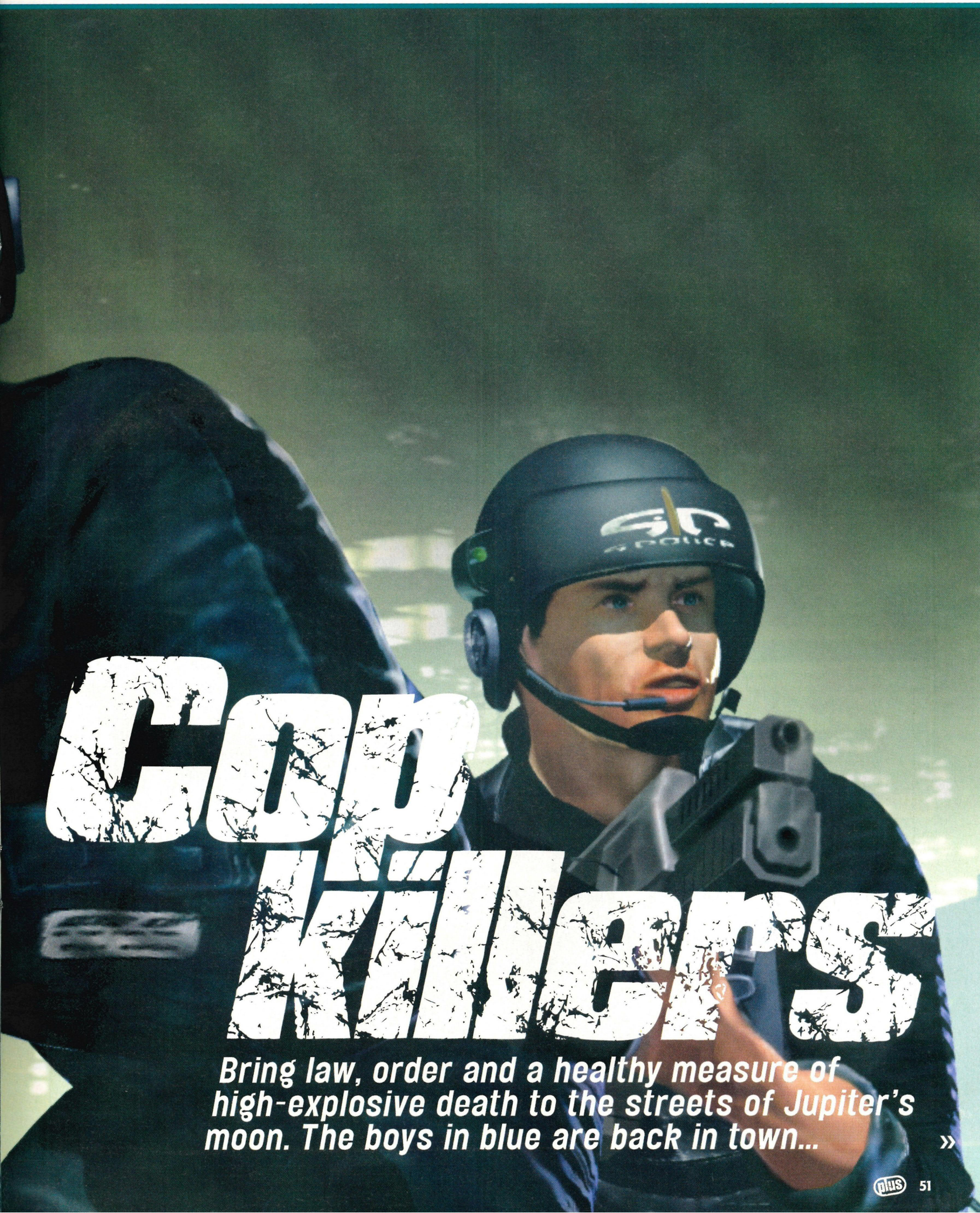






1 It's a man's life in the G-Police. A routine patrol turns into an explosive holocaust 2 They're looking for trouble... 3 They're tooled. They're trained up. And they're pissed off 4 Another worthless perp buys the farm.. Don't mess 5 And now you even get to drive funny robots with legs 6 Those lads won't park on a double yellow again...

■**OUT** MAY ■**BY** PSYGNOSIS ■**COSTS** £39.99 ■**PLAYERS** 1 ■**COMPATIBILITIES** JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, DUAL SHOCK PAD
■**WE LOOK AT** MISSIONS, PLOTS, GUNS, LADIES' RUDE BITS WHEN WE GET THE CHANCE...



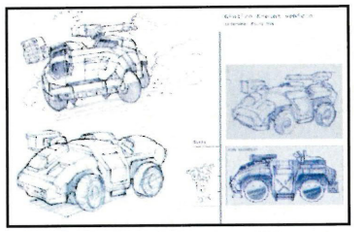
Cop Killers

Bring law, order and a healthy measure of high-explosive death to the streets of Jupiter's moon. The boys in blue are back in town...

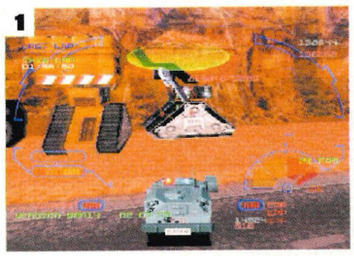
The Works: G-Police 2 first full playtest

Perp-punishing craft

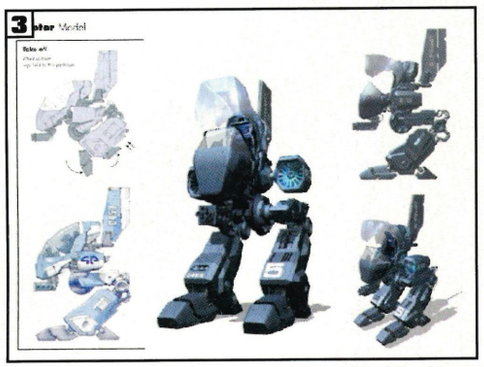
One of the things that didn't fill us with happiness in G-Police 1 was how you only got one craft to fly around in. But things've changed. Now you get five different vehicles, each with body-mounted high-calibre death-penalty administrators as standard. From Star Wars-type Scout Walkers to attack choppers. Can't complain...

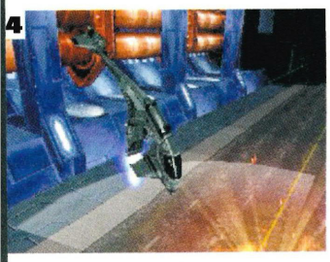


■ The Rhino. A meatwagon-type affair

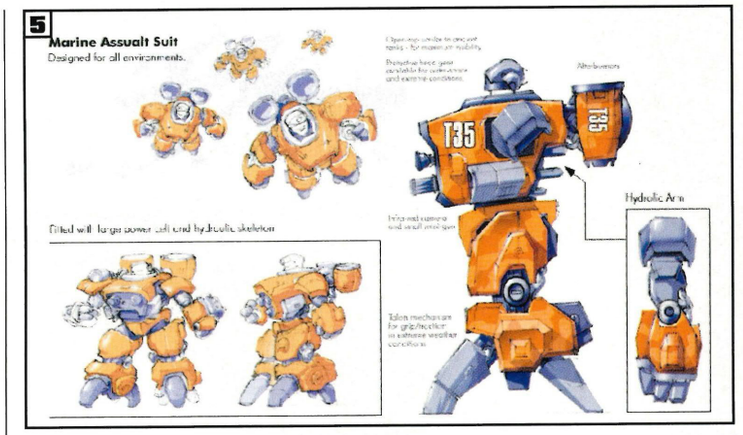


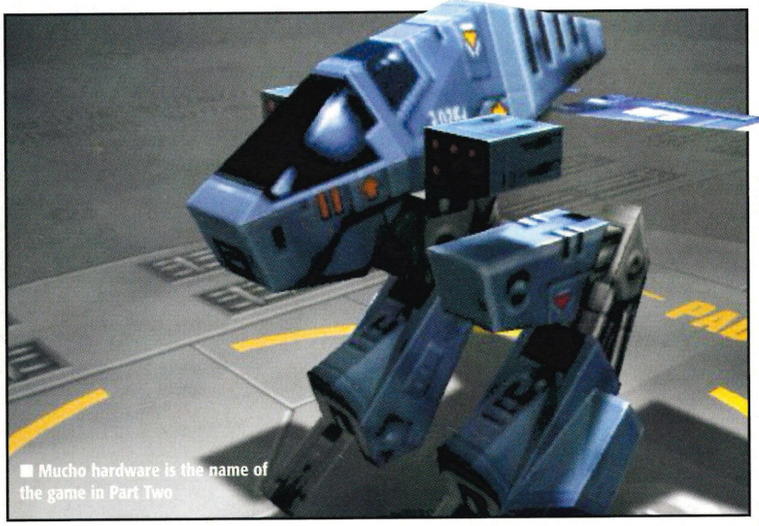






1 The Rhino in action 2 The Venom. A premium gunship with a payload to die for 3 The Raptor. A set of big guns on legs 4 Oh yeah. High explosive death 5 And some more diagrams. Joy!





■ Mucho hardware is the name of the game in Part Two

Mission in action

Your missions range from 'On the beat' style affairs, where you mosey around with walkie-talkie in hand, completing extremely violent tasks to order, to full-on onslaughts on extremely well-armed criminal strongholds.

Also in there are bits where you have to save Good Citizens, protect resources, and even seek out and destroy hideouts. Gorblimey.



■ Search for the criminals' hideout. Terminate said hideout with extreme prejudice



■ Protect big cargo ships from droves of nasty crims in attack choppers



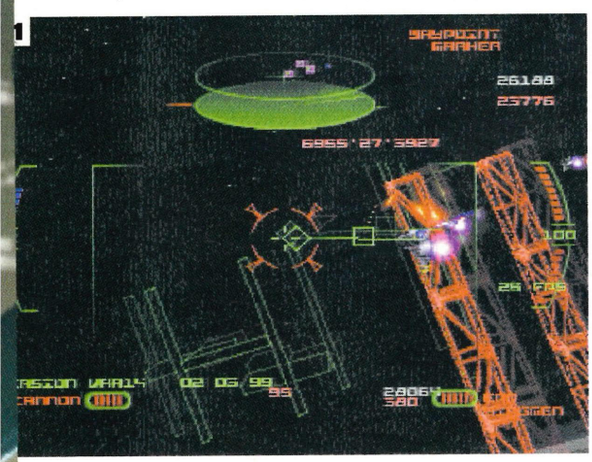
■ Or just go where the action is and kill the hell out of anything that moves

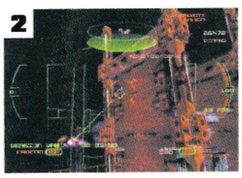


■ You'll be doing all of the above. It's a man's life in the G-Police

Darker and darker

It's dark on Jupiter's seventh moon. Because the sun is Very Far Away. Apparently. Now this was one of the things about G-Police 1 that stank very slightly of human droppings: the fact that you couldn't see even the most enormous buildings until microseconds before impact. But the lads have sorted out that little prob for this outing. Observe.







1 There's this net of green lines 2 Showing you buildings. No more embarrassing collisions 3 Still dark though, innit?

Do you love your hardcore?

Maybe you were one of the thousands of folks who bought the original G-Police but then found yourself clunking drunkenly off walls as you struggled to get to grip with the insanely tricksy simulation-type controls. You'll be relieved to hear it's a hell of a lot easier to get your sci fi meatwagons of the starting blocks in Part Deux. 'Ray!





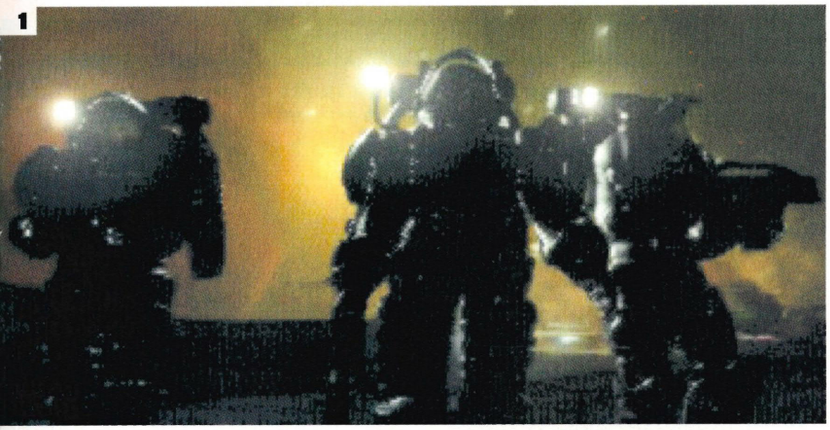
1 S'pretty easy to get your robot leg thing clunking along 2 And even the choppers are numbnuts-friendly

'Kill anything that moves'

The plot sickens

Companies called stuff like 'Sinotech' and 'Omnicom' and 'Nanowotsit' are big on the FT 100 share index in the dark future. Their employees do highly antisocial things like mercilessly slaying their rivals and dropping bombs all over the shop. Proper cyberpunk stuff. The G-cops try and hold everything together. Some job.

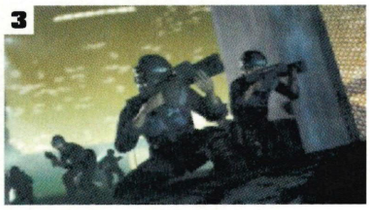
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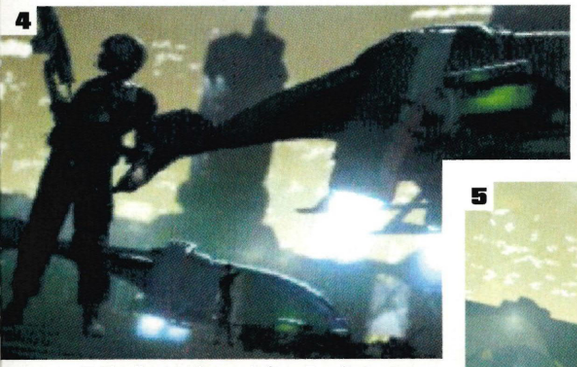
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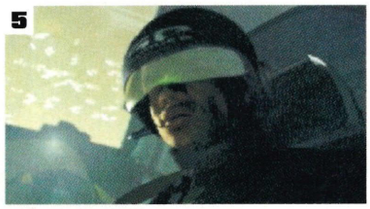
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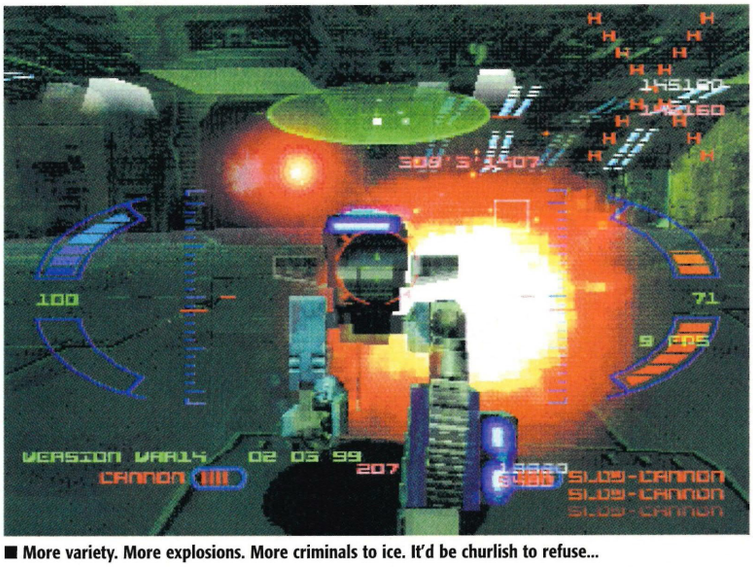


1 All the vid bits in G-Police 2 are well coolio... 2 And they really do create a nice bit of dark sci-fi atmos 3 Cor. You could almost be there 5 The faces in the video bits are pretty diamond sharp, too...

■ It's all set to the music from Terminator 2

Retread or dead

Now we'd be telling you lies if we told you this was a whole new game. It looks plenty similar to G-Police Part One. It even plays similar. But there's been enough new bits added to jazz the whole thing up. We've slogged our way through quite a bit of this little beast and we can report that it's filled with Eastern promise. Review in the near future...



■ More variety. More explosions. More criminals to ice. It'd be churlish to refuse...

Fight, dog

The reason the first G-Police was such a belter was the dogfights. Swooping, turning, diving strafing, exterminating. There just wasn't anything 'Stationside that had anything on G-Police's sumptuous feasts of urban aerial death. And number two adds ground-based rucks to the mix. Birthday!



■ Swoop out of the way of incoming



■ Then turn round to give 'em both barrels



■ Nosedive in for the kill. Die, gangster scum, die! And that goes for your house too!

Guns

This isn't The Bill, y'know. There's no place for pinko bleeding hearts on the G-Force. People who like people don't join. People who like shooting people do. And they're not going to be disappointed. Here's just a taster of the hardware you can stick on your meatwagon next to that laaarvely flashing blue light...

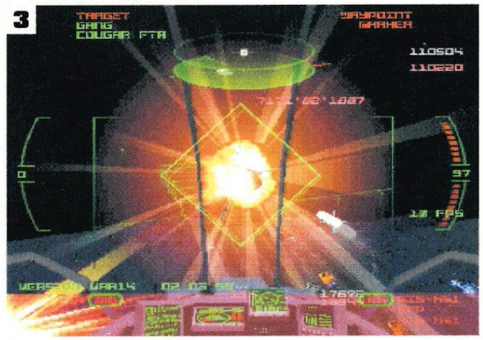


■ 50mm armour piercing cannon. Does exactly what it says on the tin...

1



3



2



1 EM disabling weapon. Stops 'em dead. Doesn't kill 'em dead 2 Unguided missiles. Pack one hell of a punch 3 Guided missiles. Less of a punch, but less effort on your part. Your call

Instant Expert

TIPS, CHEATS AND ADVICE FOR OVER 30 PLAYSTATION GAMES

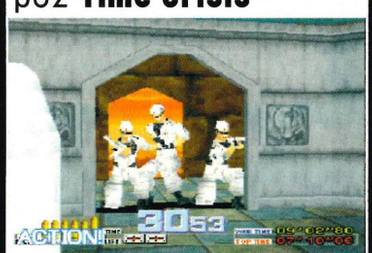
They paraded nearly-nude models before us. They tried to tempt us with flagons of beer. 'No,' we said, 'we've got to finish these tips...'

p54 **Ridge Racer Type 4**



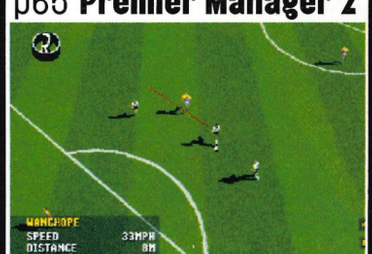
■ All the tips and pointers you'll need to scoop up cars in Grand Prix and Extra Trial mode

p62 **Time Crisis**



■ Take your weapon in your hands and go a-hunting with our exhaustive guide

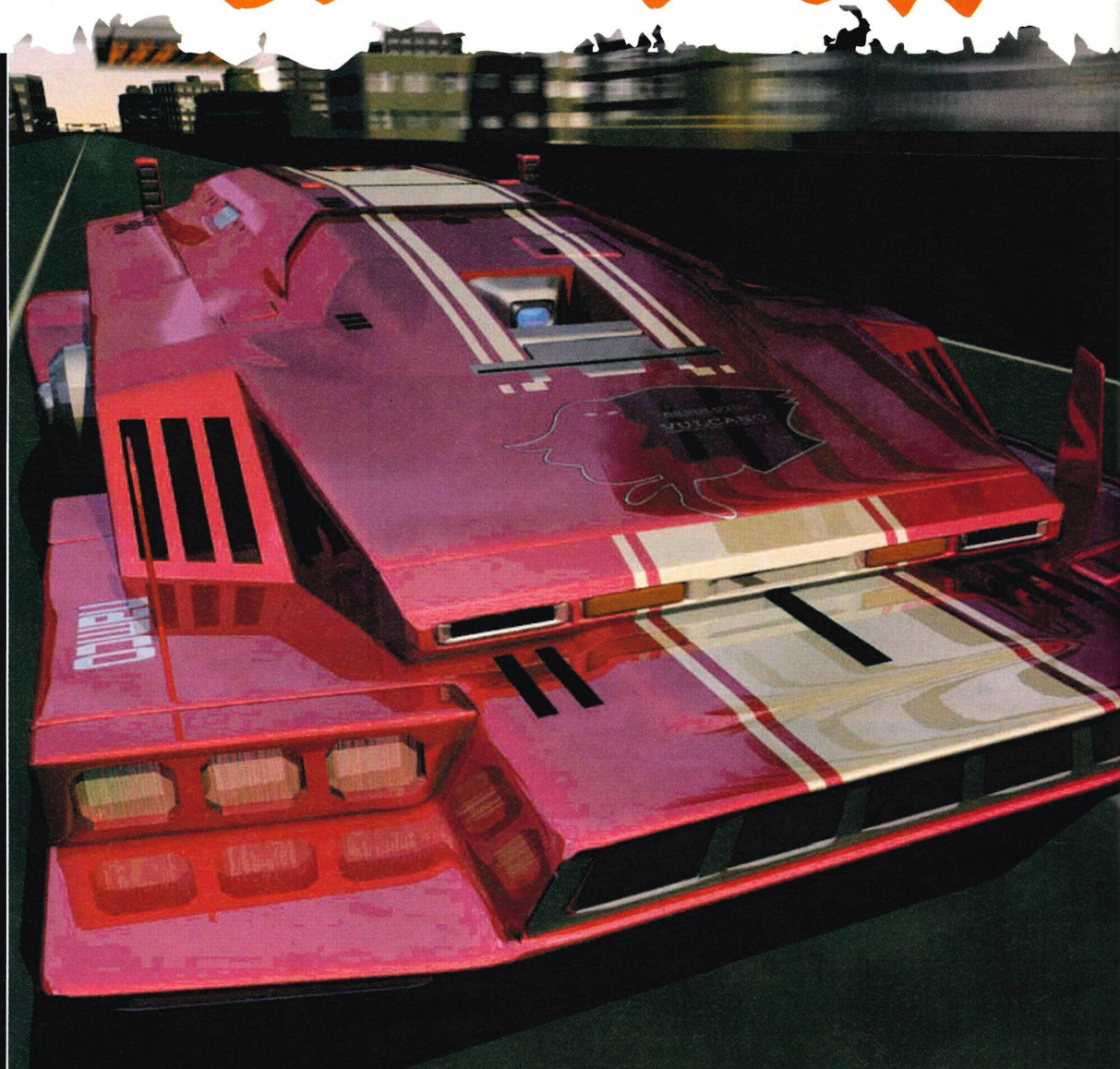
p65 **Premier Manager 2**



■ It's a difficult game, but somehow we've made it oh-so easy. We should be world leaders...

plus

p67 **Your Q&A queries**
p68 **Questions!**
p69 **Answers!**
p70 **Trousers!**
p71 **Pants!**



RIDGE RACER TYPE 4

It's eye-popping to look at. It's thumb-blistering to play. Sadly, it's also spleen-rupturingly hard. Go easy on yourself with our game-busting guide...

DETAILS	
GAME:	Ridge Racer Type 4
PRICE:	£39.99
COMPANY:	Sony
REVIEWED:	This issue
SCORE:	93%
VERDICT:	So good yer eyes'll love you forever

STARTUP

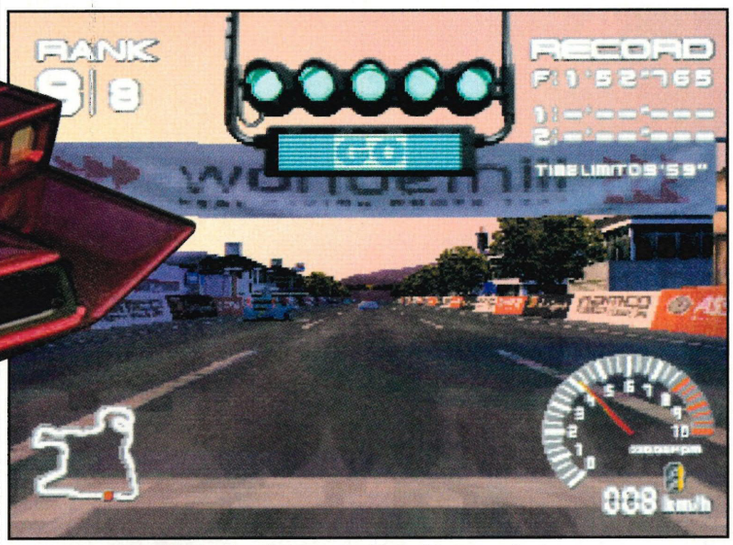
Right. Basics. Like, basic basics. So if you've found your feet already, maybe give this a skip...

AUTO GEARS

Automatic gears give you a bit of a disadvantage on the starting blocks, but you can still screech off with flair if you keep the rpms about 6000. Steady...



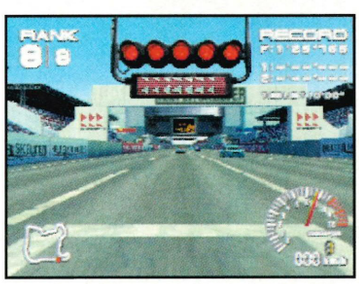
■ Just keep the needle hovering between 5 and 6000 rpms till you see the 'go'...



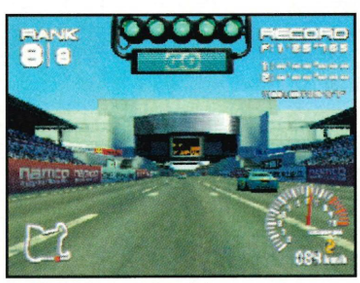
■ Then floor it. You should rocket off the starting block with grace and poise...

MANUAL GEARS

For the discerning driver, manual gears are a must. To get The Perfect Start™, just hold accelerate during the countdown, then switch to second gear instantly after the 'Go'. You'll lurch a touch, but you'll hit high speed far faster than is even remotely reasonable. Superb.



■ Just keep the accelerator maxed out. Hold it...



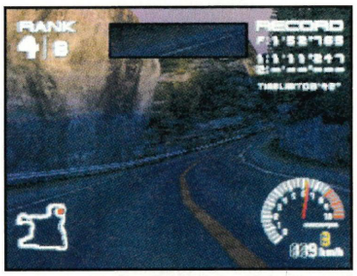
■ Then, right on 'Go', switch to second. Bonzer

CORNERING

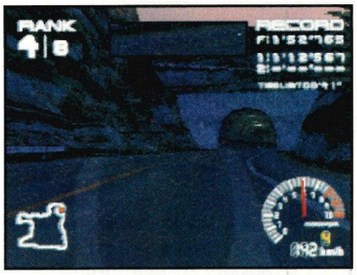
Cars in Ridge Racer don't corner like cars in The Real World. This is Arcadeland. Different rules apply. Powerslides are biiig on the menu. Enjoy.

GRIP CARS

Tap the brake without releasing the accelerator as you go into and round the corner. Bit slow, but you only need to brake on sharp corners. Open bends you can take flat out.



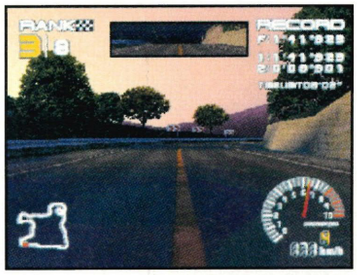
■ Just start a tap-tap-tappin'...



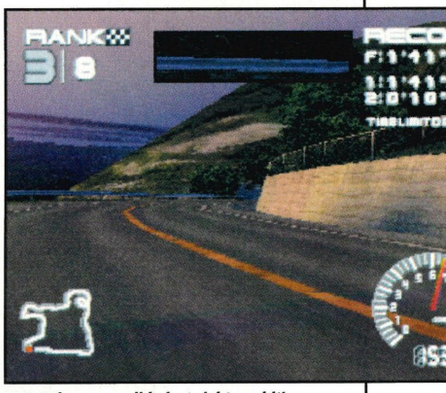
■ Nice and easy. Floor it, bad bwoy!

DRIFT CARS

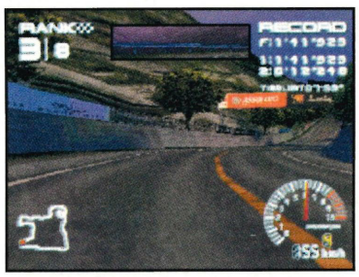
Just let go of accelerate, turn hard and early into the corner, skid, start accelerating again. The game does your powersliding for you. Get it right and any corner is no sweat...



■ This corner's a major bitch...



■ But time your slide just right, and it's easy...



■ Just stabilise the motor, and zoom off...

REALLY FAST DRIFT CARS

Cornering with the drift cars you get for the Stage 4 Grand Prix is a bit tougher. Observe...

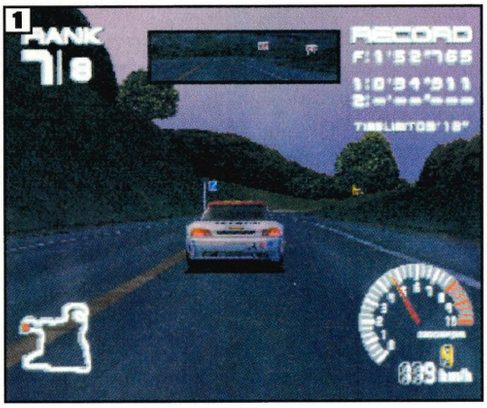
Thing is, the faster cars tend to overslide when they hit corners. You'll know it's happened 'cos the engine starts to make a high-pitched whining noise.

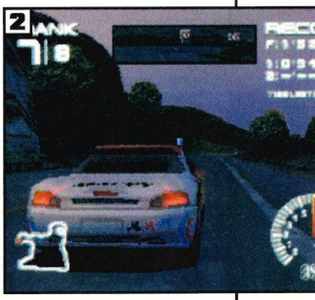
What to do is this: if you're on manual gears, wait till you've stopped sliding, then drop a gear to let the engine rpms catch up, then hammer out of the turn.

If you ain't on manual gears, then hard cheese, basically. Just ease off the accelerator for a second, stabilise the car, wait for it to stop whining then cane it. Just another way in which Auto gearbox ponces lose out. Sad, really.

ODDS AND ENDS TIPS

It might seem kind of obvious, but do anything to avoid contact with other cars. It slows you down massively, but doesn't seem to hurt them much. Oi! PlayStation! Physics, please! It's actually worth laying off the accelerator to avoid even nudging 'em...





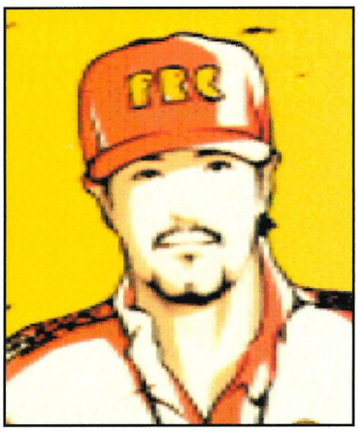
1 Hit another car and it rockets forwards 2 While you slow to a gentle walking pace. No good whatsoever. Avoid 'em at all costs...

»

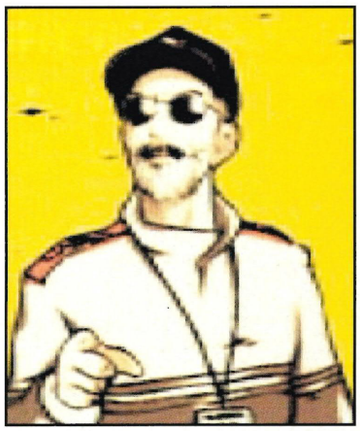
GRAND PRIX

So you've won. You get a handful of cars to stow in your precious garage. How'd it happen? Well...

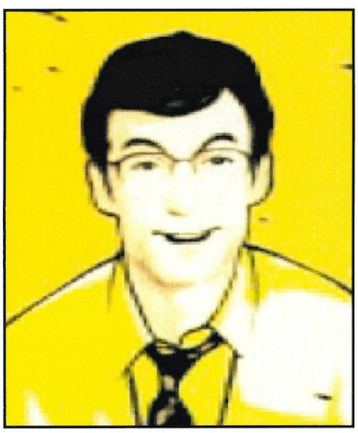
ROGUE'S GALLERY: THE COACHES



■ Jap bloke. Medium difficulty, medium cars



■ Italian bloke. A total fascist git. Easy mode



■ Useless Yank. Extra hard. Extra fast cars



■ A sexy lady. The French team. Veery easy...



