

Super Marion Arcade

Marion, Iowa

FINALLY A REAL ARCADE



Open just two days a week on Friday and Saturday, Super Marion Arcade made for a worthwhile journey. My mode of transportation was limited to public transit but that was fine, The bus driver let me know when his last pass of the stop was going to be, and asked me about my time when I got back on for my return trip. (\$2 day pass for the bus) Once there I was delighted to see that the arcade was entirely empty other than the many machines. On such a windy Iowa day the inside was a welcome reprieve from the elements. Now it was just the machines, my money, and me for the next few hours. A pity how short those hours wound up to be.

Operational Vidya(total)
20(22)

Non-Pinball/Arcade Options
No! ARCADE ONLY!

Quality of Selection

A welcome variety with the number of machines they had, though they lacked any pinball machines. There were classics with plenty of Pac-Man themed and more generic multicades, a DK/DK Jr/Mario Bros machine, a 3 game SEGA Star Wars cabinet, Frogger, and Centipede. Multiple 2+ player machines with Bad Dudes, Simpsons, and TMNT Beat-Em-Ups; side-by-side sit-down racing cabinets with Out Run 2; light gun games, one of which was two player, and three (3) fighting games with Street Fighter 2, Marvel vs Capcom 2, and Capcom vs SNK 2. Newer games with two gimmicky 4 player Pac-Man machines that a young man at a gas station told me he had a lot of fun on with his friends, and a Mario Kart DX Arcade GP machine.

Quality of Hardware

Other than the two, unfortunately, DoS Time Crisis 3 machines everything worked perfectly. I didn't have a problem with a single machine. I will chalk my embarrassing inability to get Geese to do a Raging Storm up to a simple skill issue. I can really do it I swear!

Atmosphere

It was lovely, simply darling. Nothing but screens and sounds of working machines. The walls had some arcade themed posters, curtains, wall ornaments, and themed painting on the wall.

Food/Drink

They have a vending machine complete with Gamer Juice, Gamer Juice Baha Blast, CHEEZ-IT Snap'ds(???), Famous Amos, and Kings candy cigarettes. Beyond that there's a spic restaurant next door and a pizza focused American restaurant right past that.

Staff

Zero (0), there wasn't a single person there. They just unlock the door and turn on the lights before going home until closing time. Probably collect the quarters on one of the five (5) off days a week.

Clientele

Only saw one guy when I returned from grabbing a bite to eat. Middle aged lookin guy, just playing the Pac-Man's PIXEL BASH multicade. I didn't look at what he was playing, and neglected to note what it sounded like. After having played a few more rounds on CVS2 and switched machines, he had left.



Money Machines

No ATM, quarer machine was OoS so you need to walk fifty paces from the door to the neighboring 24Hr laundromat to get bills turned into coin. Accepts 1's,5's,10's and 20's. I decided to use five \$1s to play it safe since no one was there to rectify the machine shorting me coins. I only brought a few dollars in quarters and a \$20 bill, which I had broken when grabbing a burger at the pizza place nearby.

\$5 Rule

I blew through my \$5 and went to spend some more, for sure. If I hadn't needed to catch the bus back I would have spent a lot more than I did. Really enjoyable place to be with numerous machines that were willing to give you a good amount of play time for your hard earned coin. The two light gun games, Point Blank 2 and Silent Scope X, were particularly generous with the amount of time you could get out of them, and I had to walk away from both of them and let the game figure out that I was done because I had a time constraint and more games to check out for the review!

RATING 8/10

Plenty of games. Everything that was on worked as intended. If there were a few good pinball machines and a 100% rate of operable arcades I would be hard pressed to convince myself that it wasn't 10/10 beyond the principal that "nothing is perfect". I will absolutely return here if I find myself in Marion or the conjoined city of Grand Rapids again. Recommended for any passing by.

