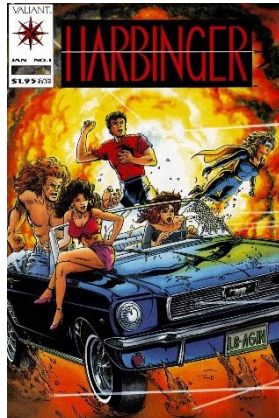


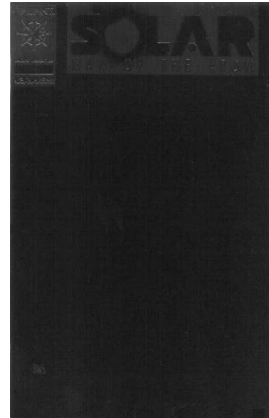
# HOW TO COLLECT VALIANT LIKE AN EXPERT



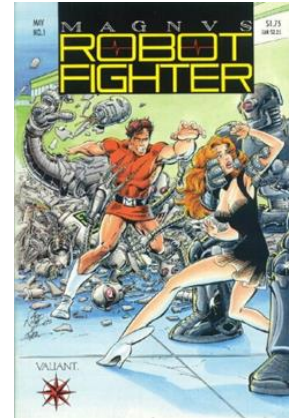
THREE EARLY ISSUES  
TO GET STARTED



Harbinger #1



Solar #10

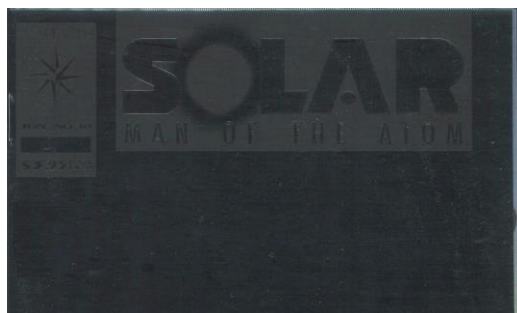


Magnus #1

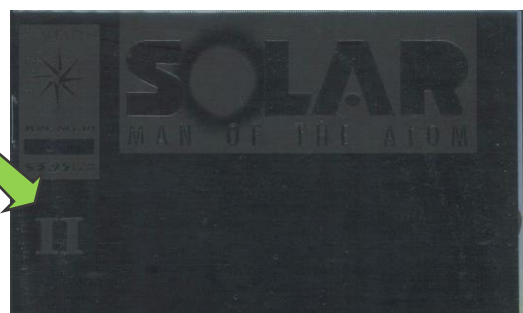
Harbinger #1 to #6 should include both front and back halves of the coupon insert.



If Solar #10 has Roman numeral **II** on the embossed black cover, it is a 2<sup>nd</sup> Printing.



1<sup>st</sup> printing (dated June 1992)



2<sup>nd</sup> printing (six months later)



# HOW TO COLLECT VALIANT LIKE AN EXPERT

**Magnus Robot Fighter** from May 1991 was the first Valiant Universe title.



Magnus #1 - #8 included card coupons for Magnus #0 (mail-away, with a trading card). Magnus #0 (without a trading card) was provided to retailers based on their #1 orders.



Coupon card is often cut out, leaving three trading cards in Magnus #1 - #8. Sometimes all four cards are missing.

Magnus #5 - #8 are “flipbooks” with the back covers serving as a four issue Rai #1 - #4 mini-series in 1991.



**Rai is the first original Valiant character**, appearing on a trading card in Magnus #4. Rai is featured in the story pages and on the back (flipped) cover of Magnus #5.



# HOW TO COLLECT VALIANT LIKE AN EXPERT

**Solar, Man of the Atom** from September 1991 was the second Valiant Universe title.



Solar #1 - #10 contained insert pages for the 10-part Solar Alpha & Omega origin story. It is unusual (but not impossible) for issues of Solar #1 - #10 to have the insert removed.

**Important first appearances occurring in *Magnus* and *Solar* include:**

*Magnus* #1: 1<sup>st</sup> comic book and 1<sup>st</sup> **Magnus** in the Valiant Universe

*Magnus* #4: 1<sup>st</sup> **Rai** (trading card), *Magnus* #5: 1<sup>st</sup> **Rai** (back cover and story)

*Magnus* #7: 1<sup>st</sup> **X-O armor** (Commando class, lower than Manowar class)

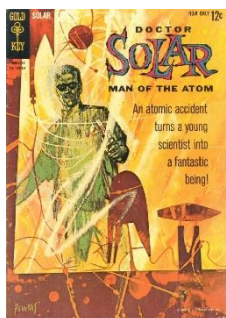
*Magnus* #12: 1<sup>st</sup> **Turok** in the Valiant Universe

