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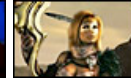
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Dirty Harry - The Ultimate Collection

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The Dirty Harry Collection

by [Phil Pirrello](#) and [Christopher Monfette](#)

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Discs One & Two: Dirty Harry

The brunt of the set's most worthwhile extras can be found on the original *Dirty Harry* film – the only movie in the seven-disc package to come spread across two DVDs.

- Commentary by Richard Schickel
- Dirty Harry's Way
- Dirty Harry: The Original
- The Long Shadow of Dirty Harry
- Clint Eastwood: The Man from Malpas
- Interview Gallery

The bonus features here are less concerned *specifically* with *Dirty Harry* and more with the pantheon of films in the eventual franchise. It's a look back less at the film itself and more at the individual character, examining not only his creation, but his impact on American cinema. It also serves as something of a tribute to Eastwood himself, a testimony which is handled more fully in the set's seventh and final disc.

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MPAA Rating: R
MSRP:
 US: \$74.98
Publisher: Warner Home Video
Genre: Crime
Release Date:
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Thank you 1970's. Thank you.

"Dirty Harry: The Original" deals with the broader character of Dirty Harry, stemming from the original film and progressing through the subsequent sequels. It examines the famed policeman not only in light of the series' development, but in light of the country's evolution, examining the way in which the films reflect the changing American culture, and with it, the malleability of American crime. "Dirty Harry's Way" is a five-minute retro featurette produced alongside the original film and introducing audiences to the character of Harry Callahan. It's a fun inclusion for its 1970's grit and age.

The real meat of the release, however, can be found on the second disc. "The Long Shadow of Dirty Harry" is essentially the flipside of "The Original," looking at the film and its subsequent follow-ups from the point of view of those involved in their creation. Andrew Robinson, Hal Holbrook, Michael Madsen and a host of other filmmakers and actors show up in this half-hour featurette to discuss with great nostalgia their *Dirty Harry* experiences. In many ways, this is the most "fun" of the extras due in large part to how much joy the film draws from those who remember it best.

"Clint Eastwood: The Man from Malpaso" is the thematic counterpart to "Clint Eastwood: Out of the Shadows," found on the seventh disc of the set. This hour-long documentary focuses purely on Clint as an actor and filmmaker. It chronicles his early years as a performer through his later years as a director, from his very first film through *Unforgiven*, and provides testimonials from actors who have worked both for and alongside the legendary film icon. It's a touching and insightful portrait of the man, built upon greatly in later discs.

Lastly, all of the previous offerings find their observations reflect in the film's commentary by Eastwood biographer Richard Shickel, who offers many of the same thoughts and provides much of the same trivia revealed throughout the various featurettes. Which is not to say that the commentary is not a worthwhile experience – it absolutely is – but only to point out a small degree of overlap.

Disc Three: Magnum Force

The single-disc *Magnum Force* DVD features:

- Commentary by Screenwriter John Milius
- A Moral Right: The Politics of Dirty Harry
- The Hero Cop

Milius' commentary is surprisingly insightful here with regard to the challenges of making a sequel to such an impactful film. At various times throughout the commentary, Milius refers to *Magnum Force* as the flipside of *Dirty Harry's* coin, refusing to retread the same ground but rather to examine in a real way what happens when the vigilantism of which the films was accused finally goes too far. This is then reflected in "The Politics of Dirty Harry," an insightful look at the way in which the film's sense of morality – of right and wrong – is measured against the social climate of its time. Finally, "The Hero Cop" is the second version of "Dirty Harry's Way" – a 1970's, EPK-style overview of the film's story.

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How did they miss that many times?

Disc Four: The Enforcer

The Enforcer deluxe edition includes three bonuses produced exclusively for this DVD. They are:

- Commentary by Director James Fargo
- The Business End: Violence in Cinema
- Harry Callahan/Clint Eastwood: Something Special in Films
- *Dirty Harry* Movies Trailer Gallery

Fargo's commentary falls silent one too many times during the length of the film, but it does allow the director to recall with some candor about how the film launched him, officially, as a filmmaker. He also shares an anecdote about Eastwood telling Fargo that he got the job as though he was telling him about the weather.

Not that this commentary isn't worthwhile, it just would have been nice to hear Eastwood tell the story himself.

"Business End" is nothing more than a thesis hiding out in an EPK, a random piece of filler on a set that really doesn't need it. And "Something Special in Films" is just short of being an AFI tribute for Eastwood, featuring celebrity recollections regarding Eastwood the man overlapping with *Dirty Harry* the character.

A trailer gallery rounds out an average collection of extras, but much more than anyone would expect for a film made in 1976.

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