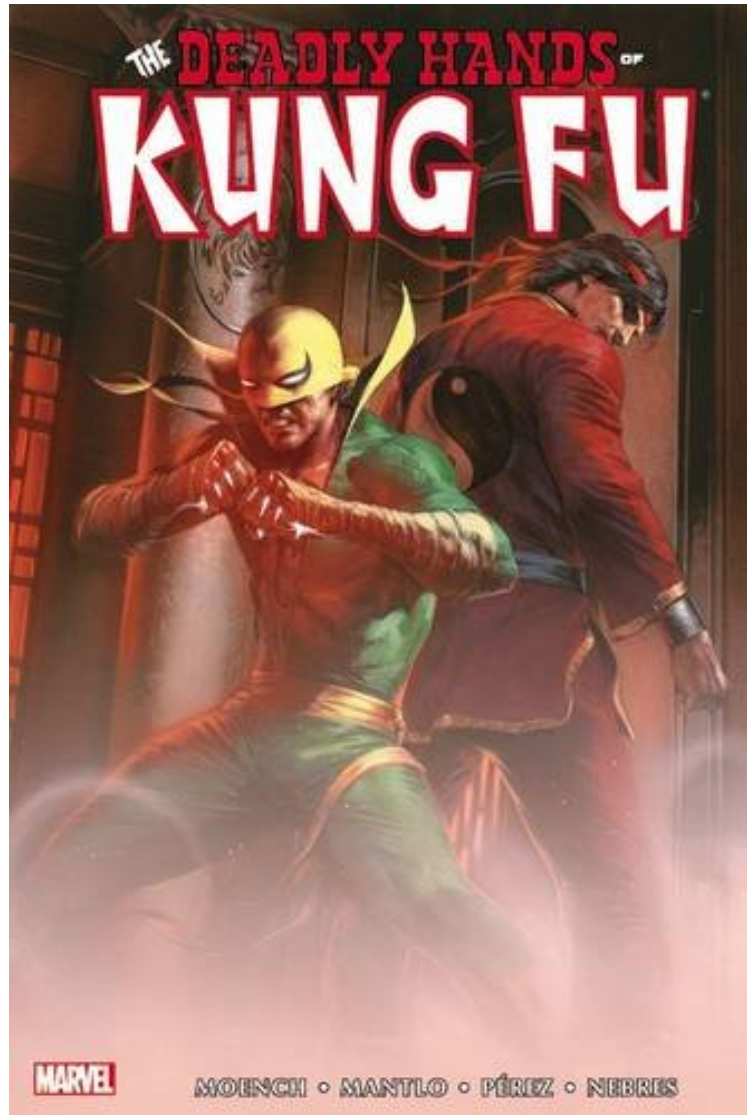


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## Deadly Hands of Kung Fu Omnibus Vol. 1

*Doug Moench, Bill Mantlo, Steve Englehart, Gerry Conway*  
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#311640 in Books Moench Doug 2016-11-22 2016-11-22 Original language: English 11.25 x 2.00 x 7.50l, .0  
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**Doug Moench, Bill Mantlo, Steve Englehart, Gerry Conway : Deadly Hands of Kung Fu Omnibus Vol. 1** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Deadly Hands of Kung Fu Omnibus Vol. 1:

16 of 16 people found the following review helpful. Not enough meat in this large sandwich By Jim Davis This is really a hard book to review. Marvel had a tough decision to make and no matter what they decided they were sure to upset a lot of people. Do they collect the just the comic strips which would be the primary, if not the only, interest of most readers? Or do they collect all editorial content satisfying the completist collectors out there that are a major market

for these expensive collections? They opted for the latter. I will freely admit that I did not read any of the non-comic strip content. It consists of reviews of martial arts movies, tv shows, and books, some interviews, some martial arts instructions, and general articles on the martial arts scene of the 1970s. There are also the correspondence pages, tables of content, and house ads. I don't have any of the originals to compare but it seems that all editorial content was included. It all seems to be reproduced well enough; it probably looks as good as it ever did. The material seems hopelessly dated and of academic interest only but if you're interested in this stuff you'll be delighted. There's a lot of it. The comic strips are all black and white but despite that look good and the lack of color only occasionally confuses. There were a lot of inkers working on this book and some of them employed very fine lines but nothing egregious. There were two major features running through the book. The first, Shang-Chi, is similar to the earliest Shang-Chi stories in the regular color comic book. Shang-Chi works alone with little supporting cast (Denis Nayland Smith and Black Jack Tarr appear, but aren't all that important to the plots). He opposes his father both in flashback and in the present in many of the stories. These stories are for the most part very entertaining except for the 6 part story arc toward the end which was confusing and didn't come to much of a conclusion. The second feature, the Sons of the Tiger, is an interesting concept where three people from widely varying backgrounds have to come to grips with a supernatural threat initially but there are more down to earth plots later. Not the most original concept but I thought it was executed with some skill. Beyond these two features Iron Fist appears once in a standalone feature and guest stars a few times in others. He would take over the book in the issues following the ones collected here. There are also two standalone oriental stories set in the distant past. Extras include some house ads in the color comics line and in other black and white Marvel magazines, some original art and three introductions by Tony Isabella, Gerry Conway, and Doug Moench. I can only recommend the book if the text features interest you or you just have to have the comic strip material and price is no object. It's a collection that must have caused Marvel a few sleepless nights deciding which way to go.

