# **Donkey Kong FAQ**

by Beautiful Affair

Updated to v1.00 on Jun 23, 2014

This walkthrough was originally written for Donkey Kong on the NES, but the walkthrough is still applicable to the GBA version of the game.

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Donkey Kong (NES) FAQ
<pre>Version: 1.00 Last Updated: 5 November 2012    Author: Ryan Harrison    Email: rjhgamefaqs[at]gmail.com</pre> This document is Copyright (C) 2012-2014 Ryan Harrison. All rights reserved.
Version History Version 1.00   5 November 2012  * The first, complete posted version of this FAQ.
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NAVIGATING THIS FAQ: For ease of browsing through this FAQ, all major sections have a search code listed on the right-hand side of the ToC. Press Ctrl + F on your keyboard and this will bring up a search box in your web browser. Type or copy in the search code for the section you wish to navigate to, press Enter, and this will take you to the beginning of that section.
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#### i. Introduction

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Hello and welcome to my FAQ for Donkey Kong. This file is designed to specifically cover the NES port of Nintendo's legendary multi-screen arcade game. It will provide diagrams and tips for each of the three game screens, in addition to covering other little tidbits about the game as well. This game is best remembered for being the one that introduced the gaming world to two megapopular Nintendo characters: Mario (still gaming's most famous icon and star of 200+ video games and counting), and of course, the title character, Donkey Kong who has also found fame in his own right in several platformer games. The objective is to scale each structure to rescue Pauline, before finally taking Donkey Kong down on the third and final level. However, you must also avoid the enemies and traps that Donkey Kong throws in Mario's way to make that task a little more challenging! Although short, this is a pretty fun arcade-style old-school game that is worth trying out on the NES, or pretty much any other system.

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1. STORY [0100]

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Can you save Pauline from the clutches of Donkey Kong? Help Mario scale the construction site to rescue his girlfriend, Pauline. Dodge the fireballs and barrels that Donkey Kong hurls down the ramps and ladders to thwart your efforts.

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2. GAME OVERVIEW [0200]

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2.1. Controls [0201]

D-Pad: Down: Descend ladders

Left/Right: Make Mario move in those directions

Up: Climb ladders

Select: Move the cursor on the title screen to select between game types

Start: Begin highlighted game from the title screen

Pause the game during play; resume when paused

A: Jump (on own, Mario jumps straight up; with Left or Right on D-Pad Mario jumps in those directions)

2.2. Basics [0202]

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| Classic NES Series (GBA)/Wii Virtual Console |
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A direct port of the NES version of Donkey Kong is also available for the Game Boy Advance, as part of the Classic NES Series of games, and also on the Wii Virtual Console, which can be downloaded from the Shopping Network. These games are precisely the same as this version; the Wii Virtual Console edition can also be played with a variety of different control inputs: the Wiimote, the Classic Controller, or the GameCube Controller.

As the Game Boy Advance's control layout and button labels are exactly the same as that of the NES, I won't need to bother doing a control table key to compare them, however, there are some extra controls exclusive to the Game Boy Advance version, see below.

Classic NES Series: Donkey Kong - Other Controls

Start + Select + A + B: Resets the game

L + R: Opens the System menu, where you can choose to CONTINUE, RESET, LINKED PLAY, SAVE HIGH SCORE, or SLEEP MODE. See below for more details.

Classic NES Series: Donkey Kong - System Menu

If playing the Classic NES Series: Donkey Kong game for the Game Boy Advance, pressing L+R at any time will open the System Menu. Here's a diagram of what this menu looks like, and a rundown of each of the options available:

- MENU - |
| - MENU - |
| >CONTINUE |
| RESET |
| LINKED PLAY |
| SAVE HIGH SCORE |
| SLEEP MODE |
| TO EXIT SLEEP MODE, |
| PRESS SELECT + |
| THE L AND R BUTTONS. |

CONTINUE: Just what it says; select this option to continue playing your game.

RESET: Takes you back to the Title Screen.

LINKED PLAY: With this option, you and a second player can play a 2-Player Game of Donkey Kong if you have 2 GBAs linked together via a Link Cable.

To set up a Linked Play game, make sure to begin with that both GBAs are switched off. Insert the GBA Link Cables into the connectors on both handhelds. If you are playing with only 1 copy of Donkey Kong, the player who has the cartridge inserted into their GBA needs to insert the purple connector into their system; they will play as Player 1. If both players have a copy of Donkey Kong inserted into their GBA, the player who has the purple connector inserted into their system will play as Player 1.

