

Accessories: The Ultimate Guide

Article scanné dans le magazine N64 Gamer n°14 (Avril 1999)

Sujet de l'article : Site

By now all the games you received for Christmas will be, well and truly, beaten. Unfortunately, your parents, who don't understand how much of a champion you are at Nintendo, will expect you to be satisfied until your birthday, without buying any more games.

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THE ULTIMATE GUIDE

— ACCESSORIES —



By now all the games you received for Christmas will be, well and truly, beaten. Unfortunately, your parents, who don't understand how much of a champion you are at Nintendo, will expect you to be satisfied until your birthday, without buying any more games.

So how do you survive with no new games for six months?

Peripherals. Accessories. Steering Wheels. Control Pads. Nothing breathes new life into old games like a new wheel or a super-responsive auto-fire controller.

WHERE CAN I FIND THEM?

If you see an accessory that you want to get your hands on, then just ring up the distributor and find out where the closest shop is.

LIVEWIRE: (02) 94395005

UBI SOFT: (02) 93621414

HITECH WORLD: (02) 98077755

PLAYCORP: (03) 93292999

BAYFORM: (02) 93807055

LOGIC 3: (02) 94178333

HES: (02) 97730044

GREMLIN INTERACTIVE: (03) 98793588

NRG SOHO PRODUCTS: (02) 99380800

PHOTOGRAPHS BY TERENCE KACZMARCZYK

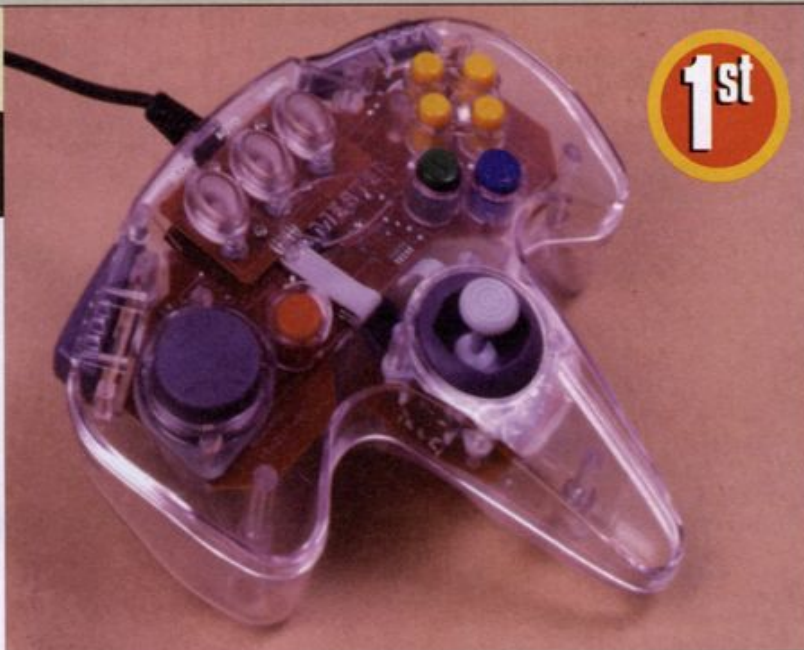
PAD SPAD SPAD SPAD SPAD SPAD SPAD SPAD SPAD SPAD

G64 Controller

PRICE: \$39.95
DISTRIBUTOR: LIVEWIRE

OVERALL **4/5**

Apart from the funky clear look, the G64 Controller differs from the standard pad by adding three extra buttons; slow motion, auto fire and turbo. A slow-mo feature has been on pads since the 8-bit NES and has never worked very well. This is no exception. Auto fire allows a machinegun like effect on any button. Turbo is designed for programming multiple moves in as one key press. This feature works as well as the slow motion. At \$10 cheaper than the standard pad, with auto fire, it's definitely a good buy.



