



# MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Hey there dedicated readers! Man is this a JAM-PACKED issue of **Advanced Iron**! And here I was worried that there wouldn't be enough submissions to fill out the issue. We've got 40 pages of Iron goodness this time around.

First off, if you look to the right you'll see a couple of changes... for the last couple of issues this has really been a one man show (namely, me) in regards to editing and assembling the 'zine, and after some discussion it was agreed that I would edit and assemble *Advanced Iron* single handedly. Although it's more work for me, it's easier than trying to coordinate editing and publishing details between three people. Jeff and Heath are still dedicated contributors to the 'zine both on the page and behind the scenes and a huge help.

This issue, Thom Chiaramonte of *Third Rail Design Lab* contributed the awesome cover. The armor on the cover is a *TRDL* original prototype armor design, and Thom also contributed his rendition of the *Iron Man* armor seen in the *Big Town* mini-series (originally designed by Mike McKone). It's great to have you back, Thom!

Filipe Muffoletto sent in another of his great *Iron Man* cover recreations... this time from Vol. 3, Issue #74, originally by my favorite recent *Iron Man* artist, Jorge Lucas. Filipe commented that the image captures Shellhead "in all his butt-kicking glory" and I have to say I agree completely. There's both a wide shot as well as a close up of the helmet.

John "Ironman" Comerford is turning out to be one of our most prolific contributors... This issue we have "The Unofficial *Iron Man* Toys You Have To Own, Part III". You'll find that as his list grows the pieces get harder and harder to find! Also in this issue from John is some help in imagining how *Iron Man* might come across on the big screen, another in his series on the *West Coast Avengers*, a listing of all the *What If...* issues that Shellhead has appeared in, and finally a checklist for helping you track what might be missing in your *Iron Man* collection. Whew!

Jordan Weiger brings us another in his continuing series of *Iron Man* armor reviews.

From "Magic Joe" come a number of original pieces of *Iron Man* artwork that he had done at a comic convention a while back. Great stuff in a variety of styles.

There's also artwork from first time contributors Bradley Fish and Joel "Charmless Man" O'Connor. Hopefully it's the first contribution of many from both these guys!

As ever, we have Heath McKnight's "Metal Head" column, giving us the scoop on the convoluted history of the yet to be made *Iron Man* film.

Last, but not least, Chris Frye has snagged an interview with Joe Casey, author of the upcoming mini *Iron Man: The Inevitable* which promises to bring back the Shellhead action we've been craving for so long in an IM title.

I hope you enjoy this fantastic issue of **Advanced Iron**, and thanks once again to all those who've contributed... without **you** there is no **AI**.

Vic Holtreman Editor, *Advanced Iron* 

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## Iron Man the movie update

This is just a quick article to talk about what's up with the *Iron Man* movie. There have really been no recent updates since New Line said no to Marvel Entertainment and Angry Films' choice of Nick Cassavetes, but I know that both of the companies were trying to fight that decision.

As of right now, Angry Films has owned the *Iron Man* film rights for five years (since the Fall of 2000), so one has to wonder if they don't produce something, will Marvel go with someone else? DC did it famously with Superman Returns after years of turmoil (since 1995!). They couldn't get the script right, and it had several false starts, most famously in 1998 with Tim Burton directing a script originally written by Kevin (Clerks, Mallrats) Smith and Nicolas Cage as Clark/Supes. The only difference, of course, is that DC is owned by Warner Bros., so all movies stay in-house.

I wouldn't be surprised if Marvel takes back the rights and includes *Iron Man* in their deal where they make the film and Paramount distributes it. Among that deal are characters-to-movies such as Captain America, Ant Man and more. Also, whether Angry Films and New Line make the movie or not, expect a video game to tie in with it.

And of course, next year will see the release of the Ultimate Avengers cartoon movie on DVD, so check that out!

Sorry for such a short article this time, but most movie, TV, video and gaming news happens fast, so check out the Invincible *Iron Man* boards and look for Metal Head!

Stay cool!

Heath McKnight www.mpsdigital.com

# IRON MAN by MHAN Courtesy of Magic Joe





## IMAGINE: IRON MAN @ THE MOVIES

Written by Ironman John Comerford

We've all waited long and hard for *Iron Man* to make his appearance on the silver screen utilizing amazing special effects, a captivating story and great characterization. We've all followed the internet rumors, and the media speculation surrounding script writers, filmmakers and actors, all allegedly slated to take *Iron Man* to the next level. And so far as a fan base, we've been disappointed. Essentially, for all of our hard Message Boarding and all of our laborious comic reading, we've had nothing to see of *Iron Man* on the big screen... until now! In my brainstorming of writing ideas for this Advanced Iron, I realized a way for all of you Shellheads to grab a quick *Iron Man* Movie fix.

Although I can't generate a fully realized *Iron Man* in the movies for the masses, I can help you see the possible future of *Iron Man* in all his digital glory. Here, we'll be taking a look at some movies whose scenes or special effects just scream Marvel Comics *Iron Man*, and will wet your mouths for the real thing.

### Spy Kids 2: The Island Of Lost Dreams:

Take a look at that great scene where those lil rugrats strap on their rocket shoes and blast off through the city. That image right there is a straight up swap for *Iron Man* roaring his boot jets to life and blasting off into the sky as the camera follows him zooming past Stark Towers!!

## **Hellboy:**



It's a two for one in this flick as the villain Kroenen wears a tight form-fitting mask which not only loosely resembles an *Iron Man* mask, but has servos whir quietly as he walks around!!

## Lost In Space:

During the scene where the Spider Aliens storm the Proteus and Maj. Don West turns in the cargo bay to fire, he armors up with a metal helmet that wraps around him from the armor underneath his coat! That is the kind of armoring up effect that would look great in an *Iron Man* flick, not to mention the helmet depicted is another form fitting work of art.

## The Last Samurai/ The Aviator:

We've all entertained the idea of Tom Cruise as Tony Stark, but take a look at this movie, as a bearded and brooding Alcoholic Cruise rises from his guilt ridden past to avenge the dismal events taking place in the film! If Cruise doesn't catch your attention, what about DiCaprio's character of Hughes inventive, playboy genius? Tony Stark was indeed modeled after the first American Billionaire during his productive and healthy days!