Power on both GBAs. When the Title Screen appears, press L and R together to bring up the System Menu, and from there, select the LINKED PLAY option. You will then be taken to the Linked Play Confirmation Screen. Press Start, and the systems will be linked, and you are taken back to the Title Screen. From there, you can then choose to play a 2 Player Game.

SAVE HIGH SCORE: Choose this to save your high score, which remains saved on the game's battery backup even after the power has been switched off.

SLEEP MODE: When you select this, the game pauses and the GBA's screen will turn off to conserve battery power, although the power remains switched on. As informed at the bottom of the System Menu screen, you can exit Sleep Mode by pressing the Select, L and R buttons simultaneously.

Wii Virtual Console - Button Key

The following buttons on the Wiimote, Wii Classic Controller and GameCube Controller correspond to those of its NES counterparts: use these in conjunction with the Controls section above in order to see their button denotations:

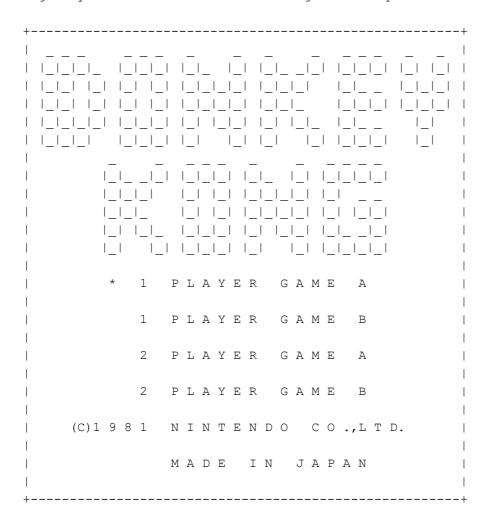
'	WII CLASSIC CONTROLLER		NES CONTROLLER
D-Pad	D-Pad	D-Pad Analog Stick	D-Pad   D-Pad
2	A	A	A
+	+	Start	Start
-	-	Z	Select

Other Controls (Wiimote & Wii Classic Controller)

Home:	Bring	up	Home	menu	while	pausing	the	game;	press	again	to	hide	Home	menu
	and re	esur	ne pla	av										

0			- C
	Title	Screen	
<u> </u>			- ~

Okay, so here's a look at what the rather simple title screen looks like, and the types of game you can choose. Below the diagram is a quick rundown.



- 1 PLAYER GAME A: The game mode that most will be used to playing if they're familiar with the arcade game; one player controls Mario as you guide him through each of the three levels to rescue Pauline. You begin with three lives, and upon defeating the game and rescuing Pauline, the game begins over again at the first stage, with the difficulty notched up a tad, along with a slightly higher (but more rapidly decreasing) Bonus timer.
- 1 PLAYER GAME B: An expert version of the game. All stages retain the same layout as that of Game A, however Donkey Kong's traps are a bit more wily in trying to catch Mario (e.g. barrels scroll down quickly and in different directions), enemies tend to be smarter at trying to catch you, and of course, the original hazards from Game A will also still be here. If you get through Game A without too much trouble, then try this mode!
- 2 PLAYER GAME A: So long as 2 controllers are plugged into the system, then 2 players can take it in alternating turns controlling Mario to attempt to beat each stage. Play alternates when one player either beats a level, or loses a life. Should one player lose all their lives, the other player then continues playing until

they have lost all their lives too, and the game is over.

2 PLAYER GAME B: The same gist as 1 Player Game B, with 2-Player rules (play alternating when one player loses a life or beats a stage; the game is over when both players lose all their lives).

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The aim of Donkey Kong is to guide Mario to rescue Pauline from the clutches of Donkey Kong, who continues to scale the construction site with her. For the first two stages, you must direct Mario up to the area where Pauline is being held in order to win. For the third and final stage, you have to uncouple all the bolts that hold the girders together by jumping or walking over them. When all the bolts are removed, this causes Donkey Kong to plummet to the ground, Pauline is rescued, and the game is over and begins from the start again, with the difficulty slightly increased. From there on you basically just keep playing and see how far you can get before you lose all your lives; the game repeats forever until you do so.

The Hammer

This handy weapon serves as Mario's equaliser, and his only means of fighting back against the enemies. To use a hammer, simply stand directly underneath it and jump. Mario will grab the hammer and swing it wildly in front of him for a few seconds. While the hammer is active, Mario will destroy any enemy he hits with it; however, he is unable to jump or climb ladders while using it. The background music temporarily changes to indicate you have the hammer; when it changes back, Mario drops the hammer and you return to the regular controls. Also remember that the hammer only defeats any enemy it hits; Mario can still be killed if an enemy hits him from above or behind, or he misses it with the hammer.

