

## = Neuro : Supernatural Detective =

Neuro : Supernatural Detective , known in Japan as Majin Tantei N?gami Neuro ( Japanese : ????? , lit . " Demon Detective Neuro N?gami " ) , is a Japanese manga series written and illustrated by Y?sei Matsui . The series follows Neuro N?gami , a demon who depends on mysteries for sustenance . Having consumed all the mysteries in the demon world , Neuro travels to the human world in search of more . There , Neuro recruits high school student Yako Katsuragi as a facade for a detective agency . The supernatural @-@ themed manga was created because Matsui considered himself unable to draw humans .

The manga was originally serialized in Weekly Sh?nen Jump from February 2005 to April 2009 . The individual chapters were collected and released in 23 tank?bon ( collected volumes ) by Shueisha . A 25 @-@ episode anime series directed by Hiroshi K?jina and animated by Madhouse was originally aired between 2007 and 2008 on Nippon Television . In 2011 , the anime series was licensed by Viz Media and uploaded to the company 's website . Neuro : Supernatural Detective has spawned a light novel , two audio albums , two video games , and other merchandise .

Neuro : Supernatural Detective 's manga has been popular in Japan , frequently ranking in the weekly Top Ten list of best @-@ selling manga . It has sold over four million volumes as of April 2009 in Japan . The anime , however , has been criticized by fans because it deviates from Matsui 's work , and received a low viewership . Critics of anime and manga often compared it to Case Closed , noting supernatural themes as the only difference between them .

## = = Plot = =

The series ' central character is Neuro N?gami ( ?? ??? , N?gami Neuro ) , a demon who eats mysteries . Because he has eaten every mystery in the demon world , he comes to the human world to feast on the mysteries offered by humans . Because he is a demon , he does not want to make his presence in the human world widely known . He makes an arrangement with a 16 @-@ year @-@ old high school girl Yako Katsuragi ( ?? ?? , Katsuragi Yako ) ? who wants to solve the mystery of her father 's murder , which was declared a suicide by the police . They establish a detective agency and , together with former criminal Shinobu Godai ( ?? ? , Godai Shinobu ) and a sentient braid of hair called Akane ( ??????? , Akane @-@ chan ) , solve crimes to feed Neuro 's appetite .

## = = Characters = =

### = = Yako 's Detective Agency = = =

Neuro N?gami ( ?? ??? , N?gami Neuro )

Voiced by : Takehito Koyasu

The title character of the series , Neuro is a demon detective from hell with a very arrogant , sadistic , and self @-@ centered personality . He came to the Human World to look for the Ultimate Mystery , which is " the most complex , the most unfathomable , and so , the most pleasing to the palate " . Upon arriving to the surface , he met Yako and forced her to become the front that Neuro needed to look for mysteries . While working on cases , Neuro usually makes use of his demonic powers and 777 Tools of the Demon World to find and defeat the culprit ( and sometimes to torture Yako , which he enjoys to do on a daily basis ) .

Yako Katsuragi ( ?? ?? , Katsuragi Yako )

Voiced by : Kana Ueda

Yako is a 16 @-@ year @-@ old high school girl and the very first character introduced in the manga . She meets Neuro when he appears and desecrates her father 's shrine while promising to help solve the mystery of her father 's death . This meeting quickly leads to a partnership : Yako becomes Neuro 's cover , pretending to be an investigator while Neuro acts as her assistant .

Although at first it seems that Yako 's only purpose is to be there as a cover , she later proves herself worthy by being able to decipher the criminal 's motive by using her ability to understand human psychology , something that proves to be useful in certain cases , given how Neuro is unable to understand how humans " operate " .

Shinobu Godai ( ??? , Godai Shinobu )

Voiced by : Hiroyuki Yoshino

He is the jack of all trades for the detective 's office and is sometimes referred to as " Neuro 's second slave " . Godai is quick @-@ tempered and yells a lot , but has also been shown to be methodical , responsible , and trustworthy . During the early chapters , Godai worked for a small finance house with criminal connections . However , he was forced to work for Neuro after the latter won the bet for the office by solving their boss 's death . In the manga , he was left to be until Neuro found a use for him , in which the demon then forcibly drags him back to the office , and is currently running an Information Company under Neuro 's supervision .

