



FREE!



Issue 23 | December 2008



PLAYZINE

Free Magazine for Handheld and Wii Gamers. *Pass it on to your friends and family*

SHOP 'TIL YOU DROP!

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

Your complete guide to the games and gadgets you'll want to find in your stocking this year!



FIRST LOOK!

BIG BANG MINI

Explosive stuff!

PLUS!

REVIEWED!
GUITAR HERO WORLD TOUR

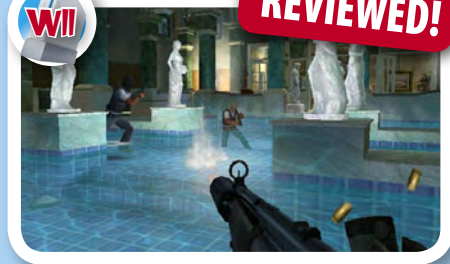
The hero you've been waiting for?

FIRST LOOK!
JOB ISLAND

Mini-game madness!



REVIEWED!



QUANTUM OF SOLACE

Bond or bland?



PREVIEWED!



TENCHU 4

Stealth gaming gets medieval



REVIEWED!



LOGOROCCO 2

Can the sequel match the original?



WELCOME



Wow, you can tell it's coming up to Christmas! Check out the games we have for you this month, as there's some real gems in this issue. Plus, our massive games feature gives you the best buying advice around. So have a fabulous Christmas, a stunning New Year, and we'll see you in January to do it all again.

Dean Mortlock, Editor
HGZine@gamerzines.com

DON'T MISS THIS!



Shop til you drop!

Our guide to the games you need to ask for this Christmas, plus the ones to spend that Chrimbo money on!

Damien McFerran
Our very own Christmas Elf put together the bumper games feature this month.



CHECK THIS!



CALL OF DUTY: World at War

PLUS LOADS MORE REVIEWS!

- Quantum of Solace
- Animal Crossing: Let's go to the City
- FaceBreaker K.O. Party

QUICK FINDER

Every game's just a click away!

PREVIEWS

- NINTENDO WII**
Rock Revolution
Tenchu 4
Job Island

- SONY PSP**
Phantasy Star Portable

- NINTENDO DS**
Big Bang Mini

REVIEWS

- NINTENDO WII**
Call of Duty: World at War

- Guitar Hero World Tour
- Quantum of Solace
- Animal Crossing: Let's go to the City
- FaceBreaker K.O. Party
- Shaun White Snowboarding
- Star Wars: The Clone Wars

- NINTENDO DS**
Trackmania DS

- Call of Duty: World at War
- SONY PSP**
LocoRoco 2
Need for Speed Undercover



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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.

Guitar Hero World Tour

It's the battle of the bands!



TENCHU 4

First info!



Chris Schilling
Game guru Chris has a new love for all-things animal!

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**"THE MOST
VISCERAL
CALL OF DUTY EVER!"**

- Xbox 360 The Official Magazine



▶ PLAYBACK OPTIONS:

Available November 2008

**CALL OF DUTY
WORLD AT WAR**

WWW.CALLOFDUTY.COM



PLAYSTATION 3

Games for Windows

XBOX 360 LIVE

Wii



PlayStation 2

NINTENDO DS



ACTIVISION



info



FROM: SouthPeak
A BIT LIKE...
Fantavision (PS2)
WEB: www.southpeakgames.eu
OUT: March 2009



BIG BANG Mini

Latest News

What would Guy Fawkes make of this?

WHAT'S THE STORY?

Enemies are, once again, invading Earth, and apparently the only way to repel the advancing hordes is by the power of fireworks. This is good news for you though, as it seems you're the only person that can save the world!

WHAT DO WE KNOW SO FAR?

Well, to us it all sounds a bit like the really ancient arcade game Missile Command but updated for the new gaming generation. We were particularly taken with the two-player mode, where you have to rotate the DS to 'book' mode and then you and a friend each take control of a screen. And it works really well.

WHEN DO WE GET MORE?

Big Bang Mini isn't out until March of next year but we have to admit that this is the sort of deeply playable, quirky and original game that we really like to play. Early indications are that this could well be one game to watch out for.

ANYTHING ELSE THAT WE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT?

Oh yes, plenty. The game is split up into nine very different worlds, each with its own unique style. As well as that, there will be a giant boss to defeat as the end of each world, too. These range from a walrus to a frog, meaning that it's clear that this is a game that isn't taking itself that seriously.

We've also heard that it's going to be released at a cheap and cheerful price too, so we have every hope that Big Bang Mini could be just what we need to banish those winter blues when it arrives in a couple of months. 🐸



Each world ends with a big boss battle.

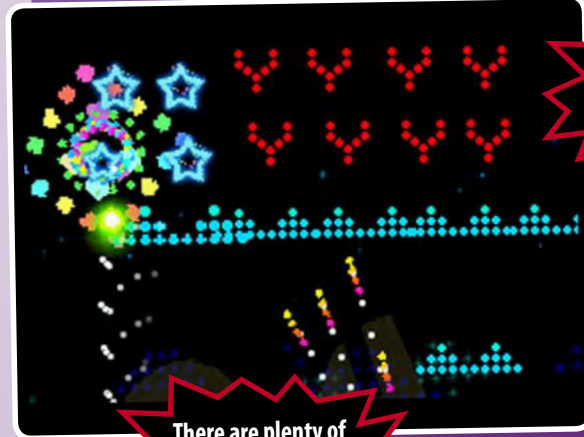
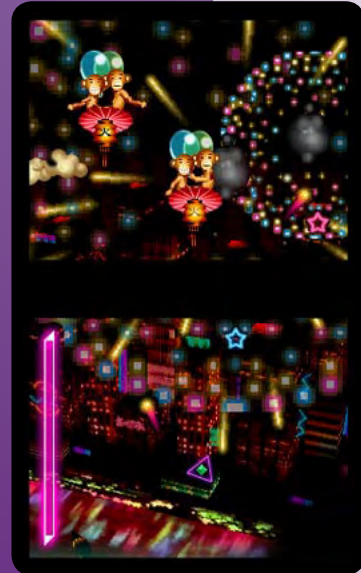


Blue pirates? Fish with duck heads? Sounds like one of our dreams.

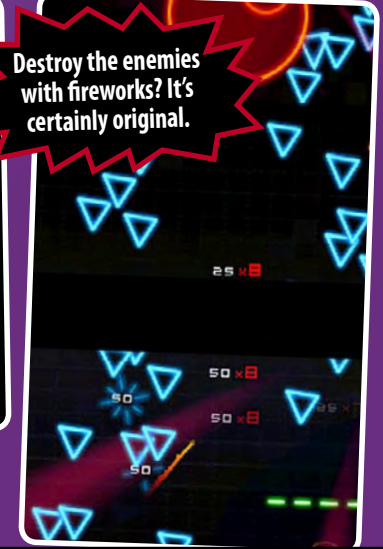


Best Bit

We all love fireworks displays, and the prospect of being able to control one using the DS's stylus seems like a match made in Heaven. From what we can tell, it's the perfect control method for the Mini's frantic gameplay, but we'll let you know in our review in a couple of months.



There are plenty of themes to keep the gameplay fresh.



Destroy the enemies with fireworks? It's certainly original.



Ellen Whitaker's

HORSE LIFE



Coming Soon

<http://horselife.deepsilver.com>



PLAYBACK OPTIONS:

Wii NINTENDO DS



(P)2008 Deep Silver, a division of Koch Media GmbH, Austria. NINTENDO DS, Wii AND THE Wii LOGO ARE TRADEMARKS OF NINTENDO.

info

JOB ISLAND

FROM: Hudson
A BIT LIKE...
Professor Layton and the Curious Village
WEB: <http://uk.games.konami-europe.com>
OUT: March



JOB ISLAND

Saving the world, one job at a time...

WHAT'S THE STORY?

You need to save the world yet again (yawn...), but wait, come back! It appears that you can actually save the world by completing 50 different mini-games, which, let's face it, sounds much easier than parachuting into a volcanic base and defusing a nuclear weapon the size of a skyscraper.

WHAT DO WE KNOW SO FAR?

There appears to be a lot of fun going on in Job Island. The game's being developed in Japan, so it probably won't surprise you to hear that some

Latest News

of the mini-games are slightly, well, unique. That means you'll get to do make-up, milk a cow, be a clown and something to do with pizzas.

WHEN DO WE GET MORE?

Currently, Job Island is down for a release at the end of March, so we should be able to get you more soon.

ANYTHING ELSE THAT WE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT?

You earn money for successful completion of your mini-games, and this can then be spent in the game's shop. But do you buy something fun for yourself, or something to protect the Earth from an approaching meteor? Hmm, the decision is yours... ☹️



Can you harvest the crops faster than your opponent?



Best Bit

We were particularly taken with the originality – and also the playability – of the range of mini-games on offer. For example, this one has you sewing on a patch for a T-shirt by following the edging – a bit like a driving game, but with a sewing machine!