## **Ghostbusters:**

Those awesome proton packs wouldn't make *Iron Man*, but the beams they fire sure make a great Mark Bright-like repulsor blast!! Imagine those blasts coming out of *Iron Man*'s gauntlets attached to the mighty armor, which might resemble....

## Sky Captain.... And The World Of Tomorrow:

The armor plating on the some of the robots in the film sure look a lot like *Iron Man*'s chest plate!! Don't believe me? Look right near the end, when Sky Captain's buddy blasts those robots with his ray gun! Watch it again and get a close look at the design of the metal torso of the rampaging bots that look like they're straight out of a Magnus Robot Fighter comic book!!



## Spaceballs / Lord Of The Rings Trilogy:

How could these two movies POSSIBLY relate to *Iron Man*? Well put those badass rings on the hands of the Mandarin and let him loose on civilization!! Great ring effects like those might appear in an *Iron Man* flick where IM takes on Temugin or the Mandarin!!

### **Batman Begins:**

The effects depicting Batman using electricity to manipulate his cape is exactly how cloth like *Iron Man* Armor would become rigid and indestructible!!

#### X-Men:

The scene where we first see Wolverine, when he breaks the bald wrestlers fist... that awesome metal "DUNK!" you hear? That's the sound effect *Iron Man* pounding away on the Titanium Man!!

#### <u>Aliens:</u>

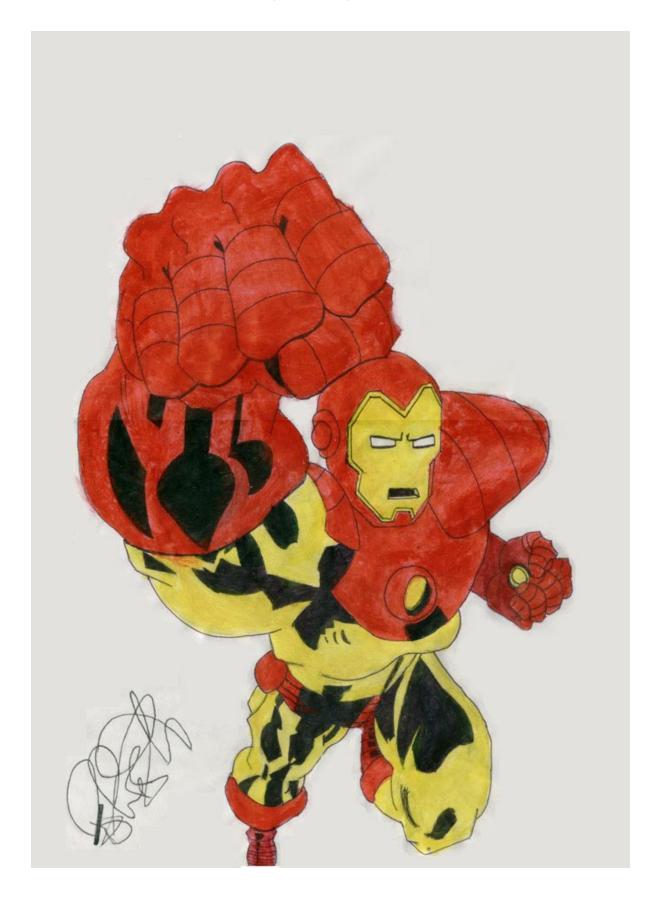
Cmon!! Now you ALL have to know this one! The loader that Ripley fights the Alien Queen in makes for the perfect beginnings to an Exo-Armor (hey it was better than that crap from Matrix Revolutions...).

There you have it folks, the list goes on and on, but for the time being, I'm sure you've now got enough motivation to go out and grab those movies and see them for yourself!! We may not have our Iron flick yet, but we've still got our crazy, comic book geek imaginations to tide us over....

If anyone wants a follow up to this display of Iron Mania, or has any other IM movie comparisons, feel free to email me at <a href="mailto:Toastyj77@aol.com">Toastyj77@aol.com</a>, or post it on the great <a href="mailto:Iron Man">Iron Man</a> Message board @ <a href="mailto:http://www.invincible/Iron Man.com/forums">http://www.invincible/Iron Man.com/forums</a>

*Iron Man John* 08/15/2005

# **IRON MAN** by Bradley Fish





## THE WHACKO SAGA

(AKA West Coast Avengers)
Issues 26-50

Written by Ironman John Comerford



### **Foreword**

Welcome to the second installment of the Whacko Saga, a glimpse at the full regular run of Avengers West Coast. Issues 26-50 of the Whacko Saga contain a large span without *Iron Man* in it; however the issues that have him are VERY relevant to our Armored Avenger. Although *Iron Man* is absent from the heart of the run, there are a great series of arcs that not only reference old *Iron Man* issues, but have inextricable ties to Armor Wars as well. Also in this set are many poignant leads to the events of Avengers Disassembled and The House Of M.

#### The Series

Number 26 brings us back to the multi-issue story arc system that made the first 25 issues a long read. In this arc, the team takes on the Zodiac Gang. Reference is made here to Iron Man Vol. 1's early Daredevil crossover, which also followed the Zodiac Key. Issue 26 shows us just how evil Scorpio, the gang's leader, can be as he kills a poor defenseless cow, as well as setting the story for the upcoming "Murdering Avengers" dilemma in which Hawkeye flips out about putting an arrow through an LMD. The general backstory throughout shows Hank Pym's recovery from his early thoughts of suicide, and really brings a fresh take to the character. Issue 27 exemplifies how even lame villains like the Zodiac Gang can be clever in their own right as they pull a one-two switch on the Avengers to infiltrate their ranks. In this issue, just as an ersatz Hawkeye is discovered, a phony Tigra is implemented in the West Coasters team. Eventually, *Moon Knight* becomes a pivotal member of the group and here, the creative team of Englehart and Milgrom somehow manage to make this character slightly dark and more interesting. The issues containing Moon Knight are a rare case where a fan can actually applaud the use of a ludicrous B character. The meat of the action in the arc is in issue 28 and has some great pacing. It's in this issue that IM goes down due to an energy siphoning device, and, while being encompassed by easygoing 80's storytelling, it's easy to buy that the events would transpire this way. The arc officially ends in issue 29 which shows Moon Knight stalking the final betraying member of the Zodiac Gang to extract vengeance for his earlier crimes. This is a pretty charming issue that shows Moon Knight as a relatively dark character. The only major flaw is the characters own references to himself as the "Fist of Khonshu", which gets a little lame at times. The only real *Iron Man* appearance in this issue is a pretty neat

panel where *Iron Man* rockets out of a passing Quinjet to save *Moon Knight* from becoming *Moon Pie* all over the darkened landscape.