■ Drive carefully on the yellow stuff

HOW TO WIN MOTORS AND INFLUENCE PEOPLE

RACE POSITIONS	HELTER SKELTER	WONDERHILL	EDGE OF THE EARTH	OUT OF THE BLUE	CARS GAINED
RACE POSITIONS	3RD PLACE	3RD PLACE	2ND PLACE	2ND PLACE	1,2,6,13
RACE POSITIONS	3RD PLACE	3RD PLACE	2ND PLACE	1ST PLACE	1,2,8,15
RACE POSITIONS	3RD PLACE	3RD PLACE	1ST PLACE	1ST PLACE	1,2,9,16
RACE POSITIONS	2ND PLACE	2ND PLACE	2ND PLACE	2ND PLACE	1,3,7,14
RACE POSITIONS	2ND PLACE	2ND PLACE	1ST PLACE	1ST PLACE	1,3,10,17
RACE POSITIONS	2ND PLACE	1ST PLACE	1ST PLACE	1ST PLACE	1,4,11,18
RACE POSITIONS	1ST PLACE	1ST PLACE	1ST PLACE	1ST PLACE	1,5,12,19

THE SPOILS OF VICTORY

1. ASSOLUTO: THE ESTASI CAR NO. 18

You get this on Stage 4. Probably the best all-round drift car in the game. Demon top speed too. And it just kind of looks nice, too. Which is obviously crucial...



2. LIZARD: THE CATARACT CAR NO. 18

Very, very fast. A bit touchy round corners, but still well worth a gander. An ideal choice for the last race on the high-speed ring, we reckon...

➡ A real bobby-dazzler. Just watch it go...

3. TERRAZI: THE DESTROYER CAR NO. 19

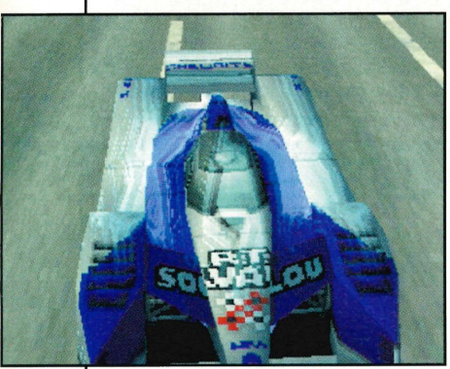
Blinding top speed: this is definitely the one for the Extra Trial mode. Handles beautifully too. It's pure diesel-powered poetry this 'un. Worth doing a Grand Prix just to get it...



■ A sci-fi übercar suit you, Sir? Oh, it will, it will. Hideous amounts of bottom-end grunt as standard

4. AGESOLO: SORCIERE CAR NO. 18

About the second-fastest grip car in the game, and slightly less moody than the Supernova. Grip car-wise this is probably the top boy...



■ A nice big car going very fast. Yesterday

5. ASSOLUTO: FATALITA CAR NO. 16

You can get this little beauty on Stage 3: while it's not got the best top speed in the world, it handles raaaather nicely...

6. LIZARD: IGNITION CAR NO. 12

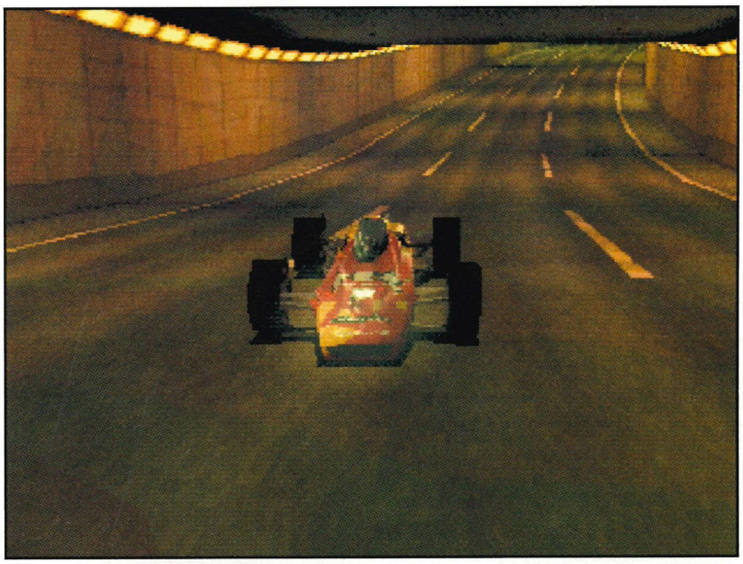
Ignition. A Stage 3 Lizard car, this 'un combines an OK-ish top speed with ultra-smooth handling: a top tip to get ahead if you're not confident of the track you're on...

7. TERRAZI: STARLIGHT CAR NO. 12

Another top car is the Starlight, which'll set you up nicely for the Final GP. For a stage 3 car it's got an eye-watering top speed, and it doesn't handle half badly either...

8. AGESOLO: LICOME CAR NO. 12

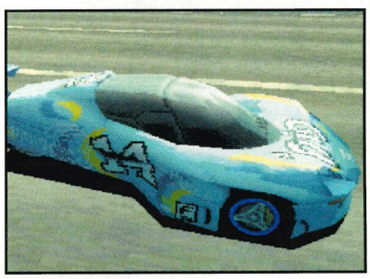
Gentlemen, the Licome. Very tasty. V. V. fast indeed, and the ideal way to set yourself up nicely for the Stage 4 races... And even if it wasn't, just look at it. Cool or wot?



■ It's a very nice car indeed. Driving very fast. In a tunnel. You savvy?

9. TERRAZI: WILDBOAR CAR NO. 9

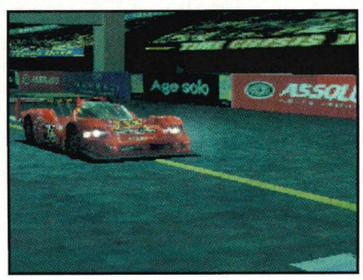
This one's a pretty basic motor for your money, but it gains immense numbers of cool points by only having three wheels.



■ Odd car with only three wheels. Confusion...

10. ASSOLUTO: SUPERNOVA CAR NO. 19

Extra-fast grip car for the boy racers. It's the last on the list, and it has a top speed that'd make Jeremy Clarkson weep tears of joy...



■ Fast? Oh yes indeedy. Bet on this beast



■ Robin Reliant goes mental overleaf

»

EXTRA TRIAL

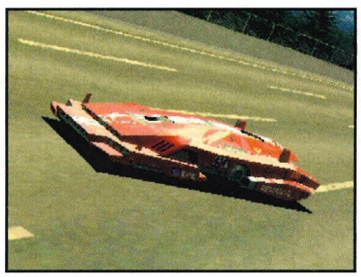
You've collected a decent posse of motors. What next? Racing these mighty machines is what's next. Ulp...

THE DEAL IS...

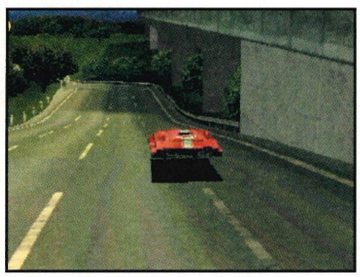
To get these cars, you've got to beat them. Sounds easy. It ain't. You've basically got to have the best car for each manufacturer, and it helps to have had the game on joey setting – team Mappy is good. Also, playing dirty is highly advisable. Once you've got in front, weave so the supercar can't overtake. Not pretty. But effective...

MAKER: ASSOLUTO

The Vulcano: to you and me, a mondo weirdo alien-type car that tweets. It's got really fast acceleration up to 300 mph, but then levels out. Catching it shouldn't be so much of a problem, because it turns like a dog: just stay on target, and you can usually take it one the last bend...



■ For the first two laps, you probably won't see hide nor hair of it...



■ But if you get everything absolutely bang on, you can usually catch it up on the last bend

MAKER: AGESOLO

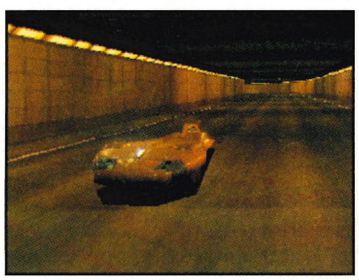
Yup. It's a Robin Reliant, the car well-known as a one-way ticket to social leperdom. 'Cept this one can go 0-300mph in one second. The Ecureuil also has a higher turning circle than any car in the game. Beating it isn't that much of a problem, though: staying in front of it won't work, but you can usually catch up on the corners...



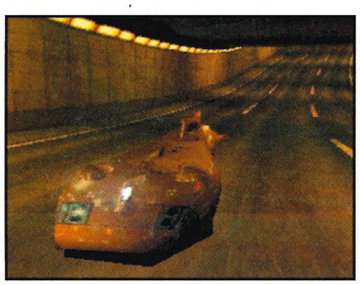
■ Doesn't look much, but moves like greased lightning. A must-have for any garage

MAKER: TERRAZI

A kind of rocket-powered thing: it's not got the best of accelerations, but its top speed is astronomical: 400 mph. Don't even think about trying to catch it on a straight: corners are where you can gain time, 'cos it really has to slow down to even turn by a whisker...



■ A very fast rocket car going very fast



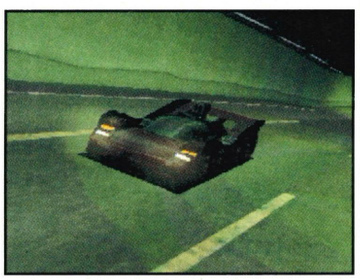
■ And again! Hot dingety dang!

MAKER: LIZARD

You REALLY need the best Lizard car to have even a vague chance of beating this fella: we recommend the Cataract, and it helps to have used the American team to get a higher top speed. Nothing but a perfect race will beat this 350kph-in-4-seconds monster...



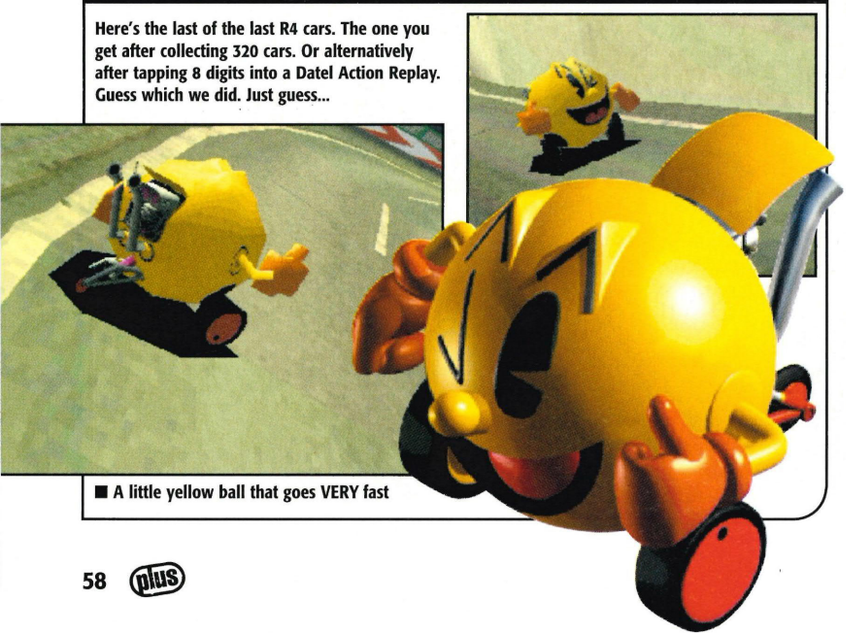
■ So the design is pretty 80s...



■ But the top speed is lethal. We warn you

WE CHEATED

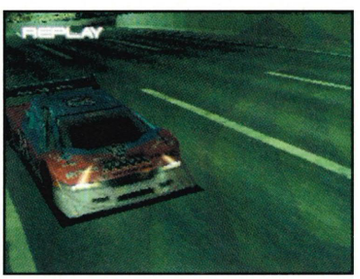
Here's the last of the last R4 cars. The one you get after collecting 320 cars. Or alternatively after tapping 8 digits into a Datel Action Replay. Guess which we did. Just guess...



■ A little yellow ball that goes VERY fast

I WANT IT ALL!

But before you start cracking your knuckles and getting ready to collect all 320, remember you'll be able to save yourself mucho ass-busting later by using the PocketStation to trade cars with your mates. You'll be able to do it... if you've got the patience to wait nine months for the release of the PocketStation, that is. Yeah, nice one, Mr Sony...



■ A nice car you won't be able to get. Till later



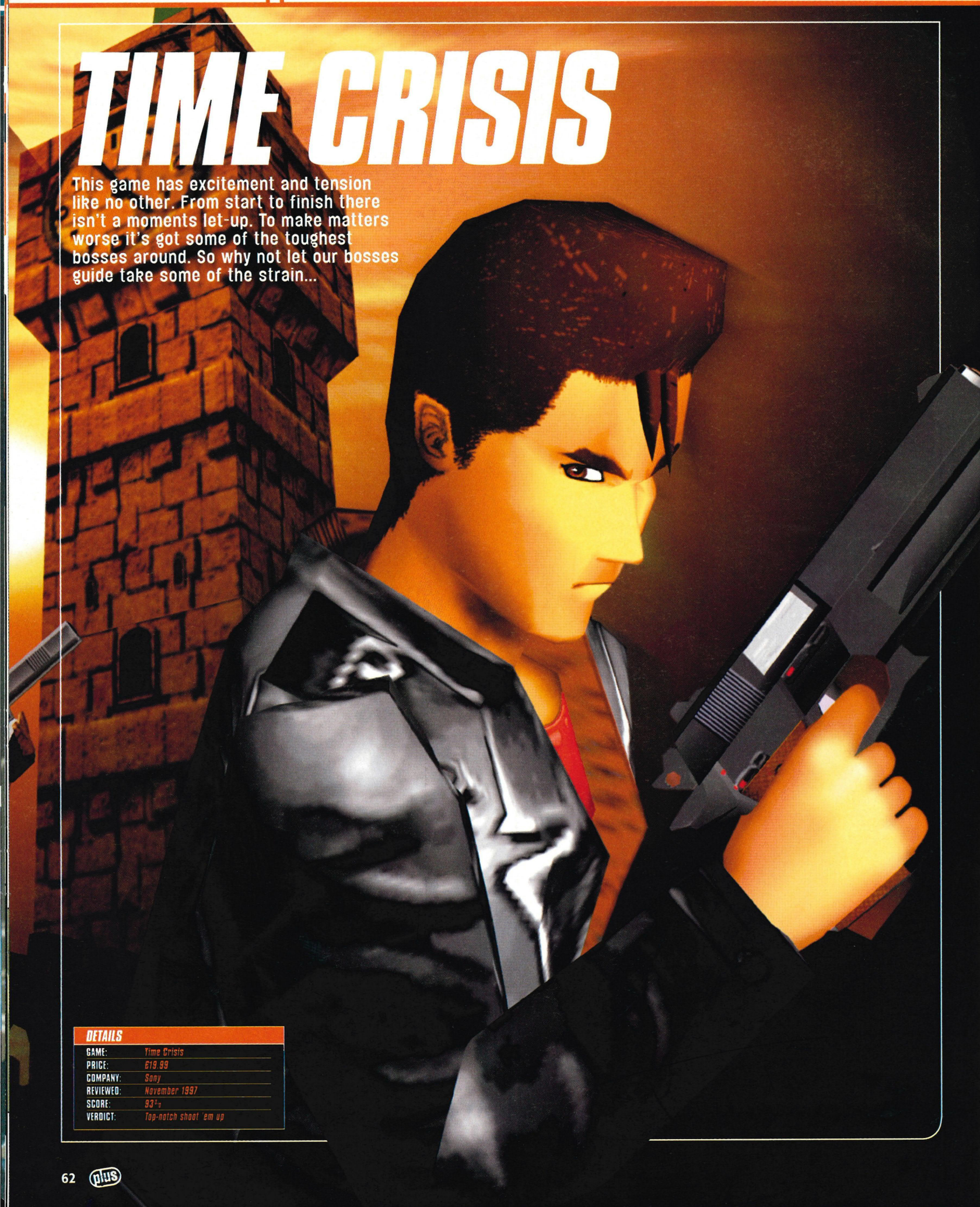

KERRANG!
the loudest magazine
on the planet.




The new weekly entertainment magazine.
heat
Where there's smoke

TIME CRISIS

This game has excitement and tension like no other. From start to finish there isn't a moments let-up. To make matters worse it's got some of the toughest bosses around. So why not let our bosses guide take some of the strain...



DETAILS

GAME:	Time Crisis
PRICE:	£19.99
COMPANY:	Sony
REVIEWED:	November 1997
SCORE:	93%
VERDICT:	Top-notch shoot 'em up

BAD GUYS

SHERUDO GARO



Boss 2: Last member of the monarchy. Throws knives very quickly and vanishes

WILD DOG



Final Boss: This bloke starts off using two rapid firing pistols, then pulls out a machine gun

BOSS 1: MOZ

Also known as the Gold Ninja. Since he's the first boss he ain't too difficult. Well, not compared to the other two. The main problem with this bad-ass is the dudes with him. They have massive claws attached to their right hands. Add to this their Linford Christie speed and you've got a job on...



1 Moz has two grey Ninjas next to him. Nail Moz first, then the one on the left, then right



2 Get the two grey ninjas dropping down. Finish them off before they touch down





3 Moz and two grey ninjas will drop down. They'll land in one of two places. If you see a single large shadow on the left then get ready to fire off a few rounds to take them all out in one go. If you see three shadows get ready to shoot the one on the right first, then the one on the left before getting a shot in on Moz 4 Now Moz'll attack. He'll leap from pillar to pillar, starting on the left. You can either shoot him while he's in the air, or dodge his first attack before blowing him away.

BOSS 2: SHERUDO GARO

This ginger-haired nutter is defeated in three portions. Once you've beaten each section your time'll be extended. Sherudo Garo only uses daggers but he can throw three at a time. Not only that but there's no pattern to where he'll come from. To help you here's the four places he could spring from...

- Left side of the pot, Sherudo standing up
- Lower left side of the pot. Sherudo crouching down
- Above the pot, either on the left or right. Sherudo shows plenty of his body
- Lower right side. Sherudo throws his dagger before you can shoot





1 Once you've shot him he'll go 2 Whitecoats appear between pillars. Take out one. Duck. Do the other. Sherudo'll appear again. See above. A marksman and a whitecoat appear. There's no rule to say which will appear where. Decide on one side and shoot. Duck then take out the other. Shoot Sherudo again. Time extended



3 You'll advance slightly. Sherudo'll appear from around the pillar. Either left side, lower right side or centre. Once shot he'll sod off



4 Five whitecoats appear. Two with shooters go to where Sherudo was. Leave them until you've got the ones running in from the left side. A whitecoat will hide on the other side of the pot. Leave him while you dust the others. Sherudo reappears, nail him twice. He'll disappear into the doorway



5 Three whitecoats appear at the door. Do the middle one first, the right one second, then the left one. Sherudo reappears, have him. Two whitecoats appear. Take out the one on the right first 6 Shoot Sherudo when he reappears. A whitecoat emerges on the right. He'll only show a bit of his body, but you've got to take him down as Sherudo comes back from the left side. Do Sherudo. Another whitecoat appears on the right. Shoot him. Sherudo reappears on the right, so get ready to finish him off...



Instant Expert: Time Crisis

FINAL BOSS: WILD HOG

Oh boy, this is one tough cookie to crack. Just to prove it 'ol Wild Dog takes you over four gruelling legs. By the end of it you'll know what it is to hunt a man to death. Let battle commence...

PART ONE

1 Wild Dog can appear either side of the fountain. It's purely random. He'll be firing his two magnums like nobody's business. Stay alert. Don't expose yourself too much. Our advice is to shoot as fast as you can, when you can.



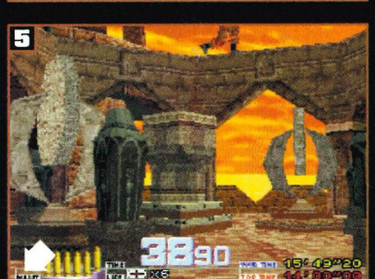
PART TWO

2 You'll see two blue infantrymen by the coin statue on the right. Nail the orange bonus-time soldier. Now turn to the red marksman to the right of the pedestal **3** Two shielded blue infantrymen come on from either side of the screen and join up in the middle. Gun their legs away and shoot the grenadier standing behind them **4** Take out the green and yellow club wielder before he has a chance to stove your face in. Take out the machine gunner on the left of the ledge. Wild Dog'll now appear from the right of the monument base, so shoot him











5 Cap the recoilless rifleman as he runs left to right across the ledge. Now shoot the green and yellow grenadier's legs before he's got the chance to hurt you **6** Get the machine gunner on the ledge and nail the grey ninja before he slashes you

PART THREE



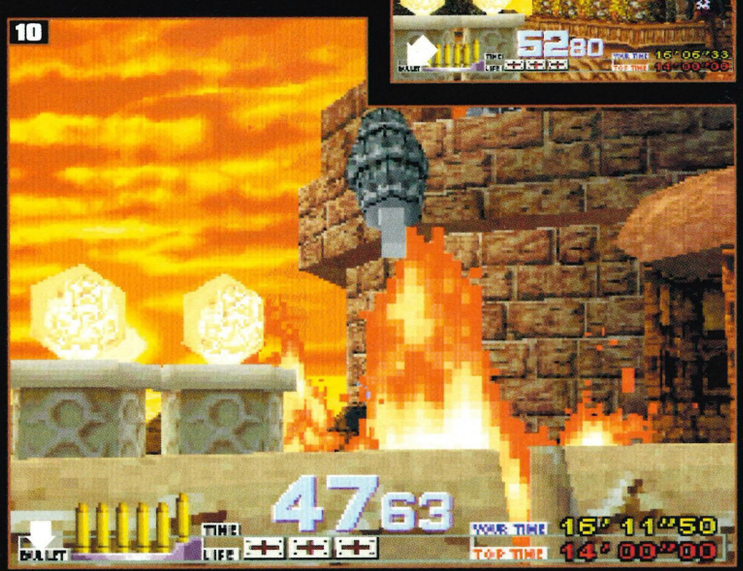
7 Wild Dog re-emerges on the left of the centre monument. Get your shot in before he does **8** Take down the two whitecoats before dealing with the machinegunner, then watch for the whitecoats armed with clubs who suddenly appear from the left



PART FOUR

9 Get ready to pump serious lead into Mad Dog when he appears from the right of the screen. From here he'll head to the left until he's behind the flames. Keep pumpin' **10** Keep your eyes peeled for the grenades coming over and keep nailing him when he comes close **11** He's behind the flames again so keep shooting **12** Who's the Dog now...









PREMIER MANAGER 99

Your patience is wearing thin, supplies of Nescafé are running low and even the dog thinks you smell. Time to seek help...

DETAILS	
GAME:	Premier Manager 99
PRICE:	£39.99
COMPANY:	Gremlin
REVIEWED:	March 99
SCORE:	91%
VERDICT:	Improves on engrossing original

PRE-SEASON

It's tempting to skip the pre-season friendlies, but don't. Friendlies give you the opportunity to do one of two things: either build up finances by playing huge glamour clubs like Juventus or AC Milan or assess your squad's strength. Watch it, though. A full-on pre-season against massive clubs could result in a big injury list and tired players, whereas a light schedule against lowly clubs will leave your team with a lack of competitive spirit.



➡ Choose friendlies wisely, Ron

TACTICS

To decide tactics you've got to check out the opposition. If they're playing five midfielders, say, you might want to play a sweeper to stop them. Here's some other stuff to help you with yer tactics:

- Away from home, or against the top teams, play five at the back and choose counter-attack formation. You won't leak goals and you might net one on the break.
- The long ball game can be used to bombard the opponent's half with overhead balls. You won't rely on the midfield with this method, so cut back on the middle men and use an extra striker.
- If you've got demon wingers, use them wisely. Give yourself five in midfield with a 3-5-2 or 4-5-1 formation and choose a passing game. Watch 'em go...
- Need an equaliser quickly? Pause play and get busy with your formation. Select 3-4-3 or 3-5-2 with long ball and overall attacking style to lay siege to your opponent's goal.





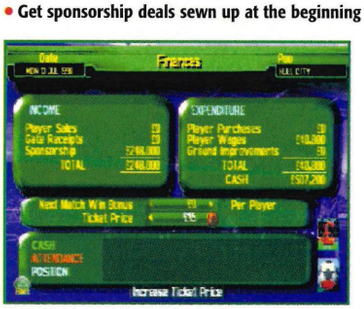


1 Choose formation with care **2** And get used to player stats, too **3** Here's where games are won

FINANCES

Keeping the coffers full is a vital part of your job. Here are the hints you'll need to make life easier:

- Don't go mad with the win bonus. Try and second guess how your players will be thinking before a match before you begin dishing it out.
- Strike a balance with your ticket pricing policy. Charge too much and fans will stay away. Charge too little and the club will operate at a loss. Fans don't mind paying extra to see you play glamour teams, but you should drop prices for the less attractive sides.
- Start ground development work towards the end of the season or in the summer when the ground's out of action.
- Get sponsorship deals sewn up at the beginning of the season.



■ Alter bonuses depending on the match



■ And get sponsors sewn up quickly



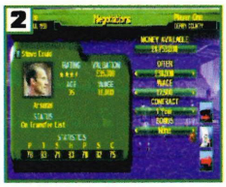
Instant Expert: Premier Manager 99

TRANSFERS

Use your bonce when it comes to scouting. Send your boys to look at Top Scorers and check for form players early in the season. Here's some tips for landing your star player:

- To get a superstar offer the best financial package possible. Go for a mid-length contract with a high weekly wage and a get-out clause if relegated.
- If you're trying to sign a foreigner use the house and car bonus option to make him feel at home
- Strikers like the goalscoring bonus, so dangle it in front of them
- Older players tend to like a long-term contract for security. Equally, your younger pups don't want to be tied down so offer a shorter term deal.
- Always offer slightly more than requested and you can be pretty certain the club won't turn you down (the player might, though)







1 You'll have your mind on other things but watch the market 2 Sometimes it seems whatever you do to land a player... 3 He'll always turn you down. Why? Go figure

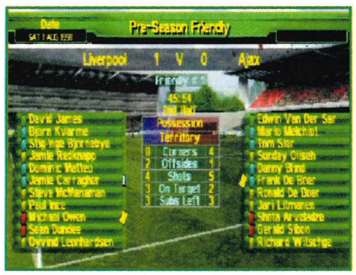
GENERAL TIPS

Chow down on a feast of the more general hints and tips you'll be needing for Premier Manager 99 success. Take heed of these and you might be a champ:

- Save regularly. Don't take this advice and you'll be sorry. And we'll laugh at you
- If you have player aging on get rid of the old duffers at the start of the season. Keep on the promising youngsters
- Make sure you get yourself a good goalkeeper - they're the foundation of your team
- As a game's in progress, watch the territory meter and shot count for each team. If the opposition's getting loadsa shots in then its time to strengthen your defence.



■ Things aren't going too well? Then pause play at once and go tactical on they ass



■ 1-0. Time to shore up the defence...



■ Viewing highlights can be a help

TRAINING

Don't ignore Premier Manager's training option – it doesn't give instant results but you feel the benefits over time.

Use the customised training option to design a training programme individually suited to each player. With Paul Gascoigne, say, you want to boost the blob's fitness and rely less heavily on skill.

On the other hand, a younger player may need his skill improving. It's also worth remembering to rest key players before important matches. Keep an eye on their fitness levels to help you decide.

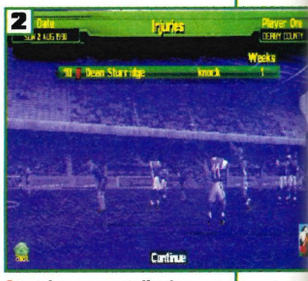


■ Go on then mate, have a rest



■ It's worth keeping an eye on the highlights to suss out who might need training





1 Just because a striker's knocking them in, don't ignore the fitness stats 2 And make sure you have cover for all positions

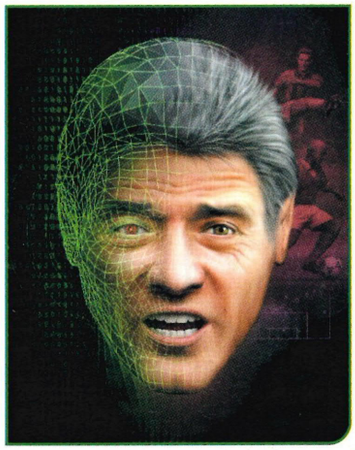
KEEGAN'S DOS AND DON'TS

DOS

- Keep players happy & content
- Get a strong squad and got for strength in depth – aim for quality in every position
- Prepare squad thoroughly for all games - preparation is vital
- The opposition – study them carefully so you know what you're up against

DON'TS

- Don't alienate players in the squad – keep them all involved by giving everyone a fair go. Use weaker players for less important games
- Don't let players dictate wages – make an offer and stick to it



■ Scans show the left side of Kevin's brain is dominated by football. The right by, er, green

Q&A

We've got stacks of hints, tips and cheats. And y'know what, we're not afraid to use them. So if you've got a gaming problem, we have the solution.

Platinum A-Z continued

D is for 'Down-right dirty cheater'

Welcome to month two of our exhaustive and downright handy Platinum game cheat guide. This month we're blowing games beginning with the letter D wide open. Next month, we push the alphabet to the limit and return with the letter... well, y'know what comes next.

DESTRUCTION DERBY

ENTER THE FOLLOWING CODES AFTER STARTING A CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

▼ CODE: NPLAYERS
ALLOWS YOU TO CHOOSE BETWEEN ONE AND 20 COMPETITORS IN THE PRACTICE MODE. ENTER THE NUMBER OF OPPONENTS AFTER SELECTING A TRACK.

▼ CODE: !DAMAGE!
PREVENTS CAR FROM GETTING DAMAGED

▼ CODE: REFLECT!
ACCESS TO RUINED MONASTERY TRACK.
(ONLY WORKS IN THE PRACTICE MODE)



■ With our handy cheat you too can have more fun than is either legal or safe with your mates

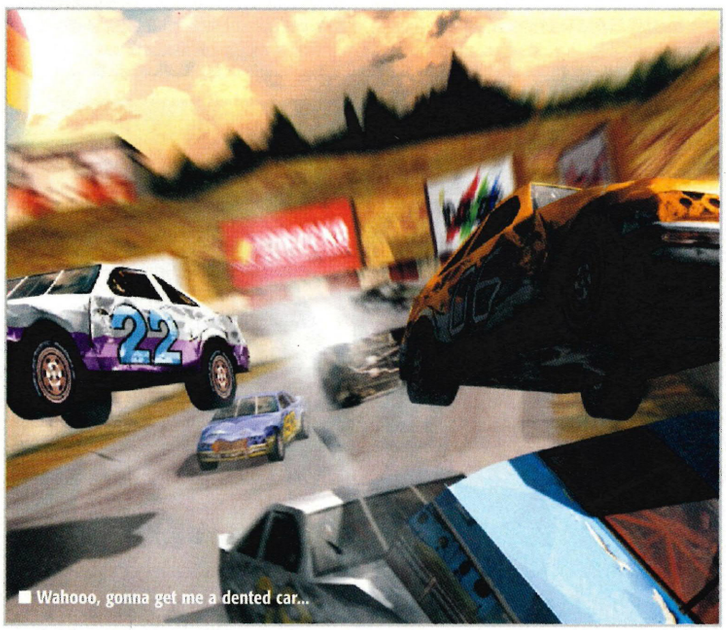


■ Your suicidal driving cannot harm us, not with our zero damage cheat... wahahaha

DESTRUCTION DERBY 2

TO ACCESS THESE CHEATLETS SELECT CHAMPIONSHIP MODE FROM THE RACE TYPE SCREEN. ENTER YOUR NAME AS ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

ToNyPaRk ..... FULL MOTION VIDEO
CREDITZ! ..... ANIMATED CREDITS
MACSrPOO ..... ALL TRACKS
(START A NEW PRACTICE RACE TO PLAY NEW TRACKS)



■ Wahooo, gonna get me a dented car...

C&C: Red Alert

Globe-conquering cheats

I have been searching everywhere for cheats for Command &Conquer: Red Alert. Will you print some for me?
Aarron Seton

plus **Listen to you, we can almost see your bottom lip all a-quiver. To get to the cheats, highlight the team icons on the sidebar, and cancel the icons using the ◉ button. Then place the cursor over these symbols and press ◉ to enter them:**

INSTANT NUKE: ◉ ✕ ◉ △ ▢ △
INSTANT WIN: ✕ ▢ ▢ ◉ △ ◉
FOR INSTANT CASH: ▢ ▢ ◉ ✕ △ ◉
WHOLE LEVEL VISIBLE: ▢ △ ◉ ✕ △ ▢



■ Winning has never been so goddamn easy, or so damn tasty for that matter



■ With our cool instant cash cheats you'll soon be freezing the enemy out of the game

Smart Alec

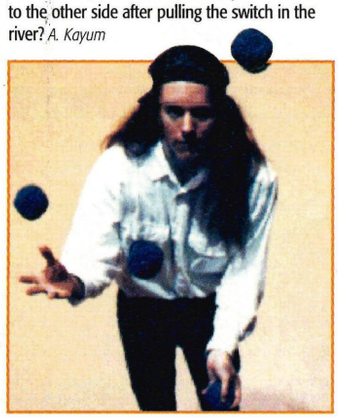
Go ahead punk, make my day

Fancy getting your mugshot in the mag? All you've gotta do is prove you're a gaming God and give us the solution to one of the problems below. Send in the answer, along with a passport-sized photo, and your mug will feature in the mag. But don't try and rip us off, we already know the answers so we can tell if you're having us on. Mark your answers 'SMART ALEC'. Here goes...