Competition Pro

PRICE: \$49.95
DISTRIBUTOR: MAINSTREAM INTERACTIVE

OVERALL **4/5**



This is another great alternative to the regular pads. It comes in multiple colours and features auto-fire and slow-motion as standard. Unlike most other auto-fire and slow-motion pads, you don't have to pay an extra \$30 for the extra features. The analogue pad controls just as well as the regular N64 pad and Super Pads. The D-pad is a little flimsy, but when in use we had no problems using it to kick butt in any 2D game. The buttons are also nice and of a similar high quality to the original N64 pad, and they are spaced a good distance apart to assure ease of use. Overall, another great choice if you're after extra pads.

Mako Pad 64

PRICE: \$59.95
DISTRIBUTOR: NRG SOHO PRODUCTS

OVERALL **3/5**



This is a very unusual pad because it abandons the 'three-handgrip' style of all other Nintendo pads. By putting the D-pad and analogue pad on top of each other, the makers are able to compress everything into two handgrips. At first the pad feels quite awkward but if you persevere for a few minutes you start to get used to it. Surprisingly this new setup is really good and gives you a better sense of control over the pad. It may not be quite as comfortable as the regular pad but it works very well and gives you better access to all the buttons. One thing you have to watch with this pad is that it doesn't tend to stand up to rough treatment. The two we have at the office were broken during the roadtesting. So unless you're a careful player you might want to keep shopping around.

PADSPADSPADSPADSPADSPADSPADSPADSPADSPADSPADS

Thunder Pad

PRICE: \$39.95
DISTRIBUTOR: LOGIC 3

OVERALL
4|5



This is one of the more comfortable third party controllers I've used. It has a very sleek construction that works well. Unfortunately though, the analogue stick is very stiff. This means that 3D games like Goldeneye, that require a lot of precision, are difficult to play with this pad.

Super Pad 64

PRICE: \$39.95
DISTRIBUTOR: NRG SOHO PRODUCTS

OVERALL
4|5



This is a very good alternative to the regular Nintendo pad. It is \$10 cheaper and has everything the regular pad has. The analogue pad even feels a little better because it is a bit bigger and it is not quite as loose as the standard N64 pad. The d-pad can be a bit of a pain because it is too hard. This means that after excessive play you're often left with a sore thumb. Unfortunately the trigger is not quite as sensitive as it could be because, if you only press it very lightly it will often not register. This is only a small problem that doesn't stop this pad from being a good choice for the price.

Trilogy 64

PRICE: \$79.95
DISTRIBUTOR: UBI SOFT

OVERALL **3.5|5**

The good thing about this pack is that it includes a pad, a rumble pack and a memory card; all for \$80. The pad is not too bad. The buttons are great for fighting games because they are the largest, best spaced and strongest of any of the pads. The d-pad is also well suited to fighting games because all moves are easily pulled off. The problem with this pad is the analogue stick. The top of the grip is curved inwards, unlike the normal ones that curve outwards. This means that your thumb has a tendency to slide off the top of the stick if you are not careful. The pad may not be perfect but this pack represents great value.



WHEELS WHEELS WHEELS WHEELS WHEELS

Top Drive Plus

PRICE: \$189.95

DISTRIBUTOR: LOGIC 3

OVERALL **5** | 5

This is, by far, the best wheel of the bunch. All the buttons are programmable. The pedals are the largest and most comfortable. The steering sensitivity can be adjusted. There is the choice of internal or external rumble paks. Unfortunately, the wheel requires batteries to operate rumble mode. Analogue and digital modes are supported. The gear stick is strong, as is the overall construction. It's a great wheel but it's definitely expensive so if you're short of cash you should look at some of the cheaper models.



G64 Steering Wheel with Rumble Effect

PRICE: \$149.95

DISTRIBUTOR: LIVEWIRE

OVERALL **3.5** | 5



The G64 Steering wheel is a fairly compact and sturdy unit. The pedals are programmable so it doesn't matter whether the game you are playing has button reconfiguration options. The built-in rumble effect works better than wheels that must have a rumble pak plugged in. The rumble can also be switched off. The gears are mounted on the wheel, but instead of a lever on each side there is only a lever on the right which can be pushed in two directions. The gear lever operates as C-up and C-down buttons only. The feel of the wheel is not as smooth as some wheels but it works well. The analogue pedals are a good size and comfortable to use.