In issue 30 we are introduced to "The Composite Avenger" in a tale very reminiscent of an old Tales of Suspense story dealing with outlandish alien appearances and abductions. In it, the Whackos take on "The Examiner" and prove that even when fighting individually, they always maintain that team spirit. The way *Moon Knight* takes on the evolving robot on page 20 is nearly comical, and in this issue it is explained that *Moon Knight's* god has begun to inhabit his body. The issue's end has the invading alien force surmising that the Avengers are a race of hooded cat beings that wield futuristic weaponry. The final order is given to avoid Earth's area of the Universe at all costs, and the Avengers stand victorious in the face of the evil Sligs as well as classic comic book cheesiness.



Issue 29, IM saves Moon Knight from going splat.

Issue 31 and 32 are an interesting juxtaposition of good and bad for Ironfans. Bad in the fact that *Iron Man* begins a long absence from the team, but does so with direct ties to the Armor Wars I story of Vol. 1. Early in issue 31, *Iron Man* is on the edge and takes a leave from the team citing secret reasons that we all know to be the events of the Armor Wars. The remainder of this issue's backstory focuses on the struggle between Mockingbird and the Phantom Rider, whom she let die in the time travel arc earlier in the series. This motif rears its head for many issues to come and eventually leads toward the downfall of Mockingbird, and for a while, the team. Issue 32 features the Wasp coming to the Whackos after learning of *Iron Man*'s rampage through the Vault in IM vol. 1 #228. In my opinion, these issues belong in the Armor Wars story arc, nicely nestled between issues 228 and 229. They fit comfortably next to your *other* Armor Wars relevant issues, Captain America Vol. 1 #'s 340 and 341 (you DID know about those, didn't you?). It also shows a few panels of the other Avengers pensively remembering *Iron Man* and his actions as an Avenger.



The remainder of the story places the Whackos on vacation with Mockingbird. The real meat of this issue lies on the advancement of the Phantom Rider story as it begins hinting at the dissention of Avengers, while **Moon Knight** gravitates toward Mock's plight with the ever haunting western White Rider. The next few issues are very Pym-centric and revolve around the whole adopted family idea of Pym's son Ultron. This includes Ultron's brother Vision, who becomes more like Wonder Man's brother, who is also married to the Scarlet Witch, whose brother is the then villainous Quicksilver, etc., etc. More than expressing the writer's apparent frustrations with the typical nuclear family, these issues do actually (and inadvertently) foreshadow the Scarlet Witch's future madness in Avengers Disassembled. She ponders to herself "You have to understand—all of you!! It's the taint of Magneto's Blood! How do we know that I won't follow him to madness someday?" I'd say that this issue, 34, is a great tie-in to the future Disassembled story, and that if Wizard still had the Comic Watch section, they'd be screaming about this issue, just like the did the Baby Cable appearance almost ten years ago now. However, I would hold this issue in higher regards than an appearance of a baby Winston Churchill look-alike turned future bionic commando from X-Men years past. It's also in this issue that the separation of Hawkeye and Mockingbird begins through the machinations of the Phantom Rider.

Issue 35 sports a pretty great Dr. Doom cover that definitely lures in a buyer, but doesn't pay off unless you really followed the Fantastic Four at the time. Issue 36 is Whacko versus Whacko due to some other wacko named the Voice whose wacky powers whack out your brain so you do what he tells you. All I will say about this issue, is that upon reading it, you'll find that it demonstrates nicely how the love of a super scientist can be even more powerful than having Wonder Man stick someone in the face. Issues 37 and 39 are tied together by an appearance by Mantis, the Celestial Madonna, with an in-between breather during Issue 38. In that issue we are treated to a Wonder Man flashback where *Iron Man* is on the team! This story seems to take place somewhere between issues 30 and 31 as the Avengers take on the Defiler. Issue 40 is a one-shot with the Whackos facing off against the Night Shift, and 41 f-i-n-a-I-I-y wraps up the Phantom Rider storyline.

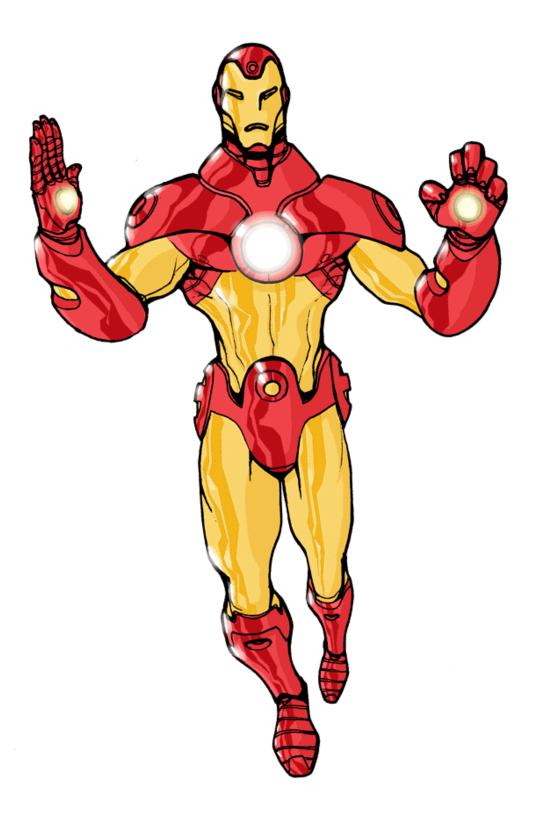
42 through 45 are great issues introducing John Byrne as writer and artist with some very McFarlane-esque camera angles and paneling. His run is a good one, but he sometimes tries to utilize too much back-story. Through his run there is a Torch back-story, a Witch back-story, an Immortus back-story, a shrinking Tigra back-story... huff huff huff... t-o-o m-u-c-h unneeded background stuff. His first arc, Vision Quest, is a strong story in which he begins to set the Scarlet Witch on center stage for many issues to come. Byrne's run also begins the back-story of dealings with the Scarlet Witch's pseudo children. When these events come to pass, we find that they are ultimately responsible for the Witch's foreshadowed breakdown during Disassembled as well as the current Marvel summer blockbuster **House of M** story. It seems at times Byrne retcons and eliminates certain plot elements of past AWC issues, but ultimately manages to contribute some very good storytelling. These mishaps are probably more noticeable when sitting down to read ten years of comics over the course of a week or so, but during the writing of the issues, I'm sure some of this was lost to time.

