



## **Can two plumbers save the world from going down the drain?**

A REVIEW OF THE SMB MOVIE

## **Listen Up Kids**

PROFESSOR JONAS TEACHES US THE ART OF RESELLING

## **River City Ransom**

PENGUIN SHARES HIS LOVELY THOUGHTS



Volume 3 Issue 2  
February 2009

**BREAKING NEWS!**

**NGD IS FASTER THAN CAPCOM!**

PREORDERS TO SHIP WHEN SAID

## RIVER CITY RANSOM

> *J. KLINGENMEYER* *penguin*

“Stop, that hurts! BARF!” cried the goon as he was hit over the head with a trash can. “Take that you pansy, that’s for stealing my girl!” cried Ryan as he threw the trashcan lid to the ground and observed the goon lying face down on the pavement, devoid of life.

Do you enjoy beating people senseless with random objects found along the street and back alleyway? If so, you will love River City Ransom, a classic beat-em-up by Technos for the Nintendo Entertainment System. First released in Japan as Downtown Nekketsu Monogatari in 1989 (the US got this game in the spring of 1990), River City Ransom gives a whole new meaning to “kick ass.” In this game you play as Alex and Ryan, two students from River City High School, who are out to save Cyndi (Ryan’s girlfriend) and their own high school from the clutches of the local bully Slick and his roaming gangs of thugs.

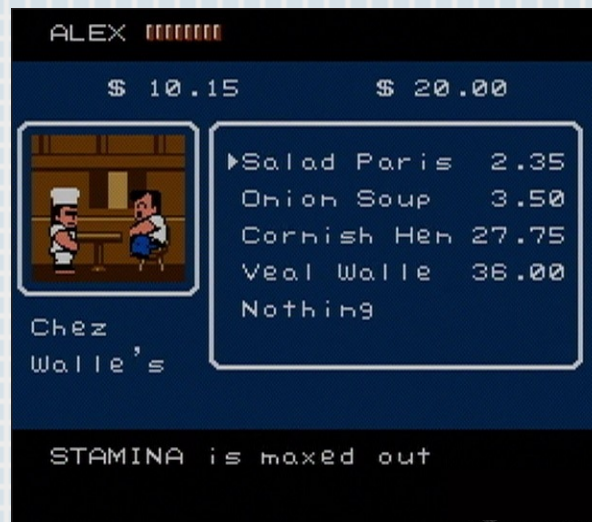
This game plays along the lines of Double Dragon, but has elements present in RPG games such as upgradeable attacks and power-ups. When you defeat enemies you get money to buy power-ups that increase your stamina, strength, willpower and other stats by eating various types of food. You can also learn new attacks by reading books purchased at the local book store in the mall areas. (Yes, the infamous sauna is in town too.) You have your basic punch, kick and jump kick, but the real fun starts when you upgrade your attacks and use various items on the ground that can be thrown and used as weap-



ons. Rocks, trash cans, boxes, tires, and even bodies can be thrown and smacked into enemies for hours of entertainment and fun! (I must say beating someone in the head with a trashcan never gets old!)

The enemies in the game come from various gangs with names such as the “Generic Dudes” and the “Frat Guys,” who all have various one-liners for when you attack and defeat them. The boss battles in the game can be challenging, and will take practice and patience at times, but once you gain more power-ups you will be better suited for these fights. Your progress is saved by a password system, which unfortunately like many other NES games is awfully long and confusing. You will encounter nine different gangs in the course of the game, all with different attacks and defense techniques, ranging from “taking candy from a baby,” to the equivalent of walking up to Iron Mike himself and kicking him in the groin. I can guarantee you’ll get beaten to a pulp many times, but it will all be worth it in the end when you save your lady.

River City Ransom is definitely one of the more unique games on the NES, blending action side-scrolling with some RPG elements and plenty of fighting. If you are a fan of the Double Dragon series, I highly recommend picking this game up and playing through it. Even if you just want to play it to beat up a few guys old school style, it is well worth the investment! I give this game an 8/10, the game play is enjoyable, the controls are solid, and it’s an all-around well made game for the NES. This game is a must have for any NES collector and player.



**Title:** River City Ransom  
**Also called:** Street Gangs (EUR)  
**Publisher:** American Technos Inc.  
**Released:** January 1990  
**Rarity:** 4 (Common)  
**Players:** 2  
**Butt shots:** 1



## THE CHASE VS. THE CATCH

> **SJOERD RUTTEN** *xtingthed*

My first story of this new year will be about one of the most notorious PAL rarities: Rodland! It's rare and comes with a hefty price tag, unless you find one in the wild. But is it worth getting it for the game itself? As most of you know, rare games aren't often GREAT games! Does this apply to Rodland? Read on!

### The Chase

So... how do you chase after a really rare and pricey game? There are really only two options: either get it from a collector/reseller and pay a hefty price, or have a stroke of luck and find it in the wild for close to scratch. Everyone that goes to flea markets and garage sales has that small hint of hope that they will find that crazy rare game, but usually comes home empty handed. Every now and then you find something that is really worthwhile, but how often do you find a game that is worth \$100+? And what are the chances making such a find twice in as many weeks?! Well how small this chance may be... there is a chance! Let this be a story of hope and inspiration for all those chasers out there.

Last November I was doing my hourly browse of a Dutch auction site, when to my great excitement I stumbled upon a very poorly listed lot with a NES and 5 games. The description read: "computer with 5 games," and the blurry photo didn't easily reveal the little gem that was in this lot. After triple checking the NA database for characteristics of the label I was 100% sure... there was a damned Rodland in that lot! I immediately called the seller and bought the lot for a small price. The adrenaline and excitement that filled me soon got replaced with anxiety -- what if someone else saw this lot as well and offered more money to the seller? I spent some hours worrying about this, my first really rare game, but it all turned out perfectly and I now was the proud owner of a 9/10 rarity!

Two weeks later, I was dumbstruck



when I found another Rodland in the wild! Again poorly listed in the wrong category and placed at a very weird time (3am). Fortunately I always check new listings before I go to bed, and bam! In two weeks I now owned two Rodlands!

Conclusion: The anxiety of waiting cost me some kilos... but catching rare games in the wild has got to be the best part about collecting! (9.5)

### The Catch

There I was sitting in front of my TV with one Rodland in my toaster, and another sitting next to me looking pretty. Was I a lucky guy just because I owned two expensive games, or because I own two expensive AND great games?

In Rodland you play as the "fairies" Rit and Tam (2nd player) whose mom has been kidnapped by a monster! With them you work through levels, Bubble Bobble style. The objective of every screen is to either collect all flowers or to kill all enemies, which will let you proceed to the next screen. If you get all the flowers, the remaining enemies give letters when killed, which spell EXTRA. Collecting all 5 letters gives you an extra life (surprise huh).

Rit and Tam have three abilities: creating a staircase to take a short route up/down to the platforms, jumping to stun enemies, and picking up an enemy to slam it into the ground till it explodes as a power-up. The power-ups can be balls that shoot through the level, bombs, or



just plain extra points.

The first thing that amazed me about Rodland is the quality of the animations, which are really fluid, lively and extensive. The flowers are constantly waving, the stairs pop out smoothly, and smashing an enemy looks incredible. I would recommend you watch some YouTube footage of Rodland, because it is really stunning!

The music is pretty repetitive, as in most puzzle games, but it is a catchy tune!

But after all, the most important part of a game is the gameplay and let me tell you, Rodland is a great game. It is such a shame that this game is rare, because everyone should be able to play this in his trusted toaster. The gameplay is addictive, fun, challenging and not too repetitive. And if I tell you that in the last level the game becomes a platformer where you face the end-boss that looks like Michael Jackson in the end of Moonwalker... how can you not want to play this game!?

Conclusion: For the puzzle lovers this is a true gem! (8.5)

## RODLAND



## RESELLER TIP OF THE MONTH: BUNDLING



> **JONAS MCCAMMON** *ionebone*

What is “Bundling” and why should you do it? Bundling is selling similar games together so you can maximize your profit and minimize your shipping expense. It’s a no-brainer, yet you’d be surprised at how many sellers do not utilize this to their advantage.