## Characters

You only control the one character, so there's not really much reason to warrant a Characters list as its own section in this guide, so here, I'll just make a quick who's-who list of the people/creatures that are seen in this game.

Barrel: Seen in the first stage of the game, Donkey Kong throws these down at Mario. They roll down the ramps, and can also drop down ladders at random. The first one that Donkey Kong throws will drop directly down and ignite the oil barrel, spawning a Fireball enemy. You can also jump over them, or smash them with the hammer to score extra points.

Donkey Kong: Along with Mario, a Nintendo icon making his debut in this game.

He's seen at the top of each screen, often hurling things in

Mario's way as a means of trying to prevent him from rescuing

Pauline. He does not attack Mario directly, but make sure not to
touch him, otherwise you lose a life!

Fireball: Seen in Levels 1 and 2. In the first level, a single Fireball is seen when DK's first barrel ignites the oil barrel, and this enemy jumps out of it. In Level 2, this enemy is seen guarding the two ladders

holding up the two floating platforms in the middle of the stage. Basically, they move from left to right at random with no particular attack pattern, but are deadly to the touch for Mario, and there is no way they can be defeated. It is possible to jump over them as well, but due to their unpredictable movement patterns, it's just better to steer clear of them instead.

Firefox: Seen in Level 3, these enemies behave in pretty much the same manner as Fireballs, only their movement is a bit quicker, and they can explore most of the level, rather than being restricted to certain areas. Like the Fireball, they can climb and descend ladders, but can't cross any gaps made by Mario when he removes the bolts holding the girders together. Also, when you grab the hammer they turn blue (generally your signal to go after them and destroy them for points), but they'll try to avoid you, so be quick and try to catch them!

Jack: The springs that Donkey Kong sends along the top ledge in the second level of the game. They bounce along in arcs, before falling straight down to the ground once they go over the edge. They instantly kill Mario if he touches them, so be sure that you're not in one's path when leaping over a gap, and time your run along that top ledge so that they'll bounce straight over Mario's head.

Mario: The hero of the game, whom you control. He's the little guy in the red overalls and cap and blue shirt, with the moustache. Control him to scale the site and rescue his beloved Pauline.

Pauline: The damsel in distress. She's the lady with the blonde hair and the pink dress, seen at the top of each stage, being held captive by Donkey Kong. By rescuing her by virtue of climbing to the top, or removing all the bolts, you get a Bonus score.

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o-----o
| Game Screen |
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Here's an example of what you see at the top of the game screen, and what everything means:

High Score: The score counter beside the word 'TOP' at the top-centre of the screen. This is the highest score that has been achieved in the current sitting of Donkey Kong (i.e. since the power has been switched on).

Score: Seen in the top-left corner of the screen, for Player 1 (marked by 'I') or Player 2's (marked by 'II') score in the game of Donkey Kong they are

currently playing. Increase this by defeating enemies and finishing levels

Remaining Lives: Shown in the top-right corner of the screen, underneath the 'M' (stands for 'MEN', as in men remaining), this number is for how many lives Mario has remaining. You can earn an extra life for every 20,000 points you rack up.

Bonus: This has two purposes; it acts as a timer (ticks down by 100 points as the level wears on) and thus giving you an incentive to try and beat each level as quickly as possible; and it is also the amount of points that will be added to your score when you win a stage. If you fail to finish a stage before the Bonus decreases to zero, you'll lose a life, so remember to be quick. Also, each time you beat the game (i.e. finish all three stages), the difficulty level goes up, but the Bonus timer goes up by 1000 points as well (although it starts to tick down at a slightly faster rate).

Stage: This is also shown in the top-right corner, underneath the 'L' (for 'LEVEL') header. This starts at 1 and goes up by one every time you beat the game's three stages. The game gets more and more challenging as your Stage number increases, but so do the bonus points.

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	Scoring	
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There are a variety of ways to increase your score in the game, and different point amounts awarded for each method. See the table below for how many points you are awarded for each means of scoring in the game:

METHOD OF SCORING	POINTS
	100 - 5000+
	800
Collect Purse	800
Destroy enemy with Invincible Hammer	500
Jump over Barrel	100
Remove Bolt (Stage 3)	100

NOTE: You get an extra life when you achieve 20,000 points.