Issue 46 catches up with Mockingbird as she meets the corniest Avengers Team ever: the Great Lakes Avengers. This is the beginning of a future Hawkeye/Mockingbird subplot and other than that; this issue doesn't have much to offer. Issues 47-49 finally reveal what becomes of the Vision as he is abducted and finally shows an evil, corrupted Wanda for the first time. Of course nothing shows evil chicks like tight black spandex and hair blowing against the wind, and issue 48 has just that. Cap and She Hulk guest star in what is a decent story, only to be convoluted by the addition of Immortus. Of course, nowadays we as Iron Man fans know that when Immortus gets involved in a storyline, the whole concept of what we thought was happening pretty much goes down the can. Ultimately though, issue 48 does not feel like an AWC issue, rather something out of Avengers Spotlight as the real Whackos don't really make a team appearance. It is a decent bridge issue however, and the art by Byrne really shines in this one. Issue 49 resolves the arc, explaining that an astral force called "That Which Endures" has been controlling the events relating to the Vision's abduction all along. Of course in great comic book fashion, when the strange force decides to run away, all the ramifications of what's happened leave with it. Of course Wanda Maximoff is left reeling after losing and regaining the Vision, but ultimately her future descent is a product of much more than this story arc. Needless to say, in future issues of the Avengers West Coast, Wanda goes bad several times. Issue 50 is a Torch-centered issue which finally resolves his origins (as they have been lingering around in the background for many months). The issue doesn't have much action, but rounds out the first 50 issues nicely as we see the team's new lineup coming together. The last page of the issue doesn't disappoint... a splash page of *Iron Man* returning to the team to the shock of the others!!

Issues 26-50 of the Whacko Saga are a roller coaster ride of roster changes in both the Superhero and creative teams. The stories bounce around here and there, but the relevant *Iron Man* issues are great when both his dismissal from and return to the team revolve around the events of the Armor Wars. The art by Byrne is great throughout his run even if his stories are a little convoluted by attempting too much. Ultimately though, the ride gets better during the next twenty-five issues with the return of *Iron Man*, the resolution of Scarlet Witch's children and the final piece that begins the start of her decent into evil!! Be here for Advanced Iron #68 for the continuation of The Whacko Saga: Issues 51-75!!

Ironman John 08/16/2005

## "BIG TOWN" IRON MAN ARMOR by Thom Chiaramonte – Third Rail Design Lab



Character Design + Illustration © Thom Chiaramonte [www.thirdraildesignlab.com]

## FERRO FILES

# Interview with Joe Casey By Chris Frye

Hey Ferrophiles! Long time no see. I've been through quite a few transitions and changes since Ferro Files last appeared. I hope this interview with *IRON MAN: THE INEVITABLE* scribe Joe Casey makes up for my absence.

Al: Let's start with the vital stats for Joe Casey: age, interests outside comic books, currently reading, what's in your CD player, etc.?

JC: I have no life outside of comic books at the moment. Y'know, it puts a smile on my face to admit that.

Al: If you would, share some of the highlights and memorable accomplishments of your career to date with us.

**JC:** Hmmm... let's see. AVENGERS: EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES, CABLE, WildCATs, AUTOMATIC KAFKA, CODEFLESH, MR. MAJESTIC, my last year on ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN, the first half of X-MEN: CHILDREN OF THE ATOM. That's just a few.

Al: First professional work? In comics?

JC: CABLE for Marvel Comics.

Al: Why comics?

JC: Because it's the one storytelling medium that I seem to have a complete, unconditional love for.

Al: Do you try to reflect current events and relevant issues in your writing?

**JC:** When appropriate to the subject matter... absolutely. My favorite comic books have been of their time, representative of the era they were created in and I don't mind if mine are, too. I used to worry that certain things might seem dated... but I soon got over that and realized that a good story will always hold up. Look at DARK KNIGHT RETURNS. That book is so 80's in so many ways, but obviously it still holds up.

Al: So, I'm going to go out on a limb and guess you are a comic fan. What did you grow up reading? What are you currently reading? Wanting to read?

JC: I wouldn't be doing this if I weren't a comic book fan. I love 'em. Love everything about 'em. I was a Marvel kid growing up, and then followed a lot of creators over to DC when they migrated over there in the Eighties. From there I read everything. Favorites series of the past include AVENGERS, IRON MAN, NEXUS, JUSTICE LEAGUE, DARK KNIGHT RETURNS, DAREDEVIL, NEW TEEN TITANS, THOR, FLASH. These days I keep an eye on just about everything, because it's part of my job to keep up with what's going on in the industry. There's not a lot of books I wait on with bated breath to read at the moment.

Al: DC or Marvel? Or both?

JC: At the moment? Marvel. But I've got plenty of love for DC, too.

Al: Favorite character (Both universes)?

JC: I've got a few. Iron Man, Hawkeye, Nexus, Flash. I'm a big team book guy, too.

Al: Villain (Both universes)?

**JC:** That's a tough one, because villains -- just like any characters -- are as cool or as lame as the stories they're appearing in.



Al: Team?

JC: C'mon... isn't it obvious? Classic Avengers.

