

MIDWAY ARCADE CLASSICS

PUBLISHER: Midway
DEVELOPER: Backbone
DE-LISTED: Feb. 2010

WHAT WERE THEY? Nine classic arcade games from the Midway back catalog:

Cyberball, Defender, Paperboy, Root Beer Tapper, Robotron, Joust, Gauntlet, Smash TV, and Ultimate Mortal Kombat 3.

WHY WERE THEY DE-LISTED? The titles were removed immediately after Midway went into administration. Microsoft's official line was that the removal was down to "publisher evolving rights and permissions."

WILL ANY OF THEM RETURN? Warner

Brothers now owns the rights to some of these titles, although it was unable to tell us which ones. Disappointingly, the publisher

could tell us only to "stay tuned for more information" on whether they will return.

There is one nugget of info from Mark Tunnell, the original co-designer of *Smash TV*, though. He tells us: "Before Midway went under I was beginning work on *Smash TV HD*. I had lots of requests for a sequel over the years. But Warner purchased that IP from Midway so I won't be able to personally deliver the sequel."



PAINBALL ▲

DEV: Radlogic Games
DE-LISTED: December 2008

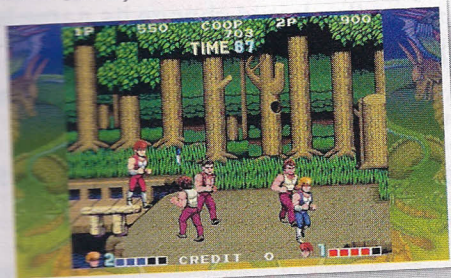
- **WHAT WAS IT?** This indie game had some of the ugliest graphics ever, but it at least showed that you could make an FPS engine using the XNA development software.
- **WHY WAS IT DE-LISTED?** Developer Gina Geno voluntarily pulled the game from the Indie Games channel after it received some savage reviews.
- **WILL IT RETURN?** Geno currently has no plans to return the title to Xbox Live Marketplace.



YARIS

DEV: Castaway Entertainment
PUB: Microsoft

- DE-LISTED:** November 2008
- **WHAT WAS IT?** A free, waste-of-bandwidth racing game released to promote the launch of the Toyota Yaris. Highly unlikely to make you rush out to buy a car.
 - **WHY WAS IT DE-LISTED?** The game was a time-based promotion and was always meant to be available for only a 12-month window.
 - **WILL IT RETURN?** Xbox Live's Major Nelson says, "The title was removed since the program is now over." Good riddance, we say.



DOUBLE DRAGON

DEV: Razorworks
PUB: Empire Interactive
DE-LISTED: July 2009

- **WHAT WAS IT?** A vintage two-player beat-'em-up starring Billy and Jimmy Lee. This XBLA version had a remixed soundtrack and completely re-drawn graphics.
- **WHY WAS IT DE-LISTED?** *Double Dragon* was removed as a result of Empire Interactive filing for bankruptcy.
- **WILL IT RETURN?** Very unlikely given that both the publisher and developer are now closed for business. We contacted the current rights-holder — Million Co. LTD, a Chinese electronics firm — but no one was available for comment at press time.

The developer voluntarily pulled the game after it received some savage reviews.

BLUEPRINT RACER

DEV: Echs Bachs
DE-LISTED: October 2009

- **WHAT WAS IT?** This racing game began life as a starter-kit to help indie-game developers learn XNA. Echs Bachs rather cynically released it as his own game.
- **WHY WAS IT DE-LISTED?** According to Creator's Club MVP Andy Dunn, "*Blueprint Racer* was pulled because there were still bugs in it that some reviewers ignored."
- **WILL IT RETURN?** *2060 Cyber Racer*, another re-skinned version of the starter kit, has replaced it on Live Marketplace. Thankfully, this one has all the bugs removed.

FENAK MURA MONOGATARI

DEV: ktakaki
DE-LISTED: September 2009

- **WHAT WAS IT?** A Japanese top-down RPG closely inspired by the *Legend of Zelda* series.
- **WHY WAS IT DE-LISTED?** ktakaki says, "When *Fenak* was removed from the list, some people thought it was because of copyright, but actually it was a technical problem."

- **WILL IT RETURN?** The problem, which was related to save-games, is now fixed, and ktakaki is re-submitting the title for re-release on the Indie Games channel.



SPEEDBALL 2: BRUTAL DELUXE

DEV: Empire Interactive/Bitmap Brothers
PUB: Empire Interactive
DE-LISTED: July 2009

- **WHAT WAS IT?** A fun, uber-violent sports game (*OXM* rating: 7.0), and still the only Commodore Amiga game to be fully resurrected on XBLA.
- **WHY WAS IT DE-LISTED?** *Speedball 2* was another unfortunate victim of Empire Interactive's bankruptcy.
- **WILL IT RETURN?** We contacted two ex-Bitmap Brothers staffers for comment, but neither had any new information. When Empire folded, the publishing rights went to Zoo Games, which has since filed for Chapter 11 as well.

