

Retailer Reviews

[All scores out of a possible "10"]

Kingdom Hearts TCG

(pre-release)

REVIEWED BY Jeremy Mueller
Rainy Day Games
Aloha, OR

PUBLISHER Fantasy Flight Games
STOCK CODE FFG-KH01/FFGKH02
MSRP \$11.99/\$3.99
FORMAT 41 card starter, 10 card booster, rules

PRESENTATION [8]: For those of you not familiar with the property, Kingdom Hearts is a series of videogames based on Final Fantasy and Disney characters battling together to save their worlds. The first set is just Disney characters and the art is up to par with Disney standards. This game is a direct translation of the Japanese game, and only the border color was changed. The starters include a playmat, rulebook, and a DVD to teach you how to play.



(Not Actual Card Image)

SALABILITY [9]: The videogame series is always on top of the charts near it's release and holds it's place for quite some time. This game has lasted a few sets in Japan and has done fairly well there as well. If you ask your Yu-Gi-Oh! and Pokemon players most of them have played the videogame. The game is light and should appeal to those audiences.

GAMEPLAY [8]: The game is based on going from world to world, battling the dark and your opponent as well. Cards don't have casting costs, but they do have levels, which will determine when you can play them. In order to play a level 2 friend, for instance, you must have a level 1 friend already in play. The closer you are to winning the game, the better the monsters are that your opponent can play.

OVERALL: Look for this to be a good seller if you support it. Fantasy Flight Games is supporting the game with free demo decks at conventions and they will be doing organized play as well. Their OP program is an easy way to get promos for your players to reward them without having to do tons of paperwork. In the past FFG has also done purchase programs to get players into stores to buy packs, and I see no reason why they won't do that with this game as well.

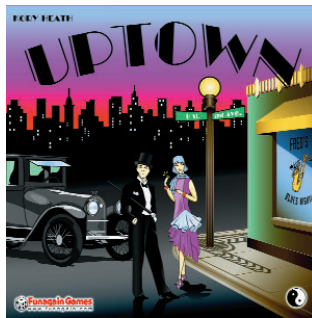
OVERALL SALES POTENTIAL 8

Uptown

REVIEWED BY Steve Ellis
Rainy Day Games
Aloha, OR

PUBLISHER Funagain Games
STOCK CODE n/a
MSRP \$24.95
FORMAT 8"x8"x1-3/4", gameboard, 140 tiles, 5 tile racks, rules

PRESENTATION [7]: The box has a nice overall look, heft, and feel. The board and the tiles have a nice finish and are very well made. The tiles were particularly satisfying to punch out and handle. I'm also a fan of the rules that have a few excellent figures to help illuminate the instructions (all in less words than this review). I was not a fan of the advertising for an online game store on the rules and packaging.



SALABILITY

[7]: The advertising for one of the largest internet game retailers on the packaging and rules is definitely an issue (which the guys at Fred Distribution claim won't happen on future releases). This factor alone could keep many stores away but I feel that the game has potential. In addition, everyone selling this game must maintain the pricing of \$24.95 as per the agreements signed with Fred Distribution. I'd also like to note that this item is short discounted. I believe that Fred Distribution will supply a free demo copy with the purchase of 5 games and this game is one of the easiest to demo that I've seen.

GAMEPLAY [8]: This may not be a typical hobby gamer product but it really shines for families and those of us that appreciate a simple game with some strategy. Somebody I showed it to found similarities to Sudoku but claimed it was much more interesting than any of the Sudoku styled games and I'd have to agree. It also had some elements that reminded me of the classic game Manhattan.

OVERALL: This game is good and it could be a strong seller if you have the right clientele and are willing to show it off. Bottom line – you need to check out this product and Fred Distribution to see how/if they fit with your business model.

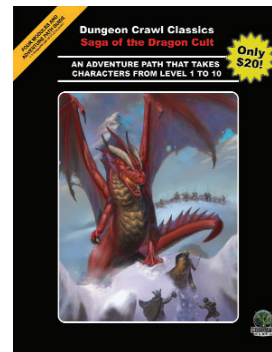
OVERALL SALES POTENTIAL 7

Saga of the Dragon Cult

REVIEWED BY Scott Thorne
Castle Perilous
Carbondale, IL

PUBLISHER Goodman Games
STOCK CODE GMG5200
MSRP \$20.00
FORMAT 9"x12"x1" box set of four d20 modules

PRESENTATION [8]: The box has a good heft to it; it's quite heavy for its size. The cover prominently displays the "Only \$20" blurb in yellow and black in the upper corner. The back cover features a photo of the contents, along with a short description. Inside are the four individual modules, along with the adventure path booklet. The box comes shrinkwrapped, so the customer can't actually see the contents but the back cover does a pretty good job of describing them. My main caveat is that the shrinkwrap on the copies we received is pretty tight, causing the box to bow and the shrinkwrap to tear.



SALABILITY [9]: In my experience, the only d20 modules that sell better than Goodman products are those put out WOTC. This set is a great value. We sold through three copies the first week it was out. The \$20 price point made it pretty easy to move. Goodman also does a great job of supporting sales at the retail end of the channel. The company was a major supporter of Free RPG Day this year and plans on participating again in 2008. They also offer a free spinner rack with purchase of a certain number of modules and a 3'x4' Adventure Path poster listing modules in print and which are suitable for what levels.

GAMEPLAY [9]: Designed to be compatible with D&D 3.5, but unless you like reading modules for fun, only usable by the GM. Originally published individually, the set of four modules and Adventure Path guide is designed to take players from first to 10th level.

OVERALL: Goodman is also planning a Living Campaign promotion for 2008 that is designed to drive sales from conventions to retailers. Look for more info as the company firms up plans.

OVERALL SALES POTENTIAL 8.5