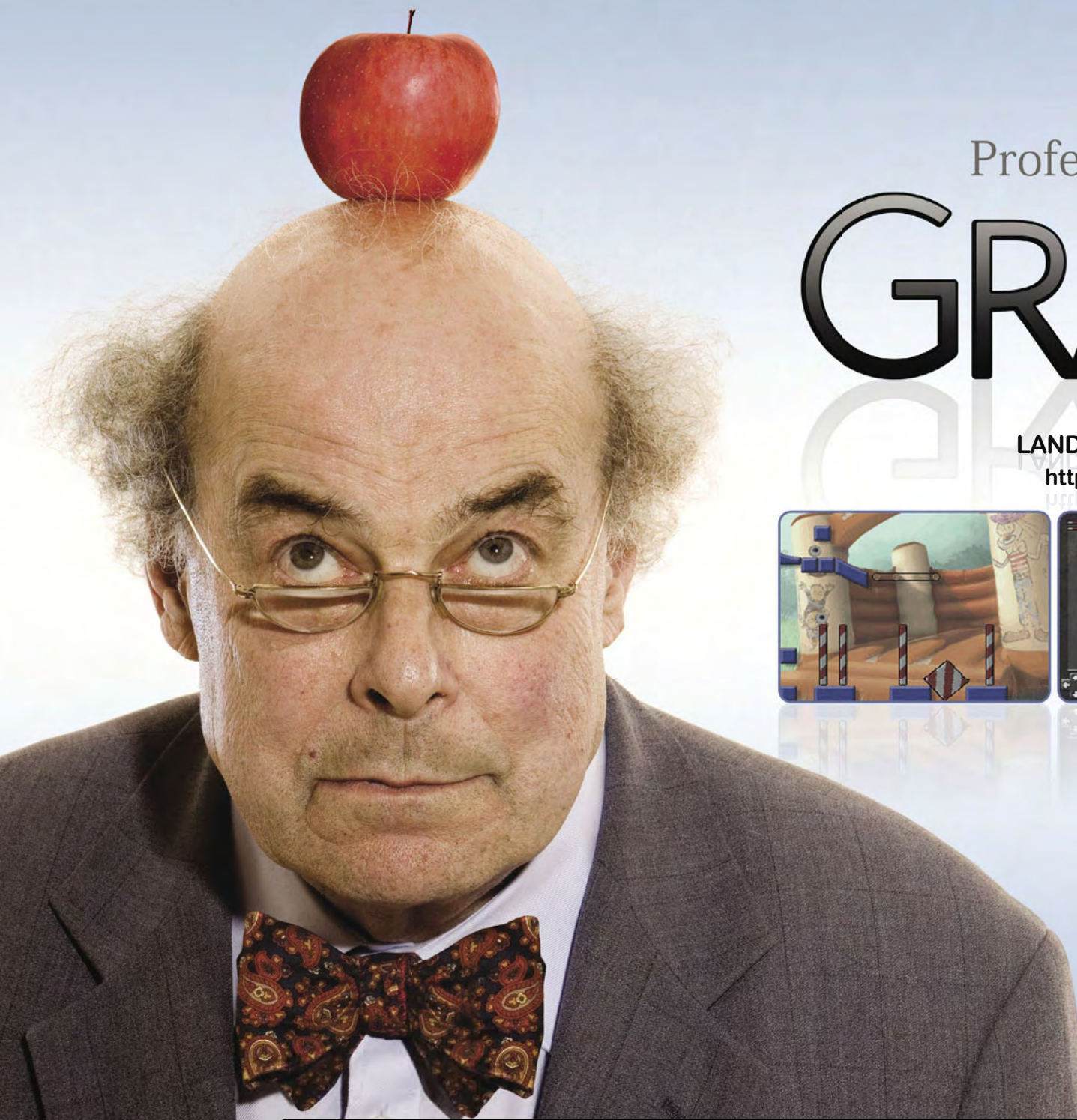


Playing as a ghost in a haunted house sounds fun.



That looks like a cow, but the ring in the nose is bothering us a bit.

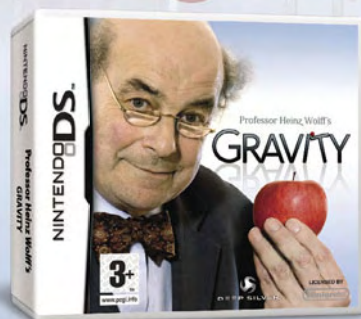
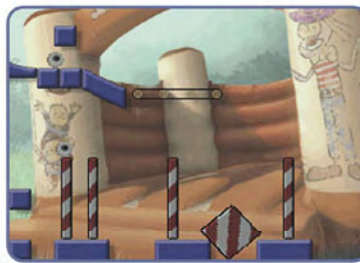




Professor Heinz Wolff's

GRAVITY

LANDING 28th NOVEMBER 2008
<http://gravity.deepsilver.com>



PLAYZINE on its way



incoming

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



Terminator Salvation

FROM: Warner Bros. OUT: 2009

You might want to take a step back from your monitor because this news is so hot off the press it's likely to leave you with first-degree burns! Based on the forthcoming 2009 movie starring current Batman star Christian Bale as futuristic freedom fighter John Connor, this third-person action adventure is being handled by Bionic Commando developer Grin. No details have been released regarding which platforms it will be coming to yet, but rest assured, when we know then you'll know.



ASTRO BOY

FROM: D3 Publisher OUT: October

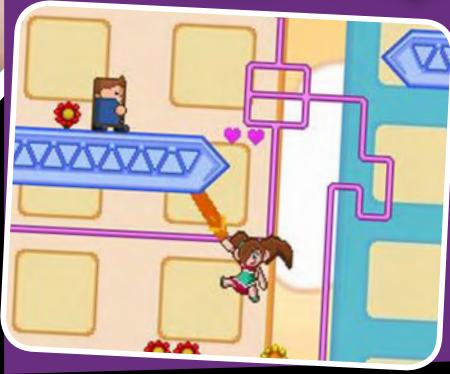
Originally conceived way back in 1951, Astro Boy is a robotic pre-teen who uses his special powers to fight all manner of naughty-type baddies. We've yet to see any imagery from the game, but the CGI movie is looking incredibly promising so far, so we'll certainly be keeping an eye on this one.



The Chase: Felix meets Felicity

FROM: Atari OUT: February

Atari is obviously hoping that it will be a classic case of 'love at first sight' when DS owners clap eyes on this intriguing title. The aim of the game is to unite lovers Felix and Felicity by guiding them from one side of the level to the next, using the stylus to draw their path. Obstacles hinder progress and power ups help add a bit of variety to proceedings.



Ghostbusters



FROM: Atari OUT: 2009

Dropped by former publisher Activision and rescued by Atari, this promising expansion of the popular 80s film franchise is back on track for a 2009 release. The fact that original Ghostbusters Bill Murray, Dan Aykroyd, Harold Ramis and Ernie Hudson are all involved certainly bodes well, and the all-new plotline (set two years after the second movie) should lend the game a sense of significance. If you've never watched the Ghostbusters movies before then now is the ideal time to catch up.



future releases

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

SimAnimals
Wii
January

Job Island
Wii
March

Big Bang Mini
DS
Spring

Elobits
DS
Spring

Little Magician's Magic Adventure
DS
Spring

Valkyrie Profile
DS
Spring

Duke Nukem Trilogy
PSP
Summer



Lord of the Rings: Conquest



FROM: EA OUT: January

The movies may have ended many years ago but that hasn't stopped EA from continuing to mine the lucrative Middle Earth franchise. LotR: Conquest will allow you to take sides with both good and evil forces as you attempt to either save or slaughter the people of Tolkien's fantasy world. The DS version is obviously going to lack the finesse of the home console instalments but stylus-control could be a real benefit here.



COLIN MCRÆE: DIRT 2

FROM: Codemasters OUT: 2009

Colin McRae may have been tragically killed in a helicopter accident in 2007 but his name will live on thanks to Codemasters' continuation of its stunning DiRT off-road racing series. A flood of enhancements are expected, including more realistic physics, better damage detail and more cars on-screen at any one time. The original DiRT was mucky fun and we fully expect this sequel to be even filthier – something that rally legend McRae would almost certainly approve of.

HOUSE OF THE DEAD: OVERKILL



FROM: Sega OUT: Spring 2009

Sega's House of the Dead light gun series remains a popular draw in arcades even today, so the fact that the Wii is getting an exclusive prequel makes us very happy indeed. Set before the spooky events of the first coin-op, this gore-filled blaster will see you facing off against hordes of slaving undead as you attempt to survive a zombie apocalypse. The Wii Remote will obviously be used for shooting, but you can also swing it to 'pistol-whip' enemies that get too close.



MONSTER HUNTER Freedom Unite



FROM: Capcom OUT: Spring 2009

This game is credited with single-handedly reviving the fortunes of the PSP in Japan and now us Westerners are finally getting the chance to see what all the fuss is about. Like previous Monster Hunter titles, the idea is to track down and slay fearsome beasts, but there's a particular emphasis on working with other players as a team here. Improvements over past titles include new items, enhanced weapons, original character classes and a faster level-loading system.



future releases

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

Star Ocean: Second Evolution
PSP
Summer

Battlefield Academy
PSP
Summer

Commander Napoleon at War Gold
PSP, DS
Summer

Mortimer Beckett
Wii
2009

Sudoku Ball Detective
Wii
2009

Major League Baseball 2K9
Wii, PSP, PS2
2009

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince
Wii, DS, PSP, PS2
2009

TOTAL CONTROL WITH FOOTBALL DIRECTOR DS



Nintendo DS™ Lite



Football Director DS is the FIRST and ONLY football management game available for Nintendo DS™ giving you the chance to take total control of your favourite football club.

