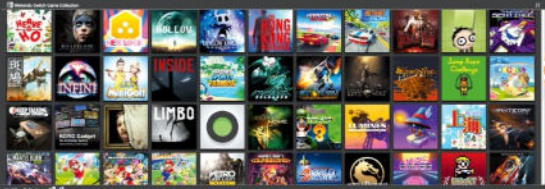


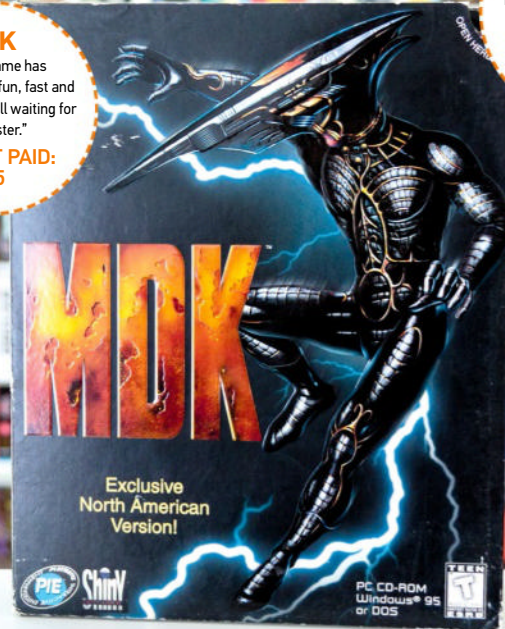
COLLECTOR'S CORNER

READERS TAKE US THROUGH THE RETRO KEYHOLE



MDK
 "This PC game has everything: it's fun, fast and hilarious. I'm still waiting for a remaster."
AMOUNT PAID: \$25

LEMMINGS
 "Lemmings on C64? Impossible, but yet it exists and it's badass. It blew my brain back in 1994."
AMOUNT PAID: €22



FROM BIG BOX TO BIG WEBSITE

Meet the collector who shares his collection online

We've spoken to many collectors in the past who have used spreadsheets as a way to track their collections, but Benjamin Wimmer has taken things one step further.

"I wanted something visual that would allow me to compare covers and editions more easily," he tells us. "With that in mind, I started by photographing and then scanning my boxes. As the number of photo albums grew, the idea of presenting them on a website emerged."

That collection can be found at bigboxcollection.com and it's filled with incredible scans of Benjamin's impressive big box collection, as well as the games he has picked up for Wii and Switch (the latter of which is all digital). As you might expect, keeping on top of such a project can be quite time consuming. "There are only a couple of small tasks needed for creating a virtual version: scanning the box, editing the scans, and adding the game's details to my database," Benjamin says. "The

problem is that my spare time is limited, and side projects like the upcoming bigboxbook.com eat up more hours than anticipated, so there are always a pile of not-yet scanned/uploaded boxes on my desk."

Every collection starts somewhere and Benjamin's began with a copy of *Castle Master* on the C64, which was acquired in the late-Eighties. "It was my first game packaged in a cardboard box and it felt magical compared to the budget Mastertronic cassette cases that I usually picked up," Benjamin says. "We were spoiled back then with all the manuals, maps and other extras that were thrown into these big boxes. No other platform matched this level of goodies that made the games spill into the real world during the Nineties."

Benjamin decided to put his collection into storage in the summer of 2000 due to big box variants disappearing and a general focus on digital games, but a physical release of *C64anabalt* on C64 in 2012 reignited his interest and he began

tracking down the coveted games he never got to play on release. "Long story short, here I am with a shelf of around 700 boxed games for various computer systems released between 1982 to 2021," he proudly tells us.

When he's not seeking out big box games to add to his collection, Benjamin also has an interest in Nintendo's Wii. "It was a true revolution for me," he tells us. Never comfortable with the dual-stick controllers that so many other consoles used, Benjamin found the Wii's approach refreshing, saying, "It allowed for a more comfortable and very precise way of playing." It also led to Benjamin picking up many games for the system, from *Zack & Wiki* and *Endless Ocean* to *No More Heroes* and *Resident Evil 4*.

While Benjamin is unsure why the Wii is suddenly becoming popular, "The Wii got a lot of hate during its time and was skipped and belittled by many gamers, developers, as well as the press," he's convinced you can still create a great collection if you follow some useful tips. "Patience is key," he says. "Set yourself a budget per title and/or month and take a break from time to time. Also, share your collection with other retro gamers, like the fantastic Big Box PC Game Collectors group on Facebook." ★

BIO

- NAME:** Benjamin Wimmer
- LOCATION:** Vienna, Austria
- ESTIMATED VALUE OF COLLECTION:** +3 Nerdiness
- FAVOURITE SYSTEM:** PC
- FAVOURITE GAME:** Elder Scrolls: Daggerfall
- TWITTER:** @3DBigBoxGames



Got an impressive collection of your own? Contact us at:

f RetroGamerUK @RetroGamer_Mag retrogamer@futurenet.com

**DAGGERFALL:
THE ELDER
SCROLLS CHAPTER
2 (PREVIEW)**

"A tough to find PC demo of my all-time favourite game with a stunning box."

AMOUNT PAID:
€99



**DEAD
SPACE:
EXTRACTION**

"A very intense on-rails shooter that shows what the Wii's capable of. A perfect game bought on day one."

AMOUNT PAID:
£29



**JEWEL
IN THE CROWN**

LAST NINJA 2 (US RELEASE)

"One of the best games on C64 and one of the best covers of all time. It took me ages to find."

PAID: €70

BARGAIN HUNT

Your guide to the rising world of retro prices

THE COVER STAR

OUTRUN 2

Despite being an Xbox exclusive, *OutRun 2* remains relatively cheap and costs roughly **£12**. *OutRun 2006: Coast 2 Coast* on Xbox is a different story, with PAL prices starting at **£75!**



MAYHEM IN MONSTERLAND

Original disk versions of this excellent game can go as high as **£140**. Alternatively, an official reprint is available via Psytronic Software for **£19.99**.

STAR PARODIER

Prices for this charming shooter start at **£54** and top out at **£95**. You'll find versions by PCEWorks which are far cheaper but they're reproductions and not authentic, so keep that in mind.

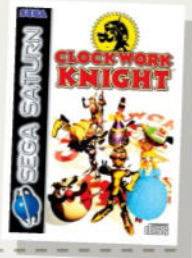


MAGIC POCKETS

Atari ST versions of *Magic Pockets* sell complete for around the **£20** mark, while the Archimedes version reaches **£50**. The Amiga version falls somewhere in the middle.

CLOCKWORK KNIGHT

PAL versions of *Clockwork Knight* tend to hit **£40** complete, with US editions reaching **£50**. The Japanese version is usually around the **£20** mark.



MIRROR'S EDGE

Even if you don't consider it retro you'll not want to miss out on this excellent game. The Xbox 360 and PS3 versions are both available for **£1**.

**FRESHLY-PICKED TINGLE'S
ROSY RUPEELAND**

£95 seems to be the going rate for a complete copy of Tingle's DS adventure. No US release keeps the price high.



ZERO WING

Toaplan's excellent Mega Drive conversion is rising in price. PAL copies can reach **£50**, while Japanese copies can go as high as **£100**.



HOW MUCH?!

ELIMINATE DOWN

Considered a grail by many Mega Drive owners, *Eliminate Down* continues to fetch outrageous prices. A copy recently sold for **£1,249.99**. If you ever see this in the wild, snap it up!