Mad Catz

PRICE: \$129.95

DISTRIBUTOR: H.E.S.

OVERALL **3.5** | 5



This wheel has a very nice feel to it and the pedals are great. The gear stick works well but it would have been a bit better if there was a definite click or something to let you know you've changed gears. The button's construction isn't as good on the Mad Catz as it is on the other wheels but they still do the job quite well.

WHEELS WHEELS WHEELS WHEELS WHEELS

Race 32/64 Compact

PRICE: \$119.95
DISTRIBUTOR: UBI SOFT

OVERALL
4.5



The rumble effect doesn't usually work well unless the effect is built in. This wheel is the exception because of its small size and the fact that the pak plugs into the wheel rather than the base. It has clamps at the bottom to fix it firmly to a desk or table. The lack of pedals may not suit everybody. The gears are Formula 1 style (on the wheel). The best feature is that every button is configurable. Analogue and digital modes are selectable. At \$119.95, it's one of the best buys on the market.

Top Drive 3

PRICE: \$119.95
DISTRIBUTOR: LOGIC 3

OVERALL
4.5



The Top Drive 3 is basically the Top Drive Plus without all the trimmings. It still has programmable buttons, adjustable steering and sturdy construction. It doesn't have a gearstick or pedals, although it does have sockets where they can be plugged in. The internal rumble is missing but the external one works well. Although it lacks some of the features of the Top Drive Plus, at \$119.95 this represents the best value steering wheel on the market.

V3 Racing Wheel 64

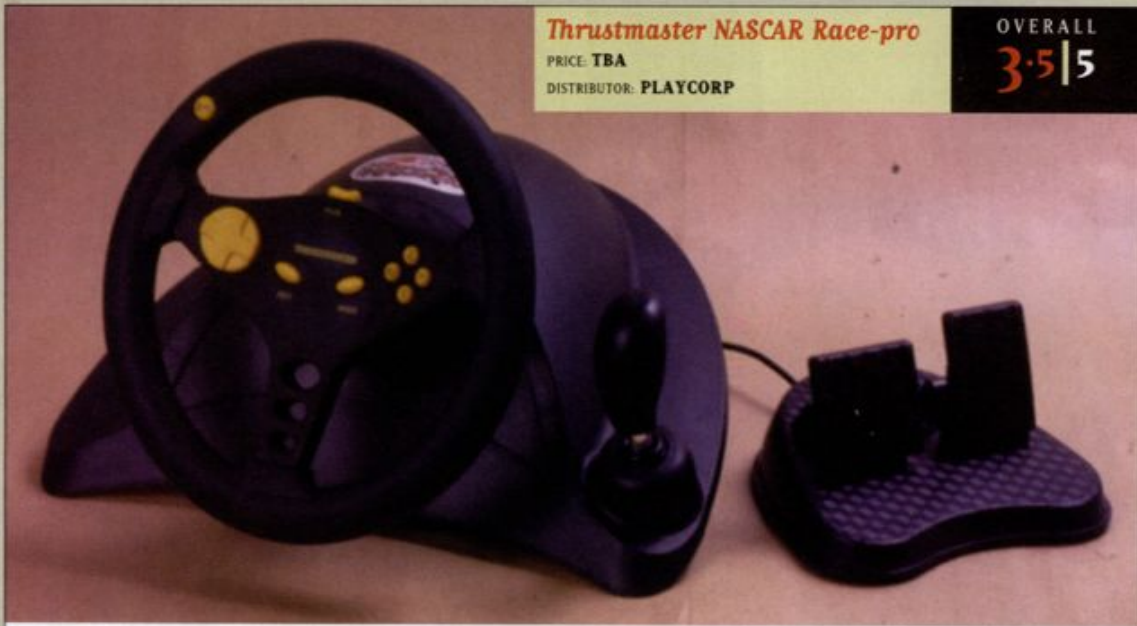
PRICE: \$149.95
DISTRIBUTOR: NRG SOHO PRODUCTS