QUESTION 1: In Alundra, on the way to the Desert of Despair, you have just made the chair by the front door of the place Fallin. You then come to a room which the sign reads 'The great sun's gaze is held fast. How on do you do it?
Darren Stenning

QUESTION 2: In Wild Arms can you give me the passwords for the Memory Temple and the Epitath Tower?
Daniel Fry

QUESTION 3: I'm stuck on Tomb Raider III, the second level, Crash Site. How do you cross over to the other side after pulling the switch in the river? *A. Kayum*



■ He's got the balls to enter. Have you?

Introducing the Gear Guru...

The bottom line on 'Station peripherals and extras

I am thinking about getting my PlayStation chipped but don't understand how to go about it. Can you give me the lowdown?
Paul Spring

plus **First things first: we don't condone that sort of thing. Still, if you want to get your 'Station chipped then the warranty is void, no matter how new the machine is. Pay the extra money and get professionals to do it, because we've seen DIY kits and they're just too much hassle. Many independent game shops offer a chipping service., but only use someone who offers a warranty on the work done. And as a guide, don't pay more than about £50.**

I'm desperately searching for a lightweight shooter which completely rocks and is compatible with Die Hard Trilogy. Comparable guns such as the Protector and the Erazer are more Mr Bean than 007. I've heard Nugen's Assassin automatic handgun is tops. Is it compatible with Die Hard though? Please put me out of my misery.
Oliver Ray

plus **Our resident lightgun genius reckons the the Nu Gen Assassin is the mutt's nuts, and is accurate enough to shoot the head off an ant at forty paces. Better still, it's compatible with Die Hard and rattles when it fires. Weird.**



■ The Gear Guru's bottom line: pin-sharp

I have just bought an American PlayStation mag and it said that 'The Lost World: Special Edition' had just been released. I need to know how if it improves on the original, or if it's still a pile of shite. Tell me, tell me.
Dale Crump

plus **The Special Edition is just the Yankee name for the Platinum game so yup, it's still a nasty pile of dog turd. Avoid!**

»

Instant Expert: Your problems solved

Sports special

Armchair Athletes

Spring's almost upon us. No doubt you'll all be thinking about getting in shape for the summer. Yeah, well, whatever. Our advice is don't take any chances, just aim to be the ultimate armchair athlete. Let us make it easier with these steroid-pumped cheats...

JONAH LOMU RUGBY

TOURNAMENTS AND TEAMS

When you win the Territories Cup, don't quit the game. Select play and you'll get an extra league, with the British Lions, World XV, and Barbarians. Once you've won that, select play. You'll now get a special cup.



■ Rugby, the sport of ball-grabbing blokes

FORMULA 1 97

Go into the driver menu. Select Edit Driver option. Now enter any of the following as the driver's name:

▼ VIRTUALLY VIRTUAL	
VIRTUAL REALITY GRAPHICS	
▼ SWAP SHOP	
AMBIENT MUSIC AND SOUND	
▼ LITTLE WEELZ	
OVER-INFLATED TYRES	
▼ PI MAN	
WIPEOUT 2097 STYLE	
▼ ZOOM LENSE	
HELICOPTER VIEWPOINT	
▼ BOX CHATTER	
MURRAY & MARTIN SPRITE COMMENTATORS	
▼ BILLY BONUS	
FOUR EXTRA TRACKS	
▼ CATS DOGS	
FROGS INSTEAD OF RAINDROPS	



F1 drivers *always* moan about flies on their helmets

MADDEN NFL 98

Go to the Create Player Screen and enter the following names to access hidden teams:

EA SPORTS TEAM	ORRS HEROES
TIBURON TEAM	LOIN CLOTH
ALL-TIME LEADERS	LEADERS
ALL-TIME ALL MADDEN	COACH
ALL 60S TEAM	PAC ATTACK
ALL 70S TEAM	STEELCURTAIN
ALL 80S TEAM	GOLD RUSH
NFC PRO BOWL	ALOHA
AFC PRO BOWL	LUAU

At Create Player screen, enter codes. Save player, go to Stadium Select screen. Sweet.

ASTRODOME	JETSONS
CLEVELAND MUNICIPAL	DAWGPOUND
OAKLAND COLISEUM	SNAKE
TAMPA BAY STADIUM	BIG SOMBRERO
ORANGE BOWL	DANDAMAN
RFK STADIUM	OLDDC
TIBURON STADIUM	SHARKSFIN
OLD WEST	GHOST TOWN

FIFA 98

INFINITE PLAYER ATTRIBUTES

IN PLAYER EDIT ENTER THE FOLLOWING:

L1 L2 ✕ ● ✕

MUCHOS MONEY

FROM THE MAIN MENU, GO TO CUSTOMISE SQUAD, THEN TO TEAM EDIT. PICK YOUR CHOSEN CLUB, THEN PRESS...

● ✕ ● L2 L1

HIGHLIGHT THE CLUB'S MONEY INCREASING IT TO HOWEVER MUCH YOU WANT.



■ Pump up those player attributes

NHL 98

Enter the following as passwords to access these amazing effects:

BIG HEADS	BRAINY
KID PLAYERS	NHLKIDS
MUTANT PLAYERS	PLAYTIME
CHANGE JERSEY	3RD
HUGE PLAYERS	BIGBIG
PLAY AS THE EA BLADES TEAM	EAEAO
STANLEY CUP VIDEO	STANLEY

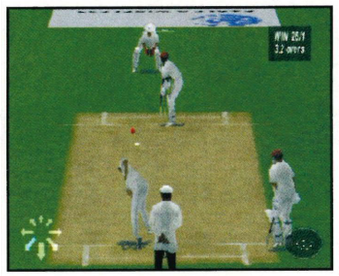


■ Ice hockey – legalised fighting more like

BRIAN LARA CRICKET

Enter these codes in the classic match password screen:

BUTTERFINGERS	DROPBALL
BEST XI	PENSIONS
SOLID STUMPS	SOLIDOAK
BEACH PARTY MODE	SUNSHINE
ER, BIG BALLS	BIGBALLS
BIG HITS	SUPERMAN
HELMET CAMERA	CHRISREACAMERA



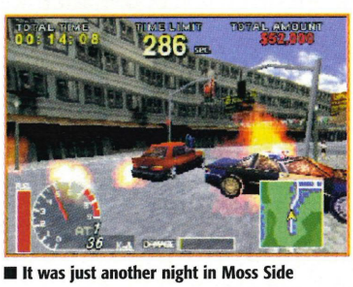
■ Super realistic, now with super cheats

Felony 11/79

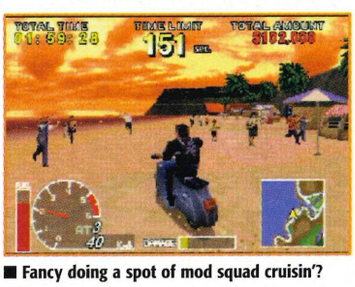
Call the cops

Could you give me the cheat to get all the vehicles on Felony 11/79. Please.
Stephen Lilison

plus Yeah, 'course we will, but it's well tricky OK? But you're up for it so let's roll. To get every single motor in this tasty little number, go to the Mode Select screen. Hold △, then quick as you like press and hold R1 + L2 + R2, then release them, still holding △. Then press and hold R2 + L2 + R1. If you've done it right you'll hear a noise.



■ It was just another night in Moss Side



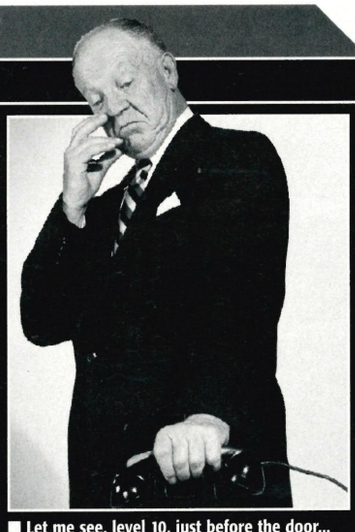
■ Fancy doing a spot of mod squad cruisin'?

'Help, I need somebody'

We care a lot

Here are the phone numbers for all the people who publish games, taking you straight to their cheat lines or technical support. Ain't we nice?

ACCLAIM	09068 303330
ACTIVISION	01895 456700
TAKE 2/BMG	01429 855046
CODEMASTERS	01926 816044
ELECTRONIC ARTS	0906 753253
EIDOS	0121 3560831
GREMLIN	01142 799 020
GT INTERACTIVE	0891 669910
INTERPLAY	0839 662666
JVC	0171 240 3121
KONAMI	09014 747484
MICROPROSE	01454 893900
NAMCO	0881 505505
PSYGNOSIS	0151 282 3333
SONY	0881 505505
TELSTAR	01932 232299
THQ	07071 223388
UBI SOFT	0181 944 9000



■ Let me see, level 10, just before the door...

Platinum A-Z continued

D is for 'double yer cheats here'

DIE HARD TRILOGY DIE HARD

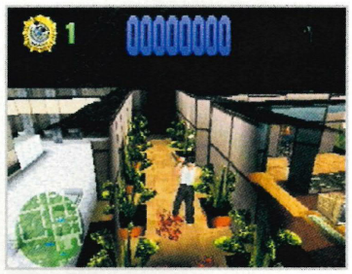
LEVEL SKIP
Pause the game and hold the R2 button. Then press: ↓ ● ← ■ ↑ ■ ←. Press START on joypad two to access a level skip. Press → to scroll through the levels.

CO-ORDINATES
Pause the game and hold the R2 button. Then press ← ● ↓ ■. Puts co-ordinates on screen.

50 GRENADES
Pause the game and hold the R2 button. Then press → ■ ↓ ●.

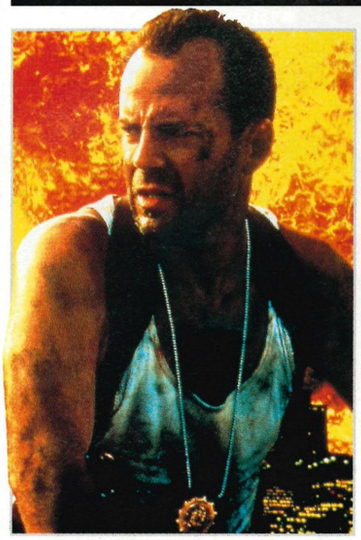
INVINCIBLE MODE
Pause the game and hold the R2 button. Then press → ↑ ↓ ■ to return to the action invincible.

UNLIMITED AMMO
Pause the game, hold R2 and press → ↑ ↓ ↓ ■ →. This gives you a shotgun with infinite shells. Re-enter code to switch to the other weapons.



■ McClane only wanted to see his kids

DIE HARD TRILOGY DIE HARDER



SKELETON MODE
Pause the game and hold the R2 button. Then press △ ← ← ↓ ■ △ ↓. All the people turn into skeletons. To return them to normal, enter the cheat again.

MAXIMUM SPECIALS
Pause the game and hold the R2 button. Then press → ■ ← ● △ ↓. Gives you 99 grenades and 99 rockets.

MAP EDITOR
Pause the game and hold the R2 button. Then press → ↑ ↓ ■. Press START again to access the Map Editor.

INVINCIBLE MODE
Pause the game and hold the R2 button. Then press ↓ △ → ■. Although you still get hurt, you won't die when you lose all your lives. To turn off, re-enter the cheat.

← Now he's really, really narked. Grrrr

DIE HARD TRILOGY DIE HARD WITH A VENGEANCE

EXTRA CAR VIEW
Pause the game and hold the R2 button. Then press ↓ ● ↓ ●. You can now select a new chase car view.

INFINITE LIVES
Pause the game and hold the R2 button. Then press ← ● ↑ ↓ ■ →. Return to the action with as many Bruce's as you need.

INFINITE TURBOS
Pause the game and hold the R2 button. Then press ● ● ■ ■ ↓ ↓ ✕ ✕. Speed around town to reach the bombs with ease.

INFINITE SUPER-TURBOS
Pause the game and hold the R2 button. Then press ● → ↓ ■ △ ←. Keep jumping right over the traffic at high speed.

SLOW MOTION
Pause the game and hold the R2 button. Then press ← ↑ ← ← ■ ↓. Slows the action down to a snail's pace.

CAR HANGER
Pause the game and hold the R2 button. Then press → ● ← ← ■ ↓. A toy car hangs above the windscreen on the Inside view.



■ Watch that junction. Sorry, intersection



■ Extra points for grannies not awarded

Need for Speed 3

Need for cheats

Please could you send some cheats for Need for Speed 3.
Ben Holder

PLUS **Look Ben, me old mucker, the idea is you send in your question, and wait patiently for an answer in the Q&A section. We don't send answers to you, we're not the friggin' Post Office. Still, everyone's entitled to one mistake, and that was yours. Here are cheats a-plenty to gorge yourself on, and to show you how it's done...**

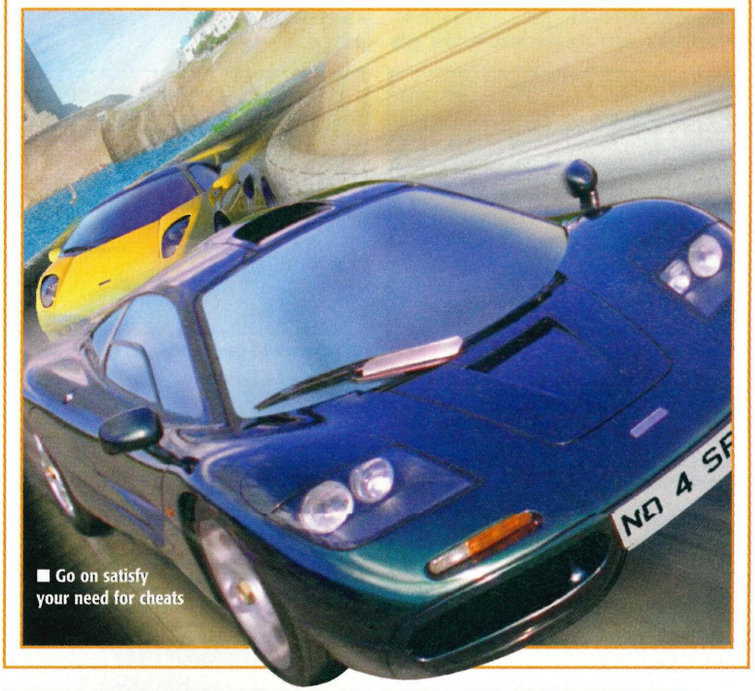
CARS & STANDARD TRACKS
For all the standard cars and tracks enter your name as SPOILT in the options screen.

BONUS CARS
Enter your name as any of the following in the option screen.

NAME	PASSWORD
1JAGX	JAGUAR XJR-15
AMGMRC	MERCEDES BENZ CLK GTR
ROCKET	EL NINO

BONUS TRACKS
To access any of the cool bonus tracks enter your name as any of the following in the options screen.

NAME	TRACK
PLAYTM	THE ROOM
XCAV8	CAVERNS
XCNTRY	AUTOCROSS
MNBEAM	SPACE RACE
GLDFSH	SCORPIO-7
MCITYZ	EMPIRE CITY



■ Go on satisfy your need for cheats

Twisted Metal World Tour

Come hither

All right matey, got any cheats for Twisted Metal World Tour?
Bob Hart

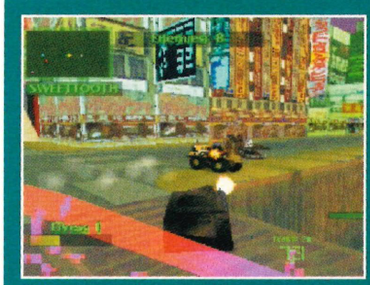
PLUS **Hey Mr Friendly, with a winning way like that how can we fail to be completely taken in. We want to be your bestest buddy.**

GOD MODE
HOLD L1 + R1 + L2 + R2 AND PRESS ↑ ↓ ← → → ← ↓ ↑

INVINCIBILITY
HOLD L1 + R1 THEN PRESS ↑ ↓ ← → → ← ↓ ↑

UNLIMITED AMMO
HOLD ■ + ● THEN PRESS ↑ ↓ ← → → ← ↓ ↑

MEGA GUN
HOLD ● THEN PRESS ↑ ↓ ← → ← ↓ ↑



■ Twisted? Positively rabid if you ask us



■ Looky here, it's a killer wheel. Rollin'!

Instant Expert: Your problems solved

Final Fantasy VII maiden does good

'You see that golden Chocobo, how do you...'



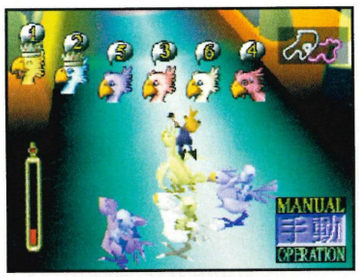
Thanks for the huge response to our FF7 feature last month, seems there's a community of badly-scarred Final Fantasy players out there. Elaine's been holed up working through your heartfelt plea's for help, and here's what she's come up with...

RACING CHOCOBO'S

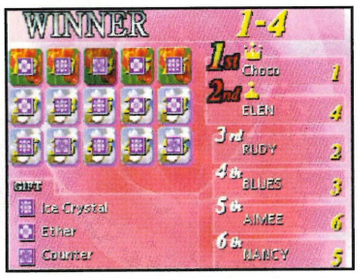
I have raced my Gold Chocobos until they are bowlegged with no sign of a useful prize.
Roger Tabberer

plus **It depends what you call 'useful'. If you're expecting something like the 'Knights of the Round' materia, you'll be disappointed. However you can pick up a lot of useful free items which would normally take a helluva lot of bother to get.**

- In C class, you can get things like Potions, Hi-Potions, and Phoenix Downs. Expect values of 5 to 25 GP if you exchange them.
- **For B class, you're looking at Hi-Potions, gifts which allow free use of spells like Ice2, Bolt2, and Fire2, plus the possible Ether. Value ranges from 15 to100 GP.**
- In A class, you can get almost any item there is, with free use of Ice3, Bolt3, Fire3, plus the odd Elixir and Turbo Ether. Prices range from 15 to 250 GP.
- **S class offers the best prizes. You can get Megalixirs, Elixirs, Turbo Ethers, accessories like Chocobracelets, Precious Watch, Cat's bell and the like. You also get some rare materia, like Counter Attack, Magic Counter, Gil Plus, EXP plus and even Final Attack. Prices go up to a maximum of 1000 GP.**
- Patience is the key, as the prizes are selected randomly.



■ And he wins again. Getting bored yet?



■ You received Counter Materia, cool

BATTLE SQUARE

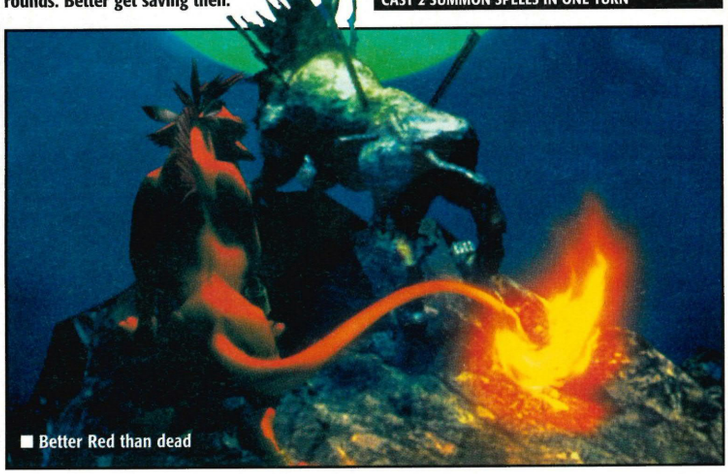
I have fought everything imaginable in Battle Square, only to get 65,000 BP and no offer of any special prizes or new levels.
Roger Tabberer

plus **You don't get it shoved in your face as soon as you win. In Battle Square, there are computers to the left and right sides where you can exchange your BP. If you had talked to the spiky dude on the right, you should have been told that. The list on the right is what the BP can be exchanged for...**

That's why your BP limit's 65,000. After getting the Omnislash and 'W-Summon', play another game. You'll be given an extra battle option, which is a lot tougher. There are different prizes to win, including the rare 'Final Attack' materia, but only if you survive all eight rounds. Better get saving then.

BATTLE POINTS

- ▼ 100 BP ..... REMEDY — CURES ONE MEMBER OF ANY NEGATIVE STATUS
- ▼ 250 BP ..... 'ENEMY LURE' MATERIA — INCREASES THE ENEMY ENCOUNTER RATE
- ▼ 500 BP ..... RIGHT ARM — EXPLOSIVE NON-ELEMENT DAMAGE TO ONE ENEMY
- ▼ 1000 BP ..... 'PRE-EMPTIVE' MATERIA — INCREASES CHANCE OF SURPRISING FOE IN BATTLE
- ▼ 2000 BP ..... 'REAGAN GREENS' — SECOND BEST GREENS ON THE PLANET
- ▼ 4000 BP ..... 'SPEED PLUS' MATERIA — INCREASES THE WEARER'S SPEED IN BATTLE
- ▼ 8000 BP ..... STARDUST — ONE FREE USE OF THE EXCELLENT COMET2 SPELL
- ▼ 16000 BP ..... CHAMPIONSHIP BELT — GIVES +10 POINTS TO POWER AND STRENGH
- ▼ 32000 BP ..... OMNISLASH — THIS IS CLOUD'S EXTREME LIMIT BREAK
- ▼ 64000 BP ..... 'W-SUMMON' MATERIA — CAST 2 SUMMON SPELLS IN ONE TURN



■ Better Red than dead

You've got MediEvil...

...We're gonna get it on your ass

In MediEvil have you got any cheats or tips to kill the devil, because we are stuck on this and don't have a clue how to kill it?
Bernadette Leslie

plus **So you thought you'd drop us a line. You thought 'stuff it, let those boys at PlayStation Plus sort it.' Cheers. No really. Well let's keep it short and business-like. We assume that you're referring to the Stained Glass Demon. If this is the case then you should aim for the demon's heart using the crossbow. Don't bother shooting him until he rears up and his heart is exposed. Keep on the move and don't get hit by the nasty fella.**

Final boss in MediEvil, how? Please! Help!
Peter Rositer

plus **Sure can. For the first part, collect the two chests and go to the centre of the arena. Two lots of skeletons will come out and fight. Zap your dying skeletons with the good lightning. Each remaining skeleton earns you a vial.**

For the next part you need to kill the bloke on the horse. To do this use your longbow. Wait until the horse rears up and fire as many arrows as you can. Keep moving on...

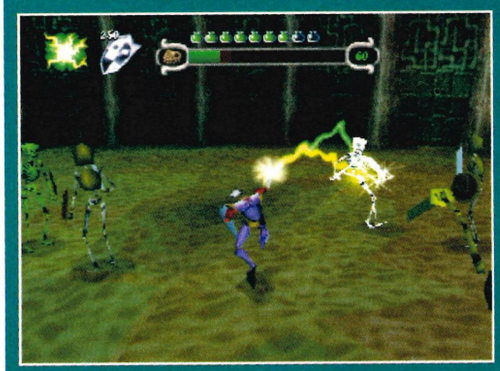
For the final part use the same principal, waiting until he rears up. Then use the last of your weapons. Use your shield and keep on the move to avoid death. Sorted!



■ Fire the crossbow at his heart



■ That's some serious health problem you've got there, mate



■ Zap your skeles with the good lightning...



■ Attack now!



■ Then finish him off

Cyber-helpery

Geek Speak

Got access to the internet? Well stop gawping at the celebrity nudes sites and check out these help zones.

http://www.game-revolution.com/content.htm
http://www.ugo.net/OAS/ugo/try-it.cgi
http://www.segasages.com
http:www.widearea.co.uk/playstation.coolsites.html
http://www.geocities.com/silliconvalley/vista/1289/tips.html
http://www.a-p-i.net/absolute-playstation/tips/acheats.htm



■ Not all netheads are this weird

Platinum A-Z continued

D is for 'Doom-busting cheats 'O' death'

DOOM

ALL WEAPONS AND AMMO
Pause the game and press ⊗ △ L1 ↑ ↓ R2 ← ← to gain all weapons fully loaded. Now rack 'em up and get shootin'!

INVINCIBILITY
Pause the game and press ↓ L2 ■ R1 → L1 ← ◉ to become invincible.

MAP ALL
To map the level pause the game and press x △ △ L2 R2 L2 R2 R1 ■. Now you can see every secret area. Cool, huh?

MAP ALL PLUS OBJECTS
Pressing pause followed by △ △ L2 R2 L2 R2 R1 ◉ maps the level and highlights all objects. Says it all really, dunnit.

LEVEL WARP
Pause the game, press → ← R2 R1 △ L1 ◉ ⊗ to jump level. Use ← and → to choose and ⊗ to warp there.

X-RAY VISION
After pausing the game, press L1 R2 L2 R1 → △ ⊗ → to get x-ray vision.

LEVEL CODES

2 PLANT	CR!3WDD3DB
3 TOXIN REFINERY	3JJCMK8W64
4 COMMAND CONTROL	03LTJ0Y!02L
5 PHOBOS LAB	H33!1HFTHK
6 CENTRALPROCESSING	04MSKZX9Z1
7 COMPUTER STATION	YTTLCXXLXV
8 PHOBOS ANOMALY	09SMBY04YW
9 DIEMOS ANOMALY	7KKBLD7V53
10 CONTAINMENT AREA	FM4217GSGJ
11 REFINERY	H!!3WDGLDB
12 DEIMOS LAB	07QPDW26WY
13 COMMAND CENTER	H776XCKPCF
14 HALLS OF DAMNED	Y6PQH1171Z
15 SPAWNING VATS	YPPQH11Q1Z
16 HELL GATE	FGZY5MMYMP
17 HELL KEEP	FZZY5MMFMP
18 PANDEMONIUM	Y0HDP33X35
19 HOUSE OF PAIN	HYYZ85LGSQ
20 UNHOLY CATHEDRAL	0VBKS8628!
21 MT EREBUS	HVV29RPKRT
22 LIMBO	0WCJT75179
23 TOWER OF BABEL	HWW1!QNJQS
24 HELL BENEATH	01JCL68W64
25 PERFECT HATRED	H11W3PRCPM
26 SEVER THE WICKED	02KBM57V53
27 UNRULY EVIL	H22V4NQBNL
28 UNTO THE CRUEL	0ZGFN4!Y46
29 TWILIGHTDESCENDS	HZZY5MTFMP
30 THRESHOLD OF PAIN	00HDP39X35



■ Brain surgery, Doom-style



■ Doom: much easier if you cheat

DOOM 2

LEVEL CODES

31 ENTRYWAY	C0W1!QNJQS
32 UNDERHALLS	VM!3V1D3DB
33 THE GANTLET	W394W2DMFC
34 THE FOCUS	ZQ58ZKJRKH
35 WASTE TUNNELS	Z758ZKJ8KH
36 THE CRUSHER	5C2V3DQBNL
37 DEAD SIMPLE V	NCKBLX7V53
38 TRICKS AND TRAPS	1Q580FCRKH
39 THE PIT	HTM5KZZ9Z1
40 REFUELING BASE	WS58ZKCRKH
41 O OF DESTRUCTION!	CSNRG2W820
42 THE FACTORY	WT670JBQJG
43 THE INMOST DENS	DQLTJ1Y!02
44 THE SUBURBS	0Q76XCKPCF
45 TENEMENTS	HQQPDW26WY
46 THE COURTYARD	0R85YBJNBD
47 THE CITADEL	HRRNFV15VX
48 NIRVANA	0DX07TMHTR
49 THE CATACOMBS	HDDHQ!40!8
50 BARRELS OF FUN	0FYZ8SLGSQ
51 BLOODFALLS	HFFGR93Z97
52 ABANDONED MINE	0BV29RPKRT
53 MONSTER CONDO	HBBKS8628!
54 REDEMPTION DENIDE	0CW1!QNJQS

BONUS LEVELS

55 FORTRESS OF MYSTERY	SCNRG2W820
56 THE MILITARY BASE	3P67ZNBQJG
57 THE MARSHES	WVX07TT0TR
58 THE MANSION	XDV29SRKRT
59 CLUB DOOM	644YL1Q9GJ



■ It's old but we still like this baby



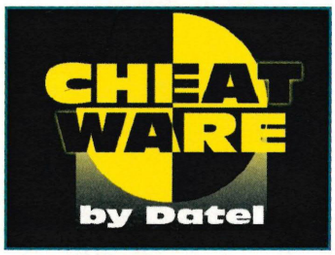
■ The Marshes: now it's easy to find

Action Replay

Look! Loadsa free stuff

Cheat fiends at the ready. We've got together with those ever-so-nice people at Datel to bring this compo. You could be one of five winners of their spanking new Action Replay Professional cheats cartridge. Needless to say it does just about everything you could ask for, plus a bit more. All you've gotta do is send us a picture of the ugliest person you know. Don't ask us why, we just thought it'd be funny. Answers to the usual address, marked 'Rough Stuff competition'. And remember, freaks are all right by us.



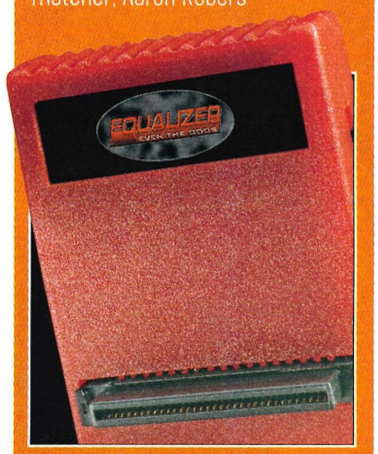


Whuppy Do

Cast your minds back a few months. That's it, to the extreme New Year shindigs and the January issue when we ran the Datel Equaliser compo. Remember now? Good, 'cos congratulations go out to the following ten winners, who all bag themselves one of these coolio gadgets. Prizes will be stuffed into the post pront so you'll get your goodies dead soon. Enjoy, y'all.

And the winners are:

Stephen Stone, Colin Holder, James Cuthbert, Matt Moon, Kamal, John Brathy, Dave Chapman, Tom Halsted, Dave Thatcher, Aaron Robers



■ It don't look much but it's cool, OK?

PLAYSTATION PROBLEM?

ASK US A QUESTION, IT'S FREE!

