

SERIOUS SAM

Platform: Xbox Developer: Croteam Publisher: Gotham Games Release: Nov 12



Given the Xbox's PC origins, PC ports will frequently be released in abundance. While this means more selections for Xbox owners, it also makes for mediocre ports of mediocre games. Case in point: Serious Sam. Premise: Serious Sam, a trash talking Duke Nukem clone, winds up in Ancient Egypt and destroys everything in sight in typical FPS fashion. The gimmicks behind this game are the hundreds of baddies on screen for you to blow away, basic multiplayer options, and its inclusion of Serious Sam 1 & 2. Neither of these budget-priced games was terrible on the PC. However, they weren't that great either and won't have a low price tag upon release. Further, as the release date nears, preview copies still suffer from atrocious slowdown. When this port is available, leave it on the shelf. -Anthony Q. Casasnovas

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JEDI KNIGHT 2: OUTCAST

Platform: Xbox Developer: Vicarious Visions Publisher: LucasArts Release: Nov 22



Xbox users rejoice, for the exploits of the Rebel Alliance are soon returning to your console. In a long list of PC ports being shoveled onto the slowly rising pile of mediocre Xbox releases, JK2 might prove a hit with more than just the loyal legions of Star Wars fans. This superb game is making its way to Gate's monster with four extra maps, multiplayer options including team play, and all the rapid fire, swashbuckling Force action and myth that made Lucas' films so popular. Hopefully, Vicarious Visions can translate the PC controls well enough to deliver a midichlorian-filled winner; something Obi-Wan was not. -Anthony Q. Casasnovas

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DEAD OR ALIVE XTREME BEACH VOLLEYBALL

Platform: Xbox Developer: Team Ninja Publisher: Tecmo Release: Dec 3



Jiggling animated breasts in fighting sequences have become somewhat customary. That's why Dead or Alive Xtreme Volleyball for Xbox is enhancing the DOA franchise with some sand, a hotel, radio station, casino, and barely-there bathing suits to make it that much more satisfying. Set on the volleyball courts of the fictitious Zack Island, gamers can spend Zack dollars on cute outfits for their busty DOA girls. Oh, and expect to play some volleyball tournaments, too. That way, the ladies will start lookin' half-naked in no time. Some stunning visuals and new female characters add extra panache to the high maintenance factor. Plus, the detailed bio sheet makes it easier to decide exactly what to purchase for your partner when you find her. Eye candy and virtual gold-diggers are synonymous on DOAX—just like in real life! -Sharon Steel

Steel

METAL GEAR SOLID 2: SUBSTANCE

Platform: Xbox, PS2, PC Developer: Konami Publisher: Konami Release: Nov 5



Possibly the most popular series to hit the Playstation is finally making its way to the Xbox. Metal Gear Solid 2: Substance is being released on the Xbox, PS2, and PC. More of a Sons of Liberty upgrade than an entirely new game, Substance promises to introduce SOL in its entirety along with 200 VR Missions, 100 Alternative Missions, and five Snake Tales. For owners of the original MGS2, purchase of this title may only be for MGS diehards and series completists. The VR Missions feature a sneaking mode, weapons mode, and new first-person gameplay. Most of these missions require no more than seven seconds to complete. The Snake Tales, while providing new, independent storylines set in the SOL universe, do not tell these stories through cinema scenes. Apparently, Konami did not wish to spend the time nor money needed to really polish this release, so the new stories are told via text. How unfortunate. If you own an Xbox and still haven't played Metal Gear Solid, this is just the title for you. Otherwise, purchase with caution. -Anthony Q. Casasnovas

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