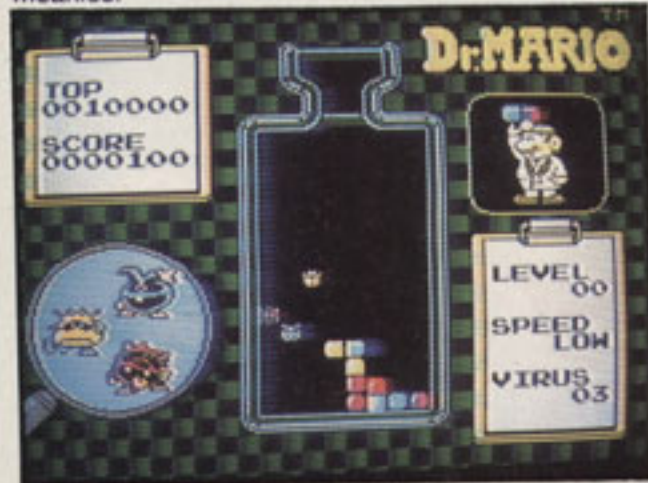




Mario's been involved in some pretty wild adventures of late what with the Nintendo Super Mario series, but with this all-new puzzle game, Mario's moved into medicine! And a good thing he has too, because one of the experiments in the Mushroom Kingdom Hospital has gone drastically wrong and horrid viruses are spreading everywhere!

Luckily good old Mario has developed a super vitamin with which to combat the menace - but he needs your help in dealing with the molecular meanies!

# DR



▲ Mario prepares to hurl a purple and blue tablet into play!

## GERM BUSTIN'!

To anyone who has played Columns on the Sega or Megadrive, the main gameplay will be rather familiar. Mario chucks down pills of two colours and it's your job to arrange them in rows of four or more of the same colour. Include a virus in the chain and it'll vanish! The object of each round is to rid the jar of all the germs - it's as simple as that...

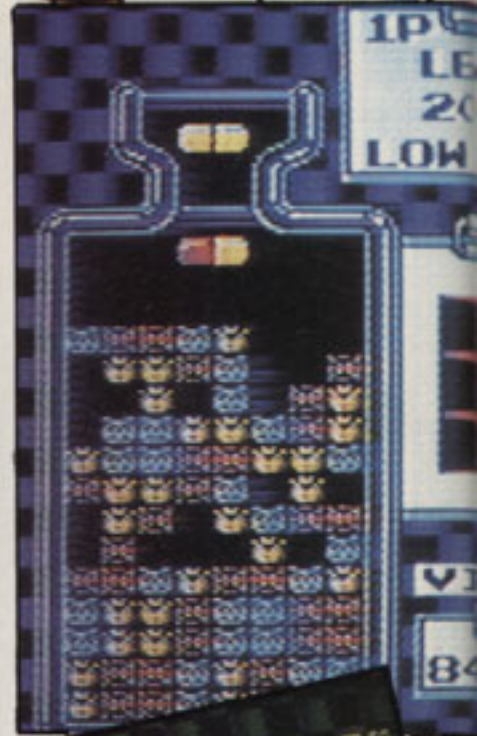
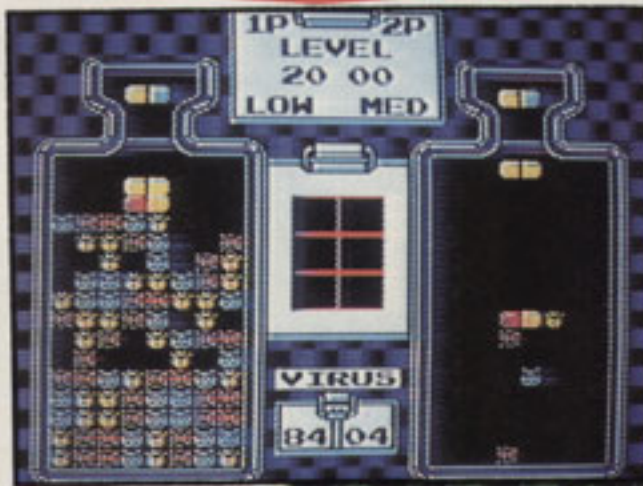
## COMMENT

At first sight this appears to be yet another Tetris clone. Investigation reveals that the gameplay is considerably different - destroying the viruses (that should be viri, but I'm a smartass) (well, according to my Collins English Dictionary it IS viruses, but then I'm a smartass too - Jaz) is a tricky procedure that requires a strategy that's close to - but not the same as - Columns. As with all puzzle games, Dr Mario has