IT WON'T COST YOU ANYTHING to send us a question about games, tips, moves, cheats, release dates, gear, etc. All you need to do is just write your question on this form, rip out the page, and follow the instructions on the next page:

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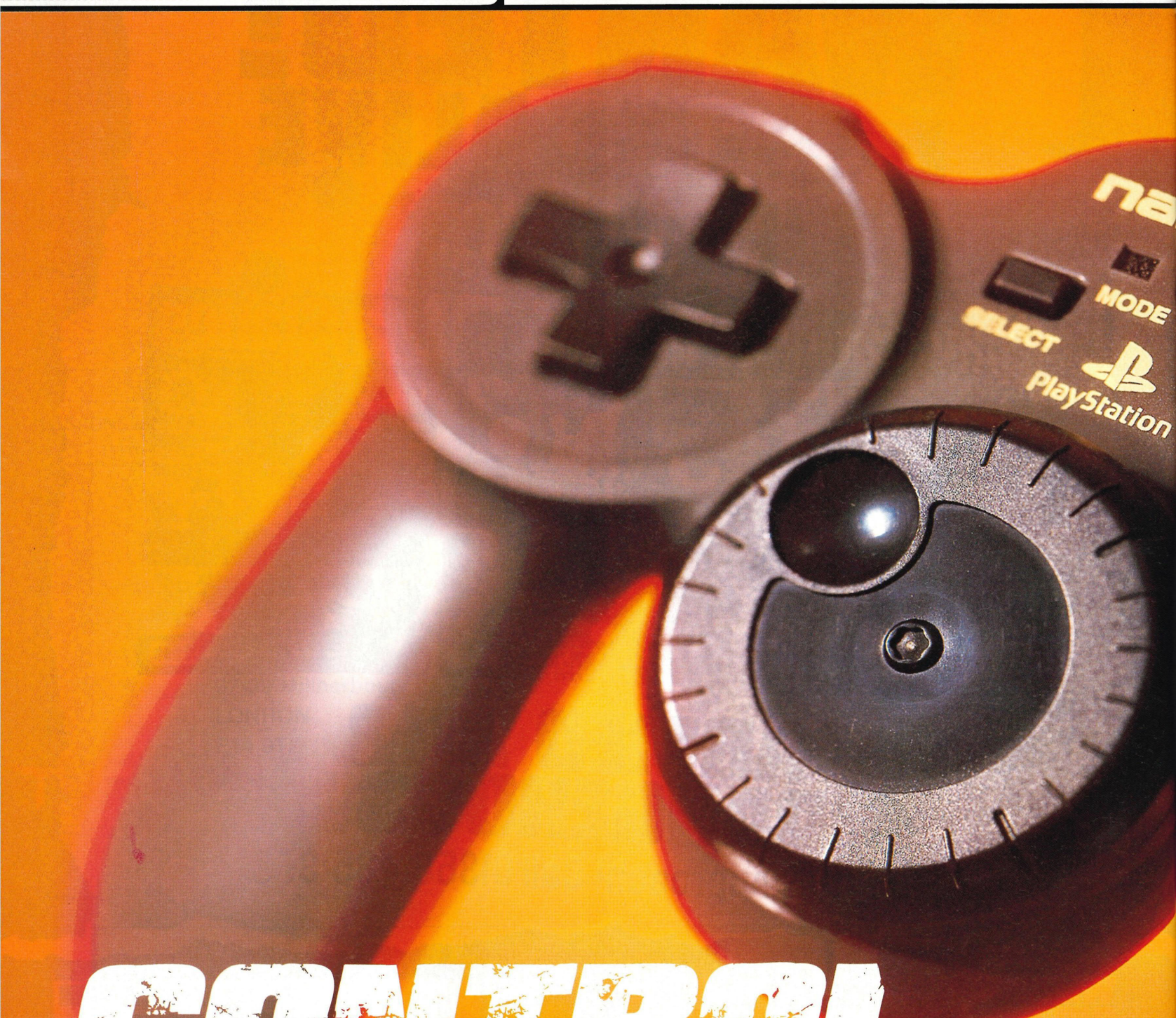
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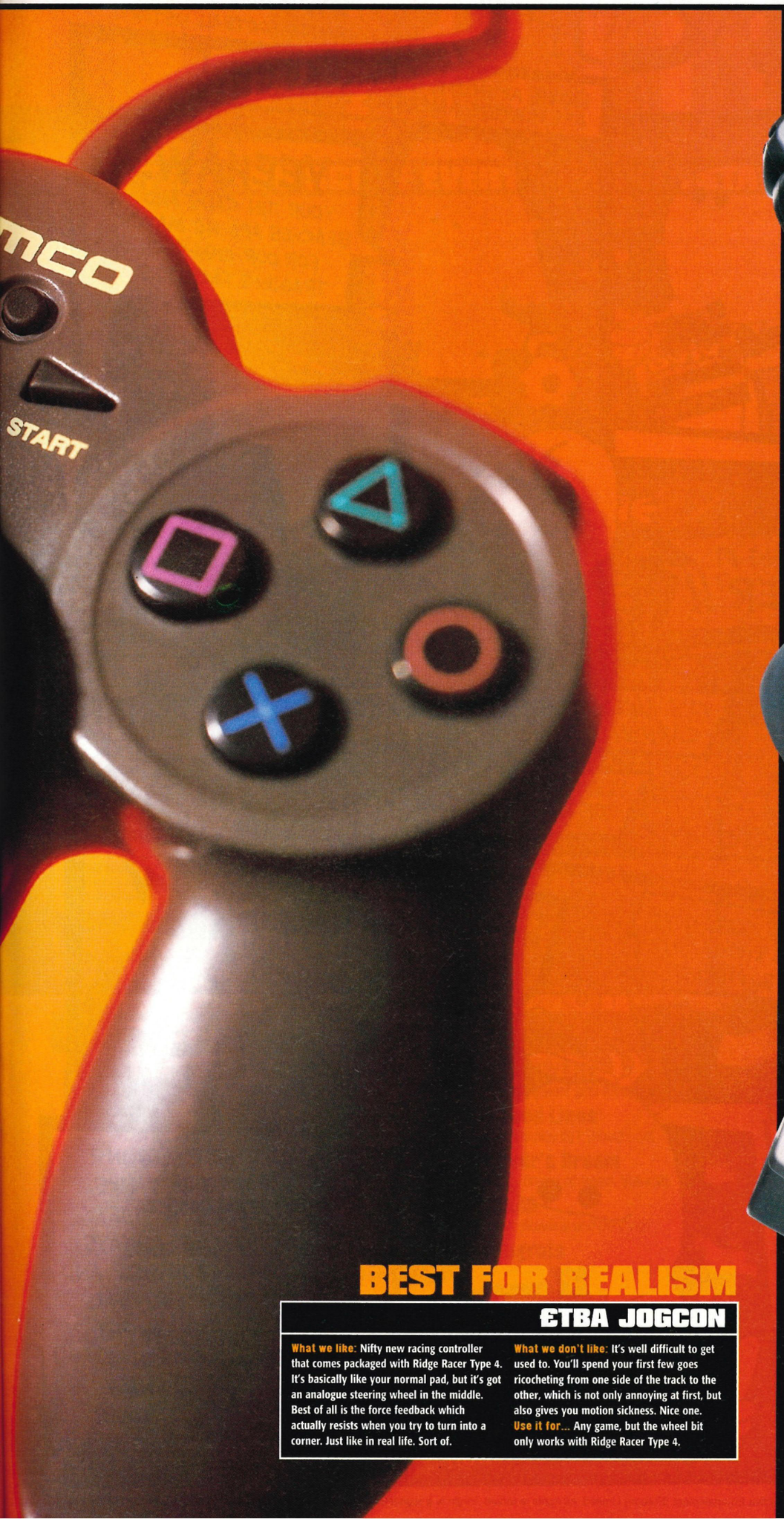
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OFFER CLOSES ON 23.4.99



CONTROL FREAKS

Ridge Racer Type 4 has just come out and it's got a new JogCon pad with it. We put the new gizmo through its paces along with the pick of 'Station racing controllers – so you know which is best for your wad...



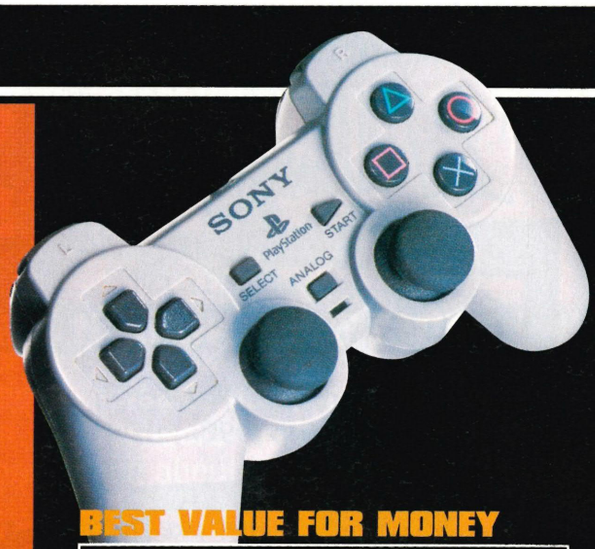
BEST FOR REALISM

£TBA JOGCON

What we like: Nifty new racing controller that comes packaged with Ridge Racer Type 4. It's basically like your normal pad, but it's got an analogue steering wheel in the middle. Best of all is the force feedback which actually resists when you try to turn into a corner. Just like in real life. Sort of.

What we don't like: It's well difficult to get used to. You'll spend your first few goes ricocheting from one side of the track to the other, which is not only annoying at first, but also gives you motion sickness. Nice one.

Use it for... Any game, but the wheel bit only works with Ridge Racer Type 4.



BEST VALUE FOR MONEY

DUAL SHOCK PAD £19.99

What we like: It's just like the normal 'Station pad but with two analogue sticks for super-smooth racing action – one's used to accelerate and the other to steer. It vibrates when you crash for even more realism and makes Gran Turismo a million times better. Cool.

What we don't like: Nothing. We're not just sucking up to Sony here but this really is the business: the best PlayStation pad we've seen so far. We can't fault it.

Use it for... Any 'Station game, but the analogue sticks and vibrating bits only work with certain games.



BEST FOR RICH KIDS

DUAL FORCE £69.99

What we like: It's got an analogue wheel and pedals for the added feeling of realism. It rumbles in a quiet kinda way and you can even use it with Gran Turismo, courtesy of a cunning little gizmo which plugs into the back. Smart.

What we don't like: Ouch. That price tag is gonna hurt some. You could get yourself three and a half Platinum games for the same stash of cash. And the bottom bit moves around way too much as you're yanking at the wheel.

Use it for... Again, any 'Station game because it's got a Dpad, but the button layout is a bit crap. Best just for racing games really.



BEST NEW GIZMO

ULTRARACER £29.99

What we like: Works better than you'd expect. The pad sits nicely in your hand and has a smart trigger underneath for acceleration and braking. The analogue steering wheel looks weird but is fairly simple to get to grips with and is dead accurate to use.

What we don't like: For starters it looks like a TV remote. Plus it doesn't rumble and hasn't got a proper directional pad, which makes it virtually impossible to use on any other games.

Use it for... Racers only 'cos the direction buttons are pants.

WILLY CUPP

WITH JUST VIVA FOOTBALL AND A PLAYSTATION OR PC HE CAN CHANGE FOOTBALL HISTORY!

THERE GOES THAT WILLY CUPP. HE'S GOT VIVA FOOTBALL AND CAN PLAY IN ANY INTERNATIONAL MATCH BETWEEN THE YEARS 1958 AND 1998.

SOUNDS LIKE A SUPER NEW TITLE.

LATER, AT HOME, IT'S 1970 AND BRAZIL ARE PLAYING AMERICA'S 1990 TEAM.

YEEHAW! YOUR TIN CANS AND BEACHES ARE NO MATCH FOR OUR HIGH-TECH TRAINING FACILITIES.

BRAZIL SOON GET STUCK IN.

THATS FOR CALLING IT 'SAWWKER'!!

THEN, FROM THE CUPBOARD UNDER THE STAIRS, WILLY'S THUMBS TURN ON THE STYLE!

IT'S LIKE A CARNIVAL.

YES, A CARNIVAL OF FOOTBALL.

GEE! THESE GUYS ARE KICKING OUR BUTTOCKS!

I SUPPOSE WE MAY BE SUPER POWERS IN EVERY OTHER RESPECT BUT WHEN IT COMES TO THE BEAUTIFUL GAME WE OUGHT TO KNOW OUR PLACE.

HEY BUDDY!

BRAZIL WIN 7-0

DON'T DESPAIR AMERICAN. YOU'VE JUST GOT TO LEARN THE RULES AND NOT BE SO COCKY.

YOU CAN'T HELP FEELING SORRY FOR THE YANKS, BUT PERHAPS IF THEY REALISED THEY'RE ALWAYS GOING TO BE RUBBISH AND BOUGHT VIVA FOOTBALL INSTEAD, THEY MIGHT BE ABLE TO CHANGE 'SAWWKER' HISTORY IN THEIR FAVOUR!

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Rated

WE TEST AND SCORE EVERY NEW PLAYSTATION GAME THIS MONTH

We promise that every game and every product here has been tested by us. We're 100% independent: we don't take bribes, we don't worry about what our advertisers think, we don't hype games and we never bullshit you. We always tell you what we really think about a game, so you can trust us when you rent or buy...



HOW WE RATE STUFF

0-50%	Total toss
51-60%	Just toss
61-70%	Only okay
71-80%	Good, not great
81-90%	Almost classic
91-100%	Essential play

Rent it	winner	Platinum
Good game, but maybe a bit limited, not worth buying	A great game (91% plus) you've just got to play	A range of games all reduced to the budget price of £19.99

Look carefully at the car windscreen. See anything weird? No, us neither...

RATED THIS MONTH

p78 **Rollcage** — Super-slick and double quick

p80 **Street Sk8er** — Can you be lord of the board?

p81 **T'ai Fu** — Sounds like tea, dunnit?

p82 **Gex: Deep Cover Gecko** — The lizard king goes to the movies

p83 **Bloody Roar 2** — It's a feast of beasts in heat!

p84 **Street Fighter Alpha 3** — Run for your lives! A 2D beat 'em up

p86 **R-Type Delta** — Our type of game (our type. Geddit?)

p87 **UEFA Champions League** — Football in a kinda Europe stylee

p88 **Player Manager 99** — Wahey! Another management sim

p88 **A Bug's Life** — Disney insect gets swatted

p89 **Blood Lines** — Wanna play tig? Thought not

p90 **Diver's Dream** — They dream of clams. Naturally

p91 **KKnD** — Kerb Krawling and Drinking?

p92 **Rugrats** — A shoddy shitepile of a game

p92 **Civilisation II** — The first civilisation ended

p93 **Dark Stalkers III** — Weirdo Japanese 2D beat 'em up

p94 **Monaco Grand Prix** — Get yer helmet on! Go race!

p95 **Tomb Raider II** — Platinum release for Lara!

plus The Knowledge

Get sussed! Our honest scores on every PlayStation game ever released... PLUS! Game gear, tips on buying secondhand games, cheap thrills and tons more... Starts p103

Knowledge: updated every month

All Games Rated between 71%-100%

The best games



■ **OUT** MARCH ■ **BY** PSYGNOSIS ■ **COSTS** £44.99 ■ **PLAYERS** 1-2 ■ **COMPATIBILITIES** JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, DUAL SHOCK PAD

ROLLCAGE

Scorchin' futuristic road-rage game from the WipEout boys...

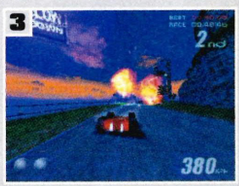
Take a pinch of sci-fi, sprinkle liberally with hardcore racing action, add a hint of lethal weaponry, stir in a healthy dollop of kickin' tunes, oven bake for thirty minutes and allow to cool. Care for a piece of Rollcage pie?

Gameplay

Futuristic chariots of death battle at ball-busting velocity with a lethal arsenal of fluorescent firepower on sci-fi racetracks. Sound familiar to you? It should do. It's like WipEout with cars. Only these babies have wheels bigger than Vanessa Feltz, which means you can flip them over and still continue racing. Cool eh?







1 Big wheels + big explosions = big fun **2** This geezer in front is gonna be toast just as soon as we get hold of a weapon... **3** Yup. Told you so...

Eye candy

Eye candy: something easy on the eye. Something like, say, Danni Minogue wearing nothing but a fishing net. And apart from the Danni, nothing gets our peckers up like a decent bit of bonzer game eye candy. And we've got to hand it to the lads, Rollcage is just that. Massive explosions, futuristic Blade Runner looky-likey tracks, massive special effects... you get the picture. But hey, don't take our word for it, take a look for yourselves...



■ Forget realism. What we want are big explosions



■ Someone turn up the air-conditioning

What we like

Tearin' up the tarmac

The big 'innovation' with Rollcage is that, being set in the future 'n' all, you can take your mean machine just about anywhere. Up the walls, along the ceiling... if it's flat, odds are you can drive on it. 'Course your chances of crashing are a lot higher, but it's worth taking the risk to get the extra speed-ups.



■ 'Roads? Forget them. Where we're going, we don't need roads...'



■ Drive on the roof of the tunnel to get the extra speed-ups. Hmm, nice...



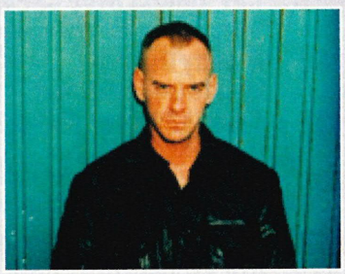
1 But it gets well confusing when you shoot out of the other end... **2** And the screen flips back around. Weird

Phat tunes

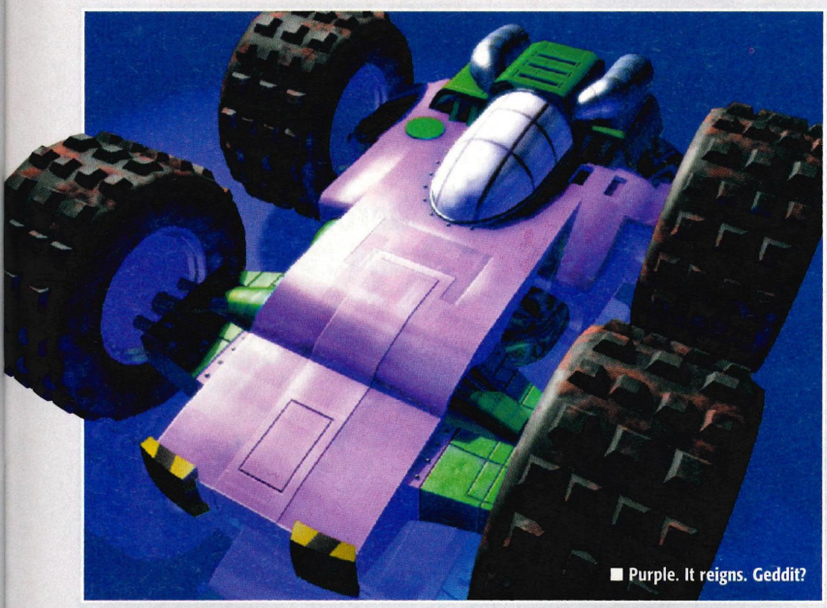
The tracklisting for Rollcage reads like a who's who of the music world. DJ of the moment, Fatboy Slim, has given two of the tracks from his latest album, You've Come a Long Way Baby. Other artists include: EZ Rollers, Aphrodite, Hoax, Freestylers, Pascal, Nico and Ratman. Pretty impressive, huh?



■ EZ Rollers: Drum and bass as featured in Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels



■ Zoë Ball's intended, Fatboy Slim, does Soul Surfin' and Love Island from his latest album



■ Purple. It reigns. Geddit?

In a spin

Rollcage is fast. Like, blink-and-you're-toast kinda fast. We're talking serious retinal damage here. So until you get used to the blinding pace, you're going to be spinning off the track left, right and centre. Luckily there's a button on the 'Station pad which pirouettes you around to face the right direction...



■ Speed's the name of the game here. Not literally of course. It's Rollcage...







1 It's like taking a rollercoaster ride... 2 With an Exocet missile strapped to your back... 3 So expect to make a few small detours off the tarmac

Gentlemen, start your engines...

Okay, so it ain't no Gran Turismo in the choose-yer-vehicle stakes. But who needs 50 billion cars anyway? Not us. We're more than happy with Rollcage's six. You've got the fast types with a turning circle of an oiltanker. Or the more beginner-friendly, corners-like-it's-on-rails type but ain't no great shakes in the top speed department. The choice is yours...



■ Each of the cars have different acceleration, top speed, strength and grip...



■ You're best off with a good all-rounder to start off with. Then progress to the faster cars

Demolition derby

Destroying the trackside buildings in Rollcage isn't just allowed. No siree. It's actively encouraged. If some geezer's catching you up from behind in his souped-up jalopy, let rip with a couple of homing missiles and bring a bridge/warehouse/starting grid crashing down on top of him. Like this...







1 Okay, so this one didn't exactly go according to plan 2 But you get the general idea, yes? 3 Big missile. Hit building. Building collapses. Big laughs all round. Comprendé?

Well tooled-up

Ever wondered how much simpler it would be to carve your way through the morning rush hour traffic with an enormous plasma-cannon mounted on your bonnet? Nah, us neither. But that's just what you've got in Rollcage. Collect a weapon power-up and unleash fluorescent death on the other drivers, stalling them for a bit so you can blast into the lead. Top stuff.



■ Blast driver numero uno off the track with the leader missile...



■ Or use the fancy wormhole gadget to teleport other cars behind you...



1 Watch the other cars slip-slidin' around when you unleash the ice sheet 2 Let rip with a lethal driller and it'll destroy anything in its path. Mondo coolio...



Multiplayer game

The satisfaction you get from beating the computer opponents is not to be sniffed at. But the satisfaction you get from humiliating yer mates is something else entirely. Unfortunately the two-player game in Rollcage isn't much cop. Sure it's got all the in-yer-face speed of the proper game, but there's only you and a mate on the track. Yawn.







1 The two-player game's got all the fancy special effects of the proper game... **2** But the other drivers have gone and done a runner... **3** Which is a bit boring really

plus

We'd like to say...

Rollcage looks the business. It's faster than a greased cougar and has the coolest music ever. But niggles prevent it from getting top marks: the handling's too 'twitchy', you often get trapped behind obstacles and the slightest nudge from another car spins you off the course...

Oh my God! It's enormous!

There's a whole lotta game here for your to get your dentures into. Ten tracks are available from the off, with another ten to be 'earned'. Gemini, Scorpio and Taurus leagues, mirror mode, extra hard setting, shortcuts and deathmatch tracks to be found. Kool and the Gang.



■ Shortcuts are everywhere. Look for them



■ Get mirror mode to learn courses again

Top eye candy dripping with action and style, but just a shade short of the best 'Station racers. Still, if it's high-octane thrills you're after, look no further. **Lee**

PlayStation plus

RATED 89%

■ **OUT** MARCH ■ **BY** ELECTRONIC ARTS ■ **COSTS** £39.99 ■ **PLAYERS** 1
■ **COMPATIBILITIES** JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, DUAL SHOCK PAD

STREET SK8ER

The first 'Station skateboarding game and it's like, woah, way cool and radical, dude...

The PlayStation's been around for yonks now. We've seen the rise and fall of Take That, human cloning has become a reality (The Corrs?), and Chris Evans has stopped being funny. And only now do we get a half-decent skating game...

Gameplay

Baggy clothing. Body piercing. Grunge. Makeshift ramps in pub car parks. That's the harsh reality of being a skater.

'Course it's been considerably glammed up for the 'Station game, which goes something like this: zip around the skate park on one of a selection of tasty boards using the obstacles to pull off outrageous and death-defying stunts. Rack up enough points to clear the level and new routes beckon. Simple as that. Now get your pads on and let's go...



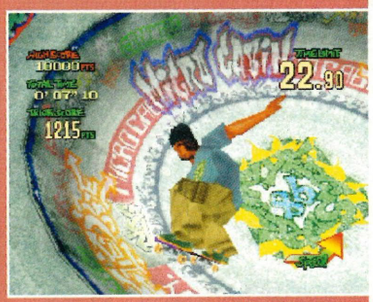
■ It breaks the laws of physics. But looks cool

Whole lot of nothing

Street Sk8er ranks highly in the pick-up-and-play-me-ability stakes, but there ain't a whole lotta game here for you to get your teeth into. Only a handful of courses, a few skaters and a couple of gameplay modes = mucho expense for very little return. You've been warned.



■ Games Joeys should find it easy to get into...



■ And the courses are fairly challenging...



1 With multiple routes 'n' stuff... **2** But it's sorely lacking when it comes to extra gameplay modes



■ Why do people laugh at me?

■ **OUT** NOW ■ **BY** ACTIVISION ■ **COSTS** £39.99 ■ **PLAYERS** 1
■ **COMPATIBILITIES** JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, DUAL SHOCK PAD

T'AI FU

Tony the Tiger goes Bruce Lee. Sadly, it's not that grrrrrrreat...

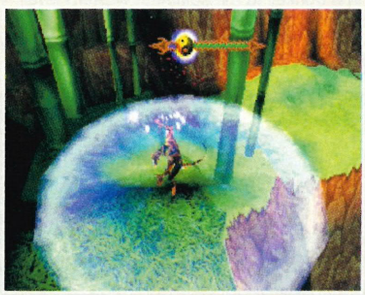
A kung fu game aimed firmly at the young 'uns. That means that, like children themselves, it's shallow, boring, insanely stupid and costs far too much money. But rubbers won't protect you from T'ai Fu. Only our warnings can...

Hard rugs

Right. You're a tiger. Last of the Shaolin fighting tigers, or something. For some tiresome reason, you've got to wander around hitting other kung fu animals for a long time. Occasionally, you jump over holes and pick up gems. That doesn't liven things up none.



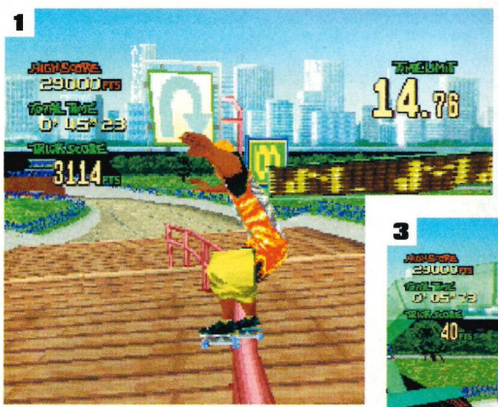
■ Hit thousands of identical enemies



■ With exactly the same combo...

Tricks 'n' stuff

If skating down a half-pipe at hair-scorching velocity, grabbing 'mad air' and pulling off 'tail grabs' are your kinda thang, Street Sk8er will be right up your, er, street. It's got more tricks than David Copperfield and it's a lot better-looking too. If, on the other hand, it's a shattered pelvis and mild concussion you're after, try the real thing...







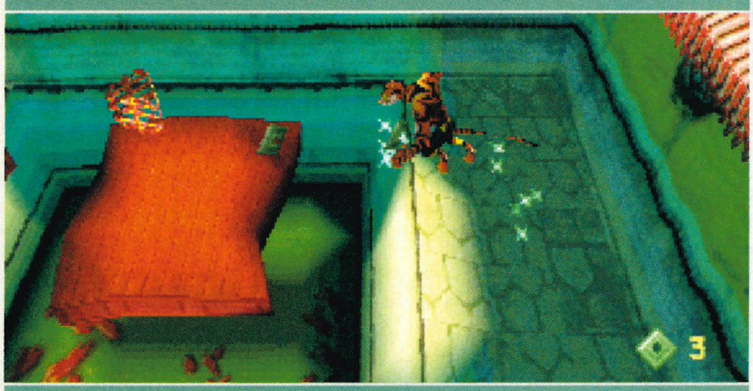
1 Rack up mucho points by sliding down the rails... **2** Or just randomly pound the buttons to pull off cool stunts... **3** Like this triple-somersault-mad-air-roundhouse-tail-grab-ollie

I ching, you ching

It's guaranteed to sap your will to live before you can say 'chopsocky'. The enemies are dull, the attacks are dull, the special moves are dull. Even the levels are dull. 'But Dad, I like it 'cos it has an orange puddy tat in!' 'Be silent, whelp!'



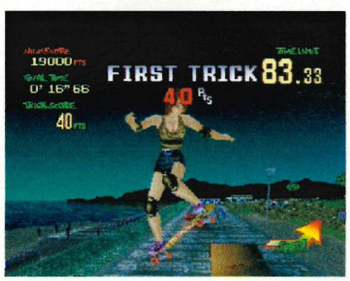
1 The same, the same, the same. Then some more of the same **2** Even the levels are just kind of flat and rubbish. And the perspective blows goats **3** Soon you realise nothing can save this game



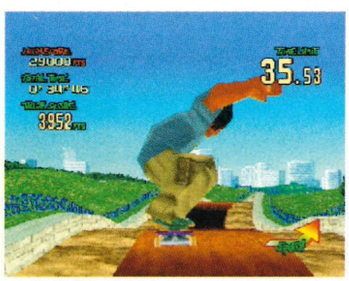
■ Even the platform jumping fails to relieve the boredom

Play your mates

The two-player game ain't much cop. In fact it's pretty awful. The problem is that it's a turn-based versus game, with only one player on screen at a time. Which if you ask us is about as fun as experimental heart surgery. Without anaesthetic.



■ A split-screen multiplayer game would've been way cool...



■ But this is just the same as the normal game. Curses

Kinda cool for an hour or so, but sorely lacking when it comes to long term appeal. We suggest you persuade a mate to buy it and cane it round his house... Lee

PlayStation plus
RATED 70%

Complete tosh. If you're looking for something to make you cry real tears in only five minutes, this is the one. Sterile, drab and boring beyond belief. Avoid. Rob

PlayStation plus
RATED 45%

■ **OUT** APRIL ■ **BY** EIDOS ■ **COSTS** £39.99 ■ **PLAYERS** 1 ■ **COMPATIBILITIES** JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD

GEX: DEEP COVER GECKO

Our bellies are aching. Our sides have split. Gex has arrived...

Gex numero uno was a load of old toss. Gex numero dos entered into the angular world of three dimensions and was smart-as-pie. Gex numero three sticks to the winning formula of the last one. But can it still cut the mustard?

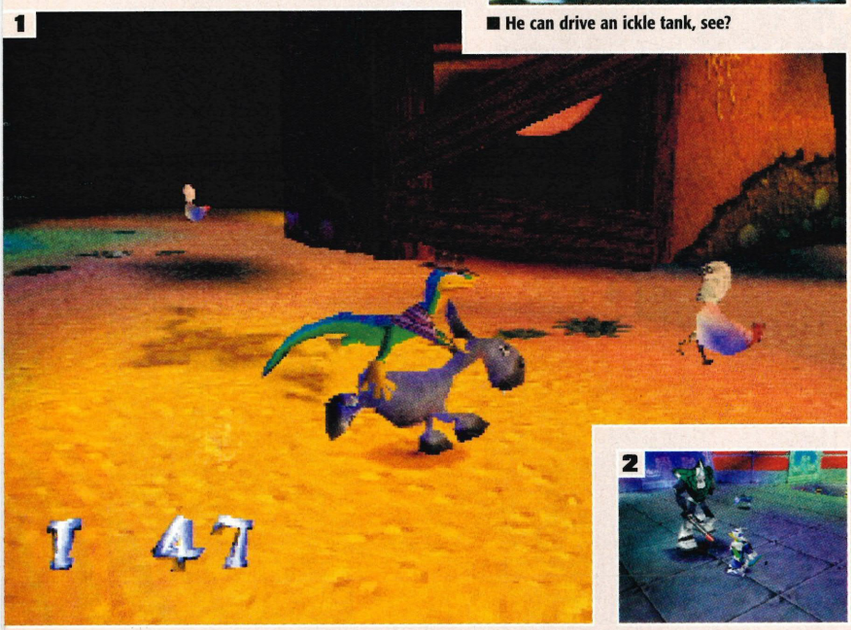
Gameplay

Explore the 3D levels. Tail whip the bad geezas. Collect the emblems. Just what you'd expect really. Only this time around they've spiced up the usual platform gubbins by chucking in a load of new movie-inspired levels. Command a tank in the Saving Private Gex level, or take a ride on a donkey in the spaghetti western level. There's no shortage of variety.



■ He can drive an ickle tank, see?

1

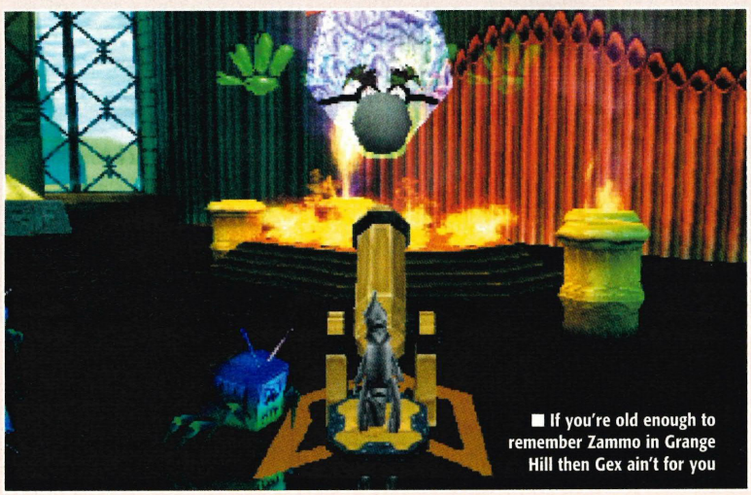


2

1 And ride a crocodile down the river... 2 Then battle the huge mech robot. Innee clever?

Just for kids

Deep Cover Gecko's gameplay is cooler than a polar winter. But – and, like Vanessa Feltz, it's a big but – this won't be everyone's cuppa. Kids will dampen their undies over the 'humour' and cute 'n' colourful graphics but the rest of us should save our cash.



■ If you're old enough to remember Zammo in Grange Hill then Gex ain't for you

Top totty

Have a box of Kleenex on standby. The guys at Gex HQ have signed Baywatch star and former Playboy model, Marliece Andrada, to star in the all-new video sequences. The ample beauty plays Gex's girlfriend, Special Agent Xtra, who's been kidnapped by evil geeza, Rez. And you've gotta rescue her.





1 Here she is in the game... 2 And here she is on the cover of Playboy. Alas we can't show you the contents

Comedy capers

Gex's trademark one-liners are back for this one. But the jokes are about as funny as abdominal surgery and the new voice of Gex (Danny John-Jules aka Cat from the rapidly-going-downhill Red Dwarf series) will really grind your nads.



■ You may grin occasionally...

1



2



1 Or even let out the odd chuckle... 2 But laughs aplenty there ain't

If we were ten years younger, we'd be creaming our pants over this. Top graphics, mucho gameplay and the occasional giggle make for a top platform game. **Lee**

PlayStation plus

RATED 80%

■ **OUT** APRIL ■ **BY** VIRGIN INTERACTIVE ■ **COSTS** £39.99 ■ **PLAYERS** 1-2 ■ **COMPATIBILITIES** JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, DUAL SHOCK PAD

BLOODY ROAR 2

It's time to face the beast inside...

If you're the type of person who answers to the name 'complete psycho' – or would like to – then step this way. We may have just the thing for you. We're talking 'bout fighting as a human then changing into a beast when riled. Know that feeling?

What we like

Colours of the rainbow

Colours. Don't they make life worthwhile? Bloody Roar 2 looks like it's been raised on a diet of pure rainbow. It has its polygons packed to the gills with mondo colour, and just when you thought the pallet had run dry, whammy! You break out a killer move and the screen dissolves the fighting arena, replacing it with washes of psychedelic colour. Like coool man.



■ The colours will blow you away



■ Deliver a killer punch and then...



■ The arena dissolves and you become...



■ A beast with steroid-pumped powers

Slinky

Not many people know this but fighting's not all about raw power. Oh no, to wear the kick ass crown you've got to float like a boat and sting like sunburn. Grace and style. Bloody Roar 2 doesn't let the side down on that score. The characters and their many fighting moves have a very exciting smoothness about them.







1 This is one butt-kicking, too-cool-for-skool killer move **2** They call him the mole and he lives in a hole **3** He really should get his nails manicured

Dead simple

Up here in PlayStation Plus Tower we like our games to grab us by the goolies right from the off. Bloody Roar is so pick-up-and-play that you wonder whether you've suddenly become brilliant at games. This doesn't mean it's shallow. Just that your learning curve is steep. In no time you'll be stacking combos like the best of them.



