



ZZAPSTICK!

THE WIZ CARD

Suppliers: Euromax Electronics Ltd
Price: £8.95

Yes, the *Wiz Card* does look very similar to the *Joy Card*, reviewed way back in issue 8. They may look alike, but there are in fact a couple of significant differences between the two... The *Joy Card* is best suited to persons of a left handed bent, whereas the *Wiz Card* is for those of a more ambidextrous nature, since it is held upright, as opposed to lengthways. This also makes the *Wiz Card* slightly easier to use than the *Joy Card*.

Also, unlike the *Joy Card*, both of the *Wiz Card*'s fire buttons are operational, which means that they can be used to good effect for, say, the Javelin event in *Summer Games II* (if you don't possess an (ugh) auto-fire, then pounding away on two responsive fire buttons is easier than beating only one to death). However, the 'stick' itself isn't so easy to use. It works well with most platform games, but it's not so hot with games which require hard, fast, precise movements, such as *Dropzone*,

Encounter, and *International Karate* (diagonals are a pain to obtain). It's not too bad with *Decathlon*, though, but you do have to adopt a somewhat unorthodox wagging technique for

maximum performance.

Overall, the *Wiz Card* is a very good, alternative 'controller', and although it's by no means exceptional, it's tough and at the price it shouldn't be overlooked.

Responsiveness: Stick 97%
Short length of travel and very responsive.

Responsiveness: Button 95%
Smooth, sensitive, and 'reactive'.

Ergonomics 78%

Easy enough to hold, but a bit more awkward to use.

Durability 97%

Went to Hell and back, intact.

Value For Money 83%

One of the cheaper and better joysticks available.

Overall 82%

A very good, if unusual, controller, which is limited in its use.

EUROMAX PRO ACE

Supplier: Euromax Electronics Ltd
Price: £11.95

Euromax have taken the *Pro Ace* and made a few minor alterations to come up with... the new *Pro Ace*. The handle is now shorter and there is no top fire button, but the internal workings remain, as far as we can tell, the same — ie leaf switches all round.

However, the *Pro Ace* doesn't perform too well. The stick is slow to respond to movement, and has a long length of travel which makes using it a bit like stirring thick syrup with a plastic spoon. The fire button is fairly responsive, although it feels as if it is also suspended in treacle, which makes it too sluggish for effective rapid fire. It wasn't much fun using the *Pro Ace* with any of the games, mainly due to its length of travel and sluggish response.

This joystick is the weakest link in an otherwise very strong chain of quality Euromax product. An unfortunate fact, but true.

Responsiveness: Stick 45%

Takes too long to react to movements.

Responsiveness: Button 71%

Reactive, although rather 'soggy'.

Ergonomics 85%

Comfortable to hold, and effective as it can be on a table top.

Durability 71%

Its performance wasn't impaired greatly with extensive use, but then it didn't perform that well initially.

Value For Money 47%

Expensive when compared to the likes of the *Comp Pro* which is considerably better and only costs an extra fiver.

Overall 52%

Comfortable, durable, but not very playable.





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