GAME FEATURES

- Manage your team to league or cup glory
- Monitor & control your club finances
- Negotiate player contracts and wages
- Search, buy & sell players on the transfer markets
- Recruit players from European Leagues
- Train your squad to their maximum fitness & ability
- Select your team's match tactics
- Hire & fire backroom staff
- Spot up & coming youth talent

For more information and freestyler trick tutorials visit www.footballdirector.com



AVAILABLE FROM ALL STORES 28TH NOVEMBER

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PREVIEWS

THE HOTTEST GAMES, COMING TO A CONSOLE NEAR YOU!



ROCK REVOLUTION

IS IT TIME FOR A REVOLUTION IN THE RHYTHM GAME GENRE?
ALL THE LATEST NEWS ON KONAMI'S NEW MUSICAL MAESTRO



PHANTASY STAR PORTABLE



TENCHU 4



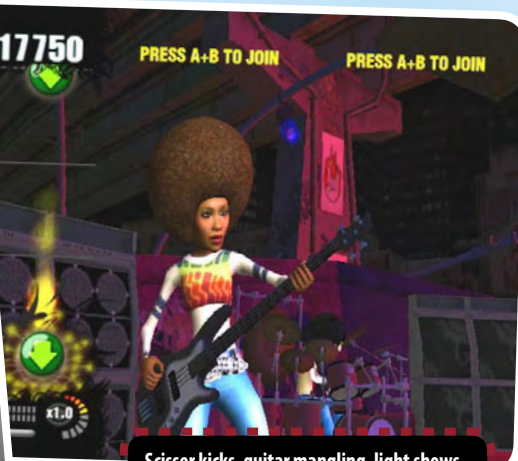
info



FROM: Konami
A BIT LIKE... Rock Band
WEB: www.hb-studios.com/games.php
OUT: January



Created with the help of real musicians, Rock Revolution offers multiple modes of play, including custom battles, jam sessions and a full career mode.



Scissor kicks, guitar mangling, light shows – Rock Revolution's on-stage action ticks all the necessary excess-all-areas moments.

ROCK REVOLUTION

Konami returns to reclaim its musical crown. Let there be rock!

You know how it is. You wait ages for your shot at virtual rock stardom, and then a whole bunch of opportunities come along at once. But while this new addition to the rock party may not really offer a

Revolution, it does at least follow its own groove, with an emphasis on drumming, with guitar and bass instead acting more as back-up. It also does a good job of balancing the glory moments rocking out on stage with the more cerebral delights of the studio.

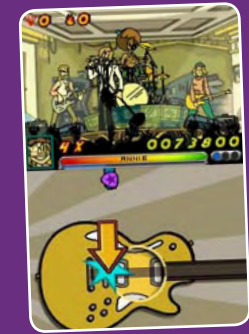
The two sides to the game also freshen up the whole multiplayer concept, enabling up to four people to collaborate as well as compete – each wielding the Wii Remote and Nunchuck

to play air drums and air guitar – with players able to drop in and out of play at any moment. In time-honoured fashion there's also a career mode, as well as the ability to power up instruments, choose different virtual rock star characters (even unlocking playable versions of Mii avatars), and literally light up the 3D stage shows.

While Rock Revolution's late arrival suggests Konami has worse timing than Ringo Starr, it may just be that the best

ROCKING THE DS

Rock Revolution is heading to the DS, too...



WRECK the mic **LIGHTING UP** **KEEPING TRACK**

WRECK the mic

Amazingly, the DS version manages to outperform its big Wii brother in several ways, not least with the way it adds vocals to the mix alongside instruments. It also makes full use of wireless play to enable four gamers to get together. And while the DS may not allow for air drum and guitar madness, the stylus provides fine control of rhythm.

has been saved until last. Let's not forget that Konami pretty much introduced the whole rhythm-based game genre in the first place, with its Dancing Stage and Beatmania games. Beat that. 🎸

"ROCK REVOLUTION HAS AN EMPHASIS ON DRUMMING, WITH GUITAR AND BASS ACTING MORE AS A BACK-UP"

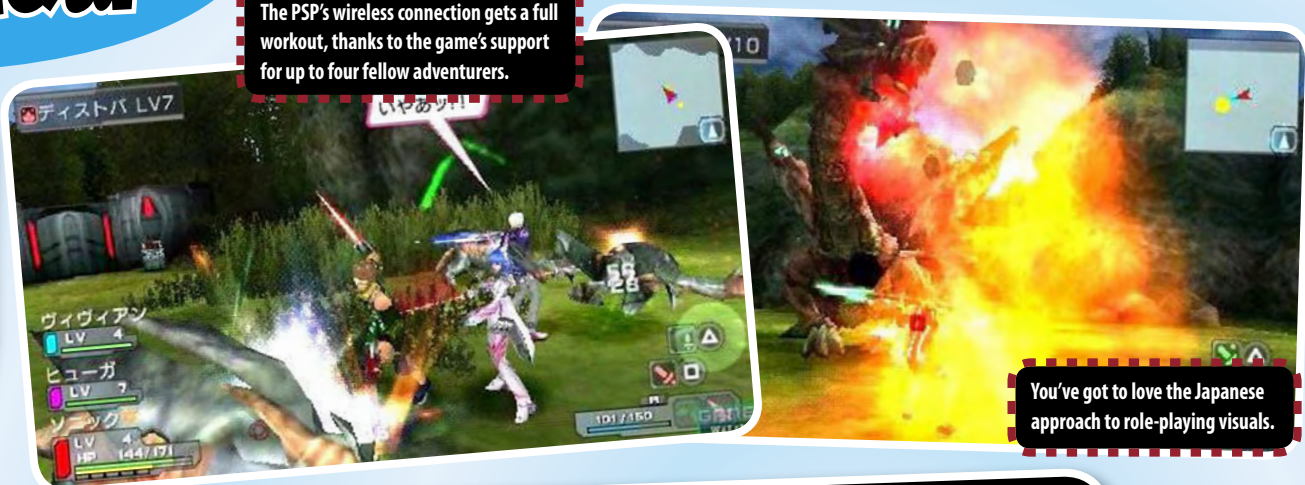
WII **HOW READY** **HOW GOOD**

The beat goes on...

info



FROM: Sega
A BIT LIKE... Final Fantasy VII
WEB: www.sega.co.uk
OUT: March



The PSP's wireless connection gets a full workout, thanks to the game's support for up to four fellow adventurers.

You've got to love the Japanese approach to role-playing visuals.

PHANTASY STAR PORTABLE

An RPG that's out of this world is coming to PSP

Second only to Final Fantasy in popularity, the Phantasy Star series has been around since 1987. Since then it's helped to define the role-playing genre, selling several million into the bargain, and even earning the title

of 26th greatest videogame of all time (by Electronic Gaming Monthly magazine in the US). Clearly a PSP conversion is big news.

Except this isn't just a conversion. Forget all worries of a cheap port – instead Sega has chosen not only to play to the console's strengths but also to improve the formula, with a story that drops gamers right into events that take place straight after those of Phantasy Star Universe on the PS2.

Mixing up science fiction and fantasy to great effect, the story is surprisingly complex, featuring a villainess that's responsible for terrorist attacks in the Gurhal System, and a new ally in the form of android Vivienne, while a choice of four different playable races and three class types add a multitude of ways to tackle the adventure.

The title spelling may not be so great, and the cutesy visuals might not be the coolest around, but make no mistake – Phantasy Star Portable is pedigree role-playing of the highest order. Just ask the

PHANTASTIC VOYAGE

Putting the Arrrr into RPG



NEW TRICKS **MAKE A HERO** **IN THE CUT**

NEW TRICKS

Fans of Phantasy Star Universe on the PS2 will be pleased to know that pretty much every game element from that bestseller has been crammed into this version, as has everything from the Ambition of the Illuminus add-on. The game also has a whole bunch of new tricks up its sleeve, including over 150 new weapon and item types.

three quarters of a million Japanese PSP owners who've been playing it since July. Lucky blighters. 🍀

"PHANTASY STAR PORTABLE IS PEDIGREE ROLE-PLAYING OF THE HIGHEST ORDER"

HOW READY **HOW GOOD**

There's every indication that this'll be a classic



info

FROM: Ubisoft
 A BIT LIKE... Medieval Metal Gear Solid
 WEB: www.tenchu4game.com
 OUT: March



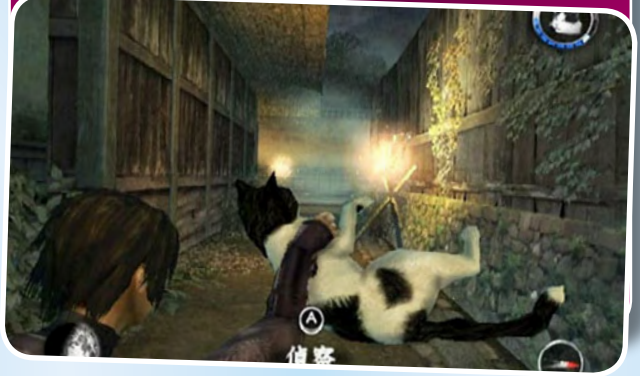
Death from above – Rikimaru shakes an enemy warmly by the head.



