

NEW LOOK!

WII

DS

PSP

PS2

Issue 20 | September 2008

PLAYZINE

The Magazine for Nintendo Wii, DS, PS2 and PSP Gamers. *Fun and free for everyone*

FORE!

WII PSP

TIGER WOODS PGA TOUR 09

Teeing off with the Tiger



DS

FIRST LOOK!

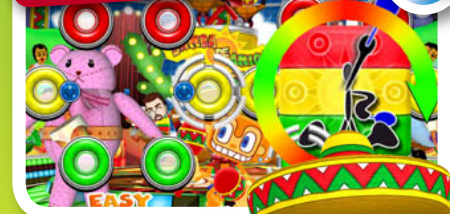


TRACKMANIA DS

Going loopy with this new racer

PREVIEWED!

WII



SAMBA DE AMIGO

Shake it, baby!

DS

REVIEWED!



FOOTBALL DIRECTOR DS

It shoots... it scores!

3 PAGE FEATURE!

WII

LEGO BATMAN

Why this could be the best LEGO game yet!

WIN

GAMES AND CONSOLE MAGNIFIERS!

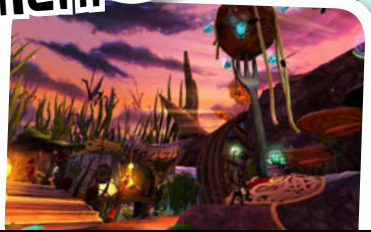
Holy exclusives Batman!

FIRST LOOK!

WII

MUSHROOM MEN: THE SPORE WARS

Fungis to be with?



REVIEWED!

DS

DRAGON QUEST IV: CHAPTERS OF THE CHOSEN

The classic comes to DS!



WELCOME



We've got a very different magazine for you this month, as HGZine has changed to PlayZine! We've still got all the DS and PSP reviews, news and previews you know and love, but we've also added in Wii stuff, too! Hope you like the new mag, and make sure you let us know what you think!

Dean Mortlock, Editor
HGZine@gamerzines.com

DON'T MISS THIS!



Tiger Woods PGA TOUR 09

PLUS TONS MORE REVIEWS, INCLUDING...

- Dragon Quest
- Football Director DS
- PictolImage



Chris Schilling

Chris has been playing as The Joker in LEGO Batman, and can't stop smiling!



CHECK THIS!

LEGO Batman

PLUS LOADS MORE PREVIEWS!

- Tomb Raider: Underworld
- Samba De Amigo
- Prince of Persia



Sonic Unleashed

All the info you need!



Trackmania

First look!



Richard Melville

This month Rich has been catching up with his Mummy.



QUICK FINDER

Every game's just a click away!

PREVIEWS

- NINTENDO WII
 - Sonic Unleashed
 - Don King Prizefighter
 - LEGO Batman
 - Tomb Raider: Underworld
 - Samba de Amigo
 - Mushroom Men

NINTENDO DS

- Trackmania DS
- Prince of Persia

REVIEWS

- NINTENDO WII
 - Tiger Woods
 - PGA Tour 09

NINTENDO DS

- Dragon Quest
- Football Director DS
- Final Fantasy IV
- PictolImage
- The Sims 2
- Apartment Pets



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- Pirates: Duels on the High Seas
- Jewel Quest Expeditions
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SONY PSP

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- Tiger Woods PGA Tour 09
- PDC Darts 2008

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If you are reading this, then you didn't choose "Play" when Adobe Reader asked you about multimedia when you opened the magazine.

Without the multimedia playing, the magazine will look correct, but you will be missing out on all of the extra content built into each issue, like videos, animated screenshots, annotations, quizzes, competitions and more.

We recommend you close and re-open the magazine and select "Play" when asked about the multimedia to enjoy the magazine as intended.

info



FROM: Sega
A BIT LIKE... The old Sonic games, hopefully
WEB: www.2.sega.com/gamesite/sonicunleashed
ALSO ON: PS2
OUT: December



Latest News

SONIC UNLEASHED

Faster than the speed of light!

WHAT'S THE STORY?

It's back to the drawing board for Sega, as they continue their quest to make a Sonic game that is as exciting and fun to play as the original Sonic games on the Mega Drive console were.

WHAT DO WE KNOW SO FAR?

As well as a mixture of 2D and 3D sections (see the 'Best Bits' box on the right), the game will also be split into two very different parts. In the daylight,

Sonic will be the usual speed freak that we know and love, but when darkness falls he transforms into a Werehog, and it's the gameplay that'll transform too, into a slower, more traditional platformer. So far, so new...

COULD IT BE SPECIAL?

Definitely. The original Sonic Team are working around the clock to make this the most gorgeous looking and playable Sonic game we've ever seen. And, so far, the signs are looking pretty darned promising.

SO, ANYTHING ELSE?

There will be nine massive levels to the game, all of which will be based on real-world locations like Greece and New York. Oh, and old favourite characters like Tails, Amy, Knuckles and Shadow are promised to make an appearance – although that may only be for the game's multiplayer mini-games. This could be very big, folks!



The levels in Sonic Unleashed will all be based on real-world locations.

"THE MOST GORGEOUS LOOKING AND PLAYABLE SONIC GAME WE'VE EVER SEEN"



Best Bit

Definitely the most interesting aspect of the game is the 'Hedgehog Engine', which will flip the action from 3D to 2D seamlessly. This means that fans of the original Sonic games (and there are a few of em!) can finally have a Sonic game that will be as fast and frantic as the originals.



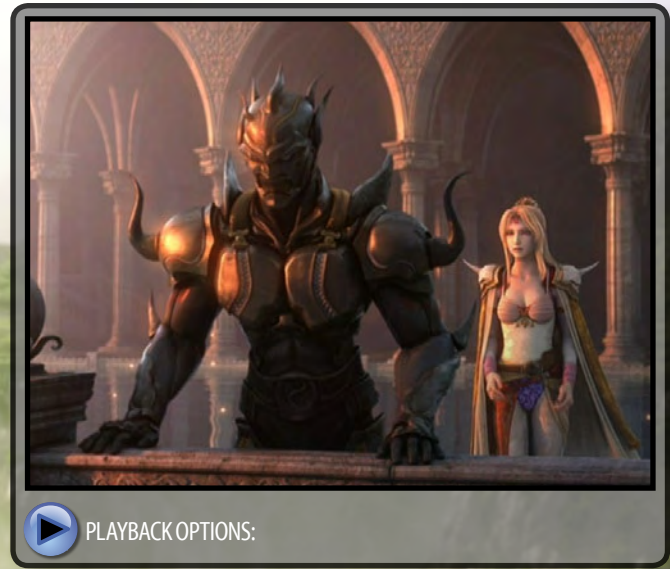
The game will split between 2D and 3D every 30 seconds or so.



Ooooh, so that's what a Werehog looks like!

A NEW WORLD AWAITS THE FEARLESS

One of the best-loved games in the ever popular FINAL FANTASY® series returns with enhanced dual-screen 3D graphics, an inspiring remixed score, fully voiced cut-scenes and Touch Screen control!



▶ PLAYBACK OPTIONS:



NINTENDO DS
SQUARE ENIX

FINAL FANTASY IV

www.finalfantasy4-game.com

12+
www.pegi.info

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info



FROM: Focus Home Interactive
A BIT LIKE...
 Race Driver: Create & Race
WEB: www.trackmania.com
OUT: November 2008



TRACKMANIA DS

It's racing, but not as we know it...

WHAT'S THE STORY?

Well, for starters, TrackMania is a pretty big name in the PC racing world. People like it because not only is it super fast, super fun and super gorgeous to look at, but you can also make your own tracks, too!

WHAT DO WE KNOW SO FAR?

The game's being developed by the same clever coding boffins behind the excellent Race Driver: Create & Race, and we all know how good that game is, don't we? This could be one of the best DS racers yet.



Latest News

SOUNDS GOOD. WHAT ELSE?

Okay, imagine playing a swirling, swooping Hot Wheels track, and that's basically what you have here. The tracks are packed full of swooping corners, loops, turbos and plenty of other crazy stuff to make sure that the gameplay is anything but ordinary. And, as you can make your own tracks, your designs are only limited by your imagination – the game has hundreds of elements you can use, so no two tracks will ever look the same.

SO, ANYTHING ELSE?

All game companies will tell you that their game is the best one yet, but we have a hunch that this could be a game that really will be stunning. We'll try to bring you a closer look very soon. ❌



Want a loop in the track? Just drop one in...

RallyA2 Firebrand	
00:07:13	152
Target	00:16:51
Best	00:16:65



Best Bit

Track designers are nothing new, but we think that the one in TrackMania will be the best yet. The bumped-up game cart will allow you to save over 50 of your own designs, which you can then swap with mates or play against them in the game's multiplayer mode. Lovely.



See? We told you that the graphics were great didn't we. And we were right.

"IMAGINE A SWIRLING, SWOOPING HOT WHEELS TRACK AND THAT'S WHAT YOU HAVE HERE"



info



FROM: 2K Games
A BIT LIKE... Rocky
WEB: <http://2ksports.com/games/prizefighter>
ALSO ON: DS
OUT: March 2009



DON KING PRESENTS: PRIZEFIGHTER

Don King – the real Lord of the rings

WHAT'S THE STORY?

Okay, so it's obviously a boxing game, but it's also one with a really clever career mode and plenty of realistic stuff to set it apart from all the rest. You can just have a quick scrap if that's what you want, but the real fun will be in taking your rookie from the backstreet gym to the champion of the world.

WHAT DO WE KNOW SO FAR?

It's been out on the Xbox 360 since

June and wasn't particularly well received, but we're hoping that the developers will use that extra time to polish the gameplay and add a wee bit of sparkle to it!

SOUNDS GOOD. WHAT ELSE?

The Wii controllers will be used to great effect, so you'll be able to swing away with the Remote and Nunchuck. Even better though, is the news that the game is compatible with the Fit Board, meaning that you'll be able to take part in a series of training games that will not only make your fighter stronger, but make you fitter at the same time!

SO, ANYTHING ELSE?