Akane ( ?????? , Akane )

Akane is a corpse in the wall of the office Neuro took over , who is shown only as a detachable braid of hair , which functions like a hand . Neuro offered to make Yako brush and care for her in exchange for secretarial work . Akane can be taken from the office for short periods of time and can also merge with Yako 's hair to make it longer , which not only gives Akane control over Yako 's natural hair , but if left merged for too long , would make Akane and Yako switch places completely . Akane later appears attached to Yako 's new cell phone .

= = = Tokyo Police Department = = =

Eishi Sasazuka ( ???? , Sasazuka Eishi )

Voiced by : K?ji Yusa

Sasazuka is one of the two police officers assigned to solve the mystery of Yako 's father 's death . He was also a former classmate of Usui and Tsukushi in the police department . After Neuro solves the case of Yako 's father 's death , Sasazuka gives them access to crime scenes , arrests the culprits as Yako points them out , and deals with the aftermath . Sasazuka appears listless and disinterested at times but he has an agile mind , acts very quickly in any emergency , and is an excellent shot . He usually takes a kind and cooperative attitude toward Yako , and is protective of her because of her resemblance to his little sister , but appears to be somewhat suspicious of Neuro . Sasazuka later watches as Neuro unleashes his 777 demon weapons and learns Neuro is a demon . He and Gouda share a mutual disliking but also understanding . Sasazuka has been searching his entire life for the person who killed his family , when he finds out that Sicks killed them , he goes after Sicks turning into a madman and killing everyone in his way . He 's injured by X and then killed by Sicks .

Jun Ishigaki ( ??? , Ishigaki Jun )

Voiced by : K?suke Toriumi

Ishigaki is a young police officer . After the mystery of Yako 's father 's death , Ishigaki becomes Sasazuka 's new partner . As a typical modern young man , Ishigaki is flippant , careless , and has low self @-@ respect . He idolizes Sasazuka , but does not share his feelings that citizens like Neuro and Yako can interfere with police business . He is very interested in all kinds of toys and models and is shown regularly collecting them ; however , they are almost always destroyed by Sasazuka , as he finds Ishigaki 's habit of showing them off ( as well as Ishigaki himself ) annoying ; this attitude is implied to be shared throughout the police department .

Naohiro Usui ( ???? , Usui Naohiro )

Voiced by : Hidenobu Kiuchi

The boss of the Tokyo Police department . A hot @-@ tempered but very capable man , he disapproves of incompetent people such as Sasazuka and Yako ( from his point of view ) . He and Eishi went to the same police training school where they were rivals , with Eishi being the better one . The day Eishi 's whole family was killed , Eishi had given up on being the top and gave up on their one sided rivalry . Because of this , Usui could not prove to be the better one and thus holds a slight

grudge against Eishi . Sicks thinks of him as the sort of person who is neither " common " nor at the top , but a " middle " man who could arise when the world is in chaos and change history .

Y?ya Higuchi ( ???? , Higuchi Y?ya )

Voiced by : Nozomu Sasaki

A nineteen @-@ year @-@ old hacker / detective who works for the police . Although he is far @-@ sighted , he only wears his glasses when using the computer , letting them rest on his forehead the rest of the time . He has a care @-@ free personality but is highly intelligent , and seems to look up to Usui . During the HAL Arc , he was infected with the Electronic Drug to become one of HAL 's guardians , although the infection was only half complete , because he was wearing polarized lenses specially made to protect himself from it . After the HAL arc , he was forced to watch shows on how to be polite drugged with the anti @-@ virus for the Electronic Drug .