20 of 22 people found the following review helpful. An Omnibus Worthy Of The Name  
By thirdtwin  
Weighing in at over 1000 pages and sharply reproduced- this book is well worth the time and expense it takes to read it if you're interested in Marvel's bronze age depiction of what the martial arts should be like. With a book of this size you'll have to be careful of the binding and open each cover gradually before you read it- then a few pages, 5 or so at a time from one side of the book then the other- hopefully working the spine this way before reading will keep you from breaking it or losing pages as you read. Marvel was riding the trend of martial arts movies and tv in the 1970's when this was written the same as it tried to ride the monster trend during the same era. The art and the glimpse back in time to when this book was first done make it a fascinating work even if you're not into martial arts characters. Most everyone portrayed here is still in use in 2016 so they proved to be surprisingly durable even after the karate craze wore off as far as the media was concerned. Worth a look.

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A blast from the past if you're into martial arts!  
By Diego Cordoba  
Adding to their roster of black and white magazines and to the by then popularity of foreign Kung Fu films in the early 70s, Marvel decided to create a magazine devoted exclusively to martial arts. The problem was that of the 68 pages of the black and white magazine, half of them were devoted to comics and the other half to articles, making for a mixed-bag of an effort. Although I must say that the artwork in the bw magazines always looked better than what they published in their color comics, and even the stories seemed more adult-oriented, and you got a feeling that the artists put a greater effort on those magazines than in the color comics they also drew.

Deadly Hands of Kung Fu or DHOKF (for short, and unpronounceable) carried at first two main series: one about Shang-Chi's early adventures (he also had his own color comic series running at the time) and a new series called Sons of the Tiger, featuring a mixed ethnic group of Kung Fu experts. Iron Fist would later be added to the mix. However it was Sons of the Tiger that I enjoyed the most. The first stories featured artwork by Dick Giordano looking a lot like Neal Adams. Speaking of Adams, he did the covers for many issues. Both the Shang Chi stories and Sons of the Tiger featured great artwork and were the main reasons to buy the magazine. The articles were another case. By now they seem extremely outdated and refer to movies that exist no longer and have never been released on DVD (aside of the Bruce Lee films). So for first-time readers you'll probably be wondering what are they talking about. However, as a blast from the past, it's always fun to read, especially coming from writers (most of them already writing for Marvel) who knew next to nothing about Martial Arts, but were called in to fill up the space needed to put out a 68-page magazine. You're even taught some fighting techniques with some difficult to understand (and very static) drawings by Frank McLaughlin (yes, the same artist/inker, who also happened to be a judo expert and martial arts teacher), that tell you which pose to take when someone wants to attack you (and probably end up killing you if the attacker has a knife or a gun). All this leads to the fun of tackling a fad when you've got no idea what it's all about.

Concerning this book though, it is over 1,000 pages long, and collects every issue from #1 to #18 (but doesn't include some of the reprint stories, among them the origin story of Shang Chi from the color comics series and a Captain America reprint), with an 88-page annual special thrown in, and the 1974 all-article special (yummy but, who wants to read some out-of-date articles?). The book however isn't reprinted at the actual size of the magazine, but rather at a comic book size similar to the other Omnibus books Marvel has been putting out for the past couple of years. Was it too much of an effort to reprint them at a larger size? And perhaps with a lesser amount of pages? Reading a book this thick is a burden. Also, having so many pages and being printed in China, it surely has some

mistakes (my copy has some pages printed in gray and not 100% black, as the printer was probably running out of ink during the printing process). I also wonder if the binding will hold up before I finish reading the whole book, as it doesn't look as if it will last for very long. So many pages weigh a ton, and needs a better, sturdier binding. That aside, the comics are still fun to read, and in my opinion, the artwork is much better than what was going on in the color comic books. As to the articles well, if you're nostalgic about those bygone days (or years), they might be fun to read (I was into the whole kung fu/karate craze as a teenager), but I don't think many modern readers will find anything of interest as most of the movies are no more in circulation, and the actors mentioned are either dead or retired. I guess this is a hard sell nowadays, so maybe that's why they decided to publish it all in one volume (although the original series lasted for 33 issues, so I guess there's a second volume in preparation). It's all in black and white (except for the covers, reproduced in color, but a little too dark to my liking while comparing them to the actual source), and at a smaller size than the original magazine. It costs more than \$100.00 (unless you buy it through ), so buy it at your own risk. The art, however, is quite good. That said, minus all the minor quibbles (size, binding and weight), I love it. And yes, I've been re-reading the articles as well. Nevertheless, it's only for nostalgic readers or fans of martial arts (if you don't take too seriously the articles).

By 1974, kung fu fever struck the United States. Hot on the heels of the breakout hit *Master of Kung Fu*, Marvel launched the amazing, oversized *The Deadly Hands of Kung Fu* magazine. Headlined by Shang-Chi, Iron Fist and the Sons of the Tiger, artists including Rudy Nebres, George Prez, Jim Starlin, Paul Gulacy and more gave *Deadly Hands* their all. With stunning painted covers by the likes of Neal Adams, no man could stand against *Deadly Hands*. Each issue featured not just the comic-art adventures of Marvel's greatest kung fu heroes, but also extensive interviews, martial arts guides, photo features, and movie, TV and book reviews. If there was anything you wanted to know about martial arts, *Deadly Hands* had a kung-fu grip on it. COLLECTING: DEADLY HANDS OF KUNG FU (1974) 1-18; SPECIAL (1974) 1