R4i SaveDongle Review

by **Frank Leveque**

Well I received my R4i Save Dongle today and as per their request I am making this review! WARNING: Rather large images in most of spoilers!

Packaging

The device came in a red box, clearly labeled and pretty well designed. The front includes the carts it supports, the back provides a list of all functions the device itself can preform and on one side it shows the user how to use the device in a short, detailed manner. The inside of the box holds a little plastic holder in which the device snugly fits in a tight but not to tight nature. You can remove the device from this casing with ease.

The front of the box:

The back of the box:

R4I SaveDongle Functionality

Saue **R4i** Dongle

- Fully support 3DS,NDSi,NDSL original game cart.
- Backup game savers from 3DS/NDS/NDSI original game card to PC, to avoid game saver been accidently overwrite.
- Restore game savers backup from PC to 3DS/NDS/NDSI original game cart through USB.
- Editing game savers(level, experience, money etc ...) becomes possible.
- Allow game savers to be share between users.

   a. User can share or download game savers from official web site and forums.
   b. Game savers sharing allow user jump to certain game level.

- Upgradeable dongle firmware through USB for support new games and new features.
- User friendly software interface to manage the save file.

- Before using SaveDongle, you need to install the driver that is available at www.r4i-sdhc.com
- User can share or download game savers from special area of www.r4i-sdhc.com and www.games-engine.com

SaveDongle
Fully Support 3DS,NDSi,NDSL
Original Game Cart

MADE IN CHINA

The side of the box containing instructions

And finally the plastic housing inside:
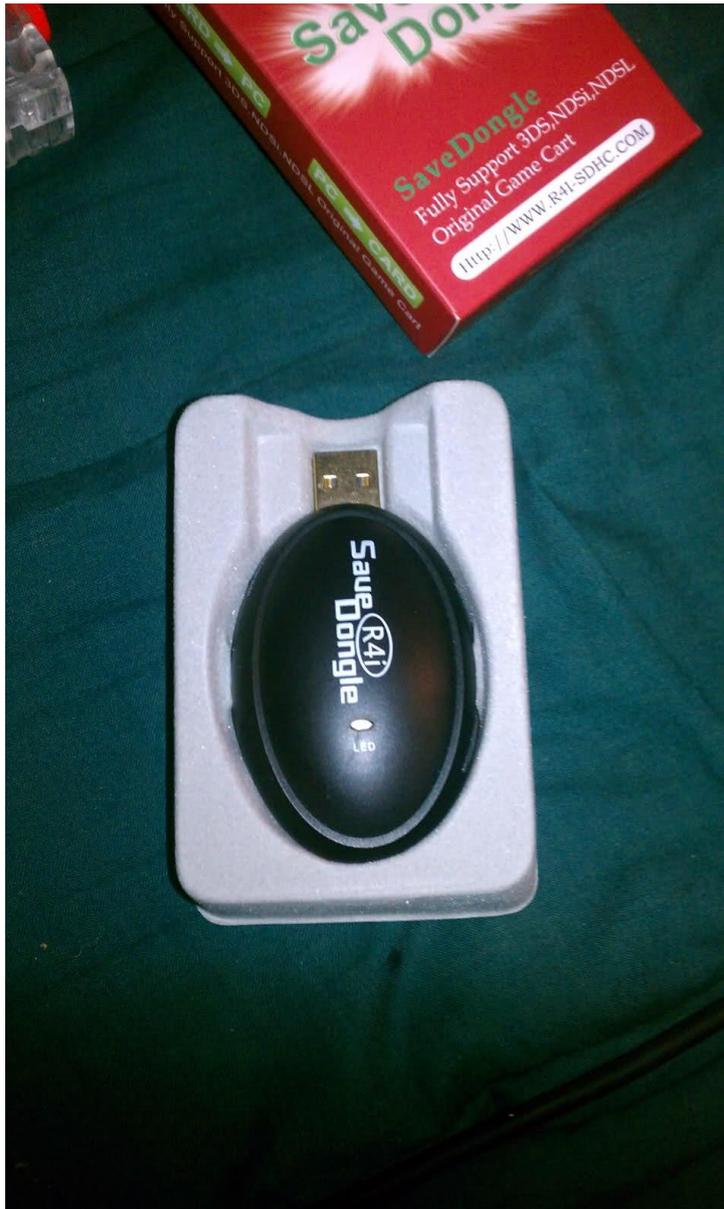
Hardware

The device itself has pretty good build quality, AFAIK there are no faults with it and it seems to be pretty sturdy. It fits in any USB slot, although fitting it in tight spaces is a little tough to do. In my review, I used a USB extension.

