

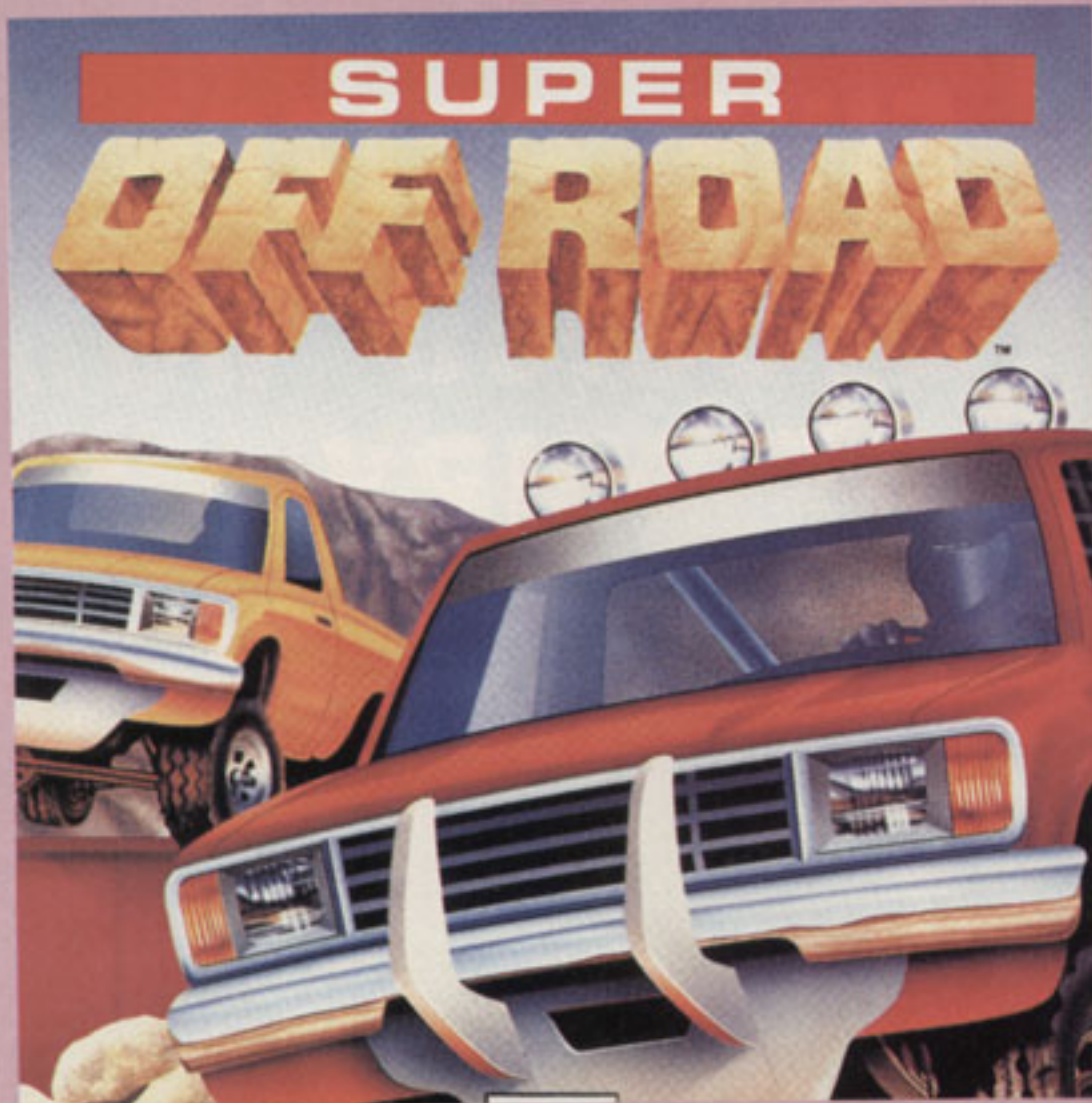


Jump into your 4x4 off-road truck and burn around hazardous dirt tracks along with the greatest off-road racers in the world - including the legendary Ivan "Ironman" Stewart himself!