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| Level Screens/Hints & Tips |
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Level 1: Ramp Stage

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- \* The objective of this first stage is to climb each ramp with the use of the ladders until you get onto the ledge beside Pauline. The level begins with Donkey Kong dropping a barrel directly down, which collides with the blue oil barrel to the left of Mario's starting position. This causes the barrel to ignite, thus spawning a Fireball enemy. This enemy moves from left to right in random patterns, and it also has the ability to climb ladders, including broken ones, however, it never goes any higher than the second floor up (so you won't be able to destroy it with a hammer).
- \* The best pattern to take for quickness' sake is to head right to the right end and climb the ladder there to the next floor up. Go left to the ladder at the middle and climb that to the next floor, then go up the one beside you on the right. Go left a little and climb the nearer of the two intact ladders, then go right to the end, and climb the ladder there to reach the top floor. Then, go left and climb the ladder that leads onto the unoccupied platform on Pauline's right.
- \* Donkey Kong will repeatedly throw barrels every few seconds, and you need to

be aware of the movement patterns they make: mostly, they roll along the ground, dropping down from the edge of each girder at the end. Some, however, can roll down ladders at random so you should keep an eye on locations of barrels above you, especially when you're climbing ladders. Once Mario's on a ladder, he can't get off until he reaches the very top or bottom; so he loses a life if hit by a barrel that rolls down a ladder while he is climbing it.

- \* Because of the random movement patterns, some barrels can end up getting clustered together and make jumping over them difficult, if not even impossible; which is why it is wise to grab the hammers that can be found on the left-hand side of the area on the third and fifth storeys of the structure. With the hammer, you can destroy incoming barrels and make your way along, but you'll have to wait for the effect to wear off before you continue climbing.
- \* On higher difficulty levels and in Game B mode, barrel movements become trickier to anticipate. They tend to roll down ladders and chase after Mario more, and Donkey Kong will also throw them straight down in zigzag movements. Again, try to take your time and watch out for what is above you before you move along.

Level 2: Elevator Stage

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	D O N K E						
	KONG						
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+			++		-+==+ 		PURSE
	++		++				++
	/\		11			++	+==+-+
			\/		+==++	++	
PARASOL	1 1		(/	++	++		
++	/\	++	1.1	+-+==++			
++==+	11	++==+	\/			+	-+==+-+
						+==+	+
	/\		11				
	11		\/	+==++			
				++	++		
	/\		11		++	+==++	
	11		\/			++	++
++==+							+==+-+
++==++	/\		11				
	11		\/				
		+==+-+==+					-+==+-+
	/\	++					+
YOU			\/			+	
START-	//		1.1			+	
HERE-	/\				+		
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- \* You start on the small platform in the lower-left area of the screen. Again, like the first level, you need to climb up to the ledge beside Pauline to beat this level. Start by climbing the two ladders above you, and grab the Parasol item on that top ledge to get some extra points.
- \* To progress to the other side of the screen, Mario has to make use of the elevator girders in the gaps between the platforms and ladders. The quickest way to get across would be to jump onto one of the ascending girders, then make another quick jump to the right, to land on the top ledge with the two ladders beneath it. Make sure you time your jump beforehand, though, as a Fireball patrols that ledge, the two ladders, and the ledge below it. Wait until it's going down a ladder or on the bottom ledge before you leap over.
- \* From there, make a quick leap onto a desending girder on the right, and then jump right to the next ledge along. You can leap across a few more ledges to grab the Purse on the far-right ledge for some extra points.
- \* On earlier levels, the elevators move quite slowly, giving you ample time to make your jumps. However, as you keep going through the game, they move faster every time. So, when you get to the descending girders, you may want to ride one to the bottom, then leap right and make your climb up to the rop.
- \* Donkey Kong attacks with Jacks. These are big springs that bounce along the top ledge, and drop down through the gaps where the many little platforms on the right side of the screen are. Take a look at their bouncing pattern so that you know where it's safe to run once you get to the top. You also need to be VERY quick to climb the ladder to the platform beside Pauline, as a Jack can hit Mario while he's on the ladder. It's best if you go just left of it, wait for a Jack to bounce over Mario, then immediately get up the ladder to win the level before the next Jack comes along.

