

= Gin Tama =

Gin Tama (Japanese : ?? , Hepburn : Gintama , lit . " Silver Soul ") , also styled as Gintama , is a Japanese manga written and illustrated by Hideaki Sorachi and serialized , beginning on December 8 , 2003 , in Shueisha 's Weekly Shōnen Jump . Set in Edo which has been conquered by aliens named Amanto , the plot follows life from the point of view of samurai Gintoki Sakata , who works as a freelancer alongside his friends Shinpachi Shimura and Kagura in order to pay the monthly rent . Sorachi added the science fiction setting to develop characters to his liking after his editor suggested doing a historical series .

The series has been adapted into an original video animation (OVA) by Sunrise and was featured at Jump Festa 2006 Anime Tour in 2005 . This was followed by a full anime series , which debuted on April 4 , 2006 in TV Tokyo and finished on March 25 , 2010 . A sequel titled Gintama ' first premiered in Japan on April 4 , 2011 and ended on March 26 , 2012 , before returning once again for a brief run from October 4 , 2012 to March 28 , 2013 . A continuation of the TV anime series titled Gintama ° began airing on April 8 , 2015 and ended on March 30 , 2016 . Two animated films have also been produced . Besides the anime series , there have been various light novels and video games based on Gin Tama .

The manga has been licensed by Viz Media in North America . In addition to publishing the individual volumes of the series , Viz serialized its first chapters in their Shonen Jump manga anthology . It debuted in the January 2007 issue , and was serialized at a rate of one chapter a month . Sentai Filmworks initially licensed the series . The website Crunchyroll purchased the anime 's streaming rights and home video rights .

In Japan , the Gin Tama manga has been popular , selling over 50 million copies . The anime and its DVDs have been featured , at various time , in Top Ten of their respective media , while TV Tokyo has announced that the first Gin Tama anime was responsible for high sales overseas along with the anime adaptation from Naruto . Publications for manga , anime and others have commented on the Gin Tama manga . Positive response have focused on the comedy and characters from the series , while negative responses concern the manga 's artwork .

= = Plot = =

The story is set in an alternate late Edo period . Humanity is attacked by aliens called " Amanto " (?? , " Sky People ") . The samurai of Japan join the battle against the aliens , but when the Shogun realizes the power of aliens , he betrays the samurai and surrenders to the aliens . The Shogun writes an unequal contract with aliens which allows the aliens to enter the country and places a ban on carrying swords in public . The swords of samurai are taken away so they can no longer resist the aliens . After that the Shogunate becomes a puppet government .

The plot is focused on an eccentric samurai , Gintoki Sakata (aka Odd Jobs Gin) who helps a teenager named Shinpachi Shimura save his sister Tae from a group of aliens who want to make her part of a brothel . Impressed with Gintoki , Shinpachi becomes his apprentice and works with him as a freelance odd @-@ jobs man in order to pay the monthly rent on Gintoki 's combination home and office , as well as to know more about him .

The two of them rescue a teenage alien girl named Kagura from a group of Yakuza who wanted to use her superhuman strength to kill people . Kagura joins Shinpachi and Gintoki to work as freelancers and the three become known as " Yorozuya " (??? , " We do everything " or literally " The Anything Store ") .

While doing their job , they encounter the police force Shinsengumi several times , who normally ally with Odd Jobs Gin in their work since the jobs commonly involve dangerous criminals . They eventually meet some of Gintoki 's former comrades from the fight against the Amanto 's invasion , including the revolutionary Kotaro Katsura who maintains a friendly relationship with them despite his terrorist activities against the bakufu . On the other hand , Shinsuke Takasugi acts as a major antagonist throughout the series , as he wants to destroy the bakufu and sees his former comrades as enemies .

Although the series ' story is commonly episodic , there are also a few story arcs which are developed through several chapters . Across several story arcs Takasugi starts gaining allies including Kagura 's brother , Kamui , and the elite unit Mimawarigumi to prepare for his large scale coup d'état .