Life as a ninja isn't all about lurking in the shadows.

Best Bit

It seems that *the* must-have accessory for any self-respecting ninja is a cat. Really. Sure, our two heroes can take down enemies with all manner of weapons and cool moves. But when it comes to throwing the bad guys off the scent, you can't beat the sound of a shaken cat.



TENCHU 4

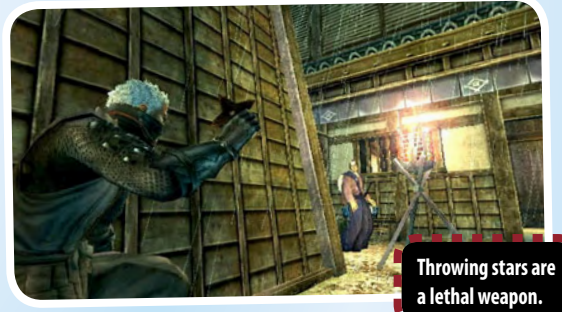
Another classic gaming series is heading to Wii

The last 10 years have been a bit of an emotional rollercoaster for Tenchu fans. The original title was hailed – alongside Metal Gear Solid – as a ground-breaking early example of

stealth-based gaming. But a little carelessness in the story department, an occasional lack of polish and a failure to really advance the genre, means Tenchu has rather fewer fans these days. Which makes this new incarnation for the Wii all the more exciting to us. First impressions suggest less of a return to form, and more of a long-awaited realisation of the concept's full potential.

In terms of the feudal Japan setting, it's business as usual, but developer Acquire has clearly taken note of publisher Ubisoft's other best-selling titles, especially Prince of Persia and Assassin's Creed. The result is an altogether slicker and speedier blend of bloody combat, acrobatic moves and sneaky stealth attacks. And when we say bloody, we sure mean it. You won't find more red juice sprayed across bamboo screens this side of the infamous limb-slashing House of Blue Leaves battle in Kill Bill.

Best of all, this is easily the most elegantly controllable Tenchu to date. Recognising the series has never offered gamers the easiest of control systems, the designers have really made the most of the Wii Remote to develop a far more intuitive way to pull



Throwing stars are a lethal weapon.

off the huge range of moves and kills. It's as though Tenchu has been waiting for a console like the Wii all along. 🐱

"THIS IS EASILY THE MOST ELEGANTLY CONTROLLABLE TENCHU TO DATE"

HOW READY ANY GOOD

Wii

Tenchu has never looked slicker



PLAYZINE'S GUIDE TO CHRIMBO CRACKERS!

If you're one of those unorganised souls who haven't written a list to Santa yet, then allow us at PlayZine to give you a helping hand. We've thoughtfully compiled this handy feature to show you the very best games out there for the Wii, DS, PSP and PS2. Some of these titles are getting on a bit but, regardless of

age, they represent the finest each format has to offer. If you've already mailed your request to the North Pole then don't fret, as you're bound to get some cold, hard cash from an elderly relative at Christmas, so keep your eyes peeled for these games in the inevitable January sales!





GAMES

DRIVING

Mario Kart Wii

PUBLISHER: Nintendo

With over a decade of glorious history to call on, it's hardly surprising that Mario Kart Wii represents the finest racing experience money can buy on Nintendo's popular home console. True, the Wii-wheel takes some getting used to, but it's not long before you're throwing your vehicle around the track like a real pro. Get some mates involved and it gets even better – this is essential stuff, regardless of whether or not you consider yourself a driving game fan.

BEST PRICE
£34.99
(play.com)



- NEED FOR SPEED: UNDERCOVER** – Illegal street racing has never been so much fun.
- EXCITE TRUCK** – Hardly realistic, but bloomin' good fun all the same.
- FERRARI CHALLENGE** – This slick racer is the Wii's answer to Gran Turismo.
- SPEED RACER** – The movie was terrible, but fear not, as the game based on it is great.

SPORTS



Mario & Sonic at the Olympic Games

PUBLISHER: Sega

It wasn't so long ago that Sega and Nintendo were considered to be bitter rivals but this excellent title proves that when sport is involved even mortal enemies can patch up their differences. Mario and Sonic star side-by-side in one of the many games to bear the official license of the 2008 Beijing Olympics, and although it shares many similarities with Konami's classic Track and Field, the use of the Wii's controls is fantastic.

BEST PRICE
£29.99
(play.com)

- PES 2008** – Konami's well-liked footy series adds motion control to the mix.
- FACEBREAKER: K.O. PARTY** – Boxing with a humorous twist – this is sure to give your arms a workout!
- FIFA 09: ALL PLAY** – EA impresses again. This time it's FIFA with a family-friendly theme.
- WII FIT** – Comes with the excellent Balance Board – so good your mum will be addicted.

ACTION



Metroid Prime 3: Corruption

PUBLISHER: Nintendo

The third (and final, apparently) instalment of the astonishingly brilliant Metroid Prime series, Corruption is so jaw-droppingly gorgeous that even your usually-smug 360 and PS3-owning buddies will be impressed. The fact that it plays like a dream also helps, with the Wii's unique control setup giving Corruption the best first-person shooter interface we've ever experienced. Let's hope that Nintendo doesn't allow Samus' adventures to end here, as we demand more of the same!

BEST PRICE
£17.49
(play.com)

- CALL OF DUTY: WORLD AT WAR** – War may be hell, but this game sure is fun.
- RESIDENT EVIL 4: WII EDITION** – The GameCube classic returns with a Wii-exclusive control method.
- SUPER SMASH BROS BRAWL** – Multiplayer fighting brilliance done the Nintendo way.
- NO MORE HEROES** – Quite unlike any other action game you've ever played.

ADVENTURE

Super Mario Galaxy

PUBLISHER: Nintendo

Nintendo's number one mascot reaches for the stars in this incredibly innovative 3D adventure. Another game that simply would not be possible on any other home system, it's no exaggeration to say that Galaxy will change the way you view platforming titles. It's positively dripping with character and charm, and every inch of the game world is wonderfully realised. Many argue that this is the best Wii game ever, and it's hard to disagree.



BEST PRICE
£29.99
(play.com)

- SUPER PAPER MARIO** – You'll never look at a 2D platform game in the same way again.
- FIRE EMBLEM: RADIANT DAWN** – A sprawling RPG adventure that will take over your life.
- ZACK & WIKI: QUEST FOR BARBAROS' TREASURE** – Test your grey matter with this brilliant puzzle-solving adventure.
- THE LEGEND OF ZELDA: TWILIGHT PRINCESS** – This is Link's most captivating escapade yet.



GAMES

DRIVING

Race Driver: GRID

PUBLISHER: Codemasters

Porting Race Driver across to the DS was never going to be easy, but amazingly that's just what Codemasters have managed to do. And do it in style. The graphics take a bit of a knock (obviously), but not as much as you'd expect, and it all moves wonderfully smoothly, too. But it's the stunning gameplay that'll keep you coming back to it time and time again.

BEST PRICE
£24.99
(Amazon)



- DIDDY KONG RACING** – A timely update of the N64 racing classic.
- TRACKMANIA DS** – Build your own race courses and then share them with friends.
- MICRO MACHINES V4** – A very welcome revival of a retro classic.
- MARIO KART DS** – One of the most playable driving games of all time.

SPORTS



FIFA 09

BEST PRICE
£24.99
(play.com)

PUBLISHER: Nintendo

After a few false starts, EA has supplied the goods with this mobile instalment of the FIFA series. The visuals are brilliant, the sound is great and it's packed to the rafters with stats, official club imagery and even a fully fledged league mode. Then there's the innovative 'Be a Pro' mode, where instead of controlling the entire team, you only command one player, and have to ensure he's in the right place at the right time.

- MARIO & SONIC AT THE OLYMPIC GAMES** – Portable sporting action at its finest.
- NEW INTERNATIONAL TRACK AND FIELD** – This update of Konami's original is Mario and Sonic's closest rival.
- MARIO SLAM BASKETBALL** – Mario gives karting a rest and takes up b-ball instead.
- SEGA SUPERSTARS TENNIS** – Sega's famous mascots take to centre court – new balls please!

LEGO Star Wars: The Complete Saga



PUBLISHER: LucasArts

BEST PRICE
£12.99
(play.com)

Whoever came up with the idea of fusing the worlds of LEGO with Star Wars deserves a hearty pat on the back, because by combining these two famous properties we've been gifted with sublime games like this. Stuffed to bursting point with tongue-in-cheek humour and hilarious gameplay, LEGO Star Wars will have you in a Force grip for weeks on end – the Christmas pudding will be stone cold by the time you've finally unlocked every aspect of the game, trust us!

- METROID PRIME: HUNTERS** – Samus brings her own unique brand of first-person shooting action to the DS.
- LEGO INDIANA JONES: THE ORIGINAL ADVENTURES** – Don Indy's fedora and liberate some precious treasures.
- BANGAI-O SPIRITS** – Fast-paced shooter action that is sure to keep your fingers busy.
- BLEACH: THE BLADE OF FATE** – Hectic 2D fighting action based on the hit anime.

