PlayStation plus

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DINO CRISIS

FIRST FULL REVIEW

Fancy a bit of T-Rex and violence?

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GREAT

This is Football, Wip3out
F1 99, LMA Manager
GTA2, Le Mans
Final Fantasy 8
Tomb Raider 4
Shadowman

SWEATY

WWF ATTITUDE GUIDE

The best fat bloke fighting moves

B*LL**KS!

12 WAYS TO SPOT A CRAP GAME

WORLD FIRST!

PLAYSTATION 2

FIRST PICS OF CONSOLE

plus 8 PAGES OF ALL-NEW SHOTS
GRAN TURISMO 3 NEWS
WHAT IT'LL DO FOR YOU



GAME OVER

Jammy toast can wipe out a Panzer division. The Brazilian World Cup Squad can be defeated by a mug of cold coffee.

It happens. It's expensive. And it really ruins your Wednesday.

So how do you protect thumb-blistering favourites from doom and destruction?

With CDfender.

True, CDfender may not offer much by way of nuclear-tipped arsenals or grenade options. But this neat little disc of polycarbonate film is the closest you'll get to an impregnable shield for CDs.

You just peel off the backing, slip it on your CD and CDfender wards off the demons of damage and data loss.

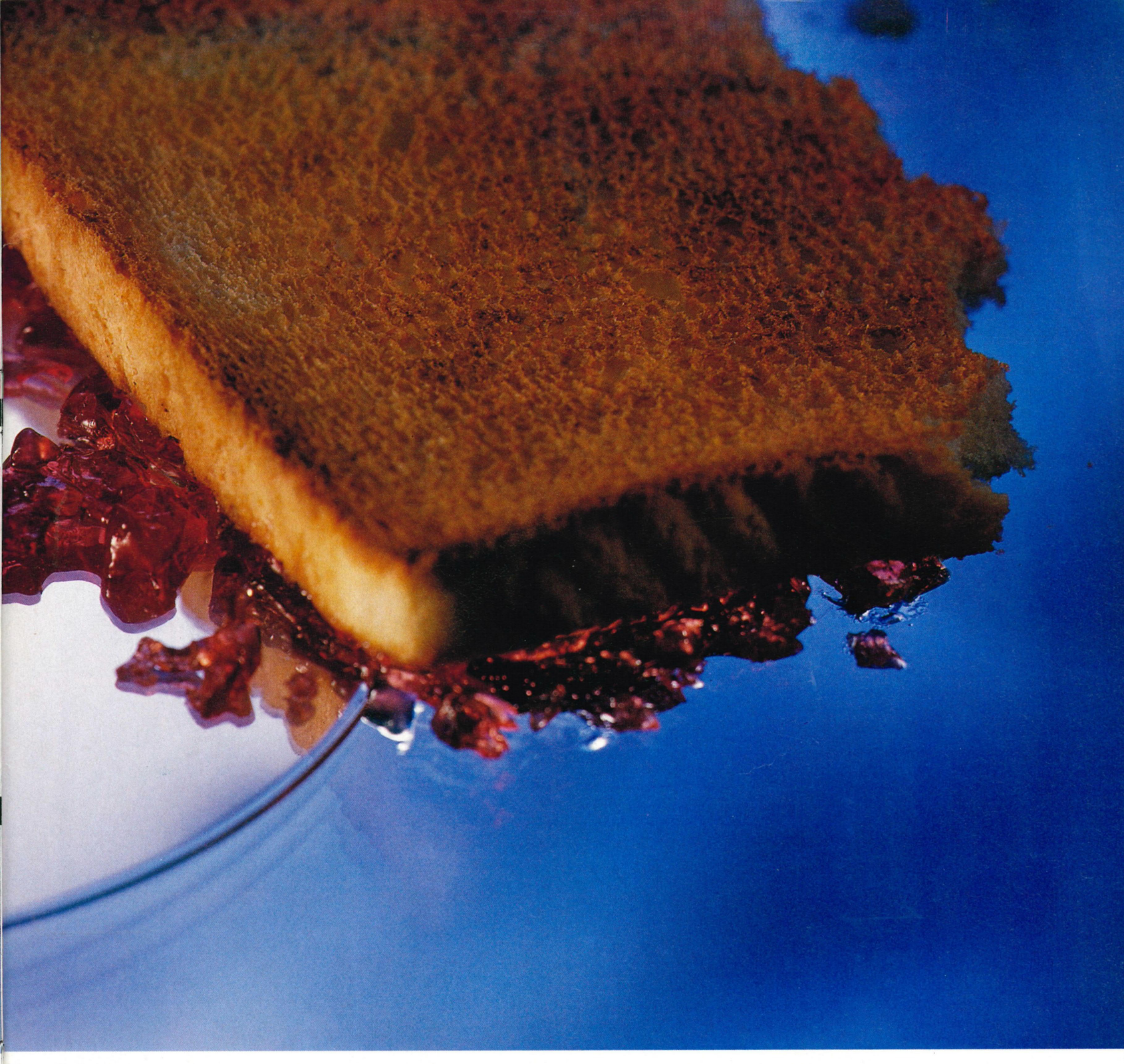
The laser reads through it play after play as if it wasn't there.

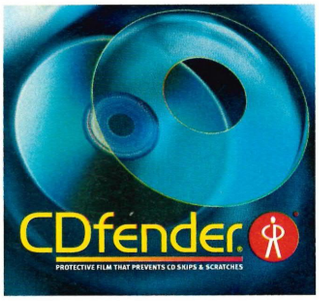
And should you ever tear your ravaged eyes away from the screen, CDfender works as well on music CDs and even CD-ROMs.

With CDfender, it's your opponent who's toast, not the CD.

CDfender®

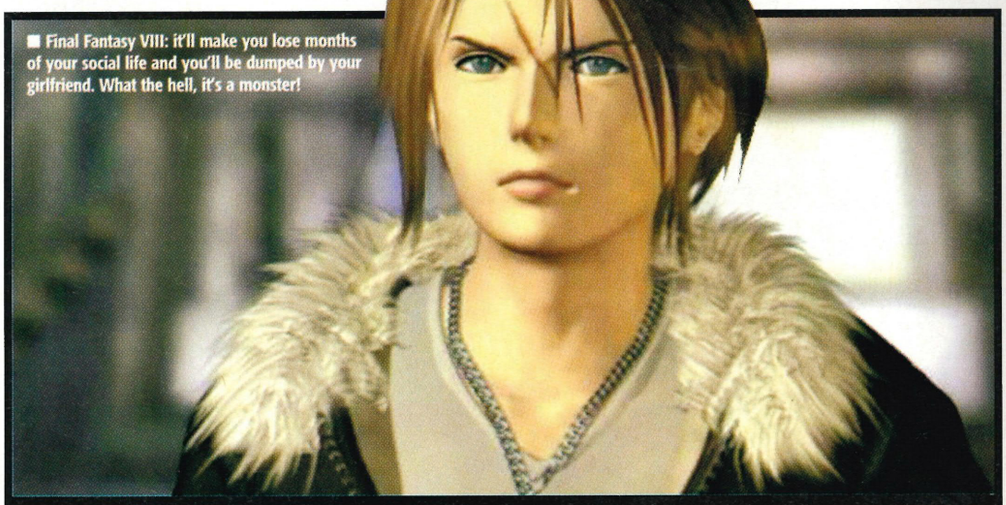
SELF DEFENCE FOR CDs





AVAILABLE AT LEADING RETAILERS. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: www.cdfender.com

PlayStation Plus Loading



■ Final Fantasy VIII: it'll make you lose months of your social life and you'll be dumped by your girlfriend. What the hell, it's a monster!

FINAL FANTASY VIII p38

12 easy steps to avoiding crap games

Don't get stitched up, follow our guide to spotting crap games **p62**



Tony Hawk's Skateboarding giveaway

We've got 50 copies of Tony Hawk's Skateboarding. You can win one! **p14**



■ High-octane skateboard marathon of stunts, spills and thrills



INSTANT EXPERT

Stuck? No probs, we're here to help

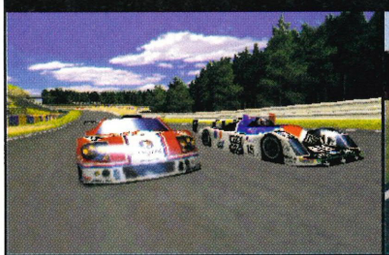
WWF Attitude p43
The killer moves you need to be a winning wrestler

Soul Reaver p50
Find out how to get the magic Soul Reaver sword

Blab p16

Gotta see! Hot games you must check out

Le Mans **Jade Cocoon** Formula 1 99 **Fighting Force 2** WCW Mayhem **Tomb Raider: The Last Revelation** Crash Team Racing **GTA 2** Music 2000 **and more!**



p16 Le Mans: One race, 24 hours of fun



p20 Formula 1 99: The best F1 game yet



p22 Fighting Force 2: Intense killing action



p24 Tomb Raider: The Last Revelation



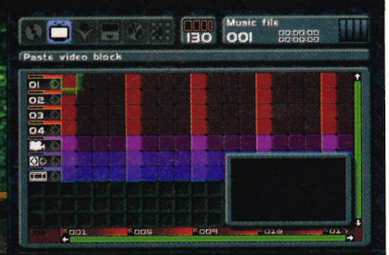
p28 Crash Team Racing: Daredevil speeds



p30 GTA 2: No limits mafia-style violence



p32 Overblood 2: Multi-disc sci-fi epic



p33 Music 2000: Rock sequel to Music

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The Works

Rated ON TEST

Every new release this month!

p66 Wip3out
'Station's fastest anti-gravity racer returns

p68 Kingsley's Adventure
Deadly payload of cuteness hits the decks

p68 LMA Manager
The most accessible footy management game

p69 Gungauge
Straight arcade-style shoot 'em up gun fest

p70 Destrega
An epic story-based beat 'em up

p72 Shadowman
Like Tomb Raider crossed with Marilyn Manson

p74 The X-Files
Sprawling game version of the spooky TV show

p75 ReVolt
Remote control cars go head-to-head

p76 Tony Hawk's Skateboarding
A PlayStation skating game that really rocks

p78 Rat Attack
Intense technicolour Tom and Jerry

p78 Killer Loop
Futuristic racerfeaturing sci-fi Robin Reliants

p79 PuchiCarat
Super-addictive puzzle game for thrill seekers

p80 Street Fighter EX+ Alpha
Classy 3D version of Street Fighter on the cheap

p81 WWF: Warzone
High-energy combat with customisable fighters

Brilliant Buys Guide

Every 'Station game rated, plus sure-fire ways to exchange games and best RPGs. **p87**

£5 OFF ANY GAME AT HMV
Don't miss out, turn to page 36 now!

DINO CRISIS

p6 Awesome dino hunting blasts in this Jurassic lark





OPEN WIDE AND SAY...

'AAAAAR

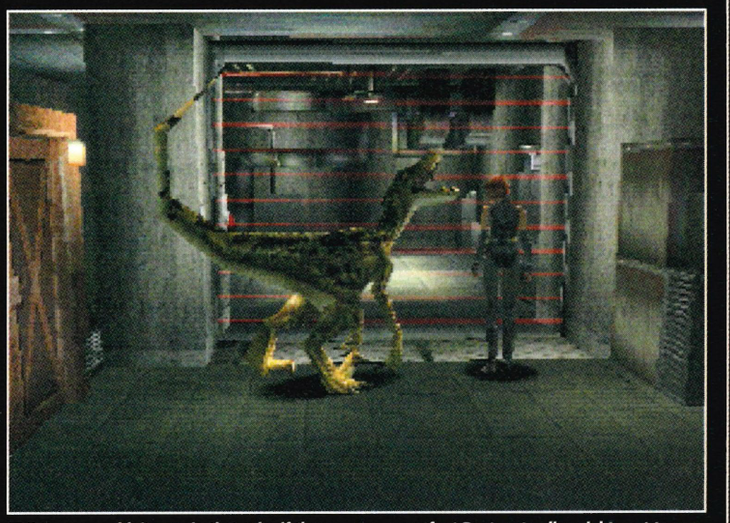
Dino Crisis is the closest you'll get to Jurassic Park on your Pl
you hear the rumbling of the T-Rex and the scream of the Rapt

■ **OUT** OCTOBER ■ **BY** VIRGIN ■ **COSTS** £39.99 ■ **PLAYERS** 1 ■ **COMPATABILITIES** JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, DUAL SHOCK PAD
■ **WE LOOK AT** SCAREY BITS, CHARACTERS, WEAPONS, DINOS, PUZZLES, OBJECTS

RGH!'

ayStation. As soon as
ors, you'll fill yer pants!

Imagine Resident Evil with dinosaurs instead of zombies and you've got the basics of Dino Crisis. Now think of a snarling Raptor charging towards you and as you raise your shotgun to fill the sucker full of buckshot, click. It's empty. Shit. You better start panicking because his razor-toothed mate's just arrived and you're clean out of ammo. If you like your trousers lined with brown slurry, you've come to the right place.



■ Bet you wouldn't remain that calm if there was a seven-foot Raptor standing right next to you



■ 'My, what big teeth you have.' Regina checks the T-Rex for plague attack using her shotgun



■ Two 9mm rounds and that sucker'll drop

»

The Works: Dino Crisis first test

The stars of the show

This game is based on giant lizards so it's only fair to show the beasts that make Dino Crisis so good. Raptors are the first things you come across as you attempt to enter the complex, and the opening sequence when it shreds your mate is way cool. But it's the T-Rex which'll really loosen your sphincter. It's one huge mother, and with only a pathetic handgun for protection the odds sure are stacked against you.



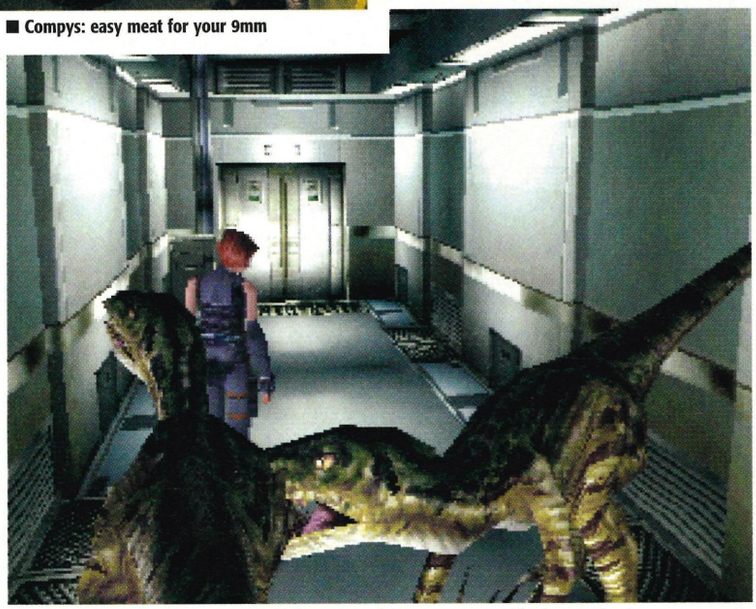
■ Compys: easy meat for your 9mm



■ A grenade later and the blood's flowing freely



■ Regina pops a grenade in the T-Rex's gob and... well, nothing. It just eats it. Arse



■ Raptors usually attack in packs so it's best to back into a corner and let 'em eat lead



■ The pteradactyl brings death from above. Run to avoid it



■ The dino-bird drops it's load of bloody excrement. Urk



■ These thick-skinned basts are best dealt with using grenades



■ Check the size of this git's claws. Nasty



■ You want buckets of blood? OK!



■ Lay off the sweets and sugary drinks and you could have teeth as white and healthy as these



■ Even shotgun shells and grenades aren't enough to nuke this monster

'The T-Rex'll really loosen your sphincter'

In the mix

Unlike in Resident Evil where characters limp around once they're injured, Regina will start to bleed before her legs give way. You must find medikits to stop the bleeding and restore health. The thing is, your inventory is so tiny you must combine objects to save precious space. Some, like the AN aids, which have a blue cross on the front, can only be used when they're mixed with another item.



■ Mixing medipacks makes them stronger



■ Uh-oh, better break out the Band-Aids

Darts the way to do it

As well as mixing health items together, you can make tranquilliser darts too, by mixing the right chemicals. Mix loads of narcotics into your darts and they'll knock out dinos for ages, giving you time to stroll past at leisure. Use only two mixers to make your darts and you have barely enough time to put your gun away before the Raptors start to stir and wake up.



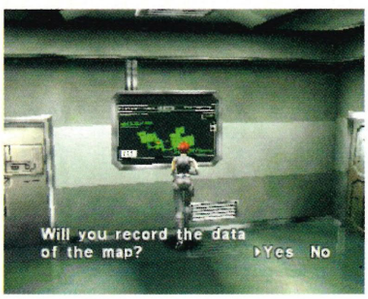
■ You don't have to kill even dino you meet



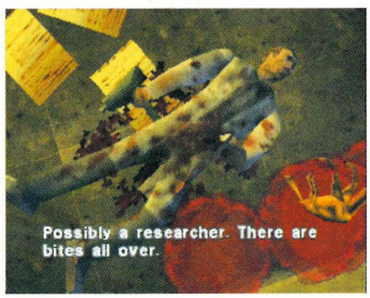
■ It takes a while for the tranquillisers to kick in, but when they do you can run safely past

'Scuse me mate, where's the T-Rex?

There are a couple of useful hints it's worth remembering as you trundle through Dino Crisis. If, like us the first time we played this game, you're looking for the maps in drawers and stuff, you won't find 'em. You need to actually locate them on the walls and simply having a gander will copy the map onto your inventory. Likewise, double check the dead bodies of humans as they often have booty and keys hidden on them.



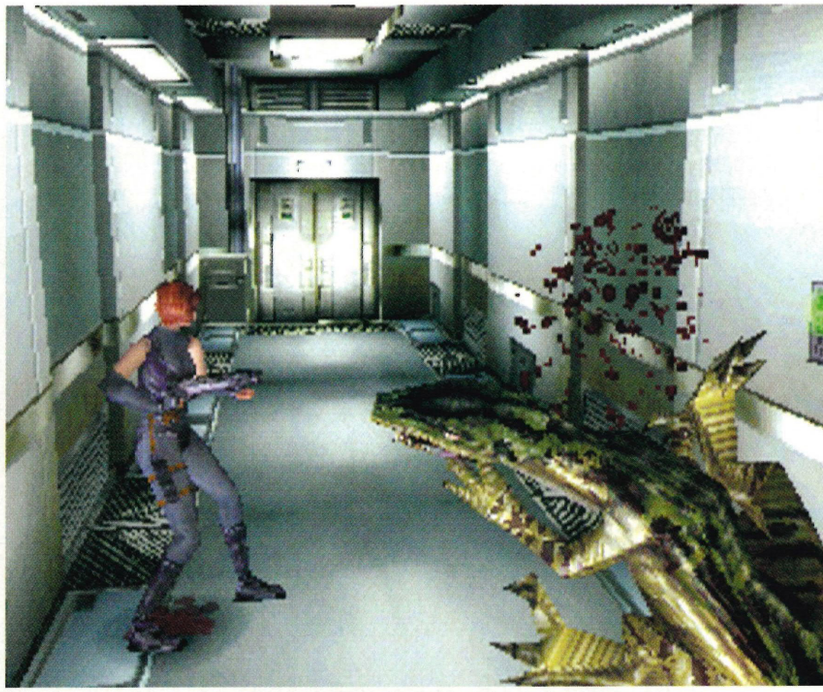
■ Info like this map makes it easy to explore



■ It's sick, but you should search the corpses

Guns for show

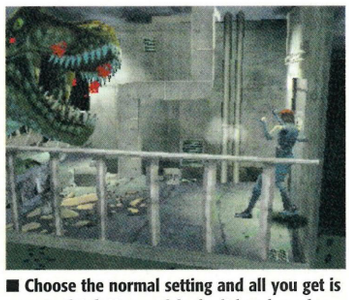
The arsenal you have at your disposal is quite impressive, but not as satisfying as Resident Evil's. The dinos' heads don't explode into lots of little chunks when you unload a couple of shotgun rounds in their heads, which is a shame. Still, if you're a weak-assed gamer who picks the easy setting, you get to play around with a shotgun and a grenade launcher right from the start, although there's bugger all ammo for either.



■ Choose the easy mode and you're tooled with the shotgun from the word go



■ Grenades cause muchos damage, but there are very few lying around



■ Choose the normal setting and all you get is a puny pistol. Unsurprisingly, it barely scaly the T-Rex's tough hide



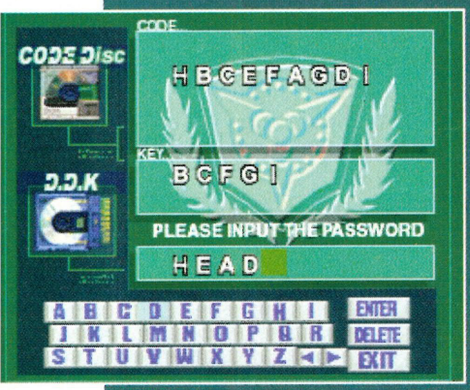
■ Combat is simple: aim and fire. Easy

»

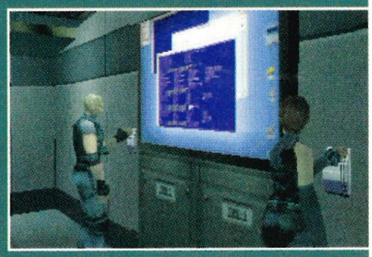
The Works: Dino Crisis first test

Holding the key

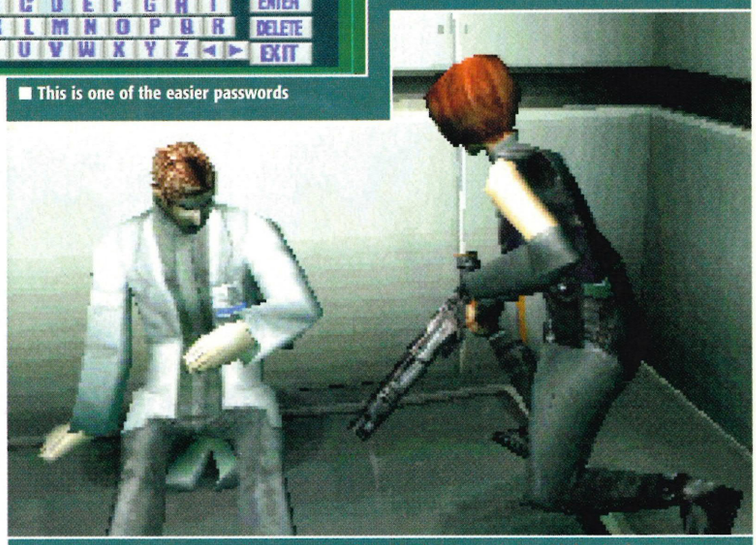
The security in the labs is watertight. But there are no burly looking blokes in cheap suits wearing radio mics, who won't let you in just because you're wearing jeans and trainers. Nope, every major door is locked tightly and they can only be deactivated using DDK disc keys. Most doors need two disc keys which allow Regina to access a password screen. From there you must then crack the code before you can pass through. It's all complicated stuff, but trust us when we say it all makes sense once you've played the game. Honest guv.



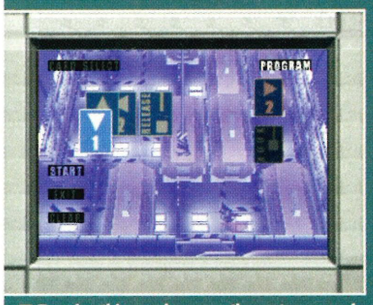
■ This is one of the easier passwords



■ Sometimes you needs the help of team leader Gale to crack the codes



■ The keys you need to open doors are often found by helping out other blokes in the game



■ To solve this puzzle, move the crates around



■ Shove the boxes to clear a path

A finger of fudge

It's a small part of the game but like it. There's a finger print machine which you use on the various dead bodies scattered around the complex. Why? To upgrade your ID card by scanning in new sets of prints, therefore allowing you access to new bits of the game.



■ To use the finger print machine, simply step up to the corpse and select it from the menu screen



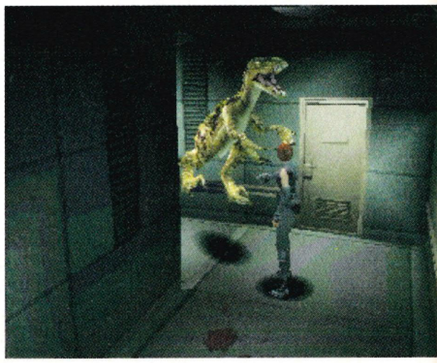
■ OK, so it shows little respect for the dead, but scan his fingers anyway. If you can find them

Mother, bring me fresh underwear

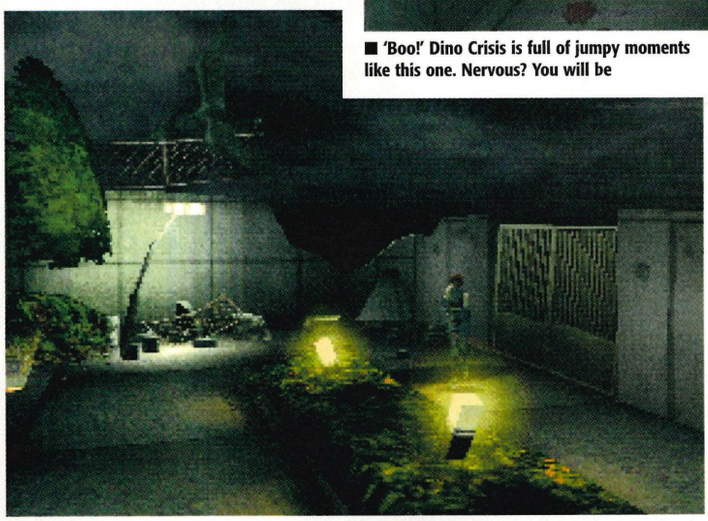
Of course this is gonna have scary bits in it. You'd be disappointed to find a game with dinosaurs in it if it didn't have sections that made you go 'SHIT!', and then look round nervously to see if anyone saw you jump. Thing is, you know these bits are coming, but there's still nothing you can do to stop yourself. And you know that every time you walk past a mirrored window in the game, something nasty is just waiting to leap out at you.



■ 'He's behind you!' Regina and the T-Rex act out the classic panto gag



■ 'Boo!' Dino Crisis is full of jumpy moments like this one. Nervous? You will be



■ All is quiet, then suddenly a pteradactyl swoops out of the darkness to claw at your head



■ Dinos always attack when ammo's low



■ Running away from 'em sometimes works

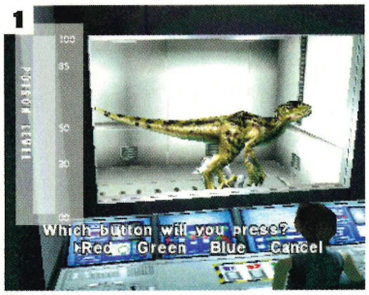


■ You'll hear the T-Rex coming from miles away, but you'll still jump when it pops into view

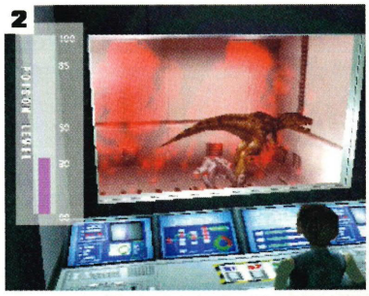
'Blood, weapons, decapitations... Buy it!'

Cooking on gas

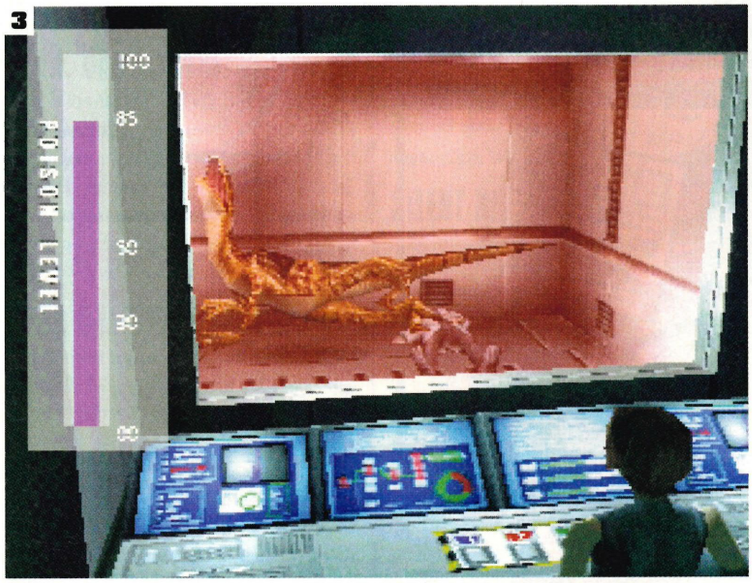
There's plenty of fun to be had with the dinosaurs over and above just blasting them with shotguns. When you find the gas chamber with a wilting scientist inside, a peckish Raptor comes sniffing to make you an entree. If you manage to sidestep it, you can whack a button and then lock it inside the gas chamber. It's up to you what you do next but it's really satisfying to start sadistically applying the gas to made the dino rot in misery!



■ The Raptor's trapped in the gas chamber



■ By pressing the buttons in the right order...



■ You can increase the poison levels and kill it off. Unfortunately the scientists buys it too

Your mini lock-up

Regina's only a small lass and, bless her, she can't carry much. Which is where these storage pods come in handy. There are coloured storage units set in the walls around the lab, and you can stash your unwanted gear in them to pick up at a later date. You need plugs to open them though and finding them is sometimes pretty tricky.



■ You need plugs to access the storage pods



■ Different coloured safes store different things



■ Green boxes are crammed with health supplies



■ Don't get cornered while checking the safes

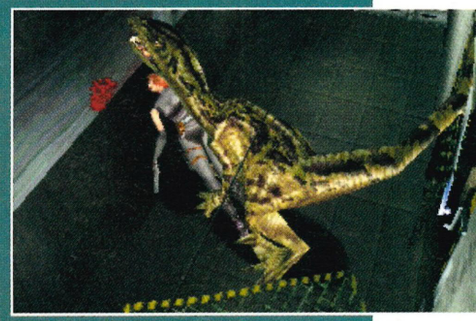
plus

We'd like to say...

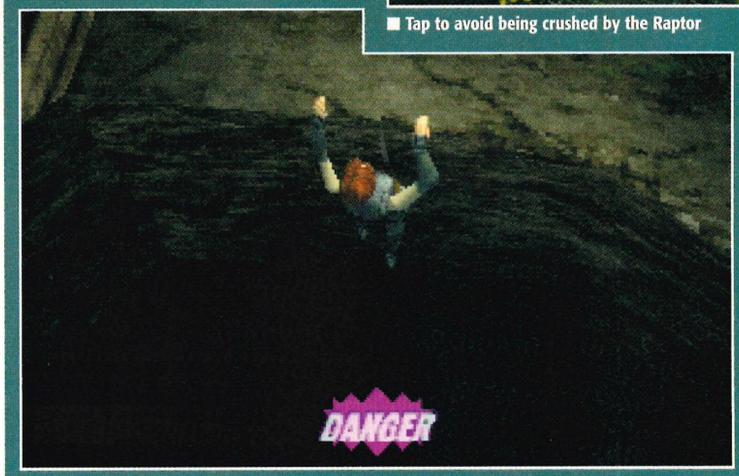
Dino Crisis is the game they should have made with the Jurassic Park licence. The T-Rex chase scenes are the absolute nuts and some of the surprise attacks will literally have you screaming at your PlayStation. But, violence apart, it's the eerie feel of the game that makes it a classic. Listen to the sound effects of claws scraping or distant dinos roaring and you instantly start to sweat. Scary.

Don't panic!

How's your button bashing skills? If they're getting rusty, you may be pleased to know that Dino Crisis gives you the chance to hone your technique at various points in the game. You can get pinned down by Raptors, scooped up by Pterodactyls or simply fall victim to the ground giving way. A danger message flashes along the bottom of the screen to tell you death's coming and that's your cue to whack away at the joypad as fast as you can. If you're not quick enough, then you'll die a horrible death. Instant drama.



■ Tap to avoid being crushed by the Raptor



■ When Regina falls from the ledge you've got just a few seconds to react



■ Tap the buttons fast enough and she'll escape. If you're too slow she'll fall to her death

winner

Blood. Dinos. Soiled pants. More dinos. Awesome weapons, decapitations and mutilated bodies make Dino Crisis a classic. Buy it. Steve

PlayStation plus

RATED 92%

VERBAL

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Tel 0171 972 6700. Fax 0171 972 6710. E-mail adam.smallman@ecm.emap.com

YOU LOT MAKE METAL GEAR SOLID 2 IN 5 MINUTES

Loads of you sent in your ideas for last month's Make Metal Gear Solid 2 in 5 Minutes. You lied about the number of sexual partners you had, your phobias are strange and your dads' aftershaves belong to 1972. And no game heroine would be called Fanny Cancer. But loads of 'em are class. Our favourite one gets mocked up as a game cover in our next issue. Here's some contenders we like.

GRAHAM WILKINSON, LONDON

Game name:	Gerbil Warhead 2
Villain's name:	Moto Scorpion
Heroine's names:	Shirley Aries
Hero's name:	Chopper Blue
Sinister setting:	Brown Candy Floss Mountain
Your weapon:	Nosscire GW-15



PETER MARTIN, PORTRUSH

Game name:	Pussy Whip 2000
Villain's name:	Firetrap Trojan
Heroine's names:	Fanny Cancer
Hero's name:	Trucker Tommy
Sinister setting:	Red Anus Island
Your weapon:	Egnaro PD 16

DAVE LINGWOOD, BASINGSTOKE

Game name:	Dinosaur Lightsaber 5
Villain's name:	Dr Calvin Klein Hunter
Heroine's names:	Wendaline Capricorn
Hero's name:	Mongoose Aramis
Sinister setting:	White Brussel Sprout Island
Your weapon:	Enofadov DL-15

DANIEL UFALI, COLNE, LANCS

Game name:	Dolphin Uzi 1
Villain's name:	Dr Bio Wolf
Heroine's names:	Anne Leo
Hero's name:	Harley Lynx
Sinister setting:	Blue Spider Island
Your weapon:	Aikon DU-12

CHRIS KNIGHTS, SURREY

Game name:	Shark Knuckleduster 3
Villain's name:	Dr Wrangler Ice
Heroine's names:	Jean Aquarius
Hero's name:	Burner Spice
Sinister setting:	Red Scorpion Island
Your weapon:	Alarotom CDK-22

JONNY HOGAN, LONDON

Game name:	Jackal Hammer 2
Villain's name:	Dr Levi Jet
Heroine's names:	Jackie Cancer
Hero's name:	Fox Armani
Sinister setting:	Red Spider Island
Your weapon:	Aikon JBH 13

PHIL GARDNER

Game name:	Panda Grenade Zero
Villain's name:	Spencer Trojan
Heroine's names:	Elizabeth Leo
Hero's name:	Chopper Spice
Sinister setting:	Brown Snail Island
Your weapon:	Latilet PG-26

FANTASY FROTH

Despite your re-rating of Final Fantasy VII to a mere 86%, you still call it the biggest gaming booty ever with one of the best ending sequences you'll ever see. You seem to be very confused. I've finished the game twice and still think it is the greatest game ever. Change your knowledge rating to read 'the greatest game on the PlayStation with great FMV'.
Lee R by e-mail

Those two whingeing retards who wrote about Final Fantasy VII come across as pathetic whiners. These are the types who have Spice World and get off on watching Lara Croft.
Graham Wilkinson, London
P.S. Welcome back Zoe & Teri, the mag wasn't the same without you.

Final Fantasy VII is the greatest game ever. It will be hard for VIII to beat it!
Eric G, by e-mail

We make PlayStation plus

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SPECIAL THANKS TO
Steve Key, Nicola Tatum, Paul Davies, James Beaven at Activision, Department 1 (mail order on 0171-916-8440), Anne Summers for the picture of the lovely lady opposite, King of Photographers Mike Harding, Capcom, Britt Collins, Danielle at Hub, and Steve 'Filthmaster' Starvis at Eidos.

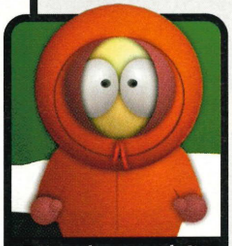
BORING STUFF ALERT!
Subscriptions and back issues available from Tower, Tower House, Sovereign Park, Lathkill Street, Market Harborough, LE16 GEF. Six month subs rate, UK and BFPO: £15. Annual subs rates, UK and BFPO: £30; airmail Europe and Eire: £45; world airmail: £7 Back issues: £3.50; RoW: £5 (includes p&p).
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MORE BORING STUFF ALERT!
The information we use comes from software companies and is correct to our knowledge. News and previews are based on information accurate at the time of going to press.

IT GETS EVEN MORE BORING DOWN HERE!
Did you know that tortoises live for up to 100 years?

ANORAKS-R-US

Is the Dino Crisis competition meant to have a trick question? Nowadays, the Brontosaurus is written off as a mistake, so it's neither a meat-eater or vegetarian. The bones previously associated with it are now attributed to the Seismosaurus.
John King, Peterborough
When you die John, will your bones be attributed to the Smug-twat-o-saurus?


■ Kenny in an anorak. It was the best we could do

C-3PO is fluent in over six million forms of communication. The number of *languages* he's fluent in is never specified in the films.
Richard Elliott, Louth

I pissed off about a letter you published last month, entitled, 'Winners don't play import games'. I happen to be an Otaku, a gaming Otaku, someone who obsessively plays and collects video games, not like those pathetic puffy jacket-wearing casual gamers who give gaming a bad name. Your mag now burns in my fireplace.
John W S, Suffolk
We checked out Otaku in the dictionary. No sign. You may be confused and you're an okapi ('a ruminant mammal'), or okra ('edible oblong sticky green pod') or just an UtterCock.

YEAH, BABY, YEAH!

What is the name of Dr Evil's hairless cat in Austin Powers?
The answer is Mr Bigglesworth.
Axel Halo, London
Did you get your name from last month's Game-o-Matic feature, Axel? The Gamester Steering Wheel is yours.

YOUR CHEATING HEART

In the August issue you included handy cheats for Syphon Filter. So handy that not a single one worked. Explain yourselves before I release the Hounds of Hell upon your sad, pathetic souls.
The Macaroni Sex Funk Star, Edinburgh
Tips geezer Rich replies: Unleash your dachshunds of death upon my ass! I gave Japanese cheats which don't work on the UK version of the game. Fresh ones which do work are printed on p57 of Q&A in this issue.

SILENT BRILL

I'm scared shitless to play your Silent Hill demo beyond the point where Harry comes out of the clock tower and says 'Where am I?'. I've heard that the monsters come back harder and there are more of them.
Martin Clark, Woodburn

SILENT NIL

I played your Silent Hill demo and got up to the first boss after just over an hour of gameplay. I beat it in two minutes and was greeted by a message 'To be continued'. Didn't you say the demo would be 'up to three hours' long'? You run an absolutely butt-kicking mag and I'd hate for us to fall out.
Chris Burnett, Hull
It said 'up to' three hours long. But in tiny print next to that it said 'Cocky pricks can do it much quicker than that'. I suggest read more carefully in future.

BUTT NAKED BABES...

As a woman, I really enjoy your mag because the lack of naked women (Lara C excluded because she's not real!) which brings me on to my second point. Garth Ennis, there are top shelf mags if you wish to leer at naked women. Are you some kind of perv? I like to read the games reviews without having some woman's #@#@ shoved in my face. Don't get me wrong, these women are babes – and no I'm not a lemon. But I want the nitty-gritty games reviews. Also thanks for the fantastic Tomb Raider IV coverage, the best by far. Keep up the good work guys!
Tomb Raider Fan, Stevenage
For both you *and* Garth, here's a lady modestly concealing her #@#@.

Bag yourself a copy of the best board game the 'Station's seen

WIN 50 COPIES OF TONY HAWK'S SKATEBOARDING

Grab, kickflip and railslide yourself one of 50 copies of Tony Hawk's Skateboarding. But to bag one of these babies you're going to have to be quick off the mark! Skate!

Be one of the first people to own a copy of the awesome Tony Hawk's Skateboarding, reviewed this issue. We've got 50 to give away and the first 50 correct entries to drop through our letterbox will nab the prizes. To blag yourself a free copy, hurry up and answer the non-tricky questions below, then post your form in to the usual address marked with 'Tony Hawks and Spits'.

We'll notify all the winners by phone on September 29th, so be sure to put your phone number on there. If you haven't won, the game comes out on October 1st and it's still a drop-dead bargain at 40 notes. Get it!



■ Awesome aerial stunts in Tony Hawk's



■ You've gotta play this game, so get entering!



■ Want to know why this game is the bollocks? Turn to page 76 and find out

TONY HAWK'S SKATEBOARDING ENTRY FORM

To win you've got to be quick. What are you waiting for?

1. WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO RACK UP POINTS IN TONY HAWK'S SKATEBOARDING?

A. Destroying all aliens and collecting weapon powerups
B. Pulling off combo skate tricks
C. Finding the key to the mad wizard's castle

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐

2. IN WHAT EVENTS CAN YOU COMPETE IN TONY HAWK'S SKATEBOARDING?

A. Racing events and stunt events
B. Just stunts, ta very much
C. Mud wrestling, horizontal jogging and pocket billiards

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐

3. AS A SKATER, TONY HAWK'S BEST KNOWN FOR:

A: Eating pizza and wearing baggy jeans
B: Annoying people in public subways
C: Acrobatic aerial stunts

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐

NAME: .....

AGE: .....

ADDRESS: .....

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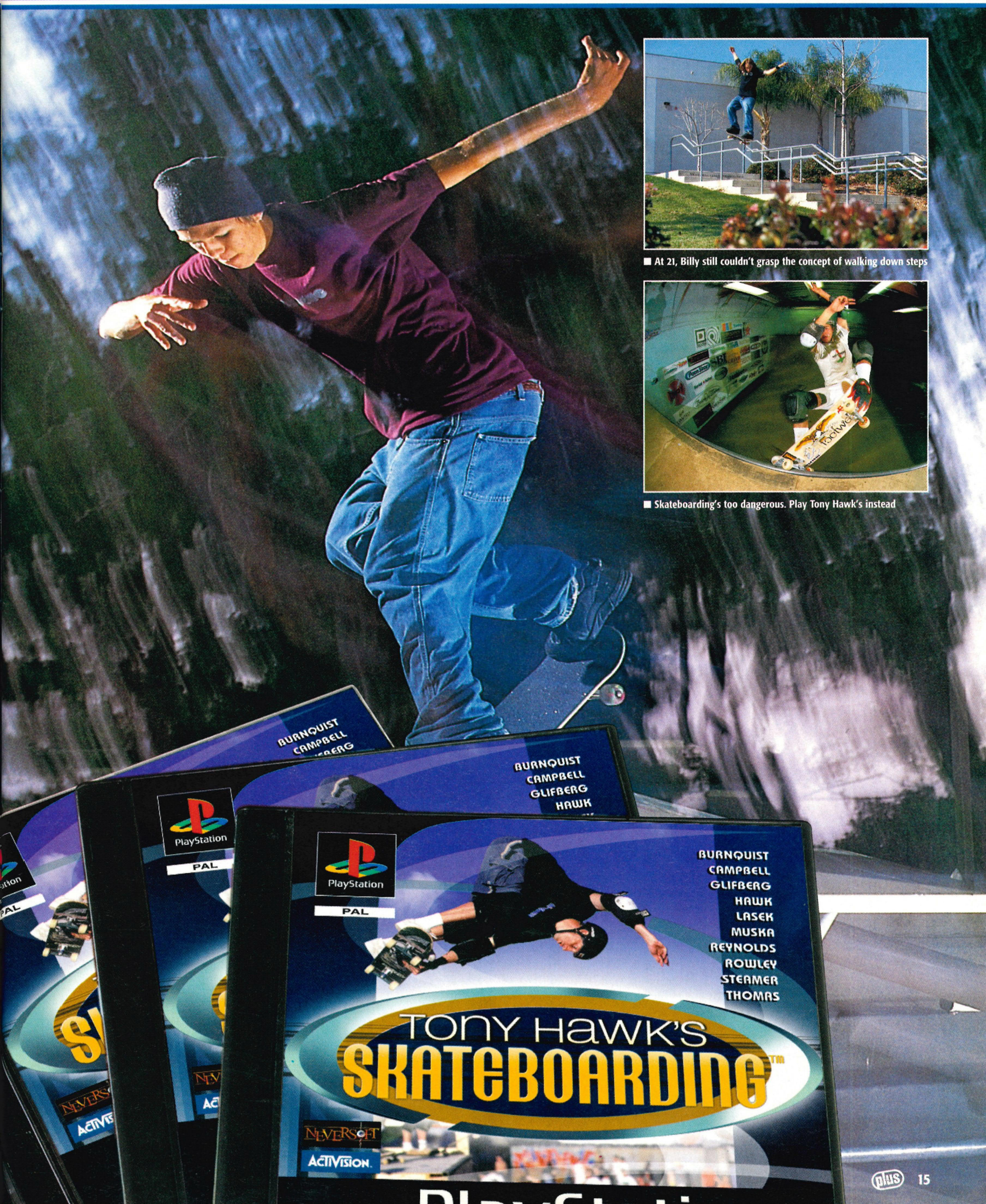
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TELEPHONE NUMBER: .....

All winners will be notified by phone on or before Wednesday 29th September. Mark your entries clearly with 'Tony Hawks and Spits', PlayStation Plus, Angel House, 338-346 Goswell Road, London, EC1V 7QP, and include your telephone number (including your area code). Normal PlayStation Plus competition rules apply.



■ At 21, Billy still couldn't grasp the concept of walking down steps

■ Skateboarding's too dangerous. Play Tony Hawk's instead

Blab

■ p21 Formula 1 99
■ p22 Fighting Force II
■ p23 WCW Mayhem
■ p24 Tomb Raider: The Last Revelation

This is where you'll hear about the best new games first. All the news, all the first screenshots of the stuff other mags just don't get.

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

Le Mans

One race, 24 long hours later. Your thumbs are going to pay the price for buying this.

The reason the Le Mans Endurance race got the Hollywood blockbuster treatment with Steve McQueen is the race is a full-on epic in itself. Forty-eight tuned-up supercars cane round a winding ten-mile-long course in France for 24 solid hours. If you finish, you've done well. If you win, you're a superstar.

Le Mans are not the only fruit

The 'Station version of Le Mans look like it just might do justice to the awesome scale of the real-life race. For starters, the sun actually rises and sets as you race, and you can choose how long you want the race to last. We recommend 24 minutes, but if you're nuts you can do the full 24 hours. Ouch.

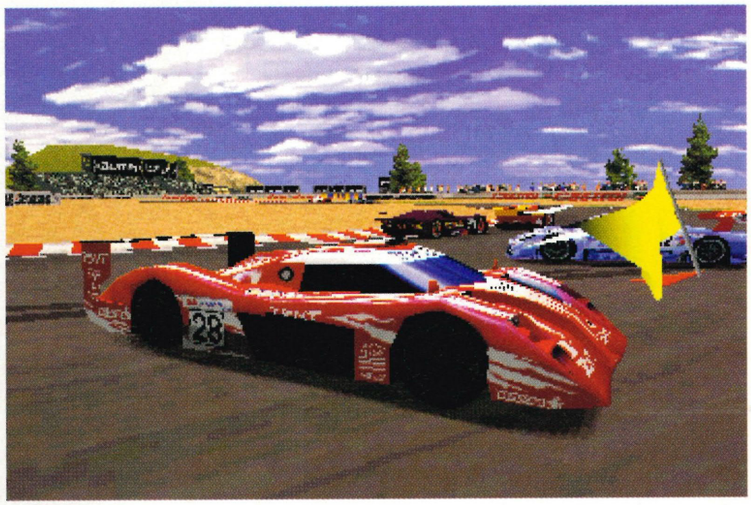
And other stuff!

In addition to the proper Le Mans circuit, there'll be five other ultra-long courses to do the 24-hour thing round. And with hundreds of motors, a detail level that borders on psychotically obsessive – you can alter fuel intake for Christ's sake – and speeds that're among the fastest we've seen on PlayStation, this looks like a winner-in-waiting.

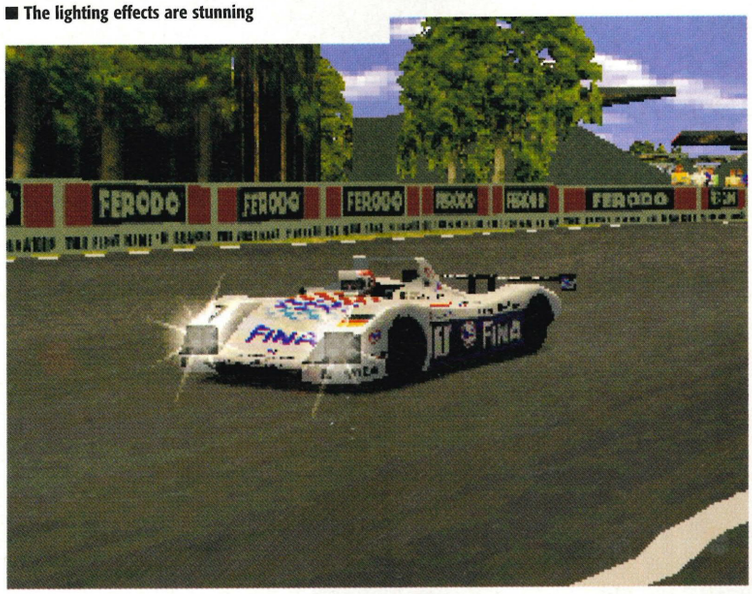
plus Scorching looks, high speeds, big cars, bloody enormous races: this looks like it's going to rock.



■ The lighting effects are stunning



■ The cars are all giant, super-fast, tuned-up race machines. Lightning fast? You bet



■ If you're playing on arcade mode, it's slightly easier to finish without your car conking out



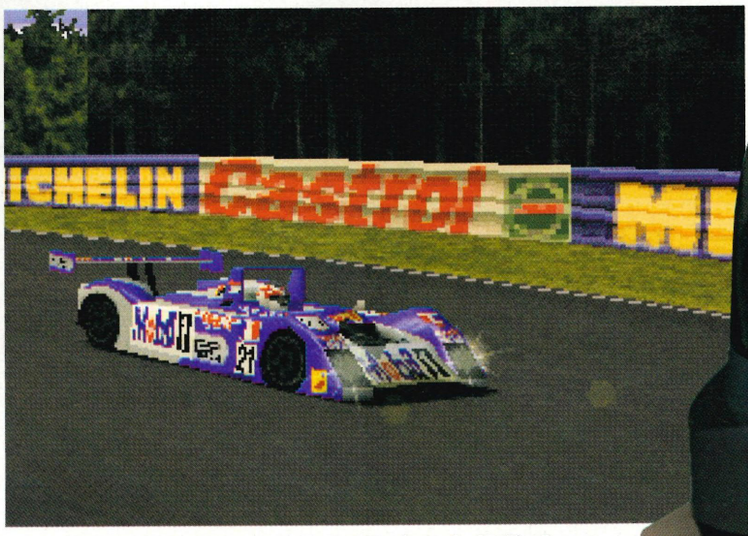
■ The Le Mans circuit looks pure class



■ The replays are extra cool



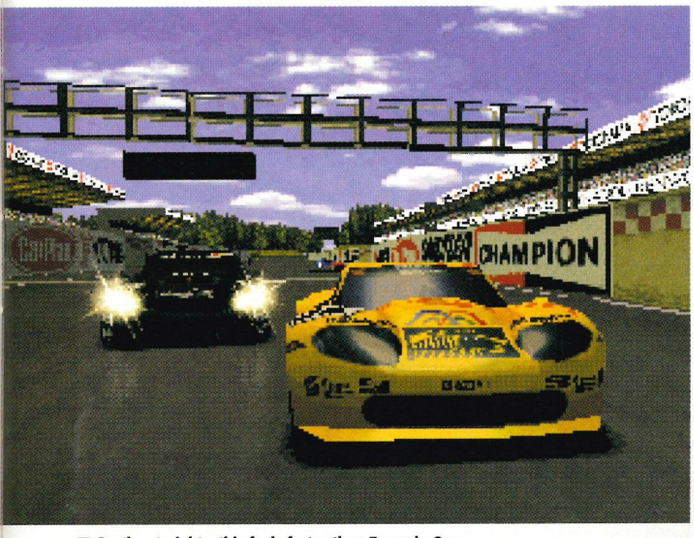
■ The handling's very arcadey and durable. At these speeds, you want it to be. Believe us



■ This is among the fastest racers on PlayStation. Watch your back, Ridge Racer 4

■ p25 Demolition Racer
■ p26 Championship Motocross
■ p28 Crash Team Racing
■ p29 Ronin Blade
■ 30 Grand Auto Theft 2
■ 32 Overblood 2
■ 33 This Is Football
■ 33 Music 2000

'The race is a full-on epic in itself'



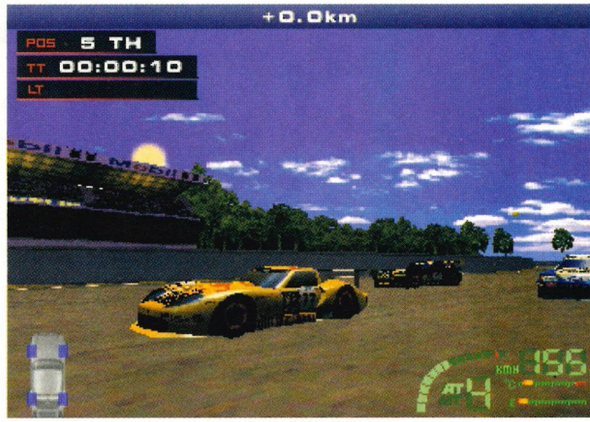
■ On the straights, this feels faster than Formula One



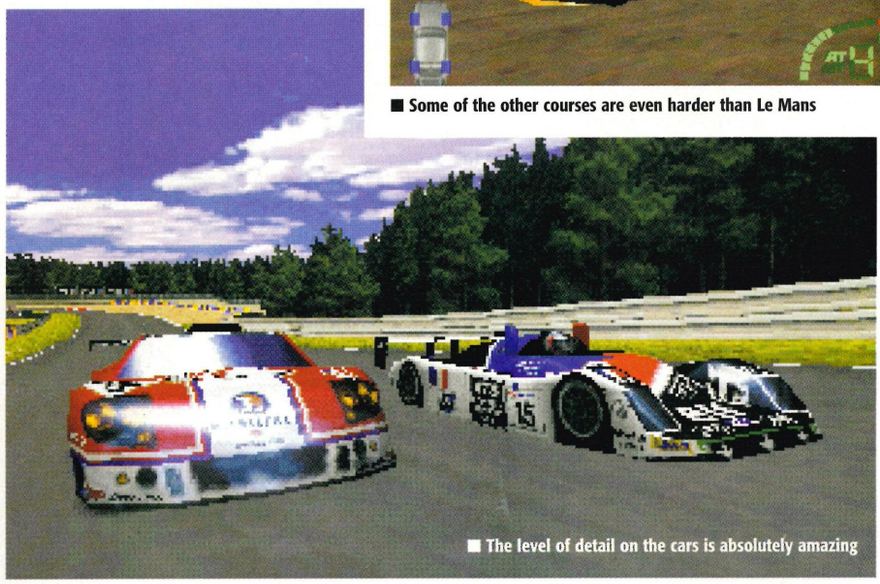
■ Damaging your car spoils your chances of finishing in the points



■ During the night, trying to stay on course gets even more tricky



■ Some of the other courses are even harder than Le Mans



■ The level of detail on the cars is absolutely amazing

Blab

Giant Monsters and insects with voodoo qualities in lush settings

■ **OUT** OCTOBER ■ **BY** CRAVE ■ **PLAYERS** 1 ■ **COMPATIBILITIES** JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, DUAL SHOCK PAD

Jade Cocoon

It's brightly-coloured RPG action all the way as you head out to become the top monster trainer of the world of Jade Cocoon

This is a big, lush RPG where, as ever, the world's under threat from a man in a silly hat. You're the bright young, hero who has to save the day. But your methods and means of achieving this mission remain pretty abstract. Essentially, in the world of Jade Cocoon, nobody fights each other. They just train weird little monsters to do the fighting instead. And you're the Cocoon Master who has to go out and catch them, train them and breed them. And then you have to take on the funny-hat man and save the world. Exhausting stuff.

Monster magic

You've got to head out, armed with a knife and a monster-catching flute, and bring back bags full of monsters. Your wife is a witch who can mix monsters into new forms, increasing their power. There's an infinite number of monsters you can create by training, breeding and mixing them, all with different special powers. The idea is that as you explore the world, you'll get more and more powerful monsters, until you've got one that's so psycho hard you can achieve your mission.

plus Looks very slick indeed. Even the dialogue's pretty good. Review in next issue.



■ There's loads of people who'll give you advice



■ Foil the plans of the evil man in the hat



■ Subdue monsters first, then capture them



■ The talky bits are well-scripted and, shockingly, well-acted



■ The plot's a great big stirring epic



■ Some of the cutscenes are really amazing



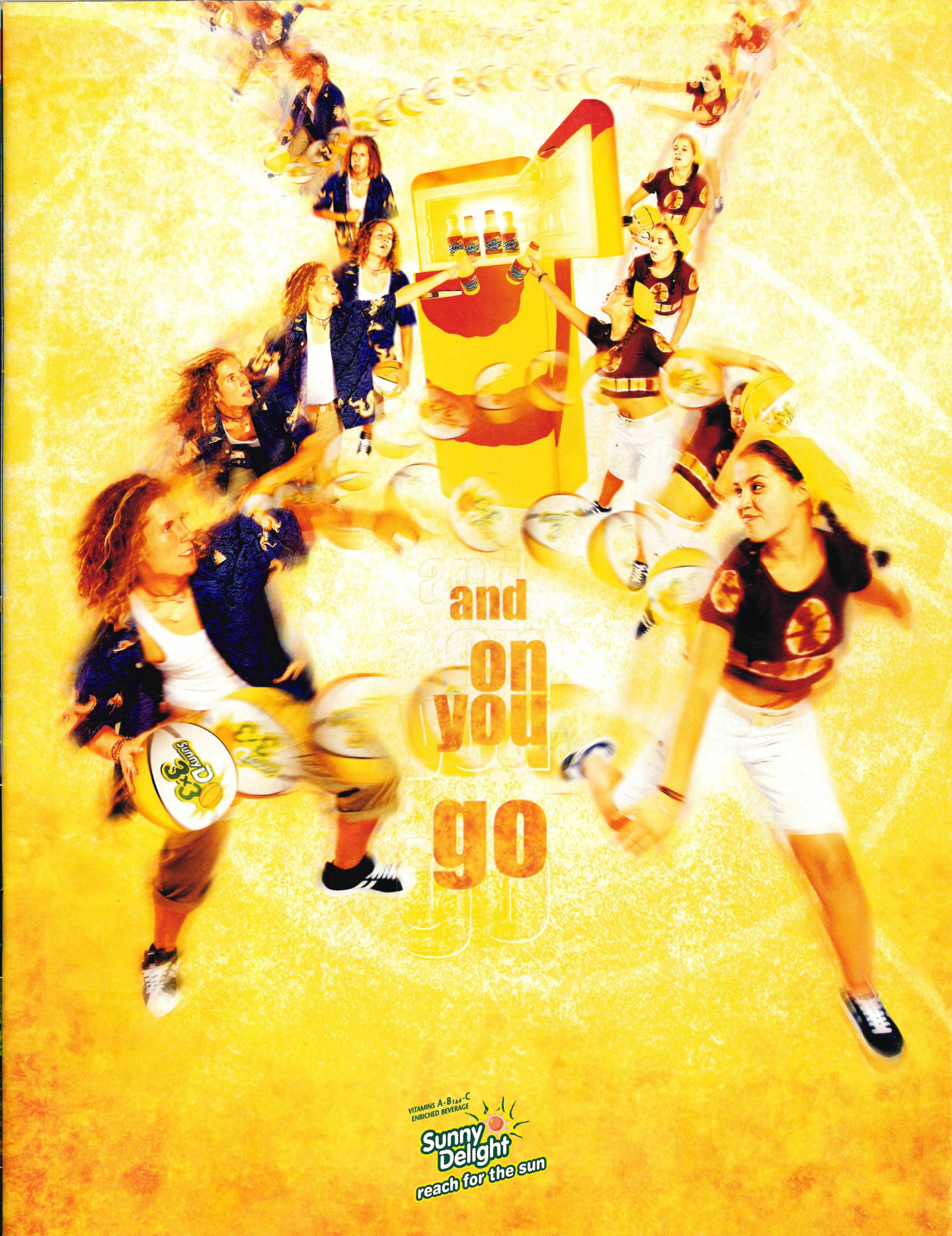
■ Monsters with big special attacks are the ones you really want to catch



■ You're pretty weak, so you need your monsters to fight for you



■ The combat's turn-based, but it looks cool



VITAMINS A-B1&6-C
ENRICHED BEVERAGE

Sunny Delight

reach for the sun

Fantastic speeds, realism and flexibility. It's the best F1 game yet

■ **OUT** OCTOBER ■ **BY** SONY ■ **PLAYERS** 1-2 ■ **COMPATIBILITIES** JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, DUAL SHOCK PAD, STEERING WHEEL

Formula 1 99

Not so much a retread, more a whole new game – and it's smooth, sharp and cool to play

A new season starts up and a new F1 game rolls up to the starting grid. It's looking sharp, smooth and cool to play – all the things last year's atrocious F1 98 wasn't. The people behind the 98 version have been given the boot, and it looks like this year's offering's going to be worlds away from the stale dross we got last year. This should keep you on the edge of your seat for a long time.

Jumping tower blocks

This might even be the best Formula One game yet. For starters, the slightly sniffy graphics of previous F1 games have been eliminated: no more buildings and track sections jumping up out of nowhere, causing major aggro. And, as you'd expect from a game of this calibre, the drivers are a lot more intelligent and will react to your approach by weaving and doing other annoying stuff.

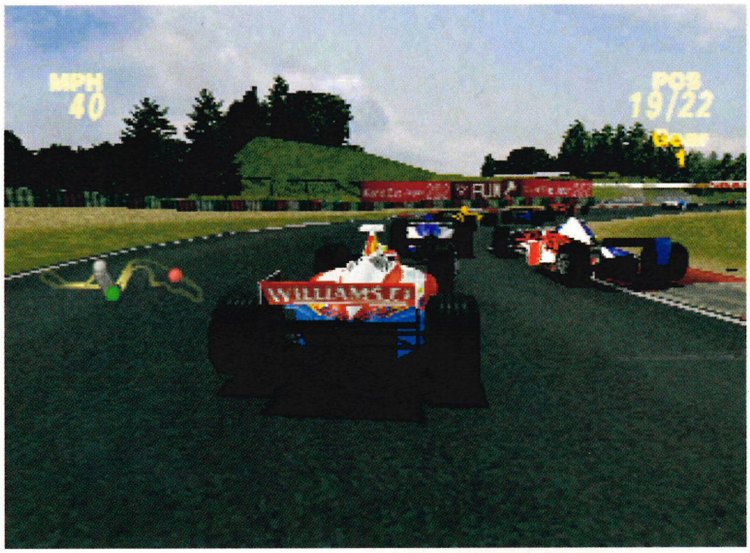
Surreal speeds

The eye-watering levels of realism on this will thrill die-hard F1 fans. You can change gear ratios, brake balance, wing settings, downforce – the lot. And F1 virgins don't need to fret: the car's set-up for each track will be nearly perfect before you start fiddling, so it's synch.

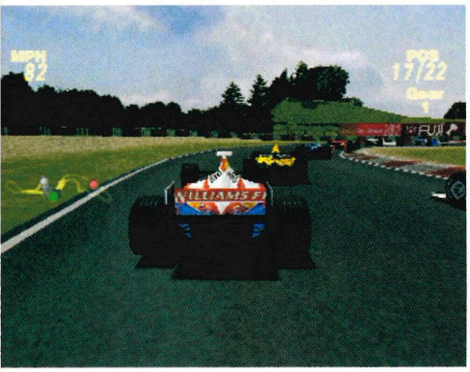
plus Looks like it's a welcome return to form for the Formula 1 series.



■ Weather effects make the handling tricky



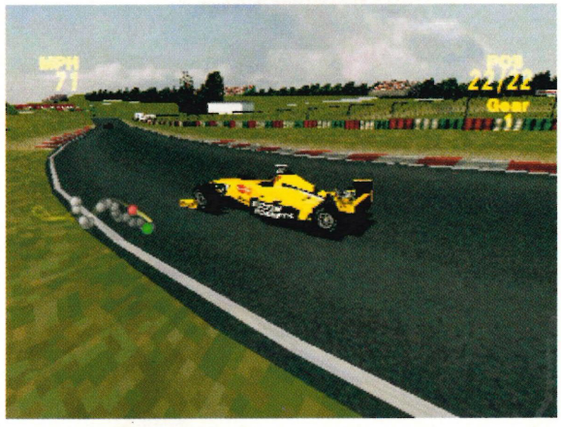
■ All the drivers and all the teams are in this game, including Jacques Villeneuve



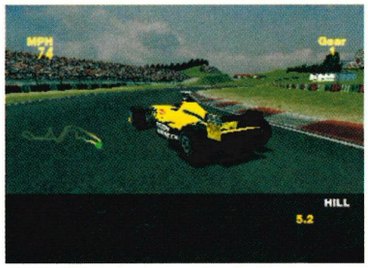
■ It's a world away from the 98 fiasco



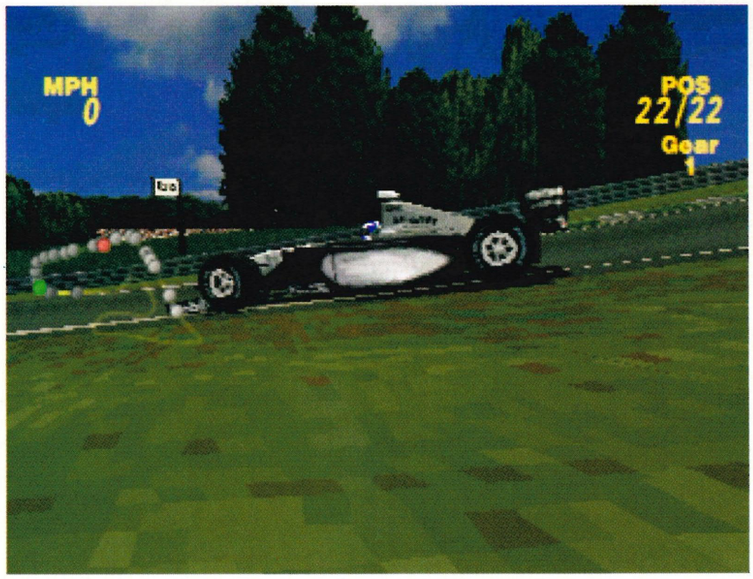
■ The lighting effects are brilliant, particularly useful in dark, rainy conditions



■ The graphics are looking extra sharp for 1999



■ All the proper F1 circuits are in there



■ The replays look sweet. The whole thing moves pretty quick, too



■ You can easily alter all your car's settings



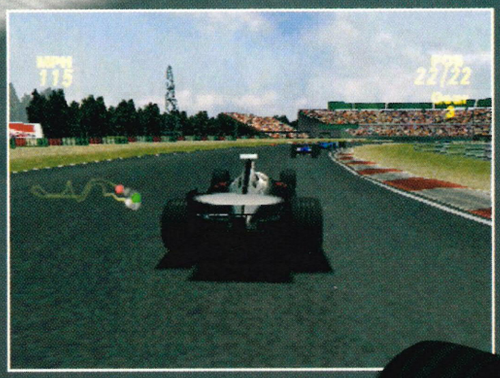
■ Buildings and trees don't pop up any more



■ In arcade mode it's easy to get to grips with



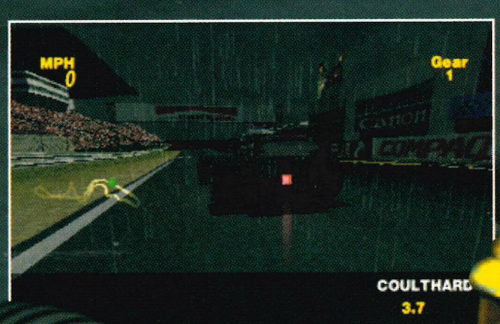
■ On Grand Prix mode, one spin and you're history



■ The handling's pure class this year



■ On the move, this looks even better than F1 97



■ At night, in the rain – it's tough

'Eye-watering levels of detail and realism'

■ **OUT** DECEMBER ■ **BY** CORE DESIGN ■ **PLAYERS** 1 ■ **COMPATIBILITIES** JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, DUAL SHOCK PAD

Fighting Force 2

Smooth and slick, Fighting Force 2 has all the arsenal you need to become a full-on predator

Kung fu super-soldier Hawk Manson kills everything he sees. That's about as much plot as you need to take in for this snapshot of hardcore action. Boasting the same brain-to-brawn ratio as an Arnie flick, this is a full-on blaster, where you use killer kung fu moves and more than 20 weapons – including sniper rifles and rocket launchers to kill the hell out of anything that moves. Loads of lush locations, more than 50 flavours of gun-toting bad guy to ice. Cool.

Fighting Farce, more like

Those of you with long memories might be feeling a little uneasy about this effort, 'cos the first Fighting Force was complete cack. But this one's a whole new game, basically. The gameplay's smooth and slick, the range of weapons is pure class, there's loads of different stuff to do and, most significantly, the violence is very violent. This is one to watch.

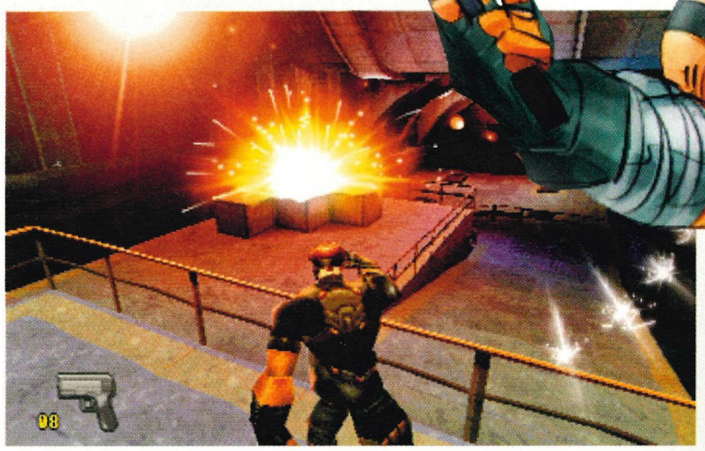
***plus** Looks very promising. Plays well and the graphics are mighty fine.*



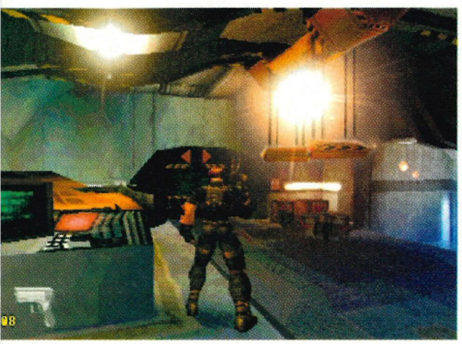
■ Everybody seems to know a bit of kung fu



■ The settings are high on eye candy



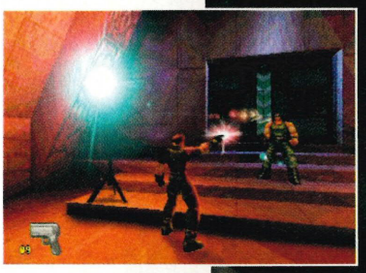
■ The sniper mode allows you to target far-off enemies, or



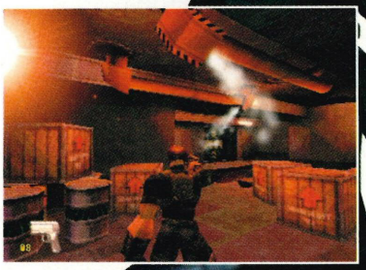
■ The shotgun's a good close-range weapon



■ Super-soldier Hawk Manson swore he would never eat a vindaloo again



■ Shoot people in the head for max damage



■ So where's the enemy?

■ **OUT** OCTOBER ■ **BY** ELECTRONIC ARTS ■ **PLAYERS** 1-4 ■ **COMPATIBILITIES** JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, DUAL SHOCK PAD

WCW Mayhem

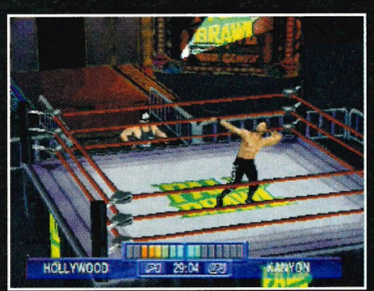
No frills and all fury, WCW Mayhem is an unmissable spectacle of quality violence

WCW, the Kwik Save No Frills of the wrestling world, bounces back with another grapple 'em up. WCW's sadly lacking in big cheese wrestlers like Stone Cold Steve Austin, but the razzmatazz and spectacle is all there and they do a great line in comedy second-raters called stuff like Kenny Chaos. The good news is that this effort's a lot more fast and furious than your average wrestling game. We like that.

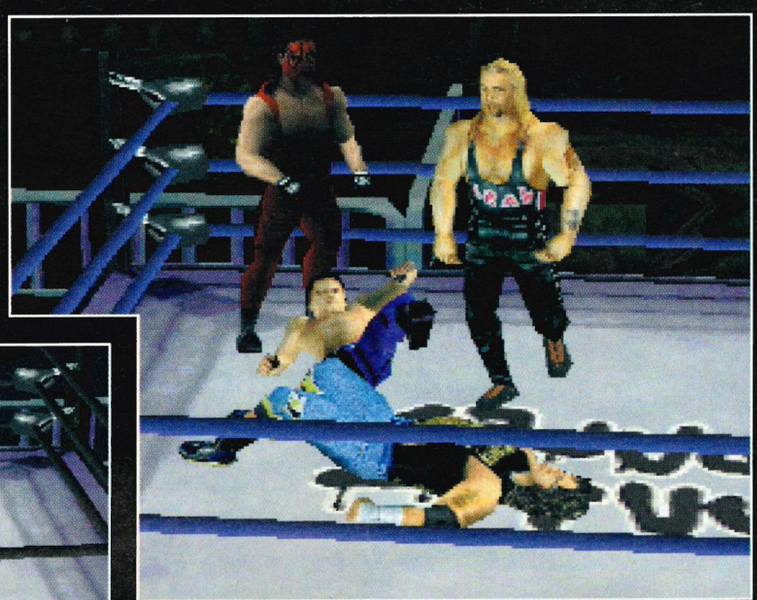
Pay per view!

This has got all the standard doodahs you expect from a wrestling game: loads of special events, a create-a-wrestler option, about 60 blokes. What's cool is that whenever there's a pay-per-view event on the telly, you can put a code into the game and play out the match in your own home. Plus, the fighting's not restricted to the ring: you can slug it out in all sorts of places backstage, including the bogs.

***plus** Most wrestling efforts are slow and unresponsive: this looks like it's a lot lighter on its feet, and the pay-per-view option is way cool. Still a bit ugly, though.*



■ All the stupid dances are in there



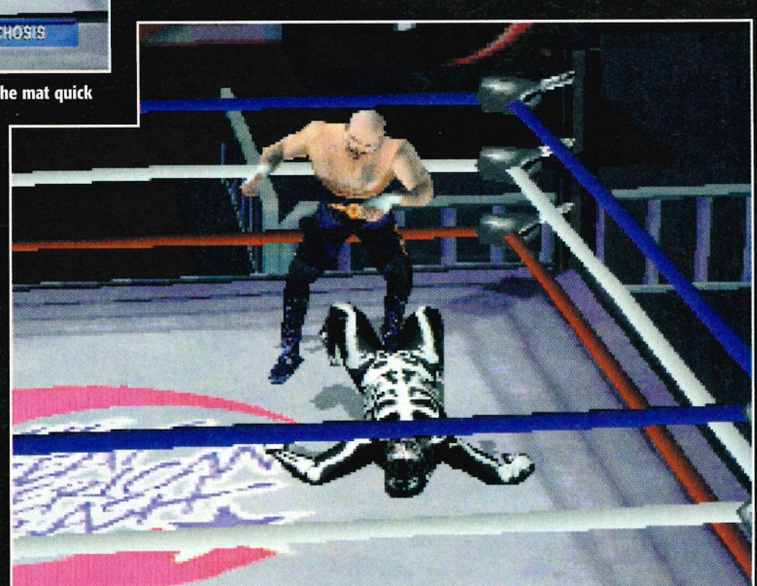
■ All the proper events off the telly are in here. Three-on-ones, tag team matches and, of course, pay-per-view specials



■ Batter people with signature moves and they hit the mat quick



■ Hollywood Hogan does his stuff



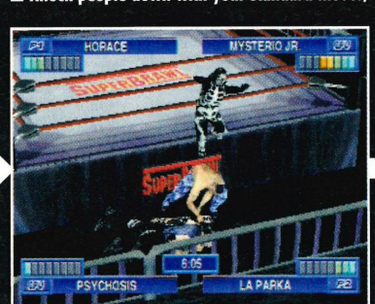
■ Knock people down with your standard moves, then hit them hard. Boot in the groin – yeah!



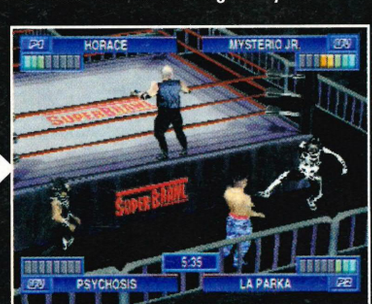
■ One bloke climbs out of the ring



■ The others follow. There's no timer on here



■ Even the dumb skeleton can join in!



■ Fights can spread all through the backstage area

■ **OUT** NOVEMBER ■ **BY** EIDOS ■ **PLAYERS** 1 ■ **COMPATIBILITIES** JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, DUAL SHOCK PAD

Tomb Raider: Last Revelation

A love interest for Lara? Crofty leaving her teacher to die? What fresh hell is this?

We've got new shots and info on Lara's fourth and last outing on PlayStation, and the more we see, the more it looks like this'll rekindle the excitement of the first Tomb Raider. The gameplay's gone back to the hardcore puzzling of Tomb I, but with the addition of a huge new range of usable items, it looks like the puzzles will be even better this time round. That's a good thing, huh?

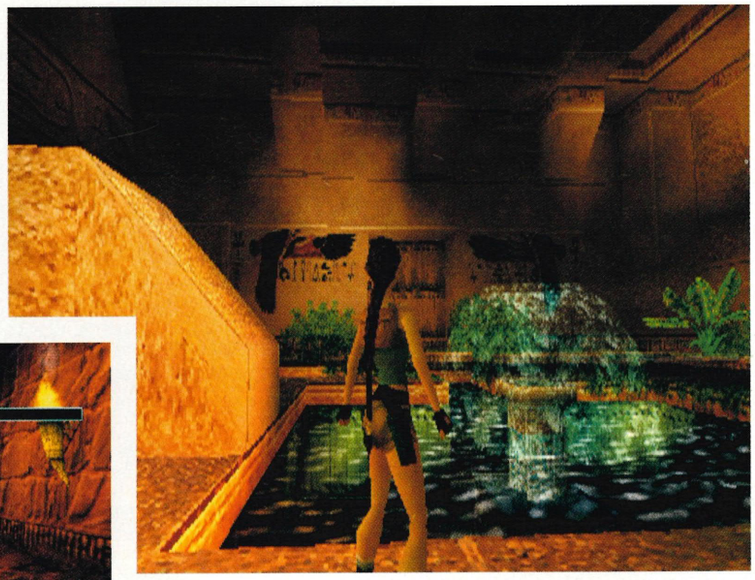
Tomb with a view

It's all set in dark, dreamy and atmospheric locations in Egypt and, as you can see, the graphics look mighty sharp. Combat's been tightened up a lot, and some of the enemies are puzzles in themselves – skeletons can't be killed with guns, so they have to be eliminated using the scenery. We're also promised a plot featuring Lara's vengeance-crazed teacher, Von Croy, and her lost love, Jean Yves, with an ending that'll really bring a lump in your throat.

plus This could be the best Tomb Raider yet.



■ The decor's classic Tomb Raider



■ There's cool stuff like breakable objects and collapsible floors and walls everywhere, so you've really got to keep your eyes peeled



■ Seek out Lara's lost love Jean Yves, and fight with Von Croy



■ The puzzles in these carious tombs dead complicated



■ You can use the binoculars to do long-range shots



■ One of the new vehicles that Lara gets is this nifty motorcycle sidecar

■ The game has been tuned to perfection: check out these water effects – deep, murky and rippling



■ The locations are all in Egypt and it looks authentic: creeping ivy, cryptic tombs – the lot

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

Demolition Racer

The kind of racing action you get on satellite between When Poodles Attack and Jerry Springer

Assorted lunatics climb behind the wheels of beat-up sports cars and race round dirt tracks ramming each other until most of the cars are charred, smoking hulks. And with six different modes to go out and crunch metal in – ranging from Last Man Standing to Demolition Derby – this effort looks like it might capture all the mindless fun of the satellite shows.

Demolition men

The cars range from big American speedsters to nippy little suburban runarounds – and all of 'em bust up and burn very nicely. You can choose either to go for a straight race or an all-out smash bonanza. The tracks are particularly cool: they're laden with jumps and hazards, and some of 'em are just as dangerous as the other racers. The graphics are lacking in 'Wow!', but the gameplay's quite smooth.

PLUS: The graphics could do with a polish, but it plays reasonably well.



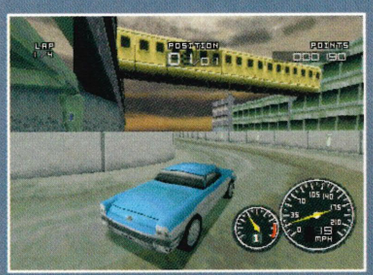
■ Grab the cheesiest, low-fi 70s sports car of your choice and head out to do max damage



■ Mustangs and Corvettes a go-go



■ Jump! There are plenty of these to look forward to



■ Your goal is to stay in one piece



■ Side-on impacts will get you mega points



■ In the Last Man Standing mode, you go head-to-head with 15 other cars in a deadly circular arena. If your car's the last one to become a charred, irredeemable wreck, you win



■ Crash and smash yourself to bits, and you've had it



■ Climb up the rankings by staying whole



■ Last Man Standing. The last car that's not scrap wins



■ You can even keep going when your motor's in flames



■ The tracks are laden with enormous jumps and bends

Blab

A white-knuckle journey across a tough motocross at breakneck speeds

■**OUT** OCTOBER ■**BY** THQ ■**PLAYERS** 1-2 ■**COMPATIBILITIES** JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, DUAL SHOCK PAD

Championship Motocross

Roar off across the landscape on the biggest and fastest bikes known to humanity

The problem with your average motorbike game is that it doesn't feel like you're blasting across the landscape on a two-wheeled 500cc monster: it just feels like you're driving an exceptionally thin car. Championship Motocross promises to have you hanging on the edge of your seat as you race across hardcore motorcross courses on a bike as powerful as a jump jet.

Jumping Jack

This being Motorcross, jumps are the name of the game: hit a ridge fast and you're scraping the sky before crashing back to earth. And with a field of eight bikes screeching round each bend in pursuit, this is a seat-of-the-pants job.

***plus** Gameplay looks like it's all present and correct, but the predictable graphics could do with a bit of a polish.*



■ Take off from a jump at the wrong angle and you're history, sucka



■ On Championship mode, it all gets pretty tricky



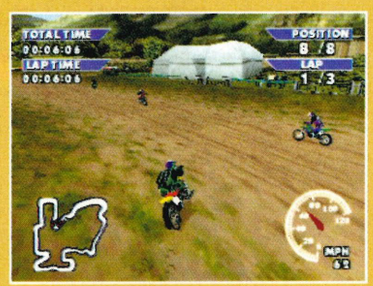
■ Pull wheelies in the wrong place and your bike'll slip out from under you



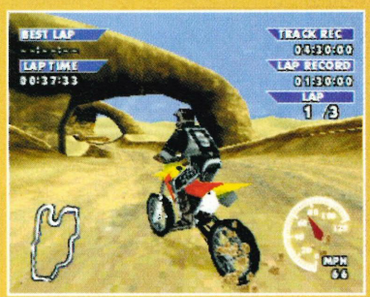
■ The palm-fringed Honolulu course is well tasty



■ Loads of riders take part in each race, making it pretty hectic on some of the corners



■ The courses are massively wide in bits



■ The courses are proper motocross efforts



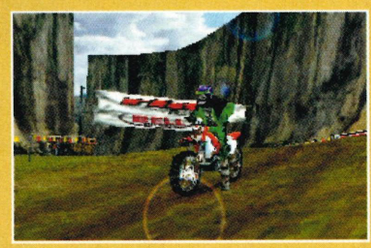
■ The sensation of speed as you go round a sharp bend is pure class



■ Opportunities to 'catch serious air' are scattered all over the place



■ It's difficult to catch up once you've spun out



■ The graphics are more than a bit blocky, but the replays look pretty sharp

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PlayStation

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■ **OUT** DECEMBER ■ **BY** SONY ■ **PLAYERS** 1-2 ■ **COMPATIBILITIES** JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, DUAL SHOCK PAD

Crash Team Racing

Bandicoots to the left of you, dingodiles to the right – it's karting Tasmanian style

PlayStation platform supremo Crash is back with a spin-off comedy racing title. Crash, his exceptionally cute sister Coco, Dr Nitrus Brio and the rest of the gang head out to the tracks for a bit of power-ups-a-blazing kart racing. Seems the classy racing levels in Crash 3 have given the orange rodent a bit of a taste for the open road. We aren't complaining.

Crash! Bang! Wallop!

Arcade stupidity is the name of the game here, with racers able to hop, jump and powerslide round the courses, firing weapons at each other that range from bombs to oilslicks. Expect big bumpy courses with secret routes all over the shop and enough power-ups to keep everything very much on the wacky side of the Wacky Races. The two-player looks pretty slick, too. More news as we get it.

***plus** Not the most original idea on earth, but this racer certainly looks the business and gameplay's sweet too. Nice.*



■ Racers can hop, jump and slide round the courses



■ Crash is speedy, but he's not that tough



■ The courses are really wide, so you've got to stick to the racing line



■ Looks a lot like Crash 3



■ Powerslide action! Throw your back into the turns



■ All your fave characters are in there



■ The levels are pretty surreal



■ Use the shield power-up to keep your ass in one piece



■ It's the Wacky Races

■ The Dingodile packs a serious punch. Best to stay out of his way if you can



■ The levels are littered with speed-ups and kick-ass weaponry. Go get it!

■ **OUT** OCTOBER ■ **BY** KONAMI ■ **PLAYERS** 1
■ **COMPATIBILITIES** JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, DUAL SHOCK PAD

Ronin Blade

Slice and dice your way through ancient Japan, while picking up some cool moves

A ronin's a samurai without a master, and on the evidence of this blade-happy, chopsocky murder 'em up, a card-carrying psychopath into the bargain. You play either a young, murderous ronin or a young, murderous ninja, chopping their way through an endless sequence of baddies in pyjamas using 40 different authentic moves. Super cool.

Chop suey bladework

Fans of kung fu films will be pleased to find that the swordplay's interspersed with bits where you talk weird stuff to other people in pyjamas. What we really like is that, although the combat's incredibly simple to begin with, there are moves to learn all the way through the game, and new items and stuff to pick up. Looks stunning, too.

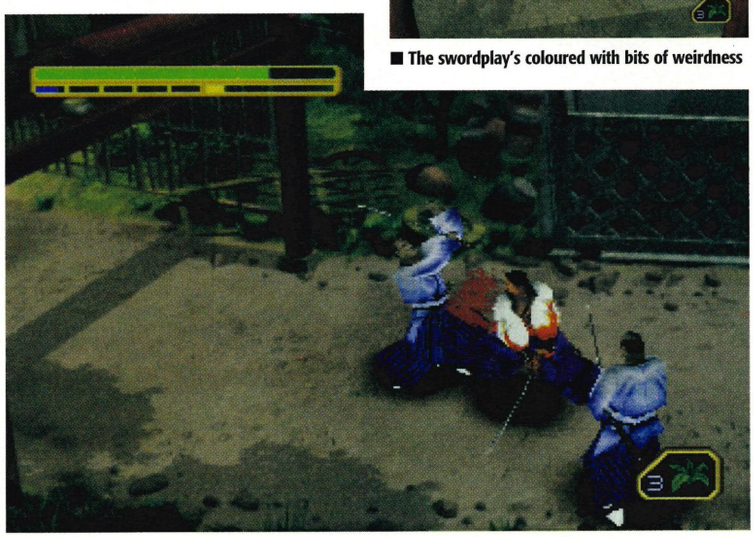
***plus** Looks-wise, this is a peach, but the gameplay's a bit slow for our tastes. More news soon.*



■ There's an endless slew of baddies in pyjamas



■ The swordplay's coloured with bits of weirdness



■ The combat looks easy to begin with, getting hugely complicated along the way



■ Everybody you meet carries a three-foot-long sword. Most of them are pretty keen to stick it in your guts



■ This is your best mate



■ Fight with evil samurai

■ **OUT** OCTOBER ■ **BY** TAKE 2 ■ **PLAYERS** 1 ■ **COMPATIBILITIES** JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, DUAL SHOCK PAD

Grand Theft Auto 2

With enough violence to shock the masses, this game's not standard blood-and-guts stuff

Forget the naff London add-on missions, this is the true Son of Grand Theft Auto – and it's looking pure class. The free-flowing 'steal cars, perform missions for gangsters' gameplay is intact, and the sickening anti-pedestrian violence is still there. The graphics have been polished, and there are more cars and more weapons to play around with, including Molotov cocktails. The cops are a whole lot smarter too, and this time round they carry much bigger guns.

Gang star

The main thing that's been brushed up for part two is the gangs. In GTA, the gangs were always just voices on the end of the phone line. Here, different gangs ranging from the Russian Mafia to Japanese Yakuza control different parts of the city, and if you piss the wrong bunch off, life will become *extremely* difficult. You're able to choose which gangs to do missions for, and can even build up a posse of geezers and drive around together in a minibus armed to the teeth.

***plus** It's got all the ingredients to disgust the moral majority and keep us glued to our PlayStations for months.*



■ The top-down graphics have been tweaked



■ You can get loads of blokes into one car



■ Pull off some really nasty crimes and the army's called in to deal with you



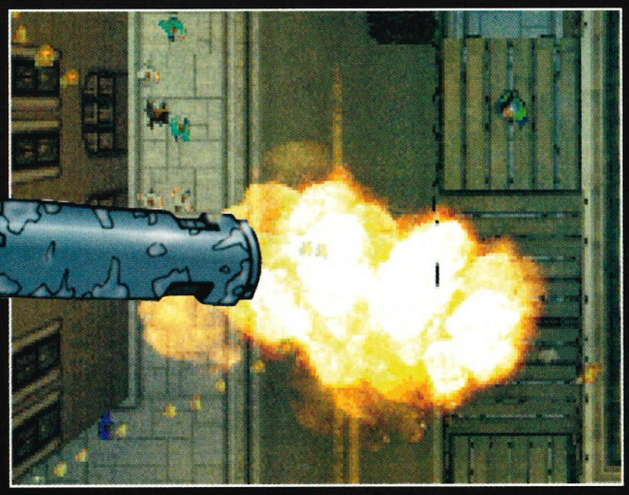
■ Uzis are ideal for thinning out the crowds – and so are Molotovs



■ Fire engines are now part of the excitement



■ Police roadblocks are a lot more hardcore



■ You can now stand up on raised platforms chucking incendiaries



■ There's loads of flash new cars to try out

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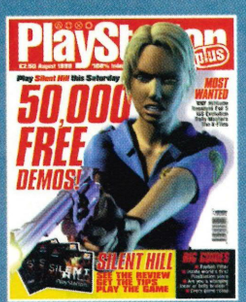
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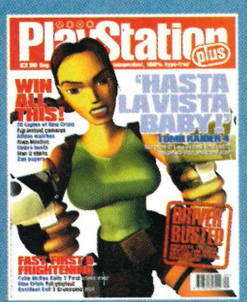
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Blab

Multi-disc sci-fi epic with cool graphics and Blade Runner-style action

■ **OUT** OCTOBER ■ **BY** PBH ■ **PLAYERS** 1 ■ **COMPATIBILITIES** JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, DUAL SHOCK PAD

Overblood 2

The world's under threat in the future, and only a pod-racing maverick can save the day

It's 2115, and people on the overheated earth get their kicks from watching a hyper-speed race called Junk Blade. Just before a race, top Junk Blader Acarno Brani is handed a mysterious capsule. And that's the cue for about 60 hours' worth of densely-plotted Blade Runner-style RPG action. Just what is it about these pod racers, anyhow?

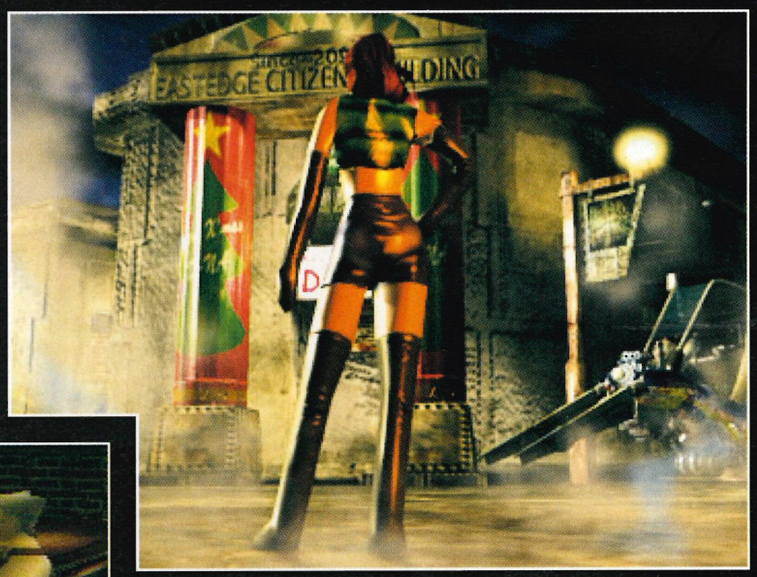
Cool, but not much action

The areas here may look cool, but they tend to be pretty sparse on the monster front, so gameplay revolves around exploring areas, jumping, using items and finding levers – very much in a Tomb Raider style. And if you get stuck, you can always dial up one of your mates on your transceiver for a bit of help.

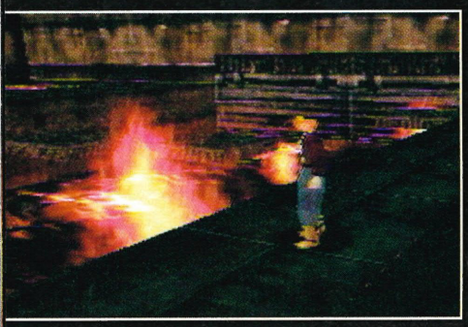
Jocks with attitude

What's odd here is the translators have given the game a bit of a British flavour: the main character's a cockney geezer, and his best mate's a Jock. But be warned. There's more than 60 characters, and loads of Blade Runner-style scenes: some of 'em weigh in at over half an hour – and you can't skip 'em.

***plus** If you're looking for a multi-disc sci-fi epic to keep your social life at bay until Final Fantasy VIII arrives to kill it stone dead, you could do a lot worse. Ugly, but quite playable.*



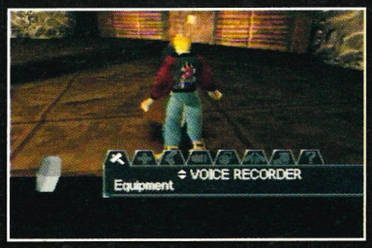
■ The plot's got a real epic sweep, and it gets well complicated



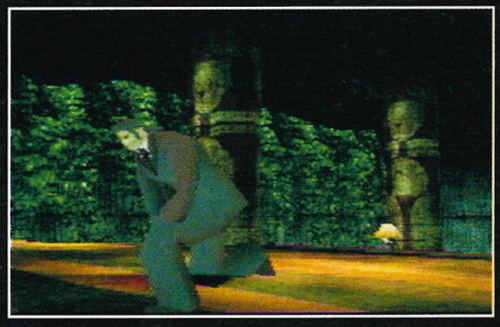
■ Major platform-based fun ahead



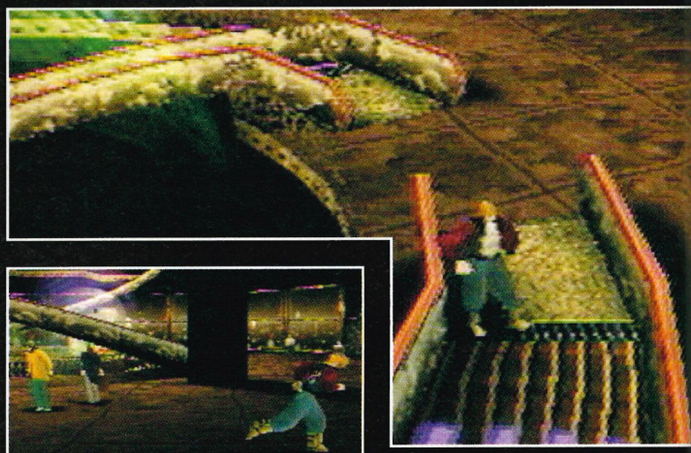
■ The cutscenes are very long and sometimes highly tedious



■ You get loads of items to fiddle with

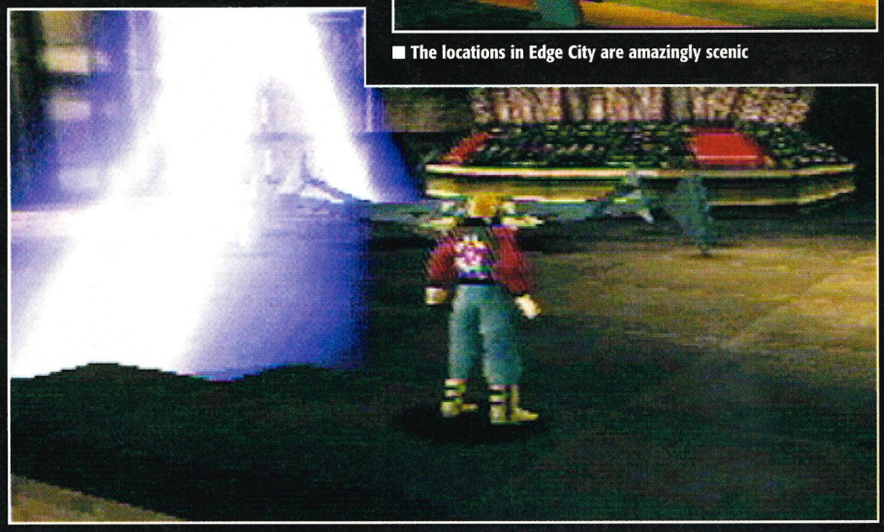


■ The locations in Edge City are amazingly scenic



■ The game world is huge. This game'll keep you busy for days

■ There's more than 60 characters



■ The main bloke, Acarno Brani in battle mode. Will he unravel the mystery and save the world?



■ Combat's pretty simple and it moves at a fair old lick, too

■ **OUT** SEPTEMBER ■ **BY** SONY ■ **PLAYERS** 1-8
■ **COMPATIBILITIES** JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, DUAL SHOCK PAD

This is Football

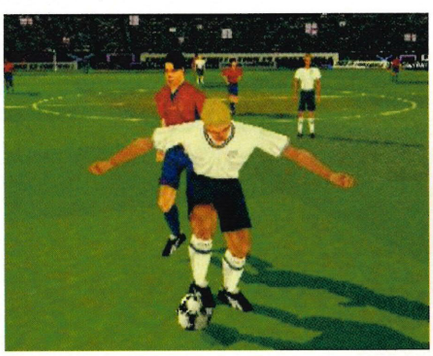
There's a potential match winner warming up on the touchline ready to blow the roof off

We dig footy games that won't let you put the joypad down. This is Football's gonna grab you for a long time. The reason? 230 domestic and international teams covering 20 real leagues and competitions. And up to eight people can play at the same time, either on the same team or split between two.

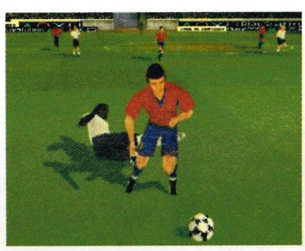
Skill alert

It's always awesome playability that gets the blood pumpin', so expect a bloodbath of knock-ons, one-twos, flick ons and step overs. Another top idea is the Track and Field style sprint button which allows you to control how fast your player moves. And it's all dead easy to pick up. And rewards for your playing dedication are features like beach footy, kickabouts in the park and teams with 25ft high players. Sounds kinda fun to us.

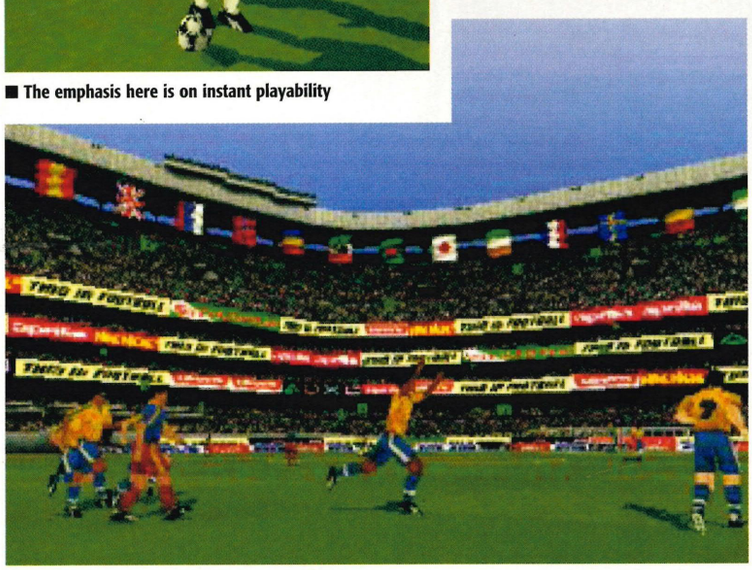
***plus** We're getting excited about this! Make sure you get 'Plus next month for our review.*



■ The emphasis here is on instant playability



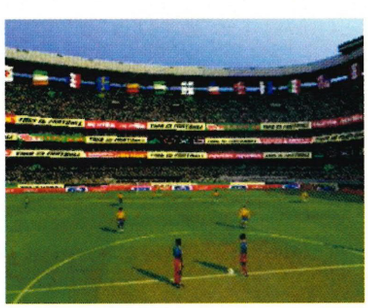
■ Loads of slick moves to try out



■ There's a massive range of specials and trick shots to get your teeth into



■ Up to eight people can play at once



■ There's 20 leagues' worth of teams in there

■ **OUT** NOVEMBER ■ **BY** CODEMASTERS ■ **PLAYERS** 1-4
■ **COMPATIBILITIES** JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD

Music 2000

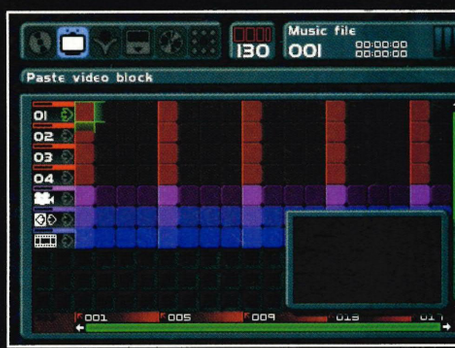
The dance music game returns – and it's looking mighty high in phat

We've heard more about the sequel to the dance music creation game Music, and it's sounding like this is going to be a Xmas must-have for every bedroom Judge Jules. For starters, there are 24 tracks to pop samples into, compared to 16 from the original game, and we're promised all the thousands of new samples are going to be much sharper sounding than the ones from last year.

The joy of decks

What's extra cool is that you'll be able to open up your PlayStation and pop in a CD and lift bits out of it to use in your tunes. Fancy a trumpet noise, or Dirty Harry saying 'D'you feel lucky, punk?' Well, you got it. Add to this the four-player jam mode where four DJ wannabes can battle it out with a range of samples, and this will be on top of your wish list.

***plus** The first Music had us sitting indoors for months muttering phrases like 'Phat! Slammin!', 'It's da bomb!', and this is looking even better.*



■ The video option's now all in high-resolution



■ Cut and paste bits from your fave CDs



■ The detail level's absolutely insane. You can even mess around with individual notes



■ The riff editor's been sharpened up massively from last year's effort. Now you really can make up your own tunes



■ There are tons of preset riffs



■ Play your own songs



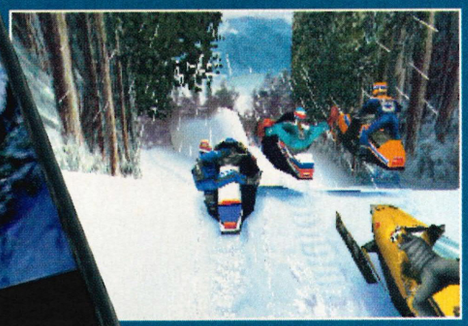
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This issue of PlayStation Plus comes with a giant sticker sheet on the front containing 60 excellent stickers. Look on the back flap of the stickers and you'll see some sentences: 'Hello, I am' or 'You are'; and words: 'dogs', 'sniffing' or 'mingin', which you can swop around to create your own sentences and abuse your mates.

DO BETTER AND WIN 10 COPIES OF SLED STORM WORTH £400

We want you to send in your best sentence put together from those stickers. We'll publish the best contributions and the creators of the ten phrases which make us laugh the most will be sent a copy of Sled Storm (which scored 91% in PlayStation Plus). And if you send us a photo of where you put 'em or who you used them on, we'll print that as well. Just use the form below and address it to: 'I LOVE FAT DOGS', PlayStation Plus, Angel House, 238-246 Goswell Road, London EC1V 7QP and get it here *fast*.



■ The ultra-cool Sled Storm. It's a top prize



ENTRY FORM

My brilliant sentence is:

.....

.....

I used it on (explain where or how you used it):

.....

.....

Name: .....

Age: .....

Address: .....

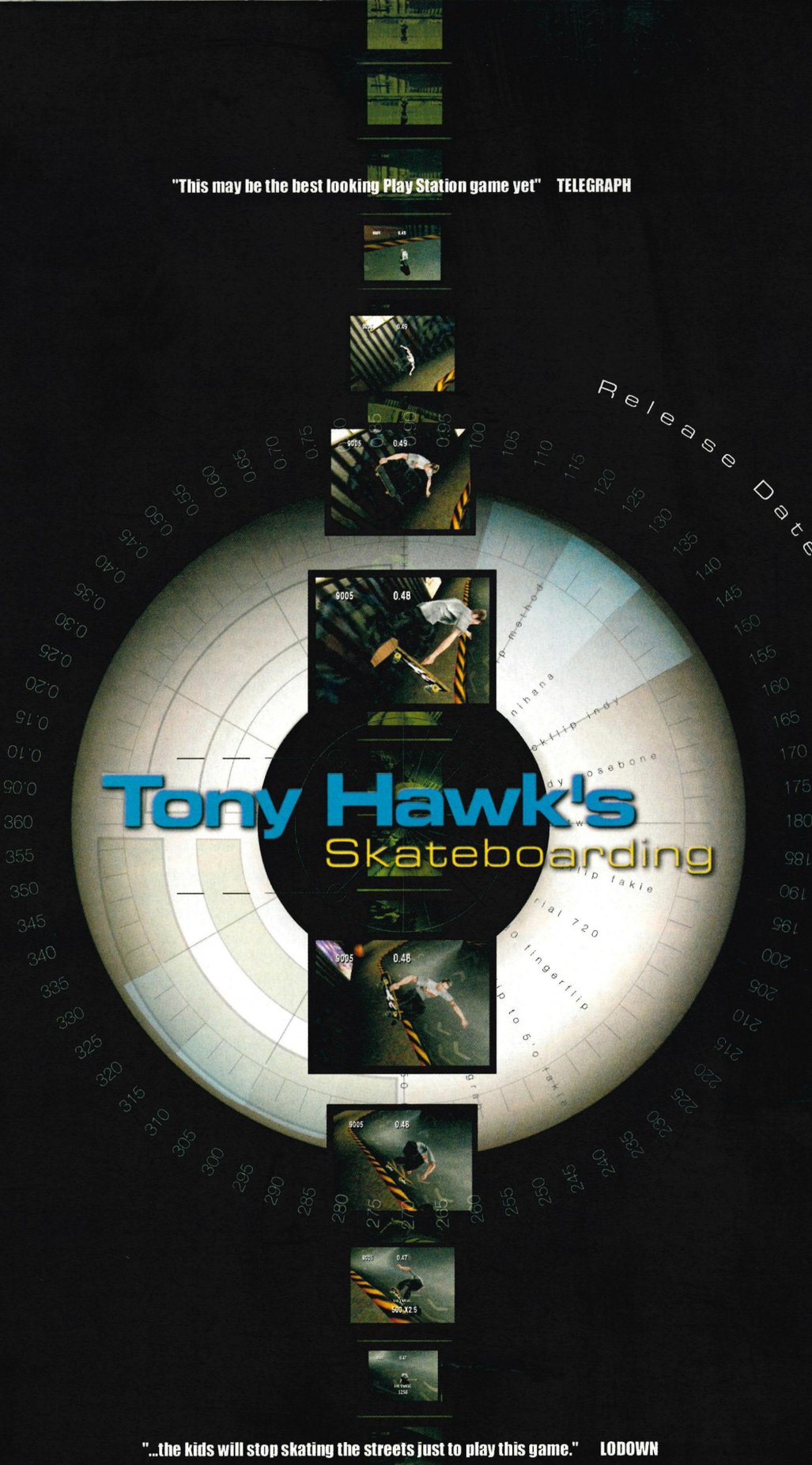
.....

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Send this to: 'I Love Fat Dogs', PlayStation Plus, Angel House 338-346 Goswell Road, London EC1V 7QP

"This may be the best looking Play Station game yet" TELEGRAPH



"...the kids will stop skating the streets just to play this game." LODOWN

ACTIVISION.

PlayStation

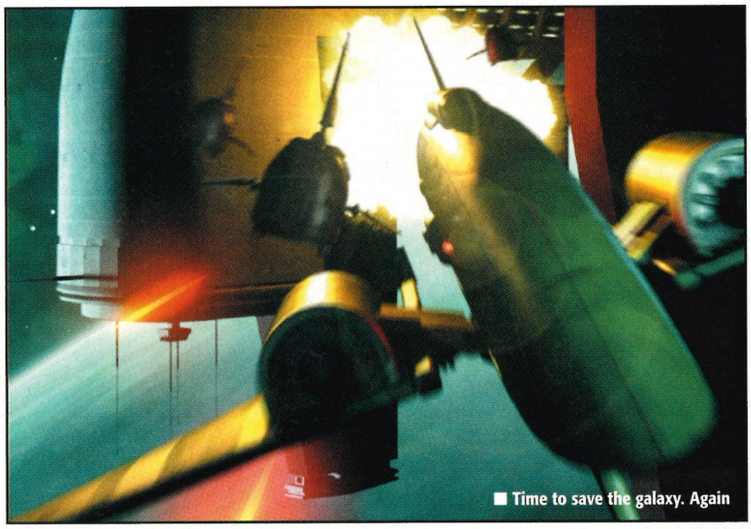
TONY HAWK'S SKATEBOARDING

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Colony Wars: Red Sun

Just when you thought it was safe to go back into the darkest depths of space...

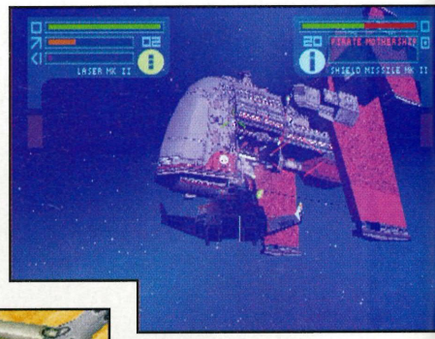
Red Sun isn't really a sequel to 3D space-battle epic Colony Wars: Vengeance. It's set at the same time, in a solar system at the other side of the galaxy. You play Valdemar, a servant of the vastly powerful Emirate. You discover a plot to send a new super-weapon, the Red Sun, through space – and guess where it's going? You guessed it: towards earth, and the duelling forces of Colony Wars: Vengeance. Cue 50 missions' worth of space battling, complete with 32 weapons, eight new ships and the usual number of massive space transports decompressing explosively into the void. Add to that a plot so dark and complex it makes Vengeance look like an episode of Friends, along with some of the best FMV sequences we've ever seen. This looks like one to watch.



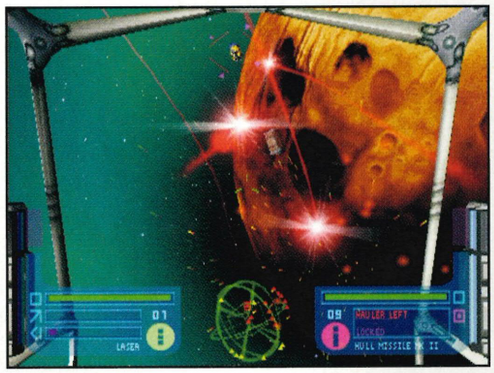
■ Time to save the galaxy. Again



■ There's loads more action on planet surfaces



■ Defend big space transports against League fighters



■ The visuals are as sharp as ever. Nice lighting effects too



■ The vehicles in Red Sun are all new and pretty strange

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ARMORINES

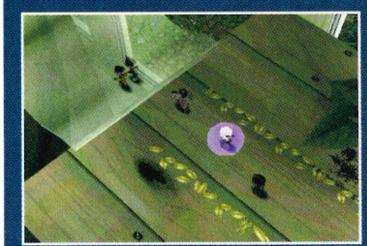
■ **Starship Troopers** goes PlayStation in Armorines, a dumb, ultra-violent 3D shooter where you play a space marine fighting off an invasion of killer insects. The gameplay's standard shoot 'em up fare, but with insects ranging from praying mantises to 40ft spiders, and a range of sci-fi weaponry that'd make Arnie weep with joy, this is looking like a whole lot of fun. Preview next issue.



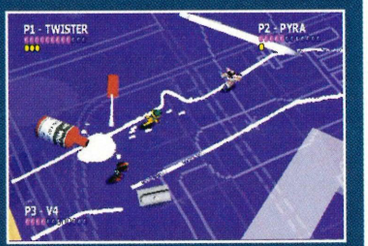
■ Huge guns vs huge insects. It's just like Starship Troopers

MICRO MACHINES V4

■ **We've played the** future, and it rocks. Part four of the ever-awesome Micro Machines series is a bit of a departure from the first three: no more toy cars. Instead, you play surreal little robot things called Little Bastards. The racing's still the kind of fast, knockabout action we've come to expect from the Micro Machines series, and it looks like the controls are still firmly set for Fun Factor 10. More news soon.



■ The little blokes move at blinding speed

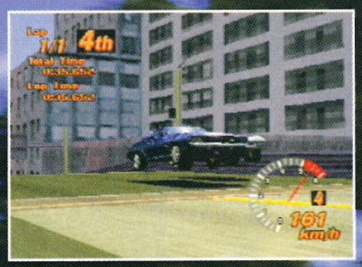


■ Avoid glue and hurdle screwdrivers!

Gran Turismo 2

We've played Gran Turismo 2, but we've got a sneaking feeling we've been there, done that – nothing new here

We've had a hands-on play through a few of the courses in Gran Turismo 2, and after about two minutes we were thinking 'Hang on, this looks exactly the same as Gran Turismo 1'. Fans of the original will probably still be bowled over by the tweaked handling, the 500 new car models, 20 new courses and the 33 international car manufacturers, but we were expecting a bit more of a graphics retread. If you're looking for an in-depth racing experience, though, GT2's probably still where it's at, and with 60 licenses to work through and an all-new – but slightly odd-looking – rally mode to try out, it should certainly keep you busy.



■ There are loads of slick new cars in there, including some classy 70s numbers



■ The lighting effects look fairly cool, but are very similar to the ones in Gran Turismo 1

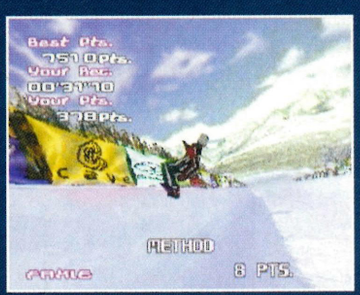


■ The replay mode's now got added motion blur

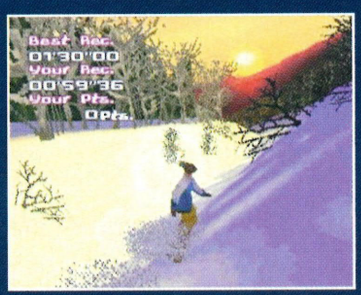
TRICK 'N' SNOWBOARDER

Bored stiff of fighting off zombies, Leon takes to the slopes for some deadly, gut-wrenching action

■ **This has sneaked** its way on to the news pages just because it's gratuitously surreal. You play a range of snowboarders doing the usual range of half-pipe stunts, aerial acrobatics or racing – but you'll recognise a couple of the faces on here. Yup, it's Leon, Claire and a zombie cop, all from Resident Evil 2. Very odd. They're secret characters, so you'll have to work to get them, but surely the spectacle of a decomposing corpse pulling off tailspins will be well worth it. Preview next issue.



■ The trick system's pretty slick



■ The race courses are only for the seasoned

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EIGHTH WONDE

Forget about your social life 'cos the biggest game in the world ever has just arrived and you won't be able to resist

You know about Final Fantasy VII. You know it's sold like girls' knickers at a perverts' party, and that every sap with no social life said it was the best game ever, when in actual fact it's just a *good* game that's too damn slow. So surely we need a sequel like we need a bullet in the head? But when the follow-up looks this hot and plays a whole lot faster, you can't help but get interested. Take the phone off the hook, nail the door shut and check it out.



■ Haven't played FF7? Don't worry, this is a whole new game



■ You'll dig '8'. It's much easier to get into than '7'



■ Some of the best graphics PlayStation has ever spewed out



■ Your guys have the advantage, taking the enemy from behind



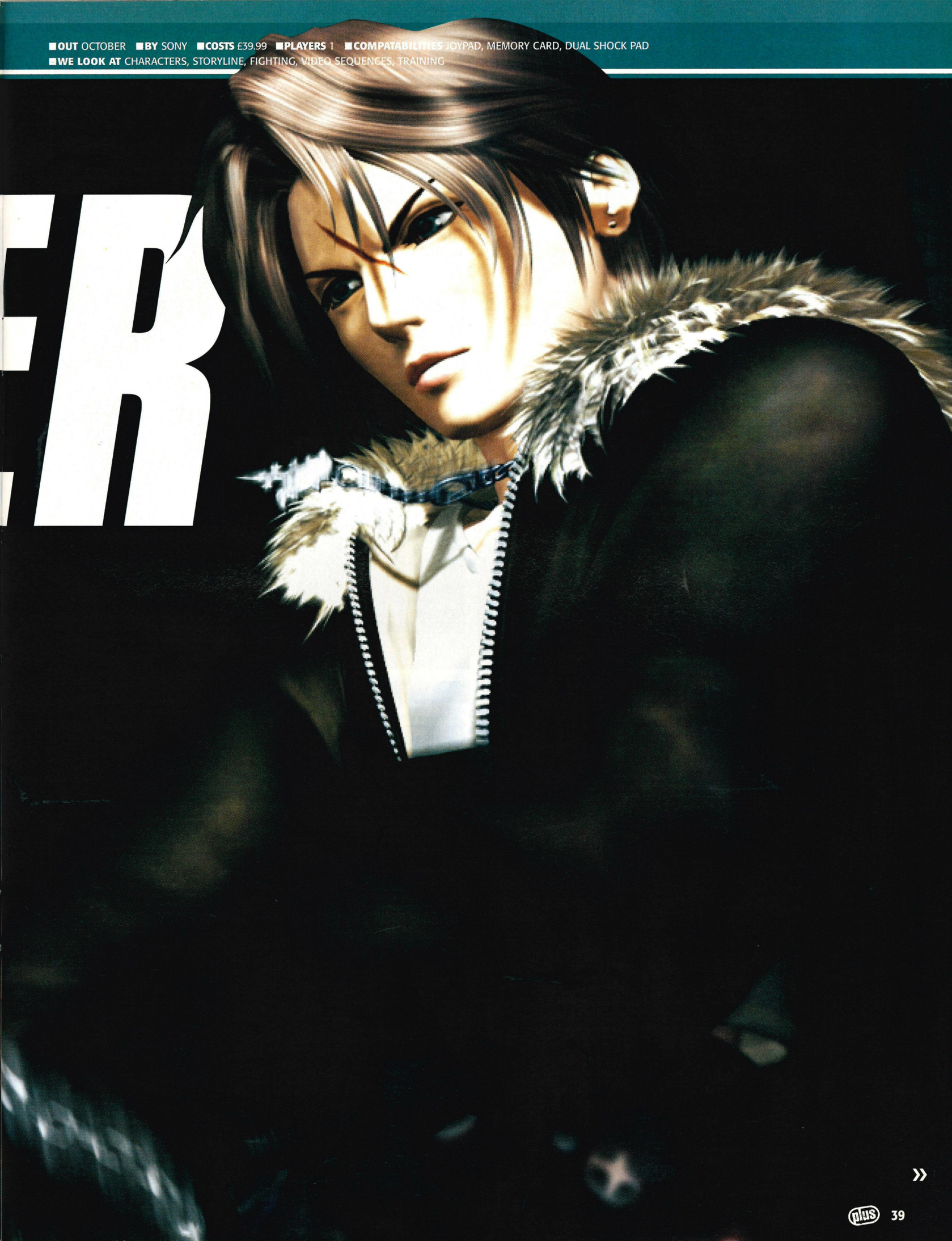
■ Time for another soul-searching discussion. A typical scene



■ Everyone charge to the rescue, there's no time to admire the view

■**OUT** OCTOBER ■**BY** SONY ■**COSTS** £39.99 ■**PLAYERS** 1 ■**COMPATABILITIES** JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, DUAL SHOCK PAD
■**WE LOOK AT** CHARACTERS, STORYLINE, FIGHTING, VIDEO SEQUENCES, TRAINING

ER



The Works: Final Fantasy VIII first play

Back to school

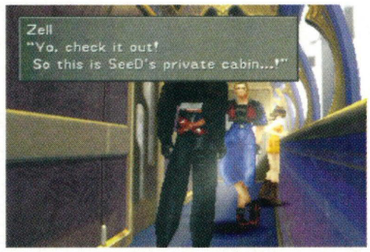
The game's intense from the start, when you team up with a handful of new military cadets who're dumped in at the deep end during a mission to retrieve a wild monster called a Guardian Force. This training mission is how you get used to the skills you'll need later in the game, so when, an hour later, it all kicks off with real bullets and monsters, you're ready for it. Success in the field test qualifies your team as 'SeeD' members, the Final Fantasy equivalent of the SAS. From here, your role is to fight the revolution against the invading Galbadian forces. It's all downhill from here.



■ You'll spend most of your time as Squall, who's cool



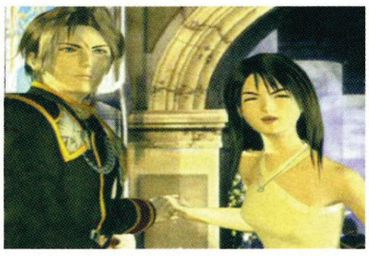
■ Seifer's the big cheese bad guy in FFVIII. Kick his ass



■ Zell's a strong fighter to have on your side



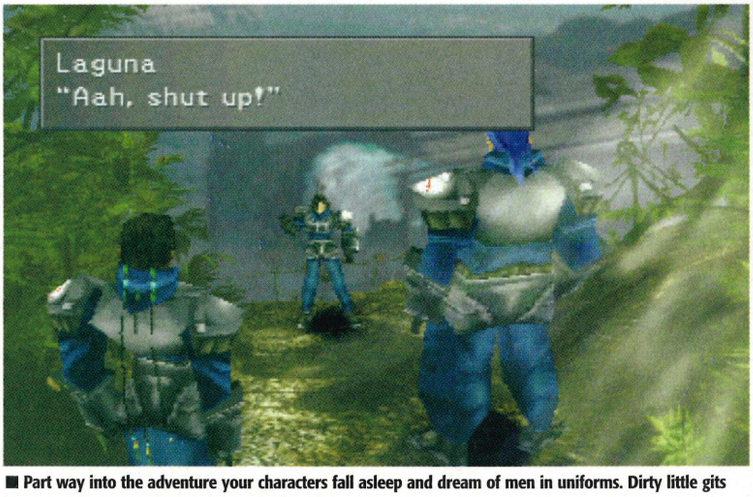
■ Quistis is your course instructor. You'll like her 'cos her heart is in the right place – along with everything else



■ Rinoa's part of The Forest Owls resistance faction



■ You fight these guys, then you take of control of them



■ Part way into the adventure your characters fall asleep and dream of men in uniforms. Dirty little gits

No pain, no gain

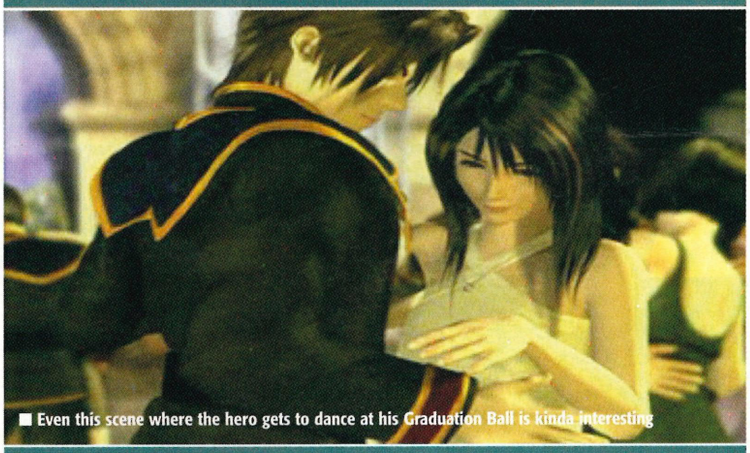
Final Fantasy VIII looks bloody awesome. Things have changed since the last shoddy-looking version. The characters are detailed and move realistically, the backgrounds are sharp and the video sequences are the best we've seen on the 'Station so far. But to get the most out of the game, you've got to invest a lot of time and patience. If you haven't got three months to spare, this probably isn't the game for you.



■ Looking this good in battle takes effort. Fun doesn't come free in this game



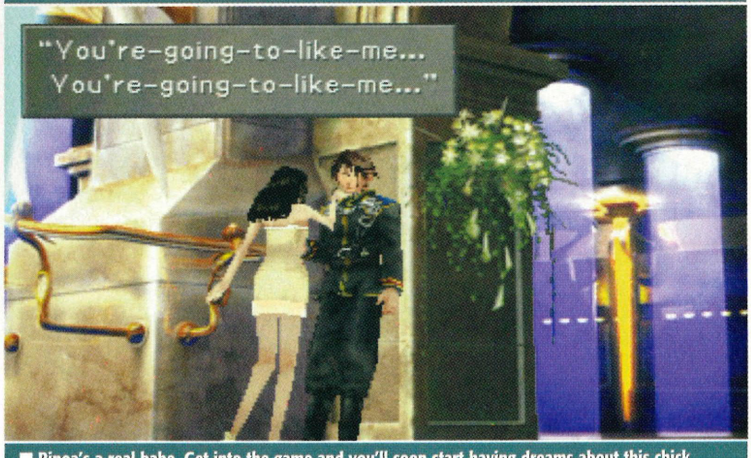
■ Conversations often go on for longer than the girlfriend ragging on the phone to her best mate



■ Even this scene where the hero gets to dance at his Graduation Ball is kinda interesting



■ The expansive aerial views of the city are breathtaking



■ Rinoa's a real babe. Get into the game and you'll soon start having dreams about this chick

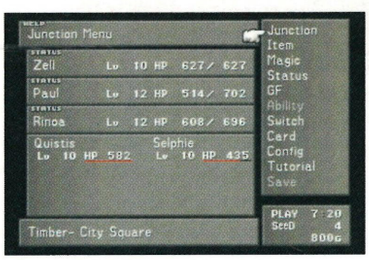
'This is a sprawling monster of a game'



■ One thing's for sure, Diana's gotta go

Don't... mention... the... STATS!

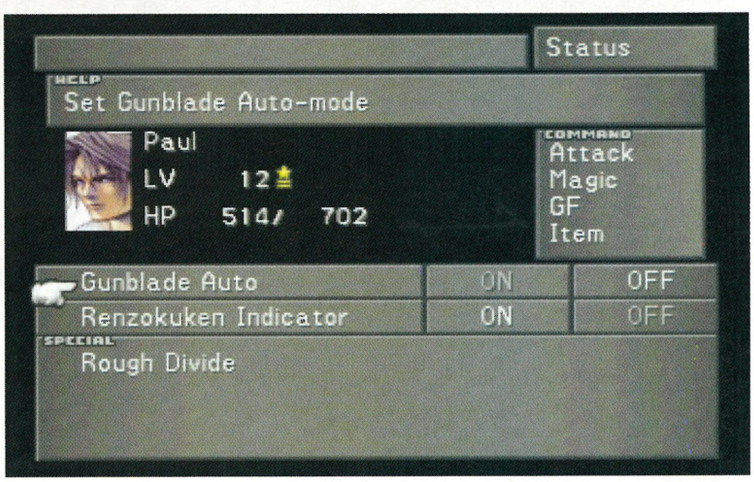
Numbers. Lots of 'em. Hardcore role-players love them, but you and I feel slightly queasy at the very sight of them. But, sooner or later, you've got to come to terms with the statistics thing if you want to indulge in FFVIII. Otherwise you die, basically. Don't freak out too soon, though. They may look pretty daunting but wading through countless menu screens is fairly straightforward. It's not really that time-consuming, either.



■ Characters are managed from a menu screen. Pressing the '◉' button, brings up this menu page



■ The Junction option's used to assign the magic abilities you wish to share with the Guardian Forces



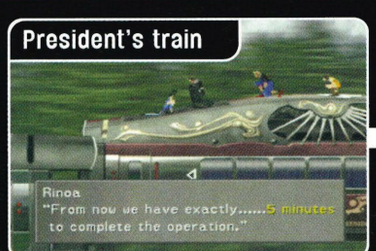
■ From the status screen you decide which weapon to use, with an option of automatic or manual functions »

A PLAN COMES TOGETHER



With all things sorted out you're set to win any battle in style. Let's look at how smoothly it can go for a bunch of SeeD members armed to the hilt with power in reserve.

The corrupt and power-obsessed president of Galbadia is travelling to Timber Town, where he intends to make a TV broadcast, damning the lives of many innocent people. Only the resistance team, which includes SeeD members, can stop this, by hijacking his train.



■ The resistance team pulls alongside the President's train. Run along the roof without being detected



■ Your job is use the controller to enter four-digit codes to disconnect the carriages, directed by Rinoa »

The Works: Final Fantasy VIII first play

Guardian Forces

Guardian Forces are these all-powerful beings which, when summoned, help you out in a fight by kicking ass big-time. They feature heavily in Final Fantasy VIII, growing fiercer and stronger as the game progresses, allowing you to use their skills providing you have the magic ability. Basically, without them you're dead meat.



■ Ifrit is a fire Guardian Force. It leaps into the sky to punch a lump of molten lava down on to the enemy



■ Shiva is an ice GF that tears into the enemy with its diamond dust. Shards of ice everywhere you look



■ Quezacotl gets away with having a crap name on account of its impressive lightning display

Gritty realism

The story is more adult for Final Fantasy VIII, something that's reflected in every area. The characters are more realistic – they don't look like the stiffly animated dolls in VIII. Their dialogue's more believable, too. Just a few hours into the game and they're already swearing like troopers. It's not so Japanese-y either, which is a good thing.



■ Characters are more credible than in the last game. Girls are sassy, the guys get sarcastic



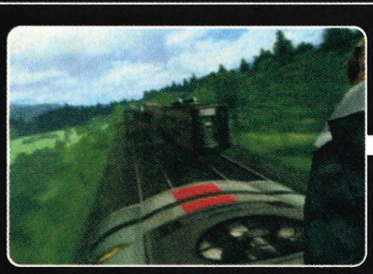
■ The characters look more realistic here. Just look at the mock Tudor decor

plus

We'd like to say...

Fed up the same old beat 'em ups and racing games? Then this classy role-player's arrived just in time to save you from gaming hell. Sure, there's a load of sometimes tedious dialogue, and it's not the kind of game you can sit down and play for only a few minutes. But the storyline's a corker and, given time, you will come to love this sprawling monster of a game.

A PLAN COMES TOGETHER CONTINUED...



■ When the cars separate, a dummy of the president's shunted into place. The guards can't tell the difference



■ With the guards out of sight, the game's up! The president's surrounded



■ Kill him. No wait... Turns out the President's 'dummy' is a mutant known as Gerogero



■ Using everything the team can muster up, even the Guardian Forces to the party, the thing's a goner

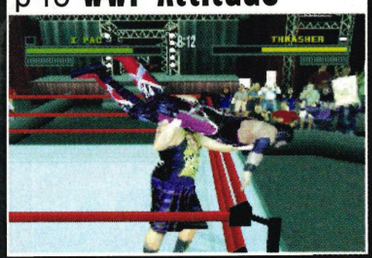
Instant Expert

TIPS, CHEATS AND ADVICE FOR STACKS OF PLAYSTATION GAMES

WWF Attitude beaten to a pulp, Soul Reaver sucked dry and tons of other games tipped and cheated to death by our elite tip warriors

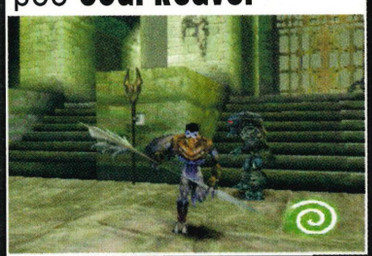
Torn apart this month...

p43 **WWF Attitude**



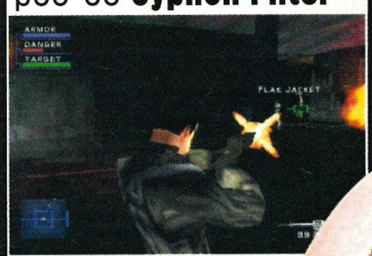
■ All the wrestlers and all their special secret moves guaranteed!

p50 **Soul Reaver**



■ To make through this hellish underworld, get a hold of the Soul Reaver Sword quick!

p55-56 **Syphon Filter**

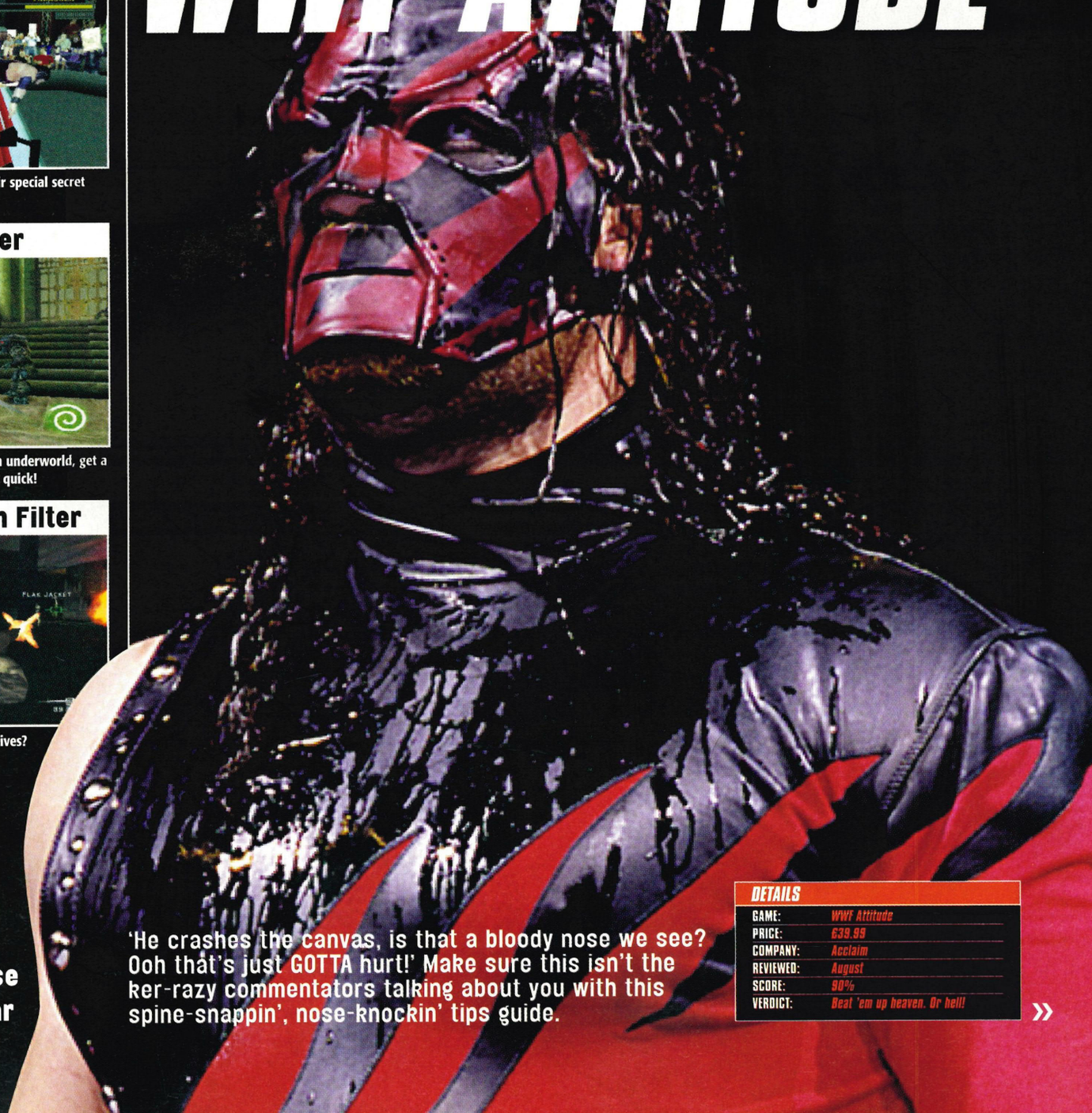


■ Can't find the hidden explosives? Well, now you can

plus

p56 **Silent Hill**
p56 **V-Rally 2**
p57 **Apocalypse**
p58 **Metal Gear**

WWF ATTITUDE



'He crashes the canvas, is that a bloody nose we see? Ooh that's just GOTTA hurt!' Make sure this isn't the ker-razy commentators talking about you with this spine-snappin', nose-knockin' tips guide.

DETAILS	
GAME:	WWF Attitude
PRICE:	£39.99
COMPANY:	Acclaim
REVIEWED:	August
SCORE:	90%
VERDICT:	Beat 'em up heaven. Or hell!

»

EXTRA MOVES

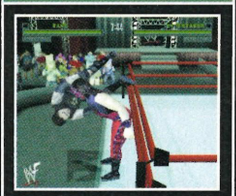
All the dirty moves and cunning attacks you'll need to turn yourself into a Stone Cold stunner in the ring. And these little beauties aren't in the manual

FLIP THEM BACK IN THE RING



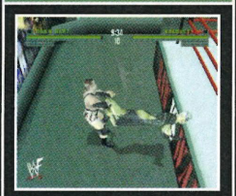
If the other bloke's standing on the apron, throw 'em back in the ring by pressing Tieup next to them

FLIP THEM OUT



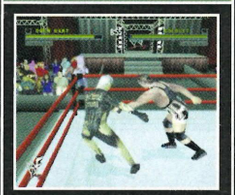
If tables are turned, with you on apron facing them inside ring, toss them outside the ring with Kick

DIVING KICK



Them on floor outside, you in the ring. Run to them and hit Punch or Kick. You'll dive out with Diving Dropkick

IRISH WHIP



In a Tieup, you can always try the Irish Whip ➡ Block/ ⬅ Block. It breaks deadlocks very fast

THROW THEM OUT HEAD FIRST



First stun your opponent. Press ➡➡, Block to carry 'em, then Punch near ropes to throw him out

TAGGING



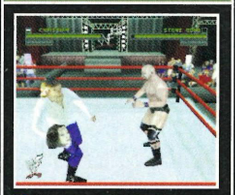
Press L1 until your wrestler faces your partner, go near him and press Tieup to tag him

GETTING HELP



Hold block and press R1. Then go for the Punch button to call your mate in without tagging

WEAPONS



Press or hold L1 over weapon until it flashes to pick it up. This only works in Hardcore matches

DOUBLE TEAM MOVES PART 1...



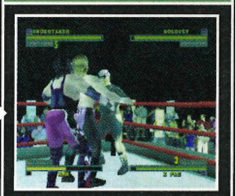
Double Team moves only work against human opponents, and only when they're stunned

PART 2...



Position yourselves both in front of the stunned opponent, or one in front and one behind him

PART 3...

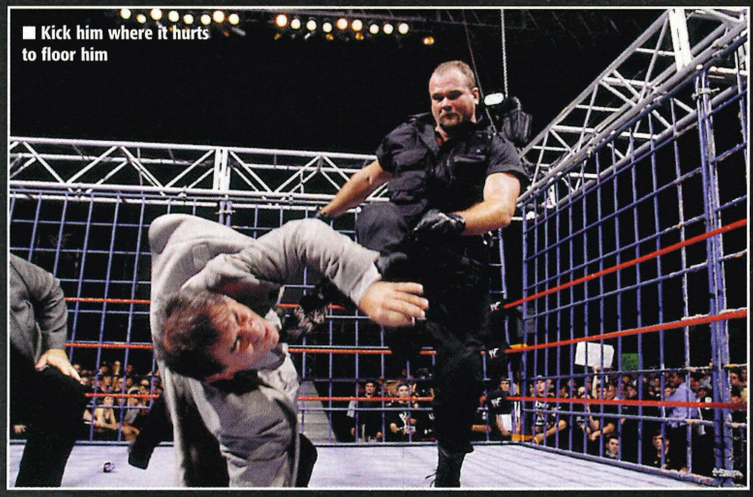


Both of you need to press Tieup at the same time. If you're positioned right, this'll trigger a Double Team move

23-ATTITUDE



Hold L1, L2 or R2 before pressing ⊗ to select a character to unlock their secret costumes



Kick him where it hurts to floor him

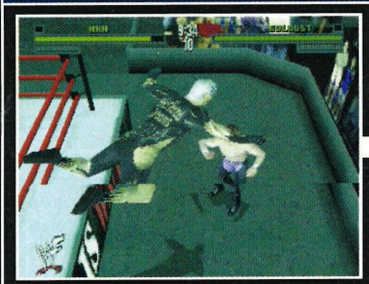
IN-FIGHT EXTRAS

What to do in a Tieup, what all the different screens mean and a low down, devious way to win a one-on-one. Plus handy hints on how to make your own demon fighter in the Create-a-Wrestler mode

THE LAST FRILLS

Before you sit down and learn the specials for your fighter of choice, make sure you know all the basic tricks of the trade to keep you one step ahead of the opposition. Here's how to use Tieups, Stuns, Submissions and Pins to best effect, plus, if you're really stuck, a sure-fire way to win any match in one-player. Once you've checked out this lot, turn over and decide which fighter suits you best.

WIN MATCHES EASILY



1 Beat up the enemy outside of the ring until the Ring Out countdown has 2 seconds left, then perform a move that'll stun them



2 Then run back into the ring quick! Do this by holding R2 to run towards ring, then press L1 when near the ring to slide inside

WRESTLER CREATIONS



1 All wrestlers have moves in common, and 23 unique ones. One must be a Finisher and one a Trademark move



2 Then you can add 1x9 point damage move, 2x8 damage, 3x7, 4x6, 5x5 damage and 4x4 point moves



3 Make sure these are 1) Easy to do and 2) Moves you like to look at! Ensure they're all easy to do alone and as combos

STATS SCREEN

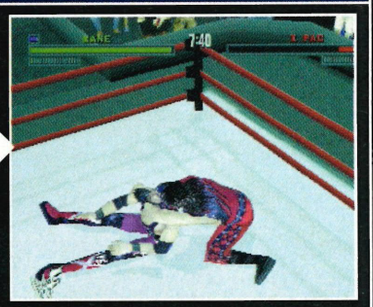


If a match is drawn a stats screen shows the moves used. The winner's the one with the most variety

SPIRIT METER

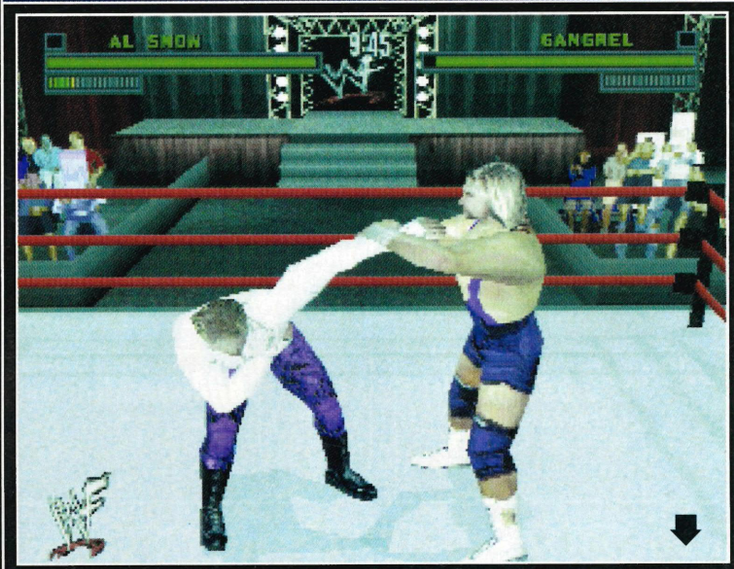


1 The Spirit Meter's a bar which changes colour as a wrestler takes more damage. If a wrestler is not in action, the bar rises slowly



2 Move quickly or the other bloke's Spirit Meter refills. If you use the same moves repeatedly, it won't lower at all: use combos instead

TIEUPS



1 There are nine different moves from a Tieup, which include Punch, Kick or Tieup alone or one/two pad directions and these buttons



3 Moves with D-Pad + Tieup beat just Kick. D-Pad + Punch beats Punch and D-Pad + Kick beats Tieup



2 In a two-person Tieup, the wrestler who performs the simplest move will come out tops nine times out of ten

STUNS, SUBMISSIONS AND PINS



Get hit by a variety of moves and you'll be stunned. You have to tap any button at speed to wake yourself up



Stun your opponent and you'll have time for one move before they wake up. Make sure it counts



Submission/Pin holds drain your opponent's health. If it hits zero before the count is up, they'll submit. Victory!

»

CHARACTERS AND MOVES

WWF Attitude has over 400 moves. But don't let that put you off. It's quite easy to become a master.

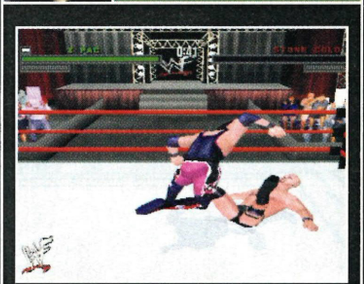
KILLER MOVES TO CREAM THE COMPETITION

Just take one wrestler at a time and, with the help of these Finisher and trademark moves that aren't normally shown on the in-game Moves List, you'll be a budding Big Daddy before you know it!



X-PAC

Catchphrase: 'I got two words for you... SUCK IT!'



■ Finisher: X-Factor (Standing up, facing downed opponents): ↑↓, Tieup. Trademark: Bronco Buster (Opponent stunned in corner): ↑↓, Punch



BAD ASS BILLY GUNN

Catchphrase: 'Kiss my royal ass'

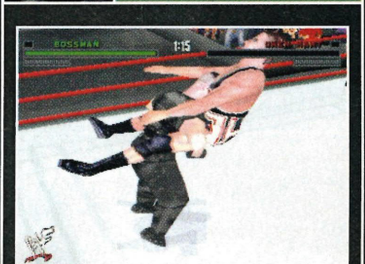


■ Finisher: Fame Asser (Standing): →←↓, Punch. Trademark: Ass Kisser (Opponent stunned in corner): ↑↑, Kick



BIG BOSSMAN

Catchphrase: 'You're gonna serve hard time!'

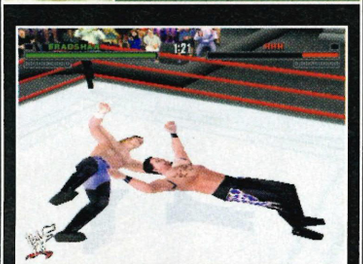


■ Finisher: Sidewalk Slam (Tieup): ←↑, Kick. Trademark: Bossman Slam (opponent running): Kick



BRADSHAW

Catchphrase: None

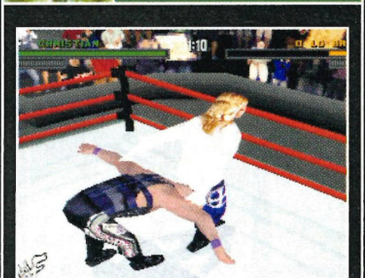


■ Finisher: Fallaway Slam (Standing): ←↓, Tieup. Trademark: Powerbomb (Tieup): ↑↓, Kick



CHRISTIAN

Catchphrase: Always silent

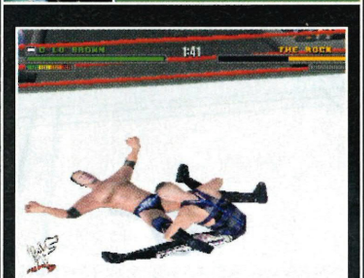


■ Finisher: The Impaler (Standing): ↓↑↓, Tieup. Trademark: Falling Reverse DDT (Standing): ←→, Kick



D-LO BROWN

Catchphrase: 'You better recognise!'

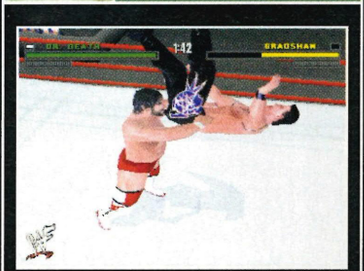


■ Finisher: Lo Down (Opponent stunned on floor, you on rope): Tieup, Block. Trademark: Sky High (facing opponent): ↓↑, Kick



DR DEATH

Catchphrase: None

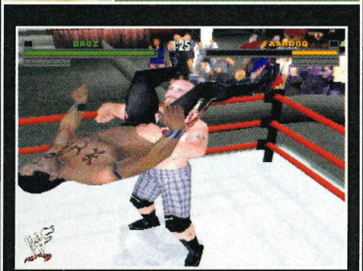


■ Finisher: Oklahoma Stampede (Standing while opponent is in corner): ↑↓, Kick. Trademark: Dr Bomb (Standing): ↓↑↓, Tieup

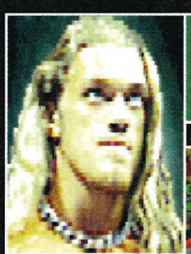


DROZ

Catchphrase: None

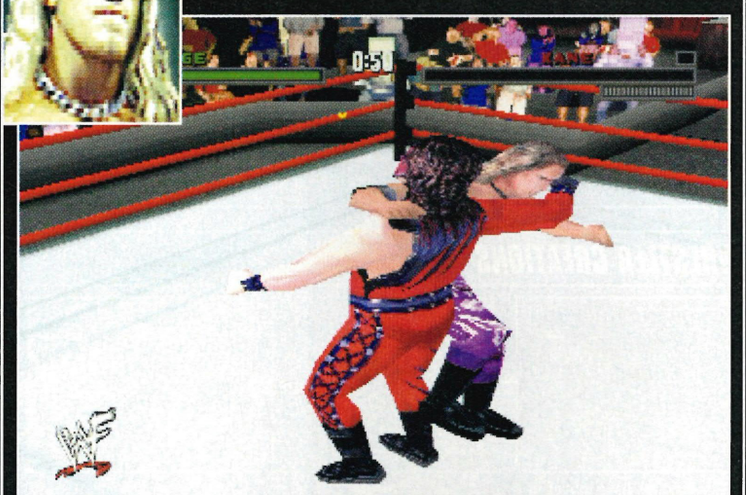


■ Finisher: New Jersey Naptime (Tieup): ←→, Punch. Trademark: Double Underhook Suplex (Standing): ←↓, Tieup



EDGE

Catchphrase: Roars



■ Finisher: Downward Spiral (Standing): ↑↓, Kick. Trademark: Dragon Suplex (Back of opponent): →↓, Punch

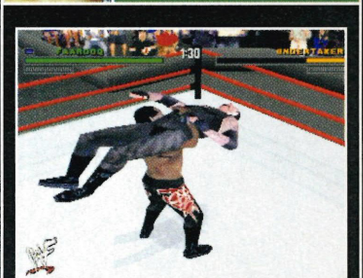
NOTE:

Finishing moves can only be performed when opponent's energy bar is red and trademark moves only work when opponent's power bar is any colour other than green.



FAROOQ

Catchphrase: None

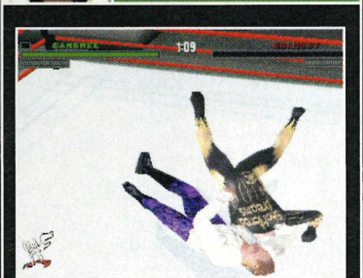


■ Finisher: Dominator (Standing): ←→↓, Tieup. Trademark: Spine Buster (Standing): ↑↓, Tieup



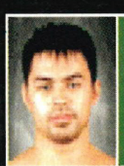
GANGREL

Catchphrase: None



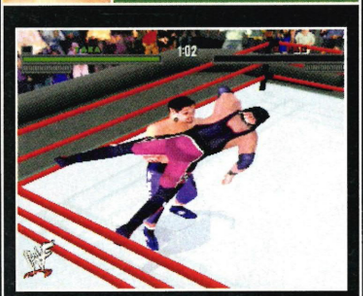
■ Finisher: Implant DDT (Standing): ↑↓, Kick. Trademark (Tie Up): Floatover Vertical Suplex: ←, Tieup

■ It's hard to keep a good man down



TAKA MICHINOKU

Catchphrase: None

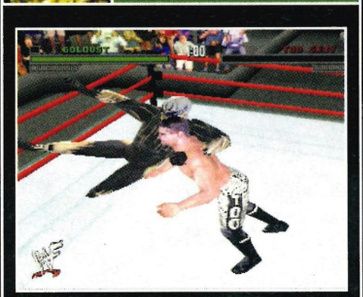


■ Finisher: Michinoku Driver (Standing): ◀ ▶⬇, punch. Trademark: Swinging DDT (Opponent in corner): ⬆⬇ Kick



GOLDUST

Catchphrase: 'Remember the name of... Goldust!'



■ Finisher: Curtain Call (Tieup behind opponent): ◀⬆, Tieup. Trademark: Shattered Dreams (Opponent facing corner stunned): ◀▶, Punch



UNDERTAKER

Catchphrase: 'Rest... in... peace, sucker!'

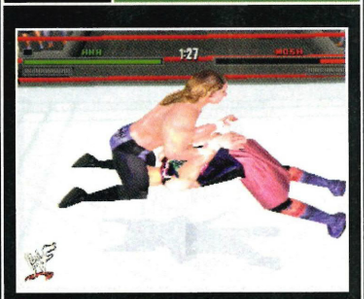


■ Finisher: Undertaker's Tombstone (Standing): ⬆⬇⬆, Tieup. Trademark: Chokeslam (Opponent in corner): ⬆⬇, Punch



HHH

Catchphrase: 'It's my time!'



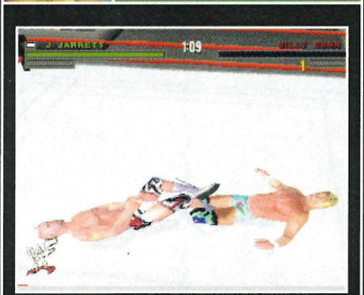
■ Finisher: Pedigree (Ready move): ⬆⬇⬇, Tieup. Trademark: Knee To Face (Standing): ◀⬇, Kick

Instant Expert: WWF Attitude



JEFF JARRET

Catchphrase: 'Don't piss me off!'

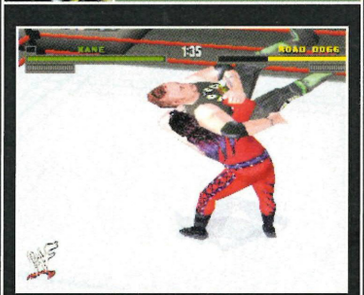


■ Finisher: Figure 4 Leglock (At feet of opponent on ground): ←■→↓, Kick. Trademark: Front Russian Legsweep (Behind opponent): ←, Punch



KANE

Catchphrase: Always ominously silent



■ Finisher: Tombstone Piledriver (Standing): ↑↑↓, Tieup. Trademark: Choke Slam (Tieup): ←→, Punch



MOSH

Catchphrase: None



■ Finisher: Mosh Pit (On turnbuckle, opponent down): Kick + Punch. Trademark: Running Butt Bump (Running at stunned opponent in corner): Kick



KEN SHAMROCK

Catchphrase: 'Get outta my way!'



■ Finisher: Ankle Lock (opponent on ground, by feet): ←↓→, Kick. Trademark: High Angle Suplex (Standing): ←↑, Tieup



OWEN HART

Catchphrase: 'Say your prayers, eat your vitamins and drink your milk!'

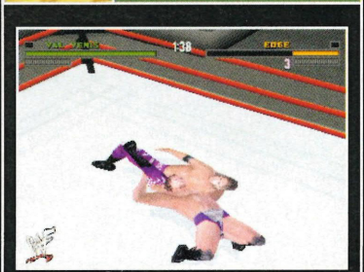


■ Finisher: Sharpshooter (At feet of downed opponent): ←↑←, Kick. Trademark: Enziguri (Standing): ↑↓, Kick



VAL VENUS

Catchphrase: 'Hello ladies!'



■ Trademark: Money Shot (opponent stunned , you on top rope): Kick, Punch. Trademark: Fisherman's Suplex (Tieup): →, Punch

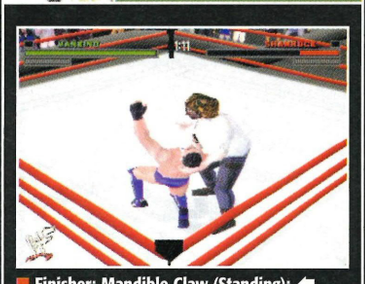
CHEATS – IMPORTANT!

Cheats are gained by winning a Title bout in Career mode. Make sure you save the cheats in the 'save options' choice in the Options/Utilities menu before switching off the machine or you'll lose all of your hard work.

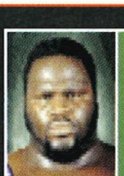


MANKIND

Catchphrase: 'Have a nice day!'

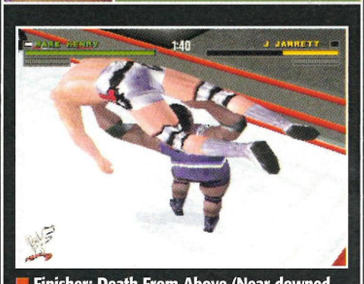


■ Finisher: Mandible Claw (Standing): ←→↓, Tieup. Trademark: Double arm DDT (Standing): →←↓, Punch



MARK HENRY

Catchphrase: None



■ Finisher: Death From Above (Near downed opponent): ←→↑, Tieup. Trademark: Gorilla Press Slam (Standing): ↑↓↑, Punch

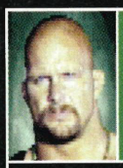


THE ROCK

Catchphrase: 'Can you smell what The Rock is cookin'?'



■ Finisher: Rock Bottom (Standing): ←→↓, Tieup. Trademark: People's Elbow (running at downed opponent): Tieup



'STONE COLD' STEVE AUSTIN

Catchphrase: 'And that's the bottom line.'



■ Finisher: Stone Cold Stunner (Standing): ↑ ↓ ↑, Tieup. Trademark: Vertical Body Press (Running): Tieup

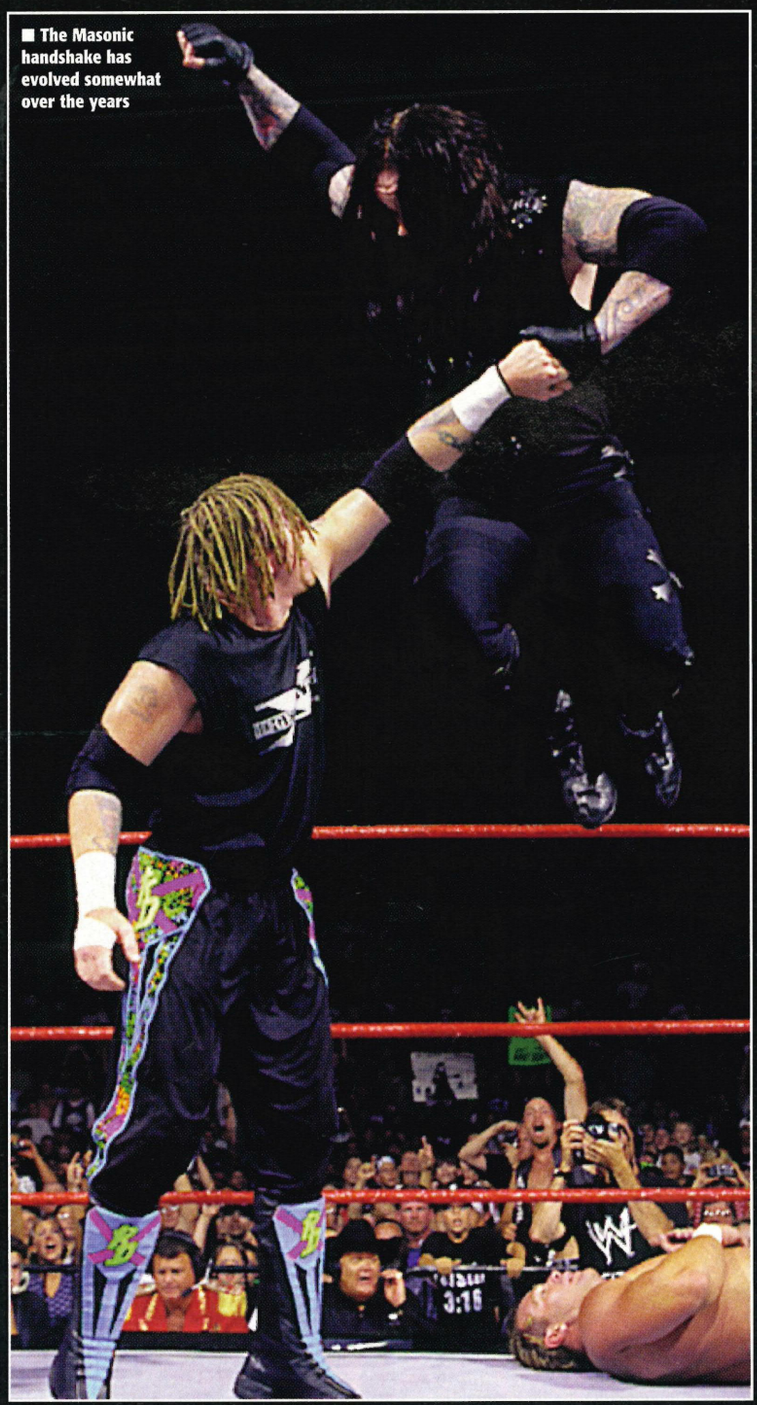


STEVE BLACKMAN

Catchphrase: None



■ Finisher: Pump Kick (Standing): ← ↓, Tieup. Trademark: Four Kick Combo (Opponent in corner): ↑ ↑ Tieup



■ The Masonic handshake has evolved somewhat over the years



THRASHER

Catchphrase: None

■ Finisher: Stage Dive (On turnbuckle, opponent down): Kick + Punch. Trademark: Running Butt Bump (Running at opponent in corner): Kick



TOO SEXY

Catchphrase: None

■ Finisher: Tennessee Jam (On turnbuckle, opponent down): Block + Tieup. Trademark: Front Russian Leg Sweep (Behind opponent): ←, Punch



ROAD DOGG

Catchphrase: 'Oh you didn't know? Your ass better call somebody!'

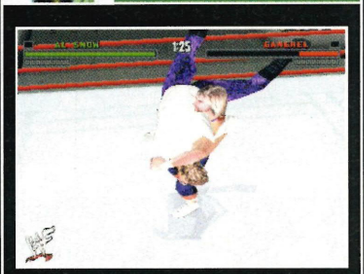


■ Finisher: Stretch Armstrong (Tieup from back): → ←, Kick. Trademark: Crazy knee drop (Opponent stunned on ground): → ←, Tieup



AL SNOW

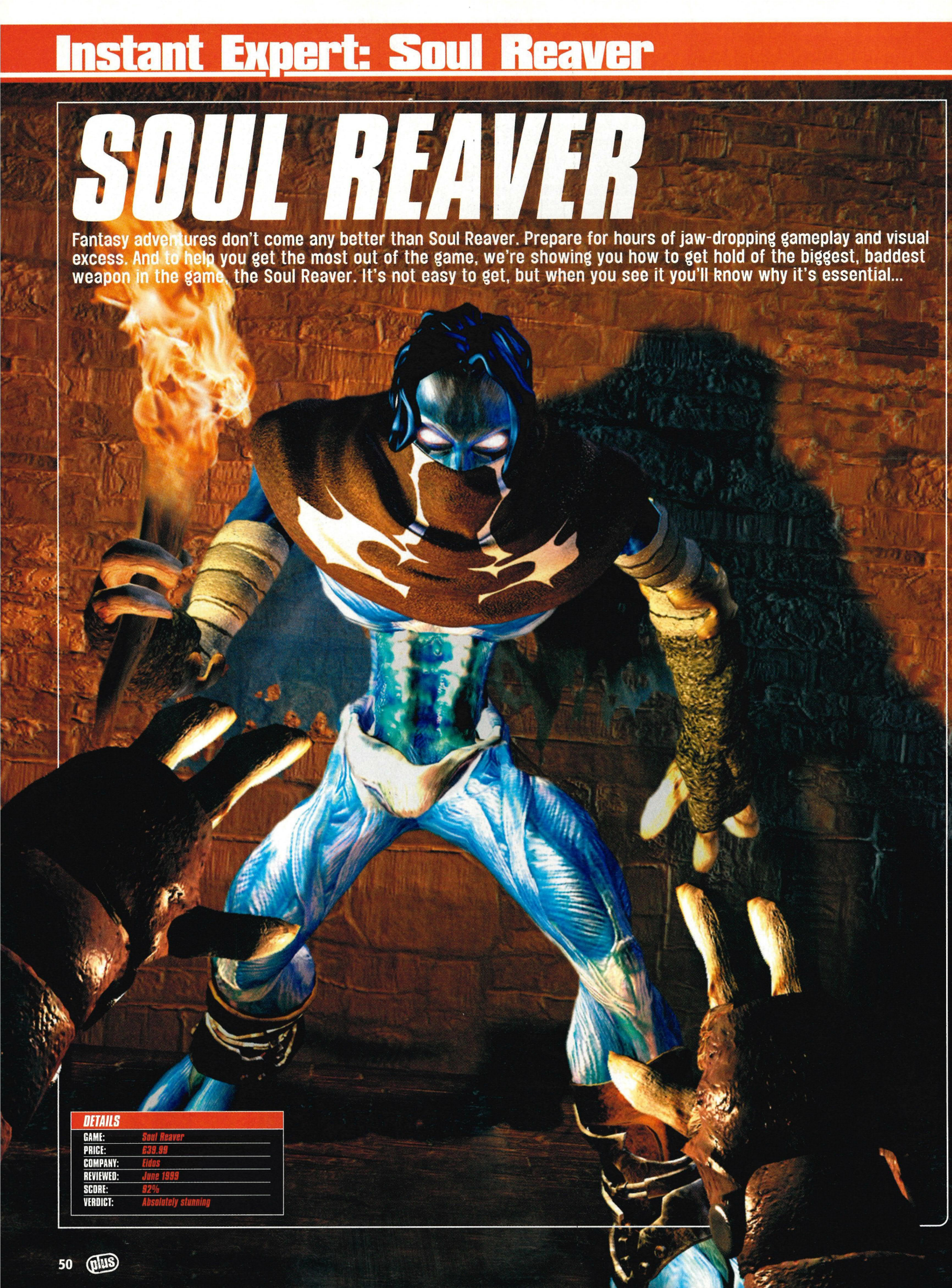
Catchphrase: None



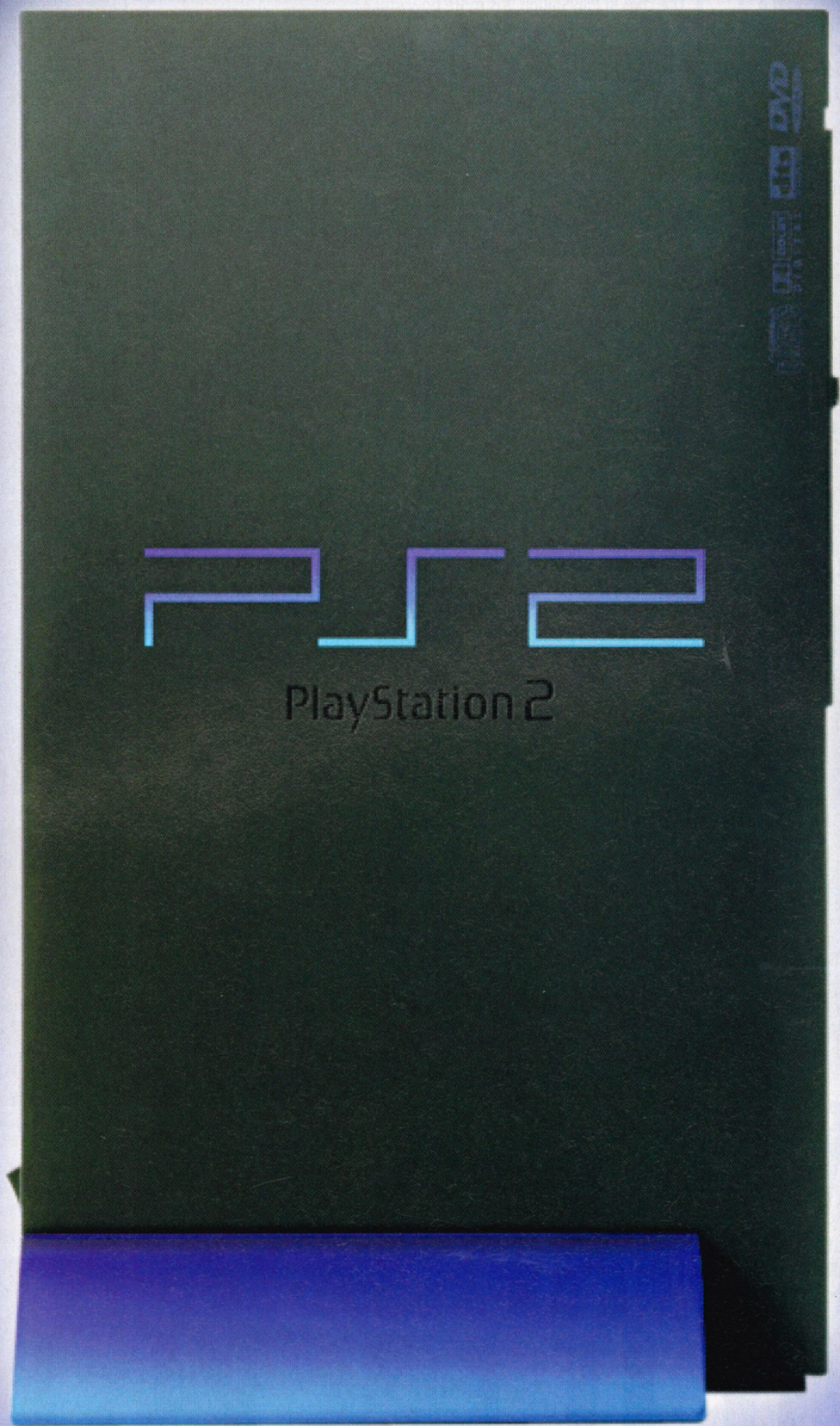
■ Finisher: Snow Plough (Tieup): ← ↑, Punch. Trademark: Underhook Headbutts (Tieup): ←, Tieup

SOUL REAVER

Fantasy adventures don't come any better than Soul Reaver. Prepare for hours of jaw-dropping gameplay and visual excess. And to help you get the most out of the game, we're showing you how to get hold of the biggest, baddest weapon in the game, the Soul Reaver. It's not easy to get, but when you see it you'll know why it's essential...



DETAILS	
GAME:	Soul Reaver
PRICE:	£39.99
COMPANY:	Eidos
REVIEWED:	June 1999
SCORE:	92%
VERDICT:	Absolutely stunning



'HEAT BLUR OFF CARS. SWEAT ON A FIGHTER'S FACE. AN ARMY IN PANIC. SEAMLESS ACTION AND HIGH EMOTION. YOU'VE NEVER FELT ANYTHING LIKE IT'

JOYPADS

PlayStation 2 will come bundled with a Dual Shock 2 controller. All the buttons on Dual Shock 2 are analogue: how hard you press will have a noticeable effect on in-game movement, allowing for super-precise control. There are other new high-tech peripherals in the pipeline, including voice-activated devices. You'll also be able to use your existing Dual Shock pad.

BRAIN POWER

The chip in PlayStation 2 is more powerful than those used in the most powerful PCs. It can handle hundreds of detailed and fast moving characters on screen at once, all with levels of artificial intelligence that'll make the most devious game characters on your current console look like morons.

SUPERFAST PORT

This ultra-powerful port will allow for future add-ons such as a hard drive, due out in 2001, which will let you download videos, music and PS2 games from a Sony website. It will also be used to connect networks of PS2 players playing games too fast and complex for existing internet technology to handle. It may also be used to bring you interactive digital TV channels.



MEMORY CARDS

PS2 uses memory cards eight times more powerful and 250 times as fast as the ones for existing PlayStation. Games will load and save instantly, at any moment during gameplay.

MODEM PORT

This port allows connection to the internet via a phone line or mobile phone line, allowing you to browse the net, use e-mail or play games like the multiplayer RPG Everquest, already in development for PlayStation 2. You'll have to buy a separate modem, though.

PLAYSTATION 2

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE,

YOU'RE LOOKING AT THE ULTIMATE HOME ENTERTAINMENT MACHINE. IT PLAYS YOUR G



WHAT IT DOES

MES. YOUR MOVIES. YOUR MUSIC. WE LIKE IT

DVD/CD PLAYER

PlayStation 2 plays metallic blue DVD discs and normal music and game CDs. It'll run super-sharp videos and PlayStation 2 games stored on the DVD format, and audio CDs and your current PlayStation games in CD format.

WHEN & HOW MUCH?

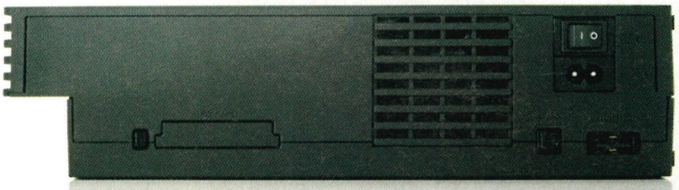
A million PlayStation 2's will be hitting the shelves in Japan on March 4 next year, priced £242. The price over here when PlayStation 2's released in autumn is liable to be about £299, bundled with a controller and memory card. But if you want one before that, expect to pay £800 or more for an import version.



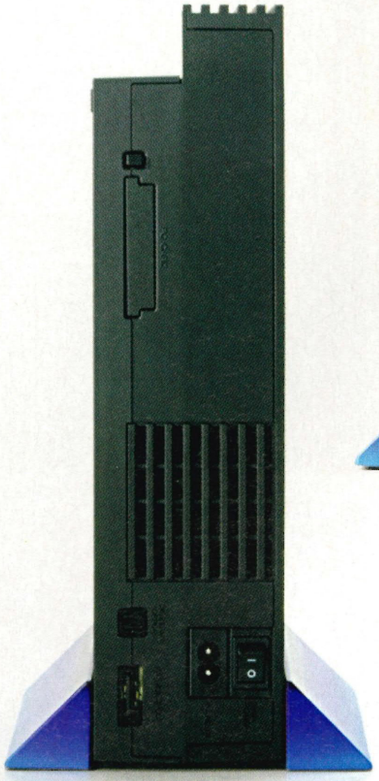
You can buy sky blue feet for your PS 2 so it can stand on its end by your TV, like a PC tower



The front of PS 2 in its upright position. The blue ports accept connections for super-quick and reliable links to hard drives and the web



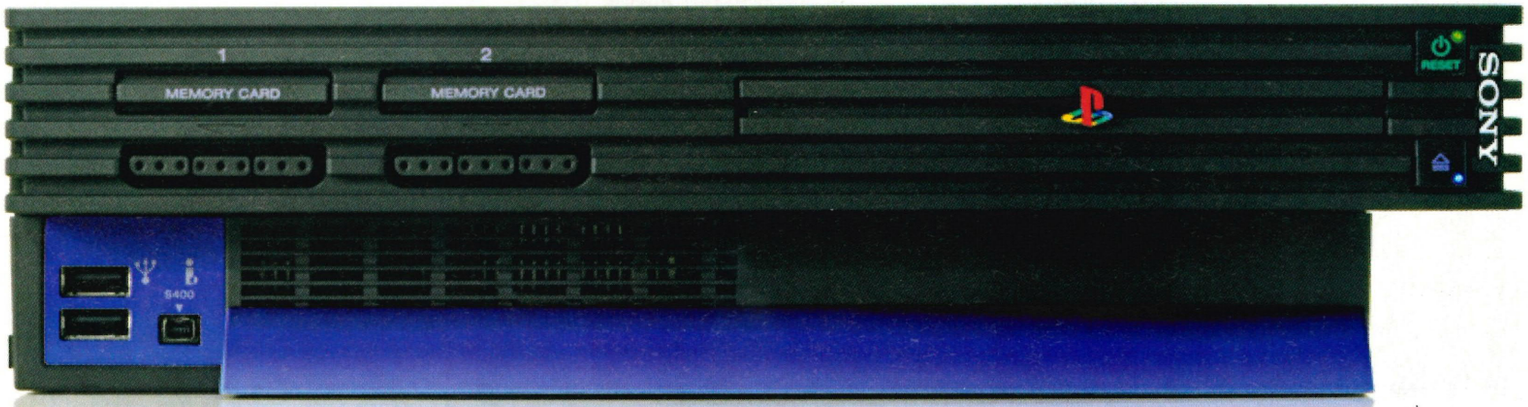
Beneath the big flap to the left hides slots to plug in everything from internet connections to digital cameras



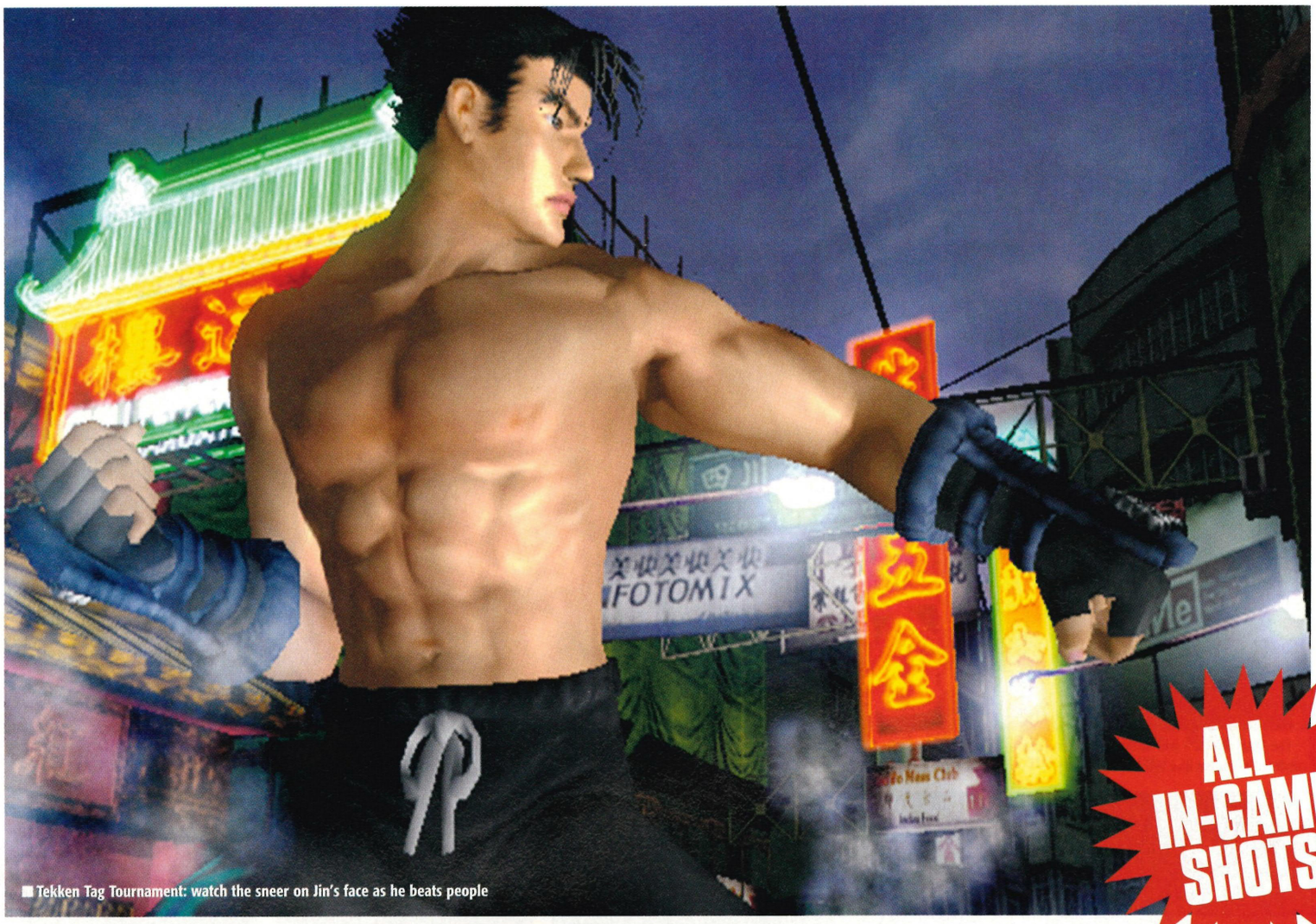
The small square slot (bottom left) takes an optical cable to allow you to record to MiniDisc



Sony wants PS 2 to be 'a digital audio-visual product' and not just a games console. Fine by us



The front of PS 2 as most of us will see it. We're surprised by just the two joypad ports but a multiplayer adaptor is a certainty



■ Tekken Tag Tournament: watch the sneer on Jin's face as he beats people

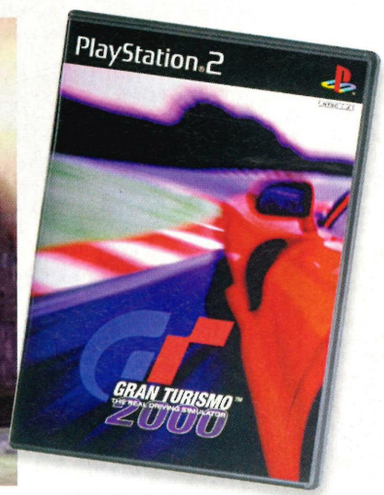
ALL IN-GAME SHOTS

NOW SEE THE GAMES

SEE WHAT PS 2 WILL DO FOR YOU. THE GAMES, THE EXPERIENCE, THE FUTURE



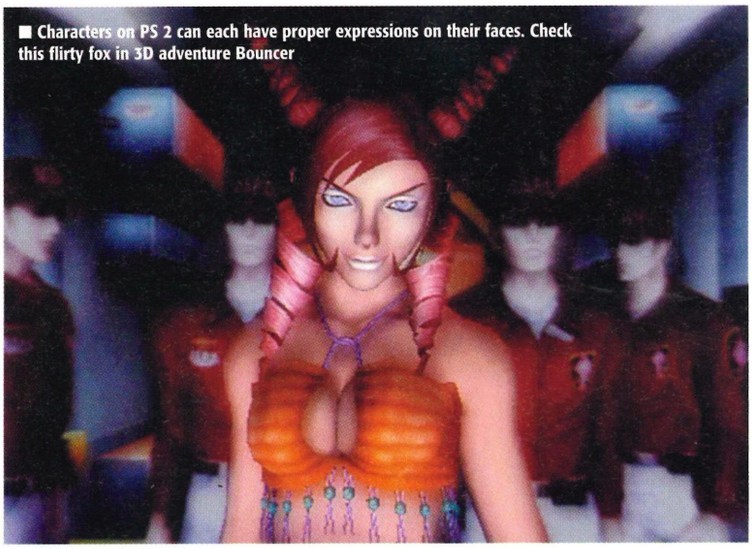
■ The warring robots look unbelievably solid and real in sci-fi battling game Armored Core 2. And just check those lighting effects



■ Big PlayStation 2 games like this will come on high-density DVD discs



■ Cyberpunk fighters face off in X-Fire. Subtle lighting effects make it look as if the characters really are standing there



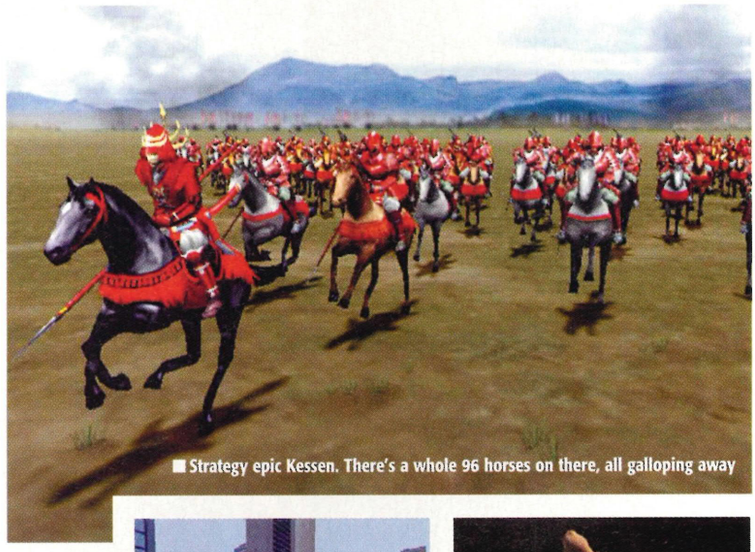
■ Characters on PS 2 can each have proper expressions on their faces. Check this flirty fox in 3D adventure Bouncer



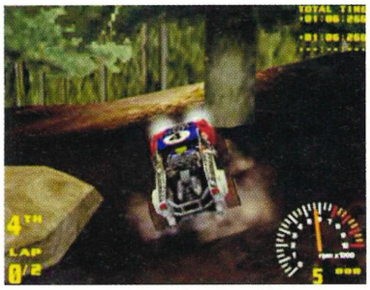
■ The animation is super-smooth as the dolphins glide past in Splash Dive



■ Ridge Racer 5: you never thought you'd see a videogame that looked this good



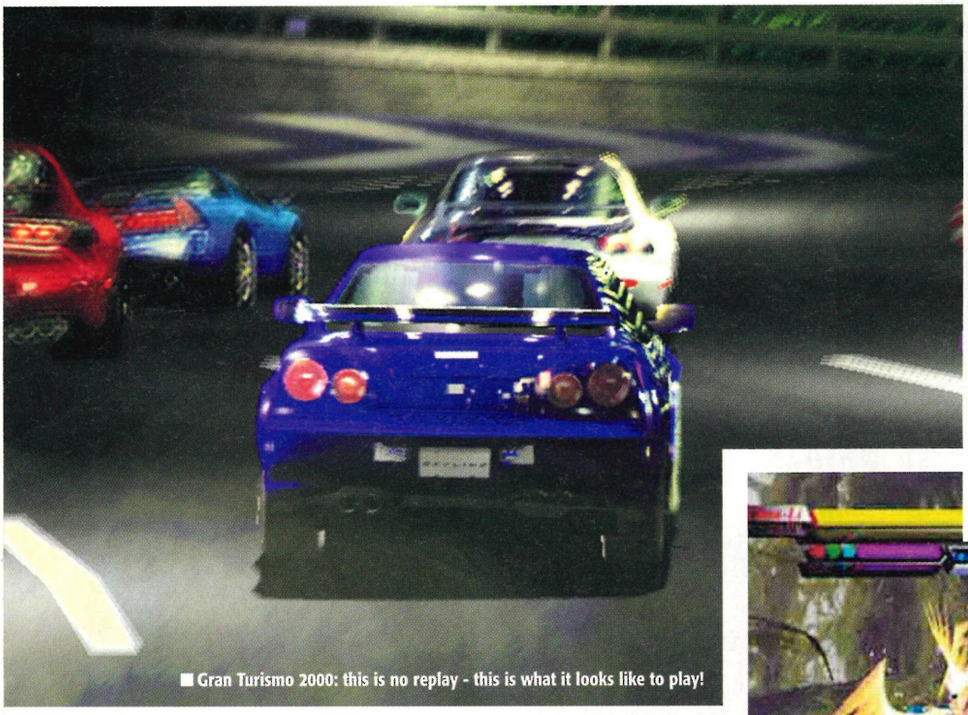
■ Strategy epic Kessen. There's a whole 96 horses on there, all galloping away



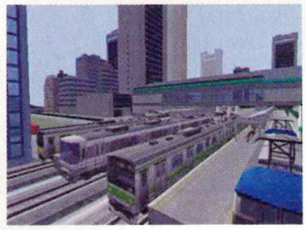
■ The Dual Shock 2 will allow super-responsive controls in games like Wild Wild Racing



■ Cutesy RPGs like The King and I will have hundreds of speaking characters



■ Gran Turismo 2000: this is no replay - this is what it looks like to play!



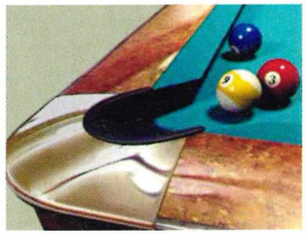
■ Transport sim A-Train 6: it looks like a video of a real city



■ Baki the Grappler. The fighters' muscles are unbelievably detailed



■ American Arcade lets you check out loads of amusement machines



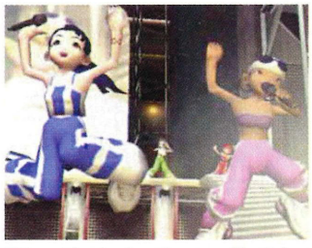
■ Billiard Master 2: this is no render, this is a shot as it will look in the game



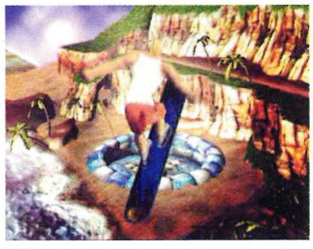
■ The Street Fighter series lives on! SF Ex 3 on PlayStation 2 looks excellent - and you can have four players fighting on screen at once



■ Explosive lighting is stunning



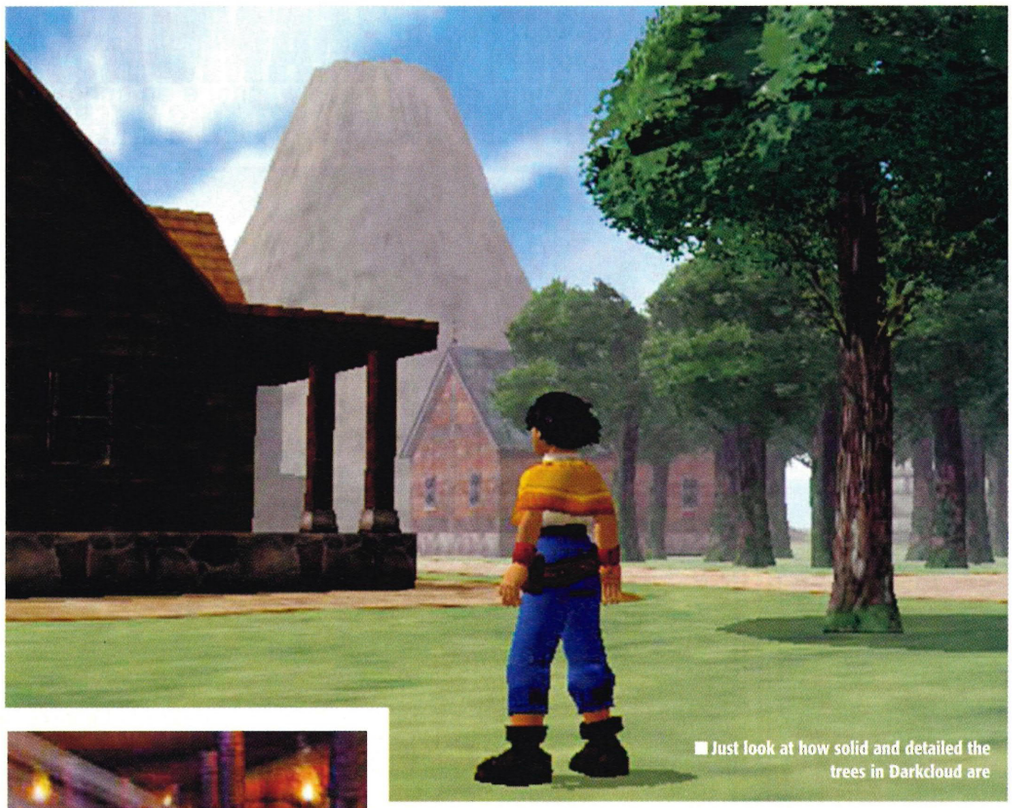
■ Expect loads of music games like Unison on PS 2 thanks to the high-quality sound



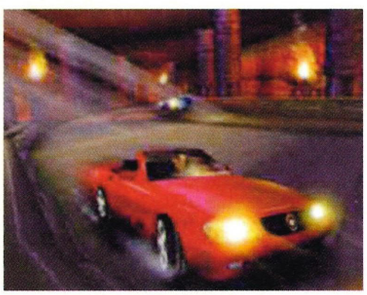
■ Sky Surfer: imagine skateboarding 500 feet above the earth



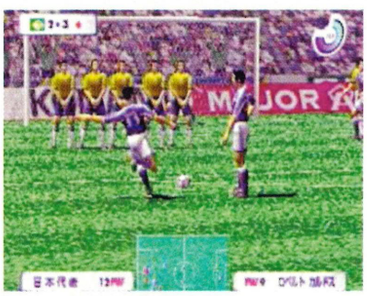
■ Drum Mania sounds cool with PS 2's sharp audio



Just look at how solid and detailed the trees in Darkcloud are



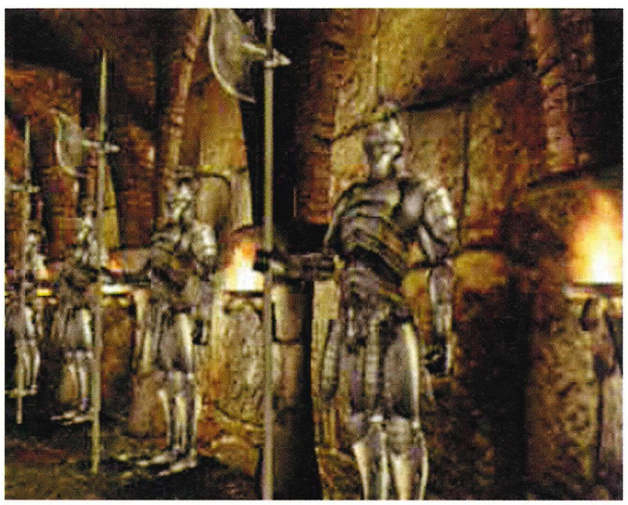
Over-the-top lighting in Roadstar Trophy 2000



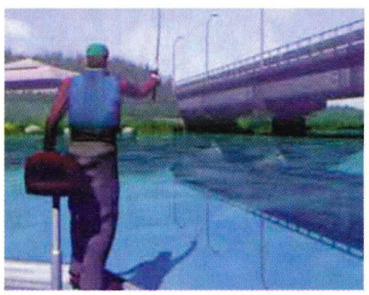
ISS 2000 has stunning player movement



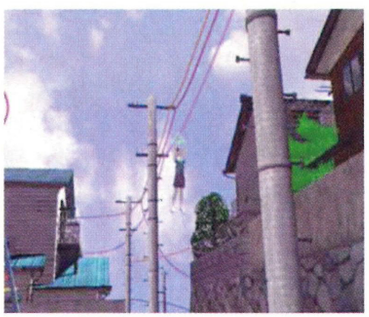
Samurai epic Oni Musha: rain, misery and swords



Epic RPG Eternal Ring looks about as good as any sword and sorcery film you'd care to name - and there's no blokes in silly monster costumes in here



Fishing game Lake Master Ex



Electric Wires: weird hover-girl game on show

THE BIG 'UNS

TOMB RAIDER 5
Lara's first adventure on PS 2 – there are rumours it could be multiplayer

METAL GEAR SOLID 2
Snake returns. Imagine its awesome environments but on PS 2

TEKKEN TAG TOURNAMENT
A brushed-up Tekken gang slug it out in teams of two

FINAL FANTASY 9
The characters look unbelievably sharp in this RPG epic

TIME CRISIS 4
Lightgun lunacy again

HAND OF ODD
More Oddworld madness, but now in 3D

CRASH BANDICOOT 4
Could be multiplayer mayhem this time with the critter from Down Under

SAMURAI SHODOWN 2
Kung fu punch ups with huge groups fighting on screen at once

OTHER PS 2 GAMES IN THE PIPELINE

Age of Empires - Command and Conquer in tights
Baldur's Gate - gimpy Dungeons and Dragons style RPG
Bloody Roar 3 - animal beat 'em up
Bomberman 2001 - multiplayer blast
Dragon's Lair - role-playing bonanza
Ehrgeiz 2 - odd beat 'em up with Final Fantasy characters
Evolva - weird monster-infested RPG
Furballs - cutesy characters go nuts with huge guns
Kessen - real-time war strategy
Jade Coccoon 2 - lush monster-breeding RPG sequel
Messiah - weird 3D actioner starring an angel that can possess people
Nooks and Crannies - sinister monster-breeding strategy
Panic Surfing - hit the waves
Power Stone 2 - frantic Street Fighter-esque 3D fighting action
Rayman 3 - yup, our first thought was 'Oh God' as well
Sidewinder Max - a hardcore 3D punch 'n' blast fest

PLAYSTATION 2 VERSUS THE DREAMCAST

SHOULD YOU WAIT FOR PS 2 TO LAUNCH HERE OR SHOULD YOU BUY DREAMCAST THIS WEEKEND?



■ PS 2: fast, future-proof, and fantastic – but you've got a 12-month wait



■ Dreamcast: you can get it tomorrow but is it worth the cash?

'WHAT WILL PS 2 COST?'

In Japan it will cost around £227 bundled with a Dual Shock 2 controller, a demo disc and a memory card. Expect the price to be closer to £300 here in the UK.

VS

'WHAT DOES DREAMCAST COST?'

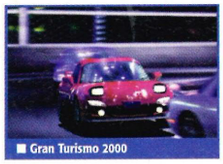
Sega's new console costs £199 and comes bundled with a controller, a couple of cables and a disc which allows you to get online to send emails or play games.

'WHAT ARE PS 2 GAMES LIKE?'

PlayStation 2 games look stunning. Dozens of separate characters, effects like heat haze and smoke, individual expressions on people's faces – it'll go on getting better.



■ Tekken Tag Team



■ Gran Turismo 2000



■ Final Fantasy 9

VS

'WHAT ARE DREAMCAST GAMES LIKE?'

House of the Dead 2, Sega Rally 2 and Soul Calibur all look pretty cool but, at the end of the day, are little more than jumped-up arcade games.



■ House of the Dead 2



■ Sega Rally 2



■ Soul Calibur

'HOW MANY PS 2 GAMES WILL THERE BE?'

There's 89 stunning-looking titles confirmed already, with 128 in development. Many developers are ignoring Dreamcast in favour of PlayStation 2. You'll also be able to play all your current PlayStation games on it.

VS

'HOW MANY DREAMCAST GAMES WILL THERE BE?'

By the end of October there'll be 25 games available for Dreamcast, with more in the pipeline. But a lot of the blockbusters are disappointing. Sega Rally 2's very basic to play, House of the Dead 2's dumb, and Sonic Adventure's just plain weird.

'WHAT ADD-ONS CAN I USE WITH IT?'

You'll be able to use your existing Dual Shock pad and the all-analogue Dual Shock 2 for finer control. The memory card is 250 times quicker than your existing one. There's no modem fitted but there's a port to allow super-fast modems as add-ons.

VS

'WHAT ADD-ONS CAN I USE WITH IT?'

You can get a keyboard, a lightgun, joypads, and a special memory card that allows you to play little sub-games on the LCD screen. The joypad's clunky, though, and it's only got four buttons. Plus the built-in 24k modem for net stuff is pretty slow.

'WHAT CAN IT DO APART FROM PLAYING GAMES?'

You'll be able to play audio CDs, watch films on DVD, browse the net and send e-mails. In 2001, an add-on will allow you to download entire games straight off Sony's website, skipping out on visiting the high street entirely.

VS

'WHAT CAN IT DO APART FROM PLAYING GAMES?'

It'll let you browse the internet, send emails and visit Sega's website where you can download sub-games for the Virtual Memory System. If you like using the net for games, though, watch out. There's no online Dreamcast games available till spring.

WHAT ABOUT OTHER GAME SYSTEMS?

PROJECT DOLPHIN

Dolphin is Nintendo's project due out in the UK at the same time as PlayStation 2. Details are sketchy and there are no screenshots available but, unsurprisingly, Nintendo say it'll be more powerful than PlayStation 2.

X-BOX

Microsoft are supposed to be developing their first games console, rumoured to be ten times more powerful than PlayStation 2 and called the X-Box. It'll use high-end PC technology. As yet, there's no release date.

SO, DO I GET DREAMCAST NOW OR PLAYSTATION 2 IN 12 MONTHS?

The answer is PlayStation 2! You can forget Dolphin and X-Box as they're hardly off the drawing board. A handful of Dreamcast games boast impressive visuals but the Sega machine can't touch PlayStation 2's graphics power, movie-playing, online capability or fantastic selection of games and add-ons. Waiting a year for PS 2 is a downer. But it'll give you time to start saving.

GET THE BIG-ASS SWORD

It's gonna be a long, winding journey, one which you're likely to be lost in, unless you follow this guide...

1



When you first appear in the physical world, Kain's castle is to your right. Take a spear hanging from the wall. Spears and staffs are the best thing for dealing with vampires. Take out the two bloodsuckers and head down the path opposite the castle, and then take the right fork and go over the bridge

2



After the cutscene finishes, you'll need to jump over to the cave opening directly to the left of where you're standing

3



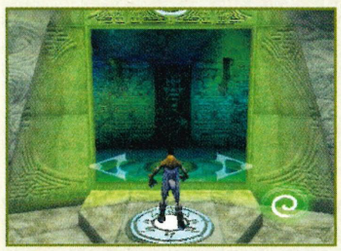
First up, kill the Dumahim vampire guarding the door. Now follow the path along to the left

4



To open the huge gate behind Raziel, kill the two guards. Carry on up the steps until you reach a small bonfire with a door on either side of it

5



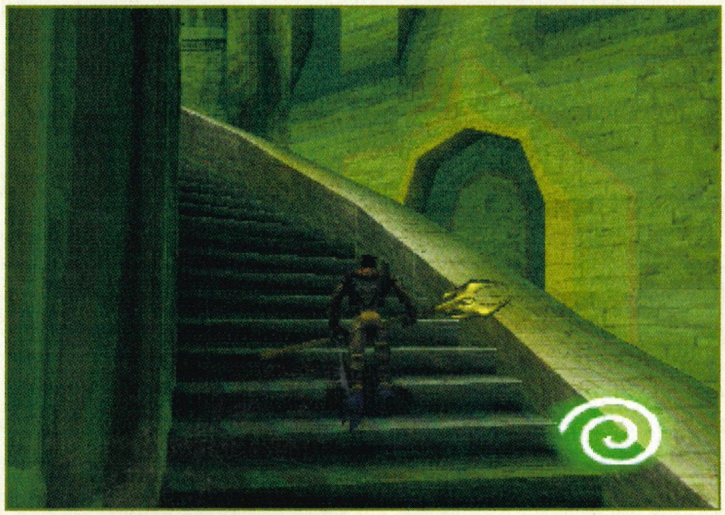
Take the right door, then activate the portal. Now head back to where you came from and go through the other door

6



Nail the two vampires along the way and pass through the heavy metal gate at the end. Head towards the right of the next room

7



Follow the passage around to a large, rambling courtyard. Run up the spiral staircase that hugs the central tower. Pull the switch at the top and walk over the lowered drawbridge

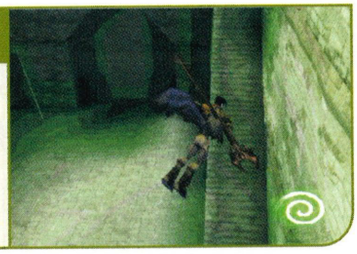


Blue skin, white eyes and silly scarf, we'd say he's a little on the 'special' side

»

Instant Expert: Soul Reaver

8



As ever, the view from the ledge is really foggy. What you've got to do is hold your breath and jump off the platform, and then glide towards the right staircase which will appear from out of the fog. After the gruesome cutscene, kill the two flesh-eating vampires. After dealing with the vamps, head through the gate on the right

9



You're in a graveyard. There's a spear by the left-hand wall. Go towards the right corner of the graveyard

10



Move the stone block to the left-hand edge of the wall, allowing you to climb up the ledge

11



After the next cutscene, you should head up either of the ramps beside the fire

12



Kill the two vamps and go through the iron gate nearest the shaft of sunlight. Now go down the stairs and through the portal and along the passageway to the left

13



Jump across platforms. At the other end, kill the bloodsucker and go through the door above. Deal with the two vamps and go through the next door

14



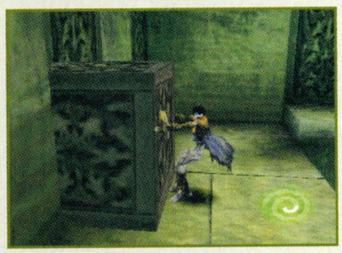
You're now in a room with no obvious way out. Change to the spectral plane. Climb up on to the pillars that came out of the wall

15



At the top, change back to the material plane. Glide towards the ledge on the left. Move the stone block on to the opposite end of the ledge and into the hole. Then go through the gate that's opened

16



Opposite you, there's a cube in the wall, take it out and drag it on to the lowest level of the room. From here, move it up so it's on the same level as the gate. Place it in the hole next to the gate

17



Go through the opened gate, repeat steps 14-15. Notice a rafter in front of the higher gate? Jump on to it. Move to the right and glide on to the platform sticking out of the right wall

18



Return to the rafter in the spectral plane, jump on to the left ledge. Jump up on to the next rafter, and drop down. Switch planes to enter the room

19



Separate the blocks by pushing them against the ledge. Line up the symbols on the blocks with those in the holes. Push the blocks into the holes

20



■ Go through the opened gate. Push the block off the edge, jump down and place it on the other block. Drag them to the right of the white pillar. Climb up and walk into the triangular pathway

21



■ Follow the path around the lake and go through the door. Pass between the two screwdriver-like pillars. Head towards the far wall and then activate the lift with the switch

22



■ Turn right out of the lift. Go up the ramp and through the door. Turn left out of the door and hit the switch, then turn the crank on the opposite wall. And then head back up in the lift and activate the switch in front of it

23



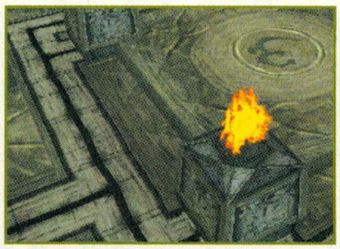
■ Jump down on to the now-sunken floor. As you land, turn around and head to the far right of the room and down the dark, hidden passageway

24



■ You're in a room with four burning blocks. Move each block along their tracks until they burn the roof supports and a cutscene occurs

25



■ Move the burning blocks, so they fit into the corners of the raised platform. Drop down and go through the darker of the two tunnels

26



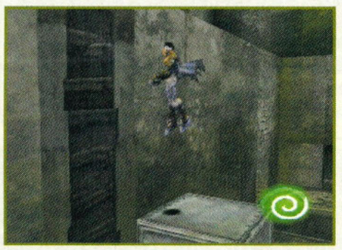
■ Inside this chamber is Raziel's brother, Melchiah. Either side of the cage are two rooms with spiked metal gates. Lure Malchia into one of the rooms and drop the gate with the switch when he's halfway through. Repeat in the second room. Now lure him into the central cage, and when he's in, jump out and activate the switch found in the ramped area – do it fast and he's dead

27



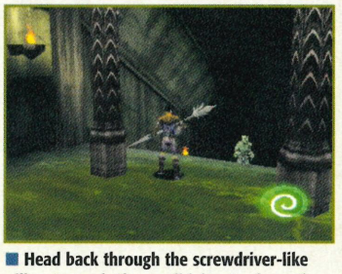
■ Go through the gate in the spectral plane. Follow the path back and go down the opposite tunnel. At the top, drop down and change planes

28



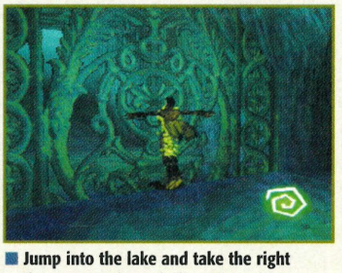
■ Once you've changed to the material plane, drop again and go up the tunnel. Look for a metal block recessed in a wall, pull it out and use it climb up

29



■ Head back through the screwdriver-like pillars towards the small lake. Go down the triangular tunnel towards the larger lake

30



■ Jump into the lake and take the right pathway, pass through the gate and into the room

»

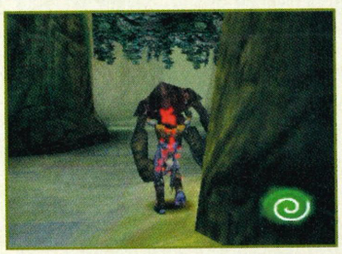
Instant Expert: Soul Reaver

31



■ Push the three pillars over to receive the force glyph. Return to the main lake, use the small platforms to climb to the surface. Enter the portal room to the left

32



■ Go through the portal and head towards Kain's castle, killing the vamps along the way

33



■ At the castle's entrance, change to the spectral plane and go through the far right gate

34



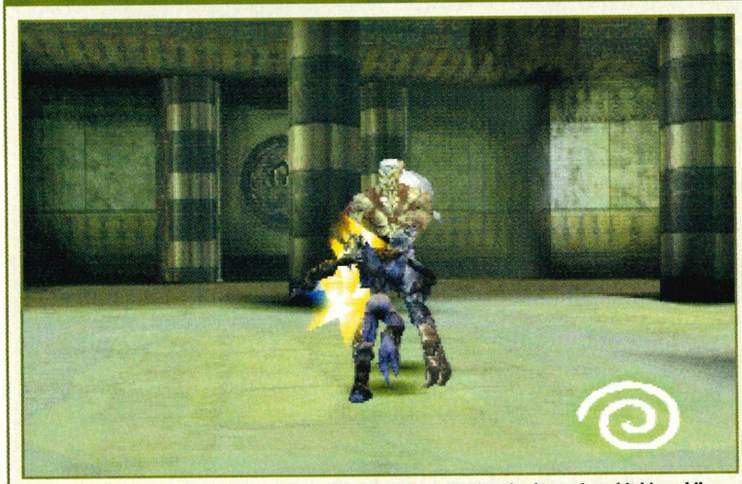
■ Head left, then first right, go over the bridge and go left. Change plane, pass through the gate

35



■ Change plane at the next warper. Opposite is a door, go through and see Kain

36



■ You've got to hit Kain three times to get his Soul Reaver. Your only chance is to hit him while he's charging the Soul Reaver, so run at him quickly as fast as possible to knock him down

37



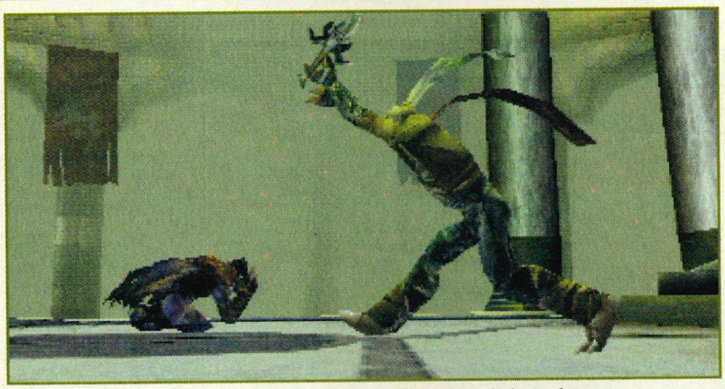
■ Once he's hit, he'll disappear and then reappear elsewhere in the room. The sucker's down and he ain't happy

38



■ Everything looks lost... But after that incredibly epic journey of violence and vampires, you can't give up now

39



■ Kain gives as good as he gets, now he hits you over the head with the Soul Reaver

40



■ Ouch, mind the barnet – it's bloody painful

41



■ And now, after giving it a good fight, you've got the Soul Reaver. Good luck!

Q&A

P56 V-RALLY 2

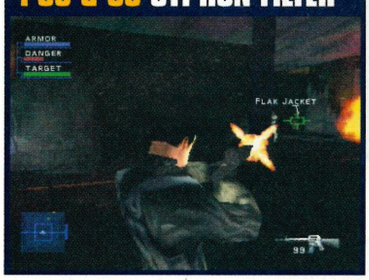
Spills and thrills: all the cars and all the tournaments totally busted



IN Q&A THIS MONTH

P56	ANNA K'S SMASH COURT TENNIS
P55	APE ESCAPE
P57	APOCALYPSE
P57	BRIAN LARA CRICKET
P56	BROKEN SWORD 2
P56	BUST-A-MOVE 4
P58	CIVILISATION 2
P58	COURIER CRISIS
P57	DIE HARD TRILOGY
P57	GEAR GURU
P57	LIVE WIRE!
P58	METAL GEAR SOLID
P56	SILENT HILL
P58	SPYRO THE DRAGON
P55/56	SYPHON FILTER
P58	TIME CRISIS
P58	TOCA
P58	TOMB RAIDER
P58	TOMB RAIDER II
P57	TOTAL DRIVIN'
P57	TRAP RUNNER
P56	V-RALLY 2

P55 & 56 SYPHON FILTER



■ Like James Bond, but with much more violence

P58 METAL GEAR SOLID



■ How to kill Vulcan Raven the second time around

CHOICE CHEATS

IF YOU HAD TROUBLE GETTING LAST MONTH'S CHEATS FOR SYPHON FILTER WORKING, GIVE THESE A TRY. THEY WORK BRILLIANTLY

SYPHON FILTER

Level select

Highlight select mission and press and hold ● ■ L1 R1 L2 R2 and then add ✕ to the buttons held.

All weapons

Highlight weapons select and press and hold SEL ● L1 L2 R2 and then add ✕ to the buttons held.

View all FMVs

Go to the movie theatre in level one. Stand in the doorway and pause the game. Then highlight sound and press and hold ■ L2 R2 ✕. And now go through to the foyer of the theatre. Use ✕ to select the movie you want to see. It's as simple as that.

One kill ammo

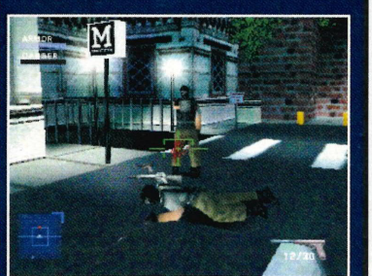
Highlight objectives and press and hold ► ● L1 R1 R2 and then add ✕ to the buttons held.



■ One kill ammo's wimpy, but look at the results

Harder difficulty

At the title screen press and hold ● ■ L1 L2 R2 and then add ✕ to the buttons held.



■ Harder difficulty – strictly for the hardcore

APE ESCAPE

All gadgets

In order to get all the gadgets when you get to the title screen press and hold ● + ■ + ▲ then enter the following: ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ►.



■ All gadgets means a lot of fun

MORE CHOICE CHEATS

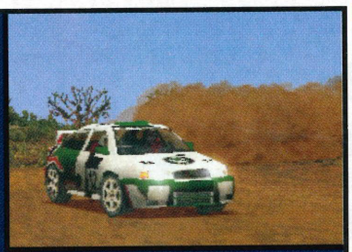
V-RALLY 2

All cars and tournaments

Go to the game options screen and select game progression. Go to any grey box and press L1 R1 ⬅ ➡ ⬅ ➡ ⬆ ⬇ ⬆ ⬇ ⊗ then press ⊗ and SEL at the same time. To select a car or tournament highlight the corresponding grey box and press ⊗.

Enter the following as your player's name for the following effects. And don't forget, wherever there is a dash, always leave a space.

LDN ..... double speed
FLY ..... cars jump higher
CBLC ..... track one
CBLCA ..... track two
CBLCB ..... track three
CBLCC ..... track four
CBLCD ..... track four



■ You can get to the really cool tracks – *fast!*

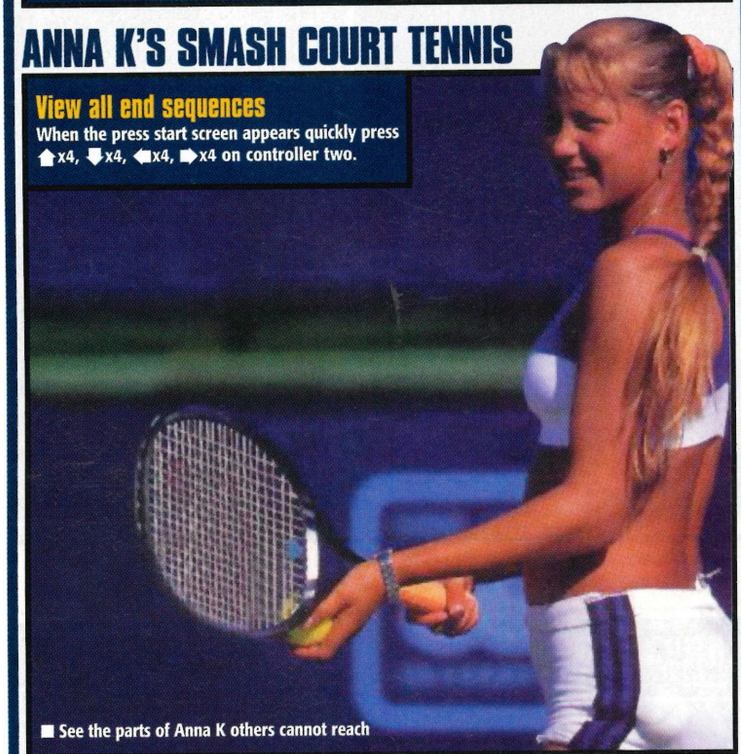


■ Get serious air with our top cheats

ANNA K'S SMASH COURT TENNIS

View all end sequences

When the press start screen appears quickly press ⬆x4, ⬇x4, ⬅x4, ➡x4 on controller two.



■ See the parts of Anna K others cannot reach

SILENT HILL

ORDER OF THE STONES

What is the order of the stones that fit into the door in the hospital in Silent Hill? It is bugging me!
Gary Notman

plus It's a bugger all right. But here's where you place them:

RED	WHITE	BLUE
BLACK		ORANGE
YELLOW	PURPLE	GREEN



■ Silent Hill is officially a bitch when it comes to puzzles

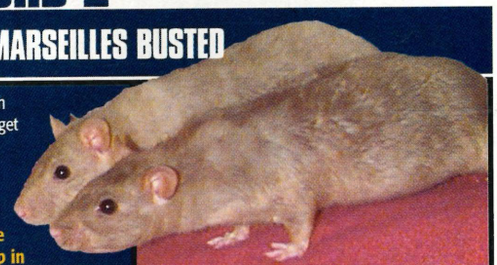
BROKEN SWORD 2

FAT WATCHMAN IN MARSEILLES BUSTED

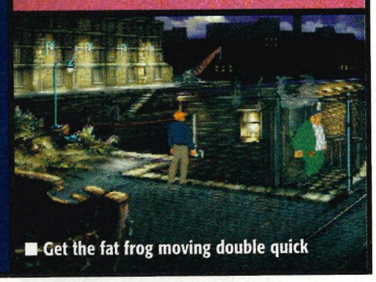
Please let your lab rats help me with Broken Sword 2, especially how to get past the watchman in Marseilles.
David Wood

plus The rats are chomping at the bit. As soon as they hear the words 'Broken Sword', they stop in their tracks. Nothing else matters to them apart from solving your problem, and scoring their next hit of prime Colombian carrot. This is what they came up with before they fell into a carrot-addled coma:

Talk to the fat watchman. Get the hook out of the water and use it on the floating bottle. Go to the hut's chimney and use the bottle on it. Click on the chimney again and use the bottle a second time. The hut should now be full of smoke, meaning the fat bastard watchman has to get off his flabby arse. 'Howzat?' Squeak....



■ These boy's have a taste for puzzles



■ Get the fat frog moving double quick

BUST-A-MOVE 4

HIDDEN PUZZLES

I heard there was a cheat to unlock hidden puzzles for Bust-A-Move 4. Is this true?
Alan Wenter

plus At the title screen press ■ ● ⊗ ■ ●. You'll hear a sound and a small face will appear at the bottom right of the screen. Select puzzle mode or arcade mode to play a whole new set of puzzles. And you'll find plenty of cool ones!



■ There's some cool-ass puzzles to be had

SYPHON FILTER

EXPLOSIVE CACHE

In Syphon Filter, how do you get the explosive cache to blow up the passage on the burning subway level? Please help.
Adam Grace

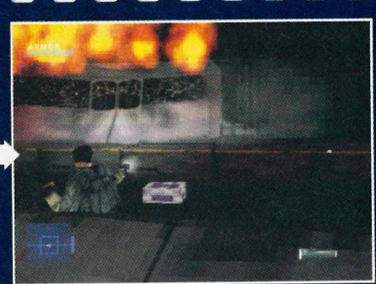
plus Believe it or not, it's on the subway line past the burning man. Just cross the train track and climb up on to the train on the left. Walk along the roof and then...



1 Drop down off the other end of the train after receiving the transmission from Lian. Make sure you've got your M-16 ready



2 Deal with the goons on the opposite platform. Watch out for the man with the flak jacket throwing grenades



3 Use the flashlight and search the train track between the two platforms. The explosives should be near the far left end of the track

GEAR GURU

WHAT'S THE BEST BEAT 'EM UP?

I once played a cool game called Creatures Sweet Animals. Will you ever do a remake on the PlayStation? (please!!!) It was a C64 game.
J. Smith

plus OK, we'll knock one up during our lunch hour, shall we? If you haven't noticed, we are a computer games magazine. That means we review computer games, not make them. Anyway, isn't it time you stopped getting glassy-eyed over old computer games. If you played them now, they would make you puke. Time to move on...

What do you reckon is the best fighting game out at the moment?
Liam Entwistle

plus Tekken 3 is still the standard that all fighting games are judged by. But if you fancy something a bit different, give Bloody Roar 2 a whirl. It's got great special moves, lush graphics, plus some awesome combos.

Which should I buy: Iznogoud, Frenzy, Bubsy 3D, Super Football Champ, Xenocracy, Rug Rats, Ironman or Metal Gear Solid?
Big Bertha

plus It sounds like you really get off on crap games, so we suggest you give Metal Gear Solid a wide berth. It's packed with excitement, intrigue and an awesome storyline. So instead, why not go for the pigs' slurry of video games, Iznogoud – it's so stinky shops have to keep it in airtight cabinets.

I've heard about the 'super' memory cards, which let you save loads of games on to one card. Are they any good? Which one's the best?
Fred Derby

plus We've heard tales of people losing all their Silent Hill saves and being mighty hacked off. But there is one we can recommend, it's the Gamester 4K and it's only £11.99.



■ Tekken 3's mystic super-hero, Jin Kazama, who regularly takes on the evil forces

TIT BITS

LIVE WIRE!

ACCESS TO THE SUB-LEVELS
On the level select screen press and hold △ button followed by ← ↓ ↑ → ←



■ Sub-levels ahoy, only with *PlayStation Plus*

BRIAN LARA CRICKET

Enter 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	**CHRISREA**



■ Stumps that don't move, how bloody convenient

TRAP RUNNER

BONUS CHARACTERS

I know you thought Trap Runner was crap, but I've somehow managed to acquire it. Please give me a cheat or two to pep it up.
Dale Rennet

plus It certainly is pants, but you're a grown adult (we're guessing here), and we're here to service your needs, no matter how misguided and stupid they might be. So here's your cheats, we just hope it makes your life better. And remember when you're in a shop and a game's got a sign above it, saying 'buy me', you don't actually have to. Geddit?

Bonus characters
L2 L1 ↑ ← ↓ →
□ ✕ ○ △ R1 R2

Bonus costumes
R2 R1 △ ← ✕ □
→ ↓ ← ↑ L1 L2

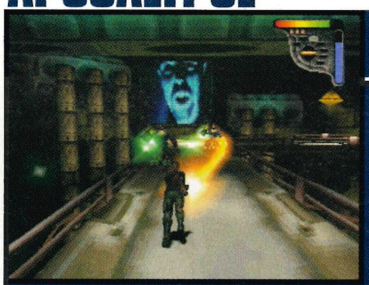
Bonus level
Press SEL 12 times at the title screen.

Alternative background music
○ R2 R1 △ ✕ □
→ L2 L1 ↑ ↓ ←



■ Bonus characters and costumes. Hmm tasty

APOCALYPSE



■ Give Bruce a deadly dose of invincibility



■ Levels, loads of lovely levels. Way cool!

BRUCEY BONUS

Please 'oh wise ones' can you supply me with cheats for Apocalypse?
Danny Tauberalla

plus 'Oh wise ones'. We like that – we like it lot, it's got a nice ring about it. You'll go far with an attitude like that. So you need a little help with Apocalypse do you? Here's your cheats:

Pause the game and hold down L1 and enter the following codes:

Unlock levels, Enable restart points
△ ↑ ✕ ↓

Invincibility
↓ ↑ ← ← △ ↑ → ↓

All weapons
□ ○ ↑ ↓ ✕ □

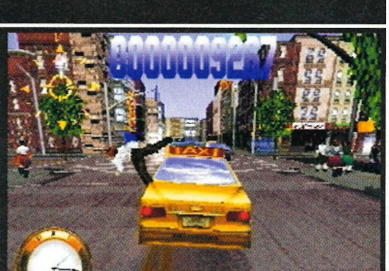
DIE HARD TRILOGY

UNLIMITED LIVES

I've just bought Die Hard Trilogy on Platinum and I'm completely stuck on the third part. Please help.

plus Just pause the game hold R2 and enter ← ○ ↑ ↓ □ →. You'll then have and unlimited number of chances to defuse those nasty bombs.

And while you're at it, why not hold R2 and enter ○ → ↓ □ △ ← as this will give you unlimited super turbos. Cool!



■ Unlimited turbos means unlimited carnage

TIT BITS

SPYRO THE DRAGON

LEVEL SELECT
During the game, go to inventory screen and press: ■ ■ ● ■ ◀ ▶ ◀ ▶ ●



■ Get Spyro to those hard-to-reach areas

CIVILISATION 2

Select build new city and enter '_CasH' as its name.

Note: Hold R1 when entering the letter H at the end of the name. You'll now have over 29,000 gold pieces in the bank.



■ You want loads of cash? You got it

COURIER CRISIS

For a level select, highlight the memory card icon, load up, then go up to the password screen and enter the following codes:

LEVEL 1	**EFLCIFCGKJ**
LEVEL 2	IFLCIFCCKI
LEVEL 3	**MFLCIFCOKJ**
LEVEL 4	AFLCIFCKKJ
LEVEL 5	**FHCLFIGCJL**
LEVEL 6	FLCLFICCIL
LEVEL 7	**FPCLFIOCJL**
LEVEL 8	FDCLFIKCJL
LEVEL 9	**KFLCIFCGII**
LEVEL 10	OFLCIFCCII
LEVEL 11	**CFLCIFCOIJ**
LEVEL 12	GFLCIFCKIJ
LEVEL 13	**FFCLFIGCJJ**
LEVEL 14	FJCLFICCIJ



■ Things get a little scary towards the end

PLATINUM A-Z

T IS FOR 'TEARING YOUR HAIR OUT'

TIME CRISIS

Cheat mode
At the main screen shoot one bullet into the middle of the loop of the 'R' in 'CRISIS', then two into the centre of the cross-hairs (next to 'TIME'). It's very tricky, but if you get it right you'll get access to a cheat menu where you can choose nine lives, no reload and infinite continues.

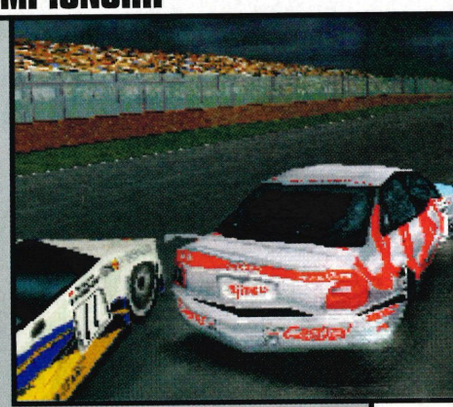
Easy arcade mode
Select the arcade mission from the main selection screen. On the next screen that allows you to choose between time attack mode or the story mode, shoot outside of the screen. If the cheat has worked, you'll see the word 'easy' appear over the story mode option. Select story mode. You'll have five lives and a lot more time to complete the game.

Alternate reload
Plug a standard controller into port two of your PlayStation and then during the game you'll be able to press ■, ✕, ● or ▲ to duck down and reload. Try placing it on the floor and using your foot for an added coin-op buzz.

TOCA: TOURING CAR CHAMPIONSHIP

To access these cheats, input these words as your players' names to activate the following effects:

HIDDEN LAVALAND TRACK	CMDISCO
CARS IN SPACE	CMLOGRAV
CARTOON MODE	CMTOON
CARS FIRE GRENADES	TANK
SWAP CAR FOR A KART	CMCHUN
RISING RAIN	CMRAINUP
BETTER GRIP	FLEXMOBILE
ACCESS ALL TRACKS	JHAMM
MIRRORED CHAMPIONSHIP	PATSCREEM
MANIAC DRIVERS	CMMAYHEM
LARGER HANDS	CMHANDY
RAINING CATS & DOGS	CMCATDOG
UPSIDE-DOWN VIEW	CMUPSIDE
DEMO STYLE CAMERA	CMFOLLOW

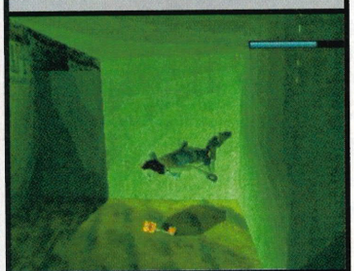


■ The maniac driver mode has to be seen

TOMB RAIDER

Level skip
At the inventory screen enter the following:
L2 R2 ▲ L1 L1 ● R2 L2

Maximum weapons
At the inventory screen enter the following:
L1 ▲ L2 R2 R2 L2 ● L1



■ Get Lara all tooled-up in combat mode

TOMB RAIDER II

To make these cheats easier, hold down R1 (walk) while stepping and let go when you are spinning and jumping. To side-step left or right, hold down R2 (side-step) and push the directional pad either left or right.

Exploding Lara
Take one step forward, one step back, stop and spin three complete times in either direction, and do a backflip... KABOOM. Lara's toast.

Weapons Cheat
Side-step left, side-step right, side-step left, take one step back, take one step forward, stop and then spin three times (in either direction), finally do a backflip jump turn.

Level Skip
Side-step left, side-step right, side-step left, one step back, one step forward, stop and spin three times (either direction), forward standing jump turn.

Unlimited Flares
Press L2 when Lara has her guns drawn, she will now produce a flare even if there aren't any in the inventory.



METAL GEAR SOLID

VULCAN RAVEN

How do you beat Vulcan Raven for the second time in Metal Gear Solid?
James Rawstron

plus As is always the case with these type of things, it's all in the wrist action. The method we prefer is perhaps the overkill way to do it, but if it's results you're after, then Metal Gear Solid is definitely your game.



1 OK, so he's got a big gun, but you still blast him to pieces with your monster missiles. You can use either Nikitas or Stinger missiles



2 If Nikitas are your missiles of choice, make sure you're a safe distance from Raven, then fire – but attack from behind, avoiding gunfire

TOTAL DRIVIN'

These cheats are entered by tapping out a rhythm using the R1 button on controller one on the main options screen.

Access all tracks
Tap out: 'ding dong, the witch is dead, the witch is dead, the witch is dead'. Use the flashing cursor as a metronome. Wait five seconds, and now you can race any of the six courses.

Access all Switzerland levels
Tap out: 'doe, a deer, a female deer'. Wait a few seconds. If you've done it right, you'll hear an engine roar. When you go to the course select option, all the Switzerland levels will have the words 'Track Complete' across them.

Access all Moscow levels
As above, but tap to the tune: 'jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way.'

Access all Hong Kong levels
As above, but to the tune: 'deck the halls with boughs of holly'.

Access all Easter Island levels
As above, but tap out the rhythm: 'Happy birthday to you, Happy birthday to you'.

All Egypt levels
As above, but tap out the rhythm: 'Always look on the bright side of life'.

Access multi-player suicide mode
As above, but tap out the rhythm: 'Supercallifrajilisticexpialidotious.'

Scotland level warp
Begin on Scotland Level 3. Once you enter a wooded area, stop and drive off the road behind the crash barriers. Halfway down the hill is a level warp. To activate these hidden tracks you must be racing as team Ahmad.

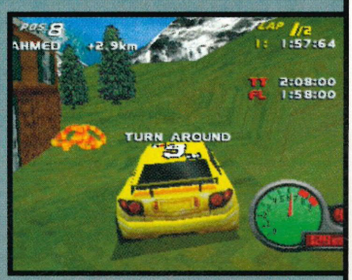
Moscow 2 level warp
Near the end of the course you will see a ramp, use it to jump over the left-hand wall where the level warp is located beside a building.

Easter Island 2 level warp
From the start, turn you car around and drive so you can see a boat. On your left, you will see a red and white barrier, and behind it, you'll see a road. At the end of it, you'll find a level warp.

Switzerland level warp
Begin on Switzerland Level 1 and start the race. Follow the track through the village and under the cable-car. Go through the tunnel, and over a bridge. Drive off the road and around the back of a strip buildings on your left. You will see a yellow and red spinning shape. That's the level warp. Drive into this and you'll be transported to a bonus level.



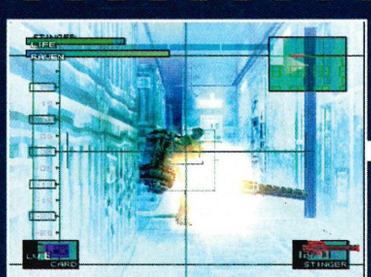
■ Head towards the buildings on the right



■ The warper is behind the large building



■ And now you're on a hidden area



3 With Stinger missiles you've got to lock on the geeza when he's behind the crate, just when he appears into view, fire off a shot and ice him



4 Failing that, you can lay Claymores to trap him on one side of the arena, leaving two in each corridor and planting fresh mines for him

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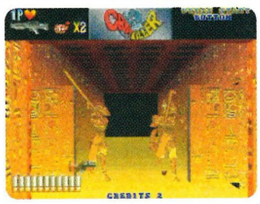
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Stuff you need to know

1 It's bleedin' obvious, innit?

If a publisher wastes space on the back of the case telling you stacks of obvious stuff like 'in full colour!', 'lots of levels!' or 'in amazing 3D!', alarm bells should start ringing. If they haven't got anything better to say about the game, then odds are it's a crock. Like here, for instance, the words 'realistic speed sensation' should set alarm bells ringing.

2 Dodgy screenshots



Warning sign number two comes when you ask yourself 'how come there's no screenshots from the game itself?' as you stare at grabs of loading screens, save screens and bits from FMV sequences. They're not part of the proper game. And if the makers don't have the nerve to show what the game actually looks like, you should have the nerve to keep a grip on your hard-earned dosh.

3 'Me no spikka Serbo-Croat'

Another good way to tell whether a game's really bad news is to look how many languages the backcover blurb has been translated into. If they weren't willing to shell out on an English version separate from the Slovakian and Bothno-Ugaric editions, you can bet they were only expecting to sell ten copies in each country. So don't buy the 11th.

4 'I like it'– a madman, 62

You'll notice the games here have no magazine reviews printed on them. A good review in *PlayStation Nerd* magazine is no guarantee that the game's any cop (it is... if it's in *PlayStation Plus* folks!), but if they can't find someone to like it, then be wary. If some sad spotty little dork is quoted as saying: 'I've played it 'til I stopped', be super-cautious.

5 Wacky! Zany! Dog dirt!

Rotten descriptions and terrible clichés spell alert number five. 'It's a wacky, madcap ride into a world of frenzied fun and frolics' really means 'it's a one-way ticket to Manure Central'. 'Hold on for the zaniest ride of your life!' means 'prepare for a hot coffee enema'. Here, Ayrton Senna's Kart Duel claims to be jammed with 'thrill-packed action'. Basically, this means it's absolute cack.

6 Art by a gumph

Artwork on covers that looks like it's been done by a bungee-jumping Rolf Harris are the most obvious sign that something's wrong. If the publisher just let his mate Jeff have a shot with some felt tips, it could mean they don't have the wonga to get the gameplay right. Avoid at any cost!



12 WAYS TO SPOT

EVER THOUGHT 'I CAN'T GO WRONG FOR €14.99' ONLY TO BUST A JOYPAD IN ANGER AS



7 My manual's too fat

If the manual's really fat, look inside. It's often just four pages in English translated into 80 other languages. If they're cutting costs by making one-size-fits-all manuals for any country, be careful – although this alone is not surefire proof of a dog.

8 'Now only 99p!'

One-off bargains can be good, but if you're looking at a game that's been cut and cut, there's usually some reason for the sinking price. Four different price tags on top of one another means the shop'll be paying you to take it within two weeks!

9 Boring dross

Always, always take a careful look at the manual before heading to the checkout. Is there page after page explaining the characters, their world, their love lives, their childhoods and their extended families? Is there just half a page that explains how to play the damn game? Welcome to Warning Number Nine – it's a crud game.

10 International Pro Hockey '82

It doesn't matter whether it's £19.99 or 20p. Almost any game with '97 or '96 in the title isn't a bargain, even if you believe that game updates now are a con. If it's really old, it's not simply that it'll look as rough as Bianca Butcher. It'll often play pretty poorly as well. Want an example? Look at FIFA '96: looks crap, plays even worse. Not worth the plastic it's printed on.

11 This case is cracked

Unless you're in a second-hand shop, any game box that looks like it's been used to wedge open doors is probably best left on the shelf. If the shop staff haven't bothered putting the CD in a fresh case, then they don't think the game's important enough. Equally, photocopied covers used because someone's chaffed the original are bad news.

12 As seen on Mongolian TV!



Games based on TV, films or sporting events you've never heard of is the last warning signal. Grishenko the Wacky Weasel might be a big hit in Outer Mongolia, but unless you're a fan of the weasel and his ker-razy antics, you can be sure the game won't float your boat. And the same goes for Geoff Capes' International Lawn Bowls. Or Ayrton Senna's Kart Duel, for that matter.

■ Pictures: Mike Harding

A CRAP GAME

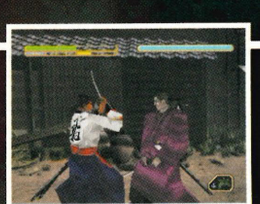
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PlayStation

Rated

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Wip3out: head-to-head anti-gravity racing through neon-lit sci-fi cities

HOW WE RATE STUFF

0-50%	Total toss
51-60%	Just toss
61-70%	Only OK
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

RATED THIS MONTH

p66 **Wip3out** — Third effort in the super-fast racing series

p68 **Kingsley's Adventure** — Tooled-up fox goes nutso in Cuteland

p68 **LMA Management** — Slick footy game crammed with stats

p69 **Gungage** — Huge explosions! Massive guns! Giant robots!

p70 **Destrega** — A vicious beat 'em up of epic proportions

p72 **Shadowman** — Tomb Raider crossed with Marilyn Manson!

p74 **The X-Files** — Polished game of the spooky TV series

p75 **ReVolt** — Hyper-real remote-control car racing

p76 **Tony Hawk's Pro Skater** — Ultra-radical skateboarding action

p78 **Rat Attack** — Kitschy, technicolour Tom and Jerry

p78 **Killer Loop** — Futuristic, hi-tech racing for speed freaks

p79 **PuchiCarat** — Super-addictive puzzle game

p80 **Street Fighter EX + Alpha** — Ultra-violent 3D streetfighting

p81 **WWF: Warzone** — Customisable giant goons battle it out

plus The Knowledge

Want to buy a game? Get clued up first with our ultimate guide to every game released. PLUS! Trading in crap stuff, a cool laser-sight lightgun & best strategy games. Starts p87

Knowledge: updated every month

All Games Rated between 71%-100%

The best gam



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

WIP3OUT

The third installment of the 'Station's fastest racer burns back looking as sharp as ever

Anti-gravity racers streak through sci-fi cities for the third time in the last five years. Yup, 'Station classic WipEout has been brushed off, polished and sent out for another round. It's sharp, slick and speedy, but is it just more of the same?

What we like

Two's up

If you've played 2097, you will find this is more than a bit similar, despite its obvious slickness. It moves at about the same pace, the graphics aren't that much improved, and it plays fairly much the same. But where this effort really scores over its predecessor is in the two-player split-screen mode, which looks sharp, moves at a fair old lick and is generally very Kool and the Gang.



■ The two-players is slower than the one-player



■ All the detail's in there. Immense stuff



■ You can do the whole tournament in a two-up. Pretty radical, really

Contender eliminated!

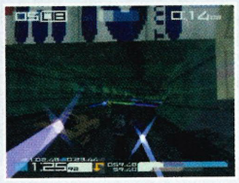
What's particularly cool is that the guns and missiles aren't just penny annoyances that'll flip you over for five seconds. You've got to watch out for your energy bar, otherwise your craft will go tits up permanently. That means you've got to be thinking about how long to pit in for, and how much to use the speed boost – which speeds you up, but canes your shields.



■ Going through the energy drains will knock you for six



■ Go slow through the pits to fill your energy bar right up



■ Being hit by big guns will make you die very fast indeed

What's the big idea?

You choose between one of eight models of anti-gravity speedster and head out on to a great winding roller coaster of a track at up to 800mph. Up against you are eight other racers, all of whom can use laser-guided missiles, mines and energy weapons against each other. Intense.



■ The Quake weapon sends a huge explosive ripple through the track



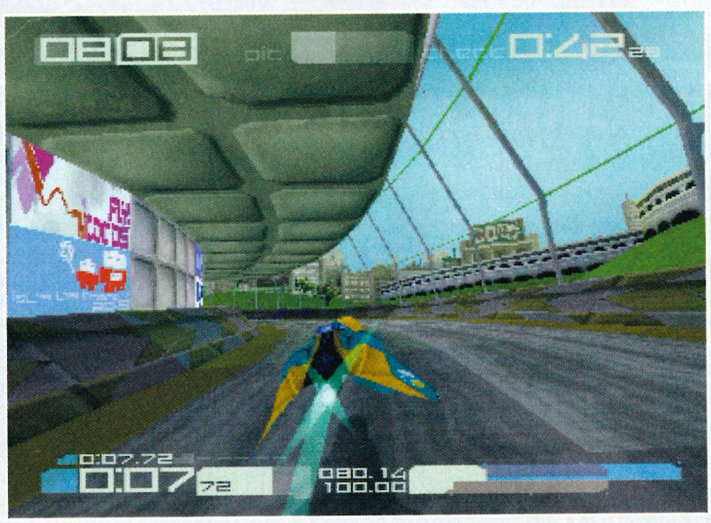
■ Missiles blast everybody into the air



■ Hit speed-ups to go to Warp Factor Ten

Teams

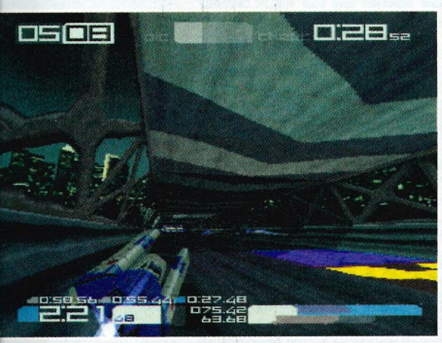
There are lots of new teams, and they're more balanced than the ones in WipEout 2097. Depending on the way you want to play it, you can go for speed, durability or handling. And there are teams to suit everybody from complete beginners to die-hard WipEout fiends.



■ Feisar may be easy to get to grips with, but they're not as fast as any of the other teams

New tricks

Some of the tracks have split routes, where one side'll lead you along a sequence of massive speed boosts while the other will be loaded with items. You can simply decide how you want to play – either go all out to race it straight, or just tool up with the biggest guns you can get and hope to knock the other blokes out of the race.



■ It's head-splitting decision time. Speed or guns?



■ Head left and it's a non-stop series of speed boosts



■ Just head right and tool up with some hard-as-a-bastard lethal weaponry

Track of all trades

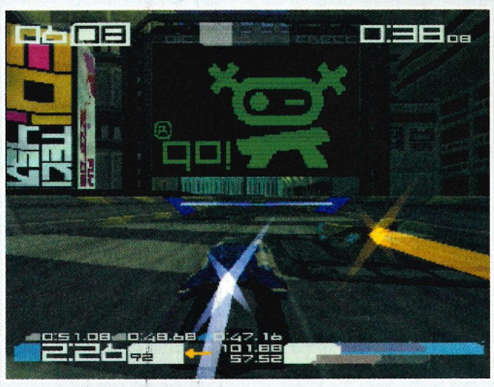
There are eight tracks to play around with, and the best of 'em are better than the ones on WipEout 2097. There are huge spiralling descents, gut-wrenching drops, corkscrew chicanes – and all of 'em are littered with speed boosts. But since this game took almost three-and-a-half years to make, we'd expected more than eight tracks. It's hardly too much to ask?



■ Huge spiralling descents. This is raw class



■ Hyper-speed chicanery. Takes a lot of practice



■ Very narrow, very fast. On later tournaments, this is well tricky



■ The edge-launching speed-up



■ The 'JESUS!' factor of a 50ft drop

With knobs on

Not only does this boast a non-stop soundtrack of 'quality tunes' by top-deck craftsman Sasha – that's the cool techno-house DJ, not the Hun prick responsible for *Encore Une Fois*, by the way – but it's also got well subtle design on all the levels, conjuring up smart Blade Runner-style sci-fi atmosphere.



■ The design's more subtle than in the last version



■ We like the weird bloke who tarts up the race

plus

We'd like to say...

If you've played WipEout 2097 you might be a little underwhelmed by this offering. The tracks are a bit nicer, but only very slightly. It plays very much like 2097 with a couple of added weapons. The two-player's cool, but the price difference between this and 2097 is £20. We've waited three-and-a-half years for this – it's not good enough.

Tools of the trade

Some of the coolest weapons out of 2097 are back: three cheers for the reappearance of the Quake attack! There are also five all-new pain dispensers at your disposal. And what's particularly cool is how they're divided into offensive and defensive weapons: choose how you want to play, and head for the right power-up pad. It's pretty radical.



■ Autopilot takes you through the tricky bits



■ The heat-seekers pack is quite a wallop



■ The transparent energy barrier drains all enemies who pass through it

This is a class act. It looks sharp, moves *very* fast and plays like a dream. Thing is, it's plenty similar to the last WipEout, so if you're an old hand, be wary. **Rob**

PlayStation plus

RATED 90%

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

ADVENTURES OF KINGSLEY

Another deadly payload of heart-stopping cuteness hits the PlayStation

Cutesy platform stuff with a star, 'ickle fox cub Kingsley, who'll have anyone over five wanting to send out the pack of rabid hounds – just kidding. If you happen to like 'ickle squeaky animals and kid-friendly gameplay, though, read on...

The fox phenomenon

You're an insanely cute fox. A hard-ass wizard called – seriously – Bad Custard has taken over the kingdom. And the only way to stop the wicked wizard is by jumping, rolling and generally athleticising your way past hundreds of cute little enemies, over huge holes and through no-brainer puzzles. Yikes.



■ Hit little enemies with your sword



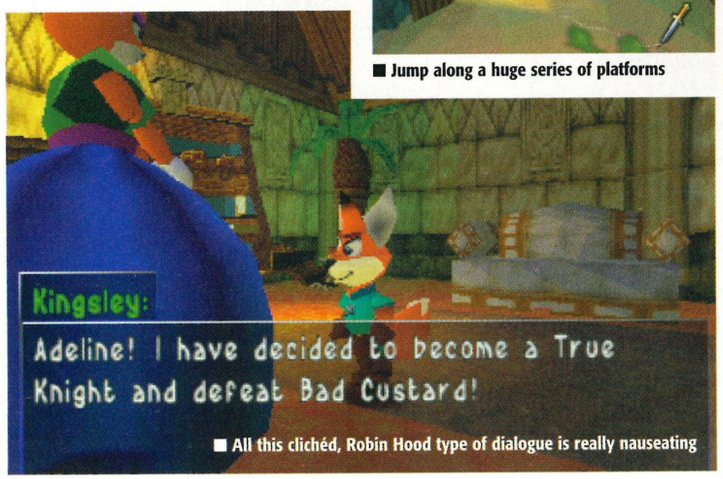
■ Use your crossbow to take out distant targets

Wowsers!

This doesn't look bad, it's just the way it plays that lets it down. You expect there to be a bit more to it than just hurdling holes and hitting massive parties of identical enemies with a crap little sword. But there isn't. And the cuteness levels will have you reaching for a sick bag. This is one for the kids.



■ Jump along a huge series of platforms



■ All this clichéd, Robin Hood type of dialogue is really nauseating

Youngsters might go nuts for Kingsley's bright eyes and bushy tail, but this is sorely lacking in the kind of gameplay goodness that makes us adults sit up and take notice. **Rob**

PlayStation plus
RATED 69%

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

LMA MANAGER

A management game that's easy to pick up and play? You must be 'avin a laugh!

And a big hello to the first management game with all the teams from the 99-2000 season in it. It's got the big-name commentators, such as Alan Hansen. It's got the looks and style. But has it got the class to be the best of the best?

Let the enlisted men do it

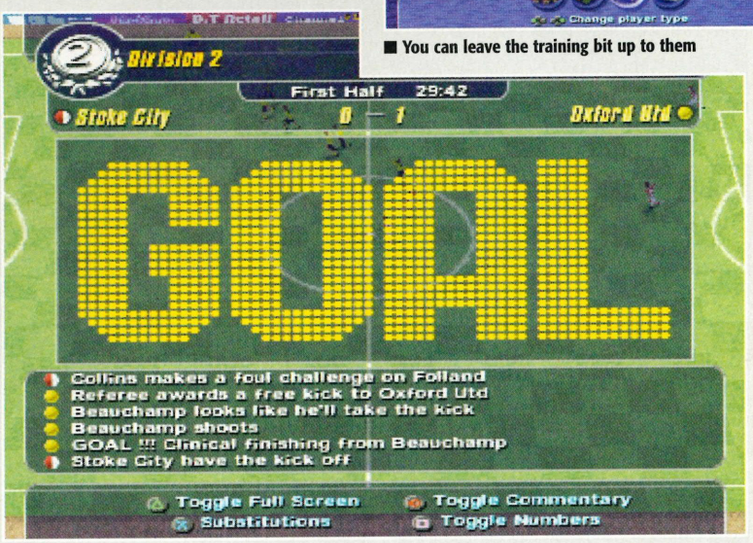
You can pick a handful of right-hand men and get them to do stuff for you, such as looking after prices or looking out for 'boss man' rulings. If you fancy, you can let them run everything. What this means for you is that if you're bored by/don't understand some bit of management, you can let the computer take care of it. Quite a nice touch.



■ Choose your blokes carefully for optimum strategy



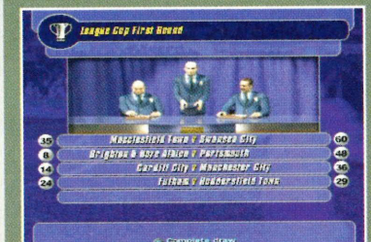
■ You can leave the training bit up to them



■ If you're a beginner, you'll find this game extremely easy to pick up

Move me, groove me

At their worst, management games tend to be just a selection of screens with numbers on them. Here, there's been a lot of effort put into simplifying that hard-to-digest numbers bit. The game's easy to move around, and there are all sorts of nice visual touches to make you forget that you're fiddling with options menus.



■ Use the shoulder bars to move between screens



■ Unlike most footy games, it's easy to get around

Gubbins and doodahs

Tinkering's the essence of a good footy management effort, and this leaves you plenty room to tinker. Whether it's tactics, contracts, the stadium or training, you'll find a menu of stuff that's at least as detailed, if not more so, than the ones in other 'Station management games. Anything can be changed, if you've got the mind to do it. Power!



■ Tinker with the contract of your star players



■ Offer big sums to the top boys from other clubs

plus We'd like to say...

These days, every man and his dog is having a go at making a footy management game. But most of them are very similar. This is pretty neat: it's got detail, it looks nice and it's easy to use. Plus it's the first one to have all the teams for the 1999-2000 season. But don't expect it to offer a whole new gameplaying experience. It's polished, but it's still cut from the same cloth as most other management games.

The little match girl

The matches look dead nice and you even get pretty used to the surreal green line that follows the ball. But this scores big by giving you the ability to alter all the teeny-tiny bits of tactics while watching the match. At its best, you'll change tactics, then watch the players changing into a new formation, then two minutes later they'll slam one home. This is hands-on management.



■ Access options at any time during the game



■ Fiddle with tactics, or put new folk on the pitch



■ It's much easier than it looks. See how they do, and if your players doing badly, just change tactics. It's a piece of piss



■ The green line helps you follow the ball in the speeded-up games



■ Then watch the highlights, with a commentary from Alan Hansen

Easy to use, good-looking and packed with all the detail you could want. Not amazingly different from other management titles, but nice and polished. A breezer. **Rob**

PlayStation plus RATED 90%

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

GUNGAGE

Another day, another mindless arcade gunfest – as basic as shoot 'em ups get

This is as straight-up as straight-up shoot 'em ups get. It's back to the dumbest regions of Arcadeland as you run towards endless swarms of insects and rodents with your laser set on 'deep fry'. Put your brains in neutral, lads.

Do we not like that!

This is one of those games that looks better in a still screenshot than it does when it's on the move. It's pretty slow all the way through, and the camera's all over the shop. Add to that a rough-as-gravel control system, and things are starting to look extremely dodgy.



■ There are four characters, but they play the same



■ The baddies just keep on coming

Kill! Kill! Where is the enemy?

Tank it through nasty, unimaginative outdoor locations, shooting gangs of weirdo bad guys with a gun that fires either little laser pulses or huge nuclear meltdown bombs. And, basically, that's it, apart from picking up gems and health bonuses and stuff. It looks OK, but the gameplay's pretty samey and the controls are extremely awkward. Even the bosses are pretty drab. Ouch.



■ Little laser. It locks on until you've killed 'em



■ The fights aren't that interesting – pretty standard playground stuff, really

Same old chestnut, but with the added annoyance of difficult-to-use controls and irritating monsters. Don't go putting this on your Christmas list in a hurry. **Rob**

PlayStation plus RATED 55%

■ **OUT** OCTOBER ■ **BY** SONY ■ **COSTS** £34.99 ■ **PLAYERS** 1-2 ■ **COMPATIBILITIES** JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, DUAL SHOCK PAD

DESTREGA

A beat 'em up with a story. Sounds good, but wait until you see it playing...

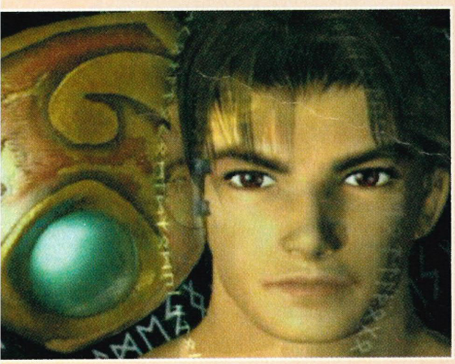
Destrega is a beat 'em up with an epic story to tell. It involves 'special people' with super powers fighting to save the world from an evil overlord, a man hellbent on exerting his iron grip on a war-ravaged land and a repetitive combat system.

The story so far

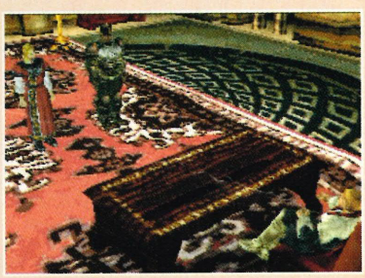
There are powerful relics capable of controlling the world. They've fallen into the hands of chief bad boy, Zauber. He's after a king-size portion of world domination. Only one thing stands in his way, the Strega. And they can fight like a legion of tough, pirate-whiskered alley cats.



■ This is the mad, power-crazed man in question



■ This is Grad, one of the super heroes



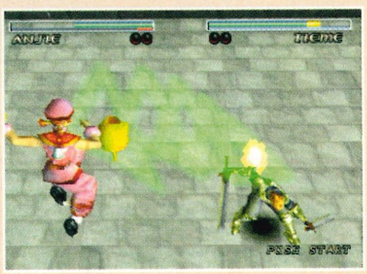
■ Being evil and the boss, he has a big intimidating desk in an office the size of an open-air festival

A beauty?

So how does all this whizz-bang brawling look? Pretty decent, actually, but never of the mind-blowing variety. Despite this, there are some particularly nice little touches along the way. Like the way the camera pans out when you decide to do some long-range sniping, and then zooms in for the close-up action. Or the way you can jump, turn and shoot the crap out of your opponent in one smooth motion.



■ The camera pans out so you can always see both characters going through their fighting motions



■ Jumping above your opponent and hitting them with a blast is a really excellent tactic

What it boils down to

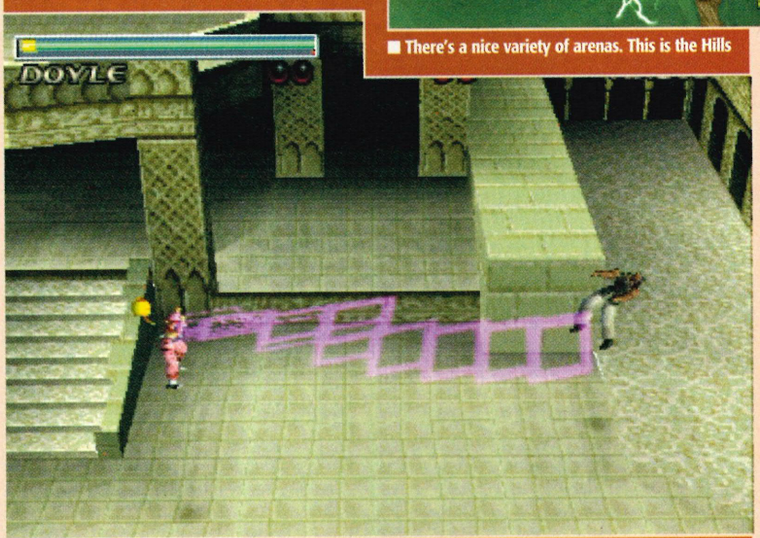
Despite its pretensions of being a story-driven epic, the 'fun' boils down to short, frenzied bouts of fighting in various arenas. This is not exactly normal fighting, but 'special powers' fighting. The kind that sends neon-dripping shards of energy careering towards men so deadly they're given silly names such as Raone.



■ The arenas are bigger than in most beat 'em ups



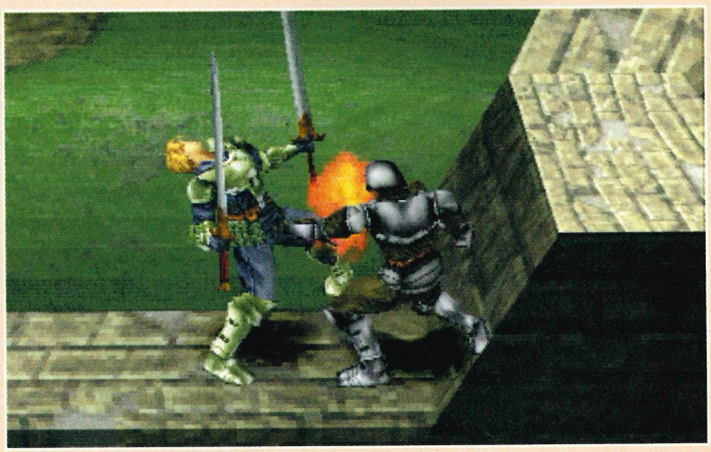
■ There's a nice variety of arenas. This is the Hills



■ Some of the arenas have handy platforms to hide behind and jump off

Option smoption

Like the vast majority of beat 'em ups, there's a time-attack mode, a versus mode, an endurance mode and a story mode. In other words, bog-standard stuff. So if you're looking for a break from the norm, you better look elsewhere.



■ Move in on a close-up and the fighting comes down to punching and kicking

Fighting mechanics

The high-end visual excesses of the fighting is accessed through three buttons. One for the big whammy, one for a thin burst and one for a wide, sweeping blast. And the other button? It's for jumping. All this mindless simplicity makes the game dull and repetitive after a while, as you end up doing the same thing over and over again. A chore by anyone's definition.



■ Each character has three special moves



■ This is Milena's big whammy and it kicks ass



■ This is the wide sweeping move

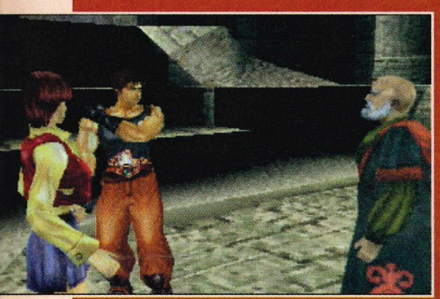


■ Time your attacks so your rival takes max damage

What we don't like

Absurdly naff and tedious storylines

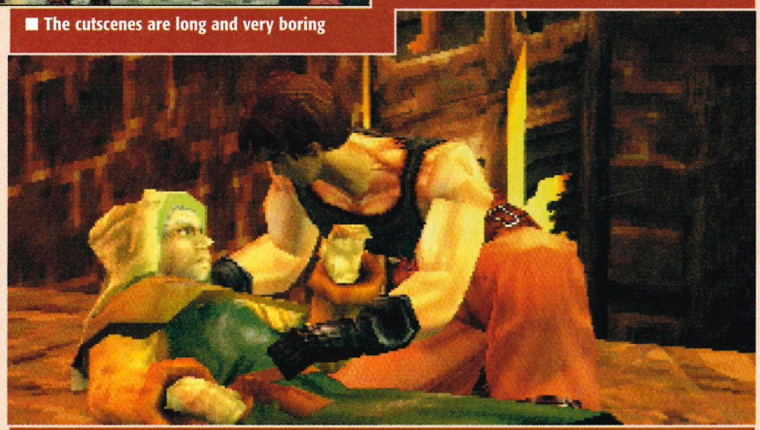
It's fine having a story mode. It can, after all, add a bit of excitement and intensity to the proceedings. But when the story's delivered with all the enthusiasm and pace of a zonked-out slug, then it's almost impossible not to nod off.



■ The cutscenes are long and very boring



■ And the story is a really cringingly naff



■ At least you get to play as more than one character

A very average beat 'em up with an over-simplified combat system. The fighting's dull as dishwater and the story mode is quite exhausting with long, laboured dialogue. Yawn **Rich**

PlayStation plus

RATED 65%

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

SHADOWMAN

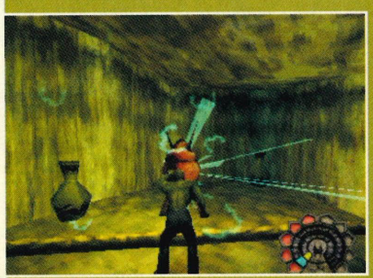
It's like Tomb Raider with a plot by Marilyn Manson, but with graphics from eight years ago

This has to rank top of the list of PlayStation could-have-beens. It's a full-on gothic 3D adventure, dripping with atmos and stuffed with classy Tomb Raider-style puzzles. But the graphics are incredibly bad – dull and outdated.

What we like

Golly goth

What's cool here is the game world's well-thought-out and atmospheric, and the plot bits are actually well-scripted. Although there are odd places where it sounds like bits are lifted off the lyrics sheets from Iron Maiden albums. The dark, creepy atmos is excellent throughout – and we're always suckers for a finely-tuned lake of blood.



■ The puzzles increase the adventure potential



■ Travelling through Deadside is a hellbent trip

Puzzles

The puzzles are doubtless one of the coolest aspects of the game. On a kind of Tomb-Raider-in-Hell trip, you'll have to hurdle ledges, jump, shimmy, climb and use items to progress through the shadowy halls of Deadside. But again, the crap graphics are a stumbling block: some areas look so awful, it's difficult to tell where there are ledges and platforms to jump to.



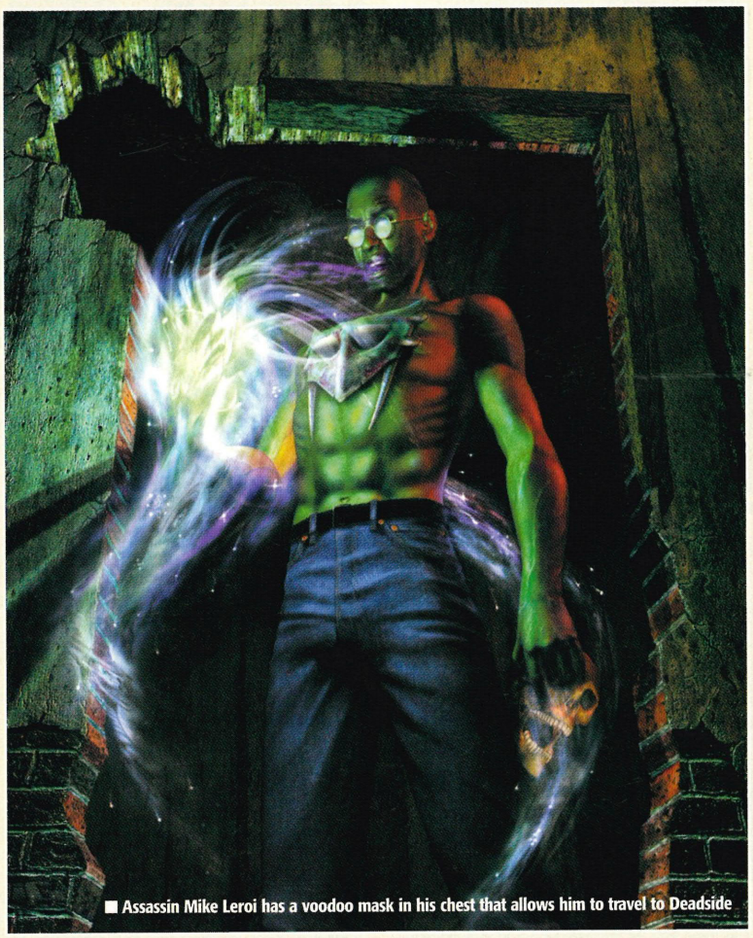
■ Jump from the first ledge



■ Shimmy along the second, then hunch up



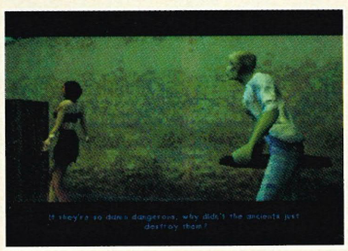
■ Jump backwards on to the third ledge, if you can see it, of course. This is cunning stuff



■ Assassin Mike Leroi has a voodoo mask in his chest that allows him to travel to Deadside

What a Shadowman does

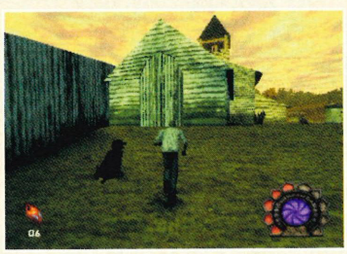
You play Mike Leroi, a part-time assassin whose family were murdered by gangsters. He carries a voodoo mask in his chest that allows him to travel to Deadside, a sinister underworld where all the dead people live. The game centres around Mike travelling between the two worlds gathering power to prevent some nasty Deadside corpses from taking over the living world.



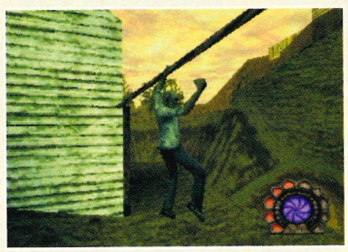
■ The plot bits are well-written and funny



■ As you move further on, more mystery unfolds



■ Your missus, a voodoo witch called Netty



■ Netty's house – the Temple of Dogs

Kill! Kill!

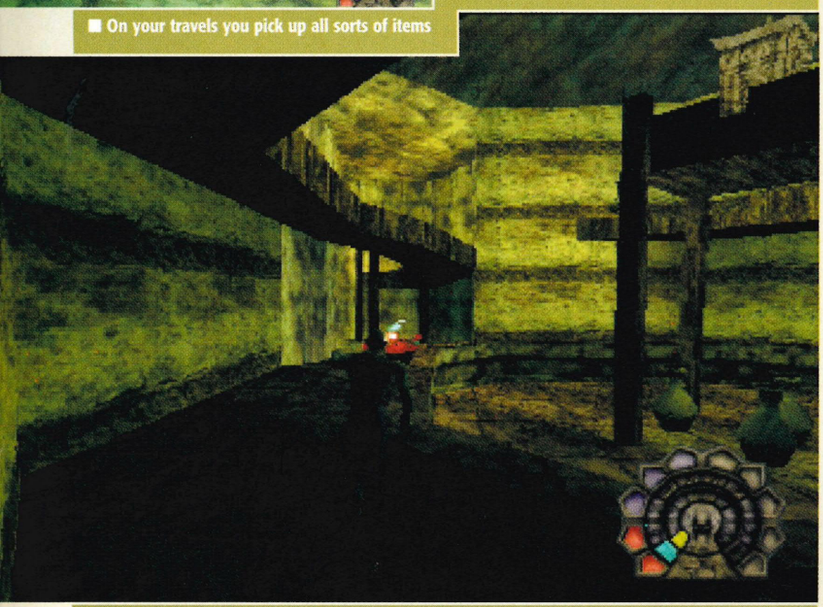
The Shadowman's voodoo backpack has plenty of space – most of it's for his monster guns. Murder fans will lick their lips at the selection of machine guns and sniping rifles you get as Leroi, not to mention the ultra-nasty death spells that the Shadowman uses. But best of all, you can put one gun in each hand. It's a pity the animation's so crap, otherwise combat would be a total blast.



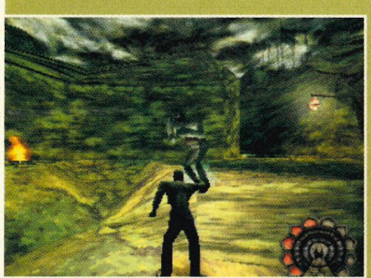
■ On your travels you pick up all sorts of items



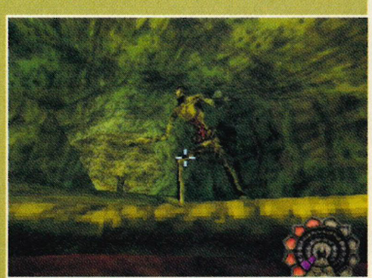
■ Some items you encounter provide you with information, while some just kill



■ Having a gun in each hand is a useful tried-and-test strategy for maximum carnage



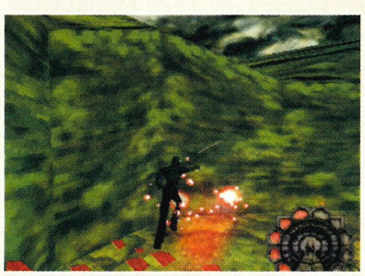
■ The baddies jerk so much that it inevitably spoils the combat – positively dulling it



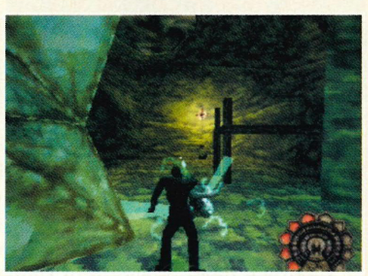
■ The baddies are surprisingly intelligent, even though they look quite awful

Who does what you don't dare do

You can't die here: if you die Liveside, you go Deadside; and if you die Deadside, you go back a bit. What this means is that combat's a secondary bit of the game. Dying's not important, so most of your attention's devoted to finding new bits and getting the Dark Souls you need to move ahead.



■ Shadowman bites the bullet



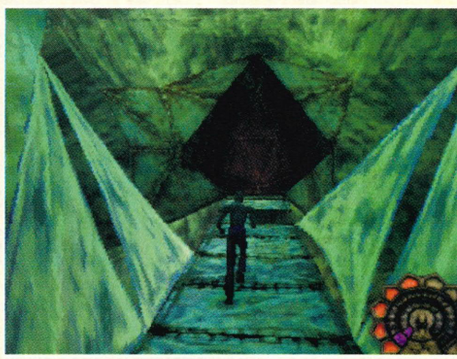
■ Most of the areas are pretty monster-free

The dark world

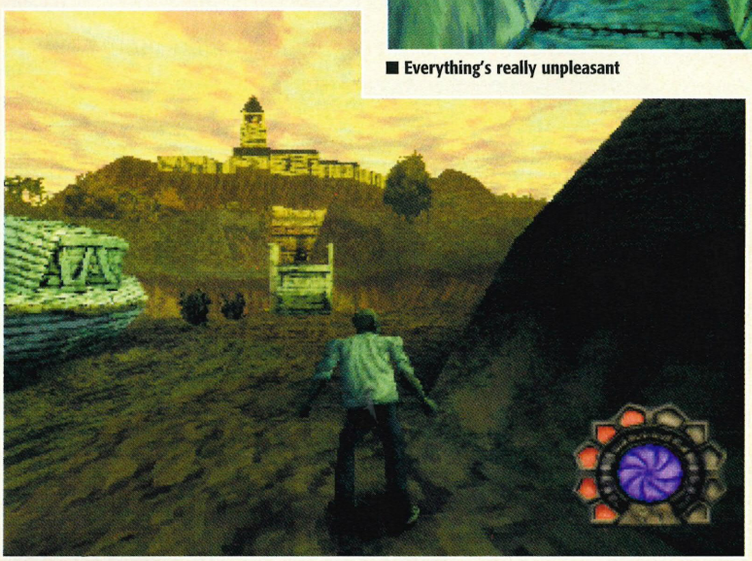
At any time, you can shift between the two worlds, the 'real' world, and Deadside. In the real world, you're just an ordinary – but very tough – bloke. In Deadside, you're the Shadowman, an immortal voodoo warrior. What this means for you is different weapons and new puzzles to solve. To get all the items and stuff you need, you'll need to shuffle between worlds all the time.



■ Shadowman does a world-shift to Deadside



■ Everything's really unpleasant

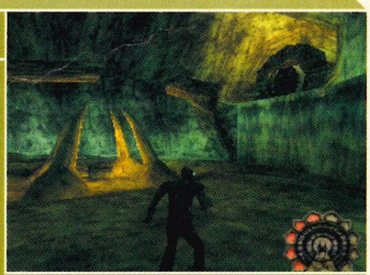


■ In the real world, there's plenty of violence, plus a few real-life dead people wandering around

What we don't like

One ugly son-of-a-bitch

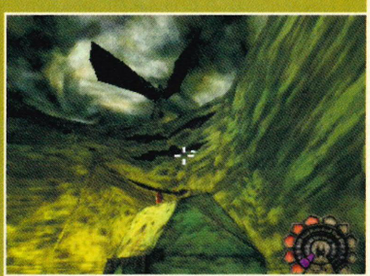
Deadside actually looks like it's made of painted cardboard, and the sinister Shadowman moves like a crudely-manufactured Jim Henson puppet. And the souls of the evil dead are little grey lumps. Sadly, you can tell some of the locations in here would have looked awesome if they'd just paid a little more attention to the graphics. But they didn't. Oh well.



■ A lot of the areas look really confusing



■ The dark atmos is ruined by the clunky graphics



■ Even the monsters look pretty rubbish

Packed with nice ideas and oozing gothic atmosphere from the word go. Sadly, the jerky animation and terrible graphics foul it up big-time. A near-miss. **Rob**

PlayStation plus

RATED 76%

■ **OUT** OCTOBER ■ **BY** SONY ■ **COSTS** £39.99 ■ **PLAYERS** 1 ■ **COMPATIBILITIES** JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, MOUSE

THE X-FILES

It's like playing in an episode of The X-Files. But, sadly, it's a particularly boring episode

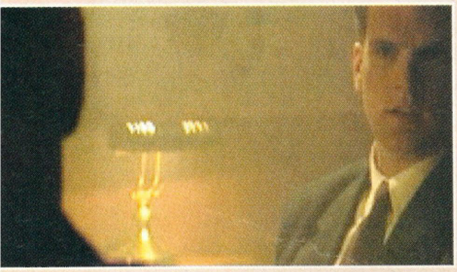
Mulder and Scully have disappeared! And a rookie FBI agent played by a crap actor is the only man who can find 'em. What that means for you is non-stop limp video bits, clunky dialogue and crap puzzles – for three entire discs.

The plot sickens

Mulder and Scully took seven weeks off filming The X-Files to do all the film bits for this game. But if you're expecting there to be seven weeks' worth of paranormal drama in here, you'll be very disappointed. Most of the conversations are dull and the puzzles are just irritating. The action takes a back seat, and the excitement's just done a runner.



■ There's far too much tedious and boring stuff to do



■ Most of the conversations are incredibly drab and extremely irritating



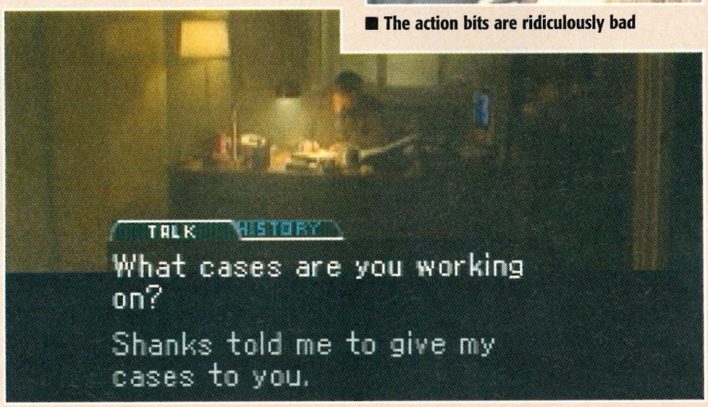
■ As amazing as it seems, it doesn't get any more lively when Mulder and Scully show up

The story so far...

Thing is, this is meant to be a high-octane action adventure, but most of the time it feels like you're doing FBI admin work. Whenever you talk to someone, you just have to run through everything they say. The puzzles are just a question of trying everything until you get it right. And the 'action' bits are slow, dull and crap.



■ The action bits are ridiculously bad

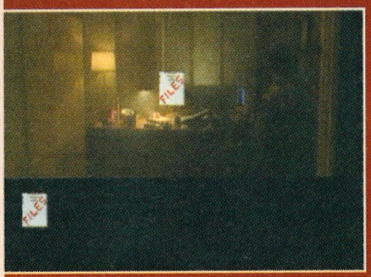


■ The FBI motto's 'keep trying'. In the end, persistence pays off, you'll solve the puzzle randomly

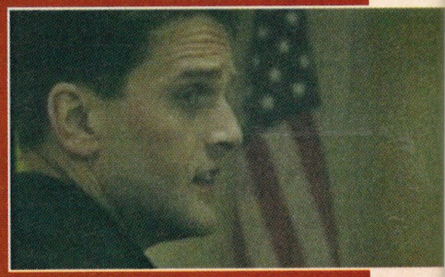
What we don't like

Where are my clothes?

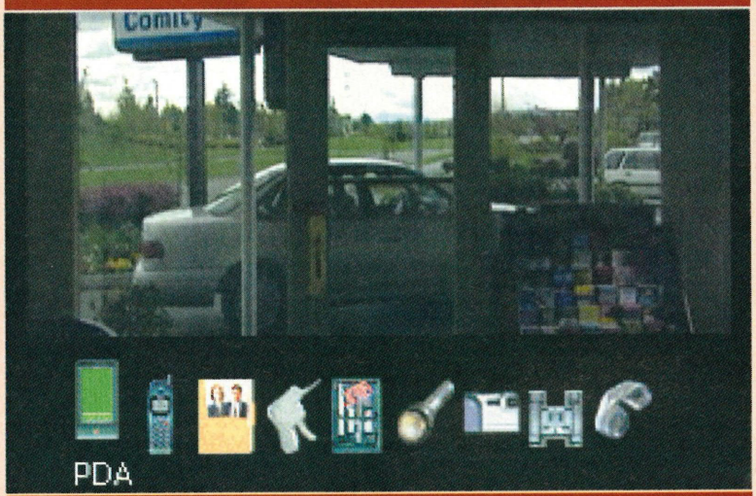
Most of the gameplay here boils down to pathetic little puzzles. You have to figure out where to put stuff, how to use it and what to pick up, most of which is really ordinary stuff. Like, 'Where have I put my gun? Where are my shoes?' Even escaping from your office takes days. In reality, none of this would be a puzzle.



■ To get this bloke's help, you have to drag an icon



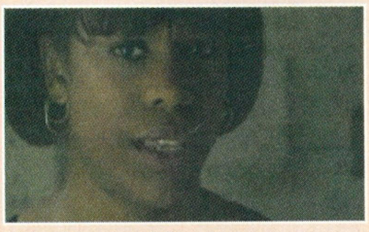
■ If you just ask him to do it, he won't help



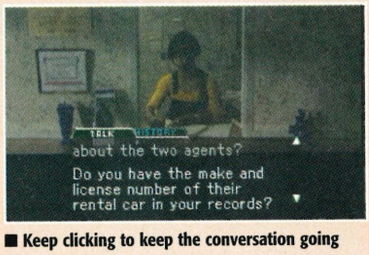
■ Puzzle number 114: Where have you put your gun? This is not exactly complex FBI stuff

Filmy bits

The game essentially splits into two parts: there are the bits where you're plodding through little menus or clicking on still pictures to move around the place; and then there's the actual film bits, starring the *real stars* of the series. Unfortunately, the film bits usually last two seconds each. It's like watching infinite reels of boring X-Files offcuts. Mentally draining.



■ The dialogue's weirdly written



■ Keep clicking to keep the conversation going

'Interactive movie' type games aren't exactly mould-breaking as you'd expect, but grindingly dull. This could have been a class act, but it's just a painfully tedious waste of time. **Rob**

PlayStation plus

RATED 45%

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

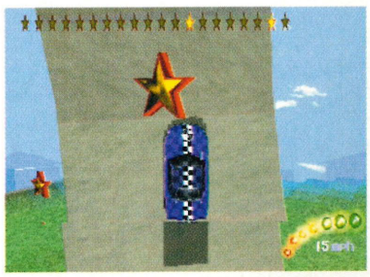
REVOLT

Twitchy remote-control cars go head-to-head round the garden centre

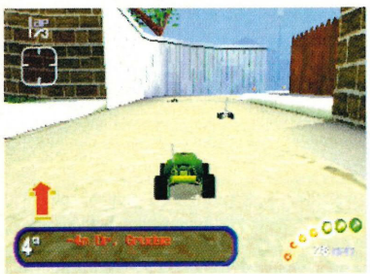
It's remote-control car racing with 'realistic' – read 'fiddly' – controls. But it's also stuffed with wacked-out power-ups, jumps, rocket launchers, water bombs and secret routes. Not exactly a combination that's likely to catch on.

My car's gone wonky!

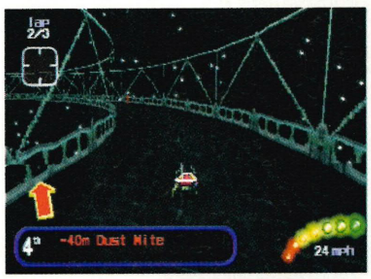
The first thing you'll notice is the handling. It's very strange indeed. Do anything more than a tap on the direction button and you're spinning all over the shop. We immediately headed for the car called the 'Phat Slug', which weighs the same as a steam iron. It's a bit less twitchy, but the realistic remote-control handling will annoy you to distraction.



■ Steer while going at speed and you're a goner



■ We assume the handling's meant to be 'realistic'



■ The handling doesn't slow down the computer



■ You'll spend most of the time getting upset or stressed out over the frequency of the spin-outs

Low-calorie eye candy

With this kind of 'fun' racer, you expect a good showing on the visuals front. And, to some extent, this is OK – but only OK. For starters, the 'realistic' settings – museums, garden centres, parks – don't exactly fry your retinas. The power-ups and stuff are pretty unspectacular on the whole. And though it looks fine, there's nothing here that'll get Mr Pinky twitching.



■ Everything looks OK, but it's not spectacular



■ Call that a rocket launcher? Popgun, more like!



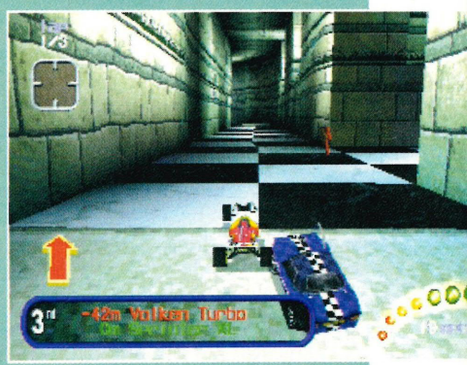
■ The sparse and simple settings aren't hard on the eye

Horses for...

The courses are a bit bizarre. There are secret routes all over the place, amusing power-ups like bombs and smoke clouds, and loads of jumps to be doing. But that doesn't quite square with the handling. If you miss a jump or get blown off course, the tricky handling prevents you from getting back into the race fast enough. Irritating.



■ Big jump ahead! Time it wrong, and you're history



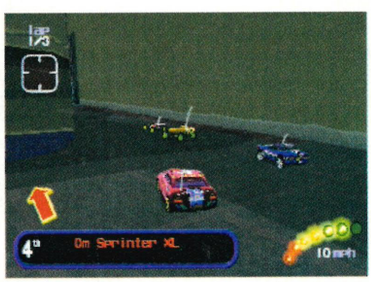
■ The computer cars will use any means to get ahead



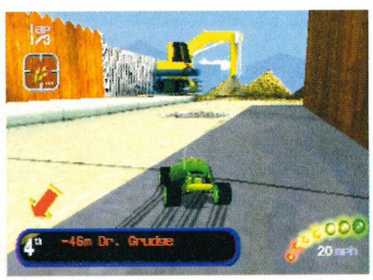
■ You've got quite a few mean tricks up your sleeve as well. At times, it can be wrenching stuff

Fellas? Fellas? Hey... fellas?

A major cloud on the horizon is the lack of other racers. The tracks are pretty wide and open, so it often feels empty with only four people racing. You'll often be racing along with a payload of cool bombs, waiting for someone to wander into your sights – and they won't. It gets frustrating.



■ It's fun at the start, because there are lots of racers



■ Once the field thins out, it gets a lot duller

Not in-your-face bad or anything, but there are no outstanding features and the 'realistic' handling's really annoying. If remote control cars grab you, why not just buy one? **Rob**

PlayStation plus
RATED 65%

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

TONY HAWK'S SKATEBOARDING

Someone finally makes a PlayStation skating game that's up to scratch. It's fast, smooth and slick with enough high-octane excitement for even the most die-hard skater punks

Probably the only game ever to have been previewed in The Face, this stunts-a-popping skate marathon has been turning heads for months. And now we've played it and we really rate it. It's smooth as you like – fast, slick and loud.

What we like

Race-free zone

Every skating and snowboarding game ever has suffered from wanting to be a straight-up racing game as well as a half-pipe stunt epic. Here, they've concentrated on what matters: lip-smacking stunts, massive jumps, improbable spins and board grabs. There's no half-assed racing mode. It's all just tricks – and we like that a lot.



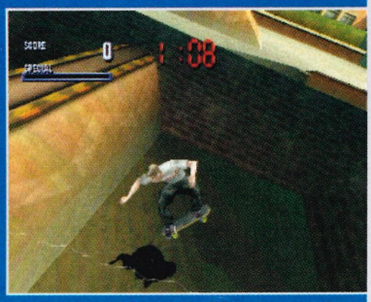
■ All the levels are just massive skate parks



■ Do a killer flip off the edge of this half-pipe



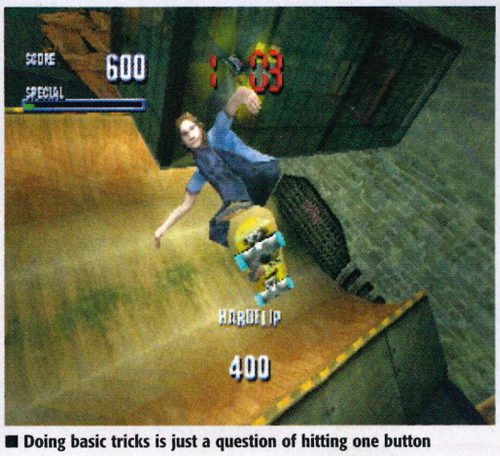
■ Massive drops and gut-wrenching tricks



■ Acrobatic aerial spins that'll leave you gasping

The tricks

The tricks are cool. They're easy to pick up, but stringing together combo tricks is going to rack up the points. Most basic tricks involve pressing one of the buttons just as you fly off a ramp, but doing a 360 spin into a slide into a tail grab is going to tax even the most joypad-happy among you.



■ Doing basic tricks is just a question of hitting one button



■ Big combo tricks are challenging



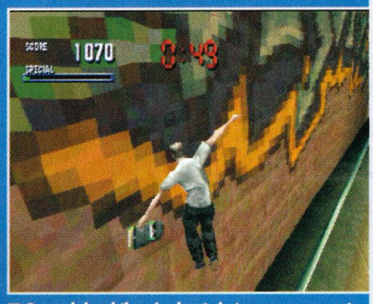
■ Hit the button at just the right moment, or you're history

School's out forever

The levels span over realistic urban locations like schools, warehouses and shopping centres. What's especially cool is they haven't sweated over the realism too much. Where you'd have the school bins, there's a bloody great ramp. Playing fields? Nah, more ramps. In fact, there's just ramps, bowls, half-pipes and enormous bonus stunts everywhere.



■ Fly up this wall to grab a hidden bonus



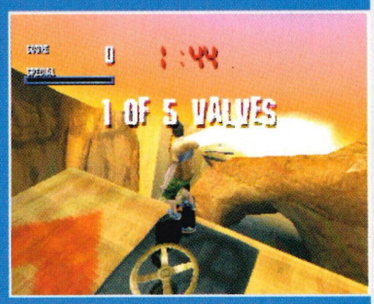
■ On each level there's about six tapes you can get



■ Each tape you get is essential to getting to the next level



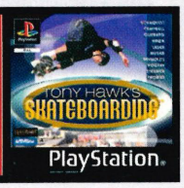
■ Use the scenery to rack up huge points



■ Do radical stunts to grab the best bonuses

WIN! **TONY HAWK'S SKATEBOARDING**

For your chance to win 50 copies of this radical skateboarding epic, just turn to page 14.



Bits, bits and more bits

This is one of these games where getting ahead isn't the be all and end all – far from it. In fact, as soon as you open up a new level, you just want to get to grips with all the stupid stunts and new ramps and stuff and play with 'em. And you'll keep playing. We guarantee every new person that visits your gaff will be treated to a display of your newly-acquired skills – until all your friends start to hate you.



■ 'Watch me pull off a massive ollie-to-railslide. It's a piece of cake, dude



■ Every area's so cool, you'll just want to play again and again to the point of blindness

Go with the flow

The way the career mode plays is nothing short of superb. You've got a wide range of objectives to complete on each level, ranging from just racking up massive trick scores to doing the usual 'grinds' along various hard-to-reach objects, to just doing enormous jumps to grab bonuses. You can choose which ones to do. And if you do it often enough, and more levels open up with new objectives. This super-bad-ass stuff.



■ You can grind along five of these tables to get a bonus tape. This is one of the best ways to rack up mega points



■ Flip off the edge to grab the last letter in the bonus word



■ By level four you're competing in major competitions and stuff

The 'dudes'

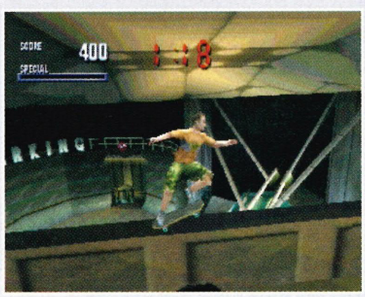
There's a nice selection of skater dudes on here. You can select nine different blokes to play with, each with their own signature tricks. You can also choose boards to suit your playing style: aerial and acrobatic or grinding and board-grabbing. It's worth trying all them out for size. After a while you'll settle for what suits you best, but it's nice to be able to choose a board and skater that fits.



■ Choose your skate dude. There are nine to choose and each has his own signature style



■ Choose your board and hit the air



■ Mr Hawk himself is a fine choice for aerial stunts

Spills and errr... more spills

The reason the tricks system works so well here is that trying to score really massive points is completely down to timing. If you decide to risk one last 360 whirl on your board before you hit the tarmac, you might rack up another 1,000 points which'll get you the score you need to get on to another level. Or you might hit the ground spinning and go tits up, and you've had it. But if you judge it right, you could be heading towards a winning streak.



■ Doing the really super cool or swish tricks is all down to timing – and luck, of course



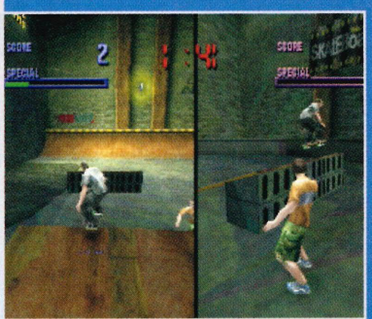
■ Getting a big combo right is dead tricky



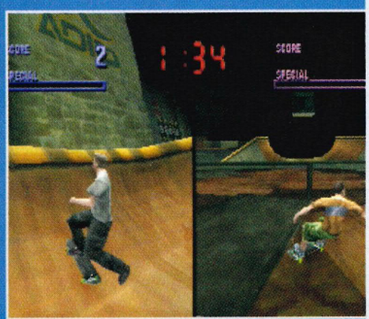
■ String tricks together to score massive points. But for beginners it's actually quite hard

Two-player mode

The two-player mode's pretty cool as: you and a mate compete to pull off outrageous stunts, flips, and spins while racking up a colossal five-figure score. But this effort's so slick in one-player, you'll find yourself happily watching your mate play before trying to outdo him yourself. This is the perfect way to live out your daydreams and outdo even the best of those cheesy, steroid-pumping Hollywood stuntmen.



■ The split-screen works really well and lets you see both players stunts simultaneously



■ Showing off to your mates is where it's at. Skate yourself into a frenzy

winner This is super cool. It looks amazing, the tricks are stunning and are relatively easy to do. And it plays better than any skating game ever. A must-have. **Rob**

PlayStation plus RATED 92%

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

RAT ATTACK

Mad technicolour Tom and Jerry capers

Comedy cats chasing comedy rats around naff 50s granny furniture in hellishly bright-coloured levels with cheesy lounge music sounding away in the background. Cartoon heaven or kitschy hell? Well, it's a bit of both actually.

Rat race

In the one-player this gets right on your tits after about five minutes, because catching rats, no matter how many 'wacky' obstacles they put in your way, is pointless and boring. The four-player, where you try and stop each other bagging rats using Any Means Necessary, however sadistic, including clawing each other into lawnmowers and stuff, is a bit more fun – but only marginally.



■ Four-player: everything's a bit too small and, consequently, incredibly confusing



■ It's kind of fun, but it's far too bitty and confusing to really kick ass

The sinister Destructor

The idea's simple: just chase rats around the room with a giant electronic loop thing. Catch 'em in it, and they vanish. Then by walking over the Destructor device, you vapourise 'em. And if you erase them often enough, the level's done. Simple enough, you might think, but factor in a huge range of obstacles, enemies, and powered-up super-rats, and it all starts to get a little hairy.



■ Obstacles make you drop the rats you're carrying



■ Avoid waking up the dog, or it'll chase you



■ Use power-ups to help you get the rats



■ Once you catch the right number, a door appears

In one-player this gets boring pretty swiftly, and the four-player looks too confused and small for you to really get into it. Vaguely amusing, but pretty limp. **Rob**

PlayStation plus
RATED 56%

■ **OUT** NOW ■ **BY** CRAVE ENTERTAINMENT ■ **COSTS** £34.99 ■ **PLAYERS** 1
■ **COMPATIBILITIES** JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, DUAL SHOCK PAD

KILLER LOOP

A great name disguising a pretty average futuristic racer that's barely up to scratch

Sounds mean and sci-fi - exactly what you'd expect for a futuristic racing game. But although it's a WipEout wannabe, it's not as good. Why? You race high-speed three wheelers, the kind even Del Boy would be ashamed of. Damn.

Play to grin

In the future, racing is an ugly, win-at-all-costs affair. Sportsmanship has ceased to exist, replaced instead by power-ups and weapons of destruction. So rather than just going all-out for the finish line, take time to grab a few meaty pick-ups and nuke the other competitors.



■ Race? Nah, shred the opposition instead



■ Homing missiles, lasers... They're all there



■ To stick to the course you've got to use the magnet power-up, otherwise you'll fly off

More speed

Speed's what racing games are all about. Unfortunately, Killer Loop doesn't feel fast at all, no matter what it says on the speedo. 550 miles-per-hour? Yeah, right.



■ 300mph? You're having a laugh



■ You go faster on the downhill sections

Mutton dressed as lamb?

Don't be fooled by these screenshots. Killer Loop looks cool here, but when it's moving it's not so hot. The tracks are detailed, but it just doesn't fit together particularly well.



■ Looks pretty good here, huh?



■ Killer Loop doesn't look great when it's moving



■ You've got to get the hang of the magnet to win



■ You'll find lots of the pick-ups on the sidelines

Slim pickings

Unbelievably, there isn't a two-player mode. All you get is a time trial and a championship mode. There's 12 racers to choose from, spread over three teams. With only five tracks, this game's slimmer than Melinda Messenger's chances in the Blue Oyster Bar.



■ The initial racers are a fairly average bunch



■ The racing gets repetitive very quickly



■ There aren't even enough tracks, there's no two-players... Things don't look good

Don't be fooled by its slickness - Killer Loop is just another very average futuristic racer. Give it a miss and pump your cash into better stuff, like Wip3out. Rich

PlayStation plus
RATED 68%

■ **OUT** SEPTEMBER ■ **BY** PBH ■ **COSTS** £39.99 ■ **PLAYERS** 1-2
■ **COMPATIBILITIES** JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, NAMCO BAT

PUCHICARAT

Another classy addictive puzzle game, heavy on the thrills, hits the shelves

It's like Tetris crossed with, er, tennis. Use a dinky little control disc to move a 'bat' along the bottom of the screen and bounce a ball up at rows of gems until there's none left. Simple, yet strangely addictive.

Pads: now with things!

This comes bundled with a control pad where you control the bat by rotating a little disc to move it left and right. The fact that you've got a special pad for just one game makes it feel arcadey and a touch retro. Plus, the whole bundle's only £34.99. Cool.



■ Spin the wheel to move the bat

What you do

You move a bat from side to side, ricocheting shots up at blocks of gems on the ceiling. Keep the bat moving to put spin on the ball, and don't miss any shots or the gems move downwards. And in two-player there's an added element: by doing well, you'll clog up your mate's screen with gems. It's fun, fast and furious – just what we like.



■ Send the ball sideways to cause epic damage



■ Hit the flashing gem to clear out the level



■ Drop gems on your mate by clearing your side

It's not quite up there with the Bust-a-Moves of this world, but once you get good enough to get the balls going where you want 'em, the two-player can be a real laugh. Rob

PlayStation plus
RATED 85%

■ **OUT** OCTOBER ■ **BY** VIRGIN ■ **COSTS** £19.99 ■ **PLAYERS** 1-2 ■ **COMPATIBILITIES** JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD

STREET FIGHTER EX PLUS ALPHA

The version where the Street Fighters aren't flat comes around again, but on the cheap

This month, the ghost of games past brings you Street Fighter on the cheap – and in slick 3D. It's the only 'Station game where Ryu and the gang travel into the third dimension and, two years on, it's still a cool gaming experience.

I'm the leader of the gang

Old-time Street Fighter fans will have nothing to complain about here. All the old fave characters like Ryu, Ken and Chun Li are in here, boasting 3D versions of their moves, plus there's new talent like Garuda, Cracker Jack and Blair Dame. That makes 27 characters in all.



■ Doctrine Dark shows off some cool flame effects



■ Ryu, complete with Dragon Punch



■ New bloke Cracker Jack hits hard and where it really counts. Not to be messed with

High energy

The build-up moves are pretty tricky for a beginner. For instance, to pull off a super-special attack, you've got to combine kicks and punches with two half turns on the direction pad at high speed. This means there's plenty to get your teeth into, plus you won't have the annoyance of going down to a button-bashing novice. This takes raw skill and a lot of nerve.



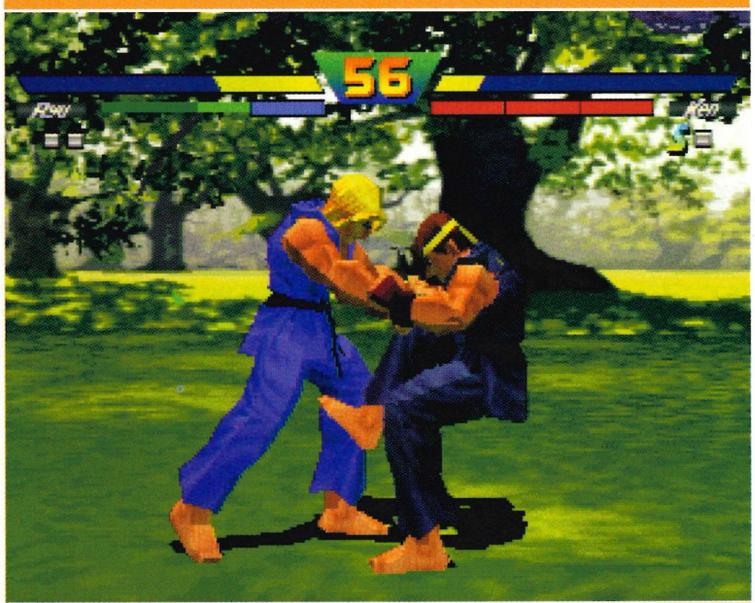
■ The specials are pretty hard to pull off



■ But super-specials are only for champs

Three-dimensional fun?

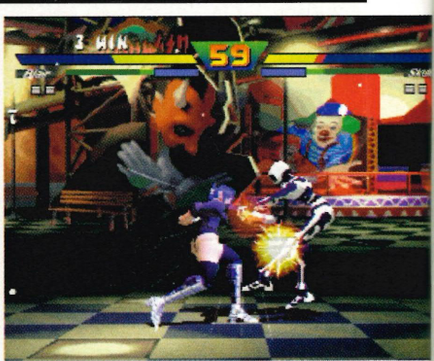
Most of the characters can't move left and right, and like it or not, this is basically a two-dimensional fighter that just happens to look 3D. That's cool for old SF hands because it means the moves are fairly familiar, but if you're expecting radically different 3D gameplay that takes the Street Fighter gang into a whole new dimension, you'll be very disappointed – very disappointed indeed.



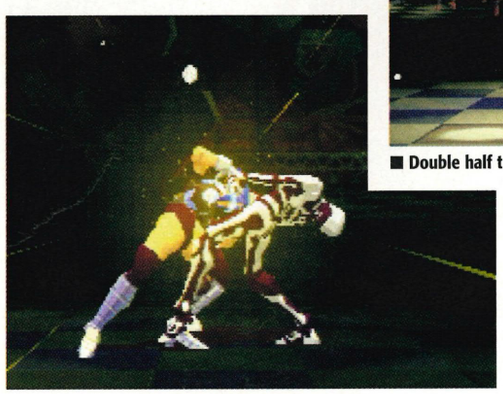
■ It's still a toe-to-toe straight-up slugfest. It's not exactly strategic stuff, or even violent

Speciality moves

In common with the 2D Street Fighter Alpha games, this has got another two levels of special-attack over and above your basic fireball. Build up your powerbars by pulling off basic attacks, then try for a super-special attack, or go one up with the ultra-tricky firecracker strike. Get one of those right, and the screen goes black while your enemy drops dead. Doesn't get cooler than that.



■ Double half turn, plus a punch



■ Follow up with two more half turns plus a kick



■ Smile grimly as the attack builds into a firecracker strike

Platinum The characters look a tad Lego these days, but the gameplay's a scorcher. Hard enough to keep you on your toes – and keep you coming back for more. **Rob**

PlayStation plus **RATED 89%**

■ **OUT** SEPTEMBER ■ **BY** ACCLAIM ■ **COSTS** £19.99 ■ **PLAYERS** 1-4 ■ **COMPATIBILITIES** JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, DUAL SHOCK PAD

WWF WARZONE

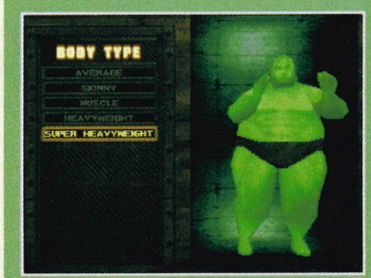
More high-octane combat between men uglier than Salman Rushdie

Last summer's wrestling smash lumbers back into the ring with a new price tag. It's got lots of blokes, all the moves and all the stupidity. And at £20, it's a Stone Cold stunner.

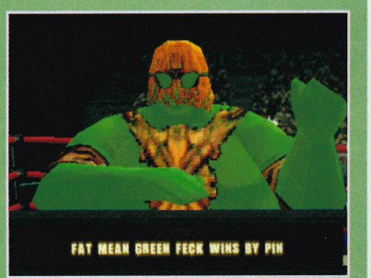
What we like

Here's one we made earlier

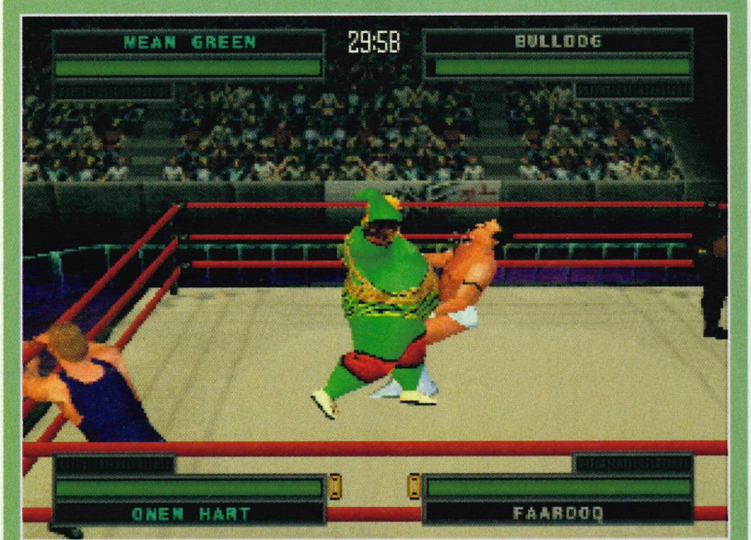
The best thing about WWF Warzone was the Create-a-Wrestler option. You can make 'em tall or small, skinny or obscenely obese. You can even slap a pair of giant tits on them. And there's a selection of outfits, everything from slinky Speedos to naff Nike gear.



■ Tinker with skin-colour, weight and stuff



■ You can even give him a stupid haircut



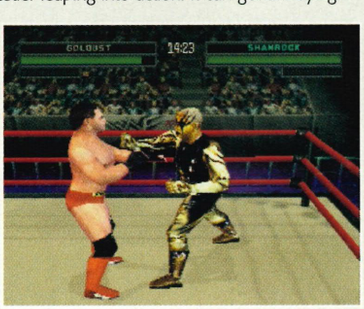
■ Then send the hard-ass psycho killer out to do battle and destroy the other guy

Slow off the mark

One warning: if you're not into the wacky world of WWF, you'll find this moves too slowly for your hyped-up Tekken 3 reflexes. Wrestlers take time to get on the move and there's a bit of a delay between you pressing a button and the wrestler leaping into action. It can get annoying.



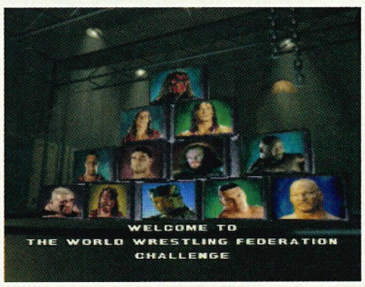
■ There's a delay before the wrestler gets on the move



■ It's plod-plod-plod rather than bang-bang-bang

The gang's all here

Even though this is a year old, you'll still recognise all the wrestlers. Stone Cold Steve Austin and the gang all strut their stuff, with signature moves a-popping. The basic moves are similar for each bloke, but there's enough specials and stuff to keep the 20-odd fighters on interesting.



■ There aren't as many fighters as in WWF Attitude



■ All the main blokes are in there – and they come in full-on fighting-machine form



■ There's a cool three-on-one tag team mode

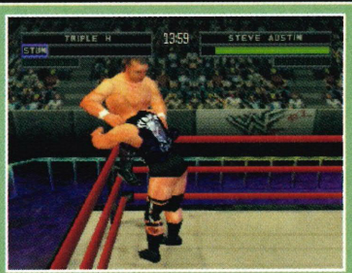


■ The weapons option is highly amusing

How it plays

Graceful kung fu artistry this ain't. Big, oiled meat mountains batter each other until one or the other's worn down enough to be easy pickings for signature moves, pins or finishing moves. Add to that a few comedy wrestling touches like weapons and bouncing off the walls of the ring, and you've got a laugh-a-minute recipe.

■ When the powerbar changes colour, it's time to go for the kill



Platinum Too slow to cut it against your average beat 'em up, but it's still a blast. The Create-a-Wrestler option's cool, and the game will tickle WWF fans pink. **Rob**

PlayStation plus
RATED 85%



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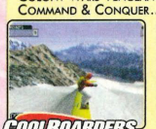


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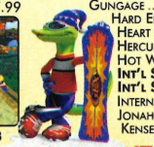
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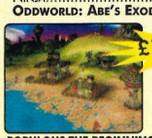


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51-60%	Just toss
0-50%	Total toss

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

best buy — Top PlayStation gear to boost your gameplay.

Rent it — Only worth renting. Don't buy it!

ARSE — This game is crap. Avoid like the plague

EASY TO USE GUIDE

Here's how your first and best easy-to-use guide to every PlayStation game out there works:



It's alphabetical
No time-wasting as you look for your fave game

It's all scored
See ratings key above

Play with mates?
Is it a one-player or great with mates?

What it costs
The recommended retail price, but you could find it cheaper

Extra Information
We'll tell you exactly what we think of each game, plus we'll point out any gadgets it uses such as the link-up or multitap. Most games work with the Dual Shock pad and memory card but we'll let you know if it uses 'em well

plus


Tenchu: Stealth Assasin. Classic game, low price p94

p88 It's got a laser sight!
Why the Blaze Falcon lightgun is going to rock your world

p90 Top swops
Where to take your rubbish old games and get new games instead

p92 War games
Tanks, explosives and mass death: the best strategy games money can buy

p92 Kula World
Brain-melting puzzler that's available on the cheap

p93 Resident Evil 2
Classic horror adventure turns Platinum: full review

p94 Cheat masters!
Cheat cards that can think up their own cheats. What they do, how they do it

p95 Exchange me
'My game is faulty - it's crap!' We find out which stores'll give you money back when you've bought a rubbish game



Footy games: the best three, and why to pick 'em p96

What the hell does the phrase 'RPG' mean? p89

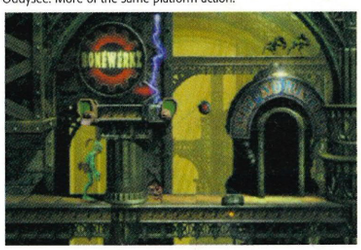
Knowledge: new every month

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



A Bug's Life 70%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Looks nice enough, plays OK. But this explore 'em up based on the Disney film is hardly a showstopper.

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 very 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 game which boasts all the usual teams and moves. Uses multitap.

Guns

Laser action!



Raise the hammer over the piggy bank. This ice-cool light-gun from Blaze is going to be hitting the shelves before Christmas, and it's looking like it's going to knock the stuffing out of all its rivals.

It's compatible with any PlayStation game, plus it's got recoil, mad autofires, and – get this – a laser pointer which beams a red dot on to the screen where you're shooting. We've been giving our one a proper road test over the last couple of weeks, and it's scorching. Only £39.99 from all good games stores.

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.

Aeronauts 73%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Hard-nut convicts battle it out in the skies in this air-based Running Man-style shooter.

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-style, bagging things with Black Magic. Not enough gore to be great. Uses Dual Shock.

All Star Tennis 73%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Slightly soiled looks don't spoil this extraordinary 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.

Anna K's Smash Court Tennis 89%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-4
Excellent tennis game with a picture of the lovely Anna on the cover. Uses a multitap for plenty o' players action.

Ape Escape 91%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Only works with the Dual Shock pad, but if you've got one this super-cute platform game is well worth winner

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.

AVI Evolution Global 73%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
Looks like a yawnsome strategy thing but get into this baby and you'll have fun building empires. Mouse compatible.

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.

Big Air 81%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Snowboarding game with lots detail but let down by lengthy loading times and a lack of adrenaline. Rent it

Bio-freaks 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...

Bloody Roar 2 91%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
We still love the idea of animals scrapping. And this sequel is even better than the first. Bonus! winner



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.

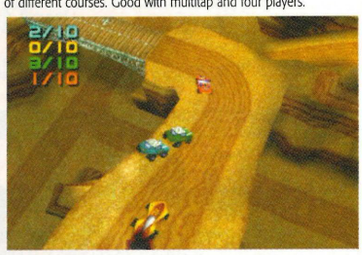
Bust-a-Move 4 80%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-2
Way too similar to the others to make it worth splashing the cash for. Try its Platinum predecessor instead.

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.



Civilisation 2 88%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Get to play God in a historical setting. A bit like Sim City if you know what we mean. Strange, but really good.

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 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 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.

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.

Croc 2 — 80%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Cutey-pie platforming action with a cuddly crocodile. Not as puke-making as it sounds but still let down by poor controls.

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 school but plays OK. The best bit? Zapping stormtroopers.

Darklight Conflict — 87%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
3D space game delivers stunning gameplay and slick visuals. Difficult to master so watch out.

Darkstalkers 3 — 71%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
The kind of Japanese beat 'em up only a mother could really love. And with so many other doozies available, are you gonna bother?

Dead Ball Zone — 78%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-2
Hyper-violent future sports game with lot of 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!

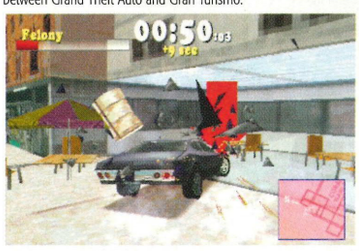
Devil Dice — 85%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Simple but addictive puzzler that'll keep you coming back for more. And more...

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.

Diver's Dream — 75%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Go on a search for buried treasure beneath the sea. Fun but flawed. Approach with care, we say...

Driver — 94%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Awesome mafia driving game. Imagine a cross between Grand Theft Auto and Gran Turismo. winner



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

FA Manager — 76%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Officially licensed? Then how come some of the team info is wrong? Not bad, just not spectacular.

FA Premier League Stars — 79%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-4
FIFA-esque footy effort with all the Premier League teams. Sadly, the gameplay's a bit Second Division.

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. Looks 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 pizzazz 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.

Fluid — 80%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1
Swim through underwater worlds to build up library of samples, then mix dance tunes. Odd.

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



Me no speaky geeky

What the hell does the phrase RPG mean?

RPG stands for role-playing game. It means an adventure where you play a character who interacts with other characters. The term RPG is a hang-over from geeky 70s hobby games like Dungeons and Dragons, so if a videogame's described as being an RPG, expect magic swords and elves and stuff to feature.

RPGs will usually involve turn-based combat with huge menus of spells to choose from. They'll also usually have a long-winded, complex plot and loads of characters. The gameplay'll tend to be a bit slower-paced than in adventures like Tomb Raider or Resident Evil. Typical RPGs are stuff like Suikoden, Vandal Hearts and the mighty Final Fantasy VII.


Final Fantasy VII: role-playing action

G-Police 2 — 83%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Sci-fi helicopter shooter set on the dark streets of Jupiter's moon. Dripping with glacial sci-fi atmos, but a bit fiddly to control.

Gex: Enter the Gecko — 80%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Yep, you control a bouncing lizard. Fine addition to an already fun-filled platform series.

Gex 3D — 89%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
Very cool 3D platformer pumped full of exploration and adrenaline. 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.

H, I, J

Hard Edge — 84%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
It's a Resident Evil-style adventure with a sci-fi edge and a dash of kung fu just for good measure. Not bad at all.

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.

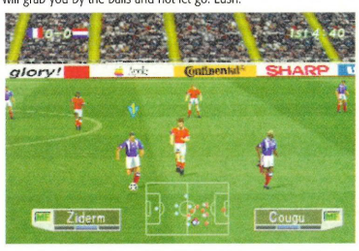
Help! — 85%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Broken Sword's great, but Road Rash and Myst ain't so hot. Still, pretty good value.

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 style.

Hercules — 80%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-2
Based on the Disney flick, this cool 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.

KKnD: Krossfire — 77%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
It stands for Kill Krush and Destroy. Which sounds cool. But this is not as good as you'd think. Rent it

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.

Kurushi Final — 79%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1
Brain-busting block-based puzzler that's a bit too tricky for most. If you're a closet egghead, though, go ahead.

Legacy of Kain: Soul Reaver — 92%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Excellent Tomb Raider-style adventure going on here, with lashings of blood and a good plot. winner

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.

»

Knowledge: new every month

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 grid-iron 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.

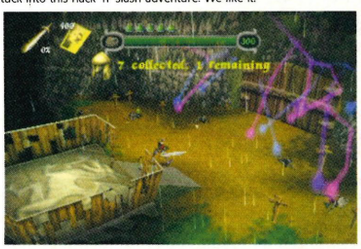
Marvel Super Heroes vs Street fighter — 83%
■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
If you're really into Marvel Super Heroes and REALLY into Street Fighter, this cannae be faulted. The rest of you, approach with care.

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.

MediEvil — 92%
■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Does slaughtering demons pump your pulse? Then tuck into this hack 'n' slash adventure. We like it.
winner



Metal Gear Solid — 93%
■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Atmospheric, pacy, good-looking and innovative. If only it were a bit longer...
winner

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.
winner

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.

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.
winner

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.
winner

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.
Rent it!

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.

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.

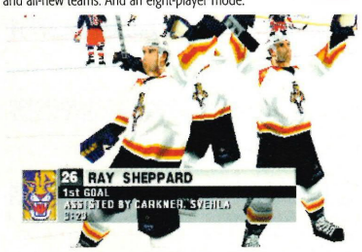
Newman Haas Racing — 71%
■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Sub-standard Indie Car racer from the blokes who gave us Formula 1. Looks old, man.

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 half bad.

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.
winner



NHL 99 — 86%
■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-8
Installment 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 OK-ish 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.
winner



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.

Omega Boost — 90%
■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Frantic space blaster with giant-sized robots and even bigger weapons. Well cool.

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
Bizarre 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.

Player Manager Seasons 98/99 — 71%
■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Playable enough and it's got all the latest teams, but not a patch on Premier Manager 98.

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.
winner

Point Blank 2 — 92%
■ Price £34.99 ■ Players 1-2
Slamming shooting gallery sequel with even more nutty challenges. A laugh and a half in two-player.
winner

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.
winner

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 subgames 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 poorly executed. Oh well.

Top of the swops

Places to trade your old tat for shiny new games

■ The mail order people Department 1 will do you part exchange for old games, and the prices are dead good if what you've got's decent. The number's 0171-916-8440.

■ Check out swop websites like http://www.ukgamesxchange.co.uk/: if you shop around, you can get some excellent deals. But stay on mainstream sites to avoid being ripped off by cyber-crooks.

■ A lot of second-hand shops will do you a good trade: if you take along a couple of duff old games, you can usually get a decent new one. Make sure the discs aren't scratched.



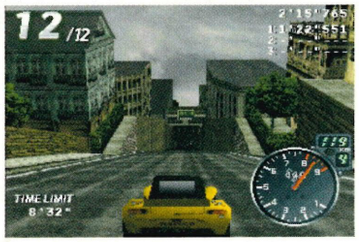
■ 'Go on, guv. Do me a Tekken 3 for this'

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.

Racing Simulation-Monaco Grand Prix 82%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-4
At last! A Formula One game that doesn't suck. Yeah, you could've knocked us over with a feather, too...

Rage Racer 93%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Gorgeous-looking, super-fast racing game that's lush to play. Get it, worship it, thank us for recommending it. winner



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! Rent it

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. winner

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. winner

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. Rent it



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.

Ridge Racer Type 4 93%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Excellent racing game. Right up there with Gran Turismo. Buy it. Now. winner

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.

Rollcage 89%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
Like WipEout on the roads. Which means lots of speed and driving on the ceiling. So, yeah: it rocks.

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.

R-Type Delta 85%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Old-style space shoot 'em up sees you flying across the screen offing baddies. Still takes no prisoners.

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.

Sled Storm 91%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-4
Ice-cool snowmobile racer with secret routes, hardcore stunts and an amazing four-player split-screen mode. A scorcher.

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

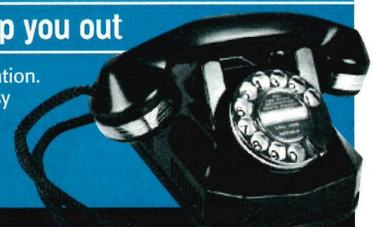
Speed Freaks 89%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-4
Cutesy racer where big-headed children kart it up round wacky tracks with power-ups a-poppin'. Cool in one-player, lame in split-screen.

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.

Want to know more about a game?
Then give us a call. We'll help you out



There's a lot of games available on the 'Station. Nearly 600 in fact. So we know it's not easy choosing which to buy. That's why we're here. To help. If you want advice 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.

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 Alpha 3 85%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Smart enough beat 'em up all right , but the good news is: it uses the PocketStation.

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 multi-tap game. Pretty good with a mouse.

Syphon Filter 92%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
You're a tooled-up James Bond in this class spy shoot 'em up. winner



T

Tank Racer 71%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
As a two-player game you'll get a bit of value, but in single-player mode racing tank's just doesn't cut it. Rent it

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 a mouse.

Theme Park 85%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
Same as above, but this time you've got a theme park complete with roller coasters and rides to play around with.

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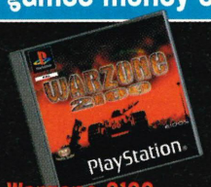
Knowledge: new every month

War... what is it good for?

The best strategy games money can buy



Command and Conquer: Red Alert
Classic tank action. The new Platinum price means this commie-bashing strategy bonanza is a must-have for all armchair generals. 93%



Warzone 2100
Pretty hard to get into, but this head-frying sci-fi strategy effort pays off big if you've got the time to learn how it all works. Loads of missions, too. 87%



Warhammer II: Dark Omen
This goblin-infested fantasy war epic scores high on the geekometer, but it's naggingly playable and it's got a lot of depth. 84%

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?

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 under-water exploration blaster.

Triple Play 2000 79%
Price £39.99 Players 1-2
Baseball? Quite frankly, we don't want to play baseball but, truth be told, if we did, we'd play this one. Not bad at all.

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.

U.V

UEFA Champions League Season 98/99 91%
Price £39.99 Players 1-4
Footy game great looks and gameplay to match. We have a winnah! winner

Um Jammer Lammy 85%
Price £34.99 Players 1-2
Rock sequel to Parappa the Rapper. A guitar sheep takes over from the rapping pooch, but the Simon Says gameplay's still the same.

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.

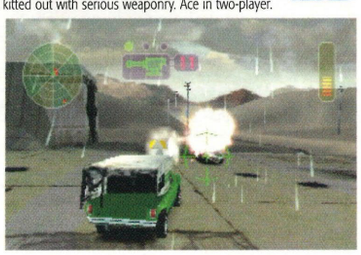
V-Ball Beach Volley Heroes 75%
Price £34.99 Players 1-2
Kung-fu-style volleyball that's pretty easy to play and fairly enjoyable. At its best in two-player.

V-Rally 2 94%
Price £39.99 Players 1-4
Great as a one-player off-road racer, but even better with a multitap and three mates. winner

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.

Warzone 2100 87%
Price £39.99 Players 1
War strategy game with loads missions to get your teeth into. If strategy's your bag, you'll get into this one.

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.

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 lot of laughs. It's still pretty flawed, though.

WWF Attitude 90%
Price £39.99 Players 1-2
Full-on grapple-fest with lush graphics and all the wrestlers. The Create-a-Wrestler option is even better than WWF Warzone's.

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.

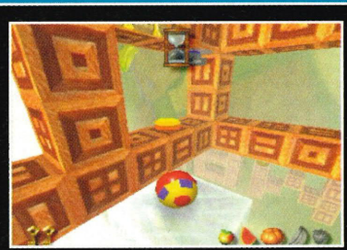
Z 78%
Price £39.99 Players 1
Even though this robot battle game's flavoured with strategy, it's still overflowing with action.

Games you might have missed

Kula World. Now even cheaper!

Nobody seemed to pay much attention to Kula World when it came out last year. Which was a shame, because it was about the best one-player puzzler ever to appear on PlayStation.

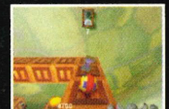
What do you do?
It's simple. To start with, anyhow. You play a basketball, rolling along the sides of 3D blocks in space. On each level, you've got to grab a key, avoid traps, then get to the exit. What makes it tricky is how gravity works in all directions: you've got to roll round every side of the blocks to solve most levels - it really forces you to think in 3D. And it's around £20 in most shops. A must for all would-be Einsteins.



Jumping across space is dangerous



Avoid spikes

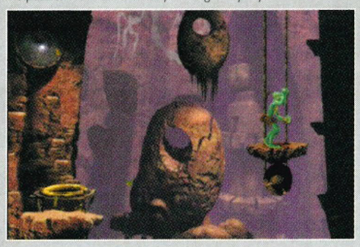


Collect extra time

Platinum games

Every £19.99 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
Alright 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.

Colin McRae Rally 93%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1-2
Smooth, fast, good-looking rally action with the Jock king of the road. Forget the rest, just buy this. winner

Command & Conquer 90%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1
Guide your troops through enemy-riddled battlefields, building stuff as you go. Slow but still good.

Command & Conquer Red Alert 93%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1-2
Rock solid strategy game which looks lush and plays sweet. Two-player link-up mode is neat. winner

Cool Boarders 2 84%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1-2
Classic snowboarding game: looks a bit rough, but plays slicker than slick. Ace two-player mode, a smooth tricks system and excellent courses.

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.

Crash Bandicoot 2 87%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1
Fact is, Crash Bandicoot games are damn good platformers. And this is no exception.

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.

Die Hard Trilogy 91%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1
Three games in one, and they're all peachy. You'll need a lightgun for the second one. winner

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.

FIFA 98: Road to World Cup 60%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1-8
International teams quality for the 98 World Cup. Looks OK but plays like a dog.

Final Fantasy VII 86%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1
One of those role-playing games you either love or you hate. A steal at £19.99 but nevertheless we recommend try before you buy.

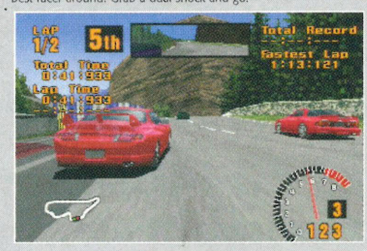


Firestorm: Thunderhawk 2 82%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1
Helicopter shoot 'em up that's a sweet mix of strategy and action. Just released on charity pack with three other games

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.

Formula 1 97 89%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1-2
Great racing sim endowed all the proper drivers 'n' teams, plus nifty hi-res graphics. The two player game is whiffy.

Gran Turismo 93%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1-2
Too realistic for some, but this is still probably the best racer around! Grab a dual shock and go. winner



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!

G-Police 84%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1
You're the cops. You pilot a cop copter. You blow stuff up across 35 different missions. What's to dislike?

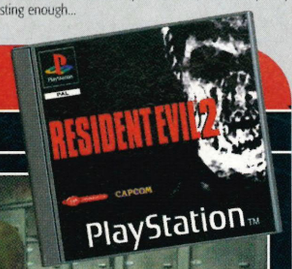
Heart of Darkness 86%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1
Platform affair which looks good enough to eat and plays OK, too. It's problem? Too damn frustrating by far.

Hercules 76%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1-2
Cartoony platform japes in a variety of styles. You've got Disney to thank for this one.

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

NEW Resident Evil 2



Price £19.99 **Players** 1

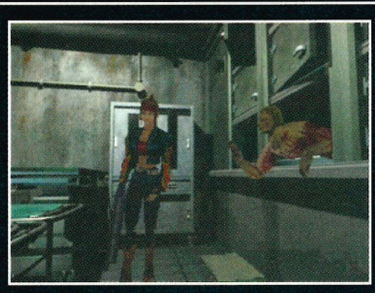
The 'Station's premier horror adventure goes Platinum. Guns, gore and gameplay galore spread over two entire discs. Buy it. Now.

So what's this then?
This 3D horror adventure's one of the best reasons to buy a PlayStation. Fact. Classy ghoulish atmosphere, lush locations set around the zombie-infested Raccoon City, brain-melting puzzles and a level of gore and violence that'll turn the strongest stomach.

What's it like?
This is an ideal way to create that 'Jesus-is-it-behind-me?' feeling if you're sitting in on your own at night. As you guide rookie cop Leon Redfield through the infested streets, you'll be up against a plague of zombies, mutant beasts and huge misshapen creatures of the night. All of them are hungry. You never have enough bullets. And it's always dark. Scary shit.

So it's tricky, then?
On the first disc's worth of Res 2, it isn't that hard. But once you've completed that, there's five more variations on the Res theme to play through, and on some of them, the mixture of object puzzles and hardcore bloodletting is nuttily hard. A long-life game? You betcha.

RATED 95%



A zombie lurches in through the window



The shotgun's ideal for slaying the living dead



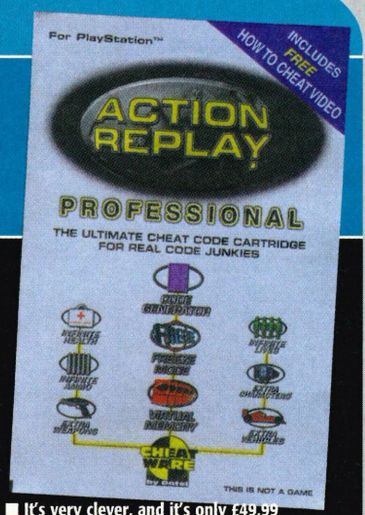
Use grenades to cover the walls and floor in flaming shreds of zombie flesh

It does WHAT?

Normally, cheat cards require you to punch in codes which you get off the web or out of mags like this. But the two best cheat cards on the market, the Datel Equalizer and the Blaze X-Plorer Professional, can actually make up cheats for you.

How it does it

You deliberately go down to a certain number of lives. Then you punch that number into the cheat card and it searches the game. You then turn the card off, go and lose a life, then turn the card on and search for a number one less than the first one. If it works, which it does about half the time, you'll get an infinite lives code. This'll work for ammo, health and all sorts.



■ It's very clever, and it's only £49.99

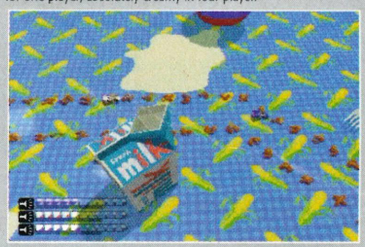
Legacy of Kain: Blood Omen 88%
■ Price £19.99 ■ Players 1
Enormous vampire adventure overflowing with virgins and blood-sucking. Doesn't look great but it's cool to play.

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.

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



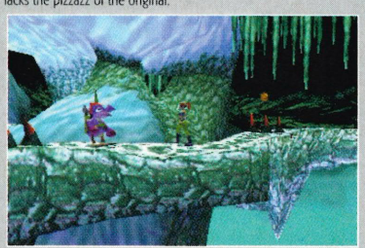
Mortal Kombat Trilogy 76%
■ Price £19.99 ■ Players 1-2
All the best Mortal Kombat bits in one package. Great if you like 'em gory, but we think it's just OK.

Moto Racer 79%
■ Price £19.99 ■ Players 1-2
Straight-up, seat-of-your-pants motorcycle racing. Don't expect too much and you'll have a right laff.

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 brash 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 pizzazz 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

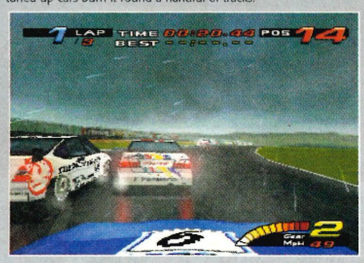
Space Hulk 84%
■ Price £19.99 ■ Players 1-2
Lead a team of dead 'ard space soldiers into battle against some nasty aliens. Slow strategy game.

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...

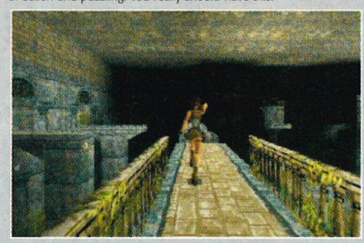
Tekken 2 95%
■ Price £19.99 ■ Players 1-2
For £20 this is the bargain of the year. No, make that the millennium. Everything's great about this. winner

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



Tomb Raider II 89%
■ Price £19.99 ■ Players 1
Probably the worst of all Tomb Raiders. But still awesome. And for £19.99 you can't go wrong.

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

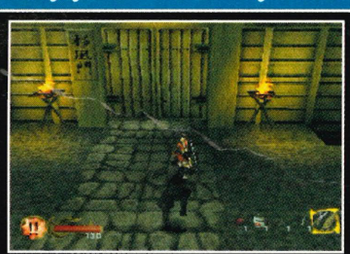
WipEout 78%
■ Price £19.99 ■ Players 1-2
Fast futuristic racer with high-speed thrills and collect weapons. Looks very old compared to the sequel.

WipEout 2097 94%
■ Price £19.99 ■ Players 1-2
Super-slick racing monster that's so fast your eyes'll pop. Good link-up game and excellent music. winner

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.

Cheap! Non-Platinum! Don't ask why!

Why you should buy Tenchu immediately



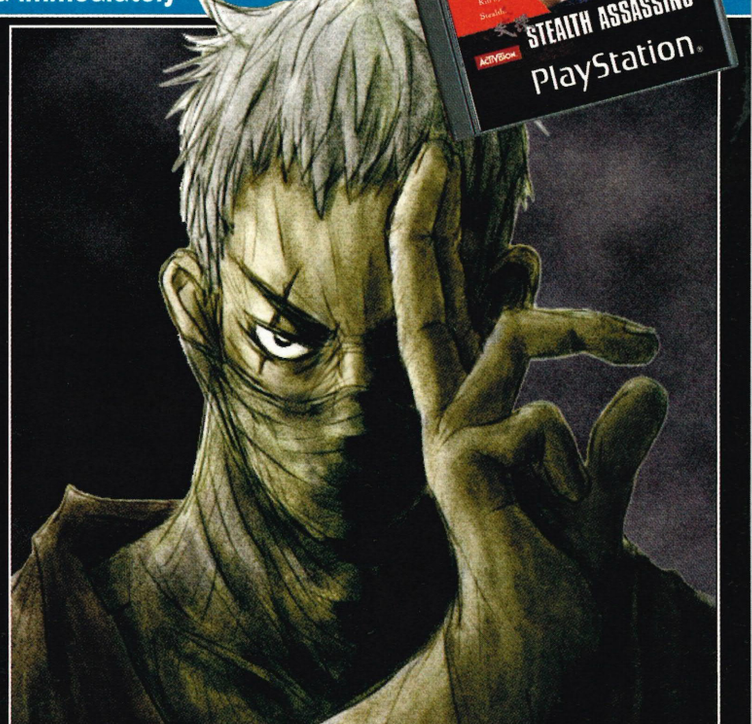
■ Live by honour. Kill by stealth

What's this so-called Tenchu?

It's not Platinum, but it's on the shelves and on the cheap. Head down to your local branch of Blockbuster and you can pick up Tenchu: Stealth Assassin for only £19.98. A bargain.

So what's it all about, then?

You're a ninja who sneaks around the place cutting people's throats. There's much scurrying over roofs and silent sneaking through shadows, a range of weapons like shurikens and poison, and a side-order of classy kung fu film dialogue as well. Sample line: 'Even in death, you bring honour to the Azuma ninja clan'. Nice. It's a classic. You want to own a copy as soon as possible. Trust us.



■ The sinister ninja hero of Tenchu. Big into sneaking along roofs and cutting throats

and the rest...

Games rated 70% and under

2Xtreme — 55%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
Really poor sequel to Extreme Games.

360 — 50%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Race ultra-fast hoverpods around river rapids. It sucks.

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 Ice Hockey — 65%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
There are too many ice hockey games around already. Nuff said

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.

Asterix — 30%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Unbelievably tedious mix of strategy and platform. Ugh!

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 £29.95 **Players** 1-2
Sure, it's a classic 80s arcade blaster, but couldn't

Atlantis — 29%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Tremendously dull adventure-type malarky.
ARSE

Attack of the Saucermen — 27%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Ultra-shit platformer where you play a stranded alien.
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.

Bloodlines — 40%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-4
Kind of like a game of sci-fi tig, if you see what we mean.

Bomberman — 65%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-5
Being multitap-compatible doesn't save this action strategy bobbins

Bomberman Fantasy Race — 35%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
This kiddie-fied racer is just a waste of good CD.

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.

Bugs Bunny: Lost in Time — 60%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Good-looking but lacks originality and just isn't really fun to play.

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.

Castrol Honda Superbike Challenge — 30%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Ugly, boring and unbelievably slow, this bike effort's a shocker.

Cheesy the Mouse — 69%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
Awful main character hides some average gameplay.

Chessmaster 2 — 70%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Very slick, but it's just chess, OK?

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.

Dreams — 24%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Nauseating psychedelic 3D platform-o-rama.
ARSE

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.

Evil Zone — 61%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Simple gameplay makes this 3D fighter dull compared to Tekken 3.

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.

My game is faulty... it's crap'

Our intrepid reporter phoned up all these stores and asked: 'Can I get my money back for a game I bought in your store? The game's rubbish.' Here's what the staff said:

✓ Electronic Boutique
'If it's in the condition you bought it, and you bought it within the last ten days, you can have your money back.'

✓ HMV
'Yeah, providing you've got your receipt, no worries. You can get your money back, or get an exchange, whichever you want.'

✗ Blockbuster
'We can only give you your money back if there's an actual fault with the game, like it won't load or something like that.'

✓ Our Price
'If you bring it in with the receipt, we'll see what we can do for you. Cash shouldn't be a problem.'

✓ Toys 'R' Us
'Your statutory rights shouldn't be affected. If you've got the receipt, and you bought it within ten days, you'll get your money back.'

✗ Comet
'I'm afraid I can't exchange it for another game or give you your money back, sir. Sorry about that. We only give money back on faulty games'

»

Knowledge: updated every month

FIFA 98: Road to World Cup — 65%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-8
Fairly average goal 'em up.

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.

GTA London — 68%
Price £19.99 **Players** 1
You need the original to play this add-on, but don't bother, we say

Gunship — 70%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
Complex but fairly playable helicopter game.

Guardian's Crusade — 35%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Even compared to other role-playing games this is boring tosh.

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

Which footy game?

There's so many... which is the best?

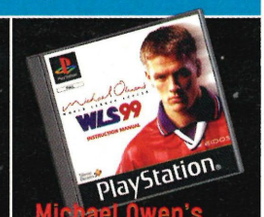
There's so many footy games out there, and there's only shades of difference between 'em. Here's the top dogs, and here's why you might like them. Or not.



ISS Pro 98
- ✓ Smooth, instinctive gameplay
- ✓ Well-animated players, nice movement
- ✓ The difficulty level's spot on
- ✗ There's no proper player names



FIFA '99
- ✓ Easy to pick up and get to grips with
- ✓ Fast-moving: loads of goals
- ✓ Loads of leagues
- ✗ It's far, far too easy to score: we racked up 12-0 against Man U



Michael Owen's World League Soccer '99
- ✓ In-depth control system: very slick
- ✓ Flashy moves
- ✓ Very realistic
- ✗ It can be pretty hard to get into

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.

Kagero Deception 2 — 45%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Boring cod-gothic dungeon game with dire graphics.

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.

Legend of Kartia — 43%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
We'd rather chew off our own feet than play this RPG again.

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?

NBA Pro 99 — 61%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-8
Not great, even in full-on multitap mode.
Rent it

Need for Speed 2 — 49%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
Looks crap and plays like a brick.

Need for Speed: Road Challenge — 64%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Average racing affair with only a cop chase mode to recommend it

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.

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.

Pro 18 Golf 45%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-4
Weird-looking golf sim that's rubbish to play, too.

Psybadek 67%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Hoverboarding game that's more adventure than racing. Poor.

Puma Street Soccer 45%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Five-a-side footy game lacks moves and variety. Give it a miss.

R

Rampage World Tour 59%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-3
Choose your monster then smash some cities. Extremely basic.

Rampage Universal Tour 54%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-3
Ages old arcade monster basher gets no better over time

Rascal 53%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
Awful camera angles make this 3D platformer almost unplayable.

R/C Stunt Copter 55%
Price £29.99 **Players** 1-2
Stupidly difficult to control. This toy chopper sim's a non-starter.

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.

Robotron X 66%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
Simple, mindless and run-of-the-mill shooter.
Rent it

Rug Rats 21%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-4
Unbelievably crud cartoon games even the kids'll hate.
ARSE

Running Wild 70%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-4
Control cartoon characters running around colourful courses.

S

Samurai Showdown 19%
Price Rental only **Players** 1-2
Sword-fighting which hits new depths...
ARSE

San Francisco Rush 43%
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

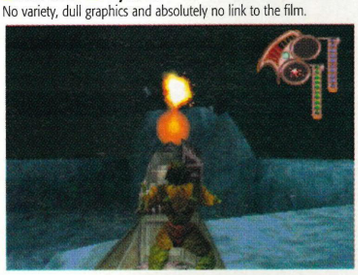
Shellshock 65%
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
Second-rate tank game with shooty bits. Not brilliant, no siree.

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.

Sports Car GT 55%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
This is a toss racing game. It's slow and looks pants.

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 Collection 2 60%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Three not so 'classic' Street Fighter games on one disc.

Street Fighter: The Movie 29%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Just as bad as the movie. In other words, CRAP.
ARSE

Street Sk8er 70%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
We wanted a skateboarding game. Thing is, we wanted a good one.



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.

Swing 64%
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-2
Super-confusing puzzle game that's still strangely addictive

T

Tai Fu 45%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
A kung fu tiger. That's a bad idea, and this is a bad game.

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.

Trap Runner 50%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Run around mazes planting bombs to catch out your mates. Dull

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 30%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Film spin-off adventure that should be avoided like the plague.

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.

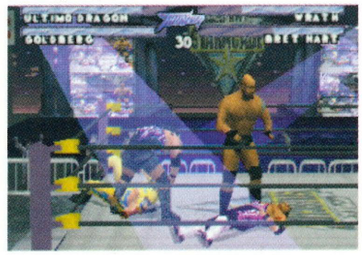
VR Powerboat Racing 40%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Speedboat racing which is waaaay nasty.

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.

Wingover 2 51%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Short of flight sims we may be, but this is fairly poor.

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

X-Games Pro Boarders 69%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Only to be trifled with if you're a mad keen snowboarding fiend.

YoYo's Puzzle Park 45%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Stupid puzzle thing which'll stretch your patience



Zeitgeist (Jupiter Strike) 43%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
Slow, clumsy 3D shooting game which seriously lacks appeal.

Zero Divide 31%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Robots fight to the death in this godawful beat 'em up.

Zero Divide 2 53%
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
Very suspect 3D fighter. Best left alone.

SPOILER

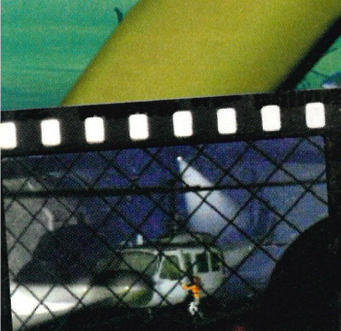


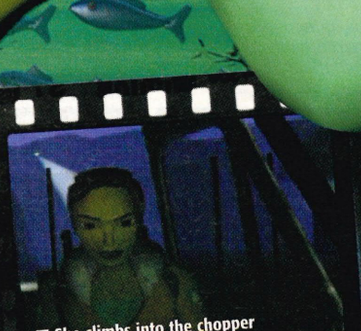
By: Eidos
Costs: €39.99
Players: 1
First Out: December 1999

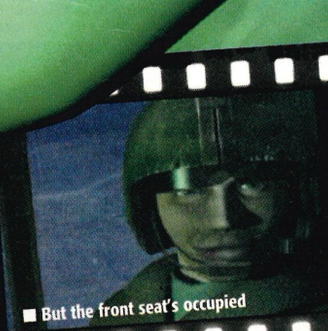
#9 Tomb Raider III

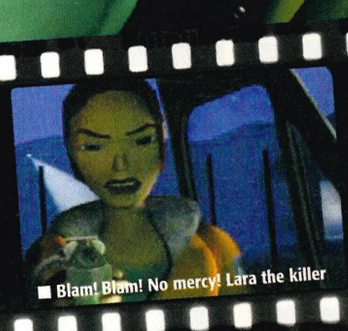
Posh girl turns bad!

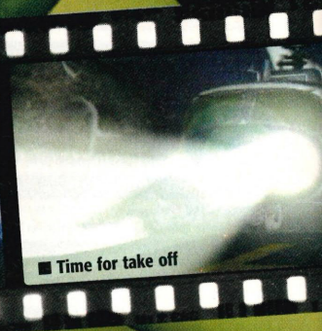
She's done it again. She's fought off endless hordes of gun-wielding bad boys, pulled several thousand levers and finally greased a two-storey high spider that beams death rays out of its eyes. Nice work. But before it's bye bye from Lara, it's time to see Our Lady of the Uzis show off her nasty side. An innocent helicopter pilot gets a bullet between the eyes. And just look at that nasty expression on Crofty's face. One tough broad.

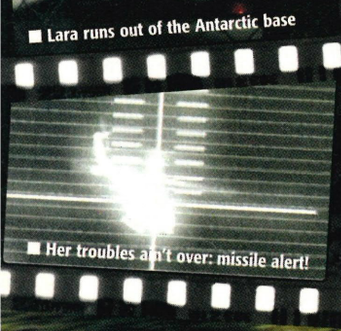

Lara runs out of the Antarctic base

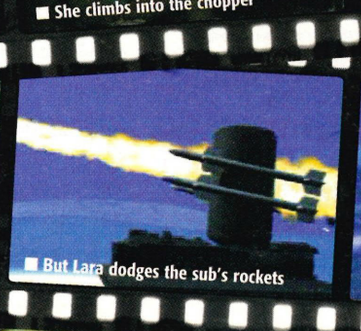

She climbs into the chopper

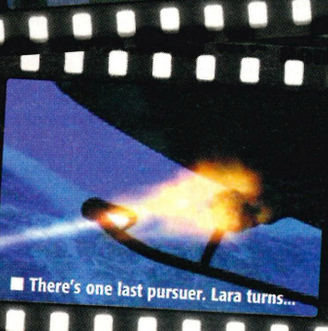

But the front seat's occupied

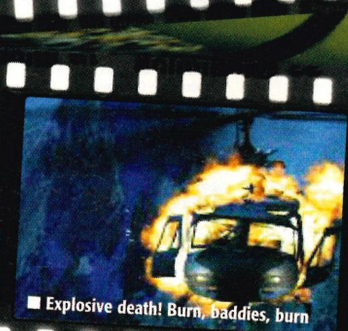

Blam! Blam! No mercy! Lara the killer

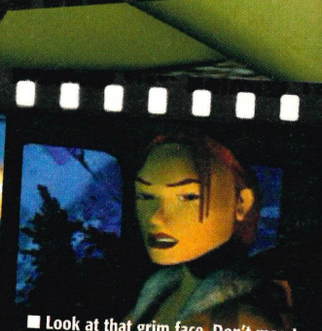

Time for take off


Her troubles ain't over: missile alert!


But Lara dodges the sub's rockets


There's one last pursuer. Lara turns...


Explosive death! Burn, baddies, burn


Look at that grim face. Don't mess!

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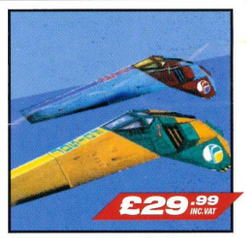
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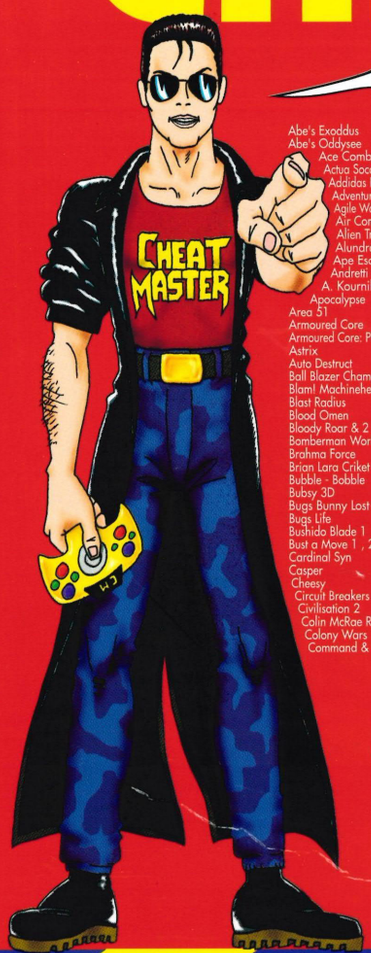
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Armoured Core: Project Phantasma
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Jersey devil
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