■ In no time you'll be the king



■ To be this good doesn't take ages

plus **We'd like to say...**

Like all beat 'em ups the idea behind the game's dead simple. There's no point taxing any more grey matter than neccesary. It's all about instant gratification. You get an avalanche of fighting in glorious technicolour.

The roar factor

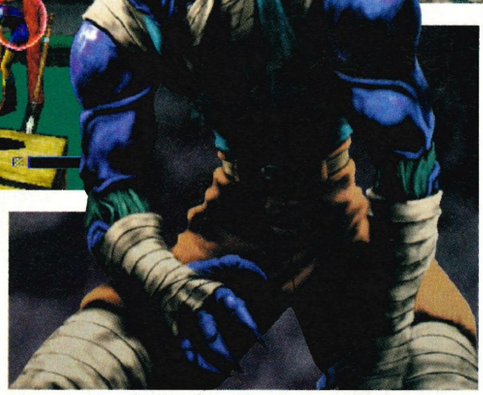
The transition from human to blood curdling beast is instantaneous once your 'beastometer' hits a certain level and you hit the right button. Your character is now known as 'well hard'. This isn't to say the human version can't hold its own. It's just if you were in a real fight, who would you rather be? Prince Naseem or Mike Tyson?











1 Looks dangerous... **2** Not to be messed with... **3** What the... **4** Definitely needs respect

winner Very, very coolio. Much sharper looking than the first, and quicker with it. Not a radical departure but as sequels go pretty damn fine. **Rich**

PlayStation plus **RATED 91%**

■**OUT** APRIL ■**BY** VIRGIN ■**COSTS** £39.99 ■**PLAYERS** 1-2 ■**COMPATIBILITIES** JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, POCKETSTATION

STREET FIGHTER ALPHA 3

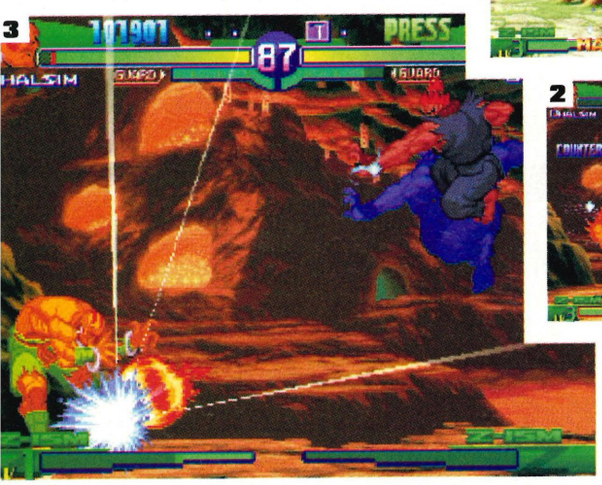
The greatest beat 'em up ever or a sad addition to an ailing series?

We creamed our pants over Street Fighter 2. Similar trouser activity occurred with the release of Street Fighter Alpha 2. But we've gotta draw the line. They're milking this series for all it's worth. And the milk's gone sour. Or something.

Stuff you need to know

Haven't played Street Fighter before? No problemo. It goes like this: each fighter has three types of punch and kick, varying in strength and speed. String a few of these together in a combo to power up your super meter. Then execute a super move to sap vast amounts of energy from your opponent. Simple, yes?





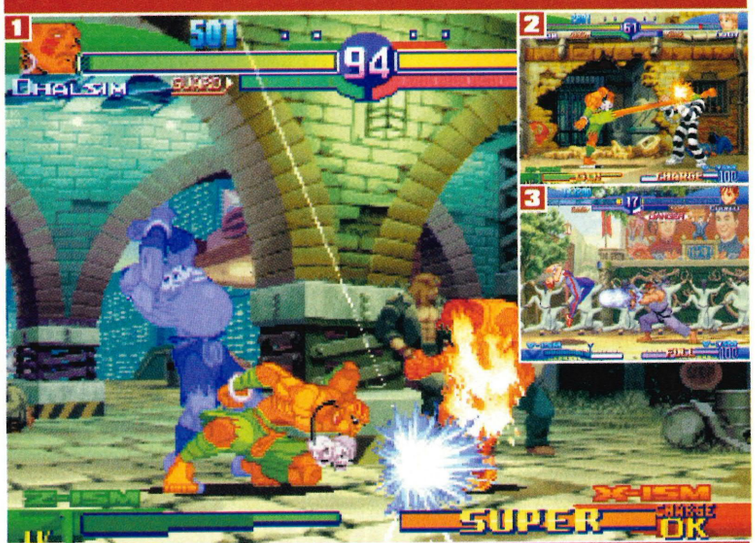


1 You ain't gonna be pulling off 20 hit combos from the off... **2** So try random button-bashing to get your super meter bulging **3** Then unleash a cool super move on an opponent.

What we like

A kick in the continents

Apart from the usual arcade, versus and survival modes, Alpha 3 has a cool world tour game. The idea is to kick ass in each continent across the globe, earning your fighter experience points. Then add your souped-up fighter to the list of characters and use him in the versus mode to whup your mate's ass. Top stuff.



Travel the world kicking ass... Just like Kane from Kung Fu... And turn your character into a better all-round fighter able to stick his rivals' butts in a sling

Cast reunion

The list of characters here reads like a who's who of the Street Fighter world. New fighters Cody, Karin and Rainbow Mika are joined by the old favourites Blanka, Vega, E Honda, Cammy, Akuma... the list goes on. With all the secret characters we reckon there are 33 brawlers in total, making this just about the biggest Street Fighter ever. Oh joy.



■ You'll find that most of their basic moves work the same as in other Street Fighter games



■ Street Fighter newcomer, Cody, gives Dhalsim a good run for his money



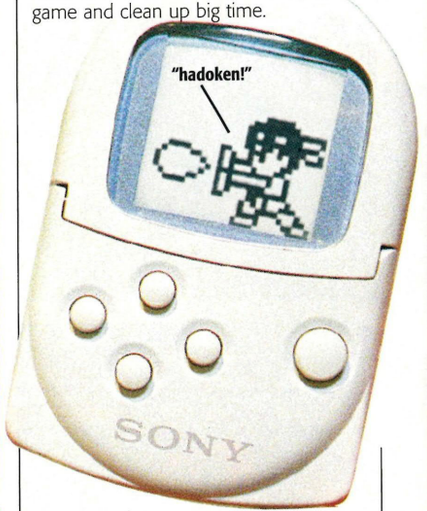
■ All the old favourite Street Fighter characters are here. E Honda fires one off at Ken but you can call on Blanka, Cammy, Akuma and other veterans to serve up trouble



■ Rainbow Mika gives Dhalsim a good kicking

PocketStation

Remember we told you about Sony's new-fangled PocketStation gizmo? Well Street Fighter Alpha 3 is one of the first games that uses it. Download your fave fighter onto the nifty little device and train him up Tamagotchi-style to be as hard as nails. Then stick him back in the proper game and clean up big time.



■ Download an ickle version of Ryu to your PocketStation. Then train him up to be a right hard bastid

Graphics

Street Fighter Alpha 3 stands out as being the best looking 2D brawler on the 'Station to date. It's tons smoother than similar games, with better animation, detailed characters and retina-ripping explosions. But yeah, it still looks bollocks alongside Tekken 3.



■ Alpha 3 looks smart enough but the bottom line is that your 'Station is serving up better-looking 3D beat 'em ups



■ Rolento drops Ryu like a stun gunned pig

Loading times

Alright, so the loading times of Street Fighter Alpha 3 are a tad better than similar 2D beat 'em ups. But they're still pretty bad. You'll be gnawing your cuticles down to the bone waiting for the damn game to start. Don't say we didn't warn you.





1 We recommend keeping a copy of PlayStation handy... 2 To help pass the time when you're waiting for the game to start

Self-defence

Newcomers to the Street Fighter phenomenon will find this one slightly easier to get to grips with thanks to the inclusion of the new guard power gauge system. This lets you block your opponent's hits, up to a point, making it harder for them to smash through and give you a bloody good kicking.







1 Good to see Blanka's back in here
2 Gen is offended by Cody's outfit
3 That one's gonna hurt

plus

We'd like to say...

We've got our arse cheeks parked firmly on the fence for this one. Sure it's got the typically fine-tuned Street Fighter gameplay, the return of the original characters and tons of 'Station-only extras. But c'mon, does anybody really care about another Street Fighter game? We sure as hell don't. Gimme Tekken 3 any day of the week.

Aerial attacks

One improvement brought to the third Alpha game is the increased opportunity for players to juggle their opponents in the air. Catch the other geeza with a swift uppercut and he's launched into the air, giving you plenty of scope to bludgeon him with a load of combination attacks. Pretty cool, huh?



■ Smack the other geeza into the air...



■ Then rain blows down on his sorry ass

Jeez. Enough already. Sure it's probably the best Street Fighter game on the 'Station, but this dog has had its day. Strictly for hardcore fans only. **Lee**

PlayStation plus

RATED 85%

■**OUT** APRIL ■**BY** SONY ■**COSTS** £39.99 ■**PLAYERS** 1-2 ■**COMPATIBILITIES** JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, DUAL SHOCK PAD

R-TYPE DELTA

Classic 80s blaster gets the 'Station treatment...

Back in the days when mobile phones were the size of a small child and you could eat a burger without going mad, there was an arcade blaster called R-Type. A decade later and a souped-up version hits the 'Station...

How it works

Classic retro stuff. Blast your way through wave after wave of alien scum in an ickle R-Type spaceship. Collect extra power-ups to unleash multicoloured electro-death on the huge boss mothership. Then move onto the next level. Simple, yes. But totally addictive.



■ Ere, have some of that, little green geezers



■ Ah! Aliens... fahsands of 'em. Save yourselves

What we like

A challenge

There's tough. And then there's R-Type Delta. Tackling the enemy spacecraft and neon gunfire takes lightning-quick reactions and balls of steel. If you rack up enough points you can get extra continues but it'll still grind your nads.



■ Don't count on getting out of this one alive



■ Captain, I can't take it anymore!



■ Big bastid boss action. This game comes in 2.5D, a sort of 3D but not as good

Power me up

Mucho frantic button bashing unleashes multicoloured megadeath on the waves of enemy spaceships. Collect the weapon power-ups they leave behind and increase your destructive capabilities. Die though and you'll lose the lot.





1 Keep collecting power-ups to get massive fluorescent firepower... **2** And flame grill the mutants

Looking its age

There's been a half-arsed effort to bring R-Type up-to-date with a 3D makeover for the 'Station game, but it ain't gonna rock your world. Yes, the weapon effects, huge explosions and boss spaceships look the business, but it's still basic by today's standards.



■ It doesn't look too bad in an 80s kinda way

Classic retro blasting action will have old school gamers doing their nut. It won't be everyone's cuppa though, so you might want to try renting it first. **Lee**

PlayStation plus

RATED 85%

■**OUT** APRIL ■**BY** EIDOS ■**COSTS** £39.99 ■**PLAYERS** 1-4 ■**COMPATIBILITIES** JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, DUAL SHOCK, MULTITAP

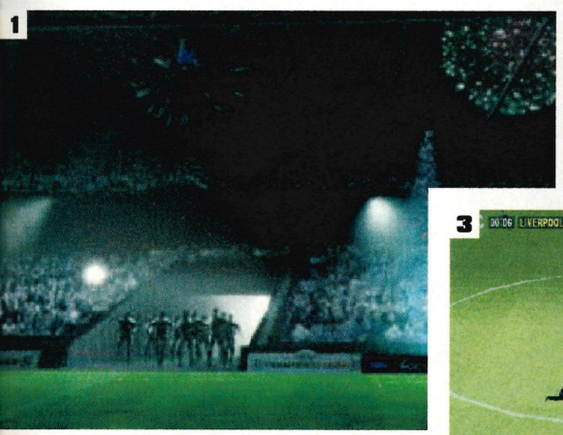
UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE 1998/99

Word has it that Alex Ferguson's been sacrificing chickens to help bring the UEFA Champions League cup back to Manchester.

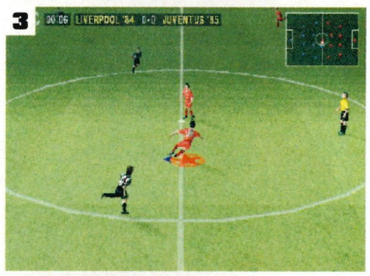
The Champions League is impossible to resist. It's got enough glamour to make Page 3 totty feel inferior. And excitement that makes the National Lottery seem like a weekend in hell. So how does the 'Station's tribute shape up?

Spit 'n' polish

Initial glimpses of the game suggest it's got more polish on it than the Arsenal team's got frog's legs. Like, plenty of. The scene showing teams running onto the pitch is a spectacle of fireworks, camera flashes and unbridled delirium. All this is heightened by the sound of the crowd roaring like a bunch of lagered-up lions. Goosebumps a go-go.







1 Welcome to this, the theatre of dreams **2** Wow, can you sense the pride **3** And they're off

Knobs on

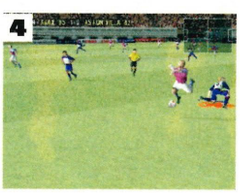
When you eventually get down to playing you'll notice the dizzying array of tricks at your disposal. It's got more hidden extras than a Bond car. There are one-twos with chipped returns, auto-cross, turns to control high balls, tap ons and weighted balls. It has to be said that timing the tackles and picking out your man can be a headache – or is that us?











1 Smooth and silky, pure genius **2** A quick one two **3** With a little practice you too can master the cheatin' bastid dive **4** Some of the moves are a tad tricky to master **5** But some look blinding

plus **We'd like to say...**

This is a footie game that offers the best of both worlds. There are hard-as-nails challenges for those who want it and comfy arcade laffs for everyone else. The downside is the similarity in looks and feel to the recently released Michael Owen's World League Soccer.

What we like

Saving the day

European football is all about backs-to-the-wall heroics. Well, for the Brits at any rate. All the unexpected and unjust losses at the hands of Europe's finest and flukiest can be rectified in this game. If you think you know how to beat Barcelona and keep Man U in the competition then here's your chance.



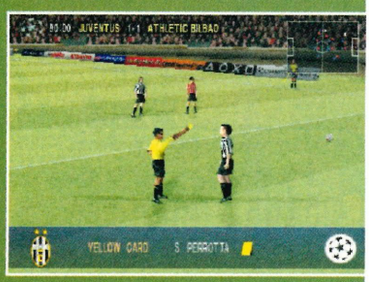
■ Can Man U turn it around?



■ Can Ajax whip the sneaky Croatians



■ It'll take nerves of steel



■ Yellow card sunshine!

Choice choice

When it comes to choice, the UEFA boys have been busy. There are options to play as any of the past winners, all the seeded teams, all the qualified teams from this campaign, in either a one-off exhibition game, custom tournament or the full league monty. As a bonus there's an arcade mode for all game Joeys out there – thanks for that.

■ **Giggsy, Scolesy, Butty, Coley, Beckhamy. They're all here**



winner Well worth the dosh if you haven't got any of the World League Soccer series. It's got superstar looks and acres of lush gameplay. **Rich**

PlayStation plus **RATED 91%**

■ **OUT** MARCH ■ **BY** INFOGRAMES ■ **COSTS** £39.99 ■ **PLAYERS** 1
■ **COMPATIBILITIES** JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD

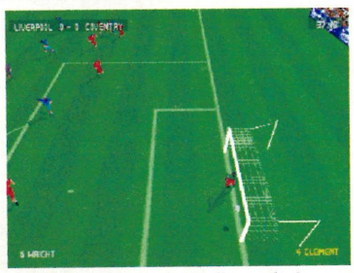
PLAYER MANAGER SEASON 98/99

Be a hero, screw up, get sacked. A footy manager's life ain't all fun. Like this game.

It's a thankless task, managing a footy team. But the perks aren't bad: you're paid loads, you get to watch tons of top games and everyone does exactly as you say. Sounds like an easy life. If only it were true...

'Ere, guv, is it any cop?'

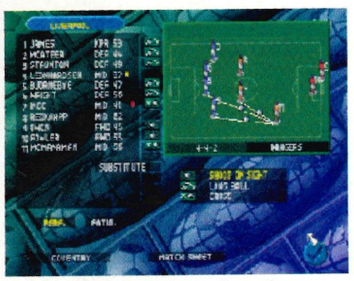
This is no turkey, that's for sure, but there's some pretty basic stuff which lets it down big time. The graphics on the watch-game option are goddamn awful – they're jerky and just *so* basic. And the loading times between matches are blummin' awful. OK, so these might be tiny mistakes, but bung 'em together and the whole thang just reeks of shoddiness.



■ Do we not like that? Actually, we don't



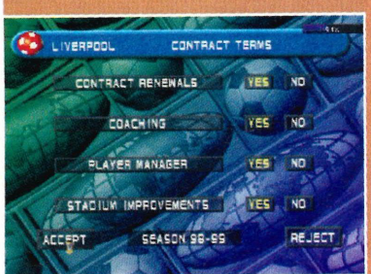
■ Buying players is the key to success...



■ So is working out a decent formation

What's it got?

The lowdown: you get to manage any team in the UK, from the Vauxhall Conference upwards. There are over 7,000 players in the data bank, all with right names and stats. All the domestic and Euro cup competitions are here too, so there's plenty to tuck into. Problem is, while there's loadsa stuff to mess around with, there's just not excitement to make you want to. Which is toss, really.



■ It doesn't get any duller than this...



■ 'And now you... Zzzzz'. A typical game

Even if you're passionate about getting your team promoted you won't find much fun here. Tedious and dull, despite the wad of options and up-to-date stats. **Rich**

PlayStation plus
RATED 62%

■ **OUT** NOW ■ **BY** SONY ■ **COSTS** £39.99 ■ **PLAYERS** 1
■ **COMPATIBILITIES** JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, DUAL SHOCK PAD

A BUG'S LIFE

It's a dog's life in the anthill. No fooling.

You've seen the movie. You've eaten the Happy Meal. With dwindling enthusiasm, you've even bought the sticker album. Now (sigh) play the game... No, go on...

Hey, hey, hey

Jump over holes. Jump over other harmful things. Collect tokens. Yup. It's the plot of every half-assed unoriginal platform game you've ever played and whaddya know, it's the plot of A Bug's Life too! In fact the only thing which makes it different from every other 3D platformer is the characters. Which are, um, recognisable from the film, and that's about it.





1 Seeds. Grow these into bonuses 2 A grasshopper. Kill it with your bonus things. Yawn...

Fountains of seed

That Flik sho' is one fonky insect. Just observe his strange powers in action. If Flik jumps on stuff, everything starts to get a little surreal. Jump on a seed: it grows into a fungus. Uproot the fungus, eat a green pod, jump again. You've got a green plant. Do other surreal stuff, jump again, you've got a cannon. A parachute. A trampoline. Odd...



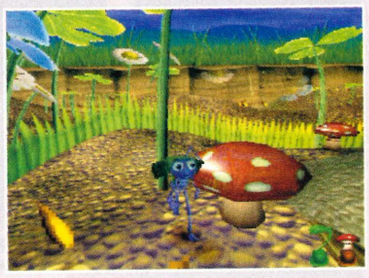
■ A seed. You will do many things with these...



■ Jump on stuff enough, and you can get upgrades for those deadly apples of yours. Don't ask how



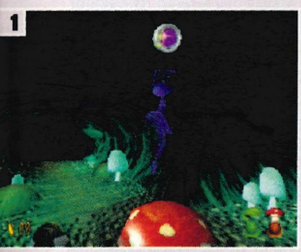
■ You can even make a dandelion



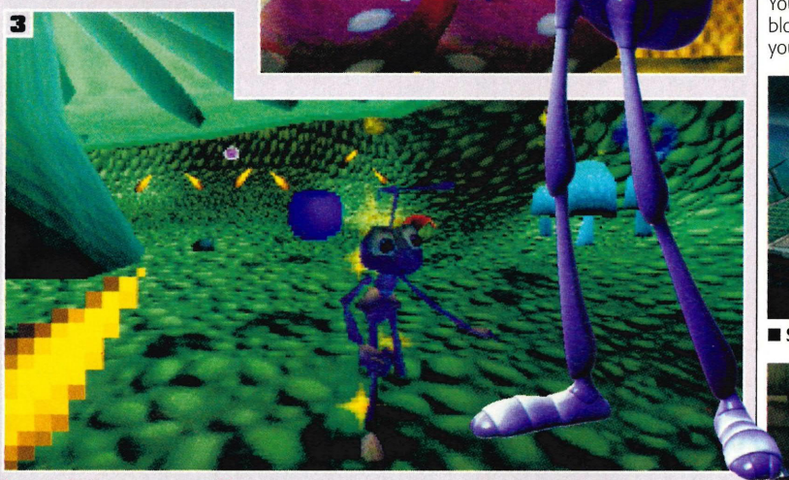
■ And then use the seed as a parachute

For the children

Everything about this screams 'kid'. So if you're unfortunate enough to have one of the little spongers cluttering up your house, you'll probably get your arm twisted by the lovable little scamp until you have to buy it for 'em. Be warned. Thing is, this kind of simple fare's probably OK for kids. Not for us.







1 Simple **2** Almost too simple **3** And there's not enough variety to get us going...

White line fever

Thing is, the levels are just that little touch flat and dull. They tend to look samey throughout, and you'll end up just chucking apples at the same bleedin' monsters (which come back once you've killed them) until you're thoroughly pissed off with your life. Severe lack of doobie-rocking potential. You bin warned.



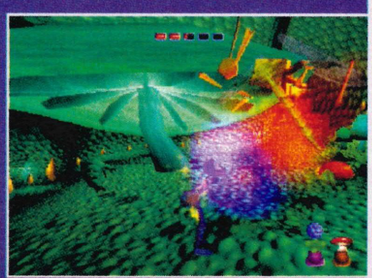
■ And the forecast is...



■ More of this...



■ And a little bit more of that...



■ And just a touch more. Tiresome? You betcha

Not as cruddy as Plus's Law of Film-based Games tells us it should be, but still just that little bit whiffy. Vaguely OKish, but best left for the young 'uns. Rob

PlayStation plus
RATED 70%

■ **OUT** APRIL ■ **BY** SONY ■ **COSTS** £39.99 ■ **PLAYERS** 1-2
■ **COMPATIBILITIES** JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, DUAL SHOCK PAD

BLOODLINES

Anybody fancy a game of sci-fi cybertig?

Kind of like that thick kid at the front of the class who always had his hand up going 'Pleeeeze!' with a painfully wrong answer. This wants to be a good game soooo bad. But, no matter how hard it tries, it never will be. Sad, most sad...

Bollocks, bollocks

You choose your bloke. You head out into an arena on the quest for power-ups. Other blokes have the same idea. You hit and shoot them. Once you've got enough power-ups, you win. 'Hang on', you're thinking, 'This is lame'. You're not just a pretty face, are you?



■ Step on the glowing squares to power up



■ Step on enough and you win



■ The other bloke will try and knock you over



■ So's he can get the power for his greedy self...

...and more bollocks

Thing is, the techie boys in Sony's slave pits have really been busting their asses to make this good. The screen lights up like Christmas every time anything happens. Even when minor things happen. It looks smooth. It moves smooth. It's just dull to play...



■ It looks nice. It even moves pretty smooth. But no amount of eye candy can sweeten this...

Dull, uninspired, half-assed and crap. Games like this make us sit staring out windows dreaming of better times in lands far away from this vale of tears. Rob

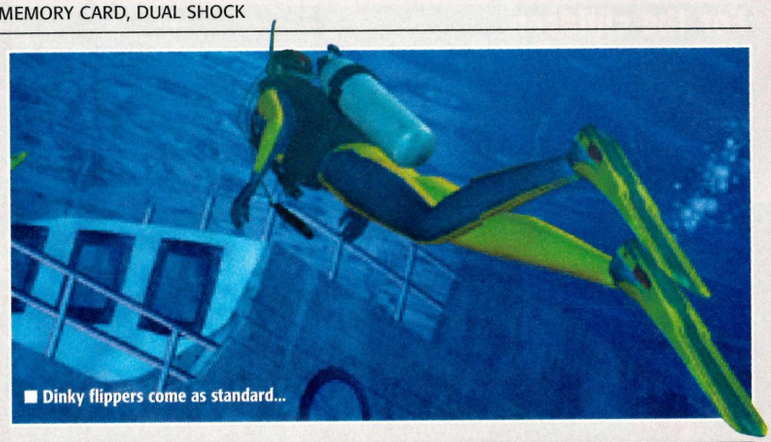
PlayStation plus
RATED 40%

■ **OUT** MAY ■ **BY** KONAMI ■ **COSTS** £39.99 ■ **PLAYERS** 1 ■ **COMPATIBILITIES** JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, DUAL SHOCK

DIVER'S DREAM

So divers dream about... ahh. Diving. How mind-bogglingly interesting of them...

Dive. Amass pieces of eight. Buy kit. Once you've got enough, dive into the depths in search of the good ship 'Gigantic Matilda'. Some ship name. You'd never guess this game was made by folks of the Japanese persuasion...



■ Dinky flippers come as standard...

Deeper and deeper...

What's cool about this game is that your objectives vary from retrieving objects some klutz has dropped in some improbable sea cave through taking on the pointy-teethed denizens of the deep to going all out for big boxes of the proverbial sunken treasure. It's a new idea. And we're always partial to a breath of fresh air.



■ Collect dull things like cameras



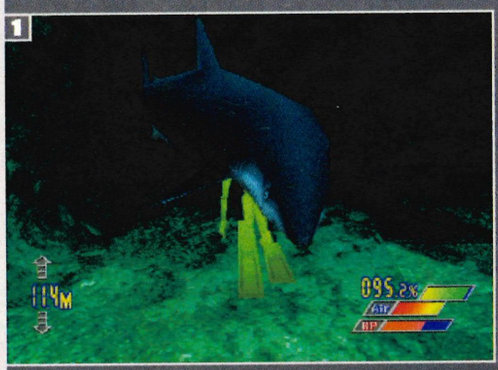
■ Or go all out for the really big dollars

plus — We'd like to say...

Although this is a class idea, there are clouds on the horizon. For starters, the control system isn't baby's-bottom smooth. It clocks in around the 'wildebeest's bottom' mark. No good. And also on the downside is the Gigantic Matilda itself: see, up to that point it's all realistic, but then you come up against giant snails and sci-fi überfish in plenty. Surreal. Perhaps too surreal.

Suffolk 8

Geez, this effort'll put you off even paddling in the shallow end of the pool. Death's lurking down there in the deep blue. With all his mates. Even the tiniest fish secretes biochemical-weapon-grade poison as standard. Jellyfish sting? First-class ticket to the morgue. And then there's the matter of dwindling air supply...





■ Jellyfish cause irritation





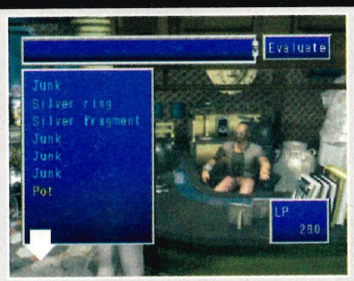
1 Big fishes cause big pain 2 Poisonous fishes cause poison pain 3 And if you don't mind out for air bubbles... you dead, boy

Your rear in gear

Once you've braved the hordes of evil jellyfish, sharks, sea anemones, Kate Winslet pictures ('Jesus! It's some kind of demonic walrus!') that always seem to lurk in the depths, the idea is that you go topside again, cash your ill-gotten gains, and gradually tool up till you can explore the ship of your dreams...



■ Tool up, then it's back to the depths again



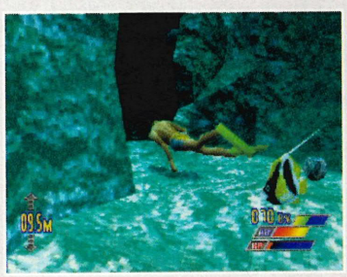
■ Sell pot and junk to this friendly chap



■ Buy diving kit of this friendly fellow

Booty call

Some careless git's been scattering junk all over the shop down in Davey Jones's locker. In fact, the seabed looks kind of like Ivana Trump's jewelry box has gone supernova all over it. You're a flippered-up geezer with an eye for the main chance. S'not difficult to guess what you've got to do...



■ A pot. Collect every one you see...



■ Oo, a necklace. Lotsa dollar

An interesting novelty, but a touch flawed. If the idea of diving for treasure doesn't float your boat straight off, think carefully before buying. Comprendez? Rob

PlayStation plus RATED 75%

■ **OUT** NOW ■ **BY** INFOGRAMES ■ **PLAYERS** 1-2 ■ **COMPATIBILITIES** JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, DUAL SHOCK

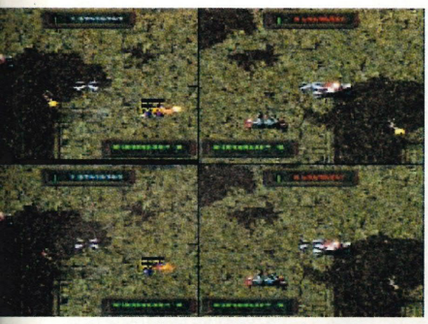
KKND: KROSSFIRE

When three tribes go to war... it gets messy and more than a little confusing

Kill, Krush 'n' Destroy. We'll give you a clue – it's no cute platformer. Nope, this is a full-on strategy beast set in the future. Three armies fight: the survivors, the evolved and the Series Nine. The prize? A land frazzled by nuclear war. Great.

Friendly fire

Like many strategy games it's viewed from above with your armies looking like little blobs. Using the cursor to move 'em around and dish out orders, which is pretty standard fare. However, where KKnD differs is the addition of a two-player split-screen option. And, y'know, we like that. A lot.



■ Come on then you mutant muther



■ Play God by giving your troops orders



■ Send 'em to their death. Go on, you can!

Head work

You want strategy, you got it. Six attacks methods are here, from all-out attack to more specific commands like defend installation or attack inanimate objects like trees. You've gotta choose your orders wisely though, otherwise your guys'll be caned.



■ Protect the bridge by assigning the defend command and drafting in some new recruits



■ Destroy buildings to cripple the enemy



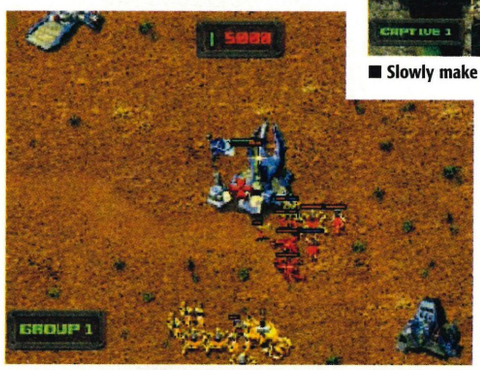
■ Ultimately you need to surround and destroy

Hot weapons

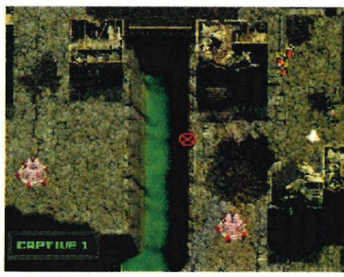
The cool thing about KKnD 2 is you can play as any of the three sides. This basically means you get to fiddle with loads of different types of weapons. It's not all that simple though. Nope, you've gotta build up your fortress by mining resources, then you need to develop troops, vehicles, new weapons... Gawd, this lark's a laugh...



■ Slowly make your way across the map



■ With this many guys attacking, victory is not far away



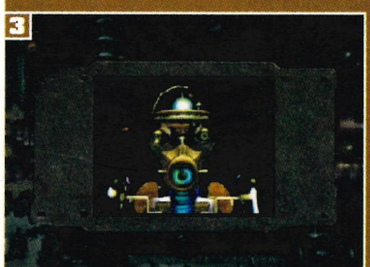
■ Mission objectives vary a lot

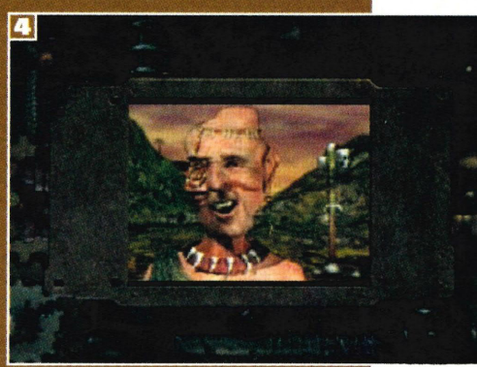
Meet the cast

The Survivors nipped underground when the big one went off, so they're the most ordinary looking and don't get any great gear. The Evolved stuck it out, soaked up some radioactive rays and now they look weird and ride giant insects. The Series Nine are evolved agricultural robots who want to take revenge on the humans. No sign of killer combine harvesters, though...