Here is the device out of the box:
FRONT:

BACK:

Ease of Use

The device itself seems to work fairly well, I've used approximately 6 different games with it and so far no screw ups or anything. All you need to do is insert the game cart into the dongle (label facing the back) and plug it into a USB port. The drivers will install automatically, while you must download the software for the dongle here.

Here is the dongle with a DS game inserted:

and a 3DS game inserted:
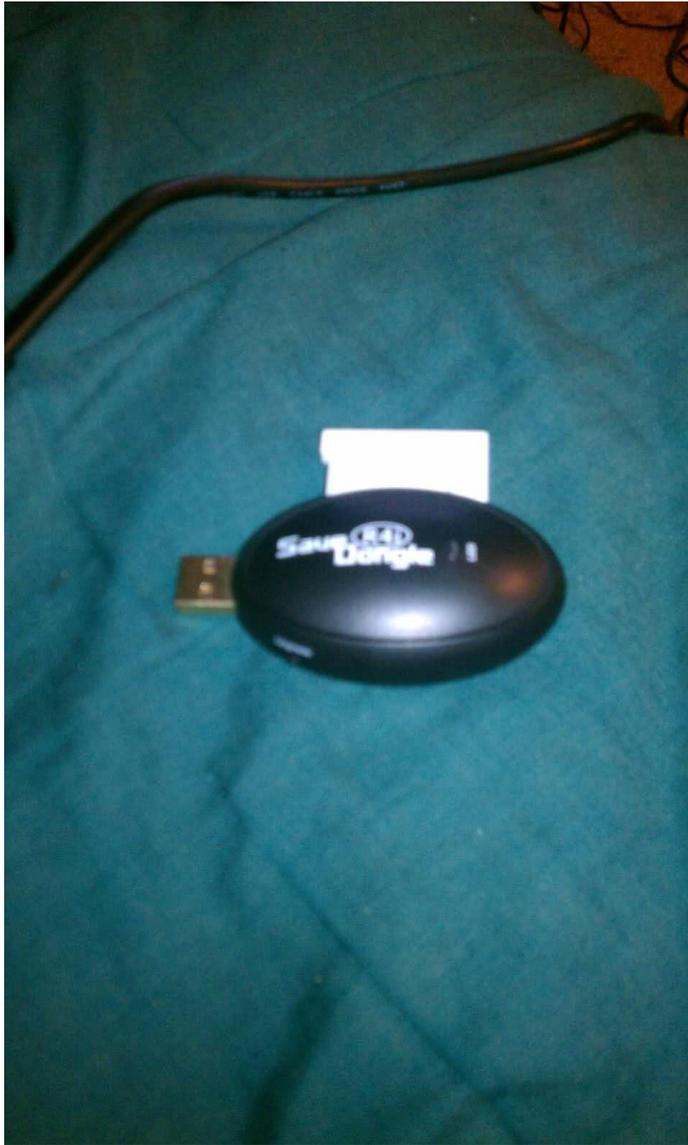
Software

The software for the device is downloaded at the site mentioned above. The software includes:

Name	Date modified	Type	Size
Saves	12/22/2011 1:04 PM	File folder	
3DSaveTool.exe	04/03/2011 4:30 PM	Application	12 KB
changelog.txt	04/03/2011 4:20 PM	Text Document	1 KB
libeay32.dll	03/26/2009 10:20 ...	Application extens...	994 KB
msvcp100.dll	03/18/2010 10:15 ...	Application extens...	412 KB
R4i SaveDongle V1.1.exe	12/15/2011 10:03 ...	Application	522 KB
SaveDongle Firmware Uploader.exe	11/29/2011 3:54 PM	Application	524 KB

The 3DS Save tool, unfortunately, is only a command line program and requires knowledge (or a tutorial) on how to restore different saves from other users to your 3DS game cart. I haven't had time to fool around with it, but the average user might not know what to do.

