

At last it's been revealed. Rumours suggested that the Konix console – official name the Multi-System – would be something special. But nothing could prepare us for how special

What Konix has done simply re-defines the idea of video games. Forget all those anonymous black and grey boxes with their bland joystick ports. Konix has listened to what games players and software houses really want – and head man Wyn Holloway admits that he got a lot of input from letters to magazines, so somebody is listening.

Then he decided what price people would pay – and told his engineers to design something that would meet all his criteria. The result is, quite simply, the answer to every games player's dreams.

### The Console

The Multi-System looks more like a glorified joystick than a console. A horseshoe shaped base supports a tilting panel with a hub. You can attach a steering wheel to this – or handlebars or a yoke control, of the sort found in helicopters – whichever the game demands.

But novel control doesn't stop there. On either side of

▼ The Konix hydraulic chair.



# Mean Machines

Under the watchful eye of Julian Rignall, the Mean Machines column continues to get bigger and better. No less than six Sega games are reviewed, including R-Type, Rastan and Rampage, there's exclusive news of forthcoming Sega titles, and John Minson checks out the new Konix Multi-System console and gives his verdict. What more do you want?

## Konix Stripped

the main unit are levers, to serve as accelerators, gear shifts and the like. And a separate unit contains twin pedals, so you're feet will have something to do while your hands are frantically steering your car, boat, plane . . .

Of course there is a joystick port for traditionally controlled games. Another socket allows you to connect a key card, which supplies a total of thirty possible

options. This means that the Multi-System is suited to everything from shoot 'em ups to complicated simulations.

Impressed? We've only just begun. The console features 'tactile feedback'. Put simply, that means that if your on-screen car rides into the rough, the steering wheel will shake about in your hands. Now that's something your C64 – or even your Archimedes – can't provide.

And the cost of this mind boggling basic system.



▲ Wyn Holloway – centre – the man behind Konix.

Just under £200 – but you'll have to wait for the summer before they're in the shops.

### Software and Stuff

Another feature which will help keep the Multi-System within a realistic price range is that it uses 3½", one megabyte disk software. Not normal 3½" disks, mind you – they're specially modified to make piracy impossible, which should help keep publishers happy. The result – games will cost just £14.99.

The console will come with a disk so you can play immediately. By Christmas Konix aims to have 40 titles available, from all the major software houses, including both conversions of top titles and original games, growing to 100 releases after the first year.

Wyn Holloway reports

that he had the head of one American company on his knees, begging to write for the machine. Whether he agreed or not he won't say, but he is keeping a careful check to ensure that all titles, which will be published through Konix, are of the highest quality, meaning they must have been in the top ten.

We saw a demo program, which featured a Zarch type landscape – only it was faster and smoother than the Archie program. Then an F-19 flying over fields, houses and trees – very impressive. Graphics are dazzling, with a palette of 4,096 colours, all of which can be used at one time, plus resolution up to 512x200.

Included as standard are such rarities as eight

way smooth scrolling and vector graphics for 3D landscapes. Audio doesn't lag behind either. You can have 25 stereo channels of CD quality sound booming out – giving the Multi-System the capabilities of a Yamaha DX-7 synth!

Naturally it takes some clever electronics to do all this. In charge is an 8086 processor, best known for its use in PCs, but drives it at a phenomenal 6 Mhz. But the really hard working devices are two custom chips, which control the sound and graphics.

There's only 128K memory as standard but the operating system is able to read in new bytes from the disk even while it's controlling a game, so this should be enough. However if you want to

recoil, just like a real rifle. You'll be able to choose between single and repeated fire, and customize it with sights, stock and the like. Getting properly armed will cost just under £40.

Another £40 will buy an exercise bike – but it's not just to work off your excess



▲ The steering wheel shudders when you crash.



▲ The light gun – recoils like a real rifle.

weight. Connect it up to the Multi-System and your actions will be conveyed to the screen.

But the real thrill is The Chair. Yes, from this summer, if you want the true Space Harrier mobile experience you won't have to perch yourself on a wobbly stool. Konix has devised a moving seat and it will only cost £150!

Designed to take both the Master System and up to a 14" colour TV, the chair features tilt of up to ten degrees in three directions. Wyn Holloway says they experimented with 15 degrees but found that it was just too much at the speeds the chair can twist and turn. And as its designed to take up to 18 stones, even Garry Williams will be able to join in.

And Wyn promises that this is just the start! So in about six months time, all being well, you'll be able to fly a jet fighter into combat, bombarded by stereo sound, jolting around in your seat every time you take a hit. The only thing Konix seems to have forgotten is an air discomfort bag. Happy landings!

expand you'll be able to do so yourself – and most repairs, should they be required, will be d.i.y. jobs also. Now that's what we call user friendly.

### Expansion

Despite giving you most of the features that are expensive peripherals with other consoles, if they're available at all, Konix has come up with some really exciting expansion options.

First off there's the inevitable light gun – but what a gun! Whenever you fire at the screen it will



▲ The final Konix – add ons galore.