

Story

It is said that there is a miraculous bird, which keeps on burning its eternal life, even exceeding distant time. That bird shines in paradise and bursts into flames in hell. It resembles some beautiful flames, like a bewitching illusion. People call this legendary bird “Firebird”, which has continued to watch over all living things since the moment the universe was created.....

Now the look of the “Firebird” has fallen upon a sinful and lonely man called Gao.

He was born blind in one eye and he lost an arm because of a villager but he went on anyway. Gao grew up and as a result of even murdering people without hesitation and carrying on with his life accordingly, he was expelled from the village. Before long Gao became the leader of a band of thieves and he happened to encounter the beautiful girl Hayame who looked like a fairy. He forced her to become his wife and the beauty of Hayame withered away. He went on a rampage exhausting the limits of what he could plunder. But Hayame only stared sadly at Gao.

The seasons passed and, around when the cold winter wind blows, a strange disease had taken hold of Gao. He mistook Hayame mixing up a medicine for a poison. Gao gave in to his anger and killed Hayame. The body of Hayame took a final breath and it changed into a small ladybug. He began to understand that Hayame was the incarnation of an insect he once rescued himself, and he was overwhelmed by grief.

Now Gao is trying to fight the evil inside his own mind. He received a revelation of the “Firebird” and he left on a journey full of ordeals in order to obtain a righteous spirit. So the various evil spirits inside Gao’s mind have become the objects he is going to attack relentlessly. Further on the terrains become more complicated as it reflects the state of Gao’s mind.

Will Gao really master the labyrinth and overthrow the personified anger demon? Do you think he’ll be able to obtain a righteous spirit? Would it be possible to meet the “Firebird”? The time has come to test Gao’s courage. The journey of ordeals has already started.

How to play

1. The goal of the player (Gao) is to defeat the Anger demon that rules Gao’s spirit and to meet the “Firebird” to obtain a righteous spirit. The Anger demon will appear when you’ve obtained the 5 mind spheres, which are in each stage.
2. There are 6 stages in total. You are able to come and go freely between the individual stages.
3. Each stage consists of 3 parallel roads. These respective roads have a loop structure. These three roads are connected at specific locations. You can come and go freely at these points, passing through those places. In addition each level has been divided into a few areas by sealed gates.
4. During the game the following 5 types of “gates” will appear. Gates won’t open if you don’t have spirit tablet with the same title as the gate.

Starting gate: a gate on which the name of each stage is written. This is the starting point of every stage. You can freely go through it.

Road gate: a sealed gate which is located in the middle of every stage.

Mind gate: a gate at the entrance of an area where there is a mind sphere.

Demon gate: a gate that leads you to the hell, where a demon who rules Gao's mind resides.

Proceeding gate: With this gate you can go on to the next stage. It appears when you defeat a demon.

5. How to proceed in this game is as follows:

1. First obtain the spirit tablet to open the road gate. With this you can go through the road gate.
2. Next obtain the spirit tablet to pass through the demon gate. With this you can go through the demon gate.
3. Defeat the demon who appears and you will get a spirit tablet that opens a mind gate.
4. Go to the next stage following the proceeding gate.
5. Go through the mind gate by using the spirit tablet you obtained from the demon. You will get the mind sphere.
6. Repeating steps 1-5, you will obtain 5 mind spheres.
7. Go to the hell where the Anger Demon resides. Fight the Anger Demon and defeat him. Slaying the Anger Demon will start a very emotional ending.

6. You are able to come into contact with "Firebird statues", which are in each stage and listen once to a message from the "Firebird". Push space key or fire button 1 and the game will resume.

Controls

Up, down, left, right: move Gao in these directions.

Space or fire button 1: attack

N, M or fire button 2: jump

F1: Pause

F2: Change your power up

F3: Display items

F4: Display area map

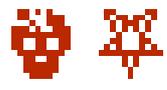
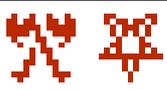
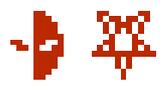
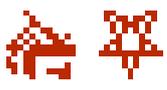
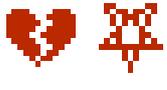
F5: Display stage map [in game] or to continue [if you lost your last life]

HOME: press home when the game is paused to go to the password screen to see the password corresponding to your progress so far. Press HOME again to enter a password.