#### Al: Story (Both universes)?

**JC:** AVENGERS #181-192, the first Justin Hammer story in *IRON MAN*, the Elektra saga from Miller's first run on DAREDEVIL, the first year of Giffen's JUSTICE LEAGUE, "The Judas Contract" from NEW TEEN TITANS, "Rock Of Ages" from Morrison's JLA, BATMAN: YEAR ONE, DARK KNIGHT RETURNS, ELEKTRA: ASSASSIN and DAREDEVIL: BORN AGAIN.

# Al: As a writer, what is the attraction to the superhero genre in general and *Iron Man* in particular?

**JC:** Well, I don't think about it too much. It's just something that's in my blood. Some of my earliest memories involve reading superhero comic books. It's been a part of my life for as long as I can remember, so it's not so much an attraction as a lifestyle.

#### Al: How do you go about coming up with story ideas?

**JC:** With a character like *Iron Man*, the main thing I try to do is to think like a fan. Since I am an *Iron Man* fan, it's not too difficult. So I simply imagine what I would want to see in an *Iron Man* story and go from there. Keep in mind, as a fan, I don't want to see a straightforward regurgitation of the past, so that's not what I'm going to write. Sometimes it's nice to heavily evoke the past, to try and recapture a feeling that, as a fan, I want to feel again. But, with these long-running characters, you've got to strike the right balance. An eye on the past, an eye on the future. That's pretty much how I look at it.

Al: In other interviews, you've shown a great deal of respect for *Iron Man |* Marvel's (past) continuity and enthusiasm for the character. Tell us how Joe Casey came to be such a Ferrophile.

**JC:** Sometimes you have attachments to certain comic books because you're young and you don't know any better. The actual comic books might not be all that good, but there's a sentimental attachment. In my case, I was really lucky. The earliest comic books I read as a kid... most of them happened to be really good. The Michelinie/JR jr/Layton *IRON MAN* still holds up today... and these were comic books I was reading when I was nine years old. That's really rare. So, I've got the best of both worlds: sentimental attachment to comic books -- and, by association, a character -- that I could still read today and get a kick out of.

#### Al: Do you feel you have a solid grasp on Iron Man and his history?

**JC:** I hope so. I don't know if I could quote issues and stories as readily I could the first two hundred issues of AVENGERS, but I've read and loved what I consider to be all the signature runs of the series (and there have been a few). I still shudder at missteps like "Teen Tony", but I've never thought the character has been taken so far off the rails that it was impossible to restore the character to its rightful glory.

Al: Let's turn our attention to *Iron Man* and Tony Stark. As a writer/creator, what draws you to the character of Tony Stark? Give us a quick rundown of your take on Tony Stark. And what drives him.

**JC:** Tony's heroism is the fact that, as an inventor, he'll go where others fear to tread. He realizes that progress only occurs when risks are taken. I like that in a character. It's a very Preston Tucker/Howard Hughes-kind of mentality. I would liken Tony to those pioneers of the past over the modern Bill Gates equivalents. He's also an adult (as opposed to the arrested adolescence of so many other superhero characters). As glib as this sounds, he was an adult character with adult problems. He also got lots of women. As a kid, reading about Tony's life was a much greater window into adulthood than I got from other comic book characters.



#### Al: Favorite Iron Man writer?

**JC:** David Michelinie, by a wide margin. There have been other great ones. Stan Lee, Archie Goodwin, Denny O'Neil, Kurt Busiek. But for my money, no one else has even come close to Michelinie's work on the character.

Al: Art team?

JC: JR jr & Bob Layton, of course. With Jackson Guise & Layton a close second.

Al: Storyline?

**JC:** The run that's reprinted in the POWER OF IRON MAN trade, which is basically the first Justin Hammer storyline culminating in the classic "Demon In a Bottle" issue.

#### Al: Favorite cast members? Why?

**JC:** Well, based on their involvement during my favorite period of the book, I've always liked Mrs. Arbogast, Bethany Cabe, Justin Hammer, and James Rhodes. I've also got a soft spot for Happy and Pepper, from when Stan wrote the series.

#### Al: Iron Man villain? Why?

JC: I like most of 'em, actually. Titanium Man, Justin Hammer, Spymaster, the Ghost, the Living Laser, Whiplash, Blizzard, the Unicorn, the Melter, Firebrand, the Dreadnoughts, and Madame Masque was pretty cool. I do think there are some cool villains in the Marvel Universe that *Iron Man* hasn't gone up against yet... but definitely should.

Al: How about Iron Man? Many writers see the two as somewhat dichotomous characters.

**JC**: Again, I come at Tony Stark/*Iron Man* from pure instinct, from reading the series from an early age. At this point, I just feel like I know the character well enough that, when I write him, it's just a very natural thing.

Al: Favorite armor? Why?

JC: The classic 70's red and gold armor.

Al: Let's play "word association". Three words or phrases that describe:

Al: Tony Stark?

JC: A cool exec with a heart of steel.

Al: Iron Man?

**JC:** I can describe the character in one word: Classic.

Al: Supporting cast?

JC: There's a new one these days.

Al: Spymaster?

JC: All-new, all-different, all-Spymaster.

Al: Living Laser?

JC: The ultimate weapon.

Al: Can you tell us a little about your springboard for the storyline of Inevitable and how you pitched it to Joe Q and co.?

**JC:** The folks at Marvel actually came to me with the germ of this project. Editor Tom Brevoort is well aware of my love of all things *Iron Man* so when they needed to fill out the *IRON MAN* schedule with a mini-series, he gave me a call. The only thing he told me was that we should involve one of *Iron Man*'s classic villains. I countered with, "How about involving as many as we can fit in there?" I came up with a basic story that involved the three we've got, talked it over with Tom and was then let off my leash to start writing.

Al: Your stories tend to be very character and plot driven. Will this be true of Inevitable? And how will Ferrophiles craving Shellhead in action be sated?

JC: Well, there's lots of action in our series. What else can I say...?

Al: Without naming names (unless your up for it), you've made reference to your respect for certain creators and your enjoyment of their stories; stories that many Ferrophiles consider to be the definitive *Iron Man*. But the powers that be at Marvel, while acknowledging their contribution to Shellhead, consider them "last year's model" or "your father's *Iron Man*". Any rebuttal?

