



Game Gear Reviews!
Issue 1 – January 2010



In this puzzling issue:

- Dr. Robotnik's Mean Bean Machine
- Pac-Attack
- Super Columns

A New Decade, A New Magazine!

Some people may ask (and probably are), why write a monthly e-zine filled with nothing but Game Gear reviews? The answer is simple: The Game Gear in my opinion gets a bad rap, either that or people haven't even played, much less seen, one in their whole lives. My mission is this: Get the word out that the Sega Game Gear is good. Sure, it may not have a very bright screen, but it's in COLOR, and color is much better than the monochrome Game Boy with its spinach colored screen. Sega had high hopes for this wonderful handheld machine, but ultimately lost the handheld race (along with Atari's Lynx handheld, which was also in color), to the one-colored Game Boy, which makes one wonder: why did people prefer black and white to color? It was probably due to the price difference. But now that was 20 years ago, and since the value of retro video games has come down a bit, you should probably go on eBay and get yourself a Game Gear with some games because the Game Gear games are groovy.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Read". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

-Chris Read
Creator/Editor of Game Gear reviews.

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Each month will be a themed month. For instance, this month it’s all about puzzle games for the Game Gear. Next month, February 2010’s issue will be nothing but Sonic the Hedgehog games. So let’s get this party started!

Play Me! NOW!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



Dr. Robotnik's Mean Bean Machine

Dr. Robotnik wants to turn the whole world into beans! Thus begins the crazy puzzle game that is Dr. Robotnik's Mean Bean Machine or, if you prefer, Puyo Pop. They're basically one and the same. If you don't know what Puyo Pop is, it's a puzzle game where, in this



case, beans the style of the pills in Dr. Mario fall and you have to link together four or more of the same color to make them disappear. But here's the good catch: Unlike Dr. Mario, they don't have to be horizontal or vertical. You can piece them together like a giant Tetris shape. You want a 2x2 block? You can clear it, just as long as it's the same color. But there are a few problems with this version of the game, which is mainly due to the speed the beans fall. Starting around level 10, the beans begin to fall at a frantic pace. During the next few levels, the pieces become almost impossible to control because they're falling too fast. I think personally, the game should be slower and max its speed out at a slower level so you can actually spin the beans to make them fit where you want them to go. In these later levels, it is impossible to spin the beans because they hit the bottom so fast. Other than that, it's a good effort for a Game Gear game.

Ratings: sound/graphics: 5 | play control: 6 | theme & fun: 7 | total:
6

Pac-Attack



Yes, the puzzle game known as Pac-Attack has a Game Gear version. For those who don't know, a combination of bricks and ghosts fall from the screen in almost Tetris-like shapes. You can get points by one of two ways: Clearing lines of bricks (like in Tetris), or line the ghosts up so when a piece comes along with a Pac-Man in it, once it lands, Pac-

Man will travel in a straight line and eat all the ghosts he comes across in his path until he hits the end of it. The first method of point scoring will not work if there is at least one ghost in the row you want to clear. It is this that causes the game to have a complex and strategy feel to where you want to place the bricks, ghosts, and Pac-Man. It's a good game, especially for those who like puzzles (or Pac-Man.)

Ratings: sound/graphics: 8 | play control: 7 | theme & fun: 7 | total 7.33

Super Columns

For those who don't know, Columns is a game in which a trio of differently colored blocks falls down. Your job: connect three or more of the same color to make them disappear. Unlike Dr. Robotnik's Mean Bean Machine, these pieces must be in a straight line. The game has easy (4 colors), medium (5 colors) or hard (6 colors) settings. But like Dr. Robotnik, the game gets crazy hard, but at a slower pace than that game. But all in all, Super Columns saves itself with good gameplay and its multiple settings.



ratings: sound/graphics: 6 | play control: 9 | theme & fun: 9 | total: 8

The Back Page

So, you've read the reviews and wonder "OK, The Game Gear sounds like a good system and I want to get one, but I don't want to use eBay." Well, cheer up buddy, because there is a great source of Game Gear games, and that is the GOAT Store (www.goatstore.com) This online store has a good selection of Game Gear games, and also other systems, too, such as Odyssey 2, Intellivision, Atari 2600, Atari Lynx, and the Nintendo Virtual Boy. Lots of games come to the GOAT Store at a time, so it's best to check it every other day or so to see what gaming goodness they've added.

The screenshot shows the homepage of The GOAT Store, LLC. The header includes the store's logo with a "BETA" tag, navigation links (Home, Search, News, Specials, FAQ, Contact), and a search bar. A left sidebar lists product categories: Atari (2600, 5200, 7800, Lynx, Jaguar, Jaguar CD), Nintendo (NES, Super NES, Virtual Boy, Nintendo 64), Sega (Master System, Genesis, Game Gear, Sega CD, Sega 32X, Saturn, Dreamcast), and Other (Odyssey 2, Intellivision, Colecovision, TurboGrafx-16, 3DO, Collectibles). The main content area features a "Home" section with a welcome message and a search tip. Below is a "Featured Products" section highlighting "IRIDES: MASTER OF BLOCKS" with a "Coming Block day - 12/12 -- pre-order now!" banner and a "press release" link. A "News and Updates" section contains three bullet points about Sega Dreamcast titles and a members area. A "Recently Added Products" section lists items like "Dreamcast Irides: Master of Blocks" and "Genesis Air Diver" with their respective dates.

Well, that's it for this issue. Join us next month when we delve into the world of Sonic the Hedgehog, as we review some of his games for the Game Gear. Until then, have you played your Game Gear today? If not, do!