Now let’s look at the numerous benefits of bundling. First, bundling gives you added exposure and can result in more auction views which increases your chances of a sale. If you are selling Contra and Super C together, then your auction will appear in searches for “Contra” as well as “Super C”. Twice the visibility! Second, bundling reduces your shipping expense. A typical NES game weighs about 4-5 ounces, which costs about \$2.03 to ship First Class with postage printed online. For every extra ounce, add \$0.17 to ship. If you sell two games separately, that’s \$4.06 to ship, or  $\$2.03 + (5 * \$0.17) = \$2.88$  when bundled! That’s \$1.18 saved for doing absolutely nothing, not to mention you use half of the packing materials! Three games is even better as it would cost \$6.06 to ship them separately, or only \$3.39 to ship together (assuming they are 13 ounces or less), for a savings of \$2.67! A third smaller benefit of bundling is that you slightly reduce your Paypal fees as well. Paypal fees are a fixed percentage (2.9%) plus an additional \$0.30 per transaction. That means if two separate people buy two of your games then you pay \$0.60 on top of the 2.9%. However, if you bundle the games together and force them to one buyer, you save \$0.30 instantly since that is only one transaction instead of two!

But wait, there’s more! Bundling can also be used to sell games that are hard to sell individually. A great example of this is Dr. Mario and Tetris, both relatively cheap and common games on their own. At any given time, you can check completed auctions on eBay for either Dr. Mario or Tetris and see lots of red, indicating the item did not sell.

However, a completed search for Dr. Mario and Tetris together shows a much higher success rate! The below chart shows the higher probability of selling a lot than selling the same games individually!

But that’s not all, I’m saving the best benefit for last. The biggest and by far the best reason to bundle games together is that you actually INCREASE the final selling price! Why? Let me explain. A buyer usually has a set price that they are willing to pay for a game. Let’s say a buyer is willing to spend \$30 for Contra and Super C. They don’t care whether they buy them individually for \$10 + \$5 shipping each, \$11 + \$4 shipping each or \$25 + \$5 shipping together. In each of the previous cases, the seller would receive \$20 or \$22 individually, but \$25 together! As if this isn’t convincing enough, the average person is usually willing to spend more to get the games together at the same time! Now let’s look at some charts to back up these claims: (next page)

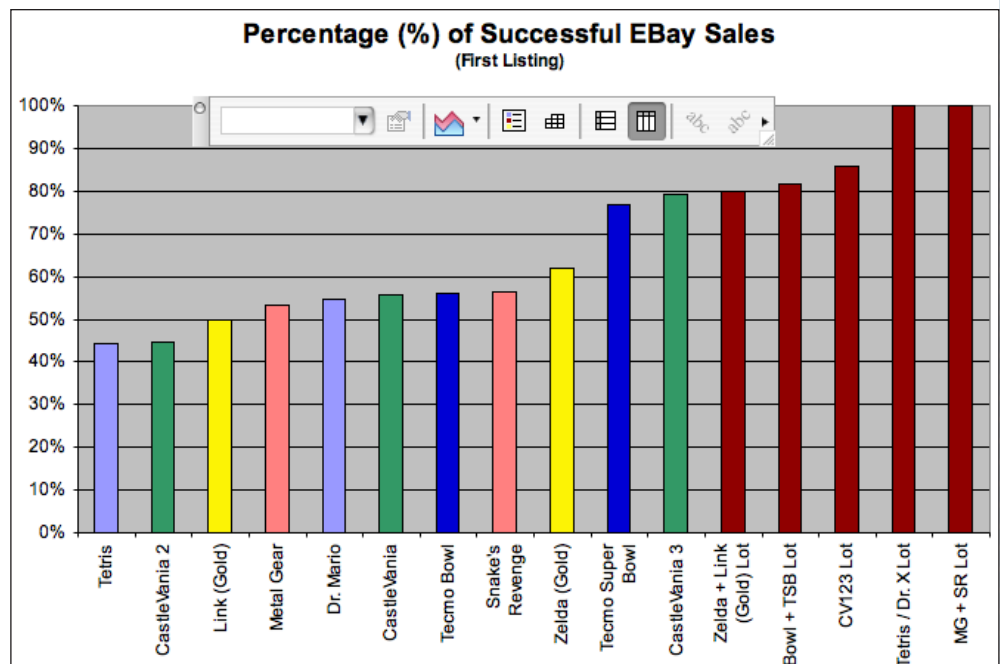
These charts were created from cart-only completed auctions off eBay (data pulled in early January 2009). Since some listings have free

shipping, I took the total selling price (price + shipping) and then subtracted the appropriate “real” shipping cost, assuming First Class shipping. I subtracted \$2.00 for a single cart, \$3.00 for two carts bundled together and \$3.50 for three carts bundled together. Anything over 3 carts cannot be shipped First Class due to the 13 ounce weight requirement. Also, the data was adjusted to be more “real.” I didn’t count games that sold absurdly low (like \$0.49 + Shipping) or games that sold at high BIN prices, especially to large Powersellers with 10,000+ feedback. Sure those sales happen, but the average collector / reseller can not expect to get that much each time they sell the same cart.

Now that you see the advantages of bundling, let’s discuss which games to bundle. Obviously, games in a series are ideal candidates, such as the Marios, the Castlevanias, the Double Dragons, etc. I’d also recommend bundling all 6 of the Mega Mans together even though you’d have to upgrade to Parcel Post or Priority Mail due to the weight. Remember that an \$8.00 Priority Mail package is still cheaper than  $6 * \$2.03 = \$12.18$  in First Class shipping. When thinking of games in a series don’t forget about sports games like Baseball Stars 1 & 2, as well as Tecmo Bowl and Tecmo Super Bowl. Also, don’t forget about games that aren’t true numbered sequels. Good examples include Contra & Super C, Metal Gear & Snake’s Revenge, and Shadowgate and Déjà Vu.

There are other possible candidates for bundling that aren’t as obvious, such as games from a similar genre. Perhaps the best example of this is Tetris and Dr. Mario combo previously mentioned. Both games are relatively cheap and common, but when bundled together they can be sold for good money. You could also try bundling RPGs, or even the duo of A Nightmare on Elm Street and Friday the 13th. I’ve been known to horde each of those horror games all year and then sell them around Halloween for maximum gains.

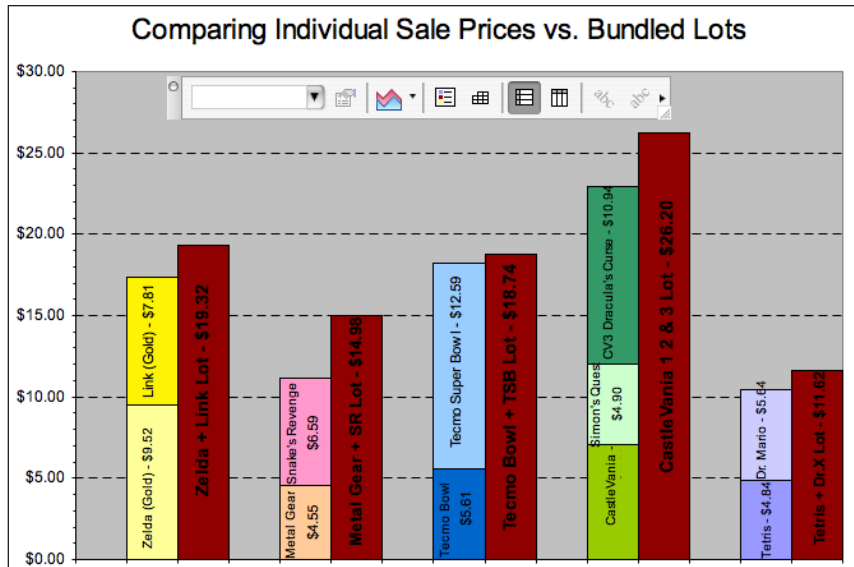
Finally, there’s even one more way to bundle. I like to call this the “not quite so rare” and “not quite so popular” category. For the rare category, games like Kickle Cubicle, Crash Test Dummies, Totally Rad, etc aren’t necessarily “rare” but can be a little troublesome to find for cheap. Bundle them up, advertise



> **bundling, cont.**

them as rare and someone will always scoop them up. As for the popular category, games like Excitebike, Dragon Warrior 1, and RC Pro-Am can be hard to sell outright (look at completed listings and see how many go unsold), but bundled together can be more appealing since they are classics. You can mix and match as you choose and I'm sure you'll come up with some of your own personal favorite bundles.

