

Wii waited in line, now Wii can play!

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The new console from Nintendo hit stores last month and though its name, Wii, is a bit unorthodox it offers a plethora of unique gaming experiences.

Hitting shelves at 12 a.m. on Nov. 19, the Nintendo Wii is the cheapest of the next generation consoles. For the low, low price of \$250, buyers receive the console, the Wii Remote, Nunchuk attachment and Wii Sports.

Though this may not seem very cheap, in comparison to the PS3 and Xbox 360, costing \$600 and \$400 respectively, it is a great buy. But just because it's the cheapest of the next generation systems, that doesn't mean it's not the best. The Wii offers engaging game play at an affordable price.

The Wii is the only next generation console to bring any real innovation to the table. Sure, both other consoles hype up their fantastic graphics and amazing processing power, but do they do anything truly original? Not really.

The Wii's controller, which resembles a television remote control, is totally motion sensitive, tracking side to side, up and down, and is even sensitive to a jab forward or a pull back. Swinging the Wii Remote will translate to your character swinging his baseball bat; pointing the remote at the television will act like a PC for first person shooters, your crosshairs will move with the movement of the remote. This is the basic premise behind the Wii's control style.

The Wii's unique attachment system also allows for an almost unlimited amount of expansion from the basic Wii Remote controls. Through a port at the bottom of the remote, additional control functions can be added. At launch, the only expansions available are the Nunchuk attachment, which adds two extra trigger buttons, an analogue stick and complete motion sensitivity on the attachment. The only other expansion from the Wii Remote is the classic controller. This attachment closely resembles a controller from



Nintendo's "Legend of Zelda: Twilight Princess"

the SNES (Super Nintendo Entertainment System) with two added analogue sticks and triggers.

For now, the only thing that the Classic Controller can be used for is playing games that are downloaded from Nintendo's Virtual Console. The Virtual Console is Nintendo's reach into the past to draw on all of its console's classics. Through an internet connection you can download classic games from every Nintendo console up to the Nintendo 64 along with games from the Sega Genesis and TurboGrafx-16.

Launch titles for the Wii are varied and original, all of them using the unique Wii control scheme in some way or another. Franchised

games, such as Madden Football and the Call of Duty series make their debut on the Wii with all new controls that make the game all the more fun and engaging. (Using the Wii Remote to throw the football and whipping the remote to

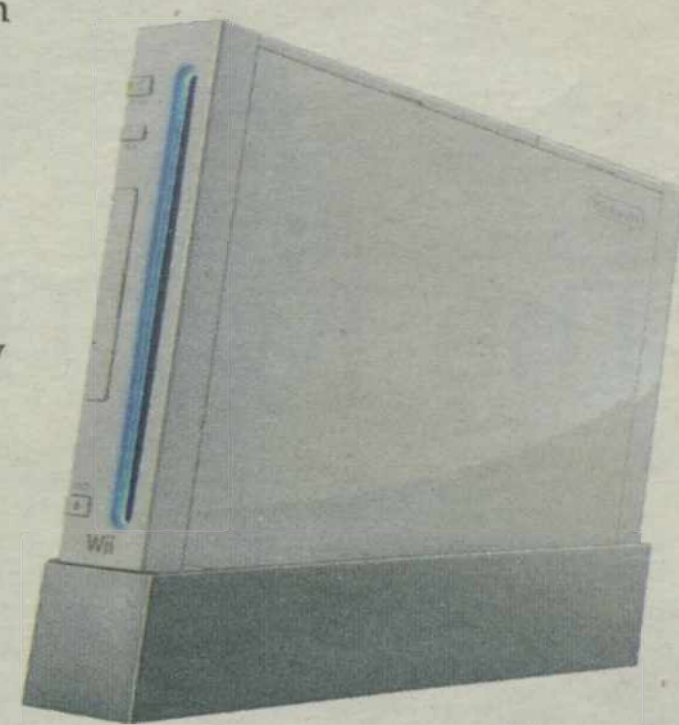
smash a Nazi with the butt of your gun.)

One game that anyone getting the Wii will experience is Wii Sports, which is packaged with the system. Wii Sports contains five sports games that all use the innovative Wii Remote in different ways: bowling has you lobbing balls with an underhand toss; baseball has you pitching and hitting with Wii Remote movements; boxing has you throwing punches using the Wii Remote and Nunchuk attachment as your fists. Accompanied with golf and tennis, Wii sports is an addictive tech demo that displays all the Wii's possibilities.

Possibly the most anticipated game to come out with the Wii's launch is the latest title in the venerated, Legend of Zelda series, "Legend of Zelda: Twilight Princess." This game features an incredible amount of control depth, with a swing of the remote translating to a swing of the sword and pinpoint accuracy when using the games many projectile items such as the slingshot or bow. Most people looking to buy only one game on the Wii's launch immediately went for "Twilight Princess," as it offered the guarantee of great game play that comes with every title in the Zelda series. After playing through

the game myself, it can be said that the only other title comparable to "Twilight Princess" is the Nintendo 64 Zelda game, "Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time" which, by many gamers, is considered the best video game of all time and is still the standard by which all other action-adventure games are judged.

The only real drawback to owning a Wii is the ability to acquire more than one controller. The Wii Remote and Nunchuk attachment, though packaged together with the system, are sold separately on retail shelves and gamers are expected to pay \$30 for a second stand alone remote, while a second Nunchuk costs another \$20. Besides having your friends buy their own Wii (never a bad idea), the only surefire way



Wii Console

of getting more controllers is to pony up the \$50 so that you can experience the glory of playing with friends.

Of all the next generation consoles that have come out this year, Wii is by far the best buy. With fun games, innovative controls and at a price that is affordable for many, the Nintendo Wii is a must for any gamer and an enjoyable surprise for non-gamers.



Wii Remote & Nunchuk attachment



Wii Classic Controller

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