= = Themes and style = =

Hideaki Sorachi 's main focus in Gin Tama is the use of gags ; during the manga 's second year of serialization he started to add more drama to the story while still keeping the comedy . Various jokes from the manga are comments regarding clichés from other shōnen series . For example , in the first chapter after Gintoki fights a group of aliens to protect Shinpachi and Tae , Shinpachi complains that he only fought for " one page " and Gintoki replies , " Shut up ! One page is a long time for a manga artist ! " Gintoki 's exaggerated desire to read the Weekly Shōnen Jump (which causes him to fight other readers in order to get it) also makes fun of shōnen , since during those parts characters quote them . Other types of comic situations are more general , so that the reader must know about Japanese culture to understand them . The humour is described by publications as being " bizarre " and " weird " . It is also described as being divided between two categories : " sci-fi comedy " and a " samurai comedy " with the former referring to the aliens . It tends to point out " an irritating foible about modern society " including celebrations days or famous mythical figures . Additionally , there are references to several historical figures with a few characters from the story being based on them . Besides the series ' comedy , the aliens ' invasion in Japan bring several social issues between them and the humans with the most recurring one being the lack of social equality . As a result , one of the main themes involves society trying to preserve their own way of living rather than fulfilling a dream like in other shōnen series .

= = Production = =

In 2003 , Hideaki Sorachi was an up-and-coming manga artist who had already created two one-shot manga for the Weekly Shōnen Jump magazine . Although he was preparing to write his first serialized series , his editor suggested he create a manga series based on the Shinsengumi , mostly inspired by an upcoming TV drama about the 1860s troupe as depicted by idol actors . Sorachi attempted to create this series since he admitted to liking the Shinsengumi , but ultimately failed to get anything off the ground . Instead of abandoning the idea completely , he remained focused on the historical Japanese era but began to create his own story , adding in elements of science fiction and fictionalizing many of the figures from the era to create a story more to his own liking . The original title of the series was meant to be " Yorozyua Gin-san " (横丁屋 銀 さん , lit . " General Merchant Gin-san ") , but it did not have any impact on Sorachi . After great debate , he decided to go with the name Gin Tama after discussing it with his family , deciding on a name that sounded close to the edge without being completely off it . Although Sorachi considered the one-shot " Samuraider " to be very poor , the setting of such one-shot served as the base for Gin Tama such as the addition of alien characters . Sorachi liked the Bakumatsu and Sengoku periods due to how both were eras of change and thus presented the positive and negative points of humanity . The series was then set in an alternate Bakumatsu to give a bigger significance to the characters ' bushido as in that time samurais were at the low point of their lives .

The main character of the series was originally meant to be Toshiro Hijikata as Sorachi was a fan of the Shinsengumi , most notably from Hijikata Toshizō (the Shinsengumi who was the base for the one of Gin Tama) , after he saw the film Burn ! Sword ! . When Sorachi could not " shake off " Hijikata 's initial design , he decided not to use him as the lead character , but added him along with the Shinsengumi to the story . The pilot chapter from the series had a different plot to the one from the serialization : Shinpachi already met Gintoki in the story and there were more Shinsengumi to the story such as one based on Harada Sanosuke . As all these new Shinsengumi were older than most of the recurring characters from the series , Sorachi removed them thinking they were not entertaining . When asked by a fan , Sorachi mentioned that most characters from the series are

based on real @-@ life Edo citizens while Gintoki 's character is roughly based on the folk hero Sakata Kintoki .

When starting serialization the manga was unpopular and was close to being cancelled . Although Sorachi was pleased with the first tank?bon selling all of its copies , he later learned Shueisha was afraid of poor sales which resulted in the minimum printed . In order to increase its popularity , the author introduce new characters , the Shinsengumi , who felt memorable to his assistants . Sorachi had little hope on the manga 's popularity , as he noted that people used to tell him the manga would not surpass the number of two tank?bon volumes . However , once the third volume was released , Sorachi found that he did not have " any fresh material to use . " During the first year of the series , Sorachi believed that the source of the popularity of Gin Tama was partially connected to the Shinsengumi drama . While the drama ran during the first year of the series , when the manga was mostly shorter stories that established the characters and the world , he felt uncomfortable of making things related to the drama . By the second year and beyond , he became more daring in his stories and concepts , creating longer storylines that included more drama while keeping his sense of humor and satirization of modern Japan by way of his fictionalized past . Although Sorachi has already planned the series ' ending , he is not sure when the manga is going to reach that point due to the characters requiring development to behave the way he wants .