Last but not least, please do not be consumed with bundling. If you need to get some money quick and sell Super Mario 2 by itself then go right ahead. Also, don't hold back Bomberman thinking you'll find Bomberman 2 soon and don't hold back Contra and Super C while waiting for Contra Force. When the last game in the series is very difficult to track down, it may not be worth bundling. Just remember that bundling will increase your chances of selling an item, increase your chances of a higher closing price and save you money on shipping and paypal fees!



THE RETROZONE

Add a NES or SNES Port to your Wii, Mac, or PC and use your original controllers to play!

[www.retrousb.com](http://www.retrousb.com)



**USB NES RetroPort**

Original Nintendo NES to USB

No drivers needed.  
Use 2 for Multiplayer.  
Windows 2000, XP, Vista  
Macintosh OS 9, OS X

**USB retroPORT NES**



**USB SNES RetroPort**

Super Nintendo to USB

No drivers needed.  
Use 2 for Multiplayer.  
Windows 2000, XP, Vista  
Macintosh OS 9, OS X

**USB retroPORT SNES**



**Wii NES RetroPort**

Original Nintendo NES to Wii and GameCube

Plug and Play.  
Up to 4 for Multiplayer.  
Works with Virtual Console.

**Wii retroPORT NES**



**Wii SNES RetroPort**

Super Nintendo to Wii and GameCube

Plug and Play.  
Up to 4 for Multiplayer.  
Works with Virtual Console.

**Wii retroPORT SNES**

- Works with Multiplayer Games!
- Fully Authentic Response and Feel!
- No button limits or delays!



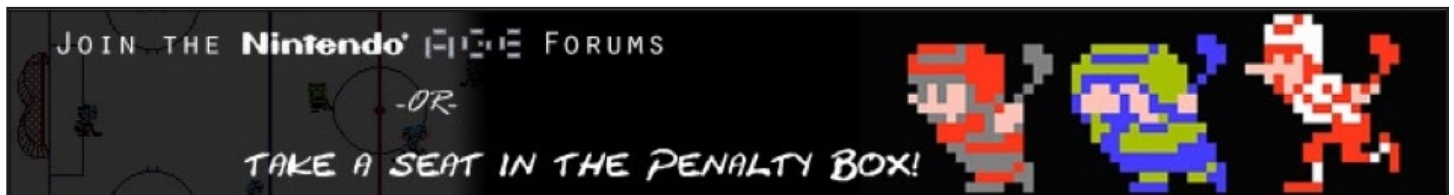
February 2009

www.NintendoAGE.com

3-D World Runner	4	+1	Baseball Simulator 1.000	5	0	Bugs Bunny B'day Blowout	6	+1
10 Yard Fight	4	0	Baseball Stars	10	+1	Bugs Bunny Crazy Castle	7	0
720	4	0	Baseball Stars 2	15	0	Bump 'N Jump	4	0
1942	8	0	Bases Loaded	3	0	Burai Fighter	6	-1
1943	-8	0	Bases Loaded 2	4	0	Burgertime	6	+1
8 Eyes	4	0	Bases Loaded 3	5	+1	Cabal	4	0
Abadox	4	0	Bases Loaded 4	10	0	Caesar's Palace	4	0
Action 52	73	+11	Batman	7	+1	California Games	8	+1
AD&D Dragonstrike	13	0	Batman Return of the Joker	10	0	Caltron 6 in 1	205	+21
AD&D Heroes of the Lance	-6	0	Batman Returns	6	+1	Captain America	-9	0
AD&D Hillsfar	22	0	Battle Chess	7	+1	Captain Comic	9	0
AD&D Pool of Radiance	12	+1	Battle of Olympus	5	0	Captain Planet	6	-1
Addams Family	7	+1	Battleship	9	0	Captain Skyhawk	2	-1
Adventure Island	10	+1	Battletank	5	0	Casino Kid	4	0
Adventure Island 2	12	+1	Battletoads	11	0	Casino Kid 2	19	+3
Adventure Island 3	20	+1	Battletoads & Double Dragon	18	0	Castelian	8	-1
After Burner	5	+1	Bayou Billy	4	0	Castle of Deceit	42	-10
Air Fortress	4	0	Bee 52	10	-1	Castle of Dragon	6	+2
Airwolf	4	0	Beetlejuice	7	+1	Castlequest	5	0
Al Unser Jr's Turbo Racing	-4	0	Best of the Best	15	+5	Castlevania	-10	0
Alfred Chicken	15	+2	Bible Adventures	8	0	Castlevania 2	6	0
Alien 3	8	0	Bible Buffet	21	-7	Castlevania 3	11	0
Alien Syndrome	4	0	Big Bird's Hide & Speek	3	-1	Caveman Games	7	0
All Pro Basketball	4	0	Big Foot	6	+1	Challenge of the Dragon	50	+10
Alpha Mission	-4	0	Big Nose Freaks Out	20	+2	Championship Bowling	-4	0
Amagon	4	0	Big Nose Freaks Out (Aladdin)	17	-1	Championship Pool	7	0
American Gladiators	6	0	Big Nose the Caveman	11	+1	Cheetahmen 2	482	0
Anticipation	4	0	Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure	6	0	Chessmaster	6	-1
Arch Rivals	5	0	Bill Elliot's NASCAR Challenge	5	+1	Chiller	25	+2
Archon	-6	0	Bionic Commando	7	0	Chip N' Dale Resc. Rangers	10	+1
Arkanoid	10	+1	Black Bass	6	+1	Chip N' Dale Resc. Rangers 2	39	+8
Arkista's Ring	8	-1	Blackjack	25	+5	Chubby Cherub	10	-1
Astyanax	3	0	Blades of Steel	5	+1	Circus Caper	4	0
Athena	4	0	Blaster Master	5	0	City Connection	4	0
Athletic World	-4	0	Blue Marlin	9	0	Clash at Demonhead	-5	0
Attack of the Killer Tomatoes	8	0	Blues Brothers	13	0	Classic Concentration	9	+1
Baby Boomer	31	+3	Bo Jackson Baseball	6	+1	Cliffhanger	9	-1
Back to the Future	5	+1	Bomberman	11	+1	Clu Clu Land	5	+1
Back to the Future 2 & 3	6	0	Bomberman 2	23	+3	Cobra Command	4	0
Bad Dudes	-4	0	Bonk's Adventure	61	+9	Cobra Triangle	-4	0
Bad News Baseball	6	0	Boulder Dash	6	-1	Codename: Viper	4	-1
Bad Street Brawler	4	0	Boy and His Blob, A	7	+1	Color A Dinosaur	11	0
Balloon Fight	8	+1	Break Time	6	+1	Commando	4	0
Bandit Kings of Ancient China	36	+8	Breakthru	4	0	Conan	11	-1
Barbie	6	+1	Bubble Bath Babes	-455	-223	Conflict	15	+1
Bard's Tale	5	+1	Bubble Bobble	16	+1	Conquest of Crystal Palace	4	0
Base Wars	6	0	Bubble Bobble 2	104	-11	Contra	18	+1
Baseball	4	0	Bucky O'Hare	14	0	Contra Force	28	+2



Cool World	10	+1	Dragon Warrior 2	19	0	Gauntlet (unlicensed)	4	-1
Cowboy Kid	22	-2	Dragon Warrior 3	29	0	Gauntlet 2	5	+1
Crash a/t Boys St. Challenge	9	0	Dragon Warrior 4	34	0	Gemfire	21	+1
Crash Dummies, Incredible	8	+1	Dragon's Lair	7	0	Genghis Kahn	9	+1
Crystal Mines	18	-1	Duck Hunt	9	0	George Foreman KO Boxing	3	-0
Crystalis	8	+1	Duck Tales	9	+1	Ghost Lion	14	0
Cyberball	5	0	Duck Tales 2	25	0	Ghostbusters	7	+1
Cybernoid	4	0	Dudes with Attitude	5	+1	Ghostbusters 2	6	+1
Dance Aerobics	6	+1	Dungeon Magic	4	0	Ghosts 'N Goblins	6	0
Danny Sullivan's Indy Heat	11	+1	Dusty Diamond's All Star Softball	25	-1	Ghoul School	7	+1
Darkman	5	0	Dyno Warz	4	+1	Gilligan's Island	8	0
Darkwing Duck	9	-1	Elevator Action	6	0	Goal!	3	0
Dash Galaxy	4	0	Eliminator Boat Duel	6	0	Goal! 2	10	+2
DayDreamin' Davey	5	+1	Empire Strikes Back	11	0	Godzilla	6	+1
Days of Thunder	4	0	Everet/Lendel Top Player's Tennis	3	0	Godzilla 2	20	+3
Deadly Towers	3	-1	Excitebike	6	0	Gold Medal Challenge	8	+1
Death Race	13	-2	Exodus	8	+1	Golf	5	+1
Deathbots	9	0	F-117a Stealth	4	0	Golf Challenge Pebble Beach	4	-1



