

HAND-HELD SPECIAL

Remember all those great arcade games of yesteryear? Well, loads of them are being given a second lease of life on the Gameboy, including old favourites like PacMan and Asteroids and cult classics like Marble Madness and Mr Do! Julian Rignall has been playing all of them (the lucky git) and gives you his verdict.

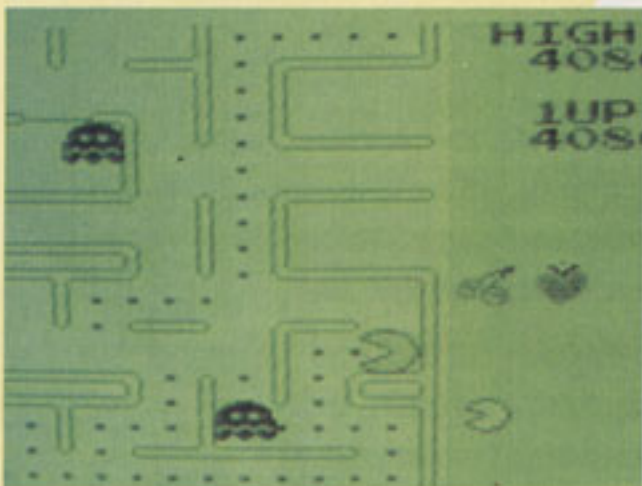
BY: NAMCO
PRICE: £24.99

PACMAN

ORIGINAL COIN-OP RELEASE: 1980
ORIGINAL COIN-OP BY: NAMCO
ORIGINAL COIN-OP HISTORY:

Massive arcade success story of the early 80's. PacMan fever spread through the world during 1981 and the machine spawned eight sequels, a TV series and unbelievable amounts of merchandising from t-shirts to sweets!

GAME: Guide PacMan around a series of mazes avoiding the four ghosts and eating the dots. Clear the screen of dots and you move on to the next, tougher screen.



▲ Power pills enable Pac to fight back against the ghosts.

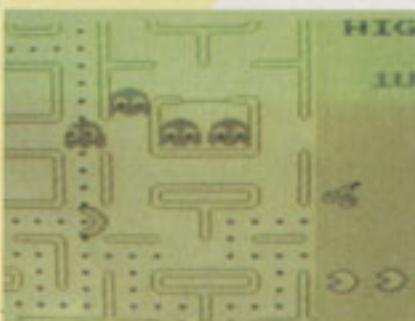
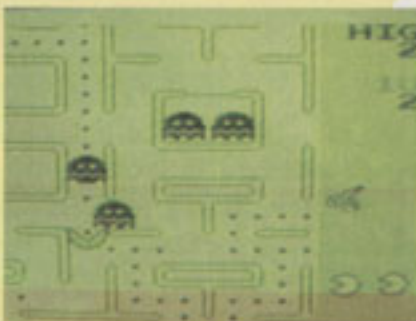
COMMENT

An excellent, near flawless interpretation of the dot-gobbling coin-op classic which retains all the playability of the arcade original. Due to the small Gameboy screen, the playfield now scrolls to keep things of reasonable size, but other than that this IS PacMan. It's a fun game, but does get dull after a while due to its simplistic nature. Still, if it's a trip down memory lane you're after, this is the tops.

PRESENTATION 67%
GRAPHICS 53%
SOUND 57%
PLAYABILITY 87%
LASTABILITY 71%
ACCURACY TO COIN-OP 96%
OVERALL 79%

THE MEAN MACHINES ARCHIVE ARCADE CLASSICS ON THE

GAM



▲ Pac action abounds as our spherical hero chomps his way completing level 1.



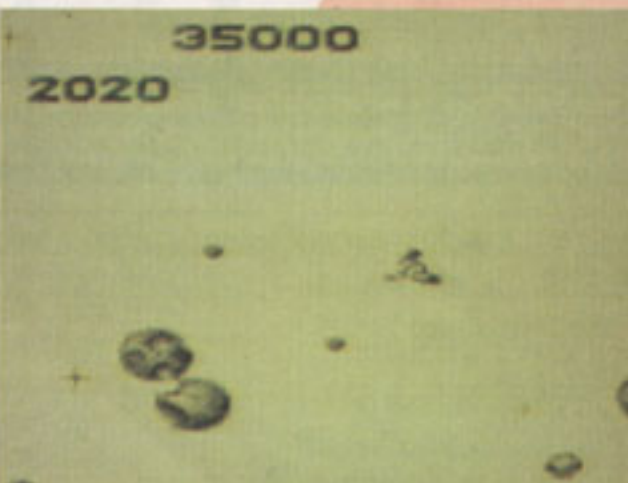
BY: ACCOLADE
PRICE: £24.99

ASTEROIDS

ORIGINAL COIN-OP RELEASE: 1979
ORIGINAL COIN-OP BY: ATARI
ORIGINAL COIN-OP HISTORY:

A very early vector graphic arcade machine developed from an even earlier game called Space Wars. It went on to spawn two sequels: Asteroids DeLuxe and Blasteroids.

GAME: The player's space ship is stranded in a densely-packed asteroid field. Blast them all away to stay alive - or die trying!



▲ The larger asteroids split into small rocks when hit. These smaller asteroids travel faster so watch out!

COMMENT

This is a great version of Asteroids which plays almost identically to the original coin-op. The stark black and white line-drawing graphics of the coin-op have been replaced by more up-to-date solid fill sprites (I think that's a shame, but then I'm a purist), but the sound is very similar. Gameplay is tough, with three levels to challenge you, and there's also two-player teamwork and competition modes to add extra lasting appeal. Excellent stuff - highly recommended.

PRESENTATION 89%
GRAPHICS 78%
SOUND 76%
PLAYABILITY 88%
LASTABILITY 80%
ACCURACY TO COIN-OP 76%
OVERALL 84%