

SUNDAY
Mirror

GAMES EASTER

12-PAGE VIDEOGAME GUIDE

SUNIC
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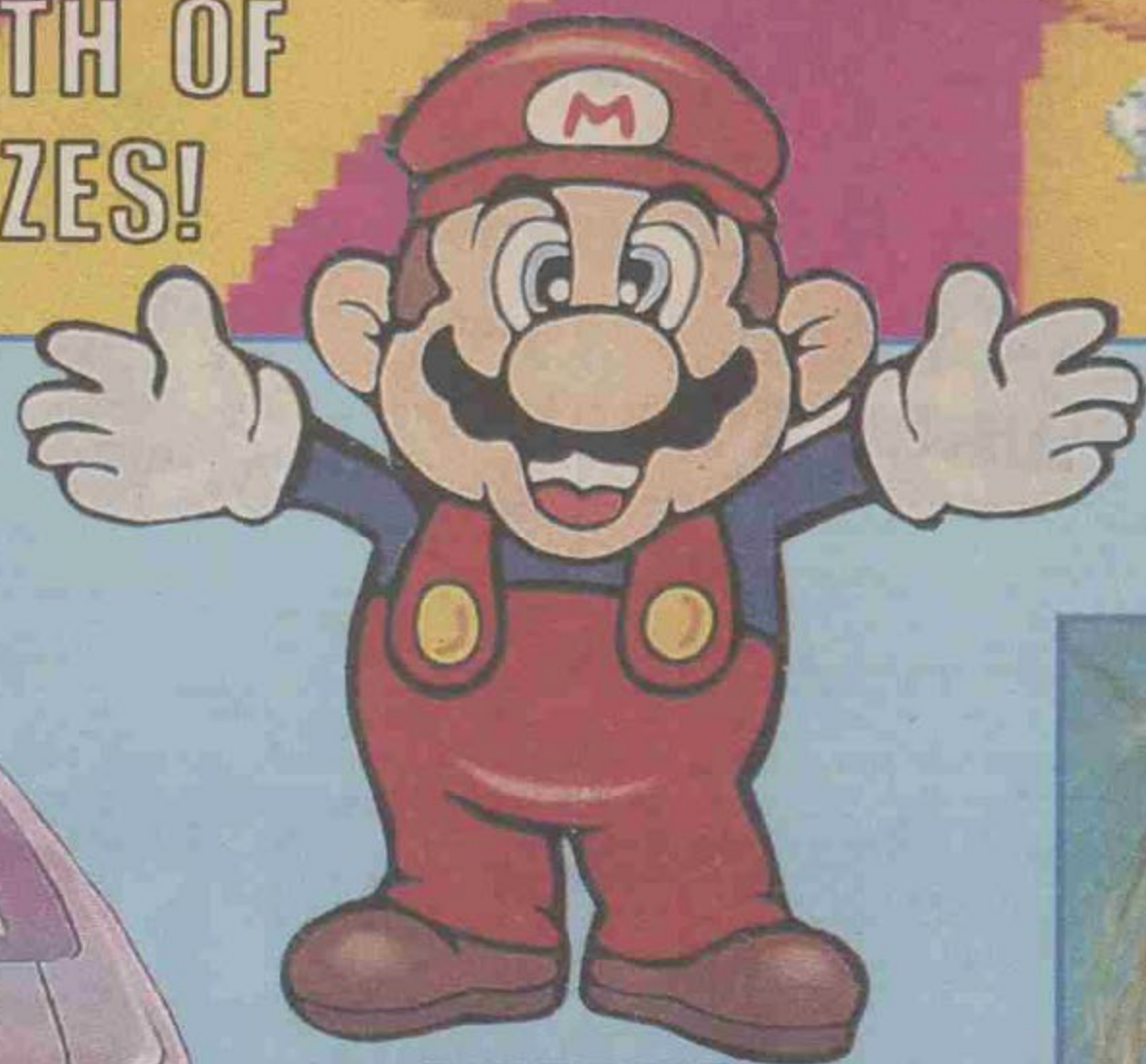
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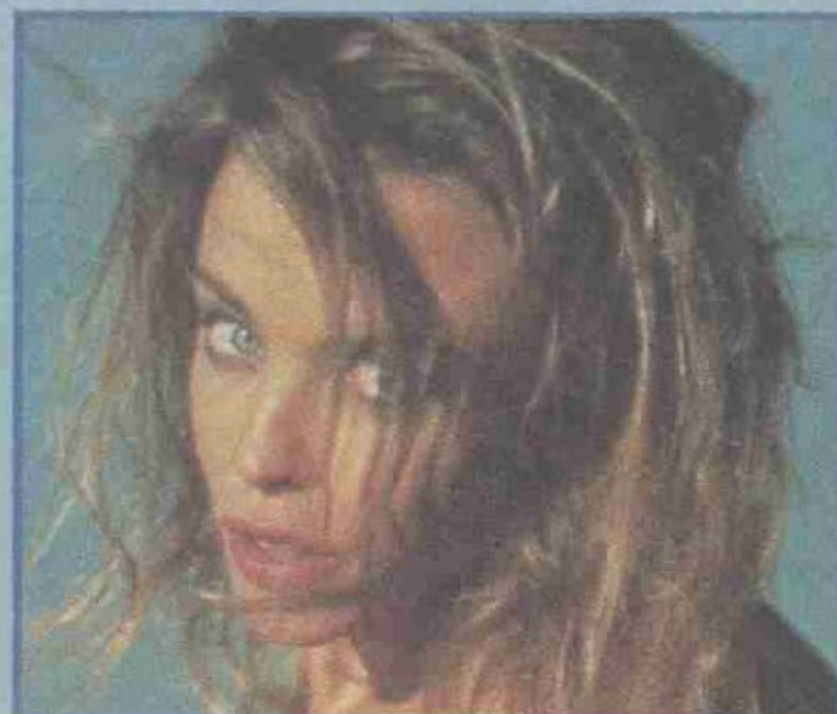
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GREETINGS

Forget that boxed records set – the ultimate entertainment this Christmas is going to be the videogame. And the Sunday Mirror has interfaced with the *GamesMaster* magazine to bring you an exclusive videogames guide.

