

GENESIS PRO REVIEW



By Boogie Man

Life is a groove for Sonic the Hedgehog, until an evil scientist turns all of his animal buddies into weird mechanical monsters. Now, he's out to prove that although he may just be a little forest dweller, he's got a big heart. And he's about to put it on the line to save his pals.

Hedgehog Heaven

Sonic the Hedgehog is Sega's latest for the Genesis and it could well be the greatest. This is a gorgeous cart with lightning-fast action. You'll need quick reflexes and quick thinking because Sonic is a quick little dude.



Even the brink of disaster looks good.

He's got to race across six humongous Zones each with three stages, all packed with thumb-blistering action and eye-popping graphics. Sonic the Hedgehog's multi-scrolling graphics are a knockout, easily the most impressive pix and animation in a Genesis cart yet. The backgrounds in particular are fantastic. For example, the Marble Zone is filled



Sonic gets into sticky situations.

with ancient stone ruins and the Star-Light Zone is an ultra-modern high rise structure. Although the misguided evil creatures are sharp-looking but standard visual stuff, Sonic is a cute little guy, who sports a treasure trove of facial expressions and body poses.

A Perilous Journey

You'll want to cross Sonic's world any way you can, of course, but along the way you'll notice that some stages feature different levels of action. You can work your way straight across the land from wherever you begin. But you can also take high roads or low roads. Blaze



Build up speed to make the loops.

a trail across the sky or drop down into the depths onto mountain ledges or underwater passages.

The evil scientist has strewn all sorts of obstacles across Sonic's path. He must make death-defying leaps across spike-laden chasms, race across crumbling land bridges, and hop onto moving platforms. Dead ends and deadly things are everywhere.

PROTIP: At the very beginning of the Labyrinth Zone, Stage 1 you can skip some obstacles by jumping up out of the screen into the hidden level. You can't see Sonic but the screen will scroll by.

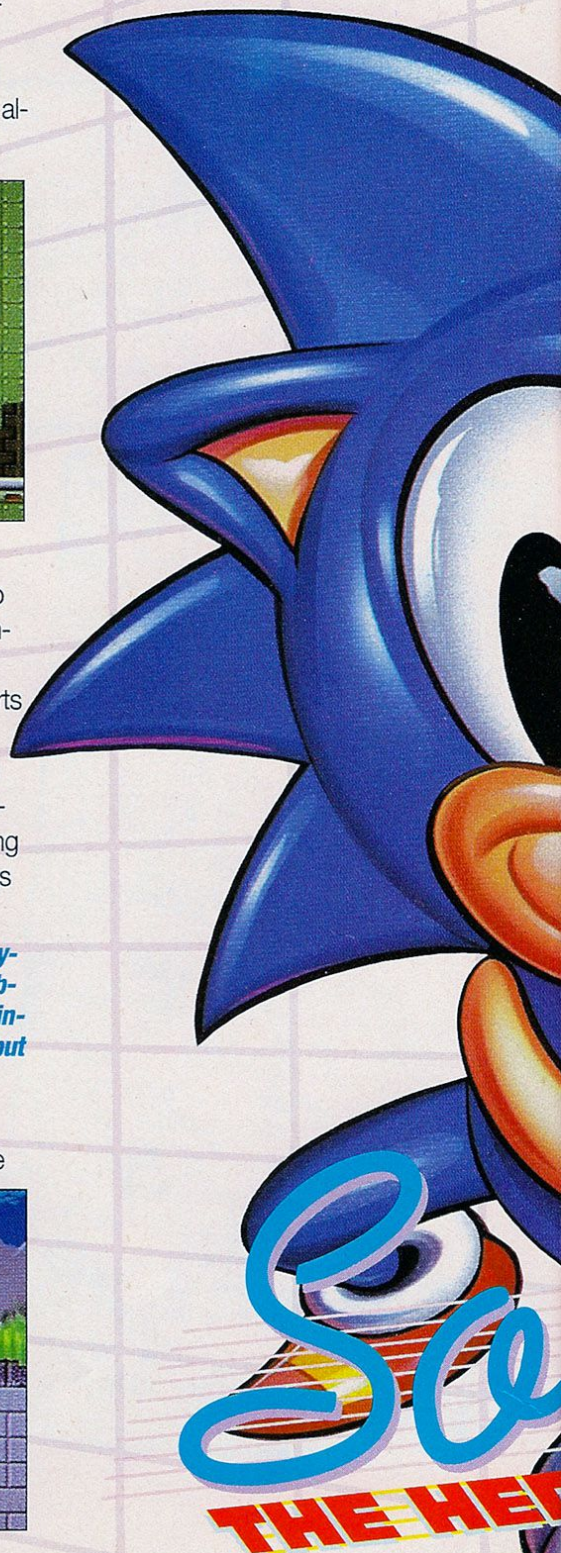
Sonic takes on an army of bionic creatures including motorized bugs, me



Computers contain powerups.

chanical wasps, metallic crabs, and scaly scorpions. Of course, these bionic beasts are really Sonic's transformed friends, but they're hedgehog headhunters until you jump on them. Beat a boss and you might release a bunch of buddies.

PROTIP: Take out the hovercraft dude in the Green Hill Zone, Stage 3 by standing under



the floating hunk of land on the left side and then jumping onto it him after his pendulum passes by you.

Speed Bumps

No Genesis cart squeezes more fun out of just running and jumping than Sonic. The hedgehog's weapons are his body spikes, which he uses by rolling into a

ball and slamming into his adversaries. Of course, they don't die; they just turn into cute little bunny rabbits and things that hop away happily once they're freed.

PROTIP: *You can't jump on top of the spiked crabs in the Marble Zone. Try to jump up into them from below.*

PROTIP: *If you run into mountain walls with enough speed, you can blast them apart.*

You, however, really take your lumps, but there's protection all around you. There's a king's ransom in Gold Rings floating in the air just waiting for you to grab them. They protect you, and they build up towards extra lives. However, even though your rings prevent you from losing a life when you get hit, you lose all your rings. The evil dude has also care-



Get hit and you lose all your Rings!

lessly left behind computer terminals that hold special powerups. Break them open to find 1-Ups, temporary shields, Gold Rings, and super speed.

PROTIP: *You can take hits as long as you have at least one ring in your possession.*

PROTIP: *When a creature forces you to drop rings, try to grab at least one while they bounce around. You need the protection.*

PROTIP: *To get the 1-Up from the computer at the very beginning of the Star Light Zone, Stage 1, that's blocked by the split platforms. Run down the ramps and jump across the drop off. Now, turn around and run back up the ramps to find the computer unblocked.*

Even without a power-up, Sonic's the fastest creature on two legs that the Genesis has ever seen. In fact, sometimes he's just a blur, and you may find yourself in a hidden level or another section of the game without ever knowing how you got there.



Sometimes a boost helps.

PROTIP: *Sonic's so fast he can run past death-dealing blasts such as fireballs or bug blasts, but they hurt him if he stops and they catch up to him.*

That's another fun aspect of the game. Sonic's world is full of unseen surprises including secret doors, invisible levels, and hidden powerups. You'll re-play levels or the entire game just to find all the things you missed.



Sonic goes high-tech, too!

You also get a special bonus stage that must be seen to be believed! Sonic's caught in a huge floating maze that rotates around the screen. The psychedelic backgrounds here are awesome!

Super Sonic

Sonic the Hedgehog is a class act all the way. It shows what determined programmers, artists, and game designers can do when they really set out to produce a winner. Don't hedge your bets on Sonic the Hedgehog!



Sonic the Hedgehog by Sega
 Price not available
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