

Kirigaya Kazuto

Kirigaya Kazuto (桐ヶ谷 和人, *Kirigaya Kazuto*[?]), born as **Narusaka Kazuto** (鳴坂 和人 (なるさか かずと), *Narusaka Kazuto*[?])^[1], and known as **Kirito** (キリト, *Kirito*[?]) in «[Sword Art Online](#)» (SAO), «[ALfheim Online](#)» (ALO), «[Gun Gale Online](#)» (GGO), and «[Project Alicization](#)», is the protagonist of the main [Sword Art Online series](#).

Kirito was chosen to be one of the one thousand [beta testers](#) for the closed beta of Sword Art Online, the first ever Virtual Reality Massively Multiplayer Online Role-Playing Game ([VRMMORPG](#)) for the [NerveGear](#), and later joined the official version of the game. He thus became one of the 10,000 players who were trapped in Sword Art Online, where he remained a [solo player](#) for the majority of the game, willingly taking on the role of a [Beater](#) to reduce discrimination against other former beta testers, as well as actively taking part in [Boss](#) battles as one of the [Clearers](#). Kirito temporarily became a member of the [Moonlit Black Cats](#) after helping them safely escape a dangerous [dungeon](#), but returned to being a solo player when a fatal error resulted in the death of the other guild members. At some point in the game, Kirito became known as the «Black Swordsman» (黒の剣士, *Kuro no Kenshi*[?]) due to his tendency to wear black clothing. Near the end of the game, Kirito joined the [Knights of the Blood](#) due to losing a wager with its leader, [Heathcliff](#). Kirito eventually put an end to the game by defeating the final boss, thus clearing the game.

As [Asuna](#) and a small group of Sword Art Online survivors were not logged out from Sword Art Online in the aftermath of the incident, Kazuto began playing ALfheim Online as a [Spriggan](#) due to seeing an in-game screenshot of what resembled Asuna, and thus wanting to investigate the matter. After freeing the three hundred remaining captives, Kazuto continued playing ALfheim Online, under [new management](#), with his old friends from Sword Art Online, as well as new friends from ALfheim Online.

Due to the request of [Kikuoka Seijirou](#), Kazuto temporarily converted his ALfheim Online avatar to Gun Gale Online via [The Seed](#) to investigate a series of strange deaths, rumoured to be associated with a mysterious player, referring to himself as [Death Gun](#). Thus, Kirito took part in the largest tournament in the game, the [Bullet of Bullets](#), to attract the attention of the mysterious player.

In the aftermath of the incident, Kazuto returned with his avatar to ALfheim Online and continued playing it with his friends. Several months later, Kazuto was offered a part-time job to test a new [FullDive](#) machine known as the [Soul Translator](#), but unbeknownst to him, he was actually helping with a military project known as Project Alicization.



Appearance

Kirito described the appearance of his avatar at the beginning of the game and the beta-testing phase as having the appearance of a ridiculously handsome protagonist from some fantasy animation, looking noticeably older than he actually was.^[10] His in-game height was equal to that of his height in the real world to prevent the extra height from hindering his movements.^[11]

In the full version of the game, during Kayaba Akihiko's tutorial, all player avatars were changed to reflect their real life appearances. After this change, Kirito's SAO avatar had slightly long but neat black hair and black eyes. His delicate face showed no trace of masculinity, allowing people to easily mistake him for a girl.^{[11][12]}

Kirito's clothes later in the game consisted of black pants with a black belt that had a large silver buckle, a black V-necked shirt that was worn underneath a black trench-coat with gray lining going down the sleeves, and black boots with silver plates to protect his shins. He had a silver plate worn on the left side of his coat, and a pair of black fingerless gloves. He wore a strap that went over his right shoulder and under it to wrap around his left side.^[13] In the last months of the game, he used «[Elucidator](#)» and «[Dark Repulser](#)» as his main weapons. After being defeated by Heathcliff in a public [duel](#) and being forced to join his guild, Kirito donned the red and white uniform of the Knights of the Blood.^[14]

At the beginning of [Project Alicization](#), Kirito wore a hand-sewn pale blue short-sleeved shirt with a V-shaped cut on the chest which was tied with a light brown cord along with trousers and hand-sewn leather shoes.^[15] Two years later, after he became a valet in the [Sword Mastery Academy](#), he wore the standard gray uniform, like all first years and non-elite swordsmen do.^{[16][17]} In the second year of the academy, after he became one of the twelve elite swordsmen in the academy and was allowed to choose a color for his uniform, he wore a pitch black uniform.^[18]