

Light Yagami discovers a notebook with a magic and deadly power.



## Death Note: Volume One

**DEAD WRITE** The addictive and controversial cult series finally comes to DVD

**Distributor** Manga **Certificate** 15 **Price** £20 **Release Date** Out now

**A** seemingly normal – albeit bright and bored – student, Light Yagami's life changes forever when he discovers a mysterious notebook called Death Note. This is no ordinary notebook; anyone whose name is written inside will die within 40 seconds of a heart attack. Suddenly Light (along with his Shinigami watcher Ryuk) is no mere mortal but the god of the new world, which he intends to create by killing criminals. Unfortunately, this attracts the attention of genius detective L and each swears to destroy the other, beginning a breath-taking game of cat and mouse.

Death Note is not a pretty anime, not in the traditional sense anyway. It's not fluffy or funny; it's dark, genuinely unsettling and stylish. Character designs are slick but the true test of this outstanding anime is the plot and

the depth of Light and L's intelligence as they dance around each other. The English dub is littered with veterans of the industry and includes actor Alessandro Juliani – who's probably best known for playing Lt Felix Gaeta in Battlestar Galactica.

Yes, the extras are a little lacking but the documentary on the dubbing process is genuinely fascinating and only makes watching Death Note better as you appreciate exactly how much work has been put into it. Best of all, you're getting two volumes for the price of one as Manga Entertainment has chosen to bundle the first and second DVDs together as one volume, which is fantastic as Death Note is one anime which is going to grab hold of you and not let go. This is an instant cult classic unlike anything else and must be a part of every anime fan's collection.

**RATING**



## Also look at...

A flame-haired maiden with a scary sword and the tales of a Welsh wizard.



### Shakugan no Shana: Volume One

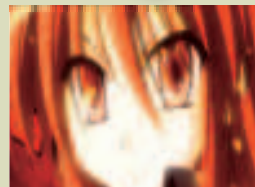
**Distributor** MVM

**Certificate** 12

**Price** £16

**Release Date** Out now

**RATING**



Something about Shakugan no Shana is disturbing. It's not an easy thing to put your finger on at first but when the world stops, literally frozen in place, and Yuji Sakai watches dozens of people consumed,

the horror is almost palatable.

Yuji is just one of thousands of Torches, humans whose lives have been consumed by denizens of another dimension, leaving shadows of their former selves to linger and vanish. Thrown in at the deep end, it's not until he watches his classmate vanish at the end of episode two that the emotion hits, making this a difficult anime to watch in one go. That said, the animation is beautiful and while the flame-haired heroine is oddly amusing, the storyline is complicated and may not suit all.



### Negima: The Complete Series

**Distributor** Revelation Films

**Certificate** 12

**Price** £50

**Release Date** Out now

**RATING**



Light-hearted, fan-service fun is the name of the game for Welsh wizard Negi Springfield. Shipped off to Japan as part of his magical training he ends up at the all-girls Mahora Academy teaching English.

It's still a lot of fun and is the perfect gift for any fans of Love Hina but don't expect any unforeseeable twists and turns, this is good – slightly risqué – old-fashioned high school high-jinks with a massive dose of magic thrown in for good measure – there's even a talking mascot! This set collects all six volumes of Negi's adventures in a series that redefines the harem genre to epic proportions, making it excellent for anyone who missed Revelation's single volume releases last year. ●