*Solar* #1: 1<sup>st</sup> **Solar** in the Valiant Universe, 1<sup>st</sup> **Dr. Erica Pierce** (Mothergod)

*Solar* #3: 1<sup>st</sup> **Toyo Harada** and the Harbinger Foundation

*Solar* #10: 1<sup>st</sup> **Eternal Warrior** (Gilad) and 1<sup>st</sup> **Geomancers** (Buck and Geoff)

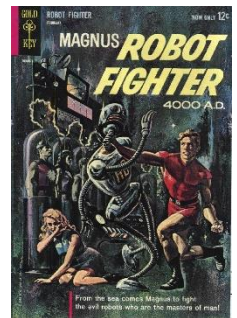
*Magnus Robot Fighter* and *Solar, Man of the Atom* were restarted titles from the 1960s.



***Doctor Solar, Man of the Atom* #1**, dated October 1962 was created by Gold Key publications, lasting 31 issues.

***Magnus Robot Fighter 4000 A.D. #1***, February 1963 was also from Gold Key publications, lasting 46 issues.

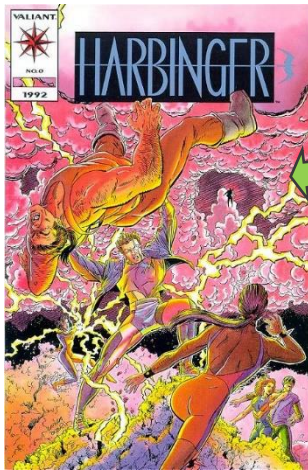
Valiant licensed **three Gold Key** title characters, including **Turok**, for the Valiant Universe in the 1990s.





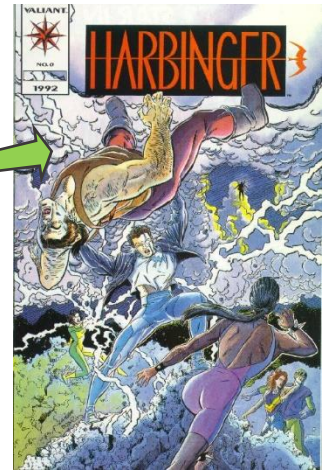
# HOW TO COLLECT VALIANT LIKE AN EXPERT

**Harbinger** from January 1992 was the first original Valiant Universe title.



Harbinger #1 - #6 contained coupons for the mail-away issue of **Harbinger #0 Pink** (known for the pink clouds on cover).

Harbinger #0 Blue (blue clouds on cover) is a reprint and was included free with the bagged 1993 Harbinger trade paperback. Because the blue cover is common, the pink cover is considered a limited variant.



The story of Harbinger focused on five teenagers, Peter Stanchek (Sting), Faith Herbert (Zephyr), Charlene Dupre (Flamingo), John Torkelson (Torque), and Kris Hathaway, but the title *Harbinger* refers to the Harbinger Foundation, which was led by Toyo Harada. Peter and Harada were powerful enemies, and the five “Harbinger kids” featured were known as Harbinger Renegades fighting against Toyo Harada and Harbinger Foundation.

**X-O Manowar** in February 1992 has 1<sup>st</sup> Aric and 1<sup>st</sup> Manowar armor in issue #1.



Aric was a 4<sup>th</sup> century Visigoth from Dacia, kidnapped by aliens and transported to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Aric stole the X-O Manowar class armor from the “spider aliens” who kidnapped him. The sentient armor was the most powerful weapon the aliens held. X-O Manowar was the first title in the 2012 Valiant Universe new line of comic books.



# HOW TO COLLECT VALIANT LIKE AN EXPERT

**Rai** began its regular series in March 1992 after the four issue mini-series in 1991.



Early Valiant publications reported the Rai 1992 series had the lowest amount printed among 1991-92 Valiant titles. Rai #3 was reported as lowest, followed by #4, #5, and #2.

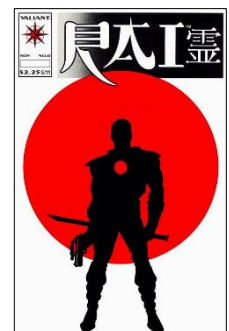


Many copies of Rai #3 have a mis-cut top.

Badly mis-cut copies have part of the word VALIANT missing at the top of the cover. This is a production flaw, not a variant.

Average mis-cut copies do not show blue and orange above the word VALIANT and above the red Rai title box.

Well-centered copies have blue and orange clearly visible at the top edge of the cover.



A significant book for the Valiant Universe is Rai #0 which was published between Rai #8 and Rai #9.

**Shadowman** began in May 1992. Jazz musician Jack Boniface is Shadowman.



Jack appears briefly on stage in X-O Manowar #4, also from May 1992.



A major villain in the Valiant Universe, **Master Darque**, 1st appears in Shadowman #8. In the Unity storyline and in Rai #0, it is revealed that Shadowman will die in 1999.