Andrew Sixson ( ?????? ? ???? , Sixton Andrew )

A British investigator dispatched by Interpol . He was an acquaintance of Usui 's , from when the latter was an exchange student in England . Sixson is capable of memorizing vast amounts of information extremely quickly , picking out a single bit of information by listening to multiple radio stations at once , or reading through a stack of papers in an instant . He is a distant relative of the New Bloodline . He was kidnapped , tortured to the point where only his head and his organs remained held up by a metal structure . He was killed by Sick 's underlings and had the skin off his face peeled off so that Sicks could pose as a member of the police .

Shizuka Todoroki ( ??? ??? , Todoroki Shizuka )

A female detective who is a new addition to Sasazuka 's team , though she appeared slightly before her major debut in another case . She is a serious woman who is the opposite of Ishigaki and looks down on him ; she also sees him as a rival for Sasazuka 's approval , whom she has very high opinion of respect for . She was originally believed to be a replacement for Ishigaki , and constantly out did him in various police acts , a fact that more than worried him . However , during her first case in Sasazuka 's team , when she questioned and insulted the criminal 's motives for murder , she was promptly attacked and had to be saved by Sasazuka ; it was then that Sasazuka noted to her that her seriousness was , in a way , a hindrance to her abilities as a detective , a hindrance Ishigaki is noticeably without .

= = = Villians = = =

Aya Asia ( ?? ? ???? , Aya Eishia )

Voiced by : Minami Takayama

A world @-@ class idol and the very first customer ( in the manga ) who comes to Neuro 's office to hire the detective team to figure out who murdered her managers / friends . After the culprit is mistakenly believed to be a crazy fan of Aya , Neuro and Yako reveal ( each through their own ways ) that Aya was the real culprit ; and although she murdered her friends in cold blood , Yako believed that she hired them as a last chance to clear her conscience . Aya 's singing voice not only affects humans , but it also influences plants and insects as seen in her prison conversation room . She is Yako 's confidant when in need of advice and counselling , as they seem to get along very well , even after her arrest , as Aya believes that Yako has somewhat liberated her a bit from her guilt . Her real name is Aya Aizawa .

Sai Kaitou / X ( ??X / ?? , Kaitou Sai )

Voiced by : Romi Paku

Known around the world as Phantom Thief X , is a mysterious human with supernatural powers . He believes himself without an identity and , in a desperate attempt to find one for himself , starts taking people apart and studying their insides to find out something to which he can associate himself with . He kills people and puts them in a red box , so that he can have a better look at their cell structure . He is intrigued by Neuro because of his demonic origins , which he believes will solve his true identity . With that reason , he chases and tries to kill Neuro to see his insides several times .

Ai ( ??? , Imina )

X's assistant. Formerly a government @-@ sponsored terrorist who brought down planes, named Imina. She is the one who enforces X's "Kaitou" image and status by prompting him to take something from each place he murders in: however, X simply takes whatever is closest to him and "gives it away" to Imina, to her apparent displeasure. Depending on the day, she refers X as Master, child, friend, lover, brother, sister or others.

She is killed by Sicks by a bullet wound to her head.

Hisanori Hayasaka (????, 'Hayasaka Hisanori)

Hisanori is the older brother. He smuggled in weapons and drugs that he was supposed to be bringing in for the company he worked for, but was actually planning to kill his superior, Mochizuki, in order to take over. Neuro managed to stop him from doing so. Later, he and his brother started "Smiling Face Ltd.", a company front for smuggling drugs and weapons as well as black @-@ market trading of organs and other illegal things. Hisanori is always seen smiling, a mask he uses to conceal his real (usually evil) intentions.

Yukinori Hayasaka (????, Hayasaka Yukinori)

Yukinori is the younger brother, nicknamed "Yuki". He is originally seen wearing a heavy winter coat at all times, which he uses to hide weapons. He has a great deal of loyalty towards his older brother. In his past, he and his brother lived in a very cold and poor town where everyone looked out for themselves. Their parents left them long ago so they were left to fend for themselves on the street. During that time Yukinori was buried under due to an avalanche and his brother saved his life. Hayasaka joined a criminal company and invites Yukinori to be his subordinate.

