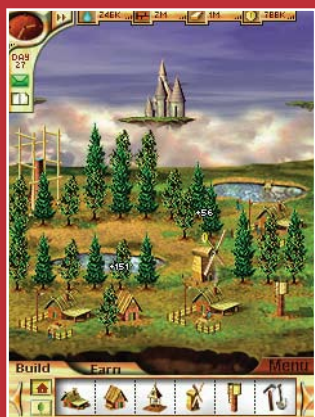


For **WINDOWS MOBILE** Users **SmartphoneMag.com**
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M A G A Z I N E

SPECIAL REPORT

Top Games



GAMES ROUNDUP short reviews from Games Editor Eric Pankoke

All-Time Top 10 Games!

Looking for the best Windows Mobile games of all time? New Games Roundup editor Eric Pankoke picks the winners.

Instead of rattling on about myself in my first column, I thought it would make more sense to let you see me (or read me) in action. This edition of Games Roundup looks at my top 10 Windows Mobile games of all time.

To prepare for this, I looked over the more than 100 games I have reviewed and eliminated anything that received a score of six or less (out of 10). Then, I reread the remaining reviews to refresh my memory. While audio and visual elements influenced my final selection, the most important thing for me was great and unique game play. Some of the games I looked at were addictive and fun to play, but really didn't bring anything new to their respective genres. While there's nothing wrong with that, I don't think that earns them a place in a top 10 list. Finally, for each game, I asked myself: "would I go back and play this again?" The answer had to be "yes" or it didn't make it into my top 10. I have listed the games from 10 to 1, with each subsequent game in the list more likely to find its way back on my PDA than the last. Of course, if I had the time I'd keep playing them all, but then I'd never have time for new reviews!



10: Atomic Battle Dragons

isotope244.com

Touch screen only

In its basic action elements, this game pays homage to the classic 1982 arcade game Joust. You ride your steed (dragons instead of the ostriches found in Joust) and try to eliminate

NEW GAMES EDITOR

As we announced in the last issue, Allen Gall will be taking a well-deserved hiatus from the Games Roundup column. We would like to thank Eric Pankoke for taking over the column for the next year. Eric has been a gamer for over 20 years, beginning with arcade games and moving to consoles and eventually handhelds and Pocket PCs. Eric has written over 100 gaming reviews, which have appeared on a number of gaming Web sites, including Pocket Gamer, PDArcade, Games-Art, PDAGround, TechnoBrains, and his own Web site (RustySabre.com). He's also a regular contributor to our own blogs (smartphonemag.com/blogs). Finally, he's involved with testing and (hopefully) developing games for the Windows Mobile OS. epankoke@gmail.com

enemies by knocking them off of their steeds. However, Battle Dragons has so many enhancements that it is worlds apart from Joust. For example, its decent storyline actually gives you some purpose for playing. Its power-ups help you defeat your opponents more quickly (but can also be used against you if the enemies get to them first). The "bosses" that show up from time to time provide a sense of progression and keep you from feeling like you've fallen into a rut. There's even a mini RPG system where you can build up three different stats to make your player a stronger, faster, or more resilient combatant.

All this breathes some exciting new life into a 25 year-old concept. Throw in an arcade mode with virtually unlimited levels, and this game will keep you busy for a long time. The in-game graphics are top notch, and with the exception of a couple of oddly rendered characters, the images that go along with the story are also quite gorgeous. The sound effects really enhance the game play, instead of just being there for the sake of being there. The music is decent if a bit repetitive. However, in the long run it doesn't detract from the game. The overall concept may not appeal to you, but once you get into playing Atomic Battle Dragons, you'll be hooked.

9: ClayGun

claygun.com

Touch screen only

ClayGun is my favorite scrolling shooter for the Pocket PC. There's nothing revolutionary about the game, but the developer did so much



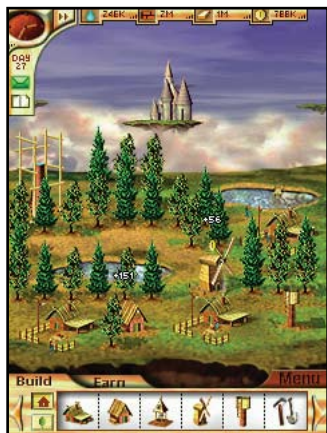
right with this one that it doesn't matter. You get a choice of four characters, each of which actually feels different when you're playing the game. Each character's story is also unique, complete with two alternate endings depending on whether or not you uncover the hidden sixth level.

Refreshingly, the developers actually implemented some level design in ClayGun instead of just throwing wave after wave of bad guys at you. In each level, you have to battle a mid-level boss as well as one at the end of the level. (The end boss goes through two transformations before it's finally dead.) And in the final level, you get to face off against all the bosses from the previous levels one more time.

ClayGun lacks the 3D graphics found in Skyforce: Reloaded, for example. However, ClayGun's enemies are much more original in design, and each level has many background

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details that help the visuals outshine the pseudo-3D look in Skyforce. The sound effects were nothing fancy, but the music was some of the best I've heard. As far as I'm concerned, ClayGun sets the standard to beat for any new shooter that I play on my Pocket PC.



8: Spb Air Islands

spbsoftwarehouse.com

Touch screen only

Spb Air Islands is somewhat akin to SimCity, but with the ultimate goal of rebuilding the generator on your island so that you can connect back to all of the other parts of your devastated planet. Air Islands works like most traditional simulator games (a.k.a., "sims") in that you have a variety of structures you can build, and building those structures requires resources.

Air Islands rises above the crowd because of the mini-games you must play in order to gather each of the three required non-monetary resources. The mini-game concept is probably one of the most interesting features I've seen in the simulation genre in a long time—on the Pocket PC and other platforms. Air Islands also does an exceptional job of creating an atmosphere that you want to be a part of. The graphics are small but finely detailed and there's always something going on. For example, if you add a lake to the island, people come out and fish in it; and at night bugs flit around the outside lights. The sound effects compliment this atmosphere perfectly. Finally, there's an online community that allows you to upload in-progress or completed islands, which means you're part of the game even when you're not playing. All this makes for an interesting and ultimately entertaining Pocket PC gaming experience.

7: Hidden Expedition: Titanic

astraware.com

Touch and non-touch screen versions

As far as I'm concerned, Astraware is the king of puzzle games, and nothing proves it more



than Hidden Expedition: Titanic. They managed to take the simple concept of finding objects hidden in an image and turn it into a compelling and addictive game. Through the course of several dives, you will explore 26 rooms in the sunken Titanic, complete several bonus levels, and finally complete the captain's puzzle in order to recover the ultimate treasures. Navigating the rooms is a simple task, and locating items is challenging and definitely rewarding.

The backgrounds are rendered with incredible detail, and could easily stand as paintings in an art gallery. The music is hauntingly beautiful, and even though there's only one track you'll never tire of it. I didn't regret a single minute exploring this hidden treasure.