Come December 25, Britain will go console crazy as millions of new gamers experience the thrills of *Mario*, *Sonic* and more.

But how can you be sure that you're buying the best system to suit your needs, or that you get the very best games to go with it? Easy!

TALKING GAMES

We've cut through the techno speak to bring you all you really need to know about *Sega*, *Nintendo* and *Commodore* – you'll soon be able to tell Tails from Koopa, a Super Scope from a Menacer.

Meanwhile, if you haven't caught Channel 4's Thursday night videogames extravaganza, *GamesMaster*, you're missing out. There are vital hints and tips from the oracle of all gaming knowledge, the *GamesMaster* himself (above), previews and reviews of the latest game releases, and top

Cut through the techno speak of videogames – and save money!

celebrities taking part in exciting games challenges.

Videogames are marvellous escapism. They speed up your hand-to-eye coordination, relieve stress and are great fun to play. So read up – and you could save some money!

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MEGA MASTER



The Sega Mega Drive (left) - home of street cool Sonic The Hedgehog - boasts a bigger stable of games than the Super Nintendo, and most of them are cheaper, making it great value. It has more movie and arcade classics - such as Aliens 3, Home Alone, Altered Beasts and Alien Storm - and rumour has it they're bringing out a Street Fighter II Championship edition with customised pad.

The £149.99 pack includes Sonic The Hedgehog, the martial arts mayhem of Streets Of Rage, a joypad and, of course, a Mega Drive. In fact, all you need to get going. Sonic 2 may be the new king of Sega, but the original Sonic The Hedgehog still has a few tricks up his sleeve.

SONIC BOOM



Singer Cathy Dennis is a huge Sega fan, and is particularly wild about the manic hedgehog - Sonics 1 and 2. 'I'm a complete games nut,' admits the redhead, whose hits include Touch Me and Irresistible.

Cool, cocky and fleet of foot - Sonic is the game character which everyone can identify with. He's not the kind of guy to get too cute, and it's a dose of street attitude which gives him an appeal matched only by Mel Gibson.

He's also largely responsible for giving video games a slick

by Mark Ramshaw

Nineties image. Sonic really has taken computers out of the dark ages and into the homes of thousands of kids.

If you're not already acquainted with the small fast one, then the best way to describe him

is as an adrenalised bundle of action - a speed machine which simply demands dexterity and a keen eye before you can even consider approaching him.

The aim of Sonic 2 is to collect as many rings as you can and make it to the exit, while the

wicked Doctor Robotnik keeps trying to stop you. The crazed professor - a cross between Inspector Gadget and Heinz Wolff - has kidnapped another bunch of fluffy creatures for use in his dastardly experiments. He's also tweaked his flying machine, which now has enough fire-spitting add-ons to deter even the

most single-minded animal rights activist.

Sonic has got a new pal, Two Tails, a furry foxy friend with two tails who can match Sonic in speed and agility.

When choosing a Mega Drive pack, top dog has to be the £149.99 model, with Sonic, Streets of Rage and a joypad. But if it's something a little more modest you're after, go for the £129.99 pack with Sonic and two joypads.

Also available, for £149.99, is the Menacer pack - a point-and-shoot-gun with sights which makes all those shoot-'em-ups so satisfying.

Already the likes of Terminator support the Menacer, with more in the wings. Menacer is also available separately (with a cartridge containing six titles) for £59.99. Cartridges for the Mega Drive, meanwhile, usually cost £39.99, with extra joypads for £14.99 and Sega's Arcade joystick, offering genuine coin-op control for £34.99.

The release of Sonic 2 marks a new phase in the story of Sega's success.

FIRE AWAY



Looking for something more economical? Try the new Master System II pack. For £59.99 you get the best-selling Master System plus Sonic and a joypad.

Alternatively you could try the £79.99 Sonic pack, which comes with two joypads and an Alex Kid cartridge.

Once you've got your kit, you can expect to pay £9.99 and upwards for extra cartridges.

BUT FIRST - GEAR



Sega also offer the hand held option with their compact £99 Game Gear. This comes complete with Columns (a Tetris-ish little puzzle game), though luxuries such as power supply (for when you don't need to go portable) are extra.

However, £129 will get you a Game Gear system with Sonic and the power supply - definitely a very good buy.

After that, there's a whole new world of hand-held fun awaiting you, with a wide range of cartridges costing £19.99 and upwards.