Here is the program:
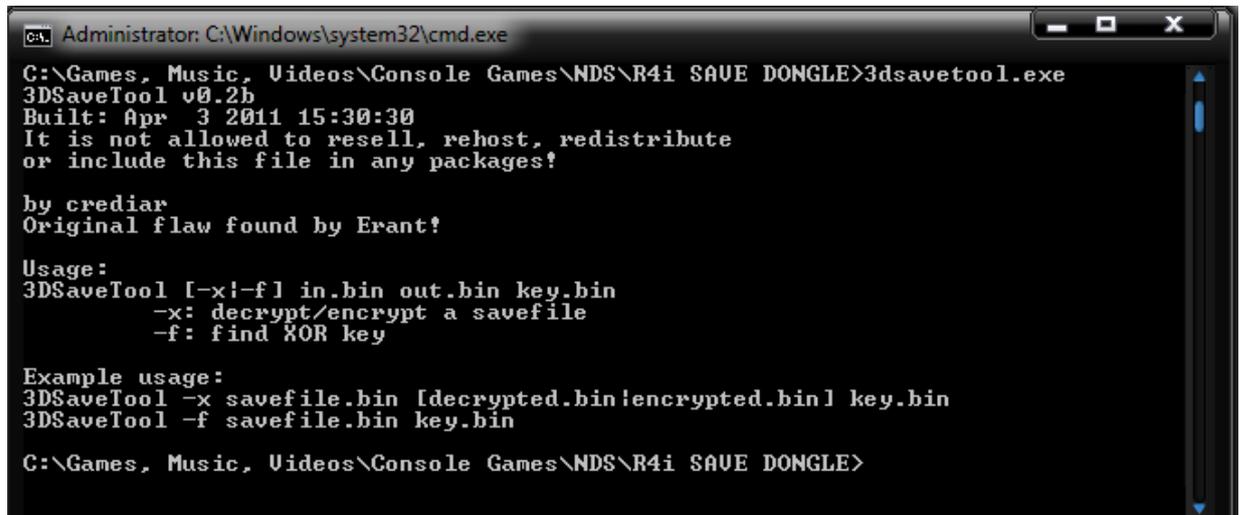
The actual save backup program, however, includes a GUI and is extremely simple to use. Insert game into dongle, plug dongle in, open up save backup program, hit PC to Card to upload and Card to PC to retrieve the save file. Very easy to use. Along with the two buttons, it includes a description of the card's save type and the game name. Unfortunately, it does NOT show the 3DS game name but does show the saves type.

Heres the program when you have a DS game inserted:

R4i SaveDongle V1.1

GAME SAVE SIZE: 256K   GAME INFO: MARIOKARTDS

PC ➡ CARD   CARD ➡ PC

The firmware version is 1.0!
Card inserted!
Card Type: NDS

Official Website: www.r4i-sdhc.com
Open Platform: www.games-engine.com

And heres one with a 3DS game inserted (in this case, LoZ):

R4i SaveDongle V1.1

GAME SAVE SIZE: 128K   GAME INFO: unknown

PC ➡ CARD   CARD ➡ PC

The firmware version is 1.0!
Card inserted!
Card Type: 3DS

Official Website: www.r4i-sdhc.com
Open Platform: www.games-engine.com

Along with the tools to backup and restore saves, it also comes with a firmware updater

which is used to...update the firmware on the dongle of course! The dongle arrives pre-flashed with the latest firmware so the user won't have to upgrade it out of the box as of this review! In order to upgrade it, all you need to do is hold down the upgrade button while the program is open, wait for the drivers to be installed, choose your firmware .bin file and hit upgrade! Simple!