6: Plumbin' Frenzy

pdamill.com

Touch screen only

At first glance, Plumbin' Frenzy is not much more than a pretty face grafted onto the veteran puzzle game Pipes. The simple premise of this type of game is that you have a playing field full of straight and curved pieces, which you must rotate to create a continuous pipe from one end of the board to the other. When you finish one screen, you move to progressively more difficult levels. The developers of Plumbin' Frenzy made the later levels more

interesting by throwing in unnecessary pieces, multiple destinations (all of which have to be connected to beat the board), and loops. Some of the later levels provide a hair-pulling experience, especially if you're playing in one of the timed modes. However, the exhilaration you experience when you complete a difficult level far outweighs any frustrations you had getting there.

Plumbin' Frenzy and similar games are so simple that even if you're unfamiliar with the genre, you can jump right in and play it—and probably get hooked on it as well. The graphics are very nicely done, especially the rendering of the Plumbin' Pete character, which pops up from time to time. There are only two musical tracks in the game, but you'll find yourself humming along to them before too long. I've had many devices over the years that I've installed and played games on, and this is one of the few games that I've reloaded multiple times and enjoyed playing all of the levels every time.



5: Assaultaire

lejo.4t.com

Touch screen only

Assaultaire is a tank game with an attitude. The graphics are decent, with good ship renderings and nifty special effects on the weapons. However, the background tiles are mediocre, and the interface looks like it was quickly thrown together. The sound effects serve their purpose, the music is OK but doesn't rock the house, and with the exception of a couple of odd variations like "guide the jeep," missions are somewhat blasé. So why is this game in my list?

First, Assaultaire is not a "shoot first and ask questions later" type of game—it actually requires some strategy. Not the same level as games like Rainbow Six, but it will certainly do you well to plan ahead before charging in. Second, it uses a combination of the stylus and D-pad that actually works well! (The D-pad moves the tank and the stylus rotates the turret

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and fires the cannon.) Finally, I really enjoyed the power-up system employed in Assault-aire. As you destroy enemies you earn power points, which can be used to increase any one of 12 stats that help you increase your tank's capabilities. And best of all, if you have a mission that requires you to be strong in a certain capability, you can reassign power points at will. This unique action/strategy/RPG game certainly won me over.



4: Obulis / Obulis: The Second Epoch

ionfx.com

Touch screen only

Both versions of this game are definitely worth playing. Obulis and Obulis: The Second Epoch challenge you to get small colored balls into cauldrons of the same color. The balls are suspended by swinging chains of various lengths and materials. You have to tap on a chain to select it and then tap on the scissors button to cut it, letting the ball free. If your timing is correct, the ball will roll, bounce, or fly into the appropriate cauldron.

The ball physics are realistic and the game is fun. But what really drew me in to these two titles was the fact that whenever I was about ready to give up on a level, I'd always seem to find the combination of actions that made it work. Obulis has decent but not extraordinary graphics, and most of the visuals in Second Epoch seem to be nothing more than slight upgrades from the first game. The sound effects are well done and pretty much the same for both versions, but the music is much better in Second Epoch than in the original. Overall I was slightly more impressed with the sequel, but if you're a die hard puzzle game fan, there's no reason you shouldn't add both of these titles to your collection.

3: Meltdown

momentumgames.com

Touch and non-touch screen versions

Meltdown is proof that a one button game can be fun and addictive. You have to help Emgee,



the power stations safety robot, stop 18 different reactors from melting down. Your task is accomplished by jumping and "jet-packing" your way to the appropriate places in each level. Your missions are timed and your obstacles are many. And just when you're ready to throw your Windows Mobile device out the window, you'll find the right combination and timing of actions to solve the level you're on. Meltdown's graphics are excellent and its sound effects make everything come alive. And the music, while not my favorite style, fits the atmosphere of this game perfectly.



2: Bowling For Burgers

pdamill.com

Touch screen only

I love to bowl, but I've never cared for electronic bowling games. Bowling For Burgers changed all that, which is why it made my top 10 list. The control scheme used by the program is intuitive and actually quite fun once you get used to it. The novel approach uses the length and speed of a stylus stroke to determine how the ball travels down the lane. You can choose from three different characters, each with their own strengths and weaknesses; it actually feels different bowling with each of them. There are also five different ball weights, which once again actually makes a difference in the game play.

What really clinches this game for me, however, is the atmosphere. The graphics are great, but more importantly the ambiance is perfect. The music is so well suited to the theme that you almost think they wrote the soundtrack first and then crafted the game around it. The sound effects make you feel

like you really are in a bowling alley, and the voices let you almost visualize the characters. The only real complaint I have with this game is that there isn't more of it. A couple of extra bowlers, some more music, and a tournament mode would take this game to a new level. But even without these enhancements, it's already the tops.

And the number one Windows Mobile game of all time is...



1: Legacy

redshift.hu

Touch and non-touch screen versions

Legacy keeps drawing me back into it. There are role-playing games (RPGs) with better aesthetics (I liked the look of Undercroft a lot more), and the sound in other Pocket PC RPGs is better, but the world of Legacy is totally engrossing. Add to that the over 20 freeware and shareware add-ons available for it, and you could easily spend months with this game without ever getting bored. It would be nice if the graphics were more varied, as this would help the add-ons feel



more distinctive. But once you get into the details of the game, every world stands on its own. If you fondly remember the days before every RPG had to have a hack-n-slash interface like Diablo's, Legacy is the RPG for you. As Legacy is the only game on this list that I had no obligation to play, since I didn't actually write a formal review of the game, I felt it made sense for it to be the number one game on my list. I figure anything that can consume as much of my free time as Legacy has deserves the top ranking on my all-time favorites list. ■

My Top 10 Games

Have fun and showcase the power of your Windows Mobile device with the best games available.

by Mike Riley

One of the best kept secrets about Windows Mobile devices is that they are incredible entertainment platforms. And unlike dedicated devices like the Nintendo DS or Sony PSP, they are not constrained to a single purpose. When there's work to be done, the built-in productivity applications and a host of third-party programs help you stay on top of your schedule and in keep in touch with your associates. You can switch back and forth between work and play quickly and easily, all the while listening to your favorite music playing in the background.

Windows Mobile devices are more versatile and multifunctional than any other gaming-optimized handhelds on the market today, and there are hundreds of high-quality games available for these devices. However, only a few of them are absolute must-have titles. The list presented here includes games from an assortment of categories, including action, adventure, puzzles, sports, and more. Some of these titles push the limits of graphics and sound; others extend the challenges of strategy and mental concentration. All are examples of the best games available for Windows Mobile devices.

The list is organized in inverse order, with the number one game at the end. The order is based roughly on the number of hours I continued playing a particular title after its initial novelty wore off. In addition, I considered how likely it was that I would ever uninstall the game from my device and how much I would want to show someone the game if I was asked "Can you play games on that thing?" I know it's subjective, but that is why these are "My Top Ten Games." Here they are:

The Top 10

10. Sky Force Reloaded

\$9.98: idreams.pl

This top down vertical scrolling shooter will remind gamers of arcade classics like 1942 and Xevious. "Sprites" (small animated objects) are smooth and numerous with almost no slowdown even when the screen is full of projectiles (a frequent occurrence, espe-



Sky Force Reloaded is the sequel to the popular Sky Force.

cially in the later, more intense levels). The major drawback to the game is its relatively brief duration, since all 8 levels can be played through in short order. Regardless, this game is the least expensive one highlighted in this list, and it showcases the Windows Mobile OS as a very capable arcade game platform. (Available for Windows Mobile touch screen devices and non-touch screen smartphones.)



