

HANDS-ON: TURBOGRAFX-16 MINI IS MADE FOR THE RETRO **GAMING ENTHUSIAST**

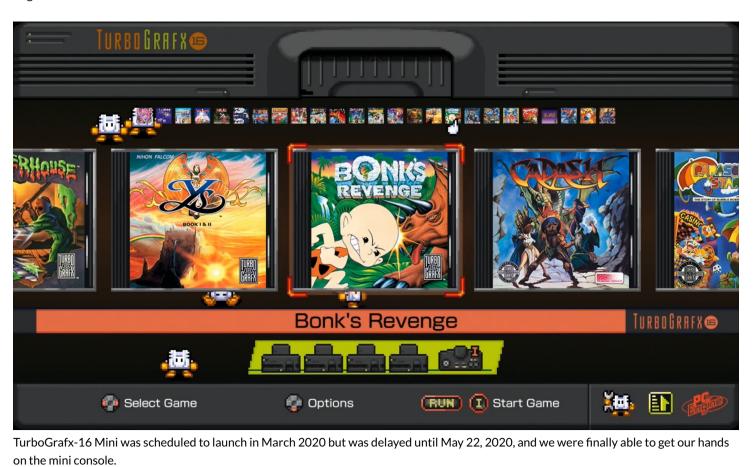
HARDWARE (/HARDWARE) Jul 07, 2020 by: <u>Quibian Salazar-Moreno (/author/quibian-salazar-moreno)</u>

By 1989, Nintendo was dominating the home console video game market. Games like Super Mario Bros, Tecmo Bowl, and Legend of Zelda had a stranglehold on the market and kids were loving it.

While the NES was the go-to system for video games, in 1989, a couple of other companies were attempting to get some of that video game cash too. Sega introduced Sega Genesis to the masses, which saw some success with Sonic the Hedgehog leading the way.

At the same time, TurboGrafx-16 was introduced in North America after seeing some moderate success in Japan as the PC Engine. And while its North American launch was considered a failure, TurboGrafx-16 was able to acquire a cult following with games like Bomberman '93, R-Type, and the Ys series being some of the must-have games for the system.

Now, 31 years later, TurboGrafx-16 is back, but in a smaller package. The TurboGrafx-16 Mini was announced during E3 2019 amid the hot trend of retro consoles being released in a "mini" form. The console features 57 games from both the original TurboGrafx-16 and Japan's PC Engine console.

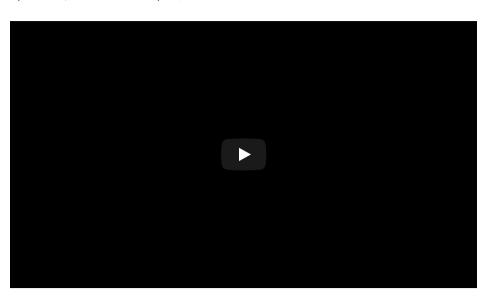


The console is an exact "mini" replica of the original TurboGrafx-16 console, but there's a removable section in the back of the device where you plug in your HDMI cable and your power cable, which is a simple micro-USB to USB cable. The controller, which is also a replica of the original TurboGrafx-16 controller is a USB plug-n-play controller that plugs into the front of the console. Additional controllers or an AC adapter for power are sold separately.

Connecting everything to a television and powering everything up was simple, and we were good to go. The console outputs only 720p/480p, but it's fine, none of the games on the console were made for 1080p or 4K resolution, it's the '80s, man!

When powering up the console, the first thing you see is a menu for games that are featured on TurboGrafx-16, there are 25, and in the lower right-hand corner is the PC Engine logo which you can select to view its games, which total 32.

Truthfully, I hadn't heard of most of the 57 games included. I've played Bomberman '93 before and on TurboGrafx-16 Mini, it's just as fun. Same with R-Type, that classic side-scrolling shoot 'em up gameplay never seems to go out of style. Then there are the Japanese versions of classic games like Castlevania: Rondo of Blood (Akumajo Dracula X: Chi no Rondo), Ghouls n' Ghosts (Daimakaimura) and Ninja Gaiden (Ninja Ryukenden) but for the most part, a lot of it was new to me.



Alien Crush, a virtual pinball game I never played before was fun to play and I spent a considerable amount of time trying to get as many points as possible.

Not every game is a joy, however. Ninja Spirit was obviously a Ninja Gaiden copycat, JJ & Jeff was just weird and a bit pointless, and Chew-*Man-Fu* was a puzzle game that didn't really lay out the goals for the player.

If I'm being honest, however, if I had a TurboGrafx-16 and PC Engine in 1989 with these 57 games, I would've never left the house. Yes, some of the games didn't age very well, but others are still fun and a reminder of where some of your favorite indies today get their inspiration.