1 Choose from three sides 2 The Survivors are about as ordinary as you'll get 3 This is a Series Nine leader: likes digging and killing 4 Too much sun and you'll look this bad, too

This 'un's a lot like Command & Conquer, so if strategy epics are you thang, this'll muster some excitement. Otherwise you'll be bored to tears all too quickly. **Rich**

PlayStation plus

RATED 74%

■**OUT** NOW ■**BY** THQ ■**COSTS** £39.99 ■**PLAYERS** 1-4
■**COMPATIBILITIES** JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, DUAL SHOCK PAD

RUGRATS

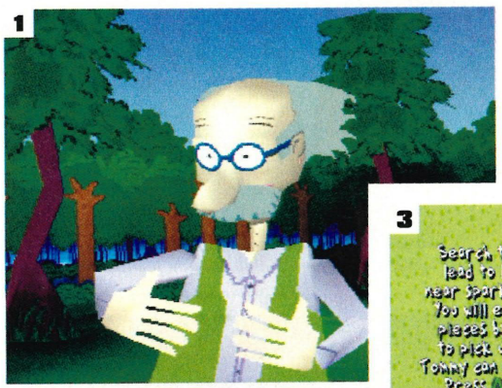
Forget canings and beatings. THIS is cruelty to children...

We don't hate Rugrats just 'cos it's aimed at tiny tots. We don't say 'it's not for us but we can appreciate how it's intended audience might like it'. No, we hate Rugrats because it's crud.

It's started! Whaddoldo?

So far as we could be bothered to tell, the point of Rugrats is to move a badly-animated rugrat around what passes for a house and pick up pieces of a puzzle. To earn puzzle pieces you have to complete a series of small games. Each one of these games is unbelievably bad. And each one is worse than the last...

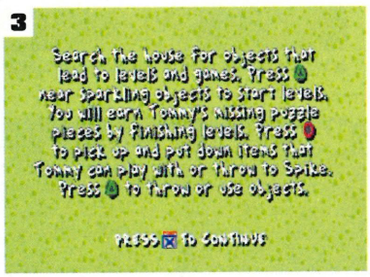
1



2



3



1 It's not just that it's savagely boring 2 There's also problems for tots who want to frolic with rug rats 3 Namely, you've got to understand the big word intros to play

Little games

What are these little games like? Let's see. How does the idea of controlling a dog while he collects bones grab you? It doesn't? Then surely running around collecting Easter eggs is your bag. No? Erm, floating about, then? No? But then this game's not aimed at you, it's aimed at teeny tots. Pity the teeny tots, we say.



■ Animation? Nul points

1



2



1 Interest factor? Nul point 2 And a hell of a lot less than nul for playability

Can you do your rubbish times table? Of course you can. So you won't need us to tell you to give this game a wide berth next time it passes you in the street. **Andrew**

PlayStation plus
RATED 21%

■**OUT** APRIL ■**BY** ACTIVISION ■**COSTS** £39.99 ■**PLAYERS** 1
■**COMPATIBILITIES** JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, MOUSE

CIVILISATION 2

Chess crossbreeds with the History Channel. Heads down, lads.

Step forward, men with beards! For lo, your hour has come! Behold Civilisation 2. It's big! It's bold! It's historical! It's strategic! It's spirit-crushingly detailed! And we hate to admit it, but it's actually quite... good.

What we like

I'm the big daddy

The level of detail here verges on the obscene. You've got to steer your boys n' gals through the thorny years from 4,000 BC to whenever, struggling against rival empires, trading, conquering, inventing. You control your cities, units of soldiers, diplomats and explorers from a clever menu system, ordering them where to go, what to build and who to slaughter. The game's slow. But big. Real big.



■ Troops, explorers, settlers, you name it. The lads slug it out for territory



■ Get further in and you'll move up to using ships, trains, bombs. Did we mention it was big?

Let loose the dogs of war

You can wave your quadratic equations and so-called 'philosophy' as much as you like. They don't impress huge hordes of berserk barbarians with gurt big swords. At all. See, civilisation's got its place in Civilisation but at the end of the day, pure death-dealing capacity is what separates the men from the boys. Observe...



■ Catapults are good against fortifications

1



2



3



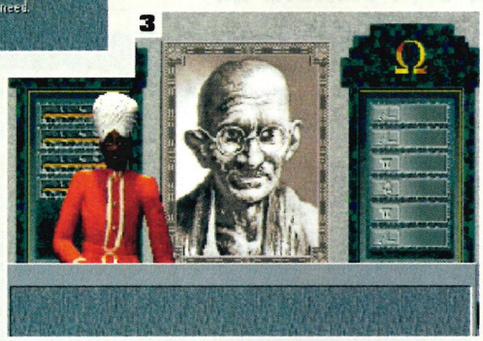
1 Move your shock troops in big formations to take on the baddies 2 Use clever war stuff like pincer movements and obscure moves like 'the Osaka gambit' 3 Come at them from the sea with elite troops, or stick to your strongholds



Trade

What makes Civilisation 2 clever is that you've got options on how to treat your neighbours. Once you bump into some animal skin-wearing savage from next door, you'll be able to decide whether to trade in ideas or goods or just kill every man jack of them.





1 Play it safe: negotiate settlements, draw up borders **2** Or trade goods between your cities. Detailed enough for you? **3** Oi! So-called emissary! Your empire sucks the big one! We want your womenfolk!

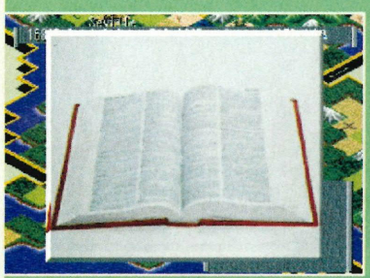
plus

We'd like to say...

We've been known to say the words 'if you like this kind of thing, then...'. But here we REALLY mean them. If there's the slightest doubt about whether you can handle huge maps made out of squares, turn-based combat and complexity levels that make contract bridge look like Snakes and Ladders, then be wary. Otherwise, it's for you.

Progress would be wonderful

Wiping rivals off the face of the earth with fire is a laugh. But with the sword it's much more satisfying. 'Cos you can do it with a sneer of intellectual superiority across your face. So it pays to devote manpower to getting the skills to pay the bills. War's the real cut and thrust here but learning new skills like writing can sometimes pay back big.



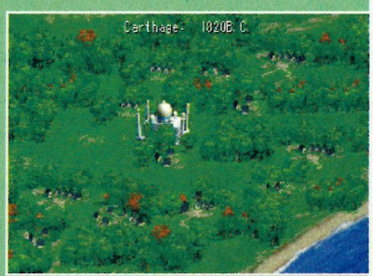
■ Let your boffins dream up new stuff



■ Learn how to use cash, writing, or the wheel



■ Soon you'll make trains, planes, automobiles



■ Roll out ancient suburbs across the jungle

Eye-wateringly detailed, plodding, too damn clever for its own good and ugly as sin. But if you like strategy/history type stuff, you'll go nuts for this Rob

PlayStation plus RATED 88%

■ **OUT** MARCH ■ **BY** VIRGIN ■ **COSTS** £39.99 ■ **PLAYERS** 1-2
■ **COMPATIBILITIES** JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, DUAL SHOCK PAD

DARKSTALKERS 3

More Japanese beat 'em up oddness.

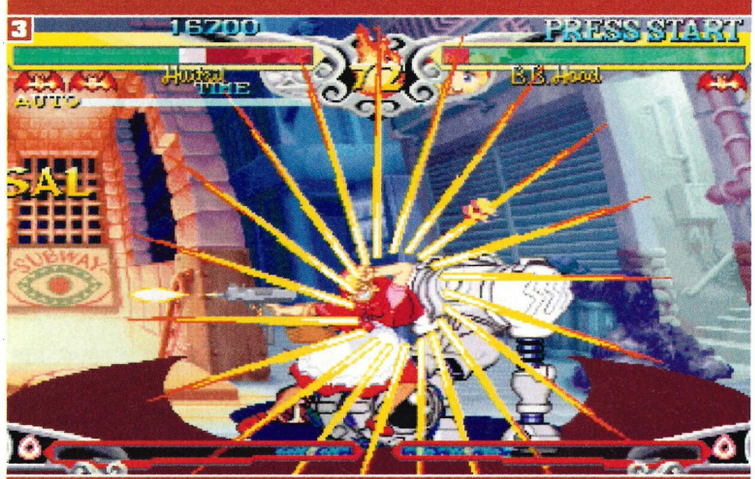
You get the sense that no matter how slick and sci-fi arcades get there'll always be some hyperactive Japanese teenagers in there, grimly smoking as they pump the silver into weirdo 2D beat 'em ups like this. It's an odd world.

2D or not 2D

These efforts usually do play like they fell out of the fun tree and snapped a few branches on the way down. With characters that were clearly thought up by people whose brains were out where the buses don't run, special moves a-flashin' left and right, there's fun here. Except it's old, jerky fun.







1 Comedy blokes a go-go 2 With enough special moves to spare 3 Red Riding in the Hood

Street fighting man

If you've got a choice between splashing the shekels on gratuitously odd 2D fighters that move like poor-quality stop-motion flicks or on a slick 3D fighter that moves smoother than silk, you'd... Well, exactly. And that's bad news for the likes of Darkstalkers 3.



■ More jerky action than Pammy's home video



■ The sort of game you played aged 10

The folks who'll like this will have already pumped a small mortgage into the arcade machine. And bought three copies of the import version. For obsessives only, wethinks... Rob

PlayStation plus RATED 71%

■ **OUT** APRIL ■ **BY** UBISOFT ■ **COSTS** £39.99 ■ **PLAYERS** 1-4 ■ **COMPATIBILITIES** JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, DUAL SHOCK PAD

RACING SIMULATION MONACO GP

The most realistic Formula 1 game this side of, er, Formula 1...

The Formula 1 season has just kicked off. Murray Walker gets everything wrong. The cars are as safe as a Volvo school bus. And overtaking as rare as smallpox. A good job Racing Simulation's more exciting.

Gameplay

So it's your typical Formula 1 gubbins. We can figure that much. That means no futuristic hover cars. No big guns. No fancy explosions. No thumping drum 'n' bass soundtrack. Just 11 teams, 22 drivers, 16 different circuits, arcade, simulation, time attack and split-screen two-player modes.



■ Arcade mode – like arcades but it costs nowt







1 The full-on simulation game is more like the real thing. Only not as dull 2 At 200 mph, Formula 1 cars have the turning circle of an oil tanker 3 Monaco's mega-tricky. A coming together is pretty likely

Better than the real thing?

Since this is a proper Formula 1 racing simulation, it's bound to be realistic, right? Yep. Fiddle around with the angle of the front and rear wings, tinker with the gear ratio, adjust the suspension coils, change the tyres, it's entirely up to you. But if you don't fancy all complexities of the sim game, you could always try your hand at the arcade mode instead.



■ Adjustable wings. Is this a panty liners advert?



■ Lower the suspension for more top speed

Code of conduct

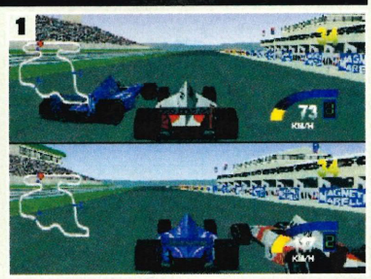
Alright, so there are already tons of Formula 1 games available for the 'Station. But hang on there a second. Most of 'em have computer-controlled cars with about as much intelligence as a lobotomised lemming. This definitely ain't the case with Racing Simulation. The other 20-odd cars on the grid will defend their position up to a point, but won't weave about frantically, ram you on the starting grid or plough into you at every chicane. Unlike a certain other Formula 1 game we could mention.



■ Ramming other cars will get you nowhere. You'll just bugger your own chances

Race your mates

Two-player racing games are usually pants. But the one in Racing Simulation is actually quite good. It's got all of the in-yer-face speed of the main game and only a slight drop in trackside detail. Now if that ain't enough to force the words 'bloody hell, that's amazing!' out of your mouth, those of you with two copies of the game, two 'Stations, two televisions and a link-up cable can have a smart two, three or four-player link-up race. Pretty cool, huh?







1 Racing a mate is always the best bit. Good job the two-player game is up to scratch 2 Shame there are only a couple of cars on the track though 3 'Cos it gets a bit dull after a while

It might not have the official licence but it's still a damn sight better than most of the other Formula 1 efforts out there. Won't be everyone's cuppa though. **Lee**

PlayStation plus

RATED 82%

■**OUT** NOW ■**BY** EIDOS ■**COSTS** £39.99 ■**PLAYERS** 1 ■**COMPATIBILITIES** JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD

TOMB RAIDER II

Lara tugs at our purse strings again. But she only wants £20 this time, bless her heart

The blokes behind Tomb Raider now sleep on piles of twenty quid notes. They bathe in gold bathtubs filled with vintage champagne. And they've just come up with another way to grab your hard-earned: Tomb Raider II on the cheap!

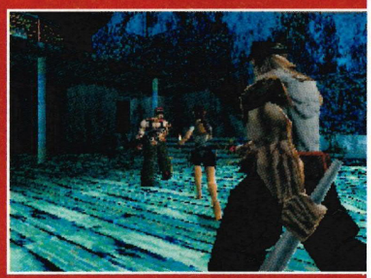
What we don't like

Weaker and weaker

Maybe we're getting old and bitter, but Tomb Raider II's starting to leave a bit of a stale taste in our mouths. Why? Well, it's basically down to the fighting. There's lots of it. And in Tomb Raider that means doing hyperspeed gymnastics randomly while holding down the fire button. Boring? Just a touch.



■ There are too many firefights with heavies



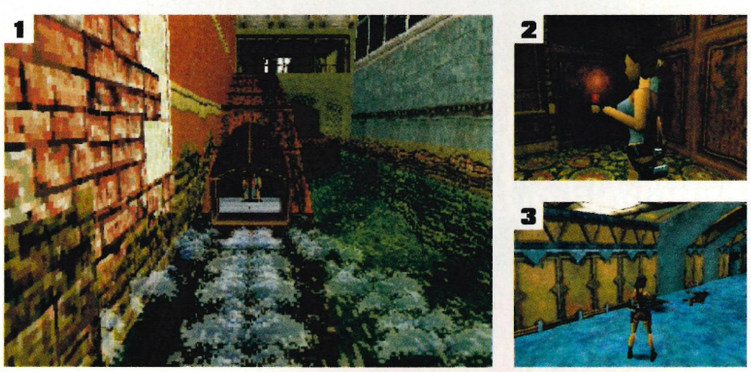
■ And that means lots of random killing



1 And Lara doing her trademark flips all the time **2** Which doesn't make us whoop with joy

So what's there to do?

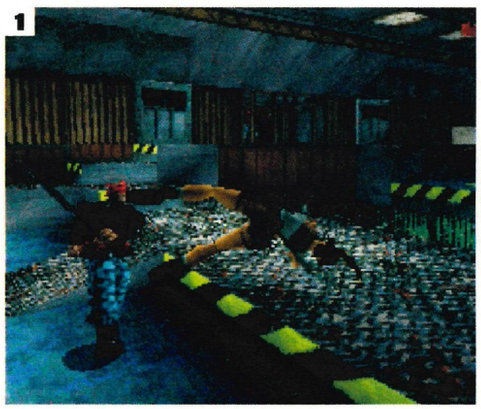
We're explaining this for the four people in Britain who haven't seen Tomb Raider yet. Darren in Milton Keynes, Jo in Aberdeen, and Ryan and Dan in Brighton, this is for you. Observe the beautiful lady as she climbs things, shoots things, finds levers and does abstract acrobatics to get weird objects hidden in ancient ruins. And that's it.



1 Jump around a lot **2** Pull switches a lot **3** Kill people a lot and explore odd places quite a bit too

Start the killing!

If you're used to Tomb 1 or Tomb 3, you'll find this is a different kettle of fish. There's exploring, sure, but the emphasis is on machine gun death, pure and simple. You can't walk five yards without some goon taking potshots at you. Action's the name of the game. At the time, we thought this was a good thing. Now we ain't so sure.



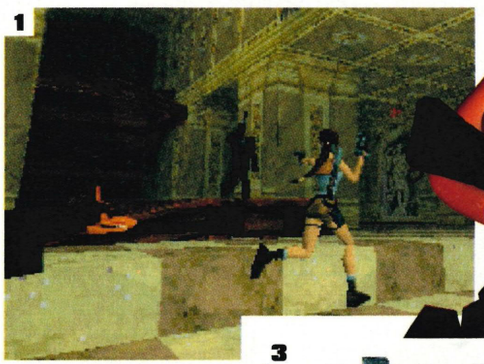




1 Some evil bodger starts sniping atcha **2** That'll be your cue to jump around a lot, emptying clips into them **3** And then get ready to walk another five yards and do it again

Shred or dead

Tomb 1 was big. But this is even bigger. There's 18 levels on here, all huge beyond belief. Not one single doofus has ever written to us to brag how he did this game 'in only six hours'. And believe us, that's a tribute few games can boast.







1 Fight through a pack of tooled-up grunts with semi-autos **2** Blast through various stupidly detailed locations like Venice **3** Or the Great Wall of China

Platinum Top fun all round but too much random fire fighting makes it a weak link in Lara's sequels chain. But for twenty quid it's still a fine purchase. **Rob**

PlayStation plus

RATED 89%

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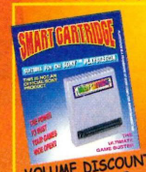
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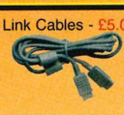
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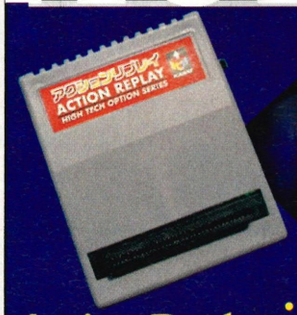
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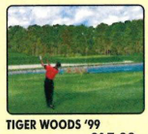

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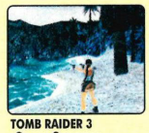

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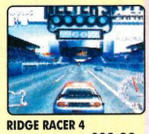

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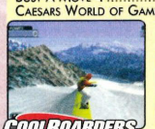

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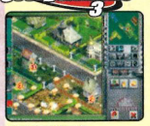

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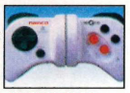
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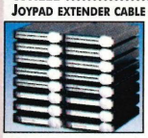


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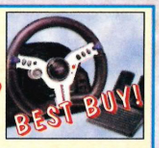
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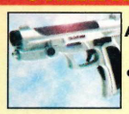


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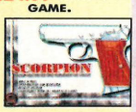


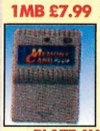
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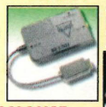
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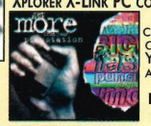
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TEKKEN 3

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ISS PRO '98

Tons of hints & tips
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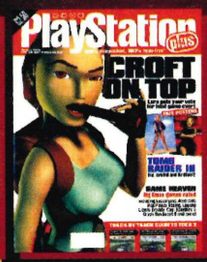
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Your essential guide to every PlayStation game and all the extra gear...

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HOW WE RATE STUFF

91-100%	Essential play
81-90%	Almost classic
71-80%	Good, not great
61-70%	Only okay
51-60%	Just toss
0-50%	Total toss

winner — A great game (91% plus) you've just got to play.

best buy — Top PlayStation gear to boost your gameplay.

Only worth renting. Don't buy it!

Rent it

This game is crap. Avoid like the plague

ARSE

EASY TO USE GUIDE

The only easy-to-use guide to every PlayStation game out there. Here's how it works...



What it's called
The games are listed alphabetically

How we scored it
See ratings key above

How many players
Is it a one-player or great with mates?

How much it costs
The recommended retail price, although you could find it cheaper

Extra Information
Here's exactly what we think of each game, plus we'll point out any gadgets it uses like the link cable or multitap. Virtually all the games work with the Dual Shock pad and memory card, but we'll let you know if it makes the most of 'em...

plus

p104 Best driving games
Which tyre-burners rate best

p105 Best footy games
The soccer sims you simply *must* own

p107 We recommend...
The games which have been eating our social life

p109 Platinum
Every bargain release rated

p110 Gear
The latest pads 'n' stuff on test

p111 Cheap thrills
Get more games for your money

p112 One careful owner...
The DOs and DON'Ts of buying secondhand games









Knowledge: updated every month

The best games

All Games Rated between 71%-100%

A

Abe's Exoddus 91%
■ **Price** £44.99 ■ **Players** 1-2
Dead playable sequel to the now-cheapo Abe's Oddysee. More of the same platform action.
winner

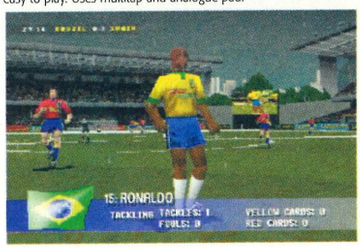
Actua Golf 71%
■ **Price** £39.99 ■ **Players** 1-4
This oldster still plays OK but looks tossy compared to newer clubbers. For more options try...

Actua Golf 2 75%
■ **Price** £39.99 ■ **Players** 1-4
It's got some new courses and a fresh lick of paint, but it still plays the same. Not bad, just not great.

Actua Golf 3 85%
■ **Price** £39.99 ■ **Players** 1-4
The best golf game around, we reckon, mainly because it's well realistic when you play with the Dual Shock pad.

Actua Ice Hockey 85%
■ **Price** £39.99 ■ **Players** 1-4
Nifty pick-up-'n'-play hockey sim which boats all the usual teams and moves. Uses multitap.

Actua Soccer 2 73%
■ **Price** £44.99 ■ **Players** 1-4
Better looking than the Platinum original but still not easy to play. Uses multitap and analogue pad.
Rent it



Actua Soccer 3 79%
■ **Price** £44.99 ■ **Players** 1-4
Better, but still not as flowing or fun as ISS Pro 98. Compatible with multitap.

Actua Tennis 74%
■ **Price** £39.99 ■ **Players** 1-2
Average to look at but not bad to knock around. Better with the Dual Shock but still no ace.

Agile Warrior 83%
■ **Price** £39.99 ■ **Players** 1
Aircraft shooty game that's easy to play but gets boring too soon. Still, not that bad.

Air Combat 2 85%
■ **Price** £34.99 ■ **Players** 1
Good-looking flight sim with loadsa missions and a stack of planes to choose from. Use Dual Shock for best results.

Akuji the Heartless 82%
■ **Price** £39.99 ■ **Players** 1
Run around Tomb Raider-stylee, bagging things with Black Magic. Not enough gore to be great. Uses Dual Shock.

AVI Evolution Global 73%
■ **Price** £44.99 ■ **Players** 1
Looks like a yawnsome strategy thang but get into this baby and you'll have fun building empires. Mouse compatible.

All Star Tennis 73%
■ **Price** £39.99 ■ **Players** 1-2
Slightly soiled looks don't spoil this quite tasty racket-a-thon. Use Dual Shock pad.
Rent it

Alone in the Dark 71%
■ **Price** £39.99 ■ **Players** 1
Resident Evil-style horror adventure with trashy graphics and naff all gore. Gameplay's all right, though.

Alundra 75%
■ **Price** £39.99 ■ **Players** 1
Long-winded adventure which looks rubbish but is pretty satisfying if you stick it out. Good for beginners.

Apocalypse 88%
■ **Price** £39.99 ■ **Players** 1
Bruce Willis pumps it up in this balls-out sci-fi blaster. It's a bit samey but still brilliant. Dual Shock.

Armoured Core 74%
■ **Price** £34.99 ■ **Players** 1-2
Robot blasting game which is a bit short in one-player but a good laugh against a mate.

Assault 84%
■ **Price** £39.99 ■ **Players** 1-2
Full-on shoot 'em up where the killing just doesn't stop. Big weapons and even bigger bad guys, we like this.

B

Baby Universe 75%
■ **Price** £29.99 ■ **Players** 1
This psychedelic lightshow more a mind-bending experience than a game. Great for late night chill seshes.

Ballblazer Champions 75%
■ **Price** £44.99 ■ **Players** 1-2
Future sport sim where two hover cars must shoot the plasma ball at the opponent's holo-goal. Weird.

Batman & Robin 73%
■ **Price** £39.99 ■ **Players** 1
A bit like Tomb Raider in Gotham City, this is an ambitious but sadly flawed take on the Batman theme.

Bedlam 78%
■ **Price** £44.99 ■ **Players** 1-2
Tactical robot blaster where you've really gotta use the mouse to get the most out of it.

Biofreaks 85%
■ **Price** £39.99 ■ **Players** 1-2
So it's no Tekken 3, but this thumper's got some wicked moves and some of the coolest effects we've seen, including flying fighters!

Black Dawn 81%
■ **Price** £44.99 ■ **Players** 1
This sequel to Agile Warrior offers more of the same aircraft shooty stuff. Boasts nicer graphics though.

Blast Radius 83%
■ **Price** £44.99 ■ **Players** 1-2
Space-based shoot 'em up that's best with Dual Shock. Ultimately lacks variety.

Blam! Machinehead 84%
■ **Price** £44.99 ■ **Players** 1
Hard to get into but work out this tough 3D blaster and you'll be zapping bad guys for hours.

Blazing Dragons 72%
■ **Price** £44.99 ■ **Players** 1
Graphic adventure with mucho laughs and comedy voiceovers. Too much like hard work though, we reckon.

Bloody Roar 90%
■ **Price** £39.99 ■ **Players** 1-2
Looks lush, plays fast and kicks like a mule. Not the best fighter but not far off. Go on, tuck in...

B-Movie 79%
■ **Price** £39.99 ■ **Players** 1
Tongue-in-cheek blast 'em up where UFOs invade Earth to go cow rustling. Way, way out there...
Rent it

Bomberman World 83%
■ **Price** £34.99 ■ **Players** 1-4
Stick in a multitap and this is bombastic blasting for four players. Not so hot as a one-player though.

Breath of Fire III 84%
■ **Price** £39.99 ■ **Players** 1
Cutesy role-playing epic which'll keep you hooked for ages. Bit slow for some, though.

Brian Lara Cricket 88%
■ **Price** £44.99 ■ **Players** 1-4
Despite its fiddly control system, this cricket sim'll knock you for six. Great with Dual Shock pad.

Broken Sword 91%
■ **Price** £39.99 ■ **Players** 1
Superb puzzle-solving adventure. (N.B It also comes bundled with two other games on the Help! pack).
winner

Broken Sword 2 91%
■ **Price** £34.99 ■ **Players** 1
More of the same, but still smart. Guaranteed to frustrate the hell out of you.
winner

Bubble Bobble Pack 84%
■ **Price** £44.99 ■ **Players** 1-2
Looks pretty naff but this is well-endowed with gameplay. Serious platform fun for one or two players.

Buggy 78%
■ **Price** £39.99 ■ **Players** 1-2
Race radio-controlled cars in this fun-for-a-while racer. Handles slightly better with the Dual Shock.

Bushido Blade 83%
■ **Price** £39.99 ■ **Players** 1-2
Samurai swordfighting game that's too realistic for its own good. Worth a try though.
Rent it

Bust-a-Groove 88%
■ **Price** £39.99 ■ **Players** 1-2
Dance battle game where the winner's the guy who can pull off the smartest breakdance moves. Weird but well good.

Bust-a-Move 3 85%
■ **Price** £34.99 ■ **Players** 1-2
Bubble-bursting puzzle game that's dead easy to play but difficult to put down.

Bust-a-Move 4 80%
■ **Price** £34.99 ■ **Players** 1-2
Way too similar to the others to make it worth splashing the cash for. Try its Platinum predecessor instead.

C

Cardinal Syn 71%
■ **Price** £34.99 ■ **Players** 1-2
Average beat 'em up with swords, slick moves and some monster characters. Works with Dual Shock pad.

Castlevania 89%
■ **Price** £44.99 ■ **Players** 1
Visually it's no supermodel, but it's a well-stacked platform adventure with a classy musical score.

Circuit Breakers 80%
■ **Price** £39.99 ■ **Players** 1-4
Race anything from tiny cars to minute submarines around a load of different courses. Good with multitap and four players.

Colin McRae Rally 95%
■ **Price** £44.99 ■ **Players** 1-2
Way cool off-road rally sim which looks blinding and plays like a babe. Get it, that's an order...
winner

Colony Wars 90%
■ **Price** £44.99 ■ **Players** 1
Space-based shooter with sweet graphics and pulse-pumping gameplay. A bit samey for some.

Colony Wars Vengeance 93%
■ **Price** £44.99 ■ **Players** 1
Better sequel with planet-based battles as well as space dogfights. Use Dual Shock for best results.
winner

Command & Conquer: Red Alert 91%
■ **Price** £39.99 ■ **Players** 1-2
Control your tiny army and conquer worlds in this neat strategy thang. Uses mouse and link-up.
winner

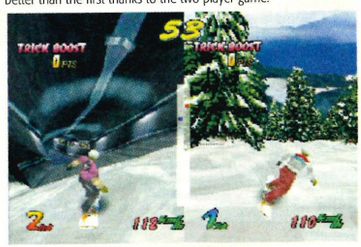
Command & Conquer: Retaliation 91%
■ **Price** £39.99 ■ **Players** 1-2
Exactly the same to play, but with new missions, vehicles and cranked-up difficulty levels. Two-player.
winner

Constructor 82%
■ **Price** £39.99 ■ **Players** 1
Play God in this building site sim that's a lot more fun than it sounds. Easier to play with mouse.

Contra: Legacy of War 83%
■ **Price** £44.99 ■ **Players** 1-2
Solid blasting action for one or two kitted-out soldiers ready to save the world. 3D mode is great with glasses supplied.

Cool Boarders 85%
■ **Price** £39.99 ■ **Players** 1
The original snowboarding thrash is still fun to play, but lack of other racers makes it a bit dull.

Cool Boarders 2 91%
■ **Price** £39.99 ■ **Players** 1-2
Sheet hot snowboarding game made a whole lot better than the first thanks to the two-player game.
winner



Cool Boarders 3 82%
■ **Price** £34.99 ■ **Players** 1-2
OK follow-up which doesn't improve on the one before, so what's the point? Uses Dual Shock.

Crash Bandicoot 2 87%
■ **Price** £39.99 ■ **Players** 1
Tasty platform action with more variety, better graphics and a load of new bad guys to stomp. Good for the young 'uns.

Crash Bandicoot 3 89%
■ **Price** £39.99 ■ **Players** 1
A great laff for all, with loads of different gameplay styles and some luverly graphics. Much too short though. Dual Shock compatible.

Best driving game

Gran Turismo

This has got more cars than a Ford factory, some of the best graphics you'll see on the 'Station and it's sweet to drive. It's a class-A tyre-burner packing arcade or full-on realism (you choose), plus a cool practice option where you pass licence tests to get further in the game. Rejoice!



Like that? Then check these out...



Colin McRae Rally
■ **Price** £44.99 ■ **Players** 1-2
This off-roader handles like a dream. Get it now.

WipEout 2097
■ **Price** £19.99 ■ **Players** 1-2
Half-price futuristic racer is superb in link-up mode.

Toca Touring Cars 2
■ **Price** £44.99 ■ **Players** 1-2
Twice the price as the first 'un but well worth it. Sweet, man.

Crime Killer 79%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Futuristic cops 'n' robbers mix of racing and shooting. Good fun for a bit, but then gets boring. Works with Dual Shock.

Crusader: No Remorse 78%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
Shoot loads, explore like crazy and bag a load of bad guys. OKish lone soldier 'em up.

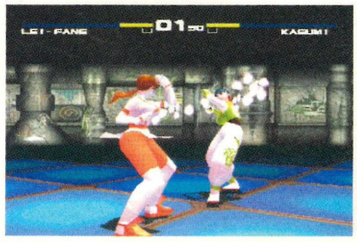
D

Dark Forces 80%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
Star Wars first-person blast which looks old skool but plays OK. The best bit? Zapping stormtroopers. winner

Darklight Conflict 87%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
3D space game delivers stunning gameplay and slick visuals. Difficult to master so watch out.

Dead Ball Zone 78%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-2
Hyper-violent future sports game with loadsa blood-spilling and chainsaws. Fast and frantic.

Dead or Alive 91%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Excellent fist-throwing monster boasts super-crisp graphics and well-stacked female fighters. Result! winner



Deathtrap Dungeon 85%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
Tomb Raider-style adventure with scantily clad heroine, loads of big monsters and muchos sword swinging.

Descent 83%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
Doom in spaceships. Fly around underground tunnels, shooting stuff. Not bad, but better in link-up two-player mode.

Descent II 78%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
Few improvements so why bother? If anything this is slower than the first one. D'oh!

Devil Dice 85%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Simple but addictive puzzler that'll keep you coming back for more. And more...

Diablo 77%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Pretty good adventuring epic that's not too spoddy. You've gotta stick it out to get the best from this one.

Disruptor 76%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Slick-looking but ultimately yawnsome first-person fire fest. Brimming with tasty weapons though.

Duke Nukem 91%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Stonking corridor shoot 'em up. Colourful, funny and very violent. Two-player link game is great laffs. winner

Duke Nukem: Time to Kill 88%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Da Dook gets a Tomb Raider-style makeover. The result? A dead good fragfest. Two-player's not much cop.

E

Earthworm Jim 2 73%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
Old Skool platformer doesn't take itself too seriously. Great to play, if only for a couple of hours.

ESPN Extreme Games 74%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-2
Oddball sports racing game with a handful of events and a twist of violence for good measure.

Everybody's Golf 83%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-4
A golf game that's - wait for it - fun! Big-headed clubbers take to the fairway and for once it's no snooze-a-thon.

Exhumed 86%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
One of the most challenging Doom-style blasters around. Doesn't look great but hey, gameplay's a treat.

F

Felony 11-79 81%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Choose your motor and burn up three well cool tracks. Trash things to get extra cars. Refreshing tyre-shredding stuff.

