

Get Unlimited WIRED Access

SUBSCRIBE

- Share
- f
  - Twitter
  - Message
  - Email

GUS MASTRAPA 10.28.09 04:45 PM

# 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

Get WIRED Access

SUBSCRIBE

## Most Popular

SCIENCE  
 NASA's Mars Rover Will Be Powered by US-Made Plutonium  
 DANIEL OBERHAUS

SCIENCE  
 Could a Janky, Jury-Rigged Air Purifier Help Fight Covid-19?  
 ADAM ROGERS

SCIENCE  
 Solar Panels Are Starting to Die, Leaving Behind Toxic Trash  
 MADDIE STONE

MORE STORIES

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*

**See Also:**

- [Why Designer of Gory Diablo III Lets His Daughter Play](#)
- [The Mystery of Diablo III's Final Character Class](#)
- [Blizzard: New Diablo III Monk Class Gets 'Old Juices Going ...](#)
- [Diablo Creator Heading Up Marvel Universe MMO](#)
- [Hands On: Diablo III Simplifies Everything](#)

---

#CONSOLE GAMES #PC GAMES #WORLD OF WARCRAFT #MMO GAMING  
#VIDEO GAMES

---

[+ VIEW COMMENTS](#)

## SPONSORED STORIES POWERED BY OUTBRAIN

PUBLIC HEALTH  
**Can People Without Symptoms Get Tested for Covid? Who Knows**  
MEGAN MOLTENI



## We Recommend

POWERED BY OUTBRAIN



PODCASTS

### The Double Dragon Movie Should Be a Cult Classic

GEEK'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY



CONSULTING

### Google Offers to Help Others With the Tricky Ethics of AI

TOM SIMONITE



PLAINTEXT

### How Many of Maria Ressa's Warnings Will We Ignore?

STEVEN LEVY

GAMING

## Does Sony Think You're Worthy Enough to Preorder a PS5?

SAM MACHKOVECH, ARS TECHNICA

THE MONITOR

### Turns Out Late Night Talk Show Hosts Are Just Like Us

ANGELA WATERCUTTER



**Get unlimited WIRED Access**

**SUBSCRIBE**

### GET OUR NEWSLETTER

WIRED's biggest stories delivered to your inbox.

Enter your email

This site is protected by reCAPTCHA and the Google [Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms of Service](#) apply.

### FOLLOW US ON YOUTUBE

Don't miss out on WIRED's latest videos.



# WIRED



SUBSCRIBE | ADVERTISE | SITE MAP | PRESS CENTER | FAQ | ACCESSIBILITY HELP | CUSTOMER CARE | CONTACT US | SEND A TIP SECURELY TO WIRED | COUPONS | NEWSLETTERS | WIRED STAFF | JOBS | RSS

[Do Not Sell My Personal Info](#)

CNMN Collection

© 2020 Condé Nast. All rights reserved.

Use of and/or registration on any portion of this site constitutes acceptance of our [User Agreement](#) (updated 1/1/20) and [Privacy Policy and Cookie Statement](#) (updated 1/1/20). [Your California Privacy Rights](#). The material on this site may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, cached or otherwise used, except with the prior written permission of Condé Nast. [Ad Choices](#).