Sudoku Master II delivers offline and online game play.

9. Sudoku Master II

\$19.95: realdice.com

Sudoku has become the 21st century version of the crossword puzzle, with millions of players engaging in some variation of this number grid game throughout the world at any given moment. Real Dice combines both the soli-

tary and competitive aspects of the game with offline and online functionality in Sudoku Master II. Players are encouraged to create an account with the company's online gaming portal, Real Dice World, to take on human opponents around the world in a leader board ranking system to determine the top Sudoku Master. A simple story mode also exists for those seeking a less confrontational, solo game playing experience. (Available for Windows Mobile touch screen devices and non-touch screen smartphones.)



Riven for the Windows Mobile platform is an amazing technical achievement.

8. Riven (sequel to Myst)

\$24.99: meanhamstersoftware.com

Of all the games featured in this roundup that are based on original PC gaming titles, Riven is by far the most impressive conversion. Somehow the programming wizards at Mean Hamster Software compressed the original, which shipped on 5 CD-ROMs, into less than 200 MB of storage space without sacrificing any of the game's art, sound or video. They also didn't sacrifice the game's difficulty—it's one of the most challenging and, for the uninitiated, frustrating adventure games ever designed. Riven is the sequel to Myst, another impressive conversion of the PC original. However, Riven dwarfs Myst in size and scope. (Available for Windows Mobile touch screen devices.)

Mike Riley was previously employed by RR Donnelley as the company's Chief Scientist, responsible for determining innovative technical approaches that improved the company's internal and external content services. Mike is a frequent contributor to several technical publications and specializing in emerging technologies and new development trends. Mike was also the co-host of Computer Connection, a technology enthusiast show broadcast on Tribune Media-owned CLTV. You can contact Mike at mike@mikeriley.com.



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Call of Duty 2 is one of the most visually advanced Windows Mobile games, but only works on devices with 3D hardware accelerated graphics.

7. Call of Duty 2

\$29.99: aspyr.com

Call of Duty 2 is a must-have game that will have onlookers doing a double take wondering what kind of new portable gaming device is supporting this smooth, detailed, and engrossing first person shooter. While nowhere near as detailed or easy to control as the PC game it's based on, Aspyr has adequately captured the essence of this World War II game with its group of NPC's (non-player characters) urging you forward to restore freedom to Europe with machine gun in hand.

The game ships with two versions: The "software version" requires that the device have a 400 MHz or better Intel processor, 32 MB of storage space—internal or storage card—for installation, and 28 MB of available RAM to run. In addition to these requirements, the "hardware accelerated version" requires that the device have an Intel 2700G or Nvidia GeForce 5500 graphics chip. The installation routine senses whether the Pocket PC has one of these graphics chips and installs the appropriate version of the game. Regardless of which version you play, both are equally captivating. (Available for Windows Mobile touch screen devices.)



Atomic Cannon offers an array of armaments to use against opponents.

6. Atomic Cannon

\$19.95: isotope244.com

Loosely based on the old PC game called

Scorched Earth, Atomic Cannon is an easy to play yet extremely addicting game that pits you and your cannon against one or more human or computer-based opponents. After selecting the number and type of players (computer or human), a two-dimensional battlefield is displayed showing your cannon and your opponent's. Adjust the elevation and force of the cannon via an easy touch screen interface, and fire away. Every time you hit your opponent or come close, you reduce his "health" level and eventually destroy him. When you do, you are rewarded with a variety of pyrotechnic effects ranging from cluster bombs to a devastating nuclear explosion that shakes the whole screen. Isotope 244 also has exact PC and Mac ports of their Windows Mobile titles so gamers can continue the action on larger laptop or desktop screens. (Available for Windows Mobile touch screen devices and non-touch screen smartphones.)



Pocket Heroes is a faithful reproduction of a classic PC game.

5. Pocket Heroes

\$19.95: pocketheroes.org

Pocket Heroes is a faithful adaptation of New World Computing's "Heroes of Might & Magic," a turn-based PC strategy game of medieval fantasy conquest. This is quite a technical achievement, especially when you consider the excellent job they did fitting numerous interface icons and parameter dialogs on the small screen, while still leaving plenty of room to display the colorful battles that populate the program. No doubt the Pocket Heroes developers were passionate fans of the original game given the care and attention to detail invested in this faithful adaptation. In addition to the standard resolution portrait mode 240x320, the game can also scale to 480x640 for those lucky enough to have a Windows Mobile device with a VGA screen. (Available for Windows Mobile touch screen devices.)

4. Enslave

\$19.95: pocketmoregames.com

This 2D shooter is a sprite tour de force, and is one of the leading Windows Mobile games in simultaneously displaying many individually



Enslave fills the screen with loads of pyrotechnics.

moving graphical elements (a.k.a. "sprites") on the screen at once. Enslave is two simple games connected by a story line. In the first, you fly through space blasting alien ships as they attack, using a territorial map at the bottom of the screen to locate the planet you wish to conquer. In the second, you land your big gun on the planet's surface and complete the conquest by shooting alien swarms that attack you from above. Power-ups can be zapped for weapon enhancements, including multiple guns and smart missiles. It is the battles on the planet that fill the screen with sprites, which come at you from a variety of angles and make the game challenging. (Application developers will wonder how they were able to achieve such intense graphics without impeding the frame-rate.) Enslave is an exceptional technical achievement and a highly gratifying game that sates the urge to blow things up. (Available for Windows Mobile touch screen devices.)



Broken Sword: stunning graphics, engaging adventure.

3. Broken Sword: Shadow of the Templar

\$29.95: astraware.com

Astraware has done an amazing job porting this relatively obscure but highly entertaining PC graphic adventure to the Windows Mobile platform. Broken Sword is a Da Vinci Code-style search for the mysteries surrounding the

An interview with Astraware CEO Howard Tomlinson

Astraware has two games featured in My Top 10 Games, one of which captured the top spot. The company is one of the most well-known game publishers for the Windows Mobile platform today. Chief Executive Officer Howard Tomlinson graciously shared his ideas on the following topics:

How did Astraware get started in the WM gaming business?

Originally our business was created out of a hobby—developing for mobile devices just because we could, and it was fun! Our first Windows Mobile games were launched around 2001, and although the early take-up was slow, it has grown and is now a very important part of our business.

What are the most striking similarities between designing games for the PC and the Windows Mobile platform?

I think the expectations of quality and a level of polish are high for both. Users expect their games to be stable and work well, and to be well featured as well as fun.

What are the most notable differences?

As you'd expect, the physical differences are important—screen dimensions, limited RAM and processing power, and the like. Going from a mouse to a stylus is quite a difference; you have to change the game not to expect a “mouse over” like you would on a PC game, because if the user hasn't touched the screen with their stylus, you won't know where they are aiming. I think the biggest difference is actually in the usage—on a PC game you can expect the player to play for hours at a stretch. A Windows Mobile game has to be rewarding and fun even in 5-minute bites.