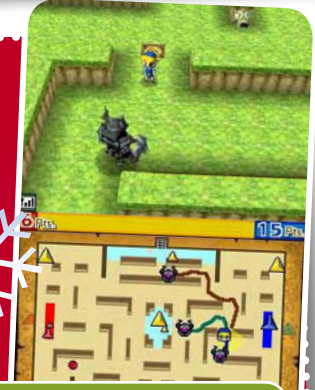
Adventure

The Legend of Zelda: Phantom Hourglass

PUBLISHER: Nintendo

BEST PRICE
£22.99
(Amazon)

Following on from the excellent GameCube title The Legend of Zelda: Wind Waker, Phantom Hourglass combines some of the best visuals yet seen on the DS with a refreshingly original interface. You control everything via the stylus, including movement, combat and puzzle-solving. If you're a fan of the series then this will feel like a breath of fresh air. If you're not, then it's the ideal opportunity to step into Link's shoes and become one.



- NEW SUPER MARIO BROS** – Nintendo's classic game series reinvented for the 3D era.
- POKEMON DIAMOND** – Even after more than a decade, we've still gotta catch 'em all.
- ADVANCE WARS: DARK CONFLICT** – Turn-based strategy action with a mean and moody storyline.
- MARIO & LUIGI: PARTNERS IN TIME** – The Mario brothers embark on yet another top-notch RPG adventure.



GAMES

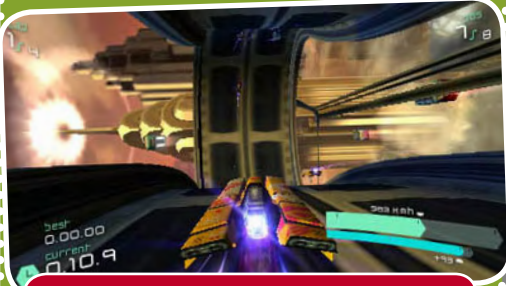
DRIVING

WIPEOUT PULSE

BEST PRICE
£14.99
(play.com)

PUBLISHER: Sony

Wipeout Pure was an amazing launch title and really showed what the PSP was capable of, but Pulse is a whole different ball game. Everything is given a shiny new lick of paint, and the end result is a racer that controls like a dream and will have speed-freaks gibbering with delight. This is quite simply the fastest racer on the PSP – the question is, are you able to tame it?



- SEGA RALLY** – Hit the dirt with an updated version of Sega's arcade classic.
- BURNOUT LEGENDS** – Bumper-to-bumper carnage in portable form.
- OUTRUN 2006: COAST TO COAST** – Another excellent Sega arcade racer gets a facelift.
- RIDGE RACER** – It's an oldie, but it's also a goodie. Essential stuff.

SPORTS



FIFA 09

PUBLISHER: EA

BEST PRICE
£16.54
(Amazon)

We're so used to FIFA playing second best to Konami's excellent Pro Evolution Soccer that it's quite a shock to learn that the 2009 entry of EA's long-running franchise is Man of the Match on the PSP. All of those years of trying have obviously paid off, because FIFA 09 rarely puts a foot wrong – and the 'Be a Pro' mode really does add considerably to the overall appeal of the game.

- EVERYBODY'S GOLF 2** – Amazingly addictive, light-hearted golfing action.
- VIRTUA TENNIS 3** – The best tennis sim on the planet? We think so.
- PES 2009** – An excellent alternative to FIFA – now includes Master League mode.
- SSX ON TOUR** – Take to the slopes in this adrenaline-fuelled snowboarding epic.

TEKKEN: DARK RESURRECTION

PUBLISHER: Sony

The PSP was crying out for a decent beat-'em-up for ages, and when it eventually came, it came in style. Tekken: Dark Resurrection had over 30 characters (including two new ones and the ability to customise all of them, too), excellent graphics, a WiFi multiplayer mode and even bonus mini-games. But it was the gameplay that really shone through, as Dark Resurrection somehow managed to distill the thrills and fun of the Tekken games and pour it all into a PSP.

BEST PRICE
£12.53
(Amazon)



- SYPHON FILTER: DARK MIRROR** – Third-person shooter action at its very best.
- METAL GEAR SOLID: PORTABLE OPS** – Build your own army in this excellent extension of the MGS universe.
- GRADIUS COLLECTION** – Retro shooter fans really should pick this up immediately.
- GTA: LIBERTY CITY STORIES** – Still one of our favourite PSP titles, everyone should give this a whirl.

ADVENTURE

FINAL FANTASY VII: CRISIS CORE

PUBLISHER: Square-Enix

Final Fantasy VII may have been released way back in 1997 but that hasn't stopped Square-Enix from releasing more games based in the same universe. Crisis Core is a prequel to the events of the PlayStation classic, and will have fans of the series in ecstasy. Serious role-playing fanatics should also check this out, but if you haven't played the original game then it's worth noting that some elements of the story won't make a lot of sense.

BEST PRICE
£17.99
(play.com)



- DISGAEA: AFTERNOON OF DARKNESS** – Turn-based RPG action with lush visuals and a great plot.
- FINAL FANTASY TACTICS: THE WAR OF THE LIONS** – Incredibly deep and involving, this is Square-Enix at the top of its game.
- RATCHET & CLANK: SIZE MATTERS** – Zany action with two of the PSP's most-loved mascots.
- LEGO STAR WARS II: THE ORIGINAL TRILOGY** – George Lucas' epic trilogy gets rebuilt in LEGO form.



GAMES

DRIVING

Gran Turismo 4

BEST PRICE
£9.99
(Amazon)

PUBLISHER: Sony

It might be a bit too serious for some, but Gran Turismo 4 is without a shadow of a doubt the finest driving game available on the PS2 – and possibly any other system, for that matter. There are so many cars in this game (and all accurately modelled, of course) that it seems almost impossible to believe a PS2 disc can hold so much information. To top it off, the actual driving is amazingly realistic and rewards skilful play.



- BURNOUT 3: TAKEDOWN** – Pure racing chaos with sickening crashes and amazing speed.
- TOCA RACE DRIVER 3** – Codemasters' stunning racer is a true rival to Gran Turismo 4.
- MIDNIGHT CLUB 3: DUB EDITION** – Pimp your ride and take to the nighttime streets in this ice-cool racer.
- COLIN MCRAE 2005** – This is a fitting tribute to the late, great rally star.

SPORTS



FIFA 09

BEST PRICE
£17.94
(Amazon)

PUBLISHER: EA

The PS2 may be getting on a bit now but that hasn't stopped EA gracing the machine with the latest version of FIFA. Like the DS and PSP versions, it marks a glorious high-point for the series, with smooth control, gorgeous animation and highly developed player AI, all combining to create a faultless footy extravaganza. Add a few friends and you've got a game that is likely to keep you glued to your TV set for ages.

- SMASH COURT TENNIS PRO TOURNAMENT 2** – Namco's legendary tennis series remains a PS2 fave.
- SSX 3** – Snow joke, this is one of the best snowboarding games ever.
- PRO EVOLUTION SOCCER 6** – One of the finest entries in the entire PES franchise.
- TONY HAWK'S PRO SKATER 3** – Tony's lost his way a bit these days – stick with this classic instalment.



ACTION

Guitar Hero World Tour

BEST PRICE
£29.99
(Amazon)

PUBLISHER: Activision

So can you really call Guitar Hero an action game? Well, the thing about Guitar Hero is that it doesn't fit neatly into any genre, but it has to be included here, as it's an essential purchase for all gamers. The guitar add-on peripheral is a work of genius and the latest version also includes a mic and drumkit for the full band experience – if you can afford it, that is.

- DEVIL MAY CRY 3** – Discover Dante's past in this gore-filled prequel to the series.
- RESIDENT EVIL 4** – The best game in Capcom's zombie franchise – nuff said.
- METAL GEAR SOLID 3: SNAKE EATER** – Travel back to the 1960s to uncover the origin of Metal Gear.
- VIRTUA FIGHTER 4: EVOLUTION** – Sega's arcade brawler is pugilistic perfection.

ADVENTURE

Shadow of the Colossus

BEST PRICE
£14.99
(Amazon)

PUBLISHER: Sony

The grey visuals and flat, almost featureless landscape may make you think twice about picking up this underrated classic, but what other game allows you to battle with massive giants, many as tall as a building? A semi-sequel to the equally brilliant ICO, this game is full of original ideas, and the plotline will tug at your heartstrings too, so you'd better make sure you have plenty of tissues nearby.



- OKAMI** – Gorgeous visuals and epic gameplay make this a modern classic.
- DRAGON QUEST VIII: JOURNEY OF THE CURSED KING** – It may look cuter than Final Fantasy but it's just as engaging.
- ICO** – One of the most original videogames you'll ever play.
- FINAL FANTASY XII** – Thankfully, this is one of the best instalments in the classic series.

Gadgets

Any cash left? You might consider one of these, then

DS Lightsaber Stylus

BEST PRICE: 3 pack for £6.99 (Game)

We've seen lots of 'themed' stylus packs over the past few years, but this has to be one of the coolest ideas yet. What better way to enjoy the DS version of LEGO Star Wars than with a perfect replica of the legendary lightsaber in stylus form? Available in 2 and 3 stylus packs, the 'sabers themselves come in red, blue and green, so you can decide which side of The Force you wish to align yourself with.



