

# The Sore Thumb

On paper, the Wii is the least powerful of the new generation consoles surfaced in the past months. With the PS3 at a base price of \$499 and the XBOX360 still priced at \$399, the Wii is also the cheapest. Priced at \$249.99, the console

**Platform: Wii**  
**Publisher: Nintendo**  
**Review By: Kaustav Acharya**



comes with everything you need: wireless controllers, RCA cables, wireless capability, 512MB of Flash Memory, and more. The console also supports GameCube controllers, and slots for GameCube Memory Cards. Owners of the DS/DS-Lite systems will also appreciate the ability to connect to the Wii as well.



Graphically speaking, the Wii is as good as the PS2 and then some. Speaking to representatives and giving the console a go myself, it is clear to see that the visual-awe isn't exactly the point of the console. The games hold high hopes in story mode, which can be described as very unique and not something that can be described in words.

Classic gamers will appreciate the fact that they can download titles originally released for Nintendo platforms. Using the Virtual Console, players can use the onboard wireless connection or other Internet setup to download these games directly to the hard drive. For the price, this console gives you a lot. The games are unique and feature a very 'hands-on' approach. The web-interface is solid with little connection issues. While the controllers and the whole experience might take a while to get used to, the system is well worth the \$250.00 and easily deserves our highest rating.

'made man.' Verbal negotiations are an integral part of this game as Joey is faced with making many decisions. He can choose to respond three ways, and depending your choices, people will give you what you want without having to resort to brute force. Sometimes it's inevitable because a fight is programmed into your mission. While the idea is great, the violence, language, and strong sexual content dim what could have been a great game. In conclusion, this game is definitely worth a pickup, but not the 'Must-Have' list. It seems as though the Godfather still remains as the 2006 Favorite, but the Sopranos still make solid show.

**Title: Need for Speed: Carbon**  
**Publisher: EA**  
**Review By: Julia Pederson**  
**Platforms Playstation 2 and 3 / Xbox / Wii**



Tuner cars, muscle cars and exotic cars are at your fingertips! Pick out the one that interests you and PIMP IT OUT to create your dream ride. The fun part is transforming stock cars into racing streetcars. The Auto Sculpt feature lets you create customized body parts for your car, as well as your crew's racing colors, designs and logos. Win cars from bosses you beat in Canyon Duels to take control of the city Block-by-Block. The quality and realism in the graphics far surpass those in Need for Speed: Underground 2. Get into police action and lead them around the city driving 100+ mph destroying everything in sight. Be sure not to total your car – it's three strikes and you're out – at least your car is. The police chase can be the most thrilling because you don't know when a cop will be on your tail, either in free roam or during a race. You can lead the police around until you find a safe house or you total your car, both will relieve the heat. During the journey of taking control of the city, clues to who you are and why you were spared in the beginning scenes reveal themselves.

Vaan in his quest. Square has stepped away from the explore-and-sudden-combat system and now you can clearly see the enemies your character will be facing. Encounters can be avoided, although it is recommended that one engage in battle. The license board lets you equip particular weapons, accessories, and spells. You need points in order to learn skills, and you 'learn' how to equip your weapon. The more enemies you fight, the more points are awarded, enabling you to advance through this grid. With excellent sound and graphics, this game can't get better. Final Fantasy XII easily pronounces itself as one of the best games of all time and deserves to be put on the 'Must-Have List'.

**Title: FIFA 07**  
**Publisher: EA**  
**Review By: Kaustav Acharya**  
**Platforms Playstation 2 and 3 / Xbox / Wii**



If this game is played like the '06 version, the goal attempts run wide, way over the goal post, or into the hands of the defender. This years' franchise focuses more on balance, ball control and team effort. Once you get used to the trick stick, enjoy embarrassing your opponents. The in-game commentary is nothing short of spectacular. There is a noticeable lag in in-game animation when there are a lot of players on screen. It's hard to imagine that Fifa could get any better, but it seems EA Sports has succeeded in doing so.

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**Title: Sopranos Road to Respect**  
**Publisher: THQ/7 Studios**  
**Review By: Kaustav Acharya**  
**Platforms Playstation 2 and 3 / Xbox / Wii**



Developers at 7 Studios collaborated with David Chase to make sure the game stays true to the series' elements. The main character, Joey is not having any luck making a honest living and has resorted to purse snatching. Tony Soprano sees his pathetic plight and summons him to act as an enforcer of the family. The game follows Joey's path to becoming a



**Title: Final Fantasy XII**  
**Publisher: Square-Enix**  
**Review By: Kaustav Acharya**  
**Platforms Playstation 2 and 3 / Xbox**



After years in the making, Square-Enix has brought out what is arguably one of the best RPGs to date. One can easily spend 40-55 hours playing the game for purely its story. Make no mistake: this game is insanely vast and makes *Final Fantasy X* seem like a kids game. The story unfolds in a town called Ivalice, and the primary character is a coming-of-age boy named Vaan. His childhood friend Penelo, a sky pirate named Balthier and his tall rabbit-eared accomplice named Fran join

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