Eisuke Harukawa (????, Harukawa Eisuke)

Voiced by: Masane Tsukayama

A genius neurologist and computer scientist at Sakuba University. He is the creator of HAL and the Electronic (Denshi) Drug. After finding out that the Electronic Drug had been used by HAL on hundreds of people rather than his two selected test subjects, he was killed by HAL's three supercomputer guardians; his former students Tatsuo, Shiho, and Hiroto. The reason behind creating HAL was so that he could recreate a patient of his, who was slowly losing her self from a mysterious brain disease.

HAL (??, ? HAL?)

Voiced by: Masane Tsukayama

HAL, also known as Denjin HAL, is an artificial intelligence created by Eisuke Harukawa from a copy of his brainwaves. Created to help Harukawa with his project to recreate the brain of a person from scratch. However, seeing Harukawa's methods and intelligence as far inferior, he took it upon himself to go to much greater lengths to continue the project. While almost invincible in the digital world, the Electronic (Denshi) Drug was used by HAL to brainwash people into protecting the supercomputers that maintained his system. His mystery was the equivalent to a banquet to Neuro (the greatest mystery the latter has tasted so far in the series) and upon eating it, Neuro was filled with energy, more than enough to recover from past wounds.

== New Bloodline ==

Sicks (????)

The entity referred as "absolute evil". Sicks is the current head of the "New Bloodline", a group of people who distinguish themselves from humanity by the extent to which they have bred 'evil intent' into their bloodline over the last 7000 or so years, and whose aim is to extinguish humanity from the planet. He is the first person Neuro has truly considered to be an enemy, even saying that it was the first time that he'd had such an "unpleasant feeling" once he'd met Sicks in person. Because humans are the creators of Neuro's "food", Sicks' goal of wiping them from the Earth is challenge enough for Neuro. He signs his impressions by leaving the number six as his signature.

Zenjir? Kasai (?? ???, Kasai Zenjir?)

One of the "Five Fingers", a fire @-@ obsessed member of the New Bloodline. He infiltrated X's group as a spy and was instrumental in X's capture by Sicks. Before he joined the New Bloodline he was a serial arsonist wanted across Japan. He is also Tetsuyuki Homura's uncle, whom he

taught since he was a kid about the " pleasure " of fire . As a member of the New Bloodline , his ability is to manipulate fire , such as being able to burn someone just by contact , and is highly knowledgeable in the field of his element ( e.g. the use of gunpowder ) .

DR ( ?????? )

The " smallest " of the " Five Fingers " . His name is short for " DRagon " , and also the initials for Daniel Rousseau . He is a member of the New Bloodline from a specialized line with the ability to control water . Ever since he was young , he was academically and athletically talented . He was lucky enough to receive the ability to control water which his parents lacked ; his parents feared him because of that ability . With some of X 's cells transplanted into him , he was capable of transforming his hand into claws .

Genuine ( ?????? , Jeneuing )

The most loyal member to Sicks of the " Five Fingers " . Her name was Jennifer Ewing , a actress for Broadway who captivated all the audience members with ease . As a Bloodline member , her ability is to be able to control the air by infatuating everyone around her and controlling them ; because of this , Kasai usually calls her " witch " . She is a self @-@ declared sadist able to " train " whoever she wants , although her " role " drastically changes when she is around Sicks . After her fight with Neuro in which she unsuccessfully tried to train the latter , he took everything away from her and made her his servant .

Tierra ( ?? , Tera )

Another one of the " Five Fingers " , he is able to control earth and appears during chapters 145 - 152 . He believes that his face is an icon , and that is the most important part . Because of this mindset , he seems able ( but unhappy ) to part with all his earthly possessions . Neuro first encounters him stripped naked because his ( supposed ) fans have left him with nothing at all . He calls himself a " conqueror " because he is a descendant of the Spanish conquistadors . The name " Tierra " , which is Spanish for " earth " , " ground " , or " dirt " , is just an alias . His real name is Pedro Cort  zarro Torres .

