

= Ibuki ( Street Fighter ) =

Ibuki ( ??? , Ibuki , also written as ?? ) is a fictional character from Capcom 's fighting game franchise Street Fighter , introduced in the original version of Street Fighter III in 1997 . After a few appearances in other games and her own comic book miniseries , she has returned to the main series since Super Street Fighter IV . Ibuki is a young prodigy ninja @-@ in @-@ training from an ancient clan , but who nevertheless would rather like to live normal life of a modern Japanese teenager . She has pet named Don , a close friend in Sakura , and her friendly rivals include R. Mika . Ibuki 's unique , technical and tricky moveset relies on mobility , aggressiveness and deception to be most effective . She has become one of the most popular females in the Street Fighter series , being also regarded by some as one of top ninja characters in all video games .

= = Background = =

Ibuki is a teenage girl from the Glade of Ninjas ( ???? , Shinobi no Sato , " Shinobi Village " ) , a secret village hidden in the mountains of Japan that is home to an ancient ninja clan . Although trained in ninjutsu since infancy , with continuous rigorous training and special missions , Ibuki is otherwise an ordinary high school girl with an attraction to pop idols . She yearns to be more carefree , and prefers ordinary schoolgirl attire over her traditional ninja outfit , which she considers ugly . In battle , she uses taijutsu , a fighting style that combines several Japanese martial arts . Ibuki is 162 cm tall and weighs 46 kg , her measurements are B95 / W57 / H90 , and her birthday is on December 6 .

Ibuki has a pet tanuki ( raccoon dog ) named Don ( ?? ) / Don @-@ chan ( ????? ) , who has been with her since her childhood . Other members of Ibuki 's ninja clan that appear in her stage in the first two Street Fighter III games include Sanj? ( ?? ) , Enj? ( ?? ) , Genda ( ?? ) and Raion ( ?? ) . Ibuki 's friend , appearing in her endings in the original Street Fighter III : New Generation and in Street Fighter III : 2nd Impact , as well in some other games , is a ninja girl named Sarai Kurosawa ( ???? , Kurosawa Sarai ) , who hails in the same village and attends the same high school . The young boy who spars with Ibuki before a match in 3rd Strike is named Y?ta Homura ( ??? , Homura Y?ta ) . It was rumored that original Street Fighter character Geki was her father , but this was never confirmed as canon .

= = Appearances = =

= = = In video games = = =

= = = = Street Fighter = = = =

Ibuki and Elena have been the only female fighters in the Street Fighter III sub @-@ series until they were joined by Makoto and Chun @-@ Li in Street Fighter III : 3rd Strike ( 1999 ) . In the plots of the original Street Fighter III and 2nd Impact , Ibuki is sent by her clan to retrieve a mysterious " G file " from Gill 's organization , the Illuminati . In Ibuki 's game end sequence , Gill hands her the file after their battle . In 3rd Strike , Ibuki shares a special pre @-@ fight introductory sequence with her rival Makoto . She is shown preparing to graduate from high school and is studying for her college application exams , hoping to move away from home to enjoy a normal campus life and find a boyfriend . As part of her final exam , Ibuki is sent to find and defeat the elderly martial arts legend named Oro . In her 3rd Strike ending she is accepted into the fictional Sarusuberi University ( ??????? , Shiritsu Sausuberi Daigaku ) , at first without knowledge of its cover for an elite ninja training camp .

A kunai resembling her is seen in Fei Long 's ending in Street Fighter IV ( 2008 ) . She was later revealed to be playable in Super Street Fighter IV ( 2010 ) , where her introductory sequence shows

her interacting with a fellow Capcom ninja Guy for the first time . Her story for the game depicts her looking for fun and boys to date . Ibuki also meets Sakura Kasugano , as she tries to get Sakura to introduce her to a boy .