Defender 2	4	0	F-15 City War	6	0	Golf Grand Slam	6	+1
Defender of the Crown	4	0	F-15 Strike Eagle	5	0	Golgo 13: Top Secret Episode	4	+1
Defenders of Dynatron City	5	+1	Family Feud	10	-1	Goonies 2	4	0
Déjà Vu	6	+1	Fantastic Adv. Dizzy (Aladdin)	22	+3	Gotcha!	4	0
Demon Sword	4	+1	Fantastic Adventures of Dizzy	8	+1	Gradius	5	0
Desert Commander	4	0	Fantasy Zone	5	0	Great Waldo Search	10	0
Destination Earthstar	3	0	Faria	16	+2	Greg Norman's Golf Power	5	+1
Destiny of an Emperor	11	+2	Faxanadu	5	+1	Gremlins 2	6	+1
Dick Tracy	4	0	Felix the Cat	12	+1	Guardian Legend	5	+1
Die Hard	21	+6	Ferrari Grand Prix	3	0	Guerilla War	5	0
Dig Dug 2	6	+1	Fester's Quest	4	0	Gumshoe	7	+1
Digger T. Rock	5	+1	Final Fantasy	13	+1	Gun Nac	23	-0
Dino Riki	4	0	Fire and Ice	24	+3	Gunsmoke	10	+3
Dirty Harry	4	0	Fire Hawk	5	+1	Gyromite	4	0
Disney Adv. Magic Kingdom	5	0	Fisher Price Firehouse Rescue	7	-1	Gyruss	5	0
Dizzy: Adventurer (Aladdin)	15	+2	Fisher Price I Can Remember	5	+1	Harlem Globetrotters	5	0
Donkey Kong	16	+2	Fisher Price Perfect Fit	5	+1	Hatris	9	+1
Donkey Kong 3	10	+1	Fist of the North Star	6	0	Heavy Barrel	5	0
Donkey Kong Classics	12	+2	Flight of the Intruder	5	0	Heavy Shreddin'	5	+1
Donkey Kong Jr.	9	0	Flintstones	8	0	High Speed	5	0
Donkey Kong Jr. Math	12	+1	Flintstones 2 Surprise Dino Peak	217	+24	Hogan's Alley	9	+1
Double Dare	7	0	Flying Dragon	5	+1	Hollywood Squares	5	-0
Double Dragon	8	0	Flying Warriors	6	+1	Home Alone	5	0
Double Dragon 2	7	0	Formula One: Built to Win	10	-2	Home Alone 2	5	+1
Double Dragon 3	10	0	Frankenstein	9	+1	Hook	4	0
Double Dribble	4	0	Freedom Force	6	+1	Hoops	4	0
Double Strike	8	0	Friday the 13th	6	0	Hot Slots	541	-0
Dr. Chaos	4	0	Fun House	6	+1	Hudson Hawk	4	+1
Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde	4	0	G.I. Joe: Real American Hero	18	+5	Hunt for Red October	3	0
Dr. Mario	8	+1	G.I. Joe: Atlantis Factor	11	+1	Hydlide	3	-1
Dracula	10	+1	Galactic Crusader	22	+2	Ice Climber	7	0
Dragon Fighter	14	0	Galaga	8	0	Ice Hockey	4	-0
Dragon Power	4	-1	Galaxy 5000	11	+2	Ikari Warriors	5	0
Dragon Spirit	5	0	Gargoyles Quest 2	12	+4	Ikari Warriors 2	5	+1
Dragon Warrior	5	+1	Gauntlet (licensed)	5	0	Ikari Warriors 3	8	+1