Power ups

Name	Details	Number of feathers
 Flames	Player's shots are changed to flames.	8
 Pair of Flames	2 flames are fired at the same time.	16
 Scatter	Flames are fired in 3 directions.	24
 Circle	Flames rotate around Gao.	32
 Six Flames	Flames are fired in 6 directions.	32
 Wide AUTO	Flames can be fired continuously resembling a machine gun.	40
1 up	Increase the remaining lives of the player by one.	36

Stage reference

Stage name	Demon name	Road gate	Characteristics
 Murder	 Murder Demon	 Sword	This is the bamboo forest stage in which the bamboo stands close together in sharp angles. When you fall in the water your speed decreases and in addition you cannot jump either.
 Brutal	 Brutal Demon	 Deceased	This is a wetland stage where the water's surface comprises 90% of the stage. Your movements require you to thoroughly read the terrain.
 Evil	 Evil Demon	 Equality	This is a quagmire stage. It's not possible to jump if your feet are caught in the mud. You need technique to jump skillfully on the land.
 Insane	 Insane Demon	 Moon	The twisting terrain obstructs Gao's path. In order not to be crushed by rocks, fast judgment and action are the essential key points.
 Warrior	 Warrior Demon	 Travelling Samskara	This is a snowfield stage where numerous traps are set up. If you don't use the "Change" and "Spawn" warp zones effectively, you absolutely won't be able to get past here.
 Anger	 Anger Demon	 Death	A picture of Hell's pandemonium. The dead and evil spirits are piled together, hoping to attack Gao. You are unable to clear this hell if you haven't attained wisdom.

Items

 <p>Sandals Maximum speed up by 3 levels</p>	 <p>Firebird feather You can exchange it for power ups.</p>
 <p>Hourglass For a fixed amount of time , the background scroll is suspended.</p>	 <p>Shining Firebird feather It's worth 10 Firebird feathers.</p>
 <p>Gourd For a fixed amount of time, you're invincible. (Body blows are possible)</p>	 <p>Map The map in each stage can be seen. Use it once and it will disappear.</p>
 <p>Vase For a fixed amount of time, you become transparent. (There is no collision detection)</p>	 <p>Scroll Shows the connections between stages on a map. You complete the entire map by collecting 6 pieces.</p>
 <p>Tengu fan The enemies are blown away and annihilated. Note: a Tengu is a mythological creature.</p>	 <p>Compass This is a very useful item. The way to use it is s-e-c-r-e-t!</p>
 <p>Tebako box (Accessories box) The items you were holding will be preserved when you continue after a game over. Just 1 time for every Tebako box.</p>	 <p>Mind sphere There are 5 in total. If you haven't obtained all 5, you are unable to fight the "Anger demon".</p>
 <p>Ladybug This increases the distance and rapid-fire abilities of your shots to a maximum of 3 levels.</p>	 <p>Spirit tablet (literally Spirit wood) The key to pass "gates". You cannot pass a "gate" unless you have one with the same character written on it. There are 17 Spirit tablets in total to go through the "gates".</p>

The 5 Mind spheres

	Heaven
	Air / Void
	Water
	Light
	Fulfill / Success

The demons Gao needs to face

Anger Demon

A demon who embodies angry people.
He won't appear if you don't have the 5 mind spheres.

Evil Demon

A demon who embodies an evil mind.
He breathes fire.

Brutal Demon

A demon who embodies a brutal mind.
He uses swords and bombs.

Warrior Demon

A demon who embodies a belligerent subconsciousness.
He throws sickles.

Insane Demon

A demon who embodies madness that has run wild.
He moves in an instant.

Murder Demon

A demon who throws fire balls. His movements are fast.

Development post script

Everyone, we have kept you waiting. Finally we have completed our impression of "Firebird – The Phoenix saga". It's a tale about the awful Gao ,who fights the evil inside his own mind. This production adds adventure characteristics that have the unique Konami stickiness to the thrill of engaged shooting. Furthermore this masterpiece creates a very complete story that delicately connects 2 (?) protagonists - the Phoenix and Gao -. Besides that we boldly added various additional features for gamers. Undoubtedly this game will shine amongst your MSX collection.