When working on a chapter of Gintama , Sorachi sometimes has problems finishing the manuscript , leaving his supervisor to take it before he can revise it . He figures out what to write by staying in his room or going for a walk . Although he commented that some of his ideas are " random , " he focuses on the fact that they are all related to the manga , and when he has problems coming up with ideas , Sorachi is often helped by his editor . Thinking of Gin Tama as a " non @-@ sense manga , " before writing a chapter , Sorachi decides whether it should be a comedy or a drama . Sorachi defines Gin Tama as a " science fiction human drama pseudo @-@ historical comedy . "

When Sorachi is illustrating Gin Tama , he usually uses a felt @-@ tip pen , a fountain pen , a brush @-@ tip pen , and a multiliner , but for the major characters he only uses a felt @-@ tip pen and a fountain pen , and does their outlines with a multiliner @-@ 0 @.@ 8 .

= = Media = =

= = = Manga = = =

The manga chapters of Gin Tama are written and illustrated by Hideaki Sorachi . They have been serialized for the manga anthology book Weekly Sh?nen Jump from Shueisha since December 8 , 2003 . Shueisha is also publishing the first chapters of Gin Tama online on their Weekly Sh?nen Jump official website . Viz Media licensed Gin Tama for publication in North America . A 55 @-@ page preview from the series was first featured in the January 2006 Shonen Jump issue . Viz acquired the license to publish chapters from the series in the Shonen Jump during the San Diego Comic @-@ Con International in 2006 . The chapters were serialized in Shonen Jump from January to May 2007 at a rate of one chapter a month .

Shueisha has been collecting the chapters in tank?bon volumes with the first being published on April 2 , 2004 . Sixty @-@ four volumes have been released in Japan . In North America tank?bon were published under Viz 's " Shonen Jump Advanced " imprint . The first volume was published on July 3 , 2007 , while on August 2 , 2011 Viz published the twenty @-@ third volume . Publication of the series by Viz Media ended with that volume with no reasons given .

= = = Original video animations = = =

Two original video animations (OVA) of Gin Tama were developed by Sunrise for the Jump Festa Anime Tour 2005 and 2008 . The first one , having the same title , is composed of various autoconclusive stories meant to introduce the characters from the series . The second OVA titled Shiroyasha Kotan (?????? , lit . " White Demon 's Birth ") is initially set in the war between aliens

and samurais and it is later revealed to be a hoax . On September 30 , 2009 , a DVD named Gintama Jump Anime Tour 2008 & 2005 was published by Aniplex . It contains the 2005 and 2008 OVAs and an audio commentary . On Weekly Shōnen Jump 's 34th issue of 2014 , it was announced that Gin Tama anime will return for a one @-@ episode special for the year 's Jump Special Anime Festa tour . The anime special DVD will be bundled with limited edition of the 58th manga volume to be released on April 3 , 2015 . It was announced in Weekly Shōnen Jump 's 8th issue of 2016 that the 65th and 66th volumes of the manga will be bundled with an original animation DVD each , the 65th manga volume scheduled to release on August 4 , 2016 , and the 66th manga volume scheduled to release on November 4 , 2016 . Both OADs will adapt the Love Potion arc in the manga .

= = = Anime series = = =

= = = = Gintama = = = =

An anime adaptation by Sunrise debuted on TV Tokyo on April 4 , 2006 . The first ninety @-@ nine episodes were initially directed by Shinji Takamatsu . Episodes 100 to 105 were directed by Takamatsu and Yoichi Fujita , while the following episodes are being directed only by Fujita . The subtitle for the Gintama anime could be loosely translated as " The starting point is the utmost importance for anything , so trying to outdo oneself is just about right . " During January 2009 , Fujita mentioned he was not going to work in the fourth season of the series starting in such year . However , in February 2009 , it was confirmed that the anime would continue for a fourth year , once again directed by Fujita . The series ended on March 25 , 2010 with a total of 201 episodes .