Go!cam camera

BEST PRICE: £34.99 (Game)

The shiny new Nintendo DSi may boast the ability to take photos but let's not forget that Sony's PSP is also capable of snapping a few shots – thanks to this 1.3 megapixel 'bolt on' camera. You can also use it to make video calls to other users, edit recorded video footage and record audio. If you consider yourself to be a budding moviemaker, then you'll have plenty of fun with this over the Christmas period – you could even create your own version of the Queen's speech!



Nyko Charge Station

BEST PRICE: £24.99 (Gamestation)

Christmas is all about bringing families together, and these days that also means indulging in a spot of multiplayer gaming. What better way to keep your Wii Remotes topped up with power than Nyko's near-essential charging station? Simply dock two Remotes while you enjoy your turkey and then by the time you're finished, the controllers will have enough juice for a mammoth Wii Sports session.



Datel Wireless Duo-FX Nunchuck Controller for Wii

BEST PRICE: £16.97 (Gamesek.co.uk)

The Wii's control setup is revolutionary but even the biggest Nintendo fan will admit that the cable that connects the Nunchuck to the Wii Remote is a pain in the posterior – we're forever whacking ourselves in the face with it. Thank goodness then for Datel's wireless version of the Nunchuck – not only does it do away with that troublesome cable, it also comes with a sneaky 'cheat' mode which automatically performs a 'shake', and will save you any unnecessary arm waggling.



REVIEWS

THE BEST VERDICT ON THE BIGGEST GAMES AROUND!



CALL OF DUTY: WORLD AT WAR

WE TOOK UP THE CALL, AND HERE'S OUR EXPERT REVIEW!



THE **PLAYzine** FOUR-POINT REVIEWERS 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 long enough to form an opinion
- 4 We love our games more than life. Well, almost



GUITAR HERO WORLD TOUR



QUANTUM OF SOLACE



ANIMAL CROSSING: LET'S GO TO THE CITY



LOCOROCO 2



FACEBREAKER K.O. PARTY



SHAUN WHITE SNOWBOARDING



REVIEW

info



FROM: Activision
A BIT LIKE... Brothers in Arms: Hell's Highway
WEB: www.callofduty.com
PRICE: £39.99
PEGI AGE RATING: 15+



CALL OF DUTY: WORLD AT WAR



It's back to the battlefield

Considering that Call of Duty 3 on Wii wasn't that great and Call of Duty 4 didn't even have the decency to appear on it, you'd be forgiven for not getting too excited about this new Call of Duty game, but you should. In fact, you should get very excited.

For starters, it looks amazing. The stages and characters look impressive enough, but it's the small details that look the best – the flamethrower effect, for example, looks stunning, and the smoke effects are almost as good.

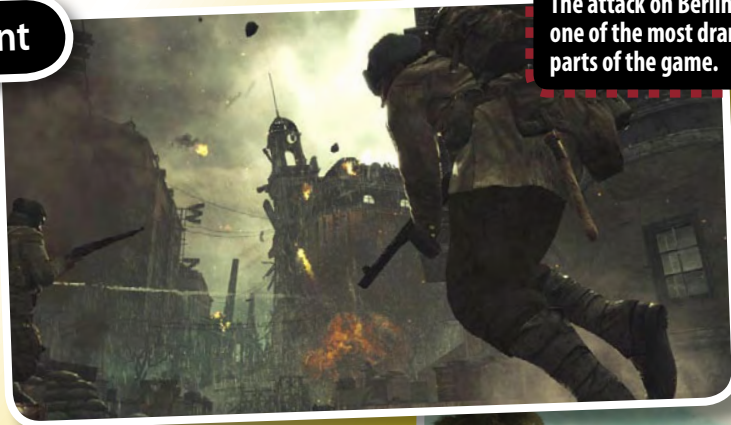
The control system is very much what you'd expect, with movement handled on the Nunchuck and your view done on the Remote. Surprisingly, it does take a while to adjust to it, but when you have, then it quickly becomes second nature.

Best of all though, is the game's character-driven plot and totally immersive atmosphere. For example, the moment when you find yourself charged by a screaming Japanese soldier is genuinely terrifying!

Call of Duty 5 is a well-made and very playable shooter. And one you should check out immediately.

Dean Mortlock

The attack on Berlin is one of the most dramatic parts of the game.



The gritty gameplay will be instantly familiar to fans of the series.

"BEST OF ALL IS THE GAME'S CHARACTER-DRIVEN PLOT AND IMMERSIVE ATMOSPHERE"



TOP TIP



The sooner you get the hang of the control system, then the easier it becomes. Spend some time at the start of the game getting used to moving around and targeting and you'll survive the first levels of the game far quicker.



BRIEFLY Speaking

Call of Duty returns to the Wii and it returns in style. Be warned though, as the game has a more mature theme than previous ones in the series, but older gamers (15 or over, to be exact) will find a thrilling and engaging game here.

PLAY TIME

HOURS WEEKS MONTHS

DIFFICULTY

EASY MEDIUM ARRGH!

FUN FACTOR

DULL COOL YIPPEE!

VERDICT

Action-packed fun

9

info



FROM: Activision
A BIT LIKE... Rock Band
WEB: www.guitarhero.com
PRICE: £39.99 (just game),
 £69.99 (with guitar),
 £149.99 (band bundle)
PEGI AGE RATING: 12+



Guitar Hero World Tour

Wii all wanna be rock 'n' roll stars!

We've got to be honest – we had high hopes for this game. Rumours of pounding drum solos, screaming guitar licks and an endless stream of tracks filled us with an excitement that was becoming extremely hard to suppress. And we're delighted to report that Guitar Hero is every bit as good as we'd hoped it would be, especially if you can afford

to stump up the cash for the full set, that also includes the hugely responsive drum kit, too. The Music Studio is a new feature that's likely to cause some interest, and while it does let you create your own tracks, it is quite hard to do via the guitar. It does mean though, that there's sure to be a massive amount of new songs online to download soon

This, believe it or not, is actually Sting.



which potentially gives you months of added gameplay. With the gameplay tightened, a great selection of tracks and some nifty new features, it's hard to imagine how Rock Band will top this, but we're looking forward to seeing them give it a go. Great fun. **4.5**

Dean Mortlock



The best way to play the game is with the full kit, but it's still enormous fun with just the guitar.

NEW HEROES

So what's new in this version? Let's find out...



- DRUMS
- STUDIO
- Mii mode

DRUMS

Taking a massive leaf out of the Rock Band book, Guitar Hero now comes – if you're prepared to stump up the £150 for it – a drum kit and mic. If you want the full Guitar Hero experience, then this is the way to go. The drum kit itself is very impressive, with excellent feedback on all of the pads.

Briefly Speaking

Guitar Hero takes on Rock Band at its own game, and comes out top – for now. A brilliant game packed with songs is backed up by a guitar and drum kit that puts its opposition to shame – if you can afford the complete set, that is.

PLAY TIME
 HOURS DAYS **WEEKS**

DIFFICULTY
 EASY **MEDIUM** ARRGH!

FUN FACTOR
 DULL COOL **YIPPEE!**

VERDICT
 Heroic stuff!

9

info



FROM: Activision
A BIT LIKE... Goldeneye
WEB: www.007thevideogame.com
PRICE: £39.99
PEGI AGE RATING: 12+



QUANTUM OF SOLACE

Can Activision recapture Bond's glory days?

Ever since Rare released the awesome Goldeneye on the Nintendo 64 back in the late 90s, every subsequent Bond videogame has had an almost impossible act to follow. Quantum of Solace (no, we haven't the foggiest idea what the film's title means either) is Activision's first stab at the series since taking over control from Electronic Arts and,

unsurprisingly, they've decided to adopt a first-person viewpoint for the game – the same perspective that's used in Goldeneye, no less. Things certainly get off to a good start. Visually it's as sharp as one of Bond's witty retorts, and the slickness also crosses over to the control system, which uses the infrared pointer of the Wii Remote for aiming. However, once

the action gets really intense, Quantum of Solace starts to fall apart fast, with all sorts of control issues cropping up – the most annoying being Bond's habit of 'sticking' to surfaces you don't want him to. The framerate also plunges to crippling depths at times, making it almost impossible to beat sections of the game without taking serious damage. Nintendo gamers that are old enough to remember Goldeneye may have held high hopes for this, but sadly this is one mission that fans of Agent 007 are unlikely to cherish.

Damien McFerran



Your opponents will make use of cover as well.



Enemy character models are pretty detailed for a Wii game.



"Once the action gets intense, Quantum of Solace starts to fall apart fast"

TOP TIP



For any hope of survival then you'll have to learn to use the cover system effectively. Press the A button when you're near a large piece of scenery and Bond will magically 'attach' himself to it, giving you the opportunity to lean out and take shots at enemies.



Briefly speaking

The curse of the Bond film license continues (Goldeneye is the only good one) with another attempt that doesn't come close to replicating the style and polish of the film it's based on. Stick to Call of Duty for your FPS thrills.

PLAY TIME

HOURS days weeks

DIFFICULTY

easy MEDIUM ARRGH!

FUN FACTOR

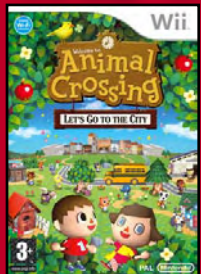
DULL COOL YIPPEE!