Oh yes. You can play a multiplayer game against a mate on the same Wii or, if you're feeling brave, you can take your boxing skills online to fight against the whole world! And the game will also feature 31 of the best-known boxers of all time. 🥊



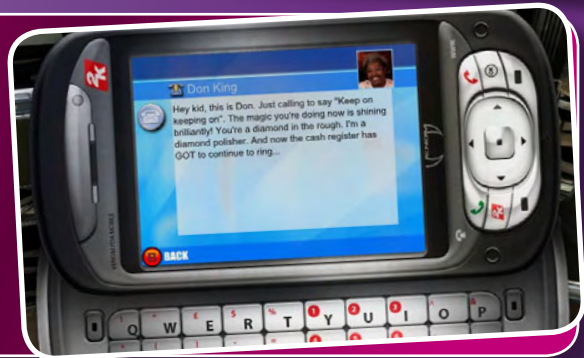
The graphics look incredibly realistic.

"THE GAME WILL FEATURE 31 OF THE BEST-KNOWN BOXERS OF ALL TIME"

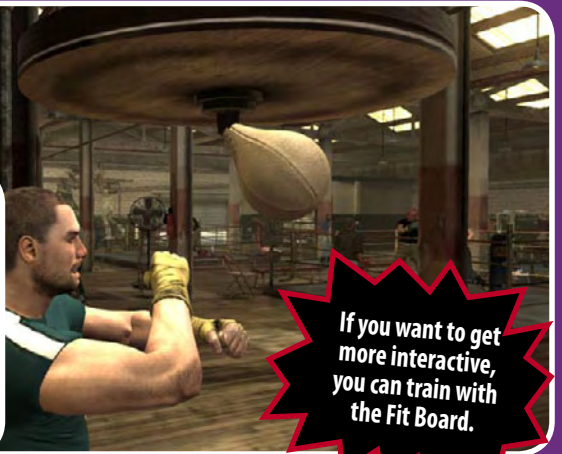


BEST BIT

We're excited that Prizefighter is being developed by the team behind the fine Rocky game, but it's the in-depth Career mode that we reckon will deliver the hardest punch. We especially like the sports documentary features that are sure to add extra realism.



The Remote and Nunchuck controls mean that you'll be close to the action.



If you want to get more interactive, you can train with the Fit Board.

PLAYZINE on its way



WII PS2 DS PSP

COMING UP

We've seen the future of gaming, and it's good!



WWE SmackDown VS RAW 2009



FROM: THQ OUT: November

THQ is hoping the 2009 instalment of its best-selling wrestling title will be able to lay the smack down on its rivals. Featuring all the leading superstars of the WWE world, this game plans to deliver all the action, excitement and drama of your average Pay-Per-View event. So long as they nail the Career mode and include decent multiplayer options, then we'll be happy.



The Humans

FROM: Deep Silver OUT: Winter 2008

Ever wondered how mankind managed to drag itself out of the Stone Age? Well here's your chance to find out. The Humans is a 2D platform puzzle adventure where you must guide various bumbling Homosapiens around a hazardous environment, dodging numerous threats along the way.



Mytran Wars

FROM: Deep Silver OUT: TBC

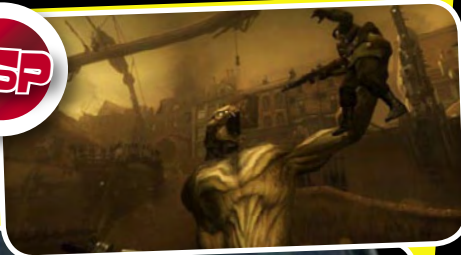
This relatively unknown turn-based strategy title could have easily passed us by but the interesting graphical style caught our attention. Set against a futuristic backdrop where Humans are fighting with aliens for the valuable resources of their planet, Mytran Wars promises to give the player a deep and engaging experience with the opportunity of researching powerful and deadly new weapons. Sounds cool to us!

Resistance: Retribution



FROM: Sony OUT: Spring 2009

A sequel to the PS3 shooter Resistance: Fall of Man, Retribution is shaping up to be one of the grooviest looking games on the PSP. As well as a captivating story mode, the game also promises an eight-player online mode for games like 'Capture The Flag' and 'Team Deathmatch'. If you're old enough to play it this could easily be one of the best PSP games ever!



future releases

Best start saving! Here are the top games coming soon...

R-Type Command
PSP
September

Yakuza 2
PS2
September

MotoGP 08
PS2
October

Disaster: Day of Crisis
Wii
October

Dungeon Maker
DS
October

Star Ocean: The First Departure
PSP
October

Midnight Club: LA Remix
PSP
October



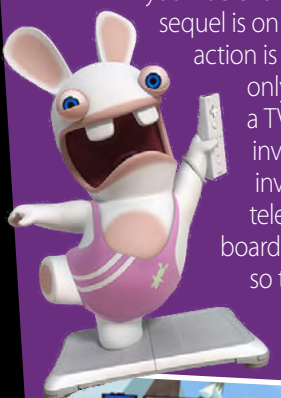
PLAYZINE on its way

Rayman Raving Rabbids TV



FROM: Ubisoft OUT: September

If you couldn't get enough of the gloriously deranged Rayman Raving Rabbids, then you'll be chuffed to hear another sequel is on its way! The mini-game action is very much the same, only this time the game has a TV-theme, as the storyline involves the Rabbits invading Rayman's television set. Balance board support is promised, so this should be able to better the original in the fun stakes.



HELL'S KITCHEN

FROM: Ubisoft OUT: September

The potty-mouthed exploits of celebrity chef Gordon Ramsay are everywhere these days, but despite his fondness for the odd rude word or two, that hasn't stopped Ubisoft from producing a game based on the TV show Hell's Kitchen. We're expecting something along the lines of Cooking Mama but with a big, angry Scottish bloke swearing at you constantly when you go wrong. Hopefully it'll be beeped out, too...

Pitfall: The Big Adventure

FROM: Activision OUT: Autumn 2008

The Pitfall series may be as old as the hills but, sadly, recent games have been pretty duff. However, this Wii exclusive is looking like it might buck that trend. Cute visuals and solid-looking jungle levels should make this a cool 3D platforming romp. Wii Remote motion control is also expected and should help to immerse the player in the danger-filled world of Pitfall Harry.



Subbuteo



FROM: 505 Games OUT: September

One might argue that a videogame based on Subbuteo is about as much use as a one-legged man at a bum-kicking contest, but we're open-minded people here at PlayZine (oh yes we are) and are willing to give this upcoming DS title the benefit of the doubt. The developer boasts that all the features of the traditional table-top soccer game will be present and correct. At least it will save you having to set up and pack away the table after each session.

future releases

More games heading your way in the not-so-near future

Sonic Unleashed
Wii/PS2
October

Need for Speed Undercover
Wii/DS/PSP/PS2
October

Bolt
Wii/DS/PS2
February 2009

Rune Factory DS
March 2009

Chrono Trigger DS
October

The Magic Roundabout
Spring 2009
October

F1 World Championship
PSP
2009

PREVIEWS

THE HOTTEST GAMES, COMING TO A CONSOLE NEAR YOU!



Holy exclusives, Batman!

Wii

LEGO BATMAN

THE CAPED CRUSADER GETS THE LEGO TREATMENT. FIND OUT ALL ABOUT IT HERE!



Wii

TOMB RAIDER UNDERWORLD



SAMBA DE AMIGO



Wii



MUSHROOM MEN: THE SPORE WARS



DS

PRINCE OF PERSIA: THE FALLEN KING



info



FROM: Warner Bros
A BIT LIKE... LEGO Indiana Jones
WEB: <http://lego.batmangame.com>
OUT: 10th October
ALSO ON: DS, PSP, PS2



LEGO BATMAN

A block-buster in every sense

It feels very odd to be punching coppers into tiny LEGO pieces, but we can't deny that Villain mode is a lot of fun!



The art style is more colourful than The Dark Knight. It copies the early TV show and comic books rather than the newer films.

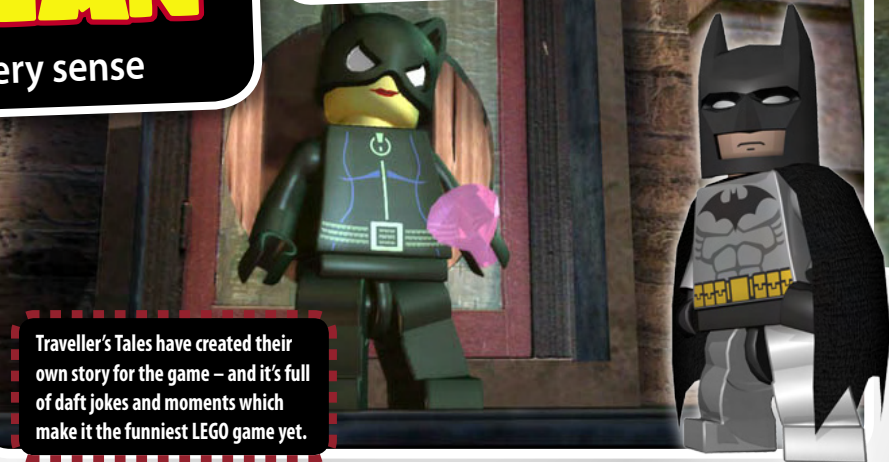


"At one point we needed BATMAN'S SPECIAL SUIT to SWOOP OVER LARGE GAPS"

DS ALSO ON DS

We spent some time with the DS version, which is surprisingly similar to its big brother – stylus controls are mainly restricted to lever-flicking or item-shifting, but the buttons do the job just fine. A vertically scrolling Batmobile chase we tried worked very well, while the character customiser had us creating some truly bizarre – and hilarious – people.

Traveller's Tales have created their own story for the game – and it's full of daft jokes and moments which make it the funniest LEGO game yet.



familiarity of the previous LEGO games, but there's a host of new stuff that just might make this the best brick-smacking, baddie-whacking LEGO game to date.

Indiana Jones offered more exploration and puzzle solving than flat-out action, Batman blends that with Star Wars' faster pace to make for a really well-balanced game that has arguably the perfect mix of scrapping and thinking.