In Japan , Aniplex distributes the anime in DVD format . A total of thirteen volumes were released for the first season , between July 26 , 2006 and June 26 , 2007 . The second season was released over another set of thirteen volumes between July 25 , 2007 and July 23 , 2008 . Season 3 was also released in thirteen volumes from August 27 , 2008 to August 26 , 2009 . The fourth season was collected released in thirteen DVD volumes from October 28 , 2009 to October 27 , 2010 .

In November 2008 , an agreement was reached between TV Tokyo and the streaming video service Crunchyroll . Crunchyroll would stream English @-@ subtitled episodes for free one week after they had aired in Japan . Paying subscribers can watch new episodes an hour after they air in Japan . On January 8 , 2009 , Crunchyroll uploaded their first episode (episode 129) to the service . Alongside new episodes each week , Crunchyroll also uploads episodes from the beginning of the series . The anime is licensed in North America by Sentai Filmworks , with distribution from Section23 Films . Section23 Films ' Chris Oarr commented that only the first two seasons were licensed , with an option on the rest . The first collection containing thirteen English @-@ subtitled episodes was released on DVD , April 27 , 2010 . Only 49 episodes were released before the releases stalled . However , shortly after licensing the Gin Tama film , Sentai Filmworks announced that based on the film 's performance , they would consider releasing more of the series in North America , possibly with an English dub . On July 1 , 2016 , Crunchyroll announced that they will re @-@ release the series on Blu @-@ ray and DVD with an English dub .

= = = = Yorinuki Gintama @-@ san = = = =

On April 5 , 2010 , TV Tokyo stations began airing high @-@ definition reruns of older episodes of Gintama under the title Yorinuki Gintama @-@ san (??????? , literally " The Very Best of Gintama ") , the title being a parody of the " best of " reruns of the anime Sazae @-@ san . In addition to being broadcast in HD , new opening and ending animations and themes have been made . The opening and ending for episodes 1 @-@ 9 are Does 's " Bakuchi Dancer " (??? ? ??? , Bakuchi Dans? , lit . " Fullspeed Dancer ") and " Bokutachi no Kisetsu " (?????? , lit . " Our Season ") . Starting with episode 10 and going to 26 , the opening was changed to Joe Inoue 's " Kaze no Gotoku " (????? , lit . " Like the Wind ") and the ending was changed to Vijandoux 's " WAVE " .

Starting with episode 27 , the opening changed to Chiaki Kuriyama 's " Kan?sei Girl " (?????? , Kan?sei G?ru , " Probable Girl ") and the ending changed to Azu 's " IN MY LIFE " . Starting with episode 40 , the opening changed to FLiP 's " Karto Niago " (?????? , K?toniagio) and the ending changed to Piko 's " Sakurane " (?? , " Sakura Sound ") .

== = Gintama ' == =

In March 2010 , Yoichi Fujita hinted the anime would continue once the staff get enough material to work on it . Shinji Takamatsu claimed the TV series " is absolutely not over . It hasn 't even begun yet ! It will definitely return . " In December 2010 , Shueisha stated that the Gintama anime would resume in April 2011 . Gintama ' (?? ?) , the sequel to the original Gintama anime , premiered in Japan on April 4 , 2011 . The main staff from the first TV series remain in Gintama ' with Fujita as the director . Crunchyroll simulcasted the premiere of Gintama ' to subscribers from its site . The first DVD from the series was released on July 27 , 2011 . The episode released on September 26 , 2011 contains Sket Dance as a crossover special . The series ended on March 26 , 2012 with a total of 51 episodes , which were collected in thirteen DVDs by Aniplex .

== = Gintama ' : Enchousen == =

The series premiered in TV Tokyo on October 4 , 2012 . It is a continuation of the second Gintama ' anime that ended in March 2012 . The main staff from the second TV series remain in Gintama with Yoichi Fujita as the director . The series ended on March 28 , 2013 with a total of 13 episodes The episodes were collected in a total of four DVDs from December 19 , 2012 to May 22 , 2013 .

== = Gintama ° == =

On December 21 , 2014 during Jump Festa super stage event , it was announced that a new Gintama TV series was in the works for an April 2015 premiere . Cast of Yorozuya ; Tomokazu Sugita (Gintoki) , Daisuke Sakaguchi (Shinpachi) , and Rie Kugimiya (Kagura) attended the event . A key visual was also revealed .