Super Off-Road is best described as a Super Sprint variant with more tracks, more obstacles and the ability to power-up your truck with better engines, tyres, and shock absorbers. The object of each race is to complete four laps of the off-road circuit before your opponents. Super Off-Road enables one or two players to face up to two or three computer-controlled trucks (one of which is driven by the awesome "Ironman"!)

Beat your opponents and the prize money you gain is taken to the "Ironman" speed shop where you customise your truck's abilities by allocating your funds appropriately.

After that, it's back to the off-road circuit, where you indulge in more of the same driving-related tomfoolery.



## OFF-ROAD ON CONSOLE

Considering that the coin-op wasn't a major hit, it's quite surprising to see the game crop up on so many different console formats. Tradewest gave NES owners their conversion (programmed by Rare) which actually improved on the coin-op by enabling four players to participate at once (using the Four Score adaptor). Tradewest also released a highly playable, aurally amazing Super NES version. As well as this Megadrive conversion, look out for a Game Gear adaptation coming soon courtesy of Virgin Games.



## TRACK PREVIEW 1-6



## COIN-OP CAPERS

Super Off-Road is a decent conversion of the popular Leland three-player coin-op with spot-on Megadrive representations of the miniature sprites and detailed backdrops. The coin-op had a little known pseudo-sequel, Off-Road Challenge, which was exactly the same as the original in terms of gameplay but sported tracks not used in the original coin-op.



THE MEAN MACHINES ARCHIVE



## SUPER RACE TRACKS

There are sixteen different tracks in the Megadrive version of Super Off-Road, equalling the Super NES version and actually bettering the arcade version! Each is packed with hazards to slow you up, including mud pools, steep climbs, walls and horrific hairpin turns! Luckily, some tracks have cunning short cuts that you can use to your advantage against the computer players.



## COMMENT



**RICH**

Ballistic should be applauded for releasing a game of this calibre as part of their £29.99 price range. Super Off-Road is an excellent conversion that's all the better when there are two players participating. The graphics are spot-on replicas of the arcade original, with extra tracks not included in the original coin-op (actually, I've a feeling that they're in the Off-Road Challenge follow-up). The sound effects and music are very dull though and they don't make any use of the Megadrive's sample-playing abilities. However, I can see single players getting a bit bored with this after a while as there isn't much in the way of variety, but if you've got a pal who fancies some two-player racing, get this!



## COMMENT

## THE SPEED SHOP

After the race, you take your winnings to the 'Ironman' Speed Shop, where you can customise your truck with all manner of interesting add-ons. Better accelerators and engines are available to increase your speed along with superior tyres and shocks - essential for cornering and taking jumps. Extra nitros can also be purchased to give you that winning edge in the next race.



## JULIAN

Containing all the features of the arcade game and adding some extra features of its own, this conversion provides loads of two-player thrills and spills. The graphics are excellent, with the tiny cars bombing around nicely drawn tracks, but sadly the sound isn't so hot, with rather weak tunes and effects. What's most important is the playability, and Super Off-Road is very strong in this department, especially in two-player mode where the competitive edge of the proceedings really comes into its own. In one-player mode the game is still fun, but I found after a while it became a bit repetitive - beating the computer opponents is fun, but nothing like playing against another human. If you're after racing fun, this is well worth taking a look at, especially if you've often got a second player at hand to join in the action.



BY: BALLISTIC

PRICE: £29.99

RELEASE DATE: OUT NOW  
 GAME DIFFICULTY: MEDIUM  
 LIVES: N/A  
 CONTINUES: 2  
 SKILL LEVELS: 1  
 RESPONSIVENESS: GOOD

1-2  
PLAYERS

## PRESENTATION 55%

*Not much in the way of options or presentation screens.*

## GRAPHICS 79%

*Detailed backdrops and well-animated (albeit a tad small) sprites.*

## SOUND 55%

*Average tunes and dull effects are the order of the day.*

## PLAYABILITY 85%

*The game is instantly playable and addictive, especially with two players.*

## LASTABILITY 81%

*The decent two-player mode will take you back to this months after you've bought it.*

## OVERALL 83%

*An excellent coin-op conversion! If Super Sprint-type capering appeals to you, get this!*