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### THIS MONTH'S CD



## REVIEWS

# Monster Rancher Hop-A-Bout (PS)

Every time I popped in my copy of Hop-A-Bout, I noticed an interesting phenomenon. Anyone in the vicinity wandered into my office, snickered for a moment at the cutesy graphics and seemingly silly gameplay, and then begged for a shot at the controller. After about an hour, a small crowd usually gathers, some staring dumfounded at the TV screen, others shouting and jerking about in spasmodic fits, trying vainly to use some body English to get ol' Suezo or Mocchi to cheat over a bit. Soon, competitive tourneys were springing up throughout the *OPM* staff.

And that's when I realized Tecmo has a minor gem on its hands—and an unlikely one at that. Starring four popular Monster Rancher creatures, Hop-A-Bout has you, umm, hopping about on pogo sticks through 100 timed levels, chock-a-block with obstacles and power-ups, in a race to the end. Control is as basic as can be: Use the directional pad to move your character—and that's it. There's also a full level editor that lets you create your own levels and save them onto a memory card.

I only wish you could change characters in the one-player game, as it would be much easier to finish those later levels—some of which are absurdly difficult—if you could pick the monster whose abilities are best-suited to meet the challenge.

## Monster Rancher Hop-A-Bout

Publisher: Tecmo  
 Developer: Tecmo  
 Web Site: [www.tecmoinc.com](http://www.tecmoinc.com)  
 Final Score: 3.5 points  
 Players: 1-2  
 Memory Card: 1 block



By Gary Steinman, [Official U.S. PlayStation Magazine](#)

[posted on: Jan 16 2001 12:00:00:00AM]

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