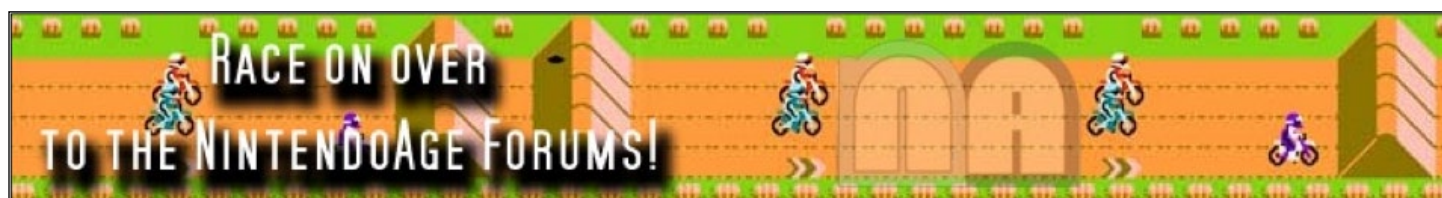


Image Fight	5	+1	Legacy of the Wizard	4	+1	Micro Machines (Aladdin)	14	+2
Immortal	4	0	Legend of Kage	5	+1	MIG-29	4	0
Impossible Mission 2 (AVE)	10	0	Legend of Zelda	12	+1	Might & Magic	20	+3
Impossible Mission 2 (SEI)	12	0	Legendary Wings	5	0	Mighty Bombjack	6	+1
Indiana Jones: Crusade (Taito)	12	+1	Legends of the Diamond	5	-1	Mighty Final Fight	25	+9
Indiana Jones: Crusade (UBI)	25	-4	Lemmings	18	+2	Mike Tyson's Punch-Out!!	15	+2
Ind. Jones: Temple (Mindscop)	5	0	L'Empereur	21	-1	Millipede	4	0
Ind. Jones: Temple (Tengen)	6	+1	Lethal Weapon	12	+3	Milon's Secret Castle	4	0
Infiltrator	4	0	Life Force	6	+1	Miracle Piano System	12	+1
Iron Tank	4	0	Linus Spacehead	17	-1	Mission Cobra	43	+7
Ironsword: Wiz. & Warriors 2	5	0	Linus Spacehead (Aladdin)	15	-3	Mission: Impossible	2	-2
Isolated Warrior	7	0	Little League Baseball	11	0	Monopoly	7	0
Ivan Stewart's Sup. Off Road	8	0	Little Mermaid	7	0	Monster in My Pocket	8	+1
Jack Nicklaus' 18 Holes Golf	4	0	Little Nemo	6	0	Monster Party	5	0
Jackal	5	0	Little Ninja Brothers	13	0	Monster Truck Rally	10	0
Jackie Chan's Action Kung Fu	10	+2	Little Samson	88	+16	Moon Ranger	34	0
James Bond Jr.	7	+1	Lode Runner	5	0	Motor City Patrol	15	-2
Jaws	5	0	Lolo	8	+1	Ms Pacman (Namco licensed)	19	+3
Jeopardy!	5	+1	Lolo 2	15	+2	Ms Pacman (Tengen unlics.)	16	+1
Jeopardy! 25th Anniversary	5	0	Lolo 3	25	+2	MULE	10	0
Jeopardy! Junior	5	+1	Lone Ranger	10	+1	Muppet Adventure	4	0
Jeopardy!, Super	5	0	Loopz	5	0	MUSCLE	5	+1
Jetsons	21	+4	Low G Man	3	-1	Mutant Virus	4	-1
Jimmy Connors Tennis	15	-7	Lunar Pool	5	+1	Myriad 6 in 1	900	-2
Joe and Mac	6	0	Mach Rider	4	0	Mystery Quest	3	0
John Elway's Quarterback	5	0	Mad Max	4	0	NARC	4	0
Jordan vs. Bird: One on One	5	+1	Mafat Conspiracy	4	0	NES Open Golf	6	+1
Joshua	10	0	Magic Darts	7	+1	NFL Football	3	0
Journey to Silius	5	+1	Magic Johnson's Fast Break	4	+1	Nigel Mansell's World Racing	9	-3
Joust	5	0	Magic of Scheherazade	6	+1	Nightmare on Elm Street	13	-1
Jungle Book	10	+1	Magician	11	+4	Nightshade	6	0
Jurassic Park	5	0	Magmax	4	+1	Ninja Crusaders	8	+1
Kabuki Quantum Fighter	5	+1	Major League Baseball	3	0	Ninja Gaiden	7	0
Karate Champ	4	0	Maniac Mansion	11	0	Ninja Gaiden 2	7	+1
Karate Kid	4	0	Mappyland	6	+1	Ninja Gaiden 3	16	-1
Karnov	5	+1	Marble Madness	6	0	Ninja Kid	5	+1
Kick Master	6	-1	Mario Brothers	14	+2	Nobunaga's Ambition	6	0
Kickle Cubicle	10	+2	Mario Is Missing	14	+1	Nobunaga's Ambition 2	23	-1
Kid Icarus	12	+1	Mario's Time Machine	29	+2	North and South	17	+1
Kid Klown	19	0	Master Chu and the Drunkard Hu	13	+2	Operation Secret Storm	36	0
Kid Kool	4	0	Maxi 15	23	0	Operation Wolf	4	0
Kid Niki	5	+1	MC Kids	9	+2	ORB-3D	4	+1
King Neptune's Adventure	48	-4	Mechanized Attack	8	+1	Othello	4	+1
King of Kings	8	+1	Mega Man	22	+4	Overlord	5	0
King's Knight	5	+1	Mega Man 2	11	+1	Pac-Man (Namco)	11	+1
Kings of the Beach	5	+1	Mega Man 3	9	0	Pac-Man (Tengen licensed)	9	+1
King's Quest 5	10	0	Mega Man 4	13	+1	Pac-Man (Tengen unlicensed)	8	+1
Kirby's Adventure	10	+3	Mega Man 5	24	0	Pac-Mania	7	-3
Kiwi Kraze	8	+1	Mega Man 6	17	+1	Palamedes	7	+1
Klash Ball	4	0	Menace Beach	57	+13	Panic Resturant	37	+10
Klax	4	0	Mendel Palace	5	+1	Paperboy	10	0
Knight Rider	4	0	Mermaids of Atlantis	25	-1	Paperboy 2	13	+2
Krazy Kreatures	6	0	Metal Fighter	11	+5	Peek A Boo Poker	692	0
Krion Conquest	7	0	Metal Gear	8	0	Pestertinator	24	-1
Krusty's Fun House	8	+1	Metal Mech	5	+1	Peter Pan and the Pirates	5	0
Kung Fu	5	0	Metal Storm	16	+2	Phantom Fighter	4	0
Kung Fu Heroes	4	0	Metroid	9	+1	Pictionary	5	+1
Laser Invasion	6	+1	Michael Andretti's World GP	4	-1	Pinball	4	0
Last Action Hero	8	+2	Mickey Adv. in Numberland	10	+1	Pinball Quest	4	0
Last Ninja	7	+1	Mickey Mousecapade	5	0	Pinbot	4	0
Last Starfighter	5	+2	Mickey Safari in Letterland	8	0	Pipe Dream	6	+1
Lee Trevino's Fighting Golf	4	0	Micro Machines	17	-1	Pirates!	12	0





Platoon	5 +1	RoadBlasters	4 0	Smash TV	5 0
Play Action Football	4 0	Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves	5 +1	Snake Rattle 'N Roll	7 +1
Popeye	8 +2	Robocop	5 +1	Snake's Revenge	8 +1
POW	4 0	Robocop 2	6 +1	Snoopy's Silly Sports	6 0
Power Blade	6 +1	Robocop 3	9 0	Snow Brothers	49 +1
Power Blade 2	25 -1	Robodemons	12 0	Soccer	5 0
Power Punch 2	8 +1	RoboWarrior	5 +1	Solar Jetman	4 0
P'radikus Conflict	29 0	Rock N' Ball	4 0	Solitaire	22 -1
Predator	6 +1	Rocket Ranger	4 0	Solomon's Key	7 +1
Prince of Persia	11 +2	Rocketeer	5 0	Solstice	4 -0
Princess Tomato	21 +2	Rockin' Kats	13 +2	Space Shuttle	6 0
Pro Sport Hockey	13 0	Rocky and Bullwinkle	8 +3	Spelunker	6 0
Pro Wrestling	4 0	Roger Clemens Baseball	4 0	Spider-Man: Sinister Six	7 0
Pugsley's Scavenger Hunt	9 +2	Rollerball	4 0	Spiritual Warfare	10 0
Punch-Out!!	11 +2	Rollerblade Racer	5 0	Spot	5 +1
Punisher	7 0	Rollergames	4 +1	Spy Hunter	5 0
Puss 'N Boots	7 +2	Rolling Thunder	4 0	Spy vs. Spy	6 0
Puzzle	9 +1	Romance o/t Three Kingdoms	8 +1	Sqoon	12 +1



Puzznic	9 0	Romance o/t Three Kingdoms 2	15 -2	Stack Up	24 +2
Pyramid	12 +5	Roundball	5 +1	Stadium Events	1082 -0
Q*Bert	7 +1	Rush N' Attack	5 +1	Stanley	5 -1
Qix	15 0	Rygar	6 0	Star Force	5 0
Quattro Adventure	7 +1	SCAT	9 -1	Star Soldier	4 +1
Quattro Adventure (Aladdin)	14 -2	Secret Scout	66 +8	Star Trek: 25th Anniversary	8 +2
Quattro Arcade	8 -1	Section Z	4 0	Star Trek: Next Generation	10 +1
Quattro Sports	4 -1	Seicross	5 +1	Star Voyager	4 0
Quattro Sports (Aladdin)	12 -2	Sesame Street 1-2-3	5 0	Star Wars	13 +5
R.B.I. Baseball (Licensed)	7 0	Sesame Street 1-2-3/A-B-C	6 -1	Starship Hector	4 -1
R.B.I. Baseball (Unlicensed)	10 +1	Sesame Street A-B-C	4 0	StarTropics	5 0
R.B.I. Baseball 2	5 0	Sesame Street Countdown	6 +1	Stealth	5 +1
R.B.I. Baseball 3	5 +1	Shadow of the Ninja	9 0	Stinger	5 +1
R.C. Pro-Am Racing	6 +1	Shadowgate	6 +1	Street Cop	13 +2
R.C. Pro-Am Racing 2	27 +1	Shatterhand	6 0	Street Fighter 2010	5 +1
Race America, Alex DeMeo's	10 -1	Shingen the Ruler	5 0	Strider	4 0
Racket Attack	4 +1	Shinobi	8 +1	Stunt-Kids	18 -0
Rad Gravity	5 0	Shockwave	8 +2	Sunday Funday	32 0
Rad Racer	5 0	Shooting Range	10 +1	Super C	13 +1
Rad Racer 2	4 0	Short Order/Eggsplode	8 0	Super Cars	10 +1
Rad Racket	25 -6	Side Pocket	3 -1	Super Dodge Ball	13 +1
Raid 2020	8 0	Silent Assault	13 +2	Super Glove Ball	4 -0
Raid on Bungeling Bay	5 0	Silent Service	5 +1	Super Mario Brothers	9 +2
Rainbow Islands	20 +2	Silk Worm	7 0	Super Mario Brothers 2	14 +1
Rally Bike	6 +2	Silver Surfer	7 +1	Super Mario Brothers 3	13 +2
Rambo	4 0	Simpsons: Bart vs. The World	7 +1	Super Mario/Duck Hunt	11 +3
Rampage	7 0	Simpsons: Radioactive Man	10 +3	Super Mario/D. Hunt/WCTM	7 +1
Rampart	6 0	Simpsons: Space Mutants	6 0	Super Pitfall	6 0
Remote Control, MTV's	3 -1	Skate or Die	4 0	Super Spike V'Ball	5 +1
Ren and Stimpy: Buckaroos	8 -1	Skate or Die 2	5 +1	Super Spike V'Ball/W. Cup	5 +1
Renegade	5 +1	Ski or Die	4 0	Super Sprint	5 0
Rescue: Embassy Mission	5 +1	Skull and Crossbones	5 0	Super Spy Hunter	8 -2
Ring King	6 +1	Sky Shark	5 +1	Super Team Games	5 +1
River City Ransom	16 +1	Skykid	6 0	Superman	8 +2
Road Runner	5 0	Slalom	4 0	Swamp Thing	12 0



