

Gemini's "Freak" Controllers for Xbox & PS2

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I'm Freaking Out!

And you will be freaking out also once you behold the beauty of Gemini's Collectors Edition of Freak Controllers for Xbox and PS2. The brand new Freak series, which should be on store shelves by the time you read this, coincides perfectly for Halloween gaming goodness. I was able to get my hands on three really unique pieces. They are "Alien Infection" for Xbox (MSRP \$29.99), "Berserker" for PS2 (MSRP \$24.99), and "Fleshy" for PS2 (MSRP \$24.99). Each of these limited edition meticulously sculpted masterpieces is hand painted! The level of detail is nothing short of spectacular. As an analyst who closely covers the burgeoning field of third-party game accessories and peripheral makers, I admire what Gemini (sold under the Game-Elements brand) has done with this innovative approach to console controllers—clearly separating itself from a clan of mostly forgettable cloned companies. By the way, Gemini has plans to add a Freak GameCube controller in 2005, as well as a whole new generation of Freaks for next year.

The Devil Is In The...Controller?

Keep in mind the Freaks were sculpted by Jeff Kokin, the renowned movie miniature and action figure artist. Stare long enough at "Fleshy" and you will see details which make you wonder if the Devil really is inside! For example, on the right side of Fleshy's mutated head, growing out of the handle's edge, you can discern red and blue veins attaching to the white of the monster's eyeball...routed clear up through the brain. Disfigurement scars are etched upon the base of both button pads as well. Look closely at the deformation of Fleshy's plastic skin creases and how the paint job blends the colors to accentuate the depth and shadows of the plastic. Makes you wonder how they can sell these things for the pittance of 25 bucks. I know if I was a kid I would be all over these things; wait a minute—I'm all over these things now and I'm almost 50!



Fleshy for PS2 in the Flesh!

Invite a Freak to Play

So how is the quality and game play? Well to test the Freak Series out, I decided to extend an invitation to the tastefully gruesome “Alien Infection” controller for Xbox. Since Xbox seems to have a legacy of harsh criticism in the controller department, what better choice than the Alien Infection? Well, put your insecure feelings aside because the Freak “Alien” for Xbox is the same size and button configuration as the standard Type S controller. I’m resolute in testing controllers with racing games because constant and firm pressure is required due to the intense nature of the genre. Sure enough, Project Gotham 2 Racing proved to be a worthy title to test out the Alien Infection controller. I experienced responsive control with no discernable drawbacks whatsoever. The standard analog thumbsticks, dual vibration motors, two expansion slots, and 8-way D-pad are all standard fare. Regarding quality, you’d better be sitting down because not only are all freaks solid and feel great to handle—they each carry a lifetime warranty! If Gemini can stand behind an innovative quality line of controllers such as the Freaks at such a great price point (including the dazzling hand painting of each one), I strongly recommend inviting a Freak to come home with you and play...just keep the lights on!



Alien Infection for Xbox



Berserker for PS2