**JC:** Not really. To be honest, I don't recall anyone at Marvel ever saying that.

Al: When you pitched Inevitable, did you disclose that you wanted to acknowledge and build on these creators' mythos?

**JC:** Sure. I was completely upfront about the fact that there was a segment of fandom that still wanted to see actual super-villains, they still wanted continuity acknowledged, they wanted to see good, ol' fashioned superhero slugfests once in awhile. Characters like **Iron Man**, I don't think you need to reinvent the wheel each time out. Just tell good **Iron Man** stories and hopefully the readers will be there. That doesn't mean resting on the laurels of the past, it means regard the previous classic runs as a bar set high... something to try and strive for, quality-wise.

Al: You've hinted around, in another interview that you hold the Michelinie/Layton issues in high regard. How will this "flavor" Inevitable?

**JC:** Probably not in an obvious way, but those are the issues that influenced me most, so there's no doubt that the flavor will be there.

Al: As a writer and fan who now gets to play with the character(s) they helped define, why do you think their stories are so enduring/revered/definitive?

**JC:** Bottom line... they were just damn good comic books. Again, they weren't trying to recreate or redefine anything, they were just putting the best polish imaginable on it. People always hold up the Mandarin as *Iron Man*'s true arch-nemesis, but Michelinie & Layton never even used him in their first run! To me, that's pretty impressive, and a true testament to their skills. And, as I said, those issues still hold up when you read them today.

Al: Will Tony Stark and his cast drive this story (Inevitable), or will time in the armor play an equal role?



**JC:** Hopefully, it'll be a good balance between both things. That's what a good *IRON MAN* story is, isn't it? The characters drive the story, but the fact that a state-of-the-art suit of armor exists at the heart of the concept always gives it a huge role to play.

#### Al: Any chance Rhodey will turn up in Inevitable?

**JC:** Unfortunately, no. It would probably take too much pulling and twisting to get Rhodey back into the kind of character that could even be a supporting layer in Stark's life. He's evolved too much since the days as Tony's pilot/sidekick.

#### Al: Why do you think Iron Man has endured for almost 40 years?

**JC:** Lately, I've been thinking that Tony Stark/*Iron Man* is a quintessential American hero. A self-made man, a man of industry, saddled with a weakness that he uses his own ingenuity not only to overcome, but to then serve humanity. It's a very American-styled myth to me. I've always looked at *Iron Man* as a "modest classic". He's not as on-the-nose as a character like Spider-Man or the Hulk is. He's a bit more subtle in his appeal, which for me, allows for a longer life as an enduring character.

Al: What's your take and/or comment(s) on the whole "losing the secret identity" thing that seems to be in vogue at Marvel?

**JC:** Big mistake. Secret identities are essential parts of the Superhero Myth. Dual identities tap into a subconscious part of everyone, the "hidden self" that we all have. As we've seen with **Iron Man**, it's tough to put that genie back in the bottle, once it's out. Having said that, I'm trying to make the most of the situation, weaving the situation into THE INEVITABLE series as an integral plot element.

Al: Ultimate Tony / Iron Man or "Classic Marvel Universe Tony / Iron Man? Why?

**JC:** Haven't read ULTIMATE IRON MAN past the first issue. It just wasn't a story or a character I was particularly interested in. Maybe I'll catch it in trade form. Still, I'll take the classic version over ANY Ultimate version any day. But that's just me... many folks would disagree with me.

Al: Who would win in a "fair" fight?

**JC:** Is there such a thing as a "fair fight"...?

Al: It seems that the entertainment industry, as a whole, is becoming more networked, some would even say incestuous, (i.e. comic and video game related television series, movies, mass market paperback tie-ins, etc.) what is your short-term and long-term take on this conglomeration?

JC: I don't think about it too much. Probably to the detriment of my own career, but whatever.

Al: It seems that all things comic related are ripe for development as television and/or movie deals, including our own favorite Armored Avenger. Do you think this is a healthy trend?

JC: Not really. And that's probably all I should say about that.

Al: Dream project? Weirdest or most out there project? Future plans?

**JC:** I'm doing my dream projects. THE INEVITABLE with Frazier Irving (this is gong to be a great-looking *Iron Man* book, people!), FF: FIRST FAMILY with Chris Weston (another artistic genius... you've never seen an FF like Weston's), EMH2 (the sequel to EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES), my creator-owned Image series, GØDLAND, with Tom Scioli. I'm working with great artists on great characters.

Al: Can you drop any hints, tease us and/or tell us anything about Avengers: Earth Mightiest Heroes 2? Story? Cast? Artist?

JC: Nothing I want to give away right now. Wait and see...

Al: Tell us about Frazier Irving and how he became involved in Inevitable? Past credits, etc.?

**JC:** Look... this guy is an awesome artist. I think Granov's been doing a killer job on the monthly, but when people see Fraze's work on this series... it's going to absolutely blow them away. Like Adi, Fraze is doing FULL COLOR work on this book, which is the best way to see his art. Check out DC's KLARION THE WITCH BOY mini-series and see for yourselves.

Al: Any more Iron Man in Joe Casey's future?

**JC:** Well, I'm still busy writing THE INEVITABLE, so I'm pretty much immersed in making this series the best it can possibly be. I'd love to write more *Iron Man* stories, but let's see how this one is received first...

Al: Thanks for your time, insight and honesty Joe!

JC: My pleasure.

There you have it Ferrophiles. A fellow Ferrophile who is living the dream... and maybe, just maybe, sharing some of the magic with the rest of us!

# IRON MAN COVER REPRODUCTION VOL. 3 ISSUE 74 By Filipe Muffoletto



# COVER REPRODUCTION (HELMET DETAIL) VOL. 3 ISSUE 74 By Filipe Muffoletto





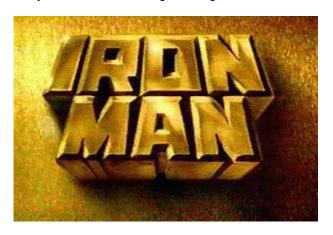
# THE (UNOFFICIAL) IRON MAN TOYS YOU HAVE TO OWN

(But Didn't Know You Could Get!!)