What are the biggest challenges facing WM game developers?

As more devices come out, the standard provided by Microsoft isn't always adhered to by device manufacturers, or at least, not in the same way. This means more and more “if on this device do something different” exceptions, and this can really bog developers down. Users don't appreciate being told that their device has a problem; they want it to “just work.” This is a constant challenge for us; updating our software to support new devices.

What is the future of Windows Mobile gaming?

While it would be easy to say that richer graphics and effects will come in the future, I think the real change will be the movement to games that are more connected and let you play on your PC, a Web browser, or your mobile device, albeit with different windows onto the game.

What is your favorite Windows Mobile game today?

I think my favorite Windows Mobile game is Broken Sword, because the devices have the capability to include the full animations and audio from the PC game. It is an awesome experience to have on a mobile device, yet it works in snippets too, since it is based around interactive scenes from a story.

Thanks for your time and insightful thoughts, Howard!

Knights Templar. The graphics are projected in a colorful cartoon style, and the puzzles start off easy to orient players to the interface and environments. The Windows Mobile conversion includes an option to highlight key areas on the screen that can be clicked on for further information or interaction. This greatly reduces tiresome hunting for information and makes game play more enjoyable. The main character and his romantic interest are adorable, and the top notch writing and story telling compel gamers onward even as the puzzles' difficulty ratchets up. This is the type of game that will be kept installed long after it's completed so you can visit old virtual friends and caricatures of famous European landmarks. (Available for Windows Mobile touch screen devices.)

PocketGrandmaster is one of the best chess games on the Windows Mobile platform today.

2. PocketGrandmaster

\$24.99: clevergames.com

Chess has been a portable computing staple since the days of the programmable calculator, so it's no surprise that you find some excellent chess games available for Windows Mobile. The best and most challenging chess game available is PocketGrandmaster, which



won the *Smartphone & Pocket PC* magazine Best Software Award for chess games in 2005 and 2006. Even chess enthusiasts who consider their skills far above average will have an entertaining contest. The game pulls from a library of over 200,000 moves and can be tweaked with a plethora of options, including set-up positions, adjustable hash table sizes, difficulty levels, granular time controls, and comments/annotations. This thinking man's game will keep chess enthusiasts entertained for years. (Available for Windows Mobile touch screen devices.)



Bejeweled 2 is one of the most addictive games since Tetris.

And my number one game is...

1. Bejeweled 2

\$19.95: astraware.com

Like Tetris, this simple looking jewel of a game is so damn addictive that you'll keep playing it until you figure out a solution to the puzzle or your battery is completely drained. As gems are swapped and consumed, the click of rubies and the sparkle of gems draw you deeper into

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the game. The experience is heightened with superior stereo sound and graphics. Bejeweled 2 features several game variations including Classic, Action, Puzzle, and Endless—every one of them an engaging experience. Astraware's conversion of PopCap's game has captured every nuance from the original. In my opinion, this is the best game available on the Windows Mobile platform today. (Bejeweled 2 is available for Windows Mobile touch screen devices. The original version, Bejeweled, is also available for non-touch screen smartphones.)

Honorable Mentions

It was very difficult to limit this article to ten games. Many more are worthy of being included in this list of top games. In fact, there were 86 winners and finalists in the various game categories in last year's *Smartphone & Pocket PC* magazine Best Software Awards. If ties had been allowed, the following four would have made it into my top 10 list.



4Pinball brings smooth scrolling pinball to the Windows Mobile platform.

4Pinball

\$14.95: 4pockets.com

This title is reminiscent of the old Epic Games pinball derivatives, complete with the scrolling viewport that follows the ball action up and down the pinball table playfield. Ball mechanics are remarkably agile considering all the flashing lights and moving parts that make

up the targets. (Available for Windows Mobile touch screen devices.)



Machines at War packs big real-time strategy gaming into a small screen.

Machines at War

\$19.95: isotope244.com

The designers at Isotope 244 somehow managed to fit a sprawling 5000x5000 real-time strategy map into a small 320x240 pixel window and made this Command & Conquer-style clone a hectically entertaining game. (Available for Windows Mobile touch screen devices. Also available for Windows and Mac PCs.)

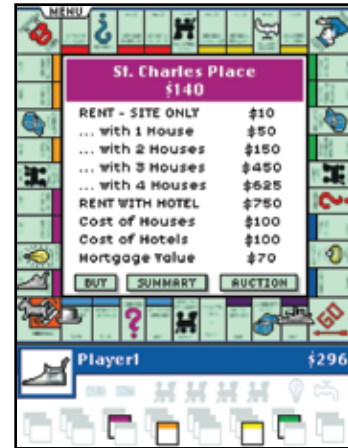


Virtual Pool Mobile showcases amazing physics and supports 3D hardware graphic acceleration on select Windows Mobile devices.

Virtual Pool Mobile

\$19.95: celeris.com

Playing pool has never been this easy or graphically pleasing on the Windows Mobile platform, and owners of the Dell X50/51/52V series can have the added bonus of a 3D hardware-accelerated smooth physics experience. (Available for Windows Mobile touch screen devices and non-touch screen smartphones.)

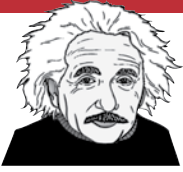


Monopoly for WMdevices supplies hours of family fun.

Monopoly

\$19.99: handmark.com

This Depression-era inspired classic is the most popular board game ever. The Palm-style menus are a quirky vestige from its original source, but the Windows Mobile edition still delivers hours of entertainment, especially for the traveling family crowd. (Available for Windows Mobile touch screen devices.) ■



Ask the Experts: Windows Mobile Games

Over 90 experts judged over 850 nominations for the Smartphone & Pocket PC magazine Best Software Awards 2007. Our judges had plenty to say about their favorite products. In this issue we are publishing their comments about the programs nominated for the Games and Entertainment software categories. We will publish their comments on other software categories in future issues.

The purpose of publishing the comments is to give insights into a variety of products—not to show how the judges voted. For the sake of brevity, we've included only 1-3 comments per product and edited them for clarity and conciseness. A listing of the 2007 winners and finalists can be found on our Web site (smartphonemag.com/awards).

Games for Touch Screen Devices

The comments in this section were for the touch screen version of the game. We indicate if a non-touch screen version of the game is also available.

