New Super Mario Bros.

New Super Mario Bros. [a] is a <u>2D side-scrolling platform game</u> developed and published by <u>Nintendo</u> for the <u>Nintendo DS</u>. It is a part of the <u>New Super Mario</u> *Bros.* series and was released in 2006.

The game's plot is similar to those of other side-scrolling *Mario* games. *New Super Mario Bros.* follows <u>Mario</u> as he fights his way through <u>Bowser's</u> henchmen to rescue <u>Princess Peach</u>. Mario has access to several <u>power-ups</u> that help him complete his quest, including the Super Mushroom, the Fire Flower, and the Starman, each giving him unique abilities. While traveling through eight worlds with a total of 80 levels, Mario must defeat <u>Bowser Jr.</u> and Bowser before finally saving Princess Peach.

New Super Mario Bros was commercially successful and received positive reviews; praise went towards the game's improvements made to the *Mario* franchise, while criticism was targeted the game's simplicity and is similarity to previous games. The game has sold nearly 31 million copies worldwide, and is the <u>best-selling game for the DS</u> and one of the <u>best-selling games of all time</u> The game's success led to a line of sequels that released for theWii, Nintendo 3DS, and Wii U.

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Gameplay

New Super Mario Bros. is a side-scrolling video game. While it is seen in $\underline{2D}$, most of the characters and objects are $\underline{3D}$ polygonal renderings on 2D backgrounds, resulting in a $\underline{2.5D}$ effect that visually simulates $\underline{3D}$ computer graphics. [1][2] The

VINTENDO North American box art Developer(s) Nintendo EAD Nintendo Publisher(s) Shigeyuki Asuke Director(s) Producer(s) Hiroyuki Kimura Designer(s) Masanao Arimoto Programmer(s) Nobuhiko Sadamoto Eiji Noto Composer(s) Asuka Ota Hajime Wakai Series Super Mario Platform(s) Nintendo DS Release NA: May 15, 2006 JP: May 25, 2006 AU: June 8, 2006 EU: June 30, 2006 **Platform** Genre(s) Mode(s) Single-player, multiplayer

New Super Mario Bros.

player can play as either <u>Mario</u>, or his brother, <u>Luigi</u>. Similar to previous *Mario* games, Mario (or Luigi) can collect coins, stomp on enemies, and break open blocks.^{[3][4]} Moves from 3D games featuring Mario reappear in *New Super Mario Bros.*, including the ground pound, triple jump, andwall jump.^[4] Enemies from previous games, such asBoos, are also reintroduced.^[5]

Ten <u>levels</u> are available in each of eight worlds, which are shown in the Nintendo DS' bottom <u>touchscreen</u> while viewing the <u>world map</u>.^{[6][7]} The map of the currently selected world appears in the top screen, which is used to navigate between the world's levels.^[7] The goal of each level is to reach a black flag at the end of the level. At the end of each world, a <u>boss</u> must be defeated before proceeding to the next world.^[6] There are six <u>power-ups</u> available in *New Super Mario Bros.*; the game allows the player to store an extra power-up when he is already using one, a feature carried over from <u>Super Mario World</u>. Three power-ups from <u>Super Mario</u>



Mario rampages through a level after using a Mega Mushroom power-up, which grows him to an enormous size for a short period of time. Mario and surrounding objects are seen with a 2.5D effect.

<u>Bros.</u> return: the Super Mushroom makes Mario grow in size, the Fire Flower lets Mario throw fireballs, and the Starman makes Mario temporarily invincible. Three more power-ups are introduced in *New Super Mario Bios.*: the Blue Koopa Shell lets Mario withdraw into a shell to protect himself and perform "shell dash" attack, the Mega Mushroom grows Mario to an incredible size, and the Mini-Mushroom makes Mario very small.^{[6][8]}

The game's multiplayer mode pits two players against each other as they play as Mario and Luigi in one of five stages, trying to be the first to obtain a preset number of stars. Both players can attack each other in attempts to steal the other player's stars. Jumping on the opponent's character will make them lose one star, while performing a ground pound will lose them three. ^[6] In addition, some minigames previously available in *Super Mario 64 DS* have returned and now offer multiplayer options for added replay value. ^[9] The minigames are divided into four categories: Action, Puzzle, Table and Variety. *New Super Mario Bros.* contains eighteen minigames for single players and ten minigames for multiple players.

