



REVIEW

WORLD CUP ITALIA '90

If you enjoyed the World Cup over the summer, you'll be pleased to hear that you can relive all the cheers and tears of footballing's premier event thanks to this latest Sega cartridge.

World Cup Italia 90 can be played by one or two competitors, and is divided into three sections. The penalty shoot-out pits your wits against the foe in both roles - you play attacker and keeper alternately. The Test Match option has nothing to do with cricket, but is simply a one-on-one contest between the chosen teams. The World Cup is the main event, with all six groups represented.

Each team has individual strengths and weaknesses, but some are stronger than others (the reverse holds true as well - don't choose the United Arab Emirates unless you're a glutton for punishment!). However the teams are represented on the pitch by only eight players each; this is probably a good thing, as the pitch is very small indeed. An arrow shows which player is "on" the ball, and running, passing and shooting are achieved through judicious use of the buttons and control pad.

So whether you want to be England, Argentina, or China, the choice - and the responsibility - is yours. Just don't cry if you're booked in the semi finals!

ITA	ARG	BRA	FRG	SPA	HOL	FRA
AUT	URS	SWE	YUG	URU	ENG	DEN
SELECT YOUR TEAM						
ITALY						
SPEED	5					
KICK	5					
OFFENCE	4					
DEFENCE	5					
USA	ROM	SCO	COL	BEL	IRL	CHI
TCH	CAR	CRC	UAE	KOR	EGY	MEX



THE DREAM TEAM

While choosing a team, it's possible to check out their stats. This helps to make the decision, choosing a team that compliments your playing style. The four statistics that are shown are: Offence, Defence, Speed, and Kick. These are rated out of five, and Brazil, Argentina, Italy, and the Soviet Union are among the best teams to choose.



▲ The Argies go one down - oh no!

▼ Time to state the obvious.



▲ Italy moves into a striking position.



PENALTY!

There's a penalty shoot-out option which gives you the chance to take on the keeper in a one-on-one showdown. It's the best of five kicks - so make sure that each shot counts.



MATT

Football games are traditionally a hit-or-miss affair, and I'm afraid this is definitely a miss. I suppose it could be said that I've been spoiled by World Cup Soccer, but this game is awful by anyone's standards. The graphics are all right, but why only eight players per team - and why such a minuscule pitch? The control is appalling and awkward, with no discernibly easy way of making the nearest player chase the ball; at least not until the opposition has got there first. When possession is gained, however, it's simply a question of running towards the goal. Your opponent stands next to no chance of halting your progress. A football game that does not reward skill easily is no football game at all - and sadly, that's the case here.



▲ Where are the rest of the players?

COMMENT



JULIAN

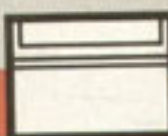
World Cup Italia 90 looks good when you load it, since it features some excellent presentation screens. However, when you play the game itself, disappointment is the order of the day. The graphics are dreadful and the pitch is so tiny, you've got no room to manoeuvre. Control is very poor - you can plough through the opposition, shoot diagonally and stick it into the net easily! And that's not all. The graphics are all out of scale (the men are nearly as big as the goal!), the ball movement is utterly unrealistic and the sound is dreadful. In fact the only thing that's good is the penalty shoot out! If you haven't got a football game, get the vastly superior (and cheaper) World Cup Soccer. Otherwise wait for something better.

▼ Corner kicks are not as easy as they look!



BY: SEGA
PRICE: £29.99
RELEASE DATE: DEC
GAME DIFFICULTY: EASY/MED
LIVES: N/A
CONTINUES: N/A
SKILL LEVELS: 1
RESPONSIVENESS: POOR

1-2
PLAYERS



PRESENTATION 83%

The starting screen is fair, and the team selection screen is rather jolly. Throughout the game the standard remains high.

GRAPHICS 62%

Nice presentation screens, but the in-game graphics are gaudy and confusing.

SOUND 56%

Whistles, cheers, and other spot effects - but they're very tinny indeed.

PLAYABILITY 53%

Don't expect to play this long into the night - it's irritatingly difficult to control.

LASTABILITY 39%

The frustrating controls and naff playability result in this quickly being relegated to the software shelf.

OVERALL 51%

A very poor effort that's disappointing in the extreme - get World Cup Soccer instead.