



HYPERSKIVE

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086

VELOCITY 2X

Oh my, starry-eyed surprise



INFO

FORMAT PS VITA
ALSO ON PS4
ETA OUT NOW
PUB FUTURLAB
DEV FUTURLAB

Poor little Iota from Tearaway knows what I'm about to type. He's looking at me like a kicked puppy. Are those tears I see? I'll have to turn him to face the wall. That's better. So, this is it, your new favourite Vita game. You might be forgiven for not having played FuturLab's previous excellent top-down teleport-'em-ups in the shape of Velocity and Velocity Ultra, but if you continue down that path to ruin we just can't be friends anymore. Not only is 2X a giddily polished upgrade of its sci-fi shooter predecessors, it also slides astonishingly perfect side-scrolling-puzzle-platforming into the mix as though it's been there all along.

Lt Kai Tana is a woman on a vibrantly stylised mission. Flying solo through a beautifully realised world at a smooth 60 frames per second, she takes down a host of murderous space enemies with a gradually increasing arsenal of explosives and some pleasantly witty barbs. But her secret weapon, raising the Velocity series high above the rest, is her ability to teleport anywhere she wants.

With a tap of **⊕** and a quick swipe of the left analogue stick, you send her ship effortlessly

gliding through walls. And it's here, with the pounding soundtrack cranked up in your ears as you hammer the boost button in a quest to get the fastest time, that 2X shines. The slick control setup makes you feel like the god of the analogue sticks as you flick between compartments collecting survivors, destroying switches and dropping teleportation pods for some addictive puzzling before flying into a dock for a dose of platforming.

SPEED GUNNER

Momentum manages to crank up even more in the satisfying side-scrolling sequences. Kai's ship controls transfer seamlessly with a gun on the right stick and that all important teleport button. This girl gives Rayman a run for his money as she hurtles sideways through beautiful environments with perfectly timed running jumps, skipping through walls like a physics-defying Quicksilver, and beating bosses by bouncing around

inside them. Whether you're playing at top speed or taking it easy, collecting crystals and taking down enemies with a sleek Corvo-esque Blink move that will make you feel like a superhero every time is a dizzyingly enjoyable experience.

The gradual drop of new abilities through the 50 levels also means things always feel citrus fresh as you unlock items such as throwable teleportation pods, which add a hint of terminal velocity to proceedings. FuturLab hasn't skimped on puzzling either, with some sections seemingly impossible to perform at speed before that eureka Portal moment materialises. You go thumbs. It's your birthday. Eye-wateringly exceptional visuals, an enjoyable story and also on PS4? Go. Now.

VERDICT

A polished labour of love, Velocity 2X is addictive in both its top-down and platforming sections and visually astonishing to boot. A truly triumphant must-have title. **Louise Blain**

"THE SLICK CONTROL SETUP MAKES YOU FEEL LIKE A GOD OF THE ANALOGUE STICKS."