Part III

Written by Ironman John Comerford

In the last two parts of this collectors guide, we covered Iron Mania ranging from action figures, to die cast cars to mini busts, and the collecting craziness was only just beginning. Go ahead and print these pages out to form your three part, complete shopping guide of the Unofficial *Iron Man* Toys You Have To Own, because you won't want to forget a single one of them!!



## The Taskmaster:



#### Why do you want him?

The Taskmaster is a natural fit as an industrial spy and villain for Tony Stark/*Iron Man*. He squared off against *Iron Man* in the first issue of his amazing limited series by Udon a few years back, and is a great Marvel Villain right up there with the likes of Spymaster!

#### Where'd he come from?

Try finding this particular version of Taskmaster from Marvel's Gold line! This was a short-lived line where Marvel was able to make several of their lower tier characters into action figures exclusively for the specialty market. Taskmaster in particular is still one of the more sought after releases in the line and can get pretty pricey, so if you find him grab him while you can. Completists may cause demand for this figure to go up when the new Taskmaster Marvel Legends toy is released in a month or two!!



## **Night Armor Iron Man:**



#### Why do you want him?

Because it's *Iron Man*! Although this toy is a repaint of the "Hologram Armor" (better known as the Silver Centurion armor) from the *Iron Man* toy line of the mid nineties, it's just incredible looking! This black electro coated *Iron Man* puts the Stealth Armor from the *Iron Man* line to shame and the paint job is just awesome!! You also get a limited edition Overpower card with the toy.

#### Where'd he come from?

This repaint saw a limited release with the likes of Adam Warlock and the Clone Spider-Man during Marvel's Overpower push several years ago. These figures are very limited, commanding good money in stores and on eBay.



## War Machine Unmasked:



#### Why do you want him?

This War Machine variant is an awesome addition to an *Iron Man* collection! Not only that, but it's the only toy where you'll get to see a War Machine piloted by a Rhodey underneath that reflects the Marvel Universe, proper (remember the Legends toy reflects the U.S. War Machine Rhodey).

#### Where'd he come from?

This toy is a repack of a War Machine II body with a G.W. Bridge head from the X-Force line. It's from the Marvel Hall of Fame line, which was generally found at KB Toys, although the Unmasked Issues in particular were Puzzle Zoo Exclusives. This figure usually sells pretty well... when you can find one.

\*\*\*\*\*

All photos were taken by me from my personal collection. Hopefully you've enjoyed these glimpses of petroleum *Iron Man* products over the last three issues of Advanced Iron. Keep your eyes peeled because eventually we'll be back for more, and until then, as usual, long live the madness!!!

Ironman John <u>Toastyj77@aol.com</u> 08/16/2005

# THREE FACES OF IRON MAN

By Jim Royal Courtesy of Magic Joe



## ARMOR REVIEWS

Written by Jordan Weiger

<u>Armor: Hydro Armor</u> Debut: IRON MAN V1. #218

#### The Good:

If you were told think of what a deep-sea *Iron Man* armor would look like, this would be it. A great job was done to give the feel of a man inside a large suit to get around in an element not his own. The smaller suit inside bulkier outer layer helped to enhance this. The weapons systems was completely new for this armor, relying on the natural defenses of sea creatures rather than the regular armament of repulsors, which in my opinion was the neatest thing about it.

#### The Bad:

Well, it sadly only appeared in one issue, never to surface again (pun intended). The suit did seem a bit too bulky, as you would think Tony would have been able to design something more streamlined or compact.

#### **Personal Thoughts:**

Really one of the neater armors, though I could be being partial as I thought #218 was a great issue in general. I did love we got to see all the capabilities in a single issue, as I thought the suits

defenses were pretty cool. It's good when an armor only appears in one issue, and you feel you have a good grasp on everything it can do.

Originality: 9/10 Style: 7/10

Over All Rating: 8/10

# Armor: Stealth Armor Mark I and Mark II Debut: IRON MAN V1. # 152. IRON MAN V1. #229

## The Good:

An interesting concept that would have made it's ay into *Iron Man* at one point or another. Loaded with sensors and jammers, it did live up to its name. The black paint job and red eyes visors did add a lot to the armors appearance to help get its function across. And just like real stealth units, it trades offensive attributes for defensive measures.

#### The Bad:

I can understand not carrying a lot of offensive weapons, but none? I thought that was going a bit far, even if it is just a specialty armor. Granted, the Mark II did have repulsors, but it could only fire them three times. I think more could have been done with the suit, especially in the later issues where it appeared i.e. *Iron Man* Annual #13).

#### **Personal Thoughts:**

Good idea and good execution, as the sharper edges on the gauntlets, shoulders and boots worked well with the concept. I do wish they didn't use it in #229, but what can you do? Offensive capabilities, even if limited to just low grade repulsors/unibeam would have been nice.

Originality: 7/10 Style: 8/10

Over All Rating: 8/10





## <u> Armor: Hulk Buster</u>

Debut: IRON MAN V1. #304

#### The Good:

Who couldn't love the armor that lets Shell-Head go toe-to-toe with the Hulk in a fist fight? The suit is massive, making Tony nearly the size of the giant it was meant to battle. While not an actual armor, rather an attachment to the Modular, the suit enhances *Iron Man*'s strength and durability greatly, while sacrificing speed and mobility, the common trade off, and we see how well he puts it to use. Few can beat the Hulk at his own game, and had the fight concluded with someone losing, Tony would have probably been the victor.

#### The Bad:

A little too Juggernaut-esque for some people, especially the helmet which was encased in a dome. I didn't understand why the armor attachments didn't cover all parts of the modular (i.e. his mid section and inner thighs).

#### **Personal Thoughts:**

Well, if you ever wondered if Tony could build something that could make him physically one of the strongest heroes out there, here is you answer. This armor was great, being able to take multiple blows from the hulk without getting cracked. And while it never sent the Hulk reeling with any punches, you could tell everyone hurt.

Originality: 9/10 Style: 9/10

Over All Rating: 9/10

## <u> Armor: Space Armor Mark I</u>

Debut: IRON MAN V1. #143

#### The Good:

The Mark I Space Armor was Tony's first attempt at a fully dedicated space unit. Sporting a bulkier build, no mouth slit and nuclear powered boot jets, this suit was capable of escaping and re-entering Earth's atmosphere unaided. The new power source was a nice touch, as were some of the specialty equipment like launching the gauntlets.