VIDEO GAMES

WINTER

SEGA TOP 5



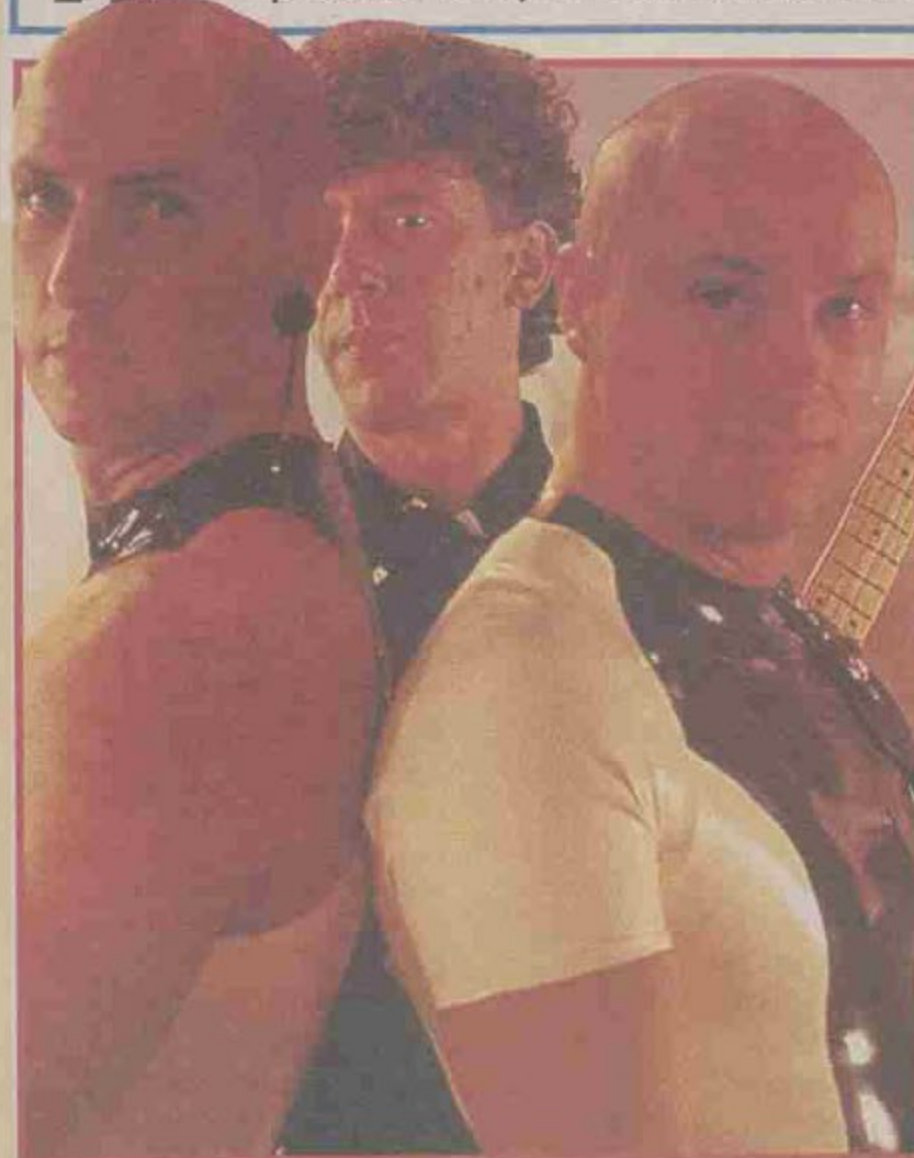
Choosing five great Sega games is a tough job. But I struggled through and here are five essential Mega Drive cartridges your Christmas shouldn't be without.

2 John Madden '93, Electronic Arts £39.99

The best just got better. John Madden American Football changed the face of sports' sims. With the '93 edition, you'll soon be hooked.



TIP Go for the Shotgun, Flood Right to receiver B. To do this, send a receiver straight up the middle, then snap, and after a couple of seconds make the pass. Now run upwards to catch the ball. You can gain about 50 yards.



DEEPLY DIPPY

When Right Said Fred aren't topping the charts with their melodic odes to sexiness, dip-piness and other dreamy topics, there's nothing they like to do more than exercise their digits on their Game Gears.

Being musclebound but sensitive kind of guys, the Right Said Fred boys are obviously big fans of sports sims AND platformers.

Sonic 2 is the latest fave with Richard, Fred and Bob. But then, it is the latest fave with absolutely everybody! At the last count, Sega were claiming sales topping 750,000 - that's more than yer usual number 1!

1 SONIC HEDGEHOG 2, SEGA £39.99

Now there are two fab high-speed adventures starring the lovable guy. Not all that different from already excellent original but adds some wonderful sub-games.

TIP Collect all chaos emeralds then 50 rings to go Super Sonic. Or collect as many emeralds as possible in Emerald Hill Zone, reset your Drive and start again. The Drive thinks you have all your previous emeralds. Repeat.



3 Road Rash 2, Electronic Arts, £39.99

Another great game idea which has been taken one step further in the sequel. Road Rash was the game which introduced fighting to the motor-bike racing game style.

But the real bonus of Road Rash 2 is the split-screen two player option. After all, thrashing all hell out of your best friend is so much more satisfying than beating the inanimate plastic box that is your computer.

This is just the ticket if you think you are a bit of a James Dean or Marlon Brando - just born to be wild.

TIP To get straight to fifth level with a Shuriken 1000N, enter code 000H590V

4 Super Monaco GP 2, Sega, £39.99

Remember the classic coin-op arcade racer Super Monaco Grand Prix?

Well, it's back, it's on the Mega Drive and now it's just that little bit more accessible. Super Monaco GP 2 is one of the new breed of cartridges which includes a battery back-up.

This means you can get heavily into that racing season, then come back a few days later and continue where you left off. With its spills, thrills and racing mayhem, Super Monaco GP 2 easily takes pole position in the four-wheel scheme of things.

TIP Don't use slick tyres in the wet.

5 NHLA HOCKEY ELECTRONIC ARTS £39.99

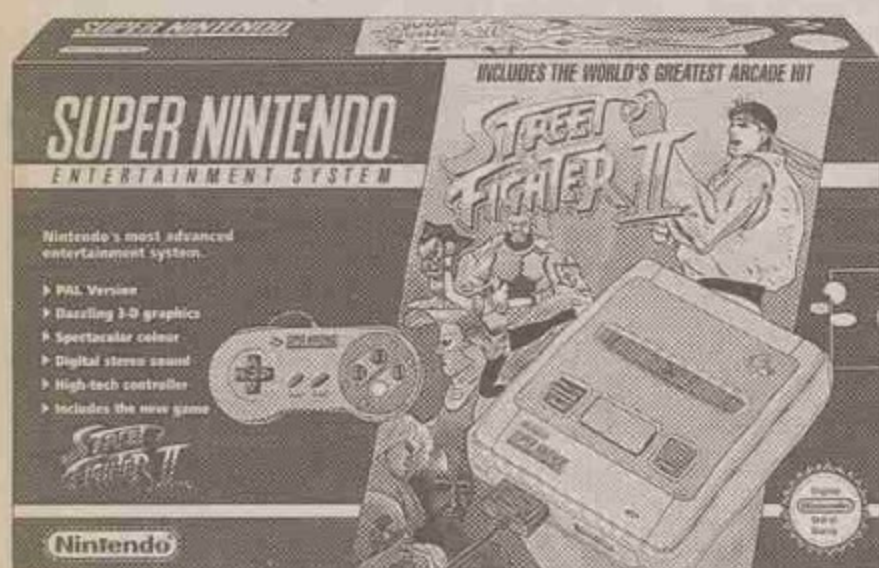
American Football is pretty violent, but it doesn't even begin to compete with ice hockey in the body pounding stakes. NHLA Hockey features 500 players and much better computer intelligence.