ACTION GAMES

Anthelion 2: Celestial Vigilance pdamill.com

Touch screen only

Great spacecraft shooting game with progressive missions to unlock better space ships! It's easy to navigate using your stylus. (Dan Goh) They need to add more missions and the ability to earn medals, higher ranks, etc. (Ben Stanley)



Atomic Battle Dragons isotope244.com

Touch screen only

It takes the traditional game of Joust to new levels by adding a ton of new game elements (power-ups, RPG-like character stats, etc.). The product registration process is unfriendly to the consumer. (Ben Stanley)

Enslave pocketmoregames.com

Touch screen only

Awesome gameplay, graphics, sound effects and music, options,

power-ups, and everything else! I especially like the attention to details like the inclusion of the quotations and the fascinating storyline and intro screens. However, the controls took a lot of getting used to. Also, it would be great if there was more to spice up the later game stages. (Ben Stanley)

The Corsair pdamill.com

Touch screen only

Great pirate shooting game: kill all the pirates, don't shoot the lovely maidens, and reload your gun frequently! It could be improved by allowing the screen to be flipped and making it possible to assign a button to reload the gun. (Dan Goh)

ADVENTURE GAMES



Atlantis Redux tetraedge.com

Touch and non-touch screen

Excellent graphics and fast transitions match Atlantis Redux's compelling and engrossing story and gameplay. (Mike Riley)

Broken Sword: Shadow of the Templars astraware.com

Touch screen only

Cool graphics with a cinematic feel, very addictive puzzles, and

a cool storyline make Broken Sword my No. 1 adventure game of the year! (Alex Januschewsky) They need to improve the audio quality. (Mike Riley)

The Secrets of Da Vinci tetraedge.com

Touch screen only

This is a beautiful and immersive game. Especially impressive was the way the moonlight shone into

rooms. Great job! (Ben Stanley) It has an exceptional storyline, but some of the graphics were too small to see on a QVGA screen. (Douglas Goldring)

BACKGAMMON GAMES

Handmark Backgammon handmark.com

Touch and non-touch screen

This title allows two players to go against each other on the same

THE EXPERTS

Mohammed Babae

Lutz Bendlin

Jen Edwards

Rachel Eichen

Joel Evans

Meryl Evans

Jack Gilbraith

Bradley Gillett

Dan Goh

Douglas Goldring

Juan David Gomez

Dan Hanttula

Al Harrington

Franz Haslbeck

Steven Hughes

John Hung

Alex Januschewsky

Amir Keren

Allistair Lee

Andy Mason

Raj Pillai

Mike Riley

Josh Smith

Michael Sommer

Ben Stanley

Russ Terrell

Jack Turner

Joshua Villines

Amy Zunk

pocketgpsworld.com

pocketgoddess.com

aximsite.com

geek.com

meryl.net

mobilegadgetnews.com

mobismartzone.com

justanothermobilemonday.com

smartphonemag.com/blogs

smartphonemag.com/blogs

pocketpc-muenchen.de

bostonpocketpc.com

mobilitynews.net

pocketpcfreak.com

pocketpcfaq.com/raj

smartphonemag.com/blogs

firstcoastnews.com

smartphonemag.com/blogs

mozongoware.com

technobrain.com

gadgetme.com

SPECIAL REPORT... Top Games

mobile device! The dice rolling graphic was implemented well. (Josh Smith)

Multiplayer Championship Backgammon realdice.com

Touch and non-touch screen
This one has great graphics and gameplay, but what set it over the top is the multiplayer option. (Douglas Goldring) It needs an intuitive way to exit the chat mode. (Josh Smith)



PocketGammon megasoft2000.com

Touch screen only
PocketGammon is fast, and the interface is simple and very convenient. However, it needs better skinning options. (Amir Keren)

BOARD GAMES



Monopoly handmark.com

Touch screen only
Nice looking graphics combined with a good AI makes Monopoly for Pocket PC a real winner! However, they need to make it available in more languages! (Alex Januschewsky)

The Travel Collection pocketadventures.com

Touch screen only
The Travel Collection has a good selection of relatively short

games. The interface and look of the games is good, and the responsiveness is very speedy. Add more games! (Amir Keren)

CARD GAMES

Championship Cribbage Pro dqsoft.com

Touch screen only
Championship Cribbage has good sound effects and interesting characters. It's easy to play and is very customizable. (Dan Goh)



Championship Spades Pro thehouseofcards.com

This has to be the most addictive card game ever made for Windows Mobile! It's a multiplayer game, but can also be played one handed. The avatars get annoying after a while (as do their comments), and a better explanation of how to play the game is needed for the new player. (Ben Stanley)

CASINO GAMES

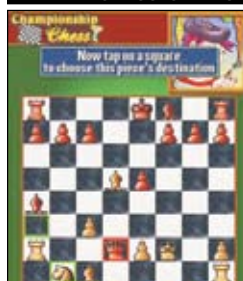
Aces Blackjack concretesoftware.com

Touch and non-touch screen
The graphics look great. I like the Strategy Card option, even though it is hard to read on a Pocket PC screen. I wish there was a learning mode. (Rachel Eichen)

All Mobile Casino binaryfish.com

Touch and non-touch screen
This software is perfect for people who want a lot of casino games in a solid package. It may not have the fanciest graphics, but version three has a smoother look. The games are highly customizable with detailed instructions on how to play. However, the slots were disappointing and I'd like to see a learning mode included, especially for things like Blackjack. (Rachel Eichen)

CHESS GAMES



Championship Chess Pro dqsoft.com

Touch screen only
This one is the least intimidating chess game for novices, but has all the options an expert would want. (Andy Mason) Add the ability to save games. (Juan David Gomez)

ChessGenius chessgenius.com

Touch and non-touch screen
This fast and responsive game is great for hardcore chess players. Graphics could be improved a little and it would be great if they added the ability to play opponents online. (Juan David Gomez)

PocketGrandmaster pocketgrandmaster.com

Touch screen only
PocketGrandmaster is easy to install and set up and comes with very thorough Help/Documentation files. The UI is nice and the program comes with plenty of optional board styles. (Andy Mason)

CLASSIC ARCADE



Acky's XP Breakout isotope244.com

Touch screen only
A rich game with tons of power ups, brick types, bonuses, and extras (e.g., the spaceships that fly across the top). However, the registration process for Isotope244 games is not user-friendly! (Ben Stanley)

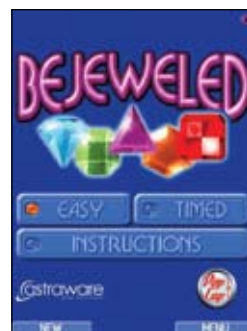
Atomic Cannon Pocket isotope244.com

Touch and non-touch screen
This one is a dueling cannons game with several weapon types, breathtaking effects, and nice graphics. Atomic Cannon is hours of challenging fun and worth every cent! (Alex Januschewsky)

Retro-Games 1-4 ni.x0.com/ppc/menu.html

Touch screen only
A nice collection of games—I especially like Magy4! It would be great if there was an automated installer for this program and a more user-friendly interface. (Ben Stanley)

COLOR MATCHING



Bejeweled 2 astraware.com

Touch and non-touch screen
The gem graphics on Bejeweled 2 are superb as are the power ups. (Meryl Evans)

Bubble Shooter absolutist.com

Touch and non-touch screen
I found myself playing Bubble Shooter again and again. It's simple to play—exactly what's needed for short games. I liked the fact that the games are saved automatically. (Amir Keren) I'd like to see them add different bubble themes, instead of just changing the "stamp" on the bubbles. (Meryl Evans)

Zuma astraware.com

Touch screen only
I was surprised at the visual quality of this port of the popular PopCap game. The graphics are nice looking and clear. The biggest shortcoming of this game is its length—

SPECIAL REPORT... Top Games

it can't be that hard to make some more levels. (Ben Stanley)

FIRST PERSON SHOOTER



Call of Duty 2

aspyr.com

Touch screen only

The graphics are amazing—they definitely out-do the rest of the games in this category. The storyline and fast gameplay also help make this game my top choice. (Jack Turner)