#### The Bad:

The design primarily followed the Classic Armor's spec, but was bulkier. Outside of the lack of mouth and home-base shaped uni-beam, there was nothing real special aesthetically about this suit.

#### **Personal Thoughts:**

Not big on this armor. It served its purpose, but all in all I found it a little on the boring side. I really thought they could have put some more into the designs aesthetics and equipment.

Originality: 7/10 Style: 6/10

Over All Rating: 7/10





## **Armor: Space Armor Mark II**

Debut: IRON MAN V1. #278

#### The Good:

Just as the Space Armor Mark I took its design nods from Original Classic, the Mark II took its nods from the New Classic, sharing much the same arm and lower body design. It has been upgraded for extended periods out of an atmosphere, along with a trimmer design over the Mark I. Added to this armor a cloaking unit and retains the shield unit of the standard suit. It also had the capability of self-destructing, with the nuclear power plant capable of causing significant damage to a large area.

#### The Bad:

The helmet, to say the least, is odd. While not completely bad, it seems kind of alien and not something Tony would normally design. The square-ness around the shoulders also seems a little out of place.

#### **Personal Thoughts:**

Give credit for the completely different helmet design, but other than that the suit wasn't much to look at. It seemed to be pretty powerful, and the ailing man inside was the only real weakness that we saw. Despite

being only weeks from death, Tony still managed to take Ronan the Accuser head on.

Originality: 6/10 Style: 7/10

Over All Rating: 7/10



# IRON INTIMIDATION

**By Robinson**Courtesy of Magic Joe





# IRON MAN COMIC BOOK CHECKLIST FOR COLLECTORS

**Created by Ironman John Comerford** 



This listing is meant to be used as a checklist to help complete your Ironman collection. I have purposely not made this anything more than a collection checklist just for that reason. It is not intended for use as a way to track #'s of copies owned, collection value or an insurance claimant form for a covered collection.



P

Key issue, very relevant to a collection, the Ironman Story OR the Marvel Universe.

Place a mark here if you have the issue but want to replace it due to poor condition

Collectors or investors favorite issues, usually a good idea to pick this one up.

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X	18 G: Silver Age Avengers		Ţ	~	х	56				-

In this instance, this listing shows that the collector has issues 12, 13, 14, 15, 15a (a variation of 15), 17,18,49,50,51,52,53,54,55,56. The collector is missing issue 16. Key issues here are 12,17 & 55. Collectors favorites are 15a, 18, 54, and 55. In this instance, the collector feels that issues 18 & 52 of his collection should be replaced due to poor condition as indicated by the "~" mark in the orange box.

I pooled quite a few resources for this including my own Ironman run. Special thanks to:

VALIANTREVISITED.COM HUBE<sup>'</sup>S IRONMAN REVIEW ON A.I.

COMICSPRICEGUIDE.COM

EBAY.COM

#### HAPPY HUNTING!!

- IRONMAN JOHN Toastyj77@aol.com

## TALES OF SUSPENSE Collection Checklist

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## IRON MAN Volume I Checklist

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# IRON MAN

**By ??**Courtesy of Magic Joe



## WHAT IF ....?

## We All Knew What Issues Iron Man Appeared In?

**Compiled by Ironman John Comerford** 

It seems that a common, recurring thread on the Message Boards is the lingering question of "Which What If's have *Iron Man* in them?" or "I read this What If and THAT one had *Iron Man* in it!" Here we are going to try to dispel the speculation and attempt to provide a hopefully complete What If...? *Iron Man* listing!!

Many of the early What If's didn't have stories specifically centered on *Iron Man* although he did appear in them. Later What If's however, had several *Iron Man* stand alone stories.



## What If ... ? Vol. 1 (1977)

- #3, The Avengers Had Never Been?
- #20, The Avengers Had Fought The Kree-Skrull War Without Rick Jones?
- #25, Thor & The Avengers Battled The Gods?
- #29, The Avengers Defeated Everybody?
- #32, The Avengers Had Become The Pawns Of Korvac?
- #33, Iron Man Was Trapped In The Time Of King Arthur?

The Best Of What If? (TPB)



## What If...? Vol. 2 (1989)

- #5, The Vision Had Betrayed The Avengers?
- #8, Iron Man Lost The Armor Wars?
- #25, The Marvel Superheroes Had Lost Atlantis Attacks?
- #29, Captain America Had Formed The Avengers?
- #36, The Avengers Battled The Guardians Of The Galaxy?
- #53, War Machine...
- #55, The Avengers Had Lost Operation Galactic Storm? (You guys are gonna LOVE this one...)
- #63, War Machine Had Not Destroyed The Living Laser?
- #64, Iron Man Had Sold Out?
- #103, Starring Captain America (Ironmans role in this is great)
- #108, Carnage Went On A Rampage?
- #113, Tony Stark Became Sorcerer Supreme?





What If ...? Special (1988,1991)

Special, *Iron Man* Had Been A Traitor?

# THE MANY ARMORS OF IRON MAN By Charmless Man (Joel O'Connor)





## HELP SUPPORT ADVANCED IRON

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Otherwise, check/money orders/etc can be sent to:

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If you don't want to send liquid money, we would certainly accept hardware/software to support us. Currently I am looking to add:

- Firewire to IDE Bridge Cards
   (http://www.granitedigital.com/catalog/pg42\_fw800bridgeboards.htm)
- 1GB Stick of DDR400 (PC3200) DIMM
- 40 GB IDE Hard Drive (to mirror the server's internal drive)
- 2 300GB IDE Hard Drives (to add mirrored external storage).
- Formac Studio TVR (<a href="http://www.formac.com/p\_bin/?cid=solutions\_converters\_studiodvtv">http://www.formac.com/p\_bin/?cid=solutions\_converters\_studiodvtv</a>)-We would love to be able to start streaming some *Iron Man* video but need to be able to get it into the machine.....

Thanks.
Jeff Pearson
WebMaster