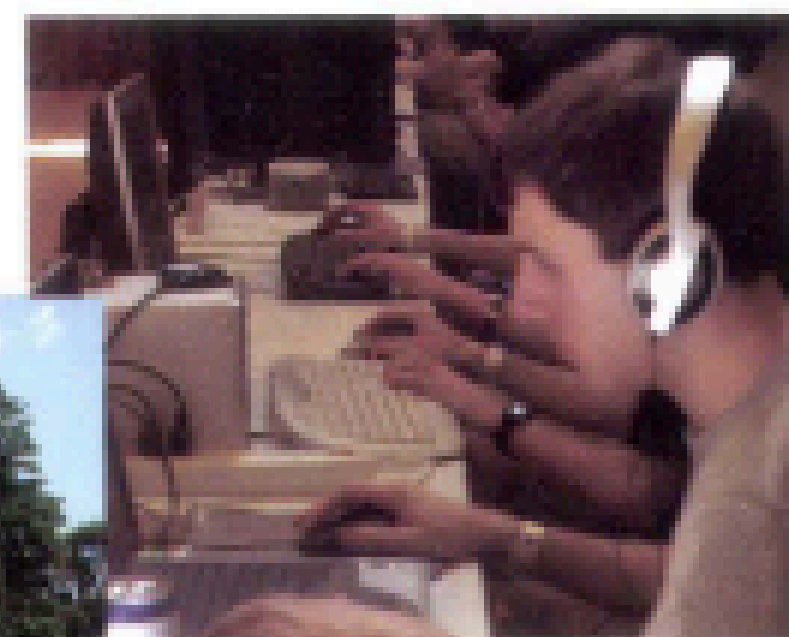
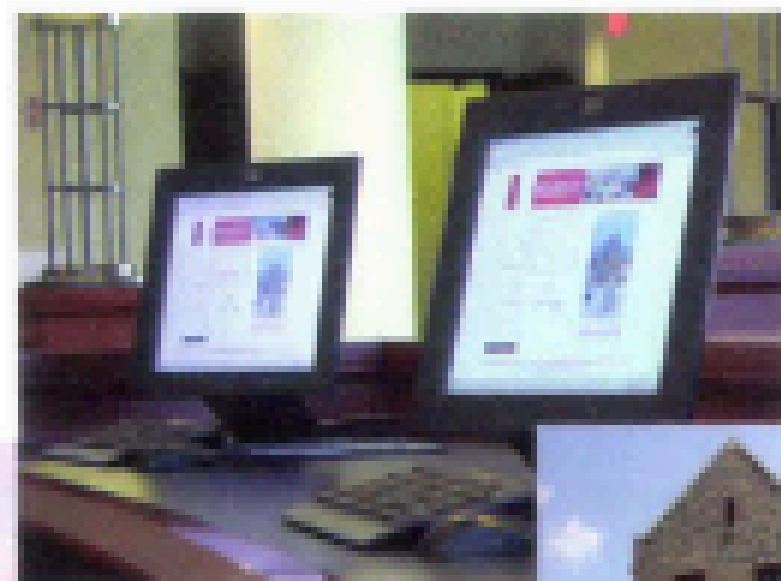


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Arcade Line

Calling all quarters! Overseas titles that may hit home.



Psychic Force (Taito)—A 3D fighting arcade game of psychic battle, with some contenders in cybernetic limbs and black-leather clothes, fighting in heavy urban areas. The game engine resembles the **Toshinden** series, but characters can literally float in the air, and use psychic attacks and shields rather than swords, etc. In terms of the glowing, visual psychic powers presented, the game more resembles the manga series **X** than (relatively) subtler shows of telekinesis such as **Ma: The Psychic Girl**.

Dead or Alive (Tecmo)—One of several fighting games debuted at the 1996 Japanese AOU show, **Dead or Alive** uses a Model 2 board just like **Virtua Fighter II**. 3D morphing technology, and graphics animated from actual human movement, allow such precision that individual muscles can be seen flexing. The controllers are a joystick plus three buttons, intended for beginners, with the standard hits, throws, and grabs.



Western Front

American comic and multimedia gaming



The Main Man

Fans of DC Comics' rudest brawler (anyone who beats up Superman, and only fails to finish the job because he's too drunk, wins this title) take note that **Lobo**, a 16-bit fighting game for SNES and Genesis, will be released by Ocean in May.

Lobo, a motorcycle-riding, cigar-smoking mercenary, is one of DC's most popular characters. Savage fighting rendered from clay models, including special moves like ramming grenades down your enemy's throats, should appeal to the fans who made the 1993 comic **Lobo** a hit.

Threshold of Zork

Not only fighting games have movies and TV shows, apparently, as Activision announced February that its **Zork** series of puzzle-solving games (which started with Infocom's text-based **Zork I** in 1981) will be turned into a live-action television series by Threshold Entertainment, the same company which brought **Mortal Kombat** to the screen. The **Zork** series has also made it to Japan, with a 32-bit **Zork I** (with some graphics added) as well as **Return to Zork**, which incorporates full-motion video, for the 3DO. The humorous, but thought-provoking, underground exploration premise continues in new forms.



Game On! Japan's Top Ten Games

This top ten list is based on sales, overall popularity, and industry expectations compiled by Game On! Japan, one of the leading cross platform game magazines in Japan. The following list appeared in its April 1996 issue.

#1—**Super Donkey Kong 2: Dixie & Diddy**
Super Famicom/Nintendo/Action-Adventure
This game (U.S. title **Donkey Kong Country 2: Diddy Kong's Quest**) was so popular when it was released in Japan that not many people had the chance to buy it; availability sank to 65% of retailers. The Super Famicom (or Super NES) is still one of the most popular Japanese systems.

#2—**Super Robot Wars 4 Scramble**
Sony Playstation/Banpresto/Simulation
This tactical simulation game featuring sparring Super Deformed (i.e., small-bodied and cute-looking) robots from anime series such as **Gundam**, **Dunbine** and **Mazinger Z** was a popular Japanese title even before it was released. Strategy games are much more popular in Japan than in the States.

#3—**Dragon Quest 6**
Super Famicom/Enix/RPG
The **Dragon Quest** series (U.S. title **Dragon Warrior**) is one of the best-selling games in Japan, and has been for a long time. Tried and true, its cross-generational good reputation holds its own among newer polygon games.

#4—**Battle Arena Toshinden 2**
Sony Playstation/Takara/Fighting
Released between Christmas and the New Year, the sequel to one of the Playstation's first and best-publicized games still has a strong following.

#5—**Virtua Fighter 2**
Sega Saturn/Sega/Fighting
In Japan Sega's AM2 development team and its leader, Yu Suzuki, are very popular. In the beginning it sold well because of the arcade game, but now many people are buying it for the interesting characters themselves.

#6—**Street Fighter Zero**
Sega Saturn/Capcom/Fighting

#7—**Ridge Racer Revolution**
Sony Playstation/Namco/Racing

#8—**Sega Rally Championship**
Sega Saturn/Sega/Racing

#9—**Street Fighter Zero**
Sony Playstation/Capcom/Fighting

#10—**Super Momotaro Train DX**
Super Famicom/Hudson Soft/Board Game