---

# HOW TO COLLECT VALIANT LIKE AN EXPERT

**Valiant comic books dated July 1992 and earlier are known as Pre-Unity books. Pre-Unity is about 50 issues.**



**The Unity crossover storyline began in August 1992 and brought a lot of industry attention to Valiant with increased sales during 1993.**

The 1990s Valiant Universe has about 800 issues total, but the Pre-Unity issues were the first issues printed and are often the first books new Valiant collectors decide to pursue.

## **The 1991-1992 Valiant Pre-Unity issues (in alphabetical order):**

**Archer & Armstrong #0** (regular edition and a limited gold edition),

**Harbinger #1 - #7** (with coupons in #1 - #6), **Magnus #1 - #14** (with coupons in #1 - #8)

**Rai #1 - #5**, **Shadowman #1 - #3**, **Solar #1 - #11**, **X-O Manowar #1 - #6**

Valiant published reprints of 1960s Magnus as **Vintage Magnus Robot Fighter #1 - #4**.

The coupon books (**Magnus #0** and **Harbinger #0**) are considered Pre-Unity issues but arrived in the mail after the Unity storyline had completed in the 1992 monthly comics.



The 1992 Unity crossover storyline was printed as eighteen chapters in the regular issues of the Valiant Universe, plus Unity #0 (Chapter One) and Unity #1 (Chapter 18). Unity issues had higher quantities printed than Pre-Unity issues allowing collectors to obtain all eighteen regular editions decades later without spending a lot of money.

## **The 1992 Unity issues (in alphabetical order):**

**Archer & Armstrong #1, #2**

**Eternal Warrior #1, #2** (two limited gold editions also exist for Eternal Warrior #1)

**Harbinger #8, #9**

**Magnus #15, #16**

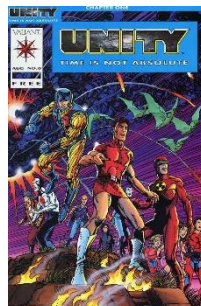
**Rai #6, #7**

**Shadowman #4, #5**

**Solar #12, #13**

**Unity #0, #1**

**X-O Manowar #7, #8**



Unity #0 had a regular edition **BLUE** and a limited **RED** edition.

Unity #1 was printed as a regular edition, plus limited variants of **GOLD** and **PLATINUM**.



---

# HOW TO COLLECT VALIANT LIKE AN EXPERT

CGC grading and encapsulation is not a requirement for collecting Valiant comics, but many comic book collectors obtain copies of their favorite issues with CGC grades.

Creating a list of Valiant issues sorted by the frequency of CGC submissions can inform a beginning collector. The issues submitted most frequently are often high priority issues for Valiant collectors to locate, whether seeking CGC graded or average reader copies.

The most submitted Pre-Unity and Unity issues of 1991-1992 Valiant comics are:

- Harbinger #1
- X-O Manowar #1
- Solar #10
- Harbinger #0 **Pink**
- Magnus #1
- Shadowman #1
- Solar #1
- Solar #3
- Magnus #5
- Rai #1
- Magnus #12
- X-O Manowar #4
- Archer & Armstrong #0
- Rai #3
- Rai #4
- Harbinger #2
- Magnus #0
- Unity #0 **Red**
- Eternal Warrior #1 **Gold**
- Unity #1 **Gold**
- Harbinger #3
- Harbinger #4
- Rai #2
- Rai #5
- Unity #1 **Platinum**
- Archer & Armstrong #0 **Gold**

Pre-Unity and Unity issues not listed to the left are generally less valuable in the collector market and may be readily available from dealers who carry 1990s Valiant books in their inventory or from other Valiant collectors online.

Valiant comics printed after the 1992 Unity storyline through 1994 are the most common issues and usually the easiest to obtain.

The exceptions to the common issues of 1992 through 1994 would be the **Gold** editions, which were limited to 5,000 copies. Gold editions do not have a cover price, except for Archer & Armstrong #0 Gold, and one of the two versions of Eternal Warrior #1 Gold. Valiant used gold editions as fan contest rewards and dealer ordering incentives.

The comic industry began shrinking in 1995 and Valiant issues printed in 1995 and 1996 can be more difficult to find for a complete set of books.

Valiant experimented with newsstand sales in 1994 to 1996 for some titles. Newsstand issues specify "NEWSSTAND SALES" near the barcode, rather than "DIRECT SALES" on standard issues. Many Valiant newsstand issues are hard to locate, and particularly difficult in high grade conditions.

Valiant also produced licensed comics for **Nintendo** including **Super Mario** and **Zelda**, **WWF** wrestling, **KFC**, and **Kraft** in the early 1990s. While the comics are not part of the Valiant Universe, many are popular with fans and collectors of the games and brands.