TIP Once you've got the puck, run straight at the opponent's net - don't press the C shoot button, use B pass. If there's no team-mate to pass to, the puck will go straight through the goalie's legs into the net.





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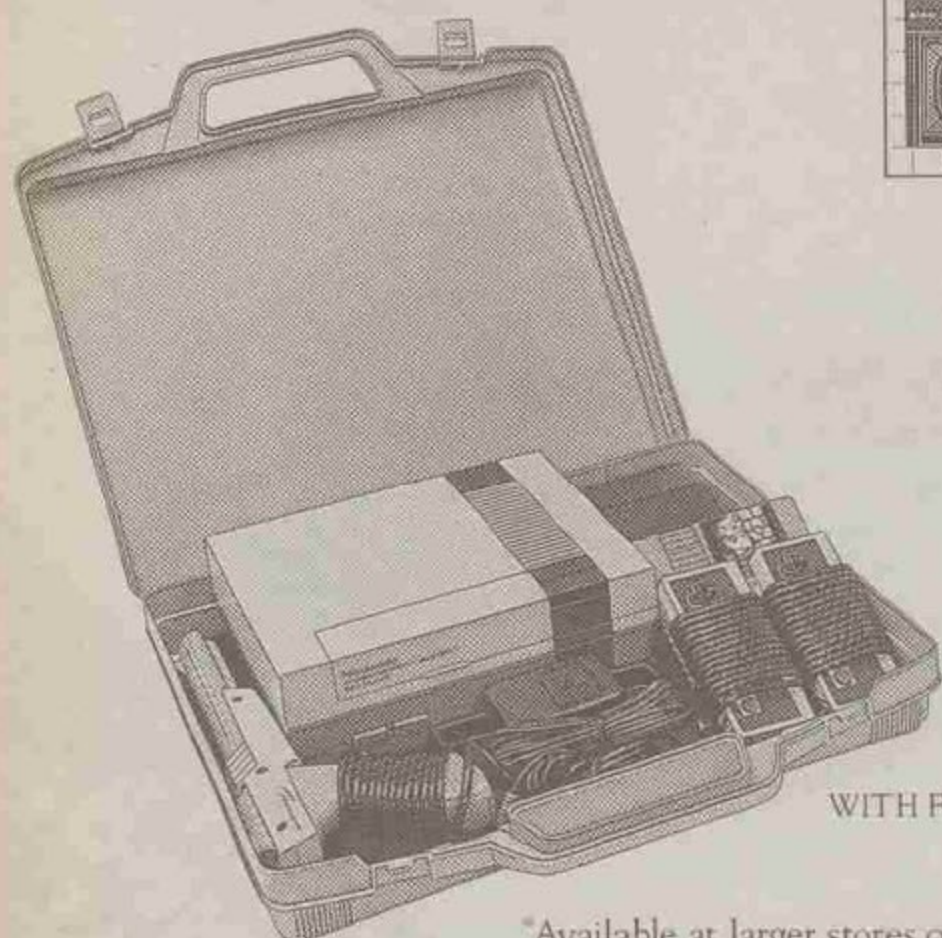
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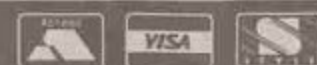
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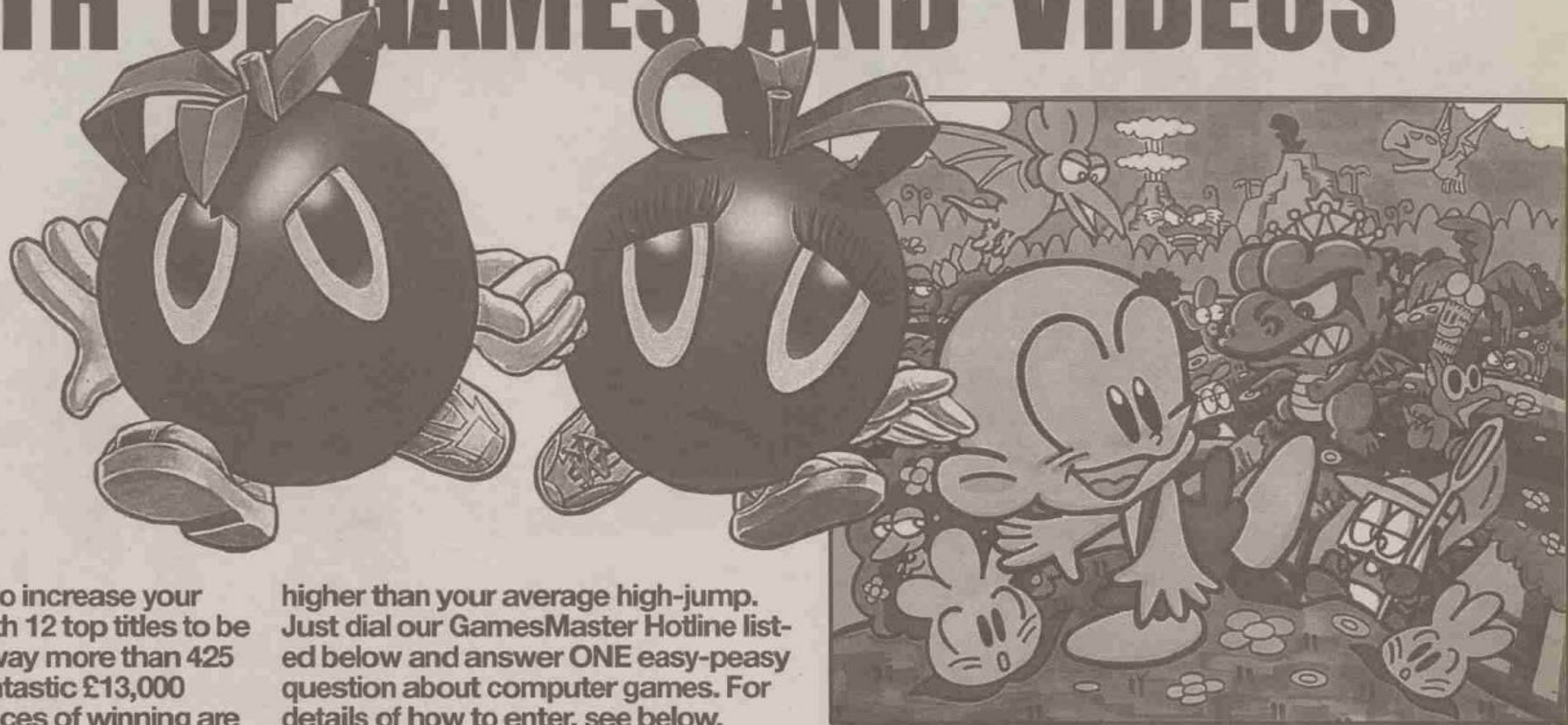


