



Ultimate Nintendo: Guide to the NES Library, 1985-1995

Pat Contri

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Ultimate Nintendo: Guide to the NES Library 1985-1995 is an expansive and thorough look at one of the greatest video game libraries of all time - the Nintendo Entertainment System. This 450 page book covers all licensed and unlicensed games released during the system's lifespan, and features information and reviews on hundreds of classic (and not so classic) 8-bit games.

The NES had nearly 800 unique game cartridges released for it during its lifetime. While almost every video game fan has played or at least heard of the more famous titles, there were many, many games that weren't as popular or well-known. This book features all of them, with detailed information such as the release date, developer, publisher, genre, availability, and more, as well as a review and rating for each title. There's also a separate "Reflections" section for each game where the author of that review can expound upon the game more, comment on interesting aspects of the game, or even go off on a tangent about video game history, or muse about childhood memories or a humorous anecdote the game may have conjured up.

Foreword: graciously written by Blake Harris, author of the hit video game history/drama book Console Wars!

750+ North American game reviews and reflections

30+ PAL exclusive reviews

10 HES exclusive reviews

Test cart overview

Promo/special game carts

North American game cart variants

Popular NES controllers and accessories

Unreleased NES Game Examples

Supplemental Articles:

"Horror on the NES" by James Rolfe

"How the NES Zapper Works" by Joey Desena

"In Their Words - The NES Launch" by Frank Cifaldi

"Color Dreams and Wisdom Tree" by Karen Niemla

"Tengen and the Nintendo Lawsuit" by Norm Caruso

"The Dragon Warrior Giveaway" by Pat Contri

"Nintendo's Censorship Hypocrisy" by Pat Contri

"From Plastic to Pixels" by Dan Eardley

"Why Was Music So Good on the NES?" by Brent Black

"The Licensed Property NES Game Addiction" by Andre Meadows

Ultimate Nintendo: Guide to the NES Library, 1985–1995 Details

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Adam says

Not so much a book that you read cover to cover but more of a definitive reference. I can hardly imagine the work that went into putting this together.

This is mainly for collectors and NES enthusiasts but can also be enjoyed as a coffee table book for any retro gamer. Although I don't agree with every game review they are always balanced, fair, and well researched with enough information to get you salivating for your next big cartridge hunt.

I really enjoy this book and it would be awesome if someday there is one for the SNES.

Robert Bussie says

This book is extraordinarily researched. It is hardcover and well made. It has glossy pages with game play information and lots of colorful images of every NES game released in America, Europe and Australia. Each game also has a personal reflection about the game from the reviewer. This adds a more intimate feeling to the well researched facts.

There is also information on hardware, unreleased games, censorship and a few other interesting subjects.

The only opinion I have is that the images of the games are a bit small at 2 x 2 inches. The images are clear and colorful, however, as a lover of video games I wanted larger pictures. Again, just my opinion and does not take away from the enjoyment of this book.

This book may seem a bit expensive at \$59.99, however it is worth every penny. This book is recommended for NES fans, video game fans, and libraries. I ordered this book for my library and it has become a very popular item.

Dale Kulas says

I learned about a ton of new or long-forgotten NES games from Pat's book here as it reviews every single licensed and unlicensed NES game that came out in America. Most of the reviews do not seem like rush-jobs either and give a basic rundown of everything that was available in each game. If I were to nitpick, the writing for the most part is fairly colloquial for the most part, but that is not a huge deal-breaker by any means.

Most pages have two reviews on a page, with the exception of several NES blockbusters like the Mario Bros., Zelda, etc which get a full page for a review. This took me a year and a half to finish because I stuck to reading a page before bed 4-5 days a week and it being nearly 800 pages meant it took quite awhile. I do not regret it however, as I rediscovered many NES classics I have not thought of in ages and by the time I finished this book it caused me to hunt down several old NES games online.

While the book is almost entirely devoted to reviewing the American library, there are sections devoted to reviewing all the European and Australian exclusive releases and about 20-30 pages of bonus editorials on pivotal NES history moments that I was mostly familiar with, but appreciated the refresher! I would highly recommend this anthology piece as great bedtime reading like I did, or as the perfect coffee table book to entertain your friends with!

Chris Neumann says

The fact that a book like this finally exists is pretty incredible, and a dream come true for my inner child. Pat Contri (Pat the NES Punk), really knocked it out of the park with this one! This HUGE reference guide (over 800+ reviews!) covers every single game ever released for the Nintendo Entertainment System. Each game also receives its very own personal reflection, as well as some outstanding guest articles from contributors like James Rolfe (AVGN), Andre Meadows (Black Nerd Comedy), as well as many more.

This is a fantastic guide for anyone interested in collecting (or just reading about) old NES titles. A must have... and kudos to everyone involved in its creation!