Plot

Mario and <u>Princess Peach</u> are walking together when lightning suddenly strikes Peach's castle nearby. As Mario runs to help, <u>Bowser Jr.</u> appears, sneaking up on the Princess from behind and kidnapping her. Realizing what has happened, Mario quickly rushes back and gives chase. Mario ventures through eight worlds pursuing Bowser Jr. and trying to rescue the kidnapped princess. Mario catches up to them and confronts Bowser Jr. occasionally, but is unable to save the princess from the young Koopa's clutches. At the end of the first world, Bowser Jr retreats to a castle, where his father, <u>Bowser</u>, awaits Mario on a bridge over a pit filled with lava. In a scene highly reminiscent of the original <u>Super Mario Bros.</u>, Mario activates a button behind Bowser to defeat him, and the bridge underneath Bowser collapses, causing him to fall into the lava which burns his flesh, leaving a skeleton.

Despite Bowser's demise in the first level, this does not stop Bowser Jr. from running through the remaining worlds with Peach in tow, forcing Mario to chase after him before reaching Bowser's castle in world 8. There, Bowser Jr. revives his father's skeleton, creating Dry Bowser, but Mario once again defeats Bowser by dropping him into a deep pit. In the final battle, Bowser Jr. flees once more across a lava chasm to a larger castle, where he throws his father's bones into a cauldron and revives Bowser in his original form. They attack Mario in tandem, but Mario drops the pair into the pit below. In the game's final sequence, Mario rescues Peach, who kisses him on the cheek. Over the end credits, Bowser Jis seen dragging his unconscious father across the floorHe looks at the screen, and growls, breaking thefourth wall. [8][6]

Development

Nintendo announced on February 21, 2006 that *New Super Mario Bros*. would launch for the Nintendo DS on May 7, 2006. The game's new power-ups were also introduced at the same time, including the Blue Koopa Shell and the Mega Mushroom. Nintendo further mentioned that the game would be played in 2D but use 3D models to create a 2.5D look and fe^{[1][2]}. The May 7 release was later delayed towards May 21, but the game's release date was eventually pushed back slightly to May 15; Nintendo also planned to release it around the same time that the Nintendo DS Lite launched, on June 11, 2006. [10]

New Super Mario Bros. is the first 2D platform game to star Mario since Super Mario Land 2: 6 Golden Coins in 1992. [4] First revealed at the 2004 E3 convention, New Super Mario Bros. was available for play at E3 in 2005. The game's designers were given much more freedom with designs in New Super Mario Bros. compared to previous 2D Mario games. Characters, enemies, and objects could now be created with much more detailed animations, without requiring that they be designed by hando Frovide visual cues, the developers made the game's camera more dynamic; it zooms in and out of action depending on the situation to provide focus where necessary. [12]

Physics play an important role in *New Super Mario Bros*.'s improved game mechanics. Without the rigid restrictions of tile-based sprites and backgrounds, the designers were free to explore new gameplay mechanics; when Mario lands on top of a tree, it teeters over and eventually falls if he is stationary for too long. Mario can also swing on ropes and walk on wires that bend and stretch under his weight.^[12]

Early in the game's development, the developers planned not to use voice acting to stay true to the spirit of the original *Super Mario Bros.* However, voice acting was eventually embraced by the developers, who decided that it would serve the game in a positive manner. Although voice acting was used in earlier 2D *Mario* remakes, *New Super Mario Bros.* is the first original 2D *Mario* game to use voice acting. Charles Martinet returned to voice Mario and Luigi, along with Nicole Mills as Princess Peach, Scott Burns as Bowser, and Dolores Rogers as Bowser Jr.^[13] *New Super Mario Bros.* features original music composed by Asuka Ohta and Hajime Wakai, under the direction of the original *Super Mario Bros.* composer, Koji Kondo, ^[14] who also created the "Aboveground BGM", the main theme for regular levels. ^[15] The game's music dictates gameplay; enemies jump and dance in time to the music. Predicting enemy movements, players can time their jumps with enemy movements to reach otherwise inaccessible are ^[16]

Reception

New Super Mario Bros. was released by Nintendo in North America on May 15, 2006, [28] in Japan on May 25, 2006,^[28] and in Europe on June 30, 2006.^[29] Nintendo did not specify why it chose to delay the game's release in its home market of Japan by ten days, but GameSpot noted that "it stands to reason that the company simply wants a few more days to build inventory."[28] In Japan, over 480,000 units of New Super Mario Bros. were sold on the day it was released and 900,000 copies in the first four days [30] At the time, it was the best-selling debut for a Nintendo DS game in Japan, [30] but it has since been surpassed by *Pokémon* Diamond and Pearl.[31] It is Japan's 26th best-selling game in 2008.^[32] In the United States, 500,000 copies of New Super Mario Bros. were sold in the first 35 days, [33] and one million copies were sold twelve weeks after its release. [34] Worldwide sales have steadily increased throughout the years, with five million copies by April 2008,^[35] eighteen million by March 2009,^[36] and 30.8 million by March 2016, making it the bestselling game for the Nintendo DS and one of the bestselling video games of all time^[37]

