

The Pendulum of Popularity as Seen in Twelve Sporadically-Appearing Comic Characters: A Series of Charts

Mantis

Character 5 out of 12
First appearance: 1973
Total appearances: 197

How These Charts Were Developed

All the characters for this series of charts were selected because there is a sporadic pattern to their comic-book appearances, whether due to deaths and resurrections, nostalgic revivals, or tie-ins to outside media, etc.

I focused on characters with less than a thousand appearances, for the ease of processing.

"Appearances" here only include actual, original comic book appearances. They do not include reprints, handbooks, or promotional comics. I did include some edge-case issues like the infamous **Marvel Swimsuit** comics that are not stories, but are in a sense new material.

I got the information almost entirely from the website Comic Vine, although I used other sites when necessary. Since Comic Vine is a wiki, its information is only as accurate as its wiki-writers, but generally speaking I find it to be very reliable when it comes to this sort of factual information. Any mistakes are more likely to be my own, since I transcribed all the data by hand and "hand-designed" the chart.

The list of appearances accurately reflect the content of the wiki as of October 29, 2019.

All dates are cover dates, not in-store dates.

Key

If the characters were in any major movies or TV shows, I listed them in blue above the appropriate dates, so that any correlation with an increase (or lack thereof) in the number of their comic appearances around that time can be seen.

In the bottom chart to the right, each black square represents one comic appearance by the character in a given month. The more black squares per month, the more appearances by that character for that month. There are nine possible spaces for each month; nine was chosen because that was the most appearances any character in this project had in a single month.

In the top chart, I collapsed the months and aggregated a whole year's appearances into one set of concentrated boxes, so it looks more like a bar chart. Therefore, the bottom chart shows a more fine-grained picture of exactly when the character appeared, and the top chart provides a better visualization of how their total appearances ebbed and flowed.

The red lines and text underneath the top chart indicate some of the main comics that the character appeared in. The red lines show the years the character appeared in those series. These featured red comics are a subjectively-chosen selection of all the comics the characters were in; they are intended to show the main drivers of the character's appearances at any given time, not to provide a complete list. If anyone does want a complete list, contact me and I can send it to you. Generally speaking, I included a series if the character appeared in it three or more times, if they were a recurring team-member in the series, or if the series was named after the character.

If the character was in a comic where more than one volume had the same (or a very similar) title, then I listed the year the volume started after the name of the volume.

Chris Wildrick, 2019