Vijaya ( ??? / ?????? )

A young tanned skin boy who is one of the " Five Fingers " . His name is Chandra Aska R  sunawala , but Godai addresses him by the nickname of " Chi " . His power involves understanding and controlling plants . He creates chemicals and puts them in capsules under his sleeve . The chemicals are able to control forests , turn a stick into a tree , and make plants emit poisonous gas . He refers to himself as a ' magician ' due to the fact that his ancestors five thousand years ago , using plants as tools , were considered magicians in India . He used to be a friend of Godai before he was recruited by the New Bloodline .

= = Production = =

Before the series ' regular serialization in Weekly Sh  nen Jump , Y  sei Matsui published two one @-@ shots . The first one was published in the summer issue of Akamaru Jump ; it won the Jump J  ni Ketsu Shinjin Manga Award in the horror mystery category . After the first was " extremely well received " according to Shueisha , the second one @-@ shot was released on September 6 , 2004 , in issue 41 of Weekly Sh  nen Jump .

Y  sei Matsui stated he was not good at drawing humans or real life things , and he was about to lose his self @-@ confidence when he " threw things in at random " to create the series . Matsui said he mixed his creation with real things to make his style original . To create the atmosphere of the series , Matsui used as reference paintings by Rei Kamoi , a Japanese artist he saw on television , and G  jin Ishihara , the illustrator of Edogawa Ranpo 's Sh  nen Tantei Dan . Matsui 's creative process of art is to begin drawing erotic and grotesque images , and at the same time humorous and cute scenes . Matsui did not wish to create " terrifying characters " but " funny @-@ terrifying " and " terrifying @-@ cute " . He also tried to avoid men 's idealized image of heroines and women 's idealized images of heroes . He decided to create characters that could exist in the real world and to make their acts and reactions realistic .

Matsui did not want to create a detective 's reasoning manga because he does not like to read or

draw it . He said that reasoning scenes are superfluous , so he placed some jokes in these scenes . Prior to the start of the series , he was not sure whether it would be a detective manga or a romantic one . He finally decided to write a detective story because he needed Neuro to be able to eat mysteries . During the creation of Neuro , Matsui followed a work schedule ; he worked on the sketches on Mondays and Tuesdays , and he began the outline on Tuesdays . On Wednesdays , with the help of his assistants he finalized the art , drawing the more complex backgrounds and leaving the rest in his assistants ' charge ; he talked with the editor about the next chapter on Thursdays and wrote the plot between Fridays and Sundays .

= = Publication = =

Written and illustrated by Y?sei Matsui , the manga was originally serialized by Shueisha in the Japanese magazine Weekly Sh?nen Jump from February 21 , 2005 , to April 20 , 2009 . Shueisha compiled the 202 chapters into 23 tank?bon ( collected volumes ) released from July 4 , 2005 , to August 4 , 2009 . It has also been published as part of the Shueisha Jump Remix series of magazine @-@ style books . Five volumes were released between January 7 , 2011 , and March 7 , 2011 . Between October 12 , 2012 , and October 16 , 2012 , the 23 volumes of Neuro : Supernatural Detective were re @-@ published in Amazon Kindle format under the Jump Comics Digital line . The series started to be released on bunkoban format by Shueisha on January 18 , 2013 , and it lasted twelve volumes , the last of which was published on June 18 , 2013 . Volumes 11 and 12 of the bunkoban edition included the two one @-@ shots that preceded its serialization . Outside Japan , it has been licensed in some countries such as in France by Gl?nat , in Hong Kong by Culturecom , in Italy and Spain by Planeta DeAgostini , in South Korea by Seoul Media Group , and in Taiwan by Tong Li Publishing .

= = Anime adaptation = =

The production of an anime series was announced in 33rd issue of Weekly Sh?nen Jump released on July 14 , 2007 . The Neuro : Supernatural Detective anime adaptation was directed by Hiroshi K?jina and co @-@ produced by Madhouse , Nippon Television ( NTV ) , Shueisha , D.N. Dream Partners and VAP . The series , consisting of 25 television episodes , originally aired from October 2 , 2007 to March 25 , 2008 on NTV in Japan ; it was later broadcast by four NTV 's affiliated stations . VAP distributed the anime in DVD format ; nine volumes were released between December 21 , 2007 , and August 27 , 2008 , and a DVD box set was released on September 30 , 2008 . The series was acquired by Viz Media , which renamed it Neuro : Supernatural Detective and streamed it from February 18 , 2011 , to July 1 , 2011 on its website VizAnime.com , and on Hulu . An official soundtrack composed by Tomoki Hasegawa was released in December 21 , 2007 by VAP .

