

= K ' =

K Dash (??? ???? , Kei Dasshu , commonly stylized as K ? and also known as K Prime in certain English language materials) , is a video game character from The King of Fighters fighting game series developed by SNK . He debuted as the leader of the Hero Team in The King of Fighters ' 99 , released in 1999 . He stars as the reluctant hero in the NESTS syndicate story arc of the series . He was created to be a " dark hero " in contrast to the series ' previous protagonist Kyo Kusanagi .

K ? is a young man who lost all his memories when the NESTS syndicate captured him and injected the DNA of the powerful fighter Kyo into him to copy Kusanagi 's pyrokinetic abilities . Angered by what NESTS did to him , K ' betrays NESTS and decides to destroy them for using his body and deleting all his memories . Although he hates tournaments , K ' uses the King of Fighters tournaments to find NESTS members and defeat them . In his search , he meets allies who have the same goal and joins forces with them . Aside from the main series , K ' also appears in several other media series , such as spin @-@ offs and crossover video games , as well as printed adaptations of the series .

Since his introduction in the series , K ' has received both praise and criticism by video game publications . The character 's gameplay has been praised for its style and differences from previous known fighting styles . His absence in The King of Fighters XII was controversial and his return in the following game was due mainly to his popularity as a character .

= = Conception and creation = =

To contrast the previous protagonist of the series , Kyo Kusanagi , K ' was made to be the " dark hero " . During the early phases of the development of The King of Fighters ' 99 , the introduction of K ' to the series was meant to remove popular characters Kyo Kusanagi and Iori Yagami from the roster ? though this idea was scrapped before the game 's release . Eiji , one of the game 's designers , commented that he thought K ' would be more popular than he turned out to be , noting that K ' was too plain . Nevertheless , character designer Tatsuhiko Kanaoka , better known as " Falcoon " , said K ' was one of his favorite original King of Fighters characters . Music composer Sha @-@ V suggested that K ' should yell " Dora ! " or " Ora ! " to mirror Kyo and Iori 's shouts , " Kurae ! " and " Doushita ! " respectively . Konny , another music composer , jokingly wondered if K ' is trying to say the word " dry " , since the first word of his yell was " Dorei ! "

It has been noted by several of the series ' designers that K ' is one of the most difficult characters to illustrate , since his look is very different when he is drawn by different illustrators . In the early development of the game , K ' had a slicked back hairstyle , but as it was nixed by his powers , the character 's hair was changed . They also jokingly mentioned that the reason for his hair being bushier than it needed to be may be a reflection of the conditions around him . The King of Fighters ' 99 was developed at the same time as Garou : Mark of the Wolves ; developers noted several similarities between K ' and Mark of the Wolves ' main character , Rock Howard , which caused K ' ' s designer to become very nervous . The producer of The King of Fighters 2002 : Unlimited Match , Neogeo Hakase , advised advanced players to use K ' stating that once the player had learned how to control him , the character would become very strong during fights .

For The King of Fighters XIII , K ' ' s design was crafted so that he had a " cool " appearance . Developers liked the result as his moves , such as putting on his sunglasses , were carefully detailed . His gameplay mechanics were developed so that gamers who had used him before would not find his new gameplay mechanics strange . In contrast to Kyo 's flames , K ' ' s were designed with intention of making them look more violent . As a result of various The King of Fighters endings showing K ' removing his red glove , a special move was required to show him doing the same thing . After thinking of several methods that would show this , the staff was inspired by The King of Fighters HK Comics printed adaptations in which the character 's glove once broke after defeating his opponent , leading to his winpose that happens only after he has used his strongest technique . Following various revisions of K ' ' s " Chain Drive " (?????????) technique , in order to better follow the material that inspired the move , the staff decided to make K ' fight while wearing his sunglasses

== Attributes ==

K' is a former subject of an experiment made by the NESTS organization . He stands 183cm (6 ' 0 ") tall and weighs 65kg (143 lbs) . In their attempt to create powerful soldiers , NESTS kidnapped K ' and injected him with DNA from the fighter Kyo Kusanagi , giving him his pyrokinetic skills . Unlike Kyo , K ' is only able to create fire from his right hand , which he is sometimes unable to control . He wears a glove to protect his body from being burned accidentally . During the program , NESTS repressed K ' ' s memories , and he was made to believe that he was Krizalid 's clone . While in NESTS , K ' became enraged with how the organization played with human lives , and escaped to recover his memories . As he could not even remember his name , K ' decided to destroy NESTS in order to stop their experiments . K ' ' s fighting style is simply called Pure Violence which involves him using the fire from his right hand along with martial arts moves .

In the process of destroying NESTS , he becomes allied with Maxima , a cyborg whose best friend was killed by NESTS agents and is seeking to avenge the death . While Maxima sees K ' as a friend and his partner , K ' is stoic and cynical . He also meets Whip , who it is revealed is a clone of his sister , Seirah . Even though Whip reveals her identity to K ' , he ignores this , saying he will do what he pleases . Although he hates The King of Fighters tournaments , he commonly enters them , being asked by someone , or to find NESTS . The participants often criticize him for being antisocial . After destroying NESTS , K ' starts recovering his memories , but he suspects he could forget all the people he has met . He also becomes determined to prove he is better than Kyo , instead of being only a clone .

