

Sonic the Hedgehog has been hailed as the best game ever created for the Mega Drive, and we at Megazone would have to agree: in fact, this is the best character action game we've ever seen. If you don't yet have a MegaDrive, one look at Sonic will make you want to get one, and here's why.

Sonic the Hedgehog turns your Television into a graphic wonderland of fun, action and adventure – thanks to great gameplay, amazing action and, mostly, the cute zippy Hedgehog himself.

Sonic is a speedy, crafty little character who makes Mickey look like a rat, and Mario seem like a fat corner green grocer (yep, old Sim Megalopolis himself – see the Megazone Communications page).

Ever wanted to hurl yourself at breakneck speed across different levels, over springs and loops and through tunnels? You can with this game. You'll spin right out when you control Sonic, – literally! Hit the fire button and you'll curl into a flying Hedgehog ball of blue spikes. This way you can zap your enemies fast, and fly on to the next stage.

Sonic's the kind of guy who never rests... he's out to save his little animal buddies from their mechanical prisons and chase the evil Dr Eggman across six glorious zones just bursting with 16 megabyte's worth of colour and action.

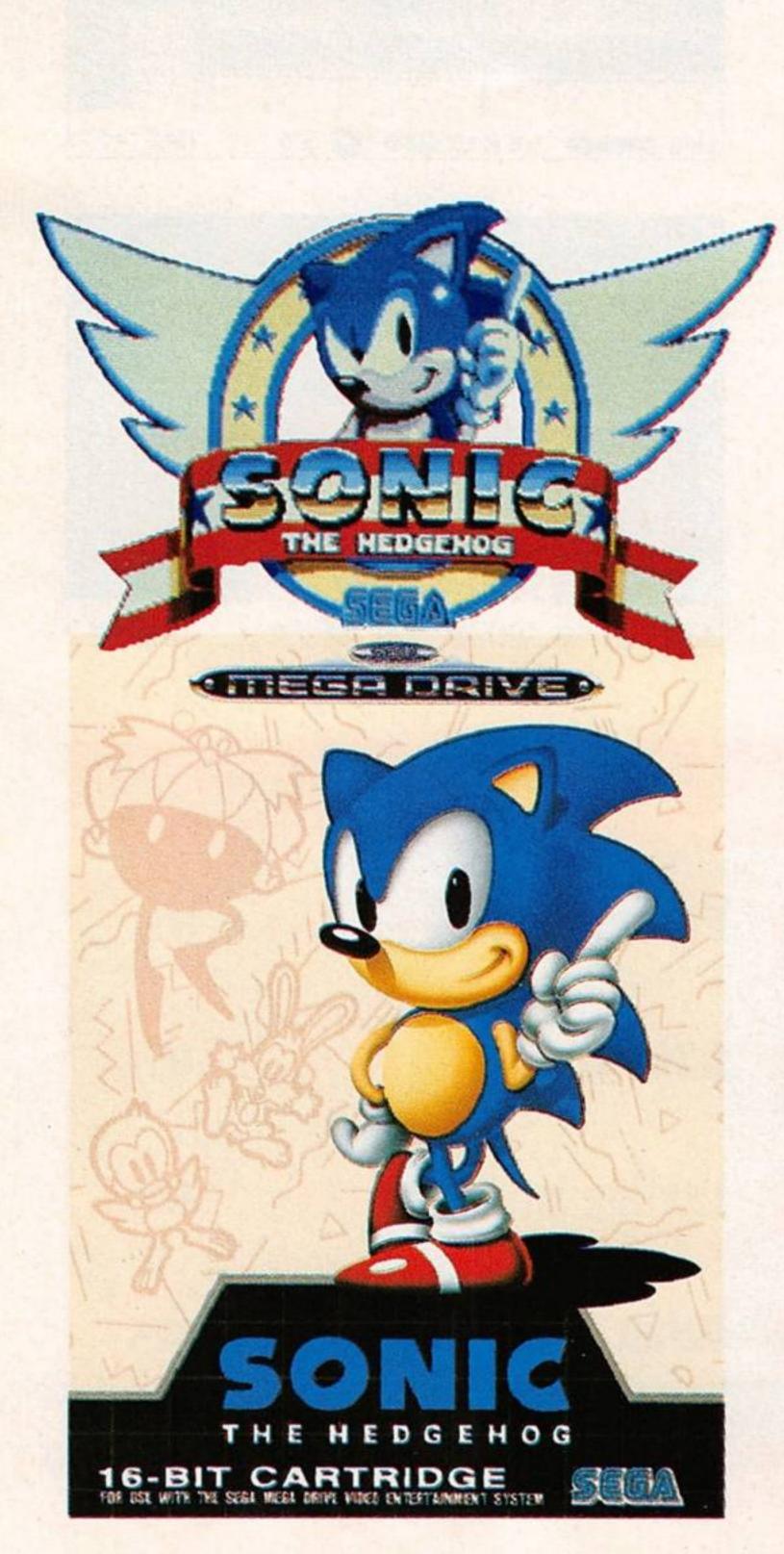
Each zone has three different acts, or stages, and each stage is distinctive and amazing. There's Green Hill, where the game begins, which has chequerboard hills and metal flowers, then Marble Zone, with columns, molten lava and hanging spikes; Spring Yard Zone, chock full of bouncing springy bits, Labyrinth Zone, full of caverns and mazes; Starlight Zone, an ultra modern high rise full of super-loops, and finally(?) Clockwork

