

In Pictures: The Nintendo Wii

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Nintendo's next-generation gaming console, the Wii, is set to hit U.S. stores on Nov. 19. In order to compete with Sony's PlayStation 3 and Microsoft's Xbox 360, Nintendo has attempted to reinvent videogaming, making it more social, more intuitive and surprisingly physically engaging. Join us as we take a closer look.



The box

The slim white box is about 8.5 inches long, 6 inches wide and less than 2 inches thick, and weighs just 2.65 pounds--about the

same as a thick hardcover book.



The insides

Powered by an IBM PowerPC CPU, the Wii features 512 megabytes of internal flash memory, an SD memory card expansion slot, two USB 2.0 ports and built-in Wi-Fi capability. It also has four ports to plug in classic Nintendo GameCube controllers. Video-out via AV component cables or S-video.



Wii remote

Instead of a bulky, button-studded joystick, Nintendo has produced the Wii remote, a slim wand that looks like a television remote control. It's connected to the console wirelessly and is equipped with an innovative motion sensor that detects movement and rotation in three dimensions. If you want your character on the screen to swing his sword, you wield the remote and make the thrusts and parries yourself.

**Nunchuk controller**

For games that require two hands, plug in the Nunchuk controller, which connects to the Wii remote via a short wire. By holding one in each hand, you can participate in two-handed sports like boxing--or use your left hand to load a pistol while you shoot with the right.



Connectivity

The Wii can connect to the Internet using its built in Wi-Fi antenna, allowing users access to Nintendo's WiiConnect24 service. Players will be able to square off against one another, purchase and download new and classic games, access weather and news reports, and more.



Games

The Wii ships with Wii Sports, a collection of mini-games (tennis, baseball, bowling, golf, boxing) that exploit the unique motion-detection capabilities of the Wii remote. Within the first five weeks of launch, Wii owners will have a total of 62 games to choose from, including The Legend of Zelda: Twilight Princess, Madden NFL '07 and Red Steel.



Launch details

The Wii hits stores in the U.S. on Nov. 19. There should be plenty on the shelves; Nintendo says more than 4 million Wiis will be available globally by the end of 2006. But high demand for the console might still make it hard to find.



Pricing

Wii: \$249.99 (comes with one remote, one nunchuk, and Wii Sports)

Wii remote: \$39.99

Nunchuk: \$19.99

Classic controller: \$19.99

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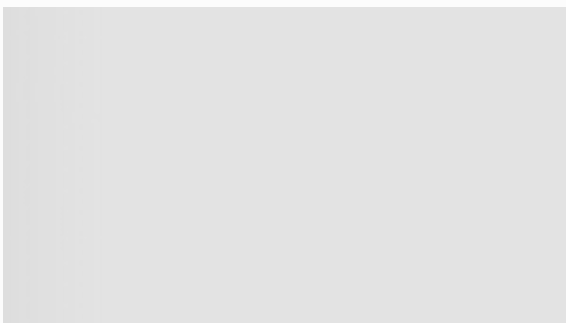
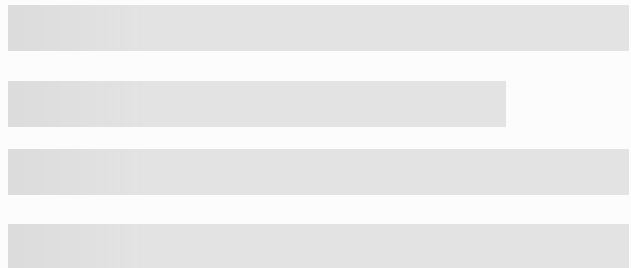
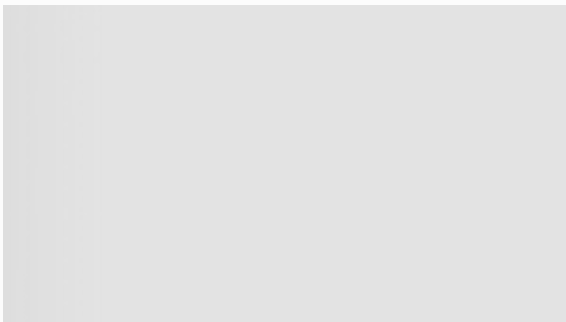
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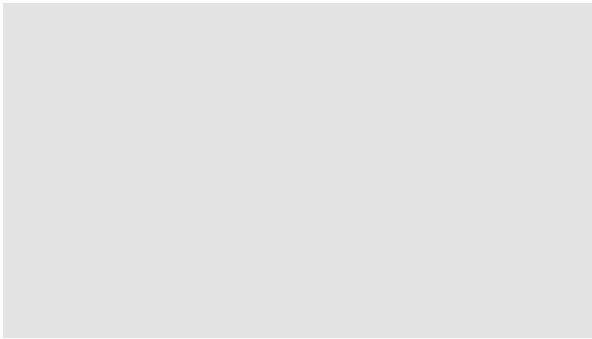
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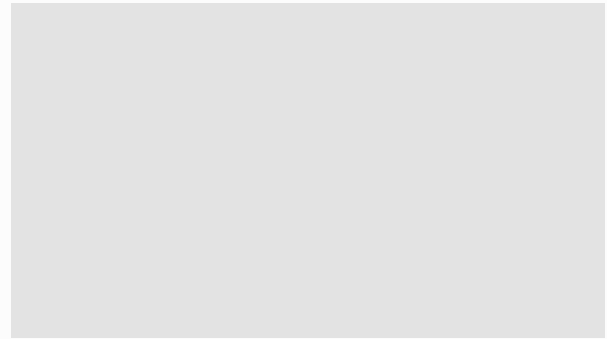
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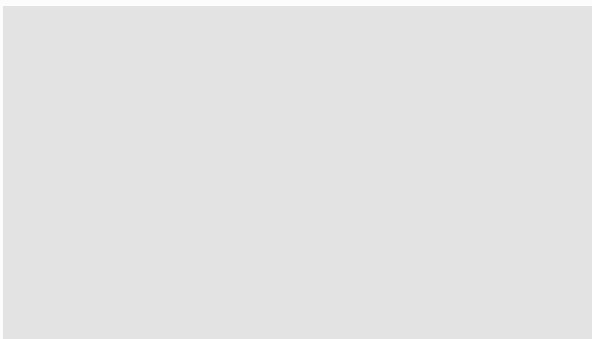
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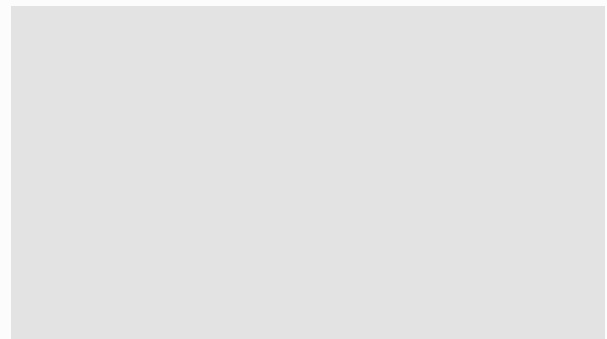
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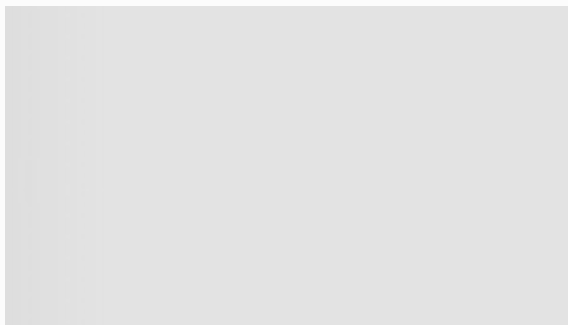
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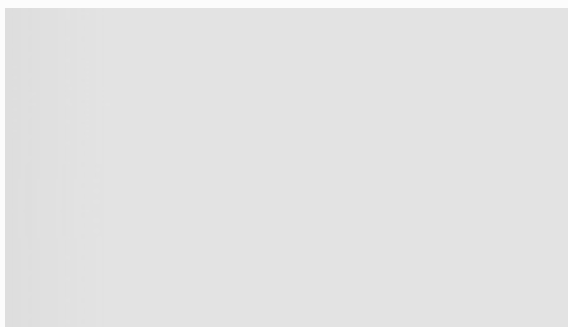