= = Related media = =

Two audio dramas were released on November 6 , 2006 , and April 25 , 2007 , by Shueisha . A light novel titled Majin Tantei N?gami Neuro : Sekai no Hate ni wa Ch? ga Mau was written by Akira Higashiyama and published by Shueisha on July 20 , 2007 . On November 21 , 2007 , Data House released a book written by the Neuro Study Group titled Majin Tantei N?gami Neuro no Himitsu . On March 6 , 2008 , Majin Tantei N?gami Neuro : Kanzen Shinri Kaiseki @-@ sho written by K?ichi Mizuide was released by Kazan . In Japan , action figures , bags , chawan , T @-@ shirts , mouse pads , fridge magnets , and other products were sold as merchandise for the series .

= = = Video games = = =

A Nintendo DS game titled Majin Tantei N?gami Neuro : Neuro to Yako no Bishoku Sanmai Suiritsuki Gourmet and Mystery was produced by Audio and released by Marvelous Entertainment on June 12 , 2008 . Majin Tantei Nougami Neuro : Battle Da Yo ! Hannin Sh?g? ! , a PlayStation 2

game , was also released in August 28 , 2008 . Neuro N?gami appeared in the Nintendo DS game Jump Ultimate Stars as a battle character , using Yako for some of his attacks . Akane , X and Sasazuka appeared as help characters . Neuro appears as a support character in the crossover fighting game J @-@ Stars Victory VS .

= = Reception = =

The manga has sold 4 @.@ 4 million units in Japan as of April 2009 ; individual volumes frequently appeared on the lists of best @-@ selling manga there . Fans of the manga series responded negatively to its anime adaptation , criticizing the alterations made to the characterizations and stories . Japanese website New Akiba , hosted a petition intended to show fans ' dissatisfaction and to ask Madhouse and Nippon Television to be more faithful to the original work . Viz Media 's representative Amy Mar said the show is of low priority since it has not been among the most @-@ watched on VizAnime .

Manga Sanctuary praised the protagonist for being original and unique . It criticized the fact that the reader does not have access to some facts that could help to solve the mysteries . The reviewer said it is unfortunate because the readers feels passive , which is not desirable in a crime series . However , Manga News said that this impassivity is good because it is what differentiates Neuro from Case Closed . Its design , setting , the " interesting and well @-@ constructed characters " , and the development of the relationship between Neuro and Yako which were also praised by the reviewer , who said the series is " completely apart in the world of manga , Neuro is a genre unto itself which is between several styles and therefore appeal to a wider audience . " Animeland 's critic also compared it to Case Closed , but said its black humor , cruel and deadpan laughs were " quite caustic . "

Anime News Network 's Carlo Santos said that the series walks " the line between serious sleuth drama and supernatural spell @-@ fest " , " balancing all that with the occasional joke " . He said the graphic violence is the best part of the series , praised the Madhouse animation and described it as " Case Closed with spirit powers " . Serdar Yegulalp from About.com said it has " [ a ] n interesting concept " , is " competent enough " , and " has a few fun twists " , but that apart from the supernatural elements it does not bring anything that has not already been done in Case Closed . Writing for Mania.com , Chris Beveridge said the anime operates principally around the two main characters ; he said that it is " more interesting to watch how Neuro and Yako operate , to understand methods and personalities , more than the actual event . And that weakens the episode because it never feels like we 're really drawn into the mystery itself . " Beveridge added it " has some good production values " , but criticized Neuro 's appearance , " which is bordering on comical " as it makes it difficult for the series " to go a darker route " .