SOFTWARE & TECH

Mortal Kombat 9 Collectors Edition

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Mortal Kombat 9 Collector’s Edition: A Lasting Tribute to a Fighting Classic

When Mortal Kombat returned in 2011, it did so with a thunderous punch that reminded the gaming world why the franchise had become a cultural phenomenon. Titled simply *Mortal Kombat* (often referred to as **Mortal Kombat 9** by fans), this game was not just a sequel but a full-scale reboot of the timeline. It brought back the classic 2D fighting mechanics, introduced a deep story mode, and paid homage to the series’ bloody roots while modernizing every aspect of the experience. For those who wanted more than just the disc, the **Mortal Kombat 9 Collector’s Edition**offered a treasure trove of exclusive content that has since become a holy grail for fighting game enthusiasts and collectors alike.

In this article, we will explore what made the **Mortal Kombat 9 Collector’s Edition**so special, break down every item included in the package, and examine why this edition remains one of the most sought-after collector’s items in the fighting game community. Whether you are a longtime fan looking to relive the launch or a newer player curious about the legacy, this deep dive will cover everything you need to know.

The Historical Context: Why Mortal Kombat 9 Was a Turning Point

Before diving into the collector’s edition itself, it is important to understand the game that it celebrated. Following the mixed reception of *Mortal Kombat vs. DC Universe* (2008) and the declining interest in the 3D-era entries, NetherRealm Studios made a bold decision: return to the series’ roots. The result was **Mortal Kombat 9** , a game that reimagined the first three titles in the series with a unified story, refined combat, and a visual style that honored the original while feeling contemporary.

The game was a critical and commercial success, selling millions of copies and revitalizing the franchise. It introduced the now-iconic "X-Ray" moves, featured a roster of classic fighters, and delivered a story mode that was both gripping and surprisingly emotional. Against this backdrop, the **Mortal Kombat 9 Collector’s Edition** was not just a premium bundle—it was a way for the most dedicated fans to own a piece of that historic moment.

The Collector’s Edition Phenomenon in Fighting Games

By 2011, collector’s editions had become a staple of major game releases, especially in the fighting genre. Games like *Street Fighter IV* and *BlazBlue* had already set a high bar with exclusive figures, art books, and soundtracks. NetherRealm Studios understood that **Mortal Kombat**fans were among the most passionate in gaming, and they delivered a package that would stand out even in that competitive landscape.

What Was Included in the Mortal Kombat 9 Collector’s Edition?

The **Mortal Kombat 9 Collector’s Edition**was a massive box filled with exclusive items that celebrated the

game's iconic characters and brutal aesthetics. While the exact contents varied slightly by region, the standard North American release included the following core items:

The Game Disc and SteelBook Case

Naturally, the centerpiece of the package was the game itself. The collector's edition came with a premium **SteelBook case** featuring striking artwork of Scorpion and Sub-Zero locked in combat. The metallic finish and embossed details made it a display-worthy piece even without the other contents. This SteelBook remains one of the most recognizable cases from the era and is often displayed prominently in collections.

The Mortal Kombat 9 Art Book

A high-quality, hardcover art book was included, spanning over 40 pages. Titled *The Art of Mortal Kombat*, this book featured concept art, character designs, stage renderings, and developer commentary. For fans of the franchise, this was a rare glimpse into the creative process behind the reboot. The art book covered everything from early sketches of the redesigned ninjas to the intricate details of stages like the Living Forest and the Dead Pool.

The Scorpion vs. Sub-Zero Statue

Without question, the crown jewel of the **Mortal Kombat 9 Collector's Edition** was the **Scorpion vs. Sub-Zero diorama statue**. Standing approximately 8 inches tall and made from high-quality PVC, this statue depicted the two iconic ninjas in a dynamic battle pose. Scorpion was shown with his signature spear extended, while Sub-Zero countered with an ice blast. The base of the statue featured the Mortal Kombat logo, and the paint application was clean and detailed for its time.

This statue was not just a simple figurine; it was a conversation piece that captured the eternal rivalry at the heart of the series. Many collectors consider it one of the best game-related statues ever produced for a standard collector's edition. It holds up well even against more expensive modern collectibles.

The Kombat Kast DVD

Also included was a bonus DVD titled *Kombat Kast: The Making of Mortal Kombat*. This disc featured behind-the-scenes footage, interviews with the development team, and exclusive looks at the game's creation. It offered fans a chance to see the passion and effort that went into reviving the franchise. While the disc is obviously standard definition by today's standards, the content remains valuable for those interested in game development history.

