



KART KOMPARISON!

This summer, Team Sonic Racing and Crash Team Racing are both trying to knock Mario Kart 8 Deluxe off its podium. But which kid-friendly racing game has the most to offer?

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There used to be more than one karting game to choose from. Older readers may need to describe this time to youngsters, but people of a certain vintage (basically, you need to have enough years on the clock to remember the '90s) will recall this rivalry well.

Nintendo's Mario Kart franchise took an early lead, kicking off the trend in 1992 with *Super Mario Kart* for the SNES. Six home-console games, three portable titles and four arcade games have followed in the Mario Kart series, with each one refining the art of throwing banana peels to hitherto undreamt of levels of excellence.

Sega's iconic speedster Sonic joined the kart race in 1995 with *Sonic Drift* for the Game Gear. Its follow-ups spanned numerous guises and devices, including such curious entries

as 1997's *Sonic R* for Sega Saturn, which did away with the karts altogether (in favour of running and jumping) and became Sonic's first all-3D outing.

A new challenger entered in 1999, with *Crash Team Racing* becoming a favourite on the PS1, before spawning a couple of sequels (2003's *Crash Nitro Kart* and 2005's *Tag Team Racing*) that spread Mr Bandicoot's car-based adventures onto loads of other consoles.

But Crash hasn't had a racing game since that 2005 title, and Sonic's last gambit in this arena came out in 2012. Another occasional challenger for the karting crown is Konami's racing series, which began with *Konami Krazy Racers* in 2001, but that franchise has been out of action since 2011. Also, 2013's *LittleBigPlanet Karting* ended up being a one-off.

In the years since, Nintendo's form has kept on getting better, with 2017's *Mario Kart 8 Deluxe* earning itself an undisputed position at the top of the kart-racing podium. It was, put simply, the best karting game on the market.

After two years of plain sailing, though, that top spot is about to be challenged. *Crash Team Racing: Nitro-Fuelled* and *Team Sonic Racing* are both launching in summer 2019, and if you're wondering what the difference is between these three games, check out our kart-komparison kards.



MARIO KART 8 DELUXE

The best-selling game on its console, Mario Kart 8 Deluxe is the definitive incarnation of Nintendo's iconic racing franchise

Initial release: 28 April 2017

Available on: Nintendo Switch

Number of tracks: 48

Number of racers: 42

Number of items: 20

Extra features: Battle Mode, Anti-Gravity sections

Fun fact: You can choose to have automatic acceleration



TEAM SONIC RACING

The whole game is built around teamwork, rewarding players for working together in groups of three

Initial release: 21 May 2019

Available on: PS4, Xbox One, PC, Nintendo Switch

Number of tracks: 21

Number of racers: 15

Number of gadgets: 14

Extra features: Story-driven Adventure Mode

Fun fact: There are 135 ways to customise karts

CRASH TEAM RACING NITRO-FUELLED

This modern racing remake will mash together 1999's Crash Team Racing and 2003's Crash Nitro Kart

Initial release: 21 June 2019

Available on: PS4, Xbox One, Nintendo Switch

Number of tracks: 34 (approx)

Extra features: Unlike the original games, it'll have online play

Fun fact: Like the N-Sane trilogy, it'll be a nostalgic experience for long-time fans