DoomPPC / DoomGLES

kokak.free.fr/DoomGLES.htm

Touch screen only

These exact replicas of the PC versions of Doom 1 and 2 are fun to play. However, it is hard to map enough buttons to access all the features that you want. (Jack Turner)

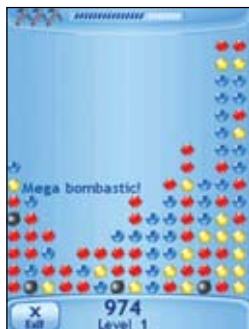
GAME PACKS

GameBox Classics

pdamill.com

Touch screen only

GameBox Classics is a very complete, pleasant, and addictive collection of games. However, the current version no longer supports VGA, which the previous version did. (Franz Haslbeck)



GameBox Gems

pdamill.com

Touch screen only

Another very pleasant and addictive collection of gems games. (Franz Haslbeck)

GOLF GAMES

Harry Putter's Crazy Golf

4pockets.com

Touch screen only

Harry Putter's Crazy Golf is a nice cross between miniature and regular golf games. I liked the different perspective of looking at the course from directly behind the putter. (Russ Terrell) Only one 18-hole course is available. (Dan Goh)

Links

handango.com

Touch screen only

I like the realistic wind, terrain and the bird calls! It would be good to have more than one 18-hole course. (Dan Goh)

KIDS' GAMES



Countdown!

islandlabs.com

Touch screen only

Countdown is a simple, elegant game with nice graphics that make it very appealing. It provides a good test of mathematical knowledge and will definitely improve a child's calculating skills. However, it lacks addictiveness and needs to be made a bit more complicated with the option of including an additional die. (Raj Pillai)

Spb Numbers

spbsoftwarehouse.com

Touch and non-touch screen

A number game that is part of Spb's popular Brain Evolution, where you are given a series of three numbers and you must box off the numbers that sum up and end in that number. It's a good game for building basic arithmetic skills. (Steven Hughes)

StarPop

astraware.com

Touch screen only

If you like popping bubble wrap, you will like this game. My kids (and I) loved popping everything with a flurry of taps on the screen. It's a great game for passing the time. (Steven Hughes)

MAHJONG



Multiplayer Championship

Mahjong

realdice.com

Touch and non-touch screen

This game has a great user interface and is addictive. If you like Mahjong, you'll love this. I hope your battery is fully charged as you may play for hours. (Michael Sommer) They could improve the 2D graphics. It's hard to figure out matches at times. (Russ Terrell)

NON-RUN & JUMP PLATFORMERS

Curse of the Pharaohs

justmobilegames.com

Touch screen only

Curse of the Pharaohs is a fun program with a lot of variety in its gameplay. I found the puzzles to be a challenge, but not overly hard. I especially liked being able to dig up sand and use it elsewhere to build steps. (Russ Terrell)

Meltdown

momentumgames.com

Touch and non-touch screen

This game has great graphics, and the gameplay evolved throughout the game to keep it appropriately challenging. (Douglas Goldring) It takes some time to get used to the controls, and it can be frustrating since it's difficult to complete some of the levels. (Raj Pillai)

NUMBER PUZZLES

Mastersoft Kakuro

mastersoftmobilesolutions.com

Touch and non-touch screen

Polished and responsive, this is a well made game for anyone who is interested in number puzzles. (John Hung)

The preset combinations glossary could be expanded. (Douglas Goldring)

Number Cruncher

pdamill.com

Touch screen only

Simplicity and a very nice and smooth graphical interface make it very appealing. The game is easy to understand but difficult to master. It's addictive—if you like number puzzles you are bound to love this free game. (Raj Pillai)

POKER GAMES



Aces Texas Hold'em - No Limit

concretesoftware.com

Touch and non-touch screen

It features excellent no-stylus playing and a "Deal 'em" button to reveal the cards that would have been played if you had stayed in the hand. It would be nice to be able to enter your decision (call, raise, fold) out of position to help speed up the game. (Dan Hanttula)

Multiplayer Championship Poker - Texas Hold'em

realdice.com

Touch and non-touch screen

It has a nice, clear card display, but the smallest player table of all our reviews. The multiplayer Internet gaming includes ring games, sit and go, and multi-table tournaments. This game has the best sound effects and career mode of all games in this review. Internet play needs technical work

SPECIAL REPORT... Top Games

to improve “connect to table” feature. (Dan Hanttula)

PUZZLE GAMES

Bounce Symphony
handango.com

Touch screen only

It has a nice physics model with a unique objective, and its puzzles will keep you up late at night with a “one more try” compulsion. The music is repetitive—I disabled it after 5 minutes—and the large music .wav file must be stored in main memory. (Mike Riley)

Brain School Brain Trainer
mastersoftmobilesolutions.com

Touch and non-touch screen

The game provides a nice variety to exercise the brain without getting bored. I’ve played Nintendo DS brain games that have annoying characters—I appreciate there are no annoying characters in this one. However, it requires going to the site to download a separate prospectus file, which should be included. (Meryl Evans)



Glyph
astraware.com

Touch and non-touch screen

The game has a nice story line, coupled with beautiful music, brilliant graphics, and simple gameplay—it will keep you engaged for hours. (Raj Pillai) There are a lot of levels which can get a bit monotonous after a while. (Douglas Goldring)

RACING GAMES

GeoRally EX
ionfx.com

Touch screen only

It saves the playback and shows it at the end of the race, which is interesting. The changeable camera angle is also interesting, and playing in landscape position is appealing. The quality of the car’s graphics is very poor, however. (Mohammed Babae)



Street Duel: Underground Racing
pixelogic.co.uk

Touch and non-touch screen

Having so many cars makes it interesting to play, and it’s easy to control the cars. The graphics are a little poor, though. (Mohammed Babae)

REAL-TIME STRATEGY

Machines at War
isotope244.com

Touch and non-touch screen

My favorite things about it are the fantastic graphics, its fairly sophisticated technology, and the fact that you can buy air units. Bravo! (Ben Stanley) Sometimes the attacks happened too fast, which makes it hard to control your troops. The existing game speed adjustments were too fast or too slow for me. (Dan Goh)

Warfare Incorporated
warfareincorporated.com

Touch screen only

I appreciated the Save feature, and the graphics are good for a Pocket PC screen. The map is useful, but map selection and control is missing. It would be better if it had a wider array of choices for the user in map construction. (Mohammed Babae)

ROLE PLAYING GAMES

Arvale II: Ocean of Time
pdamill.com

Touch screen only

Arvale II, the sequel of my favorite game Arvale, beats everything! Challenging puzzles combined with cool graphics and superb sound makes Arvale II the best RPG out there. I love those PDA-mill games, every one of them! (Alex Januschewsky)

Arvale: Short Tales
pdamill.com

Touch screen only

It has likeable characters with cute



animations and fun challenges to overcome. Unfortunately, the opening sequences and lengthy story passages can’t be skipped, forcing you to sit through them. (Mike Riley)