Ibuki reappears as a playable character in Street Fighter V as one of the DLC characters released after the game 's launch . She was supposed to arrive in May 2016 but was delayed to July . In her prologue story , Ibuki finally finishes her ninja assignment and is informed by her friend Sakura about the party invitation sent from her rival Karin Kanzuki . Arriving at the Kanzuki Estate , Ibuki fights and defeat Birdie and Karin . After the fight , Karin lest her stay at the party with handsome boys and gives her the contract which has been approved by the Ibuki village to work with her . Ibuki also appears in the end of R. Mika 's prologue story , rejecting her offer in muscle training which angers R. Mika who beats her in a fight . Ibuki and R. Mika continue to argue through the course of the game 's main story , " A Shadow Falls " , which begins when they and Karin travel to the New York City to find out who is behind the activation of the seven Black Moons , eventually finding out it is a Shadaloo plot . During the first infiltration of the Shadaloo base , Ibuki fights Balrog but fails to beat him . She then uses her smoke bomb to distract the enemies and the two sucessfully escape with it until they reunited with Karin . They witness Zangief beat Abel , Ibuki watching in disgust while R. Mika idolizes him . In the final assault against Shadaloo , Ibuki and R. Mika fight off Shadaloo soldiers . Ibuki is last seen watching Shadaloo 's destruction with the other fighters .

== == Other games == ==

Ibuki is one of the characters representing the Street Fighter series in Namco 's crossover fighting game , Street Fighter X Tekken ( 2012 ) , with Rolento as her tag team partner . In it , she is persuaded by her village leaders to accept Rolento 's request for a joint mission to the South Pole , serving as his advisor on infiltration . In the story mode , Rolento initially addresses the very annoyed Ibuki as private but " promotes " her to the rank of sergeant by the end of the game . According to a backstory for the Street Fighter X Tekken DLC ninja costume @-@ swap for the Tekken series ' Asuka Kazama , Asuka was sent Ibuki 's village to learn the ninja arts from her . Ibuki 's own Tekken swap costume is in the style of Yoshimitsu , with her latest assignment having her join his Manji Clan .

A super deformed version of Ibuki is a playable character in the fighting game Super Gem Fighter Mini Mix / Pocket Fighter ( 1997 ) , in which she sneaks off from her ninja training for an ice cream in Tokyo . Ibuki is also playable in the mobile puzzle game Street Fighter : Puzzle Spirits ( 2014 ) , and appears as a card in the browser @-@ based social game Onimusha Soul ( 2012 ) and in person in Street Fighter Battle Combination ( 2015 ) . Her cards also appear in SNK vs. Capcom : Card Fighters Clash ( 1999 ) and SNK vs. Capcom : Card Fighters DS ( 2007 ) . She has a cameo in Capcom Fighting Evolution / Capcom Fighting Jam ( 2004 ) .

Producer / director Ryota Niitsuma originally considered her for inclusion as a playable character in Tatsunoko vs. Capcom : Ultimate All @-@ Stars ( 2008 ) , but she was ultimately cut due to time constraints . The " head student at Ibuki 's ninja village " was supposed to be a new player character in the rejected concept of Street Fighter IV Flashback by Backbone Entertainment , which would also have feature a cameo of a much younger version of Ibuki .

== == Design == ==

The character that became Ibuki has been originally conceived as a ninja boy before the gender was swapped , and the male version 's design might have been re @-@ used for Ibuki 's sparring partner Y?ta Homura . Super Street Fighter IV main battle planner said Ibuki is an " orthodox ninja at first glance , but her character is one of a normal girl , so we are trying to bring out her feminine side in her lines and dialogue as well as in her proportions . " The game 's director said she was probably the most difficult character to make while trying to best show " her charm , even behind the mask , " as " Ibuki is cute even at a first glance , so that might be what you focus on , but we 've also put a lot of effort into her motions and her design . " Ibuki 's English voice actress Kat Steel , hired for her

knowledge of the character displayed during the audition , wrote it " was a treat because her character is sassy , mischievous , and oh so girlish ! " For Street Fighter X Tekken , Capcom abortively planned to give Ibuki some attacks featuring Don .

Ibuki 's build is depicted as slim and athletic , with black hair held tightly back in a topknot ponytail that drops well beneath her waist . Her usual fighting outfit , in which she has appeared in most of the games , is a type of ninja dogi , consisting of a sleeveless upper garment , baggy pants ( slit at the sides ) , arm guards , and a mask that conceals the lower half of her face . Her footwear consists only of cloth bandages wrapped around her shins , ankles and instep . Ibuki 's alternative , everyday costume is a blue @-@ and @-@ white Japanese schoolgirl uniform , or casual clothes ? in the same color scheme ? with a chain of miniature kunai knives and a fake tanuki tail , introduced in Super Street Fighter IV Arcade Edition . One of her scrapped costume concepts for Super Street Fighter IV was a very distinct , partially armored ninja outfit , which was more skimpy and featured two Japanese swords on her back .