BLOCK PARTY

The odd few pointer-based bits aside, there's not much to write home about by way of special Wii controls, unless you count the noises coming out of the Remote's speaker (which every game and its dog is doing these days). No, the innovations in LEGO Batman are all in the gameplay. While LEGO

As the dynamic duo don't really have any superpowers, they've been given special tech suits which allow each to solve individual puzzles. At one point we needed Batman's special suit to swoop over a large gaps to operate a bridge and bring Robin over, who used his magnetic boots to climb up a vertical structure to an unreachable

The characters are even better-animated than the models in LEGO Indy!



There's something really satisfying about smashing apart the objects that litter LEGO Batman's levels, and seeing masses of studs spill outwards, making that gorgeous tinkling sound as you collect them all up, ready to unlock one of the wealth of secret characters, cheats or other surprises on offer. Yep, LEGO Batman offers plenty of the comforting



PLAYZINE FEATURE



Robin's just as handy in a fight as his more famous ally. In fact, Traveller's Tales have given him some unique abilities, so more players will want to play as him rather than Batman.



The Penguin comes complete with his trademark umbrella.

Roll over screen for annotations



Melee combat is shallow but cool. There's nothing quite like seeing an enemy's head fly off after a powerful bat-punch!



area. And some puzzles are made for two – as with previous LEGO games, it's more fun with someone sitting next to you, but Traveller's Tales have taken advantage of this, with a couple of sections we saw requiring both players to co-operate simultaneously.

TURN TO THE DARK SIDE

But the Hero side is only half the game. You can also play as the villains too, and by the time you've finished the game you'll be astonished at the range to choose from. Most enemies have their own unique powers – a few are basic re-skins, but many have specific puzzles only they can tackle. Some of the powers are fairly obvious, but other baddies have surprise abilities. Did you

know the Joker could wield two Uzis so effectively? No, neither did we, and his electric hand-buzzer (collapsing any unfortunate victims into tiny Lego pieces) had us chuckling away merrily as we used it on several of Commissioner Gordon's men.

The lack of a single licence – it's not based on The Dark Knight, but includes elements of all versions of Batman past, from the comics through the

LEGO BATMAN interview

Time for a Bat-chat!

If you really want to know about the game and how it was made, then who do you ask? The developers of course, so it's time to find out the whole story...

Is LEGO Batman based on a particular film, TV show or comic?

It has been exciting for us, as it has been the first time that we have created an original story and not been tied to any of the previous films. In our story, all the villains have broken out of the asylum and they are running amok in Gotham, creating lots of mischief. The great thing about LEGO Batman is that you can play it from the other way around. If you are feeling a bit naughty, you can explore your darker side and play as the villains from their perspective.

What abilities and gadgets will Batman and Robin have?

Batman and Robin will each have four suits including their classic outfits. They will be able to utilise these to enhance their abilities or to access new areas in the game. So for example, Robin has these funky magno boots, which will enable him to walk vertically or even upside down on metal surfaces. So you might need Robin to access various areas. Batman has a demo suit that enables him to drop Bat



AS WITH PREVIOUS LEGO GAMES, IT'S MORE FUN WITH SOMEONE SITTING NEXT TO YOU



PLAYZINE FEATURE



The levels seem larger and the design is more varied than previous LEGO games – the sense of scale is very cool, especially when you see Gotham cathedral.

“THE LACK OF A SINGLE LICENCE MEANS TRAVELLER’S TALES HAVE BEEN ABLE TO INVENT THEIR OWN SCRIPT”

The Joker seemed the deadliest of the villains we played as.

camp Sixties TV series to Tim Burton’s efforts – means Traveller’s Tales have been able to invent their own script. And the reins have come off

completely, with references and silly jokes galore, along with a few elements that you really wouldn’t expect to see in a Batman game. For example, you can create a giant turtle to ride through one stage.

OVER AND OVER

With all these different abilities on offer, the levels have much more

replay value than ever before, with various areas only available to certain characters (like previous LEGO games), and the number and quality of the unlockables makes going back more worthwhile. In other words, you really do get plenty of bang for your buck here. So Bat fans, join us next month; same Bat-time, same Bat-channel for our review. 🦇

QUICK QUIZ!



You don’t have to play with Batman in his traditional black outfit, either.

interview Continued...

Bombs around various items of LEGO that would need to be destroyed.

Are there any missions featuring the Bat Mobile and any other related vehicles?

Yep. It wouldn’t be a Batman game if you didn’t have a chance to use the Batmobile!

Which villains can we expect to see?

In Villain mode there are 15 characters to play as. Obviously The Joker, The Penguin and the Riddler, but then you also have Cat Woman, Poison Ivy, Bain, Scarecrow among many others.

What makes LEGO Batman an essential purchase for people who have already played any of the previous LEGO games?

We work really hard to make sure each LEGO game we create is an excellent recreation of the universe we are stepping into. LEGO Batman is more action-packed than previous games as you’re playing as Batman and Robin who are martial artists, so there’s lots more hand-to-hand combat. Playing in Villain mode is also something really unique to this game. 🦇



HOW READY?

HOW GOOD?



Looks like the best LEGO game yet



You can look forward to playing with all of Batman’s toys and gadgets, too.





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Issue 22 | Sept 2008

360Zine

Free Magazine For Xbox 360 Gamers. Read it, Print it, Send it to your mates...

WORLD EXCLUSIVE PREVIEW

FABLE III

Massive hands-on preview and exclusive screenshots inside...

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW
PETER MOLYNEUX
"WE'RE WORKING ON DLC"

PREVIEW! GUITAR HERO 4

PREVIEW! HAIL TO THE CHIMP

PREVIEW! FALLOUT 3

REVIEW! WARHAMMER

CONTROL → Close Issue Print Issue Search Issue Zoom In Zoom Out Toggle Full Screen Next Page

360Zine

Fable 2 is the RPG game of the year, and we have played it. Read on...

- 11 PAGE FABLE 2 SPECIAL
- EXCLUSIVE HANDS-ON PREVIEW WITH THE RELEASE CANDIDATE VERSION
- EXCLUSIVE VIDEO INTERVIEW WITH DEVELOPER PETER MOLYNEUX
- EXCLUSIVE SCREENS
- FABLE 2 PUB GAMES REVIEWED

360Zine FREE! For Xbox 360



PLAYZINE PREVIEW

info



FROM: Eidos
A BIT LIKE... The last one, probably
WEB: www.tomb-raider.com
OUT: November
ALSO ON: DS, PS2



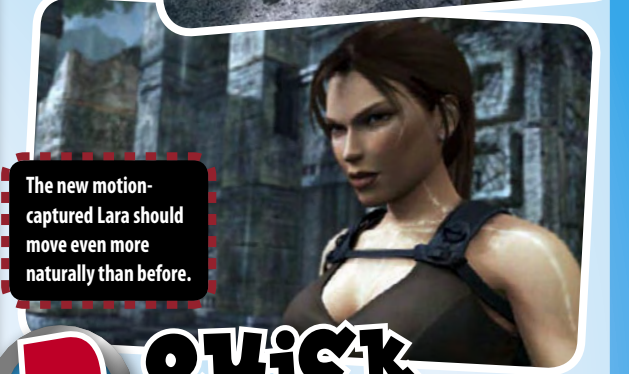
The action also takes place underwater.

BEST BIT

Taking a leaf out of the book of Ubisoft's Assassin's Creed, Crystal Dynamics has given Lara the ability to scale buildings and structures with cat-like agility and skill. Finding a pathway through the ruined shrines that populate the game is a thrill in itself!



It will be vital to use your environment to survive.



The new motion-captured Lara should move even more naturally than before.

QUICK QUIZ!

TOMB RAIDER: UNDERWORLD

Lara's back and this time she's going underground!

Let's face it, everyone has heard of Lara Croft – even your dear old Gran could probably pick her out of a line up. She's easily the most famous female videogame character

ever and has starred in games that have sold millions, so it's no surprise to learn that her next adventure is eagerly anticipated by fans the world over.

The storyline involves Lara's quest to find the legendary Thor's Hammer, and in doing so she unwittingly puts the safety of the entire planet at risk. Her journey will take her all over the globe, visiting ruined temples, shark-infested oceans and rain-soaked jungles. The

developers have stressed that in this game the environment is as much a danger to Miss Croft as the enemies that populate it. For example, a slippery ledge is going to make life hard for our heroine, whereas in previous games that wasn't the case.

With open levels that grant the player oodles of freedom to explore and some seriously interesting set-pieces to look forward to, Tomb Raider:

Underground is looking great. We can only hope that after 10 years in the spotlight, Lara is still up to the task. **✖**

"THE PLOT OF THE GAME INVOLVES LARA'S QUEST TO FIND THE LEGENDARY THOR'S HAMMER"

HOW READY?

HOW GOOD?



This is shaping up to be Lara's finest outing yet

PLAYZINE PREVIEW

info



FROM: Sega
A BIT LIKE... A latin-American version of Guitar Hero
WEB: www.sega.com
OUT: September

Wii

Those coloured discs correspond to high, middle and low shakes of the controllers.

Pulling off the ridiculous poses is one of the funniest elements of the game.



BEST BIT

We're massive fans of Space Channel 5's funky heroine Ulala, so we're naturally looking forward to facing off against her in Samba de Amigo. Other famous Sega cameos are promised, including one blue hedgehog that happens to go by the name of Sonic...



SHAKE, RATTLE AND ROLL

Making friends with Amigo...



- SHAKE it, BABY!
- HAPPY SONGS
- ALL ABOUT Mii

SHAKE it, BABY!

Playing Samba with the Wii Remote and Nunchuk is all very well but for the true experience you need to have proper maraca controllers. Thankfully Sega is well aware of this fact and has confirmed that additional attachments will be released that look identical to the colourful musical instruments seen in the original game. Hurrah!

SAMBA DE AMIGO

Maracas and monkeys – a match made in heaven!

