

= Cookie ( video game ) =

Cookie is an action @-@ platform video game developed and published by Ultimate Play The Game that was released exclusively for the ZX Spectrum in 1983 . In the game , Charlie the Chef has to bake a cake , however his five ingredients are sentient and attempt to escape his pantry , enabling his quest to re @-@ capture them .

The game was written by Chris Stamper , and graphics were designed by Tim Stamper . Cookie was one of the few Spectrum games also available in ROM format for use with the Interface 2 , allowing " instantaneous " loading of the game ( the normal method of cassette loading could take several minutes ) . A version was also created for the BBC Micro , but was not commercially released . The game received mixed reviews upon release , with critics praising the graphics , but criticising the hard difficulty and its similarities to Pssst .

= = Gameplay = =

The game is presented from a single , 2D perspective , and the main objective involves Charlie the Chef baking a cake from evil , sentient ingredients . The five ingredients vary from Mixed Peel , Chunky Chocolate , Crafty Cheese , Sneaky Sugar and Colonel Custard , who will all jump out of the pantry and try and avoid the player whenever possible .

The player starts the game with three lives . Several ingredients will fly around the screen simultaneously , and if the player touches an ingredient with their body , a life will be deducted . The player 's objective is to put the ingredients into the cooking bowl before they either fall into the dustbins on either side or knock the player into the bowl . As a defence , Charlie the Cook can shoot flour sacks , which will push the ingredients further in the direction they are moving in . Bombs may also spawn in the game , which will allow the player to push the ingredients further than conventional flour sacks . The player has to push the right variety of ingredients into the bowl , which changes for each level . When the right amount of ingredients has been put in the bowl , a cake is baked and a new level begins .

= = Background = =

Ashby Computers and Graphics was founded by brothers Tim and Chris Stamper , along with Tim 's wife , Carol , in Ashby @-@ de @-@ la @-@ Zouch , England in 1982 . Under the trading name Ultimate Play The Game , they began producing video games for the ZX Spectrum throughout the early 1980s . Prior to founding Ultimate , the Stamper brothers had designed arcade machines , but had no marketing experience in the video game sector . The company was known for its reluctance to reveal details about its operations and upcoming projects . Little was known about their development process except that they used to work in " separate teams " : one team would work on development , while the other would concentrate on other aspects such as sound or graphics .

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= = Reception = =

Matthew Uffindell of Crash praised the game overall , despite thinking it was overshadowed by Ultimate 's Tranz Am , which was bundled with Cookie during its initial release . Uffindell stated the gameplay was addictive and challenging , despite thinking it was similar to its predecessor , Pssst . Lloyd Mangram of Crash considered the game to be overlooked and underrated , despite him suggesting that it was the most difficult of all games developed by Ultimate . Mangram praised the graphics as detailed , fast and " amusing " , owing to the game 's sentient ingredients . Reviewers of

Home Computing Weekly similarly praised the graphics and sound , stating that they " are well up to Ultimate 's standards " .

A reviewer from Sinclair User stated that the graphics were of " arcade and cartoon " quality , and criticised the game 's concept , suggesting that the player would lose interest after completing a few levels . Mangham , however , praised its playability , heralding that it was " great fun " to play and easy to adapt to . Sinclair User opined that first impressions of the game were important to the customer , and stated that the player may feel cheated due to the game 's similarities to Pssst .