

The Mega Man X Compedium

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Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 About this document

This document aims to be a compendium of all the knowledge available of Megaman X games, from main plot/lore to game mechanics, including trivia, fun facts and even glitches/bugs. For each games in the series information regarding story, characters (although only in a superficial way), weapons, game mechanics will be presented, as well as an analysis of each stage including its secrets and boss (with both story-related and game game-related information). Following games analysis, a more accurate and complete description of each characters will be presented, combining pieces of information coming from different sources, both in-game and from other official materials.

This document is meant to be accessible and understandable to everyone, from experienced players to new ones, from people who want to learn more about the franchise's lore to ones who want to discover tricks and secret of each games. Moreover it is open for editing to anybody: everyone can suggest additions if something is missing or modifications if any mistakes were made.

Finally, one last remark has to be done. This document is not meant to be a guide of any kind, nor for new players or speedrunners. While some tips for both of these categories will be gives, what is presented here should not be taken as a guide of any kind.

Chapter 2

Mega Man X

Mega Man X is born as a spin-off game of the classic Mega Man franchise for the Super Famicom/SNES consoles (later also for PC) between the 1993 and the 1995[1]. The game takes place one hundred years after the main franchise timeline, in a world where humans and special robots capable of having feelings co-exists and where X, one of those robots, fights the evil Sigma which aims to eliminate humans on order to have a world only for robots.

In the year 2005 a remake for PlayStation Portable was done, upgrading to a 3D graphic close to the precedent title, Mega Man X8. This game (named *Maverick Hunter X* or *MHX* in short) had the purpose to re-tell the first game's story with some minor changes such as X relationship with Mavericks and Sigma, which weren't present in the original game. Changes also effected level design, such as Light's capsule positions or Sigma stages, completely different from original ones.

2.1 Main plot (X)

In the year 21XX humans live peacefully with new kind of robots: reploids. Reploids (??) are particular type of robots with the ability to take autonomous decisions as well as having feelings and sentiments[2]. However sometimes a reploid' electric brain can undergo malfunctioning making him act dangerously for nearby humans and others reploids . When this happen the reploid is labeled as "Maverick" and has to be stopped, in order to be repaired or disposed, by a special organization created with the exact purpose to stop mavericks: the Maverick Hunters. Leader of the Maverick Hunters is Sigma, one of the most advanced reploid of the time.

The situation takes a turn when Sigma himself go maverick, declaring war against humanity and recruiting in its rank other maverick hunters, both willing to follow him or threatened by Sigma himself. In order to stop the war X, the main protagonist of the story, decides to joining the fight alongside Zero (a close friend of him) on the highway under attack, but is stopped by Vile, an ex-

haunter released by Sigma from prison, in his ride armor. Only the intervention of Zero himself, which force Vile to flee, allow X to escape safely. The two then decide to split: while Zero goes to locate the enemy fortress, X has to deal with the threat of Sigma's mavericks. As X defeats all the eight mavericks, acquiring in the process new power-ups and strength, he joins Zero who in the meanwhile has located the Sigma fortress flying over the sea. At the entrance however they are immediately confronted with Vile and his ride armor, which first manages to capture Zero (that challenged him in a one-versus-one fight) and subsequently X too. As Vile laughs at his victory, Zero manages to escape from his cage, latches on the ride armor and detonates himself, destroying it but leaving Vile untouched. Seeing his friend's action give X new energy, allowing him to break free too and face Vile, now vulnerable, defeating him in the process. Before going on however X listens to Zero's ultimate words[3]. Zero informs X that his auto-repair system cannot handle all damages taken and that X has a power even greater than his own, which makes him capable of face Sigma (eventually Zero also gives X his own Z-buster if he didn't manage to get his own buster upgrade). After that, Zero dies and X proceeds infiltrating Sigma's fortress and his dangers, including re-facing all the previously-defeated mavericks. At the end X arrives at Sigma's place where Sigma is waiting. At first Sigma acts with arrogance, looking surprised that X has managed to reach him with his only forces and claiming he could destroy him without effort. However he decides to leave the pleasure to his pet Velguarder, as he leaves the scene to assist at the fight. After X successfully manages to destroy Velguarder, Sigma changes his mind a little, understanding why Zero placed his trust in X and claiming X could have been an hunter as strong as he was. After that he proceeds to confront X, but gets defeat and his body destroyed, only his head remaining which merges with a giant wolf-based mechaniloid in the room, giving Sigma a new body to fight X. However X succeeds in destroying the new body as well, effectively getting rid of Sigma for good. As Sigma blames X for destroying his dream of a world only for replugins, Sigma himself and the fortress start to explode, forcing X to teleport to the outside. In the end X ponders about the destruction he helped to generate, on the sacrifices made for the victory, and questioning if choosing to fight was the right choice, meditating if another option was possible. As the flying fortress sinks in the ocean, X realizes that he will have to fight more battles before having the answers he needs. After the game's credits, it is then revealed that the next battle will not take long before occurring, since a message from Sigma is played, where the maverick states that his spirit is still intact and waiting for a new body to be built for face X again.