The new series aired on TV Tokyo and its affiliates for 51 episodes from April 8 , 2015 to March 30 , 2016 , which also aired the previous seasons .

== = Films == =

There have been two films based on the franchise . The first one is Gintama : Shinyaku Benizakura @-@ Hen (?? ????? , lit . " Gintama : A New Retelling Benizakura Arc ") , a retelling of the story arc from Gin Tama in which Kotaro Katsura is attacked by a member of the army Kiheitai , and Odd Jobs Gin start searching for him . One of the TV commercials of the film teases that the " true last scene " of the anime is in the film . It premiered on April 24 , 2010 , picking up US \$ 2 @.@ 118 @.@ 342 on 90 screens during its first days , and earned US \$ 12 @.@ 86 million in total . Sentai Filmworks released the film in both DVD and Blu @-@ ray format in North America on May 29 , 2012 as Gintama : The Motion Picture . Manga Entertainment distributed the film in the United Kingdom while Madman Entertainment published it in Australia .

A second film was announced in August 2012 by the Weekly Shonen Jump with the script being written this time by Hideaki Sorachi . It is titled Gintama : The Movie : The Final Chapter : Be Forever Yorozuya and follows Gintoki as he travels to a future where he has to deal with a mysterious group of sorcerers . It was released in Japan on July 6 , 2013 . Although the film is marketed as " Final " director Yoichi Fujita commented they would make a continuation if it became a hit . The film managed to surpass the success from its predecessor .

== = CDs == =

The music for the Gin Tama anime is composed by Audio Highs . On September 27 , 2006 , Audio Highs published the first CD soundtrack for the series known as Gintama Original Soundtrack . It featured 36 tracks including the TV version from the first opening theme and the first two ending themes . The second CD soundtrack , Gintama Original Soundtrack 2 , was released on November 11 , 2007 . It included 40 tracks but it did not have TV versions of the opening and ending themes from the series . The next CD is Gintama Original Soundtrack 3 published on June 24 , 2009 . It features a total of 28 tracks including the theme " Dondake ! Gintaman " (????? ? ! ?????) which was used as a gag in episode 100 from the series . The fourth and latest CD soundtrack is composed of thirty @-@ four tracks and was released on March 21 , 2013 .

Apart from soundtracks from the TV series , there have been three CDs known as Gintama Best (?? BEST) which include the full versions from the opening and ending themes . Each of the CDs also have an extra DVD with the original videos . The two movies have also had their own original CD soundtracks .

== = Light novels == =

A series of light novels based on the Gin Tama manga have been authored by Tomohito ?saki , illustrated by Hideaki Sorachi , and published by Shueisha . They feature the series characters transposed to a school setting with Gintoki acting as their teacher . It is running in Jump Square under the title 3 @-@ Nen Z @-@ Gumi Ginpachi @-@ sensei (3?Z????? , lit . " Grade 3 Class Z Ginpachi @-@ sensei ") . The first novel was published on February 3 , 2006 , while seven light novels have been published by Shueisha .

A novelization of the second film has also been authored by ?saki and was released in 2013 alongside the film .

== = Video games == =

In Japan , a PlayStation 2 Gin Tama game , Gintama : Together with Gin ! My Kabuki District Journal (?? ????? ? ! ?????????? , Gintama Gin @-@ san to Issho ! Boku no Kabuki @-@ ch? Nikki) , was released on August 30 , 2007 , and a Wii game , Gintama : General Store Tube : Tsukkomi @-@ able Cartoon (?? ????? ? ? ?????????? , Gintama Yorozyua Ch?bu Tsukkomaburu D?ga) , was released on October 25 , 2007 . A game for the Nintendo DS called Gintama : Silver Ball Quest : Gin 's Job @-@ Change to Save the World (?? ????? ? ?????????????????? , Gintama Gintama Kuesuto Gin @-@ san ga Tenshoku @-@ shitari Sekai o Sukuttari) was released on December 6 , 2007 . Other two games for the DS include Gintama Dee @-@ Ess : Odd Jobs Grand Riot ! (???? ? ? ? ????? ? ! , Gintama D?esu Yorozyua Dais?d? !) and Gintama : Gintoki vs. Hijikata ! ? The Huge Fight Over Silver Souls in the Kabuki District ! ! (?? ??vs?? ! ? ????????????? ? ! ! , Gintama Gintoki vs Hijikata ! ? Kabuki @-@ cho Gitama Dais?datsusen ! !) . Gin Tama characters also appear in the Weekly Sh?nen Jump crossover Jump Super Stars and its sequel , Jump Ultimate Stars , both for Nintendo DS . Gintoki also appears as a playable fighter in the Jump crossover fighting game J @-@ Stars Victory VS on PlayStation 3 and PlayStation Vita , with Kagura and Sadaharu acting as support . PlayStation Portable also have a game name " Gintama no Sugoroku - ????? ? " , released on 24 January 2013 by Bandai Namco .