After nearly two decades , Ibuki was radically redesigned for Street Fighter V , where her main costume changes to a modified version of her schoolgirl outfit with above @-@ knee @-@ high socks mixed with a black mask and purple elements of traditional Japanese armour on her hands and legs . Before deciding on it , the designers tried many different costume ideas by adjusting the ratio of her two personalities ; the rejected concept art sketches ( including one with full tanuki suit ) were posted on Capcom 's blog . Ibuki 's premium summer costume is a similarly armored swimsuit , with partial leggings and a cape @-@ like face scarf resembling this of Capcom 's own Strider Hiryu , which comes in a variety of colors . Her premium battle costume is an altogether different and more fashionable blue ninja outfit with a floral theme with a sword on her back , where for the first time she has loose hair .

= = = Gameplay = = =

According to Computer and Video Games , " Ibuki appears to be one of the most powerful and most popular character " in Street Fighter III . VentureBeat 's Chris Hoadley opined Ibuki was the strongest character in Street Fighter III : 2nd Impact and GameSpot felt her to be , in terms of gameplay , most similar to Cammy and Geki . According to UGO , Ibuki in Street Fighter III " has the strength and speed to face off against any top @-@ tier character " , as she is " quick , somewhat unpredictable and easy to pick up " , and " she 's just as likely to attack an opponent from the front as she is to dash into the air and rain down several kunai . It 's this type of diversity in fighting that makes her attractive to players . " Retro Gamer opined " this female ninja is fast , mobile and can stun opponents quickly . While she loses in a toe @-@ to @-@ toe brawl against most characters , she has plenty of trickery to get around a tight defence and dictate the match . " AskMen wrote that " while her specials lack the dazzle and spark of most of Street Fighter 's cast Ibuki 's still lethal in the right hands , juggling her opponents with some seemingly endless combos . "

In Super Street Fighter IV , the developers attempted to retain Ibuki 's playstyle and feel from Street Fighter III . She was also given a super jump ( the only character , other than C. Viper , to have one in this game ) and made adjustments to have combos that utilize it . Capcom 's Takatoshi Sano said that " Ibuki is suited to those who want to get the most out of a single character " and " beginners can use her too , but if I had to pick I 'd say she 's suited for intermediate . " Capcom Europe described Ibuki ? s " Raida " ( " Thunder Strike " ) command grab as having some unique properties and being one of the most powerful moves in the game . According to an MTV guide , Ibuki is " one of the hardest characters to master in this latest iteration " and players need to gain " a strong understanding of each character 's moves and abilities before truly coming to grips with what the weak , yet versatile Ibuki has to offer . "

In a guide to Super Street Fighter IV : 3D Edition , GameSpy stated that Ibuki has " got some unique strengths and enough versatility that we think she can cope with most opponents . Her damage is a bit lacking , but with enough craftiness in your execution you can make up for it . " Listing the biggest mistakes to avoid in the game , GamesRadar advised Ibuki 's players to not oversuse her " kunai air @-@ knives " , but to rather use them sparingly in not predictably as a tool

to help get close to the opponent . According to GamesRadar , " Ibuki makes up for her relatively weak damage by having some of the trickiest mobility in the game , letting a skilled player dash circles around their confused opponent . " According to Edge , Ultra Street Fighter IV 's addition of delayed wakeup , which lets one stay on the floor longer after being knocked down to put an opponent off their rhythm , was " primarily designed to nerf characters like Cammy , Akuma and Ibuki who are at their most effective when an opponent is getting up off the ground . " Professional player Sakonoko , whose preferred character in Super Street Fighter IV was Ibuki , said in interview for Famitsu that Ibuki in Street Fighter X Tekken " is ultimately based on her SSFIV Arcade Edition version " and so it is easy for people familiar with this game " to jump right in . " He also noted a few character @-@ specific changes between these games , such as Ibuki 's kunai attacks gaining the knock @-@ down ability .