2.2 Main Plot (*MHX*)

While being for the major part similar to the original plot, *Maverick Hunter X* takes some divergence regarding characters relationship as well as X's background [4]. One of the main divergence point regard X's story prior to the war's start. Next is a summary of *Maverick Hunter X* differences respect *X1*.

An in-depth background of the war is given, via the “Day of Σ ” ?? OVA, explaining how Sigma started his revolution. Here X’s background is also changed, now being already a Maverick Hunter (in contrast with the original, where no information are available) serving in the 17th Elite Unit alongside Zero and commanded by Sigma himself. X’s hunter rank is B (in contrast to Zero’s SA rank) due to his kindness and pacifist spirit, the only ones suspecting of his true potential being again Zero and Sigma.

Another character with an expanded background is Vile. Here he aims to destroy both X and Sigma, to create his own world, hence following Sigma plans only due the fact some objectives they have match.

Last main difference regards the final portion of the story[5]. In fact, while in the original X and Zero immediately face Vile as they enter Sigma fortress, here X first travel through the fortress, facing previous bosses brought back to life, and only at end he meets with Zero and is stopped by Vile. As the main story, however, Vile captures both of them, resulting in Zero sacrificing and X destroying him. Finally, even Sigma has a different attitude regarding X due already suspecting X’s great potential. In fact he first tests X by making him fight Velguarder (in contrast with the original game, where Sigma use Velguarder thinking to be sufficient to defeat X) and then challenges X himself, ending in the same way as the original story.

2.3 Main Characters

2.3.1 X

X(??) is the first type of a new kind of sentient robot capable of having feeling and take decision of his own developed by Dr. Thomas Light in the year 20XX. Being provided with great power, Dr. Light needed to ensure X’s integrity by running a series of test which would have required thirty years to be completed. Unlikely, Dr. Light lifespan didn’t allow himself to live longer to complete all tests, so he sealed X in a capsule capable of run the tests in autonomy.

In the year 21XX X’s capsule is found by Dr. Cain?? during an archaeological expedition[6],[7]. Dr. Cain awakes X and, using Light’s designs and X help, develop a new kind of robot later called “Reploids”. X however remains questioning about his place in the world and the future Dr. Light wanted for him. Despite this, when the evil Sigma starts his war against human kind, X is forced to step up and fight in order to restore peace alongside his friend Zero.

What told until now refers to the original role of X in the *X1* game. Nevertheless, as stated before, *Maverick Hunter X* re-write X’s story by providing a new background for events prior to Sigma’s revolt. In this continuity Dr. light seals X away not for testing his integrity, but rather believing the world not to be ready for X’s technology and potential. Here Light is firmly convinced that X has a good spirit and that he will use his power to achieve peace[8]. Moreover after his awakening X joins the Maverick Hunters (which do not happen in the original story), serving in the 17th Elite Unit, alongside Zero and under the

direct command of Sigma. Despite having great potential, however, X's hunter rank is only B (in contrast with the SA rank of Zero) due to what seems to be his lack of decision during battle. In reality this is caused by his pacifist nature, making him reluctant to fight and preventing him to use his real power[2]. Nevertheless, when the evil Sigma starts his war against human kind, X is forced to step up and fight in order to restore peace together with Zero.

2.3.2 Zero

Fighting alongside X against Sigma is Zero???. In the original *X1* game, very few information are given regarding Zero, except being a friend of X and the new leader of the Maverick Hunters[6], having the highest rank above all hunters which didn't side with Sigma. Different is the situation in the *MHX* game, where Zero's relationship with X is explained better, the former being close friend and a mentor for X in the 17th Elite Unit, having an SA hunter rank and working under Sigma. Here it is also stated how Zero repels evil with all his strength, fighting mercilessly against Maverick, Sigma included[2].

In any case, Zero's story is the same for both games. He first appears at the end of the highway saving X from Vile's grasp, and asking X to take care of Sigma forces while he locates the enemy hideout. Next he's seen at the entrance of Sigma fortress where he suggests to split up, offering to act as decoy to let X sneak inside. Lastly Zero is seen for the last time at the final battle with Vile, where he sacrifices himself to destroy Vile's armor and allow X to defeat him. Finally with his last words he asks X to go and take down Sigma, eventually giving X his own Z-buster, in case X hasn't upgraded it yet.