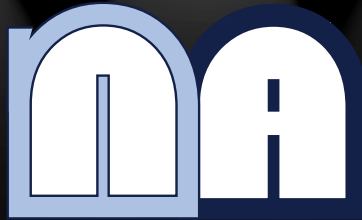
Sword Master	16	+4	Toobin'	8	0	Wheel of Fortune: Family Edition	5	0
Swords & Serpents	5	+1	Top Gun	4	0	Wheel of Fortune: Junior Edition	5	+1
T&C Surf Design	5	+1	Top Gun 2	5	+1	Wheel of Fortune: Vanna White	7	0
T&C Surf Design 2 Thrillas	9	+1	Total Recall	4	0	Where in Time/Carmen San.	6	0
Taboo: The Sixth Sense	4	0	Totally Rad	6	+1	Where's Waldo?	7	-0
Tag Team Wrestling	4	0	Touchdown Fever	4	0	Who Framed Roger Rabbit?	5	0
Tagin' Dragon	32	+7	Toxic Crusader	9	0	Whomp 'Em	7	-1
Talespin	7	+1	Track and Field	6	0	Widget	9	-1
Target: Renegade	5	+1	Track and Field 2	5	+1	Wild Gunman	10	0
Tecmo Baseball	5	0	Treasure Master	7	0	Willow	6	-0
Tecmo Bowl	7	+1	Trick Shooting	6	+1	Win, Lose or Draw	4	0
Tecmo Cup Soccer	14	-3	Trog	6	0	Winter Games	5	+1
Tecmo NBA Basketball	5	0	Trojan	5	0	Wizardry	7	+1
Tecmo Super Bowl	15	+2	Trolls on Treasure Island	13	+1	Wizardry 2: Knight/Diamonds	10	-5
Tecmo World Wrestling	5	0	Twin Cobra	4	0	Wizards & Warriors	5	+1
Teenage Mut. Ninja Turtles	6	+1	Twin Eagle	6	0	Wizards & Warriors 3	11	0
Teenage Mut. Ninja Turtles 2	10	+1	Ultima: Exodus	4	0	Wolverine	6	0
Teenage Mut. Ninja Turtles 3	13	+1	Ultima: Quest of the Avatar	8	0	World Champ	12	+2
Teenage Mut. Ninja Turt. TF	33	+4	Ultima: Warriors of Destiny	18	+2	World Class Track Meet	4	0
Tennis	6	0	Ultimate Air Combat	14	0	World Cup Soccer	3	-0
Terminator	9	+3	Ultimate Basketball	4	0	World Games	5	0
Terminator 2: Judgement Day	5	+1	Ultimate League Soccer	10	+1	Wrath of the Black Manta	3	0
Terra Cresta	9	+3	Ultimate Stuntman	6	0	Wrecking Crew	6	0
Tetris (Nintendo licensed)	8	+1	Uncharted Waters	16	-1	WURM	4	0
Tetris (Tengen unlicensed)	29	+1	Uninvited	13	-2	WWF King of the Ring	10	-0
Tetris 2	8	+1	Untouchables	8	+2	WWF Steel Cage	6	0
Three Stooges	6	+1	Urban Champion	5	+1	WWF Wrestlemania	4	0
Thunder and Lightning	9	+1	Vegas Dream	4	0	WWF Wrestlemania Chall.	4	0
Thunderbirds	5	+1	Venice Beach Volleyball	6	0	Xenophobe	6	+1
Thundercade	4	+1	Vice: Project Doom	4	-2	Xevious	4	-1
Tiger Heli	4	0	Videomation	4	0	Xexyz	4	0
Tiles of Fate	9	+1	Vindicators	4	0	X-Men	6	+1
Time Lord	4	0	Volleyball	4	0	Yo! Noid	7	+1
Times of Lore	12	+2	Wacky Races	19	-1	Yoshi	7	+1
Tiny Toon Adventures	7	+1	Wall Street Kid	5	0	Yoshi's Cookie	6	+1
Tiny Toon Adventures 2	9	+1	Wally Bear and the No! Gang	13	+1	Young Indiana Jones	16	+3
Tiny Toon Cartoon Workshop	8	0	Wario's Woods	12	+2	Zanac	5	+1
To The Earth	4	-1	Wayne Gretzky Hockey	4	0	Zelda 2: The Adv. of Link	10	+1
Toki	9	+1	Wayne's World	19	0	Zen Intergalactic Ninja	9	0
Tom and Jerry	8	0	WCW: World Champ. Wrestling	5	0	Zoda's Revenge StarTropics 2	6	+1
Tom Sawyer	4	0	Werewolf	4	0	Zombie Nation	21	+3
Tombs and Treasure	7	0	Wheel of Fortune	5	0			



## Don't do it!

This list has been compiled objectively using only information gathered from eBay listings for the last three months. As such, it is presented as a guide by which one may compare game values, but of course individual transactions will vary. Figures are for loose cartridges, and include an adjustment added to the closing price to represent average 'padded' shipping costs that most eBay sellers charge. This data is copyright NintendoAGE.com and may not be reproduced without permission except for personal use.





# Member Spotlight: GROOVERAIDER

**[Name:]** Herman McClain.

**[Age:]** Old enough to appreciate the NES!

**[Location:]** I'm from Los Angeles, but I was born up North - Carmel, California. I've lived in Los Angeles for over 29 years.

**[Occupation:]** I'm currently in between jobs. I work at a bookstore. It's fun because I get to read LOTS of great books.

**[Now for everyone who doesn't know who you are, you are the guy who comes on the forum and posts lots of great vintage gaming videos. How did you acquire them?]** Yeah, I came across a cool site by the name of NintendoAGE. That site takes me waaay back. Back in the day I was so hooked on video games and I did just about anything to learn more about them. I used to watch A LOT of TV, too, so I would come across news clips that featured video games and I'd tape them.

**[How did you come across the NintendoAGE website?]** I came across NintendoAGE thanks to Google search. I was looking for retro gaming information. What grabbed my attention to the site was the forum talking about the Nintendo Championships 1990, which I

participated in.

**[Wow, did you really? What do you recall from your time with that?]** I wasn't in the actual competition, but I participated in the qualification rounds.

**[Wow, that's still exciting.]** It was called Powerfest 1990 which was held at Universal Studios Hollywood. We heard about the event and thought we were gonna see Super Mario Bros. 3!

**[And that competition used the same three games as the finals, etc?]**

Exactly the same competition carts that are now going for thousands of dollars. **(Editors note: Or \$55 at Retrozone!)** I only remember seeing the gray carts, but it was later that I discovered in a Nintendo Power there were gold ones. I always wanted one of them.

**[Didn't we all?]** But what I do remember is competing on the show floor. I qualified to make it on the stage with the other winners but lost against them.

**[That still makes for some good memories!]** It sure is great memories, and I

still have the Mario plush doll that was awarded to me for participating.

**[So do you collect now, or just do the video thing?]** I collect mostly, and play some when I have the time.

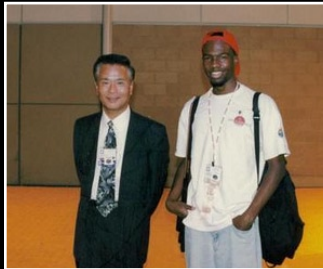
**[How many games do you have in your collection?]** Would you believe that I don't have as many as some of the folks I run into at NintendoAGE. I have about 80 U.S. titles, 20 Famicom Disk System games and around 40 Famicom Carts.

**[What's the pride and joy of your collection? Is there something you're most proud of owning?]**

OH YES! I got to meet my childhood hero, the late Gunpei Yokoi. I have a picture with him and his signature on a copy of E3 Daily - a trade show program magazine.

**[What sorts of things was he involved in?]** Mr. Yokoi was behind a ton of things in his 30 year history with Nintendo. He's most famous for inventing the D-control pad, Game & Watch, Metroid series, Kid Icarus, and Gameboy.