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- 100 Bill's Tomato Game**, where Terry and Tracy, the talking tomatoes, escape from the lorry taking them to be pureed. Psygnosis.
- 100 Pinball Fantasies**. Four pinball tables with multi-flippers, great music and effects to make you a pinball wizard. 21st Century Software.
- 50 Nigel Mansell's World Championship** which takes you through Nige's hair-raising racing exploits; **50 Zool**, Amiga's No. 1 game - the Ninja from the Nth Dimension. Gremlin Graphics. **10 Street Fighter II**. You know all about this. Now on Amiga. Got to be the game of the year. **10 Indiana Jones** (Mega Drive Format). US Gold. **10 Indiana Jones and the Fate of Atlantis**. More great adventures from Indiana Jones. Fab action. Great graphics. US Gold. **10 Olympic Gold** (Mega Drive Format). US Gold. **10 Outrun Europa** (Game Gear Format). US Gold. **50 Formula One Grand Prix**. Another great-overtaking, fast-braking burn-'em-up game. For speed freaks everywhere. MicroProse. **20 BC Kid**. The half-pint homo-erectus whose girlfriend has been kidnapped by dinosaurs. Ubisoft.
- 10 Archer McClean's Pool**. Forget Pot Black and become a pool hall hustler. Virgin Games.



HOW TO ENTER. Simply dial our GAMES HOTLINE below and answer one simple computer games question. Leave answer on the line, with your name, address and preferred game. All games are Amiga format except where stated. Winners will be the first correct entries selected at random by computer from all entries received by the closing date of Dec 18, 1992. Usual MGN rules apply. No cash alternative. Calls cost 36p per minute cheap rate, 48p per minute at all other times.

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SEGA! NINTENDO! AMIGA! MORE!

WILL MARIO WIN?

It sounds too weird to be true. A computer game character who's Italian, has a daytime job as a plumber and has a whole host of animal friends.

And yet *Mario* has been responsible for Nintendo sales in the millions worldwide.

Bob Hoskins is even about to play the potty, portly hero in a big budget movie! Along with the famed *Tetris* and the arcade game conversion *Street Fighter II*, the *Mario* games have played a major part in of *Nintendo's* success.

After appearing in *Donkey Kong* more than a decade ago, *Mario* and his brother Luigi have gone from strength to strength.

The secret of their success is simple. The games they star in are always cute, and marvellous fun, and their personalities always shine through.

But enough about the guy with the 'tache. Just which *Nintendo* system is the one for you? Well, if you're talking *Super NES*, and millions are, then there are four different kits available to get you on the road to Marioland.

The *SNES Solus Set*, at £109.99, is the most bargain-tastic, giving you a full system and one controller. If you're looking for a kit of instant plug-in

action, then the *SNES Street Fighter II* pack is the one for you - and at £159.99, it's the cheapest way of getting your hands on the lush *Street Fighter II*.

If *Street Fighter II* doesn't appeal - and let's be honest, martial arts mayhem isn't everyone's cup of caffeine - then there's always the *Super Mario World* pack at £129.99, or the *Super Scope* pack at £159.99.

The *Super Scope* (which retails separately with a six-game cartridge at £50) is a huge piece of plastic which lets you "shoot" at things on the screen - much more fun than mucking

about with a controller. At the moment, games for the *Super Scope* are scarce, so go for the *Mario* or *Street Fighter II* packs instead.

Whichever one you do choose, though, there are hours of fun in the brightly coloured world of *Mario* and other equally quirky characters ahead. *Nintendo* is the home of cute - it's a fact.



WHY KYLIE LOVES MARIO

Everybody from Michael Jackson to Flavour Flav of Public Enemy is a confirmed *Nintendo* addict. But who would have guessed that the top disco diva and Aussie songstress Kylie Minogue would be a fan of *Mario* and his friends?

Being a super-busy singing star, Kylie favours the *Game Boy*, but she's not averse to a bit of a blast on *Super Mario World*. Wonder what she'll make of *Super Mario Kart*? "I love computer games," says Kylie. "I got hooked on playing my *Game Boy* on long-haul flights and I can now do 189 lines on *Tetris*."