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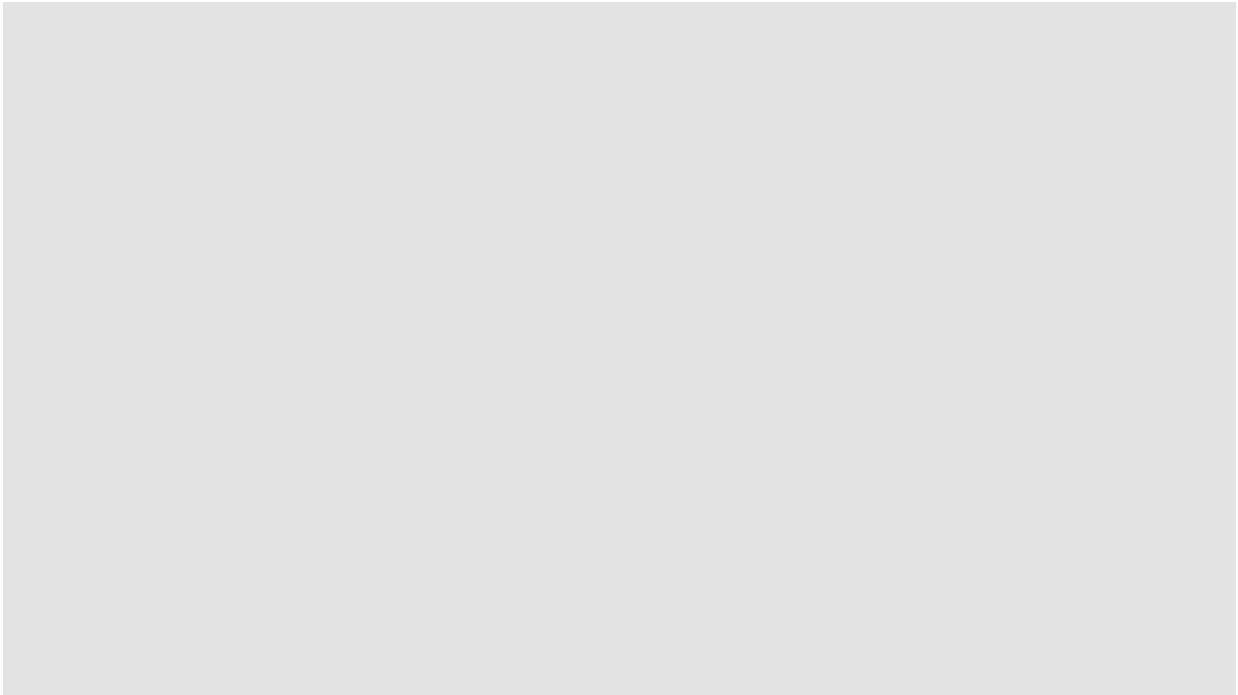


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