Considering it's nearly a decade old (which is staggering to believe, but also true. Honest), Sega's stunningly addictive rhythm action title Samba de Amigo is still amazingly playable, both in its arcade and Dreamcast (remember those?) versions. However, a bit of progress is never a bad thing really, and this Wii version basically takes the 1999 original and gives it a bit of spit and polish.

There are more songs, more options and generally there's much more music-related tomfoolery to indulge in – oh, and better graphics, natch. Using the Wii Remote and Nunchuk controllers to replicate the maracas of the original game, the general aim is to shake your hands in time with the pumping soundtrack. It sounds dead easy on paper but when you consider that you have to shake high or low,

depending on the on-screen instructions, things can get tricky fairly swiftly – some of the faster songs will have you striking all kinds of hilarious poses as you attempt to keep up with each song. Without a doubt, this is a great game to play with mates. There's going to be over 40 songs included from the off, but Sega has promised that downloadable 'Song Packs' will be made available too, with

the first one coming out as soon as the game hits the shelves. Potentially then, there's no limit to the amount of fun this game can offer. Review next month. 🍌

HOW READY? **HOW GOOD?**



Forget Guitar Hero – this is the game you want!

PLAYZINE PREVIEW

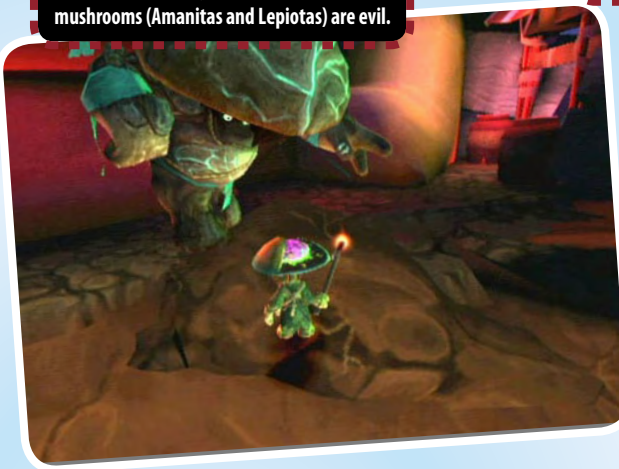
info

MUSHROOM MEN: THE SPORE WARS

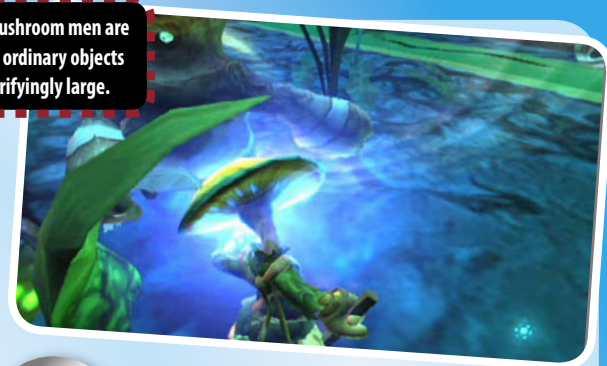
FROM: Gamecock
A BIT LIKE...
 Destroy all Humans!
WEB: www.mushroommen.com
OUT: November



Roll over screen for captions!



The mushroom tribes are named after real-life varieties – the Boletes and Morels are the game's good guys, while the poisonous mushrooms (Amanitas and Lepiotas) are evil.



As the mushroom men are so small, ordinary objects seem terrifyingly large.

MUSHROOM MEN: THE SPORE WARS

Is hero Pax a fungi to play as?

Mushrooms. Horrible slimy things or perfect pizza toppings – whatever you think of them, you've probably not considered what would happen if they

suddenly came to life. Well, that's the idea behind Mushroom Men: The Spore Wars, as a meteor releases a strange space dust which creates living beings from various plants and insects.

You play as Pax, a member of the Bolete tribe of mushrooms, one of four groups currently in conflict. Unknown to him, he is fated to bring an end to the spore wars, but he starts as an aimless, unarmed fungus who has to

create weapons from items he finds throughout the game's levels.

You'll need plenty of platforming skill to get around, and Pax also possesses telekinetic powers, lifting and hurling objects with the Wiimote. The levels look great, and there's a polish to the game which puts many third-party offerings to shame.

With great graphics and an inventive storyline, we very much like what we've

Best Bit

The game's use of motion controls is clever and pretty different too, with Pax's telekinesis powers being huge fun to play around with using remote flicks rather than simple button presses. The lock-on system for combat also works very well, allowing you to target individual enemies easily. It's funny too – with plenty of items which parody real-life objects.



seen so far, and we're looking forward to playing much more of it when it arrives in November. 🍄

"PAX STARTS AS AN UNARMED FUNGUS WHO HAS TO CREATE WEAPONS FROM ITEMS HE FINDS"

HOW READY? **HOW GOOD?**

Wii

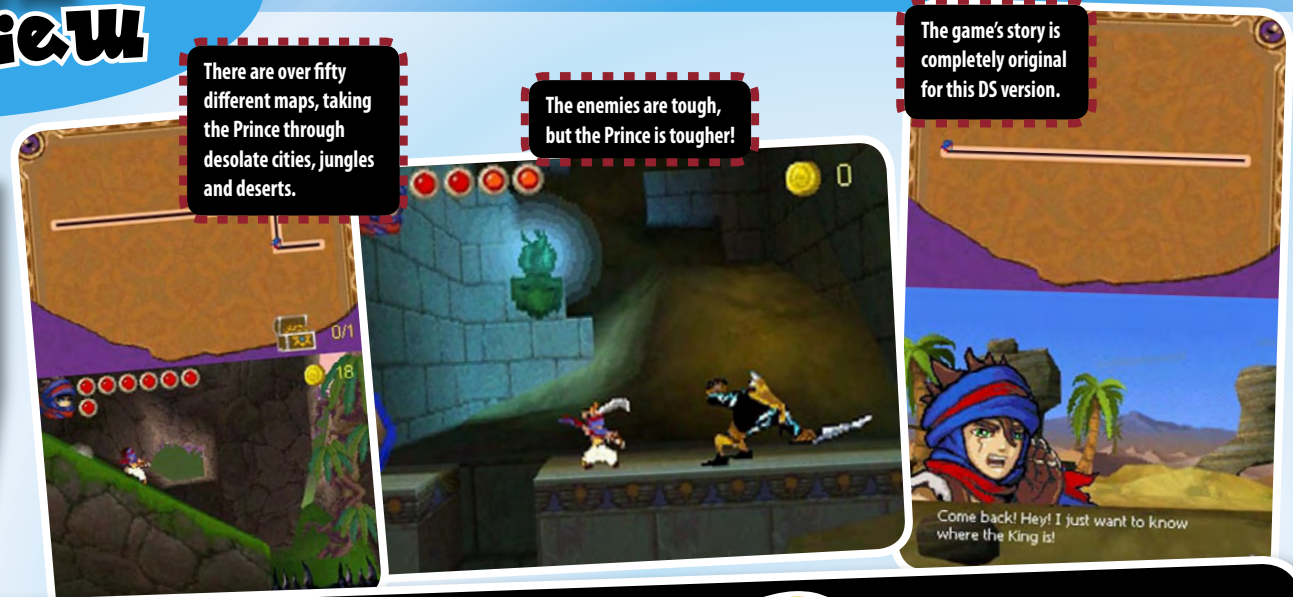
Make room for the mushrooms!

PLAYZINE PREVIEW

info



FROM: Ubisoft
A BIT LIKE... Assassin's Creed Altair's Chronicles
WEB: <http://prince-of-persia.uk.ubi.com>
OUT: December



PRINCE OF PERSIA: THE FALLEN KING

Action, adventure and acrobatics, as the Prince goes portable!

Given the success of the recent three-dimensional wall-running, enemy-slicing adventures, it's almost strange to think of the Prince of Persia's 2D platforming origins. But while this DS game looks fairly true to the game's roots – while also tying in nicely with the forthcoming 'illustrative' style series reboot – the Prince's portable quest has a few neat tricks of its own to stand out from its rivals.

For starters, there's the 'chibi' character model – the Prince looking a little more squat (and, we admit, cuter) than on the bigger consoles. Then there's the unusual control scheme – rather than traditional button controls, the Prince's actions will be mainly stylus-focused – taps and slides guiding him easily around all of the different levels and stages (over 50 are promised for the finished game). You'll

also get to control an additional character – the mysterious Magus – whose magic helps our hero through plenty of tight spots. Squeezing the L trigger will allow you to use his powers to drag obstacles or cast spells.

With such a unique way of moving the Prince and his new assistant, Prince of Persia will likely feel very different from any other game in the series so far. Whether the touchscreen controls

work as well as something like Phantom Hourglass remains to be seen, but we're optimistic that Ubi has another hit on its hands here. 🐉

SCREEN PLAY

Why guiding the Prince is a doddle



TAPPED UP **HANGING AROUND** **GUARDIAN HEROES**

TAPPED UP

The controls are context-sensitive, so your movements will depend on where you tap with the stylus. Double-tap to perform a forward roll, touch a wall to leap up to it, and tap obstacles to leap over them. It all works very well, and makes the game accessible for those new to the genre.

HOW READY?



HOW GOOD?



All hail the new Prince!

REVIEWS

THE BEST VERDICT ON THE BIGGEST GAMES AROUND!



WII

TIGER WOODS PGA TOUR 09

THE KING OF SWING IS BACK! DOES THIS KITTEN STILL HAVE CLAWS, THOUGH?

THE PLAYZINE FOUR-POINT PLEDGE

- 1 If a game's rubbish then we're not afraid to say so!
- 2 Our reviewers are hand-picked from the very best!
- 3 We always play a game through to form a full opinion!
- 4 We love our games more than life. Well, almost!

DS

DRAGON QUEST: THE CHAPTERS OF THE CHOSEN

Jul 05 2008

TACTICS

DS

FOOTBALL DIRECTOR DS

R: 12.91

PSP

INTERNATIONAL ATHLETICS

tu auras fini !