2.4 Game Mechanics

Mega Man X's gameplay stays faithful to its original series by being a 2D hybrid between a run'n'gun and a platform, where the main protagonist (X in this case) has to clear different stages in order to unlock the final area of the game. Each stage has its own theme, contains a certain number of items to collect (depending on the stage it could be one or more) which may require other power-ups to be collected first in order to be obtained (typically bosses weapons). Finally at the end of the stage a boss waits, which has to be defeated in order to clear the stage and which will give X a new weapon based on one of his attacks. As the original series all main stages can be accessed in any order and all bosses present has a "weak point" corresponding to a weapon obtained from defeating one another boss first. The "weak point" typically consists in a weapon dealing more damage to the boss, but sometimes other effects can occur, such as stunning him or preventing him to do certain actions.

X1 introduces however some new mechanics which will later define the series[9]:

- Dash: X, via the boot parts, can dash and move faster, as well as jump higher via a dash-jump.

- Wall-jumping: X can jump onto wall in order to climb them or can slide down to descend slowly. He can also dash-jump off to a wall to cover a greater distance.
- Armor parts(2.6): By finding Light's capsules (four in total) X can be upgraded unlocking new powers which can help the player during the game.
- Sub-Weapon charging2.5: via the buster upgrade, X can not only charge his main X-buster, as the main series, but he can also charge his other sub-weapon to increase damage dealt or change their functionalities.
- Heart tanks: beside classical Sub-tank X, eight heart tank are also scattered in various stages (one per each). By picking them up X's energy grows by two, starting from 16 up to a maximum of 32[10].
- Stage interactions: although a very limited feature, by clearing certain stages, other ones will be effected and change in some portions.

2.5 Weapons

Here is a list of all sub-weapons available in *Mega Man X* / *Mega Man Maverick Hunter X* ([11],[12]):

2.5.1 Shotgun Ice

Shotgun Ice is the weapon obtained by X after defeating Chill Penguin. It absorbs moisture in the air and fires it in crystallized form. If it hits an enemy or a hard surface, it breaks into 5 pieces which ricochet backward and get destroyed if hit another wall or enemy. When charged it creates an Chill Penguin-shaped ice platform (only in *X1*, while in *MHX* is only a sharp sled of ice) in similarly to how the boss creates his ice sculpture. X can stand on the platform which will start moving forward shortly after being created. If X creates the platform and then places himself in the same spot where the platform is creating (due the fact that the creation is not immediate) the platform will slightly push X left or right depending of its position, enabling some glitches such as wall clipping(2.18, only in *X1*).

2.5.2 Electric Spark

Electric spark creates high-pressure voltage within the X-Buster and fires it, for a maximum of three at time. If the electric spark hits an hard surface, it splits in half, starting to travel up and down along the surface. The charged version of this weapon differs between the original game and his remake. In *X1* upon charged X will release two electric columns in front and behind him and which will move in their respective directions, while in *MHX* X will generate electricity in all directions. This weapon is acquired upon defeating Spark Mandrill.

2.5.3 Rolling Shield

After beating Armored Armadillo, X will gain the Rolling Shield. By using it X spins energy at high speeds within the Buster and launches it as an energy shot that rolls along the ground. The generated projectile is about the same size as X (half in *MHX*) and will roll following the ground until making contact with an enemy or disappear after a while. Only in *MHX* the shield will absorb any projectile directed toward it, as well as dispose Mets even while hiding[13]. Upon contact with a wall, the shield will ricochet once and disappear upon hitting a wall again. When charged X will surround himself with an energy field which eliminates any enemy with less than three hit points that hit it, but will disappear upon contact with enemy with more than that life value. In the original game while the charged shield is active X cannot shoot nor change weapon while in game, requiring the player to change weapon from the pause menu and thus making the shield disappear.

2.5.4 Homing Torpedo

When equipping this sub-weapon X gains the ability to fire up to two (three in *MHX*)[14] torpedoes capable of tracking enemies. As they pick up speed, they home in on the closest enemy and pursue it. When charged X will release a fan of four (six in *MHX*) fish-shaped missiles with greater speed and attack power which home better to enemies. This weapon is obtained after defeating Launch Octopus.

2.5.5 Boomerang Cutter

The Boomerang Cutter is the weapon obtained upon defeating Boomerang Kuwanger. It fires a sharp boomerang made from a special metal. If it does not hit an enemy, it returns to its owner. and if it passes an item on its way back, it picks up the item and delivers it to its own owner (even bringing dropped life/weapon energy from enemies). Up to three cutters can be on screen at the time[15] and their trajectory will depend on the position X was when he fired them: they will arc upwards if X was standing on the ground, while they will arc downwards if X was in the air. If a boomerang successfully return to X without hitting an enemy, it will replenish the energy used to create it. Upon charged X will release four bigger boomerang spiraling out of him diagonally. In *MHX* this has been changed with four boomerang of doubled size which will move back and forward in straight line a few times.