In Street Fighter V , she gains new special moves such as to dodge @-@ teleport , glide , and throw bombs with different fuses , making her even more distracting and unpredictable . According to Capcom , " Ibuki has always been a very mobile character with various target combos , but she now has even more ways to mix @-@ up the opponent with the ability to glide through the air and toss out ninja bombs , making it very difficult to predict where she will land and where her next attack will come from . Kunais have also been a cornerstone of her playstyle , but now players will have to be much more strategic in their use as she can only stock five at a time before she has to quickly obtain another set . That said , their utility is just as powerful as ever as she can send her entire stock flying at the opponent for serious damage . Ibuki digs into her bag of ninja tools and throws a bomb at the opponent . Depending on which direction is held upon activation , the bomb can either go off quickly , after a slight delay or after a longer delay . " Ibuki is also able to detonate her bombs manually by hitting them with kunai and their explosions can not harm her .

= = = Other appearances = = =

= = = Comics = = =

Ibuki appears in Street Fighter comic books , including in Street Fighter : Unlimited . Notably she received her own four @-@ issue miniseries Street Fighter Legends : Ibuki , written by Jim Zubkavich and drawn by Omar Dogan . It was published by UDON Entertainment in 2010 to coincide with the release of Super Street Fighter IV . One alternative cover was drawn by Adam Warren and the entire miniseries was later included in the compilation Street Fighter Legends : The Ultimate Edition . In Ibuki , the character 's fictional background was revealed : she had been destined to become a perfect assassin for the Geki clan ( in to the comic , Geki is not an individual person but a clan that is rival to Ibuki 's ) , but one of them , Enj? , fled with the baby . She also interacts with Elena , in addition to Makoto and Sarai .

For writing Ibuki , Zubkavich was nominated for a Joe Shuster Award . He said that , compared to Sakura , " Ibuki 's a more complex character , more flawed . She 's a great ninja but she isn 't even sure this is what she wants out of life . ( ... ) Sakura 's never @-@ give @-@ up attitude may be more of a classic anime archetype , but I feel Ibuki 's a character more people can empathize with . " He added , " Ibuki ? s personality has been limited to game endings and oh @-@ so brief lines of dialogue from her victory quotes , so expanding upon those with this focused story is an honour and a challenge . " In a poll by Omar Dogan on his DeviantArt website , most of voters wanted to see Ibuki " wearing something cute " , and precisely something in the Harajuku @-@ style Lolita fashion . Dogan 's own favourite part of the story was " the part where Ibuki and Oro battle . "

= = = Other = = =

Ibuki is a favored character for use in promotional artwork , and has several figurines and action figures made in her image . These include figures from Kotobukiya , Mega Hobby , MegaHouse , SOTA Toys , Square Enix 's Play Arts Kai , and Capcom itself , including one designed by Street

Fighter III character concept artist Kinu Nishimura .

Ibuki 's Xbox Live Avatar costume was released in 2010 . Sakura is shown controlling Ibuki in a handheld Street Fighter III game she plays in the anime film Street Fighter Alpha : The Animation . Her cards are featured in the card game Universal Fighting System .

## = = Reception = =

Ibuki was met with a positive critical and fan reception regarding her character design , attractiveness and personality , and with a mixed reception regarding her gameplay issues . Despite her debut in a relatively obscure entry in the series , Ibuki has become one of the most popular Street Fighter female characters . Capcom producer Yoshinori Ono said Ibuki is so " popular because she is insanely fun to play . " Professional Street Fighter commentator and player Femi Adeboye ( F @-@ Word ) recalled Ibuki in Third Strike has changed his life when he was a young teenager : " I saw this ninja girl and I picked her up , that became my destiny . " In 2002 , she was voted the 12th most popular Street Fighter character in Capcom 's own poll for the 15th anniversary of Street Fighter . Street Fighter IV director Takashi Tsukamoto described her as " a character that many people were waiting for ; " a teaser trailer suggesting her inclusion in the game , revealed by Yoshinori Ono at the Evolution Championship Series 2011 tournament event , excited the crowd . Ibuki was voted the 16th most requested Street Fighter side character to be added to the roster of Tekken X Street Fighter in an official poll by Namco in 2013 .

