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Like most people I try to buy games that will give me the most fun for the money. MacDoom falls into this category because of all the add-ons (WADs) which contain new levels, graphics or sounds that change the gameplay.

Doom II for Mac allows you to load WAD files from the PC version of Doom and Doom II, but it is not 100-percent compatible. So you could spend a great deal of time downloading WADs and then find out that many of them won't work. (How many of you have done this?) So I am always looking for lists of WADs that are known to work with the MacDoom II.

One day I was walking around a PC superstore (Micro Center in Sharonville, Ohio) and found their "Wall of CDs".   This is where they keep the CDs that contain clip art, photos and Doom II WADs.   Most of the Doom disks were for the older PC version of Doom I. After looking around a bit I was able to find about four Doom II disks. All the disks read something like this:

"Over a zillion new levels and the latest editors and front ends for DOOM and DOOM II."

I was thinking to myself, "Should I buy one of these disks?" It sure would save me a lot of time downloading WADs for our MacDoom Web page. I kept wishing that I could find a CD that would be more Mac friendly. After thinking about all the compatibility testing I would be putting myself through if I bought one, I put them back on the shelf. As I was starting to leave I saw Demon Gate. It had a bright red and yellow CD jacket, and I thought, "Man, those sure are bright colors.." (and I LIKE bright colors). So I stopped and

grabbed it and started reading:

". . .with over 600 new levels for Doom and Doom II"

I then flipped it over and read:

"Demon Gate: The Ultimate Doom Challenge. When they invented DOOM, they never thought it could be this good. Now for the Macintosh, you can challenge your fighting skills with over 600 new DOOM II levels. With all these levels even the most battle worn DOOM soldiers may have met their match."

Then it said: "Requires DOOM II for Macintosh."

This got me really excited: It said "Macintosh" twice on the same side of the box! I bought it without giving it a second thought!

When I got home I ran back to our computer room and loaded the CD into the player, and guess what? After opening a few folders I found out that all of the WADs were already autotyped for the Mac! They also laid the CD out in a rather cool way: All of the WADs were in folders named a-b or c-d and so on (in alphabetical order) and all the text files are in another folder the same way. This way the only thing you have to worry about is clicking on a WAD and playing the game. If you want to know more about the WAD you can find the information in the library side of the disk.

Many of the WADs on Demon Gate are Doom I classics (like Eternity and Castle Phobos), but they work with Doom II, albeit with all Doom II textures. Sadly, if you buy this looking for some of the huge sprite patch WADs, like Barney and Simpsons, they're just not here. But there are plenty of others, including a Star Wars Deathstar replica, and all the WADs I have tried so far have worked on my Mac. My guess is that they have pre-tested them all for compatibility.

After owning the disk for about three weeks now, I feel I have made a good choice in buying it. I would give this CD the highest marks!

Demon Gate retails for $29.95, but you may be able to find it for half that price. If you can't locate it at your local computer store, the manufacturer can be reached at:

LaserSoft, Inc
11471 Valley View Road
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

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