== Appearances ==

== In video games ==

In The King of Fighters ' 99 , K ' and Maxima hear of a King of Fighters tournament being held by NESTS and decide to participate in it and face NESTS head @-@ on . They form a " Hero Team " along with Benimaru Nikaido and Shingo Yabuki . The Hero Team is taken to a NESTS base , where they meet NESTS ' agent Krizalid , who claims that K ' was cloned from him ; both are ignorant of the fact that K ' was the original . After Krizalid asks K ' to join him , the two end up fighting . Following Krizalid 's defeat , K ' and Maxima become targets of NESTS . In The King of Fighters 2000 , K ' and Maxima enter a new tournament , along with mercenaries Vanessa and Ramon . K ' and Maxima enter the tournament to discover NESTS ' scheme , but Vanessa and Ramon are using them to find NESTS . K ' and his team make it to the finals and face NESTS ' agent Zero . After Zero 's defeat , K ' has a dream involving his sister . He wakes up with Maxima as well as Whip , the clone of his sister .

In The King of Fighters 2001 , K ' , Maxima , and Whip are joined by Lin , a Hizoku assassin who has a grudge against Ron , who betrayed the Hizoku to join NESTS . During the tournament , K ' and his team face the original Zero , the one they met during the events of The King of Fighters 2000 having been a clone , and the new NESTS leader , Igniz , who has the secrets to unlock K ' ' s memories . After Igniz commits suicide , K ' forms an alliance with Kula Diamond , a clone designed to be the Anti @-@ K ' , and her guardian Diana to continue their lives . In The King of Fighters 2002 , a game without a storyline , K ' is a playable character , along with Maxima and Whip . In The King of Fighters 2003 , K ' and Maxima are allowed to enter to that year 's tournament by Chin Gentsai to investigate a dark wave around the King of Fighters . In the finals , K ' faces Mukai , a demon who belongs to the group " Those from the Past " . Although K ' defeats Mukai , he is bothered by Mukai 's taunts about reaching his true potential . In The King of Fighters XI , K ' enters the tournament with Maxima and Kula , in order to surpass his limits . The King of Fighters XIII retains the same team from The King of Fighters XI , with K ' teaming with Kula and Maxima .

Aside from the main series , K ' has also appeared in other media from The King of Fighters series . K ' appears in the spin @-@ off video game series The King of Fighters : Maximum Impact and Neowave . In Neowave , K ' is playable , as are Maxima and Whip ; while in Maximum Impact , he fights alone (as do all characters in the game) . In the Maximum Impact series , he enters into the King of Fighters tournaments searching for the host who sponsored it . In the crossover video game Neo Geo Battle Coliseum , K ' is featured as a playable character .

= = = In other media = = =

In the anime The King of Fighters : Another Day , K ' is featured prominently in the third chapter . K ' also appears in the manhua adaptation of The King of Fighters : Zillion that was created by Andy Seto . He stars in other manhua for the games , starting with The King of Fighters 2001 through 2003 , as well as the Maximum Impact series . He also appears in the CD dramas KOF 2000 , in which he confronts Kula , Diamond , and in KOF : Mid Summer Struggle , in which he appears in a fake King of Fighters tournament . Outside The King of Fighters , the character has appeared in a dating sim part of the Days of Memories series .

= = Reception = =

The character K ' has been well received by fans ; in a 2005 poll by SNK Playmore USA , he was voted the fans ' fourth favorite character , with a total of 338 votes . His character has also been used as the mascot for The King of Fighters 's 15th anniversary . He has received praise and criticism from several video game publications and other media . Scott Daylor from CultureCuartel labelled him a " lame " addition to the character roster in The King of Fighters ' 99 . Andres Rojas from Nintendo World Report referred to K ' as " a fighter not to be reckoned with " as well as a comical " Michael Jackson wannabe " . 1UP.com praised K ' as among the most inspired new character designs in The King of Fighters series since Iori Yagami in The King of Fighters ' 95 , noting his unique fighting style : merely " Violence " which contrasted with other known fighting styles . Additionally , 1UP.com noted that anything involving the character 's sunglasses qualified as the best pose from the game . Similarly , Josh Kramer of Thunderbolt praised K ' ' s design alongside Iori . In another review , Jeremy Dunham of IGN noted that Eolith had re @-@ voiced K ' in The King of Fighters 2001 for PlayStation 2 , listing the character among those that provided " plenty of old @-@ school enjoyment " . FileFactory Games commented that K ' appears in a " fun to watch " CG movie in KOF : Maximum Impact 2 , even though " neither of these movies actually make any sense at all " .

Critics have also commented on the character 's role in the printed adaptations of the franchise . A. E. Sparrow , reviewing the graphic novel King of Fighters 2003 : Volume 4 for IGN , commented that K ' is " sufficiently heroic " with the comic allowing the exploration of his motivations . His duel against Kyo 's clone , Kusanagi , was referred by GenjisPress as " fan @-@ only territory " due to the lack of context . His relationship with his partner Maxima is described as : " hard to tell friend from rival in a story like this , especially for one who is unfamiliar with the game . " Reviewing volume five , Mania Entertainment 's Ben Leary said the K ' -heavy storyline makes " one of the wildest transitions I 've seen in a comic yet " with K ' involved in a conflict related to Japanese mythology for no apparent reason . However , he said that the way K ' receives new powers to defeat Mukai is " self @-@ contradictory " and that " nothing really happens as a result " of this event .

On the official SNK Playmore King of Fighters anniversary website , an image of K ' drawn in the style of the other The King of Fighters XII participants appeared , along with a similar image of Mai Shiranui , leading to speculation that they would appear in the game . UTV Ignition Entertainment 's business development director Shane Bettenhausen refused to answer these rumors , but noted fans asked more often about Mai 's absence . None of them made it into the game which caused discontent within gamers . In an official press releases by Atlus regarding The King of Fighters XIII , it was stated that K ' ' s return was because of popular demand . His return along with his two

teammates , Maxima and Kula , as well as Mai , has been met with praise by video game publications .

Merchandising based on K ' has been released including action figures and clothing for cosplaying .