**[Editors note: Please check out more pictures from Herman on the NintendoAGE forums!]**



## GROOVERAIDERS's TOP 5 RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Legend of Zelda
2. Metroid
3. Super Mario 3
4. Castlevania III
5. Metal Gear



## THE RETRO REVIEW SMB: THE MOVIE

> JONATHAN PICKENS *nesguy*

Many of the movies that Hollywood puts into production are merely attempts to cash in on a popular culture trend. Super Mario Bros. is a shining example of a hack job that can turn a promising franchise into a B-movie. Barely hinting at the game series that gave it birth, this movie does nothing to endear audiences, or in any way attempt to market the game to the adult audience of the film. Super Mario Bros. deserves credit for one thing only: it was the first movie to be adapted from a video game. Unfortunately, it also seems to have set the standard for butchery that almost every vid-screen to silver-screen adaptation has taken in the years since.

The movie somehow still has quite a bit of charm. Bob Hoskins is a great actor, who fills the title role of the elder plumber brother Mario well. He is the consummate father figure to the younger and more wayward brother Luigi [John Leguizamo]. Stumbling and bumbling into a job down by the Brooklyn Bridge, the brothers meet Daisy, who fills in for every kind of movie heroine stereotype. She is the love interest for Luigi, the damsel in distress for the villain, and the savior of the dinosaur kingdom for all of its inhabitants. Why the writers kept the names of every character intact except Peach Toadstool, I don't know. After discovering a secret portal down in the sewers that leads to another dimension, the plumbers and Daisy set about getting in and out of trouble for another ninety minutes. Playing the part of big baddie King Koopa is Dennis Hopper, sporting some tightly gelled hair spikes, a tongue that would make Gene Simmons jealous, and an army of idiot henchmen that wield de-evolutionary guns. They even throw in goombas, Big Bertha, and Yoshi. My personal favorite is the dance hall scene with the plumbers in very bad suits, where Mario dances with Big Bertha.

So why is this movie so bad? Despite its tagline that "This Ain't No Game, It's a



Mario: Give-uh me-uh a' high-5-uh.  
Luigi: Kewl.

Live-Action Thrill Ride!" -- it really isn't. It got everything wrong. The Mario Bros. had already been established as a kid's series with the Super Mario Bros. Super Show (starring Lou Albano as Mario), and the light-hearted comedic feel of that series is completely absent from this movie. It is a children's franchise translated into an adult-themed movie, and pushed into a pseudo-realism that plays out much worse than if they had stuck to the source material. Dinosaurs are extinct because the meteor that we think wiped them out actually pushed them into another dimension, and now self-proclaimed "King" Koopa needs a piece of a magic meteor to merge the two realities back together and establish his reign of terror on the real planet earth. Really, you're going with that storyline?

Also, I cannot defend any of the writing in Super Mario Bros. It is some of the cheesiest dialogue ever written for a film.

Here are a couple of horrific examples:

**Sergeant Simon:** Name.

**Mario:** Mario.

**Sergeant Simon:** Last name.

**Mario:** Mario.

**Sergeant Simon:** And you?

**Luigi:** Luigi.

**Sergeant Simon:** Luigi Luigi?

**Luigi:** No, Luigi Mario.

**Sergeant Simon:** Okay how many Marios are there between the two of you?

**Luigi:** Three: Mario Mario and Luigi Mario.



**Princess Daisy:** I'm a vegetarian; I don't eat anything with a face.

Super Mario Bros. is a piece of gaming history, and for that every fan and collector should take the time to watch it at least once. After that, feel free to burn the DVD and never speak of it to another soul again.

Rating:  
(How it rated then)



Retro Rating:  
(How it rates now)



Next time: Prepare yourself for a trip back to the Atari age for some vector graphics, light cycles, and Jeff Bridges with a good waistline! You guessed it, TRON!

### SUPER MARIO BROS.





**Wage Hunt**

**SIGN UP TODAY!**

# Faegly the Skeleton in COLOR NIGHTMARES

Ah hhhh, all snuggly bunny and tighty teets to go to sleep! What a cool feeling, I feel like I'm 8 again! Happy Camper is going to be awesome! Ahh, time for sleepy!

HAPPY SLEEPER

Groooan, what time is it? 4AM?! Gosh, I haven't even slept a wink! Too much anticipation to even try!

OR NOT

Good thing King Rat left his container of Raidxl2020 pills here. These should put me to sleep if I have a few hundred of 'em!

SAY IT! NO! SAY NO! SAY IT NO!

**Blaang ZZZZZZ**

SAY SPACE!

Ahh! Wow that was a nice snooze! Tennessee will deliver my copy of Happy Camper and I can play!

Now to make some eggs and...wait, what? What is this terrible looking wallpaper? This isn't mine. Did I do this? What, is this supposed to be a flower pot with flowers in it? You have to be kidding. Where in the world did these stairs behind me come from? Hmm...

Hey, you! Ronnie, who factory on the moon looks like I starved.

is that?! I thought your pest was the last source of vermin, missed one here. All skinny and looking too. I thought you only made mutated super pests. What a bummer he is. Oh well, let's get him!

Yah, Kernel Kleanup? What are you doing in my house? Wait where am I? I'm not jumping in the wanted to. Why is that cloud god my fingers! My legs! Why on my text bubble?

Don't worry, Faegly, follow me. Just keep moving, it's the only way to survive in these parts. If you do, things always go your way, thanks to the one we call 'He Who Floats.' Just when you think you're not going to walk into a nugget of gold because of dynamite, poof! Gone! Just keep coming, stay behind me + go past this bush here and we'll be safe!

Can't you tell by the ninjas? This is a beach! Follow me, I'm heading to Demon Dan's! I can help you!

Is, is that a bush? Oh my poor child. What a terrible world you were born in! All I can say is, wait, what is that?

SAY SAD!

Ahhhh! What the?! Is that a clown? It can't be, it just can't be! It, wait, what are these yellow things? What happened to the er, two-limbed baby? Hey, kid, you on the skateboard! Where am I?!

Can't you tell by the ninjas? This is a beach! Follow me, I'm heading to Demon Dan's! I can help you!

# BUY HAPPY CAMPER! FAEGLY DID!!!!

Demon Dan's? That sounds a bit familiar. Hmm, okay, whatever. Wait, now what's that sound? A bell? On the beach? Huh?

SAY WHAT!

**Dong Dong**

Well, this is certainly not looking like a beach to me at all. I seem to be on a floating set of teeth but my shoes aren't in perspective. Hmm, that's a grave over there, and some blood. Boy, what poor coloring, where am I now? Is it...

**ROBODEMONS**

Blaaaaskjfw! Oh my, is that the title? The lines are all off! And what a hideous voice-over!

Watch yourself there buddy! There are terrifying frog stars afoot, er, astar, and flying ball sack things that you can't shoot! Follow I'm your only hope! Together we save the moon and all its peoples of the moon! Fly with me!

looking me can um

Hey, why are you on a pedestal now and where is the rest of your body? I'm not so sure you will be much help if I have to carry you around like that. I...

Faegly, look, hither tither on yonder moon comes a horrible creature! Only you can save us!

Ahhh! Oh, my god, my bod my sod! What is it? It's so poorly drawn! Is that a cheek or a lip? Why is it changing color?! Please, if there's a first-party monopolizing company out there, I'll never play an uncensored game ever again! Please! Faegly...FAEGLY!!!!

SAY WHY!

Ahhh, ahhh, ahhhhh! Who is...oh, it must have been a nightmare! Who is it? Hello?

Whu?

Soooooory ya' got to be scarin' ll like that. Ah yuh game rah heah.

SAY YEEEHAW!

Oh, sorry Tennessee Tex I forgot, wait, game? I seem to recall something but I can't...quite....

Why, itz yuh copee of Happy Campuh! Ah got it ri heah fo ya!!!

Excuse me, but did you say an unreleased Color Dreams game? Sold! Let's sit down and play it together! Yus!

BUY! PLAY!

