

The Sore Thumb



**Medal of Honor:
Heroes**
Platform: PSP
EA Games

EA has done a great job in recreating the *Medal of Honor* series. *Heroes* follows the story of three soldiers who returned from previous titles to lead you through the game, resulting in a total of 15 missions. The game is short, but always fun to re-play. The controls are relatively standard: the analog stick walks, the directional pad reloads and uses items while the shoulder buttons allow for special attacks and repeat fire. The graphics are impressive and sound quality is exceptional. The amount of available weapons in the game allow something for everyone. The tactical can wield sniper rifles, while more direct players can mow down enemies with a machine gun. The controls may be difficult to get used to, but all in all the highest Honor! - KA



PlayStation Portable (PSP)
Sony



When first introduced, Sony's PlayStation Portable caused quite a stir because of the graphics. The PSP is, for lack of better word, electronic genius. The UMD based system not only dazzles users with its impressive screen but acts as a web browser, photo album and MP3 player. The only thing missing is telephone abilities. The graphics are equivalent to the better PS1 games. The disc allows more information to be stored than cartridges and developers take full advantage, producing games that look spectacular. The controls are easy to get used to, with the traditional PlayStation layout. As expected with the 'PlayStation' name, the PSP already has impressive games. Hundreds of titles have come out, including the Medal of Honor Series and Hideo Kojima's Metal Gear. While the price may seem a little steep at roughly \$200, we think it is worth the extra green. - KA

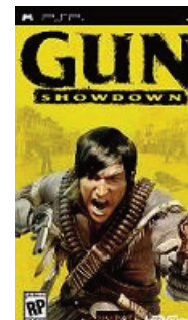


**Activision Hits
Remixed**
Platform: PSP
Activision

Activision was the premier video game maker for the Atari 2600 in 1979 and went on to spawn several classic video games including *Dragster*, *Pitfall* and *Kaboom!* Now, Activision compiles 40 of your favorite old school favorites, complete with a throwback 80's soundtrack. Bands like A-Ha, Twisted Sister and Blondie take you back to a time when life was easier and hair was bigger. The classic games remained the same and it's like, totally fun to unlock retro Atari TV Ads. Load-time is fast and the fact that you can switch mid-game to another and that, is like totally tubular! This game is fun for anyone and sure does pass the time! - SG



Gun Showdown
Platform: PSP
Activision/Neversoft



In 2006, Neversoft, a company focused solely on developing *Tony Hawk* titles, introduced a Old Western game called *Gun*. The story of a vengeful cowboy moves quickly so as not lose players' attention. The developer did a good job in capturing the essence of mobile game play: short and simple objectives to keep the line moving or the airplane flying. Similar to the *Matrix* and *Max Payne* games, a bullet-time equivalent slows down the world around you, sending the bad-dies to their graves. Plenty of gun fights will keep you busy and if you feel like playing some poker, enjoy the Texas Hold-'Em Tournaments. All in all, the game feels quite solid and is a lot of fun. - KA



Final Fantasy III
Platform: DS Lite
Square-Enix



The original game released in the early 90s didn't pull in audiences because of its impressive graphics but rather its compelling story. An orphan finds a magic crystal which tells him he is the one to save the world so he rounds up a group of four friends and heads off. The goal of the game is for these main characters to find the lost elemental crystals to restore order. The graphics and sound quality of the game are quite good and the mid-soundtrack brought back the old days of Final Fantasy and is seamlessly implemented. Gameplay is well sorted out with plenty of worlds, storylines, and existential themes. It had a lot to live up to, but fortunately, Square did not disappoint. This is truly a Final Fantasy classic that should be picked up. - KA



**The Sims:
Life Stories**
Platform: PC
Electronic Arts

The ever-expanding Sims franchise has recently released its newest PC installment called *Life Stories*. This game is essentially a romantic comedy and is easily played on portable computers as well as desktops. There are two paths for you to choose: the path of female Riley Harlow or alpha- male Vincent Moore. Once you select your charac-

ter, you follow their life story. Each story has twelve chapters that follow the characters on their path to true love. Players also take their characters through unique and entertaining storylines with dramatic turns and tons of intrigue. Game play is similar to the previous titles, but different in the sense that this version actually flows as a set story line. However, there is also a free-play story line that lets you experience the traditional Sims play as well, by creating your own characters and choosing how they fulfill their dreams. Pick up *Life Stories* and find out what all the Sims hype is about! -KA