The Quest
redshift.hu

Touch screen only

There are nice 3D effects in this Might & Magic-style game. It kept both my son and I busy for hours searching for “guilds” and NPCs to drive us forward in our Quest. The music gets a bit repetitive after the first 10 minutes and some of the character animations are weak. It needs more variety of sprites for townspeople and non-enemy NPCs. (Mike Riley)

RUN & JUMP PLATFORM SCROLLERS



Boneyboy
mobisation.com

Touch screen only

This game has amazing graphics and great gameplay. The control could be mapped better, though—it was almost impossible to jump and shoot in succession on my Sprint Mogul. (Douglas Goldring)

Gold Miner Joe
viex.org

Touch screen only

Gold Miner Joe is a great Mario

Brothers clone with lots of complex problem solving. I liked the Save Game feature. (Russ Terrell) The controls were a little touchy, and the audio wasn’t great. (Douglas Goldring)

Rats!!
pdamill.com

Touch screen only

This game is really fun! I especially enjoy the visual details, including the bugs flying around a light, beer cans floating in the water, etc. I wish there was a way to swap the screen rotation 180 degrees horizontally. Using my right hand to push the buttons took some getting used to. Also, they need to improve their customer support. (Ben Stanley)

Super Miners
idreams.pl

Touch and non-touch screen

Beautiful graphics, nice sound effects, and challenging puzzle-like gameplay make this one great fun. However, getting stuck on a level is extremely frustrating! (Ben Stanley)

SCROLLING SHOOTERS



FireHawk
c2matrix.com

Touch and non-touch screen

FireHawk has great gameplay with 4 difficulty levels, smooth animations, excellent graphics and sound effects, and great AI. The title menu could be more attractive. (Allistair Lee)

SkyForce Reloaded
idreams.pl

Touch and non-touch screen

SkyForce is a great shooting game that is comparable to the good old arcade shooting games. It would be good if there was a Save Game

SPECIAL REPORT... Top Games

function, since completing one game takes a long time—sometimes more than an hour. (Dan Goh)

SIMULATIONS

Insaniquarium
astraware.com

Touch screen only

Insaniquarium is a great game that translates well to mobile devices. My kids and I loved the PC and gaming console versions of the game, and it's grate to have now in the palm of our hands. (Steven Hughes)



Lemonade Tycoon
jamdat.com

Touch screen only

Lemonade Tycoon challenges you to race against time to earn as much as possible in one month! You manage pricing, inventory, and marketing, and “upgrades” along the way help you improve your efficiency. It would be better if there were different recipes for different sites; for example, add more sugar to the recipe when you're selling to kids at the playgrounds, and less when you're selling to adults downtown. (Dan Goh)

PPC Transport Tycoon Deluxe
esoftware.com

Touch screen only

This incredible port of a popular PC game reproduces the gameplay of the original almost exactly. It looks really good on my VGA device. It's a shame this game is not displayed on their main site—I had to Google the title to find it. (Juan David Gomez)

SOLITAIRE GAMES

GameBox Solitaire I & II
gameboxsolitaire.com

Touch screen only

My favorite things about GameBox Solitaire I & II are the great graphics (I especially like the visuals when you drag a pile of cards across the screen) and the fact that you can keep stats from past games. (Ben Stanley)

SPORTS GAMES



Tony Hawk's Pro Skater 2
aspyr.com

Touch screen only

This is a full Pocket PC port of a game I was a sucker for when it first came out on the PC. It's incredible how well this game works on the smaller screen. Controlling the skateboarder can be hard at times, but they have added some controls to the side of the screen that help a lot with that. (Russ Terrell)

Virtual Pool Mobile
celeris.com

Touch and non-touch screen

This is a great 3D pool game with options for 6, 8, 9, and 10 ball, with rotation and straight options. The player is allowed to advance once they beat the boss of every pool room. Somehow, the graphics were slower on my O2 Flame compared to my old O2 Exec. (Dan Goh)

STRATEGY GAMES

Azgard Defence
pocketmoregames.com

Touch screen only

Beef up your defense to protect your home planet against the monsters! Use your resources carefully and put your turrets in strategic locations that will maximize their effectiveness. They should add a campaign mode where the difficulty increases at every stage. (Dan Goh)



High Seas: Guns & Gold
venan.com

Touch and non-touch screen

I absolutely loved the gameplay in this one, but more animation would improve it. (Douglas Goldring)

Tradewinds 2
astraware.com

Touch screen only

A wonderful follow-up to the original, Tradewinds 2 has fantastic gameplay. (Douglas Goldring) It would be good if your character was allowed to build up a fleet of ships to combat the pirate fleets! (Dan Goh)

SUDOKU PUZZLES

Mastersoft SuDoku V2
mastersoftmobilesolutions.com

Touch and non-touch screen

The UI, endless options, ease of use, colors, and input method are great. (Amir Keren) The game plays slow due to the usage of .Net in its development—they should convert it to native code. (Lutz Bendlin)



Resco Sudoku
resco.net

Touch and non-touch screen

It has a clean and simple interface, the ability to switch between “Cell first” and “Number first” modes, and automatic track of

pencils. They should add a mode that automatically converts single pencils to numbers—either until a duplicate is hit or until no more single pencils are left. They should also allow landscape mode. (Lutz Bendlin)

Sudoku Rules Extreme!
spiralmile.com

Touch screen only

Very nice implementation of the game—it's easy to understand and play. Skinning options are missing, though. (Amir Keren)

TETRIS



Kevtris

caywen.com/kevtris

Touch and non-touch screen

Nothing fancy, just good old Tetris—and it's free! Maybe incorporating some form of music would make the game experience a bit better. (Raj Pillai)

Handmark Tetris
handmark.com

Touch screen only

Handmark's Tetris includes the background score of the original Tetris, which makes the playing experience perfect! (Raj Pillai)

TOP-DOWN (MAZE) PUZZLE-ADVENTURE GAMES

Mummy Maze
astraware.com

Touch and non-touch screen

This is a fun little game when you need a quick challenge. The mazes were appropriately complicated, but it needs more levels. (Douglas Goldring)

TMax
aimproductions.be

Touch and non-touch screen

The best feature is that you can

SPECIAL REPORT... Top Games

play TMax with one hand using the buttons on your device. I also like the fact that the levels get unlocked as you solve the puzzles. I would have liked it if the game had an undo option since it's quite annoying to restart the whole level again. I would also like the ability to customize the speed of the characters. (Raj Pillai)

TRIVIA GAMES



Trivial Pursuit Handheld Edition

handmark.com

Touch screen only

They did a great job of converting the board game into computer form, but the game hasn't been updated in years. How about offering an update module with new questions? Also, it seems a bit expensive. (Jen Edwards)

Who Said That?

rampartgames.com

Touch and non-touch screen

I liked just about everything about this game, especially the "betting" aspect for bonus points. More modules should be added in the future with more quotes. (Jen Edwards)

TURN-BASED STRATEGY

Snails

pdamill.com

Touch and non-touch screen

Annihilate the snails on the opposing team to win. There are tons of different types of weapons available, including guns, missiles, bombs, and more. You can even parachute out of difficult or enclosed locations. Try not to wound or kill yourself accidentally! (Dan Goh)