VERDICT James Bland

5

REVIEW

info



FROM: Nintendo
A BIT LIKE... Spider-Man: Web of Shadows
WEB: www.nintendo.co.uk/NOE/en_GB/games/wii/animal_crossing_lets_go_to_the_city_9586.html
PRICE: £34.99
PEGI AGE RATING: 3+



While plenty of furniture and wallpaper sets make a return, there are also some new collections to buy.



Animal Crossing: Let's go to the City

Where everybody knows your name...

It's still the same concept – you reside in a leafy hamlet with several anthropomorphic creatures, living out a virtual existence in real-time. You can potter around pretty much as you please once you've done a bit of work for racoon tycoon Tom Nook, who owns your property and the local village store. You can spend time socialising with other animals, fishing, bug-catching and digging up fossils, all of which can be sold on for profit or donated to the museum. While you'll get the

occasional animal wandering in from outside, most of the previous games' village visitors can be found in the city hub, which is a brief bus ride away. Baby steps forward then, but the tiny tweaks make this the most satisfyingly complete Crossing yet. Socialising with Wii friends is easier thanks to the Wii Speak mic (available in a bundle with the game), while neat little touches like the grass wearing away on areas you that frequent, and the vastly improved fish and bug models make it just about worthwhile if you've not played the last two versions.

VIOLENCE IS GOLDEN

If you're a newcomer then you're getting the best possible experience – your first Crossing is always a joy, and you'll likely get more emotionally attached to your village and its characters, revelling in the witty dialogue and mourning the loss of villagers when they move away. More

"THE tiny tweaks MAKE THIS THE MOST SATISFYINGLY COMPLETE CROSSING Yet"

TOP TIP



A good way to make early cash is to plant as many fruit trees as possible, using fruit which isn't native to your village. Also, if you cut down an old tree and plant a fruit in its place then you'll soon have orchards which will earn you thousands!



Mabel and Sable return!



Though motion control is only sparingly used, it does feel natural to pull the remote upwards when you've snagged a fish.

of the same, then – whether that's a good thing is up to you to decide. *Chris Schilling*

Briefly Speaking

This new version of Animal Crossing isn't a major departure from the previous games, but it is enough of an improvement to warrant checking out. Its easy gameplay also makes it suitable for any age of gamer.

PLAY TIME

HOURS WEEKS **MONTHS**

DIFFICULTY

EASY MEDIUM ARRGH!

FUN FACTOR

DULL COOL **YIPPEE!**

VERDICT

Familiar but fun

8

LOCOROCO 2



info



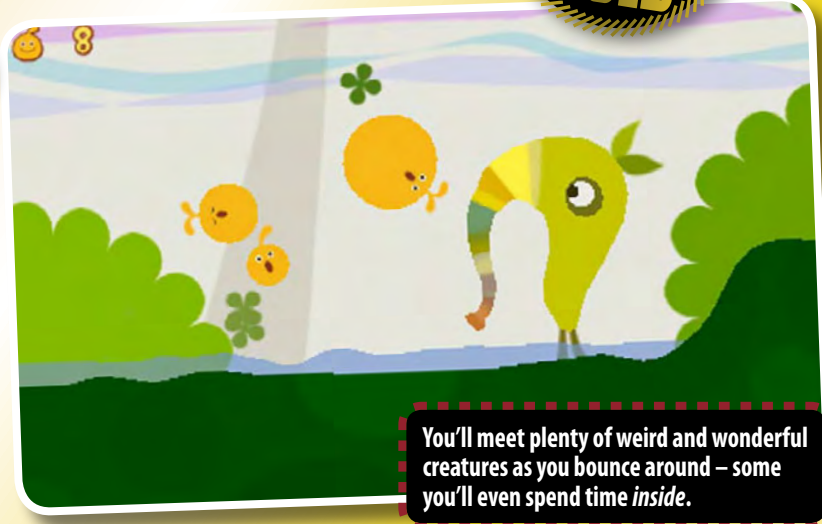
FROM: SCEE
A BIT LIKE... Well, LocoRoco
WEB: www.locoroco.com/pc/index.php
PRICE: £19.99
PEGI AGE RATING: 3+



Buy this game. Now!

You've just got soaked on the way home from work. You've burnt the toast and run out of butter. The Sky Plus has failed to record TV Burp. But it doesn't matter. Stick LocoRoco 2 on your PSP for five minutes and all your problems just melt away...

The original LocoRoco was (and still is) one of the PSP's best games – a glorious confection which saw you manoeuvring coloured blobs around candy-coloured environments using just the shoulder buttons to tilt the landscape left and right, with a press of both used to jump. One part Sonic, one part Mario and one part the most hallucinatory kids' TV



You'll meet plenty of weird and wonderful creatures as you bounce around – some you'll even spend time inside.

show you've ever seen. Its only problems were occasionally frustrating momentum issues and that it was over too soon.

Not so its sequel, whose controls are tighter, its level design even more vibrant, and whose collectibles are so plentiful you'll lose track of what you're supposed to be picking up. Your blobs interact with the world in much more interesting ways than before – rolling around in a giant afro, for example – and each stage is longer and filled with more secrets than ever. The wealth of unlockables add significant replay value, while the occasional rhythm-action interludes are a particular highlight. Despite its

brilliance, it's currently struggling for sales. Rectify this immediately. It's utterly joyous, probably the handheld game of the year, and your PSP is nothing without it. Essential. **W**

Chris Schilling

"YOUR BLOBS INTERACT WITH THE WORLD IN MUCH MORE INTERESTING WAYS THAN BEFORE"



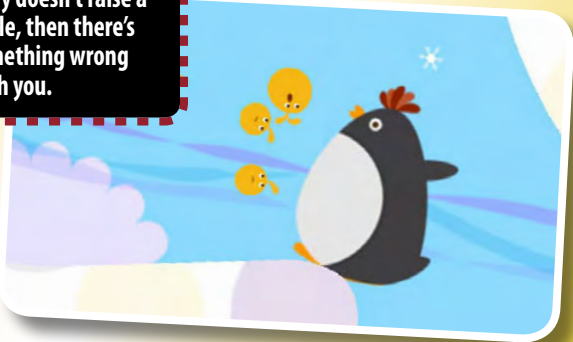
The Mui-Mui house is decorated and expanded by collecting parts scattered about each stage.



PLAYZINE Challenge

While you'll often spend a ridiculously large amount of time trying to collect all the pickories or Mui-Mui in a level, it's always fun to try and complete it in the quickest possible time. See if you can beat our record of 2 minutes and 50 seconds on the game's very first level.

If knocking a penguin down a slippery slope by bounding into his belly doesn't raise a smile, then there's something wrong with you.



Briefly Speaking

The first game was one of the PSP's crowning moments, and the sequel is even better. If you're looking for an original and amazingly playable game then your quest is over. LocoRoco 2 is a game that everyone should enjoy.

PLAY TIME HOURS WEEKS MONTHS	DIFFICULTY EASY MEDIUM ARRGH!	FUN FACTOR DULL COOL YIPPEE!	VERDICT Portable perfection <h1>10</h1>			
				HOURS	WEEKS	MONTHS
				EASY	MEDIUM	ARRGH!

info



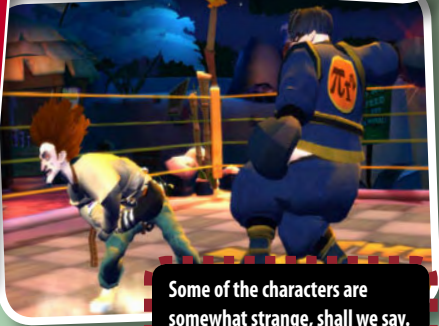
FROM: EA
A BIT LIKE... Fight Night
WEB: www.easports.com/facebreaker
PRICE: £19.99
PEGI AGE RATING: 12+



PLAYZINE Challenge

The 'FaceBreaker' of the title is your character's super move, which can only be executed when your power gauge is full. It results in an instant knock out, so to make the game truly challenging, avoid using it when your gauge is full. Then if you win, you can have true bragging rights over your rival!

Character models are incredibly detailed.



Some of the characters are somewhat strange, shall we say.

FACEBREAKER K.O. PARTY

Fight for your right to party!

Not so long ago, EA was a publisher that seemed to ignore the critics and happily release any old tosh as long as it sold by the bucketload. These days however the company is a bit more receptive to feedback, as FaceBreaker K.O. Party proves. The previous instalments of this boxing series received less than positive reviews and EA has duly gone back to the drawing board to give Wii owners a more polished experience.

Firstly, the unique controls of the Wii are put to excellent use here. The Wii Remote and Nunchuck represent your fists (just like they did in Nintendo's Wii Sports boxing game) and your movements are replicated swiftly and accurately. However, don't be fooled into thinking you'll get time to 'float like a butterfly and sting like a bee', as FaceBreaker is about as far away from a real boxing sim as you can possibly get, with outrageous moves and blinding-fast pace.

Several zany locations are available to fight in.



Winding up your more powerful moves takes time and leaves you exposed.



When punches connect in FaceBreaker then you really know about it.