Previewing Street Fighter III , Computer and Video Games highlighted Ibuki and Necro as " two of the finest " fighters in the game . In 2008 , GameDaily placed Ibuki 15th on its list of top Street Fighter characters of all time , expressing surprise that " all she wants to do is live a normal life . " That same year , IGN 's D. F. Smith ranked her as the 22nd top Street Fighter character and the only ninja on their list . In 2015 , Ben Lee from Digital Spy ranked the " fast , relentless , kick @-@ ass , and often unpredictable " Ibuki as the 12th best Street Fighter character . IGN 's Jesse Schedeen featured her among the characters he wanted to appear in Street Fighter IV . GamesRadar 's Mikel Reparaz similarly listed Ibuki among the 12 characters he would like to see in Super Street Fighter IV despite her being " one of the weaker characters " in Street Fighter III , citing her " enduring popularity " , " rapid , skill @-@ centric combos and high @-@ flying special moves " and her costume " which leaves her hips conspicuously bare and devoid of any sign of underpants . " Martin Robinson of AskMen too named Ibuki as of the five characters it wished to be included in Super Street Fighter IV , writing that " ninjas might be ten @-@ a @-@ penny in videogames , but none are as effortlessly cool as Ibuki " and adding that she " makes this list primarily for her style " but is " no slouch in combat either . " According to the GameZone review of the game , " it ? s unfathomable to think that anyone could not fall in love with Ibuki and Makoto , introduced in Street Fighter III , all over again . " In his review of Super Street Fighter IV , Tim Higgins from The Telegraph wrote Ibuki was his personal favourite new fighter in the game for " all slippery evasive manoeuvres and devastating bread and butter combos . " GamesRadar 's Lucas Sullivan called her inclusion in Street Fighter IV " a stroke of genius " and requested her return in Street Fighter V.

Capcom 's Taisaku Okada said Ibuki was the most popular of the Street Fighter III female characters , probably because of her appearance contrasting a young girl " of the current times " with " this old @-@ time ninja look " . Nevertheless , MTV 's Brad Nicholson blamed Ibuki 's " bland , tan , and masked getup that hasn ? t changed much since her days in Street Fighter III , " for her not appearing on the cover of Super Street Fighter IV despite all her " ravenous fans . " Giovanni Simotti , designer of Akane the Kunoichi , intended look of the titular character on the game 's cover as " a small tribute to two of the most famous kunoichi from the history of the videogames ? a mix of Mai Shiranui with a bit of Ibuki . " In 2012 , Gelo Gonzales of FHM included Ibuki among the nine " sexiest ninja babes in games " and compared her to Sam Pinto . GamesRadar 's Sullivan also compared the Killer Instinct 3 character Sadira to Ibuki , as similarly being " an agile fighter who can orchestrate a lot of very tricky setups from the air . "

In 2004 , Nich Maragos and David Smith of 1UP.com ranked Ibuki as the sixth overall best ninja character in video games , calling her " one of the coolest @-@ looking characters " in Street

Fighter III but " also one of the least capable in competition . " That same year , Aubrey Sitterson of UGO featured her on a list of the 25 " foxiest fighting females to ever be pixelated " and commented that Ibuki is " not only super @-@ hot , but she 's also a ninja , which is like a ' chocolate in my peanut butter ' situation . " UGO 's Paul Furfari further stated that she " set the new standard in female fighters , " adding , " forget Chun @-@ Li " . GameZone included the " amazing " Ibuki in their 2011 list of " best video game ninjas " and stated : " We ? re glad she ? s still a staple in this series to this very day ? but when is she going to come over to Marvel vs. Capcom territory ? " Márcio Pacheco Alexsandro of Brazil 's Game Hall placed her at tenth spot of his 2014 list of top kunoichi characters in games , opining that that she is " far from having such status as Chun @-@ Li , but has her charm , especially if you like Japanese schoolgirls . " Joe Pring from WhatCulture.com placed Ibuki at 19th spot on his 2015 list of the greatest female fighting game characters of all time : " Ninja 's are always cool , but Ibuki takes that awesome factor to a whole new level . " In 2016 , Steven Hanson from Destructoid described her as " everybody 's favorite schoolgirl ninja . "