

Rock The World!



Come on – own up. Who hasn't grabbed a hairbrush in the bedroom and pretended to be Bono or Pat Benetar, strummed air guitar along to Bon Jovi or banged the desk along to Deep Purple's Ian Paice. Rock Band Unplugged is for all those frustrated musicians and rocks stars out there, bringing the hits and misses of the music business direct to your ARM Powered Sony Play Station Portable (PSP). You may never get to kick over a drum kit on stage – but this game will give you a virtual experience that just might have you blowing the dust off that electric guitar!

By Jan Howells, ARM

Tour buses, stadium crowds, fans, warm-ups and wall to wall gold disks – experience the life of a rock star via 'Rock Band Unplugged', which brings the award-winning entertainment world experience found in 'Rock Band' and 'Rock Band 2' to the Sony Play Station Portable (PSP) for the first time.

'Rock Band Unplugged' challenges players to start a band and tour for fame and fortune while learning to master lead/bass guitar, drums and vocals – only this time as a one man band! The multi-track game design combines the overall artistic look, functionality and customization options of the 'Rock Band' games, while also featuring tailored options specifically designed to take advantage of the ARM9 based PSP – a truly integrated portable entertainment system designed to handle multiple applications in the form of music, video, photos, internet and wireless connectivity.

Players can control all four instruments - vocals, guitar, bass, and drums – at once by hitting the colored gems in time to the music

tracks. Sounds easy! But at the same time players must switch between tracks and maintain note streaks for all four instruments to keep the band alive. A meter on the screen shows the player which instrument is doing well and which need some serious attention. Keeping an eye on the meter while jumping from a guitar riff to a drum roll is a bit like spinning plates – and can be just as frustrating until you master the skill.

Before you dream of luxury hotels and playing baseball stadiums you need to get to grips with the various sounds. A 'warm up mode' allows a player to focus on one instrument without having to juggle all four tracks. Complete a phase and further instruments are added. The band meter is only affected by the track the player chooses to play.

Players can work through mini-campaigns focused on a specific instrument, artist, preferred genre or album to hone their skills in the industry.



The 'Rock Band Unplugged' soundtrack features 41 songs on-disc, and an additional 10 songs available as downloadable tracks. The game features all master recordings and spans a host of genres from rock to punk, metal and alternative. The game has been developed by Harmonix along with Backbone Entertainment, and is published by MTV Games.

Players can pick a song and jam or choose the set list option to pick multiple tracks to be played in a row for a serious rock experience. Artistes include The Killers, Nine Inch Nails, Nirvana, Bon Jovi, Judas Priest and The Who.

'Rock Band Unplugged' incorporates an in-game music store which allows players to buy and download new songs over the wireless connection. Tracks are also downloadable through the PC version of the PlayStation Store.

Once you've put in the practice time you can put your band together and launch headlong into a world tour that will take you through 24 cities and venues. Just like Madonna, you can control your musical empire, hire the best, earn fans, fill the coffers and reach the very pinnacle of rock stardom. Only you have the option of flopping exhausted onto the sofa!

'Rock Band Unplugged' is scheduled to debut on the PSP in North America and Europe in June 2009. The game has been developed by Harmonix along with Backbone Entertainment, and is published by MTV Games.

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Only a Touch Away

Packed social life? Motorola's ARM based EVOKE QA4 feature phone is packed with integrated widgets, web browsing and IM-style messaging to make sure you stay connected with friends and family - whether you prefer to talk, text or network.

The EVOKE QA4 has been designed to be easy and intuitive to use and has the added convenience of a full touch-screen. Videos and photos can be fast uploaded to favorite blogs and sharing sites, while built-in MySpace integration lets you rapidly post updates while you are on the move.

By Jan Howells, ARM



If you have a hectic social scene and a large circle of friends, Motorola's ARM Powered EVOKE QA4 has definitely been developed with you in mind.

"The EVOKE QA4 is designed for anyone who wants to stay connected simply and seamlessly with friends and family with the added convenience of full touch-screen, intuitive online browsing and the ability to stay plugged in on their terms," explained Becki Leonard, a spokesperson for Motorola.

The oval shaped EVOKE QA4, powered by an ARM9 processor features a WQVGA 2400 x 400 2.8 inch touch-screen which grabs most of the device's real-estate. The phone supports different messaging style via a touch-screen QWERTY keyboard and a slide out traditional keypad. Users can customize the home screen content with integrated widgets and personalized RSS feeds. The HTML browser can be used to share pictures and video utilizing the device's integrated imaging facilities. "Motorola chose the ARM9 processor for the EVOKE QA4 because it served as the most cost-effective processor for the product," explained Leonard.

Updating friends on what you are doing as you are doing it couldn't be easier. Web connectivity lets users publish photos and video clips taken with the phone on blogs and sharing sites such as Picasa. Built-in integration with MySpace lets users keep in constant contact with friends and post updates. The EVOKE has a 2 megapixel auto focus camera with 5x digital continuous zoom, video capture and an MP3player.

Motorola has recognized that today people stay in contact in a host of different ways – voice, messaging, Web feeds and social networking. EVOKE has been designed to make all these options easy. The

phone offers multiple ways to make a call via a physical slide keypad and intuitive dialing. Turn the phone on its side and there is a QWERTY keyboard to make texting fast and easy. Home screen messaging icons, predictive text and IM-style messaging have all been included to make way for back-and-forth multiple conversations. Bluetooth technology allows for hands-free and an integral noise reduction technology lowers background noise if you are rattling along in a train or calling from a soccer match, for example.

The phone comes with 256 Mb of internal memory which can be expanded to support an additional 8 GB of memory via a microSD memory card, making copying music files, for example, between the EVOKE and a computer quicker than synchronizing. Motorola are boasting up to approximately 330 minutes of talk time and up to approximately 450 hours of standby time.

Motorola has been quick to recognize that users are short on time and want information as it happens at their fingertips. Customization allows users to bring important content straight to their display, day or night. Integrated widgets enable users to access real-time information and personalized RSS feeds from the Internet such as news headlines and sports scores.

An integrated GPS Satellite Navigation System comes with Assisted and Simultaneous GPS functionality that will help you plan routes and check out local points of interest.

Motorola is pitching the EVOKE smart phone as a social networking tool. It will undoubtedly make sure you stay in touch whichever your favourite form of contact – but one think it can't guarantee is to improve your social life!