With some gut-bustlingly hilarious game modes and wonderfully polished visuals, FaceBreaker feels every inch a sleeper hit, but sadly the lack of depth means it won't be long before you're bored. However, when viewed as a social 'party' game it makes more sense, and the cheap price makes it easy to forgive its shortcomings.

Damien McFerran

PLAY TIME
 HOURS DAYS WEEKS

DIFFICULTY
 EASY MEDIUM ARRGH!

FUN FACTOR
 DULL COOL YIPPEE!

VERDICT
Shallow but fun

7

info



FROM: Ubisoft
A BIT LIKE... SSX Tricky
WEB: www.shawnwhitegame.com
PRICE: £39.99
PEGI AGE RATING: 3+



Shaun White Snowboarding

Get ready to shred some serious white stuff

With the early impressions of the PS3 and Xbox 360 versions of Shaun White Snowboarding being pretty dire, we have to admit that we didn't hold out a great deal of hope for this Wii instalment. However, Ubisoft has surprised us by giving Nintendo fans a whole new experience rather than trying to shoehorn the PS3 edition into more technically humble hardware.

Gone are the realistic (but buggy) visuals and in their place we have cartoonish snowboarders and colourful environments – and amazingly, it actually ends up looking a damn sight more attractive for it. The biggest draw here is undoubtedly the inclusion of Balance Board support. Again, we were highly suspicious of this aspect of the game but after a few minutes play we found

This course is set in Japan and features some striking scenery.



"THE BIGGEST DRAW HERE IS UNDOUBTEDLY THE INCLUSION OF BALANCE BOARD SUPPORT"

TOP TIP



Steering is handled by your 'back' foot and tucks (which give you speed but less steering control) accessed using your 'front' foot. Jumps are slightly trickier and require delicate 'pumping' motions with both feet.



ourselves falling head-over-heels in love with the control method. Everything from sharp turns to outrageous stunt work is carried out using the board, and it really helps to immerse you in the game. Of course, for those of you that lack the all-important peripheral, the standard Wii Remote/Nunchuck set-up grants an almost as impressive degree of command.

Add to this an engaging Campaign mode and some fun multiplayer features, and it becomes clear that Shaun White Snowboarding on the Wii really is top notch videogame. 🐾

Damien McFerran



The light-hearted visuals work brilliantly.

Briefly speaking

Shaun White Snowboarding gets a very thoughtful remix for the Wii version. The graphics and gameplay are great, but what really impresses is the Balance Board support, which takes the game to a whole new level.

	PLAY TIME	HOURS	DAYS	WEEKS
	DIFFICULTY	EASY	MEDIUM	ARRGH!
	FUN FACTOR	DULL	COOL	YIPPEE!

VERDICT

King of the slopes

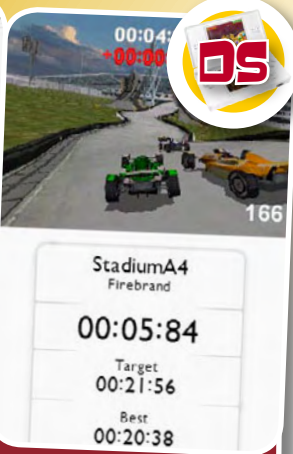
8

REVIEW ROUND UP

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



The track editor works like a dream.



Trackmania DS

FROM: Ascaron PRICE: £29.99

AGE RATING 3+

Technically a conversion of a very well-liked PC driving game, Trackmania is quite possibly the perfect driving game for the DS's abilities. The tracks, although quite small, are beautifully drawn and run very smoothly indeed. The jewel in this game's crown though, is the track editor, which allows you to get creative, with loops and all sorts of obstacles, and make some totally original courses. So if you like quirky driving games, then we recommend you check out Trackmania.

8

Need for Speed Undercover

AGE RATING 12+

PSP

FROM: EA PRICE: £29.99

With an intriguing plot and the tantalising promise of a highly developed driving engine, we had higher-than-usual hopes for this urban racer. Sadly, while NFS: Undercover may serve as a mighty fine advertisement for the PSP's graphical capabilities, as a game it's sadly lacking in originality, finesse and (most importantly) enjoyment. Stick with the vastly superior Midnight Club: LA Remix instead.



Driving a Porsche around a city should be great. Sadly, it's not.

5



Wii

The graphics are spot-on, and remarkably similar to the recent Star Wars animated film.

Star Wars: The Clone Wars

AGE RATING 12+

FROM: LucasArts PRICE: £39.99

The idea was almost too good to be true – control a lightsaber with your Wii Remote in a Star Wars fighting game! – and, sadly, that happens to be the case. While there's plenty to like about the game – the graphics are a very accurate portrayal of the Clone Wars film, and there are plenty of moves – the control system doesn't come close to really making you feel like you're brandishing a lightsaber. Close then, but sadly not quite close enough.

6

Call of Duty: World at War

AGE RATING 16+

DS

FROM: Activision PRICE: £29.99

Downgrading Call of Duty to the DS means that you obviously lose a bit of the graphical sparkle, but we're happy to say that the gameplay and content more than makes up for it. Graphically it's impressive and smooth, and there's 26 missions and bonus modes to keep you busy for weeks. The online mode is also excellent, with four players locally and Wi-Fi play, too.



This is easily one of the best first-person shooters on the DS.

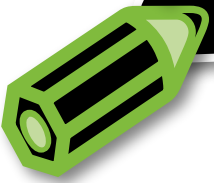
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YOUR SAY!

Got something to say? Write and tell us!

Don't FORGET THE PSP!

Really like the new look of the mag guys, but I'm also slightly worried that if you concentrate too much on the Wii, then you might not have any space to cover games for my favourite games machine, the PSP. Can you make sure that in future you cover PSP stuff as well as DS and Wii? Thanks!
Simon Lowe, London



Dean says: Thanks for the letter, Simon, and that's a good point you make about the PSP. We

The PSP – a lovely machine to be sure, but where are the games?



still all love our PSPs very much, but the fact of the matter is that the release schedule for it is looking a bit light for next year. We'll obviously cover as much as possible (we've got a preview and a couple of reviews in this issue), but the longer it goes on, then the harder it will be to find new PSP content to put in the magazine.

NEW OR IMPROVED?

Sorry, but I'm really (REALLY!) sick of sequels. Okay, so Guitar Hero World Tour is sure to be brilliant, and the new Tomb Raider, Call of Duty and Need for Speed games are sure to be great, but where's all the original stuff? The DS and Wii in particular are capable of producing great and original stuff, so where is it all?
Steve Bancroft, Leeds



Chris says: The thing is, Steve, that developing new ideas takes huge amounts of money, and if the game is a bit too niche then the software companies could end up losing a lot of money. Sequels of popular games still cost a lot of



Guitar Hero World Tour – a great game, but do we get too many sequels?

money to produce, but it's more likely that the companies will earn their money back if it's a sequel to a popular title. There really is plenty of original gaming to be found though, and Wii Music is a good example of a fresh title that's also huge amounts of fun to play, too.

CAN I HAVE A JOB?

My mates and I think that you have the best jobs in the world. I mean, imagine being paid to write about games all day! How do you start doing it, as I'd love your job!
Shaun Pierce, London



Damien says: In some ways, it's easier now than ever. There are loads of games websites looking for writers to produce news and reviews for them, and although you probably won't get paid much, you will get valuable experience – and the chance to play and write about the latest games, too. Pick a selection of your favourites and drop them a line. Oh, and good luck!

Game bytes

TOP OF THE POPS?

I really like the idea of PopStar Guitar (which you featured in your mag last month) but do you really think it'll be as good as Guitar Hero or Rock Band?
Jordan, Somerset

Well, you won't have the guitar to play on, which is obviously the main selling point of a game like Guitar Hero, but we do like what PopStar Guitar does with the clip-on adaptor, and it should be a lot cheaper than Guitar Hero, so we guess it all boils down to how good the game actually is to play.

SPIDER SENSES

We've had three LEGO games now (well, four if you include the two Star Wars ones) but do you know if the developers are going to do one on my favourite superhero of all time, Spider-Man, as they have LEGO for that character, too.
Dave Perry, Lincoln

Well Dave, it would appear that TT Games are slowly working their way through all of the LEGO licenses, so it doesn't seem to be unwise to expect a LEGO Spider-Man game in the future. Watch this space, and we'll bring you any news we find out as soon as is humanly possible.

Win goodies!

COMPO CORNER

Want something for nothing? Then enter our fab competition!

COPIES OF CALL OF DUTY, PLUS OTHER GOODIES!



Easily one of the best games of the year, Call of Duty: World at War is a fantastic continuation of the series, and also a triumphant return to the Second World War battlegrounds after the modern setting of the fourth game, Modern Warfare.

To celebrate this great event, Activision have very kindly given us four Call of Duty packs to give away on this very page. Each pack contains a copy of the game on Wii, plus a limited edition T-Shirt and cap. As usual, to stand a chance of winning, enter the competition via the box on the right side of the page. And the very best of luck!



Competition closes 15th January 2009. See website for full T&Cs.

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Next month

SONIC BLAST!

The history of the Hog, plus the lowdown on his two new games coming to Wii!



PREVIEWS

GRAND THEFT AUTO:
CHINATOWN WARS
LORD OF THE RINGS:
CONQUEST

REVIEWS

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