FIFA 99 75%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-8
Fairly standard footy game crammed with league teams and all the players. Look OK, doesn't play too hot.

The Fifth Element 79%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Likeable adventure based on the sci-fi smash. Lacks the pizazz to make it a true classic.

Final Doom 85%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
Ultra-hard follow-up with 30 new levels but the same old weapons. Still, a good link-up laugh.

Final Fantasy VII 95%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
The biggest 'Station game ever, bursting over three CDs. It's an awesome game, but very, *very* slow. winner

Fluid 80%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1
Swim through underwater worlds to build up library of samples, then mix dance tunes. Odd.

Formula 1 97 89%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
Great racing sim endowed all the proper drivers 'n' teams, plus nifty hi-res graphics. The two-player game is whiffy.

Formula Karts 75%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
Kart racer that's fast, fun 'n' furious. The tracks are bit short, but otherwise an engine-revving laff.

Forsaken 87%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Zip through tight corridors, straddled on a jet bike. The aim: shoot everything in sight. Cool. Uses Dual Shock pad.

Frogger 3D 78%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-4
Retro classic given a 3D facelift. Gameplay's simple but still fun, while the graphics look nice enough. Four players with multitap.

Future Cop: LAPD 89%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
Hover, stomp and blast your way through futuristic cities, all in the pursuit of justice. Not 'arf bad.

G

G-Darius 86%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Stomping shoot 'em up pits you against against a world of murderous fish. Well frantic.

G-Police 91%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
Sci-fi helicopter thriller that grabs you by the balls. It's a bitch to control but the Dual Shock helps. winner

Gex 3D 89%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
Very cool 3D platformer pumped full of exploration and adrenalin. Sometimes tricky to control, but you'll get used to it pronto.

Ghost in the Shell 88%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-2
Japanese-y robot shooter with great graphics, cool tunes and a whole lotta gameplay. You'll like.

Global Domination 73%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Very boring to look at - it's just this coloured globe - but strategy nuts'll get excited over it. The rest of you, be wary.

Gran Turismo 97%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Three words: buy it now. This is the best racer EVER, with awesome graphics and gameplay. Very tasty. winner

H, I, J

Heart of Darkness 85%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
Good looking platformer plays like a peach. Puzzle-y bits to chew on too. Presented in widescreen though, which is odd.

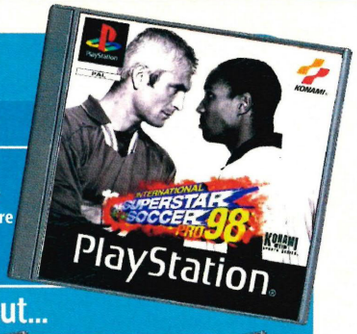
Help! 85%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Broken Sword's great, but Road Rash and Myst ain't so hot. Still, pretty good value.

Herc's Adventures 85%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
Solid gameplay and tons of challenge in fun-to-play cartoon frolics. Arcade adventure, Greek Gods stylee.

Best footy game

ISS Pro 98

This is the Ronaldo of 'Station soccer games. Sure it's a sweet game to look at, but it's the gameplay which really gets us going. It's really easy to pick up and play, but there are enough moves in there to keep the expert practicing for months. Superb, especially in two player.



Like that? Then check these out...



Michael Owen's WLS
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Great to play. The advanced moves are tricky though.



World Cup 98
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-8
Fast and easy to use, it's got all the proper teams and players.

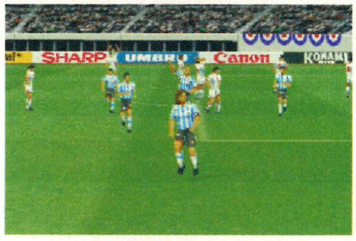


ISS Pro
Price £19.99 **Players** 1-2
Not quite as good as ISS 98, but for £20 it's a bargain.

Hercules 80%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-2
Based on the Disney flick, this coolio looking platform game is fun for a bit. Could've been longer, though.

Impact Racing 72%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
Offbeat racing game mixing Destruction Derby with Mad Max. Not quite as good as it sounds, unfortunately...

ISS Pro 98 94%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
The best footy game bar none. It's easy to play but will grab you by the balls and not let go. Lush. winner



Jersey Devil 78%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
Looks fantastic but the gameplay's not quite up to scratch. Dodgy camera angles make it hard to play.

Jonah Lomu Rugby 84%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-4
Brilliant rugby sim, but the fiddly controls will drive you mad. Worth sticking with...

Jumping Flash 76%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1
Well old 3D platformer where you've gotta leap sky-high to win. Nice idea but looking a bit dated.

Jumping Flash 2 77%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1
Same thing as before, but not enough levels to keep your appetite satisfied. No fair.

K, L

Kensei: Sacred Fist 75%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Tries hard to be a great beat 'em up but doesn't quite succeed. We reckon you're better off with Tekken 3.

Klonoa 80%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1
Sickly sweet platform romp which stars a puppy as the main geeza. Nice looking and fun enough to play, but a bit easy.

Kula World 89%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1
Bounce a beach ball through weirdo levels to solve puzzles. Odd concept but strangely addictive.

Lemmings 80%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1
It's cheap, addictive as hell but looks bloody awful. Still, we reckon you'll play for ages. Uses Dual Shock.

Little Big Adventure 81%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
Action adventure packed with puzzles and shooty bits. Another case of gameplay over graphics.

Lucky Luke 72%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
The mix of gameplay styles makes this an interesting if not exciting platformer. Looks a bit kiddyish.

M

Machine Hunter 80%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
Top-down blast where the action never stops. Good fun for both one and two players.

Madden 97 80%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
If American football floats your boat you could to a lot worse than tackle this baby.

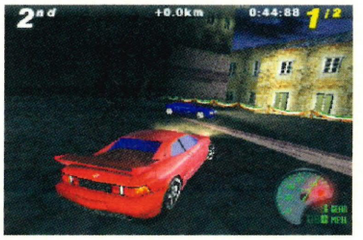
Madden 98 83%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
Better than the first but not by much. More gridiron action than you can shake a stick at.

Madden 99 73%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-4
For chrissakes, three games later and naff all has changed. Yeah it's still OK, but we demand more! Uses multitap.

Magic Carpet 79%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
Fly around on your mystic rug, zapping weird creatures with magic. An oldie but still pretty darn good.

Marvel Super Heroes 78%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
Flattish beat'em up with some H-U-G-E fighters. Animation's not so hot but it plays nice enough.

Max Power Racing 90%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
No Gran Turismo beater but still a pedal-to-the-metal road racer. Loadsa cars and tracks to choose from.



MDK 75%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
Interesting shoot 'em up let down badly by patchy graphics. Filled with action though. Rent it

Mechwarrior 2 83%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
Climb inside a giant-sized robot and trudge into battle. Mixes strategy and shooting to great effect.

»

Knowledge: updated every month

MediEvil 92%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
Does slaughtering demons pump your pulse? Then tuck into this hack 'n' slash adventure. We like it.

Metal Gear Solid 93%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Atmospheric, pacy, good-looking and innovative. If only it were a bit longer...



Michael Owen's WLS 99 92%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
England soccer star endorses top footy game. Looks are sweet and gameplay is finger lickin' good.

Monster Trucks 76%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
Big motors with oversized tyres trash the countryside in this frantic racer. Good dirt churnin' fun for a little while.

Mortal Kombat 3 71%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
MK fans will love it but the rest of us'll think it's pretty naff. Extra marks for gory finishing moves.

Moto Racer 80%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Pretty speedy motorbike racer with both tarmac and off-road tracks. A nice change from car games.

NBA in the Zone 75%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
Pacey basketball sim with stacks of stats. Looks old compared to newer b-ball slam dunkers.

NBA in the Zone 2 85%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
Much better than the first, but let's face it, it's still basketball. More variety next time, please.

NBA Jam Tournament 80%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-4
Mutitap-compatible conversion of the age-old arcade game. Two-on-two action with big heads. Odd.

NBA Live 97 83%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-8
Two multitaps, eight players. Fork out top dollar for this sweet b-ball game and all the gear and you won't be disappointed.

NBA Live 98 88%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-8
Same as the last, but with updated teams and players, plus a few enhancements. Sweet.

NBA Live 99 79%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-8
Look, enough of the basketball games, all right? Especially when they offer bugger all over the others.

Need for Speed III 87%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Very fast and tasty-looking high-speed driving game which is miles better than the previous two. Uses Dual Shock.

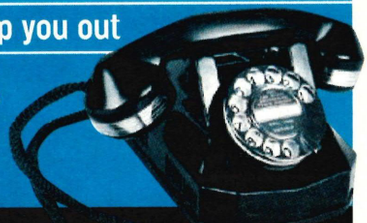
Newman Haas Racing 71%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
Substandard Indy Car racer from the blokes who gave us Formula 1. Looks old, man.

NFL Blitz 86%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
The only American footy game which doesn't get bogged down by over-complicated rules. Not 'alf bad.

Want to know more about a game?

Then give us a call. We'll help you out

There's one helluva lot of games available on the PlayStation. Nearly 600 in fact. So we know it's not easy choosing which game to buy. That's why we're here, to help you out. If you want advice on what to go for give us a call on the number below and we'll do our best to sort you out.



PHONE 0171 972 6700

And ask to speak to PlayStation Plus. We're here to help.

Moto Racer 2 91%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
This is one helluva scorcher. Stacks of tracks and bikes, plus an easy-to-use track editor.

Motorhead 89%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
So fast it'll make your eyes bleed. Graphics are basic compared to Gran Turismo, but this one still pops our cork.

Motor Toon Grand Prix 2 80%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-2
Light-hearted racer that's more a laugh than a sim. Great in one player but check out the two-player link-up - it's smart.

Music 92%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1
Be the next Fatboy Slim with this dance music creator. Loads of samples and dead easy to use.

Myst 76%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
One third of the Help! charity pack. Dull-looking adventure that's quite absorbing. Patience is a must for this 'un though.

N

N20 86%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
No-brainer gameplay means you can pick up this blast and notch up high scores within minutes.

Nanotek Warrior 75%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Enjoyable shooting action which starts with a kick, but lacks enough levels to keep blowing your mind.

NBA Hangtime 72%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-4
Arcade basketball game doesn't take itself too seriously. A laugh in four-player with multitap and that's about it.

NFL Gameday 72%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
More realistic than Blitz but nowhere near as much fun. Very average in every respect.

NHL 97 85%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
Top-notch graphics make this a great-looking sports sim. Gameplay's pretty hot, too.

NHL 98 91%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-8
Slicker than the previous effort, plus better graphics and all-new teams. And an eight-player mode.



NHL 99 86%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-8
Instalment number three and it's still the same old thang. Not bad, but we expect more. So should you.

NHL Breakaway 98 87%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-8
If ice hockey's your bag, this ain't bad for a spin, even though it looks and plays like most of the others.

NHL Powerplay 98 87%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-8
A lot of ice, tons of players and a tiny puck. It sounds like every other hockey game and y'know what, it is.

Nightmare Creatures 89%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Gothic horror game with two heroes hack 'n' slashing it against Satan's spawn. Gory and great.

Ninja: Shadow of Darkness 80%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
Chuck throwing stars and hack with your sword in this OKish one-player action 'em up.

Nuclear Strike 91%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
Explosive chopper shooter mixing top-notch blasting with serious strategy. It's a toughie, but you'll dig it.

O

ODT 86%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Run around and shoot loads of stuff. Oh, and solve some darn easy puzzles. We don't mind this at all.

Olympic Soccer 75%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
An old skool soccer game which looks appalling but doesn't play too bad. Not in the same league as ISS Pro though.

One 79%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Good looking ultra-violent platform shooter which would've been awesome if it wasn't for the yawnsome combat.

Overblood 71%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
Resident Evil-style adventure which lacks excitement or tension. More action needed, and fast!

P

Parappa the Rapper 89%
Price £29.99 **Players** 1
Bizarro rapping game when you win by tapping in time with the music, Simon Says style. Offbeat and amusing.

Phat Air Snowboarding 75%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-2
Snowboarding bandwagon-jumper which just doesn't cut the mustard against t'other steep slope sliders.

Pitfall 3D 84%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Very playable platformer which nicks a load of ideas from Indiana Jones. Challenging yet fun.

Pocket Fighter 79%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Pint-sized fighters square up against each other in this strangely interesting punch 'em up. One for fanatics only.

Po'Ed 72%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
Doom-style blaster with weird monsters and bizarro weapons. Ever whacked anything with a frying pan? You can now...

Point Blank 92%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-2
Fantastic shooting gallery gun game which really needs a lightgun. The two-player is brilliant.

Pool Hustler 79%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Plenty 'o' ball fun to be had, but strange Yankee rules spoil our fun somewhat.

Populous: The Beginning 85%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Another God game where you build up your little guys and lead 'em into battle. Yeah, a nice little number.

Poy Poy 83%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-4
Using the multitap, up to four players can whup each other's ass by chucking stuff around. The one player game is naff though.

Poy Poy 2 73%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-4
Hang on a sec. This is exactly the same as the first. We demand to know what's going on!

Premier Manager 98 86%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Was the king of the sheepskin coat, but a few major flaws mean it's not quite a classic. Not so for the sequel though...

Premier Manager 99 91%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Similar to the first, but with most of the bugs ironed out. The result's a well-tasty footy management sim.

Pro Pinball: Big Race USA 89%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1-4
Bargain-priced pinball sim with only one table, but boy is it a corker. Stacks of secrets and bonuses to play with.

Pro Pinball: The Web 89%
Price £24.99 **Players** 1-4
The first in the Pro Pinball series. A class table with tons of sub-games ensures this is a definite must-have.

Pro Pinball: Timeshock! 89%
Price £24.99 **Players** 1-4
Like the others in the series, this offers fantastic ball physics and a brilliant table to play on.

Project Overkill 72%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1
Flashy but dull-as-ditch-water shoot 'em up. Not even the handful of puzzles spice it up...

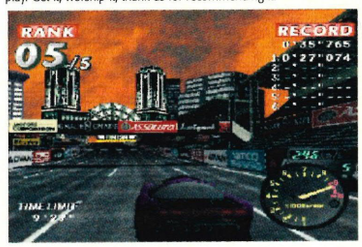
Psychic Detective 74%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
Spanning three CDs, it's not that it's a giant-sized game, it's just got a load of video footage. Not bad but by no means great.

Psychic Force 71%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
Standard fare beat 'em up. All the usual moves and fighters but poor executed. Oh well.

R

R-Types 81%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Two really old shoot 'em ups for the price of one. Both look pretty poor but both pack some serious gameplay.

Rage Racer 93%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Goyjush-looking, super-fast racing game that's lush to play. Get it, worship it, thank us for recommending it.



Raging Skies 71%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
Dated flight sim which gets repetitive all too quickly. It's average, even if you're into this sort of thang.

Raiden Project 72%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-2
Dodgy to look at 'cos it's so old. The gameplay's simple but doesn't rescue it from mediocrity.

Rally Cross 80%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-4
Tasty little off-road racing game made even better by its multitap-tastic four-player mode.

Rally Cross 2 79%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-2
None too serious sequel with fun gameplay and ridiculous crashes. The track editor is a nice touch.

Rapid Racer 82%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-2
Speedboat racing with kick-ass soundtrack and some coolio water effects. Slow in two-player mode.

Rapid Reload 75%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Entertaining but ultimately limited platform shoot 'em up. There's much better stuff available...

Ray Storm 83%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-2
Vertical blasting shoot 'em up that's tough, demanding and fast. Also packs some great weapons.

Ray Tracers 73%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1
Fantastic while it lasts, but this zippy car chase game is over within the first couple of hours. Darn!

Reboot 78%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Hoverboard game that's more a frantic blast than futuristic racer. Plays well, but a bit limited.

Reloaded 71%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
Top-down blast with big weapons and a surprising number of levels. Very samey after a while.

Resident Evil 2 95%
Price £49.99 **Players** 1
Two discs full of pant-filling surprises. Super-tense and gloriously gory, we guarantee you'll love it.

Resident Evil Director's Cut 91%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1
Virtually identical to the first one, but with a couple of extra scenes. Get the original for £20 instead.

Retro Force 75%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Robotic space cats run riot in this old-style shoot 'em up. Don't bother buying, rent it instead.

What's been burning up our 'Stations

Still can't decide what to buy? Then let us give you some pointers...

Tomb Raider II

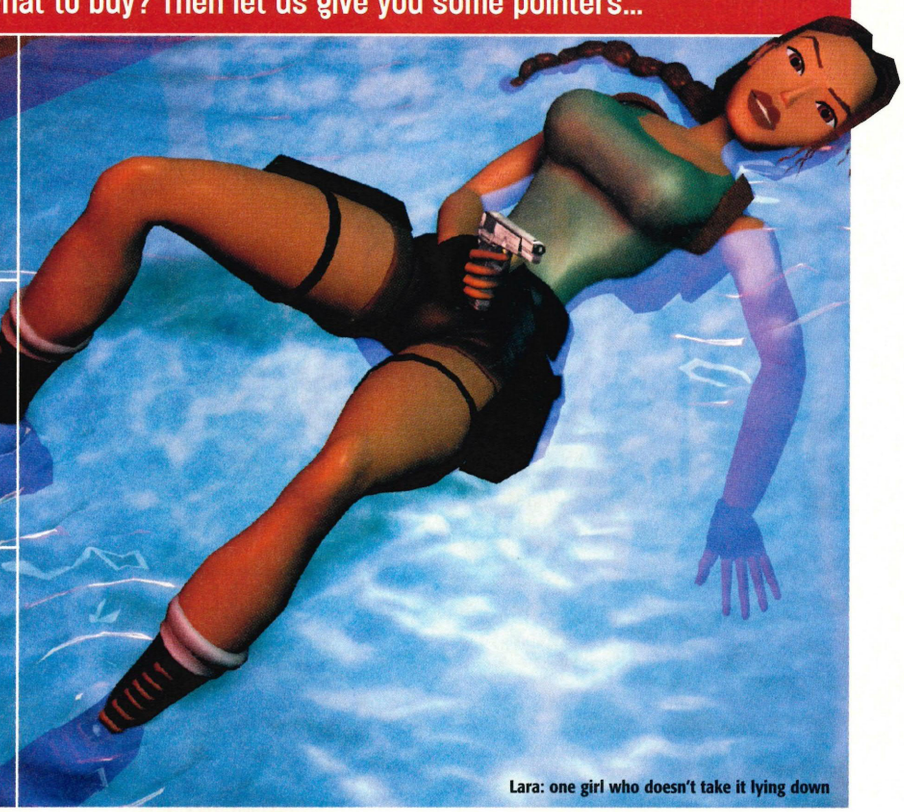
C'mon, you know all about this. Action-packed adventure starring Lara Croft. More shooty stuff than the first one, plus a couple of vehicles to play around on. A damn fine game and for the all-new £20 price tag, it's one you've just got to get.

Super Puzzle Fighter II Turbo

OK, it's well old but we're still playing this perfect puzzler. All you've gotta do is match the colour of falling blocks with energy balls to clear your screen, but it's so goddamn addictive. Now if you'll excuse us, we're just gonna have one more go...

MediEvil

We've rediscovered this undead classic recently. It's a classy 3D platform hack 'n' slash thang which is just so sweet to play. And the graphics, God, they are well nice. There's stacks to get stuck into plus some well-tasty weapons. Just in case you missed it first time around, go see.



Lara: one girl who doesn't take it lying down

Return Fire 88%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
Comical army game where you choose your vehicle and drive it into battle. Fast, furious and fun.

Risk 73%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-4
Expensive alternative to the classic boardgame of world domination. Your dad'll probably like it.

Rival Schools 89%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Schoolkids go psycho in the playground in this sweet 3D fighter. You can even train up your geezas.

Riven 80%
Price £49.99 **Players** 1
You'll pay big bucks for this 'cos it's on five discs. Very clever and good looking, but very, very slow.

Road Rash 3D 80%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Bike racing with two ways to win: drive like a demon or use chains and other weapons to cane the other riders. Different.

Rogue Trip 76%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Cars wars set in different arenas. Grab victory by rescuing tourists and filling the enemy with bullets.

Rosco McQueen 78%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1
Firefighting thang in which you've gotta save buildings before they're burnt to the ground. More suited to youngsters.

Rushdown 78%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Mountain biking, snowboarding and kayaking all on the one disc. Shame it's not that great.

S

Sampras Extreme Tennis 89%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-4
Real ease of play and lots of views raise it above unseeded rivals. A lots of players to choose from, too.

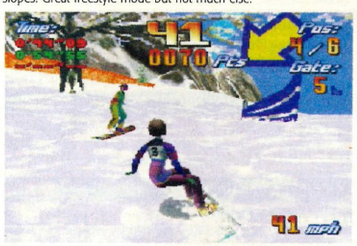
SCARS 83%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-4
Super Computer Animal Racing Simulation, otherwise known as good-for-a-laff tyre burner for up to four players using a multitap.

Shadow Master 78%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Buggy-based first-person shooter set in the future. Loadsa blasting but gets a bit boring after a while.

Sim City 2000 87%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
First you build a city, then you've got to run it. Pretty heavy going but rewarding if you stick at it. Easier to control with the mouse.

Skull Monkeys 78%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
Plasticine characters and far-out levels makes this platformer a unique, if not entirely brilliant action game.

Snow Racer 79%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-2
Ski or snowboard down some dangerously steep slopes. Great freestyle mode but not much else.
Rent it



Spot goes to Hollywood 71%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1
You're a little red spot, right, and you've gotta jump on bad guys and collect things. In other words, a dodgy platformer.

Spyro the Dragon 88%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Hyper-cute 3D platform epic that's lovely looking but pretty simple to play. Come 'n' get it, kids...

Star Gladiator 85%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
This 3D fighter's super-smart to look at, and although gameplay's basic it's still good for a quick bash.

Streak 79%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Hoverboarding race game with some cleverly-designed courses and an all-right two-player game.

Steel Harbinger 71%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
Viewed-from-above run-around, shooty game, with you cast as a scantily-clad female cyborg. Odd plot, ordinary gameplay.

Steel Reign 75%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-2
Not-so-bad tank game that's a bit repetitive but worth a look all the same. Best to rent, though.
Rent it

Street Fighter Alpha 87%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
It's an old series but as a 2D fighter it's still super-slick. Great graphics and solid gameplay.

Street Fighter Alpha 2 91%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
Similar to before but with new characters, great custom combos and counters. Great stuff.
winner

Street Fighter Collection 73%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
Not-that-great compilation of three Street Fighter games, two of which are dead old and extremely similar. Shame.

Street Fighter Ex Plus Alpha 93%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
It's Street Fighter in 3D and y'know what, it rocks. Fast and full of great moves, you should have this in
winner

Street Racer 71%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-4
Average racing game which is only memorable for the multiplayer game. Which isn't that great, either. Oops.

Suikoden 75%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
Boring as hell to look at, but role-playing freaks'll get moist over this. It's a bit dull for the rest of us, though.

Super Puzzle Fighter 2 Turbo 92%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
The most addictive game we've played, EVER. And it's only a dead simple puzzle game.
winner



Supersonic Racers 74%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
Playable but flawed racer with tiny cars and interesting tracks. Not as good as Micro Machines.

Swagman 77%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
Arcade fun set in a weird dreamscape. Looks flat and pretty dull, a bit like the gameplay.

Syndicate Wars 90%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-4
Ultra-cool and very violent shoot'em up with neat four-player multitap game. Pretty good with a mouse.

T

Tekken 3 96%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
The daddy of all beat 'em ups, this is so good it hurts. Superb graphics, moves and fighters.
winner

Tempest X3 80%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-2
Retro shooter. Gameplay's sweet and the graphics are OK, but it doesn't last long enough.
Rent it

Tenchu: Stealth Assasin 92%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Be rough like a ninja and sting like a bee in this awesome game of blood-spilling and stealth.
winner

Tenka 72%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
Slow-moving first-person blast with run-of-the-mill graphics and gameplay. Needs an action injection.

Tennis Arena 76%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-4
Slick tennis game that's not the best we've seen, but it's not all bad. Has a four-player multitap option.

Test Drive 4x4 76%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
There are stacks of off-roaders available and this isn't up there with the best of 'em. Oh well.

Test Drive 5 77%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Tarmac racer which just manages to drag itself from the pit of mediocrity. But only just...

Tetris Plus 79%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Well, it's Tetris innit? A pretty good version of the classic puzzler, but the price tag's a bit steep.
Rent it

Theme Hospital 84%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
Build your own hospital, making sure the patients are cared for and the doctors aren't overworked. Not bad. Easier with mouse.

Theme Park 85%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
Same as above, but this time you've got a theme park complete with rollercoasters and rides to play around with.

Tiger Shark 72%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
Impossibly high difficulty level makes this otherwise tasty shooter a bit hard to enjoy. C'mon guys, go easy on us...

Tiger Woods 99 78%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-4
A pretty good golf sim which only falls short because of it's cruddy putting system.

Time Commando 76%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
Unusual sci-fi mix of adventure and shooting. Odd control system takes some getting used to.

Tobal No.1 91%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
A beat'em up with a difference - it's got the one-on-one ruck, but also a cool exploration mode.
winner

TOCA Touring Car 2 93%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
The graphics are juicy, the handling is sweet and gameplay is spot on. Two-player ain't so bad, either.
winner



Tomb Raider II 94%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
Lara's second adventure is good but boy, is it a git to beat. Soon to be going Platinum so hang on.
winner

Tomb Raider III 93%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
Three games later and she's still kicking ass. Bigger than the other two and just as exciting.
winner

Tombi 79%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Typically Jap-style cartoon platformer with a pink-haired caveman who chucks pigs around. Just don't ask, OK?

»

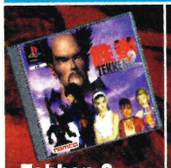
Best beat 'em up

Tekken 3



The toughest cookie on the block by far. Awesome graphics, loads of characters and some brilliant combos – what more could you want? OK, what about the tournament battle with 16 fighters, or maybe the Tekken Force mode. Y'see, we know you're impressed...

Like that? Then check these out...



Tekken 2
Price £19.99
Players 1-2
Not quite so good-looking but just as playable as Tekken 3. And for half the price. Excellent value indeed.



Street Fighter EX Plus
Price £44.99
Players 1-2
Smart 3D fistfest with all your fave Street Fighter characters: fast and easy to play.



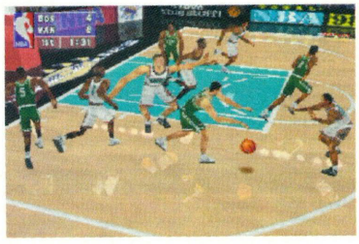
Dead or Alive
Price £39.99
Players 1-2
It's a great beat 'em up *and* it's got women with big boobs. Great graphics and solid gameplay. Cool.



Total NBA 96 — 74%
Price £44.99 Players 1-8
Just when you thought it was safe to enter the game shop... Another b-ball game appears. Noo!

Total NBA 97 — 76%
Price £34.99 Players 1-8
Slightly better than the last but still not great. Only check out if you *really* like basketball games.

Total NBA 98 — 79%
Price £34.99 Players 1-8
The best of the series, but again it's only recommended to true fans of this slam-dunkin' sim.



Tokyo Highway Battle — 74%
Price £39.99 Players 1
Substandard Rage Racer clone set on the streets of, um, Tokyo. The only good bit is the powersliding.

Toshiden 3 — 76%
Price £39.99 Players 1-2
A beat 'em up best left for beginners, 'cos you can pull off some cool-looking moves just by hammering the buttons. Yawn.

Transport Tycoon — 84%
Price £44.99 Players 1
Your city's in dire need of a decent transport system and you're the guy to sort it. Pretty good if you've got patience.

Treasure of the Deep — 78%
Price £44.99 Players 1
Make money by stealing booty from shipwrecks. Slow-paced underwater exploration blaster.

Tunnel B1 — 77%
Price £44.99 Players 1
It's looks the business but gameplay's not so sweet. Ultra-repetitive first-person shoot 'em up.

Twisted Metal — 79%
Price £34.99 Players 1-2
Mad Max-style car shooting. A taste of things to come in the superb sequel, but this isn't quite so slick.

Twisted Metal World Tour — 87%
Price £34.99 Players 1-2
Dodgy graphics aside, this is a great car-based blast which really rocks in two-player. Great battle arenas, too.

The Unholy War — 89%
Price £39.99 Players 1-2
Part of it's like a chess game with good graphics, the other bit's a frantic blast between two fighters. Racy.

V

Vandal Hearts — 81%
Price £44.99 Players 1
Another gammy-looking role-player with half-decent gameplay. Geeks'll love it, but the rest of us will find it hard work.

V-Ball Beach Volley Heroes — 75%
Price £34.99 Players 1-2
Kung-fu-style volleyball that's pretty easy to play and fairly enjoyable. At its best in two-player.

Victory Boxing — 74%
Price £39.99 Players 1-2
More tactical than yer standard beat 'em up, this is slow and not much fun.

Victory Boxing 2 — 76%
Price £39.99 Players 1-2
More of the same but with slightly better graphics. We prefer our fighters to be a bit faster.

Vigilante 8 — 91%
Price £39.99 Players 1-2
Cool-looking destruction derby with wicked cars kitted out with serious weaponry. Ace in two-player.
winner



Virtual Pool — 79%
Price £44.99 Players 1-2
Not a bad pool game but let's face it, you can't beat chalking the cue down your local.

Viva Football — 84%
Price £39.99 Players 1-2
Class footy game with all the best international teams from the last 30-odd years. Unique control system works well.

VR Baseball — 71%
Price £44.99 Players 1-2
The only baseball game you're ever likely to want to play, and even then it's only average.

Vs — 80%
Price £39.99 Players 1-2
LA gang war beat 'em up that's fun but the graphics ain't all that. Still, gameplay packs a punch.

V Tennis — 72%
Price £44.99 Players 1-2
Average tennis game which really doesn't stand up against competition like Sampras Extreme.

W

Warcraft 2 — 85%
Price £44.99 Players 1
Pretty cool Command & Conquer-style strategy game. No mouse support and lack of two-player mode a mistake.

WarGames: Defcon 1 — 88%
Price £39.99 Players 1-2
Full-on action-strategy game with loads of firefights and action to sink your teeth into.

Warhammer: SOTHR — 78%
Price £44.99 Players 1
Shadow of the Horned Rat's a slow strategy beast based on the tabletop game. A bit limited for most.
Rent it



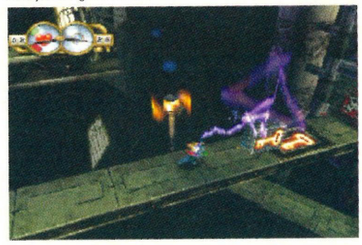
Warhammer II: Dark Omen — 84%
Price £44.99 Players 1
Better than the first but not by much. Pretty deep and therefore difficult to get into goblin-infested fantasy war epic.

Warhawk — 79%
Price £39.99 Players 1
Instantly playable even though the controls are perhaps a bit tricky to begin with. Action shooter which could've been much better.

Wayne Gretsky's 3D Hockey 98 — 74%
Price £39.99 Players 1-4
Fast 'n' furious, but it won't last you that long. Stick to renting it only.
Rent it

WCW Vs The World — 78%
Price £44.99 Players 1-2
Surprisingly good wrestling game with a whopping 60 characters. Even if you hate the sport you'll have a laugh with this.

Wild 9 — 78%
Price £44.99 Players 1
Slickly presented and well-thought out platformer that's just too goddamn slow.
Rent it



Wild Arms — 83%
Price £34.99 Players 1
Hardcore role-player for the kinda guy who wears thick-rimmed specs and a second-hand anorak. You have been warned.

Williams Arcade Classics — 75%
Price £44.99 Players 1-2
A retro compilation with five good games out of six games, one of which is Defender. Result!

Wing Commander III — 76%
Price £44.99 Players 1
Features fantastic video sequences and the bloke who played Luke Skywalker, but the gameplay ain't so good.

World Cup 98 — 85%
Price £39.99 Players 1-8
The official game of the 98 tournament so it features all the proper teams and players. Not perfect but pretty good. Uses two multitaps.

World Cup Golf — 77%
Price £39.99 Players 1-8
The graphics are spot on but some of the courses are unforgiving, especially when you're penalised for mistakes you didn't make.

World League Soccer — 90%
Price £39.99 Players 1-4
A great game, the sequel of which is endorsed by Michael Owen. Still good. Works with multitap.

Wreckin' Crew — 72%
Price £44.99 Players 1-2
This small car racer is bright and colourful and provides a lorra laughs. It's still pretty flawed though.

WWF Warzone — 78%
Price £34.99 Players 1-2
Wrestling game which is playable enough, but it's still nothing special. The create wrestler option is cool.

WWF Wrestlemania — 71%
Price £34.99 Players 1-2
More of the same, but much dodgier graphics. The moves aren't particularly exciting and neither's the game.

X-Y-Z

X-Com: Enemy Unknown — 82%
Price £44.99 Players 1
A turn-based strategy game that's easy to play yet fulfilling if you've got the time. The idea? To cane the alien invaders.

X-Com: Terror from the Deep — 82%
Price £44.99 Players 1
The same as above but set underwater, which means you get added air bubbles and all-new monsters. Oooh.

X-Men: Children of the Atom — 72%
Price £44.99 Players 1-2
Too slow, plus the animation's rubbish. Just two criticisms of this particularly average thumpfest.