OVERALL
4.5

This is definitely one of the better wheels available for the N64. It may not have a gear stick like some of the wheels, but gear sticks are a bit of a mixed blessing. They do add to the atmosphere but it means you must always drive one handed with your other hand on the gear stick. This means you don't have quite as much control over your car as if you can use both hands. This is probably why the gears are mounted on the steering wheel in real formula 1 cars. Another great feature is that every single button can be reassigned to any other button. The driving action of the wheel is great. The pedals work fine and are really solid in construction, meaning that you won't break them with a accidental stomp. The column is extendable in length and it's also tilt-adjustable.



WHEELS WHEELS WHEELS WHEELS WHEELS



Thrustmaster NASCAR Race-pro
PRICE: TBA
DISTRIBUTOR: PLAYCORP

OVERALL
3.5 | 5

The shape of this wheel is one of the best. Most wheels have a flat base with suction caps to sit on a flat surface but the Thrustmaster has two concave sections moulded to sit snugly on your legs. The gear stick sits to the right unlike real cars in Australia, but exactly the same as all video game steering wheels. The wheel is not programmable at all, relying on the software to decide whether button functions can be re-assigned. The pedals are miniature and uncomfortable to use. I had to place my hand on the rumble pak to make sure it was working. The handling of the wheel is pretty realistic. The wheel is so big that the rumble pak is too small to have any effect. Overall a good wheel let down by minor problems.

Ultra Racer 64

PRICE: \$89.95
DISTRIBUTOR: NRG SOHO PRODUCTS

OVERALL **4** | 5

This little pad is a great alternative to the big wheels because its wheel can be controlled very precisely with a few fingers. It lacks the driving atmosphere of the larger wheels but because of its size you can make turns much quicker, giving you much better control over your cars. Importantly, the pad supports the same button re-allocation method as the better wheels. The pad also has a unique double trigger mechanism. Instead of the usual trigger that is just a single button, it has a movable trigger that can be pulled back for acceleration or pushed forward for braking. This trigger also supports analogue movement for greater accuracy in acceleration and braking. So if you're more interested in getting faster lap times than that 'racing feel' the Ultra Racer may be just the thing for you.



MEMORY MEMORY MEMORY MEMORY MEMORY

Naki Memory Card Plus

PRICE: \$29.95

DISTRIBUTOR: HITECH WORLD

OVERALL

2.5 | 5



This mem pak is a very tight fit in the official Nintendo pad. It fits well in the Naki pad.

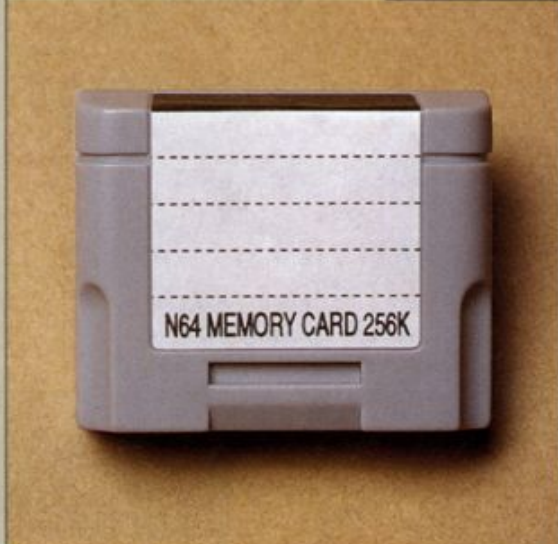
N64 Memory Card 256k

PRICE: \$24.95

DISTRIBUTOR: LOGIC 3

OVERALL

3 | 5



Standard size mem pak in five different colours

N64 Memory Card 1M

PRICE: \$44.95

DISTRIBUTOR: LOGIC 3

OVERALL

4 | 5



Four times the memory for less than twice the price. Bargain!