If you're a retro gamer that lives for the 8-bit and 16-bit era of gaming, this is an absolute must-have. There are endless hours of fun here, in one small package. If you're so-so on that era, and you don't recognize the games on the roster, the \$99.99 price tag might not be worth it for you. For more on the TurboGrafx-16 Mini, check out the official site here (https://www.konami.com/games/pcemini/us/en/). Check out the list of games below:



(https://www.newegg.com/Gaming/Store/ID-8?cm_sp=GameCrate- -banner- -TurboGrafxHandson) **TurboGrafx-16 Games** Air Zonk Alien Crush **Blazing Lazers** Bomberman '93 Bonk's Revenge Cadash Chew Man Fu **Dungeon Explorer** J.J. & Jeff Lords of Thunder Military Madness Moto Roader Neutopia Neutopia II New Adventure Island Ninja Spirit **Parasol Stars** Power Golf Psychosis R-Type Soldier Blade Space Harrier Splatterhouse (TurboGrafx-16 Version) Victory Run Ys Book I & II **PC Engine Games** Akumajo Dracula X: Chi no Rondo (Castlevania: Rondo of Blood) Aldynes Appare! Gateball Bomberman '94 Bomberman: Panic Bomber Cho Aniki Daimakaimura (Ghouls 'n Ghosts) **Dragon Spirit Dungeon Explorer** Fantasy Zone Galaga '88 The Genji and the Heike Clans Ginga Fukei Densetsu Sapphire Gradius Gradius II: Gofer no Yab? Jaseiken Necromancer The Kung Fu (China Warrior) Nectaris (Military Madness) Neutopia Neutopia II Ninja Ryukenden (Ninja Gaiden) PC Genjin (Bonk's Adventure) Salamander Snatcher Seirei Senshi Spriggan Splatterhouse (PC Engine Version) Spriggan Mark 2: Re-Terraform Project **Star Parodier** Super Darius Super Momotar? Dentetsu II Super Star Soldier Tengai Maky? II: Manji Maru (Japanese exclusive) Tokimeki Memorial (Japanese exclusive) Valkyrie no Densetsu Ys I & II 14 Comments 1 Login gamecrate.com 🔒 Disqus' Privacy Policy Sort by Best -💛 Recommend Tweet f Share Join the discussion... LOG IN WITH OR SIGN UP WITH DISQUS ? Df 💟 G Name Rinaz Ali • 8 months ago • edited Ninja Spirit isn't a knock off of Ninja Gaiden, it's more like a Ninja R Type! 2 A V · Reply · Share · William Martin A Rinaz Ali • 7 months ago What about Keith courage in Alpha zones? 1 A V · Reply · Share · Jimmy McNulty A William Martin - 7 months ago I've got the game music stuck in my head as we speak! Wish it was in this device. Jimmy McNulty A William Martin • 7 months ago ∧ | ∨ · Reply · Share IVLIVS CAMILLVS • 8 months ago A great gaming console! Ninja Spirit, Splatter House, Bonk I II III, Devil's Crush, all memorable games. Superstar Soldier was amazing! $1 \land | \lor \cdot \text{Reply} \cdot \text{Share}$ Magilla Guerrilla • 6 months ago No Keith Courage? No Legendary Axe? No Bloody Wolf? Yeah, I'll pass thanks ∧ | ∨ · Reply · Share · Yahawashiba Simeon Israel - 7 months ago I bought this console in 1000 I bought this console in 1989 with the original Metroid. Why is Metroid Not mentioned in the list games?? ∧ | ∨ · Reply · Share · ZiggyBoomBox • 7 months ago ev. No Bloody Wolf or VEIGUES ?? ∧ | ∨ · Reply · Share · LVE2RIDE • 7 months ago **TH** No tempest👳 ∧ | ∨ · Reply · Share · Jeff • 7 months ago Should probably mention in your article that some of the games mentioned (castlevania, Ys, etc) were for the CD add on and not just the regular old Turbografx16/pc engine. ∧ | ✓ · Reply · Share · Kenny Temprano · 8 months ago Lame. No pac land or street fighter. That's what made me buy mine in 1989. ∧ | ∨ · Reply · Share · ClassicGamer · 8 months ago How about a HU Card with all the games on it.. that works in our PRE-Owned turbo graphics :D ∧ | ∨ 1 · Reply · Share ·



Trolly Cart A ClassicGamer • 7 months ago

DISQUS



Every so often an indie game comes out of nowhere to become a surprise hit. It looks like Loop Hero fits that bill, selling more than half a million copies in...

REVIEWS

INDIEWATCH: LOOP HERO DESERVES ITS HALF A MILLION SALES <u>NEWS</u> Mar 12, 2021

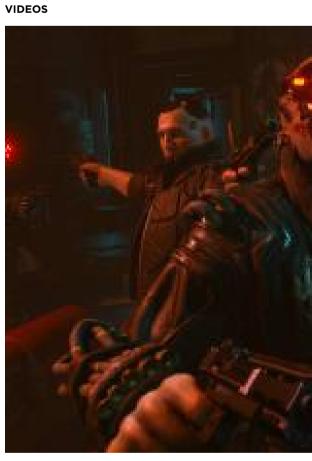


BORDERLANDS 3 DIRECTOR'S CUT DLC DELAYED TO AP NEWS Mar 12, 2021 Borderlands 3 players thirsting for new content will have to wait a little bit lor upcoming...



REVIEW: BRAVELY DEFAULT 2 PUTS SYSTEM OVER STORY, AND THAT' REVIEWS Mar 01, 2021

What's the reason we play RPGs? Many people would say "the story" and that's understandable. The RPG was one of the first genres to really focus on indepth...



RTX THEATER: CYBERPUNK 2077 RAY TRACING ON/OF VIDEOS Feb 10, 2021 The game designers at CD Projekt Red have programmed major ray-traced this, we...