Heres the Firmware Updater:
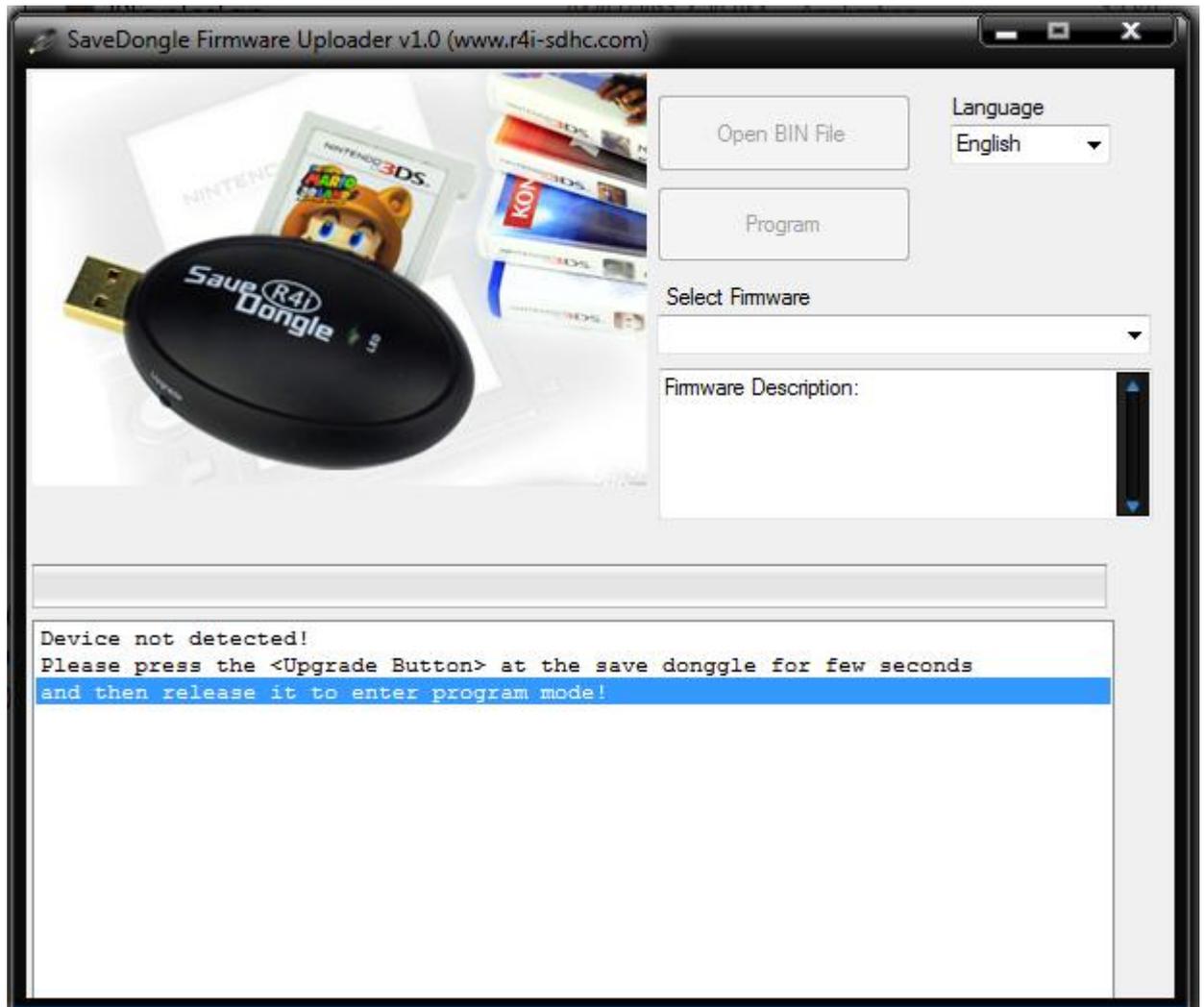
And I believe that's it.

Pros for the device:
Easy to use
Can backup 3DS and DS Saves
Small, compact, sturdy
Quick and easy solution

Cons for the Device:

Doesn't show the 3DS game name (but I'm sure this will be fixed once encryption has been broken)

The 3DS save Tool has no GUI

My score for the device:

9.5/10