

# Play it Again, Man

Bill Loguidice and Matt Barton, authors of *Vintage Games* and the collective force behind the gaming website [armchairarcade.com](http://armchairarcade.com), share their new top picks.



**IF YOU LIKED** Super Mario Kart (1992)

**NOW PLAY** ModNation Racers (PS3, PSP; May 2010)

**HERE'S WHY** Both games are go-kart races, but with ModNation you can modify the look of your "Mod" (racer) and go-kart, as well as create your own unique racetrack. PlayStation's Internet connection lets you share your creative wizardry with players from around the globe while competing against them. In terms of racing, players can drift their go-karts, which helps conserve energy that can be applied as either a turbo boost or protective shield from enemy attacks.



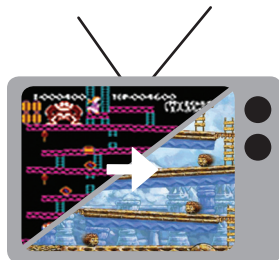
**IF YOU LIKED**

Pong (1972)

**NOW PLAY**

Sports Champions for PlayStation Move (PS3; 2010)

**HERE'S WHY** This multi-game bundle contains six sports, including bocce, archery, and table tennis. You use a handheld motion controller that works in sync with the PlayStation Eye camera to precisely follow your every move. The reason Pong was one of the first big video game hits was due to its simplicity: Anyone could walk up to it, figure it out, and play. It's the same thing here.



**IF YOU LIKED**

Donkey Kong (1981)

**NOW PLAY**

Braid (Xbox360, PS3, Microsoft Windows, Mac; 2008–2009)

**HERE'S WHY** This platform-and-puzzle video game has many similarities to the original Donkey Kong. For instance, players must dodge barrels, climb ladders, and fight an angry monster—all while trying to save a damsel in distress. To advance to the next level, you must put together the pieces of a puzzle through time manipulation. Both games are set on a linear stage—meaning there's only one route players can take—but Braid's design elements are more modern and artistic.



**IF YOU LIKED**

Skate or Die! (1987)

**NOW PLAY**

Skate 3 (PS3, Xbox 360; 2010)

**HERE'S WHY** Skate or Die! was limited in what it could simulate, allowing players to do little more than skate back and forth on a half-pipe. Skate 3 is modeled on reality, so you get a skateboarding experience that's similar to the real thing. In the past, designers programmed a limited number of moves into a game, but today the on-screen tricks—like shredding down a handrail or doing a hand-plant—are much more fluid.



**IF YOU LIKED**

Metroid (1986)

**NOW PLAY**

Metroid: Other M (Wii; 2010)

**HERE'S WHY** People miss the video games of their youth, and developers took note with the 11th installment of this popular sci-fi series. The game revolves around bounty hunter Samus Aran, and her fight to protect the galaxy from evil space pirates. The game's creators went back to basics, simplifying the controller settings so players don't have to learn complicated new moves. Like the original, it's played on a non-linear platform, but gamers can choose from two perspectives: first person or third person, and toggle back-and-forth between them.