No mean feat this. Even little sister Dannii could only manage a piffing 139 lines!

Says Kylie: "I haven't got to the end of *Super Mario* yet. I'm up to the bit where he's in a submarine and he has to shoot these little animals underwater."

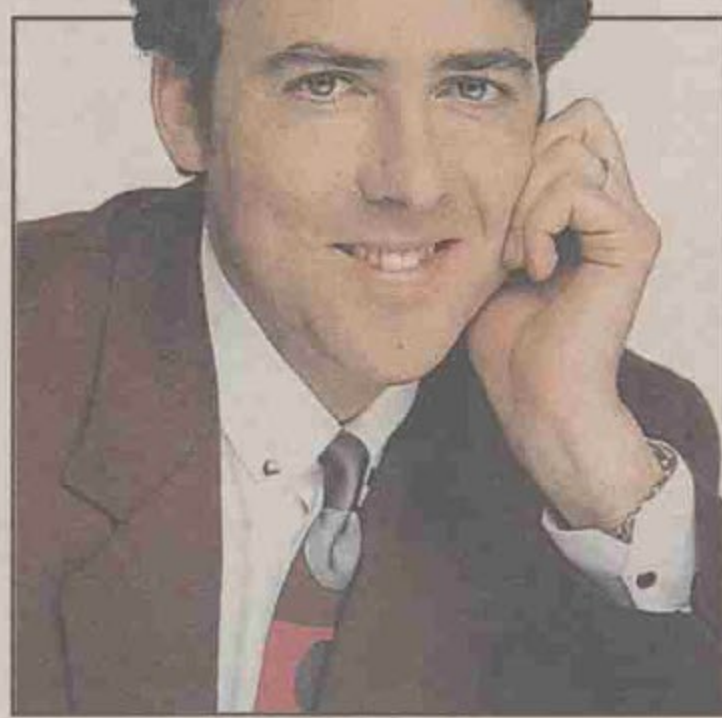
It's all so addictive that Kylie sometimes forgoes the clubs, the parties and dates with hunky young dudes so she can stay up until about 5am playing her computer games.

Jonathan Ross (left) is just as hooked. "I stay at home with my wife and we play *Super Mario*," he confesses. "That for me is an exciting evening in."

Even hyper-active Gloria Estefan (far left) takes gaming seriously: "The batteries ran out when I was doing really well - I could have screamed!"



Bob Hoskins to play *Mario*!



WIN £6,500 WORTH OF NINTENDO



SUPER MARIO KART

Yes, you could win one of 22 Super

NES, the most advanced 16-bit games console on the market today, PLUS the latest supra-dupa game - *Super Mario Kart*. The *Sunday Mirror* has got together with DIXONS - the UK's No.1 games store with 360 high street Games' Centres nationwide. DIXONS are "fast" with the latest games releases, and have the biggest and best *Nintendo* line-up with exclusive

lines. They've got *Super Mario Kart*, the hot new release for the *Super NES*, retail price £39.99.

The most eagerly awaited *Mario* game on the market, it has *Mario* and *Luigi* superkarting in burn-'em-up frenzy, featuring a split-screen for two player action plus the exclusive Mode 7 graphics for special 3-D effects. And a battery-packed memory for extra excitement.



THE GAMES MASTER

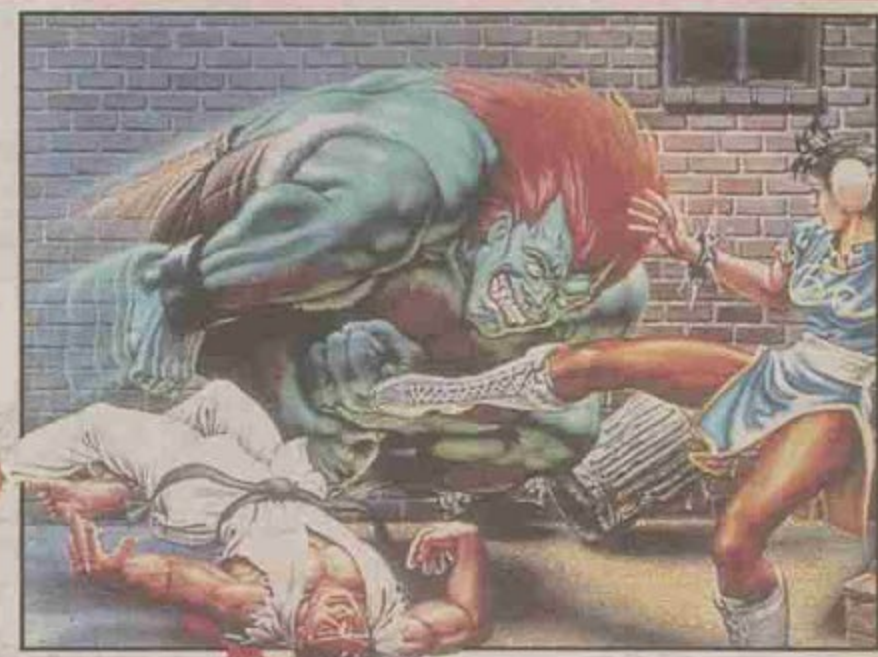
NINTENDO TOP 5



It's almost a shame to have to choose just five super NES games cartridges, but there's only so much praise to go around. Here, then, is the GamesMaster Nintendo Top 5 – a quintet of gaming classics to brighten faces come next Christmas morning.

1 Street Fighter II, Nintendo, £64.99

Two Oriental fighters close from either side of the screen, edging closer and sizing each other up. Within seconds, it's a blur of limbs and drop-kicks while screams and yells fill the air. That's Street Fighter II – it's the physical mayhem that appeals!



TIP If you're lucky enough to own an Action Replay cartridge, then just follow the instructions supplied with it to enter this code: 7E0C2BB0. This will give you the gift of invincibility.

