



The drumsticks are speaking to you and you answered. Weirds.

HAND-EYE COORDINATION TO A WHOLE NEW LEVEL

Taiko: Drum Master
www.namco.com/games/taiko

WARNING: Do NOT confuse this game with Nintendo's own *Donkey Konga*. While you might be tempted to view these games as the same thing, bear in mind that they are actually quite different. *Donkey Konga* allows you to slap bongos and clap along to music, whereas Namco's excellent *Taiko: Drum Master* requires that you perfect the art of playing the Japanese drum known as "taiko." In this game you can pick up drumsticks to play along to a number of modern hits and classical tunes as you hone your skills. When you feel that you've become a drum master, challenge your friends to a taiko duel. When they beat you — poke their eyes out with the drumsticks (Namco in no way, shape or form condones this sort of violence, nor will they take responsibility for your friend's gouged-out eyeball).



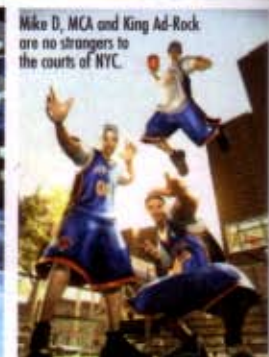
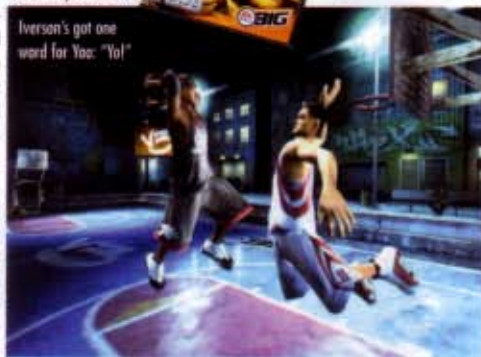
NBC Street Vol.3
www.easportsbig.com/games/nbas-treet3

EA Sports has ruled the pro sports video game market for what feels like centuries now. Time and time again they drive home some of the most realistic sports action any video game fiend can ask for. That all changed when they dropped *NBA Street Vol. 1*. More so than any other sport, people love the street aesthetic of basketball. If you've ever



In addition to a collection of Tanooki suits and mushrooms, Mario also has a wicked crossover.

witnessed a live street ball competition, you'll know that some of the best ballers aren't in the NBA. However, EA continues to mix up the best of both worlds with their third iteration of this nearly flawless arcade-styled franchise. Go three-on-three at street courts around the nation in a number of different competitions, battling NBA stars, street ballers, the Beastie Boys and even classic Mario Bros. characters (exclusive to the GameCube) using any number of trick moves and dunks. Online multi-play action, improved graphics and a brand new soundtrack are all reasons to seek out this hot title.



Miko D, MCA and King Ad-Rock are no strangers to the courts of NYC.

>play

COME OUT AND PLAAAY!



The Warriors
www.mezco.net

When released in 1979, no one figured that *The Warriors* would live on as a cult favorite. If you haven't seen this delightfully cheesy urban action flick yet, stop what you're doing and pick it up now. Extremely popular amongst hip-hop headz, this film followed the misadventures of framed Coney Island gang, The Warriors as they make their way from the Bronx back down to their home turf. Mezco, who've now produced stylized versions of Run DMC and Scarface, do the hip-hop world another favor by releasing the members of The Warriors, Baseball Furies and Cyrus' assassin, Luther in this first installment of figures. Now all we need are Cyrus, the Lizzies, The Punks, The Orphans, Turnbull A.C.'s and of course, the Gramercy Riffs. Can you dig it?!





iPod Shuffle
www.apple.com/ipodshuffle

Though the iPod shuffle has been getting its fair share of verbal abuse from tech nerds all over the internet for its lack of a screen or features, the fact is that Apple set out to create an entry-level mp3 player that is inexpensive while maintaining the slick style the company introduced to the world with its first generation of iPods. It would be wrong to say they didn't succeed. Starting at \$99 (for the 512MB model), the shuffles do exactly what they were meant to do: play music, shuffled. Though, you can still arrange for it to play your playlists. Smaller than a pack of Trident gum, these bad boys can plug directly into your computer's USB port for instant connectivity and downloads. Do as Barry White once said, and let the music play on.

AN APPLE A DAY...



Mac mini
www.apple.com/macmini

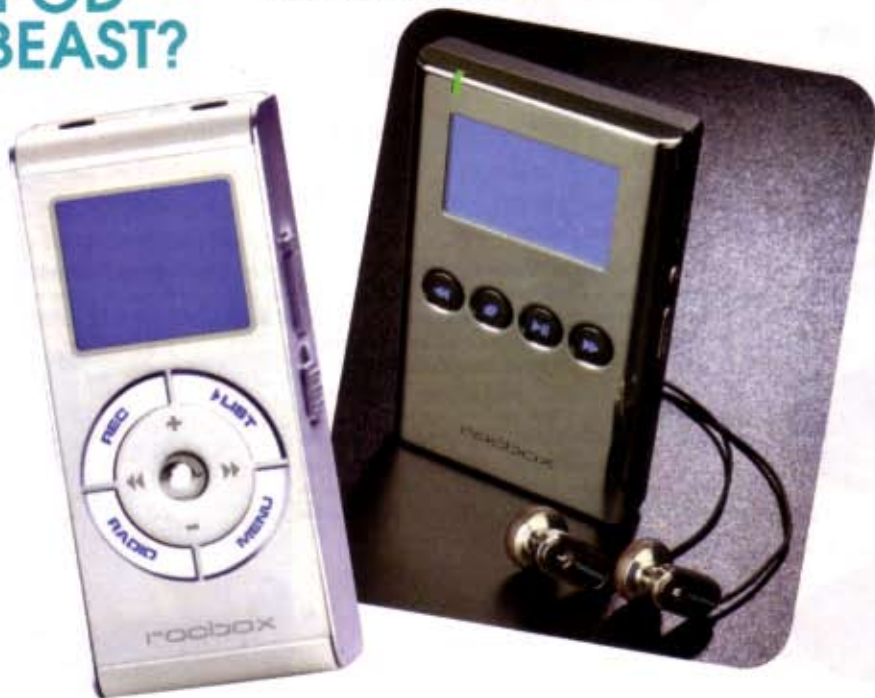
Finally, a reason for all PC hold-outs to cave-in and submit to their real computer of choice. Let's face it -- Macs have always had the slicker, easier-to-use interfaces. It's no secret that in the professional world, Macs are used much more by folks who do things such as graphic design, music and video editing -- so why don't more home users own a Mac? Price. Starting at \$499, these are powerful computers that most people can actually afford. Measuring in at a petite 6.5" square that stands a mere 2" tall, this 2.9 pound system won't even eat up much of your desk real estate. Finally, an Apple that's not too expensive to take a bite out of.



