



- Shutoko Battle - THE original drift racing game

It's not uncommon in gaming for publishers to re-name games for a different territory. However Shutokou has had more names than any other. It was released in Japan for SNES in May 1994 as a typically verbose name Tsuchiya Keiichi: Shutokou Battle '94.

Tsuchiya is a drifting legend in Japan—his 'street' name being *DRIFT KING!*

The game was developed by Bullet Proof Software and published by Genki.

By the time this game launched in Japan in 1994, Mode 7 games for SNES were already dated. Consequently it would have been of little interest to western gamers. For Japan however, it had three magical ingredients: A storey, the drift King and car tuning...so they lapped it up. It didn't take Genki long to follow it up with a slightly fatter sequel 'Touge Densetsu: Saisoku Battle'. It too remained a delight for the Japanese gamers only.

November 1996 saw Genki export the game to North America and now it was in glorious Playstation 3D. By Ridge Racer and Need for Speed standards it was weak in terms of gameplay and graphics and soon became monotonous and with the handling method much misunderstood, it was a flop.

The European debut for Genki's night time Motorway drift racer was in 1999 for the 128 bit Sega Dreamcast. As with America, Genki found that Europe didn't warm very much to it's game (created by Crave Entertainment). Probably because DC owners were busy getting excited over MSR. Or maybe because once-respected Edge Magazine gave it a thoroughly undeserved 3/10 (in the same issue they also gave classic driving game Driver a shockingly depressed 7/10.) Thankfully Shutoko lit a drifting flame that burnt slowly but surely for a number of years as subsequent games appeared on Playstation and Xbox (in all manor of names in different regions).

Shutoko Battle—aka Drift racer, aka Tokyo Extreme Racer, aka Tokyo Highway Battle, aka Tokyo Highway Challenge

- 1994 Tsuchiya Keiichi: Shutoko Battle '94 (SNES)
- 1995 Touge Densetsu: Saisoku Battle (SNES)
- 1996 Shutoku Battle (Playstation)
- 1997 Shutoko Battle R (Playstation)
- 1999 Shutoko Battle (Dreamcast)
- 2000 Shutoko Battle 2 Playstation
- 2001 Shutoko Battle 0 (Playstation 2)
- 2003 Shutoko Battle 01 (Playstation 2)

Drift King Tsuchiya pictured right from the SNES game—he still wears that same green racing overall today!



Below: Night time drifting in the USA and Japan with the 1997 Playstation game. It came to Europe for Playstation many years later. Right: Split screen 'Mario Kart like' SNES racing.