Zone, where your Hedgehog Pal faces his toughest challenge from weird high tech cogs and bugs!

Sonic moves better than any video character you've ever seen before: he spins into his opponents to send them flying, he teeters at the edge of a cliff waving his arms in fright, he digs his heels into the ground to do a fast stop... and when he finds a hidden running shoe, his hedgehog legs really starts to whirl! Even though the scenery's great, when playing Sonic, you shouldn't stop to admire the view... he taps his foot and raises his eyebrow impatiently after a few seconds of stillness.

The screen flys past in a colourful burst as you guide Sonic to the next round exit. You can take the express route, or spend time exploring each zone for secret passages, breakable walls, and heaps of hidden powerups lurking inside Sonic TV sets. Find the sparkling powerup for invincibility, a mini shield to save you from death, ten ring treasure sets, the Sonic face for an extra life, and, most fun of all, Sonic shoes which send you, and the music, racing like mad for the next half a minute.

As you run, don't forget to collect the rings you see by jumping into them. Collect 100 of them, and you'll score and extra life! They also give you points and save you from certain death when you're hit by one of the nasty robots. Find hidden springs to bounce high into the sky and score even more rings!



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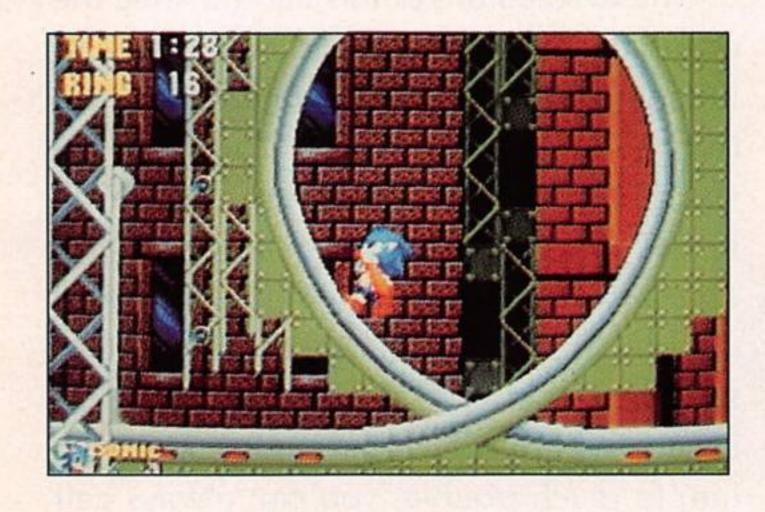