DS

PICTOIMAGE

5%

DS

THE SIMS 2: APARTMENT PETS

DS

THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR

DS

PIRATES: DUELS ON THE HIGH SEAS

PLAYZINE REVIEW



info



FROM: Electronic Arts
A BIT LIKE... A grown up Everybody's Golf
WEB: www.easports.com/tigerwoods09
ALSO ON: PSP, PS2
PRICE: £39.99
PEGI AGE RATING: 3+



Read our verdict on the PSP version of Tiger Woods in our review roundup.



There are now a range of different control options for your swing method.

Tiger Woods' PGA TOUR 09

Is it a birdie or a bogey for this king of the swingers?

One of the problems with golf games is the same problem that cricket, baseball and snooker games all share... no matter how good the graphics and gameplay, they never quite work, and for the simple reason that you miss the physical side of the game. That problem is now solved with the Wii and Tiger Woods PGA Tour 09, a game that recreates golf about as well as you can possibly imagine.

Swinging with a Wii Remote was definitely fun in last year's game, but it's been improved loads in this update, with a sensitivity that means all you have to do is swing the Remote a tiny amount for it to register with your on-screen character. This means that those dangerous tiny chips from the fairway onto the green are now both incredibly straightforward to do and also enormously satisfying at the same time.

There's much more in this year's game, though. The game's subtitle is 'All-Play', and this is added because of the new All-Play swing system. Designed to make taking shots even easier, it shows the direction your shot will take with an arc that curves up from the point your ball is to where it will land. You can even add slice to the ball too, but this does of course make the game much easier to play.

NEW AND IMPROVED

So, what's new then?



COACH TIPS **ONLINE GAMES** **ALL-PLAY**

COACH TIPS

If you're new to the game or just want to pick up a few pointers before you get started in the game itself, then you'll be interested to know that there's an all-new Training mode in the game. Best of all though, you get words of advice from Tiger Woods' own trainer, Hank Haney. And good words they are, too!

Remember: The last thing you want to do is land your ball in the water!

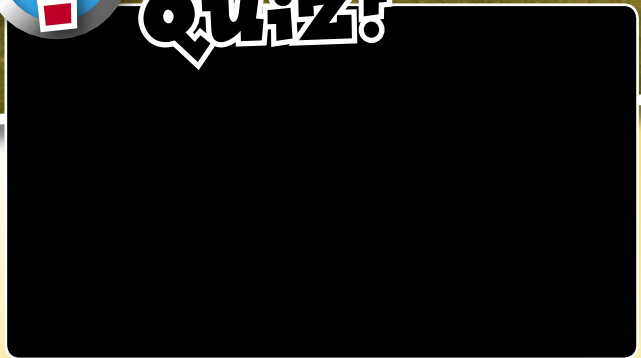


PLAYZINE REVIEW



Putting is difficult, but you will get used to it eventually.

QUICK QUIZ!



If you're clever, you can chip in so that the ball lands right by the flag.



Here's the man himself. Easy, Tiger...

But there's even more. The Tiger Woods games have never been short of courses, but this one has a whopping five new ones added, including a country club in South Africa and Britain's very own Wentworth.

"THE GAMES HAVE NEVER BEEN SHORT OF COURSES, BUT 2009 HAS FIVE NEW ONES"

Finally, you've got the Party Games, which is a ton of fun in the shape of a load of mini-games that have you kart racing and bouncing balls off a club head. Best of all is the Ball Battle option, which allows you and your opponents to alter the course of the ball with the Wii Remote by clicking on it and dragging your hand away from the ball.

THE KING OF CLUBS

All these extra features wouldn't make a load of difference if the gameplay behind it all wasn't up to it, though.

Thankfully, that's as solid as ever. With three choices of swing to choose from, intelligent controls, improved graphics and updating (everything now runs at a super-smooth 30 frames per second. Nice), a whole range of tournaments and modes to play with and, finally, an even better character creation system that'll let you recreate your own features with amazing accuracy. Add all that lot together and you've got a golf game that's almost an essential purchase.

Dean Mortlock

PLAYZINE Challenge

We managed to get a chip in off the edge of the green and sink the ball into the pin with a shot of just over 20 yards! Your challenge, if you choose to accept it, is to do better than that. It sounds hard, but isn't impossible. Aim carefully and use the perfect amount of strength and you can do it too!

PLAY TIME HOURS DAYS WEEKS	VERDICT A hole in one! 	
		DIFFICULTY EASY MEDIUM ARRGH!
		FUN FACTOR DULL COOL YIPPEE!

"CHAPTERS OF THE CHOSEN REALLY IS A VALUABLE PIECE OF GAMING HISTORY"

info



FROM: Square-Enix
 A BIT LIKE... Dragon Quest: Journey of the Cursed King
 WEB: <http://na.square-enix.com/dq4>
 PRICE: £29.99
 PEGI AGE RATING: 12+



DRAGON QUEST: CHAPTERS OF THE CHOSEN

It's back to the 1990s for this old-school RPG

This is a remake of an 18-year-old game – and boy, at times does it feel like it. Mr. Square-Enix, with these ancient remakes you are really spoiling us! But Chapters of the Chosen is a valuable piece of gaming history

(honest), and has been updated well by its developers, who deserve applause for the gorgeous graphics – with rotating 3D backgrounds and charming 2D sprites mixing far better than you'd expect.

STRUCTURALLY SOUND

The structure is also fascinating, forcing you to play through as five different characters, starting from scratch each time before teaming them all up for the final push. Sure, the combat mechanics might be a little simple, but for our money that just makes it more accessible than the tough-as-old-boots FFIV.

Next time we'd like something genuinely new from Square-Enix, but this is the next best thing, and it's also a useful reference for all you gaming historians. Recommended. 🐉

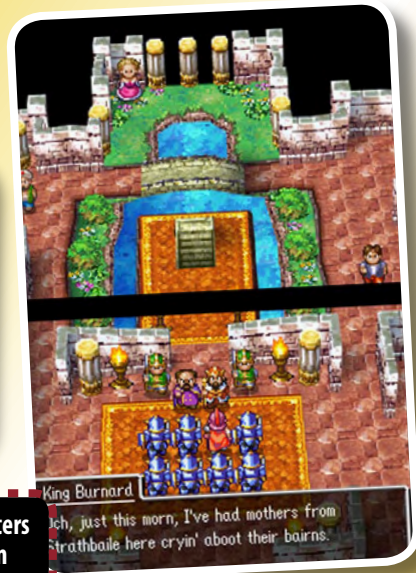
Chris Schilling

This game is even better-looking than its stablemate Final Fantasy IV.

TOP TIP



Don't be tempted to rush through each dungeon straight to the boss. Not only will you likely be under-levelled for the fight, but you'll miss out on certain valuable items which can make the later stages much easier.



All the characters have their own regional accent!

Attack, Magic, Items, Defend – battles aren't complex, but the excellent monster designs and character swaps keep things fresh.

Defend	Follow Orders	Follow Orders	Follow Orders
Solo	Kiryl	Maga	Meena
HP 150	HP 108	HP 112	HP 107
MP 69	MP 79	MP 134	MP 83
Lv.: 18	Lv.: 18	Lv.: 19	Lv.: 19



PLAY TIME

HOURS WEEKS **MONTHS**

DIFFICULTY

EASY **MEDIUM** ARRGH!

FUN FACTOR

DULL **COOL** YIPPEE!

VERDICT

It's reet grand, like

8

PLAYZINE REVIEW

info



FROM: Pinnacle Software
A BIT LIKE... Classic football manager action, but on the DS
WEB: www.football-director.com
PRICE: £29.99
PEGI AGE RATING: 3+



You have full control of your squad, and you can alter pretty much anything you want!

FORMATION

F.Campbell
Attacker

HANDLING	10	MORALE	80
TACKLING	40	BEST FOOT	R
PASSING	40	AGE	21
SHOOTING	69	DISC PTS	0
PACE	72	END DATE	30 Jun 2014
OVERALL	67	WAGE	£20,000
FITNESS	10	VALUE	£1,700,000

NO	NAME
1	B. Myhill
2	I. Ashbee
3	W. Brown
4	S. Ricketts
5	B. Hughes
6	M. Turner
7	D. Marney
8	F. Campbell
9	R. Garcia
10	C. Folan
11	D. Windass
12	D. Livermore
13	S. Elliott

FOOTBALL DIRECTOR DS

Take on the toughest job in the world!

Believe it or not, this is the first football management game to appear on the DS, but despite the fact that it doesn't have any competition, we happen to think that it's going to be hard to beat.

As you'd expect, the aim of the game is to pick the club of your choice and lead it to a series of league

successes and trophy wins, all done under the watchful eye of your club's board, who will give you regular feedback on your performance and goals to aim towards.

In our opinion, a game of this sort can succeed or fail depending on how easy it is to control and how complicated it is to play. Thankfully,



PLAYZINE Challenge

We managed to take Bristol City (our favourite club – well, mine at least!) into the play-offs in our first season, although we did lose in the final. Your challenge, if you choose to accept it, is to take a team from the lower divisions and get promotion in your first season. Get in!

Football Director wins on both counts, as it's range of icons and menus are dead easy to navigate (thanks to the stylus controller). Animated matches would've made it perfect, but this is pretty close for a first effort.

Dean Mortlock

TACTICS

Jul 05 2008

FULL TIME

Man Utd 4
Middlesbro 1

L. Saha (14)	J. Arco (24)
C. Tevez (29)	G. Boateng (47)
C. Ronaldo (35)	
W. Rooney (45)	
C. Tevez (60)	
M. Carrick (65)	
R. Ferdinand (75)	

he looked a certainty to score.
 (60) GOAL to Man Utd. C. Tevez flicks a near post header past the diving keeper.
 (65) M. Carrick's (Man Utd) name is going in the book for that rash challenge. Free kick to Middlesbro.
 (71) Brilliant block by the keeper as E. Pogatz (Middlesbro) looked to have scored!
 (75) GOAL to Man Utd. That was a text book finish by R. Ferdinand

Stat fans will totally love this game.