## THE AUSSIES THAT TOOK ON NINTENDO

> JAMES TODD *zap*

As a follow up to my previous two articles on the two Australian exclusive sports titles - 'Aussie Rules Footy' and 'International Cricket', I thought I'd take a look at the history of the Australian company Beam Software, and what else they bought to the NES. Digging through their history, I was amazed to discover the history of their relationship with Nintendo, and the breadth of titles they bought out for the NES. This little Australian company sure packed a punch!

In the early 80s, the release of home consoles and computers had brought the joy of video game playing out of the arcades and into homes. Game development studios were popping up all over the place trying to create the next big hit for the home computers. While console development was a more tightly controlled industry, home computer manufacturers were openly supporting development on the computers, as this was one of the many uses they were marketed for. The consoles, on the other hand, were a very closed and secretive system, requiring special development kits, development agreements with the manufacturer, and tightly controlled publication.

Entering the scene in 1982, Beam Software (part of the Melbourne House publishing company) initially focused on the ZX Spectrum as their platform of choice. Alfred Milgrom, one of the founders of the company, had written some development books for the ZX80 a couple of years earlier, and had seen the potential in the gaming market. In 1982 they released 'Hungry Horace' and 'Horace Goes Skiing' which were packaged with the Spectrum, and were the first arcade games to be released on the platform. Later that year Beam released 'The Hobbit' based on the Tolkien book of the same name onto the ZX Spectrum, one of the first classic graphical adventure games (slightly improved from the plain text games) ever released. In 1983 Beam went on to port 'The Hobbit' to many other home computer platforms to critical acclaim.



By 1985 Beam had produced 'The Lord of the Rings' for many platforms as a followup to 'The Hobbit,' and this sequel proved to be highly successful. Beam then started to shift to an arcade focus, and developed 'The Way of the Exploding Fist.' This was the first martial arts combat game to be released on a home computer (though it borrowed fairly heavily from Karate Champ, released in the arcades a year earlier). Exploding Fist quickly became very popular.

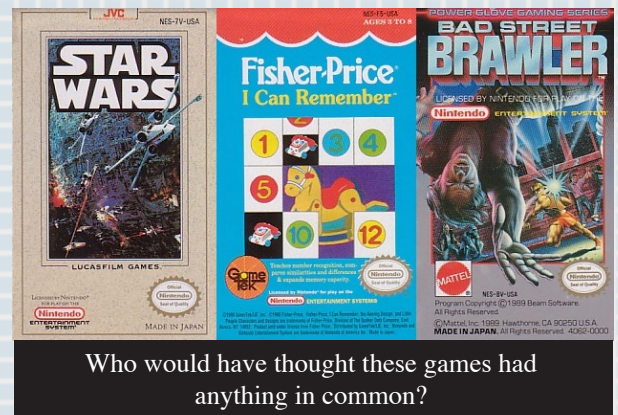
With the Nintendo Famicom now released in Japan, Beam could see that the home gaming market was set to expand beyond home computing. While they must have seen the success of the Atari 2600, Nintendo really struck a chord with them, and they set about reverse engineering the platform to begin developing for it. Getting an official development kit from Nintendo seemed beyond the reach of the small company, and building their own seemed the only logical way to go.

By 1987 Beam had developed its own NES development system from its reverse engineering efforts. This was a huge step forward for the independent development industry, and Beam started selling off these development kits to other software development studios unable to get into Nintendo's official development program. It didn't take long for Nintendo to take notice of this little development house in Australia. Trying to keep development tightly controlled, Nintendo tried to stamp out the development and sale of these Beam unofficial development kits and use their muscle to push Beam out of the market. Negotiations ensued, and in the end Nintendo offered Beam an official development license on the provision that they cease selling their kits. Beam accepted this offer and became only the second company outside of Japan to be granted an official license.

Once granted this license, Beam went on to develop many titles for a range of publishers on the NES. One of their early NES titles was 'Bad Street Brawler' which they released on other platforms as 'Bop 'n Rumble' and 'Street Hassle.' They also



Way of the Exploding Fist on C64.



Who would have thought these games had anything in common?

had success in developing several ports of games from other platforms including 'Battle Chess,' 'Last Ninja,' and 'Smash T.V.' One of their biggest licensed projects was with Lucas-Film, developing the NES version of the 'Star Wars' game. Their relationship continued with Nintendo, and as the Game Boy and SNES were released, Beam continued to develop many more titles for Nintendo systems.

In 1991 Beam Software set up the company LaserBeam Entertainment to publish NES games in the Australian market. LaserBeam ended up publishing the two commonly known Beam-developed titles for the NES: 'Aussie Rules Footy' and 'International Cricket.'

Following the heyday of the NES, Beam continued development for the SNES and went on to develop games for the Playstation, PC and several other major platforms. Beam has gone through a number of mergers with other major companies over recent years, including becoming a subsidiary of Infogrames in 1999, and a subsidiary of Atari in 2003. The company that once was Beam is now part of the Australian game development Krome Studios, and is known as Krome Studios Melbourne.

In 2006 a prototype of 'Way of the Exploding Fist' for NES was discovered by a member of Atari Age in the UK. It appears as though this user has now sold it to someone else who may be considering releasing it in the future. Let's hope that exciting piece of history is coming to light soon!



**NES GAMES DEVELOPED BY BEAM SOFTWARE**

Published by Acclaim

Bigfoot July 1990  
 George Foreman's KO Boxing December 1992  
 Smash T.V. September 1991

Published by Activision

The Three Stooges October 1989

Published by ASC

Power Punch 2 June 1992

Published by Data East

Battle Chess July 1990  
 Bo Jackson Baseball October 1991  
 Dash Galaxy in the Alien Asylum February 1990

Published by Gametek

Family Feud May 1991  
 Fisher-Price: I Can Remember March 1990  
 Fisher-Price: Perfect Fit March 1990

Published by Hi-Tech

Hunt For Red October January 1991  
 Mickey's Adventure in Numberland December 1993  
 Mickey's Safari in Letterland March 1993

Published by Jaleco

Last Ninja February 1991

Published by JVC

Star Wars November 1991

Published by Laser Beam

Aussie Rules Footy 1991  
 International Cricket 1992

Published by LJN

Back to the Future September 1989  
 Back to the Future Part II & III September 1990  
 The Punisher November 1990

Published by Mattel

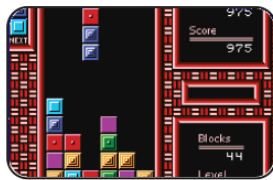
Bad Street Brawler September 1989

Published by Mindscape

Days of Thunder October 1990  
 RoadBlasters January 1990

Published by Ultra

Nightshade January 1992



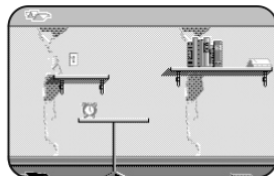
**MYSTIC PILLARS**  
sivak's latest



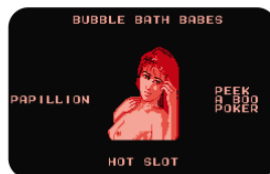
**POWERPAK**  
NES flash cart



**NWC CART**  
holy grail reproduction



**GLIDER**  
plane flying fun



**PIRATE BOOTY**  
4 in 1 with Panesians



**POOL CHALLENGE**  
**SARA PARKERS**  
unreleased pool



NOW SHIPPING



This is, and always will be a free publication available exclusively to the registered members of NintendoAGE.com. If you acquired this document from any other source, please notify us at [webmaster@nintendoage.com](mailto:webmaster@nintendoage.com).

NintendoAGE eZine Volume 3 Issue 2: Feb. 2009  
Copyright 2007-2009 NintendoAGE & Dain Anderson

All rights reserved. No portion of this document may be copied reproduced, hosted, redistributed or sold, in any part or whole, without express written consent of NintendoAGE.

> STAFF

DAN LANGEVIN editor in chief	
KEVIN HANLEY layout artist/interviewer	
DAIN ANDERSON executive supervisor	

> WRITERS

JUSTIN KLINGENMEYER river city ransom	2
SJOERD RUTTEN the chase vs. the catch	3
JONAS MCCAMMON bundling	4-5
JONATHAN PICKENS review: smb movie	12
JAMES TODD beam software	16-17

> OTHER JAZZ

NINTENDOAGE PRICE GUIDE	6-10
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT grooveraider	11
COMIC by stan stepanic	14-15
COVER by uncltusk	1