

## GAME GUIDE: Quick takes on the newest games

GAME	SUMMARY	GENRE	CONSOLE	RATING	GRADE
<b>Ark the Lad: End of Darkness</b>	The latest entry in the "Ark the Lad" series adds both a real-time battle system and online playing options, but neither helps make this RPG an above-average game. The graphics are colorful, but the story is not interesting.	action/RPG	PS2	Teen	C-
<b>Flipnic</b>	A new take on classic pinball games, "Flipnic" weaves together retro and futuristic elements to create a game experience that's exciting and challenging. Great graphics and a \$20 price tag make this a must have for pinball lovers.	pinball	PS2	Everyone	B+
<b>Herbie: Fully Loaded</b>	There's not much to this racing game released in conjunction with the movie of the same title. Sharp 3-D graphics help the title, but there's little variation in the gameplay.	racing	GBA	Everyone	D
<b>Juiced</b>	A solid racing title that has plenty of options, but doesn't stray too far from other street-racing titles. The key to success is winning races, but winning respect of other races is just as important, as it determines your racing privileges.	street racing	Xbox	Teen	B-
<b>King of Fighters: Maniax</b>	The story mode features 19 fighters, 14 of which are new, but the story is paper thin and the cut scenes and dialogue leave much to be desired. But, the fighting action is solid.	action/fighting	Xbox	Teen	C+
<b>Nanostray</b>	This third-person shooter is best described as an update of the Atari classic Galaga. It's a button masher, but the game provides a decent challenge and crisp, clear graphics.	flying combat	Nintendo DS	Everyone	C+
<b>NCAA Football 06</b>	Perhaps the best college football game to date, this year's edition features the "Race for the Heisman" mode that allows you to create a player who starts as a freshman and works to obtain college football's highest honor. Great graphics and presentation.	football	Xbox, PS2	Everyone	A+
<b>Riviera: The Promised Land</b>	This rather forgettable RPG focuses a warrior angel named Ein battling demons that are trying to take over the mythical world of Asgard. The plot isn't great and neither are the graphics.	Action/RPG	GBA	Teen	C
<b>Still Life</b>	FBI agent Victoria McPherson is on the trail of a serial killer whose crimes resemble those of a serial killer her grandfather nabbed in Prague in the 1920s. The game has glitches and its puzzles are somewhat problematic, but the story and characters make up for those shortfalls.	Mystery/adventure	PC	Mature	B

## Protecting your PSP with the Noreve Tradition

"Noreve Tradition"

Price: \$57

Grade: B+

By GERRY TRITZ  
News Tribune

Despite that fact that the Sony PSP comes with a nifty glove-like case, there's already a wide variety of third-party cases on the market.

That's because the case provided with the PSP has its benefits (snug fit and attractive), but it also has its drawbacks (lacks protection, storage space and uniqueness).

If style and quality are your primary criteria in selecting a case for your Sony PSP, you can't go wrong with Noreve's Tradition case.

It's a top-of-the-line leather case with a sleek, professional look. It offers more protection than the standard case, and manages to squeeze out a bit of room for storage.

The first thing you'll notice about the Tradition is that new-PSP-case smell. The scent of quality, soft leather simply can't be beat. Mom's homemade pie, of course, is the



exception. That's not to slight unleaded gasoline and fireworks, which are also high on my list.

Anyway, the case comes in two colors: black and gray. Just this week, Noreve announced a third color for the lady gamers: pink. They each come with matching leather

wrist straps.

The case wraps around and snaps on the underside. Much of the ends of the PSP are exposed, but the edges of the case extend beyond the exposed areas, giving your precious PSP protection if you were to (gulp!) drop it.

There's a purpose to having the



ends exposed. Once you flip open the case, you still have access to all of the needed controls. It's a bit uncomfortable at first, but you can play games without removing the case. You even have access to the UMD drive by unsnapping a couple fasteners, although it would be almost as easy to take off the case.

The case stores two memory cards and one UMD game/movie, which is all you'll need for a daytrip, but likely not enough for a vacation.

The bottom line is that you probably don't need another case for your PSP. But if you love it — truly love it — you'll take better care of it than that long-deceased pet Tamagochi that's languishing in your closet. So why not spring for the best?

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