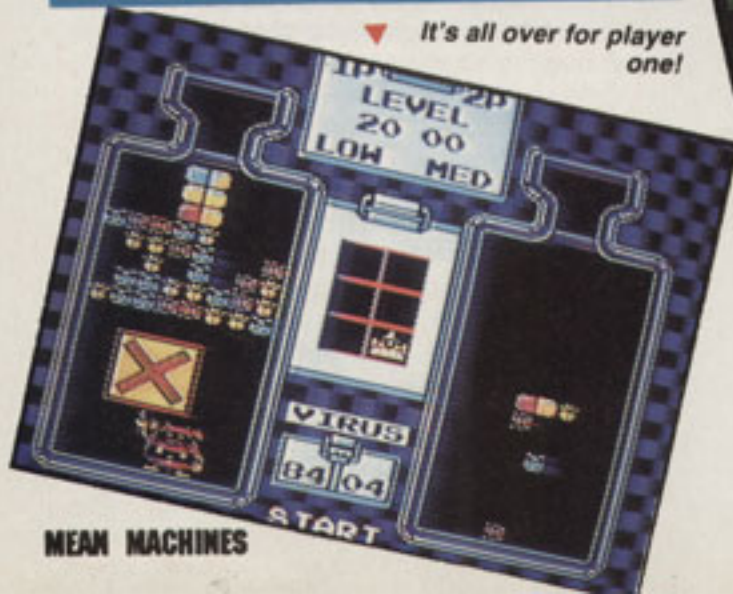


MATT

a problem with its long-term playability; it's great fun for a while, but you'll be bored with it soon. However, it's definitely one to be dug out of the cupboard on regular occasions, in the same way as Tetris and Columns. Still, it's a must-buy for all puzzle fans.



▼ It's all over for player one!



# MARIO



**BY: NINTENDO**  
**PRICE: £34.99**

RELEASE DATE: MAR  
GAME DIFFICULTY: EASY/MED  
LIVES: 1  
CONTINUES: 0  
SKILL LEVELS: 20  
RESPONSIVENESS: GREAT

1-2  
PLAYERS



**PRESENTATION 74%**

*Loads of options very similar to Tetris, though there isn't that much in the way of presentation screens.*

**GRAPHICS 72%**

*Very simple, but they serve the purpose well enough.*

**SOUND 78%**

*A choice of two terrific tunes - "Fever" and "Chill" (groan!).*

**PLAYABILITY 91%**

*Matching up the pills and eliminating the germs is a great laugh and instantly addictive.*

**LASTABILITY 87%**

*The task never seems to grow stale - this'll have you coming back for months!*

**OVERALL 88%**

*A really addictive NES puzzler that more than deserves purchase.*

## COMMENT



I liked Columns a lot, but in places it was ridiculously easy. But Dr Mario's even better, what with dealing with all the germs as well as creating the columns. When you first start playing, clearing the screen of germs is quite a tall order but once you've got the hang of it, there's tons to keep you glued - like creating cunning multiples for example. Dr Mario is a

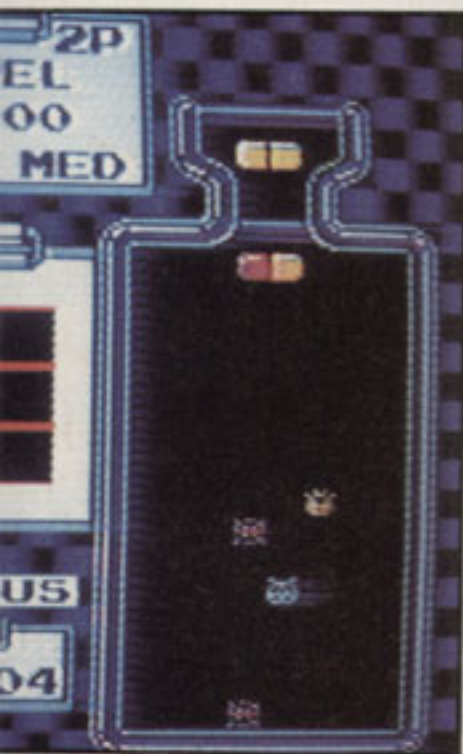
**JULIAN** mega-addictive game that certainly deserves a place in any NES owner's collection, although if you're after a single puzzle game to keep you occupied, Tetris still rules.



▲ Line up this tab and get rid of the blues.

## MARIO MADNESS!

If you're fretting over the fact that Mario's hung up his trendy dungarees and cap for a surgeon's costume, then have no fear! Super Mario Brothers 3 is penciled in for a UK launch later on this year, and from what we've seen of it, it's a veritable NES cartridge masterpiece featuring tons of levels and plenty of platform puzzling. Also, Mario fiends will be pleased to hear that he's also got his own new game on the mega Super Famicom - and it's amazing! Turn to page 84 for the juicy details!



## TWO CAN PLAY AT THIS GAME!

Simultaneous two-player action addicts will be pleased to know that Dr Mario allows two aspiring medics to play head-to-head! Two medicine bottles appear on the screen and the object of the game is much like the one-player game, except that if you manage to eliminate two or more rows or columns at once, some obstructing random pieces will fall down into the opponent's bottle!