Warring Nations

inscenic.com

Touch screen only

Warring Nations is a medieval strategy game with seven nation-

alities and a total of 23 heroes to choose from. A good strategy is to build up castles at your borders to keep out attacks and try to capture the maximum number of lands with minimum defensive points. This new version has improved graphics and 1 and 2 player options. (Dan Goh)

WORD PUZZLES

Across Lite Mobile

binaryfish.com

Touch and non-touch screen

This easy-to-use crossword puzzle game is feature-rich and has impressive graphics, but it needs more puzzles in the starter pack. (Additional puzzle packs are available, but you have to pay extra for them.) They should also consider themes. (Meryl Evans)

BookWorm

astraware.com

Touch screen only

I've been a fan of Bookworm for ages, and the game is addictive. It's one of the more original letter games. (Meryl Evans)

Crossword Puzzles for Pocket PC

standalone.com

Touch screen only

This is an extremely well put-together package with all the functionality you would want from a



crossword puzzle game, including the ability to download daily puzzles from various sources. The installation is easy enough, but the extra steps involved with playing the game were annoying (e.g., opening a Web browser, filling out a form, separate installs for each puzzle pack, etc.) (Ben Stanley)

Super Wild Wild Words

astraware.com

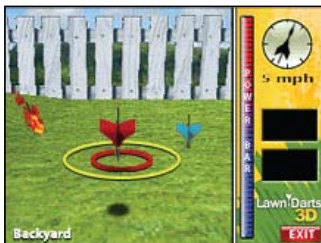
Touch screen only

This is one of the most insanely addictive games I tested. In addition to stringing words together, you've got to figure out what the hangman word is. Add to this the various bonus tiles that are randomly thrown into the mix and you've got a recipe for fun. I know it's a Wild West-themed game, but I wish that the Hangman words didn't all have to do with that theme. (Ben Stanley)

Games for Non-Touch Screen Devices

The comments in this section were for the non-touch screen version of the game. We indicate if a touch screen version of the game is also available.

ACTION GAMES



3D Lawn Darts

concretesoftware.com

Touch and non-touch screen

This game features incredibly in-

novative use of the camera to affect how you play the game. (Joel Evans)

3D Constructo Combat

concretesoftware.com

Touch and non-touch screen

This game provides great entertainment, with loads of levels that get more challenging. The multiplayer Bluetooth mode brings a whole new aspect to the game. The controls are easy and you will be hooked from the first time you play. (Bradley Gillett)

Eclipse: First Wave

alieninvention.com

Non-touch screen only

Eclipse features fantastic graph-

ics, sound, and gameplay. This is one of my favorite Windows Mobile games. (Joel Evans)

BOARD GAMES

Multiplayer Championship

Backgammon

realdice.com

Touch and non-touch screen

This is a great game for beginning, intermediate and advanced players. It's easy to use and has some great graphics. You will keep playing it from the moment you pick it up. (Bradley Gillett)

CASINO AND CARD GAMES

Multiplayer Championship

Poker - Texas Hold'em

realdice.com

Touch and non-touch screen

This is a quality game with easy controls, but the graphics could be improved. (Jack Gilbraith)



Aces Omaha - No Limit

concretesoftware.com

Touch and non-touch screen

SPECIAL REPORT... Top Games

This is a nice variation on hold'em poker. The graphics look good on a smartphone, but the scrolling is a little bothersome with a large number of players. (Jack Gilbraith)

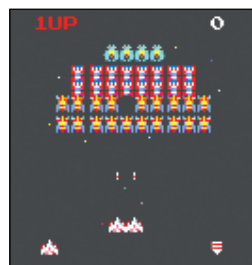
CLASSIC ARCADE

Atomic Cannon Pocket

isotope244.com

Touch and non-touch screen

This game has action, ease of use, and great graphics. You will have hours of fun trying to defeat your opponents, and the gameplay is reminiscent of Worms but with tanks. (Bradley Gillett)



Galaga

namcogames.com

Touch and non-touch screen

I love having my favorite arcade game on my phone, especially when meetings last too long. It looks great and works well. (Amy Zunk)

COLOR MATCHING

Bejeweled

astraware.com

Touch and non-touch screen

This is absolutely addictive—one of the best handheld games ever. (Michael Sommer)

PUZZLE GAMES

Spb Brain Evolution

spbsoftwarehouse.com

Touch and non-touch screen

My biggest surprise this year. It integrates with the smartphone perfectly. My entire family found it addictive. (Joshua Villines)

Word Challenge for Smartphone

esoftinteractive.com

Touch and non-touch screen

If you want to test your vocabulary, this is the game to do it with. (Michael Sommer)

RACING GAMES

Flux Challenge SP

pdamill.com

Touch and non-touch screen

It is fast-paced and the action just keeps coming—it keeps you hooked from the moment you pick it up. The controls are good and the graphics are superb. (Bradley Gillett)

K-Rally

idreams.pl

Touch and non-touch screen

This is an awesome race game! With the various levels and options to purchase upgrades, it provides hours (days, weeks, months) of play! (Al Harrington)

Raging Thunder

gomdm.com

Touch and non-touch screen

This is a very nice and easy-to-use game. The auto-acceleration feature is great, and the graphics are awesome! Configurable controls would be a nice addition. (Al Harrington)

RPG / ADVENTURE GAMES

Atlantis Redux

tetraedge.com

Touch and non-touch screen

The graphics (with video) are amazing! This is a well-designed and thought out game. It's a bit complex and it is sometimes difficult to determine which direction to go. (Al Harrington)



Legacy

redshift.hu

Touch and non-touch screen

Legacy is an awesome RPG game! It plays just like the much larger and more complex PC RPG games. The controls for the smartphone are very easy and intuitive. (Al Harrington)

SCROLLING SHOOTERS



FireHawk

c2matrix.com

Touch and non-touch screen

You get a nice choice of ships and there are 4 play levels, but it's a little pricey. (Jack Gilbraith)

SkyForce Reloaded

idreams.pl

Touch and non-touch screen

SkyForce Reloaded brings a new dimension to scrolling shooters. Its navigation and graphics are awesome, and there are so many levels. (Bradley Gillett)

SIMULATION GAMES

Mini-Dogfight

omnigsoft.com

Touch and non-touch screen

This is a great air fighting game—easy to control and fun to play. (Al Harrington)

Mini-Jetfight

omnigsoft.com

Touch and non-touch screen

This game (along with its brother Mini-Dogfight) are exemplary. They are a lot of fun to play and have great controls and graphics. It takes a little bit to master the controls, but once you have the hang of it you will be hooked. It's a great simulation game for the small screen. (Bradley Gillett)

SPORTS GAMES

Pocket Mini Golf 2

momentumgames.com

Touch and non-touch screen

This comic mini-golf game has great graphics, nice sound, and challenging courses. Four game types with three levels of difficulty provide hours of fun. This is the best sports game out there. (Alex Januschewsky)

STRATEGY GAMES



Snails

pdamill.com

Touch and non-touch screen

Snails is a great Worms clone. It's easy to use, the graphics are good, the gameplay is smooth, and it's great fun using the different array of weapons to blast the opponents. (Bradley Gillett) ■