

# TRUCK ME!

AND more

## Dekotora Legend (aka Art Truck Battle)

Japan may be big on RPG's, virtual dating and horse racing games but once in a while an import game may be worth considering—and here's one that does exactly what it says on the tin -**Dekotora Legend** is your game—otherwise known as **Art Truck battle**. As a Japanese release only, courtesy of Spike, It has you getting all artistic, with your truck (just look at the those dis-tasteful beasts) and then battling your opponents to the destination. Battling through the Tokyo roads involves using your horn, an insult button, and a bit of delicate fuel/load balancing plus care with the cargo which can get damaged.

It has around four hundred different truck parts and just as many artwork designs, a design your own section, fourteen courses to race on with which to adorn your rig, from intricate scenes of cowboys tending their herds to fluffy dice for the mirror. Progress is made by earning money and buying better/faster upgrades.

For a series that started in the late nineties, it's surprising this has never reached American or European shores.

**Truck Kyosokyoku** was the year 2000 effort from **Namco** for arcade use. If ever a game should not be in an arcade, it's this type—where's the art? And running on System 12 (Playstation one) hardware it didn't even impress visually. No wonder this stayed in Japan too.



## Truck Racing (2003 Psone)

Exactly. That's what European budget publisher Midas Interactive provided for Psone owners, March 2003—for just £7.99. Often selling for less too.

Eight tracks, six rigs and no buyers. Sadly it just couldn't compete with Xbox and PS2 racing games.

## Rebel Trucker—Global Star Software (Oct 2003).

Developed by 3Romans in Birmingham (England).

Popular gaming site, Gamespot said "...is a huge mess of a game that is riddled with grievous bugs, badly designed in every measurable capacity, and completely lacking in any conceivable dimension of fun" And ignoring the splattered bodies in the screen shot, I think that sums it up beautifully.