Finally both Flame Mammoth and Launch Octopus, while not being directly weak to Boomerang Cutter, can be heavily damaged when hit with this weapon, the former losing his trunk and the latter his tentacles, resulting in both being unable to perform certain moves.

2.5.6 Chameleon Sting

The Chameleon Sting, obtained after beating Sting Chameleon, emits a single straightforward laser which then splits into three directions: forward, up-forward, down-forward. In *MHX* it instead directly emits three lasers, which can be angled diagonal-up and diagonal-down and are slightly faster. In both games the charged version makes X flash in various colors of the rainbow making him invincible to any damage (besides insta-kill hazards like pits) for a short amount of time. In the original game X cannot switch to any weapon nor shoot the current one while the invincibility is active, meanwhile in the remake is free to fire both with the current one and any other weapon[16].

2.5.7 Storm Tornado

The Storm Tornado turns the X-buster into a high-power fan that blasts opponents with hard-hitting wind, capable of destroying enemies that stand in its path. It shoots an horizontal tornado which stays on the screen for a short amount of time, and then starts moving in the direction X was facing when shot. Due to its length it can hit enemies multiple times, being an effective way to dispose most of them, especially bigger ones. The *MHX* version has its length halved, allowing to shoot it at a faster rate. When charged the Storm Tornado will create a large vortex covering all the screen in high, surrounding X in the original game while exploding from a shot projectile upon hitting a solid surface in the remake.[17] It is obtained by defeating Storm Eagle.

2.5.8 Fire Wave

Fire Wave converts the X-buster into a powerful flamethrower, which deals continuous damage to enemies but that cannot be used underwater. Upon pressing the fire button X will start shooting fire from his X buster at a continuous rate draining energy in the process. Once charged X will fire a fireball which creates a wave of fire upon hitting the ground and moves forward for a while. However in order to charge the weapon X must keep firing, draining energy in the process. This weapon is obtained once Flame Mammoth is defeated.

2.6 First Armor

While exploring stages X can run into one of the four capsules hidden by Dr. Light. When entering in contact the capsule will open revealing Dr. Light's hologram which will talk to X and give him one of the armor parts[18], explaining in the process how it works. The First Armor is composed by the following parts:

- Foot Parts: Namely "Emergency Acceleration System"[6] allow X to dash forward, as well as to perform dash-jumps and wall dash-jumps. Moreover X can destroy specific blocks by wall-jumping onto them. The capsule containing the foot parts reside right in the middle of the Snow Mountain

Stage, being mandatory to take. In *MHX* the capsule is instead at the beginning of Factory stage.

- Body Parts: When equipped, body X will have all incoming damage reduced by 50%. It is found in the Forest stage after climbing the wall right before the cave. After defeating RT-55J the capsule will emerge from the ground. Meanwhile *Maverick Hunter X* has moved it in Storm Eagle Stage, requiring the head part to access it.
- Arm Parts: Allow the X-Buster to be charged up to a third level, and to charge up special weapons. Despite the capsule itself not being mandatory, the game will in any case give the player the buster upgrade in form of the Z-Buster if the player arrives at facing Vile without having found the capsule. While in *X1* there are no differences between the Arm Parts and the Z-Buster, in *MHX* the former allow to shoot the Spiral Shot, which has the same power of the second-level charged shot but is larger and hit multiple times, while the latter deals more damage against bosses than the previous alternatives. In *Mega Man X* the capsule reside in the Factory stage, requiring a precise dash-jump and the Head parts to break some blocks in the ceiling, while in the remake it is in the same place the Body Parts was in the original game.
- Head Parts: When equipped X will gain the ability to break specific blocks with an headbutt, as well as avoid damage from falling rocks in the Forest stage. The capsule is found in the Airport stage, hidden behind an obstacle marked with a flammable warning which can be destroyed simply by shooting at it (it is not required the Fire Wave), and in Flame Mammoth stage in the remake, this time requiring the foot part to break blocks hiding it.
- Hadoken. While not being technically a component of the First Armor, rather a hidden bonus, this technique is stored too inside a Light's capsule so it is reported here. It allows X to perform the well-know technique from *Street Fighter* by inputting the button combination $\downarrow \searrow \rightarrow +$ fire button AND X is at full health. The projectile deals 32 point of damage[19] to all enemies, basically one-shotting every enemy bosses included. The only exception is Sigma's final form, and only in the original *Mega Man X*

2.7 Useful Techniques

2.8 Highway Stage

2.9 Ocean

2.10 Snow Mountain

2.11 Gallery

2.12 Factory

2.13 Airport

2.14 Tower

2.15 Power Plant

2.16 Forest

2.17 Sigma Stage (1-4)

2.18 Miscellaneous

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