CAN ANYONE SLAY THE IPOD BEAST?

Rocbox Digital Music Players
www.roc-digital.com

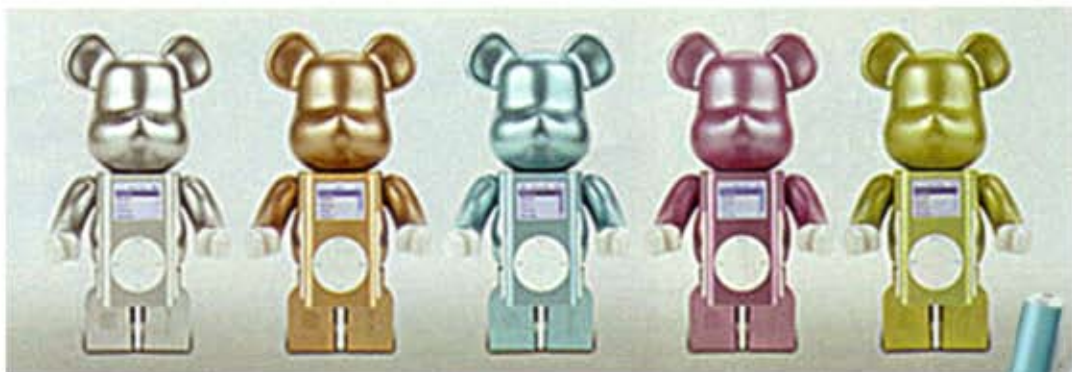
Is there any business hip-hop won't attempt? We've got record labels, beverages, clothing, snacks, jewelry and much, much more -- but digital technology? Though Damon Dash sold the remaining share of his Roc-A-Fella label to Def Jam (where former business partner Jay-Z is now CEO/president) he's still on the grind with his other endeavors. The Rocbox -- which strangely resembles older generation iPods (right down to its lack of the current iPod's efficient click wheel) -- is available as either a mini 256MB flash player or a 20GB hard drive. Also available through the Roc Digital site are a few accessories for this Damon Dash-approved music player. At least this is better than the Roc-A-Pad sanitary napkin (as fabricated by Dave Chappelle).



Dell Pocket DJ
www.dell.com

If Damon can drop his own digital music player, so can an actual PC/peripheral company. Offering lower-priced alternatives to the immensely popular iPod, the Dell DJs currently come in two flavors, the smaller 5GB "Pocket" model (\$199) and the larger capacity 20GB model (\$249). The Pocket DJ is actually smaller than a deck of cards and is on par with the iPod mini -- yet holds a whole gigabyte more, making it a far better deal for those of you who don't care about brand names and fancy colors. Only time will tell if Dell has the power to make Apple-source out of the iPod line.





ODDZ 'N ENDZ

iBe@r
www.medicomtoy.co.jp/

Why does all the cool stuff always have to be imported? In the same vein as Lego-styled action figure company Kubrick's iKub, these bears serve as stands for your iPod mini. Unfortunately, only specialty shops carry them (unless you care to order straight from Japan). Available in a variety of colors to match your iPod mini, these stands simply hold your iPod mini — they won't charge or power it. Sure, they lack any sort of real functionality, but they sure are cute!



> play



Lip Talkers
 Cell Phone
 Speakerphone
www.bmgmusic.com

Connect a Lip Talkers speakerphone to your headphone and engage in conversation with your best friend, parents or boss... while staring at the bizarre moving lips. Sure, this could have been a boring ol' accessory (and in time, might actually prove to be just that) but the novelty value of this item is worth every cent (about \$24.99) straight out of the box.



JBL OnStage & OnTour
www.jbl.com/onstage
www.jbl.com/ontour

During this iPod-fueled era, it's always a relief to know that there are companies out there looking out for the nerdy gadget-slash-music lover in all of us. Similar in idea to the Bose SoundDock, the JBL OnStage provides a simple, compact and effective way to turn your iPod into a full-blown stereo system. Dock your iPod and listen to music from the OnStage's impressive speakers as the iPod charges. It lacks a remote like Bose's system, but makes up for it with a mini-jack connection for other audio devices such as your portable CD player. The OnTour is the same basic idea, for non-iPod users. Bring this portable stereo anywhere you go and plug in devices such as non-iPod MP3 players (though it works just as well with iPods), CD players, minidisk players, desktop computers, laptops and most portable devices for high-quality room-filling sound. Its cover/stand will keep it protected at all times, even when you might be causing some ruckus on stage or on tour.