The game received positive reviews from critics, with several calling *New Super Mario Bros.* one of the best games available for the Nintendo DS.^[17] GameZone believed that it was the "hot game" to purchase for any DS owner, noting its "huge exploration potential" and

Reception

Aggregate score	
Aggregator	Score
Metacritic	89/100 ^[17]
Review scores	
Publication	Score
1UP.com	B+ ^[18]
CVG	9/10 ^[19]
Eurogamer	9/10 ^[20]
Game Informer	9.25/10
GamePro	**** ^[21]
Game Revolution	B+ ^[22]
GameSpot	9/10 ^[25]
GameSpy	***** ^[4]
GamesRadar+	★★★★★ [24]
GameZone	9.3/10 ^[23]
IGN	9.5/10 ^[3]
Nintendo Life	9/10 ^[27]
X-Play	★★★★[26]

reinvention of the platform game genre.^[23] Tom

Bramwell of <u>Eurogamer</u> stated, "I've done this sort of thing before hundreds of times across thousands of days in what feels like a dozen Mario games. I still love it."^[20] Believing that experienced players would require very little time to complete the game, GameSpot nevertheless considered *New Super Mario Bros.* a "completely awesome" game that was an "absolutely necessary" video game to own.^[25] <u>GamesRadar</u> considered the game a bargain, noting that it included "a completely solid solo game, a simple-but-exciting two-player, and then a collection of superquick stylus games".^[24]

Several reviewers drew comparisons between *New Super Mario Bros.* and their favorite *Mario* games. Although some found that other *Mario* games were better, most reviewers were still pleased with the overall experience of the game. Some fans however, criticized the game for its low difficulty compared to other Mario games. Craig Harris of <u>IGN</u> was enthused with *New Super Mario Bros.*, stating that it was his new favorite platform game, beating out his previous favorite, *Super Mario World 2: Yoshi's Island.* [3] Even though *Super Mario World* and *Super Mario Bros.* 3 were considered the best 2D *Mario* games by *GamePro*'s Mr. Marbles, he decided to add *New Super Mario Bros.* as his third favorite *Mario* game, which he admitted had much more <u>replay value</u> than the other two. [21] Despite including new features such as a versus mode, the game made <u>Game Revolution</u> disconcertedly ask the question, "Can Mario ever truly be new again?" [22] It also disappointed Greg Sewart of <u>X-Play</u>, who found that the game did not live up to the standards set by its predecessors, but still considered the game the best side-scrolling video game available for the Nintendo DS [26]

The game's graphics and audio received praise in a number of reviews. Th<u>Eomputer and Video Games</u> magazine was entertained by the "finely crafted slice of [...] Mario", along with the extra minigames offered. They believed that the audio was very good for a Nintendo DS game, predicting that "it'd still scare the pants [off] the hard-of-hearing.' Despite being a 2D game, <u>GameSpy</u> still found that the 2D and 3D elements blended together perfectly in *New Super Mario Bros.* He game's overall experience pleased <u>1UP.com</u>, which applauded Nintendo's ability to once again create an enjoyable, solid, and challenging portable experience. However, they were disappointed in the lack of imagination for this remak^[1,8]

New Super Mario Bros. received numerous awards and accolades. It was given Game of the Month awards from <u>Game Informer</u> [38] and <u>Electronic Gaming Monthly</u>, [39] and it received Editors' Choice Awards from <u>IGN</u> [40] and <u>GameSpot</u> [25] The game was voted Best Handheld Game at the 2006 <u>Spike Video Game Awards</u>, [41] Best Nintendo DS Game by GameSpot, [42] and it won Best Platformer awards from <u>X-Play</u> and <u>Nintendo Power</u>. [44] The game was awarded Choice Video Game at the 2006 <u>Teen Choice</u> Awards, [45] and Nintendo Game of the <u>Year</u> at the 2006 Golden Joystick Award. [46]

Sequels

New Super Mario Bros. Wii, a successor to *New Super Mario Bros.*, was released internationally for the <u>Wii</u> in 2009. It features similar gameplay to its predecessor, with several of the same power-ups returning as well as brand-new ones. The game was the first *Super Mario* game to feature <u>cooperative gameplay</u> for up to four people, allowing players to control Mario, Luigi, and two different toads colored yellow and blue. Adirect sequel to the gamewas later released for the <u>Nintendo 3DS</u> in 2012.

Notes

a. Japanese: New スーパーマリオブラザーズHepburn: Nyū Sūpā Mario Burazāzu

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External links

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