2 Super Mario World, Nintendo, £39.99

Everybody loves Mario, and when it comes to Super Mario World, they just can't get enough of the little guy. In Super Mario World, he flies, rides Yoshi the lizard and puts an end to the evil Sumo Brothers – Iggy, Larry, Bowser. If Street Fighter II doesn't appeal, go for Mario!



TIP To prepare yourself for the difficulties to come, get yourself an extra life on Yoshi's first island by hitting all eight Koopas with the red shell.

3 Zelda III – A Link To The Past, Nintendo, £39.99

Swashbuckling adventure, Japanese style. Zelda, the beautiful princess, has been abducted again, and is hoping cute little Link will come to her rescue. Nonsense, really, but a good excuse for a runaround action games, with some simple adventuring and puzzle-solving thrown in. It's all as cute as hell, but sometimes as tough as old boots. Zelda III has got a heart of gold – currently soaring up the SNES charts.

TIP To defeat Ganon at the end of the game, buy a Super Bomb and blow an escape hatch in the pyramid.

4 Super Mario Kart, Nintendo, £39.99

Look no further for comical fun. The plumber and friends, brother Luigi and Yoshi the lizard, all feature in a mad car chase. If you're bored with racing around the track, just select a shoot-out mode where you'll hare around mazes collecting red and green shells to throw at the other guy. Split-screen fun and games. Although not a true Mario adventure, it's the kind of game which anybody can play.

TIP Getting a clean start is important. Start accelerating between the first and second starting lights.

HARDWARE

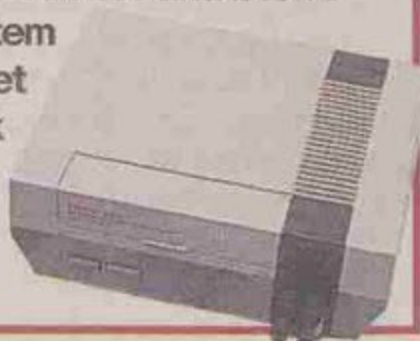
YOU COULD WIN
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PLUS Super Mario Kart game pack.
PLUS Top 10 Super Nintendo game releases of 1993 (officially released through Bandai UK).
21 Runners-up will each receive a Super Nintendo Entertainment System with Super Mario Kart game.

HOW TO ENTER
Simply call our Super Mario Hotline on **0891 111 999** and answer three easy games questions. Leave your answers plus name and address on the line. Winners will be the first correct entries selected at random by computer from all entries received by the closing date of Dec 18, '92. Standard Sunday Mirror rules apply. No cash alternatives. Calls cost 36p per min cheap rate, 48p all other times.

Dixons

GO FOR THE NES

Not as spectacular as its bigger brothers, the NES nevertheless offers an ideal entry point into the world of videogames. Even Mario is a favourite of NES. There are almost as many cartridges for NES as for its heavy-weight companions, and they cost between £30 and £40. A NES system should set you back about £60.



5 Super Tennis, Nintendo, £39.99

Love Super Tennis? You soon will. Easily the best sports games for the SNES, Super Tennis offers the visual excitement of Wimbledon, but adds the action which only Nintendo games can capture, and comes up a winner. Serve, volley, volley, net, serve... the ball just keeps coming and the swings get more and more devious. But the appeal of Super Tennis doesn't wane. A smash hit – no mistake.



TIP Go for Phil, Matt, John or Hiro – the consistent star players. Or just choose Phil then cheat using one of the exhibition match pass codes: K8XD3HR, 2GNYBQ1, DJSTK8X, WJPKMW, FTLWJPC, 4065C6P, D3HRFTL or 1JJ.



AMIGA POWER

Sega and Nintendo may be kings of the console castle, but when it comes to computers, one machine rules the roost - the Amiga.

Commodore's mixture of state-of-the-art and affordability has taken the machine from strength over the past eight years. And it's still technically a real stormer.

But why are computers so successful? It's probably because

they can be used for education as well as recreation.

That said, the Amiga may be a widely-used teaching tool, but it's as a games machine that it really triumphs.

One thing the Amiga has really lacked is a hero - a Sonic or Mario for the Commodore generation. At least, this was the case until recently. Amiga owners now have *Putty* -

By Mark Ramshaw

a wonderfully sticky ball of fun from System 3 - and *Zool* - the Ninja ant that's travelled all the way from the distant nth dimension.

Of the two, *Putty* is certainly the cutest, but *Zool* is an ant with a real attitude who has already made his mark by appearing in the very first Amiga 1200 enhanced game.

The cheapest Amiga model is the basic Amiga 600 for £299.99. You get all you need except TV or joysticks.

For £349.99 you get the same machine in the *Wild, Weird and Wicked* pack - which includes the games *Putty*, *Pushover*, *Formula One Grand Prix* and the painting programme *DPaint 3*. Again, joysticks are

not included, but Amiga compatible joysticks can be bought from £6.99. The *Cheetah Bug*, £14.99, is a favourite.

With great graphics, sounds and samples, thousands of games and more on the way, the Amiga outperforms all its competitors. Hang on to your joysticks - the Amiga's in for an exciting ride.

PACK ATTACK

Charting with the classic *Unfinished Sympathy*, *Massive Attack* (above) are five big football fans - and confirmed Amiga addicts. A favourite is Anco's *Kick Off 2* - "We have serious tournaments with at least eight people playing each other at once," says vocalist 3D. "Then there's the semis and the finals. It's total involvement."



1 Sensible Soccer 92/93 Edition, Renegade, £25.99

Undisputed king, this enhanced version of Sensible's finest moments puts you right into the thick of the action, in a game featuring no small number of teams to play with. For two players, it's a tour-de-force, but even one against the computer, it is simply the most challenging around.

TIP Don't be too enthusiastic in the tackles - the 92/93 Edition won't hesitate to show the red card!

