

MEAN SANTA

A Game for your Atari 2600

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Programmed by: John K. Harvey



NOTE: Always turn the console POWER switch OFF when inserting or removing an ATARI Game Program™ cartridge. This will protect the electronic components and prolong the life of your ATARI 2600™ Video Computer System™ game.

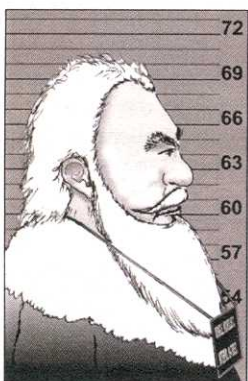
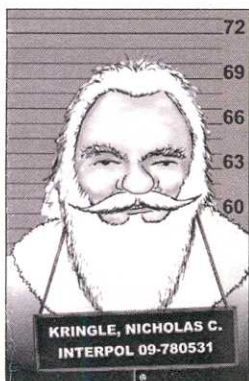
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MEAN SANTA ON THE LOOSE!

What could cause someone to snap after hundreds of years of generosity? Was it the blatant commercialization of Christmas, with cheap decorations displayed in stores well before Halloween? The threatened unionization of the elves? Or perhaps international regulators who banned reindeer propulsion because the flatulence of nine reindeer was damaging the ozone layer?

Or was it just one naughty child too many?

Whatever the reason, Santa Claus has gone over to the dark side, and this Christmas won't be the usual season of good will toward men.



Santa Claus was held in temporary custody six months ago by Interpol for environmental violations, but was released after promising to develop alternate propulsion methods for his sleigh.

"Maybe the children of the world would learn to appreciate the important things in life if they didn't spend Christmas focused on shiny new toys," Santa stated upon his release earlier this year. "Maybe this year, Santa will take away presents instead of delivering them..."

Instead of leaving lumps of coals in the stockings of the naughty children, Santa has decided to teach them a lesson – and no rogue wind currents, bad weather, or guard dogs are going to get in his way.

And he's asked for your help in executing his diabolical plan.

OBJECTIVES

In this game you play the part of Mean Santa. You start the game with six lives. You won't be able to earn additional lives, so be careful! When you lose your last life, the game ends.

If you crash your sleigh into a house, you will lose a life. Getting caught by a guard dog will also result in the loss of a life. In later levels, thunderbolts can hit Santa's sleigh, and if he's not careful, he could hit a house and crash, resulting in a loss of life.

You must successfully land on the roof of a house without crashing. Santa will automatically climb down the chimney and enter the house. Once inside, grab all the presents in the room as fast as possible before returning to the chimney. Santa will automatically enter his sleigh and fly towards the next house.

GAME VARIATIONS

MEAN SANTA offers three game variations: EASY, MEDIUM and HARD.

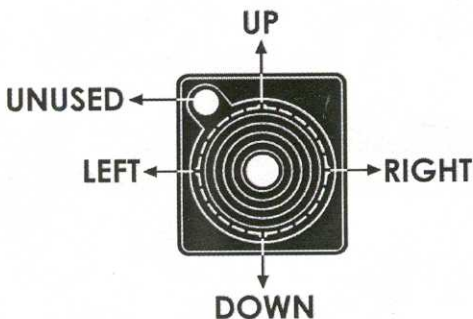
In EASY games, you only have 5 houses to visit, and there are no chimneys obstacles on the houses.

In a MEDIUM game, you must visit these same 5 houses, plus 10 additional houses for a total of 15.

In the HARD game, you have the same 15 houses to visit as you did in the MEDIUM level, plus 10 additional houses for a total of 25.

USING THE CONTROLLER

Use your Joystick Controller with this ATARI Game Program cartridge. For this one-player game, plug the controller cable firmly into the LEFT CONTROLLER jack at the back of your 2600 Video Computer System console. Hold the controller with the red button to your upper left, toward the television screen (See your Owner's Manual for further details).



Move your Joystick in the same direction you want to move Santa or his sleigh. You can move up or down, left or right. Santa can also run diagonally. The red fire button is not used.

CONSOLE CONTROLS

GAME SELECT SWITCH

Use the GAME SELECT switch to choose the game you want to play. If you press and hold this switch down, you will automatically cycle through the game variations, EASY, MEDIUM, and HARD.

GAME RESET

Press GAME RESET to start the game. Each time GAME RESET is pressed, the game starts over.