== = Guidebooks == =

There have been various guidebooks for the Gin Tama manga and its anime . The first guidebook for the manga is Gintama Official Character Book - Gin Channel ! (????????????? ? ????? ? ! ? , Gintama Official Character Book - Gin Chaneru !) released by Shueisha on April 4 , 2006 . It features characters files , an interview with Hideaki Sorachi and original character stickers . The second book is Gintama Official Character Book 2 - Fifth Grade (?????????????????2 ? ????? ? , Gintama Official Character Book 2 - Gonen @-@ Sei) which was published on May 5 , 2009 . Like the previous book , this one also has an interview with Sorachi and files for the new characters that

=== Live @-@ action film ===

== Reception ==

Critical response to the Gin Tama manga has generally been positive . Carlo Santos from Anime News Network found the manga to be a " one @-@ of @-@ a @-@ kind comedy " praising the characters ' personalities and gags . On the other hand , the artwork was criticized for being " hard to follow " when there are fast scenes . Jokes regarding clichés from other shōnen series were also positively received by About.com writer Deb Aoki , who , like Santos , found the artwork to be " the

only thing that distracts from the otherwise considerable pleasures of this loveable , goofy manga " . However , characters ' designs were praised for its variations including the ones from the aliens appearing in the series by Katherine Dacey from Pop Culture Shock who remarked that " These characters add visual interest and life to every panel , keeping the reader invested when the stories stall . " Other negative comments regarding the manga have the few number of aliens appearing in the series as well as how some chapters are focused in fights such as Hijikata 's fight against Gintoki . Michael Aronson from Manga Life concluded his review of the manga by saying that " The potential is there , but the execution is struggling " as still he liked the comedy from the story . Comics Village 's Alex Hoffman mentioned that Gin Tama " can 't truly be compared to those comics because of one thing : the jokes . " He found the context from the series hilarious and like how there are new jokes in every chapter . Like other reviewers , Hoffman also disliked Sorachi 's artwork , but still found the manga to be " a great comedy , or a great read . " Comic Book Bin writer Leroy Douresseaux found that the large number of characters with different appearances in the series allow the reader to remain entertained with the series as " at least every few pages or so present some unusual and interesting visual . "

The anime adaptation of Gin Tama has received positive and mixed responses . The humor was noted to be improved after the series ' introduction although some jokes were hard to understand because some of them are references to Japanese culture and other series . The notes on the DVD releases were criticized for lacking explanation of cultural jokes . Additionally , the humor 's quality was found to be inconsistent within the first episodes due to the depth some bring , to the point that some viewers may abandon the series . The quality from the series was found to improve as the series continues as people would not be intimidated by its large number of episodes . The characters ' action were praised due to their knowledge that their tendencies to " break the fourth wall " , while the female characters were found appealing based on their unusual qualities . The series has been noted for its ability to shift between comedy and drama without a loss of quality .

= = = Controversy = = =

Episode 232 of the anime series had a defamatory depiction of a character that referenced a specific politician , the current Minister for Government Revitalisation Renh? Murata , which resulted in the cancellation of its rerun on AT @-@ X. Series supervisor Shinji Takamatsu explained that TV Tokyo cancelled the rerun on its own . Renh? 's representative denied having objected to the episode although a report from the Mainichi Shimbun paper stated the affected party contacted TV Tokyo . When the story arc the episode belonged to was completed , Takamatsu expressed doubts about the arc 's release in DVD format .