Exclusive In-Game Content

In addition to the physical items, the **Mortal Kombat 9 Collector's Edition** included a code to unlock the classic **Mortal Kombat** (1992) arcade game in its entirety. This was a thoughtful addition that allowed players to experience the original title that started it all. The code also unlocked exclusive character skins for Scorpion and Sub-Zero, giving collectors a gameplay advantage that was purely cosmetic but highly appreciated.

The Tournament Edition: A Separate Collector's Dream

It is worth noting that alongside the **Mortal Kombat 9 Collector's Edition**, NetherRealm also released a **Tournament Edition** for fighting game competitors. While not the focus of this article, the Tournament Edition is often mentioned in the same breath by collectors. It included a high-quality fight stick rather than a statue, catering to players who wanted an arcade-accurate controller for competitive play. Both editions have become valuable collectibles, but the standard collector's edition with the statue remains the more iconic of the two.

Rarity and Value in the Modern Market

Mortal Kombat 9 Collector's Edition has become a prized possession for collectors. On the secondary market, complete-in-box copies can fetch between $200 and $500 depending on condition, with sealed copies commanding even higher prices. The statue alone, if separated from the box, still sells for $100 to $200 on platforms like eBay and Mercari.

Several factors contribute to its lasting value:

- Scarcity: The collector's edition was produced in limited quantities, and many units were opened and enjoyed, further reducing the supply of pristine copies.
- Brand Loyalty: Mortal Kombat fans are among the most dedicated in gaming, and the 2011 reboot is widely regarded as one of the best entries in the series.
- Quality of Contents: Unlike some collector's editions that include cheap trinkets, the statue and art book in this set are genuinely high quality and hold their value.
- Nostalgia Factor: For gamers who grew up with the series, this edition represents a perfect storm of nostalgia—a return to form for a beloved franchise.

What to Look for When Buying Used

If you are in the market for a **Mortal Kombat 9 Collector's Edition** today, there are a few things to keep in mind to ensure you are getting a good deal:

1. Check the Statue for Damage: The Scorpion vs. Sub-Zero statue is fragile, and paint chipping or broken parts (especially Scorpion's spear) are common. Ask for detailed photos before purchasing.
2. Verify the SteelBook: Make sure the disc and SteelBook case are included and in good condition. Some sellers may try to sell the statue alone or with a standard case.
3. Look for the Art Book and DVD: These items are often lost or discarded over time. A complete set with all pieces will command a higher price.
4. Check for In-Game Code Usage: The code for the classic game and skins is almost certainly expired by now, so do not pay extra expecting unused DLC. Enjoy the physical items instead.

Why Collectors Still Seek Out the Mortal Kombat 9 Collector's Edition

In an era where digital deluxe editions offer little more than virtual currency and early access, the **Mortal Kombat 9 Collector's Edition** represents a bygone era of physical gaming collectibles. It was a package designed with care and intention, offering items that fans would genuinely treasure. The statue remains a standout piece that rivals offerings from much more expensive collector's sets released today.

Additionally, the game itself has achieved a legendary status. Despite being technically a ninth-generation release, **Mortal Kombat 9** is still played competitively in some circles, and its story mode is frequently cited as one of the best in fighting game history. Owning the collector's edition is a way to honor that legacy and own a tangible piece of gaming history.

A Conversation Piece and a Time Capsule

For many collectors, the **Mortal Kombat 9 Collector's Edition** is more than just a set of items—it is a time capsule from 2011, a year that saw the fighting game genre experience a renaissance. It reminds us of a time when publishers took risks on premium physical products and when fans rewarded that effort with loyalty and enthusiasm. Displaying the statue on a shelf or flipping through the art book evokes a sense of connection to the game's development and to the community that has supported it for decades.

Conclusion: A Worthy Addition to Any Collection

The **Mortal Kombat 9 Collector's Edition** remains one of the most respected and admired special editions in the fighting game genre. Its high-quality statue, beautiful SteelBook case, insightful art book, and bonus disc create a comprehensive package that any fan would be proud to own. Whether you are a long-time collector

seeking to complete your Mortal Kombat shelf or a newer player looking to own a piece of the franchise's history, this edition is well worth the hunt.

As the series continues to evolve with new entries like *Mortal Kombat 1* (2023), the 2011 reboot stands as a foundational pillar that saved the franchise from obscurity. The **Mortal Kombat 9 Collector's Edition** is not just a product of its time—it is a lasting tribute to a game that proved that classic fighting mechanics, combined with modern storytelling and presentation, could create something truly unforgettable. If you ever get the chance to add it to your collection, do not hesitate. It is worth every penny.

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