X-Men Vs Street Fighter — 71%
Price £44.99 Players 1-2
Suffers from the same problems as X-Men: COTA. Just not up there with the Tekkens of this world.

Z — 78%
Price £39.99 Players 1
Even though this robot battle game's flavoured with strategy, it's still overflowing with action.

Zero Divide — 71%
Price £44.99 Players 1-2
It tries to be Tekken with robots, but cocks up the graphics and the gameplay's just done a runner. Oh dear.

Platinum games

Every £19.99 bargain PlayStation game rated

Abe's Oddysee 91%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1-2
Stuffed with gameplay goodness and laffs a-plenty. The puzzles are rock solid but you'll dig it anyway. winner



Actua Soccer 68%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1-2
All right graphics are eclipsed by awkward gameplay. OK but nowhere near as good as ISS Pro.

Adidas Power Soccer 60%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1-4
Doesn't look that hot, doesn't play too good either. In fact, it's got naff all going for it, really...

Air Combat 65%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1
Tedious dogfighting game which tries to be a flight sim but fails. Miserably. Not enough action, not enough realism.

Alien Trilogy 85%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1
First-person blast based on the smash movies. Crammed with nasty aliens to bag and coolio weapons to collect.

Bust-a-Move 2 89%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1-2
Overly cute puzzle game which plays like a dream. Pop coloured balls to win. Simple but enjoyable.

Command & Conquer 90%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1
Guide your troops through enemy-riddled battlefields, building stuff as you go. Slow but still good.

Crash Bandicoot 86%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1
Playable but frustrating platformer which looks the biz. Not as much variation as the sequels, but great value for money.

Croc 79%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1
Super-cute 3D platform romp where cuddly Croc's gotta rescue his furball buddies. Looks nice, but it's a bit too kiddy for us.

Destruction Derby 72%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1-2
Looks basic and gameplay's as shallow as a paddling pool. Two-player link-up is quite a laugh.

Destruction Derby 2 89%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1-2
Graphics are tons better and so's the game. Pull off spectacular crashes or race like a demon, it's up to you.

Doom 90%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1-2
The original blood-spattered corridor shooter. Action-packed, great fun and a great two-player link-up game. Smart.

Excalibur 2555AD 77%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1
Tries to be Tomb Raider but misses by a mile. Still, the fantasy story line is interesting enough...

Fade to Black 87%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1
Sci-fi mix of puzzle-solving and shooting. It's dead hard but stick it out and you won't be disappointed.

FIFA 96 58%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1-4
This is an old git compared to the newer, better-looking games like ISS Pro 98. Not even worth £20, really.

Firestorm: Thunderhawk 2 82%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1
Helicopter shoot 'em up that's a sweet mix of strategy and action. Just released on charity pack with three other games

Formula 1 88%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1-2
More than competent racing sim based on the 95 F1 season. Graphics are a bit blocky but hey, we still like. Uses link-up cable.

Grand Theft Auto 85%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1
Crappy-looking but great fun to play. Steal cars, work for the mob, run riot. Hallelujah!

International Track & Field 90%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1-4
An excellent party game for four players. Hammer the buttons to rack up the fastest times in this Olympic-standard sports game.

ISS Pro 91%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1-2
Still up there with the best footy games. A bit slow, but plays sweet. You won't find a better bargain. winner

Legacy of Kain: Blood Omen 88%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1
Enormous vampire adventure overflowing with virgins and blood-sucking. Doesn't look great but it's cool to play.

Loaded 75%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1
Ultra-violent shooter with bags of style but not much variation. Won't last you too long, then.

The Lost World: Jurassic Park 41%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1
Dodgy dino blast where you play as either hunters or toothed-up reptiles hungry for blood. Twenty quid badly spent, we reckon.

NEW Mickey's Wild Adventure 45%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1
Well dated 2D platformer with the cartoon rodent. Extremely cute and very, very boring. Avoid.

Micro Machines V3 91%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1-4
Pint-sized cars steam round giant-sized tracks. Good for one player, absolutely creamy in four-player. winner

NEW Croc

Price £19.99 **Players** 1

'Isn't he sweet!' we cried, then promptly vomited...

What's this then?
You're this cute crocodile, right, and you've gotta jump around some sweet-looking levels to rescue your Gobbo buddies.

What's it like?
Not bad at all. Gameplay's a bit simple but fun enough, although the kids'll go crazy over it.

RATED 79%



It's a bit cute but it's nice enough to play

Mortal Kombat Trilogy 76%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1-2
All the best Mortal Kombat bits in one package. Great if you like 'em gory, but we think it's just OK.

Need for Speed 70%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1-2
Second-rate racer which can't decide whether to be an action game or simulation. C'mon, make up your mind...

Pandemonium! 91%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1
Bright, bold and bolshi 3D platformer with slick graphics and polished gameplay. winner



Pandemonium 2 79%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1
This sequel's more colourful and has got a choice of character, but lacks the pizazz of the original.

PGA Tour 96 59%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1-8
Looks ropey and the control system ain't so hot, especially when you're putting. Flawed, that's f'sure.

Porsche Challenge 80%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1-2
This nice-looking racer makes us warm in one-player, even if the controls are a bit dodge. Two-player's not so good.

Rayman 43%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1
This game's older than your gran and, y'know, it looks it. 2D platformer which fails to excite.

Resident Evil 94%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1
Excellent scarefest with tons of head-popping gun action and staggering zombies. A must-have. winner

Ridge Racer 76%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1
Was great in it's time and is still OK, but has been succeeded by so many other racers. Why not check out...

Ridge Racer Revolution 84%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1-2
Plays much the same as Ridge Racer, but has got some better tracks and a two-player link-up mode. Awful music though.

Road Rash 64%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1-2
Motorbiking/fighting mix where the winner's the first one to cross the line in one piece. .

Soul Blade 90%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1-2
Lush sword-fighting beat 'em up with some mind-blowing special effects. Gameplay's simple but hey, it's still good.

Soviet Strike 92%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1
Rock solid chopper strategy shoot 'em up. Tough missions, top graphics and tricky gameplay. winner

Space Hulk 84%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1-2
Lead a team of dead 'ard space soldiers into battle against some nasty aliens. Slow strategy game.

Tekken 90%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1-2
Dead good to play but looks a bit crusty compared to the new 'uns. Good, but let's face it, you're gonna go for the one below...

Tekken 2 95%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1-2
For £20 this is the bargain of the year. No, make that the Millennium. Everything's great about this. winner

Time Crisis 91%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1
The ultimate gun game which, for this price, will blow you away. You WILL need a lightgun though. winner

TOCA Touring Car Championship 91%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1-2
Wicked crashes a speciality here, as crowds of tuned-up cars burn it round a handful of tracks. winner

Tomb Raider 92%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1
Lara's first adventure is pretty much the perfect mix of action and puzzling. You really should have this. winner

Total Drivin' 72%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1-4
Straightforward arcade racing for up to four players, using a link cable and split-screen option. Nowt special.

True Pinball 50%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1-2
It's got four tables but all of 'em are trash. Bite the bullet and fork out the extra cash for one of the Pro Pinball games instead.

V-Rally 92%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1-2
Dead enjoyable off-road effort with sweet gameplay and a tasty two-player game winner

WipEout 78%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1-2
Fast futuristic racer with high-speed thrills and collect weapons. Looks very old compared to the sequel.

WipEout 2097 94%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1-2
A blindin' super-slick racing monster that's so fast your eyes'll pop. Good link-up game and music by Prodigy and Chemical Brothers.

Worms 82%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1-4
It's a real stinker for one player, but plug in a multitap, get yer mates around and let battle commence. Cool.

NEW Total Drivin'

Price £19.99 **Players** 1-4 **Special** Dual Shock, Link-up

Got Gran Turismo? Well don't turn over yet...

What's this then?
A racing game for one-to-four players with a mixture of on and off-road tracks. Loadsa cars, too.

What's it like?
Doesn't look so great but the gameplay's pretty solid. Not bad for the nicker, but there is some better stuff around.

RATED 72%



OK graphics, solid gameplay. Great value

»

GEAR

Other stuff you need for your 'Station

Whether it's a new joypad or a cartridge that makes you a gaming god, you'll find the lot reviewed here...

Thrusthammer

■ **£19.99**

Since Sony got all shirty about the 4,000 pads that were identical twins to their one, we've got all sorts of oddments cropping up. This 'un looks like something Klingons might use to detect radiation. Weird, but we think it's the business. Rubber gun-grips on the side are nice, too.

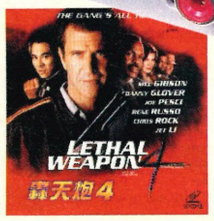
■ **Get it out for:** Anything that uses the Dual Shock pad.

■ **Rated:** So it looks nice. Sadly that butters no parsnips. It vibrates in a quite acceptable way, but the buttons are a tad plasticky and the analogue sticks are stiff and just don't like moving. And with the Dual Shock weighing in at the same price, that means, sadly, no dice. **65%**











Gamars Movie Card

■ **£69.99**

It's a miracle! You can watch films on your PlayStation! OK, so they're odd oriental video CDs with very dodgy picture quality, but y'know...

■ **Get it out for:** Like, videos and movies.

■ **Rated:** Does exactly what it says on the tin. But do you want it to? If you've got a powerful greed for, say, Malaysian skin flicks, then go ahead. Otherwise, don't. **75%**



Datel Action Replay

■ **£35.99**

A cheat gizmo with crammed with infinite life modes and God modes for almost any game, but it can also do other semi-useful stuff like lifting music out of games. It doubles as a 120-slot memory card too.

■ **Rated:** Does what it does very well. It's even got a function where it makes up cheats itself to save you downloading the codes off the website: the make-up-cheats bit's not 100% reliable, but when it works you're like 'Wow!'. **90%**

Blaze Carry Case

■ **£29.99**

Just what you always wanted. A grey, expensive box to put your PlayStation in. Useful for gaming on the hoof.

■ **Get it out for:** When you want to put your 'Station away. Easy, huh.

■ **Rated:** Well, it's a box. It's a nice box into which your PlayStation, pads and games fits perfectly, but it's still just a box. And boxes won't help you win at Tekken... **70%**

and the rest...

Games Rated 70% and under

2Xtreme 55%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
Really poor sequel to Extreme Games.

3D Lemmings 69%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
OKish 3D graphics. Uninteresting and awkward gameplay.

4-4-2 14%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-4
An absolute disgrace of a football game.
ARSE

A

Actua Soccer Club Edition 60%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
Same as the first Actua Soccer, but with club teams. Duh.

Adidas Power Soccer 98 55%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-4
Crappy old footy game which doesn't cut the mustard.

Adidas Soccer International 97 64%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-4
A follow-up to the first 'un, and likewise just as slack.

Agent Armstrong 67%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Mindless blasting, easy puzzles and daft graphics.

Air Race 66%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
Racing takes to the skies. Easy to pick up but not much fun.

All Star Soccer 34%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-4
Tries to mix footy with comedy commentary. Fails.

Andretti Racing 70%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-4
Link-up four-player's OK, but the rest is nothing special.

Aquanaut's Holiday 53%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Environmentally friendly undersea adventure. Wet, but not wild.

Area 51 52%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
Dodgy lightgun game which is, like, Dullsville.

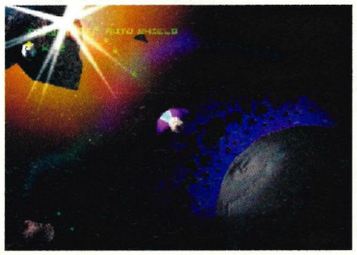
Ark of Time 46%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Bland puzzler: too boring and too hard. Get outta here!

Assault Rigs 68%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
A nice idea, but just too easy and too simple for its own good.

Atari Collection 54%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-2
Retro compilation: oldie, but no goldie.

Atari Collection 2 55%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-2
More retro 'classics'. Yeah, right...

Asteroids 70%
Price £29.99 **Players** 1-2
Same old gameplay, but flashier graphics. It's OK.
Rent it



Atlantis 29%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Tremendously dull adventure-type malarky.
ARSE

Auto Destruct 69%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
Cop show-style driving and shooting game with fizz.

Ayrton Senna Kart Duel 32%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
Very grim, substandard racer. Avoid, and that's an order.

Ayrton Senna Kart Duel 2 35%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
A karting game with all the fun of a lobotomy. Nasty.

Azure Dreams 67%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
This RPG is packed with good ideas, but is ultimately tedious.

B

Battle Arena Toshinden 2 61%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-2
Great visuals but the gameplay doesn't cut it.

Battle Stations 52%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
Nice battleships concept, but it's just so basic.

Batman Forever 28%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
A real stinker. A beat 'em up in the loosest sense.
ARSE



Beast Wars: Transformers 45%
Price £394.99 **Players** 1
Godawful shoot 'em up with robot animals.

Blast Chamber 54%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-4
It's a futuristic game of tag. No, really, it is...

Blasto 56%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Appalling 3D platformer. We really don't like this.

Blaze and Blade 40%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-4
Supremely grating role-playing which is no fun.

Break Point 62%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-4
A fairly playable arcade tennis game. Nothing special.

Brahma Force 65%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
Robot shooter much like Doom, just not as good.

Broken Helix 70%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Futuristic shooty puzzler. Looking very dated indeed.

Brunswick Pro Bowling 45%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1-2
A very dodgy-looking bowling game with trashy gameplay.

Bubsy 3D 30%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1
Ugh! Ultra-crap platform game that looks and plays cruddy.

Bug Riders 34%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Ugly, unplayable insect-riding racer. Diabolical.

C

Carnage Heart 64%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-2
Build a robot then take it into battle. More strategy than action.

Casper 62%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
Graphics are fine but it's a bit of a stinker to play.

Cheesy the Mouse 69%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
Awful main character hides some average gameplay.

Chessmaster 3D 57%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
Look, Grandad, we don't want your sort round here...

Chill 52%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
This snowboarding game is the pits. Much better stuff available.

City of the Lost Children 68%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
Excellent graphics but wait, the gameplay's very slow.

Clock Tower 43%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
Horror adventure that lacks tension and excitement.

Courier Crisis 69%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1
Collect parcels, deliver them. No thanks.

Critical Depth 65%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-2
Submarine shooter. OK in two-player, not so good for loners.

Criticom 61%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
Nice enough graphics but this fighter looses out to Tekken.

Crow 2: City of Angels 33%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
You hated the movie, but you'll hate this fightin' adventure more.

Crypt Killer 27%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
Zombie gun game. Bad just doesn't describe it.
ARSE

Cyber Sled 59%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Lots 'o' shooting, bugger all action. Aww.

Cyber Speed 60%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
You race around wires. Like, why?

Cyberia 60%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Underwhelming shooter with very little gameplay.

D

D 62%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
Looks all right but way too short. You'll finish it an hour.

Darkstalkers 68%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
Street Fighter meets horror, with missing gameplay. Oops.

Davis Cup Tennis 50%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-4
Stinky tennis game. Don't bother with this, please.

Defcon 5 59%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
3D adventure that's no fun. Zzzz...

Devil's Deception 60%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
You play Satan's helper in this dungeon manager game. Odd.

DiscWorld 65%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Fantasy comedy adventure which just isn't funny.



Dodgem Arena 68%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Arena-based spaceship ball game. Not great.

Dynasty Warriors 67%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
Swordy fighter which doesn't, um, cut it against Soul Blade.

E

Eliminator 32%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Scoot around arenas, shooting stuff from your spaceship.

Epidemic 64%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1
Corridor-based shooter which leads straight to Snoresville.

Explosive Racing 51%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-2
It's a cruddy racing game. That's all you need to know.

Extreme Pinball 44%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
Unrealistic ball movement so what's the point?

Extreme Snow Break 50%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Rubbish snowbarding effort. Well stinky.

F

FIFA 97 64%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-4
Very little improvement over 96, which wasn't much cop.

FIFA 98: Road to World Cup 65%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-8
Fairly average goal 'em up.

This month's cheap thrills

Good games for a price that'll blow you away



Abe's Exoddus
£22.49 from Dixons On-line
Great game, awesome value. Yeah, you've got to wait a day for it be delivered but it's worth it if you've got Internet access, huh? Contact 'em at www.dixons.co.uk.

Triple Pack
£39.99 from Dixons
You get three games for the price of one here. First there's the class Abe's Oddysee, plus Atari Greatest Hits 2 (Gauntlet and Paperboy are all right) and Motor-X, all for under forty notes. Sorted.

»

Knowledge: updated every month

Fighting Force 66%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
Beat 'em up adventure. Way dull.

Firo and Klawd 69%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
Interesting buddy cop game which has no save game option. D'oh!

Floating Runner 59%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
3D adventure platform thing. No good.

Formula 1 98 70%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-4
Worse than the other two. Like, how did that happen?

Frenzy 16%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1
A biplane shooter. We really do hate this.
ARSE

G

Galaxian 3D 36%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-4
Space shooter, but where's the gameplay gone?

Gex 68%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
The original and worst lizard-based platformer.



Goal Storm 66%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Clumsy players lumber around like geriatrics.

Granstream Saga 55%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Role-playing tedium which smells bad.

Grid Run 64%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-4
Game of tag only half-decent in multiplayer.

Gunship 70%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
Complex but fairly playable helicopter game.

H

Hard Boiled 40%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
Sci-fi shooter? Waste of space more like.

Hardcore 4x4 69%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
Dull all-terrain racing game with lack of tracks.

Hebereke Popoitto 42%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Not-much-fun two-player puzzle game.

Hexen 50%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
Very slow, very chunky first-person blast. Link-up.

Hi-Octane 64%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
Race speeders and blast away with weapons. Or buy WipEout 2097.

Hybrid 14%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Doom-style action 'em up. A right balls-up.
ARSE

I

Independence Day 69%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Shoot 'em up based on the film. Bog-standard stuff.

Indy 500 50%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Offensively average Indy car game that's dull, dull, DULL.

In the Hunt 67%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
2D submarine shoot 'em up that's, er, substandard. Huh.

ISS Deluxe 56%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Dodgy footballer that's seen better days.

Iron and Blood 67%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
Average 3D beat 'em up with swords 'n' stuff.

Iron Man 22%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
Sad 'n' shoddy. A fighter of appalling standards.
ARSE

Iznogoud 9%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
The title says it all, really.
ARSE

J

Jeremy McGrath Supercross 98 52%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Ropey-as-hell motocross atrocity.

Jet rider 53%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-2
Great idea, but this hov-bike racer's let down by... well, everything.

Jet Rider II 30%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-2
A sequel which is worse. Go figure...

Johnny Bazookatone 50%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Rock 'n' roll platformer without little rock, bugger all roll.

Judge Dredd 60%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-2
Comic book gun game which lacks imagination. Well average.

K

K1 Arena Fighters 55%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
Kick-boxing sim which just isn't slick or quick enough.

Kick Off 97 60%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-2
OK-to-play footy game which looks ancient.

Kick Off World 60%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-2
Same ol' thing, but with international teams. Ooh.

King of Fighters 95 40%
Price Rental only **Players** 1-2
Only costs three quid to rent this beat 'em up.
Rent it



Knockout Kings 67%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
Plenty of famous boxers to choose from, but it's just so slow.

Krazy Ivan 61%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Robots with big guns fight, and nothing else happens. Oh, link-up.

Kurushi 68%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1
Block-based puzzler. Very mediocre.

L

The Last Report 35%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Tries to be Resident Evil but this adventure just ain't got it.

Legend 45%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Two-player hack 'n' slash fighter with sod all variety.

Lethal Enforcers 30%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-2
Repulsive two-player lightgun game. It made us physically sick.

Libero Grande 60%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-2
Far-out footy game which is just too weird for its own good.

Live Wire! 65%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-4
Make boxes in this tiring puzzle game. And that's it.

Lomax in Lemmingland 70%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
Lemmings in platform shocker! Actually it's not that bad...

Lone Soldier 62%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Second-rate soldier shoot 'em up which is way slow.

Lost Vikings 2 63%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
Arcade puzzler which is frustrating to play and rubbish to look at.

M

Maximum Force 50%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
More lightgun mediocrity you really shouldn't bother with.

MegaMan Battle and Chase 36%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
Cartoon multiplayer racing. Just get lost, please...

MegaMan Legends 40%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
3D adventure. Looks like it's fifty years old, and that's being kind...

MegaMan X3 60%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
Age-old platformer which is way too difficult.

MegaMan X4 40%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
Oh c'mon, don't palm us off with the same old platform rubbish.

MegaMan 8 53%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Another name, yet strangely similar to the rest. Rubbish.

Men in Black 69%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Hugely disappointing adventure based on the movie.

Midnight Run 56%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Semi-fast racer that's a total turd to play. Yuk.

Monkey Hero 35%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Cartoon-style platform 'high jinx'. Er, hardly...

Monopoly 68%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-4
Same as the board game but on your telly.

Mortal Kombat 4 70%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-2
Another MK fighter which offers very little new stuff.
Rent it

Mortal Kombat Mythologies 50%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
Boring, unplayable quest-version of age-old beat 'em up.

Motor Mash 68%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-4
Derivative comic racing game: nice graphics but it's slow and dull.

Mr Domino 70%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1
Puzzler let down by poor control.

N

Nagano Winter Olympics 35%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-4
Snow-based Track & Field game. Arse, quite frankly.

Namco Museum Vol.1 69%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
It's got Pacman, but everything else is yawny.

Namco Museum Vol.2 53%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
This time Xevious is the highlight. Oh, you've never heard of it...

Namco Museum Vol.3 63%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
C'mon, this is getting ridiculous...

Namco Museum Vol.4 57%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
PacLand and some other rubbish retro hell.

Namco Museum Vol.5 65%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Enough already. Blimey, don't they ever give in...

NASCAR 98 64%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Ugly, dull racer with a hideous soundtrack.

NASCAR 99 50%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Insanely cack racer with unbelievably bad commentary. It's dire.

NBA Fastbreak 65%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-4
Very realistic to play but y'know what, it's frustrating to the extreme.

NBA Jam Extreme 60%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-4
Basketball starring players with big heads. Very funny.

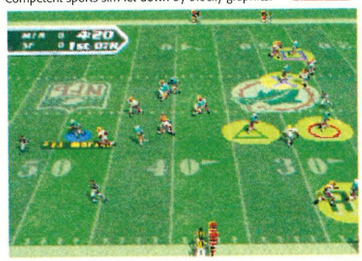
NBA Live 96 61%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
Average b-baller which just won't blow your mind.

NBA Pro 98 30%
Price £38.99 **Players** 1-4
Just quit with the basketball games, OK?

Need for Speed 2 49%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
Looks crap and plays like a brick.

NFL Extreme 65%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Standard American football-type affair. Average.

NFL Quarterback Club 70%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-8
Competent sports sim let down by blocky graphics.
Rent it



NHL Face Off 64%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-8
Nothing new to be found in this ice hockey effort.

NHL Face Off 97 65%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-8
Still average, despite the inclusion of extra features...

NHL Face Off 99 60%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-8
And still more of the same hockey toss.

NHL Open Ice 70%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-4
Arcade-style hockey game. No great shakes, here.

NHL Powerplay 96 65%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-4
End-to-end stuff. OK, but there's so much better stuff on offer.

The Note 45%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Very basic adventure. Boring and dull.

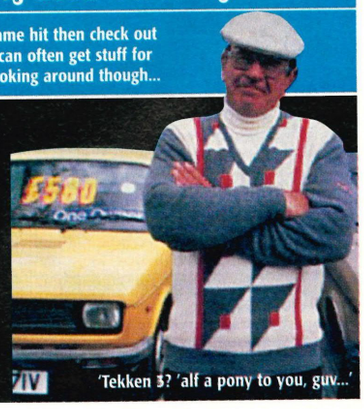
Nova Storm 55%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Start game. Fire continuously. Finish game eventually. That's it.

Buying secondhand

The DOs and DON'Ts of buying used 'Station games

Strapped for cash? If you still need your regular game hit then check out secondhand games. Depending where you go you can often get stuff for about half-price. Bear in mind these rules when looking around though...

1. Make sure you use a reputable shop or mail order company. Try Department 1 0171 916 8440, they're pretty good.
2. Always try to check the disc before you fork out the cash. Look out for scratches which could make the game jump or skip.
3. If you're really skint try part-exchange. High Street stores like Electronics Boutique do it and so do a lot of other independent shops. You could get up to two-thirds the selling price back – that's just over £16 if you trade in Resident Evil 2. Then you can buy, say, a secondhand Tekken 3 for an extra £12. Bargain!



'Tekken 3? 'alf a pony to you, guv...'

O

Off World Interceptor 58%
■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
A buggy racer set on the Moon. Weird, but not much cop.

Olympic Games 70%
■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-4
More events than Track & Field, but not much fun to play.

OnSide Soccer 45%
■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Bland footy game not worth bothering with.

P

Pax Corpus 30%
■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Dire Tomb Raider wannabe. This is real slack.

Peak Performance 65%
■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Lots of options in this racer but not much else.

Perfect Weapon 51%
■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Beat 'em up cum adventure. Rubbish in both departments.

Pet in TV 60%
■ Price £34.99 ■ Players 1-2
Tamagotchi-style pet for your PlayStation? No thanks...

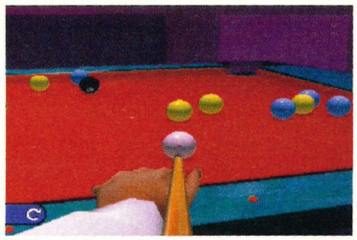
PGA Tour 97 65%
■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-4
Good-looking but gameplay's the same as all the rest.

PGA Tour 98 68%
■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-4
Same as the last one, apart from a couple of slight improvements.

Pitball 69%
■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-4
Futuristic sports game. Looks average, plays average.

Player Manager 68%
■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Predictable results spoil this footy management game.

Pool 70%
■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-16
Average pool game with too many American rules. Rent it



Power Soccer 2 60%
■ Price £34.99 ■ Players 1-4
This average soccer game won't hold your interest for long.

Psybadek 67%
■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Hoverboarding game that's more adventure than racing. Poor.

R

Rampage World Tour 59%
■ Price £34.99 ■ Players 1-3
Choose your monster then smash some cities. Extremely basic.

Rascal 53%
■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Awful camera angles make this 3D platformer almost unplayable.

Real Bout: Fatal Fury 30%
■ Price Rental only ■ Players 1-2
Very stale and slow beat 'em up. Not even worth renting.

Rebel Assault 2 46%
■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Not even the Star Wars connection saves this shooter.

Red Asphalt: Rock & Roll Racing 2 66%
■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Speedsters with awesome firepower fail to mix.

Revolution X 48%
■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
A gungame starring... Aerosmith? Oh pur-lease...

Rise 2: Resurrection 60%
■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Robot fighting game which fails to impress.

Riot 67%
■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-16
Despite its multiplayer option, this future sport's not much fun.

Mail order

The pros and cons of buying by post

Mail order is a great way of saving money but you've got to have patience, especially if your game's gonna take a couple of days to turn up...

PROS

✔ You can get games much cheaper than shop prices, often up to half the price

✔ It's the same for gear – that's cheaper too. And you don't have to lug the stuff home

✔ You don't have to get out of your armchair if you order by phone. Easy life

✔ Getting a copy of Metal Gear Solid through the post will cheer you up more than the usual tidal wave of bills

CONS

✗ It could take a couple of days to turn up, maybe longer if it's out of stock

✗ Some mail order companies aren't great. Stick to the ones in PlayStation Plus and you should be all right

✗ Prices differ from one place to another. Try looking around for the best deals

✗ If you don't move from your armchair your muscles will seize up and you'll eventually die. Boo



Robotron X 66%
■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Simple, mindless and run-of-the-mill shooter. Rent it



S

Samurai Showdown 19%
■ Price Rental only ■ Players 1-2
Sword-fighting which hits new depths... ARSE

San Francisco Rush 48%
■ Price £34.99 ■ Players 1-2
Tedious drive through the streets of SF. No fun.

Sensible Soccer 2000 25%
■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Crusty old footballer lacks talent. Real nasty. ARSE

Sentient 61%
■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Ambitious adventure is just too complicated for its own good.

Sentinel Returns 30%
■ Price £34.99 ■ Players 1-2
How can a game which looks so bad get released? Ridiculous.

Shanghai True Valor 18%
■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Oriental puzzler which you will not like. ARSE

Shellshock 65%
■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Second-rate tank game with shooty bits. Not brilliant, no siree.

Shockwave 56%
■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Trashy shoot 'em up which fails to get the blood pumping.

Skeleton Warriors 69%
■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Scrolling fighter which smells of old men's trousers.

Slam 'n' Jam 96 64%
■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Dodgy camera views and rough gameplay.

Small Soldiers 58%
■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
No variety, dull graphics and absolutely no link to the film.

Smash Court Tennis 57%
■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-4
Slow and unresponsive tennis game.

Space Jam 65%
■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Dull movie-based cash-in basketball game with Bugs Bunny and co.

Spawn: The Eternal 32%
■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Useless blend of action and adventure. Avoid.

Speed King 45%
■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Slow, boring and about as exciting as watching an egg boil.

Speedster 64%
■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Top-down racer which lacks speed and playability.

Spice World 21%
■ Price £19.99 ■ Players 1
A shabby excuse for a game. Short and boring. ARSE

Spider 65%
■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Innovative platformer, but no better than average.

Starfighter 3000 60%
■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Doesn't look so hot, doesn't play well either. Dodgy shooter.

Star Wars: Masters of Teras Kasi 30%
■ Price £34.99 ■ Players 1-2
Star Wars characters fighting. Could've been great but no.

Starwinder 58%
■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Simplistic racer where every level plays the same.

Street Fighter: The Movie 29%
■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Just as bad as the movie. In other words, CRAP. ARSE



Strikepoint: The Hex Missions 66%
■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Poor helicopter game. Try Soviet Strike instead.

Striker 96 59%
■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-4
Just another rubbishy football game.

Super Match Soccer 33%
■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-8
Yawnsome footy game. For God's sake don't buy it.

Super Football Champ 46%
■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Dull, drab, bland... Get the idea about this footy turd?

Super Pang Collection 53%
■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Retro bubble-bursting arcade game. Too simple, really.

T

Ten Pin Alley 54%
■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-6
Novelty bowling game which looks and plays like a dog.

Test Drive: Off Road 46%
■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Devoid of excitement and playability. Looks dreadful too.

Test Drive 4 70%
■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Lots of tracks but ultimately this 'un's too slow and ugly.

Three Lions 50%
■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Awful to look at and rubbish to play. A real footy stinker.

Tommi Makinen Rally 50%
■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Rally effort ain't much cop. In fact it's pants.

Top Gun: Fire at Will 66%
■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Gung-ho movie spin-off not worth tracking down.

Trash It 57%
■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-4
Platformer with big hammers. Shame it's just not interesting.

V

Versailles 10%
■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
A point 'n' click adventure. Redefines the word... ARSE

Viper 70%
■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Cacky controls spoil this great-looking chopper shoot 'em up.

Virtual Golf 57%
■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-4
Nowhere near as good as Actua Golf 3. Not even close...

Virus 2000 70%
■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Rather average as space shoot 'em ups go.

VMX Racing 50%
■ Price £34.99 ■ Players 1
Dirt bike racer which looks a thousand years old. Well, almost.

VR Powerboat Racing 40%
■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Speedboat racing which is waaaay nasty.

W

Wargods 59%
■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
3D fighting game with mushy graphics and lousy gameplay.

WCW Nitro 63%
■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
No great shakes from the OKish wrestler.

WCW Vs NWO Thunder 65%
■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Some all right bits, but overall this really isn't much to shout about.

Wing Commander IV 50%
■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Great video sequences and shaky gameplay.

Wingover 40%
■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Boring aerial shoot 'em up with lotsa planes. Zzzz.

World League Basketball 30%
■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-8
The worst b-ball game we've seen. Phew...

WWF in your House 48%
■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-4
Well below average wrestling game.

X,Y,Z

X2 58%
■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
A tedious shoot 'em up that's way too difficult.

Xenocracy 20%
■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
A real dog turd of a game. ARSE

Zeitgeist (Jupiter Strike) 43%
■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Slow, clumsy 3D shooting game which seriously lacks appeal.

Zero Divide 2 53%
■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Very suspect 3D fighter. Best left alone.



SPOILER



By: Sony
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Players: 1
First Out: October 98

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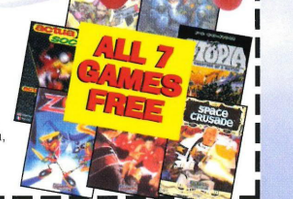
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...YOUR BEST MATE'S A MUTANT...



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KKND Krossfire will blow your mind. It blows other real-time strategy games to pieces. Pick one of the three forces: robot, mutant or human and fight to conquer the earth - what's left of it. The unique 2 player split-screen 'Kaos' mode means you can rip your mate limb from limb or join forces and demolish the computer together. Featuring stunning Famous™ motion captured, rendered mission briefings, and a specially designed easy-to-use controller system that pumps adrenaline by the gallon into every heart-thumping battle. Choose from the quick play option or the 45 single player missions tuned for straight-up fast paced action.

May the best machine, mutation or human win.





KROSSFIRE KKND





THERE'S ALWAYS THREE SIDES TO AN ARGUMENT

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PlayStation