TV TYPE SWITCH

Set this switch to COLOR if you're playing on a color television set. Set it to B-W to play the game in black and white.

DIFFICULTY SWITCHES

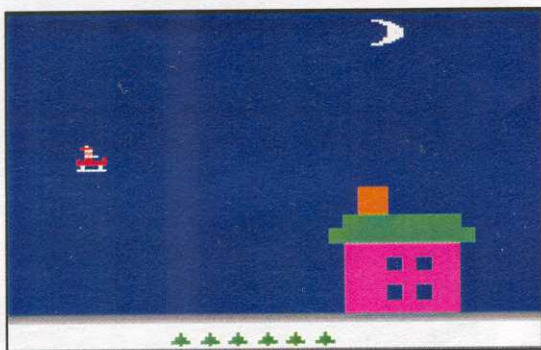
Put the left difficulty switch to the "B-Novice" position to add a one-second delay to the dog chasing you whenever you collide. Put the switch to "A-Expert" mode to eliminate any delay upon impact with a dog. The right difficulty switch is not used.

GAME SCREENS

On all game screens, the number of lives you have left is represented by Christmas Trees at the bottom of the screen.

Night Time Sky

In this first screen, you control Santa's sled as houses scroll from right to left. Avoid wind currents, which can knock your sleigh out of control. When a house roof appears, navigate the sleigh down to land on the roof. Santa will then enter the house and proceed to the next screen.



Don't even think about landing on the chimney. Santa's sleigh cannot fit atop the chimney, and if you hit the chimney, you'll crash.

The Sky Screen consists of five houses per "world" in a repeating loop. If you miss a house, it will come back later. You'll have to complete all five houses before you can advance to the next world. Every world contains more obstacles to make completing your mission more difficult.

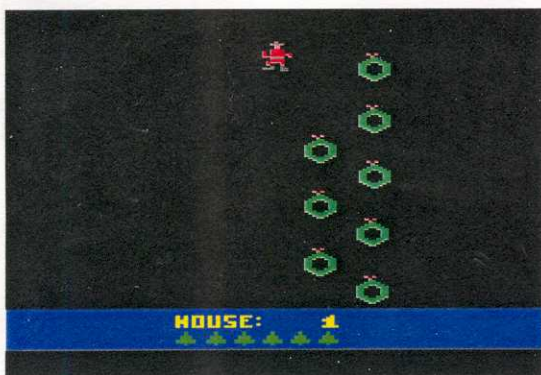
Any house you've already visited will be colored black. Don't try to land there! Landing on these houses will cause you to crash, since the inhabitants already know that you've stolen their presents and they'll be quite angry.

Inside the House

Once inside the house, you'll spot a variety of presents on the floor. Collect all of the items as fast as you can before returning to top of the screen to the chimney. You'll find yourself back outside in the night-time sky.

When all houses are successfully looted, you have one remaining task--steal the roast turkey dinner at the final house without getting caught by the dogs!





Game Over Screen

This screen appears at the end of the game. It displays the total number of minutes and seconds it took to complete the game. Can you beat the game in record time?

OBSTACLES

Bananas

This discarded fruit is encountered in higher levels. You DON'T want to collect these! If you accidentally touch one, you'll slip and fall, dropping all that you've gathered, and you'll need to start collecting all over again.

Dogs

Even though the inhabitants of the home may be asleep, their pets aren't! Dogs will try and stop you from collecting the turkey dinner and the presents. Santa neglected to get his rabies shot. If one catches you, you'll lose a life.



Weather

Rogue wind currents make for rough flying. Avoid them while in your sleigh, or they might cause you to crash.

Unfortunately for Mean Santa, as the night progresses, the weather only gets worse. In higher levels, a storm cloud with lightning may send you off course.

And, in even later levels, the wind currents can get even faster, making Santa's job that much more difficult

SCORING

Mean Santa is a race against the clock. You don't receive points for any of the items you collect...after all, you already have all the toys you need! Instead, the object is to visit all the houses in the shortest amount of time before losing all your lives.



TIPS and TRICKS

Your best chance of landing on a roof is by flying low, just clearing the chimneys, approaching the rooftop quickly from a diagonal angle. At the last second, sharply push your joystick back and to the left.

When picking up the presents, move in a circular motion. This seems to confuse the dogs.

The MEAN SANTA Team

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Special thanks from John K. Harvey and the Mean Santa Team to:

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