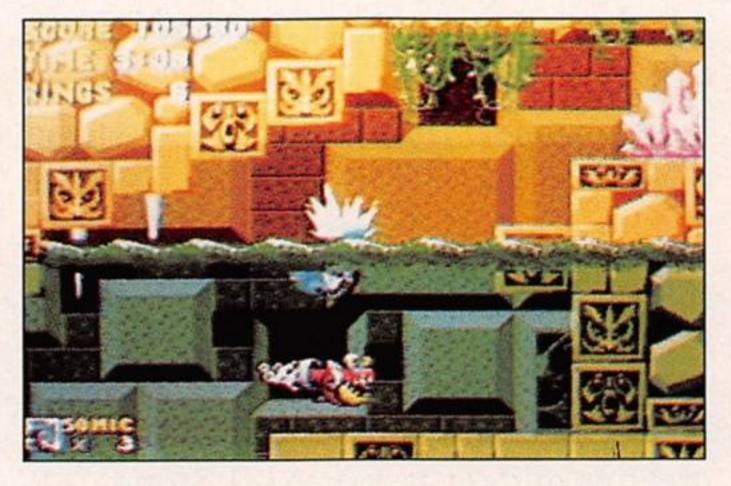
Sonic faces six different zones, with three different acts in each, before fighting the evil Dr Eggy (what a stinker!) in his space ship (left).

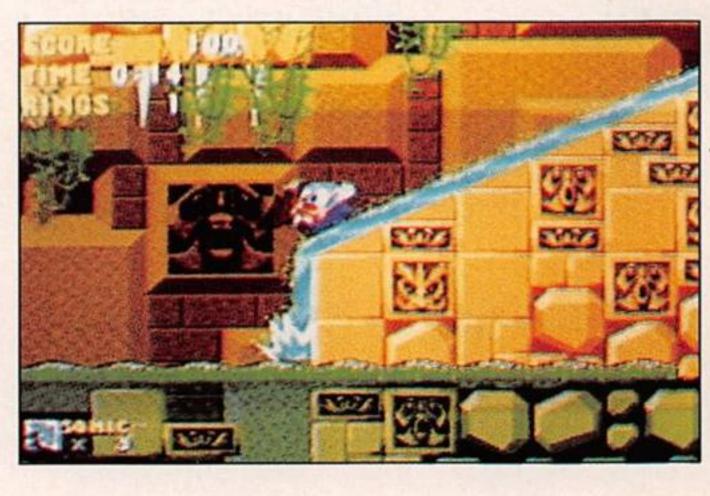
Right:
Top-Green Hill,
Centre-Marble,
Bottom- Spring Yard;
Below: Labyrinth,
Below left: Starlight.
We can't show you
Clockwork, because we
haven't made it there yet!











Difficulty is in this game is just about right. It's not too hard, but you can easily spend days playing Sonic, getting used to levels and looking for heaps of hidden stuff. The levels are huge: you can explore up, down or sideways all you want.

Graphics are stunning. They're full of great colour, depth and detail. Backgrounds feature parallax scrolling, and sprite movement throughout is smooth and even at top speed. Music and sound effects are pretty hip, too!

Apparently Sega plans to release Sonic for the Game Gear and Master System by Christmas. Sonic the Hedgehog is addictive, colourful, and just plain HOT! He's the fastest hero on the block!

## Megazone Rating

Game Play >>>>> 94%) Presentation >>>> 90%)
Graphics >>>>>> 96%) Difficulty >>>>>> 92%)
Music >>>>>>> 86%) Lasting Interest >>>> 92%)
Sound >>>>>> 82%) Value for Money >>>> 98%)

TOTAL: Sonic the Hedgehog >> 92%