O. Garvan

Midfielder

HANDLING	10	MORALE	80
TACKLING	30	BEST FOOT	R
PASSING	67	AGE	20
SHOOTING	34	DISC PTS	0
PACE	77	END DATE	30 Jun 2013
OVERALL	64	WAGE	£17,500
FITNESS	10	VALUE	£1,250,000

NO	NAME	SKL	HOL	TKL	PAS	STG
1	S. Legwinski	51	10	32	53	40
2	A. Bruce	66	13	68	63	42
3	J. de Vos	64	10	68	37	37
4	D. Harding	64	11	67	51	37
5	M. Richards	62	13	65	47	34
6	D. Wright	61	10	64	38	42
7	T. Miller	65	18	48	67	34
8	O. Garvan	64	10	36	67	34
9	A. Quinn	56	10	40	57	35
10	J. Walters	67	10	41	65	71
11	A. Lee	67	18	35	44	71

This is the match screen – shame it's text-only, though.

Play Time

HOURS: 10
DAYS: 10
WEEKS: 10

DIFFICULTY

easy medium **ARRGH!**

FUN FACTOR

DULL **GOOL** YIPPEE!

VERDICT

Goes into extra time

7

PLAYZINE REVIEW

info



FROM: Square-Enix
A BIT LIKE... Um, Final Fantasy III, II and, probably, I
WEB: <http://na.square-enix.com/ff4>
PRICE: £29.99
PEGI AGE RATING: 12+



Final Fantasy 4

Something old, something new...

Released in Japan 17 years ago, the original Final Fantasy IV was something a bit special at the time, in both gameplay and story terms. But we're in 2008 now, and coming hard on the heels of cool games like The World Ends With You, FFIIV now feels a wee bit old, despite Square-Enix's best efforts.

We've already had a remake of course – two years ago, the humble

Game Boy Advance saw a revamp. And for anyone who played that version, this is going to seem all too familiar. That said, this is vastly improved in many ways. The presentation is amazing, with some gorgeous 3D graphics and incredible computer-generated story sequences. The voice acting is brilliant, making the emotional story even better. There are a host of fun minigames to train up your brand

new ally (Whyt) and the touchscreen controls work really well. Otherwise it's that familiar FF gameplay, with the active time battle system adding spice to the random encounters.

FFIV is perhaps a little too tough and crusty to appeal to newcomers, but fans of the series are in for a real treat – 30 hours or more of traditional role-playing brilliance. Wow. **✪**

Chris Schilling

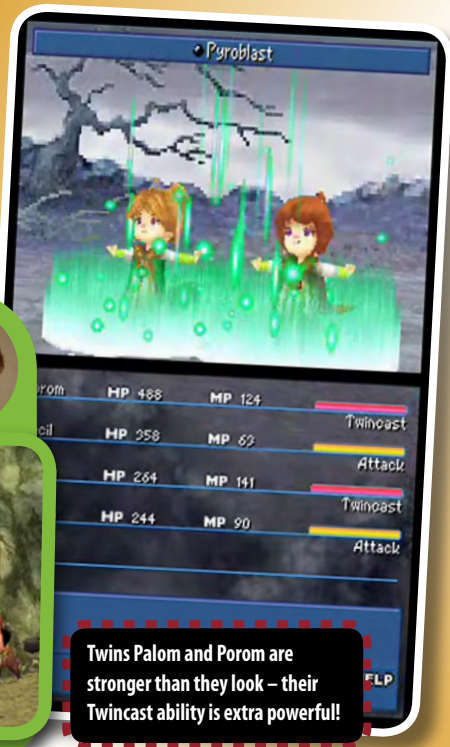


Typical! Expect plenty of tricks and traps to make things even tougher.



TOP TIP

The Mom Bomb (great name!) at Mount Hobs is one of the toughest early bosses. Make sure you have a few Phoenix Downs, and be sure to defend with every single character when she transforms. Do that, and most of your team should survive.



"FINAL FANTASY 4 IS PERHAPS A LITTLE TOO TOUGH AND CRUSTY TO APPEAL TO NEWCOMERS"

PLAY TIME
 HOURS DAYS **WEEKS**

DIFFICULTY
 EASY MEDIUM **ARRGH!**

FUN FACTOR
 DULL **COOL** YIPPEE!

VERDICT
 An oldie but goodie

7

info



FROM: Ghostlight
A BIT LIKE... International Track & Field
WEB: <http://athletics.ghostlight.uk.com>
PRICE: £29.99
PEGI AGE RATING: 3+



international Athletics

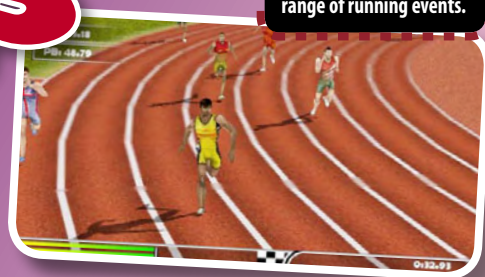
On your marks... Get set... Go!

When we heard that somebody was finally going to release an athletics game for the PSP, we were quite excited. Sadly though, when we actually played International Athletics, we realised that our hunt for the definitive button-bashing sports game on PSP was far from over.

There are 14 events to play through (including faves like the 100 metres,

Javelin, Long Jump and Archery) and the option to either play these events individually or in tournaments, but the problems begin when you actually start one, as the graphics are more old-school than a blackboard.

And it's also a tad on the easy side, too. We found it remarkably easy to break world records in the 100m, Long Jump and Javelin without really trying



As you'd expect, there's a range of running events.

ON YOUR MARKS!

Three of the best events in the game



ARCHERY

A classic since the days of Hyper Sports (the sequel to Track & Field), Archery is done well here. You have to line up your bow, taking into account the strength of your shot and the wind strength and direction.

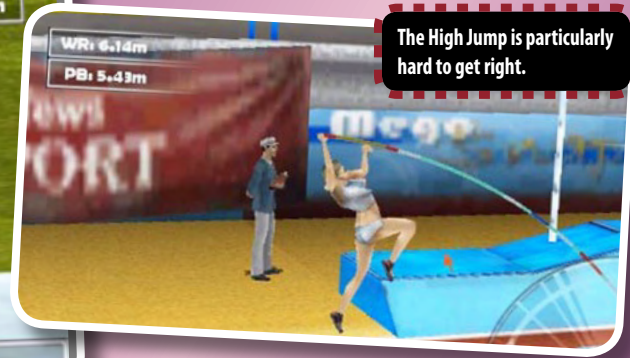
that hard – although the Shooting and Archery events did give us much more of a challenge.

If you're missing the Olympics and can't wait until 2012 for the next games to come around, then there's a chance you might get some enjoyment here, and some of the multiplayer events are fun for a while. For the rest of us though, we can't help but think that this is a bit of a wasted opportunity.

Dean Mortlock



The Discus is another impressive throwing event.



The High Jump is particularly hard to get right.

PLAY TIME

HOURS DAYS weeks

DIFFICULTY

easy MEDIUM ARRGH!

FUN FACTOR

DULL COOL YIPPEE!

VERDICT

No record breaker

5

Pictomage

It might look simple, but you can paint pretty decent pictures with the paintbox tools.

info



FROM: Sega
A BIT LIKE... Brain Train
WEB: www.sega.co.uk/games/?g=281
PRICE: £24.99
PEGI AGE RATING: 3+



Draw at speed and say what you see...

Sega may be responsible for some classic games like Sonic and Super Monkey Ball but, every once in a while, they'll go and do something a bit odd and a bit Japanese. We're not complaining, mind, as everyone should be happy that they do, because otherwise we'd never have the opportunity to play the fun and very original Pictomage.

what you've drawn, whether it's an apple or a tiger. Of course, it's one of those DS games that's unique because it requires a stylus and it's part brain train, part puzzle game and with friends playing wirelessly, it also happens to be insanely addictive.

The concept is simple – you're given a word and you draw the word and wait for up to seven players to guess

Why? Well, there's loads of different modes which are far more exciting than using pen and paper. The real bonus is that you only need the one copy of the game to play too. It might be a bit cute in parts, asking you what



Every sketch is a race against the clock and mistakes are easily made under pressure!

you want to 'learn' about – animals, fruit, 'objects' or um, 'other', but that just adds to the game's overall charm. Spend five minutes doodling and we guarantee that you'll be totally hooked. It's hard to believe no one has done this style of game on the DS before because, after one play, you'll wonder how it didn't happen when the DS was originally launched.

PLAYZINE Challenge

Okay, here's a wee challenge to get you started in the game. Try getting someone to identify your 'tiger' 30 seconds after you've started scribbling. You may think that it's dead easy, but you'll be surprised just how difficult it is to do – is that spots or stripes they have...?



Okay, so you know what a bee looks like but can you draw one, eh?



Buckets are easy, tigers are not – we learned this lesson very quickly.

PLAY TIME
 HOURS DAYS **WEEKS**

DIFFICULTY
EASY MEDIUM ARRGH!

FUN FACTOR
 DULL **COOL** YIPPEE!

VERDICT
 Simple fun for all

8

info



FROM: Electronic Arts
A BIT LIKE... My Sims
WEB: <http://thesims.ea.com>
PRICE: £24.99
PEGI AGE RATING: 3+



The Sims 2: Apartment Pets



How to pamper your perfectly pukka pooch!

The basics of a Sims game is quite simple – make sure your character is happy, doesn't upset anyone and gets to the toilet in time. The Sims 2: Apartment Pets is pretty much the same, but puts you in charge of pets which take more looking after than people and stand less chance of going to the toilet in the right place! You still get to choose your character including

clothes, hairstyle etc but, like Nintendogs, you can wash, stroke and, um, dress up your pet, Paris Hilton-style. There's loads of text messages to get past before you can start playing properly, which could put you off unless you really – and we mean 'really' – like The Sims universe. The pet flavour of the game adds more comedy and new mini-games for grooming and cleaning, though. And, as if things

couldn't get any cuter, there's a little face icon which smiles or frowns depending on the mood of your pet. The cartoon styling and good graphics drag you in to the game but we don't think you'll be playing this for as long as other Sims games, unless you want a pet so badly, you've already cracked Nintendogs and sigh every time you pass a real pet shop.

