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Scarce Borderlands Weapons Scratch That Old Diablo Itch



If the colors purple and orange make you feel all tingly inside, then *Borderlands*, a new game for the Xbox 360, Playstation 3 and PC, has a million or two sensations for you.

Borderlands is a hybrid of shooters and role-playing games that transports players to a rootin'-tootin' alien frontier world where treasure hunters fight rowdy bandits and indigenous predators while scouring the wasteland for loot. And that's

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where the pretty colors come into play.

The game contains millions of unique weapons and upgrades, each classified by a rarity system cribbed from Diablo and World of Warcraft. A gun with white lettering is nothing special, but a purple one? That's worth getting excited about.

Gamespot forum user "[slayer_man408](#)" describes the [hierarchy best](#):

White- Meh.

Green- Pretty cool gun it shoots baddies and doesn't afraid of anything.

Blue- Makes even better pew pews.

Purple- Zomg Rare

Orangish Gold- Zomg super rare

Orange Orange- ZOMG ULTRA RARE

Red Orange- *head explodes*

The idea of color-coding weapons may not seem all that exciting to the uninitiated. But if you've played any games that have used this system before, you're been classically conditioned to salivate when those specific colors hit your pupils.

My early hours with Borderlands were compelling and familiar. Shoot, loot, rinse, repeat. I'd hoof out into the scrub with my Siren (mage with guns) and Phasewalk into the middle of a pod of loitering Skags (mutated canines with skulls that explode open like something from *The Thing*).

The Phasewalk ability allows Sirens to slip over to a neighboring dimension and run at high speed. When she busts back into the proper dimension, a blast of energy stuns and injures nearby enemies. I'd then pepper the nearby skags with pistol fire, punch a few of them until they succumbed then begin scanning the ground for money, ammo and medicine that those skags dropped.

There's even a nice bit of logic around such loot. Skag piles – steaming green piles of scat – contain the bones and belonging of unfortunate waste-landers that the creatures devoured.

I scored my first decent gun from Nine Toes, a bandit leader with a pair of trained Skags at his heels. The Clipper is merely blue, but its better than the green Lady Finger I was sporting. It merited a spot on my hip if only for the fact that it set enemies on fire.

With that upgrade, I was hooked. If the jump from blue to green is that satisfying, I'm thrilled to see what happens when I stumble upon my first purple.

Borderlands is available Tuesday. My review is coming later this week.

Image courtesy 2K Games

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