2 Formula One Grand Prix, MicroProse, £35.99

Red. Amber. Green. Go, go, go! The ultimate driving game on the Amiga, and probably the ultimate simulation all round, *Formula One Grand Prix* has become a firm favourite with critics and gameplayers alike.

Perhaps its success lies in its clever 3D graphics, or perhaps in the way it so realistically simulates the thrills and spills of *Formula One* racing.

Or perhaps it's because, at heart, everyone wants to drive around at ridiculous speeds impersonating madcap racing drivers while sitting safely in the comfort of their own home.

Whichever, *Formula One Grand Prix* is the ultimate Amiga ride.

TIP Forget external camera views - keep an eye on the rev counter. Make full use of driving aids.

4 Monkey Island 2: Le Chuck's Revenge, US Gold, £37.99

Graphic adventures are an ideal showcase for the fabulous Amiga display potential - and this is easily the best.

Grafting countless bad jokes and painful puns onto a story of skulduggery and confusion on the high seas, *Monkey Island 2* (from US Gold) has even managed to out-perform its ribachingly funny predecessor - which is no mean feat.

Even if you're new to adventuring and puzzle solving, *Monkey Island 2: Le Chuck's Revenge* is ideal fare, thanks to a special easy version of the adventure - in fact, it's practically two games for the price of one!

TIP Lacking an object to get you off the island? Give Captain Dread a monocle!

POWER UP THE A1200

This is Amiga's proud new baby, the A1200, brand new to the Commodore range. It's a machine that will happily play nearly all the new Amiga games, but which will soon boast its own extra-exclusive collection of titles.

The A1200 offers more bright colours, flasher visuals and faster everything than ever before, and at £399 it's not that much more to pay for a fruity slice of the latest action.

Availability may be scarce until after Christmas, and at the moment *Zool* is the only A1200 enhanced game available, but we predict it will soon be in just as many homes as its older brother.

Get a slice of it right now, that's what we say. Millions are sure to follow.



GAMES MASTER



AMIGA TOP 5

The strength of the Amiga system – it's got thousands of games to choose from, and there are so many great effects (such as sound, graphics and speed), selecting the GamesMaster Amiga Top 5 was definitely the toughest of the lot. But after a long time of careful deliberation, here it is – a buying guide that's sure to include a game for just about everyone, and to lure more than a few buyers at Christmas-time.

1. YATES
2. BARNES
3. JOPS
4. MULLER
5. CHAPMAN
6. PATES
7. PARCHESE
8. MCLAREN
9. HILL
10. BECKENBAUR
11. CHARLES



3 Pinball Fantasies, 21st Century, £29.99

Not so sure about it being a fantasy, but Pinball Fantasies sure is a dream to play. Four tables of fun await, and some of the most mind-blowing flipper action this side of the arcades. A journey to complete addiction.

TIP Keep a cool head and your finger on the tilt button.



5

Dyna Blaster, Ubi Soft, £29.99

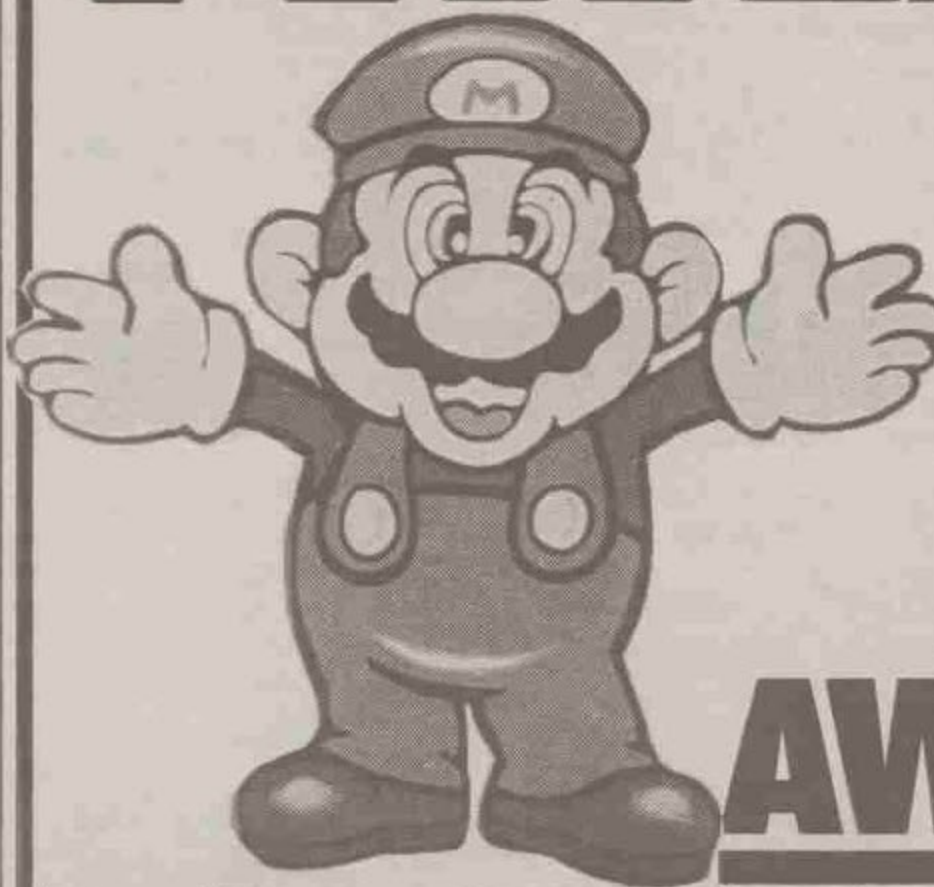
The first five-player game for Amiga, and one of the best games all round. Dyna Blaster puts bombs into PacMan, with explosive results. These days, computer games are about having fun with friends – with Dyna Blaster, friends can become enemies.

TIP Avoid getting the skulls – if you do, run into an opponent to get rid of the "bad" extras on them.

POWER

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*NES: Nintendo Entertainment System