Memory 64 DLX

PRICE: \$39.95

DISTRIBUTOR: UBI SOFT

OVERALL

4.5 | 5



1 megabyte of memory for quadruple your saving pleasure. And it's only \$39.95.

RUMBLERUMBLERUMBLERUMBLERUMBLE

Rumble Pak

PRICE: \$24.95
DISTRIBUTOR: NINTENDO

OVERALL
3.5 | 5



The standard pak works quite well but it lacks a 'high' rumble mode and is more expensive than most paks.

Tremor Pak

PRICE: \$19.95
DISTRIBUTOR: NRG SOHO PRODUCTS

OVERALL
4 | 5

This is a great little rumble pak. It has two modes of rumble—high and low. The low mode is the same as normal paks but the high mode really shakes the hell out of your pad. This high rumble mode is especially useful if you want one of the wheels because the normal paks don't shake a big steering wheel as much as you might like. The pak also takes advantage of AA batteries instead of AAA batteries for extra power. All this and it's \$5 cheaper than the standard pak. Highly recommended.



Advance Rocker Pak

PRICE: \$24.95
DISTRIBUTOR: HITECH WORLD

OVERALL
3 | 5



This rumble pak vibrates so violently it feels like the pad is coming apart. It's too much rumble for a pad but works well in steering wheels which require more movement to feel it. Batteries aren't required, but it is still very bulky.

Rumble Shock

PRICE: \$14.95
DISTRIBUTOR: BAYFORM

OVERALL
4 | 5



This is the best value rumble pak. \$5 cheaper than its nearest competitor and \$10 cheaper than the the official pak. Highly recommended.

Vibration Pak

PRICE: \$24.95
DISTRIBUTOR: LOGIC 3

OVERALL
4 | 5

Battery operated two speed rumble pak. This pak offers little in the way of value or features over the standard pak so it's not outstanding.



LX4 Tremor

PRICE: \$24.95
DISTRIBUTOR: LIVEWIRE

OVERALL
4.5 | 5



The LX4 Tremor pak works well with all games. It doesn't require batteries which makes it light and compact. Much better than the standard pak.

RUMBLE MEMORY RUMBLE MEMORY RUMBLE

LX4 Tremor with Memory

PRICE: \$49.95

DISTRIBUTOR: LIVEWIRE

OVERALL

4 | 5

This is the same as the LX4 Tremor, but with 1 megabyte of memory. This is four times the standard N64 memory pak. There is a button on the pak to switch between the rumble and four memory slots. No batteries are required, making it light and compact. The rumble works well unlike previous rumble/memory combinations. There's no longer any need to swap paks to save games. It may not be the cheapest but it's our favourite because it's much lighter and sleeker than the other combination paks.



Access Line Shock Memory Pak

PRICE: \$39.95

DISTRIBUTOR: UBI SOFT

OVERALL

4 | 5

This is a good combination rumble pak. It has 1Mb of memory but unfortunately it needs batteries.



Rumble Shock Memory

PRICE: \$29.95

DISTRIBUTOR: BAYFORM

OVERALL

4.5 | 5



With 1Mb of memory, this is the best value rumble/mem pak available. A great buy.



Memory Rocker Pak x 4

PRICE: \$39.95

DISTRIBUTOR: HITECH WORLD

OVERALL

4 | 5

This is the same as the Memory Rocker Pak, with four times the memory for only ten dollars more. The best value of the Rocker Paks so keep your eye out for it.



Vibration Memory Pack 256k

PRICE: \$39.95

DISTRIBUTOR: LOGIC 3

OVERALL

3 | 5

Battery powered rumble pak with 256k memory. Good but expensive.



Vibration Memory Pack 1Mb

PRICE: \$59.95

DISTRIBUTOR: LOGIC 3

OVERALL

3 | 5

Battery powered rumble pak with 1Mb memory. It's also a bit too expensive to be worthwhile.



EXTRA EXTRA EXTRA EXTRA EXTRA

Logic 3 Game Multi-case

PRICE: \$79.95

DISTRIBUTOR: LOGIC 3



This is a limousine carry case. It easily fits an N64, four controllers all your cables and heaps of games. There are two exterior pockets and multiple sections in the main pocket. There are handles to carry it as a suitcase or an optional shoulder strap. While this case is great for protecting your most valuable possession, it costs as much as a game, which must be taken into account when deciding on whether you really need a carry bag.

Naki Power Bag

PRICE: \$29.95

DISTRIBUTOR: HITECH WORLD



This is a sturdy carry bag for your N64. It comes in stylish black with a convenient shoulder strap. There is a separate pocket which holds about six carts. Unfortunately there is only space for one controller, apart from that, this is ideal if you're constantly lugging your Nintendo to houses of your poor PSX owning friends.

Bayform Console Bag

PRICE: \$29.95

DISTRIBUTOR: BAYFORM



This bag is one tough mutha. To test its console protection capabilities, an N64 was placed inside, with a control pad and three games. After being used, as the ball, in a forty-five minute game of inter-mag office football, the Nintendo still worked perfectly! (By the way, the final score was; N64 Gamer 8, Hyper 4). Essential stuff for anyone who can't be seen without their N64.

Multi RF/AV Selector

PRICE: \$42.95

DISTRIBUTOR: HITECH WORLD



Are you one of those sickos who has every games console on the planet? Do you have cables and wires all over the place and have run out of inputs for your video? Well this little adaptor is all you'll ever need. It is a pretty cool device for those of you with multiple consoles and a television with only one video channel. You can put four Audio/Visual inputs and then by pressing a button select which one goes into the television.

EXTRA EXTRA EXTRA EXTRA EXTRA

CABLES



Naki Pro Extension Cable

PRICE: \$19.95

DISTRIBUTOR: HITECH WORLD

I love extension cords. One for each controller it's mandatory to prevent having to sit on top of the TV, or the N64 having to sit in the middle of the room where clumsy parents trip over it.

Logic 3 N64 Extension Cable

PRICE: \$19.95

DISTRIBUTOR: LOGIC 3

Extension cords are a great accessory. They are both the same price.



Logic 3 SCART AV Cable

PRICE: \$29.95

DISTRIBUTOR: LOGIC 3

This is a standard N64 cable packaged with a SCART adapter. If your television has a SCART input you can use this instead of your AV input. A proper SCART connection give a superior picture, but since this only uses a standard AV cable, the picture will be the same. As the cable is the same as the one which comes with the N64 you'll now have two identical cables. Not recommended.

Naki Video Game & Cartridge Cleaning Kit

PRICE: \$9.95

DISTRIBUTOR: HITECH WORLD



This cleaning kit can be used with any console but is still utterly useless. I have never needed to clean a cartridge in my entire life and never had a problem because of it. If you have immersed a cartridge in something like custard this may help, but otherwise don't waste your money. Carts are sturdy and designed to last on their own.

ADAPTORS

SFX V3 Adapter

PRICE: \$39.95

DISTRIBUTOR: HITECH WORLD

This handy little device allows you to play American and Japanese games on your Aussie machines. The only problem is that the signal changes from the standard 50 hertz signal to a 60 hertz signal when you play overseas games. What this means in 'english', is that unless you have a television that is 'NTSC' compatible and supports a 60 Hz refresh rate, you can't use this converter. If you try to, it will result in your TV's screen flashing madly. Make sure you find out about your TV first (look in the instruction book) as some retailers may not be too happy to exchange this after purchase.



RFU Adaptor

PRICE: \$39.95

DISTRIBUTOR: NRG SOHO

A necessity for anyone that doesn't have audio-visual connectors on their television. However, steer clear of this if your television can handle A/V because the picture is not quite as good. This is \$10.00 cheaper than the official adaptor so keep your eye out.