Level 3: Rivet Stage

	PAULINE			
	++	DONKEY		
	++			
PARASOL		K O N G		
++	=+		+=+-	+
+==++	=++==+		+==++=+-	+==+
		[ ]		
		11		
		11		
++==++	=++==+		+==++=+-	+==++
+==++	=+	+==+	+=+-	+==+
[ ]				
	PURSE		Р	ARASOL
++==++	=+	+==+	+=+-	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
+==++	=++==+	+==	=++=+-	+==

+	+==+	+==+	+==+	+
+==-	++=+	+==+		+==+
	YOU			
	START			
	HERE			
++==	+	+==+		+

- \* To beat this stage, rather than reaching the top, you have to unplug the eight yellow bolts holding the middle girders together. Each floor has two bolts; one on the left side, and one on the right. The best way to go about doing this is to start from the bottom and work your way up; climb one of the ladders and unplug the bolts on the first floor, climb up to the next floor and do the same, and so on.
- \* To remove a bolt, walk or jump over it. If you go back over a bolt you removed, be sure to jump, or Mario can fall down the gap that is left behind and will lose a life!
- \* The main threat to watch out for are the Firefox enemies; which begin to appear in abundance as the level goes on. On higher levels, more of them will appear as well. They do like to try and corner Mario by following him, and they can climb ladders, too. However, they can't cross gaps left by removing bolts, so use this to your advantage to shake them off your tail.
- \* Get the Purse and Parasol on the second floor for extra points, and the second Parasol at the top-left part of the structure for extra points too.
- \* For removing the bolts on the top, you'll need to take one out, then go back down to the floor below, before going to the opposite side and climbing up again to remove the final one. You can't walk directly past Donkey Kong, as touching him will result in losing a life.
- \* There's a hammer on the very left on the middle floor, and a second one on the floor above it in the centre. Grab them to defeat the Firefoxes if you can, to get some extra points and counter the enemy threat.
- \* Once all the bolts are removed, Donkey Kong plummets to the ground and you rescue Pauline and win the game! You then begin again at the Ramp Stage, with the difficulty notched up a little. From here, the game repeats forever until you lose all your lives. Have fun playing!

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3. ITEMS [0300]

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grab and use it. Remember, though, that while Mario can move left and right while using this item, he can't jump or climb ladders, so you'll need to wait for a few seconds before he drops it and you can move on. There are two Hammers in the first stage of the game, and two in the third stage.

Parasol: A pink umbrella item that Pauline dropped while she was being carried up the building by Donkey Kong. Grab it to get extra points added to your score. There is one to be found in the second level of the game, and two found in the third stage.

Purse: Another item dropped by Pauline. Like the Parasol, picking this up will reward you with some extra points. There is one on the second stage of the game, and one on the third stage.

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4. CHEATS [0400]

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o-----o | Secrets | o-----o

Multiple Points Trick

On the very first level of the game (the Ramp Stage), you'll notice that on the second floor up, there are two intact ladders; one on the left, and one in roughly the middle of the area. Climb the second one and stand directly on top of it (so you're on the same floor as the first Hammer, you should have a broken ladder to Mario's left, and an intact ladder beside him on the right). This particular spot is good to do a trick to notch up several points; wait for a barrel to come towards Mario, and jump directly up on the spot as it goes underneath him. If that barrel rolls DOWN the ladder you're standing above, the game keeps registering it as a jump over the barrel while Mario is in midair. While the barrel rolls down the ladder, you'll hear the scoring sound effect repeatedly play over, and you'll get LOTS of extra points!

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#### ii. Credits

Gamesdbase | http://www.gamesdbase.com/

\* Their site has a scanned, online copy of the Donkey Kong instruction manual, which in turn I was able to refer to for the game story (used in the Story section of this FAQ), and various game basics that I put in the Basics section.

### redeyedol

\* Who contributed the Multiple Points trick to GameFAQs, which I used in the Cheats section.

StrategyWiki Donkey Kong Guide | http://strategywiki.org/wiki/Donkey\_Kong

\* For information on the game stages and enemy names, used in the Basics section of this FAO.

Wii Virtual Console Operations Guide

\* For some basics and item names used in this guide.

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#### iii. Legal Disclaimer/Contacting Me

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Legal Disclaimer

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Thank you for reading my FAQ, and please feel free to read any of my other video game-related literature, which can be found at:

http://www.gamefaqs.com/users/RJHarrison

This file is dedicated to the memory of four late GameFAQs users, each of whom passed away well before their time. Chris MacDonald (d. May 17, 2004), Elliot Long (d. August 27, 2004), Mitchell Lee Stuekerjuergen (d. January 4, 2006), and Steve McFadden (d. June 28, 2011). The latter was one of my closest and dearest friends whom I had met through GameFAQs, and was one of the most well-known and prolific contributors to the site. Steve was an inspiration to myself to take up video game writing and always took the time to speak to me online about gaming or other interests, as well as comment on my writing. Rest in Peace guys, you will all be dearly missed.

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