Richard Melville

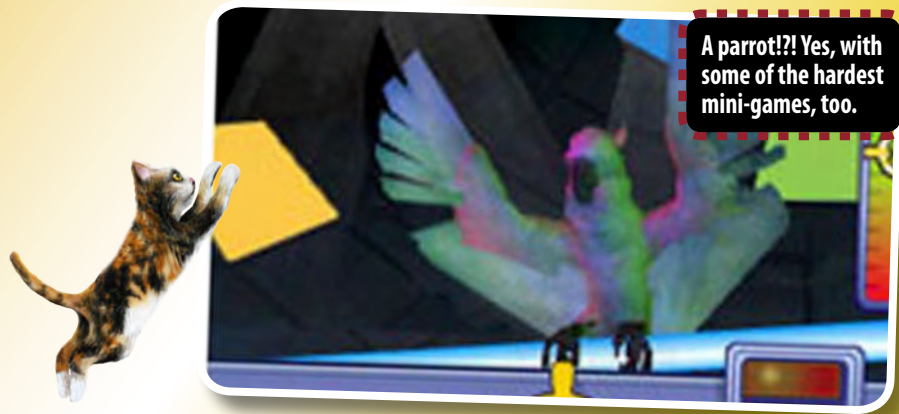
"THE GAME ADDS NEW MINI-GAMES FOR GROOMING AND CLEANING, TOO"



TOP TIP



Our advice, if you want to get off to a flying start in the game, is to head straight to the lift in your uncle's apartment to take delivery of your first pet and give him a few strokes as a nice introduction to his new home...



A parrot!?! Yes, with some of the hardest mini-games, too.



That's just cruel, isn't it? He looks like an idiot!

🕒	PLAY TIME	HOURS	Weeks	Weeks
	DIFFICULTY	easy	MEDIUM	BARGGH!
🧠	FUN FACTOR	DULL	COOL	YIPPEE!

VERDICT
Easy, but a bit dull

5

PLAYZINE REVIEW

info



FROM: Vivendi
A BIT LIKE... Lara Croft: Tomb Raider Legend
WEB: <http://mummyvideo game.com/uk/index1.html>
PRICE: £29.99
PEGI AGE RATING: 12+



A warehouse? We don't remember this bit from the film!

The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon

Liked the film? You might not like the game

Say what you like about the third Mummy film – it's a special effects spectacular and looks amazing with car chases, kung-fu action, monsters and guns aplenty. There's guns here, some bad voice acting which pays silly attention to the plot (as if you wanted to know!) but a flawed play system. The game is basically one

long sprint and also a tad vague at points. It's like an ultra-violent Pac-Man (which, to be honest, sounds really, really good!), only set in the desert with stupid, ultra-dumb soldiers that don't know what they're supposed to be doing. And the film wasn't like that at all, which means there ain't much to love in this pretty average game. 🐉



See? The guards should be running by now!

PLAY TIME
 HOURS days weeks
DIFFICULTY
 easy MEDIUM **ARRGH!**
FUN FACTOR
 DULL COOL YIPPEE!

VERDICT
A bit of a fossil

5



The game has 70 levels in total.



info



FROM: Oxygen
A BIT LIKE... Pirates of the Caribbean in miniature
WEB: www.oxygen games.net
PRICE: £24.99
PEGI AGE RATING: 3+



Pirates: Duels on the High Seas

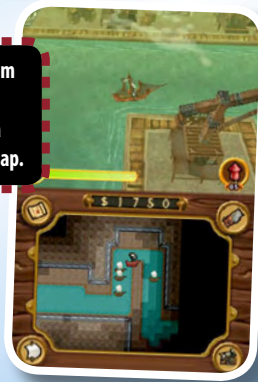
Prepare to have your timbers shivered!

On the face of it, Pirates: Duels on the High Seas appears to be a jolly, if unremarkable, game about Pirates, treasure and collecting important things while avoiding being blown up yourself, but it has an ace card which it happens to play very well...

You see, while the game is enjoyable enough as a single-player

romp, it's considerably better if you're able to rope in a mate (or three) for a battle on one of the game's 35 multiplayer stages. There's plenty for the single-player too, with an equal amount of stages and a fairly enjoyable storyline about a hunt for the seven keys of the seven seas. And when you add all that together, it makes for a game that's worth a look. 🏴‍☠️

The bottom screen is used for a helpful map.



PLAY TIME
 HOURS **days** weeks
DIFFICULTY
 easy **MEDIUM** **ARRGH!**
FUN FACTOR
 DULL **COOL** YIPPEE!

VERDICT
Yo ho ho!

7

REVIEW ROUND UP

Small but perfectly formed, it's the rest of this month's reviews



DS

Yes, it's another puzzle game for the DS, but there is a twist...

Jewel Quest Expeditions

FROM: Avanquest Software PRICE: £19.99

AGE RATING 3+

You may well groan at the thought of yet another puzzle game on the DS where the object is to match three or more matching coloured jewels, but there's a twist in this game's tail. The basic puzzler is bumped up nicely with an interesting story mode, 180 boards to solve and eight-player wireless play with just one single card. Not brilliant, but not too bad for 20 quid, either.

6

PDC Darts 2008

PSP

FROM: Oxygen PRICE: £29.99

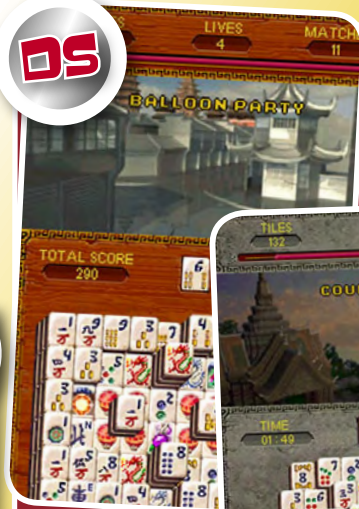
AGE RATING 12+

This could well be another example, like American Football, of a sport that is totally pointless to watch on the TV, but rather enjoyable to play on your console. There are plenty of game modes and extras to work your way through, and the control system is cleverly done, but at a penny short of 30 quid, you can't help but think that it's a wee bit too expensive for what you're getting.



It's Darts on your PSP! And yes, it really is a lot more fun that you'd think.

6



DS

You even get power-ups on these Mah Jong boards!

MAH JONG QUEST EXPEDITIONS

AGE RATING 3+

FROM: Avanquest Software PRICE: £19.99

Much like their other game this month (Jewel Quest Adventures), Avanquest Software have taken a slightly tired and basic game format and breathed a hefty amount of new life into it with a story mode and extras. In the case of Mah Jong Quest Expedition, you get over 100 layouts, three game modes and 12 power-up tiles. Everything's clear enough onscreen and the background story does encourage you to keep playing, too.

7

Tiger Woods PGA 2009

PSP

FROM: Electronic Arts PRICE: £29.99

AGE RATING 3+

We've reviewed the Wii version of the new Tiger Woods game elsewhere, but here's a quick summary of the PSP version, too. So how is it? Well, graphically it looks far more impressive, but the lack of a couple of features from the last version of the game (namely the mini-games and online play) mean that it's very hard to recommend it to fans unless this is the first Tiger Woods game you're thinking of buying.



Help Tiger tame the golf course courtesy of your PSP.

7

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i-BUD SCREEN MAGNIFIER



Do you wish that your DS or PSP's screen was a bit larger? Well, now it can be. Sort of. These i-Bud magnifiers work amazingly well and magnify the screen by three times! We've got a bunch to give away, so answer the question below and remember to let us know whether you want the DS or PSP version of the i-Bud.

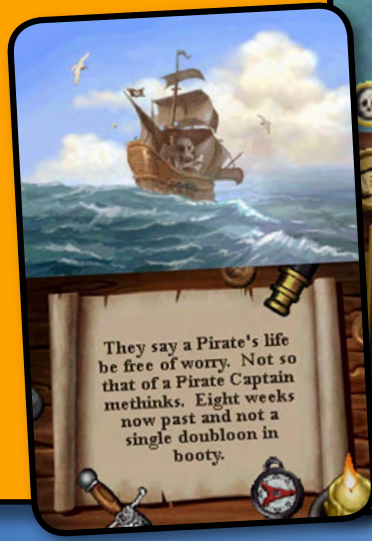
win!

PIRATES: DUELS ON THE HIGH SEAS



Let's face it, pirates are cool and they always have been. Long before Jack Sparrow sailed into Port Cool with the Black Pearl, we were bowled over by the costumes, the travel and the massive chests spilling over with gold coins and treasure. So you can imagine that we were rather fond of this swashbuckling game too, especially when we dragged in a couple of mates for a multiplayer session – which is where the game really becomes addictive.

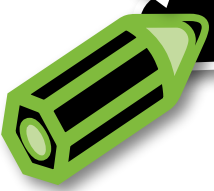
We think you'll like it, too. So much so that we've persuaded the game's distributor to give us some to give out to you lot. So if you fancy a chance of winning one of the three copies we have for you, then just answer the simple question on the right, add in your details and the very best of luck. Oh, and why are pirates cool? Because they aaarrrrrr!



Blank area for user details and answers.

Competition closes 9th October 2008. See website for full T&Cs.

YOUR SAY!



Email us at playzine@gamerzines.com

BROTHERLY LOVE

One of my favourite games on my DS is Super Mario Bros, and I was wondering if you knew if Nintendo were planning to bring a sequel out any time soon. Thanks!
Will Slater, Poole



Chris says: Nothing is confirmed Will, but

we have heard mutterings that there's another Mario game



GTA... coming to a DS near you soon!

grand theft auto CHINATOWN WARS

coming to the DS. It is a rumour though, but we'll put all of our ears to the ground (which should look pretty funny!) and see what we can find out for you.

VERY excited

The best news of the year so far for me has been that Grand Theft Auto is coming to the DS. I'm so excited. Do you know anything about it? When is it out? Will it be 3D?
James, London



Dean says: Well, we don't really know that much at the moment,

as Rockstar do have a habit of keeping their gaming information close to their chest.

Our spies tell us that Grand Theft Auto: Chinatown Wars will be set in a modern-day Liberty City and centre around a group of Chinese Triad gangs, and the corruption that goes on within it. We've also heard word that, unsurprisingly, Rockstar are planning to use the DS's unique controls to great effect and that the



You'll have to wait a little bit longer for Potter's magical new game.

game will use a 3D graphics engine that pushes the DS to its limits.

Maybe we're hoping for a lot, but we strongly suspect that this could be a very special game indeed that you're almost sure to fall in love with – if you're old enough to play it, obviously!

TOTALLY POTTY POTTER

The word on the street (well, I read it on the Internet, to be honest!) is that the new Harry Potter game (Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince) is being put back until next summer. Have you heard this? And, if it's true, do you know why Electronic Arts are doing it?

Cormac, Leeds



Dean says: Sadly, what you've heard is totally true, as it would appear that a disappearing spell

has been cast on the game and it's now been put back to a July 2009 release. Why? Well, it would seem that the film's been put back until then, so the game must follow.

Game bytes

MORE LEGO?

Do you know if they are planning to do any more LEGO games? I think that LEGO Spider-Man could be the best one yet.
Lee, Cardiff

We reckon that you could be right about that one, Lee. There's going to be "one to two a year". With Warner Bros owning the developer now, Harry Potter has to be shoe-in given that the Lego already exists. Watch this space!

LORRA, LORRA LARA

Can you tell me more about the new Tomb Raider game and what you think of it.
Stephen, Glasgow

As it happens, we can tell you lots about it. Why not head over to our preview in this very issue for more info! And what do we think of it? Well, we'll save that for when we've had a chance to play it properly, but the early buzz is that it will be one of the better Lara games we've seen for a while.

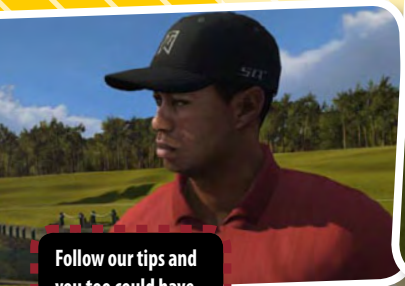
FREE STUFF!

Would you send me some free games for my PSP, please?
Matt, Sheffield

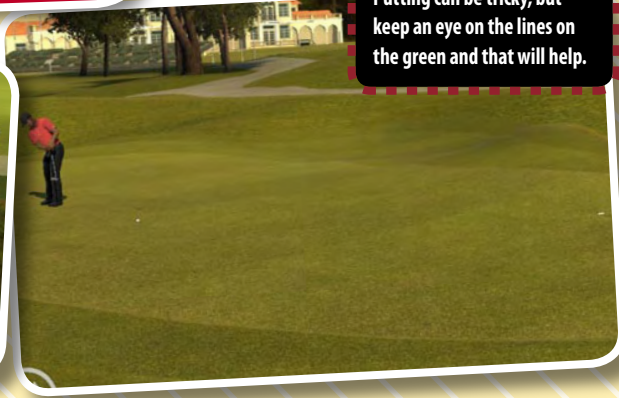
Sigh... Nope!

Tiger Woods 09

Your perfect guide to staying out of the rough

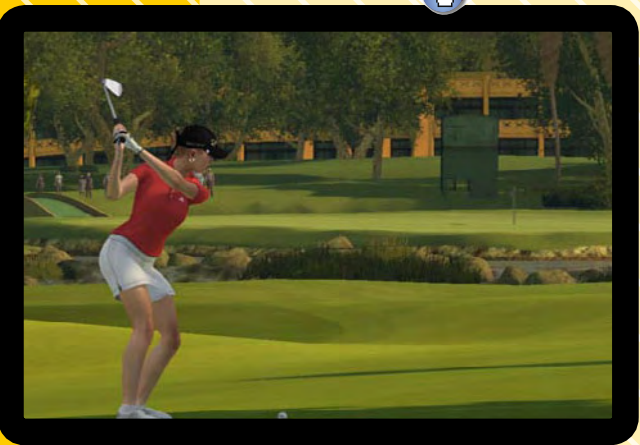


Follow our tips and you too could have the eye of the Tiger!



Putting can be tricky, but keep an eye on the lines on the green and that will help.

Roll over screen for annotations



BLOWN AWAY

The main factor that will affect the direction of your shot is the wind. Look for the indicator in the top left-hand corner of the screen and that gives you an arrow showing the direction of the wind and a number for its strength – anything over 10 is pretty serious. Make sure you take this into account when lining up your shot.

EATING YOUR GREENS

One of the hardest parts of the game is putting out. It's pretty easy to get to a green in two shots (even on a Par 5), but you can waste a load of shots trying to get the ball in the hole! Look

at the colours of the grid (which go from green for a gentle slope to red for an extreme one) and also the pointers moving along the lines – the faster they're moving, the greater the slope.

TAKE TO THE SKIES

We suggest that you do a fly-by of your shot before you take each one. Press and hold down the A button and your view will head straight up and along the hole until you reach the ball's landing spot. Not only does this give you an excellent perspective on where the flag is, but it'll also show you where the ball is expected to land if you hit the ball with maximum strength.

STARTERS ORDERS

Golf beginners should start here...



PRACTICE mode

Listen closely

Gently does it

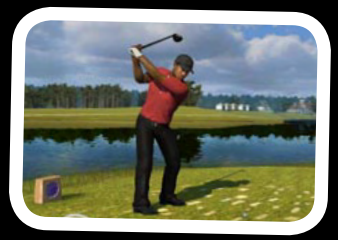
PRACTICE mode

It's definitely a good idea to work your way through the game's Practice mode, even if you've played a Tiger Woods game before. There are some new features to this year's version of the game, and this is the best way to get to grips with them before you enter a tournament.

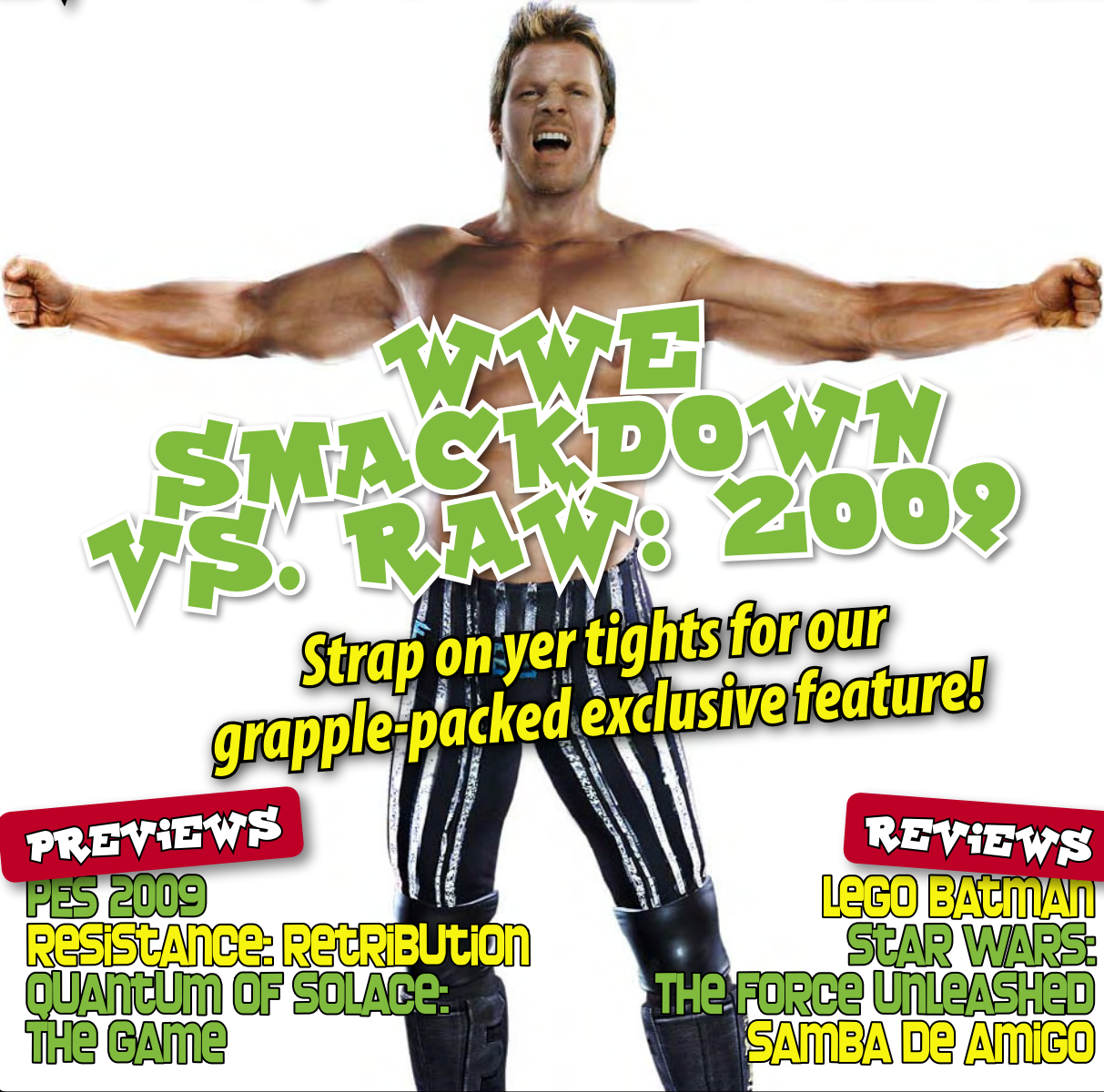
Shot practice

How to swing with zing

Your swing is the one thing you'll need to get right, so if you want to practice it before taking a shot, press '-' when you're stood by the ball. You'll also be told how strong your shot was, too.



Next month



WWE SMACKDOWN VS. RAW: 2009

Strap on yer tights for our
grapple-packed exclusive feature!

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PES 2009
RESISTANCE: RETRIBUTION
QUANTUM OF SOLACE:
THE GAME

REVIEWS

